



Van Voorhees Nieuwsbrief

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THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

In the April 1995 issue of Nieuwsbrief, I commented about the continuing flow of information that reveal new dimensions of our family and fills genealogical gaps. I had no idea that several months later Dr. David William Voorhees would report a discovery pivotal to our deeper understanding of the Coerts family in New Amersfort. We now know that they were at least sympathizers of Jacob Leisler, and perhaps more.

Coert Stevensen played at least one role in this scenario and was active politically, having received appointments from Leisler. Steven Coerts was also a public official, although perhaps on a more modest scale. I guess that this was the beginning of our family's long participation in the public sector. However, now we know the political persuasion of our forebears. Congratulations, David, and thank you for permitting us to report your discovery.

The Executive Committee has appropriated funds for Adriana Brown to compile a catalog of original family documents from the first two generations in the New World. This catalog will include reproductions of these documents wherever possible. The Committee hopes that this will be of interest as it will be a resource available to anyone on their book shelf. The catalog will also hedge against possible loss of the original material from fire or theft.

We continue to move forward!

Manning W. Voorhees

MAJOR DISCOVERY!

Letter of Coert Stevensen Reveals Political Activity of Family Not Hitherto Known

PLAYED ROLE IN THE LEISLER AFFAIR

Dr. David William Voorhees found a letter signed by Coert Stevensen (# 4 in The Van Voorhees Family) among the papers of Jacob Leisler. The letter is dated November 22, 1678 and was written on behalf of the New Amersfort Reformed Church council to the New York Consistory. It concerns raising money for the release of Leisler and others who were captives in Algiers. They were taken from Leisler's pink in the summer of 1677 that was in the English Channel.

Jacob Leisler was born in Frankfurt in 1640. He became a commissioned officer of the Dutch West India Company and in April 1660 sailed for New Netherland. This is the same month that Steven Coerts and his family departed for New Netherland. Shortly after arriving, Leisler became a fur and tobacco trader. He was quite successful and rose to important influence.

In November 1688, William, the Protestant Prince of Orange, crossed the Channel from the Netherlands and invaded England. King James II, a Roman Catholic, subsequently vacated his throne and fled to France. An impact of the Glorious Revolution, which was religious in large measure, was disorders in the Colonies. Governor Andros was arrested in Boston by the citizens of that city. In this environment, and reflecting fear of the French in Canada, the New York militia in May 1688 seized the fort. Leisler dismissed the local government and organized a Committee of Safety. He subsequently named himself the provincial administrator invoking the names of the new Protestant King and Queen, William and Mary. William, of course, was the former Prince of Orange and Dutch. British troops arrived early in 1691. Leisler was hanged until partially dead and then beheaded

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CALENDAR
Executive Committee Meetings
April 26 and September 7, 1996
Annual Reunion
October 12, 1996

VAN VOORHEES WHO'S WHO

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Albert Line: Mrs. Frederick (Marilyn) Brack, 24 Mary St. No. Haledon, NJ 07508
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Coert Line: Mrs. Glee Van Osdol-Krapf, 215 Washington St., Tamaqua PA 18252-1324

Jan Line: Robert S. Voris, 802 Berkeley Rd., Westover Hills, Wilmington DE 19807
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Lucas Line: Ms. Judith Voorhees, 30 San Salvador St., Toms River NJ 08757
(908)505-9232

Aeltje Line: Ms. Margaret A. Ramsey, 2 Andrews Lane, Princeton NJ 08540-7633
(609)921-2645

Hendrickje Lines: Vacant

Jantje Line: Vacant

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(302)475-2801

Committee Chairmen

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Assoc. Sales: Ms. Judith Voorhees (see above)

* = not a member of the Executive Committee

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New England: Mrs. James (Adrienne) Haney 36B Fox Meadow Rd., Leominster MA 01453 (508)534-7283

Newsletter:

◆ **Editor:** Manning W. Voorhees (see above)

◆ **Publisher:** Robert E. Van Voorhis, Jr. 4503 Coronado Ct., Cedar Falls IA 50613 (319)268-1511

in May of that year.

Leisler's Rebellion had many origins over a long period of time. He was a controversial figure in New Netherland politics who attracted a large number of followers, as well as a large number of detractors. Among his followers, apparently, was Coert Stevensen although it is not known at this time if Coert actually participated in the seizure of the New York fort and the subsequent events. Leisler became an Algerian hostage in 1677 and contributions towards a purse for his ransom apparently were solicited among his followers. David translated the Coert letter as follows:

*New Amersfort to
New York Consistory*

Favored friends and church council of the city of New York we have received your letter of 5 november and understood from it to collect money toward the ransom of those taken prisoner with Jacob lisseller which has been done and we have raised the understood sum of ninety schepels in wheat which wheat you shall receive in the month of january or february as the members have directed

*new amersfort
the 22 november
1678*

*your friends and church council
new amersfort
Albert Elbertsen
Coert Stevensen
Abraham Joriss*

*to balthus
bayard in new
york*

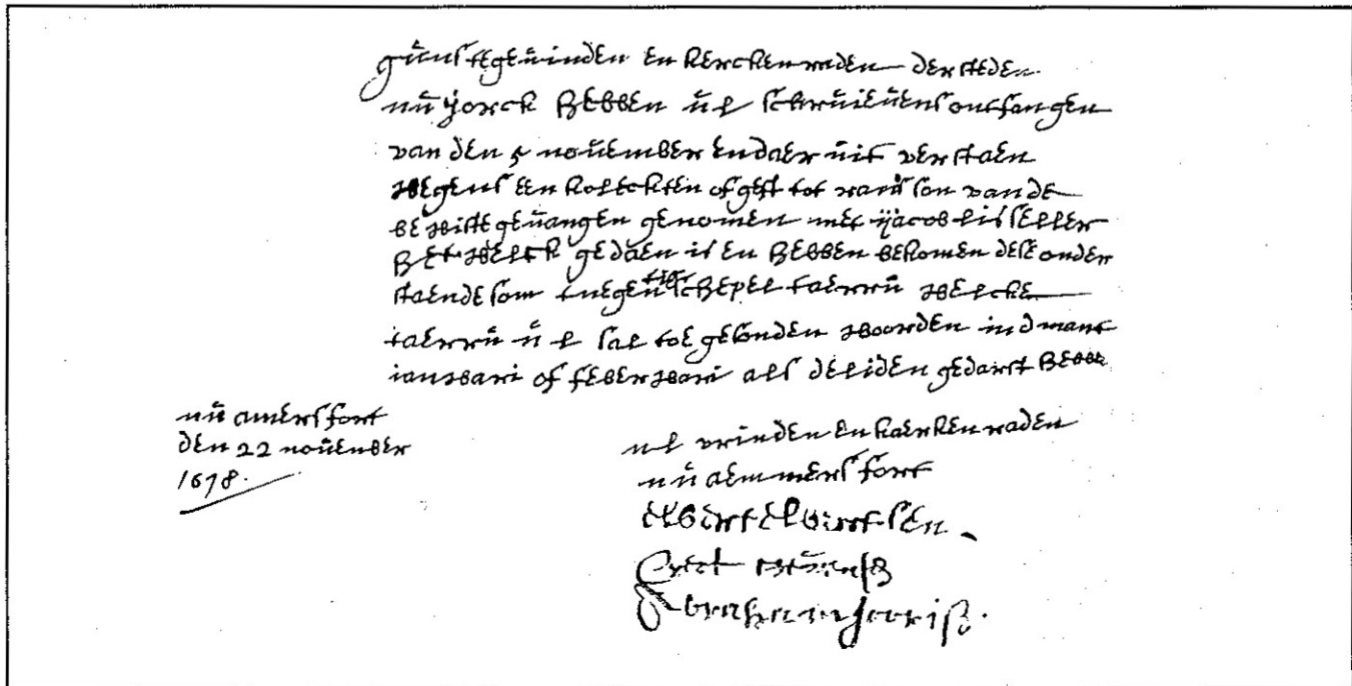
David writes: Among Jacob Leisler's papers are several documents of Coert Stevensen which I do not believe have been previously translated or published. These materials reveal that Coert played a prominent role in New Amersfort and Kings County

affairs from the time of his arrival in 1660 until his death, and frequently served as a New Amersfort and Kings County representative in provincial assemblies under both Dutch and English governments. David speculates that perhaps it was Coert's active political life that stimulated the family's move to New Netherland. If this could be developed, it would present an entirely new insight into our progenitor.

David also writes about another fascinating facet of our early family gleaned from the Leisler papers. Dominie Johannes Theodorus Polhemius preached in the same regions of Drenthe that Steven Coerts frequented. The Dominie went to New Netherland in 1654 and commenced preaching in New Amersfort, among other points in the area. The presence of their former pastor is sometimes cited as a reason, among others, for the Coerts family to emigrate to New Netherland. Dominie Johannes' mother was Elisabetha Leisler, sister of Leisler's grandfather. Dominie Johannes' father, The Rev. Cornelis Polhemius, succeeded Margareta's father, The Rev. Casparus Leisler, as minister at Zweikirchen. David comments, If this relationship proves correct it should enhance our understanding of the migration of the Voorhees family from Drenthe and of Leisler's leadership role in the New World.

The plot, if you will, takes another turn with the marriage in New Netherland before 1660 (the arrival year of the Coerts family) between Jan Seuberinge and Adrianna Polhemius. Jan was the brother-in-law of Steven Coerts and Adrianna was Dominie Polhemius' daughter. (See Through a Dutch Door, Folkerts and Weimer on page 92 and Christoph on pages 188-89; also, Folkerts and Weimer on pages 49-50 for a general discussion of Polhemius vis-a-vis Steven Coerts.) Thus, the Leisler line was brought into the Coerts' immediate family.

David said, Current evidence suggests that the Voorhees were ardent Leislerians; Coert Stevensen received a number of commissions from Leisler during his tenure as governor.



ELISABETH RIPTON

Elisabeth Ripton was called on November 20, 1995 at the age of 90. We understand that she passed peacefully at home. Elisabeth is survived by daughters Rosina and Peg and son Hugh.

Elisabeth attended with her parents either the first or one of the very early meetings of the nascent Van Voorhees Association. From that time onward, she was an active member of the Association and a strong supporter of its goals. Elisabeth was in declining health during her last several years. However, her determination to attend every possible Executive Committee meeting and Annual Reunion despite the obstacles is remarkable.

We will miss our friend and her wise counsel.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Manning W. Voorhees was reelected to a two-year term as President and Bernard V. Ward was also reelected to a two-year term as Treasurer at the Annual Reunion on October 7, 1995. Rosina L. Ripton was unable to stand for election as Secretary because of her personal situation and the position is currently vacant.

HELP WANTED

Your Association needs someone to fill the position of Secretary. The requirements are simple: be able to attend two Executive Committee meetings each year and the Annual Reunion, write minutes of these meetings and mail meeting notices for the Executive Committee meetings. Sounds easy? well, it is. If you can help, PLEASE contact Cornelia Mason, who is Chairperson of our Nominating Committee. Her address is listed in Who's Who.

HANKE KLEINSTR

Hanke Kleinstra-Brinkgreve lives in Hees and is an Honorary Member of the Van Voorhees Association. Many of us have had the pleasure of talking with Hanke when we visited the homeland. She is a true friend and wrote on September 16, 1995:

Every time the van Voorhees Nieuwsbrief arrives I read it with great interest and it pleases me to see how your family-association has become so professional and is growing.

As usual I like to extend my best wishes and greetings to everyone attending the Annual Meeting on Oct. 7th. I sincerely hope you all have a good time by the lecture and exchanging thoughts and, of course, your slides (Ed., Manning Voorhees slides).

Shortly my home has become a historical monument which I wanted so much in order to preserve the very old Drenth farmhouse for the future. This implies that future owners are not allowed to make alterations to the building, f.i. to

the walls, the windows, the color of paint, doors and of course the thatched roof. This, by the way, has been renewed for a great part, so for the next 40-50 years there is no need for repairs. (Unless it will be damaged by storms.)

Thank you, Hanke, we enjoyed hearing from you.

Mrs. Hanke Kleinstra-Brinkgreve, Hees 34, 7963 PB Ruinen, the Netherlands.

(Publ. Note: It is ironic that on the very day that I wandered along the street of Hees, Mrs. Kleinstra-Brinkgreve was writing this letter. I wish I had known of her, as I did not stop to speak with anyone... not many speak English in that part of Holland, and my Dutch is not very extensive. Perhaps next time I can stop and visit.)

INDIAN ARTIST

The April issue of the Nieuwsbrief discussed several large oil paintings hanging in the dining room of the Grand Portage Park and Indian Reservation, in northern Minnesota. The paintings are signed Voorhees. Pat Zumwalt asked if anyone had information about the artist.

Ed Voorhees, of Dallas TX, came to the rescue. Ed kindly sent us a copy of his letter to Pat. The artist is Jerry Voorhees and is Ed's nephew. Jerry lives in Capistrano Beach CA and is an artist, designer and craftsman. He made the paintings in 1974-75, about the time that the hotel and its dining room opened. Jerry is in the Lucas Line.

Thank you, Ed. His address is: Edward H. Voorhees, Col. USMC (Ret.), 4224 Bendwood Lane, Dallas TX 75287.

VAN VOORHEES PARK

The Friends of Van Voorhees Park lost their effort to save the Park. After many public hearings and litigation, the City of New York sold the Park several months ago to the Long Island College Hospital for a parking garage. It was a tremendous effort but fell short of enlisting support from the Mayor, which was probably the fatal element. Charlotte Fahn, a columnist on the Op-Ed Page of the New York Times for July 25, 1995, said: "So a corner in Brooklyn will become a harder, colder, uglier place."

Thanks to Cornelia Mason and Tom Van Voorhies for sending Ms. Fahn's article.

CROSSWORD PUZZLES

Crossword puzzles about the Van Voorhees tribe would be a great addition to the Nieuwsbrief. Surely there must be puzzle lovers among our membership who can write these brain teasers.

The puzzles should, of course, be about the Van Voorhees Family its early progenitors, their lives, the original home in Drenthe and the new home in the New World and the New Netherland era in which the early family lived. The level of

difficulty should be fair, which would be neither a slam dunk nor a brain buster.

Who is willing to supply puzzles from time-to-time? Please write to Manning Voorhees.

VOORIS FAMILY REUNION

One hundred and thirty people attended the annual family reunion of Herbert Vooris at Cherry Plain State Park, New York on July 23, 1995. Herbert Vooris was in the tenth generation from Steven Coerts in the Jan Line.

Also in attendance were Franklyn Vooris and Jeanne Vooris Le Cuit of Kentucky with their families. They are the children of Percy Vooris, brother of Herbert Vooris. People were there from Kentucky, California, Vermont, Massachusetts, Tennessee and New York.

Volleyball, canoeing, swimming, fishing and looking at pictures both current and past were enjoyed. Navy blue tee shirts with "Vooris Family Reunion - July 1995" were available.

Ron and Ethelyn Vooris were in charge of arrangements.

Written by Joan M. Vooris, 13 Vooris Way, Poestenkill NY 12140.



Vooris family reunion. The happy group is wearing the reunion tee shirts.

VOORHIS SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Cornelia Mason is seeking information about the Voorhis School for Boys, San Dimas CA. The brochure lists Charles B. Voorhis as President and H. Jerry Voorhis as Headmaster. It apparently has or had a church orientation because The Rev. Royal H. Balcom is listed as Rector on a line above the Headmaster. The Chapel is pictured on the front cover. Perhaps it is... or was... affiliated with the Episcopal Church since that denomination commonly uses the title Rector. The brochure is not written in a contemporary style. Please write to Cornelia. Her address is listed in Who's Who.

POSSIBLE TRIP TO HEES

IMTC, Inc., an international tour packager in Atlanta GA, has proposed a trip to Hees and the Netherlands for members of the Van Voorhees Association. The trip, if it occurs, will probably depart on October 13, 1996... the Sunday following our Annual Reunion. IMTC, Inc. has enlisted Toby Ritte to lead the 1996 trip. Toby led the Van Voorhees trips in 1984 and 1991. Many details are not determined as of this writing, including price, but it is possible that you will receive a brochure describing the trip.

IMTC, Inc. is an independent organization not affiliated in any manner with the Van Voorhees Association. The proposed trip was initiated, will be offered and will be managed solely by IMTC, Inc. A complete disclaimer by the Van Voorhees Association will be contained in the trip brochure. Please refer to it.

ANNUAL DUES

Our cash flow remains under the pressure of on-going expenses and genealogical/historical outlays. A relatively simple way of relieving this pressure is for everyone to remit their current and back dues to our Treasurer, Barney Ward. His address is in Who's Who. Please help thank you.

GENEALOGICAL CONTRIBUTORS

These grandchildren responded to the appeal for contributions to our genealogical research. Thank you very much your help is appreciated.

Ms. Rosina Ripton, New York NY
Mrs. Loraine G. Moorhouse, Randolph MN
LTC. Gordon Adams, Sunnyvale CA
Col. Edward H. Voorhees, Dallas TX
Mrs. Paul McDaniel, Muncie IN
Ms. Anne Tangeman, Jasper IN
Mr. Clyde Voorhees, Portola Valley CA
Mrs. Marcelle S. Aldredge, Colonia NJ
Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Vorhis, Midlothian VA, in honor of: Robert C. Vorhis, Charlotte V. Knighton and Jeannette V. Bryant, and in memory of father, The Rev. Wilbur A. Vorhis
Mrs. Melba M. McCaskill, Midland TX
Mr. Manning W. Voorhees, Toms River NJ.

The listing as of December 14, 1995. Our appeal remains open. Please send your contribution to our Treasurer, Barney Ward, marked genealogical research. The genealogical appeal was discussed in the Nieuwsbrief for September 1995.

GRANDPA'S QUIZ

Everyone at the October 1995 Reunion explored their knowledge of the Van Voorhees family with Grandpa's Quiz. The effort was not entirely intellectual as prizes were available. Grandchildren would be awarded the coveted designation of Van Voorhees Scholar and a copy of Through a Dutch Door if all ten questions were answered correctly. A Van Voorhees crest would be presented if six or more questions were properly answered. The crest is 8 x 11 inches printed in black and white on heavy stock suitable for framing.

Unfortunately, we have no Van Voorhees Scholars at the moment. Van Voorhees crests were presented to Joan Voorhees Brooke, Mildred D. Van Dyke and Lois R. Voorhees. Congratulations to our winners!

Grandpa will tease you again at the October 1996 Reunion. Don't miss the fun! Practice with last year's quiz.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. The Coerts family had two daughters with the same name. | T | F |
| 2. Steven Coerts was a tenant farmer in the Netherlands. | T | F |
| 3. Slaves were carried on the Bonte Koe. | T | F |
| 4. Steven Coerts and his sons marketed their produce in the Flatlands regional center called Pols erva. | T | F |
| 5. The Coerts family spoke Dutch. | T | F |
| 6. Wessel remained in the Netherlands and became a governor of the Dutch West India Company. | T | F |
| 7. Steven Coerts purchased a brewery in Flatlands. | T | F |
| 8. He was also an influential politician in New Amsterdam. | T | F |
| 9. Willemtje Seuberinge had seven children. | T | F |
| 10. Richard Nichols helped Steven Coerts in Flatlands. | T | F |

The answers are elsewhere in this Nieuwsbrief.

NEW MEMBERS

Tom Van Voorhies, Membership Chairperson, reports that the following cousins have joined the Association as of November 14, 1995. Welcome aboard!

Carol M. Watts, Los Altos CA
Louis A Voorhies, New Orleans LA
*Collyn B. Youngman, Redwood CA ***
*Theodore Voorhees Wood, Jr., Philadelphia PA ***
*Carole B. Cole, Bountiful UT ***
Karolyn Johanna Dunlop, Cuyahoga Falls OH
*Christy Calvean McCarthy, Boise ID ****
Parker Voorhees Foster, Jr., San Diego CA
*Joseph G. Fields, Indianapolis IN ***
*Patricia J. Zander-Carlo, Stamford CT ***

*Joan Voorhees Brooke, South Sterling PA ***
Fredda Hinz, Manning IA
*Laura L. Meyer, Flint MI ****
Don S. Voorhees, Toms River NJ
Deborah C. Voorhees, Toms River NJ
Diana L Voorhees, Toms River NJ
*Emma E. Voorhees, Toms River NJ **
Christina L. V. Tchir, Lawrenceville NJ
*Marissa L. Voorhees-Tchir, Lawrenceville NJ **
*Cody A. Tchir, Lawrenceville NJ **
Jane H. Peyrouse, Fayetteville NC
Richard Van Voorhis, Garden Grove CA
Steven Van Voorhis, Garden Grove CA
Kristina Kersey, Garden Grove Ca
Ronald F. Plimley, Wappinger Falls NY
Robert D. Mustain, Los Angeles CA
Robert Wren, Heber City UT
Amy L. MacLee, London OH +

Key:Contributing Member ***
 Sustaining Member **
 Junior Member *
 Additional Contribution +

Tom asks that all new and gift memberships be sent directly to him so that he can assign member numbers and send the new member package.

MILESTONES

The Rev. Stanton Weaver, of Ft. Plain NY, was called suddenly on October 2, 1995 ... Stanton is the brother of our genealogist, Florence Christoph ... he was a Deacon of the Episcopal Church ... Florence lost another brother earlier in 1995.

Margaret Hauschka, of Drenthe, died suddenly on October 24, 1995 in her 50th year from a cerebral aneurism... she is the daughter of Elsa V. and Ted Hauschka, of Damariscotta, ME... Margaret was educated in the United States and was Dean of Students at Noordelijke Hoge School in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands; she raised champion Appaloosa horses... Margaret is also survived by her daughter, Anna Witholt, who received her Master's Degree cum laude last September from the University of Leiden, and two brothers, Stephen of Seattle, WA and Peter of Needham, MA.

Glenrose E. Heckel passed on April 3, 1995 ... she is the wife of George F. Heckel, of Denver CO.

Ada Ruth Voorhies, of Indianapolis IN, died on September 7, 1995 at the age of 100 ... her husband, John Voorhies, preceded her in death in 1961 ... Ada is survived by sons Carl, of Indianapolis, John Jr., of Cleveland OH, and William, of Fort Collins CO, and daughters Martha Ware, of Las Vegas NV, and Mary Winburn, of Punta Gorda FL, plus 14 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

DISCOVERING YOUR HERITAGE

Florence Christoph was unable to speak at the 1995 Annual Reunion because of the sudden death of her brother (see Milestones). Adrienne Haney, our New England Regional Organizer and member of the Historical and Genealogical Committee, agreed to give a presentation on the challenge of genealogy. We are very indebted to Adrienne. She was applauded by all for giving an excellent talk upon very short notice. Adrienne is about to become a Certified Genealogist perhaps she has already received this prestigious designation. Her address is listed in Who's Who. Adrienne's text follows below.

Genealogy is more than just statistics, it is simply the study of your family in the past and in the present with emphasis on your ancestors. The study of family history increases one's understanding of family relationships. It can strengthen ties with living family members and bridge generation gaps. We can see the history of the human race as the history of persons and families. Most of what we enjoy today is a result of the dreams of our ancestors.

The desire to know about one's family is as old as recorded history. Indeed, the world's first genealogist was an Egyptian nobleman, Prince Khnumhotep II, who recorded on his tomb "I have kept alive the names of my fathers, which I found obliterated upon the doorways making them legible in form, accurate in reading, not putting one in the place of another." The Bible is full of descent of individuals and nations. Family history has been revered by Oriental nations for centuries, particularly the Chinese, whose family records perpetuate the best phases of their character, civilizations and culture. In Europe and the British Isles, the study of genealogy was not begun until after the Middle Ages in the 16th century, when families rising to power made fantastic claims, tracing their ancestry back to famous saints or pagan deities without any type of genuine proof.

By the 17th and 18th centuries genealogy had begun to evolve into a more exact science with the beginning of emphasis on documentation and proof, but it limited itself to names, dates, places and relationships, basic statistics. It has only been within the last century that it has begun to include real life stories and day to day events in order to paint a realistic picture of what life was like to go along with the factual data.

I began to be interested in discovering my heritage when I became a mental health counselor. I frequently asked patients questions about their families in order to complete a tool in mental health called a genogram. A genogram is a diagram that displays not only how a family is set up but how the identified person/patient relates to them on an emotional basis. I realized that I was not familiar with much of my family information and I began by looking at an old project of my sister Lynne's, a family tree, that she had made in 8th grade. I started with the information we had available and became fascinated with the whole process. It is really like detective work, you search out one small piece of information at a time

and begin to fit them together like a puzzle. My immediate family had been raised in New England and we had little knowledge of our family history. Family tradition had us as being Pennsylvania Dutch. When I really investigated that I found we were not Pennsylvania Dutch but that our family were Dutch and English who were the founding families of New York and New Jersey, all of whom began arriving in the country beginning in 1660. Many books and documentation exist that chronicled families who not only owned and farmed the lands in the New World but served in their local towns as magistrates and whom for the most part so identified with their country fiercely fought on the side of the patriots in the Revolutionary War (a few were loyalists but we don't talk too much about them).

So the question is where and how do I start? Well, you start with yourself and work backwards, talk to your family, ask them about themselves, their interests, likes and hobbies. Remember don't just get the statistics, in genealogy we encourage people to avoid the Dragnet approach that is just the facts ma'am. Then look for anything that will help portray your ancestor as a living, breathing being. Ask your relatives if they have any of the following items: Photo albums, Family Bibles, baby books, scrap books, or any other old book, old family recipe books, deeds and wills, announcements and invitations, newspaper clippings, and inherited items such as quilts or jewelry.

Next take a close look at what you find and try to put them into a specific time period if you don't know where to start looking. Most families still have photos and they particularly can send many clues as every time period has specific types of clothing and styles. For instance in the early 1840's women tended to wear their hair with a central part and curled down over the forehead to form clusters of long ringlets over their ears, the men wore frock coats that had a bell shape and almost always buttoned shirts and vests high, in the mid 60's women now begin to wear belts and their hair is now arranged to allow their hair to show, bustles emerge and stay in fashion until the 90's, the 1870's women wear a distinctive dress that looks like it has a handkerchief on upside down. Finally, in the 1880's ornate Victorian props begin to intrude. If you look at a photo and the first thing you notice is a prop, chances are it was taken 1880 on. Also, always check the back of photos as genealogical information is frequently on them.

Next talk to the family, begin an oral history, that is gather other people's memories, spoken recollections and organize and preserve them. Think about your questions in advance, try to tape it, start with easy friendly questions, ask about home and community life, personalities, economic conditions, family characteristics and family facts. Try to limit your interview to an hour as you most frequently will be talking to someone elderly and they tire. If possible tape your interview. Remember also that the information is only as good as the person giving it and that person will probably want to tell the glamorized version, all families have secrets that they might not be willing to share. The further back in

time the information comes from it tends to be less reliable as details become less clear with time.

Now begin with official records, first vital records. Vital records are records specifically created to record births, marriages, or deaths. Birth and marriage records are created by the person experiencing the event. Death records are created by a family member that is under stress and with these record inaccuracies can occur. When my Aunt died, her daughter called me to get our grandmother's maiden name. I told her it was Wolcott, when I saw the death certificate it was spelled Wilcott a big difference. Vital records may be created by civil governments or by churches or families. Church records are usually cemetery and baptismal but often give some information about the parents. Many Voorhees baptismal records can be found in the Somerset County Historical Quarterly as they were predominantly of the Dutch Reformed Church and the Quarterly has published them. Civil registration of marriages was not required in many states until the late 1800s or even in some states until the early 1900s.

Secondly, are the census records. Congress mandates that a census be taken every ten years. Census was created to count the population for determining the number of representatives for government. They can be a real goldmine of information. The first census occurred in 1790. Early census records only listed the head of household and then a check mark of how many women 30-40, 40-50 et cetera were in the home. While this isn't very helpful genealogically it can help track locations and build family groups. It can help build a preponderance of evidence argument for instance, if two men with the same last name live side by side for all their lives, they were probably related, chances are they were brothers. People tended to stay in the same areas in their lifetimes or moved in groups. The 1850 census was the first census to list entire families and for censuses after 1880 a special index was created called a soundex that lists families with similar sounding names together regardless of the spelling. The 1890 census was completely destroyed by a fire except for some veterans' censuses. The 1900 census began to add very valuable questions like when did you come to this country and how long have you been married and how many pregnancies have you had with how many children still living. The most recent census available is the 1920. How reliable is the information? Well, I should tell you there is a book out called Known Drunken Census Takers and that some were lazy and simply asked the most available person around such as a neighbor who could be wrong. Most of the census information though is fairly reliable and most is the person who was directly telling the census taker I was born inetc.

Finally, local newspapers often give genealogical information in birth and marriage notices and obituaries. Local libraries might have published family histories, many of which were published at the turn of the century when there was a surge of interest in family history. These books nicknamed mug books again usually painted a glamorized version of events as the person usually paid to put his history in but they paint a fascinating picture of your ancestor.

Lastly, always remember to cite your sources, whether it

be personal knowledge or you have a copy of the record. Although the family stories you hear may be fascinating they also may not be completely factual. Is there any proof that ancestor won a medal in the Civil War? If not it might be simply a wonderful story not a fact by simply a family legend. There is no complete truth without proof.

Thank You.

MISSING COUSIN

Mail has been returned marked undeliverable for:

*Mrs. Marcella S. Lavorgna, 610 Sea Pine Way, #E-1,
West Palm Beach FL 33415.*

If anyone knows Marcella's present address, please write to Manning Voorhees. If we do not receive this information, she will be lost forever. Thank you.

PAT ZUMWALT

With deep regrets and for personal reasons, Pat Zumwalt asked to be relieved of her responsibilities as the Association's Western Regional Organizer. We are very appreciative of Pat's efforts and suggestions for forming a chapter in the Western states. Thank you very much, Pat.

Please write to Manning Voorhees if you are interested in filling Pat's role, as well as starting a chapter in other regions. You will receive the satisfaction of a job well done in addition to having fun.

GENEALOGICAL INQUIRIES AND MEMBER RESEARCH

Judith Van Voorhis has filled the critical vacancy created by Steve Shyers' recent death. She will maintain our computerized membership data and will respond to member genealogical inquiries using Florence Christoph's information. Judith will periodically revise her genealogical data base with Florence's computer disks. We are fortunate that Judith volunteered for the job because she is computer literate, has been working closely with Florence, and is interested in genealogy and New Netherland.

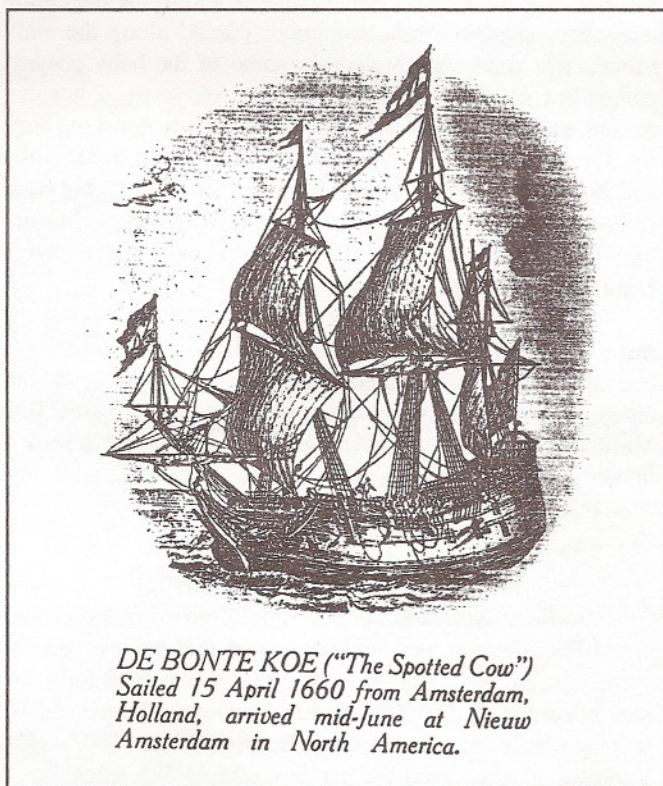
Please send your genealogical inquiries directly to Judith. She will send those that cannot be answered to Ginny Ward, who will include them in her Genealogical Inquiries column for the Nieuwsbrief. Judith's and Ginny's addresses are in Who's Who.

ANSWERS TO GRANDPA'S QUIZ
Question 1, T; Question 2, T; Question 3, T; Question 4, F;
Question 5, F; Question 6, F; Question 7, T; Question 8, F;
Question 9, F; Question 10, T

THE BONTE KOE

Russell Vorhies, of Minatare NE, wants to make a model of the Bonte Koe, the ship that brought the Coerts family to New Netherland in 1660. Russell has made several ship models to scale, such as the LST on which he served during the Korean War, the Portland, a sidewheeler, and the Endeavour, our country's entry in the 1934 America's Cup Race. The LST is 40 inches long and was constructed from large kitchen matches. The Portland is 36 inches long, and the Endeavour is 24 inches and made from balsa wood. Russell enclosed photographs of these models with his letter the ships are well made.

With our thanks to Delia Nelson, the Genealogist for the Holland Society of New York, we have found a rendition of the Bonte Koe. That is an excellent starting point for Russell. The picture is reproduced in this Nieuwsbrief. Our Historical Handbook (published in 1935) states on page 18, No description of the ship has been found. However, the Handbook surmises that it was about 170 feet long, 49 feet in beam and about 20 feet in depth, based upon similar ships of the period. Ms. Nelson offered to send us material on Dutch ships of the 17th Century and we have accepted her offer. If someone has definitive data on the Bonte Koe, we ask that you send it to Russell with a copy to Manning Voorhees. Russell's idea is great and we hope that some photographs of the Bonte Koe model can be put in our next publication.



*DE BONTE KOE ("The Spotted Cow")
Sailed 15 April 1660 from Amsterdam,
Holland, arrived mid-June at Nieuw
Amsterdam in North America.*

Russell notes that many members of the Association are Masons. He is a 32 Degree Scottish Rite and belongs to Lodge #1 in Salt Lake City UT.

Russell E. Vorhies, P.O. Box 431, Minatare NE 69356-0431.

NOTES FROM NEW ENGLAND

On October 29, 1995 the New England Chapter held its third annual meeting.

This year we began our meeting with a workshop on caring for our old photographs and heirlooms. Adrienne Haney taught that even new photos can be harmed by light, dust, or air and for that reason, they need to be protected. All who attended the workshop have now vowed to change their ways.

The meeting then continued with a luncheon provided by Adrienne, her mother Marion McNiece, sister Lynne Abt and sister in law Lynnette McNiece. After lunch we all took Grandpa's Quiz on the family which was a great success. Adam McNiece won with 8 out of 10 correct answers but with the help of his 13 year old nephew Matt (my son). [Ed., congratulations.]

Our guest speaker was George Moore who gave a performance as George Washington entitled Washington Himself. Mr. Moore or rather Mr. Washington spoke on the Battle of Monmouth and included some commentary on the Dutch in the Revolutionary War also. We were fascinated to learn that George Washington fined his men for saying intemperate words, actually lost his temper with his general, General Lee and said some intemperate words himself, (although they were not repeated in the performance here).

After the performance, we enjoyed some delicious desserts brought by the chapter cousins. During dessert time we handed out several door prizes. The children helped with the raffle and picked out the grand prize winner, Harry Voorhees of Andover MA. Unfortunately, the grand prize, a flag flown at the Capitol in honor of the Van Voorhees family, hadn't arrived yet and we had to give out an IOU. Our oldest member attending was Cecelia Van Voorhis who received a rubber stamp and our youngest member was Zane McNiece, just 5 weeks old who will receive a family history. We ended with an opportunity to chat with a representative from an archival supply company who showed us how to put all we had learned in the morning to use. The expanded meeting was a great success and I feel a good time was had by all of us who were there. I hope we will see even more family next year on the last Sunday in October.

Written by Adrienne Haney, our New England Regional Organizer. Adrienne's talk before the 1995 Annual Reunion is elsewhere in this Nieuwsbrief. Her address is in Who's Who.

YOUR NIEUWSBRIEF

The next issue of the Nieuwsbrief will be April 1996 and the deadline for copy is March 3rd. Please send interesting articles and news about our family to Manning Voorhees.

This January issue is somewhat delayed in reaching you because Manning's computer was burned out by a power surge (yes, there was a fairly expensive surge protector on line).

VORHIES QUADRUPLETS

This is an engrossing story about the Vorhies quadruplets written by the proud grandfather, Robert Mustain, of Los Angeles CA. Robert's grandchildren are probably the first quadruplets for the Voorhees clan or surely for the Lucas Line. His address is: Robert D. Mustain, 8104 Stewart Ave., Los Angeles CA 90045.

In March 1985, my daughter Sally and husband Robert H. Vorhies became parents of quadruplets, increasing the size of their family 200% and adding four more to the nation's Vorhies population. The kids are descendants of the Lucas Line and are thirteen generations from Steven Coerts. As maternal grandparents, wife Mary Alice and I took a keen interest in the family event and I jotted down notes, from which this account is derived. I am a new member of the Van Voorhees Association.

Daughter Sally Mustain was born in Santa Monica in 1957, grew up in Los Angeles and earned a degree in Business Administration from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in 1979. Sally was attending Law School at the University of Idaho in Moscow, where she met her husband Bob Vorhies, also a student. They married in 1980 and made their home in Moscow. Sally became pregnant, but had a miscarriage, a devastating loss, all the more traumatic when her local gynecologist said she would never be able to have children. Sally consulted a specialist in Spokane, Washington, some eighty miles away and he began treating her with the drug Clomid, which enabled her to get pregnant.

When the doctor determined that there would be a multiple birth and a difficult pregnancy, Sally entered Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane. For the last months of pregnancy, Sally was confined to a hospital bed, no moving about. [Ed., a news article that Robert enclosed with his article said that Sally spent six months in bed.] At first three babies were expected, but then a fourth was discovered. The doctor's objective was to prolong the pregnancy as far as possible to permit the babies to develop and enhance their survival chances. As it turned out, the pregnancy lasted 35 1/2 weeks. Sally experienced physical problems associated with pregnancy and the medical staff took corrective action, monitoring her condition carefully. She started into labor a couple of times, but the doctor was able to stop it. A medical team was organized, a doctor and a nurse for each of the four babies plus Sally.

A decision was made to take the babies by Caesarean section on Monday April 1st, with the medical team going through a rehearsal beforehand. However, at 4:00 A.M. March 27th, Sally again started to go into labor and for the safety of the babies, the delivery date became immediate. The medical team assembled and went into action at 6:45 A.M. Jennifer Sara 5 lbs. was Baby A, Stephen John 5 lbs. was Baby B, Crystal Dawn 3 lbs. 6 ozs. was Baby C and Matthew James 3 lbs. 14 ozs. was Baby D (total weight 17 lbs. 4 ozs.).

Father Bob Vorhies was in the delivery room and was handed Baby C as she came out. At 7:50 A.M. Bob called Los Angeles to tell Mary Alice and me about the blessed event.

Mary Alice and I had planned to fly to Spokane for the birth and the ahead-of-schedule arrival of the grandchildren advanced our flight date to March 29th. Arriving at Sacred Heart Medical Center, we saw the four babies in incubators, labeled A, B, C and D. The nurses let us scrub up, don gowns and masks and enter the incubator room for a closer look at our grandchildren.

A sidelight of our Spokane visit was attending Sunday Services at a local Lutheran Church. It was a large downtown Church, well-filled, and when the Minister asked visitors to identify themselves, we stood up and Mary Alice announced that we were from Los Angeles and grandparents of the Vorhies quadruplets. Everybody in town had heard of the Quad's births and after the Services, we were mobbed by congregation members wanting to hear about the babies. One of Sally's comments to the newspapers was, "We wanted children!"

The babies were all strong and healthy, going home to Moscow, Idaho incrementally: Jennifer after seven days, Matthew on the eleventh day and Steve and Crystal on the fifteenth day after birth. The hospital staff escorted them to the door, following to the car, sorry to see the babies go. Sally and Bob were living in a tiny apartment and in the beginning the babies slept in cardboard boxes placed along the wall. Money was tight and fortunately some of the baby product companies gave them freebies. One old man, a hospital patient, gave them a used car, so they could transport the family. Their only vehicle had been a small pickup truck. Sally and Bob did get some help from church ladies, etc., but basically the two parents tended the babies themselves. Son-in-law Bob told me that in the first nine months, there were several thousand diaper changes.

The kids are now ten years old, very healthy and all in the same classroom at school, different enough in appearance so one can easily tell them apart. They are quite athletic and talented, all taking judo, tennis, piano and other classes. Bob Vorhies is employed at the University of Idaho and Sally is a homemaker and freelance writer.



VOORHEES TOWNSHIP

Voorhees Township NJ is a rapidly growing area in the broad Philadelphia metropolitan region that extends beyond Pennsylvania. But did you know that it is named for a former governor of the state, Foster McGowan Voorhees? He was governor of New Jersey from 1898 to 1902. Gov. Voorhees is also noted for his donation of 325 acres that is now Voorhees State Park near High Bridge NJ, in the northern part of the state.

The 11.4 square mile Township was originally included in the Pine Barrens, a large part of southern New Jersey that extends across the state in a swath that runs generally from west to east. However, one cannot include Voorhees

Township today as part of the environmentally protected Pine Barrens because it has become the location of shopping malls, residences, schools, highways, commercial offices and other signs of contemporary improvement.

We thank Mrs. Nancy A. Mattis for this piece of our family history. Her address is: 401 Grove St., Haddonfield NJ 08033-1118.

GENEALOGICAL INQUIRIES

Samuel Newton VAN VOORHIS was b. Long Island NY 10 July 1774. He m. Sarah MYERS, 22 June 1900 in NY and their children were born there. The family went to Crawford Co. OH, where Samuel D. 24 Feb. 1857. Four of his children married people with the surname JONES. Daniel VAN VOORHIS, b. 14 April 1801, m. as his second wife Heley JONES. William Roe VAN VOORHIS, b. 25 May 1803 d. 1895, m. (first wife) Hannah JONES, before Sept. 1822, in

Crawford Co. OH. Charles Edward VAN VOORHIS, b. 11 Oct. 1809, m. (first wife) Susan JONES (b. 28 Jan. 1813, d. 19 Sept. 1870), 9 July 1832 in Crawford Co. Susan VAN VOORHIS, b. 7 Jan. 1812, m. Hiram JONES (b. 1803) 1 Jan. 1828. It seems probable that these people were siblings, or at least related. Does someone have information about them? Jeanne Van Voorhis White, 320 E. Washington St. #11A, Iowa City IA 52240.

The National Horseshoe Pitchers Assn. is seeking information about Marjorie VOORHIES. She won a world (ladies) horseshoe pitching championship in Akron OH, in 1920, and gave her address as Asbury Park NJ. She also played in Florida in the winter of 1921. The NHPA has a horseshoe Hall of Fame and would like information about more pitching activities (if any) of this woman. If you can help, please contact: NHPA First Vice President Earl Winston, Route 2 Box 178, LaMonte MO 65337.

Compiled by Ginny Ward. Her address is in Who s Who.

1996 DUES NOTICE

Dues through December 1996 were payable January 1, 1995. Please check membership desired and note any change of address. Mail to the Treasurer: Mr. Bernard V. Ward, 117 Arlington Ave., Somerset NJ 08873-1923. Please make checks payable to The Van Voorhees Association. Your dues are deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

Please tell us the name and date of birth of any new member of your family, with the names of his/her parents and the immediate grandparents (with the Van Voorhees line).

MEMBERSHIP FEES

- Regular \$ 7.00 Contributing \$ 27.00
- Junior 2.00 Life 200.00
- Sustaining 12.00

If you did not pay your dues in earlier years, please add that amount to your remittance:

- Regular \$7.00 Junior \$2.00
- Check here, and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish to receive a 1995 membership card.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

If you know your nine digit zip code, please enter it for our assistance in achieving the lowest postal cost.

BOOK ORDER FORM

Through a Dutch Door, 17th Century Origins of the Van Voorhees Family
 _____ copies @ regular price, \$22.00 \$ _____

The Van Voorhees Family, Volume I
 _____ copies hardcover, \$20.00 \$ _____

_____ copies softcover, \$15.00 \$ _____

10% discount for 6 or more copies to the same address \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Make check or money order payable to The Van Voorhees Association and mail to:

Mr. Robert S. Voris, 802 Berkeley Rd., Westover Hills, Wilmington, DE 19807

Please enclose this complete form or a photocopy with your order.

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ITEM SALES FORM

The Association continues to stock items of interest to members. All orders should be accompanied by a check payable to the Van Voorhees Association. Please do not send cash. All orders should be sent to:

Ms. Judith Voorhees, 30 San Salvador Street, Toms River, NJ 08757, Telephone (908)505-9232

Items for Sale	Members	Non-Members	Quantity
Tote Bag	\$10.00	\$11.00	_____
Coat of Arms Tile	\$10.00	\$12.00	_____
Coat of Arms Patch	\$ 5.00	\$ 6.00	_____
Historic Handbook	\$ 6.00	\$ 7.00	_____
Van Voorhees Letters	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.50	_____
Baseball Cap	\$ 5.00	\$ 6.00	_____
Handpainted Coat of Arms	\$10.00	\$12.00	_____
Tietac\Pin	\$15.00	\$15.00	_____
Coat of Arms, X Stitch Pattern	\$ 1.50	\$ 2.00	_____
TOTAL			\$ _____

Purchases are sent postpaid with no additional shipping charges.

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