

The First Blauvelt, Pieter of Enkhuizen

By Ralph Blauvelt¹

When I found the grave stone of Isaac Blauvelt, my third great-grandfather, in the Paramus Church yard, I was taken by the inscribed epitaph:

Remember me as you pass by,
As you are now, so once was I;
As I am now, so you will be,
So prepare for death and follow me.

Isaac was born in 1761 and served as a drum major in the Revolutionary War. He fought in the Battle of English Neighborhood near present day Englewood, NJ where his brother, James, was wounded. His sister, "Catherine Blauvelt Lozier," testified 14 Apr 1853 in a Revolutionary War pension file that Isaac brought their wounded brother James home to recuperate.

When I first read Isaac's epitaph, I thought it was unique, but I soon learned that it was a popular epitaph in the 19th century with many variations. An old tombstone in Indiana has almost the same epitaph:

“Pause stranger, when you pass me by,
As you are now so once was I.
As I am now, so you will be.
So prepare for death and follow me.”

Below that epitaph in Indiana, someone scratched the following:

“To follow you I'm not content,
Until I know which way you went.”

Sometimes a tombstone is the only record we have of a person's life and there are many millions in this world who are born and die without leaving any record of their life. As Blauvelt descendants we are truly fortunate to have the tombstones, property deeds, wills and probate records, along with baptism, marriage, and military records for most of us to reconstruct our family history all the way back to the founder of the Blauvelt family in America, Gerrit Hendricksen.

We are also fortunate to have this unique name, Blauvelt, in our ancestry. We all descend from many different families but it is often difficult to trace the origin of the sixteen families of our great great-grandparents (we have 4 grandparents and 8 great-grandparents whose parents come from 16 different families). On the other hand, if we find a Blauvelt in our ancestry, we can be quite sure this ancestor belongs to the 17th century New Amsterdam family of Gerrit Hendricksen Blauvelt and Marie Lamberts Moll. This was the determination of Louis L. Blauvelt when the first Blauvelt Family Genealogy was published in 1957 and it is still true today.

It is for the same reason, the unique Blauvelt name, I feel confident that the Blauvelt family in America descends from the singular Blauvelt family in the Netherlands. Although the name no longer exists in the Netherlands and hasn't for over 300 years, there are untold numbers of Blauvelt cousins in the Netherlands who descend from Pieter Blaeuvelt of Enkhuizen. I have documented several hundreds of these descendants up to about the year 1700 in a preliminary genealogy. I am deeply indebted to Thijs Postma, historian of Enkhuizen, who shared his research with me on the history of the city and its people. Without his help this genealogy and my presentation here today would not have been possible.²

I had in mind a completely different topic for today's presentation.¹ I planned to tell you about some of the more interesting stories and facts I uncovered about Blauvelt descendants while I was the genealogist for the Association of Blauvelt Descendants. Then I realized that my article on the origin of Gerrit Hendricksen Blauvelt for the new genealogy didn't include any information about the first Blauvelt, Pieter of Enkhuizen.

¹ An abbreviated version of this paper was prepared for a presentation to the Association of Blauvelt Descendants at the Tappan Reformed Church in Tappan, NY on 19 September 2015.

² Most of the genealogical information in this paper can be found with sources at <http://www.thijspostma.nl/>.

The First Blauvelt, Pieter of Enkhuizen

Let me introduce him. Pieter Blaeuvelt was born about 1480 and died sometime after 1542. In 1514 he was appointed to the position of “*schout*” in the West Friesland city of Enkhuizen in the Netherlands. He belonged to the elite merchant ruling class of the city and through the marriage of his descendants into the other regent families of Enkhuizen and other cities, the family helped to shape the political and economic history of the Netherlands. The first five or six generations of Pieter’s descendants lived through the most dynamic period in the history of the Netherlands, the so-called “Golden Age.”

The Netherlands's transition from a possession of the Holy Roman Empire in the second half of the 16th century to the foremost maritime and economic power in the world in the 17th century has been called the "Dutch Miracle" by historian, K. W. Swart.³ Taking advantage of a favorable agricultural base, the Dutch achieved success in the fishing industry and the Baltic and North Sea carrying trade during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries before establishing a far-flung maritime empire in the seventeenth century.

The Netherlands developed what Jan de Vries called the first "modern" economy. By way of example: In 1602 the Dutch East India Company was founded. It was the first-ever multinational corporation, financed by shares that established the first modern stock exchange. It was not by accident that the New York Stock Exchange is located on Wall Street where our Dutch ancestors met near the corner of Broad Street to trade securities. The Dutch East India Company received a Dutch monopoly on Asian trade and would keep this for two centuries. It became the world's largest commercial enterprise of the 17th century. To finance the growing trade, the Bank of Amsterdam was established in 1609, the precursor to, if not the first true central bank.⁴

The Dutch Golden Age has been internationally admired and acclaimed for its impressive economic performance and its role in developing a world-economy. Political geographer Peter Taylor has argued that in so called world-systems analysis, the Dutch Republic is identified as the first of three states that have defined the basic trajectory of the modern world-system. The British expanded it in the nineteenth century and the U.S. refined it in the twentieth century.

A very small country both territorially and demographically, it hardly seems feasible that the Netherlands could set the path along which the modern world-system embarked to eliminate all rival systems. It was not overt power but its superior socio-economic infra-structure that determined its preeminence: the Dutch developed a social formula which we have come to call modern capitalism that ultimately dominated all other social formulas.⁵

Let’s get back to Pieter. When I read about Pieter of Enkhuizen in the first Blauvelt Family Genealogy, I learned that Pieter probably owned ships that were identified by his shield (or “*wapen*” in Dutch), with the gold bar and three gold disks on a blue field,⁶ and this may have been the origin of the Blauvelt name. I also learned that Pieter became the *schout* in Enkhuizen. In English we generally translate “*schout*” as bailiff or sheriff. I wasn’t too impressed until I learned that the *schout* in 16th century Netherlands held the most powerful position in city government.

In the 14th and 15th centuries the Burgundian Dukes and the subsequent Hapsburg overlords of the Netherlands needed the financial assistance of the up-and-coming merchant class in the growing towns. They heavily taxed the wealthy merchants in order to finance their territorial wars throughout Europe not the least of which was the Hapsburg struggle against the Turkish Ottomans in the East. The wealthy merchant class could thus induce the sovereigns to grant municipal charters and city rights, establishing autonomy in the regulation of the city's internal affairs. This newly acquired autonomy brought into being a new group of managers, deputies of the sovereign, to run the cities, namely the *schout*.

³ Swart, K. W., *Miracle of the Dutch Republic as Seen in the Seventeenth Century* (Lond. Univ. Coll. Inaug. Lect., December, 1969)

⁴ de Vries, Jan, *The First Modern Economy* (Cambridge University Press, 1997)

⁵ de Jong, Joop (2011) "The Dutch Golden Age and Globalization: History and Heritage, Legacies and Contestations," *Macalester International*: Vol. 27, Article 7.

<http://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/macintl/vol27/iss1/7/>

⁶ see p. 21

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The Dutch Republic was “strikingly local in its economic and political organization.” The particular political structure of the Republic as a whole and of the individual provinces gave the cities a great deal of autonomous power. The country could be considered a collective of city states. These cities were governed by the urban elites. The city government normally consisted of a council of elders or “city fathers” called the *Vroedschap* (I’ll call them “regents”), and the magistrates. There were twenty to forty regents, who were appointed for life and were selected by the regents themselves from “the wisest, most respectable and richest citizens.” They were considered to represent the local citizens and to advise and monitor the magistrates. The magistrates, who conducted the day to day business of the city, consisted of the schout, two to four *burgemeesters* or mayors, and the *schepenen*, or the aldermen of the city council. As a rule, the *burgemeesters* and the *schepenen* were annually recruited from the regents and continued to be members of that body.⁷ In addition, all of the government jobs, the city Commissioners (Director of the Hospital, Director of the Orphanage, Director of Marital Affairs, etc.) were appointed from among the regents. As a result the government became an oligarchy. The regents even made quasi-formal contracts with each other: e.g., “You vote for me and I’ll vote for you.” Furthermore, as these same officials were appointed to provincial offices (e.g. delegates to the national government in the Haag, members of one of the admiralty boards, or offices like ambassadors), the regents of local power perpetuated themselves into the regional and national levels of government.

During the 1500’s, the governing rulers of Enkhuizen included seven *schepenen* (the members of the city council), four *burgemeesters* (mayors), and at the top of the heap was the schout. The schout was appointed by the lord of the domain or his representative, who was called the *Stadtholder*, and acted in the lord’s name in the local day-to-day administration of the city. At the time Pieter Blauvelt was appointed schout of Enkhuizen in 1514, John III of Egmont, the first Count of Egmont, was the Stadtholder of Holland, Zeeland and West-Friesland.

The schout had three main functions: first, the administration of city business presiding over the city council, somewhat like a modern-day mayor; second he was responsible for public order and policing, somewhat like a modern-day chief of police; third he prosecuted suspected criminals and presided over the city council when they sat as a court, somewhat like a modern-day prosecutor.⁸

Pieter was schout of Enkhuizen for 25 years until 1539. After that, Pieter apparently moved to the nearby city, Grootebroek, just west of Enkhuizen where he was appointed to be the schout for that community. We have a document from 1542 in which Pieter testifies with a number of other schouts before the city council at the Haag. In this document “Meester Pieter Blauvelt” is identified as the schout of Enkhuizen who is now (in 1542) the schout of Grootebroek.⁹

We also have an article describing a trial in the Netherlands in 1526 when Pieter Blauvelt had to answer charges by a faction of burgemeesters that he wasn’t prosecuting criminals who were walking the streets of Enkhuizen. Apparently, Pieter defended himself well because the court cleared him of all charges and ordered the disaffected burgemeesters to pay the schout damages of 40 karolusguilders and the costs of the trial.¹⁰

⁷ de Jong, Joop (2011) "The Dutch Golden Age and Globalization: History and Heritage, Legacies and Contestations," *Macalester International*: Vol. 27, Article 7.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/macintl/vol27/iss1/7>

⁸ From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, “Schout,” <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schout>

⁹ de Riemer, Jacob, *Beschryving van 's Graven-hage*, (Printed by Reinier Boitet, 1739), “Inleidinge Tot De Costumen Van s’Graven-Hage.” p. 18. https://books.google.nl/books?id=pFdeAAAaAAJ&pg=RA1-PA18&dq=blauveld&hl=nl&sa=X&ei=MXgzVYD_B4fbaOKJgWA&ved=0CCMQ6wEwAA#v=onepage&q=enhuysen&f=false

¹⁰ A translation of the article begins on p. 19.

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The page below comes from the History of Enkhuizen by Geraerd Brandt published in 1666. In the back of the book he included lists like this of the Enkhuizen Regents and the city magistrates from 1438 to 1665.¹¹

<p style="text-align: right;">Schepenen.</p> <p>Evert Tapper. Pieter Thijfz. Frans Fredrikfz. 1533. Schout. ... Burgermeesteren. Adriaen Janfz. Westphalen. Schepenen. 1534. Schout. Mr. Pieter Blauvelt, anders Blauvelt. Burgermeesteren. Freek Segerfz. Noorman, alias Krab. Willem Janfz. Seger Iacobfz. Aps. Albert Albertfz. Schepenen. 1535. Schout. Mr. Pieter van Blauvelt. Burgermeesteren. Willem Janfz. Sieuwert Reynerfz. Jacob Allertfz. Freek Harmenfz. Schepenen. Gijfbert Janfz.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">45</p> <p>Albert Wouterfz. Olfert Jacobfz, Blauhulk. 1536. Schout. Mr. Pieter van Blauvelt. Burgermeesteren. Vrerik Zegerfz. Krab. Zeger Jacobfz. Jacob Albertfz. Albert Albertfz. Schepenen. Cornelis Hermanfz. 1537. Schout. Mr. Pieter van Blauvelt. Burgermeesteren. Hillebrant Ruyloffz. Jacob Aelertfz. Schepenen. Albert Wouterfz. Jacob Aelertfz. Luytgen Matthijfz. Aelert Arentfz. Wouter Willemfz. 1538. Schout. Mr. Pieter van Blauvelt. Burgermeesteren. Willem Janfz. Hilbrant Roeloffz. F ij Jacob</p>
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Photo courtesy of Thijs Postma

Beginning in 1534 the information is more complete than in previous years. Notice in 1533, only one burgemeester is named. In fact there are no names listed at all for the years 1514, '15, or '16 when Pieter first began his tenure as schout of Enkhuizen.¹² With the help of other sources we can fill in more of the names. For example, compare the lists for 1534 and 1535 in the Brandt book with the lists below (p. 5) that include names from other sources.

¹¹ Brandt, Geraerd: Historie van Enkhuizen 1666, http://books.google.nl/books?id=Xbs_AAAACAAJ&pg=RA1-PA2&dq=historie+der+stad+enkhuizen&lr=&cd=2#v=onepage&q&f=false

¹² see list from other sources for 1514 on p. 15.

The First Blauvelt, Pieter of Enkhuizen

Enkhuizen magistrates, 1534 and 1535, and Regents, 1534¹³

1534.

SCHOUT:

Mr. Pieter Blaeuvelt, anders Blaeuscuit, (br)

BURGEMEESTERS:

Fredrik Segersz Noorman, alias Crab, 3x, (br)

Willem Jansz de Rijke, 1x, (br)

Zeger Jacobsz Abs, 1x,

Albert Albertsz, 1x, (br)

VROEDSCHAP (Regents) of ENKHUIZEN:

Fredrik Segersz Noorman/Crab, (br)

Willem Jansz de Rijke, (br)

Zeger Jacobsz Abs, (br)

Albert Albertsz, (br)

Albert Jansz, (br)

Willem Andriesz, (br)

Gijsbert Jansz, (br)

Riewert Luitjesz, [sinds 1513], (br)

Albert Woutersz, (br)

Dirk Volkertsz, (br)

Pieter Thijsz Timman, (br)

Reiner Reijnersz Ludsis, [sinds 1513], (br)

Siewert Reijnersz, (br)

Olfert Jacobsz Blaeuhulk, (br)

Fredrik Jacobsz, (br)

Jacob Albertsz Banjaert, (br)

Jan Allertsz Groot, (br)

Freek Harmensz, (br)

Zeger Dirksz, (br)

Arent Sijmonsz, [sinds 1494], (br)

1535.

SCHOUT:

Mr. Pieter van Blaeuvelt (br)

BURGEMEESTERS:

Willem Jansz de Rijke, 2x, (br)

Freek Harmensz, 2x, (br)

Siewert Reijnersz, 1x, (br)

Jacob Allertsz, 1x, (br)

SCHEPENEN:

Albert Woutersz, 2x, (br)

Olfert Jacobsz Blaeuhulk, 1x, (br)

Fredrik Jacobsz, 1x, (38/80; Hoof-67)

Pouwel Dirksz, 1x, (38/80)

Gijsbert Jansz, 1<, (br)

SECRETARIS:

Reiner Reijnersz Ludsis, 1x? tot 1542, (br-77)

¹³ Courtesy of Thijs Postma, <http://www.thijspostma.nl/>.

The First Blauvelt, Pieter of Enkhuizen

Remember that all the names on these lists are members of what we can call the “Regents club.” The majority had some kind of identifying surname, but most are listed here only with their patronymic. Even those listed with surnames also have their patronymic. The one exception to the rule is Pieter with his surname Blauvelt and his alias Blauscuit, but no patronymic. Surnames in the Netherlands at this time were very fluid and might change from one generation to the next. As an example: Simon Dirksz Rootvelt was the son of Dirk Riewertsz Rootvelt and Willemina Simonsdr Semeyns but he usually went by the name of Simon Dirksz Semeyns. Simon came from a distinguished family descended from a knight, but still chose to adopt the surname of his mother, Semeyns. His children also grew up with the surname Semeyns. On the other hand, the patronymic middle name was fixed. After all you only have one father. It was the opposite of our current practice. We have a fixed surname but it’s our middle name that is fluid. If we have one it is sometimes used, sometimes not, and sometimes changed.

This doesn’t explain why our Pieter didn’t use his patronymic but it helps us understand that his use of three surnames, Blauvelt, Blauscuit, and Blaeuhulck, was not unusual at that time. He was mostly known as Pieter Blauvelt. The Blauscuit surname came from his wife’s family and I’ll discuss that in a moment. Blaeuhulck is the name of another distinguished sea faring merchant family of Enkhuizen and because there are no other Blauvelt families in Enkhuizen or elsewhere in the Netherlands, it is thought that Pieter’s father was a Blaeuhulck. The most likely candidate for this time period would have been a Jacob Blaeuhulck. For that reason I included some of Jacob’s descendants in my genealogy of Pieter.

If Pieter was the son of Jacob Blaeuhulck, then we can identify one of his relatives on the lists of regents and magistrates above. Olfert Jacobsz Blaeuhulck on the 1534 list of Regents and a schepen on the 1535 list of magistrates would have been Pieter’s brother. Other members of the family included a brother Siewert Jacobsz Blaeuhulck, listed as a Regent in 1513; a brother Claas Jacobsz Blaeuhulck, a ship owner and co-owner of a caravel ship; and perhaps another brother Simon Blaeuhulck who was a pastor in one of the local Enkhuizen churches. This Simon went on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 1531, and died in Venice on his way back home.

Pieter married Geertruid Blauscuit who is believed to be the granddaughter of Gerrit Clasen Entsen. Gerrit was a schepen (member city council) in 1452 in Enkhuizen and burgemeester in 1469. He was Knighted also in 1469 by Charles the Bold of Burgundy. Due to his important achievements as Vice Admiral of Holland, Charles the Bold granted Gerrit Entsen the islands of Urk and Ens with Emmeloord Schokland (islands in the Zuider Zee directly East of Enkhuizen). Geertruid’s surname, “Blauscuit” can be translated *blue boat* or *blue ship*. Pieter may have used this surname to indicate his relationship to the famous Knight, Gerrit Entsen.

Note the “wapen” or shield of Gerrit Entsen that is prominently displayed in St. Gomarus church in Enkhuizen on the next page (p. 7). The shield at the center is a ship on a blue sea with a gold background. The image of this same ship appears on the family shields of Pieter’s cousin Jan Simonsz Blaeuhulck (p. 8) and Pieter’s descendant Siewert Cornelisz Heinsius (p. 9). Recurring motifs like this were used in family shields to indicate family relationships.

Jan Simonsz Blaeuhulck was a ship owner and brewer in Enkhuizen. He was a commissioner of Marital Affairs in 1610; he was a member of the city council 1613-15; and in 1615 he was a director of the "Noorderlijke Compagnie van Spitsbergen," a trading company like the East India Company where he was likewise a director from 1631 until he died in 1640. (See the portrait of Jan Simonsz on p. 8) In his later years, Jan Simonsz documented his experiences and what he knew of the past in extensive writings. These writings were one of the primary sources for Geraerd Brandt’s “History of Enkhuizen.”

The First Blauvelt, Pieter of Enkhuizen

Gerrit Entsen of Enkhuizen



Photo courtesy of Thijs Postma.

One of the main reasons we know as much as we do about the descendants of Pieter Blauvelt is because several of the dominant Regent families of Enkhuizen proudly traced their ancestry back to Pieter and his wife Geertruid. They were proud because Pieter, appointed by John III, Count of Egmont, had been the schout of Enkhuizen for 25 years and was related, through his wife, to Gerrit Entsen, the famous Vice Admiral knighted by Charles the Bold.

We are fortunate that these Enkhuizen families kept track of their ancestry. Otherwise, there are very few public documents before the 17th century to reconstruct family relationships and the documents we have most often lack surnames. Our only regret is that these Enkhuizen families did not keep track of all the Blauvelt descendants; they just kept track of the ones they descended from. For this reason, we can only document two children for Pieter and his wife, namely Simon Pietersz. and Maria Blauvelt (see genealogy, p. 14).

Maria married into the prominent van Heemskerk family. Maria's husband, Vranck van Beest van Heemskerk, was Secretary to the city of Delft, 1527, 1528; later he owned the ropewalk at Vranke street, named in his honor, in Rotterdam. (A ropewalk is a long straight narrow lane, or a covered pathway, where long strands of material are laid before being twisted into rope. These long ropes were essential for sailing ships. The standard length for a British Naval Rope was 1000 ft. A large Dutch sailing ship required over 20 miles of rope.)

The First Blauvelt, Pieter of Enkhuizen

Jan Simonsz Blaeuhulck

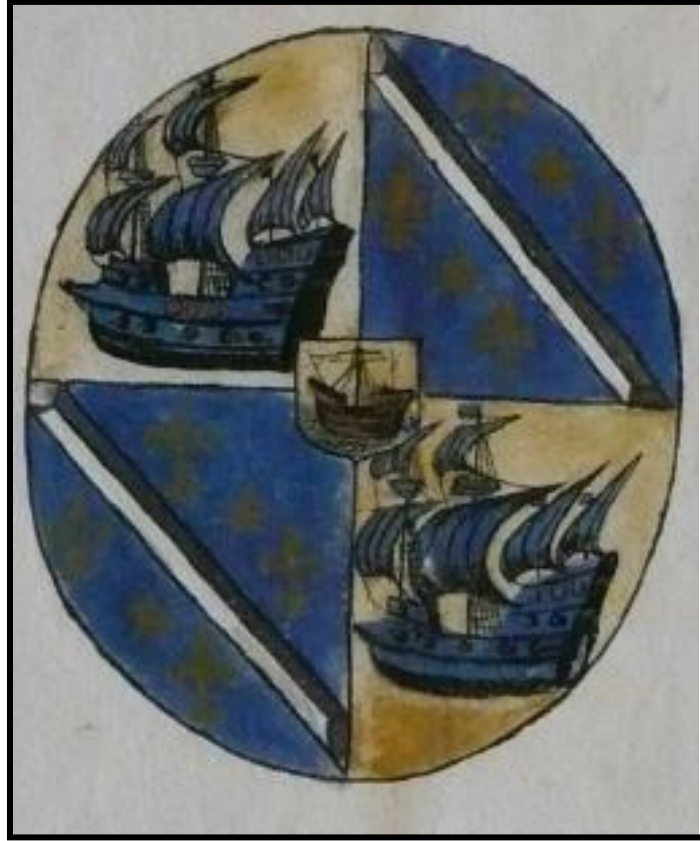


Photo courtesy of Thijs Postma.

Jan Simonsz Blaeuhulck



Photo courtesy of Thijs Postma.

The First Blauvelt, Pieter of Enkhuizen

The Blauvelt surname died out in Maria's descendants but survived with her brother, Simon Pietersz. and his two sons, Fredrik Simonsz. and Volkert Simonsz., though Volkert seemed to prefer his grandmother's surname, Blaeuschuijt. It was through Volkert's family that Pieter Blaeuvelt's descendants married into the prominent Sampson and Semeyns families.

In studying the history Enkhuizen you repeatedly encounter the name Semeyns as merchants, city administrators, and government officials. Volkert Blaeuvelt's great-granddaughter, Helmert Jacobsdr. Sampson married Simon Meinertsz Semeyns. My friend in Enkhuizen, Thijs Postma, said, "Simon's parents came from two very important families, the father was a leader in the battle to free Holland from Spanish occupation in 1572, and the mother descends from the First Duke of Egmont," the same Duke who appointed Pieter Blaeuvelt to be schout of Enkhuizen.

In 1577 Prince William of Orange expressed his gratitude and appreciation for Simon Meinertsz and his family in an official proclamation. Then, on the occasion of the second centenary of the liberation of Enkhuizen in 1772, a memorial dedicated to the Semeyns family was inscribed on one of the stones in the choir of St. Gomarus Church in Enkhuizen.

Siewert Cornelisz Heinsius



Photo courtesy of Thijs Postma.

The First Blauvelt, Pieter of Enkhuizen

The descendants of Pieter Blauvelt's grandson Fredrik Simonsz Blauvelt married into the prominent Heinsius and Florisz families. The family shield of Siewert Cornelisz Heinsius, as I mentioned before, has a small reproduction of Gerrit Entsen's shield at the center (p. 9). It also has the same crowning stag at the top. Note further the diagonal silver bar with two fleurs-de-lis and a star on either side that also appears in the shield of Jan Simonsz Blaeuhulk (p. 8). Below, we will encounter this same motif in the shield of the Riccen family.

Siewert Cornelisz Heinsius was the Earl of Drechterland (a district west of Enkhuizen). He was an Alderman in Enkhuizen in 1636; he was the Commissioner of the small Justice Court of Enkhuizen in 1652. His grandmother Margriet Cornelisdr Hermansz was a descendant of Pieter Blauvelt and she was the first to marry into the Heinsius family.

Siewert's daughter, Elia Heinsius married Dirck Simonsz Semeyns. Elia was a descendant of Fredrik Simonsz Blauvelt, and Dirk was a descendant of Fredrik's brother, Volkert Simonsz. Elia and Dirk were 5th cousins, once removed, both descendants of Pieter Blauvelt.

Through the intermarriage of Enkhuizen regent families, the descendants of Pieter Blauvelt also married into, among others, the prominent van Loosen family. The van Loosen estate papers are an important source of information on the history of Enkhuizen and its regent families. The van Loosen Park in downtown Enkhuizen keeps their name alive as well as the portraits of Jan Jansz van Loosen and his wife Cornelisje Gerrits Haas that still hang in the Enkhuizen City Hall. Like most of the other regent families the van Loosens gained their wealth and prominence from the shipping industry and international trade.

Other important sources for information on the regent families are the burial vaults and memorials in the churches of the Netherlands. When paper documents are scarce and perishable, it is nice for the genealogist to have family information chiseled in stone. One striking example relevant to our Blauvelt cousins in the Netherlands can be found on the wall of the Reformed Church in Purmerend (p. 11). It is a black and white marble monument ornately decorated with the shields of eight families including the the two principal families, "Blauvelt Riccen en Van Muylwijck," at the top left and top right and repeated in larger images above the central oval (translated):

Here is buried Vrouwe Catharina van Muylwijck, wife of Mr. Frederick Riccen, died 20 May 1631 age 34 years.

Mr. Frederick Riccen, steward and bailiff of this city, sheriff of Beemster¹⁴ and Wormer, and a Justice of the High Court of Holland, Zeeland, and West Friesland, died 30 September 1652 age 63 years.

Mr. Ventidius Riccen, son of Mr. Frederick Riccen, sheriff of Beemster, sheriff and dike Earl (dijck graef) of Wormer, died 7 September 1659 age 35 years.

Note the Blauvelt shield (p. 21) in the Blauvelt Riccen shield (p. 17) at the top left and the repetition of the Riccen shield (third from the top left). This seems to suggest there were two lines of Riccens in Frederick's ancestry. It is also the same motif we found in the shields of Jan Simonsz Blaeuhulk (p. 8) and Siewert Cornelisz Heinsius (p. 9). With this information we were able to identify Mr. Frederick Riccen as the grandson of Fredrik Simonsz Blauvelt who married a Riccen. Here we have another example of a descendant taking the surname of his grandmother with the result that the Blauvelt name disappeared even on this male line.

Note that Purmerend is not far from the port city of Monnikendam.

¹⁴ Beemster was the first polder in the Netherlands that was reclaimed from a lake, the water being extracted out of the lake by windmills.

The First Blauvelt, Pieter of Enkhuizen

"Blauvelt Riccen en Van Muylwijck."



Photo courtesy of Thijs Postma.

The First Blauvelt, Pieter of Enkhuizen

Most of the Blauvelt descendants we have identified stayed in Enkhuizen (because the information came from Enkhuizen families). Pieter's son Simon Pietersz Blauvelt had two sons and their female descendants married into the regent families of Enkhuizen. Some descendants from these families, like Pieter's daughter, Maria Blauvelt, married into the regent families of other cities. In all, I found Blauvelt descendants in sixteen other cities in the Netherlands, but most all of them did not carry the Blauvelt name. These other cities in no particular order include:

Schermerhorn, south-west of Hoorn
Hoogkarspel, west of Enkhuizen and west of Grootebroek
Den Haag
Purmerend, north of Amsterdam; north-west of Monnikendam
Utrecht, south of Amsterdam
Amersfoort, east of Utrecht
Bunnik, south-east of Utrecht (close)
Velsen, north-west of Amsterdam on the coast
Dordrecht, south-east of Rotterdam
Hoorn, south-west of Enkhuizen
Amsterdam
Medemblik, north-west of Enkhuizen
Rotterdam
Leeuwarden, Friesland north-east of Enkhuizen and west of Groningen
Haarlem, west of Amsterdam
Delft, south-east of Den Haag (close)
Grootebroek, west of Enkhuizen (close)

Even if Pieter Blauvelt and Geertruid only had two children, I suspect that either his son Simon Pietersz or his two grandsons Fredrik Simonsz Blauvelt and Volkert Simonsz Blauschuit had more children and descendants than we have so far identified. In fact, I am sure of it, and I know their names: Albert, a.k.a. Abraham Blauvelt, his son Willem Albertsz Blauvelt, and Hendrick Blauvelt, and his son, Gerrit Hendricksen Blauvelt.

We know that Willem Albertsz Blauvelt came from Monnikendam and his father Abraham either came from Monnikendam or he moved there probably from Enkhuizen. Abraham and his son Willem were merchant seamen like their ancestors.

I think Hendrick Blauvelt was closely related to Abraham but he ended up in Deventer. Why would Hendrick go to Deventer? That Abraham went to Monnikendam seems obvious enough. It is not far from Enkhuizen and like Enkhuizen its main industries revolved around shipping and trade. A little research reveals that Deventer also relied on shipping and trade and it is not far from Enkhuizen. If you are traveling by boat, the preferred mode of transportation, Deventer is just a hop, skip, and a splash across the Zuider Zee.

One of the five oldest cities in the Netherlands, Deventer received city rights in the year 956. It grew to be a flourishing trade city because its harbor on the IJssel river could accommodate large sea going ships. Deventer joined the Hanseatic League and became one of the main transport arteries, linking the North with the Rhine and the interior of Europe. Cargo could be stored there and transferred to smaller river boats. The IJssel river flowing North is one of the three main distributaries of the Rhine River; the other two, the Waal River and the Nederrijn flow West into the North Sea.

Our former ABD president, Bob Brouwer recently learned that his Dutch ancestors may have originally come from Cologne, Germany. This is not unlikely. Cologne was also an important trading partner in the Hanseatic League. From Cologne, it was an easy boat ride down the Rhine to the Netherlands.

Long before Antwerp and Amsterdam became dominant trading centers in the 16th and 17th centuries, Deventer was a trading powerhouse in the Hanseatic League. Trade across the Baltic Sea has

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been called the “mother of all trade” in the Netherlands and one article I read called the Hanseatic League the first European Common Market. In the 15th century, Deventer had a common mint where coins were made for the three IJssel River cities of Deventer, Zwolle, and Kampen. Over 1600 silver coins struck in the Deventer mint have been found in excavations around the Baltic Sea, proof of the key role played by the city during this period.

In Thijs Postma’s genealogies of the prominent Enkhuizen families in the 16th and 17th centuries, there are 42 references to Deventer. These are mostly family members who married into families of Deventer like Catharina Aukama who married Hendrick Dapper Bitter, a lawyer and burgemeester of Deventer; or Dirk Semeyns van Binnevest of Enkhuizen who was a minister in Deventer. It is not strange then that at least one of Pieter Blauvelt’s descendants ended up in Deventer, in the province of Overijssel. His name was Hendrick Blauvelt, the father of our ancestor, Gerrit Hendricksen van Deventer.

As a post script to this presentation and to my article in the new Blauvelt Family Genealogy, it is important that I report some other information I have uncovered in my research of the Blauvelt name. Numerous web sites on the internet claim that Bluefields, Nicaragua got its name from a Henry (or Hendrick) Bluefeldt (Blauvelt). He was a Dutch pirate or privateer who frequented the large harbor of Bluefields in the early 1600’s and several sources specify the years 1602 and/or 1610. This predates the information I found in English sources that document Abraham and Willem Blauvelt in the area during the 1630’s. Unfortunately, I have not found primary sources to confirm this information about “Henry Bluefeldt,” but it stirs the imagination to think that Gerrit Hendricksen’s father may have been a privateer. My previous research suggests Bluefields was most likely named after Abraham and/or his son Willem Blauvelt who were known by the English as Bluefield. They probably came to the Caribbean during the 1620’s sometime after the Dutch West India Company began operations there in 1621.

It is important to realize the Dutch West India Company (or WIC for short) was chartered in 1621 as an instrument of war against Spain. A temporary truce in the eighty years war with Spain had just ended in that year. The WIC’s ‘Grand Design’ was to dominate the Atlantic sugar and slave trades. The Dutch planned to capture Spanish silver fleets and mount a sustained campaign of government piracy, which they called privateering. During its first decades of operation the company’s primary source of income came from privateering.¹⁵ We also know the Dutch had been engaged in privateering much earlier before 1600. For example, “by 1600, over a hundred ships carried salt from Venezuela to Hoorn and Enkhuizen” to counter the Spanish embargo on salt. Several of our Blauvelt cousins in Enkhuizen were engaged in the salt trade and the processing of salt. Then, “in 1605, the Spanish sent a naval force to the Caribbean to end the Dutch salt trade, smuggling and privateering.”¹⁶ Hendrick Blauvelt may have been an early privateer in the West Indies and/or may have gone there with his relative Abraham Blauvelt. We don’t read about Hendrick in the English sources because Hendrick may have retired or died before the 1630’s when the English came to the area near Bluefields.

If we entertain the idea that Hendrick and Abraham were brothers, then Captain Willem Blauvelt, Abraham’s son, and our Gerrit Hendricksen Blauvelt, son of Hendrick, would have been first cousins. This is just speculation based on a few facts that revolve around the unique “Blauvelt” name, the family connections with shipping and trade, and the historical context. However, it is compatible with the idea detailed in my article for the new Blauvelt Family Genealogy that Gerrit Hendricksen Blauvelt came to the New World with his relative, Captain Willem Blauvelt, on the ship “La Garce.”

¹⁵ Koot, Gerard, History department, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, “The WIC, The Dutch West India Company,” (Essay, 2015): <http://www1.umassd.edu/euro/resources/imagesessays/thewic.pdf>

¹⁶ Ibid.

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West Friesland around 1200



↑ Purmerend

This map shows all the lakes in West Friesland (North Holland) that have since been drained and reclaimed as polders. The first of these was Beemster. Purmerend, on the southern shore of Beemster, was the home of Blauvelt descendants (p. 10). Heemskerk is near the lower left corner of the map (p. 7). Enkhuizen is near the upper right side of the map.

Enkhuizen magistrates in 1514*

1514. (uit Fruin-Infornacie, blz 99)

SCHOUT:

Pieter Blauvelt/Blauschuijt, (76/88)

BURGEMEESTERS:

Volkert Fredriksz, 4<, (76/88)

Arent Sijmonsz, 3x, (76/88)

Jacob Jansz, 2x, (76/88)

Dirk Riewertsz Rootvelt/Lutjevelt,

1<, (9/12, 30/102, 76/88)

Luitjen Evertsz, 1<, (76/88)

OUD-BURGEM:

Frans Fredriksz van der Hulk, (76/88)

Fredrik Sijmonsz, (76/88)

SCHEPENEN:

Maerten Pietersz, 5<, (38/75, 76)

Riewert Harksz, 2x, (38/75)

Pieter Sijmonsz, 1x, (38/76)

* Courtesy of Thijs Postma,
<http://www.thijspostma.nl/>.

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Netherlands Map, 1559 - 1600



This map shows the Spanish Netherlands that eventually became Belgium and Luxemburg. Notice Cologne (Köln) on the Rhine (Rhein) river and follow its course north to the Ijssel river past Deventer into the Zuider Zee (p. 12-13). This was the most direct route from Cologne, another Hanseatic city, to the north and the Hanseatic cities of the Baltic Sea.

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Zuiderzee Works

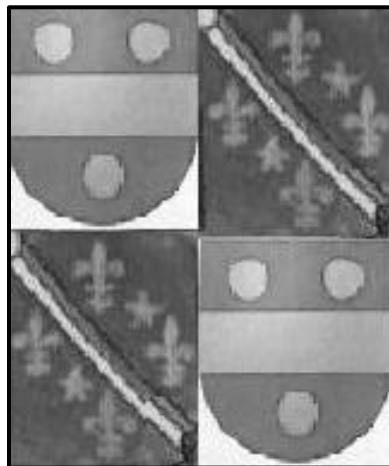
Zuiderzee

The Zuiderzee Works is a man-made system of dams, land reclamation and water drainage works, and the largest hydraulic engineering project undertaken by the Netherlands during the twentieth century.



This map shows that the former islands of Urk, Emmeloord, and Skokland (see p. 6) are now part of the mainland in the Noordoostpolder.

Blauvelt Riccen Shield¹⁷



¹⁷ A cut and paste version of the shield found in the *Blauvelt Riccen en Van Muylwijck* memorial in Purmerend (p. 11).

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Bluefields, Nicaragua on line

1. "In 1602 one of these soldiers of fortune chose the bay of Bluefields as his center of operations due to its tactical advantages, a Dutchman named Blauveltdt or Bleeveltdt, and from him originates the name of the municipality."
Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bluefields>
2. "Bluefields was founded in 1602, the year in which the Dutch pirate Peter Blauvelt began to use the site as their base of operations."
Vianica.com: <https://vianica.com/nicaragua/raas/bluefields/17.1>
3. "Named after the Dutch pirate Blewfeldt, who made his base here in the 1700s."
Read more: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/nicaragua/caribbean-coast/bluefields#ixzz3gpF2ehLg>
4. "Bluefields was name after the Dutch pirate Henry Blufeldt who hid in the bays water in the early 17th century."
<http://www.nicaragua-guide.com/bluefields.html>
5. "It was the Dutch, not the Spanish, who first made landfall here, when the wily pirate Henry Blauveltdt—from whom Bluefields aptly inherited her name—sought refuge from the ravages of the sea."
<http://www.perceptivetravel.com/issues/0710/nicaragua.html>
6. "The city of Bluefields was founded in 1602; today it is known as the oldest coastal city in Nicaragua. Bluefields Nicaragua has a rather interesting [history](#): it was once a hiding spot for pirates."
<http://www.destination360.com/central-america/nicaragua/bluefields>
7. "According to legend, Bluefields is named after the Dutch pirate 'Blauwveltdt' who was the first to settle in the area."
<http://www.nicaragua.com/atlantico-sur/bluefields/>
8. "Named for the Dutch pirate Henry Bluefeldt who hid out here in the early 1600s, Bluefields is located at the mouth of Rio Escondido where it joins the murky Bluefields Bay on Nicaragua's eastern shore."
<http://www.nicatour.net/en/nicaragua/bluefields.cfm>
9. "In 1610, the island's namesake, Dutch pirate Henry Bluefeldt found refuge on the island, repairing his fleet with the aid of the native Kukras. For the next century Bluefields would become a haven for Dutch and British pirates."
<http://bluefieldsound.tripod.com/BLUEFIELDS2.html>
10. "Named after the Dutch pirate Blewfeldt, who used it as a base in the 17th century...."
<http://www.britannica.com/place/Bluefields>

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Bloodtshoffs en onghegort¹⁸

A trial from the 16th century

The city council of Enkhuizen

Before 1523 Enkhuizen was controlled by twenty men ("city fathers"/regents) that, regardless of their ability, were selected only for their wealth. A charter of Charles V of 20 March 1523 instituted a change. Henceforth, only men who were at least thirty years old and were among the "wisest, most capable, and most judicious" were eligible to run the city. Out of these men each year on 1 January, three, later four burgemeesters (mayors) were elected and sworn in by the schout. After a year of service they had to resign and could only be elected again a year later. Also the position of shepen (alderman/member of the city council) – Enkhuizen had seven of them – was an annually rotating office. Aldermen were appointed and sworn in by the schout.

The schout had an important place in all. He was formally the deputy of the sovereign, by whom he was appointed. In criminal cases, he acted as prosecutor, whereupon the tribunal of aldermen pronounced the sentence. The "schepenbank" (tribunal of aldermen) was also called "vierschaar" (derived from "vierkant," the Dutch word for square) Initially, a "vierschaar" was an open space in a town or village, where "banken" (benches) were put up. There the aldermen sat, hence the name "schepenbanken" (aldermen benches). Every inhabitant of Enkhuizen was allowed to attend the public tribunals. The burgemeesters had the power to send citizens, who were convicted of a crime, out of the city.

The trial

The protagonist in this story is Peter Blauvelt, schout of Enkhuizen from at least 1514 to 1539. He was born around 1480 and also named Pieter Blauscuit, possibly after his wife's name, Geertruid Blauscuit.

In 1526 serious allegations were brought against Peter Blauvelt. According to the burgemeesters, Frans Fredericksz,¹ Groot Aelbrecht,² Jacob Bruijnsz, and Cooman Willem Heijndrixsz, he had released several "malefacteurs ende doodtslaghers" (evil-doers and manslayers) in exchange for money. Burgemeester William Cooman Heijndrixsz had the town clerk, Zweer Matthijsz, write a letter to complain to our gracious Lady Governess, Margaretha of Austria. She was appointed by Charles V as Governess and Chief of the Great Council of Mechelen, from which she controlled the Netherlands. According to the burgemeesters of Enkhuizen, Blauvelt should no longer be allowed to occupy the office of schout.

¹⁸ Groot, Anthony, "Bloodtshoffs en onghegort," Steevast-2007, blz 72-75. (yearbook of the Oud Enkhuizen club) <http://www.oudenkhuisen.nl/index.php?id=GqO/01Pf1edx4kw3JLQz>. Translation thanks to Antonie de Bruin and Johanna E. de Bruin-Noothout.

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The Governess sent the letter to the “Hof van Holland” (Court of Justice of the Provinces of Holland, Zeeland, and West Friesland). The Attorney-General ordered the schout and the burgemeesters to appear before the Court on July 31, 1526. The accusations were quite serious. According to the burgemeesters, the schout tolerated several persons in the city who had committed manslaughter.

1. He let a weaver, Paers Dirck and his wife, who had committed a double murder, to walk about freely after payment of some “penninghen” (pence);
2. Thonis de Schoenmaker, who had killed one person, and Gherijt Jansz, alias Slockspijs, walked around the city with the knowledge of the schout;
3. Jan Slock , who had committed murder, gave the schout fresh herring to elude prosecution;
4. Jan Oudt , who had killed citizen Roelof Jansz, paid the sheriff a ransom of 11 “Rijnse guldens” (Rhenish guilders);
5. Pieter Luytgesz , alias Pieter Brouck , and Jan Broedersz van Bouwen , the miller, who each had a murder of their conscience, were not prosecuted, just as Volcke Jansz, who had killed someone from Grootebroek six years ago;
6. A Hercke Volckersz and many other “boosdoeners” (evil-doers) escaped their punishment.

There were other complaints of negligence lodged against the schout. In 1521 Dove Stijn went to city hall to complain to sheriff Blauvelt about Reijer Tadde. The woman told him that Reijer had carried some young maidens out of the city with his cart, including her daughter. He had taken the girl to an inn and tried to rape her. However, the son of Dove Stijn was not a good boy either because, together with two other boys, he had stolen cheese and other dairy products from the milk cottage of Trijn and Dirck Heertgens on the old dike outside Enkhuizen. The children of the Heertgens had seen the young thieves and chased them out of the yard, whereby they had lost some garments. The sheriff had the clothes picked up by his deputy, but failed to prosecute the boys for theft.

“Ick ben van goede name ende fame”

Blauvelt argued in his defense that he was a man of good name and reputation, and nobody had ever caught him on irregularities. He accused the burgemeesters and the secretary of Enkhuizen of having acted against him out of hatred and envy and asked the Court for an acquittal. Apparently the burgemeesters had no satisfactory proof to substantiate their charges because the Court decided, after ample deliberation and in the name of the Chosen Emperor of the Romans, King of Germany and Castile, Count of Holland, Zeeland and Friesland, to acquit the schout of prosecution.

The Attorney General asked Frans Fredericksz, who spoke on behalf of the burgemeesters, whether it was true that he and William Cooman Heyndrixsz had informed the Governess about the abuses of power committed by the schout. Frans Fredericksz replied that several complaints about Pieter Blauvelt were received from the inhabitants of Enkhuizen as well as from people outside the city. The schout did not administer justice and had even helped malicious people, including murderers who

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had paid bribes and freely walked about in the city. Several times the burgemeesters addressed him about his conduct, but he would not listen, so the complaints increased daily. Then they had the secretary write down the complaints in a letter and send it to the Governess, not in the form of an accusation, but as a kind of warning, in the hope that Margaret would intercede in the matter. As sworn burgemeesters of Enkhuizen they had only done their duty.

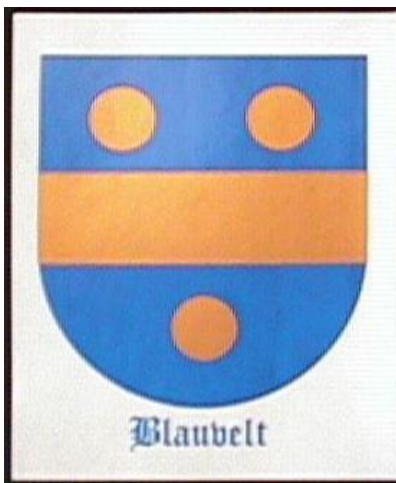
Decision of the Court of Holland and higher appeal.

After consultation with the Councilors, the Court of Holland decided in the name of the Emperor to condemn the burgermeesters to pay 40 karolusguilders (1 karolusguilder equals 20 stivers) out of their own goods for the benefit of Emperor Charles V. The Secretary was acquitted of persecution because he wrote the letter by order of the burgemeesters.

Finally schout Peter Blauvelt was called to speak. He was very indignant that the burgemeesters had accused him of certain bad and scandalous affairs and therefore had to appear before the Court of Holland. He would very much like to see the burgemeesters beseech him for forgiveness in front of the Court "bloodtshooffs en ongehort" (bareheaded and ungirt) and to repeat this the first court day of the tribunal in Enkhuizen. The schout also demanded that the burgemeesters should buy two glasses each worth twenty pounds large Flemish (1/2 Dutch guilder) and have it engraved that they wrongly accused the schout of Enkhuizen to Margaret of Austria and the Court of Holland. One glass should be placed in the great hall of the Court of Holland and the other in the tribunal of Enkhuizen. Moreover, the schout demanded a compensation of 2000 karolusguilders and also they had to pay the costs of the trial.

The wishes of the schout were not granted by the Court of Holland. However, the burgemeesters had to pay 40 karolusguilders to Peter Blauvelt and also the costs of the trial. The burgemeesters appealed to the Great Council of Mechelen, in those years the Supreme Court of Justice in the Netherlands. The appeal was dismissed on July 13, 1527.

Blauwvelt/Blauvelt
"Wapen" or Shield¹⁹



¹⁹ Rietstap, J. B., *Armorial General, Dictionnaire des Termes du Blason* (Gouda: G.B. van Goor Zonen, 1884)