

Maria Janse Pootman Bedent

<http://putmanfamily.org/>

She was also known as Mary Potman and Putman

Maria Janse Pootman was born about 1678 the eldest daughter of Johannes Pootman and Cornelia Bradt: Maria was named likely for her father's mother who we assume was Maria Davids of Aalburg, North Brabant, Netherlands.

Maria Potman married Steven Bedent about 1698.

Their first child was Nicolas born in 1700.

In the baptismal records of the City of New York, Steven appears to be listed with names that are similar to Bedent and names also similar to the French word coiffure.

In French, "Bedeau" means beadle, herald, or messenger in a court of law or a person who kept order in the church and performed the function of an usher.

The given name Estienne is French and means Steven.

The surname Bedent may be Belgium: Steven Bedent may have been a Walloon from Belgium.

In Dutch a "bediende" is a servant, clerk, assistant, attendant, or butler.

In Belgium bediende means an official.

In German, a "bediente" is a public employee or servant.

Steven Cofooy and/or Steven Mefoor were also said to be husbands of Maria Pootman; however, the names Cofooy and Mefoor may have been corruptions of the professional title Steven held at the time that meant hatter or head dresser.

In French a cap maker or hatter is a "chapelier".

In French "coiffe" and "coiffure" mean a head dressing, cap, or hat, which seem to be the root of the name Cofooy, and Mefoor seems to be a mistranslation of coiffure where the "C" was read as an "M".

Steven Bedent is reported to have been a was a hatter and felt maker who lived in Brooklyn, New York as the following record explains:

On 17 Oct 1704, "William Brower son of Jacob Brower of Brooklyn doth voluntarily and of his own free will and accord by and with the consent of his parents put himself apprentice to Stephen Bedent of Brooklyn, felt maker, to serve him [Bedent] from the 17th day of October 1704 till the full term of four years."

Jacob Brower, William Brower, and Stephen Bedent all sign by their marks.



Dutch Beaver Felt Hats

Maria Potman, her sister Catherine Potman, along with their brother David Pottman removed from Schenectady to Brooklyn, New York.

David Potman would soon however crossed the Hudson River and settled first in Cingarora and later Potterstown, New Jersey.

In New York baptismal records, Marie Pootman was associated with Abraham Metselaer whose last name means mason or free mason.

Steven Bedeut and Maria were baptismal sponsors in Brooklyn, New York, for Janet Brouwer, daughter of William Brower and Martha Boulton.

At the baptism of Steven and Maria Potman Bedent's son Nicolas, Maria Brower the wife of Barent Van Tilburg was a witness along with Francois Du Femme.

In the division of the estate of Catherine De Vos Bradt in 1713 in Schenectady, Steven wrote his name Estienne Bedent.

Steven Bedeut appears to have been well educated as wrote his name with great penmanship.

Children:

- 1. Nicolas.** He was baptized April 10, 1700, at the New York City Dutch Church. His sponsors were Francois Du Femme and Maria Brower the wife of Barent Van Tilburg. His parents were listed as Steven Bedent and Maria Potman.
- 2. Cornelia.** Cornelia was baptized May 29, 1701, in Schenectady, New York. Her sponsors were Ficktoor Potman and Marretje Post.
- 3. Anna.** Anna was baptized September 19, 1703. Her sponsors were Abraham Metselaer and Cathyntie Potman. Her parents were listed as Steven Mefoor and Mary Potman.
- 4. Garret.**