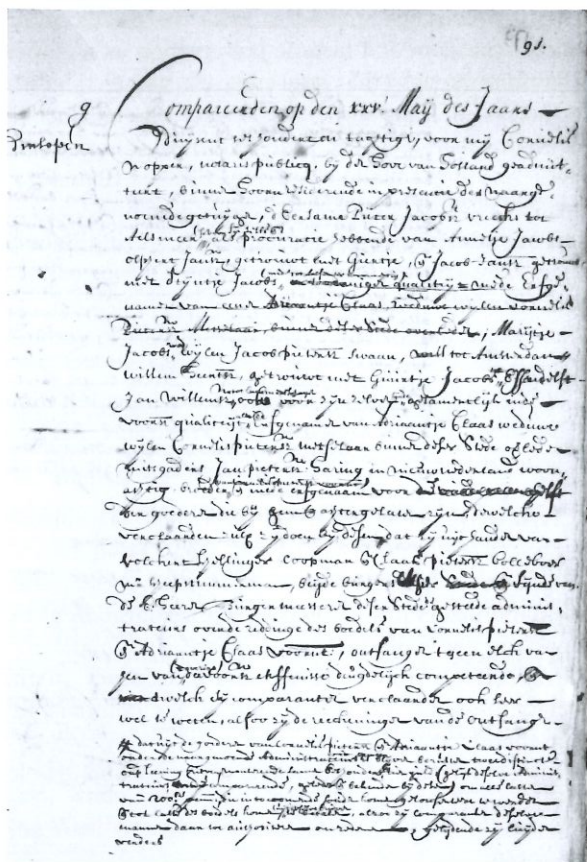


South of the Mountains

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ROCKLAND COUNTY

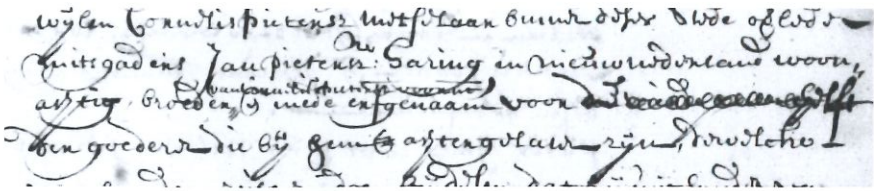
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1680 Notarial Document naming Jan Pieterszen Haring heir to his brother, Cornelis

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Detail of 1680 Notarial Document Shown on the Cover

The section: *mitsgaders Jan Pietersz. Haring in Nieuw Nederland woonachtig, broeder van Cornelis Pietersz. voorn[oem]t ...* is translated as: and also Jan Pietersz. Haring, living in New Netherland, brother of the before mentioned Cornelis Pietersz. ...

Jan Pieterszen Haring died 1683

A Corrective Note

by *Firth Haring Fabend*

In the summer of 2019, Jan de Bruin, an archivist at the Westfries Archives in Hoorn, the Netherlands, contacted me regarding the original Haring settler in America, Jan Pieterszen Haring, about whom I had written a long article for *South of the Mountains*, Vol. 51, No. 4, October-December, 2007.

Mr. de Bruin had learned from my article that Piet Boon, a fellow archivist in Hoorn, now deceased, had discovered, in 2005, while searching on my behalf in the Westfries Archives, a

notarial document of 1680. The document referred to a Jan Pieterszen Haring “living in New Netherland” and named as heir to his brother Cornelis’s estate.

This 1680 document accorded with an earlier notarial document dictated to notary Jan Bijkerck on 21 September 1658 in Hoorn, discovered only recently by a Hoorn resident, historian John Brozius.

The 1658 document was a “mutual will” in which Cornelis Pietersz. Metselaer* and his wife Adriaantje

* “Metselaer” is translated as “mason,” probably Cornelis’s trade. Surnames during this early period were still not cast in stone. A person might use a moniker that referenced an occupation or place of residence, a parent’s last name or a parent’s name with “son,” or in the case of the Dutch “zen,” appended. Sometimes the same person could also use all or any of these options, without the spelling always consistent. In this Corrective Note, we have adhered to the American usage of the spelling of Jan Haring’s name (Pieterszen), but followed the Dutch usage of the names of his relatives (Pietersz.) in the Netherlands.



This 1727 image of the Grote Kerk in Hoorn shows how the building appeared when Cornelis Pietersz. Metselaer, brother of Jan Pieterszen Haring, was buried there in 1678. The image was drawn from the “southwest” and Cornelis was buried “in a grave on the south side of the church.” The first stone of the Grote Kerk was laid in 1405 on the site of an earlier wooden church. This church burned in 1838 and was replaced by another, which also burned. The present edifice is the fourth on the site and has been repurposed into a food mart on the ground level and 30-odd apartments above, reached by an elevator.

Claasdr. left their estate to each other, to be divided after the death of the longer living partner. These terms were carried out. Cornelis died in 1678 and Adriaantje soon after.

The 1680 notarial document specified that Cornelis’s brother, Jan Pieterszen Haring, “living in New Netherland,” was his “successor.” Jan traveled to Hoorn that year to collect the legacy.

In a flurry of discoveries, Mr. de Bruin then found records of the marriage of Cornelis’s other brother, Pieter Pietersz. Metselaer, to Trijn Pieters in

1659, the marriage of Pieter Pietersz. Haring, widower, and Geertje Jacobs in 1714, Pieter Pietersz. Heeringh’s burial in 1720, and even further information concerning the second and third generations of the Haring/Hering family in Hoorn.

In the process, Mr. de Bruin noticed that the Hoorn baptismal record for Jan Pieterszen Haring cited in my article recorded his father as a Pieter Janz. from Hoorn. Mr. de Bruin found new evidence, however, the most important being the recent discovery by Mr. Brozius of the purchase of a

grave in Hoorn's Grote Kerk in 1645, to indicate that the father of Jan Pieterszen Haring was in fact a Pieter Cornelisz. Hering Metselaer, from Barsingerhorn, near Schagen, some twenty-five miles northwest of Hoorn.

This finding, the previous discovery of records of the marriage of Cornelis Pietersz. Metselaer, along with the mutual will in 1658, the two marriages of Pieter Pietersz. Haringh/Heeringh, his burial, and records of the continuing generations confirmed the familial connection. There could be no doubt that the child baptized in Hoorn in 1633 was not our Jan Pieterszen Haring, but another.

How did this error come about? Over the years, historians of the Haring Family have relied on a now-missing Haring Bible, which was passed down for five generations, and the "Haring Family Notebook," a cumulative collection of dates and information that also traveled down through this same branch of the Haring family, starting in 1830 for some 170 years. From these sources they concluded that Hoorn was the place of origin of the family. In fact, however, the new finding indicates that this family arrived in Hoorn from Barsingerhorn around 1645 or earlier.

The 1645 date is known, because that was the year that Pieter Cornelisz. Hering Metselaer, our Jan's father, purchased a grave in the Grote Kerk in Hoorn. In an email to me, Jan de Bruin wrote, "The purchase of the grave indicates that the father had established himself [in Hoorn by that year]." He goes on: "I'm confident that the notarial records of Hoorn hold more information about him and his family. Regrettably these records

remain quite inaccessible, although scans have been published."

Apart from his origins in Barsingerhorn, little is known of Pieter Cornelisz. Hering Metselaer, the father of Jan Pieterszen Haring, not his birth date, or his death date, only that he bought a grave in Hoorn in 1645 and had three sons, Cornelis, Pieter, and Jan. His wife's name may have been Brechtje Pietersdr., considering the names of the middle son and of Jan Pieterszen Haring's second daughter, Brechtje, baptized in 1675 in the Reformed Dutch Church in New Amsterdam.

Of course, we also know that his eldest son, Cornelis, had no children of his own and left his share of the mutual estate to his brother, "living in New Netherland." Cornelis Pietersz. Metselaer, brother of Jan, was buried in the family plot in the Grote Kerk on the south side of the church, number 477, on October 6, 1678.

Mr. de Bruin kindly sent me links to archival files in the Regionaal Archief Alkmaar concerning Barsingerhorn in the seventeenth century.

A search of Baptism, Marriage, and Death dates, the notarial records, the Reformed Church records, and the court and tax records of Barsingerhorn should reveal further information about this family, as should similar categories of records in the Westfries Archives in Hoorn.

It is my hope, since I can no longer undertake it, that a researcher may now embark upon this part of the journey of discovery concerning the origins of the Haring Family in the Netherlands. I am always grateful to readers who alert me to mistakes in my work and to researchers who turn

up totally new material—remarkably—in this case 380 years after the fact.

I intend to deposit the correspondence regarding this matter, including the archival links mentioned above, in the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society family files, 1644-2002, in the New York Public Library: [http://archives.nypl.org/mss/18274#c1047884 b. 19 f. 3](http://archives.nypl.org/mss/18274#c1047884_b.19_f.3) [Box 19 File/Folder 3]. Other Haring Family material generated by me will be found in Special Collections, Alexander Library, Rutgers University.

Although the Jan Pieterszen Haring baptized in Hoorn in 1633 is not our Haring ancestor, nevertheless, “our” Jan spent his boyhood and young

adult years in Hoorn until emigrating around 1660 and conveyed his memories of Hoorn to his wife and seven children in New Netherland.

All references to him in my article cited above, with the exception of the erroneous baptismal information, remain accurate. Speculation as to the origins of the Haring surname is moot, however, because now it is clear that the name was in use for at least one generation prior to the birth of Jan Pieterszen Haring. As Mr. de Bruin, put it in another email to me, “The beauty of the Haring Metselaer family is that both parts of their father’s last name are passed on.” ◀

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CORRIGENDUM

On page 7 of the July-September, 2019, issue of *South of the Mountains* it was erroneously stated that the Piermont Station was built in 1859. This was actually the date that the Northern Railroad, which terminated in Lower Piermont, was completed. The date that the Piermont Station on the Hill was built for the extension line north to Nyack was 1883.