

*Zoon*

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JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.  
L.T. GOVERNOR

November 26, 2004

Dear Friends:

I would like to welcome you all to the presentation of "ZOON, Van Antwerp Family Saga," a historical novel tracing the Van Antwerps from 1609 to the present.

Michigan is fortunate to count among its population the most citizens of Dutch descent in the United States. These citizens have made important contributions to our economy and society through their commitment to numerous professions, commerce, family and the arts. Dutch Americans continue to strengthen and enrich this country and Michigan through their culture, pride, industriousness, and commitment to the principles upon which our great nation was founded and I am proud to recognize you all today.

Again, welcome and my many thanks to the Michigan Dutch who have helped make the Great Lakes State the best state in the Union.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer M. Granholm".

Jennifer M. Granholm  
Governor

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Printed by members of  
Logos of the Michigan Dutch community, including the Michigan Dutch American Society and the Michigan Dutch American Society of the Netherlands.

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# ZOON

## **Van Antwerp Family Saga**

**Een zoon is geboren**

**“A son is born”**

It was a rainy, dark, cloudy, chilly early January day in Antwerp. The year was 1609 and the father of the family had a head that was still reeling from the New Year's Eve celebrations four nights earlier. His pregnant wife had been in labor for several hours. The Dutch midwife finally came out of her room and said “Een zoon is geboren” to the father and other family members anxiously waiting in the main room. An American family history had begun.

An historical novel  
by  
Daniel Janse Van Antwerp  
and  
George Bernard Van Antwerp

**Van Antwerp and Beale Publishers**

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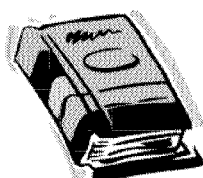
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# **The Authors**

**Daniel Janse Van Antwerp**, 69, is a retired Judge living with his wife, Cecelia (nee Martin), in Troy, Michigan. They have four adult daughters. He was elected in 1966 to Recorder's Court of the City of Detroit and later to Common Pleas Court and the 36<sup>th</sup> District Court. Since retiring in 1992, he has served as a visiting judge in various courts. "Danny" spends his time babysitting, dog sitting, reading, bridge, genealogy, crosswords, driving the aged and infirm, jigsaw puzzles, woodwork, travel and sending a weekly e-mail newsletter.

Danny was named for the first of the Van Antwerp family to have settled in the new world.

**George Bernard Van Antwerp**, 77, has held several positions as a pastor in Michigan and Brazil, a Peace Corps Area Director in Brazil, and as an administrator in a large substance abuse rehabilitation program, a community mental health program and a large metropolitan hospital. George served on the Board of Directors of ten non-profit charitable organizations. At age 75, George began a small publishing house and in the past year has published eight books.

George and his wife, Mary Lou (nee Beale), live in Royal Oak, Michigan, and have three adult children.

# Prologue

Ever since the publication of “Roots” by Alex Haley in 1992, there has been an increasing interest in family genealogy. Haley traced his ancestry back to Africa and covered seven American generations, starting from his ancestor, Kunta Kinte.

Members of the Van Antwerp family, scattered throughout these United States, have likewise expanded their interest in their family’s history. This was evidenced at a national Van Antwerp family reunion, held in Detroit in 1997. Members of this “clan” showed up from eighteen states and reminisced about their ancestors. Both of the authors were active in the planning of this reunion.

This book is fictionalized history. There are several better Van Antwerp and early Dutch histories and genealogies that are more erudite and scholarly. However, we wanted basically to write about our immediate heritage, acknowledging at least some of the other branches. This book includes fictional stories based on what knowledge we have learned of events in these almost four hundred years of our family history. We use the names and dates of real persons. While we try to be factual when possible, some of the book is mere fiction. We thank our sister, Dacia Van Antwerp, Ph.D., for use of some material from her article that appeared in the September, 1952 edition of *The Municipal Employee*. Research was helped by use of documents in the Guilderland Public Library (Guilderland, New York), earlier books such as that by Lee Van Antwerp, and other sources.. We also thank Father George Browne of Marine City, Michigan, for his help in proofreading each draft.

The story can be typical of many families, though, as the story of one courageous family seeking to provide opportunities for themselves and their children in a new land. This is repeated over and over again, as families move to new settings, whether from one state to another or one country to another. Few seek to be millionaires. More seek to live in peace, with freedom, and with hope for a better life.

We hope you enjoy this book. We hope God blesses you and us as we mutually help one another reach our goals.

The authors

# Dedication

*This book is dedicated to the ancestors of your family and our family.*

*They had hopes. They had faith in God.  
They worked hard so that their children and  
grandchildren could enjoy life, liberty  
and the pursuit of happiness.  
May God allow you and me  
to live up to their aspirations!*

*We are proud of our family and its history.  
However we do not think of ourselves as  
“special”. Every human being is “special”.  
Everyone should be proud of their heritage.  
God is our Father, we are God’s children. We  
are therefore all brothers and sisters.  
We are all “special”*

*Zoon*



*The Coat of Arms is explained at the end of the book*



*Zoon*

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