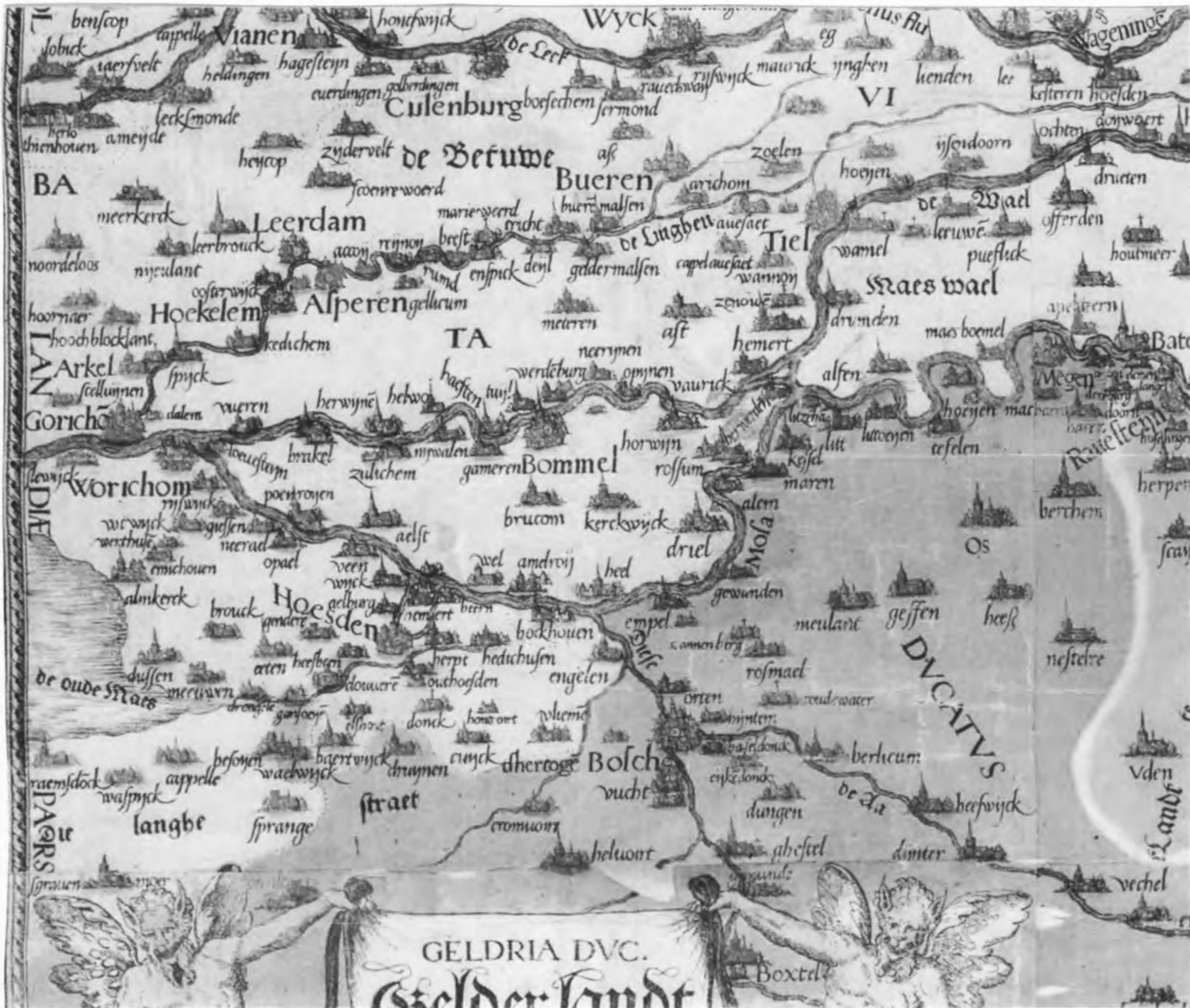


*Southern Gelre near the confluence of the rivers Waal and Maas
 ~Homeland of the family Van Tuyl*



Detail from a map of Jacob van Deventer, 1556]

Chapter 2

Fourteenth Century Nobility

The Van Tuyls of Gelre

Since the Carolingian era (beginning with Charlemagne, *circa* 800 AD), the County of *Gelre*, along with other counties like Holland, Friesland and Brabant, had been part of the German empire, ruled by counts with a feudal link to the *Holy Roman Emperor* - the German King. In 1339 Gelre was elevated to the status of a duchy, just as Europe entered the politically turbulent times of the 14th through 16th centuries, a time of many changes in the balance of power throughout the continent. Marriages and legacies created new alliances, and when a sovereign died without descendants, a war of succession would often erupt.¹ The most consequential of these disputes was over the crown of France. When French king Charles IV died without an heir in 1328, leaving two of his nephews - King Edward III of England and Philip of Valois - to contest the succession, an assembly of French nobles chose the Valois claimant to be King Philip VI. War erupted between England and France - it came to be known as the *Hundred Years' War* - and its repercussions had their effect on much of western Europe, including the Low Countries, and Gelre in particular.

Of even greater local effect to the Gelderse nobility was the war of succession between two brothers - both sons of Duke Reinald II of Gelre - over who would rule the duchy. The family van Tuyl was deeply involved in this dispute, as we will see later. But to understand who they were and what their feudal roles were, we first need to understand a bit about the *feudal system* as it was practiced in 14th century Gelre.

A Complex Feudal Society

The basis of European society in the Middle Ages was the *feudal system*. Like most organizations, it was a lot more complicated in practice than in theory. Also, it consisted of overlapping, but often intertwined, ecclesiastical and secular systems. During the Carolingian period, the agrarian-based feudal system evolved from the system based on *serfs* - virtual slaves bound to the soil and at the mercy of the lords - to one based on *freemen* who were in theory free to come and go, but were in practice bound to their land out of self-interest. Central authority had broken down after the time of Charlemagne, so authority was exercised at many levels. This feudal society was a closed economic system based not on money, but rather on direct exchange of goods and services.

¹ The Tielerwaard was always part of Gelre; the Bommelerwaard definitely became part of it after the battle at Woeringen in 1288 between Reinald I of Gelre and the alliance between John I of Brabant and Floris V of Holland.

Chapter 2

Not only the nobility, but also those from the ranks of freemen [called *vassals*] would place themselves under the military protection of a lord by donating their property to him and pledging to do him some military service upon request. In exchange, the lord would lease back [*enfeoff*] the vassal's property to him and proceed to collect some form of tribute.^{2, 3}

Freemen who were farmers did not actually own their land in those days, but held it *in fief*, meaning they were also *vassals*. Their sons [and daughters in Dutch society] could inherit the land, but if there was no heir apparent upon the death of a *vassal*, his land would revert to the lord, who could then sell it or *enfeoff* a new *vassal* with it. These farmers, of course, paid taxes, but not in money, and often indirectly. They were required to donate their labor - in dike maintenance, for example. Often, they commuted their obligations to the feudal masters into *rents* - probably paid as a *tithe* on their produce.⁴ In modern terms, they might be called *sharecroppers*.

The local lords, through their *heerlijkheid* ["manorial rights"], exerted considerable power over the everyday lives of local farmers. But in Dutch society, since they lived among the common folk, at least they understood local problems. Their closest counterpart in English society would seem to have been the "country squire". Their manorial rights included: the levying of fines and tolls; license fees for hunting and fishing and for the right to hold fairs and to marry; mandatory fees for milling grain, brewing beer and pressing grapes.^{5, 6} The now-picturesque windmills of many Dutch villages were in fact one of the most profitable elements of the *heerlijkheid*. Farmers were prevented from individually or cooperatively hand-milling their own grain, and were required to use the lord's facilities at whatever fee he demanded.⁷ This was all part of the manorial system, which was not permanently abolished until 1848.⁸

From the 14th century onward, feudal position in Gelre derived from the Duke, whose predecessors had extended German influence as far south as the river Maas.⁹ Gelre was actually united by having the court of the *Graaf* - the count - move around the realm, projecting power through a sort of constant political campaign. This involved a class of mobile retainers - the

² Kalkwiek, A., "De Hertog en zijn Burchten," Zaltbommel, 1976, pg. 31.

³ Ganshof, F., "Qu' est-ce que la Feodalite," Brussels, 1944, pg. 12.

⁴ Encyclopaedia Britannica, 15th edition, vol. 18, pg. 620.

⁵ Slicher van Bath, pg. 57.

⁶ De Blecourt, A.S., "Kort Begrip van het Oud-Vaderlands Burgerlijk Recht," Groningen, 1969, pp. 226-227. The term *heerlijkheid* applied originally to the manorial rights themselves, but eventually came also to mean the village, or "manor".

⁷ Bartlett, R., "The Making of Europe," Penguin, London/New York, 1993, pg. 143.

⁸ Den Draak, J., "Het Archief van de Familie Van Dam van Brakel," in *Rijksarchief in Gelderland*, Arnhem, 1989, pp. 4-5.

⁹ The then-Count of Gelre, Reinald I, won the battle of Woeringen against the Dukes of Brabant and Holland in 1288, and with it, the Bommelerwaard. His territory included lands in present-day Germany as well as the modern Dutch provinces of Overijssel and Limburg.

knights - who apparently had no fixed residence most of the time, but rather spent their time traveling with the Count.¹⁰ The system evolved to the point where the Duke exerted political control over the local people through the local lord, and administrative control through a chain-of-command leading down to the village *schout*. This *schout* was appointed by the local lord, but reported administratively to the *ambtman*, who reported to the Duke. This *ambtman* was the Duke's representative in a region, and he had broad executive powers, including: execution of the Duke's orders and decrees; tax matters; maintenance of dikes and roads; military affairs; administration of justice. About the only area where the *ambtman* had no control was in land matters: this was the privilege of the lords.¹¹ The power to adjudicate also derived from the Duke of Gelre, through a system of courts: the *Hof van Gelre*, a sort of "supreme court", and the *Hoge Bank* ["High Bench"], a sort of superior court handling major civil and criminal matters, and able even to mete out the death penalty. Minor matters were adjudicated locally.¹² Local farmers and burghers had some say in the choice of their local government, but not much. They were able to nominate *buurmeesters* - sort of village aldermen - but the *schout* had final say in their selection. This *schout* was clearly the most powerful man in the village, since he controlled appointments, administration, and policing.¹³

Taxes were levied on the local farmers not only in the form of fees to the feudal lords, but also as *tithes* - 10% payments based on farm production that were originally made to the Church and its various monasteries and convents - but which eventually also became rights owned by the landed aristocracy and wealthy citizens. There were three kinds of *tithe*: the "great tithe", collected on grain production; the "small tithe", collected on fruits and vegetables; and the "screaming tithe", collected on new-born cattle. Often, the absentee owners of these tithes would contract out their collection for a fixed fee to some local farmer, called a "farmer of the tithe". In the case of secular owners of tithing-rights, they had to pay *taxes* to the Duke of Gelre based on the amount of land or value of property owned.¹⁴ The system of tax-by-tithing was finally abolished in 1910.¹⁵

¹⁰ Jappe Alberts, W., "De Staten van Gelre en Zutphen tot 1459," Groningen 1950, pg. 7.

¹¹ Kuys, J., "De Ambtman in Het Kwartier van Nijmegen," Gerard Noodt Instituut, Nijmegen, 1987. The word *Schout* translates: "Sheriff" or "Bailiff". But the modern usage of these English words does not really describe the office of *Schout*, which was a sort of local administrator, tax collector, and peace officer combined. Therefore we do not translate *Schout* throughout this text. The *Ambtman* was a government official, whose title we translate as "Administrator".

¹² Van der Ven, A.J., "De Rechtsbedeling bij de Dorpsgerichten in de Bommeler- en Tielserwaarden," in *Verslagen en Mededelingen van de Vereeniging tot Uitgaaf der Bronnen van het Oud-vaderlandsche Recht* 8, 1934, pp. 375-419. See also: Den Draak, pg. 4.

¹³ Van der Ven, pp. 380, 382. In cities, the system consisted of *schout* ["sheriff"], *burgemeester* [mayor], and *schepenen* [aldermen]. This system was imported to *Nieuw Netherland* by the Dutch.

¹⁴ For more information on Tithes, see: *Appendix 3*.

¹⁵ Hol, A.R., "De Betuwe," Leiden, 1965, pp. 197-199

The Peasant Class

During the Middle Ages, society's survival depended completely on the sweat and toil of its lowest class, *de boeren* [farmers]. French historian Georges Duby put it very simply:

*Europe's growth was based on the success of its agriculture. Everything arose from the farm: the flourishing of trade; the construction of cathedrals; the schools; science; the constantly advancing technology... they all found their roots in agriculture.*¹⁶

And agriculture, of course, was the lot of the peasant classes. Barbara Tuchman imagined the stalwart farmer as:

*...snub-nosed and rough in belted tunic and long hose, sowing from a canvas seed bag around his neck, scything hay bare-legged in summer's heat in loose blouse and straw hat, trampling grapes in a wooden vat, shearing sheep held between his knees, herding swine in the forest, tramping through the snow in hood and sheepskin mantle with a load of firewood on his back, warming himself before a fire in a low hut in February. Alongside him in the fields the peasant woman binds sheaves wearing a skirt caught up at the belt to free her legs and a cloth head-covering instead of a hat.*¹⁷

The peasant's lot was, in short, a relentless parade of toil-filled days and nights. In addition to the tithes and fees that were required of them, peasants had to perform various services for the lords, such as driving horse teams, sawing wood, guarding the local castle, breaking up the ice on frozen canals, and manufacturing brooms for the manor.¹⁸ Not surprisingly, there were peasant revolts throughout the Middle Ages, a famous example being the French *Jacquerie* in 1358 when a protest meeting erupted into a rampage which destroyed some 160 castles and manors.¹⁹ The clergy - being themselves among the ruling classes - did what they could to calm the masses by sermonizing about the afterlife:²⁰

*And all of you who toil so hard...And earn your daily bread in pain
Ye shall be ... exalted above the deacons, priests and officers
Above the oppressors who steal away thy goods ...
Be patient, and revolt not, for God shall avenge thee.*

*...Jan van Boendale, 14th Century*²¹

The early van Tuyls, as we shall see, were not of this peasant class, but rather the class of those who fought for power and derived their sustenance from the labor of peasants.

Who Were the Early Van Tuyls?

Written records dating back to the late 13th and early 14th centuries seem to identify two clusters of

¹⁶ Duby, G., "Erf van Europa," Geneva, 1993, pg. 11.

¹⁷ Tuchman, B., "A Distant Mirror; The Calamitous 14th Century," Ballantine, New York, 1979, pp. 171-2.

¹⁸ Van der Zalm, J., "Familiekroniek Van der Zalm," Zaltbommel, 1982, page 78.

¹⁹ Tuchman, pp. 176-7.

²⁰ Pleij, H., "Het Gilde van de Blauwe Schuit," Amsterdam, 1979, pp. 138-9.

²¹ Pleij, pg. 138.

Chapter 2

people using the name *van Tuyl*. There were several living in or around the village of *Tuil* early in the 14th century:

* **Ghijsbrecht die Voecht van Tuyl**, *knight*, and his wife Agnes. In 1322 they owned the hofstad and fishery called *De Nessche* in the village of Tuil.²²

* **Gosewijn van Tuyll**, *squire*, mentioned in 1331²³ along with his wife Elisabeth. He owned a house at Tuil and, in 1326, 2 morgen land *opten Es*²⁴ as well as a tithe at Ammerzoden in the Bommelerwaard (1326).²⁵ Given his title and his location, he may have been related to Ghijsbrecht and Agnes.

* **Gijsbert van Tuyl van Lievenstein**. In 1348 he consigned the castle *Lievenstein* to the Duke of Gelre.²⁶ One of his daughters married Dirck de Rover, ancestor of the family Rover van Tuyl. *Lievenstein* was destroyed by 1360 in the Gelderse civil war of 1348-61. No one knows exactly where it was, but possibly it was nothing more than the manor house of Tuil.²⁷

* **Dirck van Tuyl**. Co-signatory to a treaty in 1419.²⁸ As alderman of the High Bench of Tuil (1388) he used the van Tuyl coat-of-arms [three hounds] - probably implying a family relation to Ghijsbrecht van Tuyl of Tricht [see below], who used the same *wapen* in this time period.²⁹ We presume Dirck lived in the vicinity of Tuil, given his judicial office.

These *Van Tuyls* of Tuil may well have been related to one another, or possibly were just using the appellation *van Tuyl* to identify themselves by village of residence. But clearly they were members of the lower nobility - possibly the local lords of Tuil.

A second group of people named *van Tuyl* lived to the north, along the river Linge. Since they did not live in Tuil, they were obviously identifying themselves by their village of origin, possibly because they were related to the family still living there. They were:

* **Marcelis van Tuyl**, *knight* (1293)³⁰ ... owner of properties at the village of Enspijk.

* **Hacconis de Tuul** and his son **Willem**, and grandson (also named **Willem**), of the family *Hack van Tuyl*.³¹

²² Van Doorninck, P., and Van Veen, J., "Acten betreffende Gelre en Zutphen 1107-1415," Haarlem, 1908, pg. 179. See also: *Chapter 1*.

²³ Is.An.Nijhoff, "Gedenkwaardigheden uit de geschiedenis van Gelderland," deel I, Arnhem, 1830, pg. 267.

²⁴ Rijksarchief Gelderland (RAG), Archief Gelderse Leenkamer (AGLK) 1, fol. 8v.

²⁵ RAG, AGLK 1, fol. 8v.

²⁶ Kalkwiek, K.A. : "De Hertog en zijn Burchten," Zaltbommel, 1976, page 147. Sloet, J.J.S. en Martens van Sevenhoven, A.H. : "Register op de Leenaktenboeken van het Vorstendom Gelre en Graafschap Zutphen," Arnhem, 1924, pg. 487 (*'t Huys tot Lievenstein gelegen in den kerspel tot Tuyl*).

²⁷ Kuys, J., et al., "De Tielse Kroniek," Amsterdam, 1983, pg. 120.

²⁸ Van Slichtenhorst, A., "Boeken van de Gelderse Geschiedenissen," 1653, page 189.

²⁹ Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie, Den Haag, Collectie Musschairs, microfilm 65c.

³⁰ De Fremery, J., "Cartularium der Abdij Marienweerd," Den Haag, 1890, pg. 76, acte 102.

³¹ De Fremery, pg. 94, acte 137. See Introduction to the *Dutch Genealogy* for discussion and details.

* **Heer Ghijsbrecht van Tuyl**, *knight*. He was mentioned in 1345 as the founder of the *vicarie* of the church of Tricht, a village on the River *Linge* where he was apparently the local lord.³² It is this Ghijsbrecht van Tuyl, local lord at Tricht, knight in service to the duke of Gelre, who we now know to be the earliest proven ancestor of today's Van Tuyls.³³

We have already learned what it was to be a *Heer* - a local lord. But what did it mean, in early 14th century Gelre to be a *knight*?

The Warriors

Knighthood came into existence during the 12th century. Originally, knights were servants [*ministerialen*- a term dating back to Roman times] of a feudal lord. They functioned primarily as cavalry soldiers for their lord. But over the years, knighthood grew in prestige: so much so, that by the 13th century highborn noblemen and more lowly freemen sought to join its ranks.³⁴ Next in prestige below the *ridders* [knights] themselves, were the *knapen* [squires]. Younger and less prominent members of noble families often served as squires - sort of apprentice attendants to the knights. Some squires were elevated to full knighthood: others stayed *knapen* throughout their lives. There were also squires who were not connected to noble families, but who derived their rank from the fact that they served - armored and with a horse - in a military campaign. Some distinguished themselves in battle, and were elevated - others simply served and retired to farm life.³⁵ Though the term *knapen* disappeared toward the end of the 15th century, these squires probably formed the core of the leadership of the peasant classes as did the country squires of England. And like their English counterparts, they grew, as a class, into involvement in administrative matters.

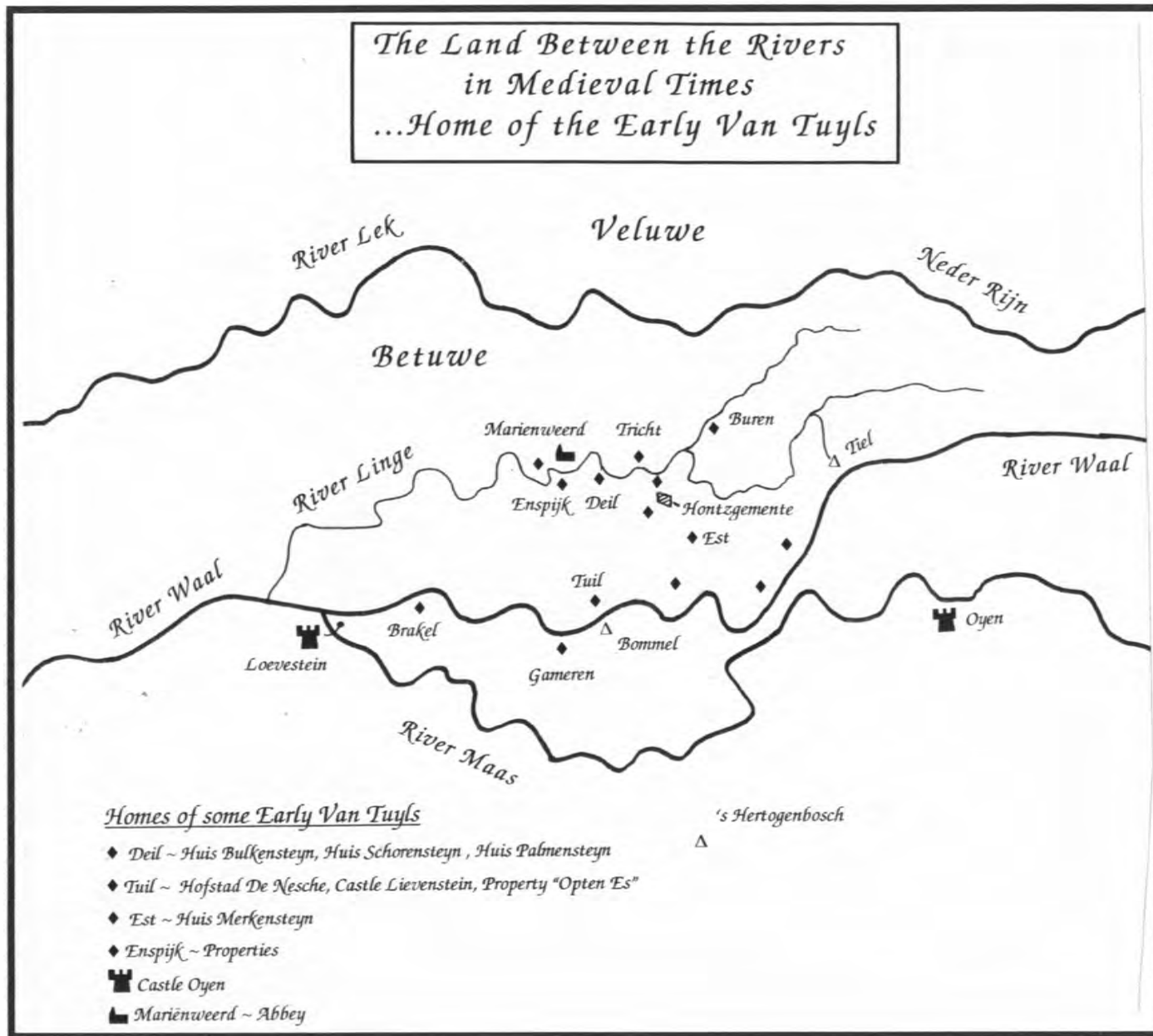
Clearly, the nobility - even the relatively unimportant squire or lord of a tiny manor - had certain privileges. Knights were exempt from the collective taxes, and when the inhabitants were summoned by the *klokkenslag* [churchbell] to work at the dike, knights were excused. Surprisingly, knights were *not* obliged to come when summoned by the churchbell to serve as soldiers in the duke's army. Only the duke himself or his regional representative, the *ambtman*, could conscript these armored and mounted warriors. When these knights did fight, it was a serious business, and the hostilities didn't necessarily end when the battles were concluded. The winners would often exact war reparations from the losers, and sometimes the losers would lodge claims of their own for damaged property. It was not unusual to demand ransom for prisoners and the wounded. In 1319 Count Reinald of Gelre was assessed 30 *pond* for the life of a citizen of

³² Drossaers, S.W.A., "Het Archief van de Nassausche Domeinraad," Den Haag, 1955, deel 2, pg. 48, regist nr. 185, 25-04-1345.

³³ He may possibly have been the son of Willem de Tuul the elder, and the brother of Willem de Tuul the younger, who was probably the founder of the family *van Tuyll van Bulkesteyn* [see: *Dutch Genealogy*].

³⁴ Plomp, N., "Een boer is geen edelman," in *Jaarboek Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie* 47, Den Haag, 1993, pg. 88.

³⁵ Plomp, pg. 89.



Dordrecht, but had to pay 150 *pond* for the son of a local lord.³⁶ The records tell us that one Gerard van Waardenburg - an ally of the Duke of Holland against Gelre - was made to pay 460 *pond* to Willem, son of Heer Ghisbrecht van Tuel.³⁷ It seems that litigation was an inevitable adjunct to medieval Gelderse warmaking.

In return for their fealty, the knights of Gelre were entitled to certain privileges. They attended meetings of the *Quarter of Nijmegen* or the *States of Gelre*, such as the *landdag*, where *riddermatigen* [nobles] and city representatives discussed such matters as taxes and treaties, and settled jurisdictional disputes. Because those on the list of nobles were exempt from taxes, it was in the duke's interest to keep the list as short as possible.³⁸ So, although in 1436 some Van Tuyls figured on the list of knights, by 1460 they had been dropped from the list.³⁹ By the mid-15th century, knighthood was becoming more of an honor, and less a profession of arms, and though many Van Tuyls were among the attendees at the *landdag*, none of them - and few of the attendees in 1460 - were listed as knights.⁴⁰

Civil War in Gelre

Shortly after the October, 1343 death of Reinald II, first Duke of Gelre, his sons Edward and Reinald fell into a bitter dispute over the succession.⁴¹ Their respective factions took up arms in a dispute that would continue until 1361, when Reinald was defeated. Although Reinald's succession rights were indisputable, that didn't stop his brother Edward - supported by cities like Nijmegen and Tiel and a part of the nobility - from challenging them.⁴² For nearly 20 years Gelre was torn apart by the struggle between the *Hekerens* (Reinalds party), and the *Bronkhorsten* (Edwards supporters).⁴³ Agreement after agreement was made, only to be violated.⁴⁴ On 25 May 1361 the decisive battle took place near Tiel: Reinald lost, was imprisoned and turned the duchy over to his brother Edward.⁴⁵ When Edward died in August 1371 Reinald was released and

³⁶ Berkelbach van der Sprenkel, J., "Regesten van Oorkonden betreffende de Bisschoppen van Utrecht uit de jaren 1301 - 1340, Utrecht, 1937, pp. 173 - 176.

³⁷ Berkelbach van der Sprenkel, pg. 175.

³⁸ Plomp, pp. 90-91. A list of *riddermatigen* made up in 1460 counts 60 names in the Tielerwaard, meaning 1 in every 20 heads of a family or 1 in every 112 inhabitants.

³⁹ Plomp, pp. 90-91.

⁴⁰ "Bijlagen bij eene Nederduitsche kroniek van Gelderland," uit het archief van Hilten, in: *Kroniek van het Historisch Genootschap bevestigd te Utrecht*, 31e jaargang 1875, 6e serie, 6e deel, Utrecht, 1876. Van Tuyls in attendance at the *landdag* of 1460 were: Dirck and Jan, brothers from Tuil; brothers Alert and Gijsbert, and also Willem, all from Deil; Aernt from Bennekom in the Veluwe.

⁴¹ Jappe Alberts, W. "De Staten van Gelre en Zutphen tot 1459," Groningen 1950, pg. 28.

⁴² Jappe Alberts, pg. 66.

⁴³ J. Kuys, e.a. : *De Tielse Kroniek*, Amsterdam, 1983, page 112.

⁴⁴ Jappe Alberts, pp. 67-68.

⁴⁵ Jappe Alberts, pg. 77. The castle Lievenstein at Tuil was earlier during the final campaign (1360) already destroyed by Duke Edward (Kuys, e.a., pg. 120).

reestablished in his rights as Duke, but he was deathly ill as a result of his long imprisonment and died on 4 December of that same year.⁴⁶

This civil war saw members of the family van Tuyl aligning themselves with both sides in the conflict. Gijsbert van Tuyl van Lievenstein, from Tuil, sided with Duke Reinald III, and it cost him dearly: by 1360, the *Bronkhorsten* had destroyed his castle.⁴⁷ Heer Ghijsbrecht van Tuyl of Deil, however, chose the “right” side in this dispute - Reinald’s brother Edward - and as a result his family prospered.⁴⁸

Heer Ghijsbrecht van Tuyl & Sons

Ghijsbrecht van Tuyl’s family put down roots in the villages of Deil, Enspijk, and Tricht, along the river Linge, near the abbey of Marienweerd. He founded a *vicarie* at Tricht in 1345 - an endowment for support of the local priest - dedicating it to the memory of one Gosewijn van Tricht and his wife Nanneke, to their parents and to his own (unnamed) parents.⁴⁹ Since he was *Heer* Ghijsbrecht, it would appear that he was the local village lord, and an important one at that, since he was also a knight. We know that when it came time to choose sides in the Gelderse civil war, *Heer* Ghijsbrecht aligned himself with Edward’s *Bronkhorst* faction - or at least we suppose he did given that he was a vassal of Duke Edward who witnessed the Duke’s marriage contract in 1368.⁵⁰ His knighthood and local lordship are probably further indicators that he donned armor, mounted up, and helped Edward defeat his brother in the decisive battle of 25 August, 1361, near Tiel. Ghijsbrecht died before 1383 having sired at least 6 sons: *filii domini Ghiselberti de Tuyle militis*.⁵¹ Several of *Heer* Ghijsbrecht’s sons were well-connected in the Gelderse establishment. Like their father, they were apparently vassals of Duke Edward of Gelre:

* ***Goessen*** - he witnessed the reconciliation (1376) and treaty (1377) between Jan van Chastelioen and Mechtelt, Duchess of Gelre.⁵²

* ***Willem*** - also a witness at the above affair of state, he too owned property at Deil.⁵³ Both Goessen and Willem were probably sons of Ghijsbrecht’s first marriage since they appear in earlier records, and never together with the other sons.

⁴⁶ Jappe Alberts, pg. 79.

⁴⁷ Jappe Alberts, pp. 67-68. Gijsbert van Tuyl van Lievestein signed an agreement of 14 April, 1355 on Reinald’s side.

⁴⁸ RAG, Archief Graven en Hertogen van Gelre (AGHG), charterverzameling 380, 1 Nov., 1368 and 437, 1 Nov., 1368.

⁴⁹ Drossaers, deel 2, pg. 48, regist nr. 185, 25 April, 1345. The dedication may indicate that he was related to marriage to a local family *van Tricht*. Later in life, he founded *vicaries* at Deil [see: genealogy].

⁵⁰ RAG, Archief Graven en Hertogen van Gelre (AGHG), charterverzameling 380, 1 Nov., 1368 and 437, 1 Nov., 1368. Duke Edward married Catharina van Beieren.

⁵¹ RAG, Archief Familie Van Tuyl van Bulckenstein (AFDB) 29, 12 March, 1383.

⁵² RAG, AGHG 25, fol. 24-25v, 2 Nov., 1376 and fol. 26-32v, 6 Jan., 1377.

⁵³ Archief Heren en Graven van Culemborg (AHGC) 4772, fol. 16 and fol. 79.



“Three long-necked beagles with tongues hanging out” - the *wapen* (coat of arms) of the family van Tuyl - appears here emblazoned on the head pew of the church of Tuil [top]; impressed in wax from the seal of Reyner van Tuyl [1458, left]; and carved in stone over the grave of Johanna van Tuyl [1544] in the church of Aalst [right]. The first known users of this *wapen* were Gijsbert van Tuyl van Lievenstein [1338] and *Heer* Ghijsbrecht van Tuyl [1368], the earliest known ancestor of today’s van Tuyls [RAG, AGHG, charterverzameling 380, 1 Nov., 1368 and 437, 1 Nov., 1368; Drossaers, deel 2, pg. 92, 29 Aug., 1368].

Official Seals of 14th-15th Century Van Tuyls



Gijsbrecht van Tuyl van Lievenstein [iic] This 1338 impression clearly shows his name encircling the shield, which includes the three beagle's heads as well as two ermine's tails.



Willem, son of Willem van Tuyl [ivc]. He was an alderman in Deil. This 1402 impression features a *Barensteel* at the top of the shield, to distinguish his seal from that of his father.



Reyner van Tuyl [IIIb], *Heer van Est*. This 1458 impression shows the small star at the top of the shield, which originated with his grandfather Gijsbrecht [ivb, I], as well as a profile of an ermine in the periphery.

* **Roelof** - owner of properties at Odijk in Utrecht,⁵⁴ he sold - together with his brothers - the tribute from a house at Zaltbommel.⁵⁵

* **Henrick** - lived in the village of *Est* with his wife, Joffer Ariaen.⁵⁶ His son *Coenraad* also lived at *Est*, had a wife named Margriet and descendants who were enfeoffed with the minor castles *Huis Merckesteyn* at *Est* and *Huis Schorestein* at *Deil*.⁵⁷

* **Gijsbert** and **Arnt** - both followed in their father's footsteps, becoming vassals and servants of the Duke. Their exploits are outlined in the following section.

Gijsbert and Arnt, Vassals of the Duke

The politically-connected van Tuyls had chosen the winning side in the battle between the brothers Reinald and Edward of Gelre, but their luck nearly ran out in 1371, when their patron, Edward, died. The long-imprisoned Reinald once again became Duke Reinald III of Gelre, and might have been inclined to punish his former enemies if it had not been for one thing: he was sick, and near death. Perhaps fortunately for the Van Tuyls - Heer Ghijsbrecht and his sons Gijsbert and Arnt - Reinald III lived but a few months after being freed. Since he died without an heir, however, the duchy was once again plunged into a battle for succession. This time, the surviving *sisters* were contesting the right of succession. But rather than let a destructive battle rage on in this, the age of the devastating *Black Death*, the Holy Roman Emperor in 1372 stepped in, choosing sister Maria over her rival Mechteld. Maria was married to Duke Willem van Gulick, and the German emperor had recognized their eight year old son - also Willem - as the next Duke of Gelre, with the father to act as regent until 1377.⁵⁸

But in 1388, when young Willem van Gulick, Duke of Gelre, was 24 years old, he nearly led his duchy into disaster by arrogantly insulting the King of France - the 20 year old Charles VI. The Duke, it seems, had allied himself with England in the 100 Years' War, and had accepted payment for declaring himself an English vassal. The armies of France marched north into Gelre, but what fighting there was took place south of the Maas, so Van Tuyls were not directly affected. The King of France made peace with Gelre - in return for an apology - and retreated back into his domain. The Gelderse nobility had narrowly escaped catastrophe under the leadership of their young, arrogant Duke.^{59, 60}

⁵⁴ Drossaers, deel 2, pg. 124, regist nr. 469, 12 June, 1393.

⁵⁵ RAG, Cartularium Groot Bommels Gasthuis (CGBG), fol. 15v, 30 June, 1394.

⁵⁶ RAG, Archief Huis Waardenburg en Neerijnen (AHWN) 1217, fol. 19v, 1419 and RAG, AGHG 620, fol. 5v.

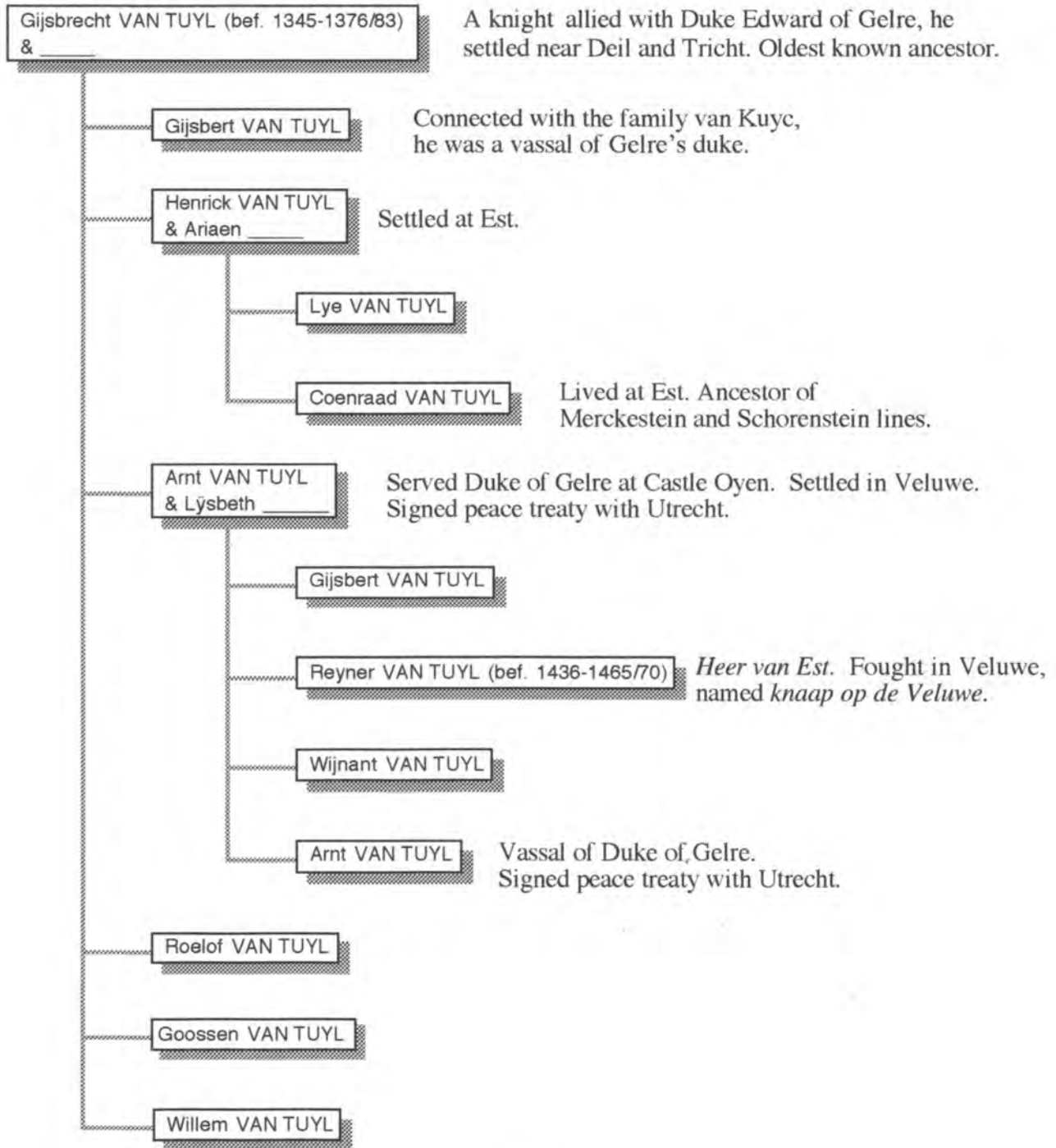
⁵⁷ See: *Dutch Genealogy*, generations 3-4.

⁵⁸ Nijsten, G., "Het Hof van Gelre," Kampen, 1993, pg. 11.

⁵⁹ Tuchman, pp. 456-7.

⁶⁰ Van Slichenhorst, book 7, pp. 164-165.

The Descendants of *Heer* Ghisbrecht van Tuyl



Privileges of Rank

Gijsbert and Arnt van Tuyl apparently did well under the feudal system of late 14th century Gelre, exploiting their family connections, and being lucky enough to come out on the “right” side of the various political and military battles of the age. No connections were more important in the 14th century than *family* connections, with political alliances being cemented by marriage as often as not. Along the southern frontier of Gelre - actually south of the Maas within the natural borders of Brabant - lay the town of *Kuyc* and the lands of the noble family *van Kuyc*. So important did the Duke regard these strategically-placed lands that he married his bastard son Willem to Johanna, daughter of Wenemar van Kuyc.⁶¹ A key official in the household of Johanna van Kuyc was Gijsbert van Tuyl.⁶² What was his function? He may possibly have held the important position of *ambtman* for the Land van Kuyc.^{63, 64} He obviously profited from his employment with the family van Kuyc and from being the Duke’s vassal.⁶⁵ In 1400, Gijsbert received a lifelong income of 40 *Gelderse* guilders per annum to be paid from the toll at Zaltbommel.⁶⁶ And he owned property - a house in Bommel and some other property in the small village of *Est*, where the van Tuyls would later reside for several generations. Evidently he was well-positioned in the lower ranks of Gelre’s nobility, even though he was not a knight, as his father had been.

Another van Tuyl to prosper as a feudal administrator was Gijsbert’s brother Arnt. During his life, Arnt owned property near Ede in the Veluwe region, in the villages of Est and Bennecom, and the city of Arnhem.⁶⁷ Employed at the Duke’s castle at Oyen, on the southern bank of the Maas, Arnt apparently administered the castle’s food supply, perhaps even working as a cook.^{68, 69, 70} Most important from the historical point of view was his enfeoffment with a property income named for

⁶¹ Coldewey, J., “De Heren van Kuyc 1096-1400,” Tilburg, 1981, pp. 201, 235. The marriage was during the years 1394-1400.

⁶² Gijsbert was mentioned as the cousin of Jan VI van Kuyc, and was possibly related through his sister Johanna’s marriage into that noble family. [Dulje, C.R., “Geschied- en Aardrijkskundige bijzonderheden in de voormalige heerlijkheid Boxmeer,” 1852, pg. 60, 01-07-1394].

⁶³ Archiefdienst Land van Cuijk, Oud Archief van de stad Grave 31, 24-04-1407.

⁶⁴ Rijksarchief Gelderland, Hertogenlijk Archief, rekeningen van de rentmeester van Gelre 232, fol. 335. One of the members of her household in 1398 was Gijsbrecht van Tule, probably the same person as the Ghijsbert van Tuyl who was *ambtman* of Cuijck in 1407.

⁶⁵ RAG, Archief Gelderse Leenkamer (AGLK) 104, fol. 31v, 10-11-1430 (Friday on St. Martin’s evening).

⁶⁶ RAG, AGLK 2, fol. 13, 14-12-1400. See also: *Dutch Genealogy*, generation 2.

⁶⁷ See: *Dutch Genealogy*, generation 2.

⁶⁸ RAG, AGHG 233, fol. 94v, 08-12-1400 (paid on behalf of the Duke 35 guilders to Arnt van Tule); RAG, AGHG 316, fol. 2, 08-04-1399 (Arnt van Tuyle delivered 80 guilders received from Derick Rycwijn’s son and 100 guilders from Alardt den Swerten); RAG, AGHG 317, fol. 52v (Symon Sloetmaker received 3 guilders for the keys for Arnts van Tuelle’s room).

⁶⁹ RAG, AGHG 232, fol. 83, 03-05-1399.

⁷⁰ In English castles with large staffs, the man who procured the drink was called the *butler*, and the provider of food was known as the *pantler*. [Public information at York Castle, England]. At the relatively small castle of Oyen, however, these functions could have been combined into a single job.

his employers: the *Cuickse*[Kuyc's]*Tithe*.⁷¹ [This tithe was passed down through four generations of his descendants, documenting their descendancy from him]. But the van Kuycs lost their lands during one of the many wars between Gelre and Brabant, and Johanna van Kuyc relocated to the Betuwe - today's Tielerwaard - probably due to the family's relation by marriage with the family de Cock van Opijnen.^{72, 73}

Later in life, Arnt van Tuyl may have moved to the village of Est in the Betuwe, north of the Waal, possibly as a retainer of the van Kuycs, who were enfeoffed there with the villages of Est and Meteren.^{74, 75} His family would become prominent village leaders in Est, as we shall see, but they did not settle there permanently, continuing to move on, generation by generation, from village to village, in search of opportunity, land, and position. Throughout the next century they would continue to be soldiers of Gelre, battling the enemies of the Duke, who were - after the 14th century - no longer just internal challengers, but formidable outside foes as well.

⁷¹ Sloet, J. and A.H.Martens van Sevenhoven " Register op de Leenakten-boeken van het Vorstendom Gelre en het Graafschap Zutphen," Arnhem, 1924, pg. 523, charter 235.

⁷² Coldewey, pg. 189 and 235.

⁷³ J.Kuys : De ambtman in het Kwartier van Nijmegen (ca. 1250-1543). Nijmegen 1987, page 360. What happened with the fief in the years after Johanna's death is not certain, because of the absence of feudal charters. But we know that in 1382 Hendrick of Est was the brother-in-law of Wenemar van Cuijck [Coldewey, J.A., "De Heren van Kuyc (1096-1400)," Tilburg, 1981, page 190], who married Aleydis de Cock van Opijnen in 1360. [Coldewey, page 189].

⁷⁴ RAG, AGHG 685, fol. 20v, 1434 tax list for Est.

⁷⁵ Van Doorninck/van Veen, pg. 372-378.

What's in a Name?

The village of Tuil, which had grown up in antiquity along a meander of the Waal, is the namesake village of the world's *Van Tuyls*. The name simply means, and has always meant, "from Tuil".⁷⁶ Normally, a Dutch man of the Middle Ages would have been known by his given name and a *patronymic* - derived from the name of his father. A Jan who was the son of Aert would, for example, be called *Jan Aertsen*. If he lived in a town where there were other Jan Aertsens around, he might be forced to adopt the name of his home village, or his parents' home village. If our *Jan Aertsen* had moved to Bommel from Tuil, he might have styled himself *Jan Aertsen van Tuyl* "John, Aert's son, from Tuil". But this did not necessarily mean he was related to any other Van Tuyl, it simply meant that at some time they, or their forbears, had lived in the village of Tuil. Specifically, the appellation "van" did not necessarily imply anything about the social standing of the person who used it.

How Do You Spell "Van Tuyl"?

As anyone bearing the name *Van Tuyl* outside the Dutch-speaking world surely knows, the spelling and pronunciation of this unusual name are challenging for most people, to say the least. In fact, the spelling of the name, and its namesake village, has not been static over the years, and even in today's Netherlands, this is reflected in an odd schism: the village is spelled *Tuil*, the family name *van Tuyl*. How did this come about?

The earliest [AD 963] recorded mention of Tuil spells the name *Thuli*⁷⁷ and the Bishop of Paderborn's AD 1031 decree spells it as the Latinized *Tuilon*.⁷⁸ Early documents spell it using the "y" character: *Tuyl*. Later, and possibly because printers could approximate the "y" with two standard pieces of type, the word sometimes appeared as *Tuijl*. The village spelling dropped the "j" in modern times, becoming *Tuil*, whereas the family modernized the "y" to a "y", producing the dominant modern spelling: *Van Tuyl*. In modern times, however, some Dutch Van Tuyls have adopted the spelling *Van Tuijl*.

In the United States, some bearers of the name have given in over the years to frustration with the mispronunciation of the name, commonly rendering it *Van Tyle*, or less frequently, *Van Tile*. Others have chosen to simplify the orthography by subsuming the "Van" into the "Tuyl", preferring to spell it as one word: *Vantuyl*.

⁷⁶ Unlike the German "von", which denotes nobility, the Dutch "van" simply means "from". It precedes the name of the village, town, or area from which the family originated.

⁷⁷ "De Monumenten van Geschiedenis en Kunst in de Provincie Gelderland; B. De Tielerwaard," *Algemeene Landsdrukkerij*, 's Gravenhage, 1946.

⁷⁸ Post, R.R., "Eigen Kerken en Bisschoppelijk Gezag in het Diocees Utrecht tot de XIIIe Eeuw," 1928, pp. 44-46.