

Burgher Names from the Dutch period

Those names listed below with an asterisk * against them indicates that a genealogy for that name has been published in the DBU journals

The Dutch Reformed Churches maintained registers of baptism, marriages and deaths from the date of arrival of the earliest ancestors in Ceylon. The

Anglican churches maintained similar records from about the 1780's or 1870's The roman catholic churches did not maintain full or complete records of baptism, marriages and deaths until the early 20th century

The DBU journal vol XII (1920) reported that a few family histories of Dutch descendants could not be fully authenticated due to loss or damage to a few Jaffna, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Mannar, and Kalpitiya church records from the Dutch period.

The DBU journal vol LVIII (Jan-Dec 1968 pp. 53-58) contained a complete list of family genealogies that had been published up to that date. A few genealogies were added later.

417 (Dutch) Burgher Family Names

***Albrecht**

***Aldons**

***Altendorff**

***Alvis**

***Anderson**

***Andree**

***Andriesen**

***Andriez**

***Anthoniz**

***Armstrong**

***Arndt**

***Austin**

***Auwardt**

***Baillie**

***Baines**

***Balmond**

***Balthazaar**

***Baptist**

***Barber**

***Barbut**

***Barsenbach**

***Bartels**

***Barthelot**

***Bartholomeusz**

***Beekmeyer**

***Beling**

***Bennett**

***Berenger**

***Bertus**
***Beven**
***Bilsborough**
***Blazé**
***Blom**
***Bogaars**
***Bogstra**
***Boucher**
***Brohier**
Bulner
***Buultjens**
***Carron**
***Caspersz**
***Christoffelsz**
***Claasz**
***Claessen**
***Clementi-Smith**
***Colin-Thomé**
***Collette**
***Colomb**
***Conderlag**
***Conradi**
***Cooke**
***Cordiner**
***Corteling**
***Cramer**
***Crowe**
***Crozier**
***da Silva**
***Daniels**
***Danielsz**
***Daviot**
***de la Harpe**
***de Bruin**
***de Moor**
de Kretser
***de Boer**
***de Breard**
***de Caan**
***De Zilva**
***de Witte**
***de Niese**
***de Neys**
***de Vos**

***de Heer**
***de Rooy**
***de Hoedt**
***de fry**
***de Haan**
***de Jong**
***de jonk**
***de Vries**
***Dekker**
***Demmer**
***de Song**
***Deutrom**
***Dickman**
***Dirckze**
***Dornhorst**
***Drieberg**
***Eagar**
***Eaton**
***Ebell**
***Ebert**
***Edema**
Elders
***Ephrums**
***Ernst**
***Felsing**
***Ferdinands (Ferndinand)**
***Foenander**
***Franciscus**
***Francké**
***Fretz**
***Frevin**
***Fryer**
***Garnier**
***Garvin**
***Gauder**
***Giessler**
***Gerreyn**
***Giffening**
***Gilles**
***Ginger**
***(Geanger)**
***Godlieb**
***Gogerly**
***Grabau**

***Gratiaen**
***Grenier**
***Hasselmeyer**
***Hay**
***Henricus**
***Heponstall**
***Herft**
***Hess**
***Heyn**
***Heynsberg**
***Hayzer**
Hingert
***Hoffman**
***Hole**
***Holsinger**
***Honter**
***Horan**
Hughes
***Hulft**
***Hunter**
***Huybertsz**
***Ingleton**
***Jan**
***Jansen**
***Jansz**
***Janszé**
***Jennings**
***Jensen**
***Joachim**
***Jobsz**
***Jonklas**
***Joseph**
***Juriansz**
***Kalé**
***Kalenberg**
***Keegel**
***Keith**
***Kelaart**
***Kellar**
***Kemp**
***Kerfbyl**
***Keuneman**
***Keyt**
***Koch**

***Koelman**
***Koelmeyer**
***Koertsz**
***Kreltszheim**
***Kirekenbeek**
***Lalmon**
***Landsberger**
***La Brooy**
***Le Mercier**
***Leembruggen**
***Lemphers**
***Loftus**
***Loos**
***Lorensz**
***Lorenz**
***Lourensz**
***Ludekens**
***Ludovici**
***Ludowyke**
***Lutersz**
***Maartensz**
***Mack**
***Marcus**
***Margenout**
***Martensteyn**
***Martensz**
***Martin**
***Martinus**
***Mc Hayzer**
***Meewald**
***Meier**
***Melder**
***Mellonius**
***Metzeling**
***Meurling**
***Meynert**
***Melhui'sen**
***Misso**
***Modder**
***Moldrich**
***Mooyaart**
***Morgan**
***Mottau**
***Muller**

***Nagel**
***Nell**
***Nicholas**
***Ohlmus**
***Oorloff**
***Oppenheimer**
***Orr**
***Oudtschoorn**
***Passe**
***Paulusz**
***Peglotte**
***Perkins**
***Piachaud**
***Pietersz**
***Pompeus**
***Poppenbeck**
***Potger**
***Poulier**
***Prigge**
***Prins**
***Pritchett**
***Raffel**

***Ragel**
***Rankine**
***Raymond**
***Redlich**
***Reimers**
***Reyhardt**
***Rodé**
***Roeloffsz**
***Runtsdorff**
***Roosmalecocq**
***Rooy**
***Rose**
***Rudolph**
***Rukach**
***Sansoni**
***Sauer**
***Scharenguivel**
***Schneider**
Schofield
***Schokman**
Schoorman
***Schrader**
Schriver
***Schroter**

Schuling
***Schumacher**
***Sela**
***Siebel**
Siegertsz
***Sissouw**
***Smit**
***Smith**
Soertsz
Solomonsz
***Spaar**
***Speldewinde**
***Spittel**
***Sproule**
***Staples**
***Stewart**
***Steyn**
***Stork**
***Struys**
***Swan**
***Thiedeman**
***Thomasz**
***Thomet/Thomé**
***Thuring**
***Toussaint**
***Tranchell**
***Uhlenbeck**
***Underwood**
***van Arkadie**
***van Buren**
***van Buuren**
***van Cuylenberg**
***van Dort**
***Van Estrop**
***van Eyck**
***van Granberg**
***van Geyzel**
***van Hoff**
***van Huyzen**
***van Twest**
***van Houten**
***van Langenberg**
***van Ranzow**
***van Reyk**
***van Rooyen**
***van Sanden**
***van Schoonbeck**
***van Starrex**
***van Zyl**
***van den Driesen**

*van den Berg
 *van der Gert
 *van der Gucht
 *van der Heyden
 *van der Hoeven
 *van der Pooten
 *van der Say
 *vab der Spaar
 *van der Smagt
 *van der Straaten
 *van der Wall *
 *van der wal
 *van der Wert
 *van der Zeil
 *Vollenhoven
 *von Drieberg
 *von Hagt
 *von Meybrink
 *Walbeoff
 *Wambeck
 *Weinman
 *Wendt
 *Werkmeister
 *Willé
 *Willenberg
 *Williamsz
 *Wittebron
 *Wittensleger
 *Woutersz
 *Weight
 *Wydeman

455 Burgher Family Names from the British Period

‘Burgher’ as an ethnic label. Commenced only after the arrival of the British. During the British period the word was extended to refer to the descendants of Portuguese, British and other Europeans. The word became a generic term to classify the mixed European/Asian community. Eventually to all or most of the following.

- (A) Portuguese, Dutch, British and other European descendants.
- (B) Persons who thought of themselves as ‘Burghers’.
- (C) Persons who were thought of as ‘Burghers’ by the Burgher community.
- (D) Persons who were thought of as ‘Burghers’ by the other communities in Ceylon.
- (E) Eurasians and unions between British males and Asian females.

‘Burghers’ eventually became a generic term for those who spoke English, did not think of themselves as belonging to any other ethnic community, wore western dress, were ‘westernised’ in their life-style, ate their food with cutlery, had a European name and were Christians. The ‘Burgher’ community boundaries continually widened during the 150 years of British hegemony but shrank after political independence and because it then became socially, politically and economically disadvantageous to be classified as a ‘Burgher’.

Certain persons with names in this section and of Ceylonese origin may not have considered themselves 'Burghers' or 'Eurasians' in Ceylon. Some names may not be spelled correctly here, in others the spelling of the name may have been changed over time or been 'Anglicised' and could have had Dutch origins.

Abel

Achilles

Adolphus

Adriansz

Alexander

Allen

Allon

Andrews

Aley

Alphonso

Ambrose

Andrado

Aponso

Arendst

Arendtsz

Armitage

Armer

Arnolda

Ashe

Assauw

Atkinson

Atwell

Augustine

Bagot

Baldsing

Ball

Balmond

Barrow

Bastiaensz

Bayley

Berman

Bernard

Blacker

Blake

Blok

Bocks

Booy

Boulton

Boustead

Bowen

Breckenridge

Brooy

Brown

Buttery

Byrd

Caldera

**Cameron
Campbell
Cannon
Capper
Chapman
Christiansz
Clarke
Cockburn
Cole
Collinson
Coopman
Corfield
Corner
Cowley
Craggs
Crake
Croner
Croos
Crusz
Crutchley
D'Silva
D'Witt-Barbut
D'Abnera
D'Olivera
D'Zylva
D' Costa
D'Cruz
Daniel
Davidson
Dawson
de la Zilwa
de la Motte
de Motte
de Ley
de Lisle
de Waas
de Zilva
de Alwis
de Andrado
de Costa
de Fransz
de Kauwe
de Pinto
de Run
de Silva
de Rosairo
de Souza
de Rozario
de Soysa
de Saram**

**de Joedt
de Jong
de Joodt
De Bond
De Lima
De Koning
De Slefa
De Cruz
Dekker
Dender
Denlow
Dias
Dickson
Direckz
Dirksze
Dixon
Dobbs
Dolay
Don Paul
Don
Duckworth
Dunsford
Durrant
Edwards
Elhart
Elias
Enright
Erfson
Evarts
Ewaet
Faber
Fairweather
Felsianes
Feltham
Ferdinando
Ferdinandus
Fernand
Fernandsz
Fernando
Fernands
Ferreira
Flamer-Caldera
Flanderka
Floor
Forbes
Forster
Fox
Francisco
Frank
Ferdericks**

**Friskin
Frugtneit
Furlong
Garth
Geddes
Georgesz
Gerhard
Gerreyn
Gibson
Gonsal
Goodacre
Goodchild
Gomes
Gomesz
Gomez
Graham
Gramberg
Gray
Grebe
Greet
Greeves
Gregory
Grigson
Guinan
Gurney
Greeve
Grieve
Hall
Halliday
Hamer
Hamilton
Hannibalsz
Hardy
Harmer
Harpe
Harridence
Harridge
Harris
Hart
Harvie
Hatch
Heliams
Helsham
Henderling
Henry
Hensman
Herman
Hermon
Herrick
Hill**

**Hindle
Holms
Hopman
Houten
Inch
Ingram
Isaacs
Isaacson
Jackson
Jacobs
Jacotine
Jenkins
Johnson
Jones
Josef
Kaule
Kelly
Kennedy
Kenny
Kerkoven
Kern
Kerner
Kiel
Kleyn
Knower
Koertsz
Krasse
Krause
Kronenberg
La Faber
Lamont
Lawrence
Leonard
Lewis
Lieversz
Lindsay
Livera
Lobendhan
Lobo
Lord
Lucas
Lynch
Maas
Macky
Maloney
Manricks
Mant
Marks
Marschner
Marshall**

Martil
Martinesz
Mason
Mathias
Mathiasz
Mathysz
Matthews
Matthiesz
Mc Carthy
Meares
Miller
Moldrecht
Moreira
Morel
Moreno
Morrison
Mortier
Mortimer
Moses
Mulholland
Murcon
Murray
Muster
Nathanielsz
Nazareth
Nelson
Newman
Neydorf
Nicholson
Nicol
Nicollé
Nielson
Nugara
O'Conner
Ockers
Offen
Ondaatje
Oosthmuller
Orchard
Osborne
Othen
Overlunde
Owen
Palmer
Pate
Paternott
Patterson
Paul
Peck
Peiris

**Peries
Pendegrast
Pereira
Perera
Peter
Peterson
Petronelli
Phoebus
Pinder
Pinto
Plunket
Pollocks
Rabot
Raux
Rayen
Rebeira
Rebera
Reginald
Reid
Reith
Rezel
Richards
Richardson
Roberts
Robertson
Rodrigo
Rodrigoe
Rodriguez
Roofe
Rosayro
Rowlands
Rozairo
Rozayrio
Ruston
Salgado
Salvador
Schafter
Scheepens
Seilman
Senaris
Senn
Sepion
Serpanchy
Shaw
Shedden
Shoecroft
Sicket
Singanetti
Silva
Simmons**

Simmons
Simms
Simon
Simons
Slegers
Slemmerman
Solomons
South
Souza
Speering
Spencer
St. George
St. John
Stanislaus
Stephens
Stephenson
Stonehewer
Stouter
Strange
Stonach
Symons
Syms
Taylor
Templer
Thompson
Thurgood
Tiley
Titus
Todd
Tucker
Tyler
Vincent
Vandergreft
VanderHoff
van Heer
van der Laan
Varney
Vaz
von Bergheim
Vergis
Wagenaar
Wait
Walker
Wallace
Walles
Warkus
Weber
Webster
Wilson
Winn

**Winslow
Winter
Wise
Witham
Wolfe
Wyman
Young
Ziegelaar
Zimsen**

Some Early Burgher names.

The great majority of the names are of Dutch, German, Belgian and Scandinavian origin but there are also a number of well-known Portuguese names

**Pereira
de Silva
d'Almeda
Perera
de Mist
Theunis
D'Eerbare
Fernandus
Fernando
Rosairo
Pieris
Salgado
Rodrigo
Rodrigos
Rozayro
Ludewykse
Dias
Caldera
Gomes
Correa
Tissera
Francisca
de Costa
Vass**

List of Burgher marriages in Jaffna between 1843 – 1854 Included among the names are.

**Anderson
Adriaansz
Alexander
Augustyn
Bartholomeusz
Beekmayer
Britto
Brechman
de Hoedt**

**de Niese
Ebell
Frynsbergh
Grenier
Gratiaen
Garnier
Hanibalsz
Heynsbergh
Hardy
Jansz
Janszjie
Kreltzhaim
Kriekenbeek
Koch
Keegel
Leembruggen
Lopez
Melder
Margenout
Maartensz
Martinesz
Moses
Nolan
Peterson
Philipsz
Pietersz
Roelofsz
Slemmerman
Speldewinde
Theile
Toussaint
Thiedeman
Van Zyl
Vanderhoven
Vander Straaten
Wittebron
Weber**

The DBU journals for 1908 contain a list of some of the founders of families who arrived from Europe and settled in Ceylon during the period of the Dutch administration between 1640 and 1796. There are 134 names and about 85 of the names were still current in the 1960's.

Dutch inhabitants in Galle at the time of capitulation had to sign an undertaking that they would not leave Galle and/or directly or indirectly correspond, aid or assist the enemies of the English. Among the Dutch names are many that are well known in the Burgher community of the 1950's some of those names are.

**Fretz
van der Spar
de Ly
Roosmale**

**Cocq
Rabinel
van Geyer
Brechman
Kleyn
Booy
Huybertsz
de Vos
Anthonisz
Forbus
Martensz
von Bergheim
Moltrecht
Reyhardt
van Hoven
Deutrom
Poulier
Meyer
Meurling
Vollenhoven
Piertersz
Baptist
Smitz
de Moore
van Geyzel
Engelbrecht
Aldons
Gratiaen
van den Broek
Cadenski
Hollenbeck
Hingert
Ludovici
Prins
Huybertsz
Buultjens**

**A similar undertaking was signed by the Dutch in Jaffna on the capitulation of that city.
Here are some of the names.**

**Williamsz
Kellens
Toussaint
Kats
Verwyk
Driemond
Heynsburgh
Mom
de Niese
Hesler
Keegel**

**Bartholomeusz
van Hoorn
Dgranier
Kwesius
Cadenski
van der Gucht
de Hoedt
de Wolff
Modder
Schneider
van Schoonbeek
de Rooy
Scheffer
Grieve
Otto
Marcus
Dirksz
Kruis
Claasz
Smith
Koch
Schrader
Corteling
Sonnenberg
Specht
de Bondt
de Vos
van der Putt**

A list of Dutch ‘company servants’ who had been granted temporary allowances by the British in 1796 in terms of the capitulation. Among the names are.

**van Dort
Martensz
Andriesz
de Jong
Spoor
van Buuren
Dirksz
Fretz
Aldons
Le Dulx
Woutersz
Loos
Gerhard
van Geyzel
Brinkman
van Hagt
Spittel
Hoffman
Singer**

de Vos
Maas
Felsingher
Mack
de Run
Kalenberg
Heer
Pompeus

Burgher is the name of a [Eurasian](#) people and, less commonly, a [Creole language](#) based on [Portuguese](#). In [Sri Lanka](#) the term is used to identify people of this community. [English](#) is the mother tongue of the Burghers of [Sri Lanka](#). See [Portuguese Creole](#). For the most part, the Burgher people of Sri Lanka are the [Eurasian](#) descendents of Portuguese, Dutch and [British](#) colonists from the 16th to 20th centuries.

Burghers were legally defined by law in [1883](#), by the then Chief Justice of Ceylon, [Sir Richard Ottley](#), given before the Commission which was appointed in connection with the establishment of a legislative Council in [Ceylon](#).

It was decided that in order to be defined as a Burgher, one's father had to have been born in Sri Lanka, with at least one European ancestor on one's direct paternal side, regardless of the ethnic origin of one's mother, or what other ethnic groups may be found on the father's side.

Most Burghers are Christian, the majority being [Catholics](#) or [Presbyterians](#).

Because of how a Burgher is legally defined, Burghers always have European surnames (mostly of Portuguese, Dutch and British origin, although it is not uncommon to also find German, French, or even Flemish surnames).

Burghers are not physically homogeneous.

It is possible to have a blond, fair-skinned Burgher, as well as a Burgher with a very dark complexion and black hair.

Fair-skinned and dark-skinned children can even appear as brother and sister in the same family of the same parents.

Burghers share a common culture rather than a common ethnicity.

While the older generations of Burghers tried to dismiss the obvious Asian side of their ancestry, many younger Burghers today highly value this variety in their heritage.

In the census of 1981, the Burgher population of Sri Lanka was enumerated at 39,374 persons.

The current percentage of Burghers in the Sri Lankan population is less than 1%.

The highest concentration of Burghers is in Colombo (0.72%) and Gampaha (0.5%).

There are also similar, significant communities in Trincomalee and Batticaloa, but due to conflict in those areas during the 2001 census, figures are not available. The world population (mostly in Sri Lanka, Australia, the USA and the UK) is probably no more than 100,000.

History

The [Portuguese](#) arrived in what was then known by outsiders as Ceylon, in [1505](#).

Since there were no women in the Portuguese navy, the Portuguese sailors raped local [Sinhalese](#) women.

This practice of intermarriage with local people was encouraged by the Portuguese, not only in Ceylon, but also in other Portuguese colonies, such as [Macau](#) in China and [Malacca](#) in [Malaysia](#). Their [mestizo](#) children were often called 'micos' (a corruption from the Portuguese word for 'mechanic').

When the [Dutch](#) took over in [1653](#), they expelled all the Portuguese. However, they permitted stateless persons of Portuguese-Jewish ([Marrano](#)) descent, and of mixed Portuguese-Sinhalese ancestry to stay.

As a result, Burghers with Portuguese names are likely to be of either [Jewish](#) or mixed Portuguese-Sinhalese ancestry.

During the Dutch period, all Dutch colonial operations were overseen by the [VOC](#), ('Vereenigde Ost-Indische Compagnie').

Virtually all Burghers from this period were employees of the VOC.

The VOC employed not only Dutch nationals, but also enlisted men from Belgium, Friesland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Austria.

It is therefore not unusual to find ancestors from these countries in many Burgher family trees.

It was during the Dutch period that the term 'Burgher' was first coined to denote people of mixed European, and European-Asian descent.

It comes from the Dutch word 'Burger', meaning 'citizen' or 'resident'.

People of mixed ancestry were not allowed citizenship of the country of their European fathers, nor of their Asian mothers, so a compromise was found whereby they would be citizens ('Burghers') of the towns of their birth.

When the British took over in [1796](#), many Dutch people chose to leave.

However, a significant number chose to stay, mostly those of mixed descent.

One condition of their being allowed to stay, was that they had to sign a Treaty of Capitulation to the British.

Many Burghers can find their ancestors' names in this treaty.

At the time of the British conquest, there were about 900 Burgher families residing in Ceylon, concentrated in [Colombo](#), [Galle](#), [Matara](#) and [Jaffna](#).

Until the early [1900s](#), as well as English, many Burghers also spoke a form of Portuguese Creole, even those of Dutch descent.

It is now only spoken in parts of the coastal towns of Trincomalee and Batticaloa. Most of its vocabulary is from Portuguese, but its grammar is based on that of Tamil and Sinhalese.

In the late [1950s](#) and early [1960s](#), many Burghers left the island and emigrated to [Australia](#) (where there is an area of [Melbourne](#) known as '[Little Ceylon](#)'), the [USA](#) and Great Britain.

Culture

Burgher culture is a rich mixture of east and west, reflecting their ancestry.

They are the most westernised of the ethnic groups in Sri Lanka.

Most of them wear western clothing, although it is not uncommon for a man to be seen wearing a [sarong](#), or for a woman to wear a [sari](#).

A number of elements in Burgher culture have actually extended to become part of the cultures of other ethnic groups in Sri Lanka.

For example, [baila](#) music, which has its origin in the music of 16th century Portugal, has found its way into mainstream popular Sinhalese music.

Lacemaking, which began as a domestic pastime of Burgher women, is now a part of Sinhalese culture too.

Even certain foods, such as Love Cake, Bol Fiado (layered cake), Ijzer Koekjes and Frikkadels (savory meatballs), have become an integral part of Sri Lankan national cuisine.

Burghers have a very strong interest in their family histories.

Many old Burgher families kept stamboeks (from the Dutch for 'Clan Books').

These recorded not only dates of births, marriages and deaths, but also significant

events in the history of a family, such as details of moving house, illnesses, school records, even major family disputes.

An extensive, multi-volume stamboek of many family lineages is kept by the Dutch Burgher Union.

Individual families have traditions which reflect their specific family origins.

Burghers of Dutch origin sometimes celebrate the Feast of St Nicholas in December, and those of Portuguese-Jewish origin observe customs such as the separation time of a woman after childbirth (see Leviticus 12:2-5), the redemption of the Firstborn (Pidyon ha-Ben), and the purification bath (taharah) after a daughter's first period (see [niddah](#)). Most of the latter Burgher families, being unaware of the Jewish origins of these customs, have given them a Catholic slant.

Some would even say that a certain attitude has become part of Burgher culture, that of tolerance.

While inter-communal strife has sadly become a feature of modern Sri Lankan life, Burghers have on the whole worked to maintain good relations with other ethnic groups.

It is safe to say that racial and religious tolerance is an integral part of Burgher culture too.....