

Van Voorhees Nieuwsbrief

SUMMER/FALL 1998 Volume 16, Number 5

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THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

One of today's truisms is that all good things cost money. Unfortunately, some very nice things cost a lot of money. Our forthcoming genealogy falls well within the latter category.

Let me review what has happened and will happen. Florence Christoph, our professional genealogist, has entered into her computer most of the available data. Judith Van Voorhis is Florence's volunteer and almostfull-time assistant. They have processed an enormous amount of records compiled by Elias W. Van Voorhis in the late 19th Century, Dr. Oscar M. Voorhees in the 1930's and 1940's, Donald Sinclair from the 1940's onward, and the several genealogists that preceded Florence. Considerable information has also been contributed by Association members over the past several decades and was fed into the data base. A large part of the total material has not hitherto been published.

Van Voorhees Family in America could reach 1,000 pages. David R. Voorhees distributed at the April 25th Executive Committee meeting 717 computer pages of data for the first proofreading. Florence will be devoting most of her effort from now through 1999 to resolving conflicts among the data and researching voids. This will be quite time consuming. Publication is planned for the year 2000. So far, we are on track to meet this goal.

The Executive Committee launched a fund raising drive with the Fall 1997 issue of the Nieuwsbrief. We hope to realize \$45,000 to pay part of the sizeable costs of Van Voorhees Family in America. This is where all of the membership can assist with the effort. As of August 26, 1998, we have \$26,171 in cash and pledges or 58% of our target. PLEASE make a contribution if you have not already done so. Your help is needed. A donation coupon is elsewhere in this Nieuwsbrief. Your contribution will be deductible for Federal income tax purposes. An easy way to help is to contribute low basis stock and deduct the current market value. Please do not forget! Thank you.

Manning W. Voorhees

IT'S REUNION TIME!

Our 66th Annual Reunion will be on October 10, 1998 at the Reformed Church in Highland Park NJ. It will be an active and enjoyable day. Information about events of the day, lodging and directions to the Church are elsewhere in this issue. Please mark your calendar and mail the reservation coupon as soon as possible.

Our agenda will follow this outline:

9:30 A.M. Fellowship, coffee and Danish

10:00 A.M. Genealogical Workshop

11:00 A.M. Presentation by Dr. David William Voorhees

12:15 A.M. Business meeting

12:30 P.M. Lunch

1:45 P.M. Fellowship and Genealogical Workshop

3:00 P.M. Tour of the Cornelius Low House or

continue with the Genealogical Workshop

5:00 P.M. Optional dinner at O'Connor's

Restaurant in Middlebush

Lois and Manning Voorhees will host the traditional Van Voorhees reception on Friday evening, the Ninth, from 5:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the Clarion Hotel in Edison (see Lodging). At this writing, the reception will be in their room. However, another location may be secured in the Clarion. A "Dutch treat" dinner will follow.

Our Reunion is the once-in-a-year event where you can renew friendships and meet new cousins. We expect to have a great time on October 10th. You will not want to miss it.

CALENDAR

Executive Committee Meeting October 10, 1998
Annual Reunion October 10, 1998
Executive Committee Meeting April 24, 1999
Annual Reunion October 9, 1999

Visit the Van Voorhees Association web site on the Internet at: http://www.vanvoorhees.org

THIS ISSUE OF THE NIEUWSBRIEF

I sustained an injury in the early part of June and was unable to resume writing the text for this September issue until the end of July. Unfortunately, our production process did not permit sufficient time for me to complete the text, for Bob Van Voorhis to paginate the material and for our printer to mail the Nieuwsbrief shortly after Labor Day. The September issue always contains important information about the Reunion that is clearly "time of the essence" with a deadline. I am sorry that most of the historical and general interest items had to be omitted.

Manning Voorhees

LODGING AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR THE REUNION

Lodging

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Clarion Hotel in Edison NJ for Friday night, October 9th, at \$79.00 plus tax. This includes a continental breakfast. The telephone number of the Clarion is 732-287-3500 or 800-221-2222. Please ask for the rooms set aside for the Van Voorhees Association. The Clarion is located at 2055 Route 27, Edison NJ 08817. Use Exit 10 on the New Jersey Turnpike to I-287 north and then to Route 27 south. Route 27 also runs through Highland Park, where it is known as Raritan Avenue (see map of Highland Park). The Reformed Church is a seven minute, almost straight-line drive from the Clarion.

Alternate facilities may be found at the Marriot, 110 Davidson Avenue, Somerset NJ 08873, telephone 732-560-0500, and the Hilton Brunswick Towers, 3 Tower Center, Route 18, East Brunswick NJ 08816, telephone 732-828-2000. These hotels and the Clarion are listed for your convenience and are not necessarily recommended or warranted by the Association.

Public Transportation

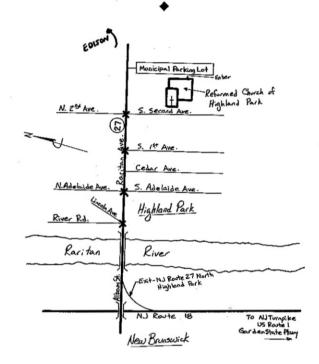
Edison and Highland Park are served by Amtrak and New Jersey Transit at the New Brunswick railroad station. Take a taxi from the station to the Church or the Clarion. Transportation is available from Newark Airport to Penn Station in Newark and from there to the New Brunswick railroad station via New Jersey Transit. Service from Penn Station in New York City to New Brunswick is available via New Jersey Transit.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL BUSINESS **MEETING**

Pursuant to the By-Laws, notice is hereby given for the 1998 business meeting of the Van Voorhees Association that will be held at approximately 12:15 P. M. on October 10, 1998 at the Reformed Church in Highland Park NJ. Scott T. Voorhees will stand for re-election as Vice President and Financial Secretary. Nominations may be made from the floor prior to voting for these positions.

HOW TO DRIVE TO HIGHLAND PARK FOR THE REUNION

From Exit 9 (New Brunswick) on the New Jersey Turnpike, travel west on NJ Route 18 to the exit for NJ Route 27 North to Highland Park. Cross the bridge over the Raritan River, go straight past the fourth traffic light at 2nd Avenue. Turn right into the Municipal Parking Lot about 150 feet past the 2nd Avenue traffic light. Enter the rear of the Church Parish House from the parking lot.



NEW MEMBERS

Tom Van Voorhies, our Membership chairperson, reported the following new members as of July 8, 1998. We welcome you and hope to see you on October 10th.

Connie Louise Nelson, Alta Loma CA Martha Elizabeth Voorhees, Allentown PA Lee Ann DeFilippo, Easton PA Patricia Ann Voorhees Argoff, Northport NY Patrick A. Rafferty, Upper Montclair NJ Bonnie M. Grocholl, Roxbury NY Susan Lynn Keller, Crystal Lake IL Ryan Gordon Clarke, Cypress TX Gerald M. Haslam, Pleasant Grove UT Betty Montgomery Slater, Bowling Green KY George Vorhease, Ulmer SC Barbara E. Hyland, Flemington NJ Grace D. Carmichael, Gilman IL Sue Anne Thompson, Logan UT Rosemar Turner Dills, Pasadena CA Marie Faye Avelsgaard, Two Harbors MN Amy Annettie Van Voorhis, Walnut Creek CA *** Anita R. Jump, Gig Harbor WA

Key *** Contributing Member

DAVID WILLIAM VOORHEES OUR REUNION SPEAKER

Dr. David William Voorhees, a member of the Association, will be our speaker at the October 10th Reunion. David is a member of the Association and professor of history at New York University. He will talk to us about the Voorhees Family and Leisler's Rebellion. Jacob Leisler seized control of New York City from the British governor in May 1688. Leisler's tenure as administrator of New York City lasted until 1691 when the British executed him.

David is the manager of and principal investigator for the Papers of Jacob Leisler Project, presently housed at New York University. The June 1998 report for the Project said, "... the Project's collections are becoming a major repository for materials relating to late seventeenth-century New York." David has uncovered several documents that show Coert Stevensen's activity during the tumultuous Leislerian period. The Nieuwsbrief for January 1996 reported David's discovery of a letter from Coert and two other citizens concerning the imprisonment of Leisler in Algeria. These documents had not been available to scholars. It would appear that the Van Voorhees Family was active in the late 17th century politics of New York City.

We are very pleased to announce that David will write the Preface to Van Voorhees Family in America. He is the editor of de Halve Maen, the historical journal of The Holland Society of New York, and is the first person to receive both the Alice P. Kenney Award and the Hendricks Manuscript Award from the New Netherland Project. David translated the old Dutch for the Records of The Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Flatbush, 1677-1720. David wrote "Fanatiks' and 'Fifth Monarchists': The Milborne Family in the Seventeenth-Century Atlantic World," which was the lead article in The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record for April 1998. The second part was in the July issue of the Record. Jacob Milborne was a close associate and son-in-law of Jacob Leisler. They were executed together. David is the author of "how ther poor wives do, and are delt with': Women in Leisler's Rebellion" for the Summer 1997 issue of de Halve Maen.

The political side of the Van Voorhees Family is generally not well understood. David will address this void at the Reunion.

GENEALOGICAL WORKSHOPAT THE REUNION

Florence Christoph and Judith Van Voorhis, with members of the Genealogical and Historical Committee, again will help Association members who are researching their family genealogy. They will have a data base approaching 60,000 names and at least one computer to access it. Our new genealogy, Van Voorhees Family in America, will be produced from part of this data base. Florence and Judith have worked very hard each year to present the Workshop as a fea-

ture of our Reunions. We believe that it has been getting better and better. Our genealogical data are not perfect - they never will be by the very nature of on-going genealogy - but there is no question that we have a magnificent asset for the membership to utilize at the Reunion.

DINNER AT O'CONNOR'S AFTER THE REUNION

O'Connor's restaurant on the Amwell Road in Middlebush is the site of Garret Voorhees' home that was burned by the British in 1777. We have planned an optional dinner at O'Connor's at 5:00 P. M. on Reunion day. The arrangements and details are the same as last year when we also ended a busy Reunion at O'Connor's.

The meal cost is \$18.50 per person including sales tax and gratuity, but excluding alcoholic and soft beverages. There is a minimum of fifteen people. Please indicate you choice of entree on the Reunion reservation form. Dinner also includes salad, bread, potato, vegetable, ice cream or sherbert, and coffee. We will appreciate separate checks for the luncheon and dinner.

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ABSENTEE BALLOT

hereby authorize the following ballot to be voted for me at the 66th Annual Business Meeting of the Van Voorhees Association on October 10, 1998.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT

[] Scott T. Voorhees

FOR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Scott T. Voorhees

Please return your Absentee Ballot for receipt not later than October 7, 1998 to Manning W. Voorhees at 2415 Spring Hill Drive, Toms River, New Jersey 08755-2523. A photocopy of this ballot will be accepted.

Please print name:		 	
Signed:		 	_
VVA #:			
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ELDER ORIN VOORHEIS

We reported in past issues of the Nieuwsbrief the robbery attack upon Elder Orin Voorheis near Buenos Aires on April 9, 1997. Orin was in Argentina as a young missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. A bullet broke into two pieces and passed through his brain. Orin suffered very significant brain injury and was flown home to Pleasant Grove UT in the private jet plane of an active Mormon Church member. David LaBau, of Scottsdale AZ, alerted us to the following up-date about Orin's recovery that was on the Internet. It is written by Orin's parents, Wayne and Florence Voorheis, and is dated May 19, 1998. Thank you, David.

"Elder Voorheis' physical progress is still slow but steady. He continues to progress in control of his right arm and hand. His strength gets a little stronger as time goes on. His left arm shows a little progress in control also. It is easier for him to move it out of the way when we go through narrow doors. With a little coaxing, he pulls it in closer to the wheel chair. Normally it is rigid and held out away from his body with the left hand bent inwardly and the fingers clenched tight except the index finger which protrudes almost straight. Lately, he has let me bend his left arm, if I am patient and work his arm very slowly. When I move it quickly the stretch reflex takes over and he cannot release the muscles to allow the arm to bend. I guess patience is a virtue I am continually exercising in his behalf.

"Lately Orin has had trouble with fairly strong muscle spasms again. He has his legs drawn up toward his chest most of the time and it is painful for him to have us straighten them out. Sunday he could not stay quiet during the whole Sacrament meeting. I had to take him out after half an hour. When I got him home, I took his temperature. It was 103.4 F. I sprayed him with water and turned a small fan on him. After about 15 minutes his temp was down to 99 F and he was much more calm. His temperature system still does not work very well, so when he starts to have major spasms he burns so many calories that his temperature rises quickly. We have to anticipate the rise in temperature and take measures quickly to control it or the high temperature will amplify the spasms.

THE CORNELIUS LOW HOUSE AT THE REUNION

We have made arrangements for you to tour the Cornelius Low House around 3:00 P. M. on the afternoon of the Reunion. The Genealogical Workshop and fellowship will continue if you wish to remain at the Reformed Church.

The Low House (rhymes with "cow") is located on River Road in Piscataway, a few minutes drive from the Church and a reasonable drive to O'Connor's for the optional dinner. In excellent condition, it is listed in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places and has been cited by the Historic American Building Survey of the Library of Congress. Notwithstanding its historicity, the Low House has contempo-

"He wakes up 4-5 times each night, but because of the spasms, instead of taking 10-15 minutes to change him or his position, then settle him down to sleep, it sometimes takes up to an hour. Last night (rather this morning) he was awake from 2:50am to 4:00am. This makes for some very short nights for us. I have been telling him for months, to yell if he needs us and we will come running. Lately he has taken me at my word very well. He does not speak yet, but he has certainly caught the vision on crying out for help. Actually, I am thankful he has. In the past, he could have lain there awake and uncomfortable for too long before we would get up to check on him on a scheduled basis. We are thankful that he gets uncomfortable. I think that would bear some explaining. Months ago, he would not get uncomfortable from lying in one position for hours because he could not feel all his body parts. Now he can feel much better and does not like being in one position on the bed more than 1-1/2 to 2 hours. He lets us know when it is time to roll him over.

"Usually he gets two 10-minute sessions each day with us straightening his legs out and holding them straight. He has very strong legs, so once we get them out straight, one of us has to lie across his legs to hold them for the ten minute period. He usually cries much of the time we are doing this. Some days, especially on weekends if we sleep in, we do not get this therapy accomplished. It is these days that he has worse spasms and does not sleep as well. The benefit to him is apparent, but it is hard for us to make him endure the pain each time.

"We are pursuing the possibility of purchasing a Standing Table for Orin. This is an odd-looking piece of equipment that holds the patient's legs and posterior straight and allows him to put his full weight on his legs. There is a platform for him to rest his elbows on so he can do things with his arms while he is standing. We can do some other therapy items with him while he stands, which we hope will take his mind away from the discomfort of the legs. He should be in this contraption twice each day for 20-minutes. This would help him sleep better too, since it tires him very much. It takes three men and a boy to get him upright in it though."

rary facilities for visitors.

The exhibit in the Low House on October 10th will be Life in the Raritan Valley, Perspectives on Commerce and Community from 1700 to 1830. It is most interesting and certainly topical for a Reunion of our family heritage association. The following text is taken from a brochure about the Low House.

"In the mid-1700s, Piscataway was a thriving mercantile community, and one of the more significant trading centers in the United States. The currents of the Raritan River carried agricultural goods to markets in New York City, and outward from there to American and Caribbean ports. A prominent merchant, surveyor and attorney, Cornelius Low prospered in Raritan Landing, building extensive warehouses in this predominantly

GENEALOGICAL CONTRIBUTION COUPON	
am pleased to support our new genealogy, Van Voorhees Family in America. I will:	
] Make a pledge of \$ payable in two installments for 1998 and 1999. Enclosed with this coupor	n is
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] Donate stock of	
orth approximately \$ at current market. I will initiate transfer of this stock into the name of the \	√an
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Please mail to: Manning Voorhees, 2415 Spring Hill Drive, Toms River, New Jersey 08755-2523	
Please mail stock certificates to the same address.	

Dutch region.

"The history of the Low family in America dates back to 1659. Leaving his homeland in Holstein, Holland, Peter Cornellessen Low emigrated to the United States, settling in Esopus (Kingston), New York. In time, the family, under Peter's son, Cornelius, made its way to New York City and later to Newark, New Jersey.

"Over the years, Cornelius Low, Sr., and wife Margaret Van Bursum, bore fifteen children. Their third son, and Museum namesake, Cornelius Low, Jr., was born in the port town of New York in 1700.

"Cornelius married Johanna, daughter of Isaac Gouverneur of Newark, in 1729, and brought her to live with him at Raritan Landing in 1730. The couple had eleven children between 1731 and 1748; however, only five survived into adulthood. Two sons, Isaac and Nicholas, were involved in Revolutionary politics, with their papers preserved in various collections; one was a patriot, the other a loyalist. The brothers were merchants and well placed in New York City society. A third son, Cornelius III, became a lawyer in New Brunswick. The two daughters, Sarah and Gertrude, married two brothers, Alex and Hugh Wallace, both of whom were merchants and politicians in New York City.

"Cornelius Low died in 1777. His estate was not settled for

many years, due both to the confusion of the Revolutionary years and the drawn-out attempts to collect debts due his estate. During this time, the widow of Cornelius Low's son, Cornelius III, and their daughter, Mary Margaret, lived in the Low House. The mansion was being maintained by John Pool, Jr., who eventually bought the house and warehouses in 1793.

"Over the next two-hundred years, the Cornelius Low House was home to five successive families, including the Pools, Metlars, Voorhees and Strongs. Tradition has it that General Charles Cornwallis, later to be second in command of British Forces in America, occupied the house for a short time in the spring of 1777.

"The Cornelius Low House stands today as one of the finest examples of classic Georgian manor homes in the United States. Completed in 1741, the magnificent two-and-a-half story stone structure is situated atop a bluff overlooking River Road (known as Raritan Landing in the 18th century) in Piscataway. The site chosen by Cornelius Low served a dual purpose: after floods threatened his original home on the flats by the Raritan River, the elevated grounds provided a secure residence; and, with his warehouses in the Landing below, Mr. Low could easily survey his holdings from the grounds of his new home.

"Originally referred to as Ivy Hall, the main portion of the Low House is forty feet by thirty feet, with a two-story wing of stone about thirty feet square. Quarries to the west of Bound Brook (Ed. Bound Brook is near Piscataway) are believed to have supplied the approximately 350 tons of sandstone required to complete the home. Additional construction over the next several decades extended the house to include a frame addition in the rear, built before 1800.

"Several original portions of the Low House have been meticulously maintained. The house contains a center hall where you may see the original paneled staircase and wainscoting, eight additional rooms and seven fireplaces. In two of the fireplaces on the second floor, the original delft Dutch-blue Biblical scene tiles may still be found, and in the rear of the house, a few of the twelve-pane window sashes remain."

VAN VOORHEES WHO'S WHO

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Vacant

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Vacant

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66th ANNUAL REUNION RESERVATION

Please reserve the following places for me at the 66th Annual Reunion Luncheon: Children under 10 years: # @ \$ 6.00 = \$ Adults: # @ \$ 15.00 = \$ TOTAL \$ Names of those in my group: Adults: Children: Please enclose your check for the total above amount payable to The Van Voorhees Association. I would like Nursery Services at the Reformed Church: [] Yes [] No Are you attending for the first time: [] Yes [] No [] I will visit the Cornelius Low House. [] I may visit the Cornelius Low House. I will join everyone for dinner at O'Connor's Restaurant [] Yes [] No Number of people: My choice of entree is: [] marinated filet tips [] stuffed filet of sole [] chicken parmigiana. Please enclose your separate check for \$18.50 cost per person payable to The Van Voorhees Association. Name: 11.74 VVA # Address: City: State: Zip: Please indicate your Line(s) of descent (check all that apply): [] Albert [] Aeltje [] Jannetje [] Hendrickje (either) [] Coert [] Lucas [] Jan MAIL TO: Scott T. Voorhees, 147 Grand Boulevard, Emerson, New Jersey 07630-1744 Reservations must be received not later than October 5, 1998. You may photocopy this form. ITEM SALES FORM **BOOK ORDER FORM** The Association continues to stock items of interest to members. All orders should be accompanied by a check payable Through a Dutch Door, 17th Century Orgins of the Van to the Van Voorhees Association. Please do not send cash. Voorhees Family All orders should be sent to: copies @ regular price, \$22.00 Ms. Judith Voorhees,30 San Salvador Street,Toms River, NJ 08757, Telephone (908) 505-9232 TOTAL Items for Sale **Members Non-Members** Quantity Tote Bag Coat of Arms Tile \$10.00 \$12.00 \$ 6.00 \$ 7.00 \$10.00 Make check or money order payable to The Van Voorhees Coat of Arms Patch \$ 5.00 \$ 6.00 Association and mail to: Historic Handbook Van Voorhees Letters 2.50 \$ 2.50 Mr. Robert S. Voris, 802 Berkeley Rd., Westover Hills, \$ 6.00 Baseball Cap \$ 5.00 Wilmington, DE 19807 Handpainted Coat of Arms \$10.00 \$12.00 Tietac\Pin \$15.00 \$15.00 Please enclose this complete form or a photocopy with your Coat of Arms.(X Stitch Pattern) \$ 1.50 order. Purchases are sent postpaid with no additional shipping Name _____ charges. Address Name Address State_____Zip _____ City _____Zip Telephone _____ State Telephone

1998 DUES NOTICE

Dues through December 1998 were payable January 1, 1998. Please check membership desired and note any change of address. Mail to the Financial Secretary: Scott T. Voorhees, 147 Grand Boulevard, Emerson NJ 07630-1744. Please make checks payable to The Van Voorhees Association. Your dues are deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

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

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

FIRST CLASS

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