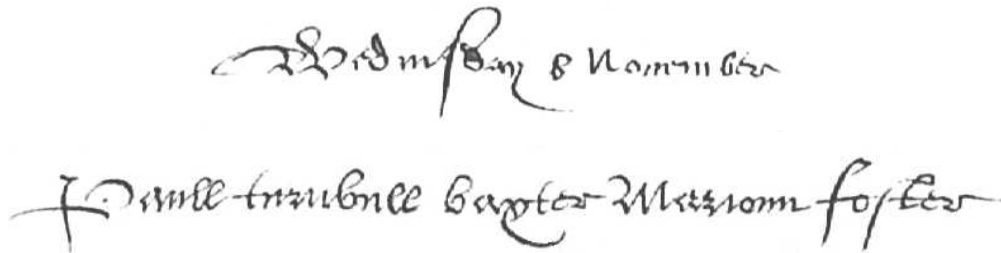


How Turnbull Became Trommel In Holland

- by Johan de Buij, Amersfoort, the Netherlands

The story of the Dutch Trommelen family starts in Edinburgh. In November of the year 1598 a *baxter* (baker) named Paull Turnbull married Marioun Foster.¹ In all of the certificates of baptism and marriage found in the Scottish Old Parish Registers from the middle of the sixteenth century until after 1600 he was the only Paul with a family name like that.



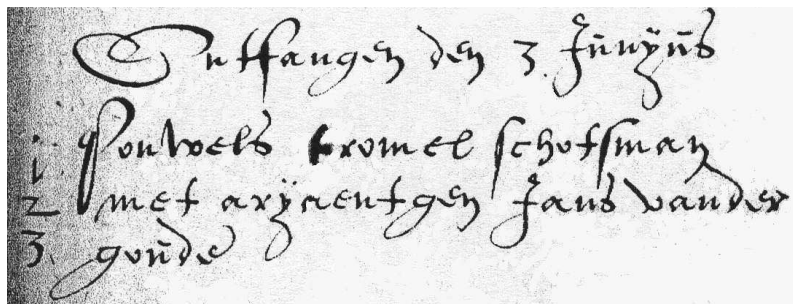
Paull Turnbull baxter Marioum Foster

(source: O.P.R. Marriages 685/00104300024 Edinburgh)

Seven months later the *baxter* Paull Trumbull (sic) had his son Johnne baptized.² There is no document to show that Paull and his wife had more children. It is possible that Marioun had died shortly after Johnne's birth and perhaps the son had not survived either.

One should not be confused about the use of the names Turnbull and Trumbull. Clerks and pastors wrote the names as they understood them. One and the same father in Dunfermline in Fife was called Trumble, Trumbil, Trumbill and Turnebull when his children were christened between 1585 and 1601.³ As a matter of fact, there are at least 107 spelling varieties in Scotland and other English speaking countries and 9 more corruptions in France, Germany and the Netherlands.⁴

A few years after the birth of the boy we find a *Schotsman* Pouwels Tromel (!) on the other shore of the North Sea, in the Republic of the Seven United Provinces. More precisely it was in the town of Gouda, famous for its cheese. In June 1606 Pouwels (from Paulus - nowadays Dutch people say Paul) was mentioned as the groom of Arijaentgen Jans van der Goude (Little Adriana, a daughter of Jan of Gouda).⁵ He might have been a soldier, for there was a garrison in the vicinity of Gouda,⁶ presumably under Captain Robert Barclay, or else under the famous Scott of Buccleuch.⁷ A registration as a citizen of that town has not been found, so apparently Pouwels had never settled there.



Ontfangen den 3. jūnijns
Pouwels Tromel Schotsman
met Arijaentgen Jans van der
Goude

"Received on the 3rd of June
Pouwels Tromel Scotsman
with Arijaentgen Jans van der
Goude"
(i 2 3 refers to the proclamations
- source: Trouwboek Hervormde
kerk Gouda 15, f 217, 3 June
1606)

Why was Paull or Pouwels or Pauwels in Holland? From the late 1560s the northern, predominantly Calvinist, regions in the Low Countries had been revolting against the Catholic Habsburg rulers. The rebels did not have a standing army, but used mercenaries from the poorer pockets of the new Republic and from Germany, Switzerland, Sweden,

England and Scotland - Protestants and Catholics alike. The first Scottish troops on Dutch soil arrived in 1572, together with the English. R.E. Scott mentions "the 200 legionnaires who enlisted under Scott of Buccleuch to assist the Netherlands in their war with Spain",⁸ in 1603. Paull Turnbull might have been one of them. At one point in time there were about 10,000 of Scottish troops in the service of the States-General, i.e. the Republic's parliament and highest authority.⁹ The last Scottish regiment was disbanded in 1782. Many of the soldiers stayed and married in the Netherlands, hence present-day Dutch family names like Abercrombie, Bredie, Carmiggelt, Heij, Kreiken, Makaay, Makkinje, MacLean, Ros, Wilson, Zuiderland and of course Trommel (Trommelen, Trommels). As *nommer* was the old Dutch word for number, it is only obvious that Trumbull would become *Trommel*.

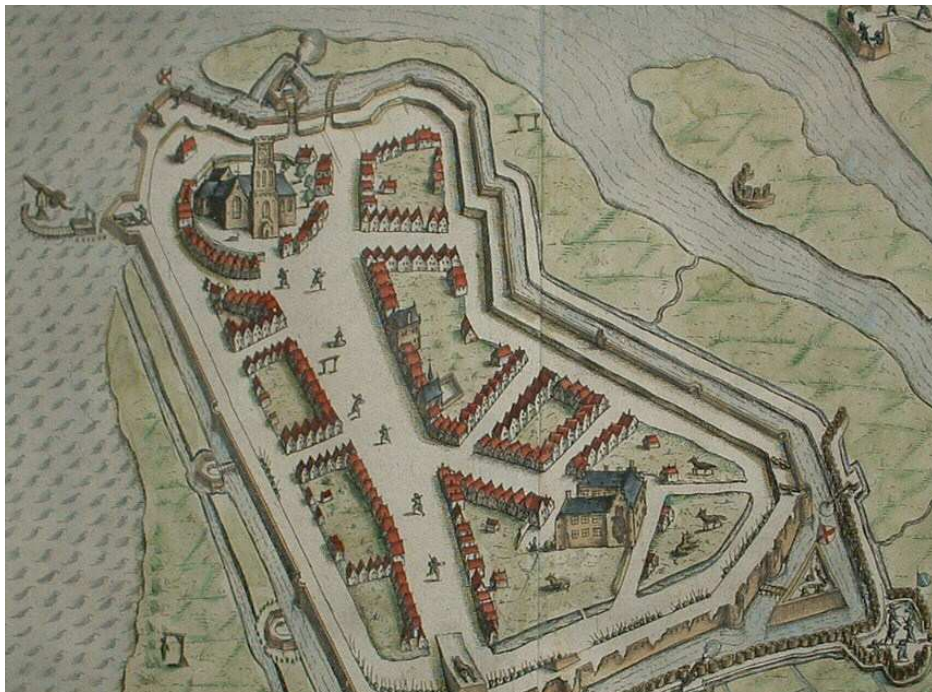
Four years after his marriage Pauwels was in another garrison town, Geertruidenberg, on the southern border of the province of Holland. A list of new citizens mentions "vj May 1610 Pauwels Trommel van Edinborch in Schotland III £".¹⁰

Pauwels Trommel van Edinborch in Schotland

Situated at the front with the Habsburg territory of Brabant, it was an important garrison town. In 1609 a truce had started, though, lasting until 1621. Perhaps Pauwels was released; perhaps he had to become a citizen of Geertruidenberg in order to marry Bregtken Willems; perhaps he was married already. The couple had three children: Trijntgen (a diminutive of Catharina), David and Willem.

From 1615 Pauwels Trommel was recorded in Geertruidenberg as a baker. Apparently he had taken up his old trade again. In that very same year he is recorded as a guarantor for an amount of 680 guilders¹¹ (in 2010 that would be about 10,000 euros).

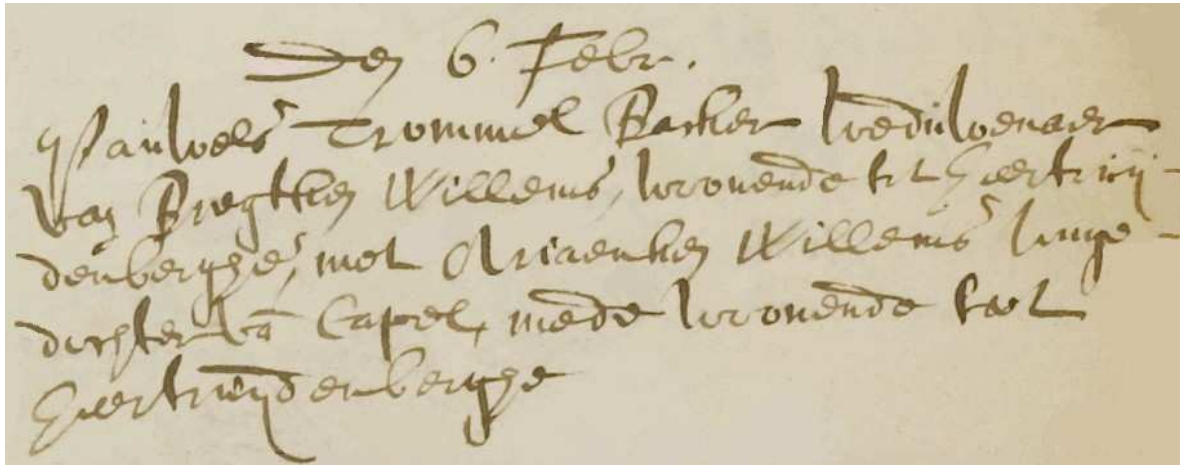
The Trommel family lived from 1616 until 1622 to the south of the church square.¹²



The town of Geertruidenberg during the rebels' siege of 1593, after English troops had sold the town to the Spaniards. Above is the east. Just to the right of the church are some trees, next to which was Pauwels Trommel's house from 1616 until 1622. (source: Cornelis Claesz., in Ludovico Guicciardini, *Description des tous les Pais Bas*, 1609)

Bregtken died and left her husband with three children under age. In February 1621 it was stipulated that Pauwels had to provide for food, beverage and clothing for his children until they would come of age or would marry. He was also responsible for teaching them how to read and write and for enabling them to learn a trade, amongst other things.¹³

Three days later the banns were proclaimed for Pauwels and his new bride Ariaenken (another Adriana) Willems from Capelle, a village close to Geertruidenberg.¹⁴

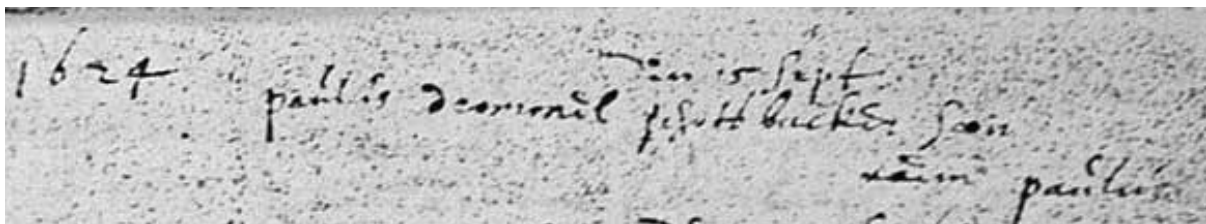


On the 6th of February 1621 the banns were put up for Pauwels Trommel, a baker and widower of Bregtken Willems in Geertruidenberg, and Ariaenken Willems from Capel[le] in Geertruidenberg.

Pauwels had mortgaged his house for a total amount of 940 *rijnsgulden* (almost 14,000 euros in prices of 2010).¹⁵ Why did Pauwels lend all this money?

Around the time of Pauwels' fourth marriage a new house was being built at the east side.¹⁶ Unfortunately something went wrong with the construction and Pauwels' house was damaged; the expenses would be 600 guilders. A few months later the local magistrates decided that the representative of the seller of Pauwels' house would have to pay half of this amount,¹⁷ possibly for concealed defects. The seller appealed,¹⁸ but the outcome of the cause is not known. One document says that there had been a sentence in connection with Pauwels being in arrears with his payments.¹⁹

In December 1622 Pauwels sold the house for 2,070 guilders, which enabled him to pay his creditors a total amount of 1,670 guilders²⁰ (about 30,000 euros in 2010). The family moved to the village of Sprang to the east of Geertruidenberg. Pauwels was also a baker there. In 1624 he had a son called Paulus and four years later a daughter named Willemkje.²¹ Paulus carried on the Trommel, later Trommelen, family name in the Netherlands.



Registration of the christening in Sprang of Paulus Drommel's (sic) son Paulus on the 15th of September 1624. The text mentions that the father is a Scotsman ("Schott") and a baker ("backer") (source: Dopen NG Sprang 1617-1626)

In 1621 hostilities between the revolting Republic and the Habsburg rulers recommenced. The rebel Prince Frederik Hendrik of Orange Nassau pitched his camps for the winter in the region around Sprang. Grain and other food were confiscated and during wintertime some locals were taken hostage in order to extort payments to the armies.²²



Above: a part of the Republic of the United Provinces in 1648; the province in green is Holland. Gouda and Geertruidenberg are indicated by red ellipses. The village of Sprang would be just below the letter d in 'Geertruidenberg'.

After the troops had left Sprang and other villages, the plague broke out in 1625, with far-reaching consequences for the population and the local economy. So many people died that there was no place left at the churchyard. It was decided that carts would bring sand to the cemetery, so that new corpses could be buried on top of the old remains.²³

The requisitioning, quartering, kidnapping, extortion, plundering and destruction to both houses and estates by the troops of either sides as well as the contagious diseases between 1624 and 1627 and the storm and floods of 1627 had caused so much damage, that the inhabitants of this region were at the end of their ropes. The villages, Sprang in particular, tried to get a tax reduction of the province of Holland. It succeeded only partially, though.²⁴

After a new plague in 1634 the Dutch army besieged the town of Breda south of Holland. Again there was an encampment in Sprang. The enemy was in the village of Loon op Zand,²⁵ at the other side of the border. The Dutch managed to capture Breda in 1637.

During these 17 years both passing and billeting armies must have caused a lot of grief to the locals.²⁶ In many respects the situation was like in the Borders earlier in history!

From two deeds of April 1637 appears that Pauwels Trommel had died by then. David and Caterina (Trijntje) from his marriage with Bregtken Willems transferred all the rights to the goods left behind by their father to his last wife Adriaentken Willems and her children Paulus and Willemke. The condition was that Adriaentken would pay Pauwels' debts.²⁷

From Sprang the Trommel family had spread into the western part of northern Brabant and the rest of the Netherlands and converted in the 17th century to Catholicism.

In our times, two keen genealogists are Sjef Trommelen and Cornelis (Kees) Trommelen, the latter being a member of the Turnbull Clan Association. He had his haplotype (R1b1b2a1b5*; L21+, P312+) analysed, confirming his relationship to the Turnbills.

The writer of this article is a descendant of Cornelia Trommelen, who lived around 1800 and thus supplied some Turnbull traits into his family. He is an economics and history master, does genealogical researches in his spare time and is also a member of the Turnbull Clan Association.

notes:

- 1 O.P.R. Marriages 685/001 0430 0024 Edinburgh, 08-11-1598; the *Register of Marriages for the Parish of Edinburgh* begins in 1595 and include the city as well as the districts outside the wall, like the West Port and Potterow, in St Cuthbert's parish, with the parish of Canongate in the east (www.scotsfind.org).
- 2 O.P.R. Births 685/001 0010 0128 Edinburgh, 03-06-1599.
- 3 <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>.
- 4 from various sites, like www.electricscotland.com.
- 5 Trouwboek Hervormde kerk Gouda 15, f 217, 03-06-1606.
- 6 J. MacLean, *De huwelijksintekeningen van Schotse militairen in Nederland 1574-1665* (Zutphen, 1976; Werken Koninklijk Nederlandsch Genootschap voor Geslacht- en Wapenkunde IV).
- 7 He was there in 1598; in 1626 there was a Scottish captain Barclay in Steenberg.
http://members.home.nl/riandirksen/captains_tot_1715.htm.
- 8 R.E. Scott, *I Saved The King. The Story Of The Turnbells* (Hawick, 1986)³; G. MacDonald Fraser mentioned '2000' of them in his book *The Steel Bonnets. The Story of the Anglo-Scottish Border Reivers* (London 1995)¹⁹, p. 364, but that seems an exaggeration; see also *Gens Nostra* (1972), p. 383.
- 9 <http://members.chello.nl/r.bergjeths/leicester.html>
- 10 Ordonnantieboek Geertruidenberg 1593-1625, Archief Stadsbestuur Geertruidenberg, nr. 12
- 11 RA Geertruidenberg 20, f 157, 08-12-1615.
- 12 ibidem, f 190, 26-08-1616; ibidem, 21, f 77, 15-03-1621.
- 13 ibidem, 21, f 72v-73, 03-02-1621.
- 14 Trouwboek NG Geertruidenberg 1614-1631, inv. 4, 17b.
- 15 RA Geertruidenberg 21, f 49v, 15-02-1620; ibidem, f 73, 10-02-1621; ibidem, f 73v, 10-02-1621; ibidem, f 86, 30-08-1621; ibidem, f 86v, 30-08-1621 (2x); more debts of Pauwels: ibidem, f 36, 02-10-1619; ibidem, f 67v-68r, 02-12-1620.
- 16 ibidem, 21, f 77, 15-03-1621.
- 17 ibidem, 3, f 87v, 17-12-1621.
- 18 ibidem, 21, f 101v-102r, 03-03-1622.
- 19 ibidem, f 124v, 02-12-1622, margin, in a note dated 18-07-1627.
- 20 ibidem, f 124v, 02-12-1622.
- 21 D NG Sprang-Capelle 1611-1669, f 68 and f 71.
- 22 <http://members.home.nl/marf/Sprang.html>.
- 23 H. Verschure, *Overleven buiten de Hollandse Tuin* (Dongen 2004).
- 24 Inventaris van het archief van het Dorpsbestuur van Sprang: inv 852; H. Verschure, *Overleven buiten de Hollandse Tuin* (Dongen 2004).
- 25 <http://members.home.nl/marf/Sprang.html>.
- 26 Inventaris van het archief van het Dorpsbestuur van Sprang: inv. 839-841, 852, 860, 862, 889 (Gemeentearchief Waalwijk); Inventaris van het archief van het Dorpsbestuur van Loon op Zand, 1570-1811: inv 1775-1777, 1779-1782, 1784-1785, 1787-1791 (Regionaal Archief Tilburg).
- 27 R.A. Raamsdonk, arch. nr. 2707, inv. nr. 88, f. 56, 16-04-1637.