

## Using Dutch Crew Records from WieWasWie on Ancestry

Ancestry has posted 9 collections of Dutch indexes online. In addition to details extracted from the record, the name of the archive where the original can be found is also listed, as well as a link to the record on the Dutch website WieWasWie. There may be additional information available in the WieWasWie extraction, and in many cases you'll find a link to the digitized image of the record.



Anytime you begin researching in records from your ancestor's homeland, it's best to gather as much information as you can here in the U.S. first. You'll have the best chances of success if you know a bit about the family and where in the Netherlands they are from. Get to know your ancestor's entire family and make note of your ancestor's friends, associates and neighbors.

### Netherlands, Dutch East India Company Crew Index, 1633-1795

This index was created from entries in ship pay ledgers of the Dutch East India Company for personnel sailing to either the Cape of Good Hope or India between 1700 and 1794. In addition to crewmen on the ship, you'll find other employees of the Dutch East India Company listed. These include craftsmen bound for settlements in Asia, soldiers, merchants, doctors, and preachers employed by the company.

Details on each person can include names, places of origin, occupation, tenure with the company, and dates of arrivals and departures.

#### History

The Dutch East India Company (also known as Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie or VOC) was chartered in 1602 and quickly grew into one of the world's largest shipping enterprises. It developed trading stations along the route so that ships could replenish supplies on the long trips to the East Indies, where settlements were set up.

The Dutch East India Company traded in spices, textiles, precious metals, porcelain, coffee, and opium, which was smoked recreationally.

For more than 200 years, the Dutch East India Company enjoyed a virtual monopoly on trade with the East. In Japan, they were the only European corporation allowed to trade with the country. But by 1799, poor management and corruption bankrupted the company.

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