

<https://www.joodsmonument.nl/en/page/350792/stamboom>
 Er is een stamboom van de fam.van gelder in het boek mooie mensen van johan van gelder o.a.mijn grootmoeder is een van gelder de fam komt oorspronkelijk uit gendringen/aalten en is in nederland gekomen als leyser daarna de naam veranderd in van gelder

<https://www.joodsmonument.nl/en/page/350792/stamboom>
 There is a family tree of the Van Gelder family in the book Beautiful People by Johan Van Gelder, including my grandmother. The family is originally from Gendringen/Aalten and came to the Netherlands as Leyser, after which the name was changed to Van Gelder.

<https://www.joodsmonument.nl/en/page/162180/abraham-alexander-van-gelder>

I wouldn't quite put it this way, but their family stories confirm or at least do not disagree with my research on them.

Beautiful people: The story of Van Gelder worldwide Kindle Edition

by **Johan van Gelder** (Author), **Sayah Ticho** (Translator) | Format: Kindle Edition

[See all formats and editions](#)



There are many books about family histories in the world. This one was still missing: The history of the Jewish family Van Gelder in the Netherlands. The title "Beautiful People" was chosen in order to accentuate the unique appearance of the members of this family.

The research revealed roughly 7700 blood-related people. The oldest trace goes back almost three hundred years to the town Gendringen, situated in the province of Gelderland. About two hundred years ago some of the members of the Van Gelder family moved from the Dutch village Terborg to the Dutch city Groningen. Described is the life of this family as researched in old papers, manuscripts and interviews. The book describes not only the history of Van Gelder but also of Goldsmit, Swartberg, Koekkoek, Vissel and Turksma. The Second World War brought great tragedy to the family. More than one hundred members were deported-young and old, big and small. Most went to the concentration camp Auschwitz (Oswiecim) or they were executed in Holland. There must have been more, but the information has not been saved. It is the wish of the author to bring the names of these family members back to our remembrance that he set out to perform the research and wrote down the findings as well as he possibly could do.

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David Aron and Engelina van Gelder's tombstones in Jewish Cemetery in Aalten:

<https://www.openarchieven.nl/gld:6ADDC5DE-F2ED-41DB-BAD0-62A5A84EAC07>



Peter Lurvink's 1991 book ([it is in the Internet Archive](#), since November 2023) said in Dutch, "[The] family Van Gelder whose ancestors lived in Terborg (not related to the 'Aaltense' Van Gelders)." His book shows both of those families, but having no connections between them seemed unlikely to me, so I'll try to check whether his conclusion is correct. Below are his pictures of the ones in Aalten and Terborg.

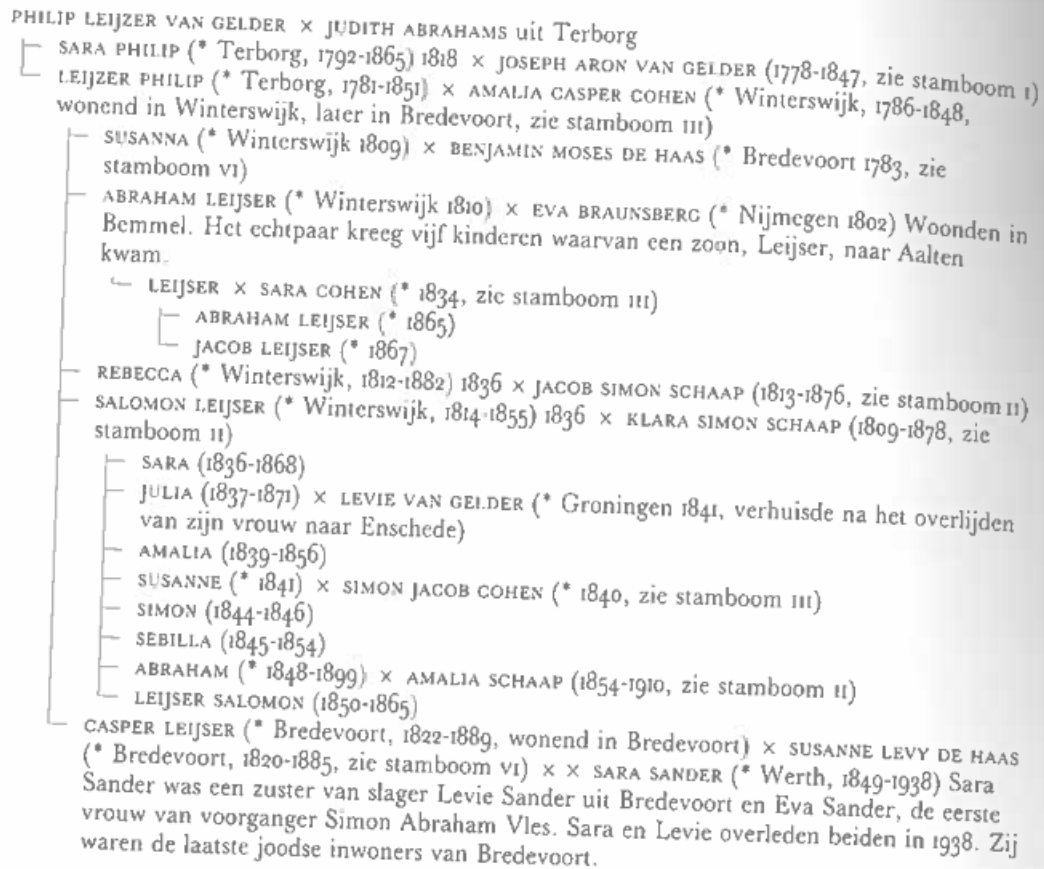
I DE AALTENSE FAMILIE VAN GELDER

Van de vijf kinderen van Aron Gompert en Sara Joseph (zie figuur 2) zorgden alleen de twee oudsten voor een nageslacht. De anderen verhuisden of stierven ongehuwd en kinderloos.



You can see Eveline and Eduard Leeser and son on the bottom there; they were rescued from the Shoah, I've told their story in the end notes of my paper.

IV DE FAMILIE VAN GELDER UIT TERBORG



“The name Vles [on bottom] was eventually spelled as Fles via Flesch.

The name Franken later became Frank.” I’ll add the next quote from Lurvink: “Of the forty-four Jews of Aalten in 1813 (the spouses are not mentioned on this list), there are twenty-eight [descendants of David Markus].” (On page 42.) Their family interrelationships were often complicated by marrying their cousins, remarrying, etc. He gives examples.

This family tree’s patriarch was born in Aalten around 1801;

<https://www.dutchjewry.org/genealogy/duparc/7935.shtml>, and then they went to Terborg in the next generation.

Here is a link to the family tree from a patriarch born in 1739 who does go back to Gendringen and then to Terborg;

<https://www.dutchjewry.org/genealogy/ndbeli/11137.shtml>.

Genealogy websites don’t seem conclusive to me, do you think they were descended from the Aalten family, or perhaps that Lurvink’s conclusion is valid? Simon Abraham Fles, born 1836 was likely the great-grandson of Jacob Gompert Fles.

The Leyser family is hard for me to describe as a group; for one thing its spelling varies. See the image above. I was looking up a book about Jewish graves in Emmerich on the Rhine River and noticed this picture of a headstone there;

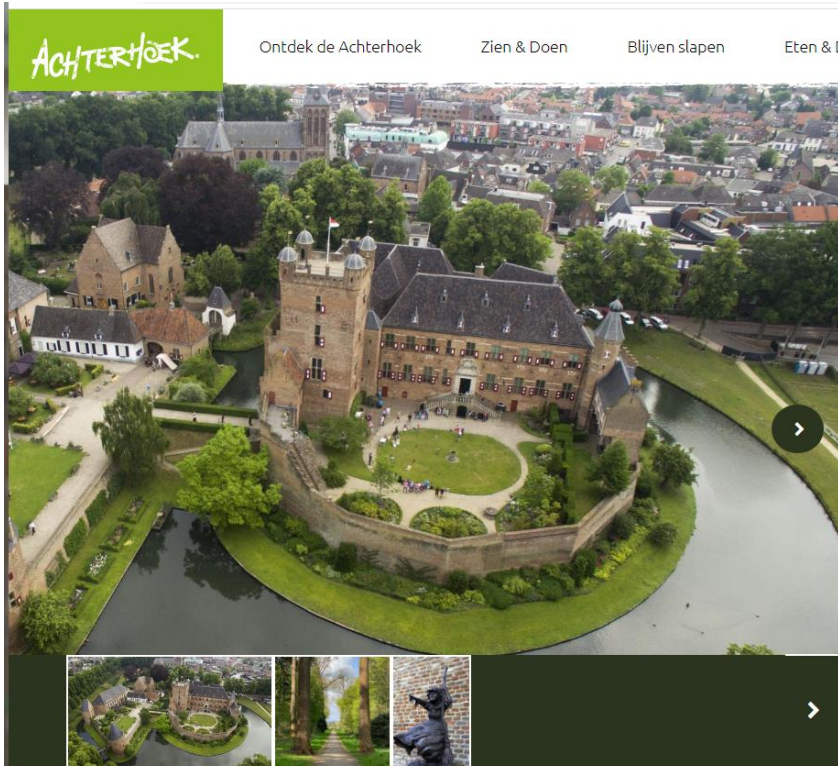
<https://www.nrz.de/staedte/emmerich-rees-isselburg/article214993571/rundgang-ueber-den-juedischen-friedhof-in-emme>



<https://www.geni.com/people/Isaak-Leyser/6000000014948533920> This is them, whose line goes back to 1740.

An Aalten Holocaust victim; <https://oudaalten.nl/samenleving/bevolking/personen/leezer-bernard-een-jid-is-een-jid/>.

Next I'll look at more direct ancestors. Recall that Jacob Cleves' father's final last name indicated he was from Emmerich. The 0520 source already provided in my end notes shows an Isaac Marcus marrying *Sebilla Heijman*, born in s-Heerenberg (Montferland). I was and still am trying to find the father of David Markus. This town was also by the Rhine River, close to Emmerich. Instead of another link here is a nice picture of that town.



That was perhaps a good place to end this side trip, but instead I'll link to an overview history.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/07/travel/tracing-jewish-history-along-the-rhine.html>.

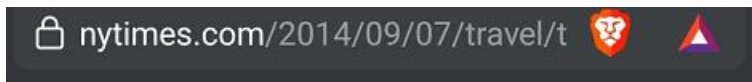
Since it didn't work like I was hoping, I'll explain what I'd searched for; another city along the Rhine (Rees), and actually another family – Reens. (I've thought that they might be descended from Markus's sisters, who's patronymic names were spelled with a "c" -see following link for more?).

<https://www.dutchjewry.org/genealogy/ashkenazi/4160.shtml> Website has an example of crossovers, or families that sometimes intermarried with each other. I'm not going to get into yet another Fles family from Amsterdam!

And the Reens' descendants may have moved in parallel (to Nijmegen) along with my ancestors, occasionally marrying with them. <https://www.geni.com/people/Rijntje-Vos/6000000016842339912>.

Note the last name there = Vos. I had a bit of difficulty looking those families up. It's a pretty common name.

Some of the Reens families still live in Aalten, NL. Some from Amsterdam were victims in the Shoah.



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Richter's luminescent 11,500-piece stained-glass window in the south transept. But our young guide had no idea of the whereabouts of the object I was after. We finally found it affixed to the north wall, toward the rear of the cathedral: a plaque posted by Archbishop Engelbert II in 1266 establishing in Latin the terms of the so-called Judenprivileg (Jews' privilege). It literally set in stone medieval Jewry's subservient status and prescribed perks for so-called Schutzjuden (protected Jews), notably the right to proceed unmolested when burying their dead.



Construction on the Cologne cathedral began in 1248 and didn't end until 1880. Benjamin Kilb for The New York Times