

VAN HOUTEN—The progenitor of the Van Houten family in the region of Totowa was Roelof Cornelissen. There is no record of him previous to 1638, when Roelof Cornelissen Van Houten was among the emigrants that year to Rensselaerwyck. The records show that four brothers—Roelof, Pieter, Helmigh and Theunis, all sons of Cornelis somebody—came to New Netherlands between 1638 and 1650, settling in various places, but ultimately taking up their several abodes at Amesfoort, Long Island. Their descendants took different surnames. Under date of Jan. 13, 1657, the schepens of Amesfoort assessed Roelof Cornelissen for ten florins. His wife was Gerritje Van Nes, but there is no record to show where either of them came from before their emigration to America. Their children in their later years sometimes assumed the name Van Houten, which might indicate that Roelof was from Houten, a small village in the southeastern part of the province of Utrecht in Holland. The children of Roelof Cornelissen and Gerritje Van Nes were three sons and a daughter Geesje, who became the wife of Lubbert Lubberts in (Westervelt).

Descendants of Helmigh Cornelissen (Van Houten)—Hellemeg or Helmigh, eldest child and son of Roelof Cornelissen and Gerritje Van Nes, was baptized June 25, 1648. He married, Oct. 27, 1674, Jannetje Pieterse, from Gelderland. Late in the seventeenth century he bought land at Sloomerdam, which remained in the hands of his descendants for many generations. He was known as "Hellemeg Roelofse," the first name being from a German root; Wilhelm in that language is an intensive form of the same name. It has the meaning of "much" or "great," shield or protection, and amongst Jersey Dutch was contracted to "Ham" or "Hap."

Helmigh and Jannetje (Pieterse) Van Houten had six sons and four daughters; the latter were: Catelyntje, married Johannis Gerritsen; Gerritje, married Arie Sip; Lysbet, became the wife of Johannis Post; and Jannetje, married Michael Cornelisse Vreeland. The eldest son of the twelve children was Roelof, baptized June 11, 1677. He and his father were the first of the Acquackanonk community to buy land north of the Passaic river, they purchasing a third interest in Totowa from Major Anthony Brockholls. This purchase was in the neighborhood of Laurel Grove Cemetery, or southwest of the road to Singac. Roelof followed the trade of carpenter and wheelwright in the intervals of his farming. He married (first) Aagtje Cornelisse Vreeland, April 21, 1701; of their three children, Tryntje married Hendrick Van Nes; Eachje, married Jacob Spier. His second wife, Feitje Sickels, was mother of seven children, the daugh-

born June 3, 1717, married Catharine Coenraet, Nov. 11, 1737, and lived at Acquackanonk, but we have no record of any issue.

Pieter, of the third generation, second son of Helmigh and Jannetje (Pieterse) Van Houten, was baptized Jan. 23, 1680, and married Claertje Post, April 8, 1703. He settled at Sloomerdam, on land conveyed to him by his father. Of his nine children, three died in infancy. His daughters were: Jannetje, married Gerrit Hendrickse; Catarina, a twin, married Hendrick Hoppe. His eldest son, Adrian, born Aug. 17, 1706, married Angenietje Boogaerd, Dec. 19, 1734. At the time of his marriage he was living at Acquackanonk, but later in life removed to Pompton, where he died Dec. 23, 1753. By his marriage with Angenietje Boogaerd, he had four children: Pieter, Willempje, born May 9, 1739; Claertje (Clarissa), married Coenraet Lyne; and Jacob, born April 18, 1745. His eldest son Pieter, mentioned above, was born March 8, 1736, and married Rachel Lyne, Oct. 20, 1755; they lived in the Wanaque Valley. Their children were: Adrian, born June 3, 1759, married Vannetje Romig, and they had one child, Peter, born Jan. 31, 1789; Caty, married Simon Van Ness, of Pompton Plains; John, born July 7, 1762, married Hannah Kidney, and the issue of this marriage was: John Kidney, James, Sally, married George Tyce; Rachel, married Henry Riker; Polly, married Halmagh I. Van Wagoner. Mary, fourth child of Pieter and Rachel (Lyne) Van Houten, married Peter Fisher; Agnes, married William Murphy; Eleanor, married Theunis Ryerson; Peter, born Nov. 19, 1774; Conrad, born April 10, 1776; and Annaetje, born Jan. 31, 1781.

Helmerich, second son of Peter and Claertje (Post) Van Houten,

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ters being Jannetje; Geertruy, married Hermanus Van Wagenen; Feytje, married Johannis Cadmus; and Catalyntje, married Frans Post. Helmigh, only son of Roelof and Aagtje (Vreeland) Van Houten, born March 11, 1704, married Nov. 6, 1730, Catharina Van Geisen. He lived at Preakness, and was the father of nine children, six of whom were daughters, namely: Echje, married Hendrick Doremus; Feytje, married Benjamin Yeomans; Yannetje (Jennie), died Oct. 1, 1796; Printye, married ——— Doyle; Catlinye, died unmarried; and Geertruy, married Matthew Klankhite. Johannis, the youngest son, probably died young; he is not mentioned in his father's will.