

Crommelin Journaal



Mieux vaut quitter patrie
que foi.

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Lieve Familieleden

December nadert en dat is een goed moment om U allen een vrolijk en gezegend Kerstfeest temidden van Uw dierbaren toe te wensen en een heel voorspoedig Nieuw Jaar.

Het afgelopen jaar vond de reünie in Amsterdam plaats, wat voor diegenen die er waren een groot genoegen was. Het is altijd een bijzondere gelegenheid om veel familieleden te ontmoeten en de banden aan te halen.

Na de reünie kon men een wandeling maken langs historische Crommelin huizen of een boottocht door de grachten. De volgende dag ging er een klein vrolijk gezelschap naar St.Quentin.

Volgend jaar organiseren we weer een reünie voor de oudere familieleden.

Het bestuur wil graag in gesprek met oud en jong over de **toekomst** van onze **stichting**.

Wat verwacht U van onze stichting; heeft U bepaalde wensen, een doelstelling ?

De website van de familie Crommelin zal per 1 Januari 2005 van start gaan. Deze kunt U vinden onder www.crommelin.org .

E-mail adres is:

Met hartelijke groet,

Anne Marie Sillem – Crommelin

Bestuursmededelingen :

Indien U **archiefmateriaal** heeft waar U geen raad mee weet, verzoeken wij U om contact op te nemen met Liesbeth Crommelin, tel :020-4044201

Zij kan U de nodige informatie verschaffen voor het onderbrengen van **familie archieven**.

Zij zal U aanraden om contact op te nemen met het **Algemeen Rijksarchief (te lezen Nationaal archief) in Den Haag**.

In het Algemeen Rijksarchief bevinden zich eveneens **niet-overheids-archieven**. Dat zijn archieven van personen of particuliere instellingen die bij de overheid in bewaring zijn gegeven of aan de overheid geschonken zijn, of die door aankoop of anderszins verworven zijn. Deze archieven worden ter bewaring opgenomen omdat zij veelal aanvullende gegevens bevatten, die niet in overheidsarchieven te vinden zijn, maar daarmee wel in nauw verband staan.

Het betreft hier vooral archieven van bedrijven en **belangengroepen (stichtingen en verenigingen)**, **alsmede archieven van families en individuele personen**, die in het openbare leven een belangrijke rol hebben gespeeld.

Omdat vroeger gezagsdragers ‘overheidsarchief’ en ‘particulierarchief’ minder goed uit elkaar wisten te houden, kan men in de archieven van sommige families en personen nogal wat stukken aantreffen, die eigenlijk in een overheidsarchief thuishoren.

Het adres van het Algemeen Rijksarchief (te lezen: Nationaal Archief) is:

**Prins Willem Alexanderhof 20
Den Haag. (direct vanuit Centraal Station te bereiken)**

Tel. 070-3315400

Postbus 90520, 2509 LM Den Haag

**Op dit adres bevinden zich tevens:
het Iconografisch Bureau . tel. 070-3836908
het Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie, tel 070-3150500. <http://www.cbg.nl>**

Voor vragen over **familieportretten** kunt U contact opnemen met **het Iconografisch Bureau**. De Stichting Iconografisch Bureau houdt zich bezig met de beschrijving van Nederlandse portretten vanaf de vroegste tijden tot heden. De documentatie bestaat thans uit ongeveer 100.000 vermeldingen van voornamelijk geschilderde, getekende en gegraveerde portretten.

Zij zijn zeer geïnteresseerd in foto's van familieportretten voor hun cartotheek.

Familieberichten

Overleden te Utrecht op 15 januari 2004 : drs. Onno Joost Crommelin, geb. te Zeist 9 februari 1914. Echtgenoot van Wilhelmina Hendrika van Hilten. (blauwe boekje , pag. 86)

te Bilthoven op 21 juli 2004: Wilhelmina Hendrika Crommelin-van Hilten, geb. te Utrecht , 26 mei 1915. Echtgenote van Onno Joost. (blauwe boekje pag. 86)

Geboren 8 juni 2004 te Deventer : Marie Joséphine, dochter van Reinhard en Adriana Crommelin-Loth

24 september 2004 te Amsterdam : Gijs Daniël, zoon van Guus en Mariëlle Crommelin

In het huwelijk getreden: te Den Haag op 2 oktober 2004 : Anne Marie Crommelin en Alexander Sillem

te Gorssel op 29 mei 2004 : Walter Crommelin, zoon van Gulian en Trix Crommelin-de Jonge, en Nina Overdick (Mayen, Duitsland).

Verhuisbericht van: Anne Marie en Alexander Sillem-Crommelin:
Nieuw adres: Hart Nibbrigkade 107, 2597 XT Den Haag

Tel: 070-3246769

Blijvend adres: Reguliersgracht 30, 1017 LS Amsterdam

Tel: 020-6250173

Liesbeth Crommelin en Henk Visser
Nieuw adres: Weerdestein 130, 1083 GH Amsterdam
Tel. en fax: 020-4044201

Robert D. Crommelin
Nieuw adres: Hortensiuslaan 9, 1412 GV Naarden
Tel: 035-6949815
Oud adres was in Heemstede.

CROMMELIN HUIZEN aan DE HERENGRACHT in AMSTERDAM.

Naar aanleiding van de Crommelin reünie op 11 september in Amsterdam hebben enthousiaste familieleden deze historische wandeling voor U samengesteld.

De firma en de familie.

Vanuit Frankrijk vertrok Daniël Crommelin (1651) naar New York. Hij stierf daar in 1702. Zijn zoon Charles, in 1673 in Parijs geboren, verbleef tot zijn dood in 1740 eveneens in New York. Diens zoon Daniël, in New York geboren in 1707, werd in 1737 poorter van Amsterdam. Hij werd de stichter van de firma Daniël Crommelin en Soonen. Hij overleed in 1789.

Zijn dochter Judith (1739) trouwde met Samuel Verplanck, lid van een familie die destijds met Stuyvesant naar Nieuw-Amsterdam kwam. Van deze familierelatie profiteerde de firma Daniël Crommelin bij het ontwikkelen van financiële contacten met de jonge republiek in Noord Amerika.

Opvolger van Daniël in de firma werd Robert Daniël Crommelin, geboren in 1741. Hij was o.a. deacon van de English Reformed Church in Amsterdam. Hij overleed op Huize Hofrust in Muiderberg.

Zijn zoon, Claude Crommelin, geboren in 1769, was tweemaal gehuwd.

Uit het eerste huwelijk werd de latere firmant Claude Daniël geboren, uit het tweede huwelijk stamt diens medefirmant Gulian Cornelis. Claude Daniël, geboren in 1795, was gedurende elf jaar ook directeur en daarna nog acht jaar commissaris van de Nederlandse Bank. Tevens was hij lid van de Raad van Amsterdam en lid van de Provinciale Staten van Noord-Holland. Bekend is ook zijn vriendschap met de literator Willem Clercq.

Uit zijn huwelijk met Alida Maria Wolterbeek kreeg hij drie kinderen, van wie alleen zijn zoon Claude August hem overleefde. Claude Daniël overleed in 1859 op Huize Heyenoord bij Arnhem. Na het overlijden van Claude August werd diens stiefzuster, Elisabeth Maria Weymar, erfgenaam. Zij trouwde met Hulus Hendrik Tutein Nolthenius, medeoprichter van de firma Tutein Nolthenius

en de Haan in effecten. Hiermee kwam een einde aan de Crommelin-bewoning van het “stamhuis” Herengracht 132.

De Firma

Door het ontbreken van archiefstukken van vóór 1789 is niet precies vast te stellen welke handelsactiviteiten de firma Danël Crommelin en Soonen bedreef. Aanvankelijk zal dit de goederenhandel in rijst, koffie en vooral thee zijn geweest. Ook berachtte de firma schepen. Zo was zij ook actief vóór en tijdens de Noord-Amerikaanse Vrijheidsoorlog, toen ondanks het Engelse verbod de “opstandelingen” door schepen werden bevoorraad.

Aan het eind van de achttiende eeuw ging de firma Daniël Crommelin en Soonen zich daarnaast ook bezighouden met het verstrekken van buitenlandse leningen.

Waarschijnlijk door Amerikaanse familierelaties betrof het vrijwel uitsluitend leningen aan de nog jonge Amerikaanse Republiek.

Over het wel dan niet lenen aan de republiek waren de meningen verdeeld. Eén van de pleitbezorgers was in 1777 de gematigde patriot Van Nassau La Leck, verwant aan de Crommelins.

Daniël Crommelin en Soonen heeft vele jaren een vooraanstaande, zo niet leidende rol vervuld in deze lucratieve zaken.

Hoe groot de waardering voor de firma was, blijkt uit een rapport uit 1830 van mr. R. Rush, oud-minister van Financiën van de Verenigde Staten: “ I took with me to Holland letters, several of the first capitalists of that country; amongst them, the Hopes, the Crommelins, the Labouchers, the Brawnsbergs, the Insingers , I found, on reaching Amsterdam, that the Crommelins were those with whom I could best treat. I may say, more strongly, that my only prospect of achieving any results promising to be at all satisfactory was with them, or through their instrumentality. Their house is of long standing, and of leading wealth and influence. It is also, at present, the house in Holland most largely engaged in the American trade, I need scarcely add that for commercial integrity and honour, no house in Europe stands higher.”

En uit “Inlichtingen omtrent een aantal handelshuizen te Amsterdam in het najaar van 1816 verstrekt door de firma van Eeghen & Co (medegedeeld door J.Rogge) :

No.08 D.Crommelin & Soonen.

Eminemment riche; en tous égards 1re classe”

Anekdotisch is de geschiedenis van een lening in 1829 door de firma verzorgd voor de steden Washington, Georgetown en Alexandria, op onderpand van grote grondstukken in de hoofdstad. Door velerlei tegenslag waren de steden niet in staat aan hun verplichtingen te voldoen. De gedachte dat “Amsterdamse couponknippers” over hun “heilige” grond zouden beschikken, besluit de federatie van Noord-Amerikaanse Staten de lening van de drie steden over te nemen en af te lossen.

Vele jaren later herinnerde men zich in Washington nog de vrees “of being bought up by the Dutch”.

Het geld in Nederland en daarbuiten werd schaarser en het werd steeds moeilijker leningen te verzorgen. Deze teruggang gold voor meer firma's in Amsterdam die lang goede zaken hadden gedaan.

Meningsverschillen binnen de leiding hebben ertoe geleid dat de firma Danël Crommelin en Soonen omstreeks 1859, na de dood van Claude Danël, werd geliquideerd. Het betekende in ieder geval dat de binding met Amsterdam lossier werd en omstreeks het begin van de twintigste eeuw geheel verdween. In het Amsterdamse Gemeente Archief wordt het firma-archief bewaard.

De CROMMELIN HUIZEN en de BEWONERS aan de HERENGRACHT

Herengracht 22

In 1741 geboren als zoon Daniël Crommelin (1711-1788) aan de Voorburgwal / achter het Stadhuis, woonde Robert Daniël hier van 1775 tot 1788. Hij verhuisde naar de Herengracht 132.

Herengracht 96

Gulian Daniël Crommelin, lid van de firma Crommelin en Huydecooper, directeur van de Bataafse Hypotheekbank, had hier zijn kantoor.

Hij was de jongste zoon van mr. Reinhard Crommelin (1810-1871), jurist, gestorven in Huize den Kortenburg te Wageningen. Zijn grootvader was Claude Crommelin 1769-1824) (zie ook H.gracht 214)

Herengracht 132

Dit kan met recht het familiehuis worden genoemd. Drie generaties bleef het huis familiebezit, achtereenvolgens bewoond door:

1. Robert Daniël – sedert 1788
2. Claude
3. Claude Daniël
4. Claude August.

Op de plaats van het pand in zijn huidige vorm stonden aanvankelijk twee woningen. In 1683 werd het eigendom van Jacob de Flines, die in één vertrek wandschilderingen liet aanbrengen van Johan Glauber en in een ander vertrek schilderingen van Frederick de Moucheron. De uitvoering werd verzorgd door Gerard de Laresse. De doeken bevinden zich nu in het Rijksmuseum.

Het pand, waarin al vele jaren een makelaarskantoor is gevestigd, is nog steeds eigendom van de Duitse textielfirma Voss, die het in 1910 voor fl.60.000,-- kocht van de familie Tutein Nolthenius. In de tuin is –in sterk verwaarloosde staat- nog steeds een monumentaal gietijzeren tuinhuis aanwezig.

Herengracht 214

In 1840 aangekocht door mr. Reinhard Crommelin (1810-1871).
Zijn jongste kind, Gulian Daniël kocht het pand in 1875 en verkocht het na de dood van zijn vrouw Henriëtte Maria Boissevain, in 1895. (zie ook Herengracht 96).
In 1917 werd het pand gesloopt. Het stucwerk is overgebracht naar Apollolaan 178.

Herengracht 22

Hier woonde in 1898 Gulian Cornelis Crommelin jr. (1845-1905), lid van de firma Gebr. Crommelin, commissionairs in effecten, met zijn vrouw Wilhelmina Gouda . Hij stierf kinderloos in Arnhem.

Herengracht 256

Van 1898 tot 1902 woning van Robert Daniël Crommelin en zijn vrouw Elisabeth Tutein Nolthenius. Hij was de zoon van Gulian Cornelis, zij de dochter van Julius Hendrik en Elisabeth Maria Weymar, erfgename van de broer van Gulian Cornelis: Claude Daniël Crommelin. Robert Daniël was lid van de firma Tutein Nolthenius en de Haan. (zie ook de personen)

Herengracht 278

In 1812 werd dit huis gekocht door Gulian Daniël Crommelin (1776-1846), lid van de firma Daniël Crommelin en Soonen. Hij was ook president van de kamer van Koophandel en Fabrieken en lid van de Raad. Sinds 1798 was hij gehuwd met Johanna Cornelia Nolthenius. Na haar dood huwde hij Catharina Cornelia van Eck. In 1846 werd het huis door de erfgenamen verkocht voor fl.23.000,--

Gulian Daniël was de jongste zoon van Robert Daniël (1741-1808), stichter van de firma Crommelin en Soonen. Hij was de broer van Claude (1769-1824) en van Samuel (1774-1858). Hij had geen kinderen.

Herengracht 137

Van 1796 tot 1800 woonde hier Claude Crommelin (1769-1824) met zijn vrouw Catharina Elisabeth Douwes.

Herengracht 201 (alleen eigendom)

Werd in 1855 bij boedelscheiding toebedeeld aan Claude Daniël Crommelin (zie 132). Na diens dood in 1860 ging het over naar zijn zoon Claude August. In 1905 werd het huis met Herengracht 199 verkocht door Elisabeth Maria Tutein Nolthenius-Weymar, erfgename van Claude Daniël Crommelin.

Herengracht 203

In 1776 kocht Benjamin Martinus Andreas Crommelin (1747-1818), regent van het Huiszittenhuis Nieuwe Zijds van 1773-1798, dit huis voor fl.27.000,-- Hij woonde er nog in 1817. Hij was de zoon van Wigbold Crommelin (1712-1789), gouverneur van Suriname en plantagehouder „Rust en Werk“.

Herengracht 223-225

In 1805 werd deze woning gekocht door Robert Daniël Crommelin (1741-1808), tot dan woonachtig Herengracht 132. Hij woonde er tot zijn dood. Van 1808 tot 1828 was zijn dochter Elisabeth Crommelin, gehuwd met de predikant Johannes Lenart Wolterbeek, eigenaresse.

Herengracht 575

Van 1915 tot 1930 woonde hier Adriaan Herman Wijnand Crommelin (1881-1949), kleinzoon van Reinhard Crommelin van de“ Kortenburg“, één van de firma Nachenius en Zoon. Hij bleef ongehuwd.

The CROMMELIN - REUNION

Maritime Museum, Amsterdam, September 11, 2004

At Saturday, September 11, 2004, 60-70 members of the Crommelin family held a family-reunion in the Maritime Museum at Amsterdam . It was scheduled 4 years after our last reunion in the Verwolde - Castle in the Eastern part of The Netherlands . Then, about 120 Crommelins assembled .

This time, we were with about 60-70 members, age ranging from over 80 years to about 5 children under 10 years. Median age about 60 years, I estimate. Crommelins under 30 years unfortunately, nearly absent this time. The mean age of the organizing committee about 45-55 years, I estimate.

Foreign guests (around 15), from England (7), Scotland (2), France (1), Belgium (2) and the USA (4), again all estimates. Two regular attending Cr. members from Switzerland had to cancel their trip to the reunion due to health problems .

After the welcome - introductory talk (10.30 hrs) by our Dutch Crommelin Foundation chairman Anne-Marie Crommelin:



[including obituaries , special coming events related to the Crommelin family (e.g. an antique Crommelin damast tablecloth, an art exhibition of the Tutein Nolthenius family, married to Crommelin last century, etc.)] a group picture of all assembled Crommelin relatives was made in the open air court place of the Maritime Museum .



Then, the first part of the programme started with a lunch. Ample time for meeting, talking, looking for family, relatives and friends during the buffet. Pictures, pedigrees , etc. were displayed and related questions, discussions and remarks e.g. for updating dates, names spelling, etc. were exchanged.



Next, the reunion organizing committee announced and explained the second part of the day, starting 03.00 p.m.

Four options were offered:

- City walk along the houses, buildings, etc. where Crommelins have lived, banked, worked, etc. along canals in the center of Amsterdam (guided by Willem Sillem, living in Amsterdam and married to Anne-Marie Crommelin, our chairman, and by Henk Visser living also in Amsterdam and partner of Liesbeth Crommelin).



- Canal trip by water taxi along this buildings, also guided (paper of routes, explanation of names, house, dates of birth, business, marriages, business, death, etc. of our ancestors settling for business reasons mostly in the eighteenth century in Amsterdam).



- Visiting the Amsterdam Maritime Museum and the VOC (United Eastern Company) ship "The Amsterdam" [real size rebuilt replica of an antique (17th century) sailship].



- Workshop on balance walking by Henk de Kanter (California).



We were happy having Gay Crommelin, who married last year with Markel, from London, U.K. as our guests in Deventer (70 miles east of Amsterdam). We picked them up at Eindhoven Airport, 80 miles south east of Amsterdam, Friday night.

They attended the reunion - lunch, took the water taxi tour with Elske, paid a visit again with Elske to a jazz - café, called the "Cottonclub" at the Nieuwmarkt, downtown Amsterdam where Guus Crommelin, 34 yrs, played saxophone. A great artist in a special music club! Quite an experience after the official Crommelin - meeting!

After having had dinner in a bistro in Amsterdam they returned home in Deventer. Next morning we showed them shortly the medieval market around the Weigh - house and part of the antique restaurated downtown area of Deventer and the former Crommelin - Lathmer castle near Voorst (10 miles south west from Deventer across the IJssel river, before we brought them to my eldest brother Gulian and Trix Crommelin in Gorssel (5 miles south from Deventer). They were so kind to keep an eye on Gay and Markel before they left returning home by plane .

In doing so, I hope my impressions and personal report of the 2004 Crommelin reunion may give you a picture that might stimulate you considering to attend next time a Dutch Crommelin Reunion and to coming over and to seeing us .

Be most welcome here, whenever you like to do so!!

With warmest regards ,

Elske & Mariad Crommelin
Pothoofd 26
7411 Deventer
The Netherlands
Tel : 0031.570.60.74.02

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Gay Crommelin (london)

FAMILY REUNION ST. QUENTIN

Govert Deketh

After the larger get-together on Saturday 11th September in the Maritime Museum, Amsterdam (refer Mariad's earlier notes on this) a small group of 8 re-united Sunday PM in St. Quentin. The "Kortenburg" descendants were well represented: Adam Crommelin's daughter Totie Deketh-Crommelin (La Doyenne) and one son each of Adam's 3 children: Rob & Carla Crommelin, Frits Fabius and Govert & Mieke Deketh. Hans Gualthérie van Weezel and Bernard van Wickevoort Crommelin completed the group. Pictures: La Doyenne Totie and Bernard vWC in the background. And.....not to be ignored, Maryse uncovered a young, handsome Rob in the archives of the Société Académique of St. Quentin, you remember him?



Maryse Trannois, the Crommelins' "secret weapon" in St. Quentin, warmly received us around 4:30 at the Antoine Lécuyer Museum (which celebrated the 18th century painter Maurice Quentin de la Tour, who lived and died in St. Quentin). There we enjoyed a nice portrait of Suzanne Crommelin (married Rondeau) painted by Louis Toqués in 1667 (see above), and various other paintings.

Maryse then took us to the St. Quentin Hôtel de Ville (Town Hall) where in 1591 Armand Crommelin received a nobility title by King Henri 4th as a token of gratitude for having established the linen industry in St. Quentin. Maryse had arranged for a guided tour: the wedding hall, albeit restored resembled medieval style (we admired the beautiful wooden doors in days past offered by the Crommelins) and quite special also was the interior decoration of the assembly room of the City Council, a blend of Gothic and decorative arts ("Art Deco") styles-see picture above, right.

We made a short stop at the St. Jacques church (where several Crommelins were buried), or rather what was left of it: one small arched area (at the back of the butterfly museum) and we saw a Crommelin memorial plaque for certain mayors, incl. Samuel Crommelin. We then stopped for aperitifs and gave our legs a bit of much needed rest and used the opportunity to thank Maryse for all she had prepared and offered her as a sign of our gratitude a book on The Netherlands.

An anecdote on the side: Rob, Carla and Hans arrived actually only after we toured the Lécuyer Museum. Rob parked his car right in front of the Town Hall, where we had agreed to meet them. There were no other cars to be seen on the large square and obviously plenty of space! Two hours

later, after the St. Jacques tour we returned to the market square to see a white police car next to Rob's Volvo. Rob and I ran over to the car, but the policemen drifted away, obviously not eager to meet these two heavyweights from Holland. Actually, it was the Lady from the Town Hall, a friend of Maryse who saved Rob; she probably told the men that Rob was a foreign dignitary, which of course he was Picture and text provided by Maryse..... No comment!



Then we were off for an 8 o'clock appointment with a bus (that could easily hold 50 people, Maryse not really knowing until the last minute how many Crommelins were going to show up). We were 8 and Maryse had hustled up some St. Quentin friends quickly to fill up the bus with some more folks. We criss-crossed St. Quentin and surrounding areas, got a good feel for the terrible wars that had played havoc with the region during two wars (several French and German war-cemeteries), even though it was getting pretty dark by that time.

We ended up on Place Crommelin and, to our great hilarity, the bus driver took us 10 times or so around the square....., certainly inspired by our applause and bravo calls. It must have been a weird thing for the few St. Quentinians who were around. For a short while Place Crommelin was not a safe place to be! However, the driver earned himself a good tip as a result!

Picture: Place Crommelin today and in 1908.....



We ended the evening with dinner, Maryse attending gracefully and handing out large bags with old letters, photos and other historical information material about St. Quentin and concerning the Crommelin family. Very thoughtful!

The next morning we saw the remnants of the Folembay castle, formerly a hunting castle for King Henry 4th (and where he entertained his mistress Gabrielle d'Estrées). This was also where in 1595 Jean Crommelin was married to Marie de Semeries in the presence of the King's sister, Catherine de Navarra. Jean was shortly thereafter also given a title of nobility and at the same time the right to use the French Lily in the Crommelin coat of arms. There was a lot of history at the Folembay site, we learnt more history than anything we could see: just a stretch of old wall, a few stones, etc. Real buildings and ruins we saw later when we visited the nearby medieval castle of Coucy, a splendid site, very much worth visiting.

We had lunch in town and afterwards visited first the Textile Museum (La Filandière) where we got an initiation into the weaving and embroidery industry (we are now experts in wefts and warps!), so closely related to our forefathers' activities in the linen industry. We saw a weaving room - see picture below, had the Jacquard mechanism explained, saw a real weaver in action, possibly one of the last ones in the Western world unfortunately, as this profession is dying here.



We ended the day in the weaving mill of the Bauchard family, a small business with a mixture of old looms and state-of-the-art equipment from Sulzer, Switzerland. Several amongst us took the opportunity to buy some linen or cotton products from Mrs. Bauchard's factory shop. It was obvious that the textile business is in dire shape and competition with Indian and Asian suppliers is fierce. Margins are low, and there is no money available for things that in most Western industries are a must: like safety equipment against fire and dust explosions, equipment non-existing at the Bauchards.

While we were initially surprised about the low turnout at this reunion, it was in truth an advantage: the tours were easy to follow, so were the explanations of our hosts and last but not least, we had a good time catching up with each other, as we don't meet so often living in

different countries (the 8 of us are living in 5 different countries: The Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France and Switzerland.....!)

A BIG word of thanks to Bernard van Wickevoort Crommelin, who - as our family historian brought a great deal of perspective to this visit. He was always there to answer our questions, and when further help needed he would refer to his old friend J.H. Scheffer, the librarian and custodian of the Rotterdam archives, who wrote a book on the Crommelin family and background in 1878.

Finally, no words can express our thanks for all that was done by Maryse; she prepared this visit with total dedication, took time off, made appointments for us at numerous places, arranged a bus tour, did a "dry run" of many events before our arrival, put together 16 or more packages of historic material for (8 of) us that we still browse through back at home. She's been unwilling to accept any financial reimbursement for her time, for her incidental expenses like petrol, telephone expenses, etc..... I'm not quite sure what we would have done had she not been there. I know she has this "special feeling" for the Crommelins, as she has been communicating for a long time with several Crommelins, most importantly with Miff with whom she has worked so closely to put together the superb Crommelin web site.

Let me quote what Maryse said when questioned on this point:

"Pour moi, le principal est que vous ayez passé un agréable séjour dans notre ville, Saint- Quentin, la ville qui vous sourit. Je n'ai eu aucun frais. Pas de réservation à l'hôtel puisque je connaissais la responsable. Le bus? L'adjoint du maire me l'a fourni avec une grande gentillesse. En échange, je lui ai donné un dossier comme le vôtre maintenant il veillera certainement à appeler la Place Crommelin par son nom. Mes coups de téléphone? Là je n'ai pas l'habitude de compter. Je correspond avec Gay, Miff, Mariad, Robert depuis plus de 3 ans. Entre Miff et moi il y a une grande amitié et je n'ai pas l'habitude de demander quoique ce soit à mes amis"

The next day, Tuesday morning 14th September, Rob and Carla and "La Doyenne", Totie Crommelin were the last to leave and had the opportunity to pay a brief visit to the St. Quentin Cathedral "Basilique", where they saw a.o. things the in 1763 by a Crommelin donated marble baptismal font. According to Rob: "A dignified end of the visit"!



THE DIXIE DEMONS

Gulian en Trix Crommelin

Begin Juni 2004 reisde Henry Crommelin uit Alabama, Verenigde Staten, door Europa in het kader van de herdenking van de landing in Normandië. Henry is de zoon van Henry Crommelin, een van de vijf beroemde "Crommelin Brothers" uit Wetumpka, Alabama. Deze vijf broers dienden allen bij de Amerikaanse Marine gedurende de Tweede Wereldoorlog (wellicht ten overvloede ook twee Hollandse Crommelins dienden in de Tweede Wereldoorlog). Twee broers sneuvelden er als vliegers. Degenen die deelgenomen hebben aan de reünie in de Nieuwe kerk in Amsterdam kunnen zich misschien Henry nog herinneren. Hij was daar aanwezig in gezelschap van zijn vrouw Mary-Morén. Diverse familieleden hebben regelmatig contact met Henry.

Op ons verzoek schrijft Henry nu een aantal biografieën over deze broers. Ik zal er wat illustraties bijdoen die komen uit een artikel dat ik in 2000 schreef getiteld "Saving the Carriers". In dit weinig verheffend gemanipuleer in het Washingtonse politieke wereldje, waarin betrokken waren de pers, het congres, de Admiraliteit van de United States Navy en diverse op zee dienende admiraals met een beroemd oorlogsverleden, speelde John een hoofdrol.

We laten hierbij Henry aan het woord in de eerste van waarschijnlijk vijf afleveringen.

"Enclosed is the first instalment I promised you about the 5 Crommelin brothers derived from official Navy records.

John Geraerd Crommelin, Jr. was born in Montgomery, Alabama on Oct.2,1902, the son of John G. Crommelin and Mrs.(Katharine Vasser Gunter)Crommelin. He attended public schools in Montgomery and subsequently attended The University of Virginia for one year before entering The U.S.Naval Academy in 1919.



Lt. John Crommelin in 1930 in old style navy full-dress uniform

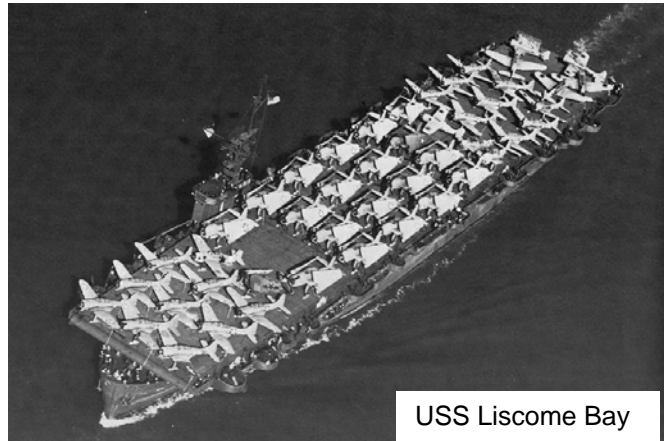
Following graduation from the Naval Academy in 1923, Uncle John was assigned to sea duty for two years before beginning flight training NAS, Pensacola, Florida, which he completed in Nov.1926.



Before World War II, he served in various aircraft squadrons and other assignments at sea including the USS Lexington, USS Colorado, USS California, USS Ranger, and USS Saratoga. During this time gunnery and bombing tactics were developed which would later be used in fighting the Japanese.

For 15 months beginning in June 1942, Uncle John was assigned to the USS Enterprise where he served first as Air Officer before assuming the duties of executive officer. During that time, Enterprise participated in the occupation of Guadalcanal, the Battle of Santa Cruz, The Battle of the Solomon Islands, and the Battle of Fennel Island. Uncle John in the performance of his duties, was instrumental in the ship being awarded a Presidential Unit Citation plus other honors.

After promotion to captain, he was assigned to Commander Carrier Division 24 as Chief of Staff and Aide on board the carrier USS Liscome Bay. The Liscome Bay was torpedoed and sunk by a Japanese submarine near the Gilbert Islands on Nov.23,1943. At that time, Uncle John was taking a shower and managed to make his way, naked, to the flight deck. During this activity, he sustained moderately severe burns for which he was awarded the Purple Heart. Jumping from the flight deck into the water 45 feet below, he swam to some cork which kept him afloat until a destroyer found and rescued him.



In 1944 after recovering from his burns, he became the chief of staff of another carrier division commander. For his performance there, he was awarded The Legion of Merit with Combat V for operations in the forward Pacific Area Jan.1 - Aug.8,1944.

Uncle John's final assignment during WW II found him in charge of training all the pilots and squadrons on the West Coast.

IN 1946 he assumed command of the USS Saipan upon her commissioning. Other post war assignments included the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island and the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington. It was there that he sacrificed his career in "the Revolt of the Admirals" by his outspoken opposition to the proposed elimination of carrier aviation favour of strategic bombing as championed by the newly created U.S. Air Force. He retired from the Navy with the rank of rear admiral in June 1950 just before the beginning of the Korean War where Naval Aviation from carriers played a significant part.

Returning home to Montgomery, Uncle John ran ,unsuccessfully, for several political offices. He died in November,1996 and is survived by one son and two daughters.

This is the second installment of the Crommelin brothers narrative based upon U.S. Navy records. In addition, you will receive two copies by mail of the Crommelin brothers article by John B. Scott,Jr. (a distant cousin) which was published in the fall 1997 edition of the Alabama Heritage Magazine.

Henry Crommelin was born in Montgomery, Alabama on August 11, 1904, the second son of John G. and Katharine (Gunter) Crommelin. He attended grade and high school in Montgomery and a year at the University of Alabama in

Tuscaloosa before his appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1921. He was graduated from The Academy with distinction, eighteenth in a class of four hundred and fifty-three and was commissioned ensign on June 4, 1925. He subsequently advanced in rank attaining that of Rear Admiral with the date of rank July 1, 1952.

Prior to World War II his duty assignments included tours on the battleships USS Tennessee and USS California and also duty as chief engineer on the destroyers USS Bruce and USS Schenk. After a one year tour with the Atlantic Fleet Scouting Force Camera Party he was stationed at the Naval Academy from September 1933, to June 1936. Yours truly was born in

Annapolis on August 8, 1935 while my father was assigned to the Executive Department at the Naval Academy. From 1936 to 1940 he served at West Coast

duty stations on the USS Pennsylvania and USS Preston. On the former he was Aide and Flag Lieutenant on the Staff of Commander US Fleet and served as executive officer of the latter.

In January 1940, he returned to the East Coast serving at the Bureau of Navigation (later designated the Bureau of Naval Personnel) in Washington, D.C.

In January 1942, my father joined the USS Fitch as she was fitting out the Boston Naval Shipyard where he assumed command February 3, 1942, upon her commissioning. The destroyer, USS Fitch served in Atlantic convoy duty and in November 1942 the Invasion of North Africa. He assumed command of the destroyer USS Guest upon her commissioning on December 15, 1942. In May of 1943, the Guest was transferred from the Atlantic to the Pacific Fleet.

Detached from command of the Guest in August 1943, he became Commander Destroyer Division Fifty which participated in the Invasion of Tarawa in November 1943. There he earned the Silver Star for taking his flagship, the USS Ringgold and another DESDIV50 destroyer the USS Dashiell into the uncharted lagoon at Tarawa where for four days they performed "vigorous bombardment of shore installations and contributed to the success of his division in silencing several enemy batteries and in carrying out all other assigned fire support tasks." While on this mission a Japanese five inch shell struck a torpedo tube and failed to detonate.

Henry Crommelin was also awarded the Bronze Star "for heroic achievement as commander Destroyer Division Fifty while embarked aboard the USS Ringgold during operations against enemy Japanese forces on Guam, Marianas Islands from July 21-July 25, 1944. An additional duty at Guam was Boat Control Officer at Agot Beach where he skillfully directed the timely dispatch of assault waves on D-Day".

In August 1944, he was transferred to command Destroyer Squadron Twenty-five in which he served until December 30, 1944. While in this command, DESRON25 participated in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. His next duty station was the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington where he served for two years of the Officer Distribution Division.

From December 1946, until November 1948, he was Chief of Staff and Aide to Commander Destroyers US Atlantic Fleet.

Shore duty at the US Naval Operating Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba followed where he was Chief of Staff to the Naval Operating Base Commander and also Commanding Officer of the Naval Station there.

In October 1950, he assumed command of the heavy cruiser, USS Des Moines which was assigned to the Atlantic Fleet and served for a time in the Sixth Fleet operating in the Mediterranean Sea.

Staff duty followed in October 1951, where he was assigned to CINCPAC headquarters at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

After promotion to Rear Admiral in July 1952, he returned to Washington and the Bureau of Personnel to become Assistant Chief of that department.

His last sea duty assignment was Commander Battleship Division Two from January 3, 1956, to June 1957. His last active duty was served as Commander Naval Base, Newport, Rhode Island.

He retired November 1, 1959, and was advanced to the rank of Vice Admiral on the basis of combat awards.

He and my mother returned to Montgomery and then Wetumpka, Alabama where my father died March 2, 1971. Both of my parents are buried in the Arlington National Cemetery not far from John F. Kennedy's grave.

Adreslijst leden Bestuur Stichting Familie Crommelin**(17-06-2004)**

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