

Wiarda News

Information about the Wiarda family

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Table of Contents

From the President.....	4
A new sportpark in Leeuwarden is named after the Wiarda family.....	6
The 8th May 1945.....	8
‘Is that really necessary?’.....	10
Frisian manors.....	12
Did you know.....	19
The Dutch Diaspora.....	20
Wiarda homepage re-designed!	23

From the President

Especially for the young members of the Wiarda family, I would like to explain how our family association is actually organised.

For many many years, Edzard von Wiarda and Siegfried Wiarda, both sadly long deceased, worked together to keep our family together. This eventually led to the foundation of our family association in 1965. A constitution was drawn up for our family association and Article 4 prescribes that the board of Directors has to have a minimum of 3 members that are elected by a majority of members of the family association for the duration of 6 years.

We always try to have an even distribution of responsibility between the Dutch and the German Wiarda family members represented on the board of directors. Edzard von Wiarda, President from 1995 – 2002, announced during our family reunion in August 2002 that he would like to retire from his position and that's when I was elected to take the role of President over.

Since the family association exists, Siurt von Wiarda (01/08) has held the position of Secretary / Treasurer. Later, a second Secretary / Treasurer was needed for the Dutch side of the family. This position was held for many years by Ali Kok-Wiarda (6/43), before Ariette van Vliet-Wiarda (4-5/14) took on this responsibility in 2005 during a Family reunion.

And these three people, Siurt, Ariette and myself are currently on the board of Directors, thereby fulfilling the Article 4 of our Family constitution. However, we could never do this alone! Over the years, there was a strong need for more communication and contact between the family members, hence the family elders meeting was introduced, which has since been held yearly on a pre-determined Saturday at 10:00, organised by one participant each time. These meetings are held to discuss important family matters and minutes are written and distributed afterwards. The matters discussed and agreed at the elderly meetings are then presented at the family reunion day which is held ever 4 years. So it is this group of family elders that really make up the board of Directors for our family association and that keep our family association going, year after year!

A good example is our family address book, which needs constant updating. We are planning a new edition of the family address book this year and it is Remmo Wiarda, who as our family genealogist keeps track of all changes. His work is of immense value to our family association.

Of course the meetings are also a very welcome chance to get together and socialise! The Saturday afternoons are generally used to visit interesting parts of the area whilst the evening dinner provides the best opportunity to socialise and catch up on all family news. The family elders part on the Sunday morning – not without having agreed the date/location for the next get-together.

Sybren Wiarda

A new sportpark in Leeuwarden is named after the Wiarda family

The name Wiarda is highly respected in Leeuwarden and Goutum. The old town already hosts several remembrances to the family but also new developments are still named after our, much respected Wiarda family. A recent example is the new, large sportcomplex south of Leeuwarden, which was named 'Sportpark Wiarda'. A nearby road in the new city area Zuiderburen was christened 'Wiarda Orchard'.

The sportpark is situated on the south side of Leeuwarden, south of the Van Harinxma Kanaal. It borders on the Drachtsterweg to the east and to Goutum on the west side. The park itself is very large, citing one main building with several sport halls and outside grandstands for matches. The Wiarda signage is highly visible on the outside perimeter, also for traffic running south on the Drachsterweg. The sport complex has been built in the shape of a diamond, which makes it unique. It's size spans the entire space between the Drachtersweg and Goutum (the Goutum tower is shown in the background on the photo opposite).

The Wiarda name and logo can be found on the upper corner of the south wall. It is unclear whether there is deeper meaning in the logo – it might relate to the diamond shape of the building itself. The outline of the logo is blue-grey, as are the letters *Wiar*. The letters *da* are green-blue, as is the background. Overall, the logo looks very nice – we couldn't have done it any better.



The name for the sport complex was elected in July 2005, from three options: *Ublinga*, after a nearby road; *Auckamastins*, after the very first owner of the land it has been built on, and Wiarda. 'We were very keen to

raise the awareness of the Wiarda family in Goutum further' said Dini Winkel of Dorpsbelang Goutum. The local football team Blauw Wit 34 agreed and the grand opening for the Wiarda sport complex was celebrated in 2006.

If you ever visit *Fryslân* formally known as Friesland and the Wiarda statue in Goutum, you will see the Wiarda sport complex as you drive past.

Sybren Wiarda (4-5/60)

The 8th May 1945

Memories and personal thoughts

The numerous events held to commemorate the end of the terrifying war in 1945 made me think back 60 years.

I remember that 8th May well. As refugees, living in a village not far from Leipzig, we were cut off from any news about the developments in Germany. We had no radio, no newspapers or telephone connection. We had no idea where the battle was still being fought, where the red army was or what had happened to our government.

Our village had been captured peacefully by the American troops. One battalion was stationed close to the village, much to the delight of us children, as we considered it very exciting. Somehow though, we all had a premonition that this awful war was about to finish – we didn't know how but we just had that feeling. And suddenly the moment was there: at midday the Americans announced an unexpected exit curfew and ordered all Germans to stay inside with all windows and doors firmly shut. We soon realised why when *our* American battalion started a spontaneous party – we had never seen anything like it! It was clear that it was the celebration of victory. At first the Americans stayed in their tents outside the village but towards the evening, drunken soldiers were driving through our village in their Jeeps, shouting loudly and shooting at chickens.

We were observing the spectacle through the windows as the party continued all through the night. It ended in the morning, luckily without anyone getting hurt. That's how unspectacularly I witnessed the end of the war.

However, what were we, what were my parents feeling in those days? From the diary entries of my father, Christian Heinrich von Wiarda who was captured by the Americans, and through many conversations with my mother, I learned that the end of the war meant relief – to my parents and most Germans alike. The horrific fighting, the gruesome destruction and the permanent fear were finally over. We had survived and had suffered no bodily harm. For that we were eternally grateful.

Despite the relief however, we experienced deep grief (for the numerous relatives and friends who had lost their lives), and the depressing realisation that we were experiencing the biggest self-inflicted, political, military and moral defeat in the history of our nation. My parents were conscious of the fact that they now had to face the aftermath of this war – whatever it was going to be.

The end of the war was therefore no cause for happiness or celebrations for my parents. The collapse of the German country was felt too deeply and painfully and especially my father felt, despite the grateful relief, a deep need for quietness and reflection. He criticised himself and felt guilty of not having recognised and realised the true ideology of the defeated regime in time.

Today, 60 years later, the 8th May is still no cause for happy celebrations. Too different are the very personal experiences throughout Germany. Some returned home, others lost their homes. Several were freed whereas various others were imprisoned and sentenced to death. Whilst many were thankful for the ending of the fearful nights with never ending bomb attacks, others felt deep pain for the catastrophic collapse of their home country. Whilst some felt bitter due to their ruptured illusions, others were thankful for the chance of a new beginning.

For all of us though one thing is certain: the 8th May 1945 was a day of liberation. It has released us all from the socialistic oppression that held no respect for human life.

Edzard von Wiarda (1/22)

'Is that really necessary?'

It's a phrase Siurt knew only too well as the youngest son of Ruth v. Wiarda (2/1). She used to utter it every time one of us embarked upon a daring adventure – big or small! Even today, when Ruth is no longer with us, we can hear the question ringing in our ears, especially my Dad, as he embarks on new adventures only too frequently!

Sports was Siurt's favourite subject at school, he enjoyed playing tennis, skiing and later on sailing. But this was only the beginning! My Dad fell in love with the ocean and after sailing regattas throughout Europe, he even sailed high sea regattas worldwide! Even today Siurt still enjoys sailing his Laser as much as possible.

During my childhood (ok, for the past 30 years!), Siurt has been swimming 1000 meters every morning and still rides his mountain bike over any terrain every week so fast, that no-one can keep up with him - the perfect recipe for enjoying a couple of hours solitude!

Hand on heart: it never gets boring with my Dad. He tries a new sport as regularly as his computer fails to work! But, when he told me in 2000, at the tender age of 62, that he had taken up running, I was shocked. He had never taken running seriously and regularly taken the Mickey out of me for running and there he was, starting to run more and more and more.

And after only 11 month, he signed up for his first marathon in Berlin! I flew over from London to cheer him on, feeling a mixture of pride and fear but really looking forward to the adventure.



We set off from Hanover to Berlin and wanted (as advised in many marathon books) to drive along the route by car. After only 10 kilometers, however, my Dad turned ash white and we had to drive straight to our hotel where he spent the next hour on the toilet, out of pure fear! We laughed our heads off and my Dad was devastated that he couldn't even have a drink to build up his courage!

It got serious the next morning: ready, steady go - 42.5 kilometers through my Siurt's birth town! I was carrying a large sign to cheer my Dad on and make sure he could see me amongst the thousands of people lining the route through Berlin. We agreed 8 different spots that I would reach by underground where I would check that my Dad was still ok and spur him on. My father started to look a little pale at kilometer 35 but pulled through (unlike many of his, much younger, contestants!) and passed the finish line after just over 4 hours! I was so proud – until I saw my Dad disappear in the first aid tent. On the phone to my mum and I expected the worst but fortunately my Dad appeared shortly afterwards, a little miffed at the blonde nurse that told him he couldn't just have a lie down when he was obviously as fit as a fiddle!

On route back to the car my Dad proudly carried his medal but confided in me in all earnest that he was never going to run a marathon again... whilst going down the stair backwards due to his aching legs! ...Shortly afterwards he signed up for the next Berlin Marathon and has since hardly ever missed a year! Each marathon has now developed into a special occasion for both family and friends and we are all mega proud of my Siurt. And even though I am sure that Ruthchen is watching from above and muttering her little 'is this really necessary' line... I know she is very proud of her youngest son!

Minthia v. Wiarda

P.S. Siurt's newest adventure is Kite-Surfing – a new trend sport! Fit as he is, you can't even tell that there is an old man having a go amongst a horde of 15-25 year olds! Who knows what he will embark on next?

Frisian manors

Nonnie Wiarda (4-5/13) took an organised trip around numerous Frisian Manors in June 2006 and will share her tour with everyone in the summary below.

De Klinze – Oudkerk

The first day we were welcomed with coffee and Frisian sugarbread at the Klinze, Aldtsjerk (= Oudkerk). Originally it was a 17th century mansion but has nowadays been converted to a hotel and restaurant. The name ‘de Klinze’ refers to the expression: ‘oppe klinken wenje’ translated ‘to live at the most beautiful point’.



The Klinze was owned by the Sminia family (1681 – 1966), a spring from a noble family of rulers and counsellors.

The park with the monumental driveway was designed by Roodbaard, a very famous architect of country – estates of the 19th century. Roodbaard

was a genius designer, he had a thorough command of designing landscapes and was especially famous for working with *light and shadow*. (Visit www.klinze.nl for more information).

Stania State – Oenkerk

Next we walked to the Stania State, a manor build in the neo – classic style. Again, Roodbaard the architect designed had designed the garden following the ‘English landscape style’ – some of the trees are 250 years old.



The manor dates back from the 16th century and Jeppe van Stania used to live here. He instructed the building of the Stania State at the time.

In the 18th century, van Haersma, grietman (= mayor and cantonal judge), moved into Stania State and had it rebuild. In 1877 it was sold to the van Welderen Rengers Family who lived there until 1932. One of the most famous inhabitants of Stania State was Theodorus van Welderen Baron Rengers, nicknamed the *red baron* (1867 – 1945). Being worried about the Frisian economy, which in his opinion should not rely on agriculture alone, he founded the cooperative dairy factory *De Frico*.

Since 1960 the park is controlled by *Staatsbosbeheer* and the manor is used as an office and restaurant. The park can be visited for free. (Visit www.staniastate.nl for more information).

Heringa State or Popta Slot - Marssum

At the beginning of 1500 Heringa State was founded a *stins* (= house made of bricks). These brick-built houses, fortified, were constructed with thick walls and moats. The first period the van Heringa family lived here. Later on the castle was inhabited, by the Eysinga family through inheritance. Tjalling van Eysinga, 1596-1653, was *grietman* of Menaldumadeel.



In the year 1687 the castle was bought by Henricus Popta – he resided here during the summer. He stated in his will that he wanted his estate to be converted to a home for the elderly, single ladies and widows in need of help – and so it was done.

The Popta Slot, nowadays a Museum, and the garden are open to the public from April – October. (Visit www.poptaslot.nl for more information).

Fogelsangh State – Veenklooster

This manor dates back from 1646 and is now owned by baronesse van Harinxma thoe Slooten. In the 12th, century at this very same spot, a convent was constructed called *Mount of Olives*.



At the end of the 16th century all the church's possessions were confiscated and from there on owned by the Estates of Friesland.

Theodorus van Fogelsangh bought the manor in 1639. In the year 1646 his brother Pibo Doma acquired it. Pibo took up the name Doma of his mother, which in those days was of frequent occurrence. Fogelsangh State has known many occupants, mainly *grietmannen*.

Fogelsangh State accommodates the *Iddekinge Collection*, an inheritance from the van Iddekinge family of Groningen. Lots of Chinese porcelain and an Amstel dinner service containing 250 pieces.

Open to the public from the 30th of April until the 31st of October.

More information from the Rekker Family, Tel: 0511 – 441970

Epema State – Ysbrechtum

The present manor has been founded round the year 1620 by a member of the Albada family and in 1651 the State was purchased by Duco van Burmania, grietman of Wymbritserdadeel. The van Burmania family belongs to one of the oldest and most influential families of Friesland.



After nearly a century of van Burmanias, cousin Rengers moved into the Epema State. He was given all the familynames: Sjuick Gerrolt Iuckema van Burmania Rengers, but he was nicknamed *Tall Sjuick* (1.89m) and he also became a grietman of Wymbritserdadeel.

In later years his surname was changed into van Welderen Rengers. They instructed Roodbaard, the architect, to design the park of Epema State.

Nowadays the State is owned by Jonkheer van Eysinga and Mrs van Eysinga – Baroness van Harinxma thoe Slooten.

The gate of Epema State is one of the few brick vaulted arches left in Friesland.

The manor has been furnished in a way to let visitors think the owner has just left to go on an errand. You feel like settling down in one of the armchairs and reading a book amongst all the family snapshots.

Are you looking for a wedding venue? This is the place to be!

(Visit www.epemastate.nl for more information)

Dekema state – Jelsum

The foundation of the present Dekema State dates back from the 16th century. The Dekema State has known many owners but throughout the centuries kept its name. From 1791 until 1994 the van Wageningen family



lived here. Since 1996 the State has been owned by a foundation which is allied to the former orphanage *Old Burger Weeshuis* at Leeuwarden. Dekema State is now a museum, furnished by the standards of a wealthy Frisian family around the year 1930.

Dekema State is situated in a beautiful botanical garden and orchard. Spring is the best time of the year to visit Dekema State. When you visit, you will enter via the gardener's lodge where you can have your tea or coffee on the terrace. Visit www.dekemastate.nl for more information.

What is a state?

In the 13th century men discovered how to fire bricks. Bricks were very expensive and exclusively used by wealthy people. In the first instance they build a square house so they could beat a hasty retreat in case of danger. This house is called a *stins*, a *steen huis* in Dutch language. Erected on a hill often with fortified towers and outer moats. You can still find the remains of a tower stins, the so called Schierstins, at Veenwouden.

Centuries later the nobility, often *grietmannen* (mayors and cantonal judges) , had their country houses build in the same spot. They used the bricks of the former stins. The country - houses are called Staten, yet in this article often referred to as Manors. Particular to the Staten are the onion like designs of the tower (Poptaslot). During the middle ages there were about 500 stinzen in Friesland!

Ariëtte van Vliet - Wiarda

Did you know...

... that Howard Wiarda (6/60) from the US visited Germany once before he attended our Family day? Howard is Professor for peace politics at the department of international affairs at Georgia University. The protestant academy in Locum (50 km from Hannover, Germany), held a discussion forum: 'the most powerfulis most powerful alone - the US as a world-dominator'. Howard was speaking at the event and I surprised him with a visit.

He was astonished to be contacted by another member of the Wiarda family and I had a nice conversation with him and his wife. He told me about other Wiarda's in the US that had previously made surprise visits. If you search the Internet for Howard Wiarda, you will see that he has been an advisor to several presidents of the United States and that he has written numerous books. Howard would love to receive Wiarda's visitors from Europe!

Contact Howard Wiarda: wiarda@nga.edu

Siurt von Wiarda (1/08)

The Dutch Diaspora

The Netherlands and Its Settlements in Africa, Asia, and the Americas

By: Howard J. Wiarda

Published by: Lexington Books, Maryland, September 2007

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Price: £ 19,99 € 31,48

Howard J. Wiarda is the Dean Rusk Professor of International Relations and founding head of the Department of International Affairs at the University of Georgia

Summary by the publisher (internet):

The Dutch Diaspora is a comprehensive and personal study of the former colonial empire of the Netherlands. The Netherlands is considered one of the most successful societies and at one point was the world's largest empire—stretching from Japan to the United States. The author, Howard Wiarda, who grew up in western Michigan and is himself of Dutch descent, combines thorough scholarship with first-hand experience of travels to the far-flung former colonies. The study analyzes how colonies reacted to the ideological beliefs implanted by the Dutch settlers and how those colonies evolved in terms of cultural, religious, and political beliefs. For example, the Dutch in the seventeenth century brought Calvinism to South Africa and entrepreneurialism to New Amsterdam and Curaçao and in the nineteenth century supported slave plantation systems in Indonesia and Suriname, but as time passed the evolution of the colonies was telling. The United States outgrew Great Britain in wealth and power, but while Calvinism declined in the Netherlands it remained vibrant and progressive in the American Midwest. In many ways, the former colonies adapted to modernization better than the mother country. The Dutch Diaspora is an insightful and accessible study of colonialism useful to upper-level undergraduates and all students and researchers of Dutch history.

Table of Contents, Chapters:

1. Introduction: The Dutch and Their Colonial Fragments
2. The Netherlands: A Proud History and Culture
3. The Dutch Community in Western Michigan
4. Growing up Dutch: Zion on the Prairies
5. New Amsterdam and the East Coast Dutch
6. The Modern Netherlands: Community in Crisis
7. The Americas: The Dutch in Brazil, Suriname, and Curacao
8. Dying Memories: The Dutch Empire in Asia
9. Indonesia: The Epitome of Colonialism and Imperialism
10. South Africa and the Apartheid Regime
11. Back to the Origins: Geneva and the Protestant Reformation
12. Struggling to Survive: The Reformed Tradition in Austro-Hungary
13. Conclusion: The Dutch Diaspora in Its One and Many Parts

Howard John Wiarda is a member of the Family Association Wiarda. He is registrated in our address booklet as 6 / 60. We have met Howard and his wife Iêda Siquera at the Family Reunion in Dokkum May 2005. They have a daughter and 2 sons.

Howard is born 1939 in Grand Rapids, Michigan USA as a son of John Roy Wiarda (1899-1994), who's father Johannes Rein Wiarda (1868-1941), born as 5th son in a farmers family in Koudum, Fryslân NL, emigrated in the 1880s on his 16th all by himself to the USA and build a big offspring. He changed his name in John Roy.

In 1995 I visited in Grand Rapids a sister of John Roy, Cora-Butterworth-Wiarda, born 1913 (6 / 16). She told us the whole story of her family.

Impressions about the book

All four Howard's grandparents were Dutch immigrants to Michigan, part of the great wave of immigration to the USA in the late 19th century. He grew up in the bosom of the Dutch Reformed Church in a very Dutch environment with a strong Calvinistic tradition.

On his 17th, though with doubts of his parents, he went to the University of Michigan, where his eyes were opened and he absorbed the culture, politics and sophistication of a major secular university community. After his M.A. and PhD he began an academic career of teaching and research. Visiting the Netherlands in the early 1970s he got fascinated by both the similarities and the differences between The Netherlands and his own Dutch background in Western Michigan. His academic research included the spreading of the Dutch people in the whole world. The most well known are the Dutch settlements in Indonesia, South Africa, Suriname, Canada and USA, especially New Amsterdam, which is now New York City. But there are many more places around the world, where the Dutch founded colonies in the time of the Dutch East Indian Company between 1600 to 1800.

Howard visited almost all of these places and did a lot of historical research especially about what has happened to them sociologically, politically, culturally and religiously since the emergence of The Netherlands as a global power in the seventeenth century. He emphasizes the powerful initial influence of Calvinism in all these Dutch communities and describes the development of the religion in relation to the founding Netherlands. Therefore the name of the book 'The Dutch Diaspora' is well found in relation to the more common meaning of Diaspora as the spreading out of the Jewish people throughout the world.

The book is both a serious study of The Netherlands and its various colonies and 'fragments' throughout the world, and a personal voyage of discovery of Howard's own roots, origins and background. It provides a lot of information about the spreading out of the Dutch in the world. The combination with the many personal aspects makes the book very accessible for the historical interested reader, especially for members of the Wiarda Family Association. It is very recommendable.

Wiarda homepage re-designed!

Have a look at the newly designed Wiarda homepage (www.wiarda.de), where you will be able to read or download the latest edition of the Wiarda news as well as discover interesting facts of our Wiarda Genealogy and more.

Siurt v. Wiarda (1/08)