

The Akkerman family.

The Akkerman family originate from the island of Borkum, the first of a row of islands above Germany, the first fore father, by the name of Galke, lived there before the year 1556.

The people lived mainly from wale fish catching and many where working for Dutch fisherman and went as far in those days as the most Nordic Ice sea ,but when the wale fishing died down ,the people in the Island became very poor , specially when the France army came ,early in the nineteen's century ,after the France army was gone , Borkum became more German ,in those days it was called Oost Friesland .

But Napoleon ordered that al people had to take a surname, because there was much confusion about names ,especially if people where talking about 3 or 4 generations back .

In 1806 ,Napoleon put his brother Lodewijk in charge of the Netherlands , including east Friesland ,witch also included the Isle of Borkum , in 1812 is the France army finished in the Netherlands and Napoleon exiled to the Isle of Elba in 1814.But the people where stuck with there surname, as before , it was , the son of Galke was called " Luppe Galket " and his son in turn , Galke Luppen , but for reasons to make it easier ,they went back to 1664 and used the name "Ackerman" already . It was difficult to find a suitable name and a lot of people took names like ;fish names or occupation names as 'bott ,schol or animal names like 'haan , hen ,lion ect. Our fore father had a small farm let ,witch was called a Akker , man from the Akker or Akkerman. Another possibility ,because in the early 1500,Maarten Luther put on 31 October 1517 his 95 theses on the church in Wittenberg and that made the Reformation ,especially in Borkum turn around from the Roman Catholicism . In the old Dutch Staten Bible ,in John Ch.15 verse 1,(K.J.V.) the husbandman is called the "Akkerman". I personally met quite a few people with very old Bibles with family records ,, so this could also be a possibility , because even the parents of Steffen Aggen (9.) belonged to the Reformed Church ,he was born in 1796 and his name was in the church register of the "Der Evang.-Reformed Kirchengemeinde Nordseebad Borkum , his wife's name was Grietje Gerrits Bauman, they where married the 12-1-1823 and it looks like that she died when der son was born on 3-11-1823 , because he married again on May

the 29th -1925 to Anna Catharina Erichs. The sons name was Age Steffen Ackerman , (10.) who moved to Delfzijl.

And now I refer to a story I read in encyclopedia "Britannica " about a place in Russia by the name "Akkerman ",the Romanian name is "Cetatea " but at present it is known as "Belgorod - Dnestrovskij " which is on the south western shore of the broad shallow Dnestr Estuary. In the 6th century ,Greeks from Miletus establish the colony of Tyras on the side. In the 9th century it was taken by the Slavs . Belgorod became a republican city under Moldavian princes . Stormed by the Turks in 1484 .. It remained Turkish under the name "Akkerman " until 1812 when it was taken in by Russia . From 1940 till 1980 it was included in Romania under the name "Cetatea Alba " . The modern town is a regional center with light industries, notably fish canning . Population in 1974 was Plus minus 37000 . There are many pages on the internet about this city in the Ukraine ,under the name "Akkerman,"many Jews living there.

In Collier's Encyclopedia I read the following story on page 287 : The continuing disputes with Turkey after Bucharest Treaty of 1812 culminated , after Russian ultimatum ,in the Treaty of Akkerman , in 1826,once more insuring that the Black sea and the straits would be open to Russian ships and also providing for increased autonomy in Siberia. Both Great Britain and France feared Russia might act alone in the demand for Greek autonomy under Turkey .

A bit of a strange story, but in those years the "Akkermans "were wale fishers and had a boat for fishing, also in Dr.P.L.Bloks book "Rekeningen van the stad Groningen uit de 16de eeuw" (Bills of the city of Groningen 16th century.) they were carrying freight from the city of Groningen to Borkum . It also stated the story that on the 20th January 1735 that Willem ,son of Luppe Willems and uncle ,Haye Willems Akkerman are drowned in a mighty big storm by the Isle of Texel .

In 1960 and in 1961 and also in 1988 I have visited the Isle of Borkum, I met different people ,a family Aggen ,a sea captain ,an Akkerman dealing in textile ,the language is more or les the same as the Groninger dialect , the proper language is of course German .

I started of by getting information from county registrar offices and by what I had , it connected on to the family tree in the Borkum museum , and it fitted on from Age Steffens (No 10.) who very sadly drowned , at the same time with college Folchers ,they where both sea pilots and when thy where between the pilot boat and the ship with there row boat, the rope tipped there row boat over and so booth of them drowned , this happened on the 12th of June 1872 while his body was found on the 19th of June , it was washed on ,and found on the sea dyke by the village of Bierum , also his name was only spelled as Agge ,it should have been Age Steffens ,this gave a lot of confusion in the courthouse in Appingedam , papers had to be redone all over again . His first wife Klaassien van Ijsen died ; 27th of Febr.1870 and he got remarried again to Elsina Taay on the 8th of June 1871 , sadly , they where only married for one year . Age was the first Akkerman from our family tree , who lived in Delfzijl ,the third biggest harbor in the Netherlands .

More knowledge from the previous generations, you will find on the family tree ,from Age to the first forefather Galke (1556) is ten generations .

In a peoples list van Borkum van 1713 they named Willem Ackermann under the name of Steffen Luppen Ackermann ,this proves that the sure names where not yet in official use, that only became official when Napoleon made it law in 1811 ,in that same list we find that Steffen Luppen owned a farm let in the eastern part of the Isle , Also in the church register we find that sure names where used in the early 1700.

In the past centuries ,they had quite a few deferent mayors (or Voogt) on the Isle of Borkum , between them Voogt Rolef Ackkermann was special , in so far as he was important ,because he has served the longest in time, second ,he came from a well to do family , who then in(1707.) had lived already for more than 150 years on the Isle ,and there were a great number of official documents saved from him. The task of the Mayor was to rule , divide items thy had washed on the beach from ships who had lost cargo in the storms , also in court matters ,he was the judge, his brother ,Agge Steffens (6.) born 1711 ,is our family line .

Rolef Ackerman from Hamburg ,who road a book about our fore fathers

,got some of his information from “het Staatsarchief in Aurich “, City Archive in Emden ,Museum in Emden ,and Church archive in Borkum. His time as Mayor has been very rich and use full for information ,because a lot of official papers where saved ,I like to mention a case where he has to rule as judge;

Written in old Dutch , freely translated;

Actom Borckom 25 October 1764.

I Jan Olferts saw Kristian Odden and Freerk Eerrenst in the hills by the beach ,they where hunting rabbits ,when they saw me they run away, but later I caught up with them, and told them to give me the two rabbits , but they started fighting, and I had to report them to the Voogt,there was also a little boy with them ,but he had no part in it.

I like to mention that Jan Olferts was in charge of park and beach control and those two men where charged with a prison sentence by the Voogt Rolef Ackerman.

Rolef Ackerman was born in 1707,the exact date is not known, because the church register started only in the year 1713,but we know when he died in 1782,that he was 75 years old.

Our line of Akkermans is from a brother of Rolef ; “the Voogt” namely Agge Steffens (6.) ,the parents of the two brothers are Steffen Luppen and Antje Aggen ,(5.) they got married in 1693,a point to mention here is that there son Agge , is getting the name from the mother, as a first name ,and that name , Steffen and Age are used right trough all generations . Surnames where not in use officially , but became law in early 1800. Antje was the daughter of Agge Rolefs.

The brothers Rolef and Agge came from a family who had imported functions on the Isle , Steffen Luppen , born 1664 ,was greatly trusted by the people so that they choose him to be a member of the county rulers, consisting out of four people , through this ,they became a well known family and became a higher class people .

It was important work they had to do , as the rights and orders by the ingathering and distributing from articles who had washed on the beach in stormy weather , or from ship wreks .

From a list of peoples names from 1713, is stated that Steffen Luppen inherited the well known Ackerman’s farm let ,on the east side of the Isle. The animals he had where; one horse with a fool, a twenter (with is a two year old horse.)and also three cows.

Before his inheritance his occupation is stated as seaman ,he had his own ship ,a lot of names had the occupation as seaman , commander or captain or wale fisher .

In the “kontractprotokollen “of het Ambt Greetsiel they found a will from Abigel Thomas ,widow from Dirk Cornelis de Haan ,dated 23rd of febr.1715 ,in short I let you know of its contents in the old Dutch language .

Testament often laetste Wille van Abigel Thomas

In den Naeme onses Heeren en Heylands J.Christi , Amen .

In de jaare na Christi geboort anno 1714 den achtsten December heeft de Eerbare Abigel Thomas ,weduwe van Dirk Cornelis de Haan , wonende alhijr op Borkum ,mij ondergeschreven Jan Eyben ,school en gerichtsdinaer alhier te plaetse , versocht om haar uiterste en laatste Wille te mogen Schrijven .angesien Sij een zeer hogen trades des Ouderdoms beklommen heeft ,en nog ter tijdt en goede gezondheid is ,en haar vollenkomen verstand en vijff Sinnen hebbende ,ver klaarde dit Haar Testament often uiterste en latest Wille te Sijn ,voor alle Geestelijke en Wereldlijke Gretchen.

1. Beveelt Sij ,Testarix Abigel Thomas Haare ziele ,als Sij deese wereld sal verlaten ,den Drie Eenigen God ,ende Haar lichaam an de Aerde door een earlijke ende Christelijke begravenisse .
2. Vermaekt Sij an der Diaconie alhijr ter plaatse 12 Caroli guldens , benevens 20 stuivers ,hollands geld gerekent ,hetgeen de Erffgenaemen na Haar afsterven sullen uitkeren ,voor dat Sie jeets van de Erffenis sullen mogen genieten
3. Alle Haar overige naelatenschap belonged ,datgene hotels Sij Testarix van Haar Salige Dochters Soon ,namelk Luppe Reinders Ackerman , geerft heeft ; welverstaende dat Capital , dat Sijn Vader Render Luppen Akkermann in leven sijnde gewonnen heeft ,daervan wil Sij Testatrix ,dat een ieder Neeve en Nichte van Luppe Reinders Akkerman ,So wel van Sijn Vaderlijke als Moederlijke Side ,die dan noch in leven sijnde, hoeft voor hoeft ,elck gemlike part sal van ontvangen ende te genie ten hebben ,en dienvolgens het Selve in friendship met malckanderen sullen deelen .Maar wat verders is belanged de ackeren lands en het Capital ,dat Luppe Reinders Ackerman van Sijn Salige Grootvader Luppe Galcken en Grootmoeder Trientje Teepen geerft heeft ,dat selve wil Sij Testatrix ,dat het na Haar overlijden ,weerom na de kant sal erven,daer het vandaen

gekomen is , en dienvolgens sullen hetselve Ewig en erflijk te
genieten hebben de Ooms van Luppe Reinders Ackerman ; en Sij met
naeme desen ; Esdert Ackerman ,Willem Ackerman en Steffen
Ackerman , die het dan met malcander sullen deelen .

Borkum ,den 8 December Anno 1714 (:Understund;)

Abigel Thomes .

Jan Eyben ,School en Gerichtsdienaer
versochten schrijver deesen als getuige

There where seven more persons who wit nest this will . This will was just
an example of the many lists and information from the Isle witch are
named in the book that Rolef Ackerman has written ,and was handed to
me by a Rector Teerling ,when I visited Borkum in July 1960 .

Family Weapons ;

The on the family tree used “family weapon “ are from Voogt Rolef
Ackermann (R.S.A.) 1764 - 1778 .while the (S.A.) with the crown are
from his Dad Steffen Ackermann , the last one may be called the oldest
family weapon used from 1752 - 1760 . As well as the crown with the
wing as the “ I “. with the cross where in those years also used as
house marks .

From Borkum we return now back to Delfzijl in the Netherlands ,
where Age (10)as the first Dutchman arrived .His work as a sea pilot
brought him to Delfzijl .He was born on Borkum ,the 3rd of November
1823 and baptized in the Evangelisch Reformde Gemeinde on the 16th
of November 1823 ,and he drowned the 19th of June 1872 , as a sea
pilot in Delfzijl

Age was married to Klaassien van Ijsen on 31-5-1849, they had four
children ,first Anna on 31-8-1850 , Steffen (11.) 7-11-1853 , Geertuida
4-11-1859 , and Hindrik 14-10-1863 .His wife died in 27-2-1870 and
Steffen got remarried again with Elsie Taay in May 1871 ,witch was
sad enough only for 11 month .

Steffen went to Wagenborgen to live ,while Hindrik lived in Nieuwolda
and married Ida Steenhuis and they had two daughters, so the family
name ends there .

Steffen (11.) married Albertje Brons on 24-6-1876 , they had six sons

and one daughter ,Albertje came from a well known old family, who where well known in the building industry in those days and that is most likely one of the reasons that Steffen also started in the building industry in Wagenborgen ,the had a very difficult time ,and lived poor and had to work hard ,and usually the work was a long way from home and they had to walk every where ,there was not much time left to sleep. The first son Age lived only for three days , 21/24 - 7 -1877 the second Age was born in 1878 , Aiko 1881 , Hendrik 1884 , Wiepko 1887 , Nicolaas 1890 , a still born twin in 1892 ,a boy and a girl , Elzina in 1893 ,then Steffen in 1901 .

The genealogy from the Brons family goes back to early 1700 and come as far known from Delfzijl ,around 1850 three single people from the Brons family ,Wolter ,Jan en Trijntje , where the initiative persons who started the Psychiatric Hospital “Tot Christelijke Liefdadigheid “ in Wagenborgen ,witch later was named “Groot Bronswijk “ ,named after the Brons family ,there where six big pavilions ,and around 1940 there where nearly a 1000 patiëns ,the gardens where absolutely beautiful and people came from afar , site seing .

The whole institute was nearly self sufficient ,had their own electricity ,gardens , kitchen ,farming ,washing ,bakery , shoe fixing and a lot of the patients who where able , did help under supervision .

In 1827 Aiko Brons was born and he married in 1855 , with Tjaakje Freeks Windt ,Aiko died in 1858 ,after a very short marriage of only three years, but they got twin daughters on the 24 of June 1856 , Wiepke and Albertje. Wiepke got married to Hindrik de Groot and Albertje got married to Steffen Akkerman on 8 November 1876 .

I remember that I visited with my grandfather his uncle Hendrik in Woldendorp ,after aunt Wiepke died ,I was about 8 years old then, it was about 16 km. and took about half an hour biking ,Granddad said “when I was your age it took us 3 hours walking .“ Pushbikes came into being only in early 1900 .

And now a bit about the children from Steffen and Albertje ;

Their first child Age ,born 21-7-1877 lived only for 3 days til 24-7-77 Age Akkerman ,born 15-12-1878 , married Grietje van der Ploeg , they had one son and four daughters and lived in Nieuwolda ,first he worked with his father en later started his own building business in Nieuwolda

Aiko Akkerman married Anje Kuiper on 21 May 1909 ,he was named after his mothers father ,Aiko Brons . He also worked with his father in the building industry and later became in charge of the carpentry shop of the psychiatric hospital "Groot Bronswijk "in Wagenborgen . They had two sons Steffen 1910 and Hendrik was born in 1915 .Hendrik married Rita Richters on 14 - 3 - 1940 ,They had four children ,two sons and two daughters .

Steffen married Johanna Drolenga on 29-3-1934 , he worked all his life as carpenter/builder ,also at the psychiatric hospital "Groot Bronswijk " in Wagenborgen ,for his 40 year working there , he got a medal from the Queen "In de Orde van Oranje Nassau " on the 29-10-1973 .When the war started in 1940 he was in the Dutch army and was taken prisoner of war for about three months ,and during the five year war he had to work for the Germans from time to time, because he was an ex soldier ,they had 6 children ,one son and five daughters .

Hendrik Akkerman 1884 , married Albertje de Wilde on 24 April 1908 He started his own bakery and was for many years an elder in the Gereformeerde Kerk in Wagenborgen , They had also two children , Steffen 1909 and Albertha Tjachina 1912 .Son Steffen carried on the bakery from his father ,during the war ;1940-45 he worked a lot in the underground and was after the war awarded a price and certificate by The President of the United States of America ,Dwight Eisenhower .

Wiepko Akkerman 1887 , married Derkina Mantjes on 20 April 1916 , he also was in the building industry and took the business over from his father , and they lived in the old family home in Wagenborgen . They had three children ; Albertha Elzina 1917 and Anegina Anje 1919 and Steffen 1920 .

Nicolaas 1890 ,married Feika Deddens in 1922 ,he was director of a electricity company in Ridderkerk ,later they lived in Dordrecht ,they had two children , Hillegina Albertha 1926 and Steffen Dedmer 1928 . Then in 1892 they got a still born twin ,a boy and a girl . Elzina

Akkerman was born 24-7-1893 ,she was never a very healthy person had some kind of a hart problem ,she was a teachers help at the Christian school in Wagenborgen ,she died young on the 23-4-1936 Steffen Akkerman Jr. Born 1901 married Berendina Annegina Freeze in 1932 ,he became a school teachers in the city of Groningen they had three sons .

Steffen ; (11.) was next to being a builder , also a part time police man in the village , and he was well known to keep the youth in line, there was a saying witch I like to mention , what an older person in the village quoted to me , and I like to repeat it in Dutch ;

*“Als Steven spreekt dan beeft de lucht
Jan Hinkeldepink slaat op de vlucht
Maar Steven achter haalt him snel
En pakt him by zijn nekkevel “*

Freely translated ; As Steffen talks than shakes the air , J.H is running away , but Steffen quickly get hold of them , and grasp them in the neck .

Up to 1888 their was only one church in the village “The Nederlands Hervormde Kerk “ Round about 1850 became Wagenborgen a village, with about 123 houses and 660 people living in and around the village , but in 1888 there where a number of people who did not agree with the teachings of the church , witch became very liberal and in the end it became a court case in the courthouse in Winschoten , dated 21 November 1888 , in total 14 families where put out of the church , who kept to the thru principals of Gods word ,the family of Steffen Akkerman (1853.) was one of them. I have an official copy of this letter, witch was in the house of Hendrik (1884) during the war , and shrapnel from a bomb went through it .

So those people did not have a proper church and met most of the time in the building of the Christian school ,but in 1928 the new congregation agreed to build a new church under the new name of “De Gereformeerde Kerk “ ,The building of it was given to Age Akkerman (1878) from Nieuwolda and to Wiepko Akkerman (1887)Wagenborgen for the total amount of 12.000 guilders .

The Gereformeerde kerk came out with a booklet in 1988 ,as a remembering for there 100 years of existents (“Van geslacht tot geslacht”) From generation till generation .

Also before that date , the Nederlands Hervormde kerk also came out with a beautiful book “Op het erf der vaderen “ (on the properties or land from our ancestors) The very first church in Wagenborgen dates back to 1568 and was called “de St.Petrus Kerk” even the name tells us that it was still the time of Roman Catholicism . This book has a lot of history about the early church live and interesting things about old

Wagenborgen . The name originated through the claiming of land from the sea , the farmers from around the village had to supply horse and wagon ,to move earth for the building of the sea dyke , they did this in turns and went home on the horse and left the wagon behind for next time . So the wagon or ("cart ") was ("geborgen ") stored and so the name Wagenborgen originated .

The village itself was about 2 meters above sea level at the highest point and was pure sand ground , while around it was clay .

In early 1500 it has happened by storm and high tide that the sea water came close to the village .Well known floods were in 1717, where the village was not flooded ,but the one in 1825 did a lot of damage to land and village ,Wagenborgen was like an island ,the water was right around it ,did was the time men realized that they had to build better dykes .A lot of land called "polders" was claimed back from the sea ,also in the province of Groningen .

The old church had a big beam on the ceiling which had a date of 1568 carved in it ,but in 1827 the building was so old and in need of replacement ,so they build a whole new church.

The old St Petrus church was build from those big stones ,put together with lime and sand , the wall behind the pulpit collapsed to the outside ,and a big heap of human bones ,who were gathered there many years before ,the wall was four feet thick ,nobody knew anything about those bones ,but they were put there from before 1568 ,because even after , they buried their bodies around the church . The old bones were put in a similar place in the new building and are there till this day . And herein we can see that in humans and in buildings ,the generations carry on ,as it says in Psalm 90 (no .175 : 2 .)

*Lord ,Through All the Generations :
Each succeeding generation ,
At Thy mighty word appears ;
Thou dost count in time's duration ,
One day as a thousand years ,
Death, with swift and sudden warning ,
Calls us from life's dream away ,
Like the grass ,green in the morning ,
Withered ere the close of day ,
We are surly in the Lords hand , every day*

1. GALKE , Stamfather or Progenitor ; before 1556 on Borkum
2. LUPPE GALKET , got married 1606 Borkum.
3. GALKE LUPPEN ,born 1615 Borkum.
4. LUPPE GALKEN ,born 1664 Borkum .
5. STEFFEN LUPPEN ,married Antje Aggen in 1693 on Borkum .
6. AGGE STEFFENS ,born 1711 Borkum , Brother ROLEF Voogt.
7. STEFFEN AGGEN ,born 1739 Borkum .
8. AGE STEFFENS ,born 1765 Borkum .
9. STEFFEN AGGEN ,born 1796 Borkum .
10. AGE STEFFENS ,born 1823 Borkum.
11. STEFFEN ,born 1853 Delfzijl , Married Albertje Brons in 1876.