



Van Voorhees Nieuwsbrief

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THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

History books put before our children have never been fair to our Dutch ancestry. The contribution that our forebears made to American society and culture is swept away. They are typically portrayed as noisy sots and buffoons. An example known by everyone is Rip Van Winkle. His success was sleeping away a good part of his life. Petrus Stuyvesant is generally described as incompetent. There is usually not much else to generate recognition of the Dutch in America. Submersion of the Dutch is one of the lasting British legacies.

Reproduced in this Nieuwsbrief is a 1903 article by Edward Bok that deserves to be read today. Pass it along to your children and grandchildren. They should be well aware of Dutch contributions to our contemporary way of life and to what we take for granted as basic to our society. There is also an interesting bit about golf and its Dutch origins.

The New Netherland Project, in Albany NY, is translating the old Dutch records of the New World. Several books have been published that give a realistic picture of how our ancestors lived and thought, and what they did. The Van Voorhees Association is proud to be a member of the Friends of the New Netherland Project. This is one way to stimulate interest in the Van Voorhees family, as set forth in our Bylaws.

Manning W. Voorhees

ASSOCIATION IS ON THE INTERNET

William Voorhees, of Norcross GA, has put us on the world-wide Internet. Grandpa Steven would be absolutely flabbergasted! and then, so are we.

The address of our new home page is: <http://akorn.net/~voorhees>. Please note that the period ending the preceding sentence is not part of the Internet address. William utilized Netscape 2.0 software. The page comes up with the version of Mosaic that is currently supplied with CompuServe programming.

William said: The idea behind this page was to provide a brief history of the Van Voorhees family and to hopefully instill pride in the family name among the younger members of the family. I have tried to present information on a level that is appropriate for a child to use at his/her school's show and tell. Hopefully, this will encourage greater participation in the Association. William explains that the page is work in progress and that he is looking for ideas re: a history section that is more in depth, pictorials of a 17th Century Dutch farmhouse and perhaps a list of prominent members of the family (e.g., senators, congressmen, governors, musicians, scientists and so forth). When fully developed, William says that we might want to put the page with a more powerful search engine, such as Lycos. It ends with membership information.

William reports that the Association and its postal address is mentioned on a couple of pages that deal with genealogy research. One such page recommended membership in the Association due to its newsletter and books they publish. The Association is apparently well respected among genealogists.

Congratulations, William. Thank you, we are very appreciative of your efforts.

William R. Voorhees, 5686 Hammond Drive, Norcross GA 30071-3453

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CALENDAR

Executive Committee Meeting	September 7
Annual Reunion	October 12

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THE MOTHER OF AMERICA

An article by Edward Bok in Ladies Home Journal, October 1903.

It is said that twenty thousand more American travelers visited the Netherlands during the past summer than in any previous year. Last winter, the librarians of the country reported that the study of the history and people of the Netherlands increased to such an extent that several libraries will this year inaugurate separate departments devoted to the literature of the Dutch. The desire for "things Dutch" in the furnishing of American homes has grown with wonderful rapidity. The strong pride in Dutch ancestry is everywhere noticeable where interest in genealogical matters has taken root. Some are inclined to think that this interest in the people of the Netherlands, and in Dutch things generally, is a passing fad. But others who study things more closely lean to the belief that it is based on something more intelligent and permanent: that it rests on a national awakening born of an inherent influence and blood kinship that has too long been lost sight of.

As a matter of fact, the reading world of America has yet to learn the real extent of the strong Dutch influences which underlie American institutions and have shaped American life. For years we have written in our histories and taught in our schools that this nation is a transplanted England: that the institutions which have made this country distinctively great were derived either from England itself, or brought to us from England by the Puritans when they settled in New England. We call England "The Mother Land of America." It is a significant fact, however, that history shows not a single instance where England itself has ever claimed this designation. England has merely accepted what American historians have chosen to lay at its door. The fact must not be overlooked, however, that seven-eighths of our American historical writing has come from authors who have been Englishmen, or descendants of Englishmen living in New England. Naturally, these men have written wholly or largely from an English standpoint. But of late we have seen here and there a writer who has brushed aside what has been written, delved into records himself and emerged a wiser man and a more trustworthy chronicler. Douglas Campbell was perhaps among the first of these writers to point out that the men who founded New York were not Englishmen, but largely Hollanders: that the Puritans who settled Plymouth had lived twelve years in Holland: that the Puritans who settled elsewhere in Massachusetts had all their lives been exposed to a Dutch influence: that New Jersey, as well as New York, was settled by the Dutch West India Company: that Connecticut was given life by Thomas Hooker, who came from a long residence in Holland: that Roger Williams, who founded Rhode Island, was a Dutch scholar: and that William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, came of a Dutch mother.

Of course the necessary limitations of such an article as this make fullness of writing on such a subject an impossibility. All that the present writer hopes to do here is to compress facts into almost telegraphic, and therefore necessarily unsatisfactory, form. But the very form of grouping these statements presents a concrete array of facts so little known that their very surprising nature may lead some people to their fuller reading in the authorities which are open to all. Take, for instance, what may be truly designated as the four vital institutions upon which America not only rests but which have caused it to be regarded as the most distinctive nation in the world. I mean our public-school system of free education; our freedom of religious worship; our freedom of the press, and our freedom of suffrage represented by the secret ballot. Not one of these came from England, since not one of them existed there when they were established in America; in fact only one of them existed in England earlier than fifty years after they existed in America, and the other three did not exist in England until nearly one hundred years after their establishment in America. Each and all of these four institutions came to America directly from Holland. Take the two documents upon which the whole fabric of the establishment and maintenance of America rests--the Declaration of Independence and the Federal Constitution of the United States--and one, the Declaration, is based almost entirely upon the Declaration of Independence of the United Republic of the Netherlands; while all through the Constitution its salient points are based upon, and some literally copied from the Dutch Constitution. So strong is this Netherland influence upon our American form of government that the Senate of the United States, as a body, derives most of the peculiarities of its organization from the Netherlands States-General, a similar body, and its predecessor by nearly a century of years, while even in the America flag we find the colors and the five-pointed star chosen from the Dutch.

The common modern practice of the State allowing a prisoner the free services of a lawyer for his defense, and the office of a district attorney for each county, are so familiar to us that we regard them as American inventions. Both institutions have been credited to England, whereas, as a matter of fact, it is impossible to find in England even to-day any official corresponding to our district attorney. Both of these institutions existed in Holland three centuries before they were brought to America. The equal distribution of property among the children of a person dying intestate--that is, without a will--was brought to America direct from Holland by the Puritans. It never existed in England. The record of all deeds and mortgages in a public office, a custom which affects every man and woman who owns or buys property, came to America direct from Holland. It never came from England, since it does not exist there even at the present day. The township system, by which each town has local self-government, with its natural sequence of local self-government in county and State, came from Holland. The practice of making prisoners work, and turning prisons into workhouses, and, in fact, our whole modern American management of free prisons which has caused the admiration of the entire world, was brought from Holland to America by William Penn. Group these astonishing facts together, if you will, and see their tremendous import: The Federal Constitution; the Declaration of Independence; the whole organization of the Senate; our State Constitutions: our freedom of religion; our free schools; our free press; our written ballot; our town, county and State systems of government; the system of recording deeds and mortgages; the giving of every criminal a just chance for his life; a public prosecutor of crime in every county; our free prison workhouse system--to say nothing of kindred important and vital elements in our national life. When each and all of these can be traced directly to one nation, or to the influence of that nation, and that nation not England, is it any wonder, asks one enlightened historian, that some modern scholars, who, looking beneath the mere surface resemblance of language, seek an explanation of the manifest difference between the people of England and the people of the United States assumed by them to be of the same blood, and influenced by the same (?) institutions?

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Conclusion of an article by Edward Bok entitled "The Mother of America" which appeared in the Ladies' Home Journal in October 1903. Lack of space in the previous issue did not allow inclusion of the following biographical information: Edward Bok was born in den Helder, the Netherlands in 1863. He immigrated to America at the age of seven. In 1889 Bok became editor of the Ladies' Home Journal. His farsighted and innovating ideas brought about many reforms including passage of various conservation laws and the Food and Drug Acts of 1906. In 1921 his autobiography, *The Americanization of Edward Bok*, won the Pulitzer Prize.

Nor is it strange that so strong a Dutch influence should have entered into the establishment and making of America, when one considers the immense debt which the world owes to Holland. For it may be said without fear of contradiction that in nearly every art which uplifts and adorns human life, in nearly every aspect of human endeavor, Holland has not only added to the moral resources of mankind and contributed more to the fabric of civilization, but has also actually led the way. It was the first nation to master the soil and teach agriculture to the world. It has taught the world the art of gardening. It taught commerce and merchandise to the entire world when it ranked as the only great commercial nation on the globe. It taught the broadest lines of finance to the world by the establishment in 1609 of its great Bank of Amsterdam, with one hundred and eighty millions of dollars deposits, preceding the establishment of the Bank of England by nearly one hundred years. The founding of its great University of Leyden, in 1575, marked an epoch in the world's history of education, and made the Netherlands the center of learning of Europe. Here was founded international law through Grotius, one of Holland's greatest sons. Here Boerhave, a Dutchman, revolutionized medicine by his wonderful discoveries until Holland's medical school became the seat of authority for all Europe. From this center, too, came that great lesson in the publishing of books in the shape of the famous Elzevir books. It was the first nation to place the reader and the spelling-book in the hands of the child, irrespective of station or means. As musicians, for nearly two hundred years the Netherlands stood supreme and furnished all the courts of Europe with vocal and instrumental music. It was the Dutch who founded, in Naples, the first musical conservatory in the world, and another in Venice, and it was to their influence and example that the renowned school of Rome owed its existence.

The starting of all these masterful influences would alone make a nation great. But these were only a part of Holland's wonderful contributions to the world's enlightenment. It went on and introduced to the world the manufacture of woollen cloth that marked an epoch in history, and followed this up by developing the manufacture of silk, linen, tapestry and lace until it made its city of Flanders the manufacturing center of the world. It devised and presented through the Van Eyck brothers the wonderful discovery of oil-painting and revolutionized the world of art, and gave, in the person of one of these brothers, Jan van Eyck, the originator of the painted portrait. Then came the invention of wood-engraving by a Dutchman, followed quickly by the printing of books from blocks. The substitution of movable type for the solid block of wood, and we have the printing-press—the invention of which Germany may never concede to Holland, and yet the germ of which lay in the block books to which Holland lays unquestioned claim. But Holland need never squabble over a single invention. A nation that, in addition to what has been cited above, has likewise invented the telescope, the microscope, the thermometer, the method of measuring degrees of latitude and longitude, the pendulum clock, thereby putting before the world the beginning of anything which we can call accuracy in time, and discovered the capillary circulation of the blood, need not stop to split straws.

We speak of the American woman today as a type apart from the women of all other nations and I am inclined to think that sometimes, in our forgetfulness of the world's history, we are apt to think of her as of our own creation. But we need only to read a few chapters of Dutch history to see whence she came. By nearly two centuries the Netherlands Republic was in advance of entire Europe in its introduction of a national system of education for women. While other countries of Europe restricted the education of girls to a few members of the aristocracy and the upper classes, the Dutch inaugurated the system for the world of an equal and early education for girls the same as for boys. It threw the doors of its common system open to both sexes. The result was that a greater amount of enlightenment was found among the Dutch girls than among their sisters of any other nation. Arrived at maturity, they became not the mere slaves of men, not alone the equals of men, but, to the amazement of foreigners they were absolute autocrats in their homes. Those who had no family cares became the sole managers of family estates, or branched out into agriculture and became farmers, delved into commerce and became merchants or manufacturers, while those of finer tastes became poets and painters. And, centuries after, we see women holding the same positions and enjoying the same freedom in America as did the Dutch women in those early days. The direct influence of the emancipation of women as a sex—whether we regard the question from the original source of the laws relating to a married woman, her equal education with men, or her absolute sovereignty in the home—came from the Netherlands.

There is a wonderful charm in reading the history of a people who have done so much toward the enlightenment of the world, and not alone in one field of thought or activity, but in every field of human endeavor. The people of no nation make so bold and strong an impression on the mind as one after another of their achievements pass before one, and especially when it is considered that all these contributions to humankind were done with one hand while the other was busy in saving every foot of land from the rushing waters. But the people always remained cool, balanced and solid. That same patient but deep, fervid spirit which built the dikes and saved the land with one hand, and opened those same dikes, built by the very life-blood of the people, with the other, and flooded the land against encroaching enemies—that same spirit built up a nation unrivaled in history as a financial, commercial, maritime, art, learning, medical, and political center, from which have radiated the strongest influences for the upbuilding of great empires—not only in the new Western world of America, but also in the far East of the Indies, and in the strong Colonial establishment of South Africa. Her glory may be of the past, but he is indeed a rash prophet who would predict the future of any nation, however small, on the face of the globe of today. Of some things the American traveler is today constantly convinced: That there is less intellectual veneer in Holland than in any other country in Europe; that there is more solid and abiding culture of the very highest kind, and that the modern Dutch family represents a repose of mind, a simplicity of living, and a contented happiness with life in general that we as a nation might well envy.

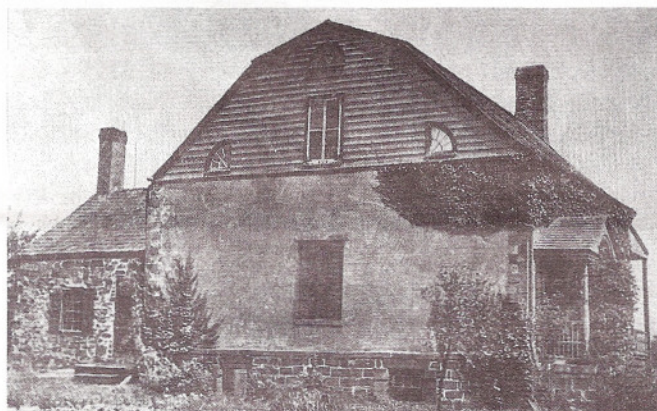
It must be apparent to any one who reads these facts in the newer and more enlightened histories of America that most of our previous historical knowledge of our own country stands in need of adjustment, and that it is not at all impossible that our modern growing interest in the people of the Netherlands and its history is a forerunner of our final enlightenment. Just as Washington Irving, in his later life, was compelled to admit himself wrong in burlesquing the Dutch founders of New York City, and class his own writing of them as a "coarse caricature," so in days to come will our more enlightened historians set aside much that has been written of the influences that shaped America, and substitute facts for theories. It will be interesting, then, to see to what nation will be given the credit of being "The Mother of America."

The article "Mother of America" is reproduced by permission of the New Netherland Project from its newsletter, "De Nieuw Nederlanse Mercurius", for August and November 1994.

WYCKOFF, NEW JERSEY

Wyckoff is located in northwest Bergen County NJ. Many Dutch families settled in and around Wyckoff in the very early 18th Century, including the Van Voorhees family. Marilyn Brack, our Albert Line Representative, sent us a copy of *The Story of Wyckoff*. It was written by the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration and was copyrighted in 1939. The 47 page volume is a detailed history of the town and is studded with familiar Dutch family names.

We were surprised to learn that the etymology of the town name is not Dutch and is not identified with the Wyckoff family that traces its genealogy to Pieter Claesen Wyckoff. According to the authors, "Wyckoff's name is derived from the Indian Wikhoff, or Wikoff, high ground. The township was the site of the Sicomac, happy hunting ground, where many of the Lenni Lenape, including Oratam, Chief of the Ackingshacys, were buried." Maybe Wikhoff was Dutchified by our ancestors to Wyckoff.



The Van Voorhees-Quackenbush-Zabriskie House, Wyckoff, New Jersey.

"John and William Van Voor Haze, 'yeomen of Bergen County,' " are "believed to have been" the "first permanent settlers of Wyckoff." The brothers were of the Third Generation and were sons of Albert Stevense, #7 in The Van Voorhees Family. Jan (or "John") is #57 and Willem (or "William") is #58 in our genealogy. They purchased 550 acres on August 17, 1720. The story of the Van Voorhees-Quackenbush-Zabriskie House and a current photograph were carried in the May/June 1994 issue of *Nieuwsbrief*. Marilyn also gave us the accompanying photograph of the VV-Q-Z House before it was rehabilitated showing the old mid-section.

Next to arrive in Wyckoff were Barent Van Horn and his wife, Rachel Aeltse, who settled in 1742. Other early settlers included "the Schuylers, Garretsons, Van Allens, Steks (now Stagg), Berdans, Romaines, Van Winkles, Winters, Courtins, Youngs, Ackermans, Quackenbushes, Storms, Van Gilders, Pulisfelts (now Pulis) and Vanderhoffs." The first gristmill to

serve the region "is believed to have been operated by 'the miller Vanderhoff,' who lived in a cave at the entrance of Youghpaugh Valley." The house of Willem Van Voorhees (or "Van Voor Haze" as he was sometimes called) served as the town store and tavern.

Election returns for 1792 showed that many additional Dutch families had arrived as well as many English, although it is not evident if some of the latter bore Anglicized-Dutch surnames. In any event, the Dutch were "predominant and continued to shape the moral and cultural life of the community." The Ponds Dutch Reformed Church, organized at Oakland in 1710, included many Wyckoff residents among its parishioners. The earliest educational efforts can be traced to the Ponds Church, where children were taught reading, writing and arithmetic in Dutch. Sermons were also in Dutch at the Ponds Church until 1806, when the Wyckoff worshippers completed their own Dutch Reformed Church building. A half acre of land for the new church structure was purchased from Aaron Ackerman and Albert Van Voorhees for \$7.50. Albert was the son of Willem and is #325 in The Van Voorhees Family.

In the early 20th Century, Wyckoff was largely a town of homes with some farms and a few dairies. There were two boarding houses and the Wyckoff Hotel. "Trade in Wyckoff extended little beyond the blacksmith shops of James Voorhees, George Storms and Henry Winters, the feed mill of A. J. Mowerson [who also owned the "general store"] ... and the small butcher shop and traveling wagon market of Peter Van Houten." Later in 1925, "Development of the Franklin Avenue business section started ... when part of the original Van Voor Haze tract was sold to commercial interests."

Thank you, Marilyn. Her address is listed in *Who's Who*. The use and teaching of Dutch in the Reformed Churches to combat proselytizing is discussed by Randall H. Balmer, *A Perfect Babel of Confusion, Dutch Religion and English Culture in the Middle Colonies*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1989.

GOLF IS DUTCH

The following is quoted from the March 1996 Newsletter of The Holland Society of New York. It is pertinent to Edward Bok's argument that there are many things in our culture that are traceable to our ancestors, for which they receive no credit. The Holland Society of New York, 122 East 58th Street, New York NY 10022.

It took Robert Stenuit sixteen years to identify the four brass objects he found while excavating the *Lastrager*, a seventeenth-century Dutch trading ship bound for the East Indies that sank off of Scotland's Shetland Islands. They were used, the Belgian marine archaeologist finally realized, in a game called colf, once played on land and ice in the Netherlands. Players used a tipped stick to knock a ball from one point to another in as few strokes as possible. In other words, what Stenuit found were golf club heads.

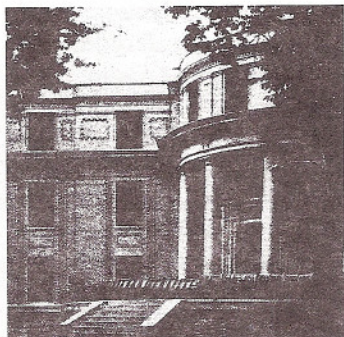
Golf first played in the fourteenth century was exported by the Dutch to Scotland. There it was called goff before

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it spread, first to the rest of Britain, then back to continental Europe as golf. Stenuit's discovery, reported in the International Journal of Nautical Archeology, sheds light on how the game was exported to the Far East.

The club heads, known in Dutch as colfsloffen, or golf slippers, probably belonged to an officer or passenger, Stenuit says. Their owner, he believes, hoped to find time to play a friendly game of colf while away from home.

VOORHEES HALL, COE COLLEGE



Voorhees Hall, Coe College,
Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

being used as a women's dorm.

The best information on them is the book *Ralph Voorhees and Elizabeth Rodman Voorhees: a Tribute*, by Oscar Voorhees, 1927, The Tribute Press, New York, 267 pages illustrated. [Ed., Dr. Oscar Voorhees was the founder of the Van Voorhees Association.]

Written by Mark Willey, 402 S. Matteson, Maquoketa IA.

Thank you, Mark.

VOORHEES COLLEGE

Another well known benefactor of Elizabeth and Ralph Voorhees' generosity is Voorhees College in South Carolina. We draw your attention to a new publication of the College, *The Voice*, which will be issued semi-annually for alumni, donors and friends of the College. It will be a good way to keep in touch with what is happening. Write to Voorhees College, Office of Institutional Advancement, 1411 Voorhees Road, Denmark SC 29042.

Thanks to Don Vorhis, our Past President, for sending us the first issue of *The Voice*.

OCTOBER REUNION

The 1996 Reunion will be on Saturday, October 12th, probably in the vicinity of New Brunswick NJ. Scott Voorhees, Chairperson of the Program Committee, will discuss agenda ideas at the Executive Committee meeting on April 27th. Details will be in the September Nieuwsbrief. In the interim, be sure to mark your calendars for October 12th.

DE BONTE KOE

Russ Vorhies has started building his model of De Bonte Koe, as reported in the January Nieuwsbrief. He still seeks information about the ship that brought Steven Coerts and family to New Netherland. Any one who has data about De Bonte Koe or a rendering of it could help Russ by sending them to him: Russell E. Vorhies, P.O. Box 431, Minatare NE 69356-0431.

While seeking information about De Bonte Koe, we wrote to the Holland Society of New York and received several helpful items. One of them was photocopied pages from De Bonte Koe, the Journal of the Ostrander Family Association. The object of the Ostrander Family Association is to perpetuate the memory and genealogy of the descendants of Pieter Pietersen Oostrander, who sailed from Amsterdam ... on 15 April, 1660 on the ship Bonte Koe ... with his parents and two sisters. The Pietersen Oostrander and Coerts Van Voorhees families were shipmates. The Ostrander Family Association can be contacted at: 133 School Street, Bradford PA 16701.

MILESTONES

Orlis (Dick) Voorhees passed on October 12, 1995 at the age of 79. He is the father of Scott Voorhees, Vice President of the Association, and is an uncle of Chief of Police Richard Z. Voorhees, who was our guest speaker in 1985. Dick was a veteran of World War II and served for several years on his local Selective Service Board. He received a Presidential citation upon retirement from the Board. Dick was also survived by his sister, Mildred V. Kananaugh, whose obituary follows in Milestones.

Elizabeth A. Teo, of Grand Rapids MI, was called on February 13, 1966 in her 50th year as the result of ALS. She is the daughter of Alice V. Adams, our Member-at-Large on the Executive Committee, and the great granddaughter of Dr. Oscar Voorhees, founder of the Association. Elizabeth also leaves her husband, Wesley; three sons, Bradley, Michael and Alan; brother, David C. Adams; sister, Melissa M. Adams; and uncles, Thomas T. Adams, Alan M. Voorhees and Ralph W. Voorhees.

Mildred V. Kavanaugh, of Pottersville NJ, passed on December 5, 1995 at the age of 92. She is survived by a daughter, Vera Wortman, and a son, Vincent. Mildred is an aunt of Scott Voorhees, Vice President of the Association.

Venit H. "Vee" Van Voorhis, of Phoenix AZ, died on December 7, 1995 at the age of 95. She leaves sisters Mildred Hook, Dorothy Meidell and Helen, and brother Leonard.

Edith M. Heflin, of Arlington VA, was called on February 3, 1996 in her 76th year. She leaves her husband, Stanley.

Beatrice Savage, of Kaneohe HI, passed on February 22, 1996. She leaves her husband, Roy.

Dorothy Van Doren Stokes, of Franklin NJ, died on February 29, 1996 in her 83rd year. She is the widow of Albert L. Stokes, our late Genealogist. Dorothy leaves two sons and a daughter.

THE SCHENCK HOUSES

Genalee Schooler, of Mocksville NC, draws our attention to two original Schenck houses that are on exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn NY 11238.

Jannetje Stevense Van Voorhees (#9 in The Van Voorhees Family) married Jan Martense Schenck. Our genealogy relates that Jan purchased "one-half of the mill and island on which it stood, in Flatlands, near Bergen's Island, on December 29, 1657". As related by Genalee, Jannetje and Jan built a house on Mill Island in or about 1675. This house is on display in the American Rooms of the Brooklyn Museum. Marvin D. Schwartz was responsible for the erection and furnishing of the Jan Martense Schenck House. The exhibit was completed in 1963.

The Nicholas Schenck House, built in 1755, is also on display at the Museum. He was a grandson of Jannetje and Jan (Nicholas is not carried in The Van Voorhees Family written by Elias W. Van Voorhis in 1888 or The Van Voorhees Family published in 1984 (the female lines have not been completely researched).

American Interiors 1675-1885, A Guide to the American Period Rooms in the Brooklyn Museum, published by the Museum in 1968, discusses these houses and includes color photographs of the rooms and furnishings. We wrote for a copy of the publication, or information about it, but received no response. Perhaps others will be more successful. In any event, be sure to visit the Brooklyn Museum when you are next in the New York City region.

Thank you, Genalee. Her address is: Mrs. E. Dean Schooler, 147 Lakeview Road, Mocksville NC 27028.

NEW NETHERLAND CONNECTIONS

A new Dutch-family oriented publication has been launched. The first issue is excellent and the future of New Netherland Connections is very auspicious, indeed. We recommend it to you. The cost is \$15.00 per year and it will be issued quarterly. Subscriptions can be obtained from Ms. Dorothy A. Koenig, Editor, 1232 Carlotta Avenue, Berkeley CA 94707-2707.

The inaugural issue discussed the Snedeker and Du Trieux (Walloons from the Netherlands) families, among other interesting articles plus a long genealogical queries section. Since our early ancestors married into many families, which became part of our lines, information such as this could be very helpful as well as educational.

A VISIT TO HEES

The following article was written by Freeda V. Luker. She was 83 when she visited Hees in the Fall of 1994 accompanied by a friend, presumably of the same general age. Freeda is a retired schoolteacher and a widow for thirteen years (in 1994). She suffers from a vision impairment; but, neither her eye problem nor her age holds her back from enjoying life to the fullest. Mrs. Freeda V. Luker, P.O. Box 15, La Belle MO 63447. Thank you, Freeda, for this article and your photograph.

The tour began in London. We crossed the English Channel by hydro-plane to Paris and continued on by bus through France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Germany and ended in Amsterdam, Holland. While in Holland, I rode the canals and saw old wind mills, visited a wooden shoe shop and watched them make shoes. (As we walked down Hees Road, we visited with one young farm girl who was actually wearing wooden shoes.)

After the tour ended, my friend and I stayed a couple of days extra so that I could take this side trip to Hees. That was a dream of many years come true for me. The only regret I have is that I didn't allow myself more time and stay in Ruinen and Hees a day or two so I could visit the old church [Ed., where Steven Coerts was probably baptized], cemeteries, etc., so I could have gathered more information.

We took the little electric train at the Amsterdam Airport at 12 noon to Hoogeveen, then got a taxi that took us directly to the Hees sign [Ed., the only marker for the hamlet of Hees]. He had a load of people and we were the last to be let off, so we spent a lot of time getting from Hoogeveen to Hees. We walked down the brick-paved street to the black-top Hees Road, continuing on for perhaps a mile hoping to see people to talk to. We did meet and talk with a few people who could speak and understand the English language (many could not). The ones we were able to converse with recognized the family name and knew where the farm was located. Anyway, just walking on the soil my ancestors left so long ago and having my picture taken by the Hees sign was a great thrill. This was a wonderful experience for me, something I have dreamed of doing for many years. I just wish everyone who is interested in our family history could take this trip some time.

I am a 7th generation direct descendant of Lucas Van Voorhees, son of Steven Coerts. He was ten years old when he came to America in 1660. The line reads as follows: Lucas Van Voorhees, Minna Van Voorhees, Garrett Van Voorhees, Peter Voorhees, Minna Voorhees, Peter Voorhees, Frederick Minna Voorhees and me. The Voorhees name of our particular line ended when my sister and I married, as neither my dad or his brother had sons. [Ed., Joyce Wilson, Freeda's daughter, says that Frederick Minna Voorhees, Freeda's father, was mayor of Newark MO when he died at the age of 92.]



VERBAL VOORHEES

by Carol B. Cole, Bountiful, UT

ACROSS

1. A salesman
4. A way to work the soil
7. Tips
12. Orange- or lemon
13. Slithery fish
14. Aweigh
15. Meats and cheese (and tomato, onion, and lettuce) on French or Italian bread
17. Ralph _____, consumer advocate
18. *My Country _____ of Thee*
19. Anagram of per
21. Before
22. Water (Spanish)
24. Romania
25. Tear down
26. Him and _____
27. Gambling establishment
29. He took over Voorhees in 1544

31. Large integer
35. Balanced
37. Tai
38. Aba _____ doo of Flintstones fame
41. _____ Ling, Chinese mountain range
42. Precipitation
43. Shoshonean language
44. Word augment meaning denoting son
45. _____ Vegas
46. Member
48. A tenant farmer like those at Hees
52. Voyant
53. The bill in a restaurant
54. Anger
55. James A. _____, U.S. actor
56. Rapid bustling movement
57. Two-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle

DOWN

1. One who reveals confidential information in return for money
2. Yeddo
3. Throw into disorder
4. Voor-, Middel-, and Achter-_____
5. Largest English dictionary, abbr.
6. Flees to marry
7. A distinct (usually flat) section or component of something
8. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet
9. Type genus of Ardeidae
10. Steven Coerts' son-in-law
11. A brief indulgence of your impulses
16. Cugat's sweetie
20. Area near Hees
22. I knew it!
23. Clear hair manager
24. An American whose first language was Spanish
25. Reagan's son
27. _____ Magnon, early man
28. Anagram of din
30. Environmental Protection Agency
32. Able to adjust readily to different conditions
33. A citizen of Thailand
34. Distant
36. Holy places
38. *Through a _____ Coor*
39. Dish
40. Part of Bombay state
42. British Air Aces
44. An open skin infection
45. Wolf (Spanish)
47. Wickedness
49. Radioactivity unit
50. A distinctive period of time
51. Confederate soldier

NEW MEMBERS

Tom Van Voorhies, our Membership Chairperson, reports that the following cousins have joined the Association as of March 24, 1996:

- Bruce Robert Clark, Waterloo IA
- Shelby Griswold Schavoir, Savannah GA
- Wheelock Whitney, III, New York NY ***
- T. Coerte Hutchinson, Pennington NJ
- Carol McNeil Holler, Springfield VA
- Betty L. Willis, Madison TN ***
- Judith Eckerson, Woodbridge VA
- Charleen P. McKinney, Maitland FL
- Marcia A. Van Arsdale, Galena OH
- Virginia B. Jordan, Blacksburg VA **
- Alexandra Marie Anderson, Costa Mesa CA
- Charles Douglas Hall, Lebo KS
- Robert C. Brownell, Normal IL

We welcome our new cousins as members of the Van Voorhees Association.

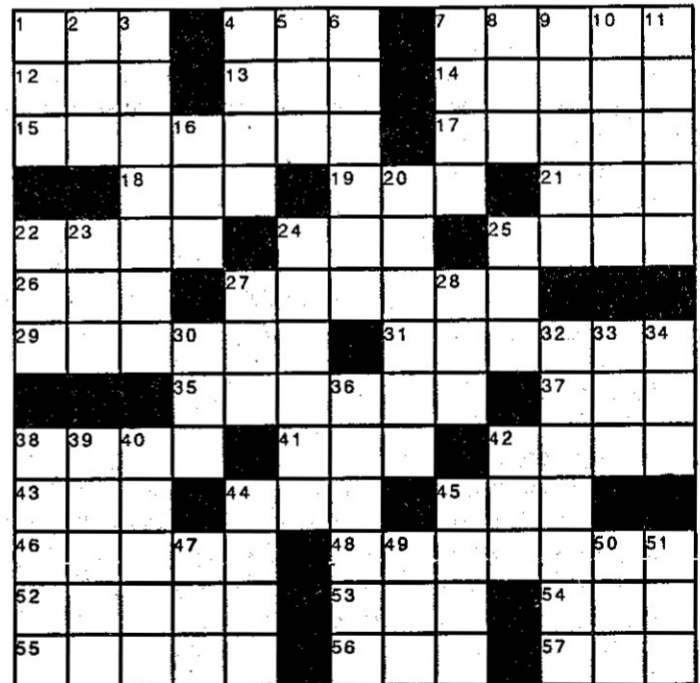
Key: Contributing Member ***

Sustaining Member **

NEXT NIEUWSBRIEF

The deadline for the September Nieuwsbrief is July 8th. Your Editor prepares the copy and sends his computer disk to Bob Van Voorhies who formats the pages. Bob's work is then sent to the printer. All of this takes time hence, the seemingly early deadline.

Please send material for articles to Manning Voorhees.



Your Nieuwsbrief can only be as interesting as you make it. Thank you.

YOUR DUES

Your 1996 dues are now payable. PLEASE DO NOT FORGET. Kindly utilize the dues coupon in this Nieuwsbrief and mail it with your check to Barney Ward, our Treasurer. His address is in Who's Who. Thank you very much.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ANSON AUGUSTUS VOORHEES ?

This article was written by Nick Voorhees, of Sarasota FL, who is seeking information about his great great uncle for a family history that he is writing. It is an interesting story. If you can help, please write to Nick at: A. E. Voorhees, 2712 59th Street, Sarasota FL 34243-2442. Thank you, Nick.

My great great grandfather Peter Voorhees was born October 23, 1791 in Brooklyn NY and married Elizabeth Bach who was born February 27, 1799, place unknown. They were married November 26, 1818, resided in Brooklyn and had seven children. We have information on only three of these children, my great grandfather, Judah Bach Voorhees, his brother, Peter. W. and his brother, my great great uncle, Anson Augustus Voorhees, their second child, who was born March 15, 1823.

We know very little about Anson Augustus Voorhees early upbringing or education, but he must have been well educated, including at least some college and probably a degree as he became what is described as the "Chief Carpenter" for the Chilean National Railroad system. This would probably be the equivalent of today's chief construction engineer or superintendent, definitely a position of responsibility requiring a substantial measure of education and ability. Family oral history says that he was responsible for the design and construction of much of the railroad system in Chile including bridges and the first steel railroad pier to be built on the west coast of South America, apparently so designed that railroad cars could be pushed out onto it for direct transfer of goods to and from ships. He was accompanied in Chile by his younger brother, Peter, who was Peter and Elizabeth's sixth child.

The next information we have about him is a letter from his superior, who apparently was head of the whole railroad company, which is copied below:

Santiago, Oct. 25th 1857
Peter Voorhees, Esq.

My Dear Sir

Your son Peter now with me here has requested me to write to you in reference to an accident which has happened to your son Anson. I would my dear sir that I could be relieved from the painful duty of writing to you of this accident, but I cannot and the truth must be told. On the 18th of this month your son Anson went to San Bernardo in the train with some of his companions to spend the day. Your son Peter rode his horse down to the same place distant ten miles from this city. Peter in not being much accustomed to horses told Anson that he had better ride his own horse home. Anson mounted and was riding at a canter from the Railway Station when some dogs ran out to bark at his horse. The horse shied and threw him off. His head struck the ground and his skull was fractured. He was taken up insensible, the train was immediately sent off to this city for my Doctor who went to him promptly, but found him the

same as when first thrown from his horse. He found that the base of the brain had been fractured and that there was no hope of his recovery. His friends and companions surrounded him ready to give any surcease assistance, but his case was out of the reach of man. In three hours from the time of the accident he breathed his last and his soul returned to the God who gave it.

On the second day we buried him in the Protestant burying ground of this city. All his companions and countrymen were at his funeral. I got the American Minister, Governor Bigler to read the funeral ceremony, everything was done with care and propriety. You son Peter, poor fellow, was almost heart broken. I am now going to have a monument erected to his memory by myself and his fellow workmen on this road. Peter wishes me to say that he will return home starting probably one month after this letter. Anson had a large amount of goods here. What Peter does not dispose of I will see sold, and the amount returned to you. I will at the same time return an acct. of his wages and funeral expenses as well as payment to him here.

We all feel his loss very severely, he was an honest sober and capable man who always took an interest in his work and his workmen. I cannot replace him on this whole coast, he is a great loss to me. I send you the enclosed notice of his death from one of the papers here and a translation of it. This I know will be a severe loss and shock to you, but God gave and God has taken away, the same thing may have happened to him at home.

With many feelings of sorrow in common with you on this occasion

I remain yours sincerely
W. W. Evans

An obituary, copied below, was published in the Santiago paper, El Pais, and at a later date was published verbatim in the Brooklyn Eagle which added a paragraph of its own enlarging on the original account. The account of his death was sent from Santiago to Brooklyn by sailing ship, probably around Cape Horn, the fastest available means in those days, but he had been dead for months before his family received the news.

(TRANSLATED FROM THE EL PAIS, CHILE, OCT. 20, 1857.)
Lamentable Death. On Sunday last, October 18, died from a blow received from a fall from his horse, Mr. Anson A. Voorhees, the Master Carpenter of the Southern Railway. Neither the zeal manifested by all the employees on the rail road, nor the assistance which was rendered him with the greatest possible promptitude, was of any avail. He ceased to exist three hours after the fatal accident had happened. This loss has made much impression on those persons who have had opportunities of knowing him. His probity and zeal in the discharge of his duties were proverbial. This disaster is the more to be lamented as it deprives the Southern Railway Company of Chile of one of its best servants.

The deceased was a resident of this city, where his parents reside. A brother was with him at the time of his death.

continued on page 10

Though in a foreign land, every thing was done to save his life, but of no avail. His remains were buried in the Protestant burying ground at Santiago, where the Episcopal services were performed by the United States Minister, Hon. Mr. Bigler. The Engineer and employees of the road intend to erect a suitable monument to his memory.

Anson never married. We know nothing of Peter except that he was with his brother in Chile and did return to the United States where he married Mary A. Snell in 1833. [Ed., 1863?] They had three children and resided in Brooklyn. His other brother, Judah Bach Voorhees, was married to Matilda H. Oakes and of their children only one, my grandfather survived. They named him Anson Augustus Voorhees in memory of his uncle.

Some years ago, my parents took a cruise around South America and when they stopped at Santiago they found an English speaking taxi driver who took them to the Protestant Cemetery and helped them find his grave.

I wish I knew more about this man, but these documents plus my recollections of things my father told me constitute my entire knowledge of him. He is one of our forbearers who led an interesting if short life and his accomplishments are certainly noteworthy.

If anyone reading this can provide any more information regarding him or his activities, I will deeply appreciate it.

AND THEN THERE ARE THOSE

The Voorheeses are an exceptional family, with large numbers of distinguished and successful members. That there were a few unfortunate, even disreputable, Voorheeses is shown in this item from the Newark Daily Advertiser of November 18, 1867: Emma Voorhees, a common vagrant and dissolute character, was brought into the police station by officer Brant, this morning, to answer to the familiar (to her) charge of vagrancy. While waiting to be taken into a cell, she made her way into the hall and with her fist smashed one of the large panes of glass in the door, in order, as she said, that she might be arrested for something. She was.

Emma was probably seeking shelter for the coming winter. Written by Donald A. Sinclair, 108 North 2nd Ave., Highland Park NJ 08904-2421. Thanks, Don.

MISSING COUSINS

We've received undeliverable mail addressed to the following members. If you know any of the current addresses, advise Judith Van Voorhis, whose address is in Who's Who.

Travis C. Morgan
201 High Meadows Blvd.,
#126
Lafayette LA 70507-3450

Mrs. Virginia B. Fairbanks
1918 E. Jefferson Blvd.
South Bend IN 46617 (a
Life Member)

Mrs. William E. White
2044 45th Street
Rock Island IL 61201-4916

Ms. Lois M. Skillman
1616 Pelton Park
Sandusky OH 44870

Mrs. Linda V. Moodie
1416 Kentburn
Bethesda MD 20814 (a Life
Member)

Mrs. Virginia V. Cole
3000 NE 48th St., #106
Fort Lauderdale FL 33308

Mr. Randell F. Voorhees
200 Merryweather
Grosse Pointe Farms MI
48236 (a Life Member)

Robert Van Voorhees
4130 Apollo Street
Houston TX 77018 (a Life
Member)

DANIEL VAN VOORHIS, SILVERSMITH

Elsa V. Hauschka, of Damariscotta ME, sent us an advertisement from the Maine Antique Digest for February 1996 showing a "silver teapot, circa 1790, by Daniel Van Voorhis, New York, Philadelphia, Princeton". The advertisement was inserted by Paul Maynard Antiques, P.O. Box 4141, Greenville DE 19807, telephone 610-388-6521. We mention the seller in the event that someone wishes to purchase his/her ancestor's handicraft.

The teapot is gorgeous. It has a shield and flower design on the side, a wooden handle (judging from the picture) and a small pineapple on the lid knob. Since one does not break up sets, there may be additional matching pieces.

William Voorhees, our cousin in Norcross GA who constructed the Association page on the Internet (see the first page of this Nieuwsbrief), received a query via the Internet about the silversmith Daniel Van Voorhis, said by the inquirer to be 1751-1824. A Daniel matching these dates and probable life description has not yet been added to the working draft of The Van Voorhees Family, Vol. II (the Fifth Generation). We are intrigued by the coincidence (or is it?) of the advertisement and the Internet inquiry. If any one has information about our silversmith ancestor, please send it to Manning Voorhees.

Thank you, Elsa, for the clipping.

INDIAN ARTIST

In the Spring 1995 Nieuwsbrief, Pat Zumwalt discussed several paintings of Indians hanging in the dining room of the Grand Portage Park and Indian Reservation at the Northeastern tip of Minnesota. They are signed Voorhees and Pat asked if any one had information about the artist.

Ed Voorhees, of Dallas TX, has responded. The artist is Ed's nephew, Jerry Voorhees, of Capistrano Beach CA. Jerry wrote to his uncle: *The paintings in Grand Portage were commissioned by Jeanne Steele, Project Designer for Jackie Franz Contract Interiors, Inc., for (at that time) the Radisson Inn, Grand Portage. It was the first Indian-owned hotel in the United States. At the time of my commission, Jan. 1975, the hotel was owned by the Grand Portage band of Chippewa Indians. All together I did 16 paintings. I used subject matter from several old photos I got from the designer. I painted in acrylic paint. It makes me feel good to know they are still being enjoyed.*

Jerry was raised in Glendale CA and graduated from Orange Coast College with an art degree in 1973. He devel-

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

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

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 1996 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.

oped an interest in acrylic painting during his high school days. In the early 1980's, Jerry developed a unique concept of a double image being an image within an image. This idea has become his trademark. His paintings being high contrast with blends and solids lends itself well to the silk screen process of printing. His work is primarily California scenic landscapes ranging from the desert to the ocean. [Quoting from a descriptive brochure.]

Edward Voorhees, 4224 Bendwood Lane, Dallas TX 75287-2703.

To quote the Los Angeles Times for March 1, 1996: The idea was to bring fighter tactics within viewing range of the public, to let them see how World War II was won, Voris said. Having flown in nearly every major South Pacific air campaign in the war, destroying eight Japanese aircraft along the way, Voris was regarded as a pilot with an impeccable flying record and so was chosen for the job. The rest is spectacular history. Butch is now 76 and lives in Monterey CA.

Robert Voorhies, of Newport Beach CA, sent us the Times article.

Thanks very much, Robert.

BUTCH VORIS

Did you know that the organizer of the Navy's Blue Angels is a cousin? Well, the answer is yes: Capt. R. M. Voris, known as Butch Voris, was picked by Adm. Chester Nimitz in 1946 to put together this world famous group of Naval fighter pilots. This year, obviously, marks the Fiftieth anniversary of the Blue Angels.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

Our record keeping system may not receive accolades from business scientists but it works pretty well... please send all new memberships directly to our Membership Chairperson, Tom Van Voorhies. His address is listed in Who's Who. That should put this essential information on the right track for our membership log, mailing list and Treasurer's records. Thank you.

WHEN YOU MOVE

PLEASE, when you move let us know send a note to Judith Van Voorhis, whose address is in Who's Who, with your new address. We receive many return copies of each Nieuwsbrief with new addresses marked by the Post Office, which then require remailing at considerable expense. Unfortunately, we also receive many returns that are undeliverable because the forwarding time has expired. These members are then usually lost forever. So, please remember the Van Voorhees Association when you are writing those Change of Address Notices. Thank you.

ALSO, please review your address label. We receive return mail if an 'i' is after an 'e' in the street address or if the house number is one digit away. This happens even if our mail has been correctly delivered to the same address for years.



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.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____
 VVA # _____

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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Van Voorhees Nieuws Brief



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 TOMS RIVER NJ 08755-0987

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
 2415 Spring Hill Drive
 Toms River, NJ 08755
 The VAN VOORHEES ASSOCIATION

