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NEVIUS, LENAERTS, AND SASSENBROECK UPDATES AND NEW ANCESTRY

BY JOHN BLYTHE DOBSON*

THIS NOTE PROVIDES UPDATES for two articles published in the RECORD in 2005 and 2009.¹ Two months after the appearance of the second article, the building that housed the Historisches Archiv der Stadt Köln suffered a catastrophic collapse.² This horrific incident, which resulted in loss of human life, underscores how fortuitous it is that so much source material for Cologne had been published, and, in the case of these families, that so much material had survived in private hands. Most of the materials that survived the disaster are not expected to become accessible again for many years. These include the joint will, dated 10 October 1620, of Nevius family ancestors Leon[ard] and Mar[garetha] *Leinhartz*, in which the spelling of the surname unfortunately led me to overlook its existence until too late.³

Additional prior publications have been discovered, credited below. The RECORD articles documented the extensive geographical scattering and linguistic diversity of the available sources, a trait also of the new discoveries. That so much should come to light in the space of a single year is largely attributable to the acceleration of several digital projects including items of interest or generating fresh clues pointing to them.

In a genealogy published in Amsterdam in 1869, the founders of the Neeffius or Nevius family, Hans Neeff and his wife Sara Lenaerts, are correctly described, possibly for the first time in print.⁴ However, the arms

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¹ John Blythe Dobson, "Notes on the Nevius Family," RECORD 136(2005):33-44; John Blythe Dobson, "Lenaerts and Sassenbroeck: Ancestors of the Nevius Family of New Netherland," RECORD 140(2009):13-22 (which includes an update for the Nevius article at 18-20). Both are in the process of being expanded into books.

² "Historical Archive of the City of Cologne" (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historical_Archive_of_the_City_of_Cologne).

³ Historisches Archiv der Stadt Köln, Schreinswesen, Bestand 110—Testamente, nr. L 185-86. Listed in W. Baumeister, *Verzeichnis der Kölner Testamente des 13.-18. Jahrhunderts* (Mitteilungen aus dem Stadtarchiv von Köln, 44, Köln, 1953), 165.

⁴ A[braham] C[ornelis] de Neufville, *Histoire généalogique de la maison de Neufville, d'après d'anciennes chartes et des documents inédits* (Amsterdam, 1869), 300, where the names are spelled *Jean Neef* and *Sara Leonhardi*. The source is an ahnentafel of Johann-David de Neufville (1696-1767) included in support of his application, dated 17 March 1753, for a patent of nobility from the Emperor Franz I. His petition is reproduced on pages 22-27 and the ahnentafel on a folding chart between pages 24 and 25 (embellished with miscellaneous heraldic material avowedly taken from "various armorials"). Any earlier ancestry that may have been known to the de Neufville family would have fallen beyond the scope of the chart. Adolf von den Velden, whose *Geschichte des alten brabantischen Geschlechtes van den Velde oder von den Velden, Teil 2—Wilhelm von den Velden, seit 1586 in Deutschland, und seine Nachkommen* (Weimar, 1898), 48, which provides this citation, is itself a very early instance of a correct discussion of Hans Neeff and Sara Lenaerts, although he was not then certain of her surname and called her Sara N.N., *vermutlich* [presumably] de

attributed to her disagree with all the early sources and are something of an enigma.⁵ An article dedicated entirely to the Neeff family of Frankfurt was published in 1909 by a descendant, Adolf von den Velden.⁶ This excellent piece anticipates many of the results in the RECORD articles, as well as some given by another descendant, Herbert de Bary.⁷ Reaching back to the generation of Sara's parents, Lenaert Lenaerts and Margaretha van Sassenbroeck, the 1909 article incorrectly gives the first name of "Margar. Sassenbroic," written on a very rough or eroded portion of the "Leonhardi" tombstone in the Pieterskirchhof, Frankfurt-am-Main, as *Maria*. A mere seven years later, her true name was published as Margaretha van Sassenbroick.⁸

A list of the original shareholders in the East India Company was published 1958, which records an investment of *f*1,800 by Hans Lenaertsz. on behalf of [his mother] "Margriete van Sassenbroeck, weduwe van Lenart Lenaertsz."⁹ The editor, J. G. van Dillen, in his superb annotations, adds [translation]: "His father Lenaert Lenaertsz. (or Leonard Leonards) was born at Rutten in Luikerland [i.e. the environs of Liège] in 1542 and died at Frankfurt in 1597," citing the genealogical manuscripts of [Simon] Emtinck in the Gemeente Archief Amsterdam. This is a vague citation, as Emtinck's collection is vast; the staff of the Amsterdam archives failed to locate the desired item after several days of searching.¹⁰ Armed with the name of Emtinck, a renewed online search unearthed a record of something in the collection of the City Archives of Brussels that looked strikingly similar: "Registre contenant des copies authentiques . . . de fragments généalogiques de la famille Emtinck et des familles suivantes qui lui sont apparentées: Leonards, de Sandra, Fassin, van der Linden, Swedenryck, Wouters, Selyns (ou Seleyns)."¹¹

Leonhardi. He later came across the reference in the 1869 de Neufville genealogy and cites it in his first *Nachtrag* [supplement] (Weimar, 1901), 17.

⁵ Dobson, "Lenaerts and Sassenbroeck" (item 1), RECORD 140:15, footnotes 12 and 13, mentions the evidence of an old armorial board at Fraeylemaborg and of some seventeenth-century armorial collections for the family's use of simple canting arms with a lion. These agree with those given in the Simon Emtinck manuscript (note 12) and with an achievement of arms commemorating the marriage in 1682 of Jan Wyncoop, Jr. (son of Jan Wyncoop and Maria Lenaerts) to Arnoldina Reynst (www.homepages.lu/wynkoop/genealogy/holland/wapene.htm). However, the 1869 de Neufville genealogy (note 4) presents, from an undisclosed source, a quite different and rather complicated coat that can be found in the second edition of Rietstap's *Armorial Générale*, 2 volumes (Gouda, 1884, 1887), 2:52, attributed to "Léonard (de) ou Leonhardi—Pas de Liège." As there is nothing of the sort in Rietstap's first edition (Gouda, 1861), it may simply have been copied from the de Neufville genealogy, which had appeared in the interim.

⁶ A[dolf] von den Velden, "Die niederländische Familie (de) Neeff in Frankfurt," *Frankfurter Blätter für Familiengeschichte* 2 (1909): 1–3 (with a frontispiece showing the "Leonhardi" tombstone in the Pieterskirchhof, Frankfurt-am-Main). Ironically, although this work has suffered almost total scholarly neglect, it is surely the basis for a number of unsourced IGI entries whose provenience I was unable to explain in Dobson, "Nevius" (note 1), RECORD 136:33–44.

⁷ Herbert de Bary, "Beiträge zur Genealogie Altfrankfurter Hugenottenfamilien," *Deutsches Familienarchiv* 77(1982):1–89, at 68, which does not list von den Velden's article in its bibliography. Dobson, "Lenaerts and Sassenbroeck" (note 1), RECORD 140:13–14, incorrectly credits de Bary with the first publication of the inscription on the "Leonhardi" tombstone.

⁸ P. C. Bloys van Treslong Prins, "Diverse Aantekeningen gemaakt op Fraeylemaborch te Slochteren," *De Wapenheraut* 20(1916):433–54, at 447, as noted in Dobson, "Lenaerts and Sassenbroeck" (note 1), RECORD 140:13–14; Margaretha's name has since been confirmed in numerous primary sources that were not then widely available.

⁹ J. G. van Dillen, *Het oudste aandeelhoudersregister van de Kamer Amsterdam der Oost-Indische Compagnie* (S-Gravenhage, 1958), 228.

¹⁰ Some indication of the collection's scope is apparent from A. Fris, *Archief van de familie Van Hoom en aanverwante families* (stadsarchief.amsterdam.nl/archieven/archiefbank/printversie/518.nl.pdf).

¹¹ Charles Pergameni, *Les archives historiques de la ville de Bruxelles: notices et inventaires* (1943), 53.

The staff of the Brussels archives kindly supplied a copy of this item,¹² which on examination proved to consist not of disconnected fragments as the description might imply, but rather of a coherent Leonards genealogy by the prolific antiquary Simon Emtinck (1676–1752), who was himself descended from this family through his paternal grandmother.¹³ A copy of this genealogy was evidently once in the possession of the writer A. A. Vorsterman van Oyen, but whether it coincides with either of those now accounted for in public collections is not known.¹⁴

Emtinck's remarkable production, forty-three pages focusing on Lenaert Lenaerts and Margaretha van Sassenbroeck, attempts with considerable success to trace all lines of descent, both male and female, down to the writer's time. The work is full of interesting revelations, such as the derivation in the male line of the Amsterdam family with the combined surname of *Lenaerts van Ceulen* and its Spanish and Guatemalan offshoot of *Leonardo de Colonia*. An affidavit made by one of the latter, Felipe Leonardo de Colonia (circa 1677–1729?),¹⁵ possibly in support of a claim of nobility or of an application for knighthood, mentions [translation]:

... our great-grandfather's father's father Johannis Leonards, Seigneur of Rutten in the year 1503, who left a son named Leonard Leonards, born at Rutten, Seigneur of Rutten in Luikerland, 3 June 1545, who was married with Madame Margrieta van Sassenbroeck, born baroness van Sassenbroeck in Luikerland. . . .¹⁶

Emtinck, who explains that he copied this document at Amsterdam on 10 March 1698, interprets 1503 and 1545 as dates of birth (that of 1545 being apparently given as 1542 in the Amsterdam version, to judge from van Dillen's quotation therefrom). While downplaying the absurd claim that Margaretha van Sassenbroeck was a baroness, he accepts the statement that this alleged Johannes Leonards and his son Leonard were seigneurs of Rutten. But if the Leonards family held a seignury it cannot have been Rutten, which is otherwise accounted for throughout this period.¹⁷

¹² Simon Emtinck, "Registre contenant des copies authentiques . . . de fragments généalogiques de la famille Emtinck" (manuscript, City Archives of Brussels, accession number 3401); the Leonards manuscript fills folios 14–44 of the binding. A much fuller account of this work will be in my forthcoming Leonards genealogy.

¹³ Emtinck is treated only briefly in A. J. van der Aa, *Biographisch Woordenboek der Nederlanden*, 21 volumes (Haarlem, 1852–1878), 5:137, but his work as an art curator is discussed in Ruurd B. Halbertsma, *Scholars, Travellers and Trade: The Pioneer Years of the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden, 1818–1840* (London: Routledge, 2003), 16–19. Emtinck published little or nothing during his lifetime, and his reputation is due mainly to his remarkable library, described posthumously in *Bibliotheca Emtinckiana; sive catalogus librorum, quos collegit et reliquit Mr. Simon Emtinck, Toparcha in Noorduyckerhout*, 4 parts (Amsterdam, 1753).

¹⁴ *Dictionnaire nobiliaire: répertoire des généalogies et des documents généalogiques qui se trouvent dans la bibliothèque de A. A. Vorsterman van Oyen* (La Haye, 1889), 154 (Leonards), 229 (Sassenbroeck), 87 (Fassin); the alphabetical arrangement has destroyed the original groupings of names.

¹⁵ On whom see Ramiro Ordóñez Jonama, *Primer suplemento a la biblioteca genealógica guatemalteca* (Publicación especial de la Academia Guatemalteca de Estudios Genealógicos, Heráldicos e Históricos, 2003), 45–46. I am seeking records of Felipe's descendants for my forthcoming Lenaerts genealogy.

¹⁶ Emtinck, "Emtinck"³⁵ (note 12), folio 14. The original reads: ". . . sun Overgrootvader[s] vaders vader geneaemt Johannis Leonards Heer van Rutten in den Jaare 1503 die een soon naliet genaemt Leonard Leonards geboren tot Rutten Hr. van Rutten by 't land van Luyck den 3 June A^o 1545 den elcke getrouwt met Mevrouw Margrieta van Sassenbroeck geboren baronesse van Sassenbroeck by 't land van Luyck. . . ."

¹⁷ Steven Vandewal of the Tongeren Stadsarchief kindly helped me confirm that Rutten was in the possession of the family of de Châlons until 1544, and afterwards of the princes of Orange-Nassau.

Margaretha van Sassenbroeck's more-or-less contemporary tombstone indicates that she was from Liège (the Latin inscription reads *Leodiensis*). Emtinck, without citing a source, supplies the following description of her parents [translation]:

Jan van Sassenbroeck . . . died at Luyck on 26 Aug. 1594 [aged 79 years or in his 79th year (intent of Dutch text uncertain)]. . . . He took to wife Anna Berchmans . . . [who] died on 8 March 1595 [aged 82 years or in her 82th year]. These same lived 53 years in the marital state, and left only a daughter, Margaretha van Sassenbroeck, born at Luyck in 1545, died at Cologne on 29 April 1618, [who] married in 1564 with Leonard Leonards, born at Rutten in Luikerland, died on 4 April 1597 and buried at Frankfurt-am-Main.¹⁸

Such a marriage date for Margaretha van Sassenbroeck would accord well with what is known of her children. But while the last statement agrees with the aforementioned “Leonhardi” tombstone in the Peterskirchhof, Frankfurt-am-Main, it seems unlikely that Margaretha van Sassenbroeck and Leonard Leonards are actually buried beneath it unless their bodies were removed from Cologne.

The Archives de l'État à Liège holds no parochial registers early enough to test these dates, according to staff member Sabine Breuer. But Emtinck's statement of Margaretha Sassenbroeck's parentage seems likely, both because of its specificity and because several different groups of records agree in showing a Jean de *Sassembrouck* as the only adult male of this surname at Luik during this period. Although it is not proven that there is just one man of the name—Margaretha's father—it is the simplest hypothesis that fits the dates. On 17 July 1544 Jean de Sassenbrouck is mentioned as “receiver of the chapter” of the collegiate church of Saint-Pierre.¹⁹ On 30 March 1563 Jean de Sassembrouck, *citain de Liège*²⁰ (burgher of Liège), purchased property.²¹ In the early 1560s Jean Sassembrouck is noted as one of city's first Lutherans.²²

ANCESTRY OF JOHANNES¹ NEVIUS

The ahnentafel below shows all known ancestry of the Nevius family of New Netherland, including the two possibly unrelated lines named *Becx*, on which research continues.²³

¹⁸ Emtinck, “Emtinck” (note 12), folio 16. The original reads: “Jan van Sassenbroeck . . . is gestorven tot Luyck den 26 Aug. Ao. 1594 syns onderdoms 79 jaeren. . . . Hy hadde getrouwt Anna Berchmans . . . [sy] is gestorven den 8 Maart Ao. 1595 haeres onderdoms 82 jaeren. Te samen in den Houwelyck Staet geleefte, hebbende 53 jaeren en hebben maer nagelaten eene dochter, Margaretha van Sassenbroeck, geboren te Luyck Ao. 1545, gestorven te Ceulen den 29 April Ao. 1618, is getrouwt anno 1564 met Leonard Leonards, geboren te Rutten in het land van Luyck, gestorven den 4 April Ao. 1597 & begraven te Francfort aen den Mayn.”

¹⁹ Édouard Poncelet, *Inventaire analytique des chartes de la collégiale de Saint-Pierre à Liège* (Bruxelles, 1906), 318.

²⁰ *Liège* is the older spelling of Liège.

²¹ Joseph Cuvelier, *Inventaire des archives de l'abbaye du Val-Benoit Lez-Liège* (Liège, 1902), 510–11.

²² When this record was first published in Reinier Cornelis Bakhuizen van den Brink, “Andries Bourlette: een hofdstuk uit de geheime geschiedenis van den Vrijheidsoorlog,” *De Gids* 8(1844):131–58, 175–91, 223–43, at 137, it was without mention of Sassembrouck's first name; but the fact that it was Jean has been clarified by subsequent commentators, including Gilles Joseph Nautet, *Notices historiques sur le pays de Liège*, series 2 (Verviers, 1856), 53–58, at 54.

²³ Documentation for individuals 1–7, 10, 11 is in Dobson, “Nevius” (note 1), RECORD 136:33–44, and Dobson, “Lenaerts and Sassenbroeck” (note 1), RECORD 140:13–22. Documentation for individuals 20, 22, 24 is in the body of this article.

1. **JOHANNES¹ NEVIUS**, baptized 14 March 1627 at Zoelen, Gelderland; died about May or June 1672, probably in Brooklyn, New York; in New Amsterdam by 1652, where he was betrothed 18 November 1655 in the New York Dutch Reformed Church to **ADRIAENTJE CORNELIS BLEIJCK**, born probably in 1637 at Batavia (now Jakarta, Indonesia), stepdaughter of Cornelis de Potter, a wealthy merchant, and daughter of the late Cornelis Adriaens [Bleijck] by the latter's wife Swaentje Jans.
2. Ds. **JOHANNES^A NEEFFIUS**, pastor of Zoelen, baptized 13 November 1594 at the Cologne German Reformed Church; died probably in 1635 at Venlo in Zuid-Limburg; married 7 August 1625 at Kampen, Overijssel, **MARIA BECX**.
3. **MARIA BECX**, baptized 1 April 1595 at the Cologne Dutch Reformed Church; died after September 1652.
4. **JOHANNES^B NEEFF**, of Cologne and Frankfurt-am-Main, born say 1565-70 at Antwerp; died between 1612 and 1623; married by 1594 **SARA LENAERTS**.
5. **SARA LENAERTS**, born say 1574, probably at Cologne; died after 14 March 1627.
6. Sieur **PIETER BECX**, of Cologne, merchant, born say 1565, still alive in September 1596, but ostensibly dead by 7 September 1612; married certainly by 1593, and probably by 1591, **CATHARINA BECX**.
7. **CATHARINA BECX**, died in or after September 1596.
10. **LENAERT LENAERTS**, of Cologne, said to have been born in 1542 or 1545 at Rutten, near Tongeren, Limburg; died 4 April 1597; married in 1564 **MARGARETHA VAN SASSENBROECK**.
11. **MARGARETHA VAN SASSENBROECK**, born 1545; died after 11 December 1604.
20. [new] **JOHANNES LEONARDS**, of Rutten, born 1503[p].²⁴
22. [new] **JAN VAN SASSENBROECK**, of Luik, born 1514-16 (calculated); died 26 August 1594; married by 1545 **ANNA BERCHMANS**.²⁵
24. [new] **ANNA BERCHMANS**, born 1512-14 (calculated); died 8 March 1595.²⁶

²⁴ According to Felipe Leonardo de Colonia, as given above.

²⁵ According to Simon Emtinck, as given above.

²⁶ According to Simon Emtinck, as given above.