



# Newsletter

of

## The Van Voorhees Association

ORGANIZED 1932

MAY 1984

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### From the President

Isn't tulip time wonderful! The Washington, DC area is just coming into the glorious color that these flowers bring, and it is truly delightful.

I am especially mindful of the tulips this year because 36 of our Van Voorhees family are in Holland experiencing the dazzling burst of color that the tulips bring to the land of our origins. In fact, as I write this message, the tour group is actually in Drenthe Province where they are truly "back home".

Lois and I were privileged to meet with the tour group in New York City and dine with them at the Windows-on-the-World Restaurant atop the World Trade Center on the eve of their first tour leg, visiting Van Voorhees points of interest in Brooklyn and New Jersey before actually enplaning for Holland. I was proud to be part of the Association's representation, along with Membership Committee Chairman Arthur Voorhees and his wife Marian, for the sendoff and presented each tourist with a symbolic lapel pin displaying the crossed flags of the U.S and the Netherlands. Speechmaking was not in order, but I did remind the group of what Minister Sarvaas had stated to us at our Golden Anniversary meeting: There are 15 million Americans of Dutch descent in the U.S. today, more Dutch than there are in Holland, and that we have a significant role to play in insuring continued friendly relations between the two countries.

The Holland Tour was very much on the minds of your Executive Committee in

New Brunswick on April 7. In planning the Annual Meeting for Saturday, 6 Oct., it was decided to build the program around the tour. (Arthur and I found the group very receptive to this idea when we broached it in New York.)

Our growing attendance at the Annual Meeting forces us to think in terms of larger dining and meeting facilities than afforded us by the Rutgers Alumni-Faculty Club and the Alexander Library. As a result, we have arranged with the Hyatt Regency Hotel to have the Annual Meeting there this year. This will avoid the necessity of moving from the dining location to the meeting site, and will be particularly convenient for those coming by public transportation to New Brunswick and otherwise requiring local transport to the meeting.

Once again I came away from the Executive Committee with buoyed spirits. One can only be impressed by the number of capable people who are actively engaged in the work of the Association. My personal problem is not one of leading, but of trying to keep up with the dynamic leadership being exercised in the various areas of Association work now handled through our committee structure. And I sense that we've only begun to feel the effects of opening the Association up to much broader participation. For example, the Newsletter will measurably help in this process, especially in the hands of Pat and George Davis, who have taken hold and who have lots of ideas on what the Newsletter can be and can do for the Association.

I would be remiss were I not to make

public apology for Volume I of the revised genealogy not being in the hands of purchasers at this point. Bob Voris and his Publications Committee rightly felt that the goal of a quality product was of higher priority than meeting the announced publication date. There simply was much more work to be done in producing a quality book than had originally been seen, e.g., obtaining legal rights to print certain pictures, preparing the index, establishing editorial consistency on spellings, reference citations, etc. And we all must remember that this work is being done by dedicated individuals who have responsibilities to job and family which frequently take priority over Volume I. But take heart -- pub-

lication day is very near.

Please let us hear from you so that we of the Executive Committee can be sure that the evolving nature of the Association is truly responsive to the desires of the membership. And start making plans now to be with us on Saturday, 6 October for the 52nd Annual Meeting. We plan to issue another Newsletter between now and then which will give you more information on the event, but do mark your calendars now.

April 1984

Don Vorhis  
President

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## MILESTONES

We welcome everyone to share their special occasions with the membership through this new section of the NEWSLETTER. We will be pleased to include notices of births, marriages, graduations, honors, travels, etc.

VERN EDGAR VORHIES Sr. of Fairfield, IA celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday (Mar. 13) at a gala open house hosted by his children, Vern Vorhies Jr., Wilma Johnson, Winetta Harwood and Abe and Merle Vorhies on Mar. 11, 1984. Vern is the oldest of 5 living, and the 5<sup>th</sup> of 14 children of Edgar and Cordella Simmons Vorhies. His four living siblings are Winona Hillman, Sam, Merlin and Carroll Vorhies.

Rick is the son of Richard P. Milner Sr. and Virginia Voorhies Milner, MD of Albuquerque, N.M. He and his wife Gloria live in New York.

The career of one of our younger members, that of composer/pianist RICHARD PIERCE MILNER Jr., should be watched with great interest by his Van Voorhees Association cousins. In the summer of 1980, the Guggenheim Concert Band premiered his "A Tale of Magic Mountain Light" in Damrosch Park, New York City. His more recent works were premiered during his debut in Carnegie Recital Hall last November. Some of his compositions were also aired on WNYC-FM on Dec. 4, 1983 when he was interviewed by John Schaefer on "New Sounds". His work has been recorded by "Four Winds".

One of the most recent of Steven Coert's descendants to become a minister of the Dutch Reformed faith is RICHARD ROBERT VAN DOREN of Highland Park, N.J. Richard was ordained at the Dutch Reformed Church of Highland Park on Sunday, April 1, 1984. His father, Richard M. Van Doren, an elder of the church, took part in the ceremony. Richard is the son of Richard and Lois Gant Van Doren, and grandson of the late John S. and Mary Voorhees of Highland Park. Richard is descended from one of the well-known 17 children of Christian and Altje Schenck Van Doren, who were among the first settlers of Middlebush, N.J., as were his Voorhees ancestors, Abraham and Neeltje Cortelyou Van Voorhees. Rev. Van Doren's first pastorate will be the Reformed Church of Griggstown, N.J.

# News & Notes

## 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. This was mentioned in the last Newsletter, but omitted at the last minute due to the postage rate weight limit. 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 copy this form or request them when you return this completed form to:

David A. Voorhees  
18247 South Drive  
Strongsville, OH 44136

Anyone who may have requested and filled out a form in response to the Nov. 1983 Newsletter can ignore the above request.

## DID YOU KNOW

Several members sent us information about the VOORHIES CASTLE, at Bement, IL, centrally located just east of Decatur.

Darlene Vorhies wrote that her grandmother's 1890 World Atlas lists a town by the name of Voorhies where Bement is presently located.

In June, 1978, there was an auction of the real estate and personal property of the Voorhies Castle and its contents, which was attended by some of our members.

For anyone interested in seeing the "Castle", here are the directions, as given on the auction notice: Follow Rt. 105 South through Bement for 1½ miles to stop sign, leave 105 and continue straight South. (5 miles South of Bement.)

## APRIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee met at the Rutgers Alumni-Faculty Club on Apr. 7, 1984. In addition to those items mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter, the following items were discussed:

**PUBLICATIONS:** Volume I of the genealogy has been sent to the printer for typesetting. Sales orders have been encouraging (don't miss your chance - order NOW). The revised publication date is June.

**MEMBERSHIP:** The membership committee has been actively pursuing new member leads, resulting in the addition of 62 new members in 1983.

**OFFICERS:** Florence Cejka was named Chairman of the nominating committee, to name candidates for the office of Vice President.

**BYLAWS:** President Vorhis will be naming a committee to propose a draft by-laws revision.

**PUBLICITY:** Our Association will be listed in forthcoming editions of 2 Family Association/Reunion directories published by Everton Publishers and Summit Publications. Our Brochure was displayed at the recent Paramus, NJ Historical Society's "Heritage Exhibit". If there is a similar event in your area, contact June Wick or Bob Voris for brochures to display.

## IOWA REUNION

An Iowa Voorhees "cooperative lunch" and afternoon visitation will be held May 27, 1984 in the Lockridge, IA Community Hall at 1 pm (just off U.S. Hwy 34 between Mt. Pleasant and Fairfield). The Iowa and Missouri Voorhees (Vorhies) have agreed to alternately host an annual meeting and are working on establishing a consistent date for every year. Anyone interested in attending or seeking additional information should contact Darlene Vorhies. Her address (note new box #) is:

Mrs. Merle Vorhies  
Rt. 1, Box 39  
Fairfield, IA 52556

## More News & Notes

### NEWSLETTER CHANGES

#### OTHER GROUPS OF INTEREST

We invite other organizations with similar goals to ours, whose membership is potentially open to some or all of our members, to place a notice, on a reciprocal basis, in our Newsletter. Two such organizations are:

The Holland Society of New York  
122 East 58th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10022  
(male descendants of early N.Y. settlers)

Descendants of the Founders of  
New Jersey  
Mrs. William A. Smith, Registrar  
227 Garfield Ave.  
Avon-by-the-Sea, N.J. 07717  
(a new group - descendants of persons who lived and/or aided in establishment of N.J. prior to 31 Dec. 1685)

#### BEATRICE BAYLEY FOLLOW UP

We have been advised that Beatrice Bayley is not the only publisher of "genealogies" of the type discussed in the Nov. 1983 Newsletter. In 1982, the "Des Moines Sunday Register" printed an article warning potential buyers of Sharon Taylor's (Halbert's, Inc.) "Family Heritage" books. All of the advice pertaining to Beatrice Bayley also apply to Sharon Taylor. There are probably others as well!

Starting with this issue, the Newsletter is being sent out under a Bulk Mail Permit. This will allow expanding the content of the Newsletter at significant savings in postage cost. However, due to the favorable postage rates (and the associated postal restrictions) which apply to Bulk Mail, the Newsletters will not be forwarded by the Post Office. When an address change is received from the Post Office (a service for which we must pay), a replacement Newsletter will be sent via First Class Mail. In order to avoid the additional charges for these extra services, and to prevent delays in receiving your copy of the Newsletter, please send any change of address as soon as possible to the editors at the address below. Future mailings will eliminate the envelope- please watch for the Newsletter to avoid confusing us with your "junk" mail.

Some new "departments" have been added. Anyone with other ideas and/or material for the Newsletter is requested to contact the editors.

The Newsletter will now be published 3 times a year, in May, August and November. The deadline for inclusion in the August newsletter is July 20.

Address all material for the Newsletter to our new address:

P.O. Box 385, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

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#### GENEALOGICAL QUERY

Genealogical Queries will be published on a space available basis, are restricted to those pertaining directly to a Van Voorhees descendant only, and are subject to editing. All queries are published with the understanding that a copy of any information received by the party placing the query will be forwarded to the Genealogy Committee Chairman, whose address appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

GQ-1 Want information on ROBERT VOORHES, b. ca. 1810 in PA; m. 29 Mar 1834 Elizabeth Linton in Guernsey Co. OH. A Cooper by trade, owned land in Guernsey Co. Had: son Stephen; dau. Maria (my gr.-grandmother); son Joshua (named for his mother's father) who was in Civil War, d. LaGrange, TN, bur. Mississippi River Cem, Memphis, TN; and George, Catherine, John and Benton. Who were Robert's parents? Mrs. Eileen Rhine Lisic, 10245 Victoria Ave., Riverside, CA  
Mrs. Eileen Rhine Lisic, 10245 Victoria Ave., Riverside, CA 92503

## In Memoriam

### JUDGE JOHN VAN VOORHIS

Our Van Voorhees Association has lost a devoted member and friend in the passing of JUDGE JOHN VAN VOORHIS of Irondequoit, N.Y. on Nov. 25, 1983. As the representative of the Coert line, his wisdom and legal advice were great assets to the Executive Committee. Due to his efforts, the Association achieved tax exempt status.

Judge Van Voorhis served thirty one years on the bench, having been elected Supreme Court Justice in 1936, retiring in 1967 as Judge of the Court of Appeals at the mandatory retirement age of seventy. He returned to private practice in Rochester, N.Y., where his grandfather John Van Voorhis had opened his law office in the 1850's. The Judge's father, Eugene Van Voorhis, was a lawyer, as is his son, also named Eugene, who now carries on the family tradition in Rochester.

"Cousin" John was a gentleman of the old school, scholarly, devoted to his family and his profession, he was precise and a splendid raconteur. He was the main speaker in 1960 at the Association's meeting celebrating the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Steven Coerte's arrival in New Netherlands. His generosity made possible the hiring of our genealogist and the subsequent forthcoming publication of Volume I of "The Van Voorhees Family". The Van Voorhees Association is most grateful for his life.

We shall miss him.

### REVEREND DONALD HOOD

Our cousin, the REV. DONALD HOOD, died on Mar. 6, 1984. Born on Staten Island Jan. 3, 1925, the only child of Elmer Voorhees Hood and Fanny E. McLaughlin, he grew up on Staten Island. He served in the U.S. Navy (1944-46). He received his higher education at Wagner College (A.B. 1948), Rutgers (M.A. 1949),

and Philadelphia Divinity School (B. Sacred Theology 1952). He was made deacon in June 1952, and priested in December of the same year.

During his career in the ministry, he served a number of parishes in N.Y. and Kansas. In 1974, he became Chaplain and Master of Religious Studies at St. Paul's Cathedral School, Garden City, NY, where he served until incapacitated by his final illness.

While serving at St. Luke's Hospital, NY, Rev. Hood met our late President, Helen Voorhees, who was there for surgery, and through her joined the Association. He was elected Secretary in 1978, and re-elected in 1980 and 1982.

### ROUSSEAU VAN VOORHIES

The death of Mr. ROUSSEAU VAN VOORHIES on Dec. 5, 1983 deprives our association of one of our outstanding southern kinsmen. A native of Lafayette, LA, he resided in New Orleans. He was a grandson of Judge Felix Voorhies of St. Martinsville, LA, who wrote Acadian Reminiscences, a history of the exodus of the Acadians from Canada to Louisiana.

During World War I, Cousin Rousseau became a French interpreter for the Army and he later established the "Alliance Acadienne" in Canada to promote cultural exchange and national awareness between the French speaking peoples of Canada and the Acadians of Louisiana.

He was the founding member and president of the Boswell Institute, a literary association carrying on the Johnson-Boswell tradition, which became known for its honorary degrees: the "Doctor of Worldly Wisdom", the "Degree of Frustration", etc. He was a cousin of cousins Aimee Marist and Sister Mary Danila who have attended our more recent meetings.

# REMINDERS

★ It's still not too late to order your copy of Volume I of The Van Voorhees Family, and receive it hot off the presses in the first shipment. Sorry, but the pre-publication discount period has passed, but quantity discounts still apply. Send your order, specifying number of copies of each type cover desired to:

Richard L. Voorhees  
2116 Swinnen Dr., Westerloo  
Wilmington, DE 19810

Prices: hard cover \$20.00  
soft cover \$15.00

A 10% discount applies to 6 or more books to the same address. (checks to the Van Voorhees Association)

★ In all correspondence to the Association, please PRINT or type. This is particularly important due to the many varied spellings of our surname (25+ at last count), which all of us have had difficulty deciphering at one time or another. So for the sake of accuracy (to say nothing of sanity) please help us in this regard.

★ Mark your calendar NOW for the Annual Meeting Saturday, October 6, 1984 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Brunswick, NJ. Details will follow in the August Newsletter.

★ Have you paid your 1984 dues yet? If not, please don't let this be your last Newsletter! Send your check (made out to the Van Voorhees Assoc.) to: G. Harold Buttler, Treasurer  
72 Upland Ave.  
Metuchen, NJ 08840

Active member	\$5.00
Junior member	\$2.00
(under age 21, in same household with active member)	
Sustaining member	\$10.00
Contributing member	\$25.00
Life member	\$150.00

## COMING IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

- \* A 3- part article about Steven Coerte Van Voorhees
- \* A needlepoint/hook rug coat-of-arms pattern
- \* Details on the Annual Meeting
- \* Report on the trip to Holland

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS - 1984

President: Donald G. Vorhis 4813 Bradford Dr., Annandale, VA 22003  
Vice President: Donald A. Sinclair 108 North 2nd Ave., Highland Park, NJ 08904  
Secretary: Mrs. O. Gunnar (Claire T.) Swanson G-4, A-1 Panther Valley Apts.  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840  
Treasurer, Checking: G. Harold Buttler 72 Upland Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08840  
Treasurer, Savings: Mrs. Joseph (Florence V.) Cejka PO Box 38, Fairhaven, NJ 07701  
Historian: Mrs. Joseph (Elizabeth V.) Edgar 423 Harrison Ave. Highland Park, NJ 08904

### Representatives:

Albert Line: Miss Charlotte C. Voorhis Cathedral Village A-320, 8600 Ridge Ave  
Philadelphia, PA 19128  
Coert Line: Frank J. Van Voorhis 909 Evening St., Worthington, OH 43085  
Jan Line: Robert S. Voris 802 Berkeley Rd., Westover Hills, Wilmington, DE 19807  
Lucas Line: Mrs. Joseph Edgar (see above)

### Members at large:

Mrs. George L. (Alice V.) Adams 24 Redcliffe Ave. Apt. 1-A, Highland Park, NJ 08904  
Mrs. T.B. (Elisabeth V.) Ripton 242-31 51 Ave., Douglaston, NY 11362  
Richard L. Voorhees 2116 Swinnen Dr. Westerloo, Wilmington, DE 19810

### Committee Chairmen:

Financial: G. Harold Buttler (see above)  
Genealogical: David A. Voorhees 18247 South Dr. Strongsville, OH 44136  
Membership: Arthur R. Voorhees 65 Hiawatha Blvd., Oakland, NJ 07436  
Planning, Communications: Frank J. Van Voorhis (see above)  
Program: open  
Publications: Robert S. Voris (see above)  
Publicity: Mrs. Robert (June V.) Wick 69 Wyckoff Ave., Waldwick, NJ 07463

Association Genealogist: Albert L. Stokes RD#1 Old Georgetown Rd., Princeton, NJ 08540

Newsletter Editor: Mrs. George (Patricia) Davis PO Box 385, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071