



Van Voorhees Nieuwsbrief

JANUARY 1997
Volume 15, Number 1

A Publication of the Van Voorhees Association, Organized in 1932
Copyright © 1997 and All Rights Reserved by the Van Voorhees Association

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

These are Manning Voorhees' comments on the State of the Association at the October 12, 1996 Reunion.

You read in the September *Nieuwsbrief* about the delay in publishing Volume II of our genealogy. I will not review this now except to say that the delay, in retrospect, has proved to be constructive. An enormous amount of material emerged from Al Stokes' attic. He was Florence Christoph's predecessor. If we had sent Volume II to the printers, it clearly would have been deficient relative to the considerable information that was near at hand but not known to us.

Volume II will embrace the first through sixth generations, and will include children of the seventh. There will also be a revision of the first generation, which now comprises Volume I. Our target for publishing Volume II is around the year 2000 — which is only a little over three years from now [i.e., October 1996]. This is a short time to wait for a genealogy of this scope.

We realize that the name "Volume II" for this publication will not be descriptive of its true content since the book will include a revision of Volume I. Thus, we are experimenting with a new title: *Van Voorhees Family in America, Generations 1-7, Second Edition*. Your reaction will be appreciated.

All organizations need goals to be successful. We are no exception. The Van Voorhees Association at this time has two overriding goals: first, to publish *Van Voorhees Family in America* in a timely manner and second, to increase the attendance at our Reunions.

With respect to the first goal, Bill Lydecker's Genealogical and Historical Committee is operating at top speed. Bob Voris, who manages our publication effort, is clearing the deck for publication of *Van Voorhees Family in America*.

There are a host of details, activities and arrangements plus the recruitment of volunteer help involved in publishing a genealogy that could run between 1,000 to 1,500 pages. In this regard, David Voorhees has assumed the role of administrative coordinator between the two committees: Genealogical and Publications.

continued on page 2

NEW ENGLAND REGION MEETING

October 27, 1996 was big day in Leominster MA. Adrienne Haney, our New England Regional Organizer and member of the Genealogical and Historical Committee, and some twenty cousins from the New England states met for their fourth annual meeting. The *Sentinel & Enterprise* for November 1st printed a long report of the successful meeting together with a photo of the group.

Adrienne arranged for two speakers. Richard Eastman, a genealogist and author of *Your Roots*, talked about using the Internet for genealogical work. Mr. Eastman discussed publishing genealogies on the Internet and on computer CD's rather than in traditional hard copy format. The first step is to subscribe to an on-line service or Internet provider. There are several genealogical forums on these services and providers. Mr. Eastman used a computer to illustrate his discussion.

Laurie Door, a preservation consultant with Creative Memories, of Brookline NH, spoke about using the proper materials to preserve family photographs. They should be kept in an album made for archival storage and stored vertically. Albums familiarly known as magnetic can turn pages brown as they contain reactive chemicals that can affect the photographs. Plastic protective sheets should be mylar or polypropylene, and not polyvinyl chloride. Ziploc plastic bags will preserve old photographs.

Marion McNiece, Adrienne's mother of New London CT, makes quilts from articles of clothing and other items that

continued on page 2

INSIDE...

1997 Reunion.....	Page 3
The Voorhees Genealogy	Page 4
What's With the Grandchildren	Page 10
Luke Voorhis.....	Page 12
Daniel Wolsey Voorhees	Page 13
Voorhees Word Search	Page 14

CALENDAR

Executive Committee Meeting
April 26, 1997
Annual Reunion
October 11, 1997

GELUKKIG NIEUWJAAR!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MILESTONES

Edna Voorhees Dawson, of Vernon VT, was called on September 7, 1996 in her 90th year. Edna is the daughter of the Rev. Dr. Edward Dawson and Sarah Voorhees Dawson of the Jan Line. Sarah was a founding member of the Association and was Vice President in 1935. She was pictured in the New York Times of June 2, 1935 with other officers of the Association as part of an article that reported upon the Annual Meeting of that year. Edna is survived by her cousin, Sally Meagher of Closter NJ.

Harold E. Van Voorhis, of Ocala FL, passed last year in his 78th year. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, sons Harold Jr. of Webster FL and Bruce of Ashby MA, brothers Robert of Preston Hollow FL, Milton of Salida CO and Homer of Saugerties NY, sister Beverly Ringwald of Coeymans Hollow FL, three grandsons, a granddaughter and two great grandsons.

Sibyl Van Voorhees, of Honolulu HI, was called on July 21, 1995. She is the mother of Paul D. Van Voorhees, also of Honolulu HI.

Mary Elizabeth Van Voorhees, of Indianapolis IN, passed on February 11, 1996. Mary is the step-mother of Paul D. Van Voorhees, of Honolulu HI.

President's Commentary -- continued from page 1

Van Voorhees Family in America is our paramount challenge. I am sure you will agree that it is monumental goal.

The forthcoming genealogy will entail a very sizeable financial outlay at the front-end for printing and related costs. Our genealogical activity is largely financed by spending our invested principal. I have talked about this before — there is no basic change in the financial picture. For the forthcoming fiscal year, we have budgeted \$10,000 for Florence Christoph's activity. The recent appeal for genealogical donations was not successful. Nonetheless, we will try again to raise money.

With respect to the second goal, reunion attendance, I feel that a large attendance is necessary to create a positive atmosphere relative to the heavy outlay in volunteer time and money required to produce *Van Voorhees Family in America*. A large group of enthusiastic cousins will make it all worth while. A small group could generate the opposite, negative result.

Thus, this year we will try something new. We will visit our original roots — Six Mile Run. Any perusal of our history will quickly reveal that the Voorhees family was well represented among the Dutch families in and around Six Mile Run during the 17th and 18th centuries. It is located a few miles west of New Brunswick, New Jersey. We will have a presentation on the Flatbush Church Records of the 17th and 18th centuries, which include many references to the Voorhees family.

-- Manning W. Voorhees

Dr. Gerald E. Vorhies, of Sebring OH, died on September 2, 1996. He retired from active medical practice in Scio OH some twenty years prior to his death. Gerald is survived by his wife of Sebring OH and son, Mark Barnes of Littleton CO.

THE BUTTLERS

We regret to report the recent deaths of Bob Buttler and his wife, Margaret. Bob served as our Treasurer for sixteen years until 1993. He was called in his 81st year on September 1, 1996. Bob was an electrical engineer for Johnson & Johnson for more than forty-five years and was a consultant to J & J for several years thereafter. Bob succumbed to mesothelioma, a cancer of the lung lining caused by asbestos.

Meg was called on November 23, 1996 in her 82nd year. She and Bob were married for more than fifty-five years. Meg was a physics librarian at Rutgers University before retiring in 1982. Meg and Bob resided in Metuchen NJ. They are survived by sons Peter of Medfield MA and George of Poughkeepsie NY, daughter Penelope Berliner of New York City and a sister, Martha Koehler of Neptune NJ.

We will miss Bob and Meg. They were hard workers for the Association and could always be counted upon for assistance and support. We will remember them fondly.

ANSWERS TO GRANDPA'S QUIZ

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 10. True | 9. True |
| 8. True | 7. False |
| 6. True | 5. True |
| 4. False | 3. False |
| 2. True | 1. False |

Visit the Van Voorhees Association
web site on the Internet at:

<http://akorn.net/~voorhees>

Courtesy of William R. Voorhees, of Bloomington IN.

New England Regional Meeting -- continued from page 1

have particular meaning. Marion demonstrated a quilt that she made for a daughter's wedding. It contained cloth from the drapes of a first apartment, as an example. Friends at a bridal shower signed the muslin and Marion wrote the names of family members and famous ancestors on white squares.

Ceci Van Voorhis, of Newmarket NH, said, "Everyone should keep in touch with family. They should know where they came from; it teaches them history." Adrienne's regional success certainly keeps the family "in touch" with one another.

Information and quotation have been taken from an article in the November 1, 1996 issue of the Sentinel & Enterprise, serving North Central Massachusetts. Permission has been obtained from the Sentinel & Enterprise to reproduce their photograph of the meeting.

1997 REUNION

We will gather at Six Mile Run on Saturday, October 11, 1997. This is very old Van Voorhees country. Many of our ancestors lived, farmed, worshiped and were interred in and around Six Mile Run. We are pleased that our host will be the Six Mile Run Reformed Church, which is located on Route 27 (the old Lincoln Highway) in the Franklin Park area of Franklin Township in Somerset County, New Jersey. It is roughly ten miles west of New Brunswick

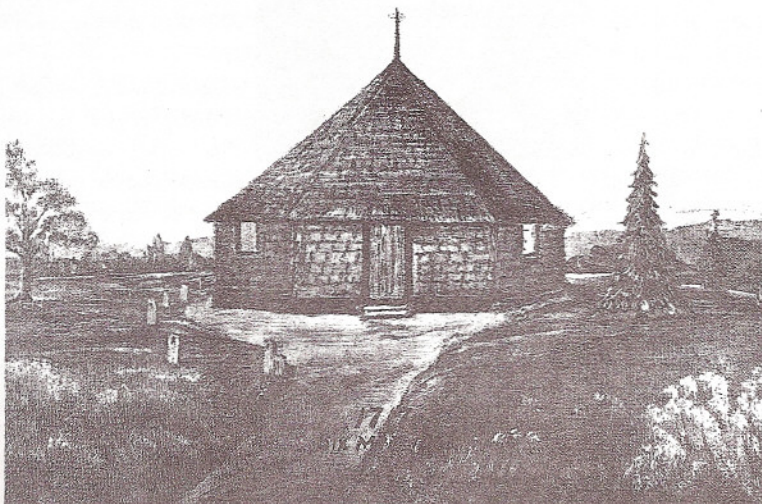
Dr. Walton Van Winkle will talk to us about the Flatbush Church Records. Walton is chairman of The Holland Society committee that translated the Dutch baptismal, marriage and death records of the Flatbush Dutch Reformed Church dating from the late 1600's and early 1700's. There are many references to and information about the Van Voorhees family in these Records. Dr. David William Voorhees, a member of the Association, assisted with the project. Volume I of this work will be published in the near future.

The Six Mile Run Reformed Church will complement Walton's theme. The Congregation dates from 1703 and was organized by Dutch and Huguenot settlers. The present structure housing the sanctuary was constructed in 1879 — the building was originally put together with pegs. A Parish Hall

with meeting facilities was added in 1958. A rendition of the six-sided church in 1717 is reproduced on this page. Pastor David Risseeuw will briefly discuss the church's history. An original baptismal record dating from 1743 is one of the Congregation's prize possessions. It was translated from the Dutch around 1900 and "Voorhees" appears on most of the pages. Hopefully, we will be able to view it.

The Reunion Committee is studying optional activities for the afternoon. There may be one or more historic houses that

we can tour. Our Genealogical Workshop will be available in the morning and afternoon. There are several historic cemeteries in the immediate area: Middlebush (or Cedar Grove), South Middlebush, Voorhees-Nevius, Pleasant Plains, Three Mile Run and Elm Ridge. Some are readily accessible, such as Middlebush, and one or two are totally unaccessible — South Middlebush, for example. The Committee will provide maps and lists of Voorhees' that are interred in each cemetery for those



Six Mile Run Church in 1717

who wish to visit them where possible. More information about the optional activities, which will be on a self-guided basis, will be in future issues of the *Nieuwsbrief*.

Mark your calendars — October 11, 1997.

MISSING COUSIN

Mail has been returned as undeliverable for: Mrs. Joan Voorhees Moore 4689 Country Road, Canandaigua, New York 14424-9501.

If you know Joan's current address, or you live in her area and can telephone her, please write to Judith Van Voorhis with the new address. Judith's address is in Who's Who (she lives in Niskayuna NY, not Toms River NJ).

WHEN YOU MOVE

Please send a notice of your new address to Judith. When the forwarding period expires after you move, the Post Office will return your mail to us with no indication of your new address. Thereafter, you will be lost ever unless another member knows where you are. Thank you.

CALVIN KRAPF

ASSOCIATION TREASURER

Calvin Krapf volunteered to succeed Barney Ward as our Treasurer. Pursuant to the By-Laws, Manning Voorhees appointed Calvin to the remaining one year of Barney's two year term. We are very appreciative of Calvin's willingness to serve as Treasurer and thank him very much. His address is listed in Who's Who.

BY LAW CHANGES

The By Law changes set forth in the September *Nieuwsbrief* were approved by the membership at the October 12, 1996 Annual Meeting held during the Reunion of that day.

THE VOORHEES GENEALOGY

by Florence Christoph, Certified Genealogist

This is the complete text of Florence Christoph's presentation at the October 12, 1996 Reunion. Her address is listed in Who's Who. Through out the speech Florence used an overhead projector to show copies of original documents and portraits to illustrate her talk. After lunch a complete copy of the current version of the total Van Voorhees Genealogy was available for all to see. It contained 3,800 pages including a detailed index. The data embraced all generations since Steven Coerts. The depth of Florence's computer print-out was remarkable, to say the least. We are very proud to have Florence as our Genealogist and we very much appreciate her efforts and interest in our Family. We also appreciate very much the efforts of Judith Van Voorhis with her invaluable assistance given to Florence.



I started in genealogy as a hobby and I have been working on my own family for over 30 years, tracing both female and male lines back to the 16 and 17 hundreds. On my father's side I descend from the Palatine Germans who arrived in New York in the early 1700's. When I asked my mother what she was, she would say, "I'm Irish, Scotch and Dutch," to which my father would reply, "That doesn't amount to much."

I have no Voorhees ancestors even though all of my ancestors arrived in America before 1800. Several Voorhees families lived in the same townships as my Scotch-English ancestors but they never intermarried. Families lived in social and ethnic groups and often those stubborn Scotch and Germans would not intermarry with the Dutch.

For the past thirteen years I have been the genealogist for the Friends of Schuyler, Mansion and we have published two volumes of records. Having researched over 6,000 Schuyler's, and many other families, when Bill Lydecker asked if I would work on the Voorhees family I assumed it would be similar to the Schuyler project. Well, genealogy is genealogy but then there is the Van Voorhees family. Today I would like to tell you what I have been doing with the Voorhees records and what they contain.

I met with Al Stokes in 1993 and he gave me thirteen binders of Voorhees records which he had compiled. This was equivalent to the Schuyler family and didn't seem overpowering. A year later David Voorhees contacted Mrs. Stokes and asked if there were any more Voorhees records in her home. Indeed there were. David Voorhees picked up 25 grocery boxes of papers and several more binders. David's van was stuffed full. To get the material back to my house, Bill Lydecker filled his station wagon and we filled the trunk and back seat of my car. Bill's car actually overheated carrying the load up the Catskill mountains. Six months later Bill Lydecker said he was about to pick up a few more boxes from the home of Steve Shyers. This brought the total to over 40 boxes plus 23 binders that Mr. Stokes had arranged.

I am sure that most of you know what happens to newspaper and tablet paper that has been stored in ordinary conditions for any amount of time. They become musty and sometimes moldy. The 40 boxes of Voorhees records were no exception. Some of the records were arranged in binders which were falling apart and file folders that were crumbling. Many of the binders and boxes were musty and moldy and some of the paper is very fragile. A great deal of the material is on ordinary tablet paper that is over fifty years old.

Fortunately Judith Van Voorhis, who lives about twenty miles from me, called and asked if there was anything she could do to help. She said she could come to my house once a week and do any kind of sorting or arranging. Did I have a job for her!

The only place I could put forty-five boxes of material was in our basement, which is not the cheeriest place. The ceiling is a little low and one has to beware of knocking one's head on cast iron pipes, but Judith spent hours down there placing the records in new file folders and new boxes and arranging them by decade. On warm days she worked in our back yard where the air was easier to breathe. The smell of old paper can overcome you in a small area. Most of the records were in better shape than the file folders and boxes they were stored in. Thanks to Judith the mildew problem has virtually been solved.

We have a book room in our basement which is lined with plastic and a light bulb is kept burning at all times to prevent mold. The Voorhees collection is now stored in that room. We have had books stored there for eight years without any problems so I believe that the material should not be effected by dampness.

After sorting and arranging the material Judith and I have concluded that it represents the records collected by the Van Voorhees Association since 1932, plus some material of Elias Van Voorhis from the 1880's. Instead of a variety of sizes of grocery boxes the collection is now filed in twenty five banker's boxes. We did not purchase archival quality boxes and file folders since the collection still needs further sorting and labeling.

From the Elias period we have two copies of the 1888 genealogy and thirteen bound books with church records, marriage records, etc., in Elias's handwriting, all from original records. Judith Van Voorhis located another small book of Elias's records at the Library of Congress and we have a Xerox copy of that. We have not found any of Elias's correspondence or notes. There are a number of letters from people who state that they have letters which Elias sent to their parents or grandparents. There are also statements that the personal collection of Elias Van Voorhis was purchased and deposited at Rutgers University in the 1930's. I visited the

Rutgers library this morning and found nothing from Elias.

Soon after the publication of *The Ancestry of William Roe Voorhees* in 1881 Elias began to receive letters from Voorhees descendants giving the names of their parents and grandparents, telling where they lived and asking if they could be connected to the family. By 1883 he had collected over 2000 additional names. He corresponded with all the members of the family whose names he found. In the 1888 edition Elias states, "I thought it advisable to publish what I have collected in the hope that some other members of the family may sometime in the future take up the project and bring it to a fuller completion for the benefit of the Van Voorhees posterity." It's amazing to think that this thick volume was produced in seven years. Elias hoped that some day even more records could be published.

More than forty years later Oscar Voorhees and other members of the family organized the Van Voorhees Association with the expressed purpose of publishing an updated genealogy. The boxes of material we have now begin with Oscar's efforts and represent the work of the Association since it was organized sixty-four years ago. Financial records indicate that many people gave money for the publication of the book.

Oscar Voorhees worked on the project for fifteen years. Like Elias, he corresponded with many descendants. He gave speeches to promote the project and hired typists to help organize the records. A sister of Judith Van Voorhis was one of the typists hired by Oscar, and Judith has found letters in the collection written by her parents.

Oscar had forms printed on which members could enter their family names. Most of the forms list the submitter's parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles. There are over three hundred forms compiled in the 1930's. They are sometimes hard to read as the ink has faded. Some of them list family records back to the 1700's. These records may not be 100 percent correct, but most genealogists would be delighted to have just one form like this for their ancestors. Many of these forms were filled out by people over the age of 60 listing the names of their grandparents who were born in the 1700's. Wouldn't it be nice to have the letters sent to Elias in the 1880's?

A second form was developed by Oscar in the 1940's. Apparently Oscar used this form to enter family records from letters he received from Voorhees descendants. Most of the forms are typed by volunteers; however, there are a significant number that were submitted in the handwriting of a descendant. Forms like this were used up to the 1970's. Copies of these forms would be sent to descendants asking them to review and update the material. Letters were often attached to the forms. Catharine Voorhees writes in 1942: "Dear Mr. Van Voorhees. I was surprised to get a letter from you not knowing you. I am glad to make your acquaintance. I did not know there was such a large family. I do not know the lives of my ancestors very well but remember my mother saying that grandfather's name was William Castle Van Voorhees and I am pretty sure he was born in NY State. I was about 12 when he passed away." It's interesting to read an

assortment of letters written between 1932 and 1996. Styles of writing change from generation to generation.

There are over 1,000 of these forms. There were up to five copies of many of them. Judith has sorted through all of them discarding the duplicates and arranging them by numbers which Oscar had assigned to them. Besides these forms we have hundreds of letters written to Oscar Voorhees. Many of them contain a statement such as: "here are my family records. I hope they arrive in time to be included in your book", or "Here is a donation to the project in hopes that the book will be published soon."

From the letters and forms, Oscar produced a manuscript and came close to publishing his work. His style is similar to that of Elias. He gives brief biographies of the head of families after which is listed the names of their children. Like Elias, Oscar listed no sources for any of his material. Reading his manuscript, you have no clue as to where Oscar got his information from or the fact that he corresponded with so many people.

There were several copies of Oscar's manuscript which Judith has organized. Looking at the forms he used to arrange the material, the hundreds of letters he received, copies of his manuscript in various stages of completion, I realize how burdened Oscar must have been trying to arrange and organize the material.

Many factors influenced his work. A letter sent to members of the Van Voorhees Association dated December 1945 begins: "In 1944, partly because of the war and partly because of lack of funds, active work on the family genealogy had to cease. Much correspondence has continued however and new families have joined. We have nineteen loose leaf books filled with data respecting the Van Voorhees clan. It is hoped that by 1946 we will be able to employ clerical assistance and go to work actively until the book is completed."

As you all know, this never happened. There is a series of letters dated 1947 which bring the work of Oscar to an end. He states, "I am having difficulty reading and preparing to have cataract surgery after which I shall return to my beloved project and push the work." Oscar died in 1947 at the age of eighty three. Oscar was born in 1864. Elias was born in 1844. The work of these two men represent oral history and tradition back to the Revolution. Official records copied by them trace the family back to Holland.

Maude Voorhees continued the work of Oscar. She corresponded with descendants and compiled forms but there is no evidence of her adding to the manuscripts. Maude worked on the project for eleven years. Records state that progress was slow indeed and in 1958 a decision was made to publish only the first four generations, in hopes that something could finally be in print.

In 1961, thirty years after Oscar began the project, and seventy three years after Elias, the association hired Mr. Harold Hazelton, assistant librarian at the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, to take up the project. It was hoped that in a year or two the first volume would be ready for publication.

Rather than continuing Oscar's manuscript, Mr. Hazelton

went back to the family origins, typing sets of family records using the records of Oscar and Elias, and began to document their work. For each entry Mr. Hazelton added the place of baptism, burial, marriage, etc. He must have spent many hours at the NYG&B, The Long Island Historical Society and the New York Public Library. He also used the correspondence and the work sheets compiled by Oscar Voorhees. On any sheet some of his sources might be "Abstracts of NY Wills, pencil notes in NYG&B, copy of the Van Voorhees genealogy 1888, Documentary History of Oyster Bay, and volumes of NYG&B records." Attached or on the back of these sheets Mr. Hazelton would add abstracts of wills, deeds and census records.

I have found over 600 titles cited by Mr. Hazelton, plus hundreds of references to volumes of the NYG&B Record, the Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey, census records, church records, cemetery records, etc. This would obviously require that he read each of the items and he must have spent hours analyzing the records. Mr. Hazelton had a unique style of writing between lines and along the margins. The ink has faded and the paper has yellowed. It helps to work with his records as a group. Reading only his writing over a few weeks makes it easier to decipher.

Donald Sinclair also abstracted many deeds, wills, and newspaper items. Mr. Hazelton attached copies of these abstracts to his records of the family. There are over one thousand sheets of Mr. Hazelton's organized genealogical records and another thousand arranged alphabetically by first name. These alphabetical sheets are apparently Voorhees descendants whom he could not identify. There's an even larger collection of his records arranged geographically. These include census records, articles from county histories, cemetery records, church records, etc. Many of these records are typed; it is hard to tell if they were copied by Donald Sinclair, Harold Hazelton or others working on the project, but they appear to have been organized by Mr. Hazelton.

Mr. Hazelton spent eleven years at the project. He never produced a manuscript suitable for publication but added significantly to the Voorhees Collection. He resigned in 1972.

The records of Elias, Oscar, Mr. Hazelton and Donald Sinclair produced a library of Voorhees material. Apparently when Mr. Stokes took over the project in 1975 he was given the entire collection as it has been passed along from Oscar to Maude to Mr. Hazelton. During his twenty years of work Mr. Stokes attempted to sort through the records of his predecessors and arrange the records in loose-leaf binders. Like Mr. Hazelton, Mr. Stokes started with the family of Coert Stevens. He attempted to file all records of a particular family group together including some of the family group sheets that I have displayed, records from Oscar, Mr. Hazelton and Donald Sinclair, letters from people he corresponded with, copies of Bible records, and other family records.

After nine years of work Mr. Stokes was able to produce a genealogy of the first four generations what was published in 1984. He then continued to sort the papers. Although Mr. Stokes had assembled eighteen binders, containing information on the first eight generations, there were twenty five gro-

cery boxes of material left to be sorted and organized.

Some of Oscar's manuscript was in the binders, some in the boxes. The same was true for the family group sheets compiled by Oscar and the records of Mr. Hazelton and copies of Donald Sinclair's work. I am sure many of you have spent days trying to sort your financial records in order to prepare your income tax. You spread papers all over a table and attempt to find just the paper you want, only to have it disappear a few moments later. Now can you imagine having twenty five boxes and eighteen binders of material? The first problem is simply finding a place to store it and then attempting to organize it, using tablet paper, pen and ink. There was no guide to the collection and no index to the binders. Each binder was labeled as Coert, Albert, Lucas or Jan. Each individual was labeled by his line of descent and assigned a number.

There are over seven hundred people named John Voorhees, with a variety of spellings. Some were born in the same year and month, many with no specific year or month and many with no specific place. It is no wonder that no one has been able to sort the collection and identify each individual person, using only paper and pen.

Records do not state when Steve Shyers began to computerize the material. Steve had taken the 1984 genealogy and entered all of the data into his program and then added any information he received from descendants. He gave me a copy of his computer records which contained over ten thousand names. Steve's boxes of records contained correspondence with hundreds of individuals.

Computerized genealogical programs have been around for nearly twenty years. However, the early ones were rather limited, there was no room for documentation or editorial comment. The computer records I received from Steve were like Elias's and Oscar's handwritten records — they included no documentation.

Where are we now? What have I done with the collection and what is the future of the project as I see it?

There are a lot of records!!! I tried to continue to add to Mr. Stokes' binders, and arrange the records by generation as he had, but the process was too involved and too slow. One would have to look through several binders, filled with hundred of pages, attempting to locate where a document should go. Judith and I would find copies of the same document throughout the collection. Forms compiled from the '30's to the '70's were found in correspondence files and it took a lot of work to determine which were duplicates.

I have decided to arrange the collection by form and date and let the computer arrange the families by generation and family. Mr. Hazelton's notes are filed together, Oscar's manuscript and forms are together and the correspondence is gathered by the year in which it was sent. This is how Judith has been able to identify duplicates and reduce the size of the collection. Eventually each file folder will contain a limited amount of material, labeled with the name of the submitter, the Voorhees group being researched, the dates and type of material. Journals will be filed together as will Bible records, census records etc. We plan to develop a guide to the collec-

tion and with the use of a computer we should be able to locate documents by box and file folder. The collection will be a library of Voorhees information and we should be able to retrieve any single document and make copies for people who wish to have them.

I discussed the situation with Manning Voorhees and Bill Lydecker and we agreed that there was no need for me to go to libraries and court houses to look for records since we have thousands of items already collected. It was also decided that I would not concentrate on any particular time period or group of people. Some sheets of paper contain information on several generations. I work with them integrating all of the information on each page and attempting to identify all of the people mentioned in the collection.

I began with Steve Shyers's computer records and proceeded to work backwards, going next to the binders of Mr. Stokes. All of those records organized by Mr. Stokes and Mr. Hazelton have been entered into the computer. This represents over thirty years of the collection. Mr. Hazelton provided a lot of documentation for Steve Shyers's and Mr. Stokes's work. Half of the collection has now been computerized. I have completed a box of genealogies of specific branches of the family submitted by members of the Association. These are usually well documented. While sorting through the collection of records I pulled out anything that contained significant items such as Bible records, cemetery records, wills, deeds, birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates. A box of these has been entered. Many times people disagree with each other and many give no documentation for their conclusions. Using the sets of church records, census records, etc., in the collection I can document records and solve problems. As names are identified a check mark is placed by the entry. I periodically go back over those files to see what names are left and if they can be identified. I also have a personal library of genealogical reference books. With my library and the Van Voorhees collection, a computer and the help of Judith Van Voorhis the work progresses rapidly. Working backwards in time I am now working with the records collected by Oscar Voorhees. The very early family information sheets are completed. Judith has catalogued these group sheets and made a computer index. This winter I will work on the large collection of Oscar's group sheets and then compare my computer files to Oscar's manuscript. I expect that the material in his manuscript will be the same as the material in his group sheets and should not take long to compare.

Mr. Stokes did not include a list of unidentified Voorhees families in his publication. I have entered these people and labeled them "unknown." I also have a list of individuals from the 1700's who are not identified and constantly check that list when a problem arises. I expect there are still many answers buried in the Voorhees collection and hope they will identify most of the unknowns. The computer program allows me to mark family groups that need further research or records that appear to be incorrect. Rather than spending hours trying to solve difficult problems, I mark them for future research and try to indicate what the problem is.

The computer speeds the work since nothing has to be

retyped and each name is indexed as it is entered. However the Voorhees family is so large that even a computer has problems. I have had to update my computer three times in order to keep up with the growing number of Voorhees names. I have added a larger hard drive to hold more material, twenty meg. of RAM so that the computer can deal with more records at one time, and I have added more speed to make the program go faster. Last year it took twenty-six hours for the machine to prepare the descendants of Coert for publication. This year, although the project was bigger, the computer did the work in four hours. Computers are advancing and I am trying to keep up.

While working together I discovered that Judith was also a math major in college but instead of teaching she went into computers. Not only can she sort papers but she can arrange data on computer spread sheets. Judith and I spent time examining new computer software looking for a program that would hold all of the records and provide the best way to document the project.

After working with "Roots Three" for over ten years it was not easy to change but Judith and I feel that the new program called "The Master Genealogist" is more suited to our project. Judith has saved me hours of work by learning the sorting and organizing aspects of the program, making lists of people born in a particular time period, sorting the 41,000 names by date of birth, place of birth, etc. Those of you who work with computers know that it can take a long time to learn all of the things a computer program can do. I really don't enjoy reading computer manuals. Thank goodness Judith understands them better than I do.

**People who specialize
in researching Dutch families
believe that the Voorhees family
is the largest.**

The number of names grows larger every day. Last year I supplied the Association with 27,000 names and two thousand pages of records. This year there are nearly 41,000 names and three thousand eight hundred pages. This does not mean that there are 41,000 Voorhees descendants. These names include the names of spouses and in-laws. Females are indexed with their maiden names and their married names.

Even with the computer some decisions have to be made to keep control of a project this size. When dates of birth are not known I am assigning dates, assuming that a person was married at the age of 20, that their first child was born a year after the parents married, and succeeding children were born two years apart. This places them in the correct century and hopefully in the correct decade. With nearly 700 John Voorheeses I have to have an estimate as to what century and decade the person was born in. With the computer I can easily enter information on what college he attended, where he is buried, etc.

Picking up folder after folder, I have become an arm-chair traveler. Some days I am in Oklahoma in the 1870's and Louisiana in the 1690's. The next sheet may be a family in the

1990's. Without leaving my house I have traveled with the Voorhees throughout the fifty states, into South America, Europe and Japan. It's an adventure through the history of the family and our country.

The records give one not only a record of a person's genealogy but how he lived and sometimes what he looked like and how he talked. There are not only thousands of genealogical records, but also photographs, copies of portraits, journals, personal letters with the ever occurring statement, "I hope my records arrive in time to be included in your publication". The following are examples of personal items in the collection.

This advertisement gives an example of writing in the 18th century:

"to be sould by way of poublick vendue to the hiest bidder at the house of Andrew Voorhees, living on fox hill, near captin Solomons, to be hield the forth, day of march next: to nich horses, cattles, a filed of greene. wheat and improvements. The vandue to begin at ten a clock of the said day weare the conditions of the vandue will be made none at the place and day of sail and attendance giving by me Andrew Vorhees February 25,"

By the spelling of the words we can get an idea of how he talked and by the description of the land we know something about his life style.

An item from an old Dutch Bible, which was marked on a loose leaf, "Peter Van Voorhees his book 1800":

"He was a very fine looking man and dignified in manners. He had high moral standing and controlling Christian principals. He wore velvet breeches, and a large silver buckles at his knees and in his stock. Waistcoat to the hips and large metal buttons. The coat had many little capes which protected his shoulders. Black soft hat and a 3 cornered Cambric. Shirts ruffled, crimped by hand with a knife blade."

An artist could paint a picture of Peter Voorhees from this description.

Records of one Stephen Voorhees, who was born in 1787, say:

"He built a home near that of his father. Stephen maintained a Christian home and it was a haven of rest and peace, always room for cousins and friends. Stephen was wise in the laws of wind and weather and forecasted weather conditions days ahead. He was a squire and his friendliness and wisdom were sought by."

From a journal concerning a wagon train led by A. H. Voorhees, 1864:

"I give you a brief sketch of this remote country through which our train passes from Omaha to the Big Horn river where we will prospect for gold. The country is unsurveyed, along the road are some ranches to accommodate travelers to Fort Laramie. A tide of immigrants from the eastern states is flowing towards the gold

regions. We saw the remains of ancient castles, their decaying turrets and towers broken, moss covered walls remind me of the ancient ruins of the old world. (Wouldn't you like to know what he is talking about?) We went though Pawnee and Sioux territory, The Pawnee are more of a nuisance than a dangerous enemy. They are great beggers and thieves. The Sioux are still powerful and are friendly toward the whites. They know the value of a greenback. We formed a wagon train for protection and we have 418 men, 10 women, 10 children, 124 wagons, 112 horses, 68 mules, oxen, 70 cows and 20 dogs. Our train stretches out nearly two miles. The men are armed with guns. We began under the direction of Capt. Hubert, assisted by AH Voorhees of Michigan as Marshall. However, people did not respect Capt. Hubert and Mr. Voorhees became our leader. I wish the good wives could see their husbands cooking, washing and mending, sleeves rolled up, pipe in mouth, on their knees kneading bread. Store cloths are worn out and have been patched with buckskin on the knees and seats. At Columbus, Ohio there where fifty teams of horses and wagons lined up to be ferried across the river. A man fell overboard among the cattle. Others got caught in the quick sand and were rescued by Indians. We spent the night waiting our turn to cross the river and by morning there were as many behind us as there were ahead. And a lot of Pawnee Indians besides. Indians tried to steal our horses and mules one night. The Indians shouted and shook their blankets to chase the animals and our men shot wildly with their guns."

This journal sounds a lot like the old western movies with a lot more detail and the wagon train was led by Mr. Voorhees, not John Wayne.

An article from the Kansas City Star, March 1901, says: *"They have located a record of the first party of white men known to have ascended to the summit of Pike's peak. A stake was found among the rocks on the top of Pike's peak on which was carved Augustus Voorhees July 10, 1858. The stake was on an almost inaccessible point which overlooks Dead Man's Gulch.."*

In 1939, Gertrude Voorhees of Iola, Kansas wrote to Oscar Voorhees, *"My father's name has been omitted in the Genealogy, he took a trip to Pikes peak and I have a copy of his diary, a photo and a map showing the root."*

Another journal starting in 1847 begins: *"During the winter two large wagons were fitted out, beds were installed and some kitchen equipment for our trip west. They were Conestoga wagons with heavy covers. Mr Voorhees and his family included his son Jaques and son in-law David Lewis."*

The journal was written in the wagon by candlelight. Traveling was unpleasant because of the dust and her hands

were almost black at times. The Alleghenies were tedious. They crossed the Ohio on a flat boat. The roads in the Midwest were fine but they charged a heavy toll of twenty five cents every ten miles for each wagon. She says, "It beats everything to see the movers, every time we stop some have been there before us. We meet some people coming back and they look very pitiful and try to persuade us to go back. In Illinois we found Uncle Wickoff who was doing very well." At times she says there was nothing to see but sky and ground, not a tree or bush or house. On June 11th they arrived at William Stryker's, who had invited them to make this trip. "He told us to make this our home until we can suit ourselves better." I find it interesting that people kept track of their relatives and could find them on the frontier long before we had road maps.

From a journal of John Baxter who lived on Long Island:
"1793 Simon Voris bought the old house of Sarah Wyckoff to keep a tavern. The bloody Flux rages in the town of Gravesen.

1795 Rensie Voorhies had a young daughter called Rensie.

1802 Simon Voris has a sledge boat.

1803 Lucas Voris, son of Simon, died of yellow fever.

1816 Nelly Johnson wife of Court hung herself on a tree behind the house.

1818 Bill Stillwell was taken prison at Mr. Baldwins for being to fond of women.

1818 Heard the bell toll for Miss Jean Voorhees "God know best for whom it will toll next."

(Apparently there was an epidemic at that time.)

1817 a young son of Mr Voorhees hung himself.

1824 Joseph White bought a chair at vendue for \$3 the chair was made sometime after the flood of Noah.

(Apparently Baxter did not think it was a good purchase).

Not all of the interesting items were submitted in the early years of the Van Voorhees Association. This item was sent in 1991 with the following note: "I'm enclosing a cardboard 1892 calendar prepared by the youngest daughter of Peter and Margaret Sickman Van Voorhees. It was discovered behind an old picture." Eliza's parents were born in 1795 and 1805. Listed under them are their children with birth dates and names of spouses. Some with dates of death. The calendar is very fragile since it was made from thin cardboard."

Records continue to be sent to the association. Judith gets several letters a month often with names and dates that we did not have before. And like their ancestors some 20th century Voorhees's changed their names. Some went back to "Van Voorhees". Others became citizens of other countries: William Merrel Voris became a Japanese citizen in 1940 and changed his name to Hito-tsu-yana-gi.

Many of the Voorhees's were farmers, but I find a large number of ministers, merchants, stage coach drivers, mayors, lawyers, doctors, dentists and other professional people. Many men and women were attending college in the 19th century. I am impressed to see the amount of professionals, community leaders, and forward thinking people in the

Voorhees family. There were inventors, publishers, writers, and politicians. The early ministers in the family were of the Dutch Reformed, Presbyterian and Episcopal faith. There were others who seemed to look for anything new. There were Voorhees among the members of the Shaker group in Kentucky and in the earliest group of Mormons who moved to Missouri, Ohio and Utah. The Voorhees families seemed to like adventure or were looking for a way to improve their lot. Soon after Daniel Boone went to Kentucky the Voorhees's followed his trail. A history of this group states "in 1827 the Dutch families have settled in Indiana and Ohio and points west. Having lost both their Dutch language and their Dutch church, they also lost their identity and became incorporated with the population around them. They became English in speech and Presbyterian in faith".

Moving to new territory seemed to be profitable. I find Voorhees families listed in the 1850 census owning farms worth 10 to 20 thousand dollars, while my family lived on small plots in upstate New York in log cabins worth \$50 each. There were Voorhees on both sides during the Civil War. Some families lost several sons in the war. Others served in the Spanish American War, World War One and World War Two and there are Voorhees names on the Viet Nam Memorial. The records of the Voorhees family tell the story of the settlement of our country. The size of the family is remarkable. People who specialize in researching Dutch families believe that the Voorhees family is the largest.

What do I see as the future of the project? I expect that the rest of the collection can be sorted and computerized in two years. Perhaps the last piece of paper that I pick up in the Van Voorhees collection will solve one of those problems. When all of the records have been entered I will attempt to solve the problems that are marked in the computer. The Association has to be very proud of the collection of records which should be catalogued and preserved. It has taken over one hundred years to get to the stage we are at. It has now been 65 years since the Association has tried to update the 1888 genealogy. We have to confess that there is no way that we will be able to solve all problems. However, we can indicate where a problem exists and hope that our readers will have the answer. The project is so large that the Association may never be able to publish all of its records in book form. By next year we will probably have five thousand pages. That's an expensive publishing project. Publishing forms are changing rapidly and perhaps computer versions will be the style in the 21st century.

I am sure there are more records to be found and that records will continue to be submitted by descendants. I hope you will continue to support the project. Elias published his large book in seven years. With your support we hope to publish in the year 2000 which will represent seven years of my efforts. It is an exciting adventure.

To conclude my talk I would like to read some items from a journal describing the life of Elizabeth Skillman, wife of John Voorhees. Elizabeth seemed to have lived a charmed life. David Voorhees' journal lists what he calls seven striking incidents that happened to her

1. She fell in a spring of water and was taken out nearly dead.
2. She was knocked down by the windless of a well and was carried into the house bleeding and insensible.
3. She fell into a cistern of water from which her mother got her out just in time.
4. She was tossed on the horns of a mad cow and badly bruised.
5. She fell into a large kettle of Boiling Tallow.
6. She fell in a large tub of whiskey and nearly strangled to death.

(The writer explains that the whiskey was in a large barrel mixed with other slops and corn meal. Her father was a strong temperance man but fed this mixture to his hogs. After feeding the hogs he checked the next morning and reported they were all dead. His wife said she would check the matter out. She said the pigs were not dead, only dead drunk. After two days the pigs recovered. Mrs. Voorhees was interested to see if the pigs had developed a liking for whiskey and offered them some cherries that had been in whiskey for a year but the pigs refused to eat the cherries and they died sober and happy. Apparently the writer got caught up in the tale of the pigs and never did tell us how poor Elizabeth managed to fall into the barrel of whiskey and muck). Returning to the incidents of this lady's life:

7. When Elizabeth was about 50 years of age she was riding with a small boy. The horse was large and powerful, he ran down a steep hill and the wagon was upset and broke in pieces. Mrs. Voorhees was badly injured but the boy was unhurt and ran for help as she lay helpless along the road. When help arrived they found Mrs. Voorhees leaning against the fence reading a religious book she carried in her pocket to occupy any waste time.

By the time Mrs. Voorhees was 70 she was helpless with Rheumatism. Apparently this prevented her from having any more accidents. Such was the life of one adventurous woman.

WHAT'S WITH THE GRANDCHILDREN

PETER W. VOORHEES

A physics experiment by Dr. Peter W. Voorhees, of Winnetka IL, will be launched by the space shuttle Columbia in late March of this year. It is titled, "Coarsening in Solid-Liquid Mixtures" or CSLM. Its purpose is "to investigate the kinetics of competitive particle growth with a liquid matrix. During coarsening, small particles shrink by losing atoms to larger particles, causing the larger particles to grow." The experiment will be conducted in the microgravity environment of upper space which will render negligible "the effects of convection present in terrestrial experiments." Coarsening affects many materials ranging from turbine blades to dental amalgam fillings. Peter is Professor of Material Science and Engineering at Northwestern University, Evanston IL. A full discussion of his experiment, which Peter has worked on for more than ten years, can be found on the Internet at: <http://zeta.lerc.nasa.gov/csllm/csllm.htm>

Peter is the son of Lois and Manning Voorhees. His address is: Dr. Peter W. Voorhees, Dept. of Materials Science and

Engineering, Northwestern University, Evanston IL 60208.

DAVID WILLIAM VOORHEES

Our knowledge and understanding of Jacob Leisler has grown significantly due to Dr. David William Voorhees. The Papers of Jacob Leisler is a National Historical Publications and Records Commission project that is located at the Department of History of New York University, where David is an Assoc. Professor. The Holland Society also supports the project. The Leisler scenario and the role that Coert Stevensen played is discussed in the January 1996 Nieuwsbrief. Over 3,000 documents written in Dutch, German, French, English and Latin are held by the project, of which 727 up to the year 1689 have been translated and transcribed onto computer disks. "Each discovery brings new challenges to conventional interpretations of the European development of the mid-Atlantic region as well as of English America. Leisler's papers reveal that New Netherland and the mid-Atlantic region played a more central role in the creation of modern America than is usually portrayed." David recently was appointed a Fellow of the New Netherland Project.

Dr. David William Voorhees, Dept. of History, New York University, 19 University Place, 5th Floor, New York NY 10003

KAITLYN O'NEIL

Kathleen and Stephen O'Neil, of Norwell MA, are the proud parents of our new cousin, Kaitlyn (Katie) O'Neil, who was born on June 2, 1996. Katie weighed in at 5 lbs 14 oz and was 19 inches long. Katie's mother is the former Kathleen Louise Voorhees.

Katie's grandparents are Mrs. JoAnn Voorhees, of Tinton Falls NJ, Theodore Voorhees, Jr., of Spring Lake Heights NJ, and Mrs. Edward O'Neil, of Marshfield MA.

Thanks to Karen Voorhees Wernicke, of Beverly Hills CA, for this happy news.

RALPH W. VOORHEES

Rutgers University honored urban revitalizer Ralph W. Voorhees, of Highland Park NJ, at its 1996 Hall of Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner. Rutgers President Lawrence cited Ralph "for his exemplary volunteerism and community philanthropy, calling him 'a man who has shown what it means to be a public servant.'" Ralph was recently re-elected Chairman of the Rutgers University Foundation Board of Overseers. He is a senior vice-president of Paine Webber.

Source: Rutgers Magazine, Summer 1996, and the Asbury Park Press, August 25, 1996. Ralph W. Voorhees, 316 Lincoln Ave., Highland Park NJ 08904-1854.

LOUISE VAN VOORHIS

If you followed last year's Olympics, you would have read about Louise Van Voorhis, who competed in the women's 470 yatching events. She and a partner were fourth after ranking higher in some of the several races that comprised the event. The Olympic competition represented a tremendous effort in both time and training. Louise and her partner finished second in the 1992 trials but did not make the

team. After racing throughout the world over the next four years, and perfecting their skills, they made the 1996 team. Louise lives in Webster NY.

Source: *Democrat & Chronicle, Rochester NY, July 11, 1996, and other news reports.*

108 COUSINS

David H. Voorhees, of Woodstock IL, sent an Email relating that he found 108 Voorhees Email listings on the Internet. That is, there are 108 cousins who have used "Voorhees" in their Email or Internet address. William Voorhees' Van Voorhees Association web site is included among the 108 listings. Grandpa would be flabbergasted!

David is the son of Lois and Manning Voorhees. His address is: David H. Voorhees, 2111 North Queen Anne Rd., Woodstock IL 60098 or voorhees@il-icom.net

◆ ASSOCIATION BUDGET

The Executive Committee adopted the following budget for the September 1997 fiscal year at its meeting of October 12, 1996.

REVENUE

Dues	\$ 5,600
Interest	1,500
Sales V V A Items	200
Sales of Books	1,600
Meetings	<u>1,400</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$10,300

EXPENSES

Genealogy	\$10,000
Meetings (annual)	2,000
Newsletter with Postage	5,000
Purchase of V V A Items	- 0 -
Book Expenses	200
Directors and Officers Insurance	169
Postage and Supplies	500
New England Region	100
New Netherland Project	<u>50</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,019

DEFICIT

\$ 7,719

◆ NEW MEMBERS

Membership Chairperson Tom Van Voorhies reported the following new members as of November 30, 1996. We are very pleased at the large number of cousins who have joined the Association and wish each and all a hearty welcome.

Michael Alan Apgar, Dover DE
 Patricia A. Baumann, Patterson NY
 Eddie D. Bulen, Lansdale PA ***
 Geralyn Mereness DeLafleur Galway NY
 Marilynne M. Dumers, Paradise CA **
 Stephanie H. Goldberg, Fair Lawn NJ ***
 Lois A. Hess, Ft. Wayne IN
 Nancy J. Hultz-Rubin, Morristown NJ **
 Margaret Halstead Kmiecik, Kingston NY

Nancy Henke, Lafayette LA +
 Bessie L. Johnstone, Royal Oak MI
 Stewart R. Johnstone, Troy MI
 Frances R. King, Attica NY +
 Cheryl Kline, Williamson NY
 Patricia H. Mesgleski, Brick NJ **
 Ann Marie Onstad, Lewisville TX
 Jean Michele Perry, Norfolk VA
 Barbara Jane Rossman, West Brookfield MA
 John P Sharp, Los Osos CA
 Staci Sinkway, Mission Viejo CA *
 Teddi Suzanne Sinkway, Mission Viejo CA *
 Robert H. Stahl, Phoenix AZ **
 Laura E. Thompson, Lake Saint Louis MO **
 Annie Brokaw Tobin, San Rafael CA
 Barbara J. Tucker, Flat Rock MI ** +
 Elinor P. Umbrecht, Chester PA **
 Charles S. Van Voorhis, Himrod NY
 Frank Voorhies, Virginia Beach VA
 John Clarke Voorhees, Richmond VA +
 Susan L. Voorhis, Stamford CT
 Alex Michael Vorhies, Leawood KS *
 Paul D. Voris, Glendale Heights IL

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

LIFE MEMBERS

We are very pleased to announce three Life Members.

Emily Rishton Jones, gift of Don Vorhis, our former President, to his granddaughter
Paul Douglas Van Voorhees, Honolulu HI
Robert V. Voorhees, Bellair TX, became a Life Member about three years ago. Review of our membership data indicated that we did not extend a welcome to him at that time. We apologize for this oversight.

◆ PLEASE HELP US

The Association is in the process of reviewing its membership data base. We have gaps in our records for the following members. Please write to Tom Van Voorhies and advise him of your membership classification, whether you were a renewal member, if you received your membership as gift, whether we have your name and address correct and so forth. Tom's address is listed in Who's Who. Thank you.

Susan Voorhees Fleissner, 28 Morris Ave, Summit NJ 07901; Minnie R. Gliberton, 3606 East Starlight Rd., Warrens WI 54666; Emily Ann Groendyke, 311 Old Farm Rd., Glen Gardner NJ 08826-3423; John T. Groendyke, 311 Old Farm Rd., Glen Gardner NJ 08826-3423; Carl Peter Van Voorhis, HC-1, Box 210, Tannersville PA 18372; Robert Frederick Van Voorhees, 5235 Duvall Dr., Bethesda MD 20816-1875; Robert Van Voorhees, 4612 Locust St., Bellair TX 77401-3603; Paul Voorhees, 11973 Woodbine St., Los Angeles CA 90066-2028; James W. Vorhies, 243 Adams St., Cummings IA 50061-9321; John R. Vorhies, Jr., 6246 Deloache, Dallas TX 75225-2813.

DE BONTE KOE

We corresponded with Janny Venema, our speaker at the 1993 Reunion and a researcher at the New Netherland Project, concerning the flag that *de Bonte Koe* probably flew. The query was posed by Russ Vorhies, of Minatare NB, who is making a scale model of the ship. Janny wrote:

"I think that *De Bontekoe* was a West India Company ship. In the *Curacao Papers* index it is also referred to as *De Jonge Bontekoe* [Ed., *The Young Spotted Cow*], which was commanded by Jan Ryckartsen (p. 144). This was written in a letter of 1659, 25 November. In a 5 December 1659 letter *Den Jongen Bontekoe* is called the Company's freight boat (p.154). In December 1663 Jan van Bergen was skipper and on page 124 of *New York Colonial Manuscripts II*, the ship *Bontekoe* is mentioned as delivering a package of books and letters from skipper Jacob Jansen Huys to the Commissioners for the Colonie on the Delaware River. So it seems safe to say that the ship in 1660 flew a WIC flag [Ed., the Dutch West India Company]."

Janny also forwarded a photograph of the WIC flag for Russ to copy. Thank you, Janny.

Ms. Janny Venema, New Netherland Project, New York State Library, CEC 8th Floor, Albany NY 12230.

1997 DUES

The 1997 Dues Notice is in the form of an envelope that is inserted into this Nieuwsbrief addressed to Scott Voorhees, our Vice President and Financial Secretary. The traditional clip-out coupon is omitted. You will note that the stated dues rates have been increased modestly as we discussed in the September Nieuwsbrief article, "Interim Financial Report." PLEASE be sure to send Scott your dues check before you forget it. We need the funds — which is evident from the deficit anticipated in the 1996-97 budget reported elsewhere in this issue. Thank you

GRANDPA'S QUIZ

We had fun again at the 1996 Reunion with Grandpa's Quiz. See how well you do with the brain teaser. The questions are either **True** or **False**. Answers are elsewhere in this Nieuwsbrief. The two best performers at the Reunion with nine correct were Mildred Van Dyke and Tom Van Voorhies. They each won a copy of Dutch Door. A question was asked if one would win a copy of Dutch Door with no correct answers? After all, why not? Peter Christoph answered, "No, this is a Dutch family."

1. Hendrickje had 8 children and Hendrickje had 3 children.
2. One of our grandmas was Aeltje Wessels.
3. Jan Kiers was the captain of de Bonte Koe.
4. Marchien became a well known woman's rights advocate in New Amsterdam.
5. Our family name probably came very close to being Middelhees.
6. Steven Coerts had 79 grandchildren.
7. The Coerts family settled in Midwout, now known as Flatbush.

8. Steven Coerts may have emigrated to New Netherland because he had no inherited land rights, among other possible reasons.
9. Two sons of Willemetje Roelofs Seuberlinge married sisters.
10. The Coerts family probably used wampum or seawan in New Netherland.

LUKE VOORHIS

Luke Voorhis lived an interesting life. Among other things, he built a whole house that some one later cut it half. One of the halves is missing. The son of Hiram Voorhis and Eliza Ann Sharp, Luke was born in New Jersey on 29 November 1835. His line reads: Hiram Voorhis, John Voorhis, Hiram/Rem Voorhees, John Voorhees, Lucas Van Voorhees, Jan Stevense and Steven Coerts. On 16 April 1874, Luke married Florence L. Jenks in Salt Lake City. They had two sons, George Hiram Voorhis, born 4 November 1875, and Charles Elwood Voorhees, born 14 November 1908. Luke died in 1925.

Luke was taken as a child to Pontiac MI. Later in 1857, at the age of 22, he went to Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming as a gold miner. In 1920, at the age of 85, he published privately a book of some 75 pages entitled, *Personal Recollections of Pioneer Life*. Luke told at length of his experiences as a gold miner in Colorado, Montana and Canada. In 1864, he discovered the rich Kootenai digging in Canada. From the Kootenai and mining operations in Montana, Luke became relatively wealthy and in 1876 he settled in Cheyenne. Wyoming was still a Territory.

Cheyenne was the beneficiary of Luke's several businesses. He promoted a stage line from Cheyenne to Deadwood, Dakota, a gas works and a street railroad in Cheyenne. Luke also started an iron foundry, but it was not successful. He served for a while as Treasurer for the Territory and later as the County Treasurer. On May 10, 1869, Luke was at Promontory UT to witness the "Driving of the Spike" which joined the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads. This made railroading possible from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

In 1884, Luke built a two-story Italianate style house at 2110 Ferguson Street, now Carey Avenue, in Cheyenne. The structure was sold in 1891, 1920 and 1932, when it was divided in half. One part was moved to its present location in the North Capitol Historic Neighborhood at 2819 Thomas Avenue. It is presently lived in and being restored. The other half, however, is missing and is being sought by the occupants of the first half, who said: "We are going to try our best to bring it back as much as we can." An interesting conclusion to an interesting life — or maybe just another event in an interesting life.

◆ Thanks to Jane V. Gothard, of Dahinda IL, for forwarding her son's inquiry about the Luke Voorhis House. He lives in Cheyenne WY. Thanks also to Judith Van Voorhis who produced genealogical data and other material about Luke from the Association files. Quotation of the present owner of one-half of Luke's house and some data were taken from the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle of June 16, 1996 supplied by Jane.

DANIEL WOLSEY VOORHEES

Daniel Wolsey Voorhees was a leading Indiana politician and orator of renown in the mid to late 19th century. He made history in his state and in Washington, DC.

Daniel was born on 26 September 1827 at Liberty Township, Butler County OH, the son of Stephen Voorhees and Rachel Elliott. He was of the Lucas Line: Stephen, Peter, Stephen, Petrus Van Voorhees, Jan Lucasse, Lucas Stevense and Steven Coerts. In his year of birth, Daniel moved with his parents and two siblings to Fountain County IN, near Veedeersburg. Five additional siblings were born in Fountain County. On 18 July 1850, Daniel married Anna Hardesty, the daughter of Reese Hardesty and Eliza Batterton. They had five children. One of the children died young and two did not marry. There were two grandchildren of Daniel. Based upon our information, it is presumed that Daniel's line ended with his grandchildren. Daniel's known homes in Indiana were in Covington and Terre Haute. He died in Washington DC on 10 April 1897 and was interred at Terre Haute, Vigo County IN.

William E. Wilson, author of *Indiana, A History* (Indiana University Press, Bloomington IN, 1966) says: "Voorhees, a Democrat, an exponent of popular sovereignty, opposed to the war, opposed to emancipation, and in the Gilded Age of the 1870's and 1880's an enemy of the Eastern moneyed interests, served thirty-one years in Congress as representative and senator Voorhees was only an advocate of borrowed ideas and never a philosopher who produced his own; consequently, he knew when and how to compromise, even to reverse himself." Wilson points out that Daniel had the quality of "... personal honesty. It is perhaps more for that virtue, in a period of shabby public morals, than for his brilliance as an orator and his long and steadfast service to his party in Indiana, that the Tall Sycamore of the Wabash should be remembered in the company of distinguished Hoosier politicians." Daniel acquired the name Tall Sycamore of the Wabash because he was over six feet in height, had a large head and broad shoulders, and "in the excitement of forensics, his hair stood out like the quills of a sycamore's button-ball." (p.111)

Daniel's family were relatively prosperous and lived in a two story brick house in Fountain County. His family were Methodists — his father, of course, was of Dutch origin and his mother of Irish ancestry. He entered Asbury College (later DePauw) in 1845 thinking that he would become a minister. However, Daniel realized his gift for oratory and studied law at the offices of Lane and Wilson in Crawfordsville. He was admitted to the Indiana Bar in 1850. Later, in 1852, Daniel became a law partner of U. S. Senator Edward A. Hannegan. The Indiana governor appointed Daniel prosecuting circuit attorney in 1853. Indiana court procedure at that time provided for the defense attorney to speak last before a jury. A possibly apocryphal story is that Daniel's oratorical persuasion on those occasions when he spoke for the defense caused the order of final pleas to change.

In 1856, Daniel ran for Congress. His opponent was James Wilson. Their debates over slavery were similar to

those of Lincoln and Douglass some two years later. According to historian Wilson, "The position of Voorhees was similar to that of Stephen A. Douglas: 'I do not favor the institution of slavery, I don't want it here; but they have a right to it elsewhere; property in slaves is not to be distinguished from other kinds of property which are protected by the same constitution.'" (p.112) Daniel lost by 230 votes and moved from Covington to Terre Haute. He might have moved, according to historian Wilson, because he did not want to prosecute his partner, Hannegan, for murder.

Between 1858-61, Daniel was U. S. Attorney for Indiana. In 1859, Governor Willard's wife's brother was arrested with the followers of John Brown at Harper's Ferry and charged with treason and murder. Daniel journeyed to Charlestown VA to plead eloquently on the behalf of John E. Cook. The accused was judged innocent of treason but was found guilty of murder; he was hanged. However, Daniel's "... appearance at the trial was a personal and political success. His speech received praise from all parts of the nation." (Wilson, p. 113)

Daniel was initially elected to Congress in 1860. He served in the House for most of the years between 1861 to 1873. When he first arrived, Daniel was confronted with the fall of Fort Sumter and the secession of South Carolina. While he had originally been opposed to war against the South, he supported preserving the Union. Nonetheless, Daniel continued to be in opposition to freedom for the Southern slaves. According to Wilson, "... when Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862, (Daniel) protested: 'Ten days before he issued it he said he had not the power to promulgate such a document and that it would do no good if he did. In that he was right for once. But I suppose he gave way to pressure. Yes, pressure. He was pressed. By whom? By Horace Greeley, that political harlot.'" (Wilson, p. 113) Daniel was accused of being a Copperhead and a member of the Sons of Liberty, "a conspiratorial group of Southern sympathizers whose goal was withdrawal of the Middle Western states from the Union, but the evidence is reasonably strong that he was a member." (pp. 113-4) *The Encyclopedia Britannica* (1961 Edition, Vol. 23, p. 254) says that Daniel was a member of the Knights of the Golden Circle, apparently another Southern oriented group. In 1864, Daniel's Terre Haute office was raided and incriminating material was said to have been found.

In 1876, Daniel campaigned for Blue Jeans Williams, the Democratic candidate for governor of Indiana. Williams won and in 1877 appointed Daniel to the unexpired U. S. Senate term of the late Oliver P. Morton. *The Encyclopedia Britannica* states, "He was a member of the committee on finance throughout his service in the senate, and his first speech in that body was a defense of the free coinage of silver and a plea for the preservation of the full legal tender value of greenback currency, though in 1893 he voted to repeal the silver purchase clause of the Sherman act. He had an active part in bringing about the building of the congressional library." (Vol. 23, p.254) A clipping from the *Sullivan Union* (not dated; Terre Haute was at one time in Sullivan County) states that Daniel was Chairman of the Senate

Finance Committee "for many years" and was Majority Leader of the Senate "at one time."

Daniel served in the Senate until one month prior to his death in 1897. Eugene V. Debs, the famous Socialist, made a nominating speech on Daniel's behalf in the Indiana legislature. According to Wilson, "Senator Hoar of Massachusetts once said of him, 'Sometimes when Voorhees speaks, I can hear the whirr of the threshing machine, the whinny of a colt, or the tinkle of a cow-bell as lowing cattle stand waiting before the bar.'" Wilson says, "In his twenty Senate years, Voorhees was the tireless champion of agriculture in the West against the bankers of the East." (p. 114)

The inquiry about Daniel Wolsey Voorhees was initiated by John C. Voorhees, of Richmond VA, whose Email address is: jvoorhees@worldnet.att.net. John supplied some critical dates that he observed on an autograph of Daniel's at a recent Maryland auction. William R. Voorhees, of Bloomington IN, located the Wilson history for us. William's Email address is: voorhees@grapevinegroup.com. (The ending periods are not part of the Email addresses.) Judith Van Voorhis printed essential genealogical data from the Association data base and supplied the Sullivan Union article. Her address is in Who's Who. We thank our three cousins very much.

DANIEL VAN VOORHIS

In earlier issues of the *Nieuwsbrief*, we discussed Daniel Van Voorhis. He is a very well regarded silversmith from the latter 18th and early 19th centuries.

Ceci Van Voorhis, of Newmarket NH, gave us an article

from *The New York Sun* for December 14, 1940. The article lists the "six known marks" for Daniel:

- "1. D. V. in oblong cartouche with spread eagle in diamond cartouche.
- "2. D. V. V. in oblong cartouche with spread eagle in diamond cartouche.
- "3. D. V. Voorhis with spread eagle in diamond cartouche.
- "4. D. V. Van Voorhis DV DVV.
- "5. V & C with spread eagle in diamond cartouche (Voorhis & Coley)
- "6. V. V. & S. with spread eagle in diamond cartouche (Van Voorhis & Schanck)".

Thank you, Ceci, for this information.

Mrs. Cecilia Van Voorhis, 10 Maple St., #217, Newmarket NH 03857-1818.

PAUL VORIES McNUTT

Paul Vories McNutt was a dean at Indiana University, governor of Indiana and Democratic contender for the Presidency in 1940. Does anyone have genealogical data on him? Please write to Manning Voorhees.

YOUR NIEUWSBRIEF

Please send news items to Manning Voorhees. His address is listed in *Who's Who*. We are seeking genealogical and historical items, and news of your family and other Voorhees'. Don't overlook births, graduations, notable accomplishments, awards and so forth that have blessed your family. Thank you. The deadline for the May 1997 issue is March 15th.

VOORHEES WORD SEARCH

by Michelle L. Klauka, North Pole AK

AMERSFOORT	HEMPSTEAD	PLEASANT
AMSTERDAM	HILLSBOROUGH	VALLEY
ARCOLA	HOLLAND	PLEASUREVILLE
BEDMINSTER	INDIANA	POMPTON PLAINS
BEEKMAN	JACOBUS	PORT RICHMOND
BERGEN	JAMAICA	POUGHKEEPSIE
BLAWENBURG	JEFFERSON	QUASACK KILL
BOUND BROOK	KENTUCKY	QUEENS
BRIDGEWATER	KINGS	RARITAN
BROOKLYN	KINGSTON	RARITAN LANDING
BROWN	LONG ISLAND	READINGTON
BUCKS	MARLBORO	RED OAK
CLARKSTOWN	MARYLAND	RHINEBECK FLATS
CITY	MENDON	RICHMOND
CONOWAGO	MIDDLEBUSH	ROMBOUT
COLONY	MIDDLEWEYT	SADDLE RIVER
COUNTY	MIDWOUT	SCHENECTADY
CRANBURY	MONMOUTH	SIX MILE RUN
DRENTH	MONROE	SMITHFIELD
DUTCHESS	MONTGOMERY	SOMERSET
FAYETTE	NETHERLANDS	STATE
FISHKILL	NEW BRUNSWICK	STATEN ISLAND
FLATBUSH	NEW JERSEY	TAPPAN
FLATLANDS	NEW MILFORD	TENNENT
FRANKLIN	NEW UTRECHT	THREE MILE RUN
FREEHOLD	NEW YORK	TOWNSHIP
GRAVESEND	NEW YORK CITY	UNIONTOWN
HACKENSACK	OHIO	WARWARSING
HARLINGEN	OYSTER BAY	WASHINGTON
HARRINGTON	PARAMUS	WOLVER HOLLOW
HARRODSBURG	PENNSYLVANIA	WYCKOFF
HEES	PLEASANT	

WARWARSINGRAVESUNDUTSDNUOBERGE
 AAYREMOGTNOMONMOUTHAEIHRICHMD
 SADDLERIVERCKUTNEKALLFFISHKILL
 HARRINGTONSCWUTSILXLAZDRENHACK
 INEWALBEEKMANPINFOIHOGWASHINGI
 NLOHEENTHEDUOYGKZVUQELYFLIMWEN
 GTEHRNWIDERUKSCTEIHWNODNEMEMOG
 TDBGHKJLIEGCTEFGREACBLAWENBURG
 OMENTOSPLHUOBUUORTHSUBTALFQUKW
 NNZAGCBIKTNEDSQUEJAMAICAHEFIOA
 WEORNOMENNMAOLRPKNOSREFFEJJOR
 OQRBZXESITEXUWAYVUNIONTOWNNRW
 TWUEIPKCHDLNLYLKOORBFTNENNETEBA
 SYISUMARAPENNSYLVANIAHJJLGGJWDR
 KARCOLAQOOLONGISLANDPNCMNKAUNW
 RBEHTNERDUHEESOMERSETRSSEHCTUD
 ARTRUEDIAGFLATLANDSWSWASWAORON
 LESAVWRCEHAYBSKUBPUUECYCBEBABA
 CTNAMJOHTKHOLLANDMQUFKOKUCUL
 OSILAEFMSEINDIANAHLUUJIRESHVS
 NYMEDRLOPEMIDWOUTQPSMTKNVTUI
 OODNRSINMPAXDNESEVARGZWYCSUUN
 WBEBEEMDESGNIDNALNATIRARIAUQUE
 ACBUTYWDHIHGURORBSLLIHEFTCUUT
 GNJRSTIEMHBROWNENEGNIRAHUKLGKA
 ODOGMDNOMHCIRTROPUNURELIMEERHT
 CNUHARRODSBURGVTUQEWSYXRYQZPS
 OALFKMIDDLEWEYTUQUTEWDHCJBIAGM
 LLHSUBELDDIMMXNUUQHOWBPVQURTS
 OYTNUOCREADINGTONEEPKFRANKLINR
 NRYQUEENSMITHFIELDNRGOLUHJMIQL
 YADLOHEERFAYETTEFRLTAPPANYBAZB
 ZMOLLOWOLLOHREVLOWASKIOOCSOERO
 ASXBTVCWUDTOWNSHIPNCFKOCYWEHR
 OTCAOLTUOBMOREIRUTDCREMAUYMIYO
 OLLIKKASAUQUTLUQUSIMYRUBNARCU
 POMPTONPLAINSVESUVYOUSOREDOAK

VAN VOORHEES WHO'S WHO

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Manning W. Voorhees, 2415 Spring Hill Drive, Toms River NJ 08755-0987
(908)886-0426, 103505.3502@compuserve.com
Vice President: Scott T. Voorhees, 147 Grand Boulevard, Emerson NJ 07630, (201)967-1013,
svoorhees@acord.com
Secretary: Vacant
Treasurer: Calvin Krapf, 215 Washington Stree, Tamaqua, PA 18252-1324, (717)668-1818
calkrapf@juno.com
Financial Secretary: Scott T. Voorhees (see above)
Past President: Donald G. Vorhis, 1930 Camelia Circle, Midlothian VA 23112, (804)744-8856

LINE REPRESENTATIVES

Albert Line: Mrs. Frederick (Marilyn) Brack, 24 Mary St., No. Haledon, NJ 07508, (201)427-9246
Coert Line: Mrs. Glee Van Osdol-Krapf, 215 Washington St., Tamaqua PA 18252-1324,
(717)668-1818, calkrapf@juno.com
Jan Line: Robert S. Voris, 802 Berkeley Rd., Westover Hills, Wilmington DE 19807,
(302)652-5833
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)252-9256
Hendrickje Lines: Vacant
Jantje Line: Vacant

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Mrs. George L. (Alice) Adams, 24 Redcliffe Ave. #1A, Highland Park NJ 08904-1636
Donald A. Sinclair 108 North 2nd Ave., Highland Park NJ 08904-2421, (908)545-0568
Richard L. Voorhees 2116 Swinnen Dr., Westerloo, Wilmington DE 19810, (302)475-2801

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Genealogical & Historical: The Rev. William J.F. Lydecker, Box 148, Ashland NY 12407-1048,
(518)734-5987
o **Genealogist** Mrs. Peter (Florence) Christoph, CG, 181 Maple Ave., Selkirk NY 12158,
(518)767-3004, xoph@acmenet.net
o **Member Research** Mrs. Joseph (Virginia) Ward, 64 Ta'agan Point Rd., Danbury CT 06811-3841
(203)792-2537, dbrc19b@prodigy.com
o **Inquiries/MIS** Ms. Judith K. Van Voorhis, 2880 Rosendale Rd., Niskayuna NY 12309,
(518)393-5106, mevanv@albany.net
o **Volume II Admin. Coordinator** David R. Voorhees, 209 Lamb-Hopewell Rd., Hopewell NJ 08525, (609)466-1139
jassbr@aol.com or voorhees@injersey.com
o **Transcriber** Mrs. James (Adrienne) Haney, 36B Fox Meadow Rd., Leominster MA 01453,
(508)534-7283, 70540.47@compuserve.com
Membership: Albert T. (Tom) Van Voorhies, 9 Purdy Ave., East Northport NY 11731-4501
(516)368-7483
Programs: Scott T. Voorhees (see above)
Publications: Robert S. Voris (see above)
o **Volume II Admin.** David R. Voorhees (see above)
Publicity: Mrs. Robert (June) Wick, 3 Edgebrook La., Monsey NY 10952, (914)357-2770
Nominations: Ms. Cornelia V. Mason, 32 Elkan Rd., Larchmont NY 10538, (914)833-1276
nilla2@aol.com
Planning: George Davis, 310 Rockland Ave., River Vale NJ 07675, (201)358-0150
Sales: Ms. Judith Voorhees (see above)

REGIONAL ORGANIZERS

New England: Mrs. James (Adrienne) Haney (see above)

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Manning W. Voorhees (see above)
Publisher: Robert E. Van Voorhis, Jr., 4503 Coronado Court, Cedar Falls IA 50613-6322
(319)268-1511, bobvv@telepro.com

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.

Did you previously purchase Volume I, The Van Voorhees Family: Yes No If yes, how many copies? _____

Hardcover _____ Softcover _____ (We will send you the Index.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

VVA # _____

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Toms River, NJ 08755
2415 Spring Hill Drive

THE VAN VOORHEES ASSOCIATION

