

What's an *o* or two *between close relatives?*

When I arrived in Regina, Saskatchewan in 1953 postal codes did not exist, letters were hand sorted and sorting errors were not uncommon. There were only two families with the name Hoogeveen in the city at the time, D. and B. Hoogeveen. Occasionally we received the wrong mail. We then delivered the mail to each other. This way I made the acquaintance of a man known as Bert Hoogeveen, whose original first name was Broer. He had come to Canada in 1912 from Emmen in the province of Drenthe.

I stayed in touch with him until his death in 1980. He told me about his other family members many of whom lived near Shackleton, Saskatchewan, about 200 miles to the west of Regina. His oldest brother was the first one to homestead there. He had the nickname of Riek in The Netherlands, but he went under the name Henry in Canada.

When I worked on the genealogy of this family branch in the 1970s I first wrote down what I had learned from the family and then did further research. Henry had come to Canada in 1906 and homesteaded in 1908. On his homestead application he gave his name as Henry Hoogeveen and he signed as H. Hoogeveen. In writing to the town of Emmen I found out that the boys' family unit consisted of the two parents and fourteen children, most of whom ended up in Canada and

the USA. I also found out that their last name actually was recorded as Hogeveen in The Netherlands and that for some reason all of them are called Hoogeveen in North America. In Dutch Hogeveen and Hoogeveen are pronounced the same way, but in English they sound different. Henry's actual first names were Hendrikus Jantinus. He was born in 1884.

According to what the family

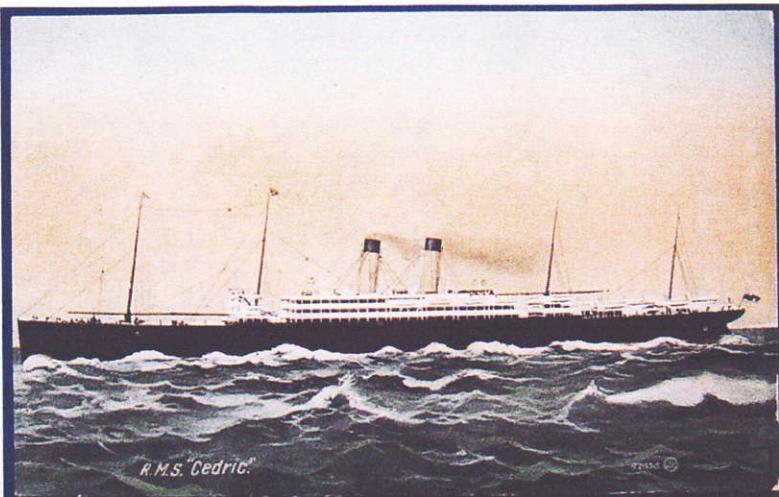
150 miles west of Moose Jaw and started working on it.

Also according to the family, he had met Ed (Edward) Cator in Rotterdam. They made the journey together, worked together and also filed for a homestead close to each other. Later they both brought over some of their relatives and the families intermarried. However hard I tried, I could never determine the ship they had travelled to Montreal

on. Then because the families had intermarried I decided a few years ago to determine the ancestry of Ed Cator. Thanks to information on the Internet I found Edward Lambertus Cator, born 1873 in Zeist near Utrecht, who had travelled from Liverpool in England to New York on the s.s. Cedric. The ship was easily found on the

Ellis Island website (www.ellis-island.org), an excellent resource for people whose ancestors arrived in North America via Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924. It had left Liverpool on April 20, 1906 and arrived in New York on April 29, 1906. According to the ship's manifest Edward Cator was 31 years old, was from Zeist and had \$75.00 with him. It was further noted that he was a non-immigrant, destination Winnipeg.

After scouring the manifest of the Cedric I found a Heoogereen, H. Gendronus, 21 years old, he brought \$30.00 with him. He also was a non-immigrant with desti-



told me he had received permission from his father to immigrate to Canada in the spring of 1906. Before leaving he went to the Civil Registry Office in the town hall of Emmen and told them that he was immigrating to Canada. According to the family story he had travelled via Rotterdam to London, England and from London by ship to Montreal, Quebec and from there onwards to Winnipeg, Manitoba. From Winnipeg he worked his way to eastern Saskatchewan and after about two years, on May 1, 1908, he filed his homestead application in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. He then travelled to his homestead about



Heerenveen

nation Winnipeg. He gave as his place of origin 'Amsterdam'. He had probably indicated 'Nieuw Amsterdam' (New Amsterdam), a small community just south of Emmen, which belongs to Emmen administratively. This goes to show that one should be careful with presuming the accuracy of information passed on within the family, it is not always entirely accurate.

The last name 'Hoogeveen' was chosen originally by Henry and Bert's ancestor Gerrit Wiebes (1775 – 1822) on March 16, 1812. His children received this last name at the same time. This was a measure introduced by Napoleon. Everybody had to register a last name, which could either be one that was in common use already, or a newly chosen one. Up to that time the ancestors of Henry Hoogeveen had used a patronymic, in this case Wiebes, which means 'son of Wiebe'. The literal translation of the document in which Gerrit Wiebes officially acquires a last name reads:

Before us Mayor of the community

Lippenhuisen, Canton Beesterzwaag, District Herenveen, Department Vriesland has appeared Gerrit Wybis living in Hemrik who has declared that he accepts the name of HOGEVEEN as family name and has one son and the following daughters, being Wybe thirteen years old Beitske eight years old Wytske four years old Antje sixteen weeks old all living in Hemrik And has signed with us March 16, 1812. This is Gerrit Wybes Hoogeveen his own sign Also signature of the Mayor.

Gerrit signed the document with an X.

In the translation I have faithfully followed the punctuation, sentence structure and use of upper and lower case, all of which appear rather haphazard. The name Gerrit Wybes is spelled in all later records as Gerrit Wiebes.

This story illustrates the difficulties with spelling of names when researching a pedigree.

The researcher can encounter all sorts of unexpected variations in spelling, in The Netherlands as well as in North America. It should be remembered that in most cases the

immigrants could not speak or understand English and hence communications with officials could easily be a source of misunderstandings. Dutch orthography is of course unknown to Anglophones. When I worked in England in 1950, the oo of my last name was pronounced like the u in tulip, rather than the o in rose, as it is in Dutch.

The Hoogeveen last name existed in my branch of the family about 150 years before the civil registration started in 1812. It first appears in a church membership list of 1658. The spelling started out as Hoogeveen, but has varied since that time. My grandfather wrote it with one 'o' as well as with two 'o's and officials also alternated the spelling. The way a child's name is registered at birth becomes the official spelling of the name for that child. Of the eight children of my grandfather's family, three boys were Hoogeveen, three boys were Hogeveen, one girl was Hoogeveen and one girl was Hogeveen.

In the records a researcher should therefore anticipate spelling variations in names.