

DATA BASE OF ALL DUTCH FAMILY NAMES

by Johan Somsen [1089]

On December 2, 2009, a new website was launched with all the 314.000 family names occurring in the archives of the Dutch registry office: <http://www.meertens.knaw.nl/nfb/>

That same day the website went down because of an overwhelming number of visitors. It is nice to just fill in your family name which renders access to some interesting data. Under the button "Aantal en Verspreiding" we will find that at the time of our worldwide reunion of 2007 there were 434 people bearing the surname of Somsen. At the great census of 1947 there were only 209. The Somsens cannot be blamed for being lazy since their number more than doubled in a period of 60 years.

The next table illustrates how the bearers of a number of the most frequent Dutch family names have reproduced since 1947. In the last column we find the percentage of the increase and as for the Somsens: any further comment is absolutely superfluous!

FAMILIE NAME	1947	2007	PERCENTAGE INCREASE
De Jong	55.480	86.375	55,69%
Jansen	49.328	75.699	53,46%
De Vries	49.658	73.114	47,24%
Van de Berg	37.727	60.140	59,41%
Bakker	37.767	56.864	50,57%
Somsen	209	434	107,66%

Under this button we also find a map of The Netherlands showing all the municipalities. By moving the cursor over the map a survey is shown of the number of Somsens living in the relevant municipality. If the number is under 5 the number of persons is not given. Large concentrations of Somsens can be found in Aalten (73), the municipality of Berkelland (Eibergen and surroundings -55) and Hardenberg (32). After that the numbers rapidly decrease.

Under the button "Analyse en Verklaring" we find information about the meaning of our family name. In our case the name is connected with the name of a farmstead: "Sum(p)s", now: "Somsen", in IJzerlo in Gelderland. But of course we already knew.

Under the button "Documentatie" we find where our name is mentioned; there are references to certain publications. Our own family book: **Somsen Omnes Generationes** is mentioned here.

Finally (the button "Varianten" does not work) there is a button "Externe Links". Here we find a link to the catalogue of the Central Bureau for Genealogy and moreover our website address is given.

The opening page of the website is also in English but unfortunately all the other data are available in Dutch only. For our English speaking family members there is a short word list below. If there any more questions to be solved please contact us for assistance.

It might also be interesting for American people, other than Somsens, with Dutch roots to find out more about their family names.

Wordlist

aantal en verspreiding

analyse en verklaring

documentatie

varianten

externe links

aantal naamdragers per gemeente

kaart

provinciekaart

numbers and distribution

analysis and explanation

documentation

variants

external links

number of name bearers per municipality

map

map of province



Somsen

Newsletter 3

January 2010

◆ **Chairman**
Johan Somsen [1089]
Schietbaanweg 11
8162 GP Epe
Tel.: +31 578629893 / +31 629032484
E-mail: johan.f.somsen@wxs.nl

◆ **Secretariat**
Margriet Iserief-Somsen
Jan Tooropstraat 2
3817 PZ Amersfoort
Tel.: +31 33 461 96 43
E-mail: somsenstichting@casema.nl

◆ **Treasurer**
Jan van Daatselaar
Esstraat 22
7131 CT Lichtenvoorde
Tel.: +31 544 375 783
E-mail: j.van.daatselaar@hetnet.nl

Postbank 7909885 t.n.v. Somsen
Stichting Lichtenvoorde
IBAN: NL 49 PSTB 0007 9098 85
BIC PSTBNL21

◆ **Bankaffairs USA**
Mrs Marieke Edwards-Jager Gerlings
[725]
920 East Bay Dr. NE# 3D301,
Olympia, WA. 98506-1222,USA
Phone: 001 360 786 15 83
E-mail: mariekegedwards@gmail.com

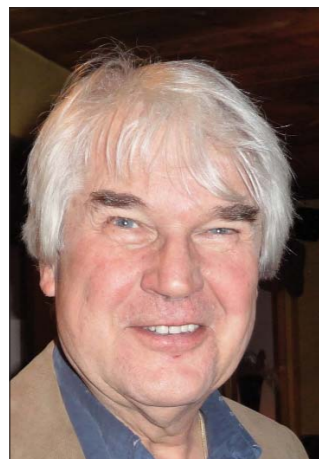
◆ **Editor**
Harry Somsen
Doetinchemseweg 30
7021 BS Zelhem
Tel.: +31 314 621011
E-mail: somsen@oudzelhem.nl

◆ **Website: www.somsen.org**



Theo Somsen

Message of our chairman



Johan Somsen [1089]

You have the third issue of our Somsen Newsletter before you and though the New Year is already a few weeks old I cannot resist wishing you on behalf of the Somsen Foundation a very good 2010.

In this Newsletter we keep you informed about a number of bits of news of our family. Theo Somsen [227] has got so much time left over since he is no longer active in the Somsen Foundation that he can afford to have a radio programme on a local radio station. You will find more about this further down. Then, for those interested in genealogy, there is an article about an interesting site about Dutch family names. Furthermore you will find news about our camping weekend in 2010 and about our Somsen stamps: they will make us famous one day for on the internet you find them quite regularly. We will also publish more about this in Somsen Horizon 23 next May. In that same issue there will be an article about a Somsen scoundrel from 1848. This always appeals to our imagination. We have often cherished hopes to bump into a real

scandal in the past: a proper crime, an execution if need be or a very spicy story, but alas, nothing of the kind! The Somsens did not have time for that for they had to plod away much too hard in the barren soil around IJzerlo. Engelbart Somsen from 1848 is an exception though, but you have to wait until May for this. Should you have knowledge of a skeleton in the cupboard, please let us know and we will treat it with utmost discretion, but we would love to publish it.

Johan Somsen [1089] chairman

Stamps Somsen Foundation

We have just issued the 4th edition of our Somsen stamps.

These stamps prove to be unique and are regularly offered for sale on the internet, sometimes for € 8 for a sheet of 10 stamps.

The American supporters of the Somsen Foundation can order them at Mrs Marieke Edwards, 920 East Bay Dr. NE#3D301 Olympia, WA 98506-1222. A sheet of 10 44-eurocent stamps is \$ 9. Now we also have self-adhesive stamps which can be supplied in sheets of 50 for the price of \$ 45,00. The stamps will be posted after your payment has been received. Please do not forget your name and address.



The Somsen foundation stamps

For the philatelists among you: this is already the fourth issue that can be ordered. This was also discovered by other collectors and they wrote about it in their magazine. In Somsen Horizon 23 we will pay attention to it. Seize the opportunity and buy your stamps.

Camping weekend 14 - 15 August 2010

For the thirteenth time we are organising the Somsen camping weekend in IJzerlo and we hope to welcome you there. So reserve a few days for this wonderful occasion.

Theo Somsen presents a new radio programme on radio 794

by Harry Somsen [146]

Every third Wednesday of the month radio 794 (106.5 FM) broadcasts a programme from 19.00 to 20.00 entitled; "As long as there are people". Theo Somsen [227] was invited to present the programme and the technical part is taken care of by Dirk Anton Dalhuisen.

"For this programme with classical, religious music I select music with a slightly different character from what you will find in the majority of the existing programmes. Music of all times and countries. This implies that various styles of religious music can be enjoyed, leading people away from their daily routine which can make them experience happiness and other emotions.

Very frequently this was also a reason for composers to compose their music."

Theo Somsen has an immense collection of records and CD's, among which a lot of religious music, but, 64-year-old Theo tells: "I also love Rock and Roll. The text of the songs is very important for my selection. I have collected music for well over 40 years now. This has led to a collection of about 200 LP's, but most of them have been replaced by CD's by now."

"I do not play a musical instrument myself but I read a lot about composers and their styles. For this programme I can make a selection from my own music collection that I have built up in all these years."

"I want to try and publish a list with the music that is broadcast on the website of the radio station (www.radio794.nl) so that the listeners who are interested can find out afterwards the numbers that were played. This might even be a reason for some listeners to buy the relevant CD themselves and enjoy it again."

"In every broadcast there is a small quiz in which a CD can be won. Mostly the questions are about a particular piece of music or about a particular composer. One is always curious if the listeners respond to the music that I broadcast."

"On Wednesday, December 16, I played 13 different numbers of Christmas music throughout the centuries and from all countries. I enjoy making the programme and I hope that the listeners also enjoy it. What counts is that we experience music."

"I would like to summon all Somsens to tune in on my programme on the third Wednesday of each month from 7 – 8 p.m. Channel 106.5 FM. I hope they will enjoy it."

Somsen Horizon 23 will be published soon

The editorial staff is busy collecting copy for the next issue but we can use more. If you want to send in a contribution you are very welcome to it but when you do not like the idea of writing a story yourself you could give us the information and we will transform it into an article. Of course you should not forget to send us some good pictures or a scan of high quality.

Send in copy to the editor before April 1, 2010.



Theo Somsen in front of his music collection.