



History  
of the  
Roozée Family

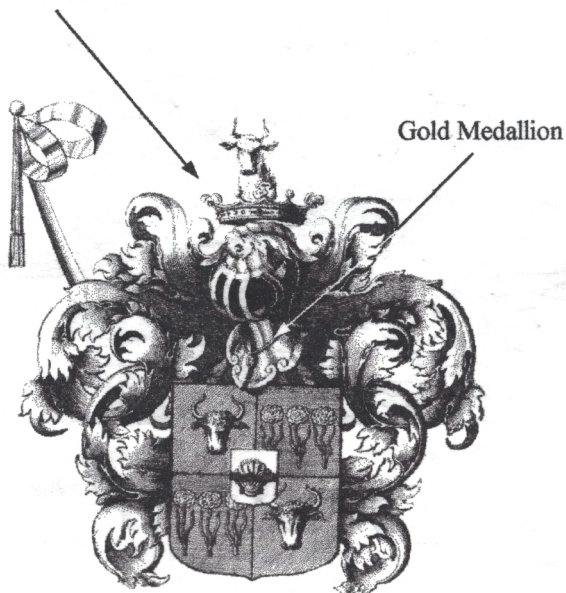
1727 - 1997

First printing 1984  
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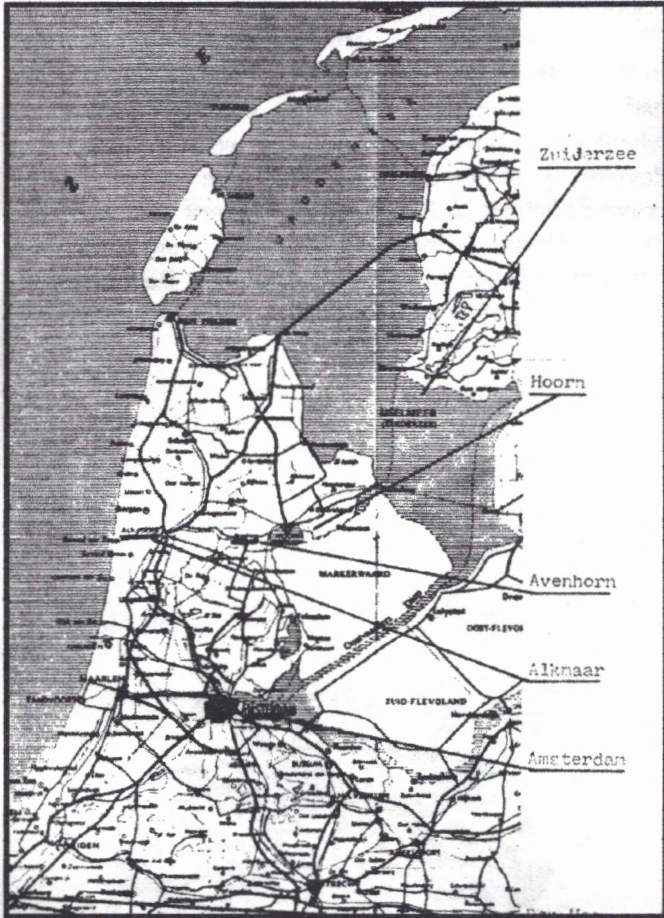
It is thought this crest belonged to Jan Rosé or his family. As they were Huguenots, a group of wealthy people from the southern part of Belgium and adjacent regions of France.

The Belgian heraldry is variable, but is more rigid than in the Netherlands. The helmets of the nobility usually had a gold medallion or collar around the helmets, whereas the commoners' helmets were lacking these devices. Commoners could not use a coronet or crowned helmet. A knight was the lowest rank of nobility in Belgium. Supporters, when used, were usually on ornamental bases. Most coats of arms in Belgium used mottoes. The rampant lion appears to be most common in Belgium heraldry.

Coronet of a Viscount







# HOLLAND

## FORWARD

This family history is written with the thought of making it into a story. It will include little bits of the history of the Netherlands. At the time that each member of our family lived, also there is a description of the town or area in which the family lived at the time.

The Roozée's lived in the North west section of the Netherlands. North of Amsterdam and between the North Sea and the Zuiderzee. Usually when one married, he would move to the town of his bride.

It appears that we are descendants of a list of Schoolmasters. In writing this story the thought crossed my mind, and I am only supposing, that Jan Rose, a close descendent of the Huguenots, who were mostly tutors, was probably a schoolmaster also, but we could not determine this for sure.

Gerard Joan (my Grandfather) was the first to break the chain of schoolmasters. Why? A guess might be, progress. If one were to look back into history, they would find that Gerard Joan was living during the beginning of the Machine Age.

In olden days the work had been done by independent workmen. Who sat in their own little workshops in front of their houses. They owned their tools, and boxed the ears of their apprentices. They conducted their business as it pleased them, within the limits prescribed by their guilds. They worked long hours, but were their own masters. If they got up and saw that it was a fine day to go fishing, they went fishing and there was no one to say "no."



The introduction of machinery changed this, the new engines were very expensive and only people of wealth could afford them. The old carpenter or shoemaker was obliged to hire himself out, to the owners of the big mechanical tools. While he made more money than before, he lost his former independence and he did not like that.

Gerard Joan had a choice; join the new working force, (the craftsman guilds were dying) or he could go for higher education. He choose the latter, and finally became an Architect, (a wise choice because schoolmasters in those days were highly respected but poorly paid). Some of his work included an Electric Power Plant, a Church and a School. Pictures of the buildings are still in my possession.

A brief list of the descendants:

Jan Rose-----1727/1781  
Jacob Roozée (Schoolmaster)-----1747/1826  
Pieter Roozée (Schoolmaster)-----1784/1886  
Jan Roozée (Schoolmaster)------(married)-1849  
Gerard Joan (Architect) (my Grandfather)----1852/1931  
Pieter Roozée (Design Engineer)(my Father)-1834/1944  
James Burton Roozée (Design Engineer)-----1918

*I am sure you can relate the dates in the descent to American historical dates, However, allow me to list as reminder, some well known dates:*

### AMERICAN HISTORICAL DATES

- 1626 The Dutch buy Manhattan from the Indians for \$25 worth of cloth and trinkets.
- 1704 A new capitol building is completed in Williamsburg, Virginia.
- 1727 **Jan Rose** is born.
- 1763 Patrick Henry presents his case against the king's veto.

- 1768 The Governor dissolves the House of Representatives, so the Burgesses walk down the street to the Raleigh Tavern and continue business.
- 1774 Boston Tea Party.
- 1776 Declaration of Independence signed.
- 1784 Pieter Roozée** is born.
- 1787 Constitution is signed. George Washington becomes the first president of the United States of America.
- 1793 Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin.
- 1807 Robert Fulton's steamboat chugs down the Hudson river to the amazement of on lookers.
- 1830's Start of Railroad System and Chicago is started.
- 1836 Morse invents the Telegraph.
- 1849 Jan Roozée** marries. Also there is a Gold Rush in California.
- 1852 Gerard Joan Roozée** is born. (my Grandfather)
- 1860 Lincoln is elected president.
- 1865 Civil War ends, Lincoln is assassinated.
- 1871 Chicago burns.
- 1876 Custer massacre.
- 1878 Gerard Joan Roozée** is married.
- 1879 Edison has first successful lamp.
- 1883 Brooklyn Bridge opens.
- 1884 Pieter Roozée** is born.
- 1901 Roozée** family moves to America.
- 1903 Beginning of movies and the Wright brothers have successful flight.
- 1917 United States enters World War I.
- 1918 James Burton Roozée** is born. Armistice is signed.
- 1929 Stock market collapsed.
- 1930 Banks were failing.
- 1931 Gerard Joan Roozée** died.
- 1933 Century of Progress in Chicago.
- 1935 Social Security starts.
- 1936 World War II starts.
- 1941 Pearl Harbor--USA goes to war against Japan, Germany and Italy.
- 1944 Peter Roozée** dies.
- 1945 Atomic Bomb dropped and war ends.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Compiling a family history and placing it in some form of perspective toward time, location and events is not the work of one person.

Sources of information, including published histories, have been explored in many areas for background material.

To J. P. Ferwerda of Utrecht, Holland goes a special thanks, for without his many hours of searching through church records and his contacts later with family members, we would not have this family descent.

Thanks are due also to my sister Betty Yundt of Edinburg, Texas for her contribution of the section on the Gerard Joan family, the great move and life in America.

Other references were:

The Netherlands in the 17th century  
part two 1648/1715 by *Pieter Geyl*

Nagel's Encyclopedia Guide - Holland  
by Nagel publishers, Geneva, Switzerland

The Great Cities / Amsterdam  
by *Hans Koning* (Time Life Books)

The Story of Mankind  
by *Hendrik Willem Van Loon*

Also were memorable stories told me by my Father Peter Roozée as well as my Aunts and Uncles...

*This Descent, though written by a single person, is really a team effort by many interested persons.*

# World History and The Roozée Family

## **The Thirty Years' War**

The Thirty Years' War that broke out in the year 1618 and ends with the famous treaty of Westphalia in 1648 was the perfectly natural result of a century of ever increasing religious hatred. It was, as I am told, a terrible war. Everybody fought everybody else and the struggle ended only when all parties had been thoroughly exhausted and could fight no longer.

In less than a generation it turned many parts of central Europe into a wilderness, where the hungry peasants fought for the carcass of a dead horse with the even hungrier wolf. Five-sixths of all the German towns and villages were destroyed. The Palatinate, (a region in Germany) was plundered twenty-eight times. A population of eighteen million people was reduced to four million.

The war did not decide anything, when it came to an end, with the treaty of Westphalia in 1648. Catholic powers remained Catholic and the Protestant powers stayed faithful to the doctrines of Luther and Calvin and Zwingli. The Swiss and the Dutch Protestants were recognized as independent republics. France kept the cities of Metz, Toul, Verdun and a part of Alsace. The Holy Roman Empire continued to exist as a sort of scare-crow state, without men, without money, without courage.

The only good the Thirty Years' War accomplished was



a negative one. It discouraged both Catholics and Protestants from ever trying it again...

### **Huguenot Refugees**

In the Hague (Den Haag) there is a French Protestant community (Huguenot) and it is the largest of sixteen which still survive today in the Netherlands. These Huguenots were refugees from France due to the Thirty Years' War. They were men and women of good family and well educated and this undoubtedly benefited Dutch culture in many ways. They founded French schools; and in countless noble Dutch families they became tutors. Those who managed to save their fortunes soon set the tone in Dutch society.

The Huguenots were quite convinced of the superiority of their national culture, and their estimate was usually meekly accepted by the Dutch. Nobody was surprised that they did not learn to speak Dutch; on the contrary, the Dutch people did their best to learn French. Parents readily accepted the French tutor's request that the children should not learn Dutch until they knew French well.

These Huguenots were Walloon's, (a group of people from the southern part of Belgium and adjacent regions of France) and set up a Walloon Church in the Hague, on Noordeinde. (A large thoroughfare in the Hague) The church was founded in 1591 by Louise de Coligny, widow of William the Silent, the church was not dedicated to its present purpose until 1802. The services are held in French, and the interior has a wholly Calvinist severity.



### **Jan Rose...**

In 1702 the Stadholder (Chief Magistrate) William III died and no Stadholder succeeded him; The Regents (acting Governors) ran the Netherlands, and they were interested only in their selfish policies. The great war for the Spanish succession which begun in the year 1701, and ended in 1713 by the Peace of Utrecht, remained equally undecided, but it had ruined the treasury of Louis (King of France). On the land, the French king had been victorious, but the navies of England and Holland had spoiled all hope for an ultimate French victory.

Besides the long struggle had given birth to a new and fundamental principle of international politics. Which thereafter made it impossible for one single nation to rule the whole of Europe or the whole world for any length of time That was the so-called "Balance of Power." It was not a written law but for three centuries it has been obeyed as closely as are the laws of nature. The idea was that Europe could only survive with an absolute balance of the many conflicting interests of the entire continent. No single power or single dynasty must ever be allowed to dominate the others.

We soon discovered the development of a new type of statesman, the statesman with the personal feelings of the slide-rule and cash-register.

It was at this time an infant was born, **Jan Rose**, the year was 1727, in the town of the Hague (Den Haag) which means "The Hedge of the Counts."

In fact, the town's origin goes back to a castle built in the year 1248 by William II, Count of Holland, Elective Emperor of Germany. A settlement grew up around the castle, a church, hospital and monasteries were built and



the town received a municipal status.

Today the Hague is the third largest city in the Netherlands, with 600,000 people. It is not the capital of the kingdom...a title reserved for Amsterdam; nor is it the royal residence, since the Queen usually lives in Soestdijk Palace, in Gool. However, the Hague is the seat of the government and political center of the Netherlands.

On October 12, 1738, Jan Rose became a member of the Walloon Church. Jan fell in love with a girl from Hoorn, her name was Niesja Wissink and they were married in Hoorn on March 19, 1746, she was 18 and he was 21.



### **Hoorn**

The town of Hoorn was named from the shape of its harbor, the cornucopia. The symbol of the town can be seen on some of the old houses; it used to also appear on the flags of the ships in the harbor. Hoorn was a very lucrative Herring fishing village in 1450. At the start of the 17th century (just before Jan and Niesje moved there).

Hoorn was the capital of West Friesland: Industry, trade, fishing and art prospered; the East Indies Company and the Company of the North had large warehouses there. Most of the public buildings in town date from this glorious period.

Now the big ships are only a memory, but Hoorn, has 18,000 inhabitants, and retains some industries. It has preserved its old-time appearance today and better than most towns in Holland; its treasures from a glorious past will attract and fascinate the visitor. Pretty facades, luxurious houses of rich merchants, warehouses for

spices, buildings whose style and grandeur recall the important part that the town played at the time of the East Indies Company.

The harbor still is busy with the cheese trade, dried and smoked fish trade, and is also popular with the yachting enthusiasts. Now tourism is beginning to discover this "Pearl of the Zuiderzee."

Jan and Niesja enjoyed 35 years of marriage in the town and raised four children, two daughters Maria and Francyntje, also two sons Jacob and Jan.

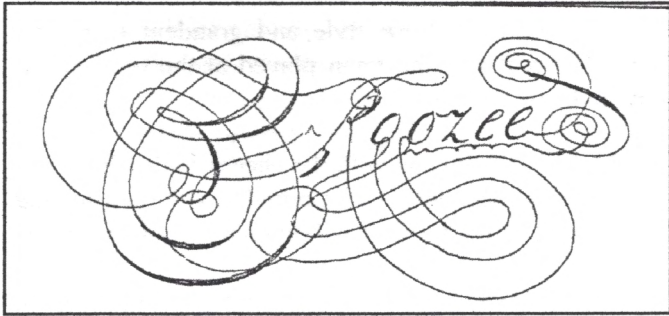
Jan was buried June 18, 1781 (he was 54 years old) and Niesje died 14 years later on November 10, 1795 (67 years old).

**Jacob Roozée (name change)**

*The name Roozée used to be written as Rosé, while names were written in those days as they were pronounced it changed from Rosé, Rosée, Roosée to Roozée*

Jacob was born in the year 1747, in Hoorn, records show that he was baptized in Hoorn on his wedding day. Jacob and Aafje Kamp were married in Abbekerk on December 28, 1770, (Jacob was three years younger than Aakje). Aafje was the daughter of Claas Jansz Kamp and Jantie Pieters. She was baptized on January 24, 1745, and she must have died in 1804 at the age of 59 years. (We cannot be sure because about this time the archives are lost.) However, in 1805 Jacob was remarried to Aaltje Van Huizen. We do not know if any children were born during this marriage, (as he was 58 years old at the time) due to the lost records...Jacob Roozée was a schoolmaster and an expert in Calligraphy, see his signature on the next page.





**Jacobs Signature**

Jacob and Aafje had five children, two daughters Niesje and Jantje, and three sons Klass, Pieter and Jacob.



In 1794 the French Revolution ended and the guillotine was put to rest. Four years later France was ruled by a general by the name of Napoleon Bonaparte, who became the "First Concul" (Chief Magistrate) of France in the year 1799. During the next fifteen years, the old European continent became the laboratory for a number of political experiments. The likes of which, the world had never seen before...In 1805 Napoleon wanted to establish a strong centralized government in Holland (something that was sorely needed). So he appointed a strong and capable individual, Schimmelpenninck, to the newly revived office of Pensioner. In the following year Napoleon changed his mind once more and made his brother, Louis Bonaparte, King of Holland.

Louis was a person of excellent intentions, but did not always follow his brothers' instructions and in 1809 it cost him his throne. Napoleon, good or bad, did lay the foundations of the modern Dutch state.

Jacob Roozée died on October 2, 1826, in the town of Broek op Langendijk at the age of 79. We do not know how long the family lived in this town, which is only 6 miles from Alkmaar. This is a district worth seeing: It is the region of "A Thousand Islets," the vegetable patch of Holland, where all transport goes by water and where the fields are accessible only by boat.

### **Pieter Roozée...**

As was his father, Pieter was also a schoolmaster. Pieter was born in the year 1784. We assume in the town of Broek op Langendijk...Pieter fell in love with Grietje Keizer, the daughter of Pieter Keizer and Trijntje Nottelman, they were married June 12, 1807 in Zijpe. Pieter died in Middellie on September 24, 1848 at the age of 64, and Trijntje who was born March 11, 1787, (she was three years younger than Pieter), died on September 22, 1866. He was 23 and she was 20 when they were married.

Pieter and Trijntje were married for 41 years, they had five children, 2 daughters Aafje and Trijntje, and 3 sons Pieter, Jacob (who died very young) and Jan.

### **Jan Roozée...**

Jan another schoolmaster, was married three times. The first marriage was to Wilhelmina van Hoolwerff, she was the daughter of Gerard Joan van Hoolwerff, Justice of the Peace of Avenhorn. His wife's name was Jannetje Smit.

Jan and Wilhelmina were married on November 28, 1849 in Avenhorn, she was born in Rijk on April 14, 1824, they had five children, 3 daughters Grietje, Jannetje and Wilhelmina. (Jannetje and Wilhelmina died very young.) The sons were Gerard Joan (my Grandfather) and Pieter.

Jan remarried to Artje Faber, and one of their daughters was Trijntje, the mother of J. P. Ferwerda of Utrecht, Holland. (This was the person who did the leg work in Holland to gather the information needed for this family history.)

Jan was remarried for the third time to Catharina Adriana Sombeel...This is all that was found on Jan Roozée; when he was born, when he died and why he remarried three times remains a mystery.

### **Gerard Joan Roozée...**

Gerard Joan was born in Avenhorn on July 24, 1852 he was a son from Jan Roozée's first marriage. Gerard Joan fell in love with Dirkje Johanna Suzanna Vroolijk. She was born in Amsterdam on February 12, 1851 and was the daughter of Cornelis Hendrikus Johannis Vroolijk, a Telegraphist, and her mother was Suzanna Elisabeth van Oven. We think the marriage was in 1878, she was 27 and he was 26. They had a marriage that lasted 40 years and took them from Amsterdam, Holland, to Holland, Michigan, USA. And then finally to Chicago, Illinois...



### **Amsterdam**

If we are to believe an old Dutch song, no city in the world can rival Amsterdam. The Dutch capital has such seductive powers that it has become the chief goal of every journey, to the country of Rembrandt. There is no doubt that Amsterdam is the Queen of Dutch cities, and the traveler remembers it most vividly and thinks of it as the most characteristic of Holland.

Amsterdam...originally a fishing village...was founded on the estuary of a small river, the Amstel. As the Amstel was dammed to avoid floods from the Zuiderzee



tide that came up the golf of the Ij, the town was naturally called Amsteldam that later became Amsterdam. The city grew rapidly through the centuries and from the 16th century, it was the main city of Holland. It is now an impressive metropolis with almost a million inhabitants, one of Holland's leading economic centers and ports, an intellectual and cultural center with important museums, a crossroads of international tourism.

It was in this city that Gerard and Johanna lived for the next 24 years and raised eight children. Jan Gerard, Wilhelmina born September 6, 1880, Cornelis Hendrikus born July 14, 1881, Gerard Joan born March 1883, Pieter born November 3, 1884, Karel Marinus born August 11, 1887, (died September 21, 1887) Karel Marinus born May 19, 1880, Susanna Elisabeth born January 21, 1892.

Gerard was an Architect and was well established in his profession as there are many large buildings in Amsterdam that bear his name. He was well educated for men at that time and held a high regard for education. My father (Peter) often repeated his father's saying "Education is the most important thing one can have. All else can be taken from you but your education will always be yours." All five of his sons were well educated for their day, even his two daughters had more education than most women. Although education for women did not seem important at the turn of the century, even in a family that valued education so much.

Because Holland is such a small country and all the men in the Roozée family were business men. They all spoke five languages. Dutch, French and English were taught in schools and German plus some Spanish were learned on their own. The women in this family only spoke

Dutch, they did not work outside the home and other languages were not needed. Although the Gerard Roozée family seemed settled and secure, Gerard felt insecure.

NOTE: One of the most difficult of all moves must be that of the immigrant from one country to another. At the turn of the century this happened in great numbers as the immigrants from Europe left their homeland and sailed for America. (Often the trip called for two to three months at sea.) Their successful adjustment to life in this new country depended on many factors...their reason for coming to this country, their desire to be accepted by the country of their adoption, the education they had before coming to this country and the socio-ethnic group they belonged to in Europe.

The Queen was making many unpopular changes in government. Holland had just instituted compulsory military training, every able bodied man was numbered and if his number was drawn, he must begin serving his six years in the army or navy. Gerard had six sons and the political unrest in Europe pointed to a coming war. He felt Holland would surely become involved. The Family at this time had a home on the harbor in the center of Amsterdam.

At this time a large railroad station was constructed blocking their view of the harbor. This station was a sore spot with many people at the time, so Gerard's thoughts went to leaving Holland and moving to America...a much safer place for his family.

Gerard's oldest son "Jan" was married, had a family and did not want to leave the Netherlands so this part of the

family is still today living in Holland. Gerard, his wife, and their six other children left Holland in 1901.

They settled in Holland, Michigan. The acculturation process for the Roozée family was not so shocking in this supportive environment, as this ethnic community had many similarities to that which they had left behind. Many people there had immigrated from Holland, the Dutch Reform Church was the major church in the community. The flowers, language, food and society were much like that which they had known in the "old country".(besides, after all that traveling, who would have the heart to return)

The Roozée's built a new home in the town of Holland, Michigan. In two years they decided to move to Chicago, Illinois. It seemed that Holland, Michigan had everything necessary to make life in America an easy change for the Roozée family and still they left this security to move to Chicago...Why? A guess might be economics. Although Holland, Michigan had much of the culture of the Netherlands, it had little opportunity for the type of work most of the Roozée men were trained to do. Coming from Amsterdam, moving to a large city like Chicago may have seemed like a logical move. What ever the reason, they did move.

Although they moved into a Dutch neighborhood on the south side of Chicago, the real Americanization process started here. The "Melting Pot" theory was prevalent at that time and the Roozée family decided they were going to become "melted" into this new society. The men could speak English and the women made this their goal, learning English for them was the start of acculturation. Everyone in the family Americanized their name.



Gerard Joan became Gerard John, Dirkje became Henrietta, Wilhemina became Minnie, Pieter became Peter, Cornelis Hendrikus became Henry, Karl became Carl and Susanna became Susie. They spoke Dutch only when they were very excited or angry. They all began the naturalization process to become American citizens. Only Gerard Joan and his son Gerard ever returned to the Netherlands, for a short visit as one son Jan remained there. I never heard my father say that anything Dutch was bad, but there was no doubt that everything American was good. (It seemed that at least external assimilation was complete.)

Since all the children in this family were grown when they immigrated to America, schools and the effect they had on foreigners did not effect them. They did not join the Dutch Reform Church when they moved to Chicago. From that time until their death they never had any strong church affiliation.

Although some sociologists feel the "Melting Pot" did not happen, my father's family felt they had changed their cultural traits, to those of the American society and had "melted" into early twentieth century Americans. To them the "Melting Pot" theory was real. In Chicago they were able to find the types of jobs they were looking for and they found a secure place in the dominate group. When they married, only the oldest daughter married a Dutchman. All others married English or American women. My father's second wife was German American.



### **Dutch Characteristics**

It possesses:

**First** and foremost common sense: the Dutch are real-

ists, their struggle against the sea does not permit them to indulge in idle dreams.

**Secondly**, we find hard work, perseverance, stubbornness: "The Dutchman is happy when he can start a job and spend a lifetime in its completion."

**Then comes** simplicity, calm, orderliness, love of nature. However, in all this there is no excessive sentimentality, but rather a little slowness; but people who love flowers as much as the Dutch do cannot be charged with neglecting nature.

The Dutch are precise, provident, exact. They are never late for an appointment: if you are they will be upset, but will not say anything. They love a job well done, and are scrupulously honest. They are prudent and methodical, not spontaneous in the way we understand it; but they are faithful friends. They do not show their feelings: they might even be accused of excessive dignity, of the apparent calmness mentioned by a Parisian traveler in the Netherlands as early as the century of LouisXV:

"In times of affliction the Dutch have the best manners in the world. Never have men recieved misfortunes with so little emotion. If they have an accident they console themselves with the thought that it might have been worse. If they have a fall and break a leg or arm they congratulate themselves on not having broken their skull. If a storm destroys some of their ships they find comfort in the thought that it did not destroy the remainder. If a fire burns their house down, they are happy not to have burnt themselves."

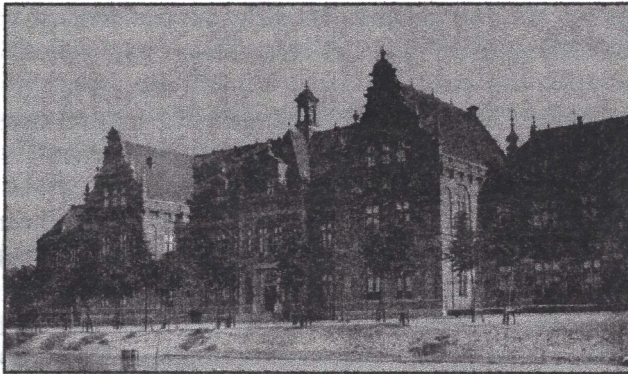
**...Isn't This The Best Philosophy  
For Finding True Happiness?...**

James Burton Roozée January 21, 1984

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This Church in Amsterdam, a building that Gerard Joan was the architect is still in 1998 standing and being used.



Another School building that Gerard worked on, it is now a Hotel and dance studio. Also it is in 1998 still being used.





The Roozle home in Amsterdam

Gerard and his  
business partner.

I believe there  
were more em-  
ployees to the firm  
due to the size and  
complexity of  
their projects. A  
church, school,  
rectory and a  
power station at  
the same time.  
Plus the people  
that own the  
school building  
said the central sta-  
tion was also one  
of their projects.





Gerard in his  
backyard



Pieter

Karl

Gerard

Grietja (aunt)

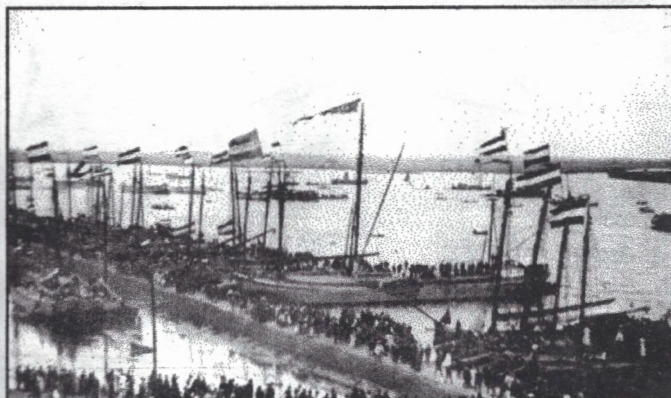
Cornelius

Suzanna

Wilhemina



Dirkje in her  
backyard



Picture of the ships in the harbor when the German  
Kaiser came to Holland for a visit.  
Photograph taken from the attic window of the Roozée  
home in Amsterdam.



Jan and his wife.

They stayed in Holland when the family went to America.

They were married and he had a good job with the post office so they stayed behind.



House built by the Roozé's in Holland, Mich. It still is standing in 1998. I have complete photo's of the house.