

RETSE DORLANDT, and LAMBERT JANSE'S as GERRET JANSE DORLANDT.*

No evidence has been found showing the origin of any branch of DORLANDS in this country from a source other than the two emigrants as above. But no less than six distinct forms of the name are used to-day by branches of the family, and on this account certain of these branches have no idea of their relationship to the others.

The name DORLAND in the original Dutch signifies "dry land" or "dry ground."† The variations in its form are chiefly attributable to phonetic causes and to laxity in spelling in early times. Precision in the orthography of names, it should be remembered, is the partial acquisition of the present century, whereas in former times names were allowed to spell themselves, in common with many other words. The Dutch forms of this name were DORLANDT, DORLANT, and DORLAND. Later, when the name had become somewhat crystalized in speech as DORLAND, the spelling varied largely with locality and the degree of information of those who essayed to write it; and, like many other names, it suffered much from the ignorance and carelessness of old

* The peculiar Holland system of patronymics presents many obstacles to the tracing of genealogies. The late Hon. Henry C. Murphy, U. S. Minister to the Hague, says in explanation of this characteristic of Dutch nomenclature: "If a child were baptized *Hendrick*, and the baptismal name of his father were *Jan*, the child would be called *Hendrick Jansen*. His son, if baptized *Tunis*, would be called *Tunis Hendricksen*; and the son of the latter might be *Willem*, and would have the name *Willem Tunisen*. And so we might have the succeeding generations called successively *Garret Willemesen*, *Marlen Garretsen*, *Lisen Martensen*, and so on, through the whole calendar of Christian names; or, as more frequently happened, there would be repetition, in the second, third, or fourth generation, of the name of the first; and thus, as these names were common to the whole people, there were in every community different lineages of identically the same name. This custom, which had prevailed in Holland for centuries, was in full vogue at the time of the settlement of New Netherland."—Ostrander's "History of Brooklyn," ii, 258.

† The late Hon. Henry C. Murphy, in an authoritative analysis of Holland names transplanted in the New Netherland, gives the meaning of DORLAND as *arid land*. (Stillé's "History of Kings County," 45.) *Arid* is synonymous with *dry*. The Encyclopedia Heraldica, i, 88, gives DORLAND (called *Doreland*) as equivalent to *dry land*.