

The Van Voorhees Association

ORGANIZED 1932



November 1983

NEWSLETTER

President's Message

This fall communique comes to you in the new format of a newsletter, as mentioned in the July letter. I hasten to state, however, that this is only a transitional newsletter, and that undoubtedly many changes and improvements are ahead. I can say that with confidence as I introduce to you Mrs. Patricia A. Davis who has volunteered to take on the role of editor of the newsletter. Her husband, George R. Davis, is a strong member of our Publications Committee and admits to having had a part in Pat's offer to do this task. In fairness to George, however, he has proven himself a husband of the '80's by stating that he will make this a joint effort to the extent that Pat wants and/or needs help. So, please note that contributions to future newsletters -- and we do solicit them from you -- should be addressed to:

Mrs. Patricia A. Davis
16 Cook Road
Newark, DE 19711

But that is only one development coming out of our highly successful 51st Annual Meeting. June Voorhees Wick of our Membership Committee got so caught up in the spirit of things at the 51st Meeting that she volunteered as Chairman of the Publicity Committee. In this role she'll be the focal point of Association contact with the many publishing groups in the genealogical and historical fields, as well as with the media generally in making known the Association, its interests and activities. I'm sure that June would appreciate hearing from any of you with thoughts in this area, particularly anyone who would like to work with her, possibly in contacting regional organi-

zations or media on behalf of the Association. In any case, let June hear from you, by writing:

Mrs. June V. Wick
69 Wyckoff Ave.
Waldwick, NJ 07463

Add to the above such things as the most encouraging report from our Membership Committee, the innovative ideas coming from our Genealogical Committee, the new brochure from our Publications Committee, the impending publication of Volume I of the new genealogy from that same committee, and the excellent job done by the Arrangements Committee, then you will begin to see why your president continues to feel so excited as our first half-century fades into memory and we begin to sense the potential for the Association in its second half-century.


One of our hopes is that more of our members will look to local and regional opportunities for building family contacts and developing organized events and activities. We have an excellent prototype for this role in Fairfield, Iowa, where large gatherings of the family -- all spellings -- have been held on an every-other-year basis. If you want to know how Darlene Vorhies manages this, why not write to her:

Mrs. Merle Vorhies
Route #1, Box 234
Fairfield, IA 52556

In this regard, I've recently written to several in California, the state which is second only to New Jersey in numbers of Association members, trying to spur them on by holding out the goal of that

state someday being so strong and active in Association affairs that we might have to yield to their pressure and hold a national meeting in California. If other regions see that as a similar challenge for them, all the better!

I hope that more and more of you will want to find your own unique role to play in this exciting time for the Association. Do let us hear from you.


Donald G. Vorhis
4813 Bradford Drive
Annandale, VA 22003

BIG 51st Annual Meeting

Whoever predicted that anything coming after our 50th Anniversary Meeting would be a let-down was certainly mistaken. The format was that which we have used for a good number of years, that is, we gathered as a family for lunch in the Rutgers Alumni-Faculty Club, with the remainder of the meeting in a classroom just off the Alexander Library -- just a short walk from the Club. In both cases we found that our numbers were close to the maximum that the facilities could accommodate. We just may have to seek another site to take our increasing numbers!

Once again it was amazing and gratifying to realize the makeup of the group: members had come from California, Florida and Louisiana and too many other states to list here; the ages 2½-94 years; all four lines of descent from Steven Coerte were well represented.

The highlight of the meeting came in the interesting presentation by Dr. Herbert H. Rowen, Rutgers University Professor of history, on "Seventeenth Century Netherlands." While many of us probably had some appreciation of the Dutch of that era as mariners, I wonder how many of us knew that our English words "yacht," "schooner," "skipper," and many other common nautical terms entered our language from the Dutch due directly to the prominence of the Dutch in maritime activity of that century.

Dr. Rowen challenged the characterization of Steven Coerte as "great," lack-

ing any supporting evidence for "greatness," but one thing of which we could be very sure was that he was a very wise person to have left Drenthe Province as we know it to have been in that century. Apparently the province was a pretty desolate and harsh piece of geography on which to eke out a livelihood at that time. Neither Dr. Rowen nor anyone else can enlighten us on Steven Coerte's own motivations but Dr. Rowen certainly made real for us the life and times of those in the Netherlands of that period.

Alice Voorhees Adams and her Arrangements Committee did a magnificent job on this meeting and were given a warm round of applause by those in attendance. Given the importance of the Annual Meeting to the Association, we all owe Alice and her committee our deep appreciation.

To those who missed the 51st Annual Meeting, the best advice coming out of that gathering is to be sure to attend the 52nd!

April 1984 Tour of Holland

Mildred Voris Kerr came from California for the 51st Annual Meeting and spoke briefly on the exciting opportunity she and San Francisco Conventions and Tours have put together for Association members and friends to tour the Netherlands, including a visit to Hees, during the latter half of April, 1984. Many have gone on their own to visit the country and Hees but this opportunity is unique in its organization and the fact that the whole tour group will be made up of the extended Van Voorhees family. As of the time of writing, the minimum required for running the tour had been surpassed and the other slots were going fast. We have been assured, however, that if the numbers exceed the capacity of one bus that a second bus can be obtained over there so don't hesitate. Anyone who is still considering the possibility of joining the group should definitely try to do so by contacting:

Mrs. Mildred Voris Kerr
San Francisco Conventions and Tours
2100 Sultana
Petaluma, CA 94952

Association Officers for 1984

Association officers are elected for two-year terms, on a staggered schedule. Following upon the election held at the 51st Annual Meeting, your officers for 1984 are:

- President - Donald G. Vorhis
4813 Bradford Drive
Annandale, VA 22003
- Vice Pres. - Donald A. Sinclair
108 North 2nd Avenue
Highland Park, NJ 08904
- Secretary - Mrs. Claire T. Swanson
G-4, A-1 Panther Valley
Apartments
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
- Treasurer - G. Harold Buttler
(Checking) 72 Upland Avenue
Metuchen, NJ 08840
- Treasurer - Mrs. Joseph B. Cejka
(Savings) P.O. Box 38
Fair Haven, NJ 07701

Reunion News

The Annual Meetings of the Association are only the tip of the iceberg. Throughout the extended family there are many get-togethers -- some large, some small. It is always good to hear of these and we hope to share as much of this information as possible. For example:

- Milton and Margaret Van Voorhis had 38 attend their June picnic-reunion for those from southern California. "We had 4 generations present. We are planning to make this an annual affair each year in June in different areas where the families live. We are hoping we may learn of more of the Van Voorhis family in Southern California to contact and join us." (Milton J. Van Voorhis, 12472 Reche Canyon, Colton CA 92324)

- Kathy Voorhies Manske organized a July reunion of about 100 descendants of James Wilson Voorhies, her great grandfather. "Our three-day affair included a snack night, an old-time sing-along, pic-

nic, dance, and an auction of items made by family members to help defray the costs of the reunion. I think we were successful in achieving our goal of renewing interest in the family and its history." (Mrs. Kathy V. Manske, 1223 Providence Road, Wayne, NE 68787)

- Jane Voorhees Gothard got together 12 Voorhees of the Jan line for a reunion in Gibson City, Illinois, in early October when she heard that a cousin was coming east from San Diego. "We enjoyed ourselves so much that we have set October 20 & 21, 1984, for another reunion in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We also hope that someone will be able to attend the Association meeting the weekend previous." (Mrs. Tom Gothard, 1208 S. Vine St., Urbana, IL 61801)

Pre-Publication Orders for Genealogy

Yes, the big news coming out of the recent 51st Annual Meeting was that The Van Voorhees Family, Volume I, is about to go to the printers. While copies will not be available in time to put under the 1983 Christmas tree, pre-publication orders can now be placed with the Association at discount rates for delivery in 1984. While it is regretted that the 1983 target date could not be met, we must recognize that editing and publishing put big demands on the volunteer effort available to the Association. We are most grateful to the Publications Committee under Robert S. Voris for the tremendous labor-of-love that they are performing so well for us.

Enclosed with this newsletter is an order form which we hope many will use to order copies of Volume I at the pre-publication discount rates. We have deliberately tried to keep the price affordable, not choosing to use the genealogy as a source of income. Those who have purchased books from commercial outlets in recent years will recognize the truth of this statement.

This pre-publication offer ends with 1983 so don't delay. It's a fine gift for family members, and a fine way to pass along the family heritage to succeeding generations.

Did You Know That

We have at least one Congressional Medal of Honor recipient within the family. He is LCDR Bruce Avery Van Voorhis, a Naval Aviator graduate of the 1929 class at the Naval Academy. During World War II, while serving as Squadron Commander of Bombing Squadron 102, he was killed in action 6 July 1943. At that time he was operating against the enemy on Japanese-held Greenwich Island during the Battle of the Solomons Islands. He was awarded the medal posthumously for "sacrificing himself in a single-handed fight against almost insuperable odds, to make a distinctive contribution to our continued offensive in driving the Japanese from the Solomons and, by his superb daring, courage and resoluteness of purpose, enhanced the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service." In his honor, a Dealy Class Destroyer Escort (DE 1028) was commissioned the USS Van Voorhis at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard on 22 April 1957.

Family Group Record - Ancestor Chart

Enclosed with this newsletter is a form which we ask all members to fill out and return to our Genealogical Committee. It is intended to put together information on you, your family and your ancestry in a way that will make the information most accessible and useful in the preparation of future volumes of The Van Voorhees Family. If you can use more forms, or if you know of non-members whose information on their families should be part of our records, please request them when you return this completed form to:

David A. Voorhees
18247 South Drive
Strongsville, OH 44136

The Question Corner

Can someone provide information on the Denver, Colorado, Voorhies Gate, at the entrance to a park in the downtown area at the Civic Center? The plaque reads, "The erection of this gate way by the city and county of Denver, in the year

1920, was made possible by a testamentary gift from John H. P. Voorhies and in grateful recognition of his public-spirited bequest to the municipality in which he had long resided. This tablet is inscribed as a memorial to John H. P. Voorhies and Georgia H. Voorhies, his wife." (Mrs. Elvin Hutchinson, Elgin, NE 68636)

Several questions have come regarding geographic locations with names deriving from the family name. We know of Van Voorhis Town, PA, Voorhees, NJ, Voorhies, Iowa, and Voorheesville, NY. What others can be added to this list, and what is the family history behind each? (Ed.)

Beatrice Bayley Books

Have you received a card from Beatrice Bayley of Sterling, PA, soliciting your interest in a book purporting to be "a guide to the discovery and documentation of your personal and family heritage"? These solicitations come in the various spellings of our name but all claim that "this guide is rare" and "THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE EDITION."

You should know that:

- the Association's comprehensive holdings on the family have never been consulted by Beatrice Bayley;
- the Association has twice made an offer of assistance to Beatrice Bayley but has received nothing but a form letter in response;
- on at least one spelling of the name, the exact same offer was made twice over the span of several years;

the information in the books is of a general historical nature and is not a history of the family per se;

- we are unaware of anyone who has been satisfied with a Beatrice Bayley book but we have heard both disappointment and dissatisfaction.

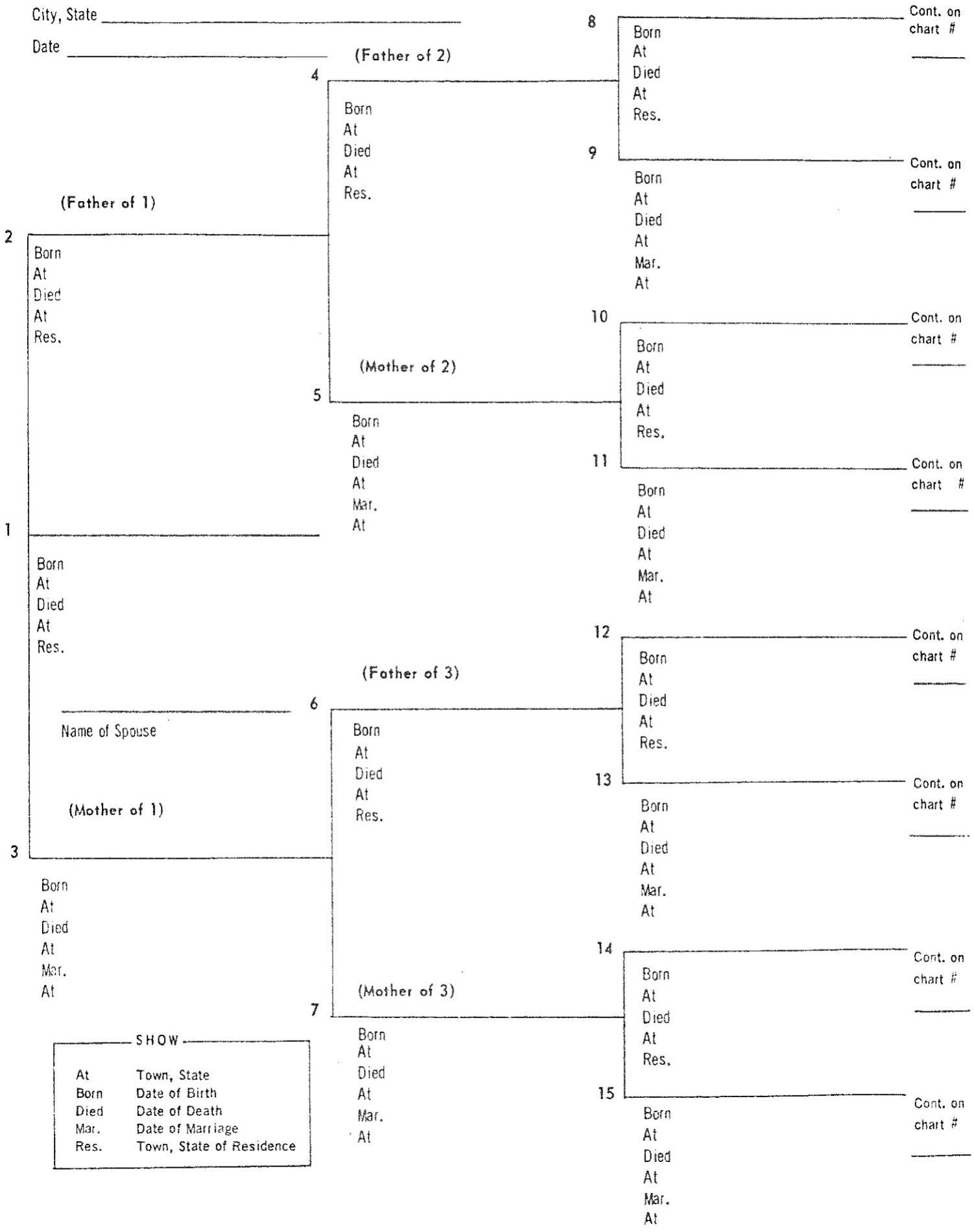
All we can say is caveat emptor or buyer beware!

Ancestor Chart

CHART NO. _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State _____
 Date _____

Person No. 1 on this chart is the same person as No. _____ on chart No. _____



SHOW _____

At	Town, State
Born	Date of Birth
Died	Date of Death
Mar.	Date of Marriage
Res.	Town, State of Residence

ORDER
BLANK

THE VAN VOORHEES FAMILY
(Volume 1)



Published by the Van Voorhees Association

To: Richard L. Voorhees
2116 Swinnen Drive, Westerloo
Wilmington, Delaware 19810

FROM: Name _____
Address _____

Signature: _____
Phone: ()-

I want to order this genealogy, to issue in early 1984.
I understand that the cost includes mailing, and that
any amount paid before publication is refundable on request.

(Note: 10% discount on any
order of 6 or more books)

SOFT-COVER

HARD-COVER

(1) PRE-PUBLICATION

I now order and pay for:
copies

(Before Dec. 31 1983)	at	\$ <u>13.00</u>	\$ <u>18.00</u>
	total	_____	_____

(2) POST-PUBLICATION

I now order and will be
billed before delivery
copies

	at	\$ <u>15.00</u>	\$ <u>20.00</u>
--	----	-----------------	-----------------

(3) INTENTIONS

I estimate that I will
order after publication
copies

	at	\$ <u>15.00</u>	\$ <u>20.00</u>
--	----	-----------------	-----------------

(4) UNDERWRITERS FUND

I believe that I qualify to receive free copies as
a member/descendant of the Underwriters Fund through
the contributions of _____
in the period _____.