



Newsletter

of

The Van Voorhees Association

ORGANIZED 1932

Volume 6, Number 2

July/Aug. 1988

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Historical Committee

Chairman Manning Voorhees reports that Drs. Folkerts is presently reviewing all of the information gathered during the research in the old Dutch records which was sponsored by the Association. The first draft of the report on the results has been received, and is presently being revised to incorporate the latest research. As previously reported, the information sent to date by Drs. Folkerts indicates that the project was more successful than anticipated.

Genealogy Committee

Genealogist Al Stokes reports that the research in the sixth and seventh generations is well underway. As expected, the number of individuals to be studied grows geometrically with each later generation.

Chairman Bill Lydecker reports that a number of members have volunteered, in response to his request in the last Newsletter, to do original research in local records, and he is contacting each volunteer to suggest places to start. If you have held off volunteering, it's not too late. We need all the help we can get. Areas of particular concern are Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Pennsylvania, upstate New York and Iowa. Contact:

Rev. William J.F. Lydecker
19 Oak St.
Allendale, NJ 07401

Membership Committee

Chairman Art Voorhees reports 26 new members between the Annual Meeting last October, and the end of April. This includes 22 regular, 3 sustaining and 1 contributing member. In addition, 3 members have upgraded their status from regular to life member.

Publications Committee

Chairman Bob Voris reported that member Hazel Dulin Voris produced a complete camera-ready name index for Volume I of the Genealogy. Following discussion at the April Executive Committee meeting, it was decided that the index, together with an addendum/errata sheet for the volume will be printed and distributed at no charge to all previous purchasers of Volume I, as soon as the addendum can be prepared. If you purchased the book other than by mail order from the publications committee, or if you have moved since purchasing the book, please contact Bob and advise him of that fact, and give your address (post card will do), so that you receive your index.

Mr. Robert S. Voris
802 Berkeley Rd.
Westover Hills
Wilmington, DE 19810

MILESTONES

Life member **DAVID WILLIAM VOORHEES** received his Doctorate in History from New York University on April 26, 1988. David's thesis dealt with what is popularly known as "Leisler's Rebellion" of 1689-91. He spoke about Jacob Leisler at the Conference on New York State History at Colgate University on June 10.

David's mother **IRMA** (Mrs. William F.) **VOORHEES** was recently appointed historian of the Princeton (NJ) Women's Club.

BERNARD V. (Barney) **WARD**, son of life member **VIRGINIA V.** and Joseph **WARD**, was married on Oct. 24, 1987 to Zsuzsanna Judit Roman. The ceremony was performed at the Magyar Reformed Church of New Brunswick, NJ, followed by a reception at Colonial Farms, the historic Garrett Voorhees homestead in Somerset, NJ.

THOMAS VanVOORHEES MANSELL was awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws at the May 22, 1988 Commencement of Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA. A 1929 graduate of Westminster, he returned as a faculty member, and in 1936 founded Westminster's quadrennial mock convention. In 1936, he became a member of the Board of Trustees, where he has served for fifty years. His wife Margaret, and four children are all Westminster graduates, as is his granddaughter **BARBARA ANNE MANSELL**, who received her Bachelor of Arts Degree at the same ceremony.

Watercolorist **DONALD VOORHEES** is among the artists whose works are being shown this summer at The Heron Gallery,

Wellfleet, MA.

KIMBERLY VOORHEES EDGAR is serving with the Peace Corps in Cameroon, Africa.

The New Jersey Historical Commission presented its Annual Award Pitcher for 1987 to former Association Vice President **DONALD SINCLAIR**. He is widely recognized as an authority on the history of New Jersey. From 1947 until his retirement in 1982, Don served as Curator of Special Collections at the Rutgers University Library. During his tenure, he developed one of the largest and finest New Jersey reference collections in the state. Don has written numerous bibliographies and articles about the history of the state.

Dr. **JOHN VOORHEES**, chairman of the University of Michigan Medical Center dermatology department has been in the news lately as a result of a recently published study that the drug Retin-A may provide reduction of sun-induced wrinkles.

QUESTIONNAIRES

Thank you for the excellent response to the questionnaires which appeared in the last Newsletter. The information from the genealogy forms is now being added to our computer files for reference by the Association Genealogist and for general research in answering queries. The file now contains well over 2,000 names, and is growing rapidly. The historic house/site forms are being collected together, and the information will be reduced into a usable format.

We have received a number of inquiries from members as to what information is really needed on the genealogy forms. The Family Group Record form (p. 9 of the Newsletter) should be filled out for yourself as a minimum. We request that, if possible, you complete additional forms for your children, grandchildren, parents, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc., for as many generations as you can. There is no need to go beyond information which is published and generally available.

The Ancestor Chart (p. 10 of the Newsletter) should be completed with yourself as number 1, and following at least your Van Voorhees line, with as many additional generations as you can, back to the generation shown in Volume 1 of the Genealogy, if possible. Please include the number of the person as listed in the genealogy. It is important that you provide enough information to connect to the early generations, if possible, to maximize the usefulness of the information. Also, please include your member number on the forms.

Plan Now To Attend The 56th ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: Saturday Afternoon, October 8, 1988

PLACE: First Reformed Church,
New Brunswick, NJ

PROGRAM:

GUEST SPEAKER

This year's Guest Speaker will be **Harriett Stryker-Rodda**. Mrs. Stryker-Rodda has been a Certified Professional Genealogist for over 60 years, and was the first person so recognized in the State of New Jersey. She enjoys an international reputation as a lecturer and author. She is the author of "How to Climb Your Family Tree". Mrs. Stryker-Rodda is active in several historical, genealogical and family organizations, including the Wyckoff House and Association, Inc., which she serves as Second Vice President.

The topic of Mrs. Stryker-Rodda's presentation will be "YOU", a discussion of our Dutch Ancestry.

MEETING LOCATION

This year's meeting will be held at the **First Reformed Church** in New Brunswick, NJ. This church has a long association with the Van Voorhees family, beginning with the earliest group to migrate from Flatlands to New Jersey. Many of our forebears are buried in the churchyard. Several previous meetings of the Association have been held here, including, most recently, the morning session of the Fiftieth Anniversary meeting in 1982. Parking is available at the Middlesex County Parking Garage adjacent to the church.

LUNCHEON

Luncheon will be provided by the Women's Guild of the church,

and will include the following:

Dutch Soup (a local specialty)
Stuffed Cornish Hen or Chicken Breast
Vegetables
Pie and Ice Cream

Cost of the luncheon is \$12.00 per person. Reservations for the luncheon must be received by **Sept. 30, 1988** (see reservation form elsewhere in this Newsletter).

A punch and cookie reception will follow the formal meeting.

LODGING

The New Brunswick Hyatt-Regency Hotel will be holding a block of rooms for Association members. The Hyatt-Regency is within easy walking distance of the First Reformed Church. New Brunswick is also served by a number of other hotels:

Hyatt-Regency New Brunswick
2 Albany St.
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
(201) 873-1234

Somerset Marriott Hotel
110 Davidson Ave.
Somerset, NJ 08873
(201) 560-0500

McIntosh Motor Inns
255 Davidson Ave.
Somerset, NJ 08873
(201) 563-1600

Best Western New Brunswick
US Hwy. 1 at State Hwy. 18
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
(201) 828-8000

PRESIDENT'S WELCOMING RECEPTION

In keeping with tradition of recent years, President and Mrs. Vorhis will host a welcoming reception in their rooms at the Hyatt-Regency on Friday evening, Oct. 7, at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

Regional Meetings

A midwest reunion is planned for Sunday, Sept 4, 1988 (Labor Day weekend). It will be held at the Lockridge Community Hall, Lockridge, IA, starting at 1 PM. We previously reported (incorrectly) that is the same weekend as the State Fair and Midwest Old Thresher's Reunion nearby. What we should have said is it is the same weekend as the Thresher's Reunion nearby, which draws State Fair size crowds! Anyone who will be in the area and would like to attend the reunion should contact: Darlene Vorhies
RR1 Box 37
Fairfield, IA 52556

ABSENTEE BALLOT

For those members who cannot attend the Annual Meeting, the Absentee Ballot elsewhere in this Newsletter can be used to participate in this year's election of officers. Absentee Ballots should be sent to the Association Secretary, to be received no later than Oct. 5, 1988: Ms. Candace Voorhies
1364 Highland Ave.
Rochester, NY 14620

Please sign across the flap of your envelope, and include your member number.

Elections this year will be held for the office of Vice President.

PROFILE OF THE CANDIDATE

Vice President: Arthur R. Voorhees

Art has been a member of the Association since 1978, serving as Membership Committee Chairman since 1982. He was elected as Association Vice President in 1986.



REMINDER

Dues for 1988 are past due. While the Association was being revitalized over the past several years, we closed our eyes somewhat to the fact that some members were delinquent in the payment of their dues. Prior to the mailing of the next Newsletter, those members who are not current in the payment of their dues will be removed from the active mailing list. The mailing label on this Newsletter indicates the current status of our records regarding your dues status. If the last block of numbers on the first line of the label does not have the number 87 or higher, our records indicate that your dues are not current.

If our information is incorrect, or there is some special reason that precludes your making dues payments at this time, please contact the Treasurer. To pay your dues, send a check

payable to "The Van Voorhees Association" to the Treasurer:
Mr. G. Harold Buttler
72 Upland Ave.
Metuchen, NJ 08840

Please include your membership number ("VVL-_____" on the mailing label) in all correspondence with the Treasurer.

Dues for 1988 are:

Active- \$5.00; Junior- \$2.00; Sustaining- \$10.00;
Contributing- \$25.00; Life- \$150.00.

Dues and contributions to the Association are **tax-deductible**.

FOR SALE

The Association continues to stock items of interest to the members. Send orders with a check payable to the Van Voorhees Association to:

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

	Member Price*	Non-member Price
Historical Handbook	\$ 6.00	\$ 7.00
Van Voorhees Letters	\$ 2.50	\$ 3.00
50th Anniversary History	\$ 2.50	\$ 3.00
Coat-of-Arms (Hand painted)	\$10.00	\$12.00
Coat-of Arms (diagram for cross- stitch, needlepoint or hooked rug)	\$ 1.50	\$ 2.00
Coat-of-Arms (Ceramic tile)	\$10.00	\$12.00
Lapel pin	\$15.00	N/A
Charm	\$15.00	N/A

*Please include member number with your order

Volume 1 of the Van Voorhees Genealogy is also available from:

Mr. Robert S. Voris
802 Berkeley Rd.
Westover Hills
Wilmington, DE 19810

soft cover \$15.00 hard cover \$20.00

THE ARRIVAL OF DOMINE POLHEMUS IN AMERICA, 1654

Marie (Mrs. Theodore B.) Voorhees

Johannes Theodorus Polhemus was born 1598, probably in the Rhenish Bavarian Palatinate. A Heidelberg University graduate of divinity, 1620-24, he served briefly in the Palatinate; then in the Netherlands, Province of Drenthe, including seven years at Meppel.

He became a part of a large Dutch expedition to Brazil that sailed from Amsterdam 26 Oct. 1636, to establish Dutch colonies after conquering the Portugese at Recife, arriving there 23 Jan. 1637.

Final distribution of the colonists was made in 1638, and the Rev. Polhemus became minister on Itamarca Island, adjacent to Recife. He married ca. 1643 Catherine Van der Werven, and his first four children were born at Itamarca. Because of insurrections there, he lost his plantation, and was forced to return to Recife ca. 1648.

Eventually the Dutch were forced out of Brazil 25 Jan. 1654. In April 1654, sixteen Dutch ships were in the Recife harbor to evacuate the Dutch citizens and others. For some reason the Rev. Polhemus and his wife and children took separate ships. Fifteen of the ships arrived safely in Holland, including the one with Mrs. Polhemus and their four children.

If the sixteenth ship, carrying the Reverend had not met with misadventure, there probably would never have been a Polhemus family in this country.

Rev. Polhemus arrived at Nieuw Amsterdam in September 1654 on the French Man-of-War "St. Charles", according to A. Biet's "Voyage de la France Equinoxale". The Dutch ship on which he had left Brazil was captured not far from Recife by a Spanish pirate. Shortly thereafter, near Barbadoes, the privateer with its prize was in turn captured by the French.

Two years later, 4 Sept. 1656, the family of the Rev. Polhemus arrived in Nieuw Amsterdam on the ship "Gulden Otter" from Holland. The Polhemus family was again united.

ed. note: The above story of the arrival of the Polhemus family in America was reduced from information compiled by Helen Brokaw Macon, in her book "Brokaw - Gibbs and Allied Families", 1984. In addition to several marriages between Polhemus and Van Voorhees descendants, there is evidence that Domine Polhemus may have had closer connections to the Van Voorhees family than previously thought. It is probable that the Domine and Steven Coerte resided in the same general area of Holland prior to the Domine's emigration to the New World, and that, even if Steven did not personally know the Domine, that he at least knew of him. Circumstantial evidence

indicates that one of the Rev. Polhemus sons married a sister of Willempie Roelofse Seubering, second wife of Steven Coerte. Correspondence from the Rev. Polhemus to friends and relatives in Drenthe was probably a factor in the migration of a group of more than 100 Drenthe residents, including Steven Coerte, to America.

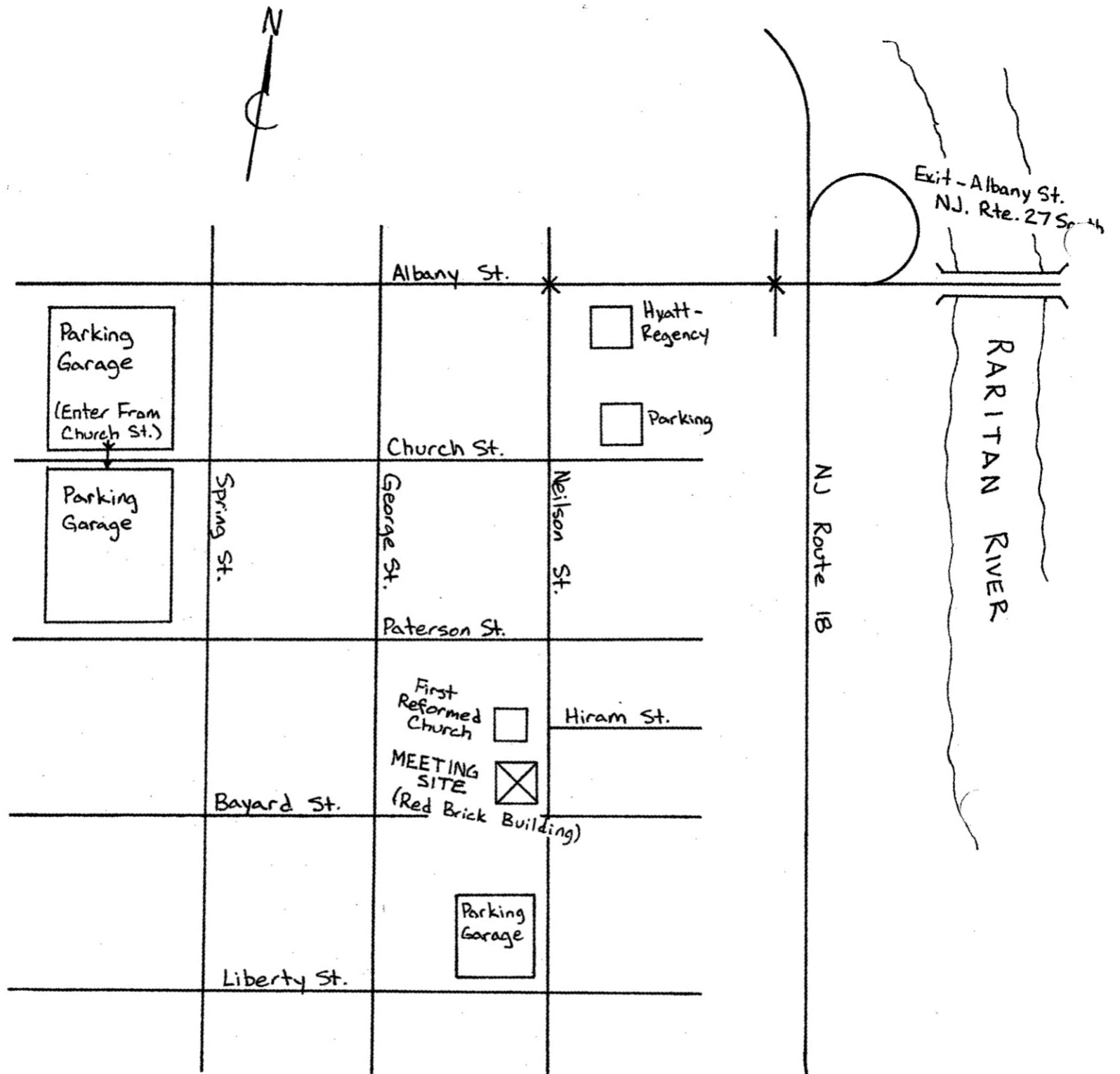
In Memoriam

J. RUSSELL VOORHEES passed away at his home in Tallman, NY on April 15, 1988 at age 85. He retired from Curtiss-Wright Corp., where he had worked for 40 years, in 1964. Mr. Voorhees is survived by his daughter, June V. Wick, and 2 grandchildren.

Dr. WILLIAM DELANO VOORHEES, Jr. died Nov. 22, 1987, age 66. He received his M.D. from Johns Hopkins University in 1945. He was an instructor at the University of Washington, Director at Western State Hospital, Superintendent of Northern State Hospital (WA) and First Deputy Commissioner of the New York State Dept. of Mental Health. He retired as Director of the Forensic Unit at Western State Hospital, Tacoma, WA in 1982. A retired Captain of the U.S. Army, Dr. Voorhees was a diplomat of the American Board of Neurology and Psychiatric Assoc. Dr. Voorhees is survived by his wife, Selma (Schurmann) Voorhees, a son, two daughters and three grandchildren.

STUART CHAPIN VanVOORHEES, 78 died April 9, 1988. A native of North Tonawanda, NY, he moved to Orlando, FL in 1953, where he retired as instructor and director of the Orange County Vocational School. He was a member of Iota Lambda Sigma Vocational Fraternity, life member of the American Vocational Association, and past president of the Florida Vocational Association. He is survived by his wife, Marty, a son, three stepchildren, three grandchildren and a sister.

ORVILLE S. VOORHEES of Toms River, NJ passed away recently, age 83. A draftsman at the Wood Newspaper Machinery Co., he retired in 1970. He was a member of the Old Guard, Tom's River, Washington Valley Fire Co., serving as its treasurer for 25 years, and Warren Twp. Exempt Firemen's Assoc. Mr. Voorhees was a member of the VanVoorhees Association since 1932. He is survived by a daughter, a brother, two grandsons and two great-grandchildren.



DIRECTIONS to the 56th Annual Meeting of the VanVoorhees Association:
 From the New Jersey Turnpike: Exit 9 (New Brunswick) travel west on NJ Route 18 to the exit for Albany St./ NJ Route 27 South. (DO NOT take the exit for Rte. 27/ Highland Park, which comes first). At second traffic light on Albany St., turn left onto Neilson St. Three blocks to the First Reformed Church. The meeting will be held in the red brick building adjacent to the church, at the corner of Neilson St. and Bayard St. See map above.

RESERVATION FORM for the Fifty sixth Annual Meeting Luncheon

Please reserve luncheon seats for the 56th Annual Meeting as follows:

_____ @ \$12.00 = _____

Please enclose check for the total amount above, payable to the "VanVoorhees Association" and mail to:

Mr. Scott Voorhees
30 Orchard Ave.
Emerson, NJ 07630

Reservations must be **received** no later than **Sept. 30, 1988.**

Please list all persons in your group (above) who will attend:

Adults _____	Children _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

-----tear here-----

ABSENTEE BALLOT

I Authorize the Secretary of the Van Voorhees Association to vote the following ballot for me at the Annual Meeting of the Association on Oct. 8, 1988.

For the office of **Vice President** of the Association:

--- Arthur R. Voorhees

--- write-in _____

Mail your completed absentee ballot to the Secretary:

Ms. Candace Voorhies
1364 Highland Ave.
Rochester, NY 14620

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 1988

President: Donald G. Vorhis 4813 Bradford Dr., Annandale, VA 22003 (703)941-4614
Vice President: Arthur R. Voorhees PO Box 125, Tuckerton, NJ 08087 (Apr.-Oct.) (609)296-8937
1900 SW 83rd Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33324 (Oct.-Apr.) (305)473-2972
Secretary: Ms. Candace Voorhies 1364 Highland Ave., Rochester, NY 14620 (716)244-5868
Treasurer: G. Harold Buttler 72 Upland Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08840 (201)548-8869

Representatives

Albert Line: Ms. Cornelia V. Mason 32 Elkan Rd., Larchmont, NY 10538 (914)833-1276
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 (302)652-5833
Lucas Line: Mrs. Joseph (Elizabeth V.) Edgar 423 Harrison Ave., Highland Park, NJ 08904 (201)545-6962

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
Donald A. Sinclair 108 North 2nd Ave., Highland Park, NJ 08904 (201)545-0568
Richard L. Voorhees 2116 Swinnen Dr., Westerloo, Wilmington, DE 19810 (302)475-2801
Miss Charlotte C. Voorhis Cathedral Village A-320, 8600 Ridge Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19128

Committee Chairmen

Financial: G. Harold Buttler (see above)
Genealogical: Rev. William J.F. Lydecker 19 Oak St., Allendale, NJ 07401 (201)934-9586
Historical: Manning W. Voorhees 41 Oaklawn Rd., Fair Haven, NJ 07701 (201)842-0086
Membership: Arthur R. Voorhees (see above)
Communications: Frank J. van Voorhis (see above)
Program: Scott Voorhees 30 Orchard Ave., Emerson, NJ 07630 (201)967-8474
Publications: Robert S. Voris (see above)
Publicity: Mrs. Robert (June V.) Wick 69 Wyckoff Ave., Waldwick, NJ 07463 (201)652-6350
Association Genealogist: Albert L. Stokes RD#1 Old Georgetown Rd., Princeton, NJ 08540 (201)297-2438
Newsletter Editors: George and Patricia Davis 310 Rockland Ave., River Vale, NJ 07675
& Planning 28 (201)358-0150



The VAN VOORHEES ASSOCIATION
310 Rockland Ave.
River Vale, NJ 07675

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Bulk Rate U.S. Postage PAID Westwood, NJ 07675 Permit #108

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