

Georg Reinhardt Wiederhold (1599-1648)

Georg Reinhardt Wiederhold was born 1599 in Nassau, Hessen, Germany, and received military training at the military academy established around 1609 by [Count Johann VII. von Nassau-Siegen](#) [German]. There he was known as "Nassovius". [Alfred W's records](#) (Gen V 9, pages 20-24) show Georg Reinhardt between 1632 to 1637 at various military engagements in Hessen-Caßel; Delft; Vechta; Höchst; Kempen <get the chronology right>. In 1637 he receives an Imperial knighthood from Emperor Ferdinand III. von Habsburg, but it appears that he did not attend the ceremony. Georg Reinhardt was a military entrepreneur. He fought with his mercenary troops (Flemish dragoons) during the [Eighty-years war](#) (The Dutch Revolt 1568-1648), first under count Hendrik van den Bergh on the side of the royal Spanish troops of Philips IV. and later, when count Hendrik van den Bergh in 1632 turned over to the side of Dutch Republic, he was hired by the Dutch government (States General, by army commander: Stadhouder Prince [Frederik Hendrik van Oranje](#) [Dutch]) to fight the Spanish.

Around 1638 Georg Reinhardt arrived in Holland as a Colonel with his mercenary troops, 911 men. The end of the Eighty-years war was near and soon fewer troops were needed. His troops were reduced to 150 and his position was changed from colonel to lieutenant-colonel, with the revenues of a captain's income. He leaves the service of the government to be hired with his troops in 1642 by Countess [Agnes of Hessen-Kassel](#).

It appears that earlier he had married a rich lady, Elisabeth Voller (abt 1600-1642). Elisabeth had inherited substantial lands in the Betuwe, a central and very fertile section of Holland, between the two main rivers, the Rhine and the Meuse (Maas in Dutch). In a [1699 document](#) (pages 4, 5, VI 1) she is referred to as Elis. Vollers v. Bückingham. George Reinhardt's brother Hans David married a Johanna/Johannette Voller. I have quite a number of such paired brothers/sisters marriages in the genealogy by now. The wives' father is cited as Thomas Villiers of Buckingham.

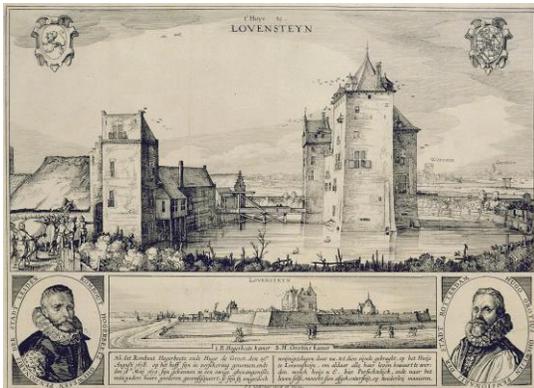


In 1642 Georg Reinhardt buys a lot in the Hague from the counts of Holland and had a large house built at the corner of the Buitenhof, just outside the current Dutch parliament enclave, the Binnenhof. Just beyond the corner is the Gevangenport, where today medieval methods for forcing confessions out of prisoners are displayed, a favorite tourist attraction in The Hague. But the Wiederholds did not hold on to the mansion very long. By 1652 it had been sold to another mercenary: Count Jaques-Lois de Noyelles and since that time the property is called: "[Noyelles House](#)".

As of 2018 it houses the offices for the Dutch scientific governmental council (Wetenschappelijke Raad voor het Regeringsbeleid) and the Public Communication Service (Dienst Publiek en Communicatie) for the department of General Affairs (Ministerie van Algemene Zaken; Buitenhof 37). You can see the mansion now on [Google streetview](#).

Georg Reinhardt fought in the last years of Thirty Years War (1618-1648) under general Rabenhaupt against the Imperial troops under general Holzappel. An extensive [article describes his misdeeds in 1645 in the catholic German town of Kempen](#), near the Dutch border. Subsequently, in battle near where he was born, he unfortunately loses a leg, caused by a bouncing cannon ball, and dies from his wounds on 8 Feb 1648. His body is taken to the city of Delft. He and his wife, who had died 1646, were buried in the Nieuwe Kerk (the New Church, built in Delft. Alfred reports that on the [gravestone was inscribed](#) (see p.23) “Georgius Reinhandus Widenholt Weidenhofen Rom. Majestat, eques dominus in Pouderoyen, Collonel et Gubenerator in Boekholt obiit Februarii anno 1648”. Gio and Voy could not locate the burial stone in 2016.

In 1645 Georg Reinhardt and Elisabeth Voller bought from Albertine Agnes of Nassau (1634-1696) Poederoyen, a large tract (about 2x3km, over 2 sq miles) near the Delta town of Zaltbommel, including the village and the castle Loevestein. in the south-west of the Netherlands Through that purchase George also gained the title Freyherr von Buderoyen or Heer van Poederoyen.



In the village of Poederoyen stands a castle, [Loevestein](#), built in 1361, now a popular holiday destination. It gained fame as a prison for [Hugo de Groot](#) “Grotius” (1583-1645), a statesman, scholar, and the originator of, among other, modern military and maritime laws. His disdain for religious rule caused him in 1619 to be condemned to be ‘eternally imprisoned’. But in 1621 Grotius [escaped from Loevestein in a bookcase](#) and settled in Paris. The Lyceum that Gio attended in the Netherlands was named after him.

The seller, Albertine Agnes of Nassau was the grand-daughter of William the Silent of Orange (1553-1584), the German revolutionary who won the Netherlands’ independence from Spain. I have not been able to find out how Albertine came to own Poederoyen. Earlier it was one of the properties of [a rich Dutch family](#), with possessions across the entire Betuwe. An [imposing building](#) in the [center of Nijmegen](#), dating from about 1550, later a latin school and an architectural office, is the Pouderoyen Compagnons.



Since Elisabeth’s father is cited as Thomas Villiers of Buckingham a further connection is possible.

There appears to be a relationship to a complex and rich English family. [George Villiers](#) (1592-1628) was a favorite Courtier of king [James I. of England](#) (1466-1625). George was only of minor nobility, but well educated. He became first the Royal Cup Bearer, then Gentleman of the Bedchamber, baron, viscount, marquess of Buckingham (1618), lord admiral of the fleet (1619), and first duke of Buckingham (1623). During that time he tutored the royal heir [Charles I](#) (1600-1649), who became king of England, Scotland, and Ireland in 1625. During 1623-1625 George conducted marriage negotiations for Charles in Madrid and Paris. By then he was broadly criticized for his extravagances, enrichment of his family, catholic leanings, and military failures. George was assassinated in a pub in Portsmouth in 1628 by a disgruntled soldier, then seen as a hero by many.

On 16 May 1620 George Villiers had married Katherine Manners, a daughter of the earl of Rutland. The couple is depicted in a 1621 painting by Anthony Van Dyck: *The Continnence of Scipio*, now hanging in Christ Church College, Oxford. They had 4 children. Their eldest daughter, [Mary Villiers](#) of Buckingham (1622—1685) married about 1660 (as third husband) colonel Thomas Howard (abt. 1613-1678), who then is also referred to as Thomas Villiers of Buckingham. Thomas' father was Theophilus Howard (1584-1640) and his grandfather was Thomas de Walden Howard (1561-1625), earl of Suffolk.



Several Howards participated in a campaign led by the Earl of Leicester (1532-1588) in the Netherlands during 1585-1587, and it is quite possible that by 1699 a more remote Thomas Howard in the Netherlands was associated with the title of Buckingham.

I could not find yet a satisfactory linkage between any Thomas of Buckingham and Elisabeth Voller. There were many Howard family members active in and about the court, and the names Thomas and Elizabeth occur often.

George Reinhard's younger brother Johann David Wiederhold (abt 1603-after 1650) was also in the military. In 1649 he was enobled, becoming Johann (or Hans) David Wiederhold von Weidenhofen. Soon after several of George Reinhard children also started using that name.

The records say that Reinhardt and Elisabeth had 20 children; at least 4 of them died young in Holland. After the parents' deaths the education of several was supported by Amalia Elizabeth von Hessen-Kassel (1602-1651) – born and shown in genealogy as Amalia Elizabeth von Hanau-Münzenberg, married at age 17 to Wilhelm von Hessen Kassel (1602-1637). Amalia Elizabeth is also a granddaughter of William the Silent (1533-1554) via his 3rd wife, Charlotte von Bourbon-Montpensier (1546-1582) and their daughter Katharina Belgica van Oranje-Nassau (1578-1648) and as such a half-cousin of Albertina Agnes of Nassau who sold Pouderoijen to Georg Reinhardt. She is also a direct ancestor, the 10th great-grandmother to the current Dutch king, Willem-Alexander der Nederlanden (*1967).

I have located information for some of Reinhardt and Elisabeth's many children, who moved around much more than was common in those times.

1. David Wiederhold (estimate *1622) inherits in 1645 some rights to the lands in Pouderoijen.
2. Reinhold Wiederhold (estimated *1624) wound up in Württemberg and married there. Most of his descendants adopted the spelling Widerhold.
3. Johann Theodor Wiederhold (1631) went to Vienna, Austria. He is shown as Generalauditor-Leutnant there. He seems to be too young to be the Austrian emissary Wiederhold, who around 1644 was sent from Vienna to the Hohentwiel to try to convince Konrad Wiederhold (1598-1667) to turn the fortress over to the Austrian, catholic forces <Find citation. Event not in found in [Karl von Martens: Geschichte von Hohentwiel](#) (1857) >. That might have been an elder brother, his father, or an uncle, and the position Johann Theodor obtained at the court in Vienna was a bonus.

4. Maria Catharine Wiederhold was married twice, first to Hugo von Einholdt, a senior Dutch officer and then, in 1680, to the yet older Johann Wachmann in Bremen, a senior official and imperial representative there. She was likely quite rich then. An [extensive document](#) was created in 1679 to establish her and her family's position. It was updated in 1699. That document is interesting, although also fanciful. Attached to the scanned document is a transcription by Pastor Konrad Wiederhold. After Johann Wachmann died in 1685 she returned to Holland and is shown as being buried (1685-1688) with her parents there.
5. Thomas Reinhardt Wiederhold (1636) joined the military. Some of his 7 children were born in the Pfalz, Germany. I have not yet been able to track them.
6. Wilhelm Ludwig Wiederhold (~1638-1667) wound up in Kaapstadt, South Africa) as officer for the military arm of the Dutch East-Indies Company (VOC) there. His descendants are being tracked by Jost Wiederhold there.
7. Georg Christoph Wiederhold (or Georg Christoff Wiedholtz) is shown in 1675 in Stuttgart.

The remaining children are shown as 'verstreut' (scattered).

Gio Wiederhold and Georg Molenkamp, 2019.

* This description contains links to Wikipedia pages. Where pages in English were available, I chose those, others are in Dutch.



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