



Newsletter

of

The Van Voorhees Association

ORGANIZED 1932

JANUARY 1986

From the President

Every Association meeting is unique in one way or another but our 53rd General Meeting was really special. This time we had a large box of the new Volume I of our genealogy to dramatize the progress we are making in achieving the founders' goals. How long we have waited, and how very pleased we are with the product!

All of us listened with admiration and pride to the remarks of Police Captain Richard Z. Voorhees as he told of his successful experience in initiating "Operation Home Free" to assist runaways in returning. I knew he would be interesting but he was downright inspiring! And how fitting it was to experience this in the impressive Jane Voorhees Zimmerle Art Museum. (Another time I want to take in more of the exhibits.)

A high point for me personally was the fact noted by the Secretary that 77 (!) of our members had sent in absentee ballots in order to express themselves on the new bylaws and the slate of officers. This showed me just how far we have come in making this an open organization with broad and active participation by the members.

It's not too early to start thinking about attending our 54th General Meeting. We're hoping that you will -- we are even re-scheduling the Newsletter so that you will have more time between the summer issue and the meeting date in order to make plans and the necessary reservations. We look forward to seeing you.

Don Vorhis



ANNUAL MEETING

President Donald Vorhis called the 53rd Annual Meeting to order in the auditorium of the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum on Saturday October 12, 1985. Reverend William Lydecker, new chairman of the Genealogy Committee, was called upon to offer the invocation.

The beautiful autumn day added to the exuberant spirits of family members who traveled from near and far to attend. In attendance were six life members and ten new members. The new members who traveled the furthest to attend were Ted and Marie Voorhees, from Tulsa, OK, and were awarded miniature wooden shoes by President Vorhis. There were several members in attendance from California. It was decided that Ralph and Sylvia Voorhies of San Luis Obispo, who live

seven miles from the Pacific Ocean, had come the furthest distance and received a windmill stick pin.

Mildred Voris Kerr highlighted the upcoming annual tour to Holland, encouraging members to participate.

Alice Adams, daughter of Jane Voorhees Zimmerli, provided some background on the art museum, telling how her brother Allen approached Rutgers desiring to make a fitting memorial tribute for his mother. Given three choices by the University, an addition to the art museum seemed most appropriate in light of her love of art. Widowed at an early age, Jane Voorhees remarried Adolph Zimmerli, yet retained the Voorhees name as she was quite proud of the Dutch heritage. Alice Adams' grandfather, Oscar Voorhees, was the founder and first president of the Van Voorhees Association.

The minutes of the previous meeting and the treasurer's report were read and accepted.

Enthusiastic participation in the Association was shown by 77 members who mailed in absentee ballots recording their votes for the new slate of officers and the adoption of the amended by-laws. Cornelia Voorhis Mason presented the Nominating Committee's slate of officers. The absentee votes along with the votes from the floor re-elected President Don Vorhis, Treasurer Bob Buttler, and elected Candace Voorhies, Secretary, by acclamation. The by-laws were also adopted.

Acting Program Committee Chairman Arthur Voorhees introduced guest speaker Capt. Richard Z. Voorhees of Bridgewater Twp. Police Department, 1984 Police Officer of the Year, asking him a question that was on all of our minds: What does the Z. stand for? Capt. Voorhees replied that it represented his mother's maiden name Zeller.

After introducing some family members in the audience, Capt.

Voorhees began by telling how "Operation Home Free" began.

After attending a seminar at which John Walsh of Florida, Father of an abducted child, was a principal speaker, Capt. Voorhees was moved by what he heard. John Walsh lambasted police departments, saying that they were quicker to file a missing car report than one for a missing child. Police are now required to file a missing child report on a national computer system or with the FBI.

That evening, Capt. Voorhees felt compelled to do something about runaway children. He decided to write a letter to the nation's "largest bus carrier" proposing his idea that missing children be offered a free bus ticket home, as many wishing to return home simply do not have the funds to do so. It took more than three weeks before a reply arrived indicating that the carrier was not interested in the project.

Undaunted, Capt. Voorhees wrote a similar letter to Trailways and was quite pleasantly surprised to receive a positive response in only 2 days: a personal telephone call from a Trailways representative who was quite excited about the idea.

Roger Rydell, vice president of Trailways, was very instrumental in getting the program started. So much so that Capt. Voorhees' proposal, made in Feb. 1984, was in operation that June, less than 4 months from inception to implementation (quite a bureaucratic feat!).

A run away child that wishes to return home but does not have the funds may do so by contacting a police officer, who checks the police computer to verify that the child is indeed missing, thereby avoiding "free rides" for youngsters. If verified, the child is issued a ticket to his hometown. No fringe benefits are included, as Trailways wishes this to be a service, not a pleasurable exper-

ience.

Incredibly, in the short time the program has been operating (June 1984 - Oct. 1985), six thousand youngsters have made use of it. Six thousand young lives are hopefully getting a chance to start anew.

Capt. Voorhees is understandably pleased with the success of the program. He stressed that he is just an average guy who took a little time to put an idea before someone who could implement it. He urged all of those present to do the same, as everyone, by making a similar effort, could make a positive impact on someone's life.

Capt. Voorhees is justifiably proud of the letter he received from President Reagan and of the many honors he has received. We commend Capt. Voorhees for his initiative and thank him for sharing his stimulating story with us.



DUES NOTICE

Have you paid your 1986 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

Please remember that Association dues are tax deductible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

We are pleased to announce that the new Chairman of the Program Committee is Scott Voorhees of Emerson, NJ. We are sure Scott would welcome any suggestions you might have for future annual meetings, etc. (guest speakers, topics, location, ...). Contact Scott at: 30 Orchard Ave.
Emerson, NJ 07630

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

As noted in previous Newsletters, the Publicity Committee has been actively engaged in working with their counterparts in other Dutch family associations for the mutual benefit of all the associations, and a Newsletter exchange program has started.

The Wyckoff Association has recent genealogies for sale, third editions of their volumes 1 and 2. Contact: William S. Wyckoff
36 Village Dr.
La Bar Village
Stroudsburg, PA 18366

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. FRANKLYN FRICK, a bibliophile from Sioux City, IA has made a purchase of twenty hard-bound copies of Volume I of the Van Voorhees Genealogy, to be given to libraries around the country, at the Association's discretion.

In so doing, Mr. Frick has recognized the endeavors of those who have worked so hard over the years to produce Volume I, and the contribution it makes to the body of genealogical work on the early settlers in this country.

For those who might wish to join Mr. Frick, as well as those who have not yet purchased a personal copy, an order form can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

FROM THE SECRETARY

To all of you who cared enough to vote even though you were unable to attend the meeting, I extend a heartfelt "Thank You". I received a total of 77 absentee ballots. Collecting the ballots being one of the first official tasks of this position, it was a good feeling to know that our members care about the organization and are actively participating in it. I look forward to working in a vital, active Association which, because of members like all of you, continues to expand and grow each year.

Candace Voorhies



Regional Meetings

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA -- REUNION 1986

The Southern California Reunion is scheduled for Saturday, May 31, in Colton, CA. It will be a picnic in the Colton Park. Recently, this has been a very successful event, growing larger each year. Once again, this year's event is being coordinated by Milton and Margaret Van Voorhis. Anyone who lives in the area, or plans to be visiting, is encouraged to attend. Contact them at: 12472 Reche Cyn Rd. #36
Colton, CA 92324

IOWA -- REUNION 1986

The return engagement of another successful regional event - the Iowa Reunion - is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 25, at the Lockridge, IA Community Hall. For further information, and date confirmation, contact: Darlene Vorhies
RR #1, Box 39
Fairfield, IA 52556

Darlene notes that cheap (\$0) accommodations can usually be found in the homes of local Vorhies relatives, and free camping is always available in her yard. Please contact Darlene IN ADVANCE to make arrangements.

New Netherlands Project

The New Netherland Project is a program of the New York State Library for the translation and publication of early records of New Netherland. These records are the only significant body of records from the area which became the 13 original states which are not in English. The problem for researchers in this area is compounded by the fact that the records are in "Old Dutch", which is understood by relatively few translators. As a result, these records have been generally unavailable to researchers, and is particularly troublesome for those tracing early Dutch roots in this country (such as Van Voorhees).

This project is being funded primarily by private contributions. Anyone contributing at least \$25 to the project will receive a map reproduction, in full color on heavy text paper, measuring 22½" x 19", and suitable for framing. The map is taken from Peter Goos' Atlas of the Sea, first published in 1667, and entitled "New Netherland and the English Virginias".

Dr. Charles T. Gehring, a fellow of the Holland Society, is the project's translator. Checks may be made out to the Regents' Fund of the University of the State of New York, and mailed to: Dr. Charles T. Gehring
Cultural Education Center
New York State Library
Albany, NY 12230



The article which follows is reprinted with the permission of the Holland Society of New York, from the July 1966 issue of its quarterly magazine, De Halve Maen.

This is the second of two parts. The first installment was reprinted in the May, 1985 Newsletter. A limited quantity of the May Newsletter is available for those who did not receive it. Please contact the editor.

Steven Coerten: New Netherland Colonist, 1660: II.

by Daniel Voorhis Grinnell, Phillips Exeter Academy '65, Amherst College '69.

Founder of Van Voorhees family became a leader in New Amersfoort church and town, had many offspring, lived to age 84.

It is almost certain that Steven Coerten did not leave the Netherlands in search of political freedom. The Dutch Republic seems to have been far more liberal, politically, than any other country in the western world,^{31*} including the colony of New Netherland under the sternly paternal rule of its martinet Director General, Peter Stuyvesant, who in turn was under the heavy thumb of the Dutch West India Company.³²

Even if Steven Coerten had not been a devout member of the Dutch Reformed Church (we know that he was a devout communicant after his arrival in New Netherland), religious oppression could not very well have been a reason for his emigration. Holland was well known for its toleration in this respect, and un-tolerated people from all over Europe — Huguenots from France, Separationists and Puritans from England, Protestants from Germany, and Jews from Spain and Portugal — had frequently swollen the tides of immigration.³³ Moreover, New Netherland was relatively intolerant: the bylaws of the Company contained a clause, which Stuyvesant occasionally invoked, forbidding the establishment in the colony of any religion other than that of the Dutch Reformed Church.³⁴

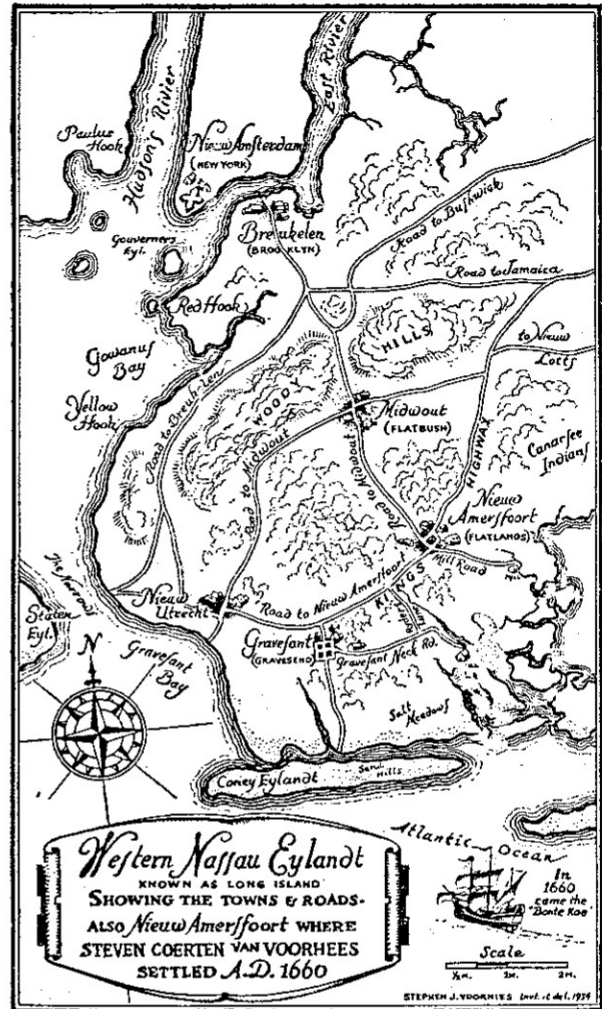
It was probably for economic reasons, then, that Steven Coerten, like many other emigrants past and present seeking greener pastures, left the Netherlands with his family. As the population of Holland grew apace with immigration and unprecedented commercial prosperity, so did the need for more food and living space. The fields of the Republic, laboriously won from the sea with dikes and drainage ditches, and already cultivated intensely by the most advanced methods in Europe,³⁵ could yield and expand no more. Steven Coerten, a tenant farmer by profession, had a growing family, as did his six brothers and sisters living nearby.³⁶

Although we can never hope to know the exact causes of Steven's migration, the pressures of overpopulation seem to have most influenced his decision to leave.

Perhaps this decision to strike out for the nearly limitless acres of America was also influenced by reports such as this one, written in 1624:

We were much gratified on arriving in this country. Here we found beautiful rivers, bubbling fountains flowing down into the valleys, basons [sic] of running water in the flat lands, agreeable fruits in the woods, such as strawberries, walnuts, wild grapes, etc. The woods also abound with acorns for feeding hogs, and with venison. There is considerable fish in the rivers. Good tillage land. Had we cows and hogs and other cattle that are to be sent to us we would not wish to return. If you come hither with your family you will not regret it.³⁷

Of more practical value to the prospective colonist than this mouth-watering description was a pamphlet written in 1650 by the Secretary of the Colony, Cornelius Van Tienhoven. Contained in this 17th century chamber-of-commerce-type brochure, widely distributed in Holland, was information concerning lands, crops, occupational opportunities, house plots, building



Courtesy of the Van Voorhees Association

plans, planting, travel expenses, utensils, and the availability and price of cattle. People of wealth were encouraged to come and to pay the way of others in order to create a large body of working people. The pamphlet also advised, helpfully, that people bring enough money to last two years in case the first crop failed. Immigrants should also, suggested Van Tienhoven, come during the late winter in order to be able to start planting that spring.³⁸

Steven Coerten did not take the advice of Van Tienhoven (if he ever actually read the Secretary's brochure) to come late in the winter. Instead, he and his family, after paying a fare of 36 guilders (equivalent today to about \$378³⁹) per adult, left the West India Company's docks in Amsterdam aboard the good ship *Bonte Koe* ("Spotted Cow" or "Brindle Cow"), Wednesday, April 15, 1660.⁴⁰

If the *Bonte Koe* was like most Dutch sea-going vessels of the time, it measured about 170 feet in length, 50 feet in breadth, and 20 feet from deck to keel.⁴¹ There probably were three masts, a high poop, low bows, and a long, low bowsprit. Living quarters were on the lower deck.

*The footnotes beginning on Page 6 continue in sequence those published in the May 1985 Newsletter.

Besides the Coerten family, Captain Lucas, and an undetermined number of crew members, there were fifty-eight passengers aboard. These included four families, a company of eighteen soldiers, eight bachelors, three of whom were the servants of a wealthy New Netherland farmer on his way back from a homeland visit, and "three maidens."⁴² Not aboard was one of Steven Coerten's daughters, Mergin, who had apparently decided to stay in Drenthe.

Under favorable conditions a ship usually took six weeks, following the slow, clockwise flow of the Gulf Stream, to make the trip to New Amsterdam, on Manhattan Island.⁴³ We can imagine that the passengers in their cramped quarters must have gotten to know each other quite well.

When the *Bonte Koe* sailed through the Narrows and anchored in what is now New York harbor around the first of June, 1660, New Amsterdam was the bustling, trading-post capital of a fifty-one-year-old colony which included Manhattan Island, the western half of Nassau Island (now Long Island), the Hudson Valley as far north as Fort Orange (now Albany),⁴⁴ and, to the south, lands comprising present New Jersey and northern Delaware. To the infant metropolis came Indians with valuable furs to exchange for beads and other trinkets. These furs were then tanned, shipped to Holland and sold at the exchange there, netting sizeable profits for the Company.⁴⁵

A newly-arrived family in New Netherland usually had to dig a pit in the earth and live in the cellar of their future home until they could afford to build one, which was normally constructed of wood and sometimes of the black and yellow bricks brought over from Holland as ship ballast.⁴⁶ The Coerten family, however, was an exception in this respect. After living in New Amsterdam for six months, the Coertens were able to buy a farm in the settlement of New Amersfoort on Nassau (Long) Island. I quote from part of the deed, dated November 29, 1660:

[T]he said Corneliz Dircksz Hooghlant acknowledge[es] that he has sold [to Steven Coerten several tracts, amounting to a total of 62 acres, of] . . . maize land situate[d] within Amersfoort, . . . woodland, . . . [land] upon the Flats, . . . the house and houselot lying and being in the Town of Amersfoort, and the hay ricks, with the brew house and all the brewing implements, kettles, tubs, vats and all that belongs thereunto, with a wagon, plow, and iron harrow, with two oxen, together with the grain that is at present sowed upon the said land and four schepels of pease and four schepels of buckwheat. The above is sold with everything thereon that is earth-and-nail fast, and further with such active and passive obligations and equities as the seller has possessed the same to the date hereof . . .⁴⁷

The text of this deed goes on to specify the terms of the agreement. A sum of 3400 guilders (about \$35,700 today⁴⁸) was to be paid in a first instalment of 400 guilders "Holland money," to be payable by exchange in Holland the following summer, and in three consecutive annual instalments of 1000 guilders apiece payable in "good strung negotiable sewan."⁴⁹ As no down payment was stipulated, Steven Coerten's credit seems to have been pretty good.

The town of New Amersfoort was the first to be established on Long Island.⁵⁰ It was settled not long after two agents of the West India Company bought, in 1636, the surrounding area from a local tribe of Indians which had once had a village there called Kaskachague.⁵¹

Following the custom of the time, Wolphert Gerritse, one of the two agents, named the new settlement after his native town of Amersfoort, Holland, from which he had emigrated in 1630.⁵²

Since New Amersfoort was situated on a treeless prairie of several thousand acres of rich black soil in the interior of a heavily-forested island, it is likely that the Indians had cultivated the area before the arrival of the two agents in 1636.⁵³ Besides pease and buckwheat, the fields of the new colonists produced two crops a year of wheat, rye, and maize (Indian corn).⁵⁴ Many of the vegetables for which Holland was famous in Europe could be grown in the gardens of New Amersfoort. Fruit trees of many kinds, including different varieties of apple, pear, cherry, and apricot, also successfully survived transplantation from Holland to New Netherland.⁵⁵

Oxen, instead of horses, which were used only for transportation, pulled the wooden plows of the farmers through the tough, root-filled soil of the fields.⁵⁶ Herds of cattle grazed in the pastures; wild turkeys, swine, and plump deer abounded in the forests, and wild geese in the marshes. Oysters, clams, cod, and eels were plentiful along the seashore and nearby waters.⁵⁷

Conditions of life in the little community of farmers,

⁴¹Douglas Campbell, *The Puritan in Holland, England, and America* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1893), II, p. 320.

⁴²Frederick L. Collins, *Money Town* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1946), p. 25.

⁴³Campbell, *op. cit.*, II, p. 321.

⁴⁴Collins, *op. cit.*, p. 30. ⁴⁵Campbell, *op. cit.*, II, p. 336.

⁴⁶Wheeler N. Voorhees, "Steven Coerten's Migration," *Historical Handbook of the Van Voorhees Family in the Netherlands and America* (New Brunswick, N. J.: The Van Voorhees Association, 1935), p. 17. ⁴⁷*Ibid.* ⁴⁸*Ibid.*

⁴⁹According to the Durants ("The Age of Reason Begins," pub. Simon & Schuster, New York, 1961, page ix), the equivalent value of the 17th century guilder, in terms of present-day buying power, is \$10.50. Thus, 367 x \$10.50 = \$378.

⁵⁰"Migration," *Handbook*, p. 18. This was April 4 according to the calendar then in use. The Julian calendar was used in parts of Holland until 1700, and in England until 1752. *Ibid.*

⁵¹*Ibid.* ⁵²*Ibid.*, p. 20. ⁵³*Ibid.*

⁵⁴Adrian Van der Donck, "Description of the New Netherlands," *Old South Leaflets* (Boston, Directors of the Old South Work, Old South Meeting House. [no date given]), III, Nos. 51-68, 69 (pp. 5-12), 70-75.

⁵⁵Collins, *op. cit.*, p. 11.

⁵⁶Maud W. Goodwin, *Dutch and English on the Hudson* (The Chronicles of America Series, Vol. 5, ed. by Allen Johnson; New Haven: Yale University Press, 1919), p. 105.

⁵⁷English translation, book B of Flatlands Records, p. 29, quoted in "The Family Arrives at New Amersfoort," *Historical Handbook of the Van Voorhees Family in the Netherlands and America* (New Brunswick, N. J.: The Van Voorhees Association, 1935), pp. 29-30.

⁴⁸This amount is calculated at the Durants' rate of \$10.50 per guilder. The purchase price seems much too large for such sparsely-settled country, but our figure may be exaggerated due to a lower equivalent value for guilders in "good strung negotiable sewan," which constituted 3000 guilders of the 3400-guilder price.

⁴⁹"The Family Arrives," *Handbook*, p. 30. It is interesting to note that the currency shortage was so great as to force the colonists to deal mainly in "sewan" or Indian wampum.

⁵⁰"State and Church on Long Island," *Historical Handbook of the Van Voorhees Family in the Netherlands and America* (New Brunswick, N. J.: The Van Voorhees Association, 1935), p. 22.

⁵¹"The Family Arrives," *Handbook*, p. 28.

⁵²"State and Church," *Handbook*, p. 22.

⁵³"The Family Arrives," *Handbook*, p. 29.

⁵⁴Van der Donck, *Old South Leaflets*, p. 16. ⁵⁵*Ibid.*, p. 14.

⁵⁶Ralph H. Gabriel, *The Evolution of Long Island* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1921), p. 27.

⁵⁷*Ibid.*, p. 32.

artisans, hunters, and fishermen seem scarcely to have differed from those in Holland. The climate was similar, as were the crops. Just as the land here was flat (witness "Flatlands" as the later name of New Amersfoort), the fields back home were flat. Jamaica Bay to the south corresponded with the Zuider Zee near Amsterdam. Customs, for the most part, remained unchanged, even after the seizure of New Netherland by the English in 1664. For generations, the citizens of this colony continued to speak Dutch, wear wooden shoes, and put sand, instead of carpeting, on the wooden floors of their homes.⁵⁸

In 1664, a few months before the English conquest, Steven Coerten was made a magistrate of New Amersfoort. This was a post of "dignity and influence,"⁵⁹ which "combined some of the duties of a sheriff, judge, and legislator."⁶⁰ In Holland, all such officials were "men of education"⁶¹ and had to be above the age of thirty. Appointment to office was usually made by the provincial governor, who chose one of three candidates proposed by the people.⁶² Presumably, although not necessarily, the duties, personal qualifications, and appointive procedures were also the same for a magistracy in New Netherland.

After the surrender of the Dutch colony to England, there was considerable worry, especially on the part of the patroons of the Hudson Valley, who owed vast feudalistic estates, as to whether the English would respect the validity of existing land titles.⁶³ Accordingly, the inhabitants of New Amersfoort (now called Flatlands) applied to the English governor for a patent of confirmation. In accordance with his policy of non-interference with Dutch affairs, Governor Nicolls issued what is known as the Nicolls Charter, dated October 4, 1667,⁶⁴ to eight of the town's citizens.⁶⁵ Among the eight patentees named in this charter are Steven Coerten and his eldest son, Coert Stevens.

Civic and church affairs were closely interrelated in New Netherland. Soon after becoming a magistrate, Steven Coerten was made an elder and a deacon of the Dutch Reformed Church in New Amersfoort, with the duty of collecting and distributing funds for the village poor.⁶⁶ In the service of his church and community, Steven Coerten had given, a year earlier, both money and lumber for the construction of the first New Amersfoort meeting house.⁶⁷ Further proof of his piety is contained in a legal document of 1679, when he was seventy-nine years old. Listed as "The Worshipful Steven Coerten," he is alone among those mentioned in being given a title.⁶⁸

Many of the town records of Flatlands which might have given an insight into additional land transactions and public services of Steven Coerten were destroyed by a fire in 1673.⁶⁹ It is known, however, that soon after his arrival in 1660 he became the father of another son, Albert, from whom I am descended. Still another son, Abraham, was born later.⁷⁰

Steven Coerten, whose will is no longer in existence, died at the age of eighty-four in 1684, leaving thirty American grandchildren with fifty-six yet unborn.⁷¹

As a man whose family had maintained for many centuries a prominent position in the province of Drenthe, Steven Coerten could certainly be as proud of his heritage as any of his fellow colonists. Although the

thoe Hees family, after the expropriation of its three estates by the Monastery of Dickninge and, later, by the Dutch Republic, could hardly claim to be still among the aristocracy of the land, it probably maintained high standards of conduct and education among its members and exercised continuing influence in local government. Brought up in this tradition, Steven Coerten, not unnaturally, was chosen to be a magistrate by his fellow settlers and by the Director General, Peter Stuyvesant. So too, as the head of a large and increasingly affluent family, and as an upstanding citizen and landowner, Steven Coerten was invested with the responsibilities of an elder and deacon of the local church.

Although not in humble circumstances on his arrival (witness his purchase of a \$35,700 farm on the installment plan), as were most of his fellow immigrants,⁷² Steven Coerten had almost certainly abandoned his home in the Netherlands to gain the relief promised by America from the economic hardship of maintaining a family in comfort in an overpopulated land. With such economic pressures removed, Steven Coerten and his family took full advantage of the new freedom for expansion, becoming great in number and among the richest of those in the New Amersfoort area.⁷³

One family historian has compared the task of portraying the character of a long-dead ancestor to that of an artist attempting to paint the portrait of a person whom he has never seen or heard described.⁷⁴ Certainly, however, we have enough information to divine the basic coloring of Steven Coerten's character. As demonstrated by his long service to the community of New Amersfoort in the capacity of a magistrate and church official, Steven Coerten was a man of piety, conviction, and wisdom. With strength of character and considerable foresight, he gave up the security, comfort, and pleasures of his ancestral home and decided to make a new life for himself and his family in America. Imagine the courage of this vigorous man, who, on the threshold of old age, bade farewell forever to his daughter Mergin, his friends and relatives, and his native land in order to dwell in a far-off country of unknown danger and hardship! Of such admirable stuff were some of the colonists of New Netherland made.

(Concluded)

⁵⁸Goodwin, *op. cit.*, p. 107.

⁵⁹"The Family Arrives," *Handbook*, p. 31.

⁶⁰Campbell, *op. cit.*, II, p. 329.

⁶¹*Ibid.*

⁶²*Ibid.*, II, p. 424.

⁶³"The Family Arrives," *Handbook*, p. 31.

⁶⁴Remember that this date is Old Style. It would be October 15, 1667, New Style.

⁶⁵*Ibid.*

⁶⁶"State and Church," *Handbook*, p. 23.

⁶⁷"The Family Arrives," *Handbook*, p. 27.

⁶⁸Van Voorhis to Voorhees, quoted in "Coat of Arms," *Handbook*, p. 8.

⁶⁹"The Family Arrives," *Handbook*, p. 31.

⁷⁰"The Historical Handbook," *The Van Voorhees Association at its Tenth Anniversary* (New Brunswick, N. J.: The Van Voorhees Association, 1942), p. 21.

⁷¹"The Family Arrives," *Handbook*, p. 31. "The Family Genealogist and His Work," *Historical Handbook of the Van Voorhees Family in the Netherlands and America* (New Brunswick, N. J.: The Van Voorhees Association, 1935), p. 3.

⁷²Collins, *op. cit.*, p. 12.

⁷³"The Family Arrives," *Handbook*, p. 31.

⁷⁴Harold O. Voorhis, "Address of Dedication," *The Van Voorhees Association at its Tenth Anniversary* (New Brunswick, N. J.: The Van Voorhees Association, 1942), pp. 67-68.

FOLLOW-UP ON 1984 HOLLAND TRIP
AND ANNUAL MEETING

At the 1984 Annual Meeting, Manning Voorhees, in his slide narration of the trip to Holland, suggested that the name "Hees" was originally derived from a heather bush called "hes" that grew in Drenthe. At the suggestion of Fr. Bill Lydecker, he wrote to the archivist in Assen, and asked him for the formal name of the heather bush.

Dr. Paul Brood replied as follows:

"I did some inquiry into the etymology of the name 'Hees'. The relevant literature tells us that the meaning of the word is: originally 'young beech-wood', later 'bushes'. The name is of frequent occurrence in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany.

"Your suggestion that Hees derived its name from a form of heather called hes, is not confirmed in the literature."

The coat-of-arms that Elias W. Van Voorhis researched and drew in the 19th Century contains a "tree eradicated vert." in the second and third quarters. It is interesting to speculate that these trees may be "young beech-wood(s).

Fr. Lydecker corresponded with Dr. Charles Gehring of the New Netherland Project about the heather bush derivation, and Dr. Gehring reported: "... 'Hees' or 'Heesch', sometimes spelled 'Hes', derives its meaning either from the early settlers who came from Hessen, or from the ancient idol 'Hes' or 'Hees' who was worshipped in the area."

The etymology of "Hees" is indeed intriguing!!!

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

The publication schedule for the remainder of 1986 is as follows:

	deadline
April	March 21, 1986
July	June 20, 1986

Book Review

Lois W. Vorhis

You've been unable to join one of the Van Voorhees tours to Holland? Or you've taken the tour but want to see more of Holland on your own? Well, you might consider doing just that with the help of a great book, Roaming 'Round Holland, written by two women who have roamed 'round a good portion of the world but have taken special interest in the Netherlands. The book is well-researched, well-written, and helpfully arranged. This fifth edition has been updated to include many new tourist interests.

The chapters are arranged by area location, and the authors include nearby things of interest so that a visitor can plan short trips within one specific region. Museums and special attractions, with hours, are included; information about trains, boat tours, hotels are discussed. The back of the book has a section of miscellaneous information about hospitals, kennels, sports, theaters and, of course, shopping.

Don and I could have really made good use of this book on our walking tour in Overijssel Province a few years ago!

Erickson, Patricia G., and Gazaleh-Weevers, Sheila. Roaming 'Round Holland. 414 pages, \$14.95. Can be ordered from: Mrs. Patricia G. Erickson, 3319 Dent Pl., N.W., Washington, DC 20007. (Please mention the Van Voorhees Newsletter and receive the discount price of \$13.50 plus \$1.75 for postage and handling.)

◆

NEW HISTORY OF PHI BETA KAPPA TO BE WRITTEN

Dr. Richard N. Current, noted historian, has been assigned by the Senate of The United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa to write a new and updated history of that Society which will be funded in part by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Did you know that the original history of Phi Beta Kappa was written by one of the most prominent members of The Van Voorhees Association? Dr. Oscar M. Voorhees was the author of the book, "The History of Phi Beta Kappa", which was published in 1945. He was the official historian of Phi Beta Kappa and worked diligently for more than ten years in collecting information for his original work.

Many of us will remember Dr. Oscar McMurtrie Voorhees as the first President and one of the early founders of The Van Voorhees Association in 1932. Dr. Voorhees served as Secretary of The United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa from 1901-1931 and was a member of the Senate of that honorary Society for more than 44 years. Hopefully, the new version of the history will be as interesting and stimulating as that written by Dr. Voorhees.

John J. Van Voorhis
Dayton, Ohio

Genealogical Query

A New Jersey Chancery Court case (1789) has surfaced involving Sarah Voorhees (nee Schenck), the widow of Hendrick Voorhees (d. 1764), and her son William. Sarah was the daughter of Jan Schenck, Sr., and had been previously married to Johannis Voorhees (d. 1734). She had surviving children: Geertye, Willimpy, Catherine, John, Andrew, Peter, William, Hendrick, Rolef, Albert, and Garret. If anyone has any papers, letters or portraits involving Hendrick Voorhees, Sarah Voorhees, or any of her children, please contact David William Voorhees, 233 East 31 Street, New York, NY 10016.

The case is interesting as it not only involves a Voorhees (David's g-g-g-g-grandmother), but it is one of the few Chancery Court cases surviving from the 18th century with all the records and testimony intact.

In Memoriam

DOROTHY TOWNSEND VOORHIES, wife of the late Stephen J. Voorhies, died Sept. 12, 1985, following a stroke, at age 84. Mr. Voorhies was a founding member of the Association.

Mrs. Voorhies studied fashion design at Pratt Institute, where she met Mr. Voorhies. She later had a large dress-making clientele, and taught tailoring and dressmaking in high school night courses. In later years, she was active on many committees at the United Presbyterian Residence in Woodbury, NY, where she resided since 1976.

Mrs. Voorhies is survived by two daughters, Barbara Forbes and Ruth DeHaan; four granddaughters, two grandsons and four great grandchildren.

ROBERT E. VAN VOORHIS of Ames, IA, passed away on Aug. 16, 1985. The son of Claire Van Voorhis, and grandson of Encel Van Voorhis, he was born June 29, 1927 in Ames.

CHARLES E. VAN VOORHIS died Jan. 12, 1985. Born Sept. 25, 1912 in Parkersburg, WV, he was the son of Rev. W. D. and May Griggs Van Voorhis.

A retired public relations and advertising executive, he had attended West Virginia University, and was a Navy veteran of World War II. He was also active in the United Presbyterian Church.

He is survived by his wife, Susan Noll Van Voorhis, a son, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

MILESTONES

RALPH W. VOORHEES of Highland Park, NJ was awarded the 1985 Distinguished Service Award by the Melvin H. Motolinsky Research Foundation. The Foundation was established in 1972, as a laboratory for research in hematology at the Rutgers University Medical School.

The recipient of the award has generally been selected from the scientific community.. However, Dr. Stanley S. Bergen Jr., president of the School of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, called this years' recipient the "Epitome of Volunteerism".

A senior vice president of Paine-Webber, "Cousin" Ralph is a Trustee of Rutgers University, a member of the executive committee of Rutgers University Foundation and the Middlesex General University Hospital Foundation. He has served on the Council of Highland Park, headed the United Way of Central Jersey and the Family Counseling Service of Middlesex County. In 1983, he received the Presidential Recognition Award for Volunteerism.

He is a son of the late Ralph W. Voorhees and Jane Voorhees Zimmerli, and grandson of the founder of our Van Voorhees Association, the Rev. Oscar M. Voorhees.

If, as some claim, our Dutch blood contributes to longevity, Van Voorhees blood must be the best of the Dutch, as witnessed by the following items:

PETER A. H. VOORHIS was noted in the 1985 list of the members of the St. Nicholas Society of the City of New York, as being the most senior member of the Society, based on date of election (April 1923).

JOHN VOORHIS was noted in the Holland Society Newsletter as being the most senior member of the Society. He has been a member since 1918. He is the father of Cornelia Voorhis Mason, Albert Line representative on our Executive Committee.

RICHARD A. SCUDDER received the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Bronze "Good Citizenship" Medal in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the SAR and to patriotic and historical societies and community, church and education activities, at the Spring, 1985 meeting of the South Jersey Chapter, SAR. He was the outgoing chapter president.

In addition to numerous historical and genealogical organizations, and our own Van Voorhees Association, Dick is a member of the Scudder, Wyckoff (both of which he has served in executive positions) and Stout family associations.

BRANDI LEA VORHIES weighed in at 7 lbs. on Jan. 5, 1986, the daughter of GREGORY and DEBBIE VORHIES of Fairfield, IA. First time (and very proud) grandparents are Association members MERLE and DARLENE VORHIES.



New Item For Sale

At the Annual Meeting, Planning Committee Chairman Frank J. Van Voorhis presented the new coat-of-arms ceramic tiles. The tiles are 6" square, with the Van Voorhees coat-of-arms reproduced in four colors on a white background. Mounted on a cork backing for use as a hot plate, the tile also has a convenient hanger for wall display. The tiles can be ordered for \$8.00, postage and handling included, from:

Mrs. Elizabeth Edgar
423 Harrison Ave.
Highland Park, NJ 08904

The Association continues to stock items of interest to the members. These are sold at cost plus a very small amount which goes into our fund supporting genealogical research and publication. The currently available items are listed below:

	Members	Non-members
Historical Handbook	\$5.00	\$6.00
Van Voorhees Letters 1684-1699 from Holland to Flatbush	1.50	1.80
50 th Anniversary History	2.50	3.00
Coat-of-Arms (hand painted)	10.00	12.00
Coat-of-Arms needlepoint/cross- stitch/hooked rug diagram	1.00	1.20
Coat-of-Arms ceramic tile	8.00	9.50

Orders for all of the above items should be sent, with your check made out to "The Van Voorhees Association", to: Mrs. Joseph Edgar
423 Harrison Ave.
Highland Park, NJ 08904

ORDER FORM

The VAN VORHEES GENEALOGY, Volume I

Please enter my order for the following copies of Volume I of the Van Voorhees Genealogy:

Soft Cover: _____ copies at \$15.00 each = \$ _____

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Make your check payable to "The Van Voorhees Association" and mail with this form to: Richard L. Voorhees
2116 Swinnen Dr., Westerloo
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12

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