

Information board about Nicolaas Cornelis Lambrechtsen at the church in Ritthem [unveiled on 30 January 2026]

MR. NICOLAAS CORNELIS LAMBRECHTSEN VAN RITTHEM

Born February 29, 1752, in Vlissingen. Died May 21, 1823, in Middelburg.

Life History

N. C. Lambrechtsen was an important administrator, a man of science, and a progressive figure: for example, he advocated for banning burials in churches.

In 1774 (at the age of 22), he became pensionary of Vlissingen, and from 1780 to 1787, he served as councillor and pensionary of Vlissingen. During this period, a pensionary was the most important advisor to the city council and also played a major role in the States of Zeeland and, from there, the States-General. He had an open, liberal attitude, and this got him into trouble. During the turbulent times surrounding the French Revolution and the rise of the Batavian Republic, there were many protests against the ruling elite. This led to his house being looted on September 30, 1787.

He moved to Middelburg and lived on Rouaansekaai. Between 1793 and 1823, he lived alternately there and at Huys Den Dolphijn. The house was demolished in 1895. Dauwendaele, a neighbourhood of the municipality of Middelburg, has now been built on this site.

As a man of science, he contributed to many important scientific publications, including the first publication on the New Netherlands, now known as New York.

In 1790 (at the age of 38), he married Maria Petronella Schorer and had two children.

Besides his official duties, he also held many secondary positions. The most important were director and chairman of the Zeeland Society of Sciences (1783-1823) and extraordinary state councillor (1806-1813). In 1815, he was made a Knight in the Order of the Netherlands Lion for his work for the Zeeland Society.

Grave

The grave you see here is a cellar and family grave. It has two compartments and a vault at the head and foot. It was also intended for his two sisters-in-law, Johanna and Hillegonda Schorer. The grave was opened on October 1, 2025. The sisters-in-law were not found. If you are standing with your back to the church, N. C. Lambrechtsen lies in the right compartment, with his feet towards the church.