



Van Voorhees Nieuwsbrief

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THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

Our By-Laws say that the Van Voorhees Association is "to make available to Association members and other interested parties as appropriate the information on the Van Voorhees family" (emphasis added). Florence Christoph commented at the 1996 Reunion: "The size of [our] family is remarkable. People who specialize in researching Dutch families believe that the Voorhees family is the largest." This observation tells us several things, but related to the quoted purpose of the Association it becomes a challenge.

Tom Van Voorhies, our Membership Chairperson, is doing a terrific job. The lists of new members in the January 1997 Nieuwsbrief and this issue are extensive. Early in 1997, before Tom's list of new members in this Nieuwsbrief, we had around 900 members; the uncertainty is primarily due to a timing difference between Tom and Judith Van Voorhis, who maintains our computerized data base. Judith is also busy refining the information. Regardless of the precise number, however, it certainly would seem that the "largest" Dutch family should have a larger heritage organization.

The Association loses members from death, moving with no forwarding address and disinterest. Tom's recent membership additions are a multiple of these losses, fortunately. A variety of membership goals come to mind. While our membership has grown over the past couple of years, it should be at least 1,000 to be compatible with the "largest" Dutch family. Let's start there.

Who might be the "other interested parties" envisioned in our stated purpose? The answer is easy. They could be your siblings, children, cousins, uncles, aunts and parents. They could also be your acquaintances who have a "Voorhees" in their line of descent. If everyone sought a new member, we would quickly surpass 1,000 members and achieve new heights.

Please put your shoulder to our membership goal and send us over the top. Thank you.

Manning W. Voorhees

SOUTH MIDDLEBUSH CEMETERY

South Middlebush Cemetery is one of our very old burying grounds in Franklin Township, New Jersey. Many of our Voorhees ancestors are interred in the Cemetery as well as those of other old Dutch families. One source states that the earliest stone probably is for M. Van Liew, who died in 1760 or on March 26, 1766. Another source mentions an unhewn stone marked "I.W." or "J.W.", probably for John Wyckoff, the earliest settler of nearby Middlebush who could be the first interred. The last interment was in 1912 — a widow who was buried beside her husband.

The Cemetery is located on South Middlebush Road. However, it is difficult to find because there are no signage or buildings and the land is heavily overgrown. Fencing that is said to be on the perimeter cannot be seen because of the overgrowth. However, the Cemetery is near the intersection with Blackwells Mills Road and directly opposite the driveway to #252 South Middlebush Road. There are 6' x' 8' posts with cable eyes that mark a presumed entry point. One must not drive an automobile onto the flat ground between/by the posts because it can be quite soft and the car could sink requiring a two truck for it to be removed. Yes, we understand that this has happened. The area within the Cemetery and around the outside is a thick tangle of growth, including poison ivy. No gravestones can be seen from the outside; there is no opening in the perimeter heavy growth.

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CALENDAR

Annual Reunion
October 11, 1997

South Middlebush Cemetery -- continued from page 1

South Middlebush Cemetery was first a private burying ground on the farm of N. L. Smith. It was deeded in 1811 and contains at least 229 graves, including two slaves, on a site of approximately 90' x 130'. The Cemetery is now owned by the State of New Jersey and is administered by the State Park Services. A corporation was formed many years ago to manage the Cemetery, but there is some question as to whether it is in existence today and if the officers are still around.

Flooding of the Six Mile Run Reservoir, that was proposed several years ago, is blocked by the South Middlebush Cemetery. Any flooding will require removal of the graves to a higher location across South Middlebush Road. Descendants of the interred will have to consent to such removal, assuming that they can be found. There is the practical question about how much of the remains from many of the older interments are in movable form — grave material were not made in the 19th Century to resist deterioration as they are today. Nonetheless, we believe that grave removals were accomplished by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority when that toll road was built through a nearby region. Flood control in the area surrounding the Cemetery is not a reason for the proposed reservoir. We understand, however, that its construction may not be an issue today. It is said that an excellent reservoir site exists on a neighboring location.

The State Park Services would like to clear the South Middlebush Cemetery of its overgrowth and develop the area as a park with walking trails. The Cemetery would remain in its present location under this idea. Set forth below are the names of the several Voorhees' who are interred in the Cemetery. The listing was put together from a tabulation published by the Somerset County Historical Quarterly, a tabulation copied from the stones in December 1934 by Warren P. Coon (the Genealogical Society of New Jersey) and from a plot plan made by the State Park Services based on Jacob Wyckoff's map of 1860 and a property tract derived by the State Park Services from a recording in the Somerset County Book of Deeds, folio 702,703.

Voorhees Interred

Abraham I. Voorhees, d. 16 Aug 1848 aged 82.6.5; wife Letitia, d.2 Feb 1845 aged 71.0.4
Garret Voorhees, d. 18 Oct 1823 in 74th year, soldier Revolutionary War; wife Neltje "Nelly" Nevius, d. 1780; wife Matilda, d. 21 Feb 1838 in 82nd year; Ellen, daughter of Garret and Matilda, d. 15 Mar 1810 in her 30th year

PATRICIA ZANDER-CARLO

Our good news is that Pat Zander-Carlo has agreed to be our Association Secretary and will stand for election at the October 11, 1997 Reunion. In the interim, Manning Voorhees will appoint her as Secretary pro tem.

Pat lives with her husband, Alan, in Stamford CT. She is an environmental engineer and industrial designer, and is employed in Manhattan. Pat is the daughter of Joan Voorhees Brooke, of South Sterling PA.

Thank you very much, Pat, for stepping forward to assume this important role with our Family.

Henry Voorhees, d. 13 Nov 1832 aged 35.6.7
J. Van Derbilt (or Vanderbilt) Voorhees, d. 16 Sep 1826 aged 16.2.4
Jeremiah Voorhees, d. 12 Jun 1862, soldier Civil War - "Co. A, 9th N.Y. Inf."
Jeremiah Voorhees, d. 8 Apr 1874 aged 79.8.28, soldier War of 1812 - 3rd Regt. N.J. Detailed Militia; wife Alletta Wyckoff, d. 22 Jan 1876 aged 77.9.25; son John Addison Van Doren "Our Addie", d. aged 1.8.15 (Somerset Cty. recording indicates a child and a grandchild)
Johannah Voorhees, d. 23 Nov 1817 aged 79 years
John G. Voorhees; wife Rebecca; son John Calvin, d. 27 Sep 1832 aged 2.6.24; son James Romeyn, d 4 Nov 1832 aged 0.7.19
Mary Wheeler (?) Voorhees
Peter G. Voorhees, d. 17 Apr 1833, aged 75 years, soldier Revolutionary War; wife Mary Boice, d. 5 Dec 1846 aged 86 years; daughter Ann Beckman, d. 4 Jul 1824 in her 22nd year
Peter R. Voorhees, d. 26 Nov 1830 in his 36th year
Sarah Jane Voorhees, d. 12 Mar 1900 aged 81.4.18; husband Jacob Wyckoff, d. 1 Sep 1887 aged 68.8.12; son Simon, d. 10 Sep 1843 aged 0.8.12; son James Longstreet, d. 27 Jul 1855 aged 0.5.1; daughter Sarah Helena, d. 12 Nov 1862 aged 3.9.1
William H. Voorhees, "Co. H., 15 N.J. Inf." (no dates)
Voorhees, d. at birth Spring, 1861, child of C. V. M. (sic)
Albert Voorhees Wyckoff, d. 2 Jun 1864 aged 19.11.6; memorial monument - burial in National Cemetery, Washington DC, Sergeant-Major Civil War, 15th Regt. N.J. Vols. killed at battle of Cold Harbor VA, first buried at Cold Harbor then transferred to National Cemetery
Please write to Manning Voorhees if you descend from a Voorhees that is interred in South Middlebush Cemetery. It is not within the calling of the Van Voorhees Association to pursue the proper treatment of our ancestors that are interred in the Cemetery, or any other burying ground, but collectively as a group of individuals we might be able to persevere. There are many Dutch names represented in South Middlebush Cemetery. Since our forebears married within the Dutch community to a very large degree, you might also have an ancestor from one of these other families. Peter G. Voorhees and Mary Boice, his wife, are the gr gr great grandparents of Manning Voorhees.

CORRECTIONS

The September 1996 Nieuwsbrief reported the loss of our long-time friend, Frank Van Voorhis. Unfortunately, we failed to mention that Frank is also survived by Stephen Coerte Van Voorhis, his son, who lives in Wauwatosa WI. We are truly sorry for this error.

The January 1997 Nieuwsbrief reported that Don Vorhis, our Past President, gave a gift of a Life Membership to his granddaughter, Emily. Her name should have been noted as Emily Rishton James, not Jones. We apologize for this mistake.

1997 REUNION

Our Reunion this year, as reported in the last Nieuwsbrief, will be on October 11th at the Six Mile Run Reformed Church, Franklin Park NJ. Detailed directions will be in the September Nieuwsbrief, but you might note that Franklin Park is but a few miles west of New Brunswick.

Accommodations

Scott Voorhees, Chairperson of the Programs Committee, has obtained a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn on Route 1 at Ridge Road in the outskirts of nearby Princeton NJ. The Holiday has 240 rooms on six floors with interior hallways. Built in 1985, it was recently renovated. There is a large indoor swimming pool and health facility. Lois and Manning Voorhees will host the traditional Van Voorhees reception on Friday night, the Tenth, in their room at the Holiday. It is very easy to travel the 7.4 miles from the Holiday to the Six Mile Run Reformed Church — there is only one well-marked turn. The rate given to the Van Voorhees

Association is \$85.00 per night for a single or double room. Breakfast can be an \$8.00 per person buffet or it can be ordered from the menu. The telephone number of the Holiday is: 609-452-2400. We encourage you to reserve your accommodations now so that our block of rooms will show some activity. The weekend of October 10th is busy for hotels in the area.

Our Host

The picture depicts the Six Mile Run Reformed Church as it was built in 1766. The next structure was erected in 1817 and was destroyed by fire in January of 1879. With good Dutch determination and firm action (!), the present structure was erected immediately. It was dedicated on December 11, 1879. The Parish Hall was constructed in 1958.

Our family has been connected with the Church from its very beginning. James P. Snell, in his History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey, published in 1881 (p. 819), says: "As early as 1703, if not before, we find a church in existence at Three-Mile Run. The people probably possessed a building suited to their circumstances. It was a little east of the old graveyard in that locality, and near the residence of Abram J. Voorhees." (Judith Van Voorhis reviewed our genealogical data and advised that Abram probably arrived at Three Mile Run shortly before 1703.) The "church" is the now Six Mile Run Reformed Church and the

"old graveyard" is now known as Elm Ridge Cemetery. In 1766, the congregation moved to Six Mile Run and utilized the building depicted here. Six Mile Run changed its name to Franklin Park in the latter 19th Century. Mr. Snell suggests (p. 806) that Roeloff Voorhees, who is said to have died in 1811, farmed on the land where the present structure was built about a mile east of the 1817 building that burned.

The congregation in 1720 called The Rev. Theodorus J. Frelinghuysen as Pastor, who served until 1747. According to

historian Snell (pp. 819-20): "The following names embrace the heads of families in Six Mile Run during the time of T. J. Frelinghuysen: Koert Van Voorhees ... Jacobus Van Voorhees ... Martynus Voorhees, Jan Van Voorhees ..[and] Lucas Van Voorhees ..."

Yes, we will be returning to our roots at the October 11, 1997 Reunion.

Our Agenda

At the time of this writing, a detailed agenda has not been put together. The Program Committee is exploring the possibility of

an optional visit to a restored old house and/or a historical museum that is in a renovated 18th Century house. The museum's exhibit will be "Life in the Raritan Valley" in the middle 18th Century. More work needs to be done on the off-site visit(s) which would be held in the afternoon. Our Genealogical Workshop will also be an attraction at the Reunion. As we reported in the January Nieuwsbrief, Dr. Walton Van Winkle will be our featured speaker and will tell us about the Flatbush Church Records. Walton wrote earlier this year and said that the indexing for the work was not completed at that time but "... Coert Stenvense and the Voorhees family were prominent in the church and there should be some good finds in these records." The Records were made in the late 17th and early 18th Centuries.

Our Reunion will certainly be about "Old Family." Don't miss it.



Six Mile Run Church in 1766

Visit the Van Voorhees Association
web site on the Internet at:
<http://www.akorn.net/~voorhees>
Courtesy of William R. Voorhees, of Bloomington IN.

INTRODUCTION TO DUTCH NAMES

by James Nohl Churchyard

The following article on Dutch names that were used in New Netherland is reproduced from the October-November-December 1996 and January-February-March 1997 issues of New Netherland Connections by permission of the author and publisher. We thought that the article was quite interesting. It might be retained for future reference when you peruse the forthcoming Van Voorhees Family in America and run across our ancient names. Male names will be in the next Nieuwsbrief.

Introduction

Our customary way of naming people uses a family surname (literally "over name") and one or more given (or Christian) names for the individual. The surname is also called the last name and is the father's surname. The given names are called the first and middle names. Over the last century or so the practice has grown of using surnames as given names — as witness mine: Nohl was my maternal grandmother's maiden surname.

Upon marriage the bride customarily assumes the surname of her husband. And their children, in turn, are known by the father's surname.

These customs were certainly not those of the early Dutch! This note presents an overview of the types of surnames found in New Netherland. Remember that the people there were a mix of true Dutch, Frisians, Walloons, French, Germans, Scandinavians, and even English. The person writing the record may have been barely literate in one tradition but probably not a master of all the orthographies involved.

Surnames

The Dutch in New Netherland used several types of "last names", only a few of which seem to us to be true surnames. And, in many records, they appear only by their given names, and so it is difficult for us to sort out the records.

The first type of "last name" was a patronymic, i.e. father's given name. If the father was Pieter, all of his sons were called Pieterse or Pietersz (son of Pieter). Their sons, in turn, had different "sons of" last names. So each generation had a different "last name" even in a direct father-to-son line. This system was widespread through Europe, and it still predominates in some countries.

For men the patronymic was indicated by either the genitive (possessive case) ending -se or the ending -sen (meaning son). Both of these were often abbreviated by the medieval use of the ending -z. The father's name could appear in either full or in nickname form. So the descendants of a Dutchman named Matthias (nickname = Thys) could share the surname Tyson with people who were of English descent and who were completely unrelated!

For women the genitive ending -se or -s was added to their father's given name. The current usage in Holland (and Iceland) is to append "dotter" to their mother's name, but that was not the custom in New Netherland. Women almost always appear with their father's patronymic (their "maiden

name"). This custom provides very valuable clues in our analysis of early records.

Some "last names" were occupational names and could be changed as a person's job changed. To complicate matters a single person could be variously identified by a given name only, an added patronymic, a place of origin, as an occupation. And these could change from document to document!

In a very few cases there were true surnames in the modern sense which had been established as such in Holland and which continued to be used in New Netherland, e.g. Stuyvesant, Borsboom, van Dyck.

With so many variations to choose from it is not surprising that different names came to be adopted by different lines of descent from a common immigrant ancestor. An example would be the two brothers who arrived from Liège on the ship *De Rooseboom* [The Rosetree] in 1663 — Teunis Janszen Lanen Van Pelt and Matthys Janszen Lanen Van Pelt. Many descendants of Teunis bear the name Van Pelt today; while many descendants of Matthys have the surname Lane.

Given Names

Many of the Dutch given names are taken from the same Biblical and historical sources that we know. Some, especially the Frisian names, are old Teutonic.

We form nicknames by altering the first part of the name and discarding the last part: Marge from Margaret. The Dutch did the opposite: Grietje from Margriet or Cobus from Jacobus. Feminine diminutives in common use were the suffixes -tje (pronounced -cha) and -ke and -ken. Thus a Dutch woman named Anna could be called Antje, Anneke, or Annaken in the same way we might call her Annie.

As English became more widely used, some persons used their English nickname along with the Dutch form. So some familiarity with both forms is required to identify the persons involved. One application to the D.A.R. was rejected because a woman was baptized as Annatje Eckerson and was later married as Nancy Eckerson. The Society refused to recognize that the Dutch and English nicknames of Hannah could be used to designate one and the same person!

The following short list gives the Dutch given name, common Dutch nickname, the equivalent English given name and the common English nickname. The letter "j" was pronounced in Dutch as "y". For example, in his will written in 1790 (and published in *Abstracts of Columbia County Wills, 1768-1828*) Isaac Vredenburgh mentions his daughter "Yonacha." This name must have been written phonetically by someone unfamiliar with the Dutch orthography. In proper Dutch spelling the name is "Jannetje" but the phonetic spelling to an English ear is "Yonacha."

The name Jacquemine is French rather than Dutch. The Dutch further shortened their version of the name to simply Myntie.

It is an interesting fact that nicknames were outlawed in early Massachusetts. The Puritans reasoned that if a given name is a Christian name, then (by false derivation) a nick-

<i>Dutch given</i>	<i>Dutch nickname</i>	<i>English given</i>	<i>English nickname</i>
Agatha	Aechtje, Aagje	Agatha	Aggie
Anna	Annatje, Annecken	Anna, Hannah	Ann, Nancy
Anthonius	Theunis	Anthony	Tony
Catharina	Tryntje	Catherine	Kate, Cathy
Cornelia	Neeltje	Cornelia	Nelly
Engel	Engeltje	Angela	Angie
Eva	Afje, Ifje	Eve	Eveline
Hadriana	Ariaantje	Adrienne	
Jacobus	Cobus	Jacob, James	Jake, Jim
Jacquemine	Jacomyntje	Jacqueline	Jackie
Johanne	Jannetje	Joan	Janet
Johannes	Jan	John	Jack
Magdalena	Lena, Leentje	Magdalene	
Margaret	Grietje	Margaret	Maggie, Peggy
Mattias	Thys	Matthew	Matt
Maria	Marytje	Mary	Molly, Polly
Sophia	Fytje	Sophia	Sophie

name must come from Old Nick, the Devil.

Further examples of Dutch names can be found on pages 14 through 20 of the 1916 Yearbook of The Holland Society of New York and on pages 17 through 19 of Gustave Anjou's Ulster County, New York, Probate Records [New York, 1906, reprinted by the Clearfield Co., in Baltimore MD in 1996, two volumes in one.]

The following lists have been compiled from the names of parents, children, and witnesses listed in the New Amsterdam baptismal records from 1639 (when the extant records begin) through 1664. [Baptisms from 1639 to 1730 in the Reformed Dutch Church, New York (Collections of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Volume 2, New York: The Society, 1901, reprinted in 1968 by the Gregg Press, Upper Saddle River, NJ).] Excluded were the Dutch

clerks' attempts to render well-known English names, e.g. "Breyne Nuyting" for Brian Newton. Many of the names, particularly of men, are evidence that New Netherland was cosmopolitan from its beginning with individuals from Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, etc. in addition to those from the Dutch-speaking parts of the Netherlands. As a rule of thumb, names should always be recorded exactly as they are written in primary sources. The suggested English equivalents are meant for general-interest only. In later generations individuals assumed English given names in addition to their Dutch baptismal names. For example, in my own family tree the women christened "Femmetje" assumed the name of "Phebe". Probably the only thing the two names had in common was the initial "F" sound! For some Dutch names there are no English equivalents.

DUTCH NAMES — FEMALE

<i>Dutch</i>	<i>English Equivalent</i>	
Aaltje, Aeltje, Aeltie	Alice	Beckje (see Rebecca)
Abeltje (fem. dim. of Abel)	Abigail	Belitje, Belitie, Beelijken
Abigail, Abigal	Abigail	Brecktje, Brechtie
Adriana	Adrienne	Bregitta
Aechtje	Agatha	Catharina, Catharyn, Catalyn,
Aefje	Eve, Eva	Cataline, Catalina,
Agnietje, Agneta	Agnes	Catalyntie
Anna, Anneken, Annetje,	Anna, Ann, Annie	Celetje, Celitje
Tanneken		Christina, Christine, Christyn,
[Anthonia]	Antoinette	Christyntie, Christyn,
Apollonia, Apolonitje	Appolonia	Chrescyntie, Styntje,
Ariantje, Arrientje,	Adrienne	Styntie
Aeriaentje, Ariaentie		Claesje
Baefje	Beverly	Clara, Claertje, Claertie
Baertje, Beartie	Bertha	Cornelia
Barbara, Berber, Barbel	Barbara	Divertje, Dievertje, Diever,
Beatrice	Beatrice	Diver

Dorothea, Dorathee, Dorothe Dorothy

Ederine

Elisabeth, Lysbeth, Lysbethje Elizabeth
Elsje Elsie

Regina Regina

Sara Sarah

Selitje (see Celetje)

Sophie, Fytie Sophie, Sophia

Styntje, Styntie (see Christina)

Susanna, Suzanne Susanna, Susan

Suysel

Swaentje Little Swan", Swanie

Sytie, Sytje Cynthia

Tanneken (see Anna)

Teuntje, Theuntje (see Anthonia)

Tietje, Tytic Letitia, Tisha

Tryntje, Tryntie, Tryn (see Catherina)

Tysje, Thysje Antonia, Antoinette

Ursel Ursula

Victorie Victoria
Vrouwjtje "Little Woman"
(now obsolete)

Willimyntie, Willemtje, Willemtie
Wilhelmina, Billie

Wynefrid Winifred

Wyntie

Ytie (a Frisian name, now spelled "Itsje")

[We have mentioned in earlier issues of the Nieuwsbrief two excellent discussions of Dutch names. They bear repetition here: (1) Dutch Systems in Family Naming, New York-New Jersey, by Rosalie Fellows Bailey, Special Publication of the National Genealogical Society, Number 12, 1965 with Fifth Printing 1992, 21 Pages, \$6.50 plus \$3.00 S & H — National

Genealogical Society, 4527 17th Street North, Arlington VA 22207-2399 and (2) "New Netherland Naming Systems and Customs", Record, The New York Genealogical and Historical Society, Volume 126, Number 1, January 1995, pages 35-45.]

NEW NETHERLAND CONNECTIONS

The material on Dutch names came from New Netherland Connections. This is an excellent publication that is recommended for everyone who wishes to gain further insight into our heritage. It is well written and has been a success since its inaugural in the first calendar quarter of 1996. The Van Voorhees Family is not mentioned in every issue, but the interested reader will be exposed to many families whose particulars will broaden an understanding of our ancestors. There is an extensive genealogical query section that could be helpful for families that married into the Voorhees tribe. New Netherland Connections is published quarterly by Dorothy A Koenig, of 1232 Carlotta Avenue, Berkeley CA 94707-2707 and costs \$15.00 per year. The issue for the First Quarter of 1997 ran for 28 pages.

VOORHEES, NEW JERSEY

The Township of Voorhees, in the southwestern portion of New Jersey, will be celebrating its centennial in 1999. Its name came from Gov. Foster M. Voorhees, who was governor of the Garden State from 1899 to 1902. The Governor apparently was a bachelor since our genealogical files contain a 1969 news clipping that referred to him as "the blond bachelor idol of the State House press corps ..." Information can be obtained from Ms. Jeanette Schelberg, Voorhees Municipal Building, 620 Berlin Road, Voorhees NJ 08043.

You might wish to see the January 1966 Nieuwsbrief for an article on Voorhees Township and the Fall 1994 issue for an article on Voorhees State Park. Gov Voorhees donated 325 acres in northern New Jersey for the State Park.

OUR COUSINS, THE LEGISLATORS

Judith Van Voorhis found on the Internet the following grandchildren who were law makers. The site address is <<http://polygon.intranet.org/tpq/index.html>>. The web site is called "The Political Graveyard." Thank you, Judith, for sharing it with us.

Henry Clay Van Voorhis (1852-1927). Representative from Ohio. Interment at Greenwood Cemetery, Zanesville OH.

John Van Voorhis (1826-1905). Representative from New York. Interment at Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester NY.

Nelson Holmes Van Vorhes (1822-1882). Member of state legislature. Representative from Ohio. Interment at West Union Street Cemetery, Athens OH.

Daniel Wolsey Voorhees (1827-1897). Father of Charles Stuart Voorhees below. Representative from Indiana; Senator from Indiana. Interment at Highland Lawn Cemetery, Terre Haute IN. See the January Nieuwsbrief for an article about Daniel.

Charles Stewart Voorhees (1853-1909). Son of Daniel Wolsey Voorhees. Born in Covington IN, June 4, 1853. Delegate to Congress from Territory. Died December 26, 1909. Interment at Greenwood Cemetery, Spokane WA.

Charles Henry Voorhis (1833-1896). State court judge; Representative from New Jersey. Interment at New York Cemetery, Hackensack NJ.

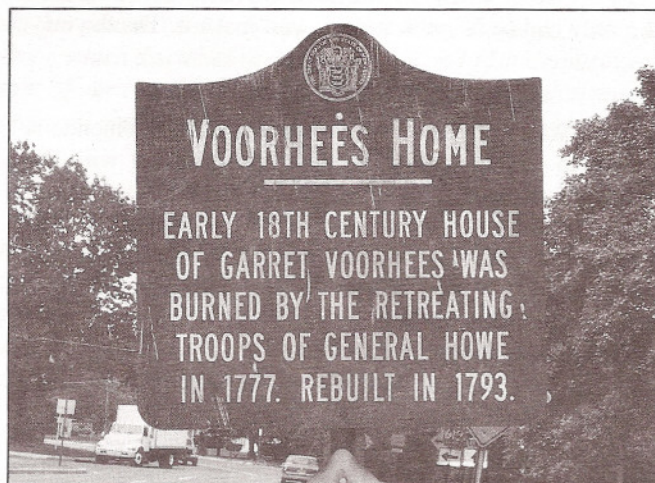
Horace Jeremiah "Jerry" Voorhis (1901-1984). Representative from California. Interment location unknown.

John Martin Vorys (1896-1968). Member of state legislature; Representative from Ohio. Interment location unknown.

A THREE PART VOORHEES STORY

GARRET VOORHEES AND THE BRITISH

Our story begins on June 19, 1777 at the Middlebush NJ farm of Garret Voorhees and his wife, Matilda Ditmars. "... [T]he British general having found it impossible to entice Washington from his stronghold in the hills [i.e., "the heights of Middlebrook"], the troops of Cornwallis and DeHeister suddenly evacuated the positions they had held during the preceding five days and moved rapidly back to New Brunswick. 'When Gen. DeHeister's army left Middlebush, tradition states that they attempted to burn every building between that place and New Brunswick. Some of the fires were put out, and some buildings failed to take fire.' Yet a very large amount of damage was done by the retiring Hessians. ... the names of the several sufferers, with their losses, [are] as follows: Garret Voorhees, of Middlebush, dwelling-house, six rooms, entry, and kitchen, burned, with other property destroyed and stolen, amounting in all to four hundred and fifty-one pounds seventeen shillings eight pence ..." In October 1779, a group of British soldiers under Lt. Colonel Simcoe attempted to locate Garret's homestead with the objective of burning it. Neither Col. Simcoe nor his guide, who was "impressed" in Quibbletown (now New Market, near Edison north of Route 287), knew that the British had destroyed the home two years earlier. Garret and Matilda's rebuilt 1793 homestead is now O'Connor's Restaurant, located on the corner of Amwell and DeMott Roads in Middlebush. His line is: Steven Coerts, Lucas, Minne, Lucas, Garret and the subject, Garret.



Thanks to Judith Van Voorhis for the genealogical data. The direct and indirect quotations and information about the 1779 raid are from *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey*, compiled by James P. Snell, Everts & Peck, Philadelphia, 1881, p. 65 and pp. 75-6. Mr. Snell obtained the indirect quotation herein from *Our Home*, by Judge Ralph Voorhees, 1873, p.495.

ELIZABETH RODMAN VOORHEES

Roberta Ambler, of Edison NJ, sent us an article about Elizabeth Rodman Voorhees entitled "Monumental Generosity", by Jessie Havens in the *Douglass Alumnae Bulletin* that appeared sometime in the 1970's. Douglass College is the women's college of Rutgers University in New Brunswick; it formerly was known as the New Jersey College for Women.

Elizabeth's story starts at the homestead of Garret Voorhees, in Middlebush NJ, that was burned by the British in the Revolution and now contains O'Connor's Restaurant. Garret and Matilda had a son, also named Garret [yes, the line contains three successive Garret's], who in turn by his wife Sarah had a son named Ralph. The last Garret relocated when he married Sarah Whitaker. Management of the family farm in Bernards Township devolved upon Ralph, one of eleven children and the youngest. Unfortunately, Ralph lost his eyesight and, in 1864, no physician could cure his blindness. Thus, at the age of 27 he "was reduced to dependency." He was able to keep an interest in his family and community, nonetheless, including the Bedminister Reformed Church. Ralph sang in the choir.

The choir is a key element in the story because Elizabeth Rodman also sang in the choir. Her widowed father retired to country life after Elizabeth completed her studies at the Moravian Seminary. Mr. Rodman died in 1887. Until his death there was no outward indication that Ralph and Elizabeth "were more than good friends." Apparently, their secret engagement spanned seventeen years. They were married and settled in Clinton NJ. The next big event was the death of Elizabeth's uncle seven years after the marriage when she inherited a large sum of money.

Elizabeth became a benefactor and gave away a great amount of money. "No record was kept of all the money these two gave away, but the list that has been compiled is astounding." Another startling fact cited by Ms. Havens is that Elizabeth gave \$1.6 million to the New Jersey College for Women through her will for the now Voorhees Chapel on the New Brunswick campus and to support religious education. This bequest was more than she received from her uncle, Robert Rodman, some thirty years earlier and was after the granting of around \$580,000 to friends and institutions. Elizabeth died in 1924, seventeen years after the death of Ralph.

Ms. Havens cites the following beneficiaries of Elizabeth and Ralph's generosity.

- Bedminister Reformed Church, \$2,000 to help build a new and larger structure*
- The Reformed Churches of Peapack, Finderne, Rocky Hill and Pottersville*
- The Presbyterian Church at Pluckemin*
- The Middlebush Reformed Church, \$10,000 toward rebuilding the structure that burned*
- Somerset Hospital, \$10,000*
- Missions of the Reformed Church in India and China*

The American Bible Society

Endowment of a chair at the Rutgers Theological Seminary

Built and enlarged the Voorhees library at Rutgers University in New Brunswick — this structure now forms part of the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum

Carroll College in Wisconsin was endowed with a library, science hall, dormitory and president's home

Huron College in South Dakota received funds for a dormitory and main building

Maryville College in Tennessee was granted monies for a chapel

Hope College in Michigan received a dormitory

Jamestown College in North Dakota was given a chapel and music building

Coe College in Iowa was given funds for an endowment and dormitories

Voorhees Industrial School in South Carolina, now known as Voorhees College, received funding for a 280 acre site, its first building, a hospital, two dormitories and a trade school building

American Indian Institute in Kansas received funding for a dormitory and other gifts

Large endowments were given to Lafayette and Wilson Colleges in Pennsylvania and Mount Holyoke in Massachusetts

The University of Dubuque in Iowa and the Bloomfield Seminary in New Jersey received generous gifts

Funding was given to the YMCA in Perth Amboy NJ to build and furnish a structure.

Elizabeth also gave monies to the founding of Voorhees College in India. This was not mentioned by Ms. Havens.

Elizabeth Rodman Voorhees was an outstanding lady.



Thank you, Roberta.

ALAN M. VOORHEES

Our story continues with the generosity of Alan M. Voorhees, who lives in Alexandria VA. Alan is the great-nephew of Ralph and Elizabeth. The latter were the first benefactors of the Voorhees Industrial School in South Carolina, now known as Voorhees College. Alan's munificence is related in "A Small Black College Uses Unconventional Means to Get Computers on Its Campus", by Goldie Blumenstyk, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 14, 1997.

Voorhees is a small and struggling institution of 700 students that has been historically a black college. About 90% of the students come from families that qualify for aid. The endowment of Voorhees College is \$6 million, which does not generate sufficient funding for computerization, new physical facilities, a modern telephone system and other monetary demands. One of the challenges facing President Leonard E. Dawson (who was the speaker at our Reunion in 1987) is to bring the college firmly into today's computer world.

Alan stepped into this situation and has donated more than \$3 million to Voorhees College over the past few years.

Of that amount, \$700,000 was specifically for computers and related improvements. Alan has also promised the College an additional \$500,000 and hopes that it will be used for computer capabilities. He is quoted as having said, "That's where it's needed most. That's where the greatest opportunities for minorities are."

Alan is a self-made venture capital investor. The April 1955 *Nieuwsbrief* reported Alan's gift to the Nature Conservancy of 729 acres on the north bank of the Rappahannock River in Virginia. He has also contributed monies to the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, on the Rutgers University campus in New Brunswick, in honor of his mother.

Congratulations, Alan, well done!



We thank Ralph Voorhees for sending us the article in The Chronicle of Higher Education. The address of Voorhees College is: Denmark SC 29042. Its Email address is: <<http://www.voorhees.edu>>.

THE NIEUWSBRIEF

We experienced some problems with the January *Nieuwsbrief*. The major difficulty was that the issue was processed as third class mail and not as first class notwithstanding the full postage affixed to the mailing address. Our printer discussed this with the postal authorities, but no reason was given for the error that resulted in a significant delay in delivery. If you did not receive your copy, please write to Manning Voorhees.

The deadline for the September issue is July 7th. Please send Manning news of your family, information about the larger Van Voorhees Family as well as interesting genealogical and historical articles. The *Nieuwsbrief* is your newsletter and it only can be as interesting as you make it. Thank you.



YOUR DUES

Scott Voorhees reported that there has been a tremendous response to the dues payment envelope enclosed with the January *Nieuwsbrief*. Thank you very much. We have included a dues payment coupon with this issue for those who did not utilize the envelope or it was missing from your copy of the *Nieuwsbrief*. Please be sure to send your dues to Scott Voorhees, our Financial Secretary.



HEES

Clarice Sydor, of Farmington MN, sent us an interesting historical commentary on Hees in the 16th and 17th Centuries. She found it during a visit to Hees and Ruinen in 1996 — the commentary was "in the Ruinen histories." It has been translated from the Dutch, which is available by writing to Manning Voorhees.

"For centuries there was a wild area of brushwood — a 'hees' — on the road from Ruinen to Echten. The brushwood covered up soil that wasn't very fertile, that's why it probably took so long for a house to be built on that particular spot — the house of the Van Hees dynasty.

"The oldest one known, Coerd to Heess, was mentioned in 1542. To Hees/te Hees was not yet a family name, only an indication of a town. At that time the settlement was rather young. It would never become very important. In the Ruinen Archives, Hees is not mentioned at all. Apparently the people that lived there had no dealings with the Government. They were named after the oldest ancestor and his oldest son, Steven Coerts or Coert Stevens.

"At the start of the 17th Century, there were three farms: Voorhees, Middelhees and Achterhees. There were no people with a lot of money, however prosperity and energy were not lacking. And even though they lived in the middle of nowhere, they weren't backward. They knew well what was going on in the world. They heard about the new colony in the far west, and of New Amsterdam. The new world sang a tempting song that was heard in Hees. Was the "Meppeler bissing" the guilty party? Or the "Tienduzend" in Steenwijk? Who will ever be able to tell us how the "wireless broadcasting" of those days was heard in this Ruiner hamlet. We will also never know the contents of the discussions between Steven Coerts and his son-in-law Jan Kiers. But the pro's must have been stronger than the con's, because Steven and his seven children, his wife and son-in-law and a group of ten others emigrated to America. There he bought a farm of 24 hectares. The desired prosperity followed. At his death in 1684, all his children and thirty grandchildren followed his bier. They are the ancestors of many American families who are still proud of their name — Van Voorhees."

Thank you, Clarice. Her address is: Mrs. Clarice V. Sydor, 3028 W. Vermillion Tr., Farmington MN 55024. Email: <ppolski@ix.netcom.com>. If you do not have Through a Dutch Door, which discusses in detail the 16th and 17th Century origins of our Family in Drenthe, please turn to the publications ordering coupon in this issue and purchase your copy.

MILESTONES

Helen Juniata Voorheis Ingram, of Arden NC, was called in her 92nd year on December 21, 1995 ... Helen was a career teacher and among the first to instruct the mentally handicapped in North Carolina ... she is survived by four sons, four daughters, a sister, 31 grandchildren, 30 great grandchildren and one great great granddaughter.

Clara Voorhees Roland, of Arlington VA, passed on March 1, 1997 ... originally from Needham MA, Clara spent her life in Arlington ... she was an oil painter, pianist and singer ... her two children grew up in an old apple orchard and Clara read poetry to them ... Clara is survived by a daughter, Ruth Ann Roland Davis, of Richmond VA.

RUSSELL VAIL

We are indebted to Russ Vail, of Lakehurst NJ, for permitting us to peruse his copy of Snell's History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey. This 1881 masterpiece

gives a detailed locale-by-locale history of these two counties. There are a great many references to the Voorhees Family in the tightly-printed 864 pages as well as many other Dutch families, particularly in parts of Somerset County. We have included information from the Snell work in this Nieuwsbrief and will do so in future issues. Thank you very much, Russ. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION

Many members are employed by or retired from companies that will match contributions to organizations that are tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Code (the "IRC"). Contributions to the Van Voorhees Association are deductible under ¶ 501(c)(3), 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the IRC. Such contributions include dues and matching amounts. Please be sure to initiate a matching contribution from your company when you remit your annual dues. It is very possible that you can initiate a matching contribution this year if you paid your dues earlier. Paper work and the matching contribution should be sent to Scott Voorhees, our Financial Secretary, whose address is in Who's Who. Supporting documentation for our tax exemption can be obtained from Manning Voorhees if this is required by your company. Thank you.

FROM OUR GENEALOGIST

by Florence Christoph

Work on Van Voorhees Family in America is moving along swiftly. All of the compiled genealogies done by Oscar Voorhees, Harold Hazelton and Albert Stokes have been entered into the computer. We are now eager to receive more data. If any one should have family records that pre-date 1850 and have not submitted them to the Association, please organize the records and send them to me.

All records for the first seven generations must be computerized by January 1999. I would like your information well ahead of time so it can be carefully checked against our files. Don't let your branch be cut short.

Thank you.

Florence's address is in Who's Who.

VOORHEES BUILDING BOUND BROOK, NEW JERSEY

The Courier News for September 1, 1994 reported that the "historic" Voorhees Building in downtown Bound Brook NJ was then being renovated. "Voorhees Building 1881" is boldly set out near the top of the three story structure — see the accompanying photograph. Apparently, the building detracted from the visual environment of downtown Bound Brook. It was boarded up and generally in a rundown condition. The Voorhees Building is located directly across from the railroad station and its appearance "made it difficult for shopkeepers and property owners to have the confidence to



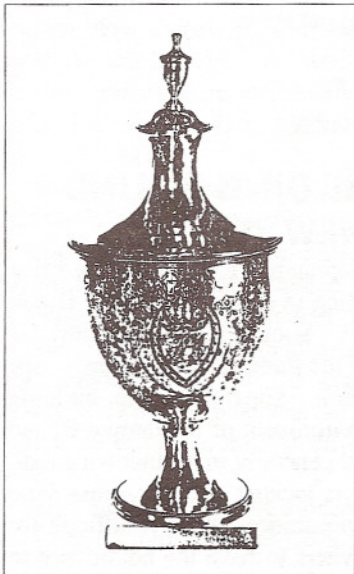
invest money in the appearance of their own buildings." Bill Carzis and his nephew, Evan Carzis, purchased the building in 1990 and have been renovating it. Much progress has been made. "The idea", says Evan Carzis, ... 'is to take it back as close to its 1881 condition as possible.'" The Voorhees Building "possesses a raffish gentility that hints at its former use as a vaudeville hall and Prohibition-era speakeasy." A photograph of a small stage is included in the article.

We are quite impressed with the renovation of the Voorhees Building. But — an important question remains. Can anyone supply us with the history of the structure: who built it, what was it used for and so forth? Please write to Manning Voorhees.

Photo by Manning Voorhees — late Fall 1996

Thanks again to Russ Vail, of Lakehurst NJ, for giving us the *Courier News* article.

DANIEL VAN VOORHIS



The September 1966 and January 1997 issues of the *Nieuwsbrief* discussed Daniel Van Voorhis' celebrated work as a silversmith. Marilyn Brack sent us this picture of his 1790 sugar urn done in the Georgian Style. The base is marked "D. V. Voorhis". Daniel made it when he was in New York. The urn is about 10.5 inches in height.

Thank you, Marilyn.
Source: *The Museum, new series, 1953, The Newark Museum, Newark NJ.*

WHAT'S WITH THE COUSINS

Commander Kenneth J. Voorhees, U. S. Navy, has been screened for nuclear submarine command. Ken is a 1981 graduate of the Naval Academy and recently completed a tour as the executive officer aboard the USS Cavalla. In 1995, the boat explored beneath the Arctic ice and established an endurance record for 63 days submerged under the ice. The Fall 1995 *Nieuwsbrief* reported the Cavalla's tour in the Arctic and Ken's role. He is presently assigned as executive assistant to the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Ken is the son of Maxine and Charles Voorhees of Milltown NJ.

Thank you, Maxine, for the news clipping about your son.

NEW MEMBERS

Tom Van Voorhies, our Membership Chairperson, reported that the following cousins joined the Association as of February 28, 1997. Welcome aboard to all of you — we look forward to meeting you at the Reunion on October 11th.

Maureen R. Girard, Carmel CA
 Teresa A. Hallam, Akron OH
 Frank Van Orden, San Francisco CA
 Theodore Voorhees Wood III, Wyndmoor PA
 Betty-Schlyer W. Nunn, Wyndmoor PA
 Charles Randolph Wood, Haverford PA
 Henry Norris Wood, La Jolla CA
 Margaret Voorhees W. Fleming, Philadelphia PA
 Elizabeth W. Isles, Chappaqua NY
 Sarah S. Wood, New York NY
 Hannah D. Wood, Haverford PA
 Barbara Ann Svoboda, Fairview TX
 Richard Wood Snowden, Philadelphia PA ***
 Edward William Smith, Bayshore NY
 Arthur I. Vorys, Gahanna OH **
 James Philip Van Voorhis, Bellefontaine OH
 Leon Robert Blauvelt, Lockbourne OH **
 Bertram G. Voorhees, Pasadena CA ***
 Horace Edward Fidler, Charlottesville VA +
 Melissa Bowman Hussey, Metairie LA **
 Brenda Van Voorhies, North White Plains NY
 George H. "Terry" Buttler III, Poughkeepsie NY

Key: ** Sustaining Member

*** Contributing Member

+ Additional Contribution

Theodore Voorhees, Jr., of Philadelphia PA, has given eight gift memberships to his son, daughter, brother, nephew and four nieces, and has encouraged several other family members to join the Association. Thank you, Theodore, your efforts are very much appreciated.

Life Members

We are pleased to announce that three cousins have become Life Members of the Association.

Lois G. Voorhees Vitkovits, Orangevale CA
Albert T. Van Voorhies, Northport NY
Scott T. Voorhees, Emerson NJ

MARY VOORHEES AND THE BLACKWELL HOUSE

The Blackwell house dates to the 19th Century, and possibly the 18th. It is used today as offices and natural life exhibit rooms for the Rangers of the New Jersey State Park Services. The structure is located along the Delaware and Raritan Canal near Blackwells Mills in Somerset NJ and is known as the F. Blackwell House. Six Mile Run is about two miles south-east as the crow flies. The accompanying photograph was made by Manning Voorhees of an 1895 photo



hanging on the wall of the Rangers' office. The gentleman on the left is Jacob J. Garretson and his wife, Anna, is on the right. The lady in the center is Mary Voorhees. The Garretson's were tenant farmers and lived in the small portion of the house on the left. Mary owned the property and lived in the larger section of the house on the right.

Judith Van Voorhis researched our data base for information about Mary. She probably was Mary Hicks, who was born on April 3, 1838 and died in 1907 in Brooklyn NY. She married Abraham Voorhees, who was born on January 15, 1836 and died on November 18, 1887. They had three children: Alverade, born 1866 and died 1885; Luella, born 1871 and died that same year, and Grace, born 1872 and died 1885. Abraham was the son of Peter A. Voorhees. Peter was born in 1806 and married Margaret Ann Duryea, who was born in 1812. An article in this Nieuwsbrief concerns another Peter A. Voorhees. The latter Peter was born in 1802 and married Maria Suydam. Their two children included a Mary, who married J. Calvin Hoagland. The two Peter A's. had the same name and were alive at the same time in the same place, Somerset NJ. This gives us some appreciation of the challenges facing Florence Christoph and Judith with Van Voorhees Family in America.

WHERE DID THE NAME COME FROM?

Ever wonder why Six Mile Run was named? Mr. Snell in his History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey provides an answer on page 808.

"The different streams crossing the old path [not defined] gave name to the places by which they are called according to their several distances from the fording-place at the Raritan [River]. Hence the name of Mile Run, Three-Mile Run, Six-Mile Run, and Ten-Mile Run. Except the Mile Run, the distances of the others are incorrect. The Six-Mile Run could have been no more than five miles from the river by the path. These names were given, with their distances, by travelers and their Indian guides, doubtless long before the places named were settled by the whites."

A complete citation of Mr. Snell's work is elsewhere in this Nieuwsbrief.

GENEALOGICAL INQUIRY

by Virginia Ward

Charles Smith VAN VOORHIS, son of Charles Edward Van Voorhis and Susan JONES, was born 2 April 1839 in Columbiana Co. OH. He married Lucy Ann DENNIS 1860 in Crawford Co. OH. Her parents were Isaac Dennis, born in Washington Co. PA 1837 and Mary Ellin WOODWARD. They were married in Coshocton Co. OH 1837. A brother of Charles Smith Van Voorhis, Parker Jones Van Voorhis, was born 1837 in Wayne Co OH and married Annabel Dennis 1860 in Knox Co. Her parents were Martin Dennis, born 1818 in OH, and Elizabeth, born 1820 in PA. Annabel Dennis was born 1841 in OH and had a brother, Alexander, born 1842. Were these Dennis families related? Jeane Van Voorhis White, 320 E. Washington St. #11A, Iowa City IA 52240.

Genealogical Inquiries should go first to Judith Van Voorhis (whose Niskayuna NY address is in Who's Who). If Judith cannot answer the Inquiry from our data base, it then goes to Ginny for the Nieuwsbrief.

EYES OPEN — BEWARE

The September 1996 Nieuwsbrief reported the cease and desist order against Halbert's issued by the U. S. Postal Service. Halbert's publishes books listing individuals with the same surname that are purported to be genealogical reference sources. The company and its subsidiaries continue to publish their material, but are under the constraints of the order and earlier mandates.

Don Vorhis, our Past President, sent us a post card soliciting his money for Three Centuries of Vorhis, sold by the Family Information Center, Englewood CO, and published by the Family News Network. The card was signed, "Sincerely, Lisa," whoever she might be. Lisa advised that the price was only \$24.85 per copy if ordered by August 9, 1997. After that date, the price jumped 80% to \$44.85. We do not pass judgement on this publication except to note that the

solicitation very closely resembles the selling pitch of Halbert's. Anyone is free, of course, to purchase one of these books if the title fits with your particular spelling of "Voorhees" — but please do not be disappointed if it is not a genealogical work consistent with today's rigid standards.

The Family Information Center must not be confused with the Family History Center. The latter is an excellent genealogical library operated by the Mormons in Salt Lake City UT. There are a great many branches and one may be in a Mormon church near you. Visit it someday and research your family members that might be missing in your genealogical charts.

Thank you, Don.

PETER A. VOORHEES, SIX MILE RUN RESIDENT, ACTIVE WITH REFORMED CHURCH

The following biography of Peter A. Voorhees is quoted from Mr. Snell's History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey, pp 829-30. A complete citation of Mr. Snell's work is elsewhere in this Nieuwsbrief. Use of the present tense by Mr. Snell should be interpreted as around 1881.

Steven Courte, or Courten, the common ancestor of the Voorhees, or Van Voorhies, family of Long Island and New Jersey, emigrated with his family from Reinen, Dreuthe, in the Netherlands in April, 1660. This family by old letters can be traced back one generation in the Fatherland, and like most of the early settlers, had no proper surname, adopting as such the name of the village or locality from whence they emigrated.

The father of Steven Courten, or Koers, as he wrote it, was Court Alberts, who resided in front of Hies, Hees, or "Voorhies", in Holland. In process of time the surname Van Voorhees, or Voorhees, has been adopted by general consent of those who bear the name. It was also the custom among the early settlers to adopt the Christian name of the father as the surname of the child, which makes it difficult often to trace the different members of the family.

Albert Courten, son of Court Stevense, and grandson of Steven Courten, the emigrant, died about 1748. His son, Kourt Van Voorhees, the elder, of New Utrecht, L. I., bought of Jacob Van Dyke, in 1726, lands in Sourland (now Harlingen), in Somerset Co., N. J., on which his son, Albert Van Voorhees, settled about 1740. This was the homestead on which the late Albert P. Voorhees died, and where John Everett, who married his daughter Margaret, now resides. When his father died is uncertain; his mother, Annetje, died July 25, 1776.

Albert was born Aug. 1, 1716, and his wife, Katrina Deremer, on August 28th of the same year. They were married

Nov. 22, 1737, and their children were Annetje, born Sept. 4, 1741; Isaac, born July 20, 1744; Ann, born Dec. 19, 1746; Koert, born March 15, 1749; Albert, born April 9, 1753; and Peter, born Feb. 12, 1756. The first child died in infancy. Katrina, wife of Albert, died April 1, 1775, and the latter married for his second wife Nelly Van Nostrand, and died Sept. 26, 1784. Annetje married Isaac Van Brunt, of New Utrecht, L. I., and died Feb. 15, 1820. Isaac died June 30, 1814, in Roycefield, N. J., on the farm now owned by his grandson of the same name. Albert died Oct 4, 1795, near New Utrecht, L. I. Ann married Peter Vredenburg, of New Brunswick, and died there Sept. 24, 1816. Peter inherited the old homestead mentioned above, and was generally known as "Peter at the brook." His farm by several additions comprised about three hundred acres of land. He married Maria, a daughter of Rem Ditmars, of Millstone, N. J., on Feb. 12, 1779, and had children — Albert P., born June 30, 1780; Lena, who married Samuel Garretson, of Middlebush, born Feb. 18, 1788, died March 8, 1849; Catharine, who married Rynier Staats, and died March 4, 1866; and Maria, born Aug. 25, 1794, who married Capt. John M. Wyckoff, and died Jan 17, 1860. Peter Voorhees died June 21, 1842, and his wife, Maria, on Jan. 22, 1831.

Albert P. Voorhees, father of the subject of this sketch, married Helena Longstreet, born Oct. 11, 1785, and had fourteen children — namely, Peter A.; James L., deceased; Maria, widow of Abraham Stryker, of Franklin Park; Eliza Ann, who married John N. Gulick, removed to Illinois, and died there; John V. P. Voorhees, residing near Hightstown, N. J.; Catherine, who married Lorenzo S. P. Vaughn, of Kentucky, who is dead; Martha, widow of Martin N. Gulick, of Hillsborough; Adeline, who married Garret J. Quick, and who lives in Illinois; Sarah Jane, wife of Jacob Wyckoff, of Middlebush; Helen, who married Peter V. Hageman, of Illinois, both deceased; Margaret, who married John Everitt and lives on the old homestead in Hillsborough; Rynier S., residing in Illinois; Aaron Longstreet, who died in Kentucky; and Matilda B., who married John Van Nuys and died in Illinois. Albert P. Voorhees passed his life as a farmer in Hillsborough township, and died March 12, 1861. His wife died May 2, 1849. He was not in any sense a public man, although he held minor offices. He was a member of the Harlingen Reformed Church, of which he was for many years elder.

"Sheriff" Peter A. Voorhees, as he is familiarly known, was born on his father's homestead, in Hillsborough, on Nov. 6, 1802. His father's family being a large one, and the farm affording them but a precarious support, Mr. Voorhees' boyhood was one of incessant toil and drudgery, and his educational advantages were very meagre. With what scraps of knowledge he had gained young Voorhees became the teacher of the district school



of his neighborhood at the age of nineteen, and in teaching he was largely taught. In 1824, as a member of the Somerset County Cavalry Brigade, he assisted in escorting Gen. La Fayette from Rahway to New Brunswick, while that illustrious soldier was making his triumphal tour through the country to which he had contributed his patriotic services. On Jan. 18, 1825, he entered into matrimonial relations with Maria, only child of John and Charity Suydam, of Six-Mile Run. Her grandfather was Jacobus, and her great-grandfather Ryke, who was the pioneer of the Suydam family in Somerset County, and who came from Long Island at an early day.

Soon after his marriage Sheriff Voorhees purchased the Suydam farm at Six-Mile Run, comprising one hundred and fifty acres. Here he has since resided, engaged in farming, his present tract being one hundred and eighty acres. While the sheriff has confined his energies largely to the cultivation and improvement of his farm, and to the care of his pleasant home, he has been led by his natural energy of character, his interest in his native county, and his zeal in the promotion of all good works, to engage largely in public affairs.

Politically, Mr. Voorhees was formerly a member of the Old-Line Whig party, and is now identified with the Republican party. He was town clerk of Franklin township from 1831 to 1833, and assessor from 1833 to 1838. From 1838 to 1841 he held the office of sheriff of Somerset County; from 1857 to 1862 he was collector of the county, and in 1867 he represented Somerset County in the State Legislature. He was an active supporter of the war, and rendered important service in that hour of need, advancing money from his own purse to aid in raising the necessary quota of men from his township. He has also lent liberal encouragement to the cause of education, and has donated considerable sums of money to Rutgers College, N. J., and assisted several young men in their preparation for the ministerial office. He is a member of the board of superintendents of the theological seminary at New Brunswick. He is purely a self-made man, and has, by integrity, energy, and uprightness, in spite of inferior educational opportunities, attained a prominent place among the liberal and progressive men of the county.

Mr. Voorhees has been a member of the Reformed Church of Six-Mile Run since 1826, been officially connected with that body as elder and deacon, and has been a representative to Classis and to the Particular and General Synods of his denomination. In the Sabbath-school and Bible cause he has been particularly prominent. He organized, in 1827, the first Sabbath-school at Pleasant Plains, and was its superintendent for nearly thirty years. He also organized a neighborhood prayer-meeting at the same time, which still continues. He has assisted largely in the organization of Sabbath-schools throughout the State, has filled the office of president of both the County and State Sabbath-School Associations, of the County Bible Society, and, for twenty years, of the Young Men's Bible Society of Six-Mile Run, and was president of the New Jersey State Agricultural Society for 1863 and 1864. He has been for many years a director of the New Brunswick National Bank. His wife is still the honored helpmeet of his home. But two children have been born to this venerable couple — Garretta, wife of J.

Boyd Van Dorn, residing near Princeton, N. J., and Mary H., wife of J. Calvin Hoagland, of Henry, Ill.

[Judith Van Voorhis told us that Florence Christoph's data show that Peter A. Voorhees died on March 9, 1883 while crossing the Lehigh Valley R. R. tracks in a carriage with Abraham Voorhees, Peter Cortelyou and John N. Bodine. Abraham Voorhees was also killed and the others were severely injured. The 1850 census for Somerset County on page 392 shows Peter A. Voorhees 47, farmer, Maria 44, Charity Suydam 75, Sophia Gilbragh 24 (is this "Garretta" mentioned by Mr. Snell?), Mary H. Voorhees 17, William Rusel 15 born in New York, Peter Quick 11 and James Randolph 40 (black).]

HARRY F. VORIES

Source: *Out of the Cracker Barrel*, William Cahn, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1969. The National Biscuit Company commissioned Mr. Cahn's work. Thanks to Florence Christoph for the lead on Mr. Vories and to Peter Christoph for finding references about the National Biscuit Company.

Harry F. Vories was a founder of the National Biscuit Company. The action took place in the late 19th Century and revolved around Adolphus W. Green. He was a lawyer with offices in Chicago who became enamored of the baking industry. A group of prominent bakers, which did not include Mr. Vories, approached Mr. Green seeking his assistance. This was the era of consolidation and the formation of very large business organizations. Nearly every town of reasonable size had one or more cracker factories. The assembly line did not exist and quality was uneven. Social changes were also occurring. The country was moving from predominantly rural in character to urban, and women found it more convenient and economical to buy what they formerly made at home.

Mr. Green studied the baking business and in 1890 combined several bakeries in the New York and New England regions into the American Biscuit and Manufacturing Company, headquartered in Chicago. He also was instrumental in organizing the United States Baking Company a short time later. Mr. Green was not the only person consolidating the baking industry. William H. Moore organized the New York Biscuit Company. In the business style of the day, American Biscuit and New York Biscuit confronted each other with the objective of submerging their respective competitor. Prices were cut. There was "biscuit warfare." (p. 47)

The Depression of 1893 created difficult times: banks closed, factories and mines shut down, and unemployment rose. As the country emerged from the Depression, speculation intensified and the stock of Diamond Match Company soared. Diamond Match was controlled by Mr. Moore and his brother. In 1896, the stock collapsed, which led to the closing of the Chicago Stock Exchange for three months. Mr. Moore subsequently regained his former prestige. However, Mr. Green then launched renewed price cutting against New York Biscuit. Pressures at Diamond Match led to the resignation of Mr. Moore and his brother from New York Biscuit.

The scene was set. Mr. Green created National Biscuit

Company from American Biscuit, U. S. Baking and New York Biscuit in 1898. A meeting was held in Chicago — “[n]ever before in the nation’s history had so many authorities on baking ever gathered together.” (p. 56) There were eleven bakers in addition to Mr. Green and a few financial leaders. Among the eleven was Harry F. Vories, from St. Joseph MO, who was manager of the Lillibridge-Bremner Baking Company of Minneapolis MN. Mr. Vories was also Secretary of American Biscuit. [As a senior corporate official of American Biscuit, one can presume that Mr. Vories played a major role in the “biscuit warfare.”]

The consolidation melded together twenty-three bakeries of New York Biscuit in ten states, thirty-eight bakeries of U. S. Baking in nine states, forty bakeries of American Biscuit in fifteen states and some smaller bakeries. In terms of production tonnage, the new National Biscuit represented around 50% of the total national output. The new corporation paid \$9 million to the former owners of American Biscuit [which must have included Mr. Vories]. There were about 1,300 stockholders of National Biscuit, of which thirteen were “more prominent”. Mr. Vories was included with the thirteen prominent stockholders. (p. 59)

Mr. Vories became manager of National Biscuit’s package department in 1898. Mr. Green wrote to him: “I wish you to consider the best plan of distributing these goods from the factories that make them to our other factories. I do not wish our other factories to stock up with these biscuits. I wish to take every measure possible to get these biscuit (sic) as quickly as I can from the mouth of the oven to the mouth of the consumer.” (p. 85) Improvement of quality and delivery were high on Mr. Green’s goals for the new company.

Harry F. Vories resigned from National Biscuit Company in 1906.

BRANDY IS DUTCH

Well, maybe brandy is not exactly a Dutch concoction. But, the Wine Spectator for January 31, 1997 reported on page 88: “Brandy. The name evolved from ‘brantjwyn,’ the Dutch word for ‘burnt wine.’” The Spectator went on to name same major wine producing areas, none of which was Dutch. How did the double distilled wine acquire a Dutch name?

WEB SITES

Here are three Internet sites to occupy your time.

1. Mark Willey, of Maquoketa IA, has constructed a web site with his family genealogy, including the Voorhees Family. There is an interactive connection with William Voorhees’ Association site. <<http://www.clinton.net/~mewilley/family.html>>

2. The Benelux home page can be accessed at <<http://www.ufsia.ac.be/genealogy/genealog.html>>. This is a Usenet Genealogy Newsgroup.

3. The Olive Tree Genealogy Homepage is interesting and includes much helpful information. However, it should be noted that some of the facts about our family are taken from older sources and are not accurate. There is an interactive connection with William Voorhees’ Association site. <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ote/>>

Thank you, Mark. Items two and three are from the Dutch Family Heritage Society Quarterly for the first two quarters of 1996 (a joint issue published earlier in 1997).

VOORHEES WORD SEARCH

by Michelle L. Klauka, North Pole AK

Doing Your Genealogy

ABOUT	FEMALE	OATH
AMERICA	FILES	OBITUARY
ANCESTORS	FIND	ORDER
ANSWERS	FIRST	PEDIGREE
ASSESSMENT(rolls)	GENEALOGIST	PHOTOS
BAPTISM	GENEALOGY	POSSESSIONS
BAPTIZED	GRANDPARENTS	PROBATE
BEFORE	HISTORIAN	PURCHASE (LAND)
BETROTHED	HISTORY	QUESTIONS
BIRTH	HUSBAND	READ
BOOKS	ILLNESSES	RESEARCH
BURIAL	IMMIGRANT	RECORDS
CEMETERY	INDEX	RELIGION
CENSUS	INFORMATION	RESIDE
CHARTS	ISSUED	RIGHTS
CHILDREN	KIN	ROOTS
CHURCH	LAST	SETTLERS
CITY	LETTERS	SIBLINGS
CIVIC (affairs)	LIBRARY	SONS
COMMUNITY	LINE	SORT
COMPUTERS	MAIDEN (NAME)	SOURCE
COUNTY	MALE	SPECIAL
CUSTOMS	MARRIED	SPONSORS
DATES	MEMBERS	STUDY
DAUGHTERS	MIDDLE	SURNAME
DEACON	MILITARY	TRACE
DEATH	MILITIA	TRAVELS
DESCENDANTS	MOTHER	WEDDING
ELDER	MOVE	WIDOW
ESTATE	NAMES	WIDOWER
EXECUTOR	NATIVE	WIFE
FAMILY	NEWSPAPER	WILLS
FATHER	NOTES	WITNESSES

GASHUSBANDIEHHDEHTORTEBFL
 REOTROTUCEXEIINNSSLKDIAGH
 AMNAIEHDEDEKSSSIOLYIERTPBC
 NSDESCENDANTSTFCLROTHETHV
 DNSDATINPEQRUOAAIAHEOWIFE
 PIWERLASTRPOERQDEWRKJLSZSX
 AKAASMOTGHLSDYQDIBFJDOMSD
 RECBESEGENEALOGY TICREVOMN
 EEOSONNCIIFILESONLEKDFTAQ
 NOWUAULEMSLAIRUBENDMORHRP
 TORNSHTMNSTOWIEOSRIAAAERP
 SCRDOWNIEETSRIFFJFSESVLLRID
 EUHHEGOTLOEKOPSDDEDEKXSJEC
 SJTARROEARVRKXSJWSLRKIEZDO
 NAOAROMRMIESYSESENLLIARM
 OZWNWYTOYEETYKDTOSKDJTUEOP
 ITLITOSTFSRIDUPYEKDPGSSUU
 GLADITTSISANIDORSTPAHECGST
 IEIONWIJUSNYAATOABTAEUNRE
 LECWUOATKKGKDTASNDERSOSIER
 EREEMMIDDLEITRSORCAKNTLLS
 RGPMBTTFJHLEEWKSHHPOOBTG
 HISTORIANIBBEQROCIIOKMITR
 CDORCKLMMIMRQEURESIBKSSCEP
 REOIOIILIKESATYUESSUSNECSP
 UPVGTMLMIRTIPLLESSKEJOHHA
 HIKHNASYXSEILDSEETVSRIOVP
 CIETTOWEELSKCCKDIIDOTKDS
 JGHSYQDTCOWIOAMNTKSOODKOW
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