
Four Farms, Four Names: The Identity and Parentage of Dirk Weversborg of the Netherlands

By Yvette Hoitink, CG

An eighteenth-century farming family was known by four different farm names. Researching broadly for information on other aspects of identity and correlating evidence resolves the question of a parent-child linkage.

Before law required hereditary surnames, some people in areas of northwestern Europe were known by the names of their farms.¹ Identifying ancestors whose surnames changed upon relocation—and their parents—can be difficult. That is especially true for tenant farmers who left few land records. Information about their residences, associates, and relationships can overcome the problem. The case of Dirk Weversborg, an eighteenth-century farmer from the Netherlands, demonstrates this approach.

DIRK WEVERSBORG AND GERRITJE GOOSSENS

On 15 April 1755 Dirk Weversborg, son of Jan Weversborg, had marriage banns posted in the Dutch Reformed Church of Aalten, in Gelderland province,

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1. In 1811 Napoleon instituted mandatory registration of surnames in several areas under his control, including the Netherlands. For Napoleon's decree, *Journal du Département des Bouches du Rhin* [Newspaper of the Department of the Mouths of the Rhine], 29 October 1811, pp. 1–2; imaged at “Kranten,” *Delpher* (<https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=ddd:010901033>). For Dutch naming practices, including farm names as surnames, Rob van Drie, *Dutch Roots: Finding Your Ancestors in the Netherlands* (The Hague: Central Bureau for Genealogy, 2012), 102–5. For a German example of farm names, Carolyn L. Whitton, “Johann Henrich Klocke of Lippe-Detmold: An Identity Hidden by a German Farm Name,” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 97 (June 2010): 111–19.

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the Netherlands. He and Gerritje Goossens, his intended bride, were from the hamlet of Lintelo in Aalten Parish.²

No baptism for Dirk was found in Aalten or surrounding parishes.³ Nor does he appear in Aalten's burial records, which began in 1763, or in post-1811 civil death records.⁴

Before civil registration in the Netherlands, no uniform surname customs existed. In some areas most people used hereditary surnames; in others patronymics or topographical references were more common as surnames.⁵ Before 1811 most people in eastern Gelderland were known by their farm names.

If Dirk lived on different farms during his life, his baptism and burial could have been recorded under other farm names, used as surnames. To discover his baptism and burial records and the identity of his parents, he and his family were traced to determine where they lived and the farm names they may have used.

LIBERAL GIFT OF 1748

Tax records might identify the place of residence and name the farm. Aalten registers for a one-time tax in 1748, the Liberal Gift, record household composition, substituting for a census. The translated entry for the Weversborg farm in Lintelo says:

Jan te [at the] Hengevelt op [on] Weversborg, formerly the widower of Willemken te [at the] Huijste, who was a widow of Derk te [at the] Lindert, who had a married child, and he himself had a son Derk, over 16 years old.⁶

2. Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), marriage banns register 1733–1811, unnumbered pages, chronologically arranged, Weversborg-Goossens, 15 April 1755; call no. 4, "Collectie Retroacta van de Burgerlijke Stand" [Collection predecessors of the civil registration], 1605–1833, Record Group (RG) 3019, Erfgoedcentrum Achterhoek en Liemers (ECAL) [Achterhoek and Liemers Heritage Center], Doetinchem, Netherlands; consulted as finding aid and images, *Erfgoedcentrum Achterhoek en Liemers (ECAL)* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/BCA01CBA5E8944DA93C531C209B3094F>), image 37. No separate Aalten marriage register exists; some banns' entries include the marriage date. All records in RG 3019 are digitized and available via the finding aid.

3. "Personen," database, *Archieven.nl* (<https://www.archieven.nl>). This database indexes extant pre-1811 baptismal records of Gelderland province and many churches in other areas of the country.

4. For burials, see Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), burial register 1763–1811; call no. 5, RG 3019, ECAL; images, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/1E7AD2E9FDFE4AA1987EEC7AA981A31A>). For indexed, post-1811 death records for Gelderland, see "Personen," database, *Archieven.nl*.

5. Van Drie, *Dutch Roots*, 102–5.

6. Aalten, register of the Liberal Gift, 1748, fol. 54v, entry for Weversborg; call no. 159, "Drost en Geërfden van Bredevoort, 1608–1794" [Sheriff and Entitled Land Owners of Bredevoort], RG 0098, ECAL; consulted as finding aid and images, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/5B99C563AEE442B083BE31B0025A1B8F>), image 60. All records in RG 0098 are digitized and available via the finding aid.

The draft version of that register tallied seven unnamed people in the household, implying five people lived there besides Jan and Derk.⁷ Son Derk was likely the 1755 groom from Lintelo.⁸ However, Aalten's records show no baptism for Derk, son of Jan te Hengevelt.⁹

FOUR WIVES OF JAN TE HENGEVELT

Jan te Hengevelt married four times in Aalten's Dutch Reformed Church, using three surnames.

First wife: Willemke te Huijsstede

Jan te Hengeveld, son of Berent Hengeveld from Varsseveld, had marriage banns posted in Aalten on 6 August 1719. On 23 August he married his intended bride, Willemke te Huijsted [*sic*], widow of the late Dirk te Lindert at the Estiezer.¹⁰ Varsseveld is a neighboring parish of Aalten. Most of its church records, including baptismal records, were destroyed in a 1723 fire.¹¹ Estiezer is a hamlet in Aalten Parish. The mention of Jan's father, rather than a previous wife, indicates it was Jan's first marriage.

Willemke te Huijsstede and Dirk te Lindert had had two children baptized in the Dutch Reformed Church of Aalten:

- i. Gerritje, baptized 6 October 1715, daughter of Derk te Linderd and Willemke te Huijstede¹²
- ii. Augustinus Henricus, baptized 19 December 1717, son of Derk and Willemke te Lindert¹³

7. Aalten, draft register of the Liberal Gift, 1748, fol. 17, entry for Jan Weversborg; call no. 155, RG 0098, ECAL; digital image, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/EA2A3AE41C30421599627A0CB4C57365>), image 21. The Liberal Gift register's draft version was created first and only includes information about the head of household and number of household members and horses. It lacks information included in the final version, such as payments and other household members.

8. Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), marriage banns register 1733–1811, Weversborg-Goossens, 15 April 1755; call no. 4, RG 3019, ECAL.

9. "Personen," *Archieven.nl*.

10. Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), marriage banns register 1665–1732, unnumbered pages, chronologically arranged, Hengeveld-Huijsstede, banns 6 August 1719, marriage 23 August 1719; call no. 3, RG 3019, ECAL; image, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/0D6496CA3DA54B7FAE93A62AEFECC852>), image 260.

11. D. W. Kobes, *Kleine historie van de Laurentiuskerk en het oude kerspel Varsseveld* [*Short History of the Laurentius Church and the Old Parish of Varsseveld*] (Varsseveld: Dutch Reformed Church, 1972), 25–37. Also, "Hervormde Gemeente Varsseveld, 1644–1980" [Reformed Church Varsseveld, 1644–1980], finding aid no. 0304, *Erfgoedcentrum Achterhoek en Liemers* (<https://www.ecal.nu>) > "Zoek in Collectie" [search in collection] > search for "0304."

12. Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), baptismal register 1665–1732, unnumbered pages, chronologically arranged, Gerritje te Linderd, 6 October 1715; call no. 1, RG 3019, ECAL; image, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/0D02AEB0C8534718ABB96C2F0FBF3191>), image 193.

13. *Ibid.*, Augustinus Henricus te Lindert, 19 December 1717, image 199.

Before remarrying, a surviving parent with minor children first had to ensure the children received their share of the deceased parent's estate. In large cities the orphan chamber was the court that oversaw the process. In rural areas like Aalten, local courts oversaw guardians' appointments and the administrations of minors' estates.¹⁴

On 2 August 1719 Willemken te Huijsstede, widow of Derk te Lindert and intended bride of Jan te Hengevelt, made an agreement with her children's guardians. Each child would receive seventy-five guilders; Willemken and Jan would keep the assets—livestock, crops, and household items—and be responsible for the estate's debts.¹⁵ The ownership of livestock without real estate suggests that Derk te Lindert and Willemken had been tenant farmers.

Aalten's baptismal records show no children born to Jan te Hengevelt and Willemken te Huijsstede. However, Jan and Willemke te Lindert had two children baptized in Aalten:

- i. Derk, baptized on 20 August 1720¹⁶
- ii. Geu, baptized on 14 November 1723¹⁷

Second wife, Enneken Fökkink

Jan te Hengeveld, widower of Willemke te Huijsstede, had banns posted in Aalten on 22 December 1726 and married his intended bride, Enneken Fökkink, on 12 January 1727.¹⁸ On 21 December 1726 Jan te Hengevelt, farmer at the Lindert, had appeared before the court to fulfill his duties to the minor children of his late

14. These laws originated from customs developed since the Middle Ages. See *Reformatie der Landrechten, Gebruycken und Gewoontheyden der Graafschap Zutphen* [Reformation of the Land Law, Customs, and Traditions of the County of Zutphen] (Arnhem, Court of Gelderland, 1655), unpaginated, title XIX, "Van Voor-mombarschap und onmundigen Kinderen" [Of guardianship and minor children]. The county of Zutphen, a.k.a. the Achterhoek, in eastern Gelderland includes Aalten.

15. Manorial court (Bredevoort), register of "tuteele en curateele" [tutelage and curatorship], 1719–1720, unnumbered pages, children's settlement for Willemken te Huijsstede, 4 August 1719; call no. 552, "Oud Rechterlijk Archief Bredevoort" [Old Court Records of Bredevoort], RG 3017, ECAL; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/film/007988560>), digital film 007988560, images 45–52. These records were originally microfilmed at the Rijksarchief Gelderland in Arnhem and then published on *FamilySearch*, but have since been transferred to the Erfgoedcentrum Achterhoek en Liemers. The author viewed the original records in this record group in the ECAL reading room and verified all records were transferred and call numbers remained the same.

16. Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), baptismal register 1665–1732, Derk te Lindert, 20 August 1720; image, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/0D02AEB0C8534718ABB96C2F0FBF3191>), image 205.

17. *Ibid.*, Geu te Lindert, 14 November 1723, image 214.

18. Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), marriage banns register 1665–1732, Hengeveld-Fökkink, banns 22 December 1726, marriage 12 January 1727; call no. 3, RG 3019, ECAL; image, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/0D6496CA3DA54B7FAE93A62AEFECC852>), image 290.

wife Willemken te Huijssteede—Garretjen, Derk, and Geurt te Lindert—before remarrying. The estate inventory tallied livestock, farm equipment, and household items. Jan promised the children fifty guilders each from their mother's estate when they turned twenty or married. Jan would keep the farm.¹⁹

The reference to Jan te Hengevelt, farmer at the Lindert farm, confirms he had lived with Willemken te Huijsstede on the farm she and her late husband Derk te Lindert had formerly operated. The record does not name Augustinus Hendrikus, who must have died before the 1726 agreement. Garretjen was the other child from Willemken's first marriage, while Dirk and Geurt [Geu] were children from Willemken's marriage to Jan te Hengevelt. The residence at the Lindert farm explains the children's surname Te [at the] Lindert in the agreement and the baptismal records.

Jan apparently had no children with Enneken Fökkink. None were found in the Aalten baptismal records, and Jan made no agreement with Enneken's children before his subsequent marriage.²⁰

Third wife, Henderske te Braak

Jan te Lindert, widower of Enneken Fökkink, had banns posted in Aalten on 30 May 1728 and married Henderske te Braak on 20 June 1728.²¹ They had four apparent children baptized in Aalten:

- i. Hendrik Willem, baptized 3 September 1729, son of Jan and Henderske te Linderd²²
- ii. Elisabeth, baptized 2 February 1732, daughter of Jan and Hendersken te Lindert²³
- iii. Barent, baptized 7 November 1734, son of Jan and Hendersken Weeversburg²⁴
- iv. Hendrik Jan, baptized 16 March 1738, son of Jan and Henderske aan de Weversberg²⁵

19. Manorial court (Bredevoort), tutelage and curatorship, 1724–1726, package no. 612, children's settlement for Jan te Hengeveld widower of Willemken te Huijsstede, 21 December 1726; call no. 554, RG 3017, ECAL; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/film/007988561>), digital film 007988561, images 237–42.

20. Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), baptismal register 1665–1732; call no. 1, RG 3019, ECAL. Also, Manorial court (Bredevoort), tutelage and curatorship, 1727–1728; call no. 555, RG 3017, ECAL; digital images, *FamilySearch*, digital film 007988561, images 247–546 searched page-by-page.

21. Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), marriage banns register 1665–1732, Te Lindert-Te Braak, 30 May 1728; call no. 3, RG 3019, ECAL; image, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/0D6496CA3DA54B7FAE93A62AEFECC852>), image 297.

22. Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), baptismal register 1665–1732, Hendrik Willem te Linderd, 3 September 1729; image, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/0D02AEB0C8534718ABB96C2F0FBF3191>), image 228.

23. *Ibid.*, Elisabeth te Lindert, 2 February 1732, image 235.

24. Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), baptismal register 1733–1811, unnumbered pages, chronologically arranged, Barent Weeversburg, 7 November 1734; call no. 2, RG 3019, ECAL; image, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/C5754D1BA44D490789C70D80BD735C0D>), image 8.

25. *Ibid.*, Hendrik Jan aan de Weversberg, 16 March 1738, image 16.

If these children were born to the same parents, the name change suggests the family moved to the Weversborg farm between February 1732 and November 1734.

Fourth wife, Kune te Boske

On 25 November 1741 Jan Weversborg, widower of Hendrike te Braake, had banns posted in Aalten to marry Kune te Boske.²⁶ The previous day Jan Weversborg, widower of the late Hendersken te Braken, had made an agreement with the guardians of his two minor children Hendrik Willem and Lijsbeth [Elisabeth]. The estate included one-sixth of the Weversborg farm, a tract of land, livestock, crops, and household items. The estate owed debts, including seventy guilders to Derk Weversborg and twenty guilders to “mijn suster Hengevelt” [my sister Hengevelt].²⁷

The absence of Barent and Hendrik Jan implies they died before the 1741 agreement. No deeds or estate division records were found to explain how Jan had acquired a share in the farm or land.²⁸

Jan Weversborg and Kunne te Boske had four children baptized in Aalten:

- i. Henderske, baptized 13 February 1743, daughter of Jan and Kune aan den [at the] Weversborg²⁹
- ii. Beerndeke, baptized 13 December 1744, daughter of Jan and Kuune Weversborg³⁰
- iii. Reindert, baptized 4 February 1748, son of Jan and Kuune Weversborg³¹
- iv. Geeske, baptized 11 January 1750, daughter of Jan and Kunne Weversborg³²

26. Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), marriage banns register 1733–1811, Weversborg-Te Boske, 25 November 1741; image, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/BCA01CBA5E8944DA93C531C209B3094F>), image 16.

27. Manorial court (Bredevoort), tutelage and curatorship, children’s settlement of Hendersken te Brake, 24 November 1741; call no. 559, RG 3017, *ECAL*; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/film/007988564>), digital film 007988564, images 588–90.

28. Manorial court (Bredevoort), “voluntaire protocollen” [voluntary protocols], 1726–1742; call nos. 438–440, RG 3017, *ECAL*; consulted as digital images through catalog entry, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/56473>), digital films 007988509, 007988510, and 007988511.

29. Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), baptismal register 1733–1811, Henderske aan den Weversborg, 13 February 1743; image, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/C5754D1BA44D490789C70D80BD735C0D>), image 25.

30. *Ibid.*, Beerndeke Weversborg, 13 December 1744, image 29.

31. *Ibid.*, Reindert Weversborg, 4 February 1748, image 36.

32. *Ibid.*, Geeske Weversborg, 11 January 1750, image 40.

LAST RECORDS AND DEATH OF JAN WEVERSBORG

In 1759 “Jan Weversborg” owed money for using land in the former common grounds.³³ He received compensation when English troops were billeted at his house in 1763.³⁴

Jan died by 30 May 1769. Elisabeth, Derk, Hendrik Willem, Reinder, Hindersken, and Beerndeken Weversborg wanted to divide the estate of their late father and stepmother, Jan Weversborg and Kunne te Boske, spouses. They requested the court appoint a guardian for their minor and “innocent” half sister, Jenneken Weversborg, daughter of said spouses. The court appointed Hendrik Hengeveld and Reinder te Boske as guardians, two of the closest relatives on Jenneken’s father’s and mother’s side.³⁵

The term “innocent” indicates Jenneken had an intellectual disability.³⁶ She needed independent representation since the siblings had an interest in the outcome of the estate division. She died in Aalten on 4 November 1811 at sixty-two, born about 1749.³⁷ Baptismal records name the petitioners, but not their sister Jenneken, unless she was the child recorded erroneously as “Geeske” on 11 January 1750.³⁸

The petition names children of Jan te Hengevelt’s (a.k.a. te Lindert and Weversborg) three marriages. Several of Jan’s children were alive in 1769, although they are not named in the 1748 Liberal Gift.³⁹ The five unnamed residents in the draft register may have included these older siblings and Jan’s fourth wife.⁴⁰

33. Manor of Bredevoort, list of people behind on payments for cultivated lands and cattle grazing, 1759–1766, p. 1, balance of claimed land, about 1759, entry 29, Jan Weversborg; call no. 81, RG 0098, ECAL; image, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/CD5D62884158463BAF62B71DDA56AD4E>), image 2.

34. Manor of Bredevoort, lists of people compensated for English troops billeted in their houses, 1763, section Lintelo, Jan Weversborg; call no. 400, RG 0098, ECAL; image, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/AF98CAD129BD4FB590F1B514461ABA2F>), image 48.

35. Manorial court (Bredevoort), tutelage and curatorship, 1769, no. 219, guardian appointment for Jenneken Weversborg, 30 May 1769; call no. 574, RG 3017, ECAL; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/film/007988585>), digital film 007988585, images 86–87.

36. Instituut voor de Nederlandse Taal [Institute for the Dutch Language], *Historische Woordenboeken Nederlands en Fries* [Historical dictionaries Dutch and Frisian] (<http://gtb.ivdnt.org/search/>), lemma “innocent” in *Woordenboek Nederlandse Taal* [WNT, Dutch dictionary], see definition A.

37. Civil Registration (Aalten), death record 1811, no. 72, Jenneken Weversborg, 4 November 1811; call no. 58, “Gemeentebestuur Aalten – akten burgerlijke stand” [Municipal Administration Aalten – Civil registration records], 1811–1965, RG 1532, ECAL; consulted as finding aid and images, *Erfgoedcentrum Achterboek en Liemers* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/9B6E286A996740C28392C42FE907A80D>), image 72. All records in RG 1532 are digitized and available via the finding aid.

38. Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), baptismal register 1733–1811, Geeske Weversborg, 11 January 1750; call no. 2, RG 3019, ECAL. Geeske is not a variation of Jenneken, but a mistake could have been made in the record. Geeske does not appear in subsequent records.

39. Aalten, register of the Liberal Gift, 1748, fol. 54v, entry for Weversborg; call no. 159, RG 0098, ECAL.

40. Aalten, draft register of the Liberal Gift, 1748, fol. 17, entry for Jan Wefersborg; call no. 155, RG 0098, ECAL.

Jan Weversborg must have died between 1763 and 30 May 1769. The only possibility for his burial record is “een man aan den Weeversborg” [a man at the Weeversborg] who died on 30 March 1769 and was buried on 1 April 1769.⁴¹ His wife Kunne te Boske must have been the “vrou aan den Weeversborg” [woman at the Weeversborg] who died on 16 June 1768 and was buried two days later.⁴² Estates were often divided a few months after the surviving parent’s death. The 30 March 1769 death date for Jan Weversborg and his wife’s prior death are consistent with his children’s petition two months later asking the court to appoint a guardian for their sister so the estate could be settled.

In 1771 Jan Weversborg was taxed four guilders as one of the owners of the Weeversborg farm.⁴³ Jan Weversborg appears in the records two years after his death because tax records were often copied from older records and names were not updated as long as the tax was paid. The 1771 register is the only surviving Aalten property tax record for the period between 1701 and 1800.⁴⁴

GOOSSENS FARM

If Dirk Weversborg who married Gerritje Goossens in 1755 was the same person as Derk te Lindert baptized in 1720, he would have been about thirty-five when he married. A man marrying in his mid- to late-thirties was not unusual for this area of Gelderland in the eighteenth century. Most farms were too small to support more than one family, as was the case with Weversborg.⁴⁵ In the oldest record of the farm’s acreage from 1832, the farm measured 5.9 hectares (14.6 acres): eight acres of farmland, four of meadows, several wooded acres, and one-half acre of

41. Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), burial register 1763–1811, unnumbered pages, chronologically arranged, “een man aan den Weeversborg,” 1 April 1769; call no. 5, RG 3019, ECAL; image, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/1E7AD2E9FD4AA1987EEC7AA981A31A>), image 18. The burial register also records the death date.

42. *Ibid.*, “vrou aan den Weeversborg,” 18 June 1768, image 17.

43. States of the Quarter of Zutphen and their Deputies, property tax register of Aalten, 1771, unnumbered page, entry for p. 162 [copied from an older register], Weversborg plaatse; call no. 416, “Staten van het Kwartier van Zutphen en hun Gedeputeerden” [States of the Quarter of Zutphen and their Deputies], RG 0005, Gelders Archief, Arnhem; consulted as finding aid and images, *Gelders Archief* (<https://permalink.geldersarchief.nl/C828EE7C84D64B5CB3C622DB1005214F>), image 262. The older register to which this tax register refers has not been found in the finding aids at the Gelders Archief or Erfgoedcentrum Achterhoek en Liemers and probably does not survive.

44. “Staten van het Kwartier van Zutphen en hun Gedeputeerden” [States of the Quarter of Zutphen and their Deputies], finding aid for RG 0005, *Gelders Archief* (<https://www.geldersarchief.nl>) > “Archieven doorzoeken” [Search archives] > search for “0005.”

45. For agricultural developments in eastern Gelderland 1650–1815, Joyce C. Mastboom, “Protoindustrialization and Agriculture in the Eastern Netherlands: Industrialization and the Theory of Protoindustrialization,” *Social Science History* 20 (Summer 1996), 235–58, esp. 241–43.

heathland.⁴⁶ As the oldest son, Dirk was first in line to take over the farm. However, his father's marriages and the resulting half-siblings up to thirty years Dirk's junior who must be supported by the farm would have limited his marriage prospects.

Instead of taking over the Weversborg farm, Dirk moved in with Gerritjen Goossens on the Goossens farm after their marriage. They were referred to as "Derk en [and] Gerritjen Goossens or [of] Weversborg" when their son Gerrit Jan was baptized on 28 October 1764.⁴⁷ No additional children surnamed Weversborg appear in the register, but five were baptized between 1756 and 1776, born to Dirk and Gerritje Goossens.⁴⁸ No other couple named Dirk and Gerritje married in Aalten between 1740 and 1756.⁴⁹ "Derk Goossen" received compensation for English troops billeted at his house in Lintelo in 1763.⁵⁰ In 1768 and 1771 Derk Goossens' cows succumbed to the cattle plague.⁵¹ Their son Gerrit Jan took over the Goossens farm and lived there until he died.⁵²

46. Cadastral municipality of Aalten, Original Indicating Table, 1832, section H, plots 913–27; imaged as "Beeldbank" [Image bank], *Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed* [National Cultural Heritage Service] (<https://beeldbank.cultureelerfgoed.nl>), images OAT05002H027 and OAT05002H028. Heathland was poor-quality land covered in heather and swamps, not suitable for cultivation.

47. Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), baptismal register 1733–1811, Garrit Jan Weversborgh op Gosens, 28 October 1764; image, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/C5754D1BA44D490789C70D80BD735C0D>), image 72.

48. *Ibid.*, entries for Willemina (14 March 1756), image 53; Henderske (11 March 1759), image 58; Berendina (6 December 1761), image 65; Jenneken (9 October 1768), image 81; and Janna Goossens (4 August 1776), image 97.

49. Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), marriage banns register 1733–1811; call no. 4, RG 3019, *ECAL*.

50. Manor of Bredevoort, lists of people compensated for English troops billeted in their houses, 1763, section Lintelo, Derk Goossen; call no. 400, RG 0098, *ECAL*; image, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/AF98CAD129BD4FB590F1B514461ABA2F>), image 48.

51. Manor of Bredevoort, lists of people who had sick cattle during the cattle plague, 1768–1771, entries for 17 August 1769 and 3 and 14 September 1771; call no. 71, RG 0098, *ECAL*; images, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/67847D85049E453DBBDA66F59FCFFDC4>), images 9, 30.

52. Manor of Bredevoort, tutelage and curatorship, 1791–1792, no. 778, children's settlement by Garrit Jan Weversborg at Goesens, widower of Hendersken te Boske, 8 June 1792; call no. 589, RG 3017, *ECAL*; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007988594>), digital film 007988594, images 266–76. For residence, Aalten, population register 1823–1850, vol. 5, Lintelo, fol. 113, house 111, "Gosen," household of Garrit Jan Goossens of Weversborg; call no. 1020, "Gemeentebestuur Aalten" [Municipal Administration Aalten], 1811–1942, RG 0105, *ECAL*; consulted as finding aid and images, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/961F7825BB394C3A8885BF3F8C8E1478>), image 114. For death in 1850, Aalten, death record 1850, no. 6, Gerrit Jan Weversborg, 11 January 1850; call no. 64, RG 1532, *ECAL*; image, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/DCFD21583CA24FEC94624619173BFC68>), image 93. Also, Death Duties Office (Groenlo), register IV, death duties files, 1850, first half year, fol. 43, Gerrit Jan Weversborg; call no. 30, "Memories van Successie, Kantoor Groenlo" [Death Duties Files, Groenlo Office], RG 0029, Gelders Archief; image, *Gelders Archief* (<https://permalink.geldersarchief.nl/B91F526644F94B99995E92E4E550A20D>), image 43.

DEATHS OF DERK AND GERRITJE GOOSSENS

A 6 June 1792 inventory of the Goossens farm includes a contract of 11 February 1787 whereby Gerrit Jan Weversborg took over the Goossens farm. He agreed to care for his mother Gerritje Gosens until her death.⁵³ Because the agreement was relevant when the inventory was made, his father apparently died before 11 February 1787 and his mother was alive on 6 June 1792.

Aalten burial records include only one possibility for Derk's death. "Derk Goossens" died on 15 March 1783 and was buried in the Dutch Reformed Church of Aalten cemetery three days later.⁵⁴ "Garritjen Goossens" died on 19 September 1795 and was buried there on 22 September 1795.⁵⁵

MERGING IDENTITIES

Activities for Jan te Hengevelt, Jan te Lindert, and Jan Weversborg are consistent with one man living at three different farms. He was known as Jan te Hengevelt at his first marriage in 1719, Jan te Lindert or Jan te Hengevelt at the Lindert from 1720 to 1732, and Jan Weversborg or Jan te Hengevelt at Weversborg from 1734 until 1769.

- 1719—Jan te Hengevelt married Willemke te Huijsstede.
- 1726—Jan te Hengevelt lived at the Lindert farm when he contracted with the children of his late wife, Willemke te Huijsstede, the former widow of Dirk te Lindert.
- 1727—Jan te Hengeveld married Enneken Fökkink.
- 1728—Jan te Lindert, widower of Enneken, married Henderske te Braak.
- 1741—Jan Weversborg, widower of Henderske, married Kune te Boske.
- 1748—Jan te Hengevelt, widower of Willemke te Huijsstede, lived at the Weversborg.
- 1741—Jan Weversborg mentioned a sister Hengevelt in an agreement. In 1769 Hendrik Hengevelt was appointed guardian, apparently from the father's side, for Jan Weversborg's daughter Jenneken. Although this sister and Hendrik Hengevelt have not been definitively identified, references to them are consistent with Jan Weversborg originally known as Hengevelt.
- 1769—Children of Jan's first, third, and fourth marriages appeared together to divide his estate.

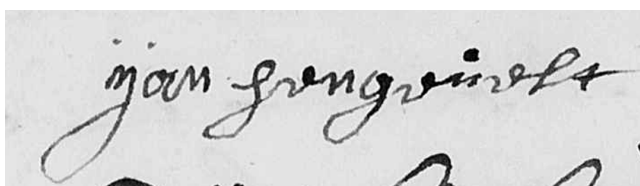
53. Manorial court (Bredevoort), tutelage and curatorship, 1769, no. 219, guardian appointment for Jenneken Weversborg, 30 May 1769; call no. 574, RG 3017, ECAL.

54. Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), burial register 1763–1811, Derk Goossens, 18 March 1783; call no. 5, RG 3019, ECAL; image, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/1E7AD2E9FD4AA1987EEC7AA981A31A>), image 47.

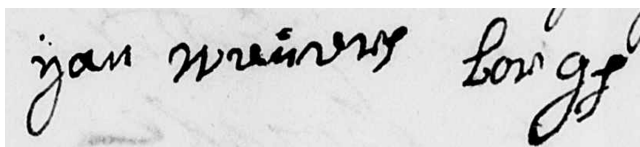
55. *Ibid.*, Garritjen Goossens, 22 September 1795, image 81.

Jan's signatures also support one man. Figure 1 shows Jan signed his name as "ijan hengevelt" in 1726 and as "ijan weversborgh" in 1741.⁵⁶ Letter formations in the two signatures are similar, including the idiosyncratic spelling of *ijan* and the shapes of the *e*, *v*, and *h*.

Figure 1
Signatures of Jan


 A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "ijan hengevelt". The letters are dark and written on a light-colored background. The 'i' and 'j' are connected, and the 'h' has a distinctive shape.

ijan hengevelt, 1726^a


 A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "ijan weversborgh". The letters are dark and written on a light-colored background. The 'i' and 'j' are connected, and the 'h' has a distinctive shape.

ijan weversborgh, 1741^b

Sources:

a. Manorial court (Bredevoort), tutelage and curatorship estate division of Jan te Hengeveld, widower of Willemken te Huijsstede, 21 December 1726; call no. 554, RG 3017, ECAL; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/film/007988561>), digital film 007988561, image 241.

b. *Ibid.*, tutelage and curatorship estate division of Hendersken te Brake, 24 November 1741; call no. 559, RG 3017, ECAL; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/film/007988564>), digital film 007988564, image 589.

56. Manorial court (Bredevoort), tutelage and curatorship estate division of Jan te Hengeveld, widower of Willemken te Huijsstede, 21 December 1726; call no. 554, RG 3017, ECAL. *Ibid.*, tutelage and curatorship estate division of Hendersken te Brake, 24 November 1741; call no. 559, RG 3017, ECAL.

Jan had a son Dirk baptized as te Linderd, later known as Weversborg and Goossens:

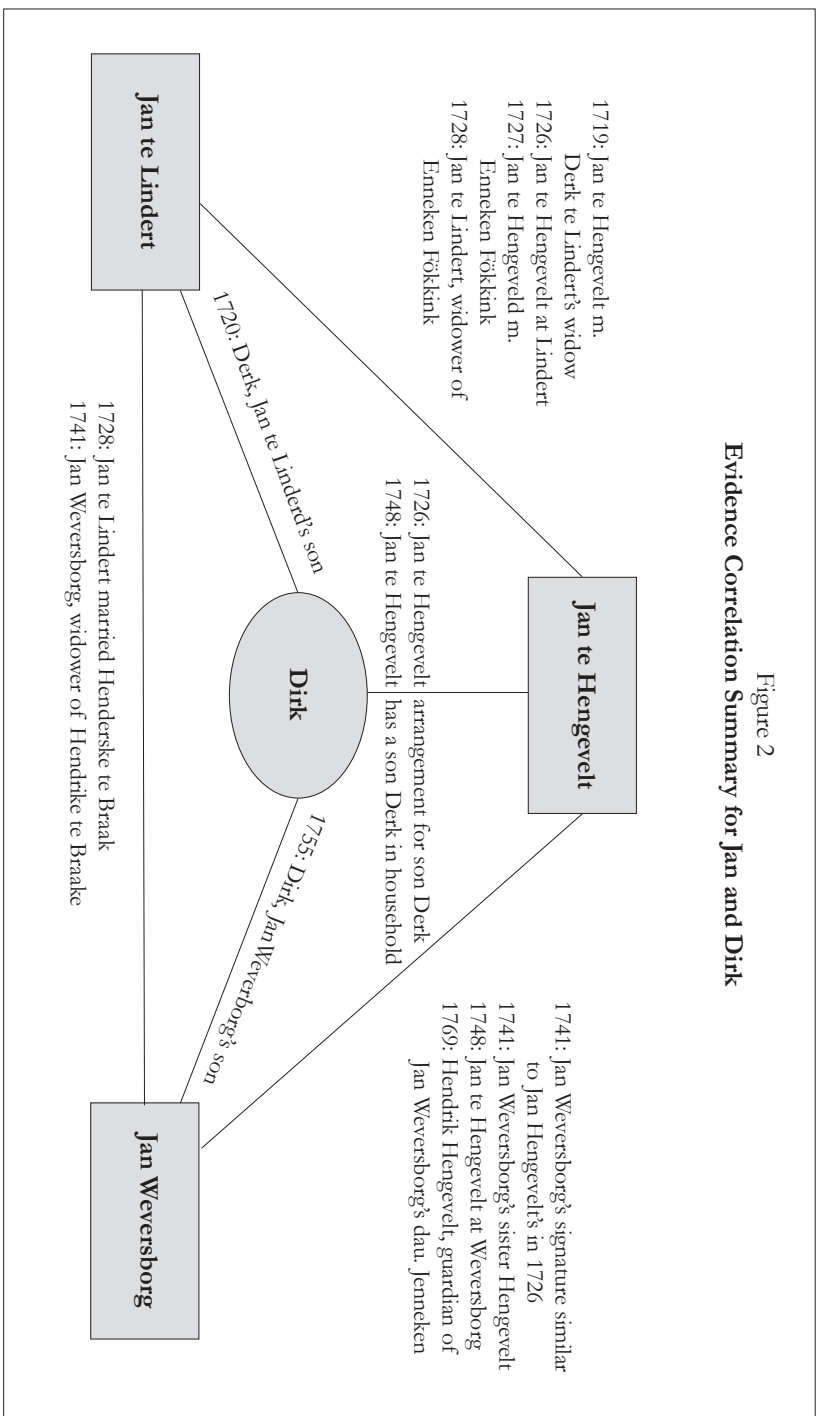
- 1720—Dirk was baptized as the son of Jan and Willemken te Linderd [Lindert].
- 1726—Son Dirk was among the children of Willemken te Huijsstede to whom Jan te Hengevelt, farmer at the Lindert, promised to give fifty guilders.
- 1741—Jan Weversborg owed seventy guilders to Derk Weversborg. The debt was likely Derk's share of his mother's inheritance.
- 1748—Derk is named in the tax record as son of Jan te Hengevelt, widower of Willemken te Huijsstede, living at the Weversborg farm.
- 1755—Dirk Weversborg's marriage banns identify his father as Jan Weversborg, the name his father used in that period.
- 1764—Derk and wife Gerritjen were known as Goossens or Weversborg when their son Gerrit Jan was baptized. This son lived on the Goossens farm.⁵⁷

The references to Dirk as Te Lindert, Weversborg, and Goossens are consistent with one person. Dirk was known as Te Lindert in 1720 and 1726, Weversborg in 1741, 1748, and 1755, Weversborg or Goossens in 1764, and Goossens in 1756, 1763, 1769, and 1771.

Figure 2 summarizes the evidence for Jan and Dirk's locations, names, and relationship. No known evidence contradicts Jan's and Dirk's identifications. DNA evidence is not available to confirm or disprove a biological father-son relationship.⁵⁸

57. Dutch Reformed Church (Aalten), marriage banns register 1733–1811, Weversborg-Rensink, 8 June 1792; image, *ECAL* (<https://proxy.archieven.nl/26/BCA01CBA5E8944DA93C531C209B3094F>), image 99. Also, Manor of Bredevoort, tutelage and curatorship, 1791–1792, estate division of Hendersken te Boske, 8 June 1792; call no. 589, RG 3017, *ECAL*. Also, Aalten, population register 1823–1850, 5:113, house 111, household of Garrit Jan Goossens of Weversborg; call no. 1120, RG 0105, *ECAL*. Also, Death Duties Office (Groenlo), register IV, death duties files, 1850, first half year, fol. 43, Gerrit Jan Weversborg; call no. 30, RG 0029, Gelders Archief.

58. Low migration rates in the Aalten area have led to high levels of endogamy. Attributing shared autosomal DNA or segments to individual ancestors in the late 1600s and early 1700s is only achievable if many descendants take a DNA test. Privacy regulations in the Netherlands prevent tracing living descendants and hamper recruitment of test takers to compare autosomal or Y-DNA. Consumer DNA testing is not widespread in the Netherlands, limiting the number of serendipitous matches and willingness of descendants to participate in DNA studies.



CONCLUSION

Dirk Weversborg created records under three names. He was baptized in Aalten Parish on 20 August 1720 as Dirk te Linderd, the name of the farm where his parents Jan te Hengevelt and Willemkte te Huijsstede lived. The family moved to the Weversborg farm by 1734. Dirk lived with his father at the Weversborg farm in 1748 and was known as Weversborg in 1755, when he married Gerritjen Goossens. He moved in with her on the Goossens farm and was known by that farm's name from then on. The burial register recorded him as Derk Goossens, who died in Aalten on 15 March 1783.

Understanding customs of farm names as surnames helps researchers anticipate when a man might adopt a surname previously used by his wife or her former husband. When Dirk was known as Goossens after his marriage to Gerritje Goossens, he did not adopt his wife's surname, rather the couple used the name of their farm. Similarly Jan te Hengevelt was known as Te Lindert because he lived on that farm, where his wife's first husband, Derk te Lindert, had been the previous tenant.

Dirk, son of a father originally named Te Hengevelt, was baptized as Te Linderd, married as Weversborg, and buried as Goossens. His case demonstrates that identity is more than a name. In places where farm names are used as surnames, searching broadly in church, court, manorial, and tax records for residences and relatives is an important research step. Evidence in those records can identify people and prove parentage, even if their surnames changed when individuals moved.

A Justice for Workers

Jersey City, April 14.—One of the unique and unexpected results of the recent election was the victory of Nicholas Welsh, of the Fifth District, this city, for justice of the peace. "Nick," as he is known to his friends, is the elevator boy of the Weldon building, and besides he is an ardent Republican.

When the Republican primary of the Fifth District was held, the leaders could not find anybody who wanted to stand for justice of the peace, and they concluded to put Welsh's name on the ticket. They did it merely to "fill up," and their surprise was great, indeed, when the returns showed that "Nick" had won. Welsh, who is twenty-two years old, and only recently married, has not made up his mind yet as to what he will do, but he has no immediate intention of relinquishing his job as the elevator boy of the Weldon building.

—*Source*: "Elevator Boy Elected Justice," *Daily Times* (New Brunswick, N.J.), 14 April 1893, p. 1, col. 6.