

The Vanderkloot Story

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Introduction

As follows is *The Vanderkloot Story*, a compilation of what I have learned over three decades about the history of my Jordan family line. It is a long and complicated story but one I am sure you will enjoy.

This *Introduction* provides some background and housekeeping for this and related documents along with the relationship with the associated web pages.

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: Stories_Vanderkloot

Author: Dave Jordan

Creation Date: mid-2000

Modified: 3/12/2006, 4/18/2007, 10/10/2007, 12/6/2012, 10/11/17

Contact

If you wish to comment, add information or just say hello, please contact [Dave Jordan](#) 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. 12/6/2012: Primarily formatting changes and fixes of a few typo's along with some reorganization.

File Connections

As follows are other files that connect with *The Vanderkloot Story*. 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.
3. *Historical Vanderkloot Family Addresses*
File: Addresses_Vanderkloot_Historical.pdf
Summary: Contains chronological address listings for various families in the Vanderkloot/Tanis line.
Linkages: Adrianus Vanderkloot married Martha Tanis; their daughter Grace Vanderkloot married James Albert Filipek; one of their daughters married a Jordan. Also contains addresses for Dirk and Cornelia Tanis and various descendants.
4. *Vanderkloot Family Census Records*
File: Census_Vanderkloot_Historical.pdf
Summary: Contains census transcriptions for various families in the Vanderkloot/Tanis line.
Linkages: Adrianus Vanderkloot married Martha Tanis; their daughter Grace Vanderkloot married James Albert Filipek; one of their daughters married a Jordan.
5. *The Jordan Story*
File: Stories_Jordan.pdf
Summary: *The Jordan Story* provides a written history of the origins of our Jordan family. As part of this story there are many appendices and sections.

Prelude

In November 1978, I wrote *The Story of Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot*. Since that time, much new information has been found. In addition other stories about other branches of the Vanderkloot Family have become available. With the creation of [Our Vanderkloot Family Web Pages](#), I have decided to update and expand the various stories into a larger framework. The resulting, *The Vanderkloot Story*, is a collection of short stories by various authors about different chapters and branches in the lives of descendants of Adrianus and Maatje Vanderkloot. With time, others may contribute their own stories leading to a growing work on the origins and history of the Vanderkloot Family.

The Vanderkloot Story is divided into five major parts.

1. The first *Origins* focuses on early roots in the Netherlands. It provides in-depth information about our Vanderkloot and Tanis families who resided for many years in Zuid-Holland and Noord Holland.
2. The second part *Our Families in America* provides in-depth information about our Vanderkloot families who resided for many years in Chicago.
3. The third part *Closing* wraps up with some overall thoughts, a bibliography of suggested reading, and acknowledgements.
4. The fourth part is an *Appendix* which contains transcriptions of letters to various relatives seeking information about the Jordans.
5. The fifth part is a listing of *Associated Documents* that are related to *The Vanderkloot Story* which exist as separate documents. These include detailed address data, census data, and genealogy records, voyage records, historical family letters, and other stories or articles.

The Vanderkloot Story includes three contributions from other authors. These are:

1. *Cocksdorp, Home of the Vanderkloots* by Alette Schodrof, daughter of Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot. Her story describes the ancestral home of Matthijs and Trijntje Vanderkloot in Cocksdorp Texel.
2. *Origins of our 18th Century van der Kloots* by Fred Vanderkloot, grandson of Cornelius and Gertrude Vanderkloot.
3. *Origin of the van der Kloot Name* by Fred Vanderkloot, grandson of Cornelius and Gertrude Vanderkloot.

While readers may wish to initially focus on stories in their branch, for those interested in every nugget of information on the life and times, you may wish to read the other stories to gain additional insights and find connections between them.

Reader Tips

The Vanderkloot Story has been placed on *Our Vanderkloot Family Web Pages* and *The Tanis Story* has been placed on *Our Tanis Family Web Pages* for easy distribution and updates.

The home address for Our Vanderkloot Family web pages is:

<http://www.jordanstuff.net/ourhistory/Vanderkloot/index.html>

The home address for Our Tanis Family web pages is:

<http://www.jordanstuff.net/ourhistory/Tanis/index.html>

Frequency of Updates

Current stories may occasionally be updated with new information and a date tag will show the latest date of the various stories. As new stories become available they will be added. Readers may wish to check the What's New page to easily identify when material has been added.

Printing

After being available for many years on-line, it was recognized that it was difficult to print the html version of our various family history web pages. To improve this situation, various sections of the html web version our family history are being made available as pdf files. These downloadable pdf files will allow preservation of our family history on our personal computers and will also allow better printing of various stories and genealogy data.

Related Information

While it's possible to just read *The Vanderkloot Story*, there is much companion information contained in the Topics Section on *Our Vanderkloot Family Web Pages*. Topics include: *Address Data*, *Census Data*, *Family Overview Pages*, *Family Charts*, *Genealogy Source Records and Photos*.

Connections

Many readers will most likely be offspring of one of the Vanderkloot or Tanis families. It may be helpful to consult *Our Vanderkloot Family Overview* page or *Our Tanis Family Overview* page to figure out which family you are from and to learn some of the names and relationships. My purpose was not to create a detailed genealogy of all the offspring, so you may need to do a little research to first work your way back to a couple of original families. If you can't figure it out, drop me a line and I may be able to get you onto the right family.

The key families included in *The Vanderkloot Story* are:

1. **The Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot Family:** Their children are: Matthew (1883), Art (1885), Adrian (1889), Alette (1891), Grace (1894), and Marie (1899). Their current offspring number in the hundreds. In case you are wondering, Adrianus and Martha are my great-grandparents.

2. **The Matthijs and Trijntje Vanderkloot Family:** Their 10 children are: Adrianus (1852), Klaas (1854), Marinus (1855), Aagtje (1857), Pieter (1860), Maatje (1862), Matthijs (1866), Jannetje (1868), Cornelius (1870), and Jan (1873). My great-grandfather, Adrianus was their first son.
3. **The Marinus and Meis Vanderkloot Family:** Their children are: Adrianus (1849), Dirkje (1855), Teunis (1857), Matthijs R. (1860), John V. (1861), Peter Simon (1862), Mary S. (1863), Olive C. (1865) and Marinus (1866). Marinus was the founder of the Vanderkloot Ironworks and his son Adrianus later was president of the South Halsted Street Iron Works where all the Vanderkloots worked. Their current offspring number in the hundreds.

In general, any Vanderkloot in America that knows their origins are from the late-1800s in Chicago should be able to link back to one of the listed Vanderkloot families.

The key families included in The Tanis Story are:

1. **The Aart and Dirkje Tanis Family:** Their children are: Kornelia (1855), Martha (1857), Dirkje (1858), Geertje (1859), Dirk (1861), Cornelius (1862), and Maatje (1864). This family is included because of the marriage of Martha Tanis and Adrianus Vanderkloot, my great-grandparents.

Dutch Naming Custom

Because of a Dutch custom of naming their children after grandparents and great-grandparents in an almost mechanical way, many first cousins have the exact same name. The method also causes subsequent generations to have the same first name.

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Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Origins

The Vanderkloot Branch

Origins of Our 18th Century van der Kloots

By Fred Vanderkloot

As a retired history buff and a great admirer of the work Cousin Dave Jordan has done with the van der Kloot Family history taking us back to the end of the 18th Century with Adrianus' birth in 1798, I have endeavored to trace our heritage back into the Dutch "Golden Age" of the 17th and 18th Centuries. Several years ago while driving from Amsterdam to Belgium, my wife, Mim, and I stopped at the town of Middelharnis, the 1820s birthplace of Adrianus' children, Marinus and Matthijs van der Kloot. After a few false starts, we eventually arrived at the efficient Gemeente Middelharnis whose staff provided copies of not only the brothers' birth certificates, but of their father's birth certificate, wedding license and military record, along with their grandmother, Adriaantje Jagt's, death certificate.

We were told, however, the family roots lie in Oud-Vossemeer (Old Lake Voss) 20 miles to the south on the Island of Tholen, not in Middelharnis or Texel. We were off to Oud-Vossemeer, a rural farming village of 3,000, thirty miles north of the Belgian border and the city of Antwerp and forty miles south of Rotterdam. It is not mentioned in most Dutch tourist guides; one has to seek it out in the countryside.

The 17th-18th Century town of Oud-Vossemeer surrounds the village green, its highest point, an elevation of three feet. A stately yellow brick cathedral featuring a lofty spire occupies the center of the green, dominating the village and countryside; the stately town hall dedicated in 1771 sits across a cobblestone street. On one side of the cathedral stands a modest contemporary monument completed in 1982 dedicated to Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The inscription in front of the monument in Dutch and English is from FDR's "Four Freedoms" presidential inauguration speech of January 6, 1941. The four freedoms as listed on the stone monument are for freedom of speech and worship and from want and fear.

As we discovered only recently, the monument was not to honor FDR as a wartime liberator, but to mark Oud-Vossemeer as the ancestral home of the Theodore and Franklin Delano Roosevelt family. In the mid 1640's Claes Martensen van Roosevelt immigrated from Oud-Vossemeer to New Amsterdam, then a tiny Dutch settlement at the foot of Manhattan Island. A Roosevelt house and museum are under development in Oud-Vossemeer.

Unlike the Roosevelts, we have been able unable to trace our heritage back to the 17th century. We do know, however, that at least three generations of van der Kloots lived in Oud Vossemeer during the 18th century. The earliest identifiable relative is Marinus, my fourth great

grandfather, born in 1710, married Martijntje Labans in 1743 and died in Oud-Vossemeer in 1787. Although we know Martijntje was born in 1722 to Leunis Labans and Jacomijntje Lucas, we have no further records of Marinus' parentage. As tradesmen working as smiths and carpenters in the rural farming areas of Zeeland, it does not appear the van der Kloots fully participated in the Netherlands's "Golden Age" of prosperity.

Fred Vanderkloot is the grandson of Cornelius van der Kloot and Gertrude Kaan.

File Information

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Author: Fred Vanderkloot

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/5/2005

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Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Origin of the van der Kloot Name

**By Fred Vanderkloot
Thanksgiving 2005**

Remarkably, the first identifiable VanderKloot ancestor was not named van der Kloot. In fact, he did not have a surname, a common practice in seventeenth century Zeeland when two Christian names sufficed for an identity. The Christian names, usually referring to a Saint, were required for baptism in the Dutch Reform Church. Custom was to have a given first name while the father's first name served as a second name. So, our earliest ancestor was named Pieter Lodewijk or in English, Peter Louis.

Although the exact date of Pieter Lodewijk birth is unknown (all local records prior to 1700 were destroyed by a 1940 fire), Mr. J.P.B. Zuurdeeg, the Tholen gementee's resident genealogist, estimates it was circa 1660 in the city of Oud-Vossemeer on the island of Tholen in the province of Zeeland. We do, however, know quite a bit about our first ancestor.

Pieter Lodewijk was a farmer and a man of property, the owner of three houses and 5 hectares of farm land-12.5 acres- just outside Oud-Vossemeer. The location of his farm can be identified even today. He had two brothers, Lodewijk Lodewijk who fathered 5 children from 1701 to 1712 and Marinus Lodewijk with one son born in 1701. Marinus may have had other children prior to 1700.

Pieter Lodewijk married Marie Bastiaans and had a daughter, Lizabeth in 1701. Later, he married Anna Willems and produced two children, Marinus Pieter, the first of the Chicago immigrant line of van der Kloots, baptized on March 23, 1711 and Maria on March 10, 1714. Pieter Lodewijk died the following year on December 23, 1715 in Oud-Vossemeer.

The first appearance of the van der Kloot name in Tholen records did not occur until 1743 with the marriage of Marinus Pieter to Martijntje Labans. Sometime between Marinus' birth in 1711 and marriage 32 years later, the family adopted its surname.

In 1690 people in the provinces of Holland and Zeeland began choosing surnames that would assist in identification either by physical characteristics (short, tall, etc.), by occupation (baker, smith, etc.) or by location (a farm, a place, etc.). Many Zeeland families selected the location alternative, utilizing the Dutch words "van der" or "from the" in English.

While Mr. Zuurdeeg, the distinguished gray haired Tholen genealogist labors with the English language, he has some definite thoughts on the origin of the van der Kloots. Initially, he was puzzled by the family surname. Although "kloot" means mound or ball, no mounds or spheres exist on Tholen. Mr. Zuurdeeg initiated a research project discovering a small village named "de Kloot" in an 1845 geographic wordbook entitled the "Aardrijkskundig Woordenboek der Netherlanden". "De Kloot" was

located just north of 's-Hertogenbosch, a medieval city founded in 1184 by Henry I, Duke of Brabant.

Since Lodewijk was not a common Dutch name, Mr. Zuurdeeg believes Pieter Lodewijk's ancestors arrived in Holland from Western Europe, probably Germany, in the early 17th Century as foreign mercenary soldiers. During the latter part of the Dutch-Spanish Eighty Year War (1568-1648) Frederick Henry of the House of Orange, the son of William the Silent, and leader of the United Provinces, successfully led the Dutch troops, largely comprised of mercenaries, retaking 's-Hertogenbosch from the Spanish in a 1629 battle.

Mr. Zuurdeeg is relatively certain our ancestors settled in the small village of "de Kloot" that eventually was absorbed into the City of 's-Hertogenbosch. With the signing of the treaty of Westphalia in 1648, the Spanish granted sovereignty to the Dutch state and peace finally came to Holland that was in the midst of its great "Golden Age." Sometime during this period our ancestors migrated 60 miles westward to the Island of Tholen and Oud-Vossemeer. So the van der Kloot heritage began.

Fred Vanderkloot is the grandson of Cornelius van der Kloot and Gertrude Kaan.

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Author: Fred Vanderkloot

Initial Web Publication Date: 3/12/2006

Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Origins of our 19th Century van der Kloots

Early 19th Century van der Kloots

The beginnings of 19th Century van der Kloot history began in 1786 when Marinus van der Kloot married Adriaantje Jagt in Oud-Vossemeer (Old Lake Vosse) on the Island of Tholen, province of Zeeland. The island of Tholen, located in southwest Netherlands, is a medium sized island and is about 11 miles long and about 6 miles wide. It was and is still an agricultural and fishing center. It was here on Oud-Vossemeer that the van der Kloots owned land for going back to at least the late 17th century and where they appear to have chosen the name van der Kloot.

Marinus and Adriaantje van der Kloot had 7 children between 1787 and 1806; two of which would establish the van der Kloots name in Texel. These were their third son Adrianus Matthijs van der Kloot born 19 January 1798 and Jacob born 5 May 1806. It was their skills in carpentry and smithing that caused them to be contracted in the 1830s and 1840s by the expanding town of De Cocksdorp to build needed churches, homes and tools. Two of Adrianus Matthijs van der Kloot sons and many of his grandchildren would sail to America and continue their forge work in the building of Chicago from after the great fire of 1871 until the late 1920s.

In Holland, the Vanderkloot surname was written as three separate words *van der Kloot*. After arriving in America, the name almost always was written as a single word *Vanderkloot* but occasionally as *Vander Kloot*. It is useful to note that in an alphabetized Dutch listing of Vanderkloots that the surname is listed with the "K's". For consistency in this story "van der Kloot" will be used when referring to names and events which occurred prior to the Vanderkloot arrival in America.

Adrianus Matthijs van der Kloot is my ggg-grandfather and my Adrianus Vanderkloot's grandfather. In the early 1820s, Adrianus Matthijs van der Kloot married by ggg-grandmother Maatje Dominé, most likely in or around Middelharnis.

Maatje Dominé was born on January 6, 1804 in Middelharnis on the Island of Goeree-Overflakkee in the Province of Zuid-Holland. The parents of Maatje Dominé were Matthijs Dominé and Teuntje Sloot. Teuntje is the female version of Teun or Teunis and Teuntje is an abbreviation of Antonia, Teunis of Antonius. In English Antonius is Anthony [MK].

Adrianus and Maatje had two sons: Marinus van der Kloot and Matthijs van der Kloot and four daughters: Teuntje, Jannetje, Martina, and Adriaantje. Marinus was born on November 7, 1824, exact locality unknown. Matthijs was born on January 8, 1827 in the town of Middelharnis on the Island of Goeree-Overflakkee in the province of Zuid-Holland (South Holland). The Island of Goeree-Overflakkee borders the Noord Zee (North Sea) to the West and rivers surround it on the others sides. Middelharnis is the main village on Overflakkee and during World War II the island became flooded. Middelharnis is about

130 mi. south of the Island of Texel, the boyhood home of my grandfather Adrianus.

The prefix *van der* appears to be predominately associated with the people of the province of Zuid-Holland, which includes Middelharnis. Several possible origins of the surname *van der Kloot* have been postulated. A direct translation of the word *kloot* means ball, sphere, or globe. Thus, *van der Kloot* could mean *from the globe* or *from the balls* or *from the earth*, another way of saying *farmer*. *Kloot* also means odd or eccentric. Another possible interpretation of *van der Kloot* comes by interpreting *from* as implying a lessee, tenant, or owner of and thus the name *Kloot* could possibly be the name of an estate, mansion or town where a *van der Kloot* once lived. In fact, recent investigations by Fred Vanderkloot, the grandson of Cornelius *van der Kloot* and Gertrude Kaan suggest the name may have been from the town of *De Kloot* located just north of 's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands.

In the 1900 Census for Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot, the census taker spelled the name as *Vandercloudt*, suggesting a phonetic pronunciation as to what the census taker heard. In addition in the 1887 Chicago Directory, all Vanderkloots were spelled as *Vanderclott*. This *Vanderclott* sound is similar to *Vandercloudt* and much different than the usual American way of saying *Kloot* which rhymes with hoot.

Many French names are common in the Province of Zuid-Holland, suggesting that the *Dominé* name be of French origin. However, *Dominé* was also spelled *Dominee*, which means minister. I have been told that at the time the spelling was not yet fixed, and the two spellings sound the same.

Historically, *Nederlands* (Netherlands) was at various times ruled or occupied by Spain, Austria, Hungary and France. From around 1795 to 1813 as a result of the Napoleonic wars, the French occupied the Netherlands. As a result, Louis Napoleon became King of Holland from 1806 to 1810. After 1813, Holland became free of the French and the Netherlands King William I ruled from 1815 to 1840 followed by King William II from 1840 to 1849. Language wise, Dutch stems from an early Germanic base.

11/25/12 16

Off to Texel

Around 1835, the reclamation of the Polder Eijerland that joined a northern piece of land to the Island of Texel was completed. Texel is a few miles off the northwest coast of the Netherlands and is one of the West Frisian Islands. Originally, Texel and Eijerland were two separate islands but were joined by a dike in 1629/1630. This connection was continually increased by reclamation until the land came into being in 1835, almost 200 years later, the entire project approximately doubling the size of the lower island to about 20 miles with the width at about 10 miles. About 1836, Nicolas Josephus De Cock, a trader from Rotterdam and a moneylender began hiring skilled workers from around the Netherlands such as Adrianus and his brother Jacob. His purpose was to

create the needed infrastructure in Eijerland to make it desirable for new inhabitants.

The book, *Het Land van Texel* (The Land of Texel) indicates that a Mr. J. S. M. van der Bosch made a written contract with Adrianus, the blacksmith from the village of Stellendam to settle in Cocksdoorp. Mr. De Cock also arranged for the carpenter Jacob van der Kloot, brother of Adrianus, to come and build the provisional wooden farms after the impoldering of Eyerland.

Before he came, Adrianus was contracted to make 3 ploughs from a template that was common in Stellendam. Then in 1836, at age 38, Adrianus and Maatje and his family of six left their home on the Island of Overflakkee and moved about 130 miles north. Since this was too early for train travel, most likely they used a combination of horse and wagon and ships to get to their destination. Since Island of Flakkee drains to the Noord Zee to the west, it is possible they took a coastal ship north to Texel. If they took a land route they would have likely traveled north to Den Helder and crossed the Marsdiep via ferry to reach Texel.

In 1839, in the new village of De Cocksdoorp, the Dutch Reformed church was built. And the Catholic Church was built in 1841. In 1841, the village of De Cocksdoorp named after Nicolas Josephus de Cock, consisted of 20 dwellings housing 120 inhabitants. As a master blacksmith, Adrianus van der Kloot was involved in the planning and construction of many of the buildings in De Cocksdoorp including the then new school, new clockwork for the Dutch Reform Church, and a major dike on the Island. He was also on the town council. His brother Jacob van der Kloot, the carpenter was granted the contract to build the then new Dutch Reform Church. However, the one there now is brick and may be a replacement for the one built in 1839-1841.

Adrianus and Maatje would stay in Texel for over twenty years but on March 1, 1856 at ages 58 and 52, they moved with their daughters Jannetje and Martina to Haarlemmermeer, a recently drained polder on the mainland. By this time, their sons had established their own families and their daughter, Teuntje, had married Aart Numan in Texel at age 16 in 1842 and would remain there. Adrianus lived almost 20 more years in Haarlemmermeer and passed away on November 17, 1874 at the age of 77. Maatje lived another 14 years in Haarlemmermeer and passed away on September 12th 1888 at age 84.

Marinus van der Kloot

As Adrianus and Maatje's boys reached their mid-twenties, each decided to marry. Marinus married Meis Koning on February 22, 1849 in Texel. Her family was from Oosterend, just south of the Eijerland polder. The Konings had lived on Texel for generations. Their first son, Adrianus, was born on December 7, 1849 in Texel. However, Marinus and Meis must have then moved to the town of Zijpe in Noord Holland shortly afterwards since the next three children: Dirkje (1855), Teunis (1857) and Matthijs R. (1860) were born there. About 1860 the family moved again. Their new home was Haarlemmermeer, a new polder, where Marinus' parents, Adrianus and Maatje had moved around 1855. Here Marinus and

Meise had John V., Peter Simon, and Marinus Jr. between 1861 and 1866.

In 1868, at age 44, Marinus and Meis and their six living children traveled to America and then to Chicago where Marinus would eventually begin the successful Vanderkloot Iron Works.

Matthijs van der Kloot

Adrianus and Maatje's second son, Matthijs, married Trijntje Smit on November 15th 1851 in Zijpe, Noord-Holland (North Holland). He was 24 and she was 19. Trijntje Smit was born in Kleine Sluis (Little Sluice), Zijpe on May 2nd 1832 and her parents were Klaas Smit and Aagtje Teun. *Trijntje* is the Dutch name for Kathryn, *Klaas* for Nicholas and *Smit* for Smith and *Aagtje* for Agnes. As a young girl, Trijntje was known as *Mooi Tryn*, which translates to *Pretty Kathryn*. The town of Zijpe appears to be a larger geography, which includes Kleine Sluice and is south of Den Helder the gateway to Texel. According to their marriage registration (in Dutch, rather lengthy and not fully translated), Trijntje's mother was living in Zijpe but her father had died. Alette Schodrof mentions in her *Cocksdoorp, Home of the Vanderkloots* story that Trijntje used to visit her girlhood home with her youngest children regularly during the summers for a two-week vacation, presumably in Kleine Sluis.

After their marriage, Matthijs and Trijntje settled on the Island of Texel. Their first child, my great-grandfather Adrianus, was born on April 16th 1852 in the Polder Eijerland. Matthijs' parents, Adrianus and Maatje, were still living in Texel at the time of the Matthijs and Trijntje marriage. Since it is the custom to marry in the place of origin of the bride, it is presumed Matthijs never moved from Texel and that he had only married in Zijpe but he never lived there.

By early 1854, Matthijs moved his family a few miles to De Cocksdoorp where he and Trijntje were to have a combined home and blacksmith shop. Here they would raise their family and live for over thirty years. Matthijs and Trijntje had 12 children, all born in De Cocksdoorp, except Adrianus who was born somewhere in huge Polder called Eijerland. Their children were: Adrianus (1852), Klaas (1854), Marinus (1855), Aagtje (1857), Pieter (1860), Maatje (1862), Matthijs (1866), Maria (1868), Jannetje (1868), Cornelius (1870), and Jan (1873) and Jacob (1876). Maria and Jacob only lived a few months. Over the years, eight would emigrate to Chicago and two, Klaas and Maatje would stay in Holland. Klaas became the village blacksmith and married Geertruide Tomas but did not have children, so there are no families named *van der Kloot* of Matthijs' branch left in the Netherlands today. Maatje married Pieter Teijjemaker, also spelled Zeylemaker (which translates to sail maker), the village schoolteacher and mailman. They lived on a boat and sailed around the island delivering mail. There are still Zeylemaker offspring in Texel today.

Miriam Klassen, creator of the Texel Pages, has challenged the statement that they lived on a boat and sailed around the island delivering mail as she feels "that it is not very likely that anyone lived on a boat in Texel.

The sea was much too dangerous." She goes on to state that she "owns two volumes about the mail history of Texel, and there was no delivery by ship. Only between the islands Texel and Vlieland [was] there was a mail service by boat, but the skippers were members of the family Buis. I am researching where our information came from but I wrote it down in the late 1970s from relatives in Chicago. Perhaps others can alert me as to whether they have this oral history recollection of the Pieter and Maatje Zeylemaker family.

The van der Kloot home in De Cocksdorp was combined with the blacksmith shop and it was the only blacksmith's shop in the village. The original house and blacksmith shop is still standing and it is located at 47 Kikkertstraat. At the shop, Matthijs made wagon wheels, farm implements, cooking utensils, locks and keys, and church bells. The house was large and brick and set on a nice piece of land, back from the road, landscaped with trees, grass and flowers. There were also fence fields for the horses. The first floor of the house contained the living room, kitchen, office and some sleeping quarters with additional sleeping quarters upstairs. In the back yard grew a few apple, cherry and pear trees and a vegetable garden. The oven in the kitchen was large and could take over a dozen loaves of bread.

It is possible that the home and blacksmith shop were originally the home of Matthijs' father Adrianus who came to Texel in the mid-1830s and built the school and the church. Various relatives report that the tower in the church has an iron bell, which was hand cast by Matthijs and that one can climb the stairs and see his signature on the bell. There are also recollections that the church floor was originally a dirt floor.

On Sundays the farmers came into the village with horses and buggies which were hitched up at the *van der Kloot Smithery*. After church the farmers would drop in on the van der Kloots for a coffee or a slokie (sip) usually brandy. Since there was no other blacksmith around, times were good for the van der Kloots. If the farmers had no money the van der Kloots would accept farm produce or quarters of cattle.

One rather fun event for the van der Kloots was ice skating over the canals of Texel. To further the fun, father, Matthijs and the older boys made ice boats which could be sailed over the ice at very high-speed.

Not much is known about Adrianus' life in Holland but my mother remembers that he won a medal for his mastery of algebra which he pronounced *al' ka bra*. Even when he was in his 70's, Harry Schodrof remembered that his Grandpa Adrianus was very sharp in math. In fact he would try to correct Harry's method of doing long division, preferring the method he learned in Holland. Mom also recalls that at the age of 28 (about 1880) Adrianus lost his hearing and eventually became stone deaf. It is not known why or if it was total or only partial at first. His brother, Cornelius, also lost his hearing.

In the late 1870s, as the older boys moved into their 20s, they began to move to new locations, most likely to begin establishing their lives and also perhaps to get away from a crowded household with small kids. Klaas the second son was the first to go. On April 28, 1876 at age 22 he

left for Brouwershaven, Netherlands. He would later return to Cocksdoorp and take over the blacksmith shop. Adrianus was next to go. On July 13, 1877 at age 25, Adrianus moved from Texel to the Polder Anna Paulowna in Noord- Holland. Anna Paulowna is about 10 miles south of Den Helder on the mainland. He must have continued to visit Texel, though, since he did meet his future wife, Martha who was living on Texel. Marinus van der Kloot at 25 then left for Winkel on May 13, 1879. So over a three-year period the three older boys moved out.

Then in the early 1880s Adrianus and Marinus and Pieter, then in their 20s, decided to go to Chicago to work for their Uncle Marinus in his expanding iron works business. This was the first wave of the Matthijs and Trijntje van der Kloot clan moving to Chicago. They all settled within a few blocks of the *Vanderkloot & Son Iron Works* as it was then called, sometimes living with their uncle, sometimes with each other. Adrianus had been a carpenter when he left Holland, but became a blacksmith in Chicago and years later became a foreman. Peter was a template maker and later became a foreman, and Marinus became a machinist.

In March 1886, Matthijs and Trijntje and four of the children: Matthijs Jr., Jannetje, Cornelius and John left for Chicago. Matthijs worked in the South Halsted Street Iron Works as a machinist; Matthias Jr. as a blacksmith; Cornelius as a molder; and John as a patternmaker. Daughter Aagje had married Hendrik Kooger in Texel in 1882 and may have been in Chicago already.

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Cocksdorp, Home of the Vanderkloots

By Alette Schodrof
Circa 1945

The island of Texel consists of seven villages. The Vanderkloots were from the village of Cocksdorp. They were blacksmiths and ironworkers, the only firm of this kind in the village. Besides wagon wheels and farm implements, they made cooking utensils, locks and keys, etc.

The house and blacksmith shop were one, with just a gateway or hall between. Sitting well back from the road, the front yard was beautiful as a park with flowers, trees and lawn. The front of the house adjoining the shop was the living room. The back was kitchen, office and some sleeping rooms. Other bedrooms were upstairs. The oven was built in the kitchen. It was of iron lined with brick. It could hold over a dozen large loaves of bread. Grandfather [Adrianus] always took the bread out of the oven when baked with a sort of long rod.

In the back of the House was the kitchen garden and orchard. Not much fruit, just a few apple, cherry and pear trees, but plenty for the family and vegetables of every kind. For a meal, a whole bed of spinach would be picked at once.

Trijntje Smit Vanderkloot was born in the "Little Sluice" a village one day's journey from Cocksdorp. As a girl she was known as *Mooi Tryn* (Pretty Tryn). In spite of her large family she visited at her girlhood home for two weeks every year, always accompanied by the current baby and one or two of the next older children.

Grandfather [Adrianus] and the older boys made ice boats and sailed over the frozen canals in winter at terrific speed. The whole family skated.

On Sundays, the farmers came into the village with horses and buggies and wagons and all these vehicles were hitched up during church services at the Vanderkloot Smithery. After church, the farmers all came into the house for coffee or a *slokie* (drink) before returning to their homes. They were all customers of the Vanderkloots. There being no other blacksmith for miles around, there was no competition and trade was good. If the farmers had no cash they paid with farm produce, quarters of cattle, etc. The Vanderkloots could use almost anything.

Vanderkloot Sidelights

Complexions and hair: Ranging from the Nordic type to swarthy.

Nicholas (son of Matthias) was called the *Swaarte Smith* (Black Smith); he was so dark.

Natures were mostly proud and a little overbearing.

All were upright and honest 100%.

Soft and easygoing types were few, examples Marinus and Nicholas, sons of Matthias, later ones. [left blank, possibly she meant some of younger children]

Haughty ones: Adrianus, Aagie, and Peter.

The sons all worked in the blacksmith shop but when they grew up some of them became restless and left home to work in nearby villages. This made Matthias short of help and he was compelled to higher "knechts" (clerks) as they were called. In response to an ad he placed in me Friesland Courant, Rhinderd and William Kramer came to Cocksdoorp and worked for him as "knechts". When the Vanderkloot family immigrated to America, the Kramers followed and were lifetime friends of the family. Bertha Moran is a daughter of William Kramer.

All grew up a strong and big. Matthias, Jr. was almost a giant in stature and was known to have lifted a horse in the blacksmith shop. Despite seven brothers, most of them helping in the shop, the daughter Aagie, was often called from the house to lend a hand. She was adept in fitting an iron rim over a wagon wheel.

On the other hand, Marinus was called on each day to give the women folk a hand in the kitchen. The huge iron pot full of potatoes that were cooked each day for dinner was too heavy for the women to lift from the fire. Marinus drained the potatoes and shook them up in the pot to reheat a minute or two.

All the children were baptized in the village church and attended services there. When they were grown up, they gradually stopped going to church. One day the "Dominie" called at the house to see if the boys would not attend church regularly. Grandfather sent him out to the blacksmith shop to talk to the boys themselves about it. The "Dominie" failed to get their promise to attend, but Aagie who was present signed a pledge that she would go to church regularly. She later had a son who became a minister.

Notes

1. Alette Schodrof wrote Cocksdoorp, Home of the Vanderkloots in the 1940s. Alette was the daughter of Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot.
2. This story was transcribed with some minor spelling and grammar changes.
3. The former Cocksdoorp Vanderkloot home and blacksmith shop is located at 47 Kikkertstraat.
4. *Slokie* is actually spelled *slokkie* and is informal language. The basic word is *slok*, which means gulp. A little gulp is called *slokje*, and *slokkie* is oral language. It is referring to an alcoholic drink [MK]

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Excerpts from Het Land van Texel

The following are excerpts about the van der Kloots were extracted from *Het Land van Texel (The Land of Texel)* by J. v.d. Vlies.

- Page 358, "Mr. J. S. M. v.d. Bosch makes a written contract with blacksmith Adriaan v.d. Kloot, coming from the village of Stellendam. He will settle down at the Cocksdoorp. Mr. De Cock has also found a carpenter Jacob v.d. Kloot brother of Adriaan. He was ordered to build provisional wooden farms after the impoldering of Eyerland."
- Page 425, "In 1840 there was at the Cocksdoorp an unfit school building. Adriaan v.d. Kloot made a project for a new school, revised by the school inspector."
- Page 373, "In 1838 all carpenter and bricklayer activities are under the headship of the carpenter Jacob v.d.Kloot. His function would expire when all buildings would be finished."
- Page 203, "In 1898 was founded a business called Dros and Compagnie. Pieter v.d.Kloot, building contractor at De Cocksdoorp, was one of the members of this company gathered shells, grinded corn, exploiting some farms and salvaging stranded ships."
- Page 357, "In 1839 the government put out to contract the building of the Reformed Church and rectory. The lowest tenderer was the carpenter Adriaan v.d.Kloot for fl:11700. The consecration of this church was on the 6th of June 1841. The first vicar was the Reverend P. Haesbroeck."

Notes

1. The Adriaan referred to is the Adrianus van der Kloot that was married to Maatje Dominé.
2. It is unclear who the Pieter van der Kloot is that is referred to. By that date (1898) all the van der Kloots that were descendants of Adrianus and Maatje were either gone to America, except Maatje and Klaas, who we thought was childless.

Excerpts from Kroniek van Eijerland

The following excerpts about the Vanderkloots were extracted from *Kroniek van Eijerland* by Anneke Paagman-Bakker.

- 1835: The smith Adrianus van der Kloot from Middelharnis got an order to make three ploughs with a model that was usual in Stellendam.
- 1837: At the end of August, the government agreed in the foundation of a Roman Catholic church and parsonage. The carpenter Jacob van der Kloot made drawings.
- 1838: The smith Adrianus van der Kloot and wagon maker J. van Houten became members of the municipality of Texel.
- 1839: On September 18 the construction of the Dutch Reformed church was granted to carpenter Jacob van der Kloot.
- 1841: Around January 15 Adrianus van der Kloot left the forge, because there the R.C. church and parsonage would come. The Dutch Reformed church was officially opened on the 6th of June. Adrianus van der Kloot made the new clockwork.

The statement is unclear why he left the forge. Did he need to leave to go work on the church or did he leave because the church needed his land.

Miriam Klassen explains as follows:

Adrianus van der Kloot lived in the forge, but the building was not his own. He initially was employed by the 'Societeit van Eijerland', and the forge was the property of them. The Roman Catholics needed their own church, and they got this place. Adrianus van der Kloot had to move. But they just used the forge as church, it was no special building. According to a booklet of the churches of Texel, the Roman Catholics used the 'huis met de luifel, Kikkertstraat 57-77' as a church until 1877. In 1877 the present church was ready [the numbers 57-77 in the booklet are probably wrong, it should be something like 75-77].

Another confusion is that *Het Land van Texel* states:

- Page 357, "In 1839 the government put out to contract the building of the Reformed Church and rectory. The lowest tenderer was the carpenter Adriaan v.d.Kloot for fl:11700. The consecration of this church was on the 6th of June 1841. The first vicar was the Reverend P. Haesbroeck."

But the *Kroniek van Eijerland* states:

- 1839: On September 18 the construction of the Dutch Reformed church was granted to carpenter Jacob van der Kloot.

Het Land van Texel may be in error as Adrian van der Kloot was the smith and his brother Jacob was a carpenter. Although another explanation may be that Adrian submitted the bid and subcontracted to his brother Jacob.

The Tanis Branch

Our Tanis Family Origins

Cornelis Tanis

Martha Tanis' ancestors came from Zuid-Holland. Her great-grandfather Cornelis Dirksz Tanis was born in Odeland, on the island of Flakkee in August 1763. Cornelis married twice. His first wife was Caatje Tijdsr Heerschap whom he married on April 29, 1787 at age 23. They had 6 children (Krientje, Jannetje, Dirk, Paulus, Maria, and Caatje) between May 1788 and April 1801 all born in Zuid-Holland, probably in Ouddorp. Unexpectedly, Caatje died on May 1, 1801 possibly as a result of childbirth complications with daughter Caatje born a month earlier on April 3, 1801.

Five and a half months after Caatje died, Cornelis at age 38 married his 2nd wife, Geertruda Evertsdr van der Sluis, on October 19, 1801. They had four children between April 1802 and January 1810 all born in Zuid-Holland, probably Ouddorp. The first, Dirk Cornelis Tanis, was born April 27, 1802 in Ouddorp, Flakkee, in Zuid-Holland. Dirk is the grandfather of Martha Tanis. The other children were: Euwit (1805), Jan (1806) and Krijn (1810). Cornelis lived a long life and died in Ouddorp on June 21, 1833 at age 69. There is no information yet on Geertruda.

Shirley Stich has an extensive set of web pages about the Tanis Family and her line links back to Paulus Tanis born April 28, 1793. Paulus was the second son of Cornelis and Caatje. The Martha Tanis line links to Dirk Cornelis Tanis born April 27, 1802 and the first son of Cornelis and his second wife, Geertruda. Dirk Cornelis and Paulus are half brothers and Paulus is about ten years older than Dirk Cornelis. The common ancestor between the Stich line and the Martha Tanis line is Cornelis Dirksz Tanis. By locating Cornelis Dirksz Tanis on the *Stich Tanis Web Page*, it is possible to follow the Tanis line back to the 1500s. Most of the above genealogy information was obtained from the *Stich Tanis Web Pages*.

Dirk Cornelis Tanis

In the 1820s, Dirk Cornelis Tanis married Cornelia Nieman, most likely in Ouddorp. The first five of their children were born in Ouddorp:

1. Dirk Cornelis Tanis born 1825
2. Frederik Tanis born 1827
3. Aart Dirksz Tanis born 15 February 1832
4. Krijn Tanis born 12 Apr 1834
5. Geertje Tanis born 9 Oct 1836

Seven more children were born in Eierland, Texel after their move there.

6. Krijntje Dirks Tanis born 9 Feb 1839
7. Petronella Tanis born 22 Jan 1841

8. Jan Tanis born 10 Sep 1842
9. Leentje Tanis born 8 Dec 1844
10. Jacob Tanis born 16 Aug 1846
11. Maartje Tanis born 25 Mar 1848
12. Dirk Dirksz Tanis born 18 Aug 1851

In the late 1830s, at about the same time that Adrianus and Maatje van der Kloot moved from the island of Flakkee to Texel, Dirk and Cornelia and family also left Flakkee and moved to the new Eijerland Polder in Texel. Dirk brought with him *rootstocks of madder*. Madder is a plant with small yellowish flowers and red fleshy roots. At the time, it was an important source of red and reddish-orange dye. On Texel, Dirk became a farmer on the farm *Siberië* in Eierland. In 1840, there were twelve persons on the farm: Dirk, his wife Cornelia Nieman, six children, three farmhands and a maidservant. Dirk and Cornelia must have had more children than the three I know.

In 1843, Dirk owned three horses, three cows and fifty sheep. He did not own *Siberië*, but before 1847 the farm was renamed *Bland and Berg*. Dirk did not own this farm, but in 1847 he bought the farm *Vredelust* in De Koog and his son Cornelis Tanis then 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. Interestingly this was about the same time as Adrianus and Maatje van der Kloot moved to the new polder in Haarlemmermeer.

Dirk Cornelis Tanis stayed on Bland and Berg until 1866, when he and his wife Cornelia moved to a house. In 1873, Cornelia Nieman Tanis passed away. A few years later in 1876, their son Dirk Dirksz Tanis married Antje Klaas Mantje and was a tenant of the farm *Bland and Berg* in Eierland. With Cornelia gone, Dirk Cornelis joined this household in the same year. In 1887, at age 84, Dirk Cornelis passed away in his home village of Ouddorp. In 1889, Dirk Dirksz Tanis immigrated with his wife and their six children to the United States. His wife, Antje Klaas Mantje, died in 1919 in Passaic.

Much of the information about Dirk and Cornelia Tanis was obtained from Miriam Klassen's *Texel Pages*. Exact quotes from her page are presented in the *Recollections of the Vanderkloots*. Updates and additional information may be found by viewing her web site which seeks to document the history of all former Texel residents.

Aart Tanis

The third son of Dirk and Cornelia Tanis was Aart Dirksz Tanis. Aart was born February 15, 1832 in Ouddorp on the Island of Goeree Overflakkee. He later moved in the mid-late 1830s with his mother and father, Dirk and Cornelia to Texel. Aart most likely met his wife, Dirkje Aletta Blaak, in Texel and they were married on April 19th, 1855 there. He was a *landbouwer* (farmer). Aart was 23 and Dirkje was 19. They had their first child in Texel, Kornelia (1855) before moving to Haarlemmermeer sometime before 1857. Dirkje Aletta Blaak was born September 27, 1836

in Stellendam, on the Island of Goeree Overflakkee. Her father was Adrianus Blaak and her mother was Martha van Driel. It appears the Blaaks may have also migrated along with the Tanis' and van der Kloots from Flakkee in the movement to the new Eijerland Polder in Texel.

Haarlemmermeer (Harlem Lake) is a polder about 6 miles southeast of Harlem and about 10 miles from Amsterdam and is an agricultural area. A polder is a body of low-lying land that has been claimed from a body of water and is protected by dikes. Haarlemmermeer had been ruined by destructive floods in the 16th century and was finally reclaimed about 1852. The re-opening must have represented opportunity as Adrianus and Maatje moved there in March 1856 from Texel, as did Aart's brother Cornelis and his wife Hermina Maria Jansen in 1855 and Aart some time around 1856 or 1857.

Aart's second daughter Martha Tanis, my great-grandmother, was born in Haarlemmermeer on March 28, 1857. Aart and Dirkje would have 5 more children, Dirkje Aletta (1858), Geertje (1859), Dirk (1861), Cornelius (1862), and Maatje (1864) for a total of seven.

Unfortunately, Aart passed on too soon and died at the age of only 34 on November 17, 1866. The cause is unknown and at this time I do not have his actual death record which might provide some information. About a year later, Dirkje then 31 years old married Jacob Rietkerk, born in Nieuwerkerk, on September 26, 1867 in Haarlemmermeer. Jacob was 8 years younger than Dirkje. Jacob and Dirkje had 9 children in their marriage, for a total of 16 for Dirkje. I do not know the names of the Rietkerk children.

Only two of Martha's siblings, Dirkje Aletta (1858) and Dirk (1861) are known to have come to America. Dirkje Aletta married and became Aletta Paris (nee Tanis) and lived in New Jersey. Dirk passed through Chicago and in the late 1890s or early 1900s on his way to Alaska to seek his fortune in the gold rush and was never heard from again.

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Dutch Naming Customs

Until the twentieth century, the Dutch followed a particular way to name their children. The classic "Dutch Naming Custom" specifies that children are named after their grandparents in a prescribed way. If there are more than two boys or girls, different methods are used such as using favorite uncles, aunts or cousins. In some places the method was defined down to the 6th boy and girl. Below is presented the method for up to six boys and six girls; and it is inclusive of the classical Dutch naming system. More information can be found in an article by Miriam Klassen (see our Other Links Section). I have illustrated the custom using the children of Matthijs and Trijntje van der Kloot and also Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot. The classical method works perfectly for both families. The longer custom, though, matches fairly well also.

Matthijs and Trijntje Vanderkloot's Children

<i>Boys</i>	<i>According to the Custom their Children were Named</i>
The first son is named after his paternal grandfather.	Adrianus after his grandfather Adrianus van der Kloot
The second son is named after his maternal grandfather.	Klaas after his grandfather Klaas Smit.
The third son is named after his father's paternal grandfather.	Marinus after his grandfather Marinus van der Kloot
The fourth son is named after his mother's paternal grandfather.	Pieter after the father of Klaas Smit who has not yet been identified
The fifth son is named after his father's maternal grandfather.	Matthijs after his grandfather Matthijs Dominé
The sixth son is named after his mother's maternal grandfather.	Cornelius after the father of Aagje Teun who has not yet been identified

<i>Girls</i>	<i>According to the Custom their Children were Named</i>
The first daughter is named after her maternal grandmother.	Aagje after her grandmother Aagje Teun
The second daughter is named after her paternal grandmother.	Maatje after her grandmother Maatje Dominé
The third daughter is named after her mother's maternal grandmother.	Maria after the mother of Aagje Teun who has not yet been identified
The fourth daughter is named after her father's maternal grandmother.	Jannetje should have been named after Teuntje Sloot to follow the custom

The only name that does not follow the custom is Jannetje who should have been named after Teuntje Sloot. Further research will hopefully reveal the missing names for the parents of Klaas Smit and Aagje Teun to verify if Pieter, Cornelius and Maria follow the more detailed naming custom.

Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot's Children

<i>Boys</i>	<i>According to the Custom their Children were Named</i>
The first son is named after his paternal grandfather.	Matthew after his grandfather Matthijs van der Kloot
The second son is named after his maternal grandfather.	Arthur after his grandfather Aart Tanis.
The third son is named after his father's paternal grandfather.	Adrian after his great- grandfather Adrianus van der Kloot.

<i>Girls</i>	<i>According to the Custom their Children were Named</i>
The first daughter is named after her maternal grandmother.	Alette after her grandmother Dirkje Aletta Tanis
The second daughter is named after her paternal grandmother.	Tryntje after her grandmother Trijntje Smit. Tryntje used Grace after a while.
The third daughter is named after her mother's maternal grandmother.	Marie after grandfather Martha van Driel

There is a good match except that Alette came from Dirkje Aletta Blaak's middle name and it is assumed that Marie is a variant of Martha.

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Our Families in America

Marinus and Meise Vanderkloot Chapters

The Marinus and Meise Vanderkloot Family

Marinus van der Kloot, his wife, Meis and six children came to Chicago in 1868. Here Marinus began to work in the big city by first working for N. S. Bouton. He continued until the spring of 1872 when he, his son Adrianus, and a colleague jointly began the *Burnett, Vanderkloot & Co.* This would have been a fortuitous time since about a third of the city had burned the previous fall, including much of the downtown area. Later his son, Adrianus, would marry his partner's daughter. The details of Marinus' arrival and the success of his enterprise are recorded in the 1886 A.T. Andreas *Vanderkloot Chapter* in the *History of Chicago* that can be found in the Stories Section.

Note

Marinus and Meise Vanderkloot are not in my family line. If anyone has a special interest and would like to further develop their story further, please contact Dave.

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History of Chicago: Vanderkloot Chapter

A.T. Andreas

1886

The South Halsted-Street Ironworks are owned and operated by M. Vanderkloot & Sons, and are located at Nos. 2611-25 South Halsted Street. They were established in the spring of 1872, by Burnett, Vanderkloot & Co., in a small shop on Chicago Avenue, near Leavitt Street. In the autumn of that year, they were removed to their present situation, where their growth, both in the extent of their works and in the amount of business done, has been perhaps unequaled by any other similar institution in the city. The works now include the premises fronting one hundred and seventy-five feet on Halsted Street and running back one hundred and twenty-five feet. Among the buildings in the city for which the Messrs. Vanderkloot & Sons have furnished the ironwork may be mentioned the new Chicago Opera House, for which they made the heaviest iron pillars ever cast in a Chicago foundry, or that were ever placed in a structure in this city. It is always gratifying to note success in any honorable calling and especially so in this case; for it has been entirely due to the industry and thrift of the founders of this enterprise, that today it holds its present prominent position among the foremost of Chicago industrial institutions. In February, 1885, an incorporated company was formed under the name of the South Halsted-street Ironworks, in order to enable the four sons to become stockholders in a business, toward the success of which each had contributed. Of this company, Marinus Vanderkloot, the father is president, and Adrian Vanderkloot, the eldest son, his secretary and treasurer. Mathias is foreman of the ironworks, Peter is employed as a moulder in the foundry, and Marinus Jr., who has been given an excellent business education, is the bookkeeper in the office.

Marinus Vanderkloot, a native of the Kingdom of Netherlands, was born in South Holland, in 1824, and is the son of Adrian Vanderkloot, who was an iron worker, to which occupation Marinus was also bred. In 1858 [*should be 1868*], having determined to try his fortunes in the new world, he came to America, and in the same year located in Chicago, which has since been his home. Shortly following his arrival here, Mr. Vanderkloot entered the employ of N. S. Bouton, who had his works located on Dearborn Street between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets, and continued with that gentleman until 1872, when he, with his son, founded the present business. Mr. Vanderkloot married, in 1849, Miss Meis Koning, daughter of Denise Koning, of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. They had eight children, four of whom are now living, --Adrian, born in 1849; Matthias born in 1860; Peter born in 1862; and Marinus Jr. born in 1866.

Adrian Vanderkloot, son of Marinus Vanderkloot, was born in Holland, on December 7, 1849. He was given a good common school education, and when eighteen years of age came with his parents to this country, locating in Chicago where he has since lived. He entered his father's shops, and, in 1872, became a partner in the business. He married Miss Elizabeth Bertha Burnett, daughter of Eben Burnett, of England. They

had five children, three of whom are now living, --Marinus A., William J., and Richard.

Notes

1. *History of Chicago, Volume III - 1886* by A. T. Andreas. The article on Marinus and Adrianus Vanderkloot is in Volume III on Page 482.
2. The article was transcribed without spelling or grammar changes.
3. Marinus Vanderkloot is the son of Adrianus van der Kloot and Maatje Dominé. He is also the brother of Matthijs Vanderkloot.
4. The 1858 date for Marinus Vanderkloot's settling in Chicago is incorrect and should be 1868.
5. Son Adrianus Vanderkloot married his father's partner's daughter.
6. Although the names are very similar, none of the names mentioned are from the Matthijs and Trijntje van der Kloot line.
7. Denise Koning should be Dennis Koning. Dennis is Teunis in Dutch.

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History of the Vanderkloot Iron Works

Introduction

Since the Iron Works was so important to all our Vanderkloot forebears whether in the Marinus line or the Matthijs line, I thought it useful to try to assemble a short history of the enterprise. If others wish to contribute or expand on this history, please contact Dave. See link below. A companion page of interest is the *Vanderkloot Iron Works Addresses*. See *Historical Vanderkloot Addresses*.

History

From its earliest formulation as Burnett, Vanderkloot & Co., the Iron Works evolved, changed names, and split into parts over its 60-year history. By 1882, it had been renamed Vanderkloot and Son. And in February 1885, it was incorporated as the South Halsted Street Iron Works in order to give a share of the business to all of Marinus' sons. Marinus Vanderkloot was the President. In 1891, at the age of 66, Marinus passed away. His wife, Meis had died 9 years before in 1882 at only age 54. Both are buried in the Oak Woods Cemetery and there is a huge family plot and marker. After 1891, Adrianus became President and Marinus Jr. Secretary and Treasurer of the South Halsted Street Iron Works.

According to a letter I have from Nick Vanderkloot, the son of Cornelius Vanderkloot, and grandson of Matthijs van der Kloot, the *South Halsted Street Iron Works* later split into two companies. The first company was called the *Vanderkloot Steel Works* and the other the *Chicago Ornamental Iron Co.*

The *Vanderkloot Steel Works* made structured steel for buildings such as hotels and schools. They were at 26th and Halsted Street and often when they had a large building they closed off a city block and fitted the steel beams on the street. Their greatest accomplishment was the steel structure for the Congress and Auditorium hotels in Chicago.

The *Chicago Ornamental Iron Co.* became well known for their decorative interpretation of the early school of Chicago Architects, for example, the well-known facade of the Carson, Pirie, Scott and Company building in Chicago was a product of their foundries. They also worked with Henry Trost and all the other well-known designers of what was known as the *Prairie School of Architecture*.

The Carson, Pirie, Scott building at 1 South State was designed by the famous Louis H. Sullivan and built in stages from 1898 to 1904 and is today a designated Chicago Landmark. The *Chicago Landmark Page* for the Carson's building states: "The ornament of the lower two stories is frozen in cast iron, while at the same time giving the impression of being in fluid motion. It is an excellent example of Sullivan's genius for architectural ornament." Be sure to see it, next time you are in the Chicago Loop.

According to William Vanderkloot III, at the end, his grandfather William Vanderkloot and two of his brothers ran the *Vanderkloot Steel*

Works, a steel mill and engineering firm. They built the Chicago Pier, among other things. The company sold out to *US Steel* during the depression. William's gg-grandfather was Marinus Vanderkloot, founder of the Vanderkloot Iron Works and William's great-grandfather was Adrianus Vanderkloot who took over as president in 1891 when Marinus died.

According to Nick Vanderkloot, the *Vanderkloot Steel Works* to the best of his knowledge closed in the Depression of 1929-1933 and the building later became a garage for the *Indianapolis Forwarding Company*, thus it appears that after the sale to *US Steel* that the old location closed.

According to Camille Vanderkloot Miller, granddaughter of Marinus A. Vanderkloot, Marinus A. was president of the steel mill until his death in February 1931. John Adrian Vanderkloot, his son, then became president. John was the one that liquidated the business. Part was sold to *North American Aviation* and some to *US Steel*. Thus it appears that Marinus A. Vanderkloot took over from Peter S. Vanderkloot upon Peter's death.

A descendant of the family that owned the *Chicago Ornamental Iron Company* contacted me in the year 2002 and indicated that the *Chicago Ornamental Iron Company* went out of business about the year 2000.

On a drive-by in the summer of 2001 it was found that the area where the original buildings would have been, 2611-2625 South Halsted, have been knocked down and the area is enclosed in a new chain link fence and there is high green grass inside. There is a building about 2607 or 2605, but it was hard to determine the exact address. In reality, there appears to be nothing left of the original site except the knowledge of its location.

It was a good run though, spanning almost 70 years. The iron works provided employment for the first Marinus Vanderkloot and all his sons and also his brother Matthijs Vanderkloot and six of his sons for their working careers. My own Adrianus Vanderkloot was still working there on and off in 1920 at age 68.

Officers of the South Halsted Street Iron Works

A detailed accounting of the names and locations of the main Vanderkloot companies including a year-by-year listing of the president, vice presidents, secretary and treasurer is shown in the Address Section.

1st President

Marinus Vanderkloot was the president and his first son Adrian Vanderkloot was secretary/treasurer of the *South Halsted Street Iron Works* from the earliest years in the 1870s until Marinus died in 1891.

2nd President

After Marinus Vanderkloot died in 1891, his oldest son, Adrian Vanderkloot became president and his youngest son, Marinus L. Vanderkloot, became the secretary/treasurer of the *South Halsted Street Iron Works*. This arrangement continued from 1891 until 1895. In 1896, the founder's son Mathias R. Vanderkloot becomes the new secretary/treasurer replacing his brother Marinus L. Vanderkloot. This arrangement

then continues until 1900. In 1900, Adrianus retains the presidency, but his brother Marinus L. Vanderkloot returns and becomes the vice president, while Mathias R. continues as the secretary/ treasurer. This arrangement continues through at least 1905, possibly through 1906. Then in January 1907, Marinus L. Vanderkloot died. By 1909, President Adrian moves his brother Mathias R. Vanderkloot from secretary to vice president, and adds his son, William J. Vanderkloot as secretary/treasurer. This arrangement continues until November 1912 when Adrian Vanderkloot died.

3rd President

Around 1913, the founder's third son Mathias R. Vanderkloot becomes president of the *South Halsted Street Iron Works*, while William J. Vanderkloot continues as secretary. This arrangement served until 1915, when the founder's son, Peter Simon Vanderkloot was brought in as vice president. Peter S. Vanderkloot previously served as the superintendent for the iron works since the early 1890s. This arrangement served until at least 1917, but probably until January 1919 when Mathias R. Vanderkloot, the then president died.

4th President

By 1923, and perhaps as early as 1919, the company was renamed the *Vanderkloot Steel Works* and Peter S. Vanderkloot became the fourth president. Marinus A. Vanderkloot (thought to be the first son of Adrian Vanderkloot and brother to William J.) became vice president, and William J. Vanderkloot continued as secretary. This arrangement continued until at least 1928 as confirmed by the 1928 Chicago Directory.

5th President

After Peter S. Vanderkloot died (exact date unknown but sometime after 1927), Marinus A. Vanderkloot became president of the steel mill until his death in February 1931.

6th President

After Marinus A. Vanderkloot died in February 1931, John Adrian Vanderkloot, his son, then became president. John was the one that liquidated the business. Part was sold to *North American Aviation* and some to *US Steel*.

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Matthijs and Trijntje Vanderkloot Chapters

The Matthijs and Trijntje Vanderkloot Family

The early history of Matthijs and Trijntje van der Kloot is related in the *Origins of our 19th Century Vanderkloots*. This chapter continues their story with their move to Chicago.

By 1886, the three Matthijs van der Kloot boys, Adrianus, Marinus, and Pieter had been in Chicago for several years working at their Uncle Marinus' South Halsted Street Iron Works. Both Marinus and Adrianus were married and had young families. The family was now split between Cocksdoorp and Chicago. And by 1886, Matthijs and Trijntje were discussing whether to move to Chicago.

Perhaps what prompted the discussion was Matthijs' brother Marinus need for more workers for the rapidly expanding South Halsted Street Iron Work. They may have weighed the opportunity for regular work in Chicago and being with the part of their family that had left, along with the excitement of the big city against leaving family and friends behind.

Whatever the reasons, Matthijs, age 59 and Trijntje, 53 decided to leave their home of over thirty years in De Cocksdoorp with their four youngest children: Matthijs Jr., age 22; Jannetje, age 17; Cornelius, age 15 and John, age 12. That would leave only Klaas and Maatje in the Netherlands. Klaas took over the blacksmith shop and home in Cocksdoorp and daughter Maatje married Pieter Zeylemaker. Daughter Aagje had married Hendrik Kooger in Texel in 1882 and may have been in Chicago already.

Son Pieter made the journey back to guide them to their new home. Adrianus and Marinus were married with families so it was logical that Pieter would make the journey back. Pieter might also have wanted to get to know Bertha Dros better, since Martha, Adrianus' wife was working on a match.

Finally the day had come and the group of six said their goodbyes to family and friends, loaded their¹¹ traveling trunks and began their journey from De Cocksdoorp. Their first leg was to Marsdiep, Texel, most likely via horse and wagon. From Marsdiep they crossed by ferry to Den Helder. Once in Den Helder, they traveled to Rotterdam, probably by rail.

In Rotterdam, they boarded the *P. Caland* with their luggage and steamed to New York. They arrived on Monday, March 22, 1866. As they entered New York harbor, the family would see the final construction of the base of the Statue of Liberty; however, the statue assembly had not begun though it was completed just a few months later in October. The *P. Caland* docked at Castle Garden at the southern tip of Manhattan along with all the other immigrant ships. After processing they took a ferry to New Jersey and then a train to Chicago. Here they were reunited with Adrianus and family, Marinus and family, and Matthijs' brother Marinus and family who had left Holland in 1868, 18 years before.

The earliest Chicago address I have for Matthijs and Trijntje is at 2612 South Emerald in 1887, which is just across the street from his son Adrianus and his wife Martha who lived at 2623 S. Emerald. A complete list of addresses can be found in the Address Section. Matthijs lived at 2612 Emerald until 1899 when he moved one block east and rented a new home at 2629 S. Union. For the addresses checked through 1905, Matthijs Jr. who was as a blacksmith and John who was as pattern and model maker continued to live with their parents. John never married and died at age 36 in 1910. Matthijs Jr. later married Matilda Deuzeman.

Throughout the period from when he arrived in Chicago until his retirement at about age 70 in 1897, Matthijs was employed at the South Halsted Street Iron Works as a machinist. A machinist was a pretty high skilled job, and commanded a good salary.

Matthijs decided to become a citizen, but he didn't do it as soon as he could. This was a multi-step process of which the first step was to declare intent to become a citizen. Matthijs' Declaration of Intent was made on April 24th 1893, a little over seven years after his arrival. In the intent, the duties of a citizen are reviewed with the applicant and he is given time to ponder the action about to be taken; he also needs to find a sponsor who will vouch for his character. Citizenship then also meant that a man's wife and children would also become citizens. Matthijs took his Oath for Citizenship on August 22nd 1896 at the age of 69. John Eelman, who had married Matthijs daughter Jannetje, was Matthijs' sponsor. As a result of Matthijs' citizenship, Trijntje also became a citizen. It is unlikely that sons, Matthijs and John, who were living with them, also became citizens as a result since they were both over 21 at the time.

According to the 1900 Census Matthijs, at age 73, had not mastered spoken English, but he could read and write. Trijntje, at age 68, did speak English but she could not read or write. 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.

Matthijs Vanderkloot died at age of 78 on July 1, 1905 at about 6:00 a.m. from chronic nephritis. Nephritis is an inflammation of the kidneys. His funeral was held two days later on the afternoon of July 3rd. A caravan of carriages accompanied him to his family plot in the Oak Woods Cemetery at 67th and Cottage Grove in Chicago.

After his death, Trijntje lived continued to live at their home at 2629 Union for another seven to eight years. Her sons Mathias and John continued to live with her. In April 1910 her son John died of an accident, probably at work. At the end of her life, she moved in with her daughter Jannetje Eelman at 7733 S. Morgan. Trijntje died on Christmas Day 1915 at about 3: 30 p.m. She was 83. Her immediate cause of death was pneumonia, but the contributory cause was myocarditis, an inflammation of the muscle tissue of the heart.

The funeral was held at her daughter Jannetje Eelman's home at 7733 S. Morgan and she was buried in their Vanderkloot family plot beside her husband and her son John. The Matthijs Vanderkloot family plot was purchased by their sons Matthijs and Peter and is fairly large at 16 feet by 12 feet. Years later, Peter and his wife Bertha were buried in the same Vanderkloot plot. There is a very nice granite marker on the grave naming Matthijs, Trijntje and their son John. Nearby is a marker for Peter and Bertha. There are also three children buried in the Matthijs' and Trijntje's plot: Mary Kooger, Aagje's daughter, Trijntje Vanderkloot and an infant named Taylor. Except for Mary Kooger, it is unknown whose children these are.

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Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot Chapters

The Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot Family

In August 1881, Adrianus van der Kloot and his brother Marinus van der Kloot along with his wife, and their son traveled to Amsterdam to purchase passage to the United States. They were on their way to Chicago to work in their Uncle Marinus' *Vanderkloot and Son Iron Works* that had begun in 1872 and was expanding rapidly, well beyond the labor his own sons could provide. So Marinus must have contacted his brother Matthijs van der Kloot back in Texel and asked if any of his sons wanted to come to Chicago and work with him. The ship that Adrianus and brother Marinus and family boarded was the *Pollux* and they arrived in New York on August 29, 1881 at Castle Garden, the destination on southern Manhattan where immigrants landed and were processed before Ellis Island opened. They then took a ferryboat to New Jersey and then boarded a train for Chicago.

Adrianus must have liked Chicago and the job as a blacksmith, as within the year, it is said that he wrote Martha Tanis back in Texel that it was great in Chicago and that she should come and they would be married. Adrianus and Martha had met through Martha's first cousin, Bertha Dros, who lived in Texel. Later the circle was completed when in 1887 Peter, Adrianus' brother returned to Texel to marry Bertha Dros and bring her to Chicago. Martha and Bertha were thus doubly related, sister-in-laws and cousins and friends from long ago.

Martha was the 2nd of 7 children before her father died. Her mother then remarried and had 9 more. Martha's father was Aart Tanis and he had lived on Texel, but left for Haarlemmermeer around 1855. This is where Martha was born there in 1857.

In the late 1870s, perhaps to get away from her mother's ever increasing family in Haarlemmermeer, Martha went to stay with relatives in Texel including her cousin Bertha Dros. Bertha Dros and Martha Tanis are related on their Tanis side, as they had the same grandparents, Dirk Cornelis Tanis and Cornelia Nieman. Martha's father was Aart Tanis and Bertha's mother was Krijntje Tanis, thus their parents, Aart and Krijntje were brother and sister. Bertha, born in 1867, was 10 years younger than Martha, so Bertha must have only been about 10-13 when she introduced Adrianus to Martha in Texel. You can just imagine the younger girl scheming to fix up her cousin with the nice man she knew in Cocksdoorp. Then later in Chicago Martha must have been the matchmaker, when she worked to get Peter together with her cousin in Texel.

Marriage

When Adrianus asked Martha to come to Chicago, there apparently was some indecision on how she should be accompanied. Betsy Strand wrote "her mother told her that Peter had gone to Holland to accompany Martha to the USA to wed Adrianus. It was not thought proper for Adrianus to do so." Thus it appears that Pieter van der Kloot had also arrived in either 1881 or earlier in 1882 to work with his brothers and

cousins at the Vanderkloot Iron Works in Chicago and had then returned to Holland to accompany his brother's future spouse to Chicago. However, I have yet to find the evidence though that he came in 1881 or early 1882, so it is possible he was really on his way the first time and it was convenient for him to accompany Martha and to avoid any impropriety with Adrianus coming back for her.

Martha Tanis and Pieter Vanderkloot arrived in New York on the *Edam* on 9 September 1882. There was some speculation that Martha had come over with cousins also and had stayed with them in New Jersey for a while before proceeding to Chicago. However, there are no recognizable names, at least to me near her name on the manifest. Thus it is likely she and Pieter, after arriving in New York at Castle Garden, boarded a ferry to New Jersey and then boarded a train for Chicago. What an experience it must have been for a young woman who grew up on a rural farm in Haarlemmermeer to see the bustle of New York harbor and then be part of the rebuilding and rapid expansion of Chicago in those early days.

On December 26th 1882, Adrianus and Martha were married in Chicago by the Justice of the Peace; Martha was 25 and Adrianus 30. On both her Marriage License Application and her Marriage License Martha's surname is clearly recorded as *Tanus*, which has led to confusion in finding the record in the *Illinois Marriage Index Data Base*.

Their Children

Adrianus and Martha had six children: Matthew (1883), Arthur (1885), Adrian (1889), Alette (1891), Tryntje (1894), and Marie (1899). Tryntje, who was called Grace by 1900, possibly before, is my grandmother. A review of the children's names though shows a good match with the "Dutch Children Naming Custom" except that Alette came from Dirkje Aletta Blaak's middle name.

It is unknown how my grandmother became to be known as Grace. While the unusual name, Trijntje, was probably not the best name to send a small girl to an American public school with, it does seem unusual to choose a name that has an English religious flavor in a family with a non-religious orientation. It would have been more logical to call her Kathryn, which is the English equivalent of Trijntje or the Americanized Tryntje.

Later in life, Matthew later married Elizabeth Heagan; Arthur married Anna Grass; Adrian married Delia Sullivan and Minet after she died; Alette married Henry Schodrof; Grace married James Filipek; and Marie married John Denker.

Life in Chicago

Adrianus and Martha did not have a strong religious interest. However, there are some recollections of occasional church attendance by the children and it is possible that the children were baptized. The closest Dutch Church at the time was the Holland Christian Reformed Church at 14th Street near Throop, which would have been about two miles away. The First Reformed Holland Church was at the corner of Harrison and

May Street which was 3-4 miles away. It is unknown whether these churches still exist or where their baptismal records are.

Early on Adrianus decided to become a citizen. This was a multi-step process of which the first step was to declare intent to become a citizen. Adrian's *Declaration of Intent* was made on March 4th 1886, a little over four years after his arrival. In the intent, the duties of a citizen are reviewed with the applicant and he is given time to ponder the action about to be taken; he also needs to find a sponsor who will vouch for his character. Citizenship then also meant that a man's wife and children would also become citizens. On October 8th 1888 in the Circuit Court of Cook at the age of 36, Adrianus took his *Oath for Citizenship*. The following day he registered to vote in the 1888 November election.

As a result of Adrianus' citizenship, Martha and all the children also became citizens. At this time, I only have a copy of the naturalization certificate (Harry Schodrof) has the original. Copies of the *Intent* and the *Final Oath* should be at various Federal Archives.

The earliest Chicago address I have for Adrianus and Martha is at 2623 South Emerald in 1888. A complete list of addresses can be found in the associated *Historical Vanderkloot Family Addressees* document. Most of the addresses collected are from the Chicago City Directories that were published annually through 1917. For Adrianus, these addresses show that for almost 40 years between 1882 and 1920, Adrianus and Martha lived between 26th and 29th Streets, sometimes on 26th or 27th, sometimes on Emerald and would every few years move a few houses or a few blocks within the same neighborhood. All, these locations were within a few blocks of the *South Halsted Street Iron Works* at 2611 S. Halsted where Adrianus worked. By 1910 they owned via mortgage their home at 731 W. 26th, just a short block and a half from Halsted Street. Adrianus could literally walk out the front door; go down his front steps; turn left and walk about 200 feet down 26th Street to Emerald; cross Emerald; walk another 300 feet to Halsted; turn left, walk another hundred feet and open the front door of the *South Halsted Street Iron Works*. At most it was a quarter of a mile walk that would have taken about 5 minutes and probably he came home for lunch. Certainly a commute most of us can only dream of.

In the associated *Historical Vanderkloot Family Addressees* document, the listings for Adrianus Vanderkloot show not only his addresses year-by-year but also his occupations. Thus one can observe the changes in his career from a carpenter in the Netherlands to a blacksmith and ironworker in his early years in Chicago to an ironworker foreman in 1900 to a patternmaker in 1913. His address listings also show some of the early jobs of his children such as stenographer for his daughters Alette and Grace and engraver and patternmaker for his sons Matthew, Art, and Adrian. At age 68, in June 1920, after working almost 40 years at the *South Halsted Street Iron Works*, Adrianus retired.

Sunset Years

Martha died of uremia at her home at 811 West 27th on October 25, 1920. She was 63. She also had chronic interstitial nephritis and

hypertension. Uremia is an excess of blood in the urine. Dr. Albert Vanderkloot, son of Peter and Bertha Vanderkloot, attended her at the end. Just before she died, her daughter Grace were married in the spring of the year; Adrianus had retired; her daughter Alette had her second son, Harry, on May 26th; and her daughter, Marie, had just had her 2nd child, John Allan on September 13th. Certainly a happy time to see your children married and the grandchildren arriving. Through Betsy Denker, we are fortunate to have three letters Martha wrote to her daughter, Marie, just weeks before her death. A reading of the letters show Martha was energetic to the end, with a million things, lots of motherly advice to Marie, anxious to get letters and no idea of her impending fate except a troubling flu that wouldn't seem to go away.

Adrianus lived another 13 years. In the later years, he made the rounds to live for a few months with each of his daughters, Alette Schodrof at 7047 Ada in Chicago, Grace Filipek in Riverside, and Marie Denker. He died on December 23, 1933 in his home at 7047 S. Ada of a heart condition. He was 81. Both he and Martha are buried at the Oak Woods Cemetery. They have a very nice granite marker.

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History of 7047 S. Ada

By Dave Jordan, Julie Sayles, Harry and Jack Schodrof

A number of years back, Julie Sayles, granddaughter of Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot wrote about a number of her memories of 7047 S. Ada and suggested that we write them down. As follows is a list of memories about that special long time home of the Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot family.

7047 S. Ada Memories

1. The house at 7047 S. Ada street was a brick two flat on the South Side of Chicago. It had a basement, flat roof, wooden front porch, a large outdoor porch in the back on both levels and a small backyard.
2. Altgeld School was across the street. The school was brick and in the 1950s part of the brick wall had a painted box to practice pitching and batting.
3. At the front of the house was a set of wooden porch steps that led to a single glass front door. After entering the door, to the right was the first floor apartment and to the left was a set of stairs to the 2nd floor. Jack Schodrof wrote that "these stairs were thru a door on the 1st floor, north of the living room, west of the front bedroom, and east of where the piano sat." See Memory Sketches by Jack and Harry Schodrof. From inside the first floor, there was also another door to go downstairs to a basement. Jack indicated that there was a "finished basement room in the front part of the basement. Harry and Don used it for weight training. No toilets, just a square concrete shower Don built." The first floor had a living room in front and a dining room behind it. There were small wing type bookshelves to separate the living room from the dining room. Going further back, there was a bathroom behind the dining room and then the kitchen. To the left of the bathroom was the first bedroom, followed by the pantry and then a 2nd bedroom. In the back was a large wooden porch with a stairway up to the porch on the second floor.
4. The earliest mention so far of 7047 S. Ada in our records is in the 1910 Chicago Directory. The Chicago Directories lists 7047 S. Ada as the home of Art Vanderkloot, the second son of Adrianus and Martha. Art is listed there each year from 1910 to 1913 as a patternmaker and then again in 1914 to 1916 as an ironworker. From the same Chicago Directory address records it is known that Adrianus and Martha lived at 811 W. 27th from 1914 until 1920. From the Title Search (see below) it appears that the property was purchased on July 22, 1912. So perhaps the property came to the attention of Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot when their son, Art, stayed there and then they bought it as an investment property in 1912. They may also have seen it as a retirement home or a place where they and some of their children could stay or gather in the years to come. The property was south of the Chicago Stockyards and away from the smells that drifted north. The area was newly

developed so land and housing may have been cheaper there and the Vanderkloots saw it as either an investment or a retirement home in a less congested, newer, cleaner area than the old neighborhood around 27th Street.

5. Harry Schodrof recalled hearing that a doctor built the house and sold it to Adrianus Vanderkloot for \$3500. Adrianus never lived there until his wife Martha died in 1920. He then made the rounds among his daughters for the rest of his life, sometimes staying at 7047 S. Ada and other times elsewhere.
6. It would be interesting to sort out who was living there on each floor at different times. As follows are a few of those times.
7. From telephone directories and their children's birth certificates, it was determined that James and Grace Filipek lived there from at least 1921 to at least 1925. Probably they lived downstairs. Grace was Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot's second daughter. It is possible that James and Grace moved there directly after they were married on April 15, 1920 but the data isn't available to show that but it is likely. It is known that they left in 1925 for Riverside.
8. After her divorce Alette Schodrof lived there from some time in the 1920s to the mid-1960s.
9. At one time Art and Anna Vanderkloot lived upstairs and Alette Schodrof lived downstairs. Art was Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot's second son and Alette was their first daughter. Both Art and his wife died of tuberculosis and Jeanne recalls that at the time it was thought that fresh air and sleeping outside was helpful and they both used the covered open air back upstairs porch. This was in the mid-1920s.
10. Adrianus Vanderkloot made the rounds of living for a few months each with his three daughters, Alette, Grace, and Marie. He was with Alette Schodrof when he died at 7047 Ada in December 1933 at age 81.
11. Julie Sayles, granddaughter of Marie Vanderkloot Denker, mentions that she was "interested in the people who resided at the house on Ada Street because I lived there myself when I was very young and I have vivid memories of being there and I always remember it with fondness and intensity. My mother was separated from my father and I lived there with mom and my brothers, Jim and John. I remember the fire flies in summer, the sandbox in the backyard, the school yard across the street, the dead mouse in the mousetrap and how we all cried. And Aunt Alette living upstairs making pies and saving pieces of dough to make small little pies for me, which she would sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar.
12. Around 1951 James and Grace Filipek returned to 7047 S. Ada where they lived on the first floor and Alette lived on the second floor. James A. Filipek died in the back bedroom on 6 December 1961. Grace stayed on until the spring of 1966 and Alette moved out about the same time as the house was sold on May 1, 1966.

Sale of 7047 S. Ada

Grace and Alette continued to live at 7047 S. Ada Street after Jim Filipek died in December 1961. Grace lived downstairs where she had lived since the early 1950s and Alette lived upstairs where she had lived for many years. Around 1965 it was decided to sell the property and move on. There were initial bids for the home in the spring of 1965 but it would take more than a year to sell it do to an ownership issue.

Alette always thought that her father had given the house to her. While Jim and Grace lived there, Grace insisted that Jim pay the rent to Alette because Alette had no income, although it is likely Jim, being a lawyer knew Grace was part owner. However, when it came time to sell, it was found that the deed was still in the name of their parents Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot as no will had been processed for either. After some research it was determined that the actual owners were Adrianus and Martha's four living children and the heirs of Matthew Vanderkloot who had recently died and Art Vanderkloot who had died in 1929. Thus followed a year of research and coordination with the extended family members to get understandings and agreements in order to bring forth a final sale.

The *Chicago Title and Trust* did a *Title Search* and the particulars of the property are below. From this data it appears that the property was bought on July 22, 1912. Someday it might be nice to obtain the original deed to see who it was bought from and how much.

Item: 486-3 54-91-055 unit A 20
Lot 707 in Weddell & Cox's Add to Englewood sd addn bng a
sub of E 1/2 of SW 1/4 of Sec 20 38 14 E etc in CCI
Cont abst since July 22/12 (tr 7492 opn bk)
Cd HJM TMK no prob 3

Ultimately the house was sold for \$15,500 on May 1, 1966 and after legal and other fees, the proceeds were divided among the 4 children and the heirs of the other two. According to the real estate transactions, the property was approximately 30x125 feet or 3750 square feet with a two-story brick building and a two-car garage. I didn't realize the garage was part of the property. The garage was to the south of the rectangular property and I always thought Grandpa Jim rented it.

Grace Filipek was the point of contact for the heirs and she worked with Charles T. Kropik who did the legal work. Charles was the law partner of her husband at 120 S. LaSalle in Chicago. As the sale was being finalized Grace moved to a new apartment at 105th and Hale where she said she was very content. All the proceeds of the sale went to her and then she wrote the final distribution checks her brother and sisters and to Matt's wife and children and her nephew Art. Thus ended a 54-year ownership and occupancy by the Vanderkloots of the 7047 S. Ada property. There were many happy memories there and many stories of which I have listed only the few I recall just now. Please let me know if you can add to the story of 7047 S. Ada in Chicago.

File Information

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Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Our Ancient Haplogroup

There has recently been much interest in the National Geographic's Genographic Project which explores early human migration routes by analyzing DNA samples for various genetic markers. The *Journey of Man* a book and also a documentary by Spencer Wells, periodically shown on *Public Television* is a very good introduction to the project.

As part of the Genographic Project, one can have their DNA analyzed and receive information about a series of markers which when mapped to the National Geographic web site provide information about our deep ancestry. There is a limitation and that is that for males, it can only analyze markers on the Y chromosome which is passed only from father to son. While for females only the Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) which is passed from mother to daughter can be analyzed. The results provide information about how our ancestors migrated from general area to general area tens of thousands of years ago.

To learn about the deep genetic female lineage of Martha Tanis, one of Martha's female descendants tested their Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA).

Martha Tanis Female Tree - Haplogroup T

The participant's Mitochondrial DNA indicated Haplogroup T. If you are female and can trace your biological origins back to Martha Tanis or Dirkje Aletta Blaak then you should also be Haplogroup T.

1. Participant:
2. Mother:
3. Grandmother: Martha Tanis
4. Great-Grandmother: Dirkje Aletta Blaak born Stellendam in 1836, husband Aart Tanis, mother of Martha Tanis
5. Great-Great-Grandmother: Martha van Driel, husband Adrianus Blaak, mother of Dirkje Aletta Blaak
6. Great-Great-Great-Grandmother: The mother of Martha van Driel is not known at this time.

Interpretations

1. [Haplogroup T](#) interpretation via the Genographic Project
2. [Haplogroup T](#) interpretation via Wikipedia

File Information

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Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Cornelius and Gertrude Vanderkloot Chapters

Memories of Cornelius

By his granddaughter, Mary Lou
October 23, 1979

The careful and loving report on Adrianus has moved me to set down a few memories of Cornelius. And added incentive was Corrine Taylor's comment to me, when requesting family information, "We really know very little about Cornelius." My immediate impulse was to say, "Oh wow...and he was one of the best ones!"

Cornelius was always a very handsome man: medium height (although two of his sons, Fred and Nick, were well over 6 ft. tall), well built with massive shoulders, twinkling blue eyes, a thick mop of snow-white hair. He had an infectious grin, puckish sense of humor, and a booming hearty laugh. He remained physically active until the summer before his death. Each summer he carefully tended a large "Victory Garden," doing all the work himself, and at age 75 could still kick his foot higher than his head.

I didn't know Cornelius well until he came to live with us, in Homewood, after Gertrude's death in 1942. Although I had seen him several times a year from my earliest days, his severe hearing loss prevented any real conversation.

We began to communicate after he was fitted with a hearing aid. (Which, with a wink at me, he always surreptitiously turned off whenever my mother came into the room!) Those earliest days in Homewood most have been very hard for him after Gertrude's death. He was surrounded by exclusively female company all day long, until my father came home the night. But he gradually developed a routine: working in the garden during the morning, listening to the White Sox games in the afternoon. One day a week he went into Chicago, visited his grandchildren, had lunch at *Berghoff's* and always went to the *Stop and Shop* to bring home a treat (usually *Speccalassi*). At Christmas the treat was always the largest possible Edam cheese which, scorning the use of a schnittlekase (?...cheese knife) he carefully pared into a mound of delicious, paper-thin slices.

I never tired of hearing him talk about "the old days."

From Holland, it was the smell of herring cooking all over the village as he walked home at night. And the day they left for America: two ships at the dock in Rotterdam, one very large and one very small..."We went on the small one!" (Booming laugh).

From the summer he was 21, during the World's Fair: ... *Little Egypt* (wink)... And the story of the train ride circling the fairground, on which he rode with his brother John, Pete Kaan, and Kramer. "We had a full bottle when we got on... empty when we got off..." (chuckle!).

From the "shop" (*Vanderkloot Iron Works*): nicknames of some of the men ("Californy Charlie, "Whitey from Milwaukee"), and an abiding distrust of "Swedes" whom he characterized as being "mean as hell!"

Of the little cottage (26th and Emerald) where he and Gertrude first lived, and subsequent apartments. (An aside here, from my father Matt, who remembered standing late one night at about age 5, shivering in his night, his mother at his side, as Cornelius slowly climbed the stairs toward them, professing in a very large voice to being "as sober as a judge! ")

Cornelius lived to see me married, gradually grew used to the unpleasant fact that I had married a Cub fan who was half-Scandinavian. I'm sorry he didn't live to know his first great grandchild, our Matt, who was born less than a year after his death.

Mary V. Colburn 10-23-79

Notes

1. The Cornelius Vanderkloot in the above story was the son of Matthijs and Trijntje van der Kloot. He was born December 3, 1870 in Cocksdoorp. He married Gertrude Kaan on May 27, 1893 in Chicago. He was also known by relatives and friends by the nickname *Corny*.
2. Cornelius immigrated with his parents, younger brother John and older brother Matthijs and sister Jannetje in 1886. Gertrude Kaan emigrated in 1887, most likely with her parents.
3. The *Report on Adrianus* mentioned in the opening paragraph was the initial version of the *Story of the Vanderkloots* prepared by Dave Jordan in the late 1970s and shared at the various Dick Denker Vanderkloot Reunions in Crystal Lake.
4. *Little Egypt* was a famous stripper at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.
5. The *Berghoff Restaurant* is a famous German restaurant in the Chicago Loop. It is still there with quick fast, reasonably priced meals.
6. *Stop and Shop* is the name of a grocery store chain.
7. *Speculaasjes* is the name of a Dutch spice cookie that our Dutch ancestors made in Chicago. The recipe is in the *Closing Section* as follows.
8. This story was transcribed with some minor spelling and grammar changes.

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Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Closing

Our Dutch Recipes

As follows recipes handed down through the Vanderkloot and Tanis generations. Recipes were most likely handed down from mother to daughter. Like family stories, we have a chance through these pages to preserve them. But perhaps more interestingly, taste some of the treats our grandmothers and great-grandmothers and perhaps countless generations prepared for their families.

Speculaasjes

Their actual name is *Speculaasjes* but our different families have spelled them in different ways such as Grace Vanderkloot's *Spikalassies* and Mary Lou Colburn's *Speccalassi*. Most likely these were phonetic spellings developed in Illinois from the sounds the children heard.

Miriam Klassen provided the following information. The cookies are called *speculaas* or *speculaasjes* (the suffix -jes means little ones). In the Netherlands, *speculaasjes*, have always the shape of something, a windmill or something like that. You need a special form to make them. If you are going to the Netherlands, you should buy *speculaaskruiden*, which are the special spices for the cookies. *Kruiden* translates to spices.

Most likely each families Speculaasjes recipes varied a little. As follows are two.

Grandma Grace's Spikalassies (Speculaasjes) Original Version

Ingredients

- 1 pound butter
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 3 eggs, well beaten
- 4 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon each salt, nutmeg, and ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon each cinnamon and baking soda
- 11/25/12 47
- 1/4 pound finely chopped nuts (pecans) or walnuts, ground not chopped

Mix

- Cream together the butter, white sugar and brown sugar.
- Add eggs.
- Sift together the flour, salt, nutmeg, ground cloves, cinnamon and baking soda.
- Add dry ingredients to creamed ingredients.
- Add finely chopped nuts.

Prepare:

- This mixture will be very soft so put it in the refrigerator for half an hour, then shape into five rolls.
- Roll in waxed paper and put in freezing compartment overnight.
- Slice [very} thin.
- Bake on greased cookie sheets at 350 degrees, from 5 to 7 minutes or until brown
- Watch them closely because they burn readily.
- Note: Half Recipe is ample.

Marianne Garcher's Speculaasjes

Marianne's Recipe

- 1/2 pound of nuts finely ground (walnuts or pecans)
- Nuts: pecans or walnuts (ground, not chopped)
- Chill in bowl in refrigerator for 1 hour or more (or 15 minutes in freezer, then in fridge) until dough is easily handled.
- Form into 5 balls, then wrap in Saran.
- Freeze until ready to bake.
- Remove 1 roll at a time 15 minutes before baking.
- Will keep for weeks in cookie can.
- Dough can be kept 6 months in freezer.

In a book Marianne has about St. Nicholas Day, there is a recipe for "Speculatius." The ingredients are very similar but there are some differences. It is a dough meant to be pressed into wooden molds. The word "speculatius" means image and in this case, people made a mirror-image of a Nicholas which had been pressed into a wooden mold and then turned out on a sheet to bake in the oven.

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Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

May (Mae) Vanderkloot Recipe for Waffles

Contributed by: Cindy Montgomery, g-granddaughter of Mathias Reijer and Ollie Cantine Vanderkloot.

Cindy reports that she has recently (spring 2002) found an entire old ledger filled with Ollie Cantine Vanderkloot's handwritten recipes in pencil! And also several pages of very neatly cut-out printed recipes glued to the pages. She was cleaning out her dad's kitchen and ran across them all bunched in the corner.

The following recipe from the collection is *May Vanderkloot's Recipe for Waffles*. May (Mae) was the wife of Peter S. Vanderkloot, brother of Mathias Reijer Vanderkloot. Cindy indicates that there may be nothing especially Dutch about the recipe except that it came from the wife of Peter S. Vanderkloot.

- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 1/2 cups flour and 2 heaping teaspoons baking powder
- Yolks of 2 eggs stirred into the milk
- Add flour, then the 2 whites of eggs beaten stiff
- Lastly 2 teaspoons of melted butter
- Add salt

Our Dutch Children's Rhymes

As follows are children rhymes handed down through the Vanderkloot and Tanis generations, though at this time we have only one rhyme. Rhymes were generally handed down from mothers to their children and repeated over and over through the generations.

Naar Bed, Naar Bed

Naar Bed, Naar Bed is one such rhyme passed down in my immediate family by Grace Vanderkloot to her children and then to her grandchildren. Most likely Grandma Grace learned it from her mother, Martha Tanis, and perhaps Martha learned it from her mother Dirkje Aletta Tanis. If others recognize it, let Dave know so we can see how widespread it might have become. It turns out it is pretty widespread as noted by a couple of respondees below.

The rhyme begins with the child on the mother's lap and the mother grasping the young child's thumb and gently wiggling the thumb back and forth. At the end of each sentence, the mother moves to the next finger. Perhaps it was a way of both telling a story and teaching the young child about counting and the names of the fingers.

On the night of October 24, 1986 Jeanne Jordan related *Naar Bed* to her son David and her grandson Michael. All of Jeanne's children learned this rhyme as children but I had forgotten most of it. Thus I decided it was time to write it down before it was forgotten in our family. As follows is Jeanne's memorized rendition and my attempt to write it in phonetic Dutch along with Jeanne's English translation. Undoubtedly there are changes from the version Martha Tanis Vanderkloot brought to America in the 1880s as it passed verbally through the generations in a language unknown to the children and grandchildren.

Naar Bed, Naar Bed - Jeanne Jordan 1986

Nabet! Nabet! Says domalot.
I kep not keateyet says slikapot.
Wheres the slikaholla says yungilun.
In Mudder's cussie says the fingea ring.
Then salick wa sala says the klina ding.

Our English Translation

To Bed! To Bed! Says the big finger.
I haven't eaten yet says the second finger.
Where you going to get the food says the third finger.
In Mother's cupboard says the ring finger.
Then I'll tell on you all says the little finger.

Naar Bed, Naar Bed - Willy Ryder 2004

In early 2004, Willy Ryder found my version above of Naar Bed, Naar Bed. He wrote:

Yes I have heard this rhyme many times, my mother used to say it when we were children, when we lived in Rheden Gelderland. I have lived in NZ since 1967 and when my children were young I used you say it to them. This is the way my mother said it in Dutch:

Naar Bed, Naar Bed zegt duimelot.
Eerst nog wat te eten zegt likkepot.
Waar moet ik het halen zegt Lange Jaap.
In moeder's kastje zegt Ringing.
Dan zal ik het vertellen zegt het kleine ding.

Thus one can compare our Vanderkloot family rhyme carried down phonetically from generation to generation with a truer version in the original Dutch.

Naar Bed, Naar Bed - Dingeman Hendrikse 2011

In June 2011, I received a note from Dingeman Hendrikse who added more information about the rhyme. An excerpt from his note is as follows:

Hi Dave

On [your] website is a Dutch rhyme and you were asking how widespread it is. Well it is a bedtime song that every Dutch boy and girl still knows

The correct spelling in Dutch is:

Naar bed, naar bed, zei Duimelot.
Eerst nog wat eten, zei Likkepot.
Waar zal ik 't halen? zei Langejan.
Uit grootmoeders kastje, zei Ringeling.
Dat zal ik verklappen, zei 't Kleine Ding.

If you type the first phrase in Google Search you will find YouTube movies of children singing it.

Duimelot refers to Thumb (Duim)

Likkepot refers to the index finger, which can be used to lick the rest of the stuff (like peanut butter (in Dutch pindakaas =Peanut cheese?) out of a jar.

Langejan means Long John, referring to the longest finger

Ringeling is referring to the finger that usually carries the ring

Kleine Ding is (Little thing) referring to the little finger

I hope this adds something to your knowledge.

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Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Why They Came

Americans are a nation of immigrants and occasionally we wonder who were my immigrant ancestors, where did they come from and why did they come. If you are in our Vanderkloot line, a review of *Our Vanderkloot Family Web Pages* can narrow down who your immigrant ancestors were and where they were from. The question *Why Did They Come?* is a little harder since generally the answers aren't written down. Helping our plight, though, is that people generally don't move from place to place without a lot of thought and the reasons they move tend to be just a few. Below is the information that has been collected for our Vanderkloot families.

1. **Marinus and Meis Vanderkloot:** Marinus and Meis Vanderkloot's departure from Haarlemmermeer to Chicago in 1868 started it all. And unfortunately, his decision to come is the least understood. Marinus was the first Vanderkloot to come and his decision brought Meis and their 6 children and started a long chain of events. It is uncertain what drove Marinus to make what had to be a risky change of venue. Over a twenty-year period from 1849 to 1868, he had moved from Texel to Zijpe to Haarlemmermeer, married and raised a family. His parents lived nearby and records indicate he was in the middle class. All I can speculate is that he had continued ambitions and like the Silicon Valleys of today, Chicago then beckoned via stories from successful friends and the advertisements of the times. It is likely that Marinus had a friend or colleague in Chicago who wanted him to come and would help him get started. Since I am sure we'd all like to know more, hopefully, someone from the Marinus Vanderkloot line would drop me a line to share any insights.
2. **Adrianus, Peter and Marinus Vanderkloot:** Adrianus, Peter and Marinus all came about 1881 or 1882 to work in their Uncle Marinus' expanding Ironworks in Chicago. Adrianus and brother Marinus with his family, along with a W. Reinhard arrived 29 August 1881 in New York on the *Pollux*. A year later, Peter brought Martha Tanis, Adrianus's betrothed on the *Edam* which arrived in New York on 9 September 1882. There is some family remembrance that Peter arrived earlier and went back for Martha for his brother, but no record has been found to verify this. It is likely that their Uncle Marinus or his sons had written the boys of the opportunity, new lifestyle, and that they could use their help in Chicago if they wanted a little adventure. The Miriam Eastman letter suggests there were not many opportunities for young people in Holland at the time and Nancy Sayles's letter suggests that the blacksmith shop in Cocksdoorp could not support the large family. For Adrianus, Peter and Marinus, the decision to go was a bit less complicated than their Uncle Marinus's; they were unmarried; they had letters on what it was like in Chicago, and they knew there would be jobs, friends and cousins waiting there.
3. **Martha Tanis:** Martha Tanis arrived in New York on 9 September 1882 on the *Edam*. She came to marry her fiancé Adrianus Vanderkloot.

4. **Matthijs Vanderkloot and Family:** Matthijs Vanderkloot, his wife and four of his children arrived in 1886. The story *History of Chicago - Vanderkloots*, written in 1886, paints a picture of Marinus Vanderkloots rapidly expanding business, which had to be in need of reliable and skilled workers. If you were in Marinus' shoes, I am sure you would write your brother and tell him you could use his help and to bring along sons Matthijs, Cornelius, and John too. Alette's story also paints a picture of dwindling helpers for Matthijs back in Cockdorp as the older boys move away and there were tensions with the Dominie. Nick Vanderkloot's 1977 letter states: "The Vanderkloots came to America because the Iron Works on the Island of Texel was not doing well and there was a religious problem that caused concern to my grandfather [Matthijs]. So at some point, Matthijs must have decided things looked better in Chicago and one might guess that he talked things over with Trijntje and they agreed to leave Texel. Dr. Al Vanderkloot letter indicates that Pieter, who was already in Chicago, went back to Cocksdorp to bring his parents over. Thus around early 1886 Matthijs begins building sea chests, transfers the Cockdorp Iron Works to his son Klaas, packs their belongings, and says goodbye to son Klaas and daughter Maatje who remain. Then Matthijs age 59, wife Trijntje, and four children, Matthijs Jr., Jannetje, Cornelius and John travel to Rotterdam and then sail to America with their guide Pieter. They arrive in New York on 22 March 1886 on the *P. Caland* with 11 pieces of luggage.
5. **Rhinderd and William Kramer:** Later Matthijs Vanderkloot must have written back to his old helpers from Cocksdorp, Rhinderd and William Kramer, about how well things worked out and convinced, them to come to Chicago and work at the *South Halsted Street Iron Works* also.
6. **Peter Vanderkloot:** In late 1886 or 1887, Peter Vanderkloot returned to Cockdorp to marry Bertha Dros and bring her to Chicago.

In summary, Marinus really started it all for the Vanderkloots. He was the one that took the first chance and for that chance he was personally very successful and was able to provide jobs and livelihood for over 60 years for his extended family. The result of his decision first moved his own family to Chicago. Then followed Matthijs's family, little by little. Their presence in Chicago then brought fiancées and friends.

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Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Changing the Course of History

Perhaps the title is a little melodramatic, but there are a few events in our family history that if the event hadn't happened, many of us wouldn't be here. Sometimes it was an unexpected death, sometimes an unexpected child, and sometimes the decision to move to a new location.

Here are a few to ponder.

1. On the Tanis side, Cornelis' first wife Caatje unexpectedly died shortly after having her 6th child, probably due to childbirth complications. Sad as her death is, our whole Tanis line is dependent on this unexpected death. After Caatje died on May 1, 1801, Cornelis was courting Geertruda van der Sluis who shortly became pregnant. Cornelis and Geertruda were then married on October 19, 1801, 5 1/2 months after Caatje's death and on April 27, 1802, six months after their marriage, our Dirk Cornelis Tanis was born. Without Dirk, there would be no Martha Tanis,. And without Caatje's unfortunate death, and a new beau for Cornelis, and the early pregnancy, there would be no Dirk.
2. Later, Dirk's son, Aart Tanis, married Dirkje Aletta Blaak on April 19, 1855 shortly after she became pregnant. Their daughter, Kornelia, was born 5 months later on September 26, 1855. While the marriage might have happened anyway, it was Aart's unfortunate early death at age 34 in 1866 in Haarlemmermeer that set off a chain of events affecting his daughter Martha. Dirkje then married Jacob Rietkerk and had 9 more children for a total of 16 in the household. As the new Rietkerk family grew, Martha, one of the older Tanis girls chose to move out and live with cousins back in Texel. Through a first cousin, thought to be Bertha Dros, she was introduced to her future spouse Adrianus van der Kloot. If Aart hadn't died, Martha may not have left Haarlemmermeer to live in Texel. And if she hadn't been in Texel, she wouldn't have been introduced to Adrianus.
3. The completion of the Eijerland polder in the 1830s appears to have caused a migration of people from the Overflakkee area including the van der Kloots and Tanis families. Without the decision to move to the new polder, Adrianus and Martha may have never connected.
4. Matthijs married Trijntje on November 15, 1851 shortly after she became pregnant. Adrianus was born five months later on April 16, 1852.

The decision by Marinus van der Kloot to leave Holland and explore his future in Chicago set off a whole chain of events. This one decision would affect all Vanderkloots from his line and most of the Matthijs's line. The effect of the move to Chicago changed all their lives including the introduction of their offspring to spouses from around the world.

The results of the opening new polders, emerging cities, unexpected deaths, young love, and life's big decisions are us. We are not only the result of some good luck but also the results of some very real events, accidents and decisions that took place long ago.

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Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

The End of and Era

Certainly the move to Chicago for all the Vanderkloots had to be exciting and a very different way of life from a small rural village to a rapidly expanding, vibrant, cosmopolitan melting pot. The Iron Works was only three miles south of city center in a heavily populated area. Chicago was in the midst of a great building and population boom. The neighborhood they lived was very cosmopolitan. Next door neighbors were emigrants from England, Ireland, Bohemia, Germany, Sweden, nationalities almost too numerous to count. Most were struggling with the language, new customs and a new way of life. But it was a vibrant society where jobs were plentiful and people from all walks of life intermingled at work and in the neighborhood.

Early on Adrianus, Martha, Peter and Marinus would have witnessed the completion of the first cable cars down State Street to 29th Street in 1882 which would have provided easy access to the city center for them. In 1887 the city adopted a plan to install electric lighting on streets, and in 1890 the city began the planning for the exposition. Certainly, all the Vanderkloots must have visited the famous *Colombian Exposition* in 1893, which was only a few miles from where they lived. And perhaps the *South Halsted Street Iron Works* supplied iron for the creation of the structures along the Lake, including the still standing *Soldier's Field*, the *Field Museum*, and the *Art Institute*. Later, they would have witnessed the building of the *Elevated Train* or the *L* as it worked its way south and a several blocks east of their neighborhood in the late 1890s. And if they were interested in politics, Chicago in those days was the place for Presidential Conventions where they nominated Harrison in 1888, held the first Democratic Convention in 1892, nominated Roosevelt in 1904 and Taft in 1908. And of course there was baseball, an emerging sport at the turn of the century. *Comiskey Park*, home of the White Sox, was at 34th Street just a mile south of the old *South Halsted Street Iron Works* and about three-quarters of a mile east. It would have been just an hour walk to the ballpark to enjoy an afternoon game in the sun.

The homes in the neighborhood were small cottages, bungalows, and flats. Many flats of the time held numerous and large families and only a few rooms per family. The homes were not well insulated and did not have central heat and generally had only one bathroom. My Grandma Grace recalls that around 1900 all the streets were dirt except Halsted Street, which was paved. She also recalls that in places there were wooden sidewalks. Without refrigeration, people shopped everyday, but because of the housing density, corner groceries were plentiful and easy to walk to. Fresh meat was in good supply since the Chicago Stockyards were only two miles to the south at 40th street, and with southwest breezes a certain odor in the wind. In fact, the whole area must have had a cacophony of sounds and smells from the nearby Iron Works, other small factories, horses, coal and wood burning stoves, vendors, fruit and vegetable carts, and the like.

Most of the children attended public elementary school but many girls would not attend high school. My Grandma Grace Vanderkloot said she

attended Brennan Grade School at 26th and Lime, so given the location, many of the Vanderkloot children must have also. After grade school, Grace and her sister, Alette went to secretarial school.

The *South Halsted Street Iron Works* must have bred a closeness, security and prosperity for the families. As owners, Marinus's family prospered well as the various sons took the company to new heights in the years after his death and some began moving up in Chicago society.

As workers, Matthijs's offspring were not wealthy but they were not poor either. Matthijs's entire family including most of his many sons lived within blocks of the *South Halsted Street Iron Works* letting them walk to work, see each other daily, and get together socially. Fortunately for all, the *Iron Works* lasted long enough to let most of that first generation have entire careers and retire at ripe old ages, such as my Adrianus in 1920. Many of that first generation saw their children get their first job there, such as my Grandma Grace's first secretarial job.

But times were changing and the children had been brought up in a much different environment than rural Netherlands. They sought alternate occupations, such as Peter and Bertha's son Al who became a famous physician. And Adrianus and Martha's Alette and Grace who enjoyed working as secretaries in the vibrant Chicago Loop, and their sons Matthew and Art who migrated to the new auto industry in Detroit.

With the very cosmopolitan neighborhoods, a common language and intermingling of children at public schools and the effect of the melting pot, most if not all of the children married other than Dutch spouses and most including their parents had left the old neighborhoods by the early 1920s. It was the end of an era, but a good one that had started with a single decision to find fortune in Chicago and ended bringing prosperity and a new life to hundreds.

File Information

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Author: Dave Jordan

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Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Bibliography

As follows is a bibliography identifying a few books that provide background about the life and times of our Vanderkloot and Tanis ancestors.

1. *Het Land van Texel (The Land of Texel)* by Mr. J. S. M. van der Bosch. This book describes the early history of Cocksdoorp. There are a number of mentions of Adrianus and Jacob van der Kloot. The book is entirely in Dutch and I have only a few excerpts translated.
2. *Kroniek van Eijerland (Chronicles of Eijerland)* by Anneke Paagman-Bakker. This book describes the early history of the Eijerland Polder. There are a number of mentions of Adrianus and Jacob van der Kloot. The book is entirely in Dutch and I have only a few excerpts translated.
3. A book on the *Early Prairie School of Architecture* refers to the Vanderkloot Iron Works. This book was referred to in Nick Vanderkloot's letter. I am not sure of the exact title.
4. *History of Chicago, Volume III - 1886* by A. T. Andreas. The article on Marinus and Adrianus Vanderkloot is in Volume III on Page 482.
5. *American Pharaoh, Mayor Richard Daley: His Battle for Chicago and the Nation* by Adam Cohen and Elizabeth Taylor. The former Mayor Daley was born on May 15, 1902 at 3502 South Lowe which is just two blocks east and 5 blocks south of the old Filipek Grocery Store at 3001 S. Emerald. Chapter One describes Daley's neighborhood. While the Vanderkloot neighborhood was further from the stockyards and had more of a mix of European nationalities within blocks, Chapter One provides some very good insights into the life and times of the near South Side of Chicago at the turn of the century.

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1. I wish to acknowledge the extensive efforts of Miriam Klassen and her brother for the comprehensive work they are doing in researching and documenting the history and people of the Island of Texel. I also wish to acknowledge the particular research and summaries Miriam has prepared for both the Tanis and van der Kloot families. Their work on the Island of Texel is presented in Miriam Klassen's *Texel Web Pages*.
2. I wish to acknowledge the extensive research done by Shirley Stich and presented in her *Tanis Web Pages*. Her work has allowed me to easily link with her Tanis line at Cornelis Tanis (1763) and to take advantage of the extensive research she has done.
3. I would like to thank Harry Schodrof for his preservation of Adrianus' cane and Martha's bible. Pictures of each are in our *Photo Collection Section*.
4. I wish to thank Dick Denker for his preservation of Adrianus Vanderkloot's gold watch. I also wish to thank Dick for organizing and holding the Vanderkloot Family Reunions, which did so much over the years to bring us together to share our Dutch history. Reunions were held: the summer of 1957, summer 1963, July 9, 1977, Summer 1978, July 7, 1979, July 5, 1980, and July 9, 1988.
5. I wish to thank Betsy Strand for her preservation and sharing of Martha Vanderkloot's final letters. These have been scanned and transcribed and are available for viewing in our Picture Section.
6. I wish to thank Robert Vanderkloot for sharing his early Vanderkloot pictures with us at the 1988 reunion. Scans of some of these pictures are in our *Photo Collection Section*.
7. I wish to thank Mary Lou Colburn for her 1979 *Memories of Cornelius*.
8. 11/25/12 65
9. I wish to thank Fred Vanderkloot for his *Origins of our 18th Century van der Kloots* and his *Origin of the van der Kloot Name* articles.
10. I wish to Julie Sayles, Harry and Jack Schodrof for their interesting recollections of 7047 S. Ada.
11. I wish to thank Roger Kotz for his contribution on the John Eelman family.
12. Finally, I wish to thank all the family members that have over the years contributed their recollections, insights and letters to *The Vanderkloot Story*. In particular, special thanks go to Dick Denker,

Andries de Vries for Cornelia Maatje Daalder-Kalis, Marian Eastman, Jeanne Jordan, Harry Schodrof, Nancy Sayles, Betsy Strand, and Dr. Al Vanderkloot, Grace Filipek, Marge O'Dette, Alette Schodrof and Nick Vanderkloot. Without their letters, recollections, and efforts to document them, we would not have the rich and personalized memories of our Tanis and Vanderkloot families.

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Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Appendices

Letters

John Eelman's Letter to Hattie Eelman - June 28, 1906

As follow is a transcription of a June 28, 1906 letter from John Eelman to his daughter, Harriet (Hattie). Hattie would have been about 17 at the time and appears to have been traveling. John Eelman married Jannetje (Jenny) Vanderkloot. Jannetje was the daughter of Matthijs and Trijntje Vanderkloot. Mentioned in the letter is an annual gathering at John and Jannetje Eelman's. Jannetje's birthday was in August, but it could be John's birthday, although I don't know his month or day. Tante (Aunt) Martha is mentioned specifically. Martha is presumed to be Martha Vanderkloot, wife of Adrianus. Original spelling and grammar has been preserved to give insight into the language and pronunciations of the times.

Chicago June 28, 1906

Dear Hattie,

We received your postcard and two letters this week, and thank you for the congratulation in the letter from yesterday.

As every year, we had a gathering from de brothers in the evening and from the aunts during the day. Tante Martha was here 9 o'clock in the morning already, and so one after the other, till half pass ten in the evening when we closed the door after the last one.

Of course nothing but a very busy day for momma.

Ohae dit not come for dinner because she dit not feel very well, but John and Aijs where [were] here for dinner.

We are glad to see in your letter you like it so well, and the Pon familie is so friendly to you n Dora.

I suppose you get the postal from Sister Tena, dit'n you? She was proud she could write you ones. Today was the last day of school. Tena from uncle Pete who was here today to give Tena her lesson, said Albert had a Poster Diploma; is'n that nice?

Momma is planting astors before it gets dark (half pas seven); she get them from the lady next door.

I think by this time ...have you seen the different partys you intended to visit. I bet Mrs. Spriets ma dit not know you no more.

Well Hattie if you and Dora leeve there Saturday night as you intendet to than I will be on the pier to help you with your satchel Sunday morning.

Kisses from momma and Tena, also from me and hope you will enjoy the rest of your vacation.

Your loving pa, Eelman

P.S. Our best regards to Mr. And Mrs. Pon and Dora _____

Notes

1. An attempt was made to transcribe the letter with spelling and grammar exactly as it was to provide a better sense of the language and spelling of the times.
2. Particularly interesting was the wording about Martha Vanderkloot. "Tante Martha was here 9 o'clock in the morning already, and so one after the other". It appears that Martha came a bit earlier than they had planned.
3. There are several words where it was difficult to read the old script and another reader may be able to do better. Particularly difficult were unfamiliar names. The key ones are: Ohae dit not come for dinner because she dit not feel very well, but John and Aijs where [were] here for dinner; the Pon familie is so friendly; and I bet Mrs. Spriets ma. If you know any of these let me know.
4. The first Tena mentioned must have been the daughter of John and Jannetje Eelman. Her birth name was Trijntje but it appears that several families began using Tena as an English equivalent for Trijntje. I do not know what year Tena was born, but it does appear that she was just learning to write.
5. The second Tena mentioned would be Trijntje Vanderkloot, born August 20, 1890, and daughter of Peter and Bertha. She would have been 15 at the time of the letter. The Albert mentioned would have been the son of Peter and Bertha. Albert was born April 29, 1893 and would have been 13 at the time of the letter. Perhaps the diploma was from elementary school.
6. Given the mention of the pickup at the pier in Chicago and an overnight trip, Hattie could be visiting friends and relatives in Michigan or Wisconsin.

Three Letters from Martha Vanderkloot to Marie Marie Denker

Background

As follows are three letters from Martha Vanderkloot to her daughter, Marie. Marie was born October 8, 1899 and married John Denker on January 19, 1917. They had four children: Nancy, John Allan, and Richard Tanis and Betsy. The letters focus around the Sept. 13th, 1920 birth of John Allan Denker. Parts of the letters mention Martha's other daughters, Alette, born October 8, 1891, and Grace born August 7, 1894. Alette married Henry Schodrof. Alette's children were Don, born in 1914 and Harry born May 26, 1920. Grace married James Filipek on April 15, 1920 and at the time of the letters they did not yet have their two children, Marge and Jeanne (my mom).

One letter is dated September 20, 1920 and the other Sept 30, 1920. One letter is undated. The undated letter appears to be first in the sequence, and is labeled Saturday morning. Since it is after John was born on September 13th, it is probably Saturday September 18. In the last letter Martha says she is not feeling well but attributes it to the flu. Unfortunately, on October 25, 1920 she would die of uremia and nephritis. It is possible certain pages of the letters should be with other letters as the copies may have gotten shuffled along the way. I did the best I could to get them in order.

Dave Jordan

Following is a companion note from Betsy Denker Strand. Betsy was the 2nd daughter of Marie and was not born at the time of these letters.

Martha Tanis VanderKloot, age, 63, died October 25, 1920 of uremia poisons. She was sick for three weeks before her death. Marie Vanderkloot Denker was 21 years old on Oct 8th 1920. Al was born Sept 13th 1920. Nancy was 2 years old on June 12th 1920.

Betsy Denker Strand Dec. 1993

As follows are transcriptions of the three letters. However, a companion document contains both the transcriptions and scans of the original letters in pdf form. See [Associated Documents - Additional Letters](#).

Martha Vanderkloot's Letter to Marie Denker - Sept 18, 1920

Chicago Saturday Morning
10 O Clock

Dear Marie

I just recd your second letter, and I am so glad you are well. It don't matter, now little the boy is, he is here and will grow, he has lots of place and time. Just before your letter came, I talked with Alett. Grace was here yesterday, she bougt real doll?, honey cake, and spise Cheese. I sent you one also a piece of cheese, if you keep it in the icebox, have lots of paper around it, for it allways smells, and before you eat it (cut all the edge of. I go downtown now.

I done all my work yesterday and the house is nice and clean. Alette said to buy you little boy a nice sweeter (good you told me in your letter, sise No.1 , so I was going to sent the 2 yr. old sise. Well Marie you give the Baby a pretty name, but I dont care much for Jack, but suit yourself. I am glad you have such nice peopel around you, if you wish I could sent you some nice speculaties Ps let me know. Pa wants to know if John is not glad with his boy, because he don't write but me know he is terrible busy, if only the Office don't close You don't write if the Baby looks like Nancy.

I will write again Monday. I know you will take care of yourself. Now nice of the Dr. wife to take care of Nancy.

This will be all so I have to go now. With all our love and kisses for Nancy dear. Where do you lay the Baby boy? Did you epect a boy?

Write soon. You must give the Dr. wife a piece of you tulband put lots of butter and the Honey cake as it so dry also on the tulband keep booth in the breadbox.

Do you nurse the baby? and does he take it good, tell me all about it and don't forget.

Notes

1. An attempt has been made to transcribe Martha's letters exactly as written using the original spelling and grammar to provide a sense of how she spelled, wrote and said things. It may be harder to read, but it provides a better sense of her. Occasionally various words could not be made out and guesses were made.
2. An attempt has been made to transcribe these letters exactly as possible using the original spelling and grammar to provide a sense of how the author spelled, wrote and said things. It may be harder to read, but it provides a better sense of her. Occasionally various words could not be made out and guesses were made.
3. Speculaties is speculaasjes, a Dutch spice cookie sliced thinly and made with almonds. The recipe is in another section.

Martha Vanderkloot's Letter to Marie Denker - Sept 20, 1920

Return Address:	Addressed to:	Postal Stamp:
Vanderkloot 811 W. 27 th Str Chicago, Ill	Mrs. M. V. Denker 219 State Str. Alma, Michigan	Chicago Sep 20 4 PM 1920 ILL

Chicago Sep 20, 1920

Dear Marie, John and Babys

As always, in a hurry. Just recd, the little pink Announcement. Did you really expect a girl? Six pounds, is plenty, he will grow. I hope you are well, your husband must be dry by this time. The Honey cake is dry already, but keep it in a damp place, and put on lots of butter when you eat it, that's what we do. I sent you a little Baby dress and hope you like it. I also bought a little sweater and sent it to Aletta House size 1, but it is very little and it will fit him just now. Anna just called me xxx?. What you need for the Baby. I said maybe a pair of warm leggings and a cap, but Anna said it is up to you. She was thinking of giving you a buggy robe like she gave to Aletta, so let us know, she is waiting for another? Name. Marie I hope you are all well. Write me a letter and tell me if you have plenty nurse for your Baby and if he takes it good.

I am looking for a letter all the time. Grace was here yesterday with Jim for Supper. We were talking of a certain Baby Boy, 2 yrs old, she said he was so terrible big and weighed 30 pounds. Well I said Nancy was 28 when she was her, write on a little slip if this is correct or am I mistaken Has she got her eye? and stomach there?

Mom

Notes

1. An attempt has been made to transcribe Martha's letters exactly as written using the original spelling and grammar to provide a sense of how she spelled, wrote and said things. It may be harder to read, but it provides a better sense of her. Occasionally various words could not be made out and guesses were made.
2. The date of the letter, September 20, 1920, was a Monday.
3. The "six pound he" referred to is John Allan, Nancy his older sister is two years old.
4. The Anna she referred to is probably the wife of Martha second son, Arthur.
5. It is unknown who the "certain Baby Boy, 2 yrs old" she is talking about.

Martha Vanderkloot's Letter to Marie Denker - Sept 30, 1920

	Addressed to: Mrs. M. V. Denker 219 State Str. Alma, Michigan	Postal Stamp: Chicago Sep 30 4 PM 1920 ILL
--	--	---

Chicago Sept 30 1920

Dear Marie, John and Babys

I hope you will get this letter before Saturday. It is 8 o'Clock, and I will mad it ugtharmay?, before 9. We were glad with your letter Monday, but I really had no time to nite any sooner. Alett went home Monday nigt in a yellow cab and I went along. Alett felt bad, for she had a her terrible cold, also the Baby. It is real cold now, but the heat we had lately was allmost onberable. I hope they give you heat for you need it.

I sent the doll, and sweeter out yesterday, also a can full of cookes, that little blanket I put in, I sent for dear little Nancy, lay it under her bedsheet, and no rubber sheeting, it is to cold, and this will keep her warm all nigh, and as long as she is kept warm she will not wet the bed. Be sure Marie, and sent the tulband pan back, (not the pieplate) and the box Pa made, because I am trying to get arms for the other doll and then I will try and sent it in the same box. I hope we get a letter this morning, Tuesday, and yesterday I was sick with a headach and a severe cold, Pa had his last week also Adrian, but today I feel better. We have a nice fire in the kitchen. Well Marie I will try to write you again Monday, I am allways so busy tomorrow Mrs Doletsek will be here, I have to do some Ironing today

I am glad you have had a good nurse. How much do you pay her? Tell Nancy I put her little tea pot in the box. I hope you like the cookies, give some to the lady, who is so good for Nancy. I supose John is very busy now, tell us something about little Jack, is he good? also if Mrs Pennel has a other boy and how about the Lady with her 3 girls, has she a boy now?

This is all, a big hug from Mom

Lovingly Mother

[On my Xerox copy the following note was placed off to the right, perhaps it was and extra note in the same letter.]

let me know now, What the little boy need. Anna said: You can figure on 3 1/2 it is just the same to her, what you want. We have not heard of Marguerite yet she went home a week ago. I hope you write soon.

We are glad with our little grandson and hope he will grow up nice and strong

Goodbye all
Lovingly
Mother

Notes

1. An attempt has been made to transcribe Martha's letters exactly as written using the original spelling and grammar to provide a sense of how she spelled, wrote and said things. It may be harder to read, but it provides a better sense of her. Occasionally various words could not be made out and guesses were made.
2. The date of the letter, September 30, 1920, was a Thursday.
3. The baby referred to in the sentence about Alette and her cold is most likely Alette's son Harry Schodrof.
4. The Adrian referred to was most likely Martha's third son born June 22, 1889 and about 21 at the time of the letter.

Marian Eastman's Letter to Marge O'Dette - March 6, 1972

As follow are excerpts from a letter from Marian Eastman to Marge O'Dette. Marian had thought that Marge's daughter Laurie was going to Holland and was providing background and contact information. Marian's great grandparents were Matthijs and Trijntje Vanderkloot. Her grandfather was their son Marinus who married Maatje Boom. Her father was Marinus Vanderkloot who married his 1st cousin Harriet (Hattie) Eelman, daughter of John Eelman and Jannetje van der Kloot. Only the genealogy portion of the letter has been transcribed.

March 6, 1972 Dear Marge, ...

Back in the 1880s our (yours and mine) great grandmother and grandfather lived on the island of Texel, in the village of Cocksdoorp. He was the village blacksmith and he had a brother named Adrian [sic Marinus] who had gone to America and was quite successful in a business way as the founder of the South Halsted Street Iron Works. Our great- grandparents were Tryntje and Mathias Vanderkloot. They had ten children, listed as follows. Adrian (who I think was your grandfather, although I always heard him spoken of as Oom Janus), Klaas, Marinus, Agnes (Matt Kooger's mother), Peter (Dr. Al's father), Maatje, Mathias, Jennie (my grandmother Eelman), Cornelius and John.

Three or four of the older boys came to Chicago in 1880 to work for their Uncle Adrian [sic Marinus] because there were not many opportunities for young people in Holland at the time. Two or three years later their mother and father and the younger children joined them, but Klaas and Maatje stayed at Cocksdoorp. Klaas became the village blacksmith and Maatje married Pieter Zeylemaker, the village school teacher. Klaas never married so there is no one named "Vanderkloot" left in Holland but the Piet Zeylemaker I write to, is the grandson of Maatje Vanderkloot Zeylemaker.

Dr. Al tells me that a few years ago he and Pearl visited the Cocksdoorp and the houses are still there and so is the Smithy. Dr. Al's mother's name was Dros and she was the only one from her family to emigrate so he has Dros relatives that he has contact with. His grandmother Dros and your grandmother both had the maiden name of Tanis. They were first cousins. There might be some of the Tanis family there.

Notes

1. The letter was transcribed with some minor spelling and grammar changes to improve readability.
2. The Adrian mentioned as Matthijs's brother, the founder of the *South Halsted Street Iron Works* was actually the son of Matthijs's brother Marinus. It was Marinus who had started the *Vanderkloot Iron Works* in 1872. The founder, Marinus, died in 1891 and his son Adrian became president.

3. Oom Janus translates as Oom (Uncle) Janus (unknown at this time).
4. It's useful to note that Jannetje Eelman, nee van der Kloot was known as Jennie and not Janet in America.
5. The three or four boys mentioned that came over in 1880 were Peter, Adrianus and Marinus. They were the first to come. We know Adrianus came in August 1881.
6. Bertha Dros who married Peter Vanderkloot was the cousin in Texel that introduced Martha Tanis to Adrianus. Bertha and Martha's common grandparent were Dirk and Cornelia Tanis who lived in Texel from about 1835 until through the 1870s. Bertha's mother, Krijntje, stayed in Texel and married Albert Dros.

Nancy Sayles's Letter to Dave Jordan - Jan 22, 1977

As follow are excerpts from two letters from Nancy Sayles to Dave Jordan. Nancy's grandparents were Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot. Her mother was Marie Vanderkloot who married John Denker.

January 22, 1977

Dear Dave,

Our grandfather lived the last years of his life spending some time at our home, some time at Grace's and some time at Alette's, so each of us probably has a few stories that are different.

I know that Adrianus was born on the Isle of Texel. His father was the blacksmith there which meant he not only shoed horses, but made everything of metal on the island, including pots and pans, wagon wheels, church bells, etc. They had a big brick house next to the smithy and many beautiful flowers. Also fenced fields for the horses. They lived near the church and the Dominie would come over often to urge them to attend services, but both Matthijs and Trijntje would claim (M. in his smithy and T. in her kitchen) that the spouse was the one to make the decision and by each refusing to assume responsibility they were able to avoid church (probably Dutch Reformed Church). After services most of the congregation would assemble at the Vanderkloots for small glasses of brandy before dinner.

I always understood that Martha Tanis was born in Haarlem but of course we have no birth record. At least she was living there when she met Adrianus. I'm not sure how they met, but one of her first cousins was Bertha Dros (I think) who lived on Texel so probably Martha was visiting her relatives on Texel and met Adrianus there. Bertha married Peter Vanderkloot, Adrianus' youngest brother, so Uncle Pieter and Tante Bertha's family and Adrianus' and Martha's were doubly related--their fathers were brothers and their mothers were cousins.

Martha Tanis' mother died while she was a girl. I believe her father re-married or otherwise he died, too, and she lived with some relatives. Anyway I heard she was glad to leave Haarlem. I'm fairly positive her father never came to the U.S.A.

I don't know points of entry but the reason Adrianus came to America was because there were so many brothers in his family the blacksmith shop couldn't support them all. Some Vanderkloot cousins had gone to Chicago and started the Vanderkloot Iron Works. They wrote to Texel and told them how great it was in Chicago. Adrianus went first, I was told, liked it, sent for Martha, other brothers to come and, as you have in your chart, even his parents arrived 6 years later. Brother Nicholas stayed home to

run the smithy. They called him Swarte Smit-the blacksmith-
really black hair and eyes.

Aunt Nancy

Notes

1. Martha Tanis was born in Haarlemmermeer 28 March 1857. Her older sister Kornelia born 26 September 1855 was the only child of Aart and Dirkje Tanis born in Texel.
2. It was her father, Aart Tanis, who died fairly young at age 34 and her mother then remarried and had 9 more children.

Nancy Sayles's 2nd Letter to Dave Jordan - 1977

As follow are excerpts from a 2nd letter from Nancy Sayles to Dave Jordan. Nancy's grandparents were Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot. Her mother was Marie Vanderkloot who married John Denker.

Martha Tanis had a brother Derek Tanis, of whom she was very fond. He came to the U.S.A. to visit her and then took off for the gold fields and was never heard from again. She was always looking for a letter from him.

Notes

1. **Brother** Dirk Tanis was born in Haarlemmermeer 2 Feb 1861. Later information indicate he was headed for the Alaskan gold fields. The interval of the Alaska Gold Rush was 1896-1899..

Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot Family Audio Tape - July 9, 1977

On July 9, 1977 an audio tape was made in Crystal Lake at Dick Denker's home. Dick was hosting one of the periodic Vanderkloot Family Reunions. The focus of the discussion and tape was to collect memories of the Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot family. The tape is about 20-minutes. Various speakers include Harry and Ann Schodrof, Jeanne and Dave Jordan, Richard Denker, and Grace Filipek. The transcription below is not verbatim but seeks to capture the essence of the conversation.

The 7047 S. Ada House

- A doctor built it and sold it to Adrianus for \$3500.
- Adrianus never lived there, until his wife [Martha] died [in 1920].
- He then made the rounds [among his daughters] for the rest of his life.
- Art and Anna lived upstairs, Alette downstairs [Art was Adrianus's second son; Alette was his first daughter].
- Grace also lived there but not at the same time.
- When Harry [Schodrof] was four and Adrianus 72, Adrianus put up a fence in the backyard. He put in poles and wires. He was quite strong, although when Harry knew him, he was basically old and bent.
- When Grandpa [Adrianus] lived on Ada Street in the middle bedroom and Artie was a kid, Grandpa [Adrianus] would sit in front of the door with a cane across his legs, daring Artie to make a move.

Early Days: Grace and Alette

- Grace worked in Vanderkloot Office as a stenographer; she made \$10/week.
- Grace and Alette did not go to high school; they went to Stenographer School.
- Grace gave all her money to her mother.
- Healey School (35th and Wallace). There were two schools on Wallace about 3 blocks apart. A Capes School. Still there.
- Grace went to business school.
- Grace was first in her class.
- Grace learned Eclectic Shorthand for 6 months.

Remembrances of Others:

- Grace remembered her Grandma and Grandpa lived in the old neighborhood [They were Matthijs and Trijntje].
- Jannetje married John Eelman, John is now dead.

Math

- Grace and Alette were bad at mathematics.

- Adrianus would try to correct Harry [Schodrof] at long division.
- Adrianus was always sharp and smart at math.
- Adrianus won a medal for Algebra.
- Probably Adrianus only had an 8th grade graduation.

Homes on Lowe and Emerald

- Used to burn coal for heat.
- Would get people from Foundry to come over to set-up pulley to pull up to second floor.
- Used to warm bricks and wrap in towel to warm bed sheets

Miscellaneous

- When old, Adrianus was rather stooped, slender, about 5'10' or 5' 11", not broad shouldered, wiry.
- About a year before Adrianus died, he couldn't get out and used to have a barber come to the house.
- Every Saturday, Margie and Jeanne used to hang around his chair. He would give them a thin dime. He reached into his pocket to get it. As soon as they got it they'd take off for the *Roxie Theater* in Berwyn.
- Adrianus also used to protect Jeanne from Marge. He used to hold her close and to hold Marge off with his cane.
- Marge had to write down the scores of every [baseball] game, including winning and losing pitcher [when they lived] in Riverside. Grandpa Jim [Filipek] made a big black board with diamond on the board. The kids had to point to where the ball was hit and then make the runners go around the bases. Everybody had to do it.
- Dick Denker went to a Dutch store in Berwyn. They can remember delivering bread to the Vanderkloots.

Food and Drink

- Adrianus would smoke cigars on Sunday, only Dutch Masters, sometimes during the evening. He had a leather pouch where he would keep 5 or 6 cigars. He couldn't stand cigarette smoke.
- Harry couldn't remember him drinking.
- He was not a big eater but a good eater.
- He used to drink postum instead of coffee.
- He loved Dutch Rusk or Holland Rusk. It was about 1 inch thick and 4-5 inches in diameter. It was toasted bread and came ten in a package.
- Breakfast: Postum, Rusk, cheese, soft boiled eggs.
- Liked: Wilted Lettuce Salad [consisted of brown bacon in little cubes, bacon grease and egg over lettuce with vinegar]

- Loved: Kahat (Meat Loaf).
- Every Sunday had to have roast chicken, and always got the leg.
- Hupie, just a little bit more food, like a snicker.
- 11/25/12 81
- Always wore shirt and tie and vest.

Nick Vanderkloot's Letter to Dave Jordan - November 12, 1977

As follow are excerpts from the Nick Vanderkloot letter to Dave Jordan. Nick's grandparents were Matthijs and Trijntje Vanderkloot. His father was Cornelius Vanderkloot who married Gertrude Kaan. Only the key genealogy parts of the letter have been transcribed.

November 12, 1977

Dear David,

To the best of my knowledge, and I believe it to be accurate, Adrianus [sic and Maatje] never came to America. Matthijs was the first and he brought his children with him.

I have been told that *Kloot* or *Kloat* as it sometimes is spelled means the *Odd* or *Eccentric* one. I believe this to be correct.

The Vanderkloots came to America because the Iron Works on the Island of Texel was not doing well and there was a religious problem that caused concern to my grandfather [Matthijs].

The *South Halsted Street Iron Works* is most interesting:

There were two companies:

The *Vanderkloot Steel Works* made structured steel for buildings such as hotels and schools. They were at 26th and Halsted Street and often when they had a large building they closed off a city block and fitted the steel beams on the street. Their greatest accomplishment was the steel structure for the Congress and Auditorium hotels in Chicago.

The more interesting company and one, which became nationally known, was the *Chicago Ornamental Iron Co.*

They were well known for their decorative interpretations of the early school of Chicago Architects, for example, the well-known facade of the Carson, Pirie, Scott and Company building in Chicago was a product of their foundries. They also worked with Henry Trost and all the other well-known designers of what was known as the Prairie School of Architecture.

To the best of my knowledge, the company was founded by a cousin of my grandfather [See note below]. I know his name was Adrian Vanderkloot. They were in business as early as 1893, possibly before but I am not sure. Adrian died in 1912 and I believe he was succeeded by William Vanderkloot who I believe was also the mayor of Lake Bluff, Illinois. William had a son Bill who won some fame as Churchill's personal pilot during World War II.

The *Vanderkloot Steel Works* to the best of my memory closed in the Depression of 1929-1933. The building later became a garage for the Indianapolis Forwarding Company.

The only written stories I have about the family are those about my own career in the Graphic Arts and an early account of the Prairie School of Architecture that refers to the *Vanderkloot Iron Works*.

I am certain my Grandfather [Matthijs] and his children entered this country through the Port of New York.

In 1939 when the Dutch East Indies were attacked by the Japanese a Vanderkloot from Holland came through Chicago. My father [Cornelius] talked with him. I did not meet him. This would lead me to believe there must be a Vanderkloot plot in Holland, probably on the Island of Texel.

Well there you have it. If I can help you further let me know. All the best,

Nick Vanderkloot

Notes

1. The *Vanderkloot Iron Works* was not founded by a cousin of Matthijs Vanderkloot but instead a brother Matthijs Vanderkloot. His name was Marinus. The *Vanderkloot Iron Works* was founded in 1872. Adrian was Marinus's son who later became president when Marinus Vanderkloot died in 1891.

J.A. Brink's Letter to Dave Jordan - June 5, 1978

I had written to the Dutch Reformed Church in Cocksdorp trying to acquire the baptismal record for Adrianus Vanderkloot born April 1852. He responded with the record and also some information on the Vanderkloots.

J. A. Brinks
Molenlaan 20 Cocksdorp Texel-Holland De Cocksdorp, Texel
5 June '78

Dear Mr. Jordan,
In answer of your letter I send you the following information.

The baptismal record of Adrianus v.d. Kloot is enclosed.

Last year was published a big volume about the history of Texel. It is called: *Het Land van Texel* [*The Land of Texel*], the author is J. v.d. Vlies. I found in this book the following issued about the v.d. Kloot family.

The blacksmith shop and house in De Cocksdorp is still be standing. The address is: Kikkertstraat 47. It is no longer a blacksmith shop and house.

The only living descendant at Texel is Mrs. Daalder-Kalis, her parents were Kalis-Zeylemaker and her grandparents Zeylemaker-v.d. Kloot. She showed me some photographs of Klaas v.d. Kloot, made by a (Dutch) photographer, called Hille, address 3434 Halsted Street Chicago.

Yours sincerely, J. A. Brinks

Notes

1. Mrs. Daalder-Kalis is the granddaughter of Maatje van der Kloot and Pieter Zeylemaker.
2. The photograph of Klaas in Chicago is interesting. It was thought that he stayed in Cocksdorp and married Geertruide Tomas but it appears he must have come to Chicago for at least a visit.

Dr. Al Vanderkloot's Letter to Dave Jordan - March 3, 1979

As follow are excerpts from a letter from Dr. Al Vanderkloot to Dave Jordan. Dr. Al's grandparents were Matthijs and Trijntje Vanderkloot. His father was Peter Vanderkloot who married Bertha Dros.

March 3, 1979

Dear Dave and Family,

Thank you for the Story of Adrianus and Martha Vanderkloot. We have been very interested in our family history and as I am the oldest they persuaded me to dictate a family interest and my grandson have copies of this to date.

My father was Peter and he first came to Chicago with Marinus and Adrianus. They worked for their Uncle at the foundry. A few years later he (Peter) went back and brought his parents to Chicago. At first they lived in a cottage next to the foundry. I could write volumes about these years as this is all in my childhood.

We know very little about the Vanderkloots in Holland but we know very much about the Dros family. Corrine has been to Europe at least 12 to 15 times and she is in close contact with the Dros family. My wife and I were in Europe last year (seventh trip) and stayed at a Dros house.

We have not been able to contact any Vanderkloots. I made visits to Texel Holland as a boy and this year we again visited Texel and especially the village of Cocksdoorp.

My grandson, Peter, 15 years old wrote to me just two weeks ago, as he is interested in the family history. When he finishes his record I will send you a copy. Peter lives in Long Island. His father William is a professor at Stony Brook.

I will keep in touch with you as I learn new family facts. Thank you for the copies.

Sincerely

Al Vanderkloot

Notes

1. Dr. Al Vanderkloot was born April 29, 1893.
2. Corrine was born in March 1900 and was Dr. Al's sister.
3. Dr. Al Vanderkloot suggests that Peter, Adrianus and Marinus all came together. Adrianus along with Marinus and family arrived 29 August 1881. However, Peter was not on the same ship.
4. It is interesting to note that Peter went back to get his parents. Certainly a very nice gesture on his part to take the time to go back and provide them assistance.

William VanDerKloot's E-Mail to Dave Jordan - February 26, 1994

William Vanderkloot is the great grandson of Adrianus Vanderkloot, who was president of the South Halsted Street Iron Works. Adrianus was the son of Marinus van der Kloot who was the founder.

From: William VanDerKloot
To: David Jordan,
Date: Sat, Feb 26, 1994
Subject: Vanderkloots of Chicago

Thank you for your note. Yes, I am related. My father grew up in Chicago and his father had seven brothers -- all who lived in Chicago.

In fact, last summer my wife and I traveled to Texel to look up the Van der Kloots -- and found the island historian who shared with us a wonderful and rich history of Adrianus Van der Kloot. He even showed us the church he designed and built (he was an architect/contractor) and the fact that he was on the town council and built the major dike on the island. He sent us a history, written in Dutch (which I regret to say I have yet to have translated) which discusses the Van der Kloots.

Please tell me how you are related (?) and what your interest is in the family.

Thank you.

William VanDerKloot's E-Mail to Dave Jordan - May 23, 1994

From: William VanDerKloot To: David Jordan
Date: Mon, May 23, 1994 RE: Vanderkloot's

Dear David,

Forgive my late reply, but I have some additional information. I am afraid that my family has not paid attention to its roots -- something I plan to correct in the future.

My father, William Vanderkloot, Jr. grew up in Lake Bluff, IL with his older sister Burnett (later Burnett Higbee). His father, my grandfather, was also William Vanderkloot, who grew up in Chicago -- born in Chicago approximately 1880 and died in 1942. He married Florence Genung, whose family goes way back in America to the days of the Mayflower. He and two of his brothers ran *Vanderkloot Steel Works*, which was a steel mill and engineering firm. (They built the Chicago pier, among other things.) The company sold out to *US Steel* during the depression.

My Grandfather was one of seven brothers. My father could only remember the names of four -- Peter, Marinus, Roy, and John. Roy was an admiral in the Navy during WWII, based in Trinidad.

There is a Peter Vanderkloot who I have corresponded with a number of years ago, who is constructing a family tree. I will send him all of our correspondence and I hope we can all put something together.

Please stay in touch.

Billy

E-Mails

Ben Strand's E-Mail to Dave Jordan - October 6, 1995

From: "Benjamin N. Strand", To: David Jordan

Date: Fri, Oct 6, 1995

RE: Texel

The landscape on the island is very beautiful, and much more hilly than the Holland mainland. Unfortunately, the weather was pretty rainy and windy most of the time, but I was still able to bike around a fairly large amount of the island.

While in Texel, I visited De Cocksdorp and the old v.d. Kloot home. There is also a small cemetery on Kikkertstraat, but unfortunately it seems as if this is the only cemetery in the city, and the only gravestone that I found which was perhaps an ancestor of ours was of Petronella Tanis (Jan 22, 1841 - April 16, 1899). Her grave stone was by far one of the oldest in the cemetery. For some reason, her stone and other older grave stones were placed along the inside of the fence surrounding the cemetery.

Have you heard anything from Corrie Daalder? Perhaps she would know more about any of the ancestors graves on Texel.

Nevertheless, I had a wonderful weekend on the island. Texel is really very nice and still seems to be more distinctly historic than other areas of the Netherlands.

The house in the first photo is of what (I guess) is the old v.d.k. house, at 47 Kikkertstraat. The other two photos should be the views of downtown De Cocksdorp. My mom has pictures of what the town looked like around the turn of the century (I think), which I'm sure she could photo-copy and send to you. She also now has the negatives to the complete set of pictures I took.

Jan Nieuwenhuis's E-Mail to Dave Jordan - March 14, 1995

Jan Nieuwenhuis was a contact I found in Texel via e-mail. He helped me learn a little more about the island and the address of the only descendant of Maatje van der Kloot still living on the island as of 1995.

Date: Tue, 14 Mar 95 10:16 MET
Subject: Your mail

Hello Dave,

In answer to your email message dated 6th march 1995:

I have looked up the name "Van der Kloot" in the local telephone directory and found that NO one of that name is living on the island of Texel at the moment. So probably all the family members from Texel have emigrated to the U.S.A.

I do know the Polder Eyerland and De Cocksdorp. It is about 10-20 kilometers to the North of the place (Den Burg) I am living in, so it is nearby. I have been to De Cocksdorp this past weekend near the lighthouse over there. De Cocksdorp is a small village and used to be a little isolated, but in summertime the place and it's surrounding areas are overcrowded by (mostly German) tourists. The island of Texel is a well known holiday resort here in Holland. The population in winter is about 15.000 and in summer about 50.000 (including the tourists). To the South of De Cocksdorp there is Polder Eyerland where our International :-) airport is located. Eyerland is very flat with large (in Dutch terms) grasslands of which one of them (the largest) is used for the airport.

Associated Documents

There are a number of additional documents on [Vanderkloot and Tanis PDF Downloads](#) that are available or will be shortly as pdf documents. These are listed as follows to provide an inventory.

Additional Stories

To date there is only one companion story to *The Vanderkloot Story* that is published separately on [Our Vanderkloot Family Web Pages](#) but collected together at [Vanderkloot and Tanis PDF Downloads](#). Various other companion stories by other authors are integrated into *The Vanderkloot Story*.

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.

Vanderkloot Records Collections

To discover our Vanderkloot and Tanis family history, much research took place and many documents were obtained. The following documents include transcriptions, organized listings, and occasionally scans of original documents that helped to define our history and develop the various stories.

Each document in its own way provides a next level of detail about what they were doing and when and where. As an example, the *Historical Vanderkloot Family Addresses* might at first glance appear to be an uninteresting document, but perusal of the chronological addresses for each individual provides a fascinating look at where they were, what jobs they held, and how their lives changed and improved as time went along.

These stories and articles are available at [Vanderkloot and Tanis PDF Downloads](#) as individual pdf documents with titles and file names as listed below.

1. *Historical Vanderkloot Family Addresses*
File: Addresses_Vanderkloot_Historical.pdf
Summary: Contains chronological address listings for various families in the Vanderkloot/Tanis line.
Linkages: Adrianus Vanderkloot married Martha Tanis; their daughter Grace Vanderkloot married James Albert Filipek; one of their daughters married a Jordan. Also contains addresses for Dirk and Cornelia Tanis and various descendants.
2. *Vanderkloot Family Census Records*
File: Census_Vanderkloot_Historical.pdf
Summary: Contains census transcriptions for various families in the Vanderkloot/Tanis line.
Linkages: Adrianus Vanderkloot married Martha Tanis; their daughter Grace Vanderkloot married James Albert Filipek; one of their daughters married a Jordan.

Additional Letters

Within the Appendix section of *The Vanderkloot Story* there are a number of transcribed letters. This section contains a listing of additional (or scans of original) letters which are either available on *The Vanderkloot Story* web page for viewing or as downloadable pdf files at *Vanderkloot and Tanis PDF Downloads*.

On-Line Letters

The following letters are available on the [The Vanderkloot Story](#) web page for viewing. When there, scroll to the bottom. With time these items will be converted to pdf documents.

1. None at this time. Check back in future years.

PDF Downloads

These letters are available at [Vanderkloot and Tanis PDF Downloads](#) as individual pdf documents with titles and file names as listed below.

1. Martha Vanderkloot's Letters to Marie Denker
Includes original scan and transcription
The identical transcription is included in the *The Vanderkloot Story*; but the following pdf also contain scans of the original letter.
19200918_1920930_Letters_Martha_Vanderkloot_to_Marie_Denker.pdf.

Memorabilia

This section contains a listing of various memorabilia which are either available on *The Vanderkloot Story* page for viewing or as downloadable pdf files at *Vanderkloot and Tanis PDF Downloads*.

On-Line Memorabilia

The following memorabilia items are available on the [The Vanderkloot Story](#) web page for viewing. When there, scroll to the bottom. With time these items will be converted to pdf documents.

1. *Martha Tanis's Bible (1871)*

PDF Downloads

The following memorabilia items are available at [Vanderkloot and Tanis PDF Downloads](#) as individual pdf documents with titles and file names as listed below.

1. None at this time. Check back in future years.