

Hope College

Hope College Digital Commons

Collection Registers and Abstracts

Archives and College History

August 2012

H09-1692. Den Herder Family. Papers, 1855-1949. 0.50 linear ft.

Hope College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/collection_registers

 Part of the [Archival Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Repository citation: Hope College, "H09-1692. Den Herder Family. Papers, 1855-1949. 0.50 linear ft." (2012). *Collection Registers and Abstracts*. Paper 287.
https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/collection_registers/287
August 23, 2012.

This Register is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and College History at Hope College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Collection Registers and Abstracts by an authorized administrator of Hope College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@hope.edu.

H09-1692. Den Herder Family.
Papers, 1855-1949. 0.50 linear ft.

Abstract

The Den Herder family migrated from the Netherlands to Zeeland, Michigan, in 1847. The parents of the family were Christiaan Marinus den Herder, born in 1796 in Borselen, Zeeland, the Netherlands, and his wife, Cornelia de Jonge, born in 1794. They had three sons and three daughters: Jan, Marinus, Jacob, Jannetje, Janna, and Neeltje.

The majority of the papers in this collection are from Jacob, born in Borselen ca. 1833 and died in 1916. He was married to Adrianna Klaassen in 1856. Jacob and Adrianna had four children: Christian J., George, Mary (Mrs. Matthew Kolyn), and Mrs. James Ossewaarde.

The children of Christian J. who was married to Johanna Bosch were Jay, Harmon, Edward and Mrs. Margaret Vander Velde.

The Den Herders became a prominent Zeeland, Michigan, family after Jacob founded the Den Herder Bank. It became the Zeeland State Bank, and then First Michigan Bank in 1958. The Huntington Bank of Columbus, Ohio, acquired FMB in 1997. The Den Herders, as a prosperous clan, became involved in many Zeeland and Holland businesses.

Christiaan Marinus Den Herder, son Jacob, and grandson Christian J., were amateur historians. Their papers include primarily memoirs and Zeeland local history. Nearly all of their papers are written in their native Dutch language. Perhaps the best known of Jacob's work is his history of the Zeeland Colony that he wrote for the Semi-Centennial celebration of the Holland *Kolonie* in 1897. This is the only essay in the family collection that has been translated. Christian J. composed several essays of the history of the Sunday School of the First Reformed Church of Zeeland and instructional materials. He also wrote a few essays on the early Church Fathers, such as Polycarp.

Accession No.: H09-1692
Provenance: Den Herder Family
Processed by: Elton J. Bruins, April 2009

Biographical Information

The Den Herder family migrated from the Netherlands to Zeeland, Michigan, in 1847. The parents of the family were Christiaan Marinus den Herder, born in 1796 in Borselen, Zeeland, the Netherlands, and his wife, Cornelia de Jonge, born in 1794. They had three sons and three daughters: Jan, Marinus, Jacob, Jannetje, Janna, and Neeltje.

The majority of the papers in this collection are from Jacob, born in Borselen ca. 1833 and died in 1916. He was married to Adrianna Klaassen in 1856. Jacob and Adrianna had four children: Christian J., George, Mary (Mrs. Matthew Kolyn), and Mrs. James Ossewaarde.

The children of Christian J. who was married to Johanna Bosch were Jay, Harmon, Edward and Mrs. Margaret Vander Velde.

When Randall P. Vander Water published *A Walk Through Time: Pictorial History of Zeeland, Michigan* in 2005, several Den Herders were pictured. Jan Den Herder and the Hon. Jacob Den Herder are shown in the 1887 photo of Zeeland pioneers, (p. 6). Jacob Den Herder is shown on p. 23 in the laying of the cornerstone of the Zeeland State Bank in 1909. Christian

Den Herder also appears in this photo. In a 1919 photo of Zeeland veterans of World War I on p. 41, Edward Den Herder and Harmon Den Herder are pictured.

The Den Herders became a prominent Zeeland, Michigan, family after Jacob founded the Den Herder Bank. It became the Zeeland State Bank, and then First Michigan Bank in 1958. The Huntington Bank of Columbus, Ohio, acquired FMB in 1997. The Den Herders, as a prosperous clan, became involved in many Zeeland and Holland businesses.

The Den Herders are mentioned in many published works: *History of Ottawa County, Michigan, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers; Netherlanders in America* by Jacob Van Hinte; *Life and Times of Jannes Van de Luyster, Founder of Zeeland, Michigan* by Rev. Henry Beets; *Historic Grand Haven and Ottawa County* by Leo C. Lillie; *Legends of the Dutch* by Adrian Van Koevering; and in two books by Henry S. Lucas: *Netherlanders in America* and *Dutch Immigrant Memoirs and Related Writings*.

Scope and Content

Christiaan Marinus Den Herder, son Jacob, and grandson Christian J., were amateur historians. Their papers include primarily memoirs and Zeeland local history. Nearly all of their papers are written in their native Dutch language. Perhaps the best known of Jacob's work is his history of the Zeeland Colony that he wrote for the Semi-Centennial celebration of the Holland *Kolonie* in 1897. This is the only essay in the family collection that has been translated. Christian J. composed several essays of the history of the Sunday School of the First Reformed Church of Zeeland and instructional materials. He also wrote a few essays on the early Church Fathers such as Polycarp.

Container List

Background Information, 2009

- Den Herder, Jacob. Correspondence with Adrianna Klaassen, 16 November 1855
- Den Herder, Jacob. Correspondence from the Netherlands, 27 January 1881 (Dutch)
- Visscher, Arend. Correspondence with Jacob Den Herder, 189? (Dutch)
- den Herder, Christiaan Marinus. Autobiography, n.d. (Dutch) (Transcription by Matthew Kolyn)
- den Herder, Christiaan Marinus. Essay, "Gedachtenis," n.d. (Dutch)
- Den Herder, Jacob. Life Sketch of Myself, 1900
- Den Herder, Jacob. Poetry: "Geliefde Vrouw A. Klaassen," January 1859 (Dutch)
- Den Herder, Jacob. Speech, 29 October 1879 (Dutch)
- Den Herder, Jacob. Essay: "De Hoop," 4 November 1879 (Dutch)
- Den Herder, Jacob. Sketch of Zeeland's History, 1897. Semi-Centennial celebration of the Holland Colony (Dutch and English)
- [Den Herder, Jacob]. Essay: The Twentieth Anniversary of the Sunday School in Zeeland, Michigan, 1892 (Dutch)
- Den Herder, [Jacob]. Essay on the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Sunday School in Zeeland, Michigan, 25 May 1902 (Dutch)
- Den Herder, Jacob, translator. "Theodore Christlieb, D.D." (Dutch)
- Den Herder, Jacob. Essay: "Spokeryen," n.d. (Dutch) (envelope of Jacob Den Herder)

- Den Herder, Jacob. Essay: "Polycarp," n.d. (Dutch)
- Den Herder, Jacob. Essay: "Ambrosius" [Ambrose, Bishop of Milan], n.d. (Dutch)
- Den Herder, Jacob. Essay: "Augustine, Bishop of Hippo," n.d. (Dutch)
- Den Herder, Jacob. Memoirs: Emigration to America in 1847. (Dutch), 43 pages
- Den Herder, Jacob. Essay, no title, 188? (Dutch)
- Den Herder, Jacob, translator. A Sermon, translated from English into Dutch, 1881
- Den Herder, Jacob. Certificate of fifteen shares, Zeeland State Bank, 1 January 1901
- Den Herder, Jacob (?). Essay: "Sch...Bedrigd," n.d. (Dutch)
- [Den Herder, Jacob]. Essay, n.d. (Dutch)
- Den Herder, [Jacob]. Brief history of the township and village of Zeeland, Michigan. [1876?] (Dutch) 28 pages
- [Den Herder, Jacob]. Essay: "Madagascar," n.d. (Dutch)
- [Den Herder, Jacob]. A sheet of paper that was wrapped around several documents, entitled: "Sunday Selections for future perusal & enjoyment"
- [Den Herder, Jacob?]. Essay: "Schets over America," n.d. (Dutch)
- [Den Herder, Jacob?]. Essay: "Dwalen," n.d. (Dutch)
- [Den Herder, Jacob?] Essay: untitled, n.d. (Dutch)
- [Den Herder, Jacob?]. Essay: untitled, n.d. (Dutch)
- [Den Herder, Jacob?]. Essay: "Verantwoordelykheid der leden," n.d. (Dutch)
- [Den Herder, Jacob?]. Essay on Joshua, n.d. (Dutch)
- [Den Herder, Jacob?]. Essay fragments, n.d. (Dutch)
- [Den Herder, Jacob?]. Essay on Christian Mission, n.d. (Dutch), 9 pages
- [Den Herder, Jacob?]. Essay: untitled, n.d. (Dutch)
- Klaassen, Adriana (Mrs. Jacob Den Herder). Poetry: "Sederzyn Kruis," (?) n.d. (Dutch)
- (Author?). Poetry, untitled. n.d. (Dutch)
- [Den Herder, Jacob?]. Poetry, untitled, n.d. (Dutch)
- Den Herder, Christian. Essay on the Emigration to America, n.d., 39 pages (Dutch)
- Den Herder, Jacob and Christian. Small notebook, n.d. (Dutch)
- Den Herder, Jacob. Speech, "Old Settlers from European Countries," 1890
- Beets, Henry. "Life and Times of Jannes Van de Luyster," pamphlet, 1949, 66 pages