



VAN VOORHEES NIEUWSBRIEF

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A Publication of the Van Voorhees Association, Organized in 1932
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REPORT ON OUR NEW GENEALOGY

by Florence Christoph, Certified Genealogist

WORK COMPLETED APRIL 1988 - AUG 1988

This is the report given by Florence at the October 1998 Reunion. We are very impressed with Florence's work and thank her for the dedication and professionalism that she has applied to our project. Florence inherited an enormous amount of unorganized records that required a mammoth effort to compile into a comprehensive data base. Note must be made of the considerable assistance contributed by Judith Van Voorhis who is working with Florence several days each week. Thank you, Judith. Adrienne Haney has done a terrific job with the citations and we thank Adrienne also.

Many of you will remember that years ago I was given a truck load of assorted grocery boxes full of Van Voorhees records which were gathered over the past 65 years. All of those records are now in clean folders and bankers boxes. We continue to shuffle folders and papers and the number of boxes varies by the month, but we have around 20 of them. All of the organized records, that is family group sheets, family trees, Bibles, deeds, lengthy genealogies, etc. have been entered into the computer. Most of the correspondence files are also entered. We receive letters every week



and still find odds and ends buried here and there. I have gone through all the records of my predecessors, Oscar Voorhees, Harold Hazelton, Donald Sinclair and Albert Stokes. Computer entry of the records from Don Sinclair's note books was completed in 1998 and included abstracts of wills, deeds, records from the Pennsylvania Archives and the

New Jersey Archives. They are a valuable collection of records arranged by first name of the Voorhees descendant. Don's note-books added a significant amount of biographical material, provided documentation for previous data and helped to solve several genealogical problems.

Computer entry of the material submitted by Adrianna Brown was also completed this year. She gathered material on the first three generations in America including deeds and maps which we can use as illustrations.

Besides the material arranged by families, there are boxes of material arranged geographically. These include census records, cemetery records, wills, deeds, church records and miscellaneous material from county histories. These items were gathered and used by my predecessors but not all of the people in the records were identified. I have gone through the 1850 and 1860 census records for NY, NJ, OH, TN, and KY, and was

continued on page 9

INSIDE...

Voorhees Family and Leisler's Rebellion	Page 3
Dutch Colonial Architecture	Page 10
The Dutch in the Americas	Page 11
Elizabeth Edgar	Page 12
Reunion 1999	Page 12
Drenthe Farm Photographs	Page 13
Augustus Voorhees and Pike's Peak	Page 15
Major General Alvin C. Voris	Page 16
Oscar M. Voorhees	Page 17
Mariakerk at Ruinen	Page 19

CHANGE IN PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

A LARGER SIZE NIEUWSBRIEF WILL BE PUBLISHED TWICE YEARLY COMMENCING WITH THIS ISSUE: WINTER/SPRING AND SUMMER/FALL. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO SPREAD THE WORK FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS OVER A LONGER TIME BETWEEN ISSUES. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL APPROVE.

CALENDAR

Executive Committee Meeting -- April 24, 1999; Annual Reunion, -- October 9, 1999

VISIT THE VAN VOORHEES ASSOCIATION INTERNET SITE AT <<http://www.vanvoorhees.org>>

THE VAN VOORHEES ASSOCIATION

The Van Voorhees Association was organized in 1932. Membership is open to any descendant of Steven Coerts Van Voorhees and to those related by marriage or adoption to Van Voorhees descendants. There are at least 32 different spellings of the Family name today. In 1660, Steven Coerts and his family left the Province of Drenthe in the Netherlands for New Amersfort in New Netherland.

WE WELCOME

We welcome two new volunteers who will contribute their time to ensure that our Association functions as smoothly as possible. In addition, two of our active volunteers have agreed to take on additional duties. Thank you all very much — your cousins appreciate your efforts and interest.

Marie Avelsgaard, who lives in the upper mid-west, will be Judith Van Voorhis' understudy over the next several months for the genealogical inquiry business. Marie will be learning the "ins and outs" of our genealogical software as well as the depth and width of our records. When Marie feels confident about our data base, she will succeed Judith. In the interim, please continue to send your inquiries to Judith.

Eleanor Casagrand, of Wayne NJ, is our new Assistant Editor of the *Nieuwsbrief*. Eleanor will write articles and produce material, working with Manning Voorhees. She is Editor of the Morris Area Genealogical Society newsletter and an active genealogist. Eleanor has won awards for her work with the MAGS newsletter.

Cornelia Mason, our Nominations Chairperson, will manage our Internet membership inquiries working with Tom Van Voorhies, Membership Chairperson. The Van Voorhees Association Internet site has a Guestbook page which often contains membership inquiries. We are receiving many new members from

the Internet and Cornelia will be an important part of that effort.

Marilyn Brack, of North Haledon NJ and our Albert Line Representative, has succeeded Bob Voris as our publications sales agent. Marilyn is also the sales agent for publications of the Association of Blauvelt Descendants. Publications are a very key part of our educational endeavor.

AND WE THANK YOU

Bob Voris, of Wilmington DE, has been our Chairperson of the Publications Committee as well as sales agent for many years. Bob will continue as Chairperson of the Publications Committee and will work on the new genealogy. He has been an active member of the Association and the Executive Committee for several decades. We are fortunate that Bob will be sharing his experience and offering his advice as we enter the actual publication phase of Van Voorhees Family in America. Thank you, Bob, very much.

ELECTION RESULTS — 1998 BUSINESS MEETING

Scott T. Voorhees was unanimously re-elected as Vice President and Financial Secretary of the Association at the business meeting during the Reunion on October 10, 1998. These positions are separate responsibilities under our By-Laws. Scott also serves as Chairperson of the Programs Committee.

WE NEED HELP

The two preceding articles clearly show that some volunteers are serving the Association in more than one position. This is manifestly unfair. The only reason "double timing" or "triple timing" occurs is because few people step up to share the load. There is no split between "them" and "me," we are all "us." Please write to Manning Voorhees if you can volunteer some time for the Family.

NEXT ISSUE OF THE NIEUWSBRIEF

The deadline for the Summer/Fall 1999 issue of the *Nieuwsbrief* is June 7th. Please send Manning Voorhees articles and/or material of genealogical, historical and current interest about the Family, and news about your particular family. Please cite the source, page number(s) and date of newspaper/magazine articles and include photocopies of the front and rear sides of the title page of books with photocopies from the books. Sources of articles based on published material *must* be acknowledged. We will accept handwritten material and information on computer disk. The *Nieuwsbrief* can only be as interesting as YOU make it. Thank you.

GENEALOGICAL FUND RAISER

We have a void in our records for the genealogical funding request made in September 1997. If you made contributions then, please write to Manning Voorhees so that we can be certain that your name will be listed in the book. We do not want to omit anybody and we know that this will happen in a few instances unless we hear from you. The amount raised including earnings on balances was \$27,931.69 on December 26, 1998. This includes pledges for 1999. We received 62% of our \$45,000 goal in cash donations, common stock and pledges as of that date. A contribution coupon is included in this *Nieuwsbrief*.

BILL WITTE

Bill Witte is a hard working friend of the Family — and a very brave man. Bill has printed the *Nieuwsbrief* for a long time. His son, Ron, now actually prints the *Nieuwsbrief* but Bill is our contact. He carefully shepherds our material through the printing process, looking for things that may not be correct, and then delivers the finished product to one or more post offices. On September 12, 1998, Bill was driving down a residential street in River Edge NJ at 9:30 A.M. when he spotted a house on fire with considerable smoke. He stopped to help. Two children ran out the front door but they did not know if their parents or a seven year old sister were still inside. A police officer arrived and Bill helped him put a ladder up to second floor. Bill then went to move his car to make room for the approaching fire engines. He slumped over the steering wheel, the victim of a heart attack. Bill was given CPR, rushed to the hospital and subsequently had open heart surgery. The parents were safe, it turned out, although the family poodle died on the way to the animal hospital. Bill is now fully recovered and doing well.

We are very proud of you, Bill. Congratulations!
Source: The Sunday Record (Hackensack NJ), September 13, 1998, p. A-15. Thanks to Scott Voorhees who sent us the clipping.

"THAT YOU ALSO HAVE A GOOD GOVERNMENT": THE VOORHEES FAMILY AND THE LEISLER REBELLION OF 1689

by Dr. David William Voorhees

This is the text of David's excellent and enlightening presentation at the October 1998 Reunion. He discussed a little known aspect of our Family history based upon his research into the tumultuous events of Leisler's Rebellion during the early years of English rule in the former New Netherland. David is an expert on Leisler and manages the Papers of Jacob Leisler Project at New York University. We are proud that David is a member of the Family and the Association. Thank you, David.

On March 10, 1699, Hilbert Coerts wrote from the Netherlands to his cousin Coert Stevens van Voorhees at New Amersfort on Long Island, "I received . . . the letter which you wrote on August 30th, 1698, and understand from it that all of you are still healthy, also prosperous and living in a good state of peace, and that you also have a good government which I have read about with pleasure." (1) The phrase, "that you also have a good government," is revealing, for Hilbert is undoubtedly referring to English governor Richard Coote, earl of Bellomont, who had arrived in New York the previous July. He most likely, as he noted, "read about with pleasure" of Bellomont's arrival in New York not only in the family correspondence from America but also in the Dutch newspapers, which gave extensive coverage to the earl's appointment. It was believed that Bellomont, "a firm believer in orderly imperial administration" and an ardent Whig, would institute policies favoring Dutch interests in the American province. (2)

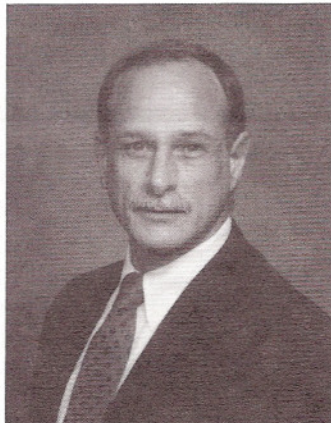
Among Bellomont's first and more controversial acts was the reburial of former New York governor Jacob Leisler. Leisler had, in the wake of England's 1688 Glorious Revolution, assumed the role of governor on behalf of King William III and Queen Mary, but in May 1691 was executed as a traitor by incoming royal governor Henry Sloughter. Although four years later England's Parliament, at the instruction of King William, declared Leisler's execution illegal, Bellomont's predecessor, Benjamin Fletcher, supported by Leisler's bitter enemies, had nonetheless ignored Parliament's directions. (3) Bellomont's action thus had broad symbolic significance. Despite a heavy snow storm, Leisler's reburial in New York City in November 1698 drew over 1,200 mourners, approximately one quarter of the city's population. (4)

Hilbert probably also read about Leisler's reburial in the Dutch papers. In February 1699, for instance, the *Amsterdamse Courant* reported that the previous October 30 the bodies of Leisler and Jacob Milborne, who had been executed along with Leisler, "were taken late in the evening out of the family vault where they were buried, and, under the blare of trumpets and the escort of 40 or 50 men with drawn swords," brought to the house of Leisler's son, where they laid in state. On November 22, the *Courant's* New York cor-

respondent continues, the "caskets, hung with paintings, were carried through the city followed by a great concourse of people, who came here from many places, and brought to the Dutch Church," where they were buried. (5)

The records are silent on whether any Voorhees attended Leisler's reburial, but they do reveal that the family was intimately involved in the dramatic events of Leisler's stormy two-year administration. The Leisler Rebellion of 1689-1691 is the most important episode in New York history between the 1664 English Conquest and the American Revolution, and the Voorhees family's active participation in this event adds another dimension to understanding the family in America.

Jacob Leisler was born in 1640 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, a son of French Reformed minister Jacob Victorian Leisler. The Leislars were of the lesser nobility: his paternal grandfather had been councilor to the counts of Oettingen and, later, civil prosecutor for Prince Christian of Anhalt; his maternal family included the powerful Geneva syndic family of Aubert and noted Huguenot theologian Simon Goulart. Leisler was thus connected to Europe's leading Calvinist families. He arrived in New Netherland in 1660 — the same year as Steven Coerts, though not on the same ship — a junior officer of troops sent to bolster the West India Company's forces at the outbreak of Anglo-Dutch tensions over England's Navigation Act. He abandoned a military career the following year and entered the fur and tobacco trade. (6) Two years later he married a stepdaughter of wealthy New Amsterdam merchant Govert Loockermans, who had properties in the New Amersfort area where the Voorhees settled, and within a decade was one of New York's richest merchants. (7)



Steven Coerts and his sons, Coert, Lucas, Jan, and Albert, most likely came to know of Leisler through his mercantile endeavors. Leisler was involved in enterprises from horse breeding and whaling on Long Island's east end to the lumber and pantile industries and grain raising on the island's west end. (8) As a major New York City flour bolter, he probably obtained much of his grain from such agricultural families as the Voorhees. (9) Moreover, he was a primary wholesaler of luxury goods, finished cloth products, and ceramics much desired in the farming communities. When in 1685 the Long Island Dutch Reformed consistory wished to order a shipment of books, for example, they negotiated with Leisler to obtain the works in Europe. (10) The Voorhees certainly knew of Leisler by 1678, when Coert Stevens, as a New Amersfort church deacon, helped raise ransom funds for Leisler and his pink *Susannah*, which had been captured the previous year by Algerians in the North Sea. (11) [Ed. See the lead article in the *Nieuwsbrief*, January 1996.]

There also is a possible earlier connection that unites

later Voorhees generations to Leisler. Persistent genealogical rumors hold that the mother of Long Island's first Reformed domine, former Drenthe Reformed minister Johannes Theodorus Polhemius, was a sister of Leisler's grandfather. Genealogist Louis P. de Boer wrote in the 1920s that Polhemius's mother was either the elder Leisler's sister Margareta or Elisabeth. (12) Unfortunately, this relationship is not confirmed. There is, however, tantalizing evidence of a Leisler-Polhemius kinship. [Ed. Jan Seuberige, brother-in-law of Steven Coerts, married Adrianna Polhemius before 1660; Adrianna was the daughter of Domine Polhemius.] In 1694 Elsie Leisler wrote to Daniel Polhemius asking his aid in raising funds for her husband's imprisoned supporters, a request usually made only to blood relations. (13)

If such a familial connection exists for later Voorhees generations, it did not exist in 1689. The seventeenth century was an era of rigid social stratification, and the world of the urban patriciate was far removed from that of the village farmer. (14) This hierarchical structure is important in understanding the events of 1689, and the Voorhees family's participation in them. The development of the nation state disrupted European peasant communities as farmer's found themselves increasingly squeezed by taxation, devastated by warfare, forced into tenancy, and denied the political power that property brought with it. As D. J. Wijmer notes of Steven Coerts's motives for migration to the New World, "For men like him the idea to permanently own a farm of reasonable size must have had great attraction." (15)

Coert's public career spanned half a century, and I believe that he indeed may have been the mover behind the family's migration to New Netherland.

In New Netherland property was easily obtainable and, with land ownership, a voice in local civil and ecclesiastical affairs. Like many modern immigrant families, the Voorhees, consisting of several related adult males, probably pooled resources in order to make the 400-guilders down payment on their original 62-acre New Amersfort holding. (16) Although the aging Steven Coerts is usually the focus of research, it was his sons, notably Coert, who became politically active. Coert's public career spanned half a century, and I believe that he indeed may have been the mover behind the family's migration to New Netherland. He was a magistrate of New Amersfort by 1664, a deacon in the Reformed church, a militia captain, a delegate to numerous provincial conventions, and eventually a member of the New York assembly. (17)

Post-Reformation Europe closely tied politics to religious doctrine, and the Voorhees family's political views were shaped by their Reformed faith. In the Dutch Republic at the beginning of the century, Calvinists coalesced into factions over the Arminian controversy on whether or not man could affect his own salvation. (18) Doctrinal conflict revived in mid-century between the followers of Utrecht University professor Gisbertus Voetius, a strict Calvinist who

stressed moral precisionism and a personal conversion to Christ, and the followers of the more liberal covenant theology of Leiden University professor Johannes Cocceius. By the third quarter of the century this controversy colored every aspect of Dutch Reformed life. (19)

It has been suggested that the Reverend Johannes Theodorus Polhemius may have influenced the Voorhees migration to New Netherland. It is known that the group that included the Voorhees which emigrated from Drenthe were strict Calvinists. (20) Inspired by Voetius, a pietist movement for spiritual regeneration known as the *Nadere Reformatie*, or Further Reformation, spread particularly among rural Calvinists in Europe and America. (21) This is seen in Long Islanders' reading matter. Proto-pietists were their most popular authors, the most widely read being Rotterdam domine Jacobus Borstius and the controversial Sluis domine Jacobus Koelman. (22) In 1681 the Long Island consistory made mandatory reading Borstius's adaptation of the Heidelberg Catechism for parents with children (he apparently was the Benjamin Spock for his generation). (23)

Leisler was well known among New Yorkers for his defense of doctrinal purity. His 1676 dispute with Albany domine Nicholas van Rensselaer is legendary. James, the Roman Catholic duke of York, had appointed Van Rensselaer, ordained as an Anglican, to the Albany Reformed pulpit. The duke's act outraged orthodox Calvinists, who held that a minister must be ordained in the Reformed church and called by the congregation. (24) The controversy came to a head when Leisler circulated a critique of a sermon by Van Rensselaer on original sin and charged the domine with heterodoxy for suggesting that only after Adam's fall did God decree the election or nonelection of individuals to salvation. (25)

Perhaps as important to Long Island farmers was Leisler's advocacy of free trade and the abolishment of monopolies. (26) As Dutch historian Willem Frijhoff writes, "For seventeenth-century men and women commerce and religion were two equally necessary dimensions of the same reality." (27) James's policy, as duke and as king, of following his cousin, French King Louis XIV's example in centralizing imperial control through the granting of monopolies met resistance in the farming communities. (28) His creation of manors in the province, in reality a political gimmick rather than land engrossment, raised the specter of "grandeens," that is, Roman Catholic nobles who were given large land grants by the Spanish crown in order to expel the Muslims from Iberia. (29)

Tensions between the Roman Catholic James's administrators and Long Island's agricultural communities increased after James became king. Family letters from Europe fueled mistrust. "People here are afraid of war with the French and when this happens woe to our country," Hilbert wrote Coert in 1684. (30) James's appointment of Roman Catholics to the province's highest offices intensified apprehensions. "The adherents of popery (our Hon. Lord Governor being a papist) utilize all means for the advancement of the same," the Long Island consistory complained. (31) King Louis XIV's 1685 revocation of religious toleration in France and the subse-

quent persecutions of Protestants confirmed fears. "Hearing what greater success the Dragonnades in France had had," a New York letter recalls, "we could only know what was in store for us." (32)

In early November 1688 a "Protestant Wind" blew William, prince of Orange, stadholder of Holland and Zeeland, and son-in-law and nephew of King James II, across the English Channel to England along with an invasion force of 21,000 men. (33) New Yorkers first learned of the Protestant prince's invasion of England in December, and by the following February they knew of the invasion's success and of James's flight from the throne. (34) On May 31, 1689, following the lead of Boston, the militia seized control of New York City's fort from James's regular troops. In August a convention of delegates from six New York counties and two East Jersey counties, known as the Committee of Safety, elected Leisler, who was the senior militia captain, as commander-in-chief of the province. (35) Leisler thereupon implemented a program that called for a return to the values of "true Christianity" (that is, orthodox Calvinism), abolition of monopolies, no taxation without representation, and devolution of governmental authority to local communities. (36)

Not surprisingly, Leisler's strongest support came from the doctrinally conservative rural villages that benefitted most from his program. Firth Fabend notes in her praiseworthy study of the Haring family, a New Jersey farm family similar to the Voorhees, "Dutch Pietists became a severe irritant both to the Dutch Reformed (Cocceian) clergy and to the political establishment, primarily on two accounts: they insisted that a personal conversion be experienced by all communicants, including the clergy; and they supported Jacob Leisler." (37) It was to such families as the Harings and Voorhees that Leisler turned to obtain hegemony in the province. On December 27, 1689, he appointed Coert Stevense as captain of the New Amersfort, now called Flatlands, militia. (38) [Ed. Leisler's commission to Coert Stevense follows below.]

Militia captain was a prestigious position in seventeenth-century New York, and in this capacity Coert played an important role in maintaining Leisler's authority in New Amersfort and on Long Island. As one of Kings County's seven militia officers, for example, he was a member of a court-martial convened at Flatbush in November 1690, "to Examine hear, Conclude, and determine all such or any officers or persons which have offended, neglected their Duty or otherwise trespassed the same." (39) Moreover, he acted in provincial affairs. In the wake of the devastating February 1690 French and Indian raid on Schenectady, Leisler requested Coert, among the other Kings County militia officers, to raise fifty men for an expedition against the French and, as he wrote, "to dispeed to New York City" for "your assistance." (40)

Leisler's elevation of community leaders to provincial affairs nonetheless frightened many in an age that sought security in God-ordained hierarchy. Some saw it as an attempt, as one critic charged, "to turn all Authority upside downe." (41) The Voorhees family's minister, Reformed domine Rudolphus Varick, was among these. Varick initially

supported the rebellion and urged his communicants to act unanimously in Leisler's favor. But the leveling excesses of Leisler's supporters soon disturbed him, and by Spring 1690 he was preaching against Leisler. (42) As a result, many of his communicants began to suspect the minister of conspiring to restore New York to the Catholic James II. Hostility turned to violence and in June Varick fled to Pennsylvania. When he returned to Flatbush the following fall, a riotous mob seized him at his home and dragged him to New York City, where he was charged with conspiracy and imprisoned. (43)

The Varick episode is but one of a number of mob actions in Kings County. Although we do not know if Coert, Lucas, or other Voorhees family members participated in these riots, suspicions are that they did. The elite were not the only objects of hostility. The collapse of royal authority caused old antagonisms between neighbors to resurface. Gerrit Elbertse Stoothof and Roelof Martense Schenck, brother-in-law of Jannetje Voorhees, are an example. Stoothof and Schenck had long embroiled in a property dispute, and when Leisler appointed Schenck captain of the Kings County horse troops and Stoothof his lieutenant, Stoothof "in a Contemptuous manner denied the Command" of Schenck. Undoubtedly it was Schenck who reported that Stoothof's actions revealed "his ill affection to this his Majties Government and [that he] is not to be trusted in his Command." Stoothof was discharged. (44)

In late January 1691 a contingent of royal troops arrived in New York harbor under the command of Captain Richard Ingoldsby. Ingoldsby, without producing papers, demanded the government be immediately turned over to him. Leisler's refusal to do so until royal governor Henry Sloughter arrived resulted in the old members of James II's administration rushing to Ingoldsby's aid. (45) There were now two governments operating in New York, and for two months the province hovered on the brink of civil war. Kings County justice Gerardus Beekman, a member of Leisler's council, fearing that the parties "are now so violent that the danger of the whole country being bathed in blood is most imminent," called for deputies from the Long Island villages to meet at Brooklyn Ferry to "write together a Peace address." (46) Coert was probably among those delegates.

Despite Leisler's surrender of the fort when Governor Sloughter finally arrived, Leisler was arrested and imprisoned. Anti-Leislerian revenge was swift and merciless. Imprisoned with Leisler were at least thirty-six of his most prominent supporters. Scores had their homes plundered and properties confiscated; hundreds of others were fined. A hastily convened court tried Leisler's council and, in a travesty of English justice, found Leisler guilty. When riots broke out on Staten Island in reaction to the court's sentence, the new government feared a provincial insurrection. To set an example, and to end the "diseases and troubles of this Government," Leisler and his chief aide, Jacob Milborne, were quickly executed on Saturday morning, May 16, 1691. (47)

Rather than end the turmoil, Leisler's execution intensified resentments. Only one-tenth of Varick's congregation attended the domine's sermons or partook of communion,

and many refused to pay his salary, especially for the period of his imprisonment. The anti-Leislerian court ordered the salary to be collected, by "distress" if necessary. (48) A bitter battle erupted over the schoolhouse in Flatbush. When the popular Leislerian schoolmaster Johannes van Eekelen was removed, he handed the school key over to Leislerian partisans in the "name of the people." The anti-Leislerians took the Leislerians to court to obtain the key and had them fined. (49) Perhaps because he was a moderating voice, or because Kings County was so overwhelmingly Leislerian, Coert Stevense was elected county representative to the New York Assembly in 1692. Yet, as the anti-Leislerian provincial government increasingly barred Leisler's adherents from political participation, he was removed two years later. (50) It was into this climate of anti-Leislerian repression that the earl of Bellomont arrived in 1698, much to the joy of the Voorhees.

The Leisler issue colored regional politics for decades to come. As late as 1764, the New York Assembly felt compelled to add an appendix on Leisler to their published minutes because of the continuing controversy. (51) Some historians have seen in the Leisler turmoil the seeds of American democracy, others the origins of America's unique two-party system or a harbinger of the American Revolution. (52) "The most vigorous level of government to emerge from this period was that of the locality," historian Robert Ritchie notes. "It was from this solid base that popular politics emerged and future leaders were trained." (53) Indeed, the Voorhees family's participation in the Leisler affair reveals the emergence of a new force in provincial politics, the yeoman farmer, and in the process the creation of a distinct American political identity.

Indeed, the Voorhees family's participation in the Leisler affair reveals the emergence of a new force in provincial politics, the yeoman farmer, and in the process the creation of a distinct American political identity.

Hilbert's letters to Coert provide a window into the seventeenth-century. Yet to clearly see through that window we must understand what we are viewing. While preparing this talk, I was struck by how little is actually known about seventeenth-century New Amersfort. There are no studies of the village or of its society. What did its farmers grow? How did they fit into the Atlantic World economy? What did their houses look like? Was there a generational gap between those Voorhees born in Drenthe and their children born here? These are but a few of the questions that came to mind. Historians, archeologists, material culturalists, and many others can help clarify that view. By more fully understanding the world our ancestors inhabited, we are better able to understand who we are today.

Ed. Shortly after our 1998 Reunion, David sent us the following text of Coert's militia commission by Jacob Leisler. David comments, "We all should look for more family documents from this dramatic episode in our history so we can have an even better understanding of events."

By the Lieutenant Governor and
Commander in Chiefe etc.

Whereas out of the good Opinion I Conceive of your Loyalty and Conduct I have thought fitt to Constitute and apoint you Coert Stevense to be Capt., of the foot Compa: belonging to Flatlands in Kings County on Long Island., Your are therefore Carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of a Capt: by Exersising the said Compa: in Armes and keeping them in Good Order and discipline both officers and souldiers, hereby willing and Commanding them to Obey you in all things as their Capt: and you are Likewise to Observe and follow such Orders and directions as You shall from time to time Receive from your supeior officers According to the rules and discipline of warr Pursuant of the trust reposed in You and this Commission to Continue during my will and pleasure only. Given under my hand and seale at Fort William this 27th of december 1689.

Jacob Leisler

NOTES

1. Hilbert Coerts to Coert Stevens of Voorhyes, Mar. 10, 1699, Van Voorhees Association, *Through a Dutch Door: 17th Century, Origins of The Van Voorhees Family* (Baltimore, Md., 1992), 161.
2. See, for example, *Amsterdamse Courant* for 1697-1698, Gemeentearchief, Amsterdam, Netherlands. Quote from Patricia U. Bonomi, *A Factious People: Politics and Society in Colonial, New York* (New York, 1971), 77.
3. William III to the Attorney General, Mar. 30, 1695, SP 44/345, Public Record Office, London; Act for Reversing the Attaindeer, of Jacob Leisler and others, May 3, 1695, Edmund Bailey, O'Callaghan, *Documentary History of the State of New York*, 4, vols. (Albany, N.Y., 1848-1853), 2:435-37 [hereafter cited as DHNY]; John C. Rainbolt, "A 'great and usefull designe' Bellomont's Proposal for New York, 1698-1701", *The New-York Historical Society Quarterly*, 53 (Oct. 1969), 4:336-37; Michael G. Hall, Lawrence H. Leder, and Michael Kammen, eds., *The Glorious Revolution in America* (Chapel Hill, N.C., 1964), chapter six, 115-37, especially page 131.
4. Excerpts from the letters of Bellomont, in Hall, Leder, Kammen, *Glorious Revolution*, 132.
5. *Amsterdamse Dingsdaegse Courant*, Feb. 10, 1699, No. 18, Gemeentearchief, Amsterdam. Note: discrepancies in dating of events found in Dutch documents and those found in English, documents are due to the Dutch use of New Style dating while, the English used Old Style.
6. David William Voorhees, "The 'fervant Zeal' of Jacob Leisler," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd series, vol. LI (July 1994), 3:447-72.

7. Govert Loockermans along with Steven Coerten and Coert Stevens, were among the original patentees of "Amesfort, alias, Flatlands." See Nicolls Patent for Flatlands, Oct. 4, 1667, and Lovelace Charter for Flatlands, Feb. 5, 1668, Jerrold Seymann, ed., *Colonial Charters, Patents and Grants to the Communities Comprising the City of New York*, (New York, 1939), 486-90. See also Deed, Heirs of Govert Loockermans to Roelof Martsense Schenck, NY Col. Ms. vol. 23:12-433, New York State Archives, Albany.
8. Records of the Town of East Hampton, Long Island, Suffolk Co., N.Y., 5 vols. (Sag Harbor, N.Y., 1887-1905), 2:224-25; Roger Guane's Account of Whale Oil found in East Hampton, Apr. 25, 1687, NY Col. Ms. 35:82; Musketo Cove Proprietors' Book, Glen Cove Town Hall, New York.
9. Petition of Elsie Leisler, Mar. 21, 1683/4, New York City Council Misc. Ms. 245, Municipal Archives, New York City.
10. David William Voorhees, trans, and ed., *Records of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Flatbush, Kings County, Long Island, 1677-1720*, vol. I (1998), 173.
11. New Amersfort church council to New York Consistory, Nov. 22, 1678, among approximately 50 documents wrapped in brown paper and labeled "Old Papers," Collegiate Reformed Protestant Dutch Church offices, 45 John St., New York City.
12. Only de Boer's notes regarding this relationship to Polhemius have been found, his reference to a Leisler typescript with sources has been lost [LDS microfilm 0899801]. See also Martin Arthur Broders and Robert John Broders, *The Ancestry of Broder Christian Broders(en) of North Friesland and New York City* (1987).
13. See, Elsie Leisler to Daniel Polhemus and Roelof van Kercken, Aug. 10, 1694, Msc. Leisler Mss., New-York Historical Society.
14. For a good discussion of class differences in the Netherlands, see H. F. K. van Nierop, *The Nobility of Holland from Knights to Regents, 1500-1650* (Cambridge, Eng., 1993), especially pages 19-21, 33-34.
15. D.J. Wijmer, "Steven Coerts His Family and Dutch Background," *Through a Dutch Door*, 49. See also, J. Heringa, et al, eds. *Geschiedenis van Drenthe* (Meppel, Drenthe, 1986), 327-46, 388-415.
16. Flatbush Records, Lib. B, 37; Elias W. Van Voorhis, *A Genealogy of the Van Voorhees Family in America* (New York, 1888), 10; see also Albert L. Stokes, *The Van Voorhees Family, volume 1, The First Four Generations* (1984), 48. The adults are Steven Coerts, Jan Kiers, Merghin's husband Rolefs, and Coert.
17. Edmund B. O'Callaghan, Berthold Fernow, and John Romeyn Brodhead, eds., *Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York*, 15 vols. (Albany, 1858-1885), 577, 702 [hereafter cited as DRNY]; Stokes, 51.
18. Gerrit Pieter van Itterzon, *Franciscus Gomarus* ('s-Gravenhage, 1929); Carl Bangs, *Arminius: A Study of the Dutch Reformation* (Grand Rapids, Mich., 1971); A. Th. van Deursen, *Bavianen en slijkgeuzen. Kerk en kerkvolk in Holland ten tijde van Maurits en Oldenbarnevelt* (Assen, 1974).
19. Charles Sherwood McCoy, "The Covenant Theology of Johannes Cocceius" (doctoral dissertation, Yale University, 1956), 28-39.
20. See D.J. Wijmer, "Steven Coerts His Family," 49.
21. James Tanis, "Reformed Pietism in Colonial America," in F. Ernst Stoeffler, ed., *Continental Pietism and Early American Christianity* (Grand Rapids, Mich., 1976), 34-59; Martin H. Prozesky, "The Emergence of Dutch Pietism," *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, 28 (Jan. 1977), 1:29-37.
22. Inventory of Jacques Cortelyou Estate, Jan. 1694; Inventory of John Coosart Estate, 23 Dec. 1700; Inventory of Elizabeth Bancker Estate, 1695; Inventory of Abraham Delanoy Estate, 1702, Wills Libers 5-6, New York State Archives, Albany. See also Jasper Danckaerts and Peter Sluyter, *Journal of a Voyage to New York: 1679-1680*, Henry C. Murphy, ed. (Brooklyn, 1867; rpt. Ann Arbor, Mich, 1966), 134.
23. Eric Nooter, "Between Heaven and Earth: Church and Society in Pre-Revolutionary Flatbush, Long Island" (Ph.D. dissertation, Vrije Universiteit, 1994), 140-41; David William Voorhees, trans, and ed., *Flatbush Church Records* (1998), 1:83; For biographical sketches of Borstius see *Nieuw Nederlandsch Biografisch Woordenboek* (Leiden, 1918), 4:229-30, and *Biografisch Lexicon voor de geschiedenis van het Nederlandse Protestantisme*, 3 (1988), 49-50.
24. DHNY 3: 872-75; Lawrence H. Leder, "The Unorthodox Domine: Nicholas Van Rensselaer," *New York History*, 35 (April, 1954), 166-76.
25. Attestation of 12 Members, Van Rensselaer vs. Jacob Leisler and Jacob Milborne, 17 Aug. 1676, GLC 3107, J.P. Morgan Library, New York City [translation JLP # 2472]; complaint of Nicholas van Rensselaer GLC 3107 [translation JLP # 2471].
26. Petition. Jacob Leisler, in behalf of the inhabitants of the county of Suffolk, respecting their trade and Commerce, Sept., 1686, *Cal. Hist. Mss.*, 124; Council Minutes, Apr. 7, 1687, NY Col. Mss. 35: 54a. The abolition of monopolies and special privileges was an important aspect of Leisler's program in 1689. See, for example, Act of Assembly, 24 Apr. 1690, *Colonial Laws of New York from the Year 1664 to the Revolution*, volume 1 (Albany, 1894), 218, 220. Ironically, Leisler was a beneficiary of monopolies: in 1676 he received a license for the Curaçao slave trade [Nieuwe West Indische Compagnie 467, fols. 13-14, Algemeen Rijksarchief, The Hague]; as owner of several of New York City's flour mills he was a beneficiary of that city's bolting monopoly; and he appears to have benefitted by the East End's whaling monopoly [N.Y. Col. Mss. 35:82].
27. Willem Frijhoff, "The West India Company and the Reformed Church: Neglect or Concern?" *de Halve Maen*, 70 (Fall, 1997), 3:60. Also see George L. Smith, *Religion and Trade in New Netherland* (Ithaca, N.Y., 1973).
28. Robert C. Ritchie, *The Duke's Province: A Study of New York Politics and Society, 1664-1691* (Chapel Hill, N.C., 1977), 113-14.
29. Dongan's grant of manorial patents, never larger than 2,000 acres, appears largely to have been an attempt to pack an assembly should, and when, it was revived. See Bonomi 188-89.

30. Hilbert Coerts tot Voor Hyes to Coert Stevens van Voor Hees,, 13 Apr. 1684, *Through a Dutch Door*, 154-57.
31. Long Island Consistory to the Amsterdam Classis, 20 July 1685, *Flatbush Church Records*, 1: 169. Col. Thomas Dongan, a Roman Catholic, was appointed governor of New York in 1683. He was accompanied by Father Thomas Harvey (a.k.a. "John Smith"), an English Jesuit. By 1685 Fathers Henry Harrison and Charles Gage, as well as two lay brothers, were ministering in New York. Thomas A. Hughes, *History of the Society of Jesus in North America, Colonial and Federal*, 4 vols. (London, 1907-1917), 1:50; Early Catholic Clergymen in New York, DHNY 3: 110-11.
32. Letter from Members of the Dutch Church at New York to the Classis of Amsterdam, 21 Oct. 1698, New-York Historical Society *Collections*, I (1868), 398, and Edwin Tanjore Corwin, et al., *Ecclesiastical Records, State of New York*, 7 vols., (Albany 1901-1016), 2:1246-1262 [hereafter cited as *Eccles. Recs.*].
33. Jonathan I. Israel, "The Dutch Role in the Glorious Revolution," in Jonathan Israel, ed., *The Anglo-Dutch moment: Essays on the Glorious Revolution and its world impact*, (Cambridge, Eng., 1991), 107-109.
34. News arrived in New York "of greater preparations in England" for war with Holland on 3 Dec. 1688. See Francis Nicholson to Edward Randolph, 3/5 Dec. 1688, and Stephen Van Cortlandt to Edward Randolph, 4 Dec. 1688, Robert Noxan Toppan, ed., *Edward Randolph: including His Letters and Official Papers from New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies in America and the West Indies*, 9 vols. (New York, 1909; 1967), 4:255-57. News that the invasion was a success and James had fled the throne arrived on 5 Feb. 1689. See Francis Nicholson to Fitz-John Winthrop, 16 Feb. 1689, *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, sixth series (Boston, 1889), 3:495.
35. The New York counties were: New York City and County (Samuel Edsall, Peter Delanoy, and George Brewerton), Westchester County (Thomas Williams, Richard Panton), Kings County (Gerardus Beekman, Mindert Coerten), Queens County (Richard Betts, Mathias Harvey), Richmond County (William Cox, Jacques Pullion), Orange County (William Lawrence); the New Jersey counties were Essex (Henry Lyon, John Curtis) and Bergen (Teunis Roelefse van Houten). Suffolk County sent two representatives (Nathaniel Pierson and Ebenezer Platt) but it is unclear whether or not they sat, Street, ed., *Huntington Town Records*, 2:33; Ulster county's representatives (Rocloff Swartwout and Johannes Hardenbroeck) arrived after August. State Papers, Colonial Series, 13:126; Edmund B. O'Callaghan, ed., *Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York*, 15 vols. (Albany, 1853-1885), 3:597; DHNY 2:45. The Committee of Safety disbanded on 11 Dec. 1689, when Jacob Leisler assumed the role of lieutenant governor of the province, Memorial, NYCD, 3:738.
36. David William Voorhees, "'to assert our right before it be quite lost': The Leisler Rebellion in the Delaware River Valley, *Pennsylvania History*, 64 (Winter 1997), 1:5.
37. Firth Haring Fabend, *A Dutch Family in the Middle Colonies, 1660-1800* (New Brunswick, N. J., 1991), 137.
38. Commissions, New York Historical Manuscripts 36:142, No. 120.
39. Commission, Nov. 4, 1690, DHNY 2:310-11.
40. By the Lieut. Governor & Council &ca, Feb. 16, 1689, DHNY, 2:71-72.
41. *A Modest and Impartial Narrative* (1690), reprinted in Charles M. Andrews, ed., *Narratives of the Insurrections* (New York, 1915), 337.
42. Leisler to earl of Shrewsbury, Oct. 20, 1690, NYCD, 3:751-54; *Eccles. Recs.* 2:1007, 1048-53.
43. Henry R. Stiles, *A History of the City of Brooklyn Including the Old Town and Village of Brooklyn, the Town of Bushwick, and the Village and City of Williamsburgh*, 2 vols. (Albany, N.Y. 1869), 169; Nooter, 62; Varick to the Amsterdam Classis, Apr. 9, 1693, *Eccles. Recs.*, 2:1048-53, and domines Selyns, Varick, and Dellius to the Amsterdam Classis, Oct. 12, 1692, *ibid.* 1041-45.
44. Commissions, Dec. 12, 1689, and Jan. 13, 1689/90, New York Historical Manuscripts 36:42, no. 7, 155, and 156, New York State Archives, Albany; Leisler to Gerardus Beekman, July 29, 1690, DHNY 2:279; A.D. Schenck, *The Rev. William Schenck, His Ancestry and His Descendants* (Washington, D.C. 1883), 169.
45. Charles H. McCormick, Governor "Sloughter's Delay and Leisler's Rebellion, 1689-1691," *The New-York Historical Society Quarterly*, 62 (July 1978), 3:46. DHNY, 2: 334-35.
46. DHNY, 2:334-35.
47. Stoughter to Col. Codrington, May 1691, DHNY 2:380; Lawrence H. Leder, "Records of the Trials of Jacob Leisler and His Associates," *New-York Historical Society Quarterly*, 36 (Oct., 1952), 431-57.
48. Petition, Varick to Ingoldsby, Sept. 16, 1691, Council Minutes, 6:55.
49. William Heard Kilpatrick, *The Dutch Schools of New Netherland and Colonial New York* (Washington, D.C., 1912), 175-177; Nooter, 63-64.
50. Bonomi, 296; Henry B. Hoff, "The Imaginary Coert Stuyvesant," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, 122 (January, 1991), 1:27. Note: the other Kings County representative in 1693 was the rabidly Leislerian Johannes van Eeklen.
51. *Journal of the Votes and Proceedings of the General Assembly of the Colony of New-York* (New York, 1764), vol. 1, appendix.
52. William Dunlap wrote in 1839, "We see in that party of which Leisler was head, the germ of our present democratic representative government." William Dunlap, *History of the New Netherlands, Province of New York, and State of New York*, 2 vols. (New York, 1839), 1:210. See also Jerome R. Reich, *Leisler's Rebellion: A Study of Democracy in New York, 1664-1720* (Chicago, Ill., 1953).
53. Robert Ritchie, *The Duke's Province*, 237.

able to identify most of the Voorhees listed. These list only the various spellings of Voorhees and thus they do not contain records on female lines. I have also gone through the marriage records, wills, deeds and cemeteries and churches for NY and NJ. Each Voorhees that was identified has been checked off. These records were abstracted by Harold Hazelton.

I have entered more data into the "unknown file," including people listed in the 1850 census records and material from the correspondence files. Although I am not able to determine their line of descent, I have gathered more information on these individuals and in several cases have solved previous problems. Entering the data into the computer helps to bring odd facts together which sometimes identifies a person.

Through out the project I have placed photos and portraits in a separate collection. Most of those concerning people prior to 1850 have been scanned and Judith has put them in a computer program which is on one of the computers we have here today.

In April, a print-out of the first six generations was given to proof readers. I am pleased to report that they returned all of their work in good time. Their suggested corrections have been made. A new print-out has been made and was given to proof readers in October. I keep adding material but felt it was best to get a head start on proof reading since it is not an easy job.

Adrienne Haney submitted her citation work on over 400 books. Harold Hazelton and Al Stokes had listed only titles and year of publication. Often the title was given as "Pulver Genealogy," "Ackerman Genealogy," etc. while the actual titles were more like "the Pulver Family in America 1650 to 1900." Adrienne worked to find the publisher, author and other information needed for the Bibliography. All of her material has been added to the computer. The computer program will generate the final bibliography. We do not have to worry about proof reading for commas, periods, etc. This Bibliography is also used to format the footnotes. The first six generations contain over 2,000 footnotes.

So what's the project for the next 14 months? I asked in October that the proof readers return their work by January of 1999. I will then make their corrections and give the material back in April for another proof reading and again in August. Each proof reader gets about 150 pages each time and by the final reading they will each have seen the whole project.

I plan to work on the remaining geographical records in the Fall of 1998, attempting to identify more people in the church and vital records. I also have some material which Harold Hazelton arranged alphabetically by first name, Abraham, John, etc. I expect these are people he was unable to identify.

In 1999, I will spend my time attempting to solve the remaining genealogical problems. There are a number of people born before 1850 about whom we have a lot of information but are unable to fit them into the genealogy. We also have some conflicting information on other people. With over 59,000 names, there are many cases where people disagree as to which John was the son of which Abraham. Cor-

rections will be made as proof reading is returned and time will be spent on grammar and punctuation.

As you can see, we are beginning the final phase of publication. Proof reading has begun, photos are being copied, the biography is being assembled. David William Voorhees has been asked to write the introduction. We have talked to the publisher and the size of type and margins for the pages have been set. I plan to have the first six generations ready for publication by January of 2000. The publisher says we have until June of 2000. We hopefully will have several months to get everything laid out properly. The book should be in our hands and yours in October of 2000.



VAN VOORHIS/VOORHEES/VORHIES REUNION LOCKRIDGE, IOWA by Darlene Vorhies

Darlene has organized reunions for the Family in Iowa and surrounding states for many years. We commend Darlene for a terrific effort. Laura Thompson, who attended the reunion, said in an Email to us, "Lockridge has a population of 250 made up mostly of Voorhees."

On May 24, 1998, thirty-eight Van Voorhees descendants gathered at the Lockridge Community Hall recently to acquaint, reacquaint, reminisce, and enjoy good food together. Attendees represented the Van Voorhis, Voorhees and three branches of the Vorhies spellings of the Family name from five different states, including Iowa.

Attending from out-of-state were: John and Laura Thompson of Lake St. Louis MO; Agnes Vorhies and Bill "Van" Vorhies of St. Louis MO; Burlin and Ilah Vorhies of Augusta KS; Stan and Mary Vorhies of Dallas City IL; David and Angie Vorhies, Barbara, April and Tiffany of Eldorado Springs, MO; and Kathryn Workman of Colorado Springs CO — it was determined that Kathryn had traveled the furthest to attend the reunion.

Also present from Iowa were: Frank, Diane and Amy Clark of Steamboat Rock; Roberta and Paul Mattson of Lockridge; Larry and Kay Milks, Leola Bradley and granddaughter Kelsey Rich, and Betty Arnold, all of Mt. Pleasant; Dan and Carol Vorhies of Monticello; Bill and Megan Vorhies of Iowa City; Verne Vorhies, Jr. of Birmingham; and the following from Fairfield: Leslie Gentry, Clarence Vorhies, George and Dora Vorhies, Harold Vorhies, Russ and Linda Vorhies, and Merle and Darlene Vorhies.

Several from the group toured the Vorhies Cemetery, located northeast of Lockridge, and the Victory No. 8 School close by where 28 members of the Vorhies clan attended elementary classes.

Darlene said in a side-letter that she received twelve reunion cards returned because of "incorrect addresses," i.e. old addresses. Were you one of them?



DUTCH COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE IN AMERICA

by Eleanor H. Casagrand

This is first of two articles on Dutch Colonial Architecture by Eleanor Casagrand. The second will be about house interiors and how they were decorated.

Dutch political influence lasted less than fifty years in America but its cultural influence and architectural styles persisted into the eighteenth century and are still visible today. The Dutch founded trade settlements near Albany in 1614 and at New Amsterdam in 1626. Between these two points Dutch colonists built their homes along the Hudson River. In the late seventeenth century persecuted Protestants from Flanders and France fled to the Netherlands, then emigrated with their Dutch neighbors to the New World. These craftsmen influenced Dutch architectural style. Dutch Colonial architecture remained fairly consistent from the 1650s for at least a century, closely mirroring building styles from the Old World. This style was prominent from c. 1625 - 1840.

The Dutch preferred brick as a building material. They manufactured bricks in colors of deep red, salmon red, yellow, orange and purple. Coursed stone quarried from nearby fields and cliff ledges replaced brick in rural homes in the Hudson Valley and New Jersey. The Dutch built the stone walls of their houses one-and-one-half to three feet deep, held together by mortar made from local oyster shells or natural limestone. They built most houses, however, with a mixture of brick, stone and wood. Windmills provided power to cut planks and beams into clapboard. They built wood-frame buildings in Long Island and New Jersey. They lathed the walls with a filling of clay mixed with straw or horsehair.

Dutch colonists built three styles of homes. The urban tradition consisted of tall, narrow buildings with distinctive stepped, steep-gabled or gambrel roofs and paired end chimneys. Gambrel roofs may have had Flemish roots, attributed to Huguenot craftsmen as an adaptation of French mansard roofs. Gambrel roofs were popular in the colonies because they increased attic size. All urban Dutch buildings have disappeared from New York City; half a dozen remain in the Albany region. Because of increasing English presence and influence, few urban Dutch Colonial houses were built after 1730. Rural Dutch building traditions persisted for a longer time. One tradition embodied unflared eaves with little or no overhang. Another rural style incorporated flared, overhanging eaves that became common on both gable and gambrel roofs after 1750 in the southern Hudson River area. There are still several hundred scattered examples of Dutch Colonial rural houses throughout the area of former Dutch influence including a few in New York City.

Some fine examples of early Rural Dutch Colonial homes associated with the Van Voorhees family and the families with which they intermarried can be visited today in New York and New Jersey by their descendants. In Gowanus, Brooklyn we find the Vechte-Cortelyou House built by Klaes Arents Vechte in 1699 of coursed stonework and paired end

chimneys. The brick gable is decorated in diamond patterns known as Dutch-cross or diaper work. In this style bricks are laid in alternate rows of stretcher-to-stretcher and header-to-header, the color or thickness of the mortar forming a cross or diaper pattern. During the Revolutionary War Lord Stirling with 400 gallant Maryland soldiers charged a superior British force holed up in this house. Gen. George Washington, viewing the one-day Battle of Long Island on 27 Aug 1776 from a Brooklyn hill, was reported to have said, "Good God! What brave fellows I must this day lose." In 1790 the Cortelyou family purchased the home and farm. The building was demolished in 1897, excavated in 1930, then reconstructed from the original materials in 1934. It is now known as the Old Stone House of Gowanus.

Also in Brooklyn we find the Jan Martense Schenck House built c. 1676. This is a very early example of a wood-frame building constructed with a steep Medieval roof pitch. It was modified in the eighteenth century to include dormers, a front porch and flared eaves. Two rooms share a central chimney flue. It is a typical example of a home owned by a prosperous Dutch farm family. In Wyckoff, NJ we can visit the Albert Van Vorhis House built in 1824 of stone with stucco and frame with clapboards. It consists of one-and-a-half stories with gambrel roof and a doorknocker dated "A.V.V.H. 1824." In Maywood, NJ we also find the Romine-Van Voorhis House built c. 1780 of coursed rectangular red sandstone, frame with clapboards, loft and gambrel roof.

These houses reflect the characteristic rural Dutch Colonial architecture and superior workmanship of our Dutch ancestors. They remain visible examples of Dutch Colonial cultural influence in New York and New Jersey.



This article is based on "Dutch Style in America" by Kirsten Rohrs in Colonial Homes, June 1997, contributed by Marilyn Brack, No. Haledon, NJ. Thank you, Marilyn. Other sources consulted were A Field Guide to American Houses by Virginia and Lee McAlester, New York: Knopf, 1984 and Historic American Buildings: Survey of New Jersey compiled and edited by William B. Bassett and John Poppeliers, Newark, NJ: N.J.H.S., 1977.

DANIEL VAN VOORHIS

We have written about Daniel Van Voorhis in previous issues of the Nieuwsbrief. In the event that you might visit the Winterthur Museum, at Winterthur DE, a circular covered box made by Daniel can be seen at the Montmorenci Stair Hall V. The box is object #78.0149A,B. Its dimensions are 1 1/8 inches in height and 3 3/16 inches in diameter with a design of concentric circles on the top. The hand mark is "V & C" in a rectangle, or Van Voorhis & Coley. We were told that you should "take the period room tour to see it." (Location as of May 7, 1998.)



THE DUTCH IN THE AMERICAS 1600-1800

The Equitable Gallery, at Seventh Avenue and 51st Street in Manhattan, was the host of a most interesting exhibition about our forefathers in the New World. Running from January 22 to April 4, 1998, the exhibition was comprised of rare prints, maps and illustrated books from The John Carter Brown Library and was curated by Dr. Wim Klooster. A brochure was available at the exhibition and is reproduced in part by permission of The John Carter Brown Library at Brown University. We learned that New Netherland was only part of a much greater Dutch enterprise. An excellent and informative 101 page catalog of the exhibition may still be available at \$35.00 (paper cover) or \$45.00 (cloth cover) plus postage and handling from The John Carter Brown Library, Box 1894, Providence RI 02912, telephone 401-863-2725. The catalog is recommended reading for an appreciation of the larger Dutch role in the Americas during the 17th Century.

Most Americans — and New Yorkers certainly — are familiar with the story of the Dutch official Peter Minuit who, as an agent of the Dutch West India Company, bought Manhattan Island from the local Indians in 1626 in exchange for goods worth, it is said, \$24. It is the kind of tale we take for granted without asking what Netherlanders were doing at the mouth of the Hudson River early in the seventeenth century. In fact, so removed from any historical context is this common narrative, as it is usually told, that Peter Minuit could just as well have been the leader of a band of interstellar aliens who knew a good real estate deal when he saw one, as particularly a Dutchman.

The purpose of The John Carter Brown Library exhibition on "The Dutch in the Americas, 1600 to 1800" is to tell the story of the Dutch emergence as a major imperial power in the seventeenth century, with interests stretching from Japan to Suriname, and to recount in particular the Dutch role in the colonial history of the Western Hemisphere as a whole, of which New York and the Hudson Valley in, let us say, 1640 were but a small, although important, piece.

The full story, or at least as much of the full story as can be accommodated in a single exhibition and accompanying catalogue, makes the Dutch presence in New York more explicable. It is also a story worth telling because the Netherlands between 1600 and 1800, with a population throughout the period of never more than two million, was in many respects the wonder of the age. In 1990s terms we should speak of the Dutch "miracle," as we today speak of tiny commercial entities like Singapore or Hong Kong.

For a public exhibition of historical books, maps, and prints, there is another good reason to focus on the Dutch. No people at that time seem to have been quite as pictorially-directed as the Dutch. More frequently than the French, the English, the Spanish, or the Portuguese — all of whom were New World imperial powers — the countrymen of Rembrandt and Vermeer illustrated their books. This fact corresponds well with the famous avant garde role of the Dutch in producing realistic secular imagery in portrayals of people

and landscapes, as distinguished from the more symbolic and religious Italian schools. Along these same lines, the Dutch also elevated geographical maps and charts to a new art form, while at the same time greatly improving cartographical and hydrographical science.

The conquest of the Americas by Europeans required first of all the conquest of the oceans — the ability to project men and goods across 3,000 miles of open sea. It is notable that by the middle of the seventeenth century, the Dutch were supreme at sea. No maritime force in the world was superior to it. Such superiority is an extremely complex achievement, involving not only technology and capital, but also such matters as the training of seamen and the social and political organization to back such a fleet.

Dutch maritime accomplishments include three of the five earliest circumnavigations of the globe and most notably the voyage of Willem Schouten in 1616, the first to round Cape Horn, or better "Hoon" for Schouten's hometown in the Netherlands. Moreover, for a hundred years, at least, Dutch sea charts were recognized as the best and most reliable, that is, until the English and the French caught up in the eighteenth century.

The history of the Dutch in the Americas can be documented almost alone by the production of maps. It can safely be said that among the most beautiful maps ever made were the Dutch maps of the seventeenth century, and this is a tradition that is well exemplified in this exhibition — the tradition of Mercator, Ortelius, Hondius, Visscher and Blaeu — all of whom did work representing the Americas.

The story of the Dutch in Brazil in the seventeenth century is especially intriguing. It has been said that the most culturally advanced place in the Americas in 1640 was hardly Cambridge, Massachusetts, nor even Mexico City or Lima, both of which were far in advance of Massachusetts at the time, but the court of Prince Maurits of Nassau in Olinda and Recife in Brazil.

Under English military pressure, the Dutch abandoned their New York colony in 1664, but the Netherlands and the British mainland colonies continued to be closely involved commercially. In 1780 John Adams was in Europe as a representative of the nascent United States, hoping to induce the English to enter peace negotiations. He traveled to the Low Countries seeking commercial agreements and money for support of the Revolution. The Dutch were no longer strong — the descent from power of the country had been almost as rapid as the ascent. But when in April 1782 Adams succeeded in gaining Dutch recognition of American independence — the first country to take this step after France — he considered that achievement, he said, "the happiest Event, and the greatest action of my Life past or future." Recognition was followed by a series of loans from the Netherlands that literally saved the new United States from bankruptcy at that perilous time.

THE 1999 REUNION

Our Reunion this year will be in Fishkill NY on October 9th. Fishkill is just north of West Point near the Hudson River. It is an old Dutch town that was originally founded in 1683. The name "Fishkill" is derived from the Dutch, meaning fish (fiche) creek or stream (kill).

We will return to a very old Van Voorhees site that has a relationship with our genealogical work over the past century. Meeting in Fishkill will launch the celebration of our forthcoming new genealogy. The book represents a tremendous effort and we think that recognition should be given for the work and energy invested in it. Elias Van Voorhis wrote the watershed *Van Voorhees Family* in 1888. His grandfather, Major William Roe Van Voorhis (1764-1828), and grandmother, Rachel Vail (1767-1845), were born in Fishkill. They lived in Fishkill all of their life. Elias wrote a genealogy of his grandfather in 1881, *Notes on the Ancestry of Major Wm. Roe Van Voorhis*, that contains listings of a great many Van Voorhees's who were active in the local churches as well as marriages and baptisms for the Family. We will tabulate this information in the next *Nieuwsbrief*. Fishkill is certainly "Voorhees country."

When this was written, we were continuing to explore where our Reunion will be held: the Reformed Church in Fishkill or the Holiday Inn. The Voorhees Family was very active in the Church during the 18th and early 19th centuries. We will have our traditional genealogical workshop and are planning one or more optional visits in the afternoon to local historical sites. We hope to obtain a speaker who can tell us about the Fishkill historical environment in the 17th into the 19th centuries that our Family experienced. The Executive Committee will have a short early morning meeting at the Holiday Inn.

Fishkill is located at Exit 13 on Interstate 84. Key toll roads and highways connect with I-84. Fishkill can also be reached via the Hudson Line of Metro North Railroad from Grand Central Terminal in Manhattan, getting off either at Beacon or New Hamburg. Information on the Hudson Line can be obtained on 1-800-METROINFO and <<http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us>>. A service map, schedules and fares can be found on the Internet site. Stewart Airport (1-914-564-2100) offers airline service via American, Midway, United Express and USAirways Express together with certain Delta connections. The airport is near Newburgh, which is close to Fishkill.

A block of rooms at a negotiated rate of \$105.00 per night has been set aside for us for Friday evening, October 8th, at the Hampton Inn, 2515 Route 9, Fishkill NY 12524, telephone 914-896-4000. A smaller number of rooms has also been set aside for Saturday night the Ninth. The Hampton Inn has an indoor swimming pool. Please call the Hampton Inn now and ask for the Van Voorhees Association block of rooms.

The Summer/Fall *Nieuwsbrief* will contain all of the details. Be sure to mark your calendar now. See you then.



ELIZABETH EDGAR

Elizabeth Edgar has been a member of the Van Voorhees Association from its very early days and has been a hard, active worker during most of these years. Her efforts on our behalf were considerable and Elizabeth kept the organization alive during some of them. All of us are very thankful for Elizabeth's strong contributions. Elizabeth recently celebrated her 92nd birthday and moved from Highland Park NJ to Pittsburgh PA in late 1998. She lived in her Highland Park home for 65 years. Elizabeth is a grand lady in the truest sense.

The New York Times for June 14, 1998 (page nine of the New Jersey section) carried a half page article that contained biographies of three Highland Park citizens written by seven and eight year old second-grade students at Irving School in Highland Park. The students produced a book entitled, *Reflections of Longtime Residents of Highland Park*. Elizabeth's biography was one of the three selected for the Times article. It was written by Josephine Rebecca D'Allant and Hannah McClelland. A three-column photograph (the standard newspaper page was made up into five columns) of Elizabeth and the authors was included with the article. We quote:

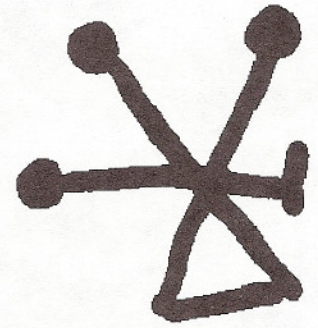
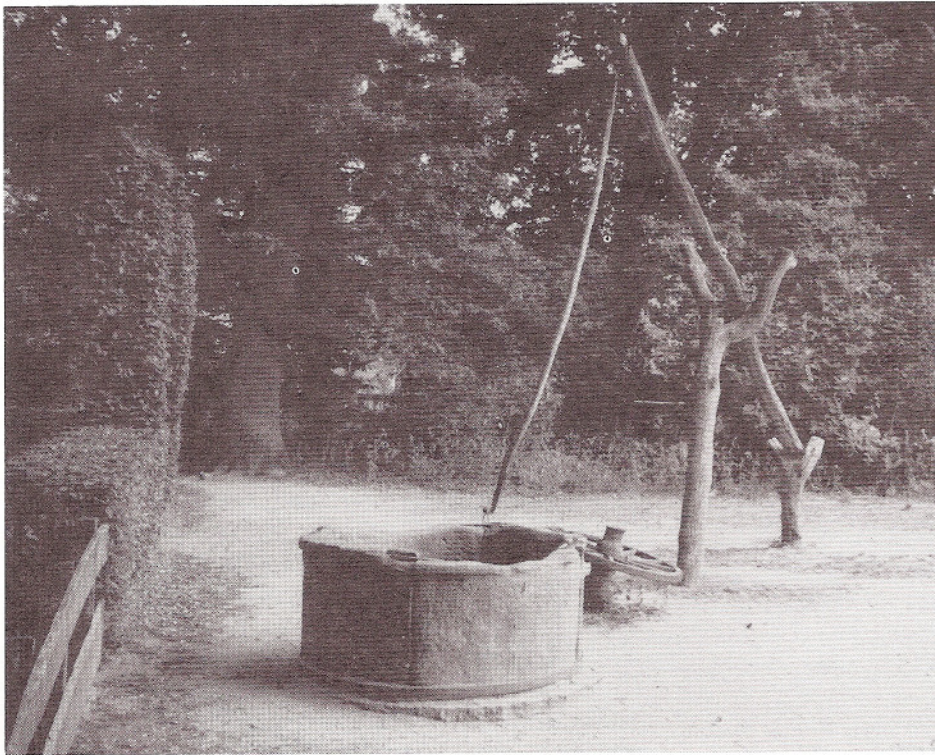
"Mrs. Edgar's Great Biography

"Mrs. Edgar is a very friendly person. Sometimes she was very funny, she told us funny stories. We learned some interesting facts about her. We learned about her ancestors that sailed on the Mayflower. She is 91 years old. Her life is very exciting! We taught her how to use the computer and she was very happy to learn how to use it.

"My maiden name was Elizabeth L. Voorhees, then I became Mrs. Joseph H. Edgar when I married. I was born on June 9, 1906, in Newton, in Sussex County, New Jersey, at home, there being no hospital in the area. My father was a country doctor, if a patient was too sick to come to his office, he went to see the patient. My mother was a nurse and she would help people when my father was not available. My father drove a horse and buggy and, in the winter, a horse and sleigh. I had a wonderful time riding with him through the countryside in Sussex County. When driving in the sleigh, he had to wear a fur lap robe, plus having a soap stone under his feet which my mother had heated in the oven and wrapped in burlap, and, of course, he wore heavy boots.

"... When I knew I was going to marry Mr. Edgar and probably live in Highland Park, I asked so many times, "Are there any trees there?" and his answer was always the same, "You know how new developments are." So I was certainly surprised and delighted to find the streets lined with lovely trees on my first trip hunting for an apartment. Not finding an apartment, Mr. Edgar said we would have to buy a house. I suggested that there were two houses for sale at the edge of the woods where he had played Cowboys and Indians as a boy. He looked at both and phoned me that one had four trees and one had three trees, and both had a fireplace. I suggested he buy the one that was more in the woods than the other. I never looked inside. ..."





Left -- Open well
 Above -- StevenCoert's handmark
 Below -- Typical farmhouse

Following page -- Farmhouse interior

17TH CENTURY DRENTS FARM PHOTOGRAPHS

Peter Newcombe, our cousin in England, sent us these interesting photographs of a 17th century Drenthe farm. Peter descends from Albert Coerts, the brother of Steven, who inherited the land lease for the Farm of Voorhees and remained in the Netherlands. An article about Peter and his genealogy was in the Winter 1998 Nieuwsbrief. The photographs were made in the Open Air Museum (Nederlands Openluchtmuseum) at Arnhem and the farm house is from Zeijen in Drenthe.

Peter writes, "I take this opportunity to send you a few photos I took whilst in

Another photo on next page.



the Netherlands in August [1998]. Zeijen is near Veries, but typical of a Drents 'los hoes' (open house) in which the family and animals lived in one open room. My sister Lo-Anne is in the photo. Also a typical well which I referenced to the handmark of Steven Coerts." Zeijen is north of Assen and further north of Hees — but not very far. We have reproduced the handmark of Steven from the Winter 1998 Nieuwsbrief, which resembles the above-ground part of the 17th century water well. Peter sent us the handmarks of Steven and Albert. Thank you, Peter, very much.



MILESTONES

Lulu Elizabeth Voorhes Beach, of West Brookfield MA, was called on January 2, 1998 at the age of 89. Elizabeth's husband, Edmund Earle Beach, died in 1976. She spent most of her life on Long Island NY. Elizabeth is survived by her daughter, Barbara Jane Beach Rossman, of West Brookfield, and her stepson, Edmund Earle Beach, Jr., three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Howard B. Voorhees, of Mishawaka IN, passed away from cancer on September 4, 1998 at the age of 94. Howard was an active golfer through his 90th year and played in two bands until his 91st year. He was a manufacturer's agent for many years and served on the Board of the Central Foundry of Fort Wayne IN. Howard was named Man of the Year in 1994 by the Mishawaka Business Association. He was a charter member of the South Bend Symphony Orchestra and was principal percussionist for thirty years. Howard was also an active Mason and worked with the Shrine hospitals. Howard is survived by daughters Marilyn McDaniel, of Muncie IN, and Barbara Whitfield, of Streetman TX, seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Arthur Lambert Voorhies, of Metairie LA, died on September 18, 1998. His wife survives him. There were no children.

Ruth Suydam Voorhees, of Far Hills NJ, was called on November 23, 1998 at the age of 100. Her husband, Edward LeRoy Voorhees pre-deceased her. Ruth is survived by her son, Stephen Coerte Voorhees of Merry Point VA, her daughter, Ann Haab of Franklin NY, eight grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren. (Source: The New York Times, November 25, 1998.)

The Spring Nieuwsbrief for Helen R. Van Voorhees, of Glenside PA, was returned with the notation that she was deceased. We have no further information.

We also received the Spring Nieuwsbrief for Robert H. Voorhis, Sr., of Dorset VT, with the marking that he was deceased. We have no further information.



Again, the Fall Nieuwsbrief for Elizabeth Van Voorhis, of McCook NE, was returned to us with the single word "deceased" on the mailing cover. We have no further information.

NEW MEMBERS

Our membership chairperson, Tom Van Voorhies, reported the following new members as of November 30, 1998. Welcome aboard to everyone — we look forward to seeing you at the October 9th Reunion.

Dennis D. Voorhees, Sayre PA
Earl Marshall Kitchen, Victoria TX
Ezekiel Alexander Kitchen, New Carlisle OH *

Riley Marie Kitchen, New Carlisle OH *
Joyce Ann Fesler, San Antonio TX **
Patricia Laughlin Bayer, Bloomington IN ***
Robert J. Van Duyne, Flint MI
Michael Anthony 3rd, Bellefonte PA
Jane M. Taylor, Waupaca WI
Richard B. Pinkerton, Cuyahoga Falls OH
Debra G. Matteredie, Lingle WY
Carolyn B. Balog, Hampton GA
Denis D. Wike, Anchorage AK
Christine M. Ham, Cameron Park CA
Thomas P. Voorhis, Fishkill NY ***
Kathleen Ann Voorhies Manske, Norfolk NE
Marian V. Nash, Baltimore MD **
Marril J. Smith, Deer Park WA **
Olive G. Kuschel, Southbury CT
Alan Roger Meyer, Ogden UT

The following are new LIFE members:

Ann S. Nunn, New Orleans LA
Jane Winthers, Basking Ridge NJ
Sara A. Voorhees, Milford NJ

* Junior Membership
** Sustaining Membership,
*** Contributing Membership



AUGUSTUS VOORHEES AND THE RELIC OF PIKE'S PEAK

The following article was taken from the March 1901 issue of the Kansas City Star. It was among the items given to Manning Voorhees when he became Editor of the Nieuwsbrief in 1993 and is a carbon copy consisting of several old, discolored typewritten pages. The transcriber is not known nor is the date of the original article in the Denver News.

Augustus Tunis Voorhees was born on 16 February 1827 at Ovid, Seneca Co., NY. He married Emily Laura Folsom, daughter of Enos Folsom and Laura Ayers, on 4 March 1868 at Burnet, Dodge Co., WI. Augustus died in April 1905 at Iola, Allen Co., KS at age 78. His line is: Augustus Voorhees, Tunis Voorhees and Sarah Rosencrants of Somerset Co. NJ, Roelof, Abraham, Auke Van Voorhees, Jan Stevense Van Voorhees, and Steven Coerts.

Stake Planted at the Summit in 1858 is Found From the Denver News

A relic from pioneer days in Colorado, which is probably the only genuine record of the first party of white men known to have ascended to the summit of Pike's Peak and left a substantial proof of the visit, has recently been discovered by August Hueber, a prospector who lives at Manitou. It is a stake which he found among the rocks in the top of Pike's peak, on which were carved the names of a party of adventurous spirits who succeeded in making the ascent of the peak in 1858.

The stake is a piece of pitch pine, which is almost as lasting as iron, and the names which were carved into it have withstood the ravages of time remarkably well, although some of the letters are almost entirely effaced by the action of the elements. The stick is about thirty inches long, two inches wide and more than an inch thick, rather irregular in outline, however, as if it were trimmed with a pocket knife before the names were cut into it.

On one side is carved the name AUGUSTUS VOORHEES, July 10, 1858. This name, and especially the date, are quite distinct, although part of the word "Augustus" is worn down almost to a scratch. On the reverse side are dimly traceable the letters "J-I-LER," preceded by the date, July 10, 1858.

One of the narrow sides of the stick bears the faintly discernible inscription, "F-CO-B: Aug-T" and some other faint marks which can not be deciphered. On the opposite edge was another name but only a portion of the original letters can be made out, as follows "-HT, LA - KAN -," the last two words probably being "Lawrence, Kansas."

Mr. Hueber found the stake among the rocks on an almost inaccessible point which overlooks Dead Man's gulch, and the fact that the point was so difficult of access probably made it a most inviting place for the adventurers to put their state, as it was likely to remain there long. Although it was left there more than forty years ago, it shows absolutely no signs of decay, except where the surface has been gradually defaced by the wind, rain and snow which have for years beaten upon it.

J. D. Miller, president of the J. D. Miller Mercantile Company of Pueblo, one the members of the Lawrence, Kan., party, which arrived in the region early in July, 1858, who was one of the first of their party to ascend the peak, wrote as follows in reply to an inquiry:

"Pueblo, Col, March 2, 1901, — Fred L. Miner — Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your favor of the 28th ult., and your inquiries revive memories of the past, rather indistinct, but which I like to talk over when ever I meet any of the old comrades. Frank M. Cobb, Augustus Voorhees and myself were the first party of the Lawrence company to ascend Pike's Peak in 1858, and I took the stick along as a cane and with a view of leaving our names on the peak. When we first went there, there were no names to be seen, but there was a pile of stones two or three feet high, which we built up about five feet high, fastening the stick with our names in the center. It was cloudy the day we were on the summit, some snow flying and a cold wind blowing, and as we could not get a good view of the surrounding country we did not remain long. We started from our camp near the Garden of the Gods, July 9 and camped under some rocks on the peak about timberline, and on the 10th went to the top of the peak, and about half way back to our camp, where we camped the night of the 10th, and the next forenoon reached our camp. A few days later James H. Holmes and his wife wanted to make the ascent of the peak, and as I had been up, asked me to go along and show them the way. On my second trip the party consisted of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Holmes, George Peck and myself. Mrs. Holmes wore bloomers in order to travel over the rocks and brush to better advantage, and showed her good sense in going so as there was no trail and the way was rough. We have always believed Mrs. Anna Holmes was the first white woman to ascend the peak. She was a sister of A. W. Archibald of Trinidad, who was one of the Lawrence party. Mrs. Holmes was a well educated and talented lady, and, I understand, something of an author. In 1897 James H. Holmes was living at 412 East Fiftieth Street, New York City. I do not know whether his wife is living or not. My old friend George Peck died at Las Animas, Col., September 2, 1900. Augustus Voorhees returned to the states in the fall of 1858 to Carbondale, Kan., and I have not heard from him since. Frank M. Cobb is in Denver, and his address is 1444 Larimer Street. John D. Miller"

Having thus established the genuineness of this stake, Mr. Miller has been informed that it is still in the possession of Mr. Hueber of Manitou, who discovered it after forty years of silent witness on the top of the peak, and it is probable that Mr. Miller will make an effort to get Mr. Hueber to send the stake to him, so that it can be placed among the relics in possession of the Historical Society of Colorado. [Ed. Does the Historical Society of Colorado exist today and, if so, does it have the stake with Cousin Augustus' name on it?]

MAJOR GENERAL ALVIN COE VORIS

Tom Van Voorhies, our Membership Chairperson, attended the 1997 reunion of the Association of Blauvelt Descendants where he talked with Charles E. Finsley, author of *Hannah's Letters*. Hannah Speaker was Mr. Finsley's great grandmother, whose husband-to-be, Issac Eldbridge Blauvelt, sent her many letters about his experiences with the 67th Regiment of the Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry. Mr. Finsley kindly gave us permission to use material from his book for this article. He also donated a copy of *Hannah's Letters* for the Van Voorhees Association library. We are appreciative of his generosity and thank Tom for alerting us to Mr. Finsley's book. *Hannah's Letters* may be purchased for \$29.00 including shipping from Mr. Finsley, 560 Flower Lane, Cedar Hill TX 75104.

Colonel and later breveted Major General Alvin Coe Voris was a senior officer of the 67th. General Voris was the great grandfather of Alvin Voris Baird, Jr., of Harrisonburg VA. Alvin's wife, Nancy, corresponded with us and supplied additional information including two pages about Gen. Voris published in the *Louisa County Historical Society Magazine*, referred to herein as "the Historical Society." Thank you, Nancy. Certain information is from the *Civil War Research and Genealogy Database on the Internet* at <<http://www.civilwardata.com>>, copyright by Historical Data Systems, Inc., Kingston MA, and referred to herein as "the Internet site."

Alvin's line was: Alvin Coe Voris, Peter Voorhees and Julia Coe of Summit Co. OH, Peter of Harlingen, Somerset Co NJ, Roeloff, Garret Van Voorhees, Jan Lucasse Van Voorhees, Lucas Stevense Van Voorhees, and Steven Coerts.

Alvin Coe Voris was born on 27 April 1827 in Stark County OH, according to our genealogical records and the Internet site. The Historical Society reports that he was born on a farm near Akron. His first wife was Lydia Allyn and they had three children. Gen. Voris married a second time, according to the Historical Society. Trained as a lawyer, the Society stated that Gen. Voris was serving in the Ohio Legislature when the Civil War broke out. He was a member of the committee that was established to revise the Ohio constitution.

The Civil War started with the bombardment of Fort Sumpter on 12 April 1861. Alvin Coe Voris, according to the Historical Society, enlisted as a Private in the 67th Ohio Volunteers. The Internet site reports possibly different information: on 2 October 1861, Alvin was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in the 29th Ohio Infantry and transferred that day to the 67th Ohio. Further promotions, according to the Internet site, were Lt. Colonel of the 67th on 11 October 1861 (nine days after becoming 2nd Lieutenant), Brig General (Brevet) on 8 December 1864, Colonel (as his permanent rank) on 1 September 1865 and Maj. General (Brevet) on 15 November 1865. Sometime early in this period Alvin apparently became a temporary full colonel. The Civil War effectively ended with the surrender of General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House on 9 April 1865. Flowing through these dates is a horrific tale.

Mr. Finsley describes the nightmarish history of the 67th starting with the formation of the regiment in Toledo. Enlistments were for three years. On 13 January 1862, 842 men and officers, including Lt. Colonel Voris, paraded before the Governor and Governor-elect of Ohio. Thereupon, the regiment left for the front on open railroad cars in the rain and cold with no tents or cooking utensils. The first action was at Bloomery

Gap on 14 February 1862. After this engagement, the 67th moved again by railroad to Winchester VA and joined the effort to engage Confederate General Stonewall Jackson.

It was part of the successful battle of Kernstown near Winchester on 23 March 1862. The Internet site reports the 67th was "the first to engage the enemy at Winchester" and that losses were 15 killed and 32 wounded. This battle was General Jackson's only defeat, according to Mr. Finsley. By 22 May, the regiment had marched to Fredericksburg. Abraham Lincoln was interested in seeing the soldiers who had beaten General Jackson. A parade was arranged for the President's review. The entire division, of which the 67th was a part, "had been in constant action without supplies," Mr. Finsley writes. "As the 67th Ohio was reviewed by the President, Colonel A. C. Voris with a flourish of his sword pointed out the tatters [of clothing]. A few days later every man had a new outfit." Mr. Finsley said in a letter, "As far as I know, he [Col. Voris] replaced, very early in the war, the unpopular blustering Col. [Otto] Burstenbinder ..." The Internet site lists only two full Colonels for the 67th — Burstenbinder and Voris. It would appear that the latter became the commanding officer of the regiment.

After an unsuccessful attempt to engage General Jackson again in the Shenandoah Valley, the regiment moved south against Charlestown as part of the 10th Army Corps. The 67th encountered, Mr Finsley writes, "severe fighting and success on the islands in the mouth of Charlestown Bay. The regiment was under fire for 40 consecutive days on Morris Island, where they found their most trying operation to date at Fort Wagner." The Confederate fort was eventually taken on 7 September 1863 after 142 casualties among the regiment. Losses eroded the 67th to less than 300 men out of the 842 men when the regiment paraded before the Governor 21 months earlier. At this point, it was sent home on furlough to re-enlist and recruit new men to fill its ranks.

After enlisting 300 men, on 28 March 1864 the 67th Ohio left Cleveland by railroad for Washington and thence by foot to Camp Grant in Virginia. The new recruits had been given five or six weeks training when the regiment went by ship to rejoin the 10th Army Corps. This Corps and the 18th Army Corps formed the Army of the James [River] which arrived by surprise just 15 miles outside of Richmond.

The war was progressing well for the North: Vicksburg had fallen, the Union Army was victorious at Gettysburg and General Sherman had started his campaign toward Atlanta. An important target was the Confederate capitol of Richmond. The 67th was stationed at the rail depot of Chester Station which they were instructed to hold. Quoting from *Hannah's Letters*, "The effort was to destroy the railroad and block the main road from Richmond to Petersburg. The enemy struck on 10 May 1864, in what became the Battle of Chester Station. The initial charges, by superior numbers, were successfully repulsed by the 67th Ohio. Colonel Voris, in command, fell senseless from exhaustion, so constant was the action. General Terry was quoted*, 'If I had 10,000 such men as Colonel Voris and his 67th Ohio Regiment, I could march straight into Richmond.'" The Internet site states that

the regiment "lost 76 officers and men killed and wounded in the Battle of Chester Station."

On the following 20 May 1864, Confederate General William Walker pushed the Union Army back from its entrenchments at nearby Ware Bottom Church. Mr. Finsley says, "The 10th Corps Brigade, including the 67th Ohio, rushed in and recaptured the position, capturing an injured General Walker, who presented his sword to Colonel Voris." As narrated by the Internet site, this action was at a place called Bermuda Hundred where the regiment lost 69 officers and men wounded or killed. This source goes on to report, "On 16 August, four companies charged the rifle-pits of the enemy at Deep Bottom and at the first volley lost a third of their men; but before the Confederates could reload the rifle-pits were in possession of the Buckeye boys."

The seasons were changing and winter arrived. "During the spring, summer and fall of 1864 the regiment confronted the enemy at all times within range of their guns; and it is said, by officers competent to judge, that in that time it was under fire 200 times. Out of over 600 muskets taken to the front in the spring, three-fifths were laid aside during the year on account of casualties." (Quotation from the Internet site.) While in winter camp, Colonel Voris received his first general's star.

March came and events were about to happen. In the closing days of that month, President Lincoln reviewed the 24th Corps including the 67th Ohio. "The ceremony masked the fact", Mr. Finsley writes, that the President was in the area to "discuss decisive military action" — and decisive it was. Fort Gregg, in Virginia, was stormed by troops, probably including the 67th, in heavy hand-to-hand fighting. This action gave General Lee the cover to leave Petersburg and Richmond. The 67th participated in the pursuit of General Lee's forces and on 6 April engaged the enemy "in a severe contest for two and one half hours near Rice's Station."

Skirmishes continued into the next day and on the Eighth the 24th Corps, including the 67th Ohio, force-marched 37 miles for 17 hours "straight" to the vicinity of Appomattox Station. General Sheridan's cavalry arrived at Appomattox Station before General Lee's forces. The Union cavalry formed into "a thin line across Lee's path" on the night of the Eighth. The next day, Palm Sunday 9 April 1865, General Lee attacked the Union cavalry. General Sheridan's forces fell back in some confusion but the infantry "emerged through the woods" and "formed a mass of battle-hardened troops over two miles long." In the middle of this mass was the 67th. General Lee was outnumbered by more than two-to-one. "White flags were shown at about 11 a. m." The Army of Northern Virginia surrendered. According to the Internet site, the 67th Regiment was mustered out on 7 December 1865.

Nancy Baird writes that after General Lee's surrender, General Voris became "the Military Governor of the Albemarle District of Virginia, with headquarters in Louisa VA. After six months in that position, he felt that he had to resign and rebuild his law practice in Akron." Near the very end of his military service, Alvin Coe Voris was awarded his second star as Major General. He died in Akron on 28 July 1904 — or on 16 July 1904 according to our records.

* See William H. Handy, foreword for *The Sixty-Seventh Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry, A Brief Record of its Four Years of Service in the Civil War 1861-1865*, pub. in 1922, available at the Ohio Historical Center, Columbus OH, page 13. Quotation by Mr. Finsley.

THE REV. DR. OSCAR M. VOORHEES, FOUNDER OF THE VAN VOORHEES ASSOCIATION

*Lucille Nagelkirk, of Zeeland MI, kindly sent us material on several Voorhees that appeared in *Hollanders Who Helped Build America* by Dr. Bernard H. M. Vlekke and Dr. Henry Beets, American Biographical Co., New York 1942. This article, on page 300 of that publication, is reproduced therefrom pursuant to the Doctrine of Fair Use. In addition to being our "founding father," he compiled considerable genealogical data on the Family which Florence Christoph has folded into Van Voorhees Family in America. Thank you, Lucille.*

Oscar's line is: Oscar, Samuel, Garret, Garret (whose home in Middlebush NJ was burned by the British in the Revolution), Neeltje Nevius who married Garret Voorhees, son of Minne Lucasse Van Voorhees and Antje Wyckoff, Catryntje Lucasse Van Voorhees (married Roelof Nevius), Lucas Stevense Van Voorhees, Steven Coerts.

Clergyman, Phi Beta Kappa Historian. He was born on December 29, 1864, near Somerville, New Jersey, and married Alice R. MacNair, October, 29, 1891. They had four children: Helen M. Voorhees, Frances V. Voorhees, Ralph Whitaker, deceased, and Marian MacNair, deceased. His second wife is Martha S. Elmendorf, whom he married on June 25, 1902.

The Voorhees family descends from Steven Coerten, who came from the province of Drenthe in the Netherlands to the New World in 1660. His son, Lucas Stevensen, married Jannetje Minnes. Nearly all Voorhees ancestors were farmers. Garret 1st and Garret 2nd were in the Revolution, the older suffering severe loss, and his son in the Somerset County Militia throughout the war. Those in the male line were connected with the Reformed Church. A cousin of Oscar M. Voorhees, Edward Burnett Voorhees, was Professor of Agriculture at Rutgers College, and Head of the New Jersey State and the Federal Agricultural Experiment Stations. Another cousin, Foster M. Voorhees, was Governor of New Jersey, after serving as Assemblyman and Senator in the State Legislature.

Oscar is a son of Samuel Scott Voorhees and Elizabeth McMurry. He was graduated at Rutgers College in 1888 and in 1891 received his A.M. degree. He was also a graduate of New Brunswick Theological Seminary, in 1891. He served as minister of two churches in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, 1891-1909; and one in The Bronx, New York City, from 1909 to 1922.

He was Secretary of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa from 1901 to 1931, and was then made Phi Beta Kappa Historian for life. He was a Phi Beta Kappa Senator, 1901 to date, and is now the Senior Senator. In 1940 he was awarded fellowship in the Phi Beta Kappa Associates, which is limited to 200 members.

During the World War, he served with the Y.M.C.A. in England and France. He holds the honorary D.D. degree from

Miami University, Ohio, 1911, and the LL.D. from William and Mary, 1927.

Works: Edited *The Phi Beta Kappa Key*, 1910-31. Compiled *The Phi Beta Kappa General Catalogue*, 1500 pages, 1922; the *Condensed Genealogy of the Van Voorhees Family*, 1932; *Historical Handbook of the Van Voorhees Family in the Netherlands and America*, 1935; wrote Ralph and Elizabeth Rodman Voorhees, a *Tribute*, 1927.

A History of Phi Beta Kappa is ready for publication.

Clubs and organizations: Holland Society, New Brunswick Historical Club, National Institute of Social Sciences, etc.

Address: 41. Sicard Street, New Brunswick, N. J.

ALBERT VOORHEES WYCKOFF REVISITED

by Michael A. Apgar

The Spring 1998 *Nieuwsbrief* contained a story about Albert Voorhees Wyckoff and his death in the Civil War. Mike Apgar, of Dover DE, sent us the following Email on July 9th with some corrections and additional insight. Thank you, Mike. The Spring article was based upon several sources that were cited with the article.

I returned from a tour of Civil War battlefields in Virginia this week, (including Cold Harbor where Albert Voorhees Wyckoff's picture graces a wall of the visitor's center) to discover an article on Albert Voorhees Wyckoff in the latest *Nieuwsbrief*. I enjoyed the article, although it contained a number of factual errors concerning Albert's regiment.

The Fifteenth New Jersey Infantry was not one of the four original regiments from New Jersey. The first three regiments were the First, Second and Third. These were combined in a single brigade, identified as the First Jersey Brigade. In the spring of 1862, the Fourth New Jersey Infantry was added to the First Jersey Brigade. In September, 1862, after the battles of Crampton's Gap and Antietam, the Fifteenth New Jersey was added to the First Jersey Brigade. In this way, the Fifteenth was combined with the original four regiments from the state but (as its number should imply) it was not one of the original four.

The arming of the Fifteenth New Jersey with Enfield rifle-muskets may have been a disappointment to Albert. However, the British-made Pattern, 1857 Enfield was the equivalent mechanically to the Model 1861 Springfield (made in the U.S.). The Springfield had a shiny silver-chrome finish, while the Enfield metal bore a blued finish. The Springfield was a pound lighter (which one appreciates on a long march).

The Second Battle of Fredericksburg occurred on May 3rd, 1863...not June, 9th. The heights above the town were carried by sister brigades of the First Jersey. The First Jersey Brigade saw action late that day further west at what is known as the Battle of Salem Church. The Fifteenth New Jersey suffered 154 casualties in that engagement (including James R. Apgar who was mortally wounded). The Union forces were repulsed at Salem Church and vacated Fredericksburg. In fact the entire Chancellorsville Campaign (of which these actions

were only part) was a debacle for the North. However, it was June before the Confederates began to move north in what would become the Gettysburg Campaign.

In the spring of 1864, General Grant (the Union's Commanding General) took the field with the Army of the Potomac, which was commanded by General Meade. General Grant never replaced General Meade. He made his headquarters with General Meade's army.

In the Battle of Cold Harbor on June 1st, the Union army made some gains and repulsed some desperate Confederate counter attacks. It was during this fight that Albert was mortally wounded and died later that day. The battle was not renewed until June 3rd (after the Confederates had enough time to prepare formidable defensive entrenchments). Union casualties amounted to about 7000 men in less than an hour. It was this second assault at Cold Harbor (not the one in which Albert was killed) that was questioned by survivors.— and of which even General Grant later said that "I always regretted."

None of the glitches in the *Nieuwsbrief* article made any difference to the tale of Albert's military career and untimely end. He was a capable young man who put his life on the line for his belief in his country. He paid the ultimate price. Albert's sacrifice did contribute ultimately to the preservation of the Union and a new birth of freedom in the United States of America.

It is fitting that Albert's story was memorialized in the *Nieuwsbrief*. We can all be proud that he was a member of the family.

MISSING COUSINS

The *Nieuwsbrief* was returned for the following members marked "undeliverable" because the forwarding period to their new addresses had expired. Does anyone know their present whereabouts? PLEASE TELL US WHEN YOU MOVE — PLEASE SEND YOUR NEW ADDRESS TO JUDITH VAN VOORHIS, WHO IS LISTED IN WHO'S WHO. After the forwarding period has elapsed, no one will know where you are living and you will be lost to the Association forever. Thank you.

Mrs. Vivian Nogle, Olympia WA
James A. Van Voorhis, Torrance CA
Mrs. Helen V. Faulkner, Columbus NC
Ms. Sue Threlkeld, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

BRADLEY, VOORHEES AND DAY

Laura Thompson, of Lake St. Louis MO, sent us the following Email which should interest all of us: "Ran across a bit of news regarding the BVD underwear company. It seems that the three men that founded the company decided to use the first letter of their last names in the company name. You guessed it — "V" was for Voorhees."

Thank you, Laura, for that intimate tidbit.

MARIAKERK AT RUINEN 17th CENTURY COERTS CHURCH

Text by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall
Photos by Mary E. Bone

Mariakerk (or St Mary's Church) in Ruinen, which was in earlier times and is today the town very near Hees, was undoubtedly the congregation for the Coerts family. It dates from the 12th Century although the present structure was originally built in the 14th Century by Jan de Ruinen and re-built since that time. Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall, of Erie PA, and Mary E. Bone, of Coos Bay OR, visited Mariakerk and Hees in 1998. Thank you, Marilyn and Mary, for sharing your visit with us.

De Mariakerk te Ruinen

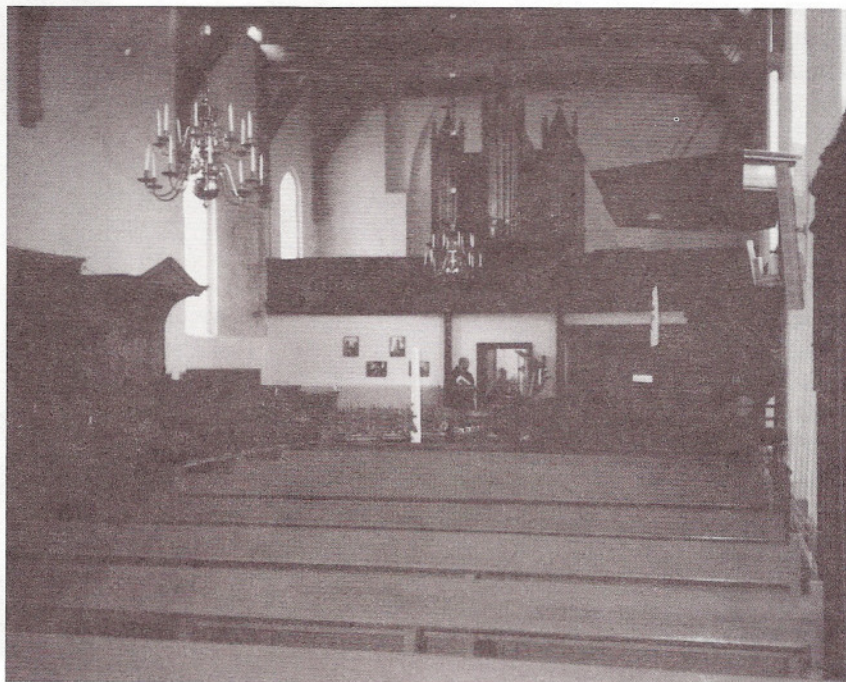
It is not known precisely when the 1st mission church was built on the site; but there are records of a Benedictine Monastery c. 1211AD. Apparently the original church was dedicated to Mary; because the title of the pamphlet is, *De Mariakerk te Ruinen*. There is also evidence that a section of the building was built c. 1141 — as shown in a drawing. Judging from the picture, I think this may have been the 'apse/chancel' part of the first church — or the chapel which was the first church. This would indicate the first missionaries were there many years before the large monastery was built. For a long time the monastery remained intact.

On Nov. 11, 1374 an altar was dedicated to St. Catherine in her [side] chapel projecting off the main building. This was a gift of Jan van Ruinen and his wife, Zwedera, in memory of their daughter, Bertrade. In the picture, the chapel is on the right side of the transept [south side, when facing the altar]. This chapel was still standing in 1786, as seen in a drawing. Neither side is there at present.

In 1423 there was a reconstruction of the northern part of the church. This is on the left, as you face the altar. It has been common practice from ancient times to place the altar on the eastern end of a house of worship. Apparently this church was built as near as possible to this tradition.

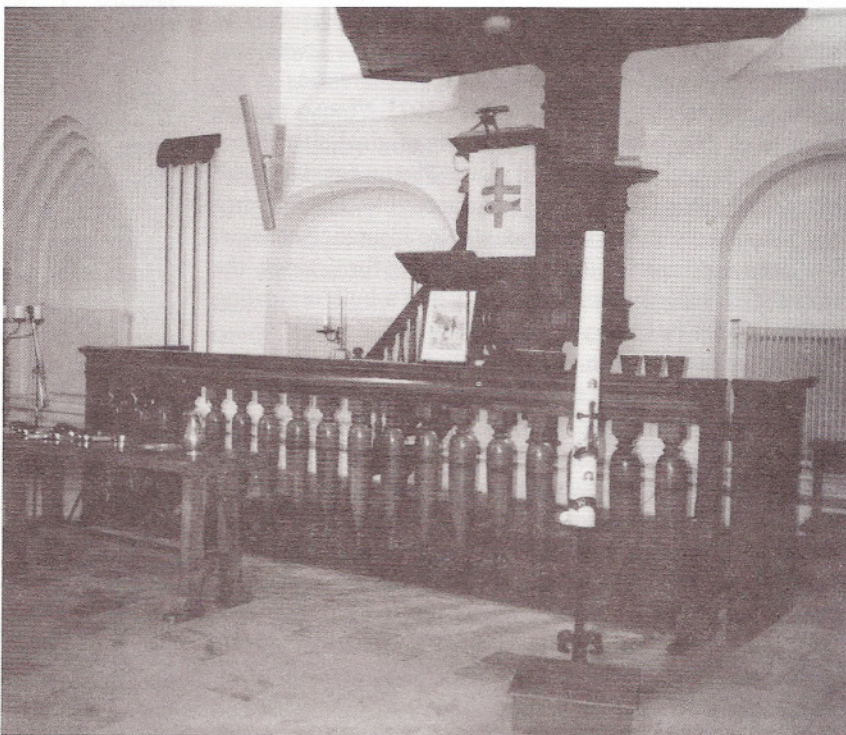
In 1598 the conflict of Catholic vs Protestant reached Ruinen. According to the present minister, it became permanently Protestant in the 1650's ... quite peacefully. Apparently the congregation voted unanimously — or almost so. However, a

few local people had doubts about Protestantism. There was



The interior of Mariakerk coming in the front door with pulpit and sound board over the pulpit on the right wall.

still a threat of Spanish resurgence in Friesland and elsewhere at this time.



Pulpit and service table.



Road sign identifying Hees — note the cows across the main and only street in Hees; the street runs for about three American city blocks.

In 1661 the new pulpit, built by Jan Janssen Decker of Steenwijk, was installed. It is still in use today. Also in this year there was a terrible storm which badly damaged the steeple. Apparently the shape was altered during repairs.

There have been numerous changes over the years. The Catholic elements were removed. The monastery was torn down. Storms and fire caused damage. There was a big restoration from October 1972 to May 1975. From a picture it is evident that they finally located the original altar stone, which is now back in its rightful place. They wanted to make the church as much like the original as possible. The first roof was undoubtedly thatch; but today's fire insurance changed that. Inside, except for the pews and other furnishings, the basic church building certainly looks like a building dating back to c. 1211 or earlier.

It is unknown when the first organ was installed. The present organ has been renovated piece by piece and upgraded too. There were major changes made in 1836. In 1901 it was rebuilt. More changes were made in 1978. It now has a complete pedal board but only 9 stops, with 2' to 16' pipes plus a set of Quint 3' pipes. When I was there, a very talented organist made the most of those few stops.



Black metal baptismal font probably used to baptize Steven Coerts in 1660 and used today.

MIA -- 1ST LT. PAUL E. VAN VOORHIS

by Eleanor H. Casagrand

Russian built MiG-15 fighters attacked and shot down the plane of 1st Lt. Paul E. Van Voorhis, Ozone Park, NY on January 13, 1953. This occurred in the latter days of the Korean War that ended July of that year. He was the radar operator on a B-29 of the Air Resupply and Communications Service (ARC), that supported the CIA with specialized aircraft and crews. ARC aided the CIA in clandestine operations designed to subvert Communism. Paul was part of a crew of thirteen whose mission was to drop propaganda leaflets in Chinese and Korean over enemy lines. That rainy, foreboding day in January, the mission called for six drops in twenty-eight minutes over the border between China and North Korea. As the crew approached its sixth and last target, the MiG's attacked. All but the gunner bailed out of the flaming plane. Chinese troops captured at least 11 crew members, then interrogated, tormented, humiliated, abused, and imprisoned them. A surviving crew member said he saw Van Voorhis several times in prison. The Chinese released most of the crew from prison in 1955 but the fate of Paul E. Van Voorhis remained unknown. Survivors believed that his captors turned him over to the Russians.

Thanks to Don Vorhis, of Midlothian, VA who sent us this information from a Dept. of Defense Intelligence Agency news release via A.P. News, Internet site <aol//1722NewsProfiles>.



MRS. VOORHEES, WHO WAS SHE ?

Elsa Hauschka, of Bremen ME, sent us an advertisement by Beacon Hill Fine Art, 980 Madison Avenue, New York NY 10021, in the June 1998 American Art Review that contained a reproduction of a painting by Warren B. Davis entitled, "Mrs. Voorhees." The painting is oil on canvas, 36 by 24 inches in size. It was said to be worth around \$45,000. The ad was spotted by Dr. Dayton Voorhees, of Albuquerque NM, son of Elsa's brother James.

Who was Mrs. Voorhees? The painting appears to have been done in the late 19th or early 20th centuries, guessing from Mrs. Voorhees' dress and gloves. Please write to Manning Voorhees if you have any information about the identity of Mrs. Voorhees.

Thank you, Elsa.

WHAT'S WITH THE COUSINS

Dr. John R. Voorhis III of Port Jefferson NY, was awarded the Gold Medal for Distinguished Achievement at the 113th Annual Meeting (1998) of The Holland Society of New York. Congratulations, John — you have worked very hard for the Society. The Medal has been awarded 37 times and John was the fourth descendant of Steven Coerts to receive it. John noted in his letter to us that there were 31 descendants of Steven in the 1997 Society membership roster. John said, "It is wonderful the way that the Van Voorhees Association and The Holland Society complement each other, with both making major contributions to our knowledge of genealogy and history." John and his wife celebrated their 45th anniversary at the time of The Holland Society meeting.

Faye Donelson, of Waterford MI, sent us a photograph from the San Francisco Examiner last Spring picturing Ann Vorhes, age 102, at a celebration for the survivors of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. They were treated to a special trip by the Golden Gate Ferry and a gathering at Lotta's Fountain to mark the moment that the earthquake struck.

Dr. Peter W. Voorhees, of Winnetka IL, has become a member of the Space Studies Board of the National Research Council, which is the operating arm of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering and Institute of Medicine. Congratulations, Peter. He resigned from the Microgravity Research and Advisory Subcommittee of NASA to accept his new position. Peter is Professor of Physics and Material Science at Northwestern University and was a member of the Defense Sciences Study Group several years ago. Peter is also the son of Manning Voorhees.

Paul D. Van Voorhees, of Honolulu HI, send us a postcard during his July 1998 trip to Europe. After an Elderhostel program in Budapest, Paul went to Amsterdam where he spent the weekend touring the canals and museums. Then he "took train, bus and taxi to Amersfoort, Zwolle, Meppel, Ruinen, Voorhees, Hoogeveen, Groningen, Leeuwarden, back to Zwolle and Amsterdam." Paul was in Honolulu on the following Thursday. We saw Paul at the October 10th Reunion (also at the 1997 Reunion) and understand that he was planning a return trip to Jakarta before year-end 1998. Sounds great, Paul.



The Council of Genealogy Columnists honored Carole Cole, of Bountiful UT, with a 1998 Excellence in Writing award. Carole won First Place in Category 2: General Interest Columns in Newspapers. The annual competition is open to all genealogical columnists who regularly write under the same name. Congratulations, Carole. The announcement was made during the 1998 National Genealogy Society Conference.

Ursula B. Kilner, of Salisbury CT, was pictured in the September 10, 1998 issue of the Lakeville Journal with Don Stevens, who lectured the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Salisbury Arsenal about Indian artifacts. Mr. Stevens discussed his experiences and described how to search for Indian arrowheads and former communities.

Marjorie and Roy Vorhees, of Grosse Pointe MI, celebrated the arrival of their second great great grandchild, Justin Barnaby Vorhees, on February 11, 1998. Justin is the son of Amy and Roy Vorhees IV, of Grosse Pointe Farms MI. Following this happy event, Marjorie celebrated her 80th birthday July 8, 1998 at a family reunion. Twenty-six family members were there including two from Russia, four from Bethesda MD, five from Spokane WA and two from Portland OR. The rest were from Michigan. Roy said that there were "no absentees!"

VAN AERSDALEN ASSOCIATION

The van Aersdalen Family Association has been formed recently for descendants of Sijmon Jansz van Aersdalen (1627-1710) and allied families. Their newsletter is The Vanguard. Interested cousins may contact: Charles R. Vanorsdale, 550 West Texas, Suite 950, Midland TX 79701.

CORNELIUS LOW HOUSE

At the October 1998 Reunion, we toured the Cornelius Low House, or Ivy Hall, in Piscataway NJ. Several of the

cousins told Patricia McDermott, the Curator, about early family connections with the House or more recent memories of courting one of the girls who lived there. Ms. McDermott will appreciate being contacted by those who talked with her and others who may have information or memories about the House to assist her in learning more about it. Her address is: Mrs. Patricia Ann McDermott, Historic Site Supervisor, Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, 703 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick NJ 08901, telephone 732-745-4177.

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<revv@cfu-cybernet.net>

ITEM SALES FORM

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

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

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