

Recollections of the Vanderkloots

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Version: Wednesday, October 11, 2017

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Introduction

As follows are recollections of Matthijs and Trijntje Vanderkloot, their son Adrianus Vanderkloot and his wife Martha Tanis Vanderkloot, and two of Adrianus and Martha's children, son Adrian and Alette. Information on Grace Vanderkloot Filipek is kept with the Filipek Recollections.

For ease of use, the above [Table of Contents](#) includes active links along with a simplified genealogy chart to assist in selecting items of interest. Merely touch the line or page number to move to a section of interest.

In order to help preserve our family history and to make that history more widely available, [Our Vanderkloot Family Web Pages](#) was created in the early years of the 21st century.

While quite successful in its goals, it became clear with the passage of time, that a web site with many hundreds of pages was not easy to print or to electronically download. Thus in the later part of the first decade of the 21st century, I began to compile various categories of information such as *Vanderkloot Family Addresses*, *Vanderkloot Family Census Records*, *Vanderkloot Genealogy Source Records*, and *the Vanderkloot Stories* into pdf documents.

Such pdf files will make it easier to download files for preservation on our many computers and they will also allow much easier printing of pages and for studied analysis as desired. As part of this effort, a [Vanderkloot and Tanis PDF Downloads](#) web page was created. From this page, all currently available pdf's from [Our Vanderkloot Family Web Pages](#) and out [Our Tanis Family Web Pages](#) can be accessed.

You are encouraged to download the various Vanderkloot and Tanis pdf files, not only for your own study but to also help preserve for future generations hard to obtain data and information about our common Vanderkloot, Tanis and Jordan origins and history. Files are updated every once in a while, and checking about once a year is a reasonable frequency. Version dates are shown at the beginning of the [Table of Contents](#).

File Information

Master File Name: Recollections_Vanderkloot

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Creation Date: about 2002

Modified: 4/18/07, 10/10, 2007, 12/6/2012, 1/14/2017,10/11/17

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If you wish to comment, add information or just say hello, please contact [Dave Jordan](mailto:djgenealogy@me.com) at djgenealogy@me.com.

What's New

Going forward it is intended to briefly describe what major items were added since the last version of this document.

1. 10/11/17: Miscellaneous format updates.
2. 1/14/2017: Updates to Recollections of Adrianus Vanderkloot.
3. 12/6/2012: Primarily formatting changes and fixes of a few typo's along with some reorganization.

Recollections File Connections

As follows are other files that connect with *Recollections of the Vanderkloots*. All are available at [Vanderkloot and Tanis PDF Downloads](#) as individual pdf documents with titles and file names as listed below.

1. *The Vanderkloot Story*
File: Stories_Vanderkloot.pdf
Summary: *The Vanderkloot Story* provides a written history of the origins of our Vanderkloot and out Tanis family. As part of this story there are many appendices and sections.
2. *Recollections of the Vanderkloots*
File: Recollections_Vanderkloot.pdf
Summary: *Recollections of the Vanderkloots* provides a collection of short anecdotes and memories of our Vanderkloot family.

Recollections of the Vanderkloots

As follows are recollections of Matthijs and Trijntje Vanderkloot, their son Adrianus Vanderkloot and his wife Martha Tanis Vanderkloot, and two of Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot's children, son Adrian and Alette. Recollections of Grace Vanderkloot Filipek is contained within the file *Recollections of the Filipeks*.

Contributions to these recollections were provided by Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot's daughters Alette Schodrof and Grace Filipek, Grace Filipek's daughter Jeanne, Alette's son Harry Schodrof, and Marie Denker's daughter Betsy.

There are also additional recollections of Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot in the *The Vanderkloot Story* in particular the section containing the transcript of the *Audio Tape about Adrianus Vanderkloot - July 9, 1977*.

Recollections of Matthijs and Trijntje Vanderkloot

Matthijs Vanderkloot

1. Matthijs van der Kloot was born January 8, 1827 in Middelharnis, Goeree-Overflakkee, Zuid-Holland. He was the son of Adrianus Matthijs van der Kloot and Maatje Dominé.
2. Elizabeth Strand recalls Corrine Vanderkloot Taylor (Dr. Al's sister) saying that the tower in the church in Texel holds an iron bell that was hand cast by Matthijs van der Kloot and that one can climb the stairs and see his signature on the bell. Originally the church floor was originally a dirt floor.
3. My Grandmother Grace did not remember too much about her grandparents but she did recall Grandpa Matthijs spoke very little english and that he was always sitting in his chair, and not moving too much. He died when she was ten so most likely her remembrances were from his later years.

Recollections of Adrianus Vanderkloot

Adrianus Vanderkloot

1. Adrianus van der Kloot was born April 16, 1852 in the Polder Eyerland, Texel, Noord Holland. His father was Matthijs van der Kloot and his mother was Trijntje Smit.
2. Jeanne recalls that Adrianus won an award in school in Holland for "Alkabra" (Algebra) since he was so good at it.
3. Betsy recalled hearing the following story. Adrianus and Martha came home from a date and her uncle, Aarie Dros, had locked the door to his house (where she was staying). So Adrianus had Martha wait at the door while he walked the short distance to the Van der Kloot blacksmith shop and got a hammer and a screwdriver. When he returned, he removed the door from its hinges and Martha went in. Then Adrianus put the door back in place. I heard this story many times from my mother, Aunt Alette, and Aunt Grace. We would laugh like maniacs!
4. Jeanne recalled hearing that Grandpa Vanderkloot rode the big wheel bikes in Holland before coming to Chicago. We visited the bicycle museum in Chicago in 1995 and there was a mention that the Dutch were active in that bicycle design in the late 1800s. Possibly Adrianus, being skilled as a blacksmith and metal worker, made his own bike as blacksmiths were instrumental in constructing those first huge front wheel bikes.
5. Jeanne recalled that Adrianus was "stone deaf" since he was age 28.
6. Adrianus used to stand guard to the entrance of his room. He would sit watchfully on his chair with his walking stick across his lap. The reason, to guard against his little grandson Artie from getting into his things.
7. When Grandpa Adrianus Vanderkloot lived with the Filipeks in the 1920s, Jeanne said that because she was younger and smaller than Marge that Grandpa Adrianus Vanderkloot would protect her from Marge by shaking his cane to keep her away.
8. Jeanne recalls that they would have chicken dinner every Sunday in Riverside with Grandpa Adrianus. He would always get one of the two drumsticks. Jeanne told Claudia in January 2017 "how he liked the chicken leg every Sunday for dinner". Mom said she cried; guess she wanted it. Wonder who got the other one. Then she told Claudia how much he liked meatloaf.
9. Jeanne recalls that when Grandpa Adrianus lived with them in Riverside that on Saturdays she and her sister Marge liked to hang around his chair. After making them wait for good while, he would reach into his pocket and give them one dime each. With money in hand the girls promptly ran off with to the *Roxy Theater* in Berwyn to see the latest film from Hollywood.

10. Jeanne recalls her Grandpa Adrianus was always in a suit pants and a vest. Many times the sleeves were too long so he wore external elastic to hold them up. During the depression, they were so poor that Harry had to wear Grandpa Adrianus' pants for his high school graduation, which were way to long.
11. Jeanne recalled that Grandpa Adrianus used to call her father Jim, Yim.
12. Adrianus was a die-hard Chicago White Sox baseball fan. My mom says, though, he always felt sorry for the poor Chicago Cubs, the north side team. The White Sox' Comiskey Park was only about a mile away from where Adrianus lived in Chicago in the 1890s to 1920s and he likely attend afternoon games with friends lazing in the sun and taking in the game. With the availability of radio in the 1920s, he could follow his team from home, but unfortunately Adrianus was deaf and couldn't hear so he needed help from others. In the 1930s, my mother's father, James Filipek, made him a big black board with a baseball diamond and outfield on it. When he stayed with Jim and Grace, he would have his two granddaughters, Marge and Jeanne, listen to the games for him. He had them point to the board to keep him informed where the ball was hit; they also had to move the runners around the board. Harry Schodrof, a grandson, said Adrianus was very well informed on the game. He knew all the players and averages and would verbally disagree with managerial decisions. Sounds just like one of today's fans. At the end of the day, Marge would need to write down the scores of every game in the league including winning and losing pitches.
13. Jeanne recalled that her Grandfather Adrianus loved to play Bunco, a dice game in which each player tried to get 1s, then 2s, then 3s. It was a game Jeanne said they could play together since he was deaf. Both her and her sister, Marge, would play with him.
14. Adrianus is thought to have been about 5 ft. 10 inches, thin, and very strong. When he was 72 years old, Harry [who was age 4] remember that he put a fence in the backyard, including digging the holes, putting in the poles, and stringing wires.
15. Photos of the time show Adrianus to be well-dressed and family members always remember him with a white shirt and vest. In later photos he has a pair wire rim glasses.
16. Adrianus Vanderkloot's sea chest was in the basement at 7047 S. Ada Street. It was black paneled wood about 4 ft. long, 2 1/2 feet wide and about 3 ft high with a rounded top. Adrianus being a carpenter, made it himself to bring his things to America in 1881. Harry Schodrof kept his 1930s *Sporting News* inside. One day in the 1950s, we found a BB gun inside. Harry thought it was his cousin's who would sometimes shoot out the basement window. He would then hide it in the chest. Over the years it fell apart and was left behind when Grace and Alette moved from Ada Street in 1966

17. Adrianus Vanderkloot's food interests: Adrianus was a good eater. A typical breakfast would include cheese, soft-boiled eggs, Postum and Dutch Rusk. Dutch Rusk was a toasted bread about 1 inch thick, 4-5 inches in diameter, twice cooked and came ten in a package. Postum was an alternative to coffee. It was a powdered roasted grain and caffeine free. Every Sunday, Grandpa Adrianus would want to have roast chicken and he always had to have one of the legs. Another favorite food was wilted lettuce salad. Wilted lettuce salad consists of browned bacon pieces, vinegar, egg and bacon grease poured over lettuce. Adrianus also liked meat loaf, which he called "kahat".
18. After Sunday dinner, he would reach into his leather pouch and pull out one of his favorite Dutch Masters cigars. He enjoyed cigars but couldn't stand cigarette smoke and although he wasn't against alcohol he did not drink too much. He had a leather pouch where he would keep 5 or 6 cigars.
19. A few quotes from Harry Schodrof July 11, 1977:
 - Adrianus was very interested in baseball.
 - He was stone deaf or near deaf for many years, certainly from the time Harry was a young boy in the 1920s. Possibly this was from working in the foundry.
 - Wore glasses for as long as Harry could remember.
 - Loved Dominoes and Bunco.
 - The trip from Holland then was about \$75.
20. Memorabilia Items:
 - Harry Schodrof had Adrianus's cane.
 - Dick Denker has Adrianus's gold watch.

Recollections of Martha Vanderkloot (nee Tanis)

Martha Vanderkloot (nee Tanis)

1. Martha Tanis was born March 28, 1857 in Haarlemmermeer, Noord Holland, Netherlands. Her father was Aart Dirksz Tanis and her mother was Dirkje Aletta Blaak.
2. Betsy recalled hearing the following story. Adrianus and Martha came home from a date and her uncle, Aarie Dros, had locked the door to his house (where she was staying). So Adrianus had Martha wait at the door while he walked the short distance to the Van der kloot blacksmith shop and got a hammer and a screwdriver. When he returned, he removed the door from its hinges and Martha went in. Then Adrianus put the door back in place. I heard this story many times from my mother, Aunt Alette, and Aunt Grace. We would laugh like maniacs!
3. One day Martha was visited by her younger brother Dirk in Chicago of whom she was very fond. The story goes he was on his way from the Netherlands to the gold fields of Alaska via Chicago. Before he left Chicago, Martha gave him a self-addressed stamped envelope to send her news of his whereabouts. She was always looking for a letter from him but never received one. One day her daughter, Alette, was stuck doing the ironing and house work while her mother chatted most of the day with a neighbor friend. Not being happy with doing the work while her mother was chatting, Alette went over to try to get her mother to come home, but did not succeed. Always the practical joker, Alette later decided to go back over and tell her mother, that a letter from Dirk had just arrived. Martha was beside herself with joy and ran right home. Needless to say, she was very disappointed when she found out it was only a ploy to get her home.
4. Jeanne recalls hearing that her Grandmother Martha pressed her husband suit pants every Sunday. The suit also had one of those elastics to hold up his sleeves.
5. Jeanne recalls hearing that her Grandmother Martha was a wonderful seamstress and sometimes stayed up late to make doll clothes for her girls.
6. Memorabilia Items:
 - Harry Schodrof has Martha's 1871 Bible including a personal inscription she wrote at age 13.

Recollections of Adrian Vanderkloot

Adrian C. Vanderkloot

1. Adrian Vanderkloot was born June 22, 1889 in Chicago. He was the third son of Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot.
2. Jeanne recalls hearing that Adrian, referred to as Ade was gassed during the World War I. Later when he was in the Army of Occupation, he met a very nice German family and they corresponded for many years.

Recollections of Alette Schodrof (nee Vanderkloot)

Alette Schodrof (nee Vanderkloot)

1. Alette Vanderkloot was born October 8, 1891 in Chicago. She was the first daughter of Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot.
2. Jeanne recalls that during the depression, things were pretty difficult and Alette, like everyone else, had trouble paying the bills. One day a bill collector came to the door and she told her son Harry to tell him she was out while she hid in a back closet. Harry couldn't get rid of him fast enough and Alette came out of the closet and yelled to Harry, "Is the old fool gone yet". Poor Harry, the guy was still standing there.
3. Jeanne recalls that her mother used to send her to Aunt Alette's during the summer from their home in Riverside. Alette used to give her a penny to buy candy at Rose's the corner candy store at 70th and Ada. Mom would then spend a half-hour trying to decide which one would be the best deal. Mom liked visiting Aunt Alette as she was a lot of fun.

Recollections of Dirk and Cornelia Tanis

Martha Tanis was the wife of Adrianus Vanderkloot. She is the daughter of Aart Dirksz Tanis and Dirkje Aletta Blaak and granddaughter of Dirk Cornelis Tanis and Cornelia Nieman. The following information was extracted from Miriam Klassen's *Genealogy of Texel* - Homepage of Miriam Klaassen.

Tanis Origins

The Tanis-family came originally from Ouddorp in the province Zuid-Holland. A few Tanis-households moved in the 19th century to the new polder Eierland.

Dirk Cornelis Tanis (1802-1887), son of Cornelis Dirksz Tanis and Geertruid Evers Versluis, was one of them. He brought some rootstocks of madder from his place of origin Ouddorp to Texel, where he was farmer on the farm "Siberië" in Eierland. They lived in 1840 on that farm with 12 persons: Dirk, his wife Cornelia Nieman, six children, three farmhands and a maid-servant. Before 1847 the farm was renamed "Bland and Berg". Dirk grewed madder, and owned in 1843 three horses, three cows and fifty sheep. He did not own this farm, but in 1847 he bought the farm "Vredelust" in De Koog. His son Cornelis Tanis lived there. In 1854 "Vredelust" was sold, because Cornelis and his wife Hermina Maria Jansen went in 1855 to the Haarlemmermeer with their four children.

Dirk Tanis stayed on "Bland and Berg" till 1866, when they moved to a house. Cornelia Nieman died in 1873. Their son Dirk Dirksz Tanis married in 1876 with Antje Klaas Mantje. He was tenant of the farm "Bland and Berg" in Eierland. His father joined this household in the same year, but died in 1887 in his home village Ouddorp. Dirk Dirksz Tanis emigrated with his wife and their six children in 1889 to the United States. Antje Klaas Mantje died in 1919 in Passaic.

Aart Dirksz Tanis was another son of Dirk Tanis and Cornelia Nieman. Aart was born in Ouddorp, but married in 1855 on the island of Texel with Dirkje Aletta Blaak from Stellendam. The oldest daughter of this couple was Martha Tanis. She left Texel in 1881 or 1882, following her fiancé Adrianus van der Kloot to Chicago, Illinois. Additional information on the family of Aart Dirksz Tanis and Dirkje Aletta Blaak and their descendants can be found on Dave Jordan's [Our Tanis Family Web Pages](#).

D. Tanis, labourer, 17, Dutch Reformed, needy, emigrated in 1866 to North America.

P. Tanis, labourer, 21, Dutch Reformed, needy, emigrated in 1866 to North America.

Richard Cornelis Tanis arrived on April 7, 1889 at the port of New York. He was born on Texel. In January 1899 he applied for the citizenship of the US. He was at that time, 21, a shipping clerk, residing at no. 35 Monroe street, city of Passaic, New Jersey.