# (Texan pronunciation is "Ver-hi-den") Family Name Meaning & Origin 10-14-25

(Related to Pierre Jean (Peter John) Verheyden-born Aug. 11, 1830, in Waterloo, Belgium)

- 1. The name Verheyden is of Flemish (Belgium) and Dutch (the Netherlands) origin.
- 2. Derived from the term "heede" or "heide," meaning heath or heather or moor or "rolling hills and green pastures".
- 3. It is a topographic name indicating someone who lived near such areas like "from the heather"
- 4. The surname is also found in Germany and has various spellings, including "Heath" and "Heider".
- 5. Verheyden: What does the surname Verheyden mean?
  - a. It is thought to have used to refer to a person who was named after a place of origin of the same name.
  - b. The word Verheyden is derived from Latin roots meaning 'above the hedges'.
  - c. While in modern Dutch, 'Verheyden' translates to 'made higher' or 'to raise'.
  - d. It is believed that the name was given to people who were largely in charge of maintaining land boundaries and maintaining fields above the hedges.
  - e. This could indicate the profession of the first person to use the name was that of a medieval land surveyor.
  - f. Over time, the Verheyden surname spread to other parts of Europe as people moved and settled in different countries.
  - g. Verheyden is most commonly found in Belgium, the Netherlands, and the United States.
  - h. In the United States, Verheyden is traditionally spelled Verheiden or Verhiden.
  - i. The name is found in varying numbers among Dutch-American, Belgian-American, and Flemish-American populations.
  - j. No matter the country of origin, the surname Verheyden is most likely a reference to someone who maintained land boundaries.
  - k. The Verheyden name has deep roots in Dutch and Flemish culture and signifies an individual with a sense of stability and place.
- 6. Verheyden: Where does the name Verheyden come from?
  - a. Verheyden is a Dutch surname, and it is still fairly common in the Netherlands.
  - b. Nearly 500 people in the Netherlands bear the Verheyden surname according to recent census data.
  - c. It is also found in other parts of Europe, with around 200 people in neighboring Belgium and smaller amounts in France and Switzerland.
  - d. There are also populations of Verheydens in the United States and Canada, as Dutch immigrants brought the surname to the English-speaking world.
  - e. A number of these immigrants settled in the Midwestern states of Michigan, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. In Canada, Winnipeg and Ontario are home to the highest concentration of Verheydens.
  - f. The Verheyden name is also present in small numbers in other English-speaking countries such as Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.
  - g. Overall, the last name Verheyden is most commonly found in the Netherlands and the English-speaking world, particularly in Canada and the United States.
- 7. Variations of the surname Verheyden
  - a. Verheyden is a Dutch surname, which typically means 'from the heights'. Variants of this surname include Verheijen, Vereyken, Verhagen, Verheyen, Verheijde, Verhayen, Verhijden, Verhoeyen and Verhuijden.
  - b. Verheijen can be a variant of the surname Verheijen, and is derived from a prolific Dutch family
  - c. It is typical of families in the region of North Brabant and Limburg.
  - d. This variant has several spelling variations, such as Verheije, Verheye, Veerheyen, Vereyen and Verhijen.
  - e. Verheyen is believed to originate from particular families from the southern part of the Netherlands.

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- f. This variant is associated with the Verheyen family, and has several spelling variations, including Verhaye, Verheyen, Verheyen and Verheye.
- g. Verhagen is derived from the Dutch term Verheimen, which means "to hide". As such, it is likely that this variant of the **Verheyden** surname was taken on for protective or defensive reasons. The Verhagen spelling is typically found in the provinces of Zuidholland and Drenthe.
- h. Verhijden is derived from the Dutch verb Hijden, which translates to "to hide". As such, it is likely that Verhijden was taken on as a protective or defensive measure. This variant can be spelt alternatively as Verhijde, Verhije, Verhijen and Verhijt.
- i. The Verheyden surname has multiple variants and spellings. These include Verheijen, Vereyken, Verhagen, Verheyen, Verheijde, Verhayen, Verhijden, Verhoeyen, Verhuijden, Verhije, Verhaye, Verheyde, Verheyen and Verheye. Depending on the region of origin, some of these variants and spellings will be more common and pronounced differently.
- j. It is a shortened form of Vanderheyden.
- 8. History and Evolution
  - a. The history of the surname Verheyden can be traced back several centuries, primarily in the Low Countries.
  - b. Like many surnames, its use became more standardized during the late Middle Ages as populations grew and records became necessary for identification and taxation purposes.
  - c. In Belgium, particularly in Flanders, the surname became associated with specific regions known for their scenic heathlands.
  - d. Throughout the centuries, the surname Verheyden has seen variations in spelling, including Verheijden and Verhaeghen.
  - e. These changes often resulted from the phonetic interpretations by clerks or the adaptation to local languages and dialects.
  - f. The evolution of the name reflects the broader historical shifts in the region, including the impact of wars, migrations, and cultural exchanges.
  - g. In the modern era, individuals with the surname Verheyden can be found across various countries, especially in Belgium and the Netherlands.
  - h. Many bearers of the name have contributed significantly to different fields, from the arts to sciences, establishing a noteworthy legacy that highlights their familial name.
- 9. Famous people with the name Verheyden
  - a. **Frank Verheyden**: Belgium television and radio host, journalist, and filmmaker.
  - b. **Yves Verheyden**: Belgian cycling promoter, professional cyclist, and manager of the Belgian national cycling team.
  - c. **Benny Schlossberg**: Dutch-Belgian professional road cyclist who rode for Belguim's Verheydenburg Cycling Team.
  - d. Katleen Verheyden: Belgian female Paralympic swimmer.
  - e. **Def Verheyden**: Belgian children's music writer and producer.
  - f. **Jef Verheyden**: Belgian painter and sculptor.
  - g. Anne Verheyden: Belgian classical mezzo-soprano singer.
  - h. Massimo Verheyden: Dutch professional football player.
  - i. Tine Verheyden: Belgian actress and writer.
  - j. Renée Verheyden: Belgian former competitive figure skater.
  - k. **Ignace Verheyden**: Belgian politician and lawyer.
  - I. Frederik Verheyden: Belgian composer and music producer.
  - m. **Pierre Verheyden**, a contemporary Belgian artist known for his innovative approaches to visual art. His work has gained recognition both nationally and internationally, showcasing the creative potential associated with the surname.

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- n. **Jan Verheyden**, a 17th-century painter whose contributions to the Flemish art scene were significant. His works continue to be studied and admired for their intricate detail and vibrant colors, cementing the Verheyden name in the cultural tapestry of the region.
- 10. The Waxahachie, Texas version
  - a. **Pierre Jean (Peter John) Verheyden** was Born Aug. 11, 1830, at Waterloo, Belgium, 6 miles south of Brussels, Belgium. Moved to Waxahachie, TX in the 1800s. He was a farmer. Veteran of the Confederate Army in the U.S. Civil War. He died at Waxahachie, TX. Dec. 28, 1922 at the age of 92. Found dead in the snow while walking 5 miles from home to town.
  - b. Caroline Virginia Verheyden (wife of Peter John Verheyden)
  - c. Charles Lee Verheyden (son of John & Virginia Verheyden)
  - d. Fannie Mable Verheyden (wife of Charlie Lee)
  - e. Floyd H. Verheyden, M.D. (son of Charlie & Fannie)
  - f. Gladys Irene Verheyden (wife of Floyd)
    - 1. Charles Nash Verheyden, M.D. (son of Floyd & Irene)
      - a. Gale Lynn Seitz Verheyden
        - 1. Collin Nash Verheyden
          - a. Jennifer Nicole Stevens Verheyden
            - 1. Crew Nash Verheyden
            - 2. Calvin Nash Verheyden
        - 2. Griffin Lace Verheyden
          - a. Bernie Leon Nelson
        - 3. Cooper Nash Verheyden
          - a. Julia Allen Verheyden
        - 4. Gracen Lainey Verheyden
    - 2. Sylvia Sue Verheyden (daughter of Floyd & Irene)
    - 3. John Philip Verheyden (son of Floyd & Irene)
      - a. Cindy Bland Verheyden
    - 4. Paul Joseph Verheyden (triplet son of Floyd & Irene)
      - a. Donna Kay Bullard Verheyden, great granddaughter of <u>Crawford Trees, Sr. and Anna Minerva Kimmel Trees Dallas County Pioneer Association</u>
        - 1. Kay Lynn Verheyden Grysen
          - a. Michael Allen Grysen
            - 1. Natalie Kay Grysen
            - 2. Bethany Leah Grysen
        - 2. Phillip John Verheyden
          - a. Loren Issa Micheloni Verheyden
            - 1. Lucas James Verheyden
            - 2. Lucille Issa Verheyden
        - 3. Vincent Lee Verheyden
        - 4. Kristen Marie Verheyden Frizzelle
          - a. Connor Wade Frizzelle
            - Nash Wade Frizzelle
            - 2. Parker James Frizzelle
    - 5. Anne Elizabeth Verheyden Moody (triplet daughter of Floyd & Irene)
      - a. Joeph James Moody
        - 1. Clinton James Moody
          - a. Macie Claire Moody
          - b. Jared Christopher Moody

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- 2. Chelsea Elizabeth Moody Presley
  - a. Robert Martin Presley
  - b. Daniel Martin Presley
  - c. Caleb Moody Presley
- 3. Molly Anne Moody Strbjak
  - b. Chris Strbjak
  - c. James Wild Strbjak
  - d. Joseph Nash Strbjak
- 5. David Joseph Moody
  - a. Skye Taylor Moody
  - b. Taylor Wells Moody
  - c. Hayden Myers Moody
- **6. Nina Leah Vereheyden** (triplet daughter of Floyd & Irene)