

### **The nobility in 16<sup>e</sup> century.**

Abel Eppens writes, that in the Westerland (Westerlauwers Friesland) the nobility were very weak in goods and manor under the Burgundies, after their jurisdiction is taken away and the country has been divided in Grietenijen (district under a Grietman). In East Friesland aristocracy has changed into a monarchy. The nobility who has been restricted to little families who still has preserved jurisdiction and those who is, „naemafftich” (important) because of their goods and their Councils. In the Ommelanden the nobility has still increased in power, not only because he has preserved manor and jurisdictions, also because they still could extend.

Eppens outlines then how in former times nobility and peasant-proprietor harmoniously lived together, how the noble themselves took care of the horses and their cattle in the treasure houses, ploughed their land, for their little castle or stone houses and the country. „Summa, die commerlicke und spaersame eendracht was destijds die grotste macht”. Furthermore he notices that one did spoke of headmen, lordships or honourable men, but not of noble men. He calls a number on: Ripperda, Clant, Ompteda, Lellens, Broersema; Hemstra, in Munster, Entens changed, Ewsum, Tamminga, Onsta, Harsens, Jarges, Lewe, etc. Concerning the Reitdiep Jensema, Gaykinga and others; in the Marne Dijksterhuis, Manninga. There were still others as „naemafftigen un erbare men nor hoeger als egenerfden geachtet” such as Amsweer, Froma are at Wirdum, Ten Ham, Ten Holte in Zeerijp and such more, which who served the rights or served it because of the eigenerfden (freeholder).

But after 1536 prosperity has increased, the rent became higher, the luxury has increased and the nobility occupies himself more with governing board matter than with the company. One considered nobility and nobility, two of a kind, oldsten (old) und jungsten (young). Ripperda, Westerwolde (Addinga), Ewsum, Manninga and Onsta were not called headman or lord, but are called noblemen. The line Ewsum has however the largest reputation. Maybe Eppens gave a too idyllic picture of a former simplicity of singleness and union; we have seen that it is correct in numerous respects with what we have found.

Abel Eppens writes that Johan de Mepsche (the lieutenant of the head men chamber) at Loppersum, want to create sovereignty by jockey out the other headmen. This process decreases the value of the headmanship in a certain way. „The large headmen will call them more and more a nobleman and want to manifest them as nobility this way, while the smaller headmen does not do that at all.

The exodus after the treason of Rennenberg had also consequences on the composition of the nobility. This way the goods and the houses came in other hands. Not only through confiscation, nevertheless because of the debts. Abel Eppens is disapproving that the town citizens such as Popco Everardi, Asschendorp, Garbrant Heiners and a lot of others, who considered themselves previously unknown and, not powerful, now are headman in the states of the country. Popco Everardi was a secretary of the head men chamber, not without own profit. According to Eppens he has enrich himself with 50 country houses, ider kint 100.000 guilders vermeendt to bearven. The Asschendorpen belonged according to Eppens, to a family that floated the brewers company in Groningen masterly. „of slichte Drenten affcomende. (This family came from Drenthe). As a matter of fact according to Eppens all kinds of people of low birth came in the city government: Joost van Cleve, Lulof Rolefs, hat makers son,

Popco Everardus; from East Friesland, Jochum Ubbena, Frerick Moysteen, Derek Robers, Egbert Upkena, sexton son at Leer (Germany).

In 1594 the exiles could go to there houses, at least if they still had a house. A lot of houses have been devastated or came in other hands: the war was one of the reasons.

Eppens was telling about how the land runs wild by the long-term war. The hares and other wild animals had strongly increased in number.

### Wirdum, Bolhuis

The Bolhuis was one of the edele heerden at Wirdum in the Eekwerder claw. There is no prove that there was a stone house. The Bolhuis especially became famous because it was the property and the place of the annalist Abel Eppens in the 16<sup>e</sup> century. In that time it was no more than a considerable farm. The heerd have remained in possession of its located rights. A century later vice- the admiral Enno Doedes Star lived there, born in East-Friesland, and married in 1677, after the death of his first wife, Reynouw Gaickinga, he married Cornelia Pars from Appingedam. He probably died in 1705, or 1707 on the Bolhuis. Perhaps he has let build the country place of which was reported later.

Afterwards we find as an owner of the Bolhuis to the richter (geconst. Redger) Johan Adam Hinsbeek. He was married with Cornelia Star, probably a daughter of Enno Doedes Star. He tried in 1707, to appear for Wirdum on the field day, but was rejected because he did not live twelve years in the Ommelanden. He succeeded in 1713, and it allowed him to appear. Up to its dead around 1723 he appears remained. Then the Bolhuis came to Godefridus Cornelius Hinsbeek, probably a son of Johan Adam and also Richter.

Of 1731-1756 he appeared for Wirdum on the field day. In last mentioned year had let sell the Bolhuis legally, because of his debts. They talked of the place the Bolhuis with beautiful housing, treasure house and barn foresee, the yard, the courts, moat promenades, plants and plantations, large approximately three graze, with 60 ½ grass country, with manors and rights etc. The treasure house and the landed property were separately in use by Sijbe Geerts as farmer, the house and the yard by the person under obligation himself. Purchasers became the sworn Jan Jacobs Clemmius and his wife Elisabeth Snip for 6650 guilders. Clemmius died already in 1757, or 1758. Afterwards we find as owner to Barbara Kuil, widow of dr J. Swart. She sold it in 1783, to solicitor G van Troyen. Previously, on 10 September 1782, the public had been offered to buy the house and afterwards on 10 February 1784. In 1791, van Troyen transferred the Bolhuis to the language man Jacobus Buningh, who occurs also as constituted redger. He transferred, at least the rights, to his son Abraham also redger in 1795, constituted and later peace judge in the canton Loppersum. He died in 1826, on the Bolhuis, its widow Catharina Marrissen in 1841. She was still buried in fight with the law in the church or improve said reburied. The heirs sold the Bolhuis in 1843 to Anna Hendriks Jonker, widow of Antonius Jullens. These already offered to sell the country place in the next year. Shortly afterwards they pulled the house down.

### Wirdum Fromaborg

According to Abel Eppens Ballo Froma have established himself in 1534 or 1535 at Wirdum and has built a house afterwards. A fragment of hard stone, originating from the little castle, carries the year 1548. That could be the foundation year.

From the claw books you can see, that the house is built on eb(b)ekemaheerd or Ewkema, one of the seven edele heerden in the westerklauw of Wirdum are infer.

Ballo Froma served, as it happens, in 1536 for these heerd the redger right of Loppersum and Wirdum and when the heerd became its turn after 84 years, therefore in 1620, the rights came on the house. Ballo Froma, also as a confessed tutor of Abel Eppens, has died in 1576 (he was 63 years old) at Wirdum, buried in the church, where his tomb-stone still is present. Its son

Ballo was overdone with the matter of the insurrection, he died in exile in East Friesland. At the same time his brother Jacob Froma is present as headman, redger and judge (lankrechter) at Wirdum, in 1578. Also he went in exile, but returned in 1594.