

Streets named after Dutchmen and Mennonite families in Hamburg

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During the 16th and 17th century many protestant and Mennonite people from Holland, Friesland and the Lower Rhine region came to Northern Germany because of religious wars. The protestants mainly settled in Hamburg, the Mennonites preferred Altona, because Mennonite service was not allowed in Hamburg. A lot of those Dutch immigrants were rich tradespeople, so they were integrated even in the social and political leading groups of Hamburg and Altona very soon. We found many streets named after Dutch and Mennonite immigrants, especially in the cities of Hamburg and Altona and in former rural quarters, where rich people used to build their summer houses in 18th and 19th century.



Altona and Ottensen:

Paul-Roosen-Straße

- 1 Roosenbrücke (Neustadt)
- 1 Roosens Park (Ottensen)
- 1 Roosens Weg (Ottensen)



The important Mennonite family

Roosen immigrated from the Netherlands in 1532(www.roosen.net). They owned land and property in this places. Later they were owners of a wharf and a shipping company. Paul Roosen (1582-1649) was tanner and deacon of the Mennonite community in Altona. The name of this street was already mentioned before 1665!

Gerritstraße

Gerrit Roosen (1612-1711), merchant and preacher of the Mennonite community. He also wrote some religious books.



Govertsweg

The Mennonite family Goverts immigrated from the Netherlands and were owners of a shipping company in Altona in 17th and 18th century.



De-Voss-Straße

Named after an old Mennonite family in Altona (from 1630 until the 19th century).

Van-der-Smissen-Straße

The Dutch family Van der Smissen (1682-1824) were important merchants and ship-owners in Altona.

Beetsweg

The Mennonite family Beet lived in Altona during the 17th Century.

Holländische Reihe

Named after the Dutchmen, who settled there in the 2nd half of the 16th century and built small brick houses in dutch style. The name is already mentioned in 1728.

Hamburg and different quarters of Hamburg:

Holländischer Brook (City/harbour)

1 Holländischbrookfleetbrücke

Named after the Dutchmen, who settled there because they had to flee out of the Netherlands. The first mention of this name was in the year 1559!

Amsinckstraße (Hammerbrook)

Named after the Senatsyndikus Dr. Wilhelm Amsinck (1793-1874) because of his merits to the development of the "Hammerbrook", which was a marshy region. His forefathers emigrated from the Netherlands (Oldenzaal) to Hamburg in 1576. The rich family gained ground very quickly and they became a politically strong dynasty in a very short time.

Amsinckufer (Harbour)

After Martin G. Amsinck (1831-1905), ship-owner.

Beim Amsinckpark (Lokstedt)

Named after the merchant Wilhelm Amsinck (1821-1909), who had a villa here.

Paulstraße (City)

Paul Amsinck (+1808) was the mayor, who effected the destruction of the old cathedral of Hamburg in 1805 and 1806 and developed the area for new buildings.

Grootsruhe (Hamm)

1 Grotiusweg (Blankenese)

Named after the Dutch jurist and founder of the modern international law Hugo de Groot (Grotius –1583-1645). He had to leave his land in 1632 and lived at his friends' houses in Hamm and Blankenese.



Poelsweg (Hamm)

Named after the Dutch writer Piter Poel (1760 - 1837) from Altona, who also published the journal „Altonaischer Mercurius“.



Hertogestraße (Horn)

Named after the merchants family de Hertoghe, who immigrated from the Netherlands and owned here a lot of land from 1630 until 1763.

Uffelsweg (Veddel)

In memory that this rural area including the big and the small island "Veddel" as well as the "Grevenhof", was from 1639 until 1698 in possession of the merchant-family van Uffeln, who had immigrated from Delft (Netherlands).

Doormannsweg (Eimsbüttel)

Family Doormann was repeatedly represented in the Town Council and Frans Doormann's (1749-1826) land abuted upon this street.

Overbeckstraße (Uhlenhorst)

Jobst van Overbeck (1580-1653) founded here the first asylum for orphans in Hamburg.

Berenberg-Gossler-Weg (Niendorf)

The Dutchmen Hans and Paul Berenberg founded a bank in Hamburg in 1590, which is now the oldest german private bank (www.berenberg.de). In former times the family owned a lot of land in „Niendorf“.

Willinks Park (Eidelstedt)

Originally Willincks. After Carl Heinrich Willink (1807-1875), a merchant and descendant of Dutch immigrants, who bought land in this area in 1850 and built a cottage.

Holländerberg (Wohldorf-Ohlstedt)

On the Holländerberg (Dutch mountain) were the houses of Dutchmen, who worked at "Gut Wohldorf" as milkers. About 200 years ago Dutchmen were experts in dairy-farming and many of them worked as lease-holders in Northern Germany.

Honartsdeich (Wilhelmsburg)

The Dutch engineer Johan van den Honaert built dykes in 1680/81 and gained about 50 ha land for agriculture.

We suppose, that this compilation is not complete, but it shows the enormous influence of Dutch immigrants on the development of Hamburg in former centuries.

Sources:

Beckershaus, Horst: Die Hamburger Straßennamen – Woher sie kommen und was sie bedeuten. Hamburg 1999 (4th ed.).

Hanke, Christan: Hamburgs Straßennamen erzählen Geschichte. Hamburg 2006 (4th ed.).