

# Doretje / Dorethea Volckers

**b.** 1630, Netherlands • **d.** 1660, New Netherland

## Links:

- Wikitree: [<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Volckers-5>]

**Notes:** (*baptismal register sightings*)

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## Early life and origins in the Netherlands

Prior to her marriage to Pieter Jans de Witt, Dorothea Volckers's known history is largely based on her family of origin. Her father, Dirck Volckertszen, was also known as "Dirck the Norman," an early Dutch settler who arrived in New Amsterdam (Manhattan) around 1630.

- **Birth:** Genealogical records vary on Dorothea's birthplace within the Netherlands, with some sources indicating Alblasserdam, South Holland, around 1624, while others cite Utrecht or Leiden.
- **Parents:** Her parents were Dirck Volckertszen and Christina Vigne.
- **Marriage:** Dorothea and Pieter Jans de Witt were married around 1645 in Leiden, the Netherlands, several years before emigrating.
- **Distinguishing families:** It is important to distinguish Pieter Jans de Witt's family from other prominent Dutch families in the New World, such as that of Tjerck Claessen De Witt, who settled in the Hudson Valley. The connection between the Fulkerson and De Witt families is specifically through Dorothea's marriage to Pieter Jans de Witt.

## Life in New Netherland

Dorothea Volckers's adult life in the colonies was relatively brief, and few details are available outside of records concerning her arrival, motherhood, and death.

- **Arrival in New Netherland:** The couple and their family arrived in New Amsterdam in 1652.
- **Motherhood:** Dorothea and Pieter had several children, including Volkert Folkertson de Witt, born around 1657 in New Amsterdam.
- **Later settlement:** As early pioneers, they would have experienced the challenging conditions of colonial life. The family eventually moved to Bushwick, New Netherland, where Pieter Jans de Witt became a prominent landowner and magistrate.

- **Death:** Dorothea Volckers passed away in 1658, only about six years after arriving in the colony. Her death likely occurred in Bushwick, Kings County.
- **Pieter's remarriage:** After Dorothea's death, Pieter Jans de Witt remarried Gertryde Van Wyngarden on April 15, 1660.

Due to the limited nature of 17th-century records, particularly for women, most information about Dorothea is derived from her connection to her male relatives.