

BRIEF uit den FRAEMDE

door een Bekende

Editor: Hans BLOEM. Speciale Brazilië; March 2025



Sunset at the Lago Maggiore.

A special newsletter for my family about 25 year research to the roots of the Bloem family in the Netherlands and Brazil.

Dear family Bloem. It was in 1996 that I, after a discussion with my mother, became interested in the history of my family Bloem. This interest was stimulated too by an answer that I received to a question that I had raised via e-mail. From a list of e-mail addresses, containing the name Bloem, I choose some from which I was sure that they were not based in the Netherlands. Julie Bloem of the university of Texas replied to me in March 1996 and so started an interesting exchange of information.

NAA04821 for <hans.bloem@jrc.it>; Sun, 24 Mar 1996 13:12
Date: Sun, 24 Mar 1996 13:12:31 -0600
Message-Id: <199603241912.NAA04821@piglet.cc.utexas.edu>
X-Sender: jbloem@ccwf.cc.utexas.edu
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
To: Hans Bloem <hans.bloem@jrc.it>
From: 128.83.128.168@ccwf.cc.utexas.edu (Julie Bloem)
Subject: Re: Nice last name!

She put me in contact with her aunt Joyce Bloem in Sao Paolo, who was researching the Bloem family tree also, however from Brazil. Her problem was at that time, that only a little information could be traced on the internet due to the fact that they were looking in German archives.

Conversation continued with aunt Joyce on Thu, 14 Aug 1997
From: Joyce Bloem Carpentieri <jbc@akash.net>
To: Johannes Bloem <hans.bloem@jrc.it>
Cc: Lucy Bloem <arylu@mandic.com.br>
Subject: Johannes Bloem

I am looking for any information that may lead to the birth certificate and therefore more information for Johannes Bloem from Krefeld or Elberfeld Germany. As far as I can tell he was born between 1795 and 1800. His father's name is Matheus Bloem. I have no other information about his life in Germany. He came to Brazil in March 1823, married and died here.

Any help will be appreciated. Danke, Joyce Bloem
Joyce Bloem Cotia, São Paulo, Brazil

My own interest was at that moment more related to our own family Bloem in Groningen and honestly said I could not do very much with the information that I received from her, until the moment that I was awoken by a telephone call at my work. In Ispra, a so-called Open Day was organised on 9 May 1999 where everybody could see and hear about the advanced research that is carried out by the European Union. A certain Lillian Bloem wanted to meet me in person.

PHONE CALL			
FOR	Hans		
NAME	Bloem Lillian		
DATE	24	TIME	11.15 AM
PHONE	02-6081466		
AREA CODE	02	NUMBER	6081466
EXTENSION	0215456		
MESSAGE	Ti amo salutare personamente		
TELEPHONED	☐		
RETURNED YOUR CALL	☐		
PLEASE CALL	☐		
WILL CALL AGAIN	☐		
CAME TO SEE YOU	☐		
WANTS TO SEE YOU	☐		

It appeared that Lillian, with her husband Mario and daughter Paola, apart from the research, were interested in me because we had exactly the same family name, BLOEM as is written in the Dutch language and not like in the German, English, Portuguese or Swedish languages.

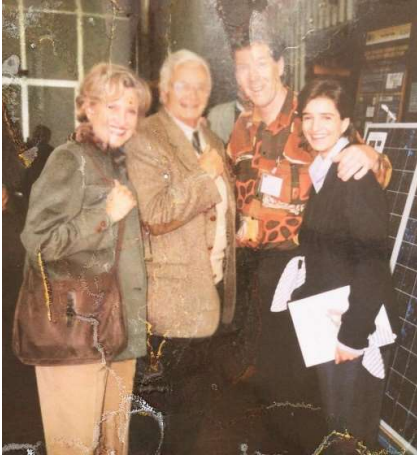
Paola lives and works in Milan and her parents were visiting her and had arrived from Sao Paolo. Her father originates from Bergamo and mother Lillian, the sister of Joyce, from Sao Paolo. The discussion we had in Ispra was very entertaining and interesting and as a result I went a week later to Milan to collect more information

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about the Brazilian family Bloem. Below I have placed a summarised version that represents the results of the genealogy research.



Paola and her parents at the JRC, 9 May 1999

Early October 2022, after 25 years, I have been with Paola in Virginia at her mother Lillian's place, where I was introduced to a big Bloem family. The generation of Lillian, the generation of Paola, the generation of their children and partners. They came from far, Australia, Brazil, Mexico and the USA, to the big house in Purcellville to be present at the Bloem family gathering.



Country house of Lillian

I had prepared a slide presentation to introduce them to their Bloem ancestors but in particular also the period that they were living, roughly 17th to 19th century. The conclusion, I can reveal already, since our families are indeed linked and through a not so expected event in the past.

However, to start my story I told them about the origin of our family name Bloem; from where it originated and what it means.



Family Bloem gathered in Virginia

The phonetical pronunciation is originally 'bloem' (*bloom* in English) and not blo-ëm. In Brazil every character is pronounced individually, like they do in Italy. As it is written, bloem is originally from the Netherlands, not Germany - Blum, Swedish - Blom or English - Bloom. The word *bloem*, etymological described, knows two meanings closely related; see both pictures below: pollen (*meel*) of the stamen (*meeldraad*) and flower (*bloem*). Note that translation is problematic without losing the original meaning but I will give it a try.



The pollen of the stamen is considered as the finest, the best or most important of the flower (bloem). In the English language 'meal' and 'flour' are derived from it. In French there is the 'fleur du sel' in Spanish 'flor de Malaga' and Italian 'fiori di

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salmone'. All in the context of describing 'best' and 'finest'. Even 'flower of the virgins' (in Dutch: 'bloem der maagde') appears in religious textbooks that talks about Maria Magdalena.

With this explanation the Brazilian Bloem were happily surprised and will try to pronounce the name according to the origin Bloem (thus *Bloom*).



What we had discovered through the years was the fact that the person Bloem who came to Brazil, had his origin in Krefeld (nowadays Germany). He was born in the time that Napoleon occupied the region between the two rivers, Maas and Rijn and introduced the French administration for birth, marriage and death. In the past this had given me already problems when I was searching in the registers of around 1800. All administration had to be done in the French language, including names but the most bizarre fact was that during the period of the Napoleonic supremacy (1794 – 1814) a new French calendar was introduced. Several years ago, I discovered that Jean Bloem, was 'our' Johannes Bloem and born on 19 April 1799 and not during the 1st Floreal of the 7th year of the French Republic. This idiot calendar system based on weeks of 10 days was rapidly boycotted by many small-town administrators and hence created more problems than it would have solved.

Krefeld- M - G	∞+	1789	Mathys Bloem / Catharina van Elten
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The parents of Johannes were Matthias Bloem and Catharina van (von) Elten; their marriage was in 1789 in the Mennonite church in Krefeld.

The couple were running a tavern and entertainment site named *Tannenthal* and merchandised spices, just outside the (around 1800) walled city of Krefeld.

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Krefeld.

Brühlsche Garten bei Branitz, Neuholland mit einer großen und schönen Papiermühle.

Krefeld (Crefelt). Kreisst. im preuß. Reg. Bez. Düsseldorf, in der Nähe des Rheins; 1553 H., 15960 E. — Viele Fabriken und Manufakturen. — □ Zur vollkommenen Gleichheit. — Ch. Wilde Mann, Stadt Elberfeld, Anker. — In der Nähe die Bergnügungsorter **Tannenthal**, Kap, Delmühle.

My research went, from the moment that I discovered his parents, into two directions: where did they come from, who were their parents and why, when and how did Johannes arrive in Brazil?



From Krefeld to Sao Paulo

About Johannes, who was called in Brazil João Bloem, is meanwhile a lot, but not yet everything, known. On the internet is enough to be found in the Portuguese language, including his biography. Very surprised I was when I found:

www.pt.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/João_Bloem and recognised five well-know persons from Krefeld. Apparently João Bloem was a person who contributed to the young independent state of Brazil.

The whole present Brazilian Bloem family descends from him and meanwhile contains

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‘all the colors of Benetton’ according to Julie as mentioned in one of her first e-mail.

My research was stimulated by the regular contacts I had with Paola. We met often, because I started also creative art-projects in 2004 with the Dutch Joyce Bloem and asked Paola to get involved as well.



2004; Paola, Hans, Malu en Joyce

Soon we were convinced that some Bloem family characteristics in all three of us were present that without doubt could be explained from common ancestors, several centuries ago. But how and when would these families be linked? We started to look more intensively for hints and links and we got together at regular interval, here at the Lago Maggiore. In 2009, I had an interesting discovery when I found by coincidence that a certain Henrica Bloem married Anton Keverkamp in 1830, Schoterland (Friesland). She came from the South of the Netherlands, Boxmeer. That discovery appeared to be the connection with my mother’s side in ‘our’ family tree.

The story of Henrica, I mentioned already years ago and happens to be really a sad story. Recently I watched the Irish movie ‘Philomena’ and got an impression of what she must have gone through; abandon your child, give it to the nuns in the local monastery because the father was unknown and therefore she was banned to far away Friesland by her family who were living in

catholic Boxmeer. Henrica was a big shame for the family. A terrible and true story.

To have an idea about the geographical situation of the forementioned villages, find below a simple map of the region. It should be noted how important the rivers are, the waterways for trade and travelling.



Nijmegen to Krefeld is about 80 km, about 2 days by foot in the 18th century. Weeze is situated halfway, as is Boxmeer.

The father of Henrica was born in Weeze and that given fact was an important breakthrough for my research.

Hendrikus Joannis **Bloem**
b 1768 Weeze † >1843 (R’dam)
* 1796 Boxmeer
Hendrika Remmen
B 1770 † 14 mei 1843 (Boxmeer)
7 children they had

Joannes Bloem 12-oct-1803, Boxmeer
Matthias Bloem 16-oct-1808, Boxmeer
Willem/Guillaume Bloem 29-feb-1812
Anna Petronella Bloem 29-jul-1797
Henrica Johanna Bloem 14-sep-1798
Anna Maria Josephina Bloem 23-mei-1801
Mechtildis Bloem 27-feb-1806

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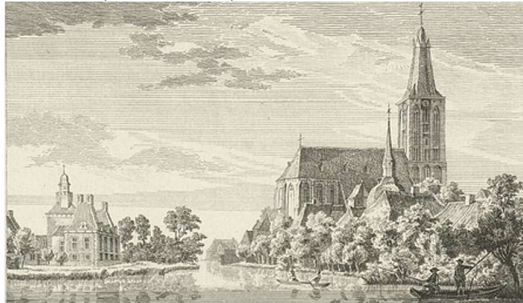
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It was quite common to give children the name of their parents, grandparents or direct family members which makes the search for family connections somewhat easier.

Joannis Henricus **Bloem**
B 1745 ? Weeze † Weeze
* 1760 Weeze
Hendrina van Daelen
B 1745 ? †
7 children, all boys
1761 Petrus * 1798 Weeze Christina Oort
1763 Gerardus
1765 Jacobus † 1834 Weeze (shoemaker)
1768 **Henricus Joannis** † 1843 (tailor, Boxmeer)
1771 Joannis Wilhelmus
1775 Matthias † 1848 Weeze
1778 Joannis † 1799 Weeze

I noticed in particular the names of Johannes and Matthias, but Hendrikus and Wilhelmus as well. The female versions are, Johanna, Hendrika, Wilhelmina etc.

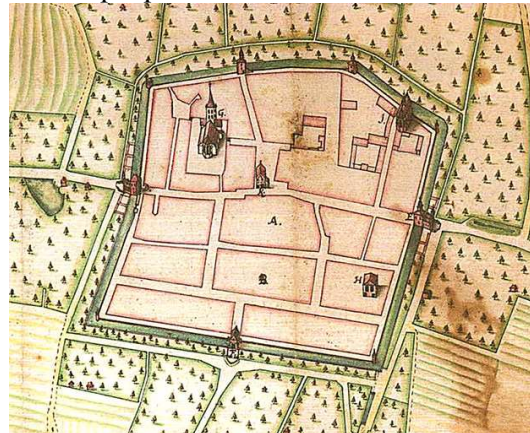


Weeze, RK Cyriacus church in 1743

The research in the church registers of Weeze was bringing me much further and I could make the Bloem family connections in that area. To make it a short story, there appeared to be more persons with similar names in the families Bloem and regularly I found the mentioning of Nijmegen and Kleve. So far the link of Henrica with Keverkamp at one side and Hendrikus with Weeze at the other side.

Returning now to Matthias Bloem and Catharina van Elten. In the 18th century the small village Krefeld was booming due to the development of the silk industry, setup by the family Van der Leyen. The reason

that we can trace Matthias or his parents, to Krefeld might be the economic migration in that period. Krefeld grew from about 1200 inhabitants to over 6000 (1765) in a relative short period. Because of its walled structure at the border of the Waal river, Nijmegen could not grow anymore but had a stable population of around 12000 people, so people had to migrate to villages around this important trade city. Another reason could have been the religious migration, since catholics and protestants were violently against each other in particular in the area where the rivers acted as barriers between these two groups. Krefeld had become a safe haven and more tolerant in particular for Mennonites, the hardworking and non-violent people.



The wall protected city of Krefeld around 1700

Towards the end of 1790 from the total Krefeld population (7500), 25% was working in the silk industry of Mennonite Von der Leyen. Nowadays a Mennonite church is still active and could be visited.

When Johannes was born in 1799 his birth declaration was made in the administration of Krefeld. As a witness Gottschalk van Elten, was mentioned, 42 years old, apparently the older brother of Catharina and pedant of the Mennonite community. Matthias was at that time 34 years old, so born in 1765.

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How is the connection of Matthias Bloem with the other family Bloem in that area? Therefore I studied the period in that region in the 17th and 18th century and in particular the role of Nijmegen.



Nijmegen at the Waal river around 1700

Nijmegen is the oldest town in the Netherlands >2000 years and founded by the Romans. The geo-positioned strategic town has always been important for trade, defence, etc. and played an important role for the villages in the whole area. Between 1600-1800 the population was quite constant, around 12000. After 1800 it was growing rapidly to 190000 (2020).

As everywhere in Europe, industrialisation changed city design and more space was needed, reason for people to migrate and hence the Bloem's. I have listed here the first documented mentioning of BLOEM

- 1545 – Nijmegen, Hendrick Bloem
- 1656 – Kleve, Anna Maria Bloem, marriage
- 1664 – Weeze, Grieth Bloem, marriage
- 1665 – Weeze, Steven Bloem, marriage
- 1690 – Beck, Hendrik Bloem was born
- 1746 – Krefeld, Wilhelm Bloem
- 1765 – Krefeld, Matthias Bloem was born
- 1772 – Kevelaer, Joannes born, father is Mathias Bloem
- 1789 – Krefeld, Matthias Bloem X Catharina von Elten

I have called it the migration ripple, with Nijmegen in its centre, that through the centuries moved towards Krefeld.

*Hui separantur copulati sunt in
anno millesimo sexcentesimo sexagesimo
et Januarius copulati sunt Steven Bloem et Altius van
Wieckeren testis Grooter de Dieck et Derck Bloem
In 1665 Steven Bloem married Altius van
Wieckeren in Weeze and one of the
witnesses was Derck Bloem.*

Note the time period of 200 years, a duration of about 7 or 8 generations Bloem.

Krefeld- M - G	~	1765	Mattheis Bloemen /	Jan Bloemen /Sophia Bloem
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Mattheis Bloemen is Matthias Bloem

Searching for names, families, etc. appeared to be difficult, often before 1800. Missing registers due to diverse sources (different churches) or due to disasters, like flooding or fire, what happened in Weeze where the church burned down in 1769.

Also gaps in registration for whatever reason that can be (church minister was ill, and asked after his return to the population if babies were born or people died).

In Germany nowadays, access to registers is difficult for privacy protection regulation but is more internet based in the Netherlands. In Germany, one has to visit the archives and make an appointment for searching in specific registers. However, in Kleve the *inter-regio* database of 17-18th century is available that should contain the time and area that I am interested in.

I was able to trace the family composition of Matthias and Catharina and 9 children.

Matthias Bloem ?-1765 Krefeld † -1830 Krefeld * 24-nov-1789 Catharina van Elten 1768 Krefeld † 1836 9 children 11-oct-1790 Johanna Maria †10-aug-1791 Krefeld 15-jul-1792 Johanna Maria 20-jan-1795 Henrieta 6-apr-1797 Frederik Hendrik † 18-mar-1836 19-apr-1799 Johann (Jean) † 21-apr-1851 Porto Alegre 15-may-1804 Freidericke 1805 August 9-jul-1806 Julius 1809 Florentine
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The main interest are two males, Johannes and August who both travelled to Brazil. Our interest is Johannes Bloem who travelled probably in 1820 or 1821 to Brazil. He was mentioned in a letter from 10 January 1822, found in the archives in Rio de Janeiro. See further.

In Brazil, as far as I can see, João did not apply children name conventions. However, the family name that was used in

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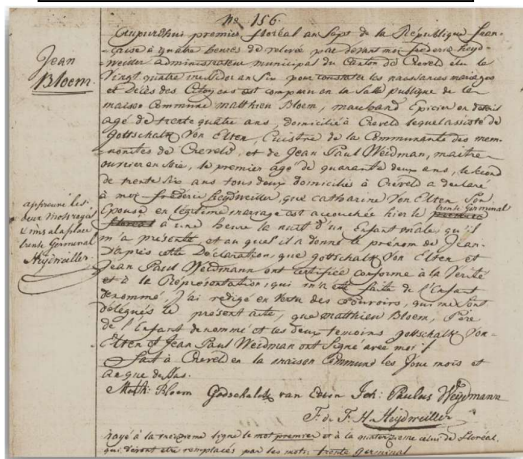
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administration was Bloem until the day of today.

João (Johannes) Bloem
19-apr-1799 Krefeld † 21-apr-1851 Porto Alegre
* 26-1824 Recife (Pernambuco, Brazil)
1798 Maria Carolina de Albuquerque Porto C †

3 children; Recife (Pernambuco)
1827 Antero Augusto Bloem † 1883
1828 Jose Maria de Albuquerque Bloem † 1900
1830 Joaquim



"Registro Notarial de Nascimento de Jean Bloem. Fonte: Acervo Horst Steimel.

Then a look to the family of August. He travelled with Johann to Brazil around 1837 but did return eventually to Krefeld.

August Bloem
1805 Krefeld †
* 24-mar-1825 Elberfeld in Krefeld!
Fredericke Sophia Jacobs †
They had three daughters
1826 Johanna Carolina Catherina
1827 Fredericke August
1829 Wilhelmine Mathilde

Recently I have met several of the Brazilian and meanwhile American Bloem-family. However, Sao Paulo remains the family-root. The whole family tree will become available in another document. Let me return to the situation in Brazil around the time that Johannes was born and philosophise about the reason he left Krefeld for Brazil.

A little bit of history, in a true nutshell: Brazil was claimed for Portugal in 1500 by

Pedro Alvares Cabral. During the 17th century the Dutch were traders in the North of Brazil, in particular Pernambuco.

Brazil was ruled from Lisbon as a colony until 1808 when the royal family having fled from Napoleon's army and established the seat of Portuguese Government in Rio de Janeiro. Brazil became a kingdom under Dom Joao VI who returned to Portugal in 1821.

His son Pedro declared **Brazil's independence on September 7, 1822** (now 200 years ago) and became emperor with the title of Dom Pedro I. His son Dom Pedro II ruled from 1831 to 1889 when a federal republic was established in a coup by Deodoro da Fonseca, marshal of the army. Slavery had been abolished a year earlier by the Regent Princess Isabel while Dom Pedro II was in Europe.

The situation in Europe was influenced by the Napoleon army also. The French Republic was announced and created a lot of problems. The period of crisis started for which I made a short list.

1794 – 1814 France occupies and annexes the left Lower Rhine Region.

1789, 1800, 1810 Krefeld silk industry crisis years in the economic developments.

João Bloem born **19-apr-1799**

1814 Prussia takes again control over the area after the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo.

1815 Volcano eruption Tambora on the island Sulawesi in Dutch-Indonesia. The year without sunshine but a lot of rain and harvest was very poor, creating hunger among the population of Western Europe.

1816 "Year without Summer". Lower Rhine area flooded in Spring.

So, Johannes or João grew up during these crisis years. When he left for Brazil is a guess but there are some hints. First of all the forementioned letter.

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In January 2022, I received a mail from Luciano Bonatti who shows me a letter from José Bonifácio (Rio de Janeiro), dated 10 January 1822.

The letter written in French, mentions three persons that have our interest, Thomas Cochrane, Karl Theremin and Jean Bloem! It was sent to Carl Theremin, and mentions the name of a Prussian "Jean Bloem". José Bonifácio was the patriarch of Brazil's independence and at the time was the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Brazilian Empire. It was probably a diplomatic correspondence between the Brazilian minister and the Prussian consul (Carl Theremin). It was José Bonifácio who invited and negotiated the coming of Lord Cochrane to Brazil.

Note that João was 23 years old, appears in a high-level correspondence and apparently brings engineering expertise that has the interest of leaders.

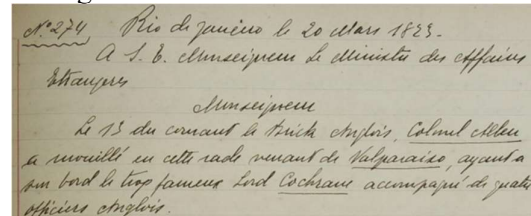
So, who is Cochrane and who is Theremin? Thomas COCHRANE, member of a famous British naval family.



He was appointed by Chile and Peru to fight against the Spanish to liberate the countries from colonisation. He was based in Valparaíso, Chile from December 1818 until 1820 and became immortal when he caught the Spanish Esmeralda ship.



During the Brazilian Revolution 1821 – 1822 he was invited to come to Brazil and to create a naval army to beat the Portuguese.



He was appointed commander of the Brazilian Navy on 21 March 1823.

João Bloem became private officer of Cochrane. Bloem's first military entry dated March 17, 1823, as "John Bloem, 24 years of age enlisted as a German volunteer on the warship "Pedro 1" part of the fleet "Colonel Allen".

July 2, 1824: During the Revolution of 1824, John Bloem distinguishes himself among the reigning forces and is gravely wounded in combat in Pernambuco.

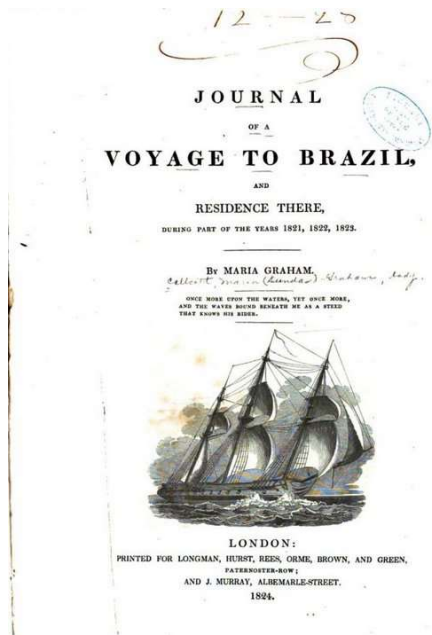
In November 1825 Thomas Cochrane returned to UK.

Who likes to read more about Brazil in the period of the revolution and independency, I suggest to look on the internet for the book of Maria Graham. Very smooth reading about the nature, the conditions of living and the situation in Bahia, San Salvador. It sounds like paradise and if I understand well from Paola and Lucia it is truly paradise. Warm weather, fresh fruit and fish, lovely people and no stress. What more to wish.

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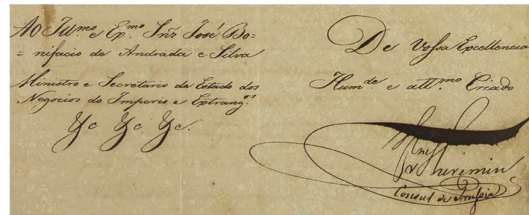
Google: *Journal_of_a_Voyage_to_Brazil*

Carl Wilhelm von THEREMIN
Prussian King Frederick Wilhelm III (1770-1840) in January 1820 appoints a consul (unpaid). Theremin was for all a trader and knew people in Antwerp, Amsterdam, London and Portugal (Brazil!!!). Gold and diamond trading with Rothschild in London and later Rio de Janeiro. Theremin was befriended with emperor Joao VI. His first visit to Brazil was in 1817.



1818 Royal Palace in Rio painted by Theremin

Since 1820 José Bonifacio de Andrada e Silva and Karl Wilhelm Theremin had a lot of official letter exchanges concerning the foreign business affairs as well as having people entering the country from Prussia.



1824. First official Prussian consul in Rio de Janeiro and director of the trading company W. Theremin. He was a great painter too and became famous.

1818 - Opportunities to work for young unmarried men to travel free to Brazil.

So right from the start in his new home-country, João Bloem became involved in the creation of Brazil. He was on a war-ship (1823-1824); he became director of a prison (1825-1829) and he was about 10 years director of the Bloem-cannon factory in Sorocaba, Ipanema (1835). Later he was asked to renovate the urban plan in Recife. But he shot himself to death in 1851; very sad.



Travelling and living in 18th century.

Some further information about travelling, working and living around 1800, the period that Matthias was running *Tannenthal*, Johannes was born and Napoleon occupied the area. In the year 1650 travelling from Krefeld to Nijmegen or vv. by foot, horse or carriage took about 2 days over the 80 km sandy roads along the rivers and brooks.

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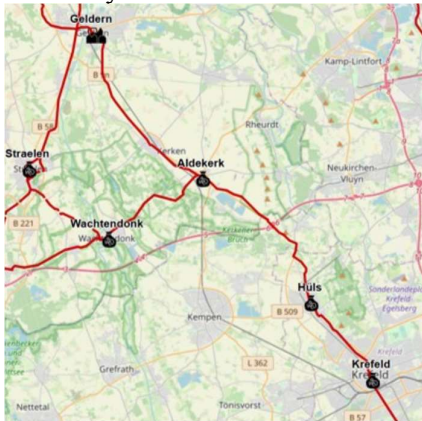
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Means of travelling around 1800

To get from Krefeld to Nijmegen, six times toll had to be paid to pass the small villages on the route but the merchants were allowed to sell their products.

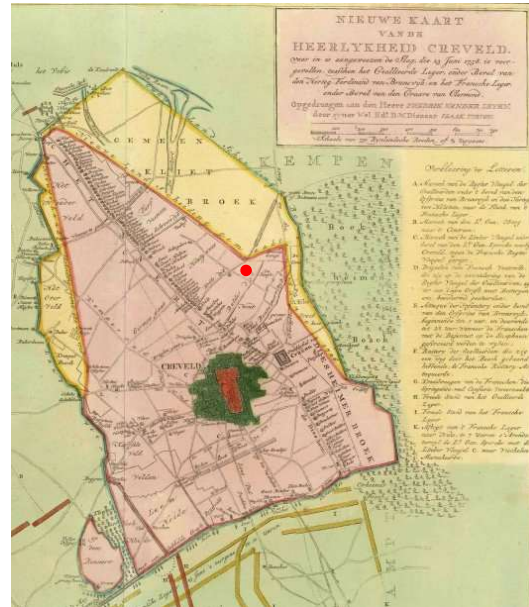
In the picture below the old routes are placed on a part of a modern map. At that time, trade was happening in wall protected towns situated along the major rivers, Maas, Waal and Rijn and the merchants brought their wares on their shoulders or in small carriages. Arnhem and Nijmegen were the more important merchant towns that could be reached by small boats.



The road to the North was along the small river Niers, that connected the small villages Boxmeer, Cuyk, Kleve, Weeze, Geldern and on both ends, Nijmegen with Krefeld.

The region between the rivers Maas and Rijn is known as *NiederRhein* and has lots

of rivers, brooks and swamp areas. Along these water ways, roads and paths the small villages are linked, often by dikes to protect the houses from the regular flooding. Old Krefeld has a lot of dikes.



Krefeld, city and region in 1758

Note all the dwellings in a row along the road towards the North. In the walled booming city, no space was available for construction and most of the people that were involved in the silk industry were working at home, even a baker, shoemaker, cheesemaker and so on.

In the corner of the notable point, North-East from the city centre, the gallows were placed. On the dike towards that area, on the crossing with another dike, *Tannenthal* was built (red dot) where Matthias Bloem run his inn and entertainment resort. On this map from 1758, the building did not yet exist.

Matthias Bloem and Catharina van Elten made the place well known and it was frequented by merchants during the week and people from the city, the *Hautvolee*, on Sundays. They were running it until 1828 when it was sold to another innkeeper (from Didam, of all places). Johannes, born in

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1799 grew up in this house, surrounded by his sisters and brothers.

der Krefelder Hautevolee



Tannenthal; photo from early 1900

The family appeared to be acquainted with the higher class of the city probably through the connection with the Mennonite community to which Catharina's brother, Gottschalk van Elten was the pedant of the Mennonite community in Krefeld. Documents from the tax payments from that time, demonstrate that among the 33 top contributors to the city tax income all were Mennonite families and several were closely linked to the Van de Leyen family who were the owners of the silk industry.

Very remarkable is the Mennonite marriage in 1727 between Johann van der Leyen (41 old) and the childless widow Adelheid van Elten (45 old), apparently an economic marriage. The brother of Adelheid, also named Gottschalk and the older sister Barbara, were close to the Van der Leyen family and somewhat related as well closely involved in the Mennonite community. Gottschalk had 3 young children in 1727 and one of them could be the grandfather of Catharina.

How did Matthias Bloem meet her?

The answer is not easy to give, however it could be that the relatively small Mennonite community is part of it. Around 1760, after the ending of the 7 year's war, Mennonites

were mostly found in Krefeld and a few in Nijmegen. The fact that the family Van Elten has found refuge in Nijmegen (Krefeld was fully occupied) in 1655 may be the occasion that the few families had regular contacts and married each other to keep their religious belief, ongoing. This was also the case in Krefeld.

It seems that Jan Gottschalk van Elten fled in 1654 with his family from Gladbach to Nijmegen, as many Mennonites were forced to find a more tolerant place to stay. Gladbach is situated a bit more South-West from Krefeld when the Spanish were joining the French army in the beginning of the 17th century in the Europe-wide war that lasted about 30 years.

I did not find any trace of a related Bloem in Gladbach or Jülich in that period. However, Krefeld was a safe place and Gottschalk happened to end up in 1677 in the Krefeld Mennonite church as priest and deacon. He was also a master silk weaver.

For sure he should have met the family Van der Leyen in Krefeld because Mennonite Adolf von der Leyen (c. 1624–1698) was seeking refuge in the city of Krefeld, at the time ruled by the more tolerant House of Orange-Nassau.

The problem is to find documented evidence. The Mennonites were keeping their own administration (to be found in Amsterdam) at least until the French administration was introduced around 1794. Prussian king, Frederick the Great sought to protect and develop domestic silk production and helped the Von der Leyen business to expand further by granting them a silk production monopoly for Prussia.

BRIEF uit den FRAEMDE

door een Bekende

Editor: Hans BLOEM. Speciale Brazilië; March 2025



*Friedrich Heinrich, Baron von der Leyen
(1769–1825), the silk baron*

Frederick the Great stayed in the Krefeld house of the family von der Leyen after winning the Battle of Krefeld in 1758 during the 7 years' war with the French.



Visit of the Prussian king.

By 1763, half of Krefeld's population of 6082 worked for the Von der Leyen factories. However, local economy suffered by the beginning of the 19th century from several crisis.

Conclusion, so far as I have been able to derive from the available documents and internet research, is that Bloem (*bloom*) is a true family name from the Netherlands, that

the Brazilian Bloem family has its roots in the Netherlands through Johannes (Jean, Johann, etc.), that they were closely connected to the Mennonite church and that they are linked to 'our' family Bloem.

The whole story about João (*Johannes*) in Brazil, is very interesting and demonstrates his energy and positive attitude to create and to perform.

There is much more to write about the Brazilian family Bloem as well as the family Bloem that is linked to ours in the North of the Netherlands but I leave that all for the future.

Further research can be done in the archives of Nijmegen and Arnhem to the family Van Elten, Mennonites at that time of which there were not too many, as was the case in Krefeld. In Nijmegen there were about 180 by the year 1790 as can be found at the gameo.org website.



In memoriam Joyce Bloem († 2017)

I should not forget to mention Joyce Bloem, here in the picture. With her, we have been working for a while on nice projects in Italy. She told me about her family Bloem and it seems that her ancestors, before they left for Indonesia, were living in Nijmegen. Recent research shows that a common ancestor probably is Otto Hendriks BLOEM (1649).

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At familyresearch.org (2022), I have found a reference in the database to the appearance of the family name Bloem. The top 3 are: obviously the Netherlands 2704, Germany, 441 and the USA with 199. About 10 years ago I was looking in telephone books and it was clear from the list that >3000 persons are in the Netherlands, mostly in the North, and in Western Germany, along the border with the Netherlands. One may consider this finding that Bloem is Dutch as Dutch can be.

As the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche already said: "*The future belongs to those who have a long history*". I hope that this genealogy research may be helpful to enlarge your history.

I am NOT a tree, NOT a bird, NOT a stone, I am a BLOEM and so happy to find more Bloem on this planet.

BloemScholtens website.

The information about "*our*" grandparents can be found at the website www.bloemscholtens.nl .

All the presented documents are available in pdf-format. There will be regular updates. For further information, commentary and remarks, you are invited to write an e-mail to: hans@bloemscholtens.nl

Greetings from Doetinchem, Ciao, Hans