



Produced by the former European Interest Group of the NZSG

RESEARCH IN THE NETHERLANDS

2019

The Netherlands have excellent historical records for researching family history. The records however are not centralised, therefore before any research can be undertaken, it is necessary to first establish the exact town or village that an ancestor was born in or that a particular event occurred in.

The country is divided into 12 provinces and over 1000 municipalities (*gemeente*).

The most important types of records for Dutch research are civil registration, church records, population registration and notary records.

Civil Registration (Burgelijke Stand)

Registration of all births (*Geboorten*), marriages (*Huwelijken* or *Trouwen*) and deaths (*Overlijden*) began in 1811. Registration is done at the *Burgerlijke Stand* (BS) office located in the municipality (*gemeente*). Birth records become public after 100 years, marriages after 75 years and deaths after 50 years. Civil records also include divorces, notifications of marriage and a file for each marriage containing the documents that were produced by the couple in proof of information being submitted.

A significant database of indexed civil registration records from all over the Netherlands can be found at www.wiewaswie.nl/ Many provincial and municipal archives are also producing online indexes.

The images of almost all registrations that are open to the public can be viewed on familysearch.org

Church (Kerkelijke) Records

Church records are crucial for pre-1811 Dutch research. The Catholic Church (*Katholiek Kerk*), the Dutch Reformed Church (*Nederlandse Hervormde Kerk*) and the *Gereformeerde Kerk* have been the principal churches. From 1588 – 1795 the Dutch Reformed Church was the official state church.

Church records include baptisms (*Dopen*), confirmations (*Belijdenissen*), banns (*Ondertrouw*), marriages (*Trouwen* or *Huwelijken*), burials (*Begraven*) and membership records (*Lidmaten*).

Population Registration (Bevolkingsregisters)

Bevolkingsregisters track the movement of people from one residence to another. Nationwide registration began in 1850 and was kept by each municipality. Many places started earlier, for example, the province of South Holland in 1845 and parts of Gelderland in 1811. Information from 1850 to 1920 is kept in a book or register. The records list each member of the household and his or her birth date and place, relationship to the head of the household, marital status, occupation, religion, arrival date and where he or she moved from, removal date and where he or she moved to, and death date. The records also include notes, which contain emigration information. Frequently the books are fully indexed. After 1920 the records are kept on cards. Many *Bevolkingsregisters* can be viewed on familysearch.org

Notarial Records (Notariële akten)

Notary Publics were appointed by the civil authorities. Notarial records include wills (*testamenten*), marriage contracts, appointments of guardians and land transfers. The records are found in the state, regional, and municipal archives. Indexes have been created for Amsterdam, Breda, Dordrecht, Haarlem, 's-Gravenhage, Rotterdam, and Utrecht. Many are coming online. There were no notaries in the provinces of Drenthe, Friesland, Gelderland, Groningen, Limburg (some parts), and Overijssel.

Name Taking Records (Registers van naamsaanneming)

In 1811 and 1813, Napoleon decreed that everybody had to register their last name. Especially in the northern provinces of Groningen, Friesland, Drenthe and Overijssel, many inhabitants still used patronymics and did not have a surname. Information about people that took a name in 1811/12, 1813 and 1825/26 can be found in the *registers van naamsaanneming* (name taking records). The record usually includes the name of the head of the household, place of residence, the names of the children

(sometimes including the grandchildren) and their ages.

Locating Dutch Records

Although there have traditionally been no national indexes for Dutch records the situation is fast changing with a great deal coming online. There is an ongoing, government initiated, project to create a national database of all names that appear in the civil registers, memories of succession (wills) and pre 1811 church registers. The database is called **WieWasWie** (Who was who). Many entries also have images attached.

FamilySearch has images for all civil and some church records.

Always check the provincial and municipal archives. Most are listed on **Archiefnet** or can be found by searching Google, combining the place name plus *Archief Genealogie Voorouders*. Most provincial and many municipal archives have indexes and images available for civil and church records. Notarial records are also appearing.

Family and local history are extremely popular pastimes in the Netherlands with a lot published online. Websites devoted to a particular family are common and can be located by searching Google, combining the family name plus *Stamboom* or *Familieonderzoek*. As ever this data does need to be checked from other sources.

Many church records, especially pre 1800, have been transcribed and published online. They can be located by searching Google with the place name plus *Dopen* or *Doop* or *Trouwboek*.

SEARCH TERMS & GLOSSARY

Zoeken = Search
Archief = Archive
Familieonderzoek = family research
Stamboom = family tree
Ouders = parents
Grootouders = grandparents
Voorouders = ancestors
Getuige = witness
Dopenboek = baptism book or register
Trouwboek = marriage book

What you already know

Surname

Christian name

Country

County/Province

Town/Parish

Birth

Marriage

Arrival in NZ Year

Children born not in NZ

Parents

Map of the Netherlands



NZ Certificates to obtain

Birth

Marriage

Death

Naturalisation

European Group Contact

Send research queries to the Contact on the **European Interest Contact** page at www.genealogy.org.nz

A group meets on the 1st Friday of most months at the Family Research Centre at 159 Queens Rd, Panmure from 4pm– 10pm. Continental advice is usually available, however please first check with the Contact to be quite sure.

Websites

FamilySearch have the images to civil records and many church and population records. See also the Research Wiki for articles on many aspects of Dutch research. familysearch.org

WieWasWie is a national index being created for civil and church records. The website has a section that shows what records have been entered by category. BS represents civil records and DTB represents church records. www.wiewaswie.nl

Archiefnet gives links to most provincial and municipal archive services within the Netherlands and Flanders. Use Google Translate. www.archiefnet.nl

The Central Bureau for Genealogy. Click on the Union Jack flag for the English version. The Bureau holds a number of major state and private genealogy collections including the historic collections of the Royal Dutch Society for Genealogy and Heraldry. www.cbg.nl

The National Genealogy Society also has links to some regional societies. www.ngv.nl

The Meertens Institute is focused on the study of the Dutch language and culture. Their website contains searchable databases including one for Dutch names. For each name the derivation is given. The localities where the name was most common will also be indicated. The site has some English.

www.cbfgfamilienamen.nl/nfb

Groningen Archives and civil records. www.groningerarchieven.nl
www.allegroningers.nl

Drente Archives
www.drentsarchief.nl
<http://alledrenten.nl>

Gelderland Archives
www.geldersarchief.nl

Utrecht Archives
www.hetutrechtsarchief.nl

Zeeland Archives
www.zeeuwsarchief.nl

Noord Holland Archives
www.noord-hollandsarchief.nl

Amsterdam City Archives
<http://stadsarchief.amsterdam.nl>

Rotterdam Archives
www.stadsarchief.rotterdam.nl