

A Fonkert Hoeksche Waard Sojourn: A Silver Baptismal Bowl and an 11th Cousin!

by J. H. Fonkert
August 2022

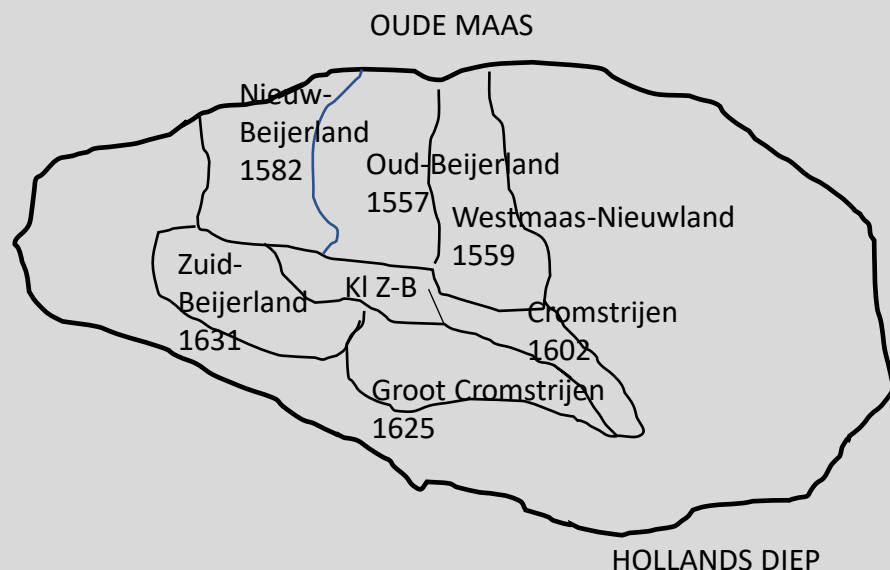


Oud-Cromstrijensedijk Oostzijde 3, Klaaswaal



Fonkerts lived in Westmaas-Nieuwland, Zuid Beijerland, Nieuw-Beijerland, and Oud-Beijerland.

(Other polders not shown).



This story of the Hoeksche Waard Fonkerts grows out of several trips to the Netherlands. Our entire family first visited in 1993. I returned a couple of years later. My brother Todd and I toured the Hoeksche Waard in 2003, and Barb and I returned in 2022.

The Hoeksche Waard is a partially man-made island between the Oude Maas and the Hollands Diep – streams in the Rhine-Maas delta. Diking and drainage of the flood prone marshy land began in the mid-1500s and continued into the early 1600s. Born across the Oude Maas in Rhone, Dirck Fonckert farmed near Westmaas by about 1600.



Roads follow the dikes.

Prologue -- 1993



As we drove along the Molendijk into Klaaswaal in 1993, we saw this sign for a small appliance and electronics shop.

A man was locking up. I pointed at the sign and said “Fonkert.” I pointed at myself and said “Fonkert uit Amerika.” The man motioned for me to follow him down the street.

A few doors down, we entered the Fonkert bicycle shop, walked through a door in the back, and entered the home of Rokus Fonkert.



1993



1993



Rokus reached for a 3-ring binder on a shelf above the couch. It was a Fonkert family history compiled by his nephew. I had no Dutch. Rokus had no English, but he called his daughter to help translate. We weren't able to determine our relationship, but Rokus gave us contact info for his nephew.

Three months later I received a letter from the nephew. Rokus and I were 11th cousins!

1993

J. H. Fonkert

Rokus Fonkert

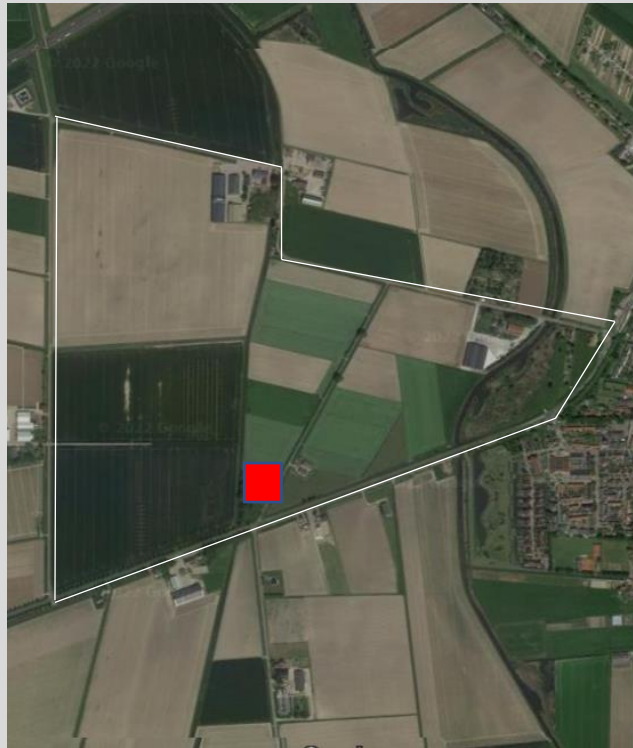
Rokus' daughter*

Klaas Fonkert

* Rokus has four daughters: Cornelia Elisabeth, Gertruda, Jenneke Dirkje. Maria Johanna



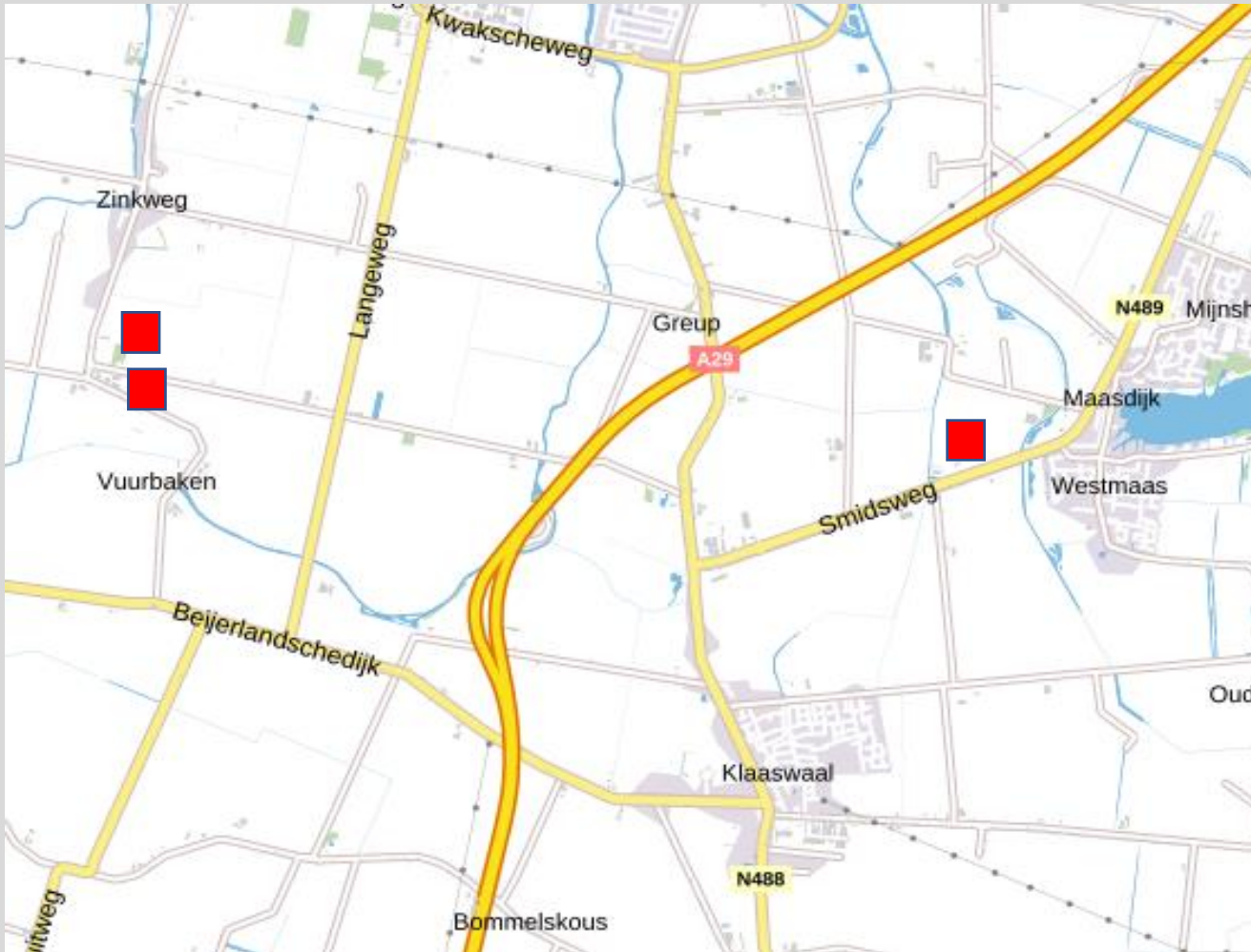
Klaaswaal had been a surprise, but we knew that Fonkerts had lived along the Vliet canal a mile or so west of Westmaas in the 17th-century.



We drove a triangle, stopping at a couple of farms to ask about Fonkerts. No luck. The road crossed a waterway hardly worthy of a name, but a farmhouse along the small canal was promising.

I knocked on the door. A woman answered. After several minutes struggling with the language barrier, she seemed to recognize the name Fonkert.

She went back inside and returned with a fat notebook – the history of the farm. The first owner was Dirck Adrianesz Fonckert, who lived there in 1610.



■ Fonkert houses still standing in 2022.

Klaaswaal is a special place in Fonkert family history. The 1610 house of Dirck Fonckert still stands on the Smidsweg just west of Westmaas. By the 1700s, Fongkerts had moved west toward Greup and Klaaswaal. Pieter and Wouter Fonkert, who emigrated to Pella about 1870, lived a couple of miles west along the Zinkweg.

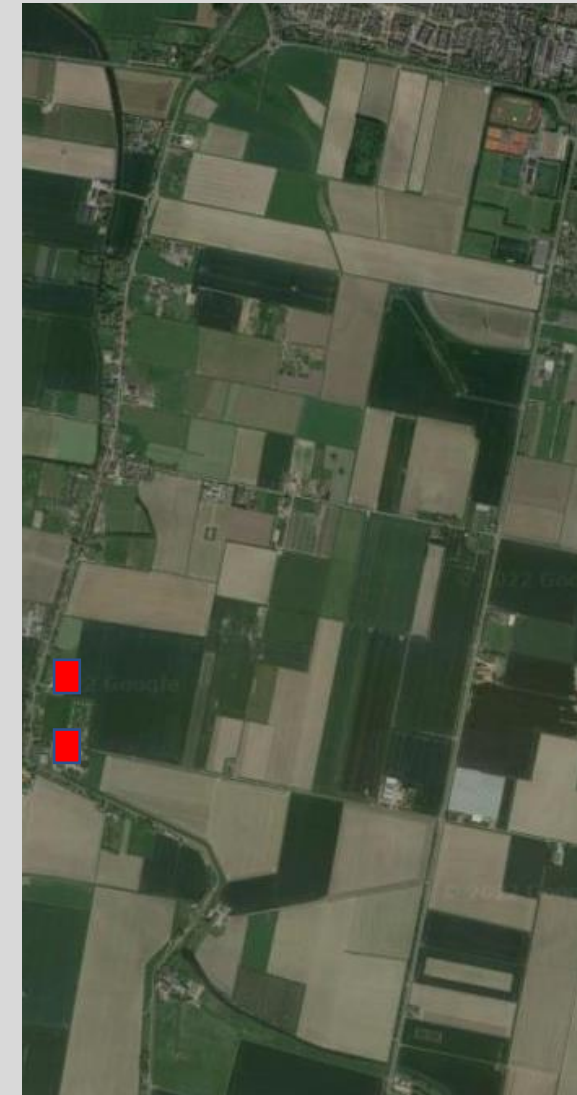
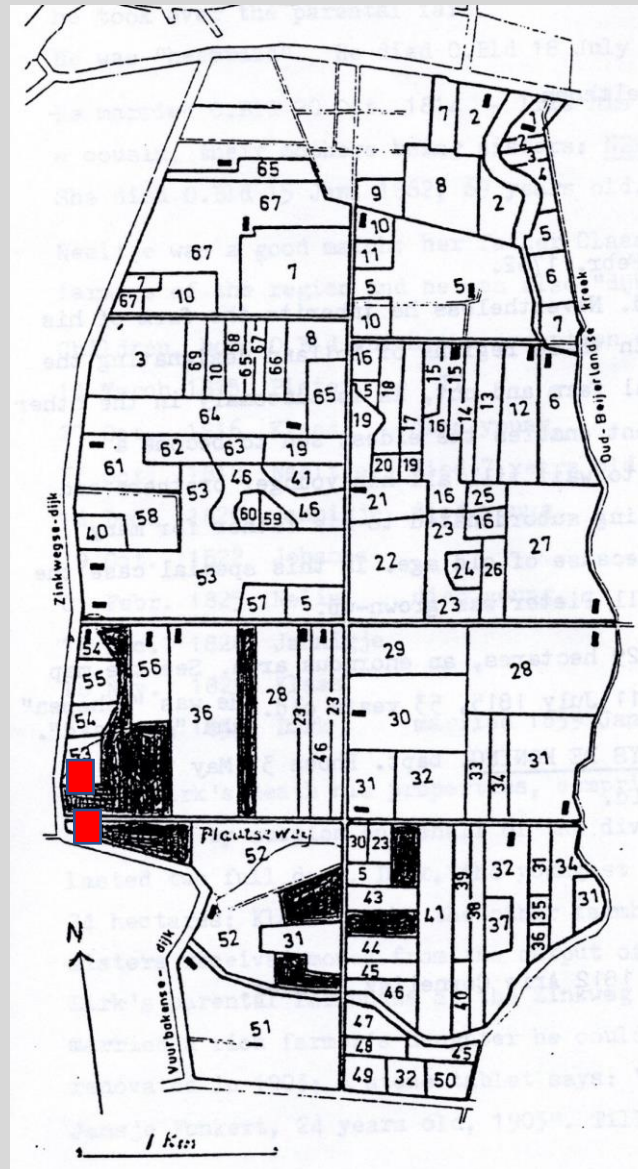
Klaaswaal was first mentioned in 1555 as “Claes Wael” – a deep puddle created by a dike breach by someone named Claes during construction of the Oud Cromstrijen dike. The lords reserved land for a new village – Claeswaal – and a church was built in 1566.

More on Klaaswaal in a bit.

We went back to our hotel in Oud Beijerland. I left Barb and the girls at the hotel and drove down the Zinkweg in search of other Fonkert houses – yes, I knew what I was looking for.

A researcher in the Netherlands had prepared a Fonkert family history for my 2nd cousin, Phyllis Good. It described two Fonkert farmhouses at the intersection of the Zinkweg and the 2nd Kruisweg.

I found them.



OUD BEIJERLAND POLDER
Nicolaas Vels Heijn and Fenny Vels Heijn
van der Kolk, *Fonkert Pedigree*, 1988.



DE EERSTE STEEN GELEGD

Door

NELIA JANNETJE FONKERT

OUD 24 JAAR

DEN 13 JULI 1900

The first stone laid

By

Nelia Jannetje Fonkert

24 years old

The 13th of July 1900



Zegert Dirksz Fonkert owned a house on the south side of the 2nd Kruisweg as early as 1730. This house appears to have been built in 1900, when Nelia Jannetje Fonkert was 24 years old. The house was still standing in 2022, but it was badly deteriorated.



When my brother and I visited in 2003, there was a plaque on a small arch bridge between the road and the house stating that Dirk Fonkert Dzn laid the first tone in 1856. The plaque was not visible when Barb and I visited in 2022.



In 2022, trees and bushes had grown up and obscured the aging house, whose exterior was being renovated.



This is the house just north of the Kruisweg. Of special interest is the “cornerstone” high on the wall on the north side of the house. This house, built in 1858, may have replaced an earlier house because Pieter Dirksz Fonkert had a house on this property in 1810. The house was still standing in 2022, but it was showing its age.

I talked with the owner in 1993. He was not a Fonkert, but he directed me about a mile back up the road to the home of Aart Fonkert. We had a nice visit, and we exchanged Christmas cards for several years.



DEN EERSTE STEEN
GELEGD DOOR
JANNETJE FONKERT
OP DEN 5^E MEI 1858

The first stone
laid by
Jannetje Fonkert
on the 5th of May 1858



A more pastoral view of the “north” farm from the 2nd Kruisweg in 2022.

19th-century farmhouses were commonly connected to the barn



We're still in 1993... I drove back to the hotel, and who was there in the restaurant with Barb, Claudia, and Deb, but the woman I had visited with at the farm we had visited earlier in the afternoon. She had brought along with her a local historian who gave us photocopies of photos of the interior of Dirck Fonckert's house – not the house you saw a few slides ago, but the original house that had been converted to a garage – at far right in photo at left.



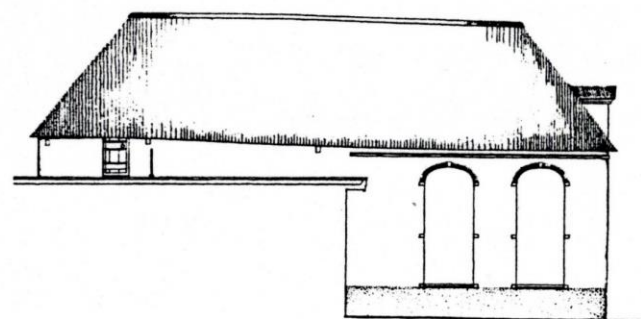
How did Mrs. Quartel find us? She must have called around to local hotels to find where we were staying.

The Quartels have since hosted me twice – once with my brother – at the Marienhof farm. The original house has recently been converted to a gift shop. You can read about Marienhof at <https://www.marienhofwestmaas.nl/>.

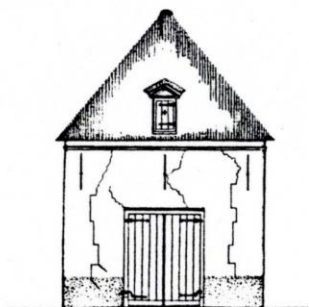


The Westmaas mill and church spire viewed from Marienhof.

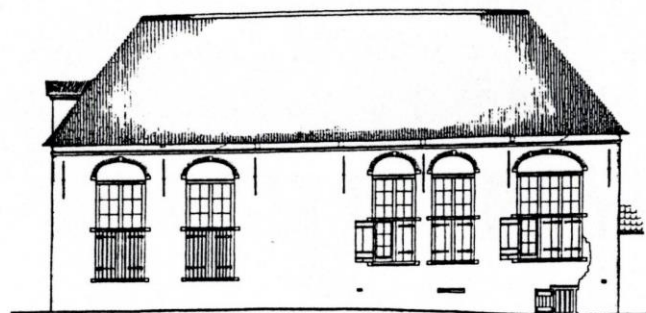
Drawings of Dirck Fonckert's house (now known as Marienhof). Given us by Mevrouw Quartel's friend, Henry den Hartigh.



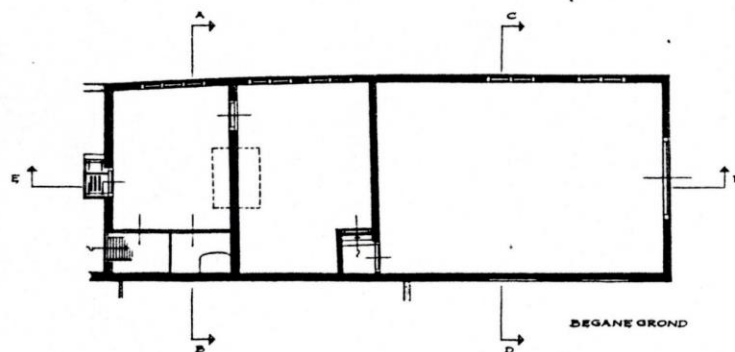
ZUIDWESTGEVEL



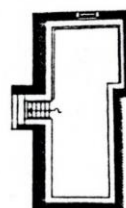
ZUIDOOSTGEVEL



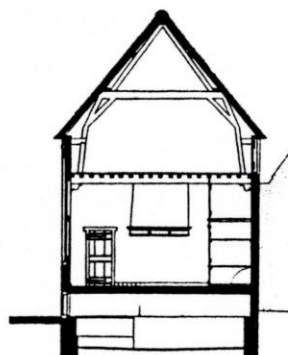
NOORDOOSTGEVEL



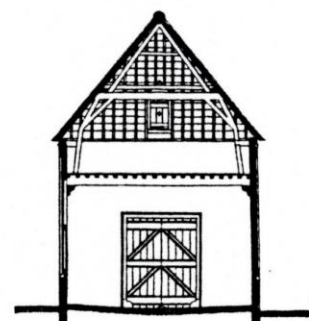
BEGANE GROND



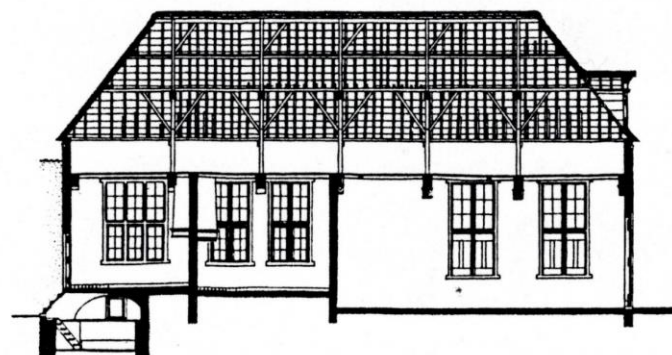
KELDER



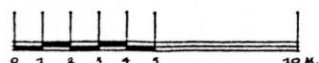
DOORSNEDE A-B



DOORSNEDE C-D



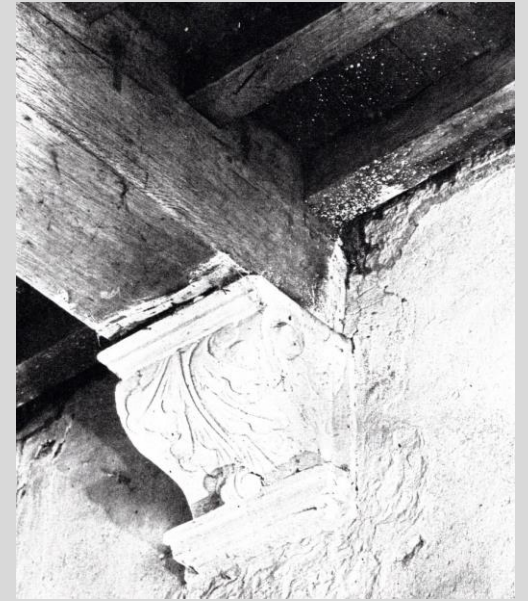
DOORSNEDE E-F



WESTMAAS (Z.H.) - OUDSTE BOUW MARIENHOEVE
PLATTEGRONDEN, DOORSNEDEN EN GEVELS
SCHAAAL 1:100 - OPGEMETEN IN MEI 1940
RIJKSBUROU VOOR DE MONUMENTENZORG TE
'S GRAVENHAGE - C.A. BAART DE LA FAÏLLE.

Westmaas (Z. H.) – Oudste Bouw
Marienhoeve
Opgemeten in Mei 1940
Rijksbureau voor de
Monumentenzorg to 's Gravenhage

Photocopies given us by Henry den Hartigh



In 1995, Mr. den Hartigh published a local history book, *In Zoete Mijmerij: het Boeiende Verleden van Westmaas, Mijnsheerenland, Greup en 't Zwanegat in Word en Beeld* (In Sweet Memory: the Fascinating Past of Westmaas, Mijnsheerenland, Greup and 't Zwanegat in Words and Pictures). I want this book!



We visited Marienhof in May 2022. Mevrouw Quartel's daughter was very busy serving customers, but she allowed us to view the back room. Alas, there is a 2nd floor, but we have not seen it. You see, the story is that Dirck's house was originally home to priests, suggesting it might have been built by the late 1500s.



The present Westmaas church was built in 1650, but in the floor from the earlier structure is the grave of **Dirck Adriaensz Fonckert**, who died in 1641. I have visited the church, I think, three times, and a corner of the grave has always been covered by the choir.



The 1621 grave of Dirck's first wife was reputedly also in the floor of the earlier church, but we have not seen it.





Just in case you wondered... Dirck's daughter, Haesgen (aka Hassje) married Symon Huygen Splinter. She is buried a couple of miles up the road at Mijnsleerenland.

Dirck Adriaensz Fonckert was born about 1565 at Rhoon, at that time an important town on the north side of the Oude Maas. Draining of the Hoeksche Waard began in the mid-1500s. Dirck probably moved into the house on the Smidsweg sometime after the reformation when the monks left Westmaas. In 1622, he was appointed dijkgraaf of the Westmaas-Nieuwland polder.

The Iowa Fonkerts are descended from Dirck and his first wife, Bastiaentje Zegers Cranendonck. Their son, Seegert, born about 1600, started the drift of the Fonkerts a few miles west. He farmed in the Nieuwland and Zuid Beijerland polders.

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| In het jaar 1787 | |
| Den 7 Januarij | En kind gedoopt met naame <u>Jarnels</u> Loon van Pieter Londe en Syntje Klaagrouw Getuigen Lena Vlasblom |
| Den 20 ^{de} | En kind gedoopt met naame <u>Willelm</u> Loon van Annis Mullende van den Gieffen en Lwaantje (Boman) Getuigen Syntje Roos |
| Den 18 February | En kind gedoopt met naame <u>Jacoba</u> waan van De vader Jan Nieuw Schepen De moeder Jaapje Stormeier |
| Den 1 April | En kind gedoopt met naame <u>Constiaan</u> Loon van Lennis Meier en Lara de Jong Getuigen Kneina de Jong. |
| Den 15 ^{de} | En kind gedoopt met naame <u>Stalje</u> waan van De vader Anthanie de Jong en ^{Marissa} Thomana de Vink Getuigen Syntje de Jongste |
| Den 1 ^{sten} | En kind gedoopt met naame <u>Coniana</u> waan van De vader Christoffel Pels en ^{Kuultje} Stalje Schindens Getuigen Syntje Pels |
| Den 22 ^{de} | En kind gedoopt met naame <u>Syntje</u> waan van De vader Claas Luingdijk de moeder Stalje Gontwaart |
| Den 27 May | En kind gedoopt met naame <u>Leentje</u> De vader Jone Weba de moeder Lena Muller van |
| Den 3 Junij | Twee kinderen van eenen draagt gedoopt, waan van het een gemaand is <u>Janbend</u> en het ander <u>Thomana</u> . De vader ervan is <u>Strig</u> Schelling De moeder <u>Stalje</u> Schuymer Getuigen waan <u>Maantje</u> Schelling en <u>Kuultje</u> Schuymer Zijnde deze kinderen het eerste gedoopt met het gillende Doop bekeke twee ten gedoopt met van <u>Rochem</u> Schelling en de twee kinderen <u>Stalje</u> broocht een dodelijk kinder en giffen <u>Stalje</u> van, de <u>Stalje</u> is verleden |
| Den 1 ^{sten} | En kind gedoopt met naame <u>Lijpje</u> waan van Vader Annis van den Gieffen en moeder Stalje Schutter |
| Den 30 ^{de} | En kind gedoopt gemaand <u>Jannigje</u> waan van De vader Johannes de Jonge, de moeder Ansaantje van Stijf |
| Den 15 July | En kind gedoopt gemaand <u>Mania</u> , waan van De vader Adam Walther, de moeder Anna van Ankel |
| Den 29 ^{de} | En kind gedoopt met naame <u>Kendrick</u> Loon van Annis Rocheden en Maria Loutmaet Getuigen <u>Connelia</u> Loutmaet waan <u>Lena</u> de Weg |

Klaaswaal Dutch Reformed Church, Baptisms, 1787

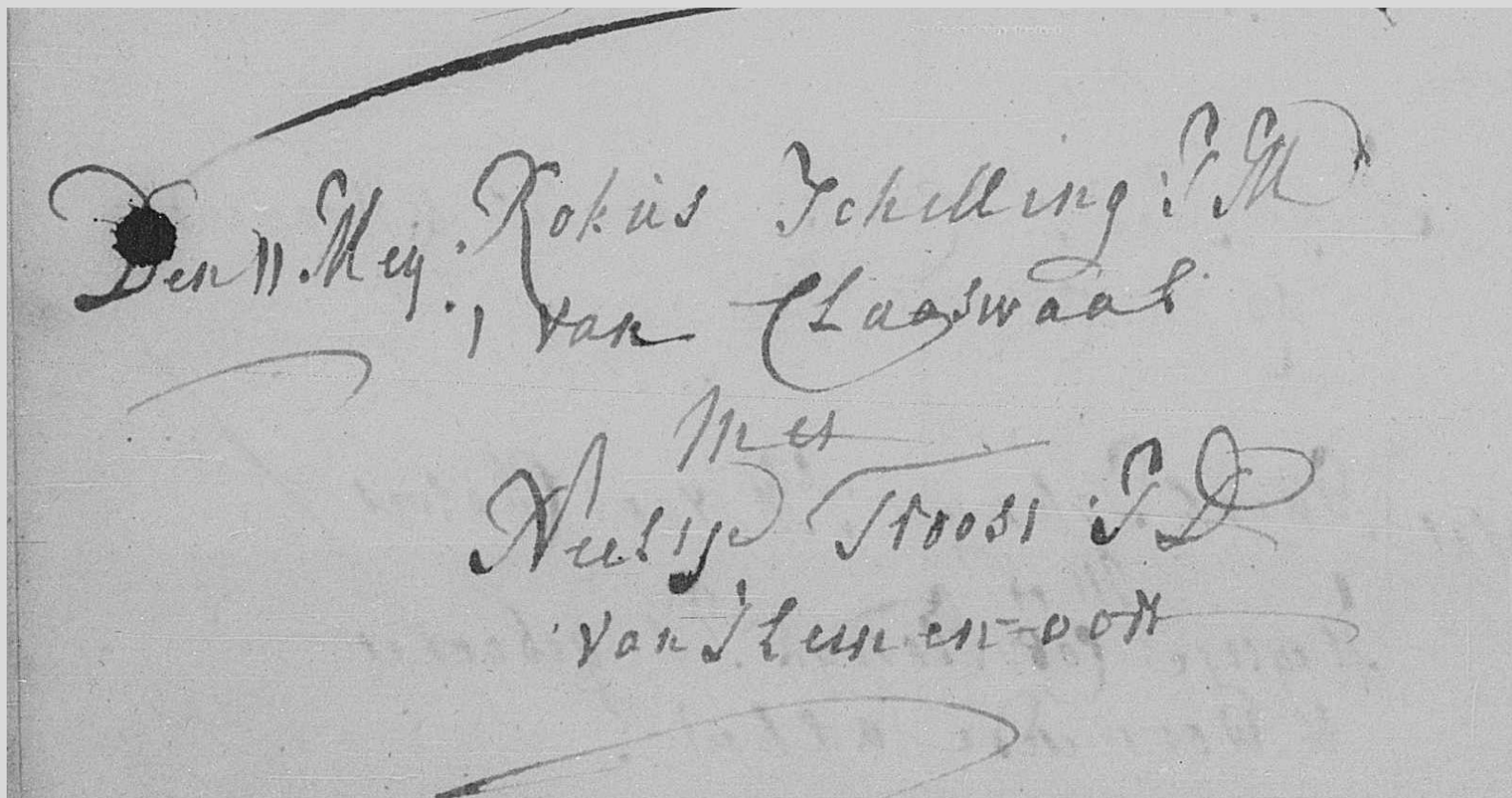
FHL film 5,859,133, image 107

You'll want to take a closer look at this entry!

Den 3 Junij
Twee kinderen van eenen dragt gedoopt, waarvan
het eene genaamd is Barbera en het ander Adriana.
De vader ervan is Arie Schelling
De moeder Aaltje Schrijver.
Getuigen waaren Maartje Schelling en Heiltje Schrijver.
Zijnde dese kinderen het eerste gedoopt met het zilverne
Dooz bekken, welke ten gedagtenis van Rochus Schelling en
desselver Huisvrouw Neeltje Troost door dezels kinderen en
erfgenamen aan de Diaconie is vereerd.

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erfgenamen aan de diaconie is vereerd

Two children of one birth were baptized
One named Barbera and the other Adriana
Their father is Arie Schelling.
The mother Aaltje Schrijver.
Witnesses were Maartje Schelling and Heiltje Schrijver.
These are the first children baptized with the silver
baptismal bowl given in memory of Rochus Schelling and his
wife Neeltje Troost by their children and heirs to the
deaconry's honor.



Heinenoord Kerkelijke Register, FHL film 5,849,953, image 428

Rokus Schelling van Klaaswaal m. Neeltje Troost van Heinenoord, 11 May 1837

Rokus and Neeltje were my 5th-great-grandparents, and the baptized twin Barbara was my 3rd-great-grandmother. If you're descended from the Sioux County Fonkerts, they are also in your family tree.

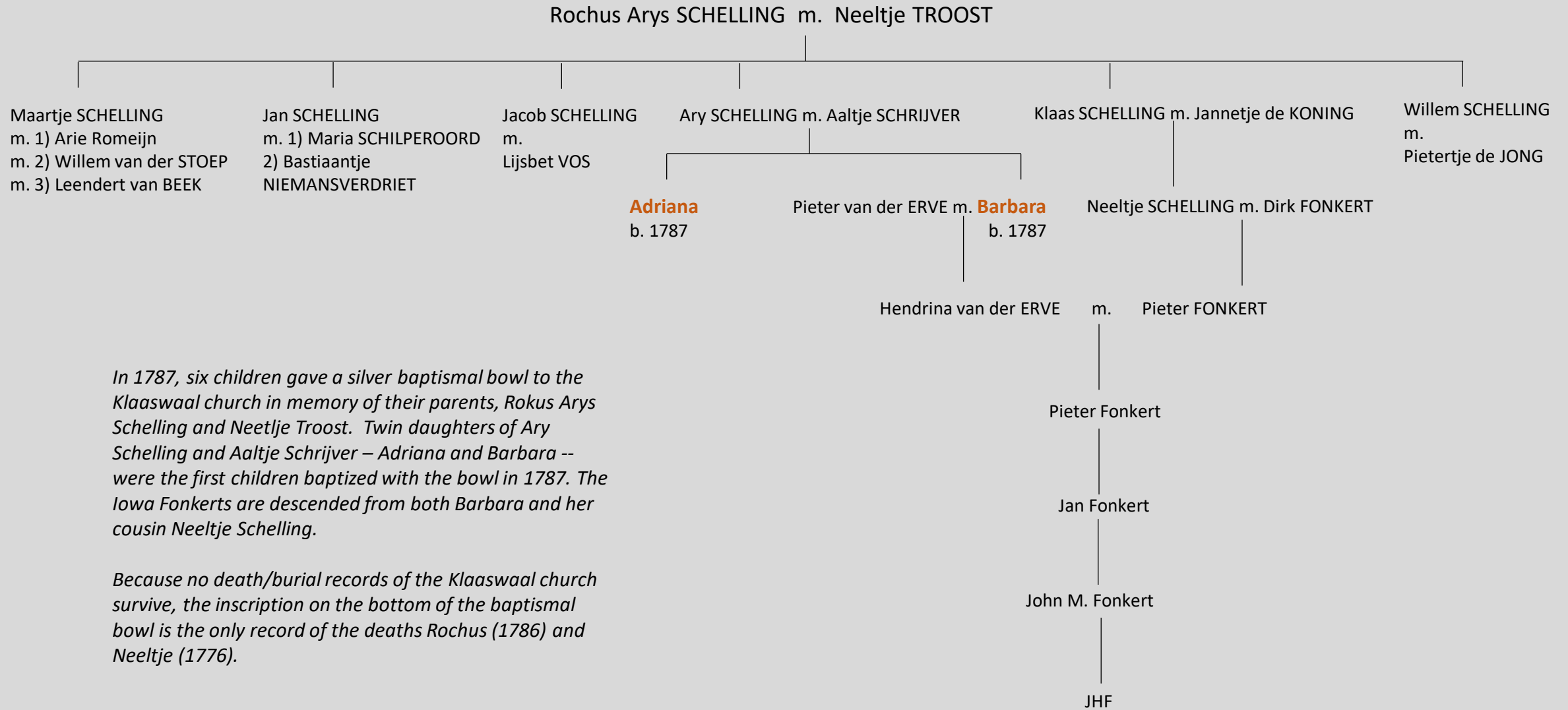


Death Records for 1764 to 1811 are missing...



Ten gebruike
van't bondzegel des
H. Doop uit de Nalentschap
en ter gedachtnis van **Rokus
Schelling** in leven Dijkgraaf van
Oud-Cromstrijen met Beijerlands bedijkt
obiit 14 November 1786 oud 81 Jarren 5
Maanden zijn huisvrouw **Neeltje
Troost obit 19 Februarij 1776**
oud 58 jaaren 5 Maanden

...so, the inscription on the bottom of the baptismal bowl is the only record of the deaths of Rokus and Neeltje.





Given by children of 5th great-grandparents, Ary Rochus Schelling and Aaltje Schrijver.

First baptized children: Adriana and Barbara Schelling – my 3rd-great-grandmother.



Our immigrant grandfather, Pieter Fonkert, was a grandson of Barbara Schelling, one of the twins baptized in 1787. Pieter was born and baptized at Klaaswaal in 1845. He immigrated to Pella, Iowa, in 1870. His younger brother, Wouter, followed in 1874. Pieter married Neeltje Toom in Pella.

Neeltje died shortly after the birth of Jan (John) Fonkert in 1877. Pieter remarried to Aaltje van 't Hof. The Fongkerts moved to Sioux County in the 1880s.



Klaaswaal Civil Register of Births

N^o. 17 *Acte van Geboorte van Pieter Fonkert.*

In het jaar een duizend acht honderd vijf en veertig,
den negen entwintigsten — der maand maart. — is voor Ons,
Ambtenaar van den Burgerlijken Stand der Gemeente Klaaswaal, verschenen:
Pieter Fonkert — oud dertig — jaren, boorman
wonende te Klaaswaal, in het huis, nummer honderd Leven en dertig
welke ons heeft verklaard, dat zijne huisvrouw *Hendrina van de Erve.*
Loozer beroep — wonende mede aldaar, op den acht entwintigsten dezer maand,
Maart — des morgens ten half Leven ure, ten zijnen huize bevallen
is van een kind, van het mannelijk geslacht, aan hetwelk gegeven wordt de
voornaam van *Pieter.*

Van welke verklaring wij deze Akte hebben opgemaakt, in tegenwoordigheid van *Dirk*
Zinkweg. — oud twee en dertig — jaren,
Rantsoerbediende en van *Huig Fonkert* —
oud dertig — jaren, *Smid* — wonende beide in
deze Gemeente, en na voorlezing door Ons, benevens den comparant en de
getuigen ondertekend.

P. Fonkert *Jacob van der Erve*
D. Zinkweg
H. Fonkert

Pieter Fonkert

29 March 1845

Appeared Pieter Fonkert, 30,
farmer at Klaaswaal, house 137

Declares that his wife, Hendrina
van der Erve, without
occupation, and who lives there
with him, gave birth on 28 March
at 6:30 a.m. to a male child who
has been given the name Pieter.

Witnesses:

Dirk Zinkweg
Huig Fonkert

Wouter Fonkert

27 April 1848

Appeared Pieter Fonkert, 33,
farmer at Klaaswaal, house 137

Declares that his wife, Hendrina
van der Erve, without
occupation, and who lives there
with him, gave birth on 27 April
at 1:30 at night to a male child
who has been given the name
Wouter.

Witnesses:

Gerrit _____
Dirk Zinkweg

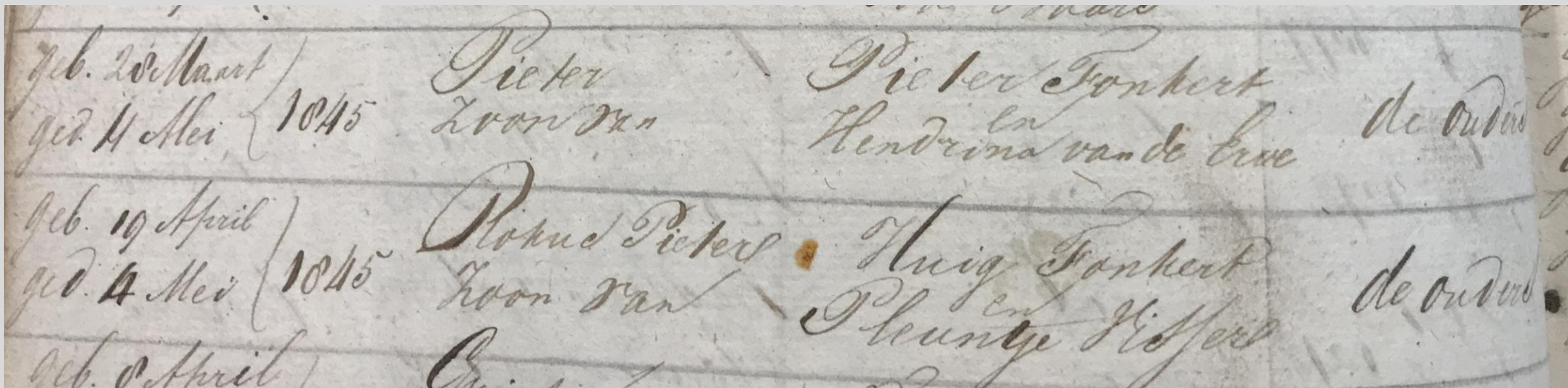


N^o. 13. **Acte van Geboorte van** *Wouter Fonkert.*

In het jaar een duizend acht honderd acht en veertig,
den *Heven en twintigsten* der maand *April* _____ is voor Ons,
Ambtenaar van den Burgerlijken Stand der Gemeente *Klaaswaal*, verschenen:
Pieter Fonkert _____ oud *drie en dertig* jaren, *bezuimmer*
wonende te *Klaaswaal*, in het huis, nommer *honderd Heven en dertig*
welke ons heeft verklaard, dat zijne huisvrouw *Hendrina van der Erve*
honderd bevoeg wonende mede aldaar, op den *Heven en twintigsten* dezer maand,
April _____ des *nachts* ten *halfstweure*, ten zijnen huize bevallen
is van een kind, van het *manne* lijk geslacht, aan hetwelk gegeven wordt de
voornaam van *Wouter* _____

Van welke verklaring wij deze Akte hebben opgemaakt, in tegenwoordigheid van de *Heer*
Gerrit Hummel _____ oud *drie en dertig* jaren,
Heel en Prædicator en van *Dirk Zinkweg* _____
oud *vijs en dertig* jaren, *kantoorbediende* wonende beide in
deze Gemeente, en na voorlezing door Ons, benevens *den Comparant* en de
getuigen onderteekeend.

P. Fonkert *Jacob van der Erve*
G. Hummel *Dirk Zinkweg*



Klaaswaal Hervormde Kerk, kerkelijke register (baptisms)

Which brings us back to Rokus Fonkert, who we met in 1993. When we walked up the street in May 2022 to see what had happened to his shop, the door opened and out came Rokus! You see, he had heard that we were coming to visit the church.

But, here's the surprise: We discovered that our great-grandfathers were baptized in the Klaaswaal church on the same day – 4 May 1845.

Pieter Fonkert
geb. 28 March 1845

Jan Fonkert
born 1877

John M. Fonkert
b. 1820

J Hanson Fonkert
Born 1949

Rokus Fonkert
geb. 19 April 1845

Rokus Pieter Fonkert
geb. 1886

Klaas Fonkert
geb. 1916

Rokus Fonkert
geb. 1941

We are 11th cousins!

Rokus Fonkert
Klaaswaal
Zuid Holland



J Hanson Fonkert
Roseville
Minnesota

May 2022