

THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME

Despite years of research on both sides of the Atlantic, the origin of the name of Quackenbush is still not clear today. In fact, the discovery earlier in this century that the Immigrant Pieter Quackenbosch also used the name of Pieter Bont (see page 3) has only made the origin of the family name less certain than before.

The shield of the Van Quackenbosch coat of arms (shown opposite the title page of this book) was first used by Dirk Aelbertszoon van Quackenbosch on 17 Sep. 1529 and is registered in the *Leiden Armorial* (1785). The same shield was first used with the motto "Vrede in Rykdom" (Peace in Wealth) in 1578 by his grandson, Gerrit Aelbertszoon van Quackenbosch, a Leiden clothier. Gerrit was the son of Dirk's only known son, Aelbert van Quackenbosch. Gerrit in turn married Catyn van de Graft Jacobsdochter and had at least one daughter, Adriana, who married Jacob Corneliszoon van Lemsveld, later a mayor of Leiden.

Other van Quackenbosches in the early Leiden records include:

- Sander van Quackenbosch, a member of the city council of Leiden during the Spanish siege of 1574.
- Pieter van Quackenbosch, appointed sheriff of Leiden in 1604. He celebrated his 20th year Jubilee on 29 August 1624. Pieter was succeeded as sheriff by his son Cornelis on 30 December 1627, but was reappointed on 22 Nov. 1635 following Cornelis' death.
- Pieter van Quackenbosch, born 1639, and a student at the University of Leiden in 1651. This Pieter is probably the same person as a Petrus Quackenbosch who was enrolled at the University of Groningen in 1659.

It is not certain how the Immigrant Pieter Quackenbosch is connected to the Leiden van Quackenbosch family. In his marriage record of 1674 at the New York Reformed Dutch Church, Pieter's son Reynier, shown as Reynier Pietersen Van Quackenbosch, listed himself as from Oestgeest in Holland. This town is no doubt the village of Oegstgeest in the current province of South Holland and now a suburb of the city of Leiden. Because of the proximity of Oegstgeest and Leiden, it is likely that there is some connection between the family of Pieter the Immigrant and the van Quackenbosch family of Leiden.

The following Quackenbosches appear in the early records of Oegstgeest:

- Jasper Janszoon Quackenbosch of Valkenburg married Tryntje Teunisdochter van der Bijl, from Katwijk aan den Rijn on 7 May 1679. Both were residing at Oegstgeest. Jasper died 26 Apr. 1700.
- Jeremias Janszoon Quackenbosch of Valkenburg married Pieterneeltje Leenderts van Rhyn of Soeterwoude [Zoeterwoude] but residing at Oegstgeest. Their marriage at Voorburg was registered at Oegstgeest on 29 Apr. 1695.
- Mouringh Janszoon Quackenbosch of Valkenburg, but residing at Oegstgeest, married Neeltje Jansdochter van Leeuwen of Oegstgeest in May 1696.

The derivation of the name of Quackenbosch (or van Quackenbosch) can be speculated upon based on a literal translation of the name. It was common for early Dutch families to assume a surname based on where they lived. The prefix of "van" in Dutch means simply "from" or "of" (in contrast to the closely related German "von" which usually implies nobility). "Kwaken" in Dutch refers to the sound made by frogs (or sometimes by ducks), while "bosch" means forest or wood. Combining these separate translations, Pieter van Quackenbosch translates as "Pieter from the forest of the croaking frogs."

The fact that Pieter the Immigrant also used the name of Pieter Bont, and also the variation of Pieter Bout, further clouds the attempts to connect the family back to the early Dutch records. The possibility should be considered that the name of Bont is the original name of the family and that the name of Quackenbosch was acquired at some point in Holland, or even in New

Netherland. This theory could explain why so little success has been made in locating Pieter Quackenbosch in the early records of Holland.

Another complicating factor in the research of the Quackenbosch (or even Bont) family in Holland is the extensive use of the patronymic naming system as late as the 17th century. Under this system, rather than using a consistent family surname from generation to generation, a son Pieter of a father with the first name of Jan would use Pieter Janszoon as his full name. This name translates literally as "Pieter, son of Jan." If Pieter in turn had a son named Jan, the child would become known as Jan Pieterszoon (or as Jan Pieters or Jan Pieterse). If Pieter had a daughter named Maritje, she would become known as Maritje Pietersdochter, translated literally as "Maritje, daughter of Pieter." Thus, under the patronymic naming system, the name we today assume to be a family surname changes each generation, making it difficult to trace families from generation to generation in the early records.

It is interesting to note that one of the earliest spellings of the family name in the New World, the 1674 marriage record of Reynier "Van Quackenbosch," is letter-for-letter the same as the name was typically spelled in Leiden in the 16th and 17th century. Other spellings of the name in the early New York records vary widely, however, and are rarely preceded by "van." Typical spellings of the name in the early church records are: Quackenbosch, Quackenbos, Quackenboss, Quakkelbosch, and Kwakkenbos. By 1750, three variations of the name predominated: Quackenbosch, Quackenbos, and Quackenboss. It was during this period that a fourth variation, Quackenbush, began to gain popularity. This spelling of the name, obviously an anglicized version of the older Dutch name, slowly gained in popularity until today it is by far the most frequently used version of the name. Other variations in the spelling of the name that are still found in the U.S. and Canada are:

Quackenbos - Usually descendants of Pieter the Immigrant's middle son, Wouter.

Quackenboss - Used by various branches of the family having no apparent connection.

Quakenbush - Used by descendants of Peter and John Quakenbush who settled in North Carolina about 1780. Much of this branch intermarried with various Quaker families. The Quakers were staunch opponents of slavery and left the South for the Midwest in large numbers starting in the early 1800's. Many of the North Carolina Quakenbushes settled in Indiana, with some of them later continuing West. This spelling of the name is also used by a Canadian family that left Ontario to settle in British Columbia.

Qualkinbush - Origin unknown, but first used by the sons of John and Sarah (Foote) Quackenbush of Lawrence County, Indiana (see page 185).

The name of Quackenbush also exists in Holland today, although it is now usually found with the more standard Dutch spelling of Kwakkenbos. There are presently three such listings in the Amsterdam telephone directory, with several other listings in other parts of the country.

The Coat of Arms

The coat of arms shown opposite the title page is listed in several standard heraldic references, including J. B. Rietstap's *Armorial Général*. As mentioned earlier, the Dutch motto, *Vrede in Rykdom*, translates as "Peace in Wealth." Rietstap also lists another coat of arms under the name of van Quackenbosch with a shield split vertically down the middle. The [viewer's] left side of the shield is red with a six pointed yellow (or gold) star in its center. The right hand half of the shield is blue with a broad silver band running diagonally from the upper left to the lower right. Under the rules of heraldry, however, the right to bear a coat of arms passes only to direct descendants of the bearer. Since the connection between Pieter the Immigrant and the van Quackenbosch family in Holland has not yet been established, the American family cannot technically use either of these coats of arms. Nevertheless, they both remain of interest to anyone bearing the Quackenbush name and hopefully someday the missing connection will be made.