



VAN VOORHEES NIEUWSBRIEF

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A Publication of the Van Voorhees Association, Organized in 1932
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AN OVERVIEW OF OUR NEW GENEALOGY AND DATA BASE

by Florence Christoph
Certified Genealogist

This is Florence Christoph's report that she gave at the Reunion last October in Fishkill. We cannot say too many times that Florence has done a terrific job in an almost impossible situation. Her dedication is most admirable. Judith Van Voorhis jumped into the fray early-on and gave Florence very strong assistance. All of us were astonished at the volume of records that emerged five years ago and that our ladies tackled and assimilated. Peter, Flo's husband, carefully proofread the entire text just before it was sent to the printers. The result will be our new genealogy, Van Voorhees Family in America. Please order your copy with the coupon in this Nieuwsbrief.

As many of you know, five years ago I was given over 45 assorted grocery boxes of material containing records gathered by the Van Voorhees Association since 1932. These boxes filled the back of a van and took the trunks and back seats of two cars to get them to my home. They contained membership forms, copies of Bibles, deeds, wills, church records, census records, family trees, group sheets, published genealogies, unpublished manuscripts and thousands of letters.

Over the past sixty years at least five genealogists have used this material in an attempt to update the 1888 Van Voorhees genealogy published by Elias Van Voorhis. The 1888 book was the last time any one was able to publish all the records he had on the family.

Oscar Voorhees worked in the 1930's and 40's. In the 1960's and 70's, Harold Hazelton began copying church records, census records and gathering other material in an attempt to document the work of Elias Van Voorhis and Oscar Voorhees. Throughout this time period Donald Sinclair abstracted deeds, wills and numerous other records.

Finally in 1984, Albert Stokes was able to use the collection

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JOHN RICHARD VOORHIS THE GRAND OLD MAN OF TAMMANY

by Mark W. Voorhis

Thank you, Mark, for an excellent portrait of your gr gr great grandfather, John Richard Voorhis. Mark resides in Walkersville MD. Dr. John R. Voorhis, III, of Tequesta FL, provided reference material for this article and we thank you, John, for assisting your nephew. We also thank William Voorhees, our Webmaster, who originally corresponded with Mark and asked him to write this article. John Richard Voorhis was, indeed, a grand old man.

In preparing for this *Nieuwsbrief* article on the subject of my third Great Grandfather, John Richard Voorhis (Richard, Peter A., Alpert P., Petrus, Albert, Steven), I struggled with how to best focus the article. A simple listing of the genealogical facts such as birth date, marriage date, etc. would not adequately capture the accomplishments of the man. Nor would a simple retelling of the human-interest stories associated with a man who spent 102 years accumulating them. Regardless, in the space allotted, here is a brief biography of the Grand Old Man of Tammany Hall.

John Richard Voorhis was born July 27, 1829 at Pompton Plains, New Jersey to Richard Voorhis and Maria Van Saun, the oldest of seven children (four survived to adulthood). Note that the author's parents still live in Piermont NY in a house originally owned by John's brother Calvin

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CALENDAR

Executive Committee Meeting -- April 29, 2000; Annual Reunion, -- October 7, 2000
Executive Committee Meeting -- April 28, 2001; Annual Reunion, -- October 6, 2001

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 Amersfoort (Flatlands) in New Netherland.

Alice Adams

Alice Adams, of Bridgewater NJ, resigned as a Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee. Alice has served our Family for several decades as an active participant in the Executive Committee meetings and eager volunteer for whatever had to be done. Alice brought ideas, insight and the counsel of long experience to the management of our heritage Association. Her contributions have been extensive and she will be missed -- but we look forward to talking with Alice at the Annual Reunions. Alice is the granddaughter of our founder, Dr. Oscar M. Voorhees.

Our Volunteers

Laura Thompson, of Lake St. Louis MO, is our new Corresponding Secretary. The position was authorized by the Executive Committee on April 24, 1999 and Laura was ratified as Corresponding Secretary during the Executive Committee meeting before the October 9, 1999 Reunion in Fishkill.

Glee Van Osdol-Krapf, of Tamaqua PA, offered to serve as Lucas Line Representative, filling an important vacancy. The Executive Committee was very pleased to accept Glee's offer during its meeting before the October 9, 1999 Reunion in Fishkill. Glee also serves as the Coert Line Representative.

We thank our volunteers very much. The Association will cease to exist without the continued effort and dedication of our volunteers who accomplish its many management functions in their spare time.

Correction

In the "What's With The Cousins" column in the Summer/Fall 1999 *Nieuwsbrief*, we unfortunately gave an address of Brick NJ for Col. Steven Boylan, who is serving with the U. S. Army in Europe. Steven's brother, Jack, telephoned us with the correction which we are pleased to announce. Jack resides in Brick NJ. Dick Boylan, of Wilmington NC, is also a brother of Steven and Jack. We apologize for any confusion that our error may have caused.

Van Wyck Homestead

An off-site afternoon tour during the 1999 Reunion at Fishkill was scheduled for the Van Wyck Homestead. For whatever reason, the facility was closed when everyone arrived for the visit. A letter of apology was sent to Scott Voorhees, our Programs Chairperson. Apparently, there was a

misunderstanding among the volunteers who operate the museum. It is easy to imagine how this can arise. Manning Voorhees apologized to the many Reunion attendees who came to the optional dinner at the Cornerstone Restaurant that evening and extends the same apology to the cousins who left for home from the closed Van Wyck Homestead. To all, we are sorry that this happened but it really was out of our control.

Genealogical Fund Raiser

As of March 15, 2000, the balance in our fund raiser for the new genealogy was \$35,950, including \$764 representing 1999 pledges that have not been remitted. Manning Voorhees was unable to send reminder letters last year for pledges. Please mail your 1999 pledge to him as soon as possible so that the Association will gain the benefit of interest earnings. Thank you. Our original goal was \$42,000.

Internet Site

In early March, a computer hacker disabled the Bulletin Board of the Van Voorhees Association web site. A great many posted inquiries and messages were blown away. The Bulletin Board, or BBS, is designed for members to communicate easily and quickly with one another. Dr. William R. Voorhees, our Webmaster, closed the BBS at least for the immediate future in order ensure that the overall site was protected. After a while, William will explore ways to reopen the BBS but perhaps under a different scheme. This is the second intrusion into our web site. The first was a few messages said to be from Jason Van Voorhis, the murderer at Crystal Lake in the Friday the Thirteenth series. Our Internet address is <<http://www.vanvoorhees.org>>.

Pay Your Dues, Please

Our annual dues remittance envelope is enclosed with this *Nieuwsbrief*. Please pay your 2000 dues so that we will be able to maintain our cash flow, especially at the present time when Van Voorhees Family in America is close to fruition. Thank you.

This Nieuwsbrief and Next Issue

This issue of the *Nieuwsbrief* has been delayed because of some problems that Manning Voorhees had in the ending weeks of 1999 and because we wanted to wait until the final pricing decisions had been made for Van Voorhees Family in America.

The deadline for the Summer/Fall 2000 *Nieuwsbrief* is June 19th. Please send Manning Voorhees genealogical, historical and current material about your family and the Family in general. Your newsletter can only be as interesting as you make it. As required by law and accepted practice, we must cite any quotation or illustration by its source, which is name of publication, author and date of publication.

GROOTKERK or MARIAKERK

Our Church in Meppel

Written by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

Photography by Dr. Roy E. Voshall

Marilyn and Roy visited Drenthe in September 1999 and toured the church in Meppel that has a historical relationship with our Family. Thank you, Marilyn and Roy, for your very descriptive and informative article, data about the church and photographs. Meppel is about one and three-quarters of a mile south west of Hees, as "the crow flies." It is mentioned several times in *Through a Dutch Door*. Marilyn and Roy reside in Erie PA.

Steven Coerts and his wife, Aeltje Wessels, attended this church during their years in Meppel. Their four children were baptized here (1638-4).

The 1st church in Meppel was a small chapel in 1141 A.D. Later it became the town's Weigh House [Photo 1, the small structure on the very far left]. After the addition to the church was completed in 1780, it was incorporated into the church. The present sanctuary was begun in 1421. Because of

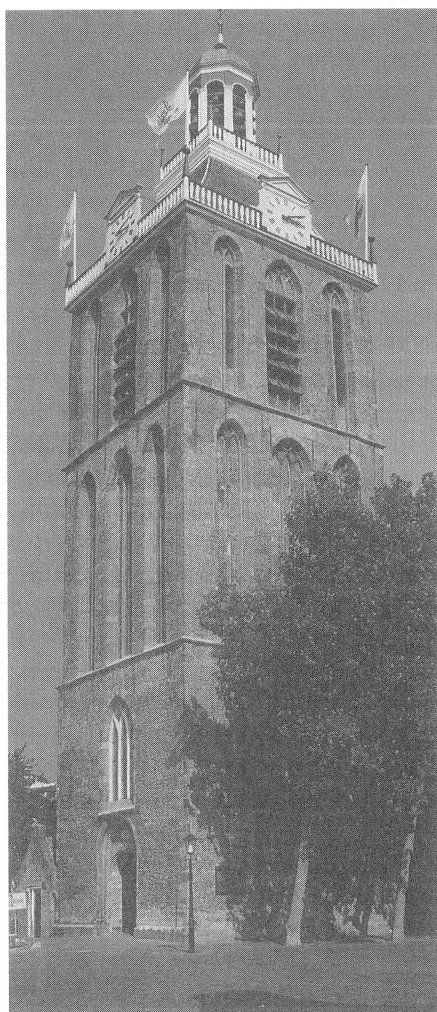


Photo 1

missing records, the precise date when the tower was built is unknown. Since it was customary then to have a tower beside a church, it was probably constructed at approximately the same time. In 1459 the choir was started with a special blessing by the Bishop of Utrecht. The tower's present carillon has 49 bells. Once rung manually by the sexton, it is mechanized and automated to ring every quarter hour. Several bells ring prior to the chiming of the hour.

Most gold items were taken to the Assen Museum; however, the

original gold baptismal basin [Photo 2] beneath the golden arch was left in this church, fastened to the post at the foot of the pulpit stairs. The door at the foot of the pulpit steps

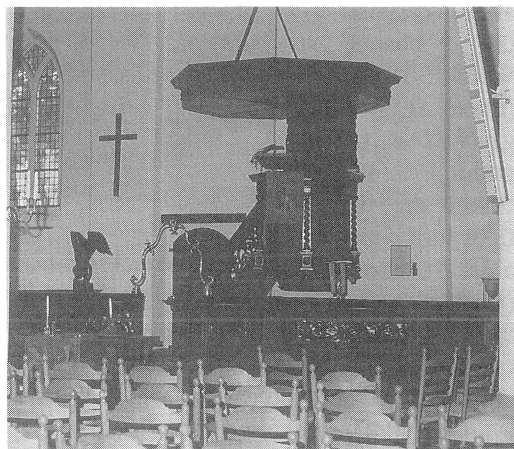


Photo 2

once led to the old cemetery, now the brick plaza [Photo 1]. The present pulpit dates from 1696. Drenthe officially became Protestant circa 1598. All churches changed their interiors at this time. The pulpit became the focus of attention as the Word was now the most important element in the service. Symbols used in Catholic worship were removed. The altar was replaced by a communion table. In Meppel the pews were rearranged to face the pulpit. Later the pews were discarded in favor of chairs [Photo 2] which could be easily moved to suit various functions. This Hall Church [the familiar traditional form of Protestant churches in America] with the changed seating had its pulpit and communion table in the center with the fore and aft balconies now on each side.

In Meppel the organ [in the old aft balcony, photo 3, now on the right when facing the communion table see Photo 2] was retained and is painted in dark red with green trim, the traditional colors for organs in the Netherlands. The present organ cabinet dates from 1712.



Photo 3

The original reader's lectern [Photo 4] with an attached seat is behind the chairs, facing the pulpit in the 'new' section (the 2nd half). This 2nd half (addition) of the church was built from 1775-1780 to make room for more interior burials, as people were being interred three deep. This included the

curved wall portion next to the alley (beyond the chapel/Weigh House [Photo I]. The gravestones within the church are the floor of the older section.



(Unfortunately most have their inscriptions badly eroded.) When Napoleon came in power, he forbade all burials within churches; so the purpose of the addition was futile.

On a wall inside the original chapel [Photo I] is a framed list of all the Protestant pastors. Three of these are of special interest to us: Jacobus Plaurius [1626-27], Johannes Theodorus Polheim or Polhemius (1627-1634), and Henricus Reuker [1634-1651]. Dominee Polheim is mentioned in *Through a Dutch Door* (pp.49-50) as a probable influence for the immigration of Steven Coerts to America. Dominee Reuker was undoubtedly the pastor who baptized the four children of Steven and Aeltje. Steven may have been there when Dominee Plaurius was Pastor.

Currently the church is co-managed by the Dutch Reformed Church and the government. It is both an active congregation and historical monument. They were supposed to get a new full-time pastor before Christmas 1999. The church still has Sunday morning services (9:30 a.m). Sunday evening services are usually combined in a new church several blocks away. A few times each year (on Saturdays) Open House is held with tours, food, and a special communion-blessing-vespers service.

The church is locked except for services. Access is only by appointment. For this special tour, I wish to express our gratitude to Mr. Rinsema and his wife, and Mrs. Tineke de Groot, and the sexton/clerk, Mr. Fransees, who explained everything and provided me with the church history in Dutch.

BACKGROUND

- Steven Coerts and his wife, Aeltje Wessels, attended this church during their years in Meppel. All four of their children were baptized here.
- The original gold Baptismal basin and pitcher are still in the church. They are small and fastened to the wall at the foot of the Pulpit steps. The original gold Communion Service is in the Assen Museum.
- A few marriage records are in The Hague Archiefs (genealogy dept.). None mention Steven and Aeltje or their children. Many mention children of a man named Wessel.
- The Sunday Service is at 9:30 a.m. The Sunday Evening Service is rarely held there. Someone is usually in the Office from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The Office door is on the alley and the one closest to the shopping area.

HISTORY

- 1141 The small building beside the tower is the oldest part. First it was a Chapel. Then it became the town's Weigh House. Later, after the Addition was completed, it was incorporated into the church.
- 1422 Permission was obtained from the bishop to start a church building.
- 1432 The Tower was begun.
- 1459 A choir was started with a celebration by the Bishop of Utrecht.
- 1491, 1504 The last part of the altar was placed.
- 1518 First one-half of the church (the old part) was finished. When the church became Protestant, the main entrance was changed.
- 1598 The tower was conformed with the Dutch Reformed Church.
- 1672 Two plaques were placed on the tower.
- 1775 Second one-half of the church built to have more room for interior burials. The people were being buried three deep in the church. This is the Curved Wall portion next to the exterior brick plaza. The door beside the pulpit once led to an exterior cemetery.
- 1780 The addition was completed.
- c.1800 When Napoleon came in power, he forbade all burials within churches.
- 1829 The present Tower was repaired, using available material from the original.

● Pastors 1626-1651:

- 1626-1627 Jacobus Plaurius
- 1627-1634 Johannes Theodorus Polheim/Polhemius
see p.49 of *Through a Dutch Door*
- 1634-1651 Henricus Reuker

● Contacts for entry to the church:

The present congregation is Dutch Reformed but the property is managed by the Kerkelijk Bureau Hervormde Gemeente. Mr. Rinsema (a teacher interested in history), telephone: 0522-241060, 0522-262647. Mrs. Christina Tineke de Groot, email at work: <t.gortworst@meppel.nl>. Her husband is Gortworst. The Church Custodian/Sexton is Mr. Fransees.

- Two Papers in Dutch were given to me by Mr. Fransees:
 - Hervormde Gemeente Meppel Kerkvoogdij, *Historie van de Nederlands Hervormde Kerk te Meppel*, by R. Fransees, Meppel, juni 1991
 - Enige Gegevens Betreffende de Meppeler Toren, by Jan Houdel.

[Ed. These two single page Papers are available by writing to Manning Voorhees and enclosing an SASE.]



OUR NEW GENEALOGY IS HERE

Well, it is almost here. Florence Christoph sent her text and illustrations to Gateway Press in Baltimore several weeks ago and we expect the finished books to be delivered in mid-summer. The text will embrace the first six generations of the Van Voorhees Family in this country with the seventh generation listed with their parents and will run for at least 800 pages. The book will grow to over 1,000 pages with the introduction, index, footnotes, bibliography, illustrations and miscellaneous material. There are around 3,700 footnotes plus other data sources cited within many of the individual pedigrees. *Van Voorhees Family in America* will clearly represent the most comprehensive and definitive genealogy of the Family that has ever been published. Those of us who have been privileged to be close to the project are very proud and excited about its imminent arrival.

We are contemplating a press run of 1,200 copies. They will weigh around 2.5 tons all together, so we are told, and will form a cube of about ten feet on each side. Needless to say, an inventory of this size is well beyond the capability of a volunteer that might offer his/her closet, garage or basement to store the books. Therefore, the Association must engage a professional publisher's warehouse at a fee to receive the press run and initially ship books to purchasers. Marilyn Brack, our Director of Publication Sales, will manage this effort and will receive your purchase orders. After sales have reduced our inventory to more reasonable proportions, the unsold books will be moved to a public storage facility near Marilyn's home and she will ship the subsequent orders. Our inventory of *Through a Dutch Door* will be moved to this public storage facility sometime in the near term.

The Association has incurred considerable expense with the new genealogy that commenced in 1984 with publication of *The Van Voorhees Family, Volume I*. Al Stokes started work immediately on what was to have been Volume II. However, as Florence explains in her article on the first page of this *Nieuwsbrief*, the project was suddenly enlarged into the comprehensive work that is now at the printers.

After deliberation, it was decided to price Van Voorhees Family in America at \$60.00 per copy including shipping, well below our accumulated cost which is cumulative from 1984. This price will be discounted during the so-called pre-publication period to \$50.00. The discount period will expire on October 8, 2001, which is two days after the Reunion. It was decid-

ed to accept a significant loss in order to keep the price within a feasible limit. The Van Voorhees Association is an educational organization pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code and this pricing of our new genealogy seems to comport with our reason for existence.

The bright side of the financial picture is that we should have sufficient funds to proceed with the second volume of *Van Voorhees Family in America* provided that our sales of the forthcoming first volume reach a minimum total. In other words, we would recycle our dollars, add them to a carryover of monies that appears possible at this writing (final contracts have not been signed) and dedicate the total to the second volume. This is a strong further reason to price the first volume at an attractive level that hopefully will induce heavy sales. Whether this will happen is up to you, folks.

Please send your book orders to Marilyn as soon as possible so that we will be able to plan the second volume and proceed with the genealogical work looking forward to volume two with additional generations of the Family.

Sale specifics are as follows:

Availability of the Book -- expected to be mid Summer 2000; orders will be shipped as soon thereafter as possible

Regular Price per Copy -- \$60.00, post paid

Discounted Price to October 8, 2001 -- \$50.00, post paid

Buy Dutch Door w/Genealogy -- *Dutch Door* will cost \$15.00 per copy, a discount of \$7.00, or \$65.00 for the two books together during the discount period and \$75.00 thereafter

Sales to New Jersey Purchasers -- Please add 6 % State sales tax to the total price (the Association has been designated a collector of the sales tax)

Shipping -- UPS or U. S. Post Office

Please note the attractive combination offer of Van Voorhees Family in America and Through a Dutch Door. This is your chance to have the complete series of our Family history from Drenthe to early 19th century America on your favorite book shelf at an attractive pricing until October 8, 2001. Hopefully, volume two of the genealogy will round out this impressive record sometime in the next few years. But -- we must recycle our investment in volume one of the genealogy to make this possible. We hope that you will participate in this effort.

BOOK ORDER FORM

I. *Van Voorhees Family in America*
 _____ copies @ prepublication price at \$50.00

The discount price will end on
October 8, 2001

SUB TOTAL

Residents of New Jersey please add 6 % sales tax on Sub Total

FINAL TOTAL

Please make your check or money order payable to The Van Voorhees Association and mail to: Mrs. Frederick Brack, 24 Mary Street, North Haledon NJ 07508. Please enclose this complete form or a photocopy with your order.

II. *Through a Dutch Door, 17th Century*
Origins of the Van Voorhees Family
 _____ copies bought with genealogy
 @\$15.00

III. *Through a Dutch Door, 17th Century*
Origins of the Van Voorhees Family
 _____ copies purchased alone
 @\$22.00

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

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

Voorhis. To put the era of his birth in perspective, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams had died just three years earlier in 1826; John Quincy Adams (the founder's son) was President of the United States; the grand fathers of his generation (including both of John's own great grand fathers) had fought in the American Revolution; and New York City had a population of less than 200,000.

John and his parents moved to New York when he was one year old, in 1830. He attended Mme. Hewlett's private school, and was eventually promoted to the associated academy receiving tutelage from Professor David Stevens. At age 14, he left school to begin tenure as a clerk in the law office of John Jay. The reader may recognize this patriotic name. The John Jay here is the grandson of the signer of the colonies treaty with Great Britain and former Chief Justice of the United States. John's tenure as law clerk lasted three years, at which time he accepted an apprenticeship with an uncle in the stair-building business. At the age of 21, he became his uncle's partner and married Lucinda Lefferts,

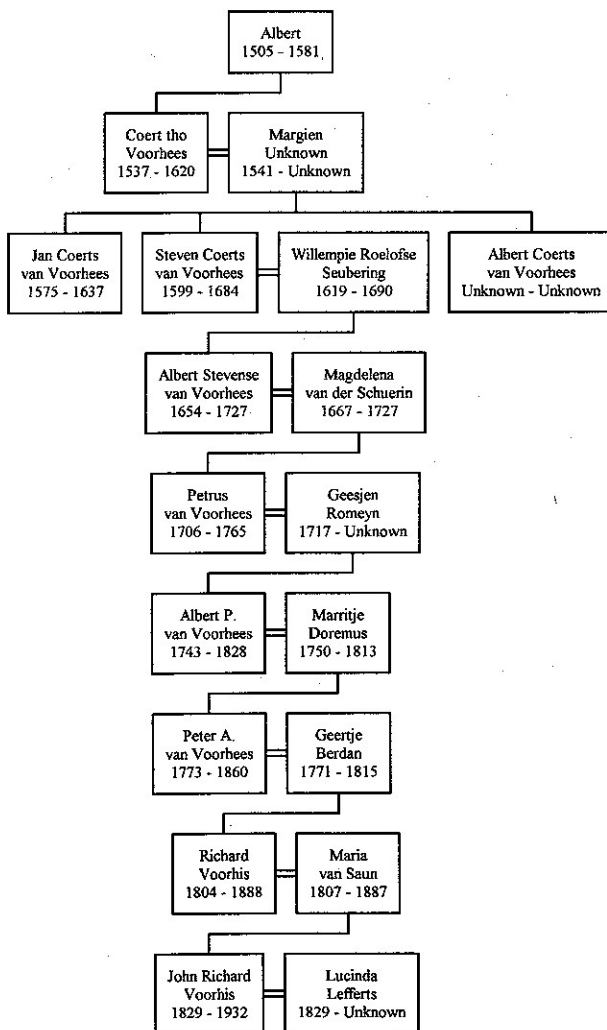
August 18, 1850, a marriage that celebrated 67 wedding anniversaries. From our family Bible and other sources, we know that John and Lucinda had five children as follows: George Washington Voorhis born July 15, 1851; Charles William Voorhis born April 3, 1854; Anna Maria Voorhis born April 3, 1854 (twin to Charles W.); John Milton Voorhis born July 10, 1857; and Clara Lucinda Voorhis born January 27, 1865. All but John Milton Voorhis survived until adulthood, although unfortunately only the daughters died of old age. It is worthwhile to note that the family Bible to which reference is given above, was originally a gift to John and Lucinda in 1855 by her brother William Lefferts, of "The Bible House" in Astor Place, NYC.

His contracting business flourished specializing in fine stairs, staircases, and fine floors, and grew along with the City of New York. Operating out of his Greenwich Village shop, he built hundreds of houses in "old" New York, especially in that same Greenwich Village section, eventually employing over 100 men. He had helped build the house (786 Greenwich Street, at the corner of Bethune Street) that he and Lucinda would live in until her death in 1916, and where he and daughter Anna resided until his eventual passing in 1932. We continue to research this contracting business. We know that as he became more involved in politics and public office, he relied on each of his two sons to manage the affairs of the business. Unfortunately, each of those sons died premature deaths. It is believed that Charles died as a result of a fall, in 1882. His brother George W. Voorhis died in 1888, from typhoid fever. Much remains to be learned about this successful contracting business, but unfortunately, not much more is currently known with any certainty.

John R. Voorhis political activities started as early as the 1850's, when he was known as a strong anti-secessionist in the years leading up to the Civil War. He oversaw what was known at the time as the world's greatest petition, a collection of signatures a quarter of a mile long by those in favor of the Border States Compromise. The signatures were sent to Congress in a box constructed by John especially for the occasion, made of Georgia pine to represent the South, walnut to represent the West, and spruce to represent the North.

In 1865, John became the Democratic leader in New York's Ninth Ward. Even such, his first major political activities focused on an anti-Tammany Hall agenda. (Tammany Hall, the Democratic Party organization that controlled New York City politics throughout much of the 19th and early 20th Centuries, was in the middle of exposures of corruption under the reign of "Boss" Tweed). His anti-Tammany electioneering activities through-out NYC's Eighth and Ninth Wards were effective, leading to what eventually became known as the "Voorhis Democracy," and helped elect the reform administration of Mayor Havemeyer. It was because of his support of this reform party ticket that John received his first political appointment at the age of 44, when Mayor Havemeyer appointed him Commissioner of Excise in May of 1873. This appointment began a fifty-eight year period of public service, as shown in the included table, and a tenure that is remarkable in that it is one of the few of the lasting legacies of a

ALBERT TO JOHN RICHARD VOORHIS



reform/anti-Tammany politician. In July 1874, when first appointed Police Commissioner, his responsibilities also included the Board of Elections, since in those days that body was part of the Police Department. His name would eventually become synonymous with the Board of Elections, being in charge of elections in the City and State of New York for over 36 years. Note that in 1910 then Mayor Gaynor refused to appoint him as Commissioner of Elections as recommended by Tammany Hall, citing him as being "... too old. He's past eighty-one." So Governor Dix twice appointed him as State Superintendent of Elections, after which he returned to running NYC's elections in 1918 and did so for the next 14 years. He outlived Mayor Gaynor by two decades. He retired from public office October 20, 1931. He was given retirement at full salary by an act of the New York State Legislature sponsored by Governor Franklin Roosevelt.

After 27 years of opposing Tammany Hall, in 1892, convinced that a reform of Tammany Hall had been accomplished, he joined that organization, and was faithful to it for the rest of his life. It was in that organization that his name became best known throughout New York City and the rest of the country, first elected to the position of Grand Sachem in 1911, a position he held for 21 years. Although there is a rule forbidding re-election as Grand Sachem for the succeeding year, at each annual election the other Sachems voted for himself, thus resulting in a dead-lock, and John remaining in office. In 1929, just short of his 99th birthday, he laid the cornerstone for the new Tammany Hall at Seventeenth Street and Union Square East. Although planned to occur the week prior to his death, he was honored posthumously with being named Great Grand Sachem of Tammany Hall. George Washington is the only other man to receive this honor.

John R. Voorhis began to receive notoriety for his longevity in 1921, when he was 92 years old, when it was reported that he climbed an extension ladder three floors above street level to inspect repairs being done to the balcony of the Tammany Hall building. The reporters and the good citizens of New York were quite amazed at this display of energy, and the papers reported such the following day. Each year thereafter, the NYC and national papers carried reports of his daily regimen, his birthday celebrations, and other human interest takes on the life of a centenarian. He had a relationship with the 105-year-old (or so he said) Chief White Horse Eagle of the Osage Indians, said to be the model for the Indian on the old five cent piece, who gave the honorary title to John of "Qua-Ta-Ka," or Great Leader of Many.

John R. Voorhis died on February 5, 1932, halfway through his 103rd year. Every prominent public official and leader from the state and cities of New York were present. Governor Roosevelt, Mayor Walker, Al Smith, into the thousands of mourn-

ers. In lieu of going into further detail, I will let the mourners speak for themselves:

Governor Roosevelt -- I am deeply grieved to learn of the death of the grand old man, John R. Voorhis. His life is one that we can look upon as an example of usefulness. Probably not for generations to come will there be an example of a public servant who continued as a public servant until well past the century mark.

Former Governor Al Smith -- With profound regret I learn of the death of my old friend, John R. Voorhis. He was a venerable figure, alive to all the interests of the day. It was a pleasure to talk with him. Sensible, wholesome in his outlook and profoundly reasonable, his point of view of life and the story of New York, the city he loved so much, was fascinating. His active and useful life was an inspiration to younger men. His passing takes away one of the picturesque and beloved figures of our city.

Mayor Walker -- I exceedingly regret the passing of John R. Voorhis, whom I have known and admired all my life. He was a friend of my father and always a good friend to me, as he was to everyone that he liked. His record of public service is unequaled in the city's history and affords a splendid example of integrity, usefulness and devotion to the city in whatever position he occupied. He was an inspiration to old and young alike.

John F. Curry, Leader of Tammany Hall -- The death of John R. Voorhis marks the passing of one of America's most colorful and picturesque figures. He was nationally known and revered by many because of his age, but those who knew him more intimately revered him because of his understanding of the philosophy of life and his patriotism.

In closing this brief biography let me list just a few facts to take with you:

John R. Voorhis voted in 81 annual elections, gaining

RECORD OF PUBLIC OFFICES HELD BY JOHN R. VOORHIS

Appointed	Title of Office	By Whom	Termination of Service
1873, May	Commissioner of Excise	Mayor Havemeyer	July, 1874
1874, July	Commissioner of Police	Mayor Havemeyer	May, 1876
1879, Nov.	Commissioner of Police	Mayor Cooper	July, 1880
1881, Sept.	Commissioner of Docks	Mayor Grace	Sept., 1885
1885, Sept.	Commissioner of Police	Mayor Grace	May, 1887
1887, May	Commissioner of Police	Mayor Hewitt	Feb., 1892
1892, Feb.	Police Justice	Mayor Grant	July, 1895
1901, Ma.	Commissioner of Elections	Mayor Van Wyck	Jan., 1903
1903, Jan.	Commissioner of Elections	Mayor Low	Jan., 1905
1905, Jan.	Commissioner of Elections	Mayor McClellan	Jan., 1907
1908, Mar.	Supt. of Pub. Bldgs. & Off.	Boro. Pres. Ahearn	June, 1910
1911, Jan.	State Supt. of Elections	Governor Dix	July, 1911
1911, July	State Supt. of Elections	Governor Dix	June 1915
1918, Jan.	Commissioner of Elections	Board of Alderman	Jan., 1919
1919, Jan.	Commissioner of Elections	Board of Alderman	Jan., 1921
1921, Jan.	Commissioner of Elections	Board of Alderman	Jan., 1923
1923, Jan.	Commissioner of Elections	Board of Alderman	Jan., 1925
1925, Jan.	Commissioner of Elections	Board of Alderman	Jan., 1927
1927, Jan.	Commissioner of Elections	Board of Alderman	Jan., 1929
1929, Jan.	Commissioner of Elections	Board of Alderman	Jan., 1931

John Richard Voorhis -- Continued from page 7

notoriety in Ripley's Believe It Or Not for that milestone.

He was listed in 11 of the first 15 United States Census', which began in 1790.

He walked to work, but believed that any other exercise was a waste of energy.

When his namesake John R. Voorhis III was born in 1930, five living generations of Voorhis were represented.

At age 100, he revised the standard "Now I lay Me" to include two additional verses, gaining national recognition. As revised by John R., the nighttime prayer reads: "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. Should I die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take. Should I live for other days, I pray the Lord to guide my ways." Said John R., "Most of us live beyond the night we say our prayers, and the prayer as it was taught to me and millions of others never took the slightest notice of the future."

Genealogy and Database -- Continued from page 1

to compile a genealogy containing the first four generations.

Can you envision having 45 boxes of material containing over 100,000 records with no index and trying to arrange it in any kind of genealogical format working with pen, pencil, paper and typewriter?

With the help of Judith Van Voorhis, the material has been rearranged by subject matter. The data are now entered into a computer program which will produce a constantly updated index of people and places. From the program I can print a genealogy, a family group sheet or pedigree chart. We now have over 70,000 names in the program

I have examined Oscar's manuscript, Mr. Hazelton's, Donald Sinclair's abstracts, and eighty years of census records. I read through thousands of letters where people submitted family information and discussed earlier records showing why they believed they were correct and others were wrong.

In September 1999, I began slowly working my way through the last two boxes of material. Apparently Mr. Hazelton had taken book after book from the shelves of the NYG&B, where he worked, copying any record referring to a Voorhees. He cited the title of the book and date of publication. He must have pulled hundred of books off the shelves and spent hours copying records. This project alone added 2,000 names to our data base and hundreds of dates and book titles.

I can finally say I have examined every sheet of paper in the Van Voorhees collection. I have also traveled to several court houses in NY, NJ, PA, NC and KY, to the Federal Archives Record Center in Pittsfield, MA, and the Wisconsin Historical Society. Actually these were family vacations -- but I can never resist visiting a court house or records center where ever I go.

Hopefully this gives you some sense of what has been done over the past five years. The computer program now contains over 70,000 names and produces a 3,000 page genealogy. It will also produce individual family trees, group sheets or genealogies of a particular branch of the family.

Although I have examined all of the material in the col-

lection, the project is far from complete. I have a file drawer containing material on more than a thousand people whom I have not identified -- mostly people born after 1850. I have over 700 entries in the data base marked for further research.

He was a member of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen for 72 years, serving as its President in 1879. He was a trustee of the Museum of the City of New York. Many personal items of his and his wife's were donated to the Museum after his death by his daughter, Anna.

He was very proud of his Dutch heritage, joining The Holland Society of NY on April 6, 1886 as a charter member. An active member of the society for the remainder of his life, two officers of the Society served as honorary pallbearers at his funeral.

July 27th is Voorhis Day, as resolved by the Greenwich Village Historical Association.

I leave you with the words of John R. Voorhis himself. No better way can I find to conclude this synopsis. "All I wanted was to make a living, put a little aside, do my duty and mind my own business."



I am sure there are still tens of thousands of Voorhees of whom we have no record. New records arrive every week, the Voorhees web page has helped to locate old Bible records that have been passed from generation to generation and new people looking for their ancestry.

In the next few months we plan to have the first six generations ready for publication. A printout of the 7th to 13th generations is available here today. These have not been proof read. Thus, there are typos and questions concerning conflicting records.

The history of the project shows that this is a tremendous undertaking which involves over 100 years of research. It is impossible to identify each and every Voorhees descendant that has ever lived. However, I have tried to identify all of those in the census records, church records and wills in the Van Voorhees collection. I believe the collection contains most of the available records for the 17th and 18th centuries and most of the census records up to 1860. However, Church records have been lost, court houses have burned and if your ancestor was an average citizen who was never involved in a court case, not arrested for stealing a horse, and was not a noted personality they may never appear in any records.

I hope you will continue to share your information and keep searching for those elusive people in the early generations. I'm sure there are records still to be found in court houses, churches and family closets. Our record on the 20th century families is far from complete. This will be a never ending project as 20th century records become more available and new Voorhees descendants are born.



[Ed. Please send Florence information as she requested in her last paragraph. However, please send your genealogical inquiries to Marie Avelsgaard, who works with Florence's data base. Their addresses are in Who's Who.]

GENEALOGY—ITS IN YOUR BLOOD!

by Eleanor H. Casagrand
Assistant Editor

Who was the FIRST Van Voorhees Family genealogist? Where can we find the FIRST genealogical record of the Family from its beginnings in the New World? Those questions can not be answered definitively. However, the following Somerset Co. NJ deeds should demonstrate that there is a long tradition in the Van Voorhees Family of documenting our family roots and diligently attending to details, with a little help from state bureaucracy, of course. Also, we can take comfort that we are not the first to have trouble keeping straight all of the duplicate first names. Deeds included the parentheses; information in brackets inserted by the author.

Lucas Stevenson to Abraham Voorhies
[Lib. K-7: 40]

This indenture made the twenty eighth day of December in the Eleventh year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George by the grace of God, King of Great Britain, France & Ireland Defender of the faith & C and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and twenty four, Between Lucas Stevenson of Flatlands in Kings County and the Island - Nassaw of the one part and his son Abraham Voorhies of the same place of the other part ... hath given, granted, bargained and sold ... unto the said Abraham Voorhies ... the full and equal half part of all that tract of land situate lying and being at the Millstone River in the County of Sommerset in the province of New Jersey Containing three hundred acres ...

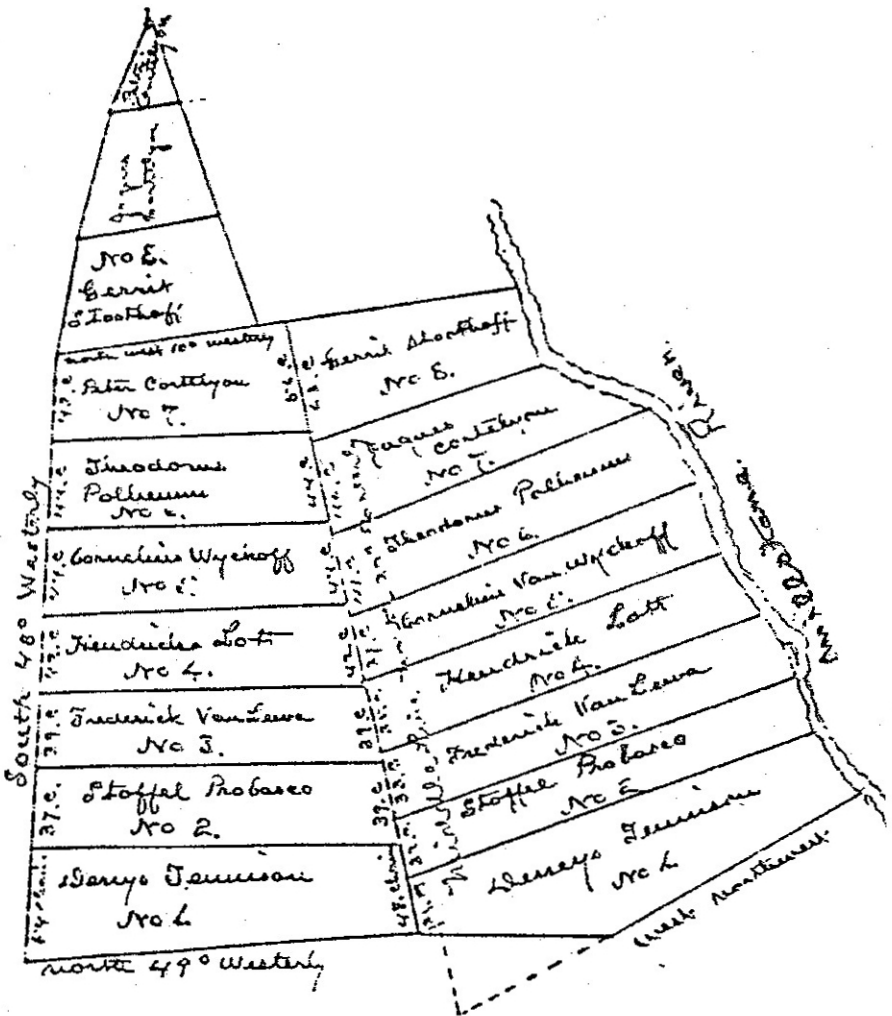
Jaques Voorhees et als Heirs & c of John J. Voorhees deceased To John A. Voorhees
[Lib. K-7: 47-51]

This Indenture made this seventeenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety two Between Jaques and Cornelia P. his wife, Isabelle D. Voorhees, J. Vancleef Voorhees her husband, Anna Van Liew Cortelyou and Peter Cortelyou her husband, Abram S. Voorhees, Matilda G. his wife, George B. Voorhees and Ella his wife Laura Stout and Frank Stout her husband Heirs at law of John J. Voorhees deceased late of South Middlebush Somerset Co. N.J. party of the first part, and John A. Voorhees of South Middlebush, Franklin township, Somerset Co. New Jersey party of the second part....

All the undivided six sevenths part of the Homestead farm of the late John J. Voorhees deceased situate lying and being at South Middlebush in the township of Franklin county of Somerset and state of New Jersey...

Being Lot A. No 1 and Lot A No 2 in the division of the real estate of Jaques J. Voorhees deceased (father of John J. Voorhees and Abraham Voorhees both deceased) as reported by the commissioners appointed by the Perogative court of the State of New Jersey on the seventeenth day of October A.D. 1841, whereupon the above described lot A. No 1 fell to the share of John J. Voorhees deceased and Lot A. No 2 fell to the share of Abraham Voorhees deceased...

Lot A No 2 was conveyed to John J. Voorhees by his brother Abraham Voorhees (in their lifetime) ... Having descended to the Voorhees family as will more & clearly appear by reference to the following deeds and Wills viz as follows. Being a part of the said lands and premises which Jaques Cortelyou of New Uytrecht in Kings County, on the Island of Nassaw (Long Island, New York State) conveyed to his son in law Abraham Voorhees or Van Voorhees [m. Neeltje Cortelyou], son of Lucas Voorhees or Van Voorhees and grandson of Stephen Van Voorhees who resided at Flatbush on the Island of Nassaw and great grand son of Steven Courten Van Voorhees who emigrated with his family from Ruinen in Holland in 1660 in the ship Spotted Cow and set-



bled at Flatlands Long Island as will partly appear by Deed from Lucas Voorhees or Lucas Stevenson (meaning Lucas son of Steven Van Voorhees) to his son, Abraham Van Voorhees dated 28th day of December ... A.D. 1724 ... by Deed dated March 4th...A.D. 1726 ... and also a part of the land and premises which Hendrick Van Leewa [Leewen] [m. Geertje Cortelyou, sister of Neeltje] of Richmond County on Staten Island in the province of New York conveyed to his brother in law Abraham Van Voorhees being a part of lands conveyed by their father in law Jaques Cortelyou deceased by deed dated January the sixth ... A.D. 1734 and being part of the 'Middleline' in division of lands owned by the Peter Cortelyou Company [brother of Jaques] consisting of Peter Cortelyou, Stoffel Probasco, Theodorus Polhemus, Hendrick Lott, Hendrick Hendricks, Jaques Cortelyou, Denys Tunison (father of Jaques DeNys) and Cornelius Wyckoff) having been purchased by them of John Harrison by Deed dated November the 7th A.D. 1701 and afterwards divided into lots as by copy of map in possession of Garretson Hageman of Middlebush NJ. Surveyor... first day of June... A.D. 1703.

"Tradition handed down in the family says that Jaques Cortelyou was a surveyor and received for his services... land in the 'Middle Line.' (Ed. See map on previous page.)

Item, I [Abraham] do give unto my well beloved son Jaques ... all my plantation on the west side of the Middlebush Road where I now dwell... in possession of John A. Voorhees but not recorded... he divided his estate between his wife Nelly, sons Jaques and Lucas and daughters Maria, Nelly, Geertje, and children of Catlyntje and by the said Jaques Voorhees (son of Abraham) in his last will dated March 22nd 1792 among other bequests gave to his son Jaques (2nd)... and by the said Jaques Voorhees (2nd) son of Jaques Voorhees (1st) in his last will dated Oct. 5, 1302 among other bequests gave to his son Jaques (3rd)... Jaques Voorhees (the 3rd) is the said Jaques J. Voorhees first above referred to and whose real estate was divided by commissioners in 1841 &c.

See also Somerset Co., NJ Deeds F-2: 12; F-6: 320; K-7: 30; 40-41; 42-43; 44-46; 47-53; 58-61; 61-64; 64-67; 67-72; Prerogative Court of NJ 17 Oct 1841; NJ Wills Lib. 34: 7840:189.

VAN VOORHEES' FARMS FOR SALE

by Eleanor H. Casagrand
Assistant Editor

Family historians glean much valuable information from civil records such as deeds, wills and census records. But these records are often quite lean, limited and legalistic. We would all like to know more about our ancestors lives and their physical environment. The following For Sale advertisements in the New-Brunswick Guardian not only reveal our ancestors' business acumen, they help us to actually envision the farms on which our Van Voorhees ancestors lived and prospered.

Transcribed by Eleanor H. Casagrand

A VALUABLE PROPERTY FOR SALE

"ALL that new erected dwelling house, situate in Burnet street, in the city of New Brunswick, now in possession of the subscriber, being twenty four feet in front, and forty three feet deep, two full stories of ten feet each, with a cellar under the whole. Also, near adjoining thereto, a carpenter s work shop of twenty feet in front, and thirty six feet in length, one story and a half high, with a stable 12 by 18 loft, over it in the rear.

"Also the lot of ground on which the premises stand, containing sixty feet in front, and one hundred feet deep, and which might be divided into two if thought proper, the dwelling house standing upon one thirty feet front, and the work shop and stable on the other.

"Also a very handsome building lot of Ground situate upon the most elevated part of Schureman's street, containing fifty feet in front, and one hundred and thirty one feet deep, well enclosed with high board fence.

"Also two acres of peat meadow, lying in the meadow

formerly called Schuyler's bog, only four miles from Brunswick and which has been approved, and which lot is capable of keeping a family in fuel for years.

"Also, all that farm and buildings thereon standing situate in Middlebush, in the county of Somerset, five miles from New Brunswick, containing, by estimation, one hundred and thirty six acres and upwards, 26 acres of which is woodland, and the remainder meadow and arable land of a good quality, and in one department is a most valuable clay for brick - On this place stands a small farm house, with a well of excellent water at the door, a large barn in very good order, smoak house, and other out houses, an excellent young orchard of the best grafted apple trees, a peach orchard of good fruit; there is also a never failing stream of water, which may be easily raised ten feet, and capable of being made one of the most eligible appendages for a distillery to be found, and seated in the middle of a cyder country; the farm is not more than three miles from a mill, on the Millstone which is intended to be made navigable from Brunswick to Trenton, and which will raise the value immensely.

Indisputable titles will be given for all or any of the above mentioned premises, and in case they are not sold by private sale on or before the 3d day of March next, the town lots and buildings will be sold at vendue on Monday the 25th following and the Middlebush farm will be sold at vendue on Tuesday the 26th following, to begin precisely at two o'clock [sic] in the afternoon in Brunswick, and ten o'clock in the forenoon at Middlebush, the farming stock, and farming utensils at New Brunswick, the household furniture, stock in trade and utensils of the subscriber. For further particulars, and a view of the premises, apply to the subscriber at his [?] described lot, in New Brunswick, or the tenant, Michael McKeel, on the farm.

JOHN L. VOORHEES

New-Brunswick, Oct. 18, 1804 [7 Mar 1805]

ALBERT STEVENSE AND HACKENSACK

Dr. John R. Voorhis, III, of Tequesta FL, is inquiring into the arrival date of Albert Stevense van Voorhees in the Hackensack NJ area. Albert is number seven in The Van Voorhees Family, Volume I, which states on page 55 that he secured a patent in 1696 for land near Kinderkamack, north of Hackensack. The patent is dated 27 April 1696 and ran to Albert Stephenson for 75 acres on the Hackensack River between David Akarman, formerly Jacque Larue, and John Berrie. Albert was said to have spent the remainder of his life there and that he appears to have been in the area in 1686.

In 1899, William Nelson published Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey, Volume XXI (The Press Publishing Co., 269 Main Street, Paterson NJ). The title page says that the book is the "Calendar of Records in the Office of the Secretary of State 1664-1703." On page 243, John found the following: "1696, April 27. Patent to Albert Stevenson, Hackensack (sic) R., for 75 acres in Essex Co. on said river betw. David Akarman, formerly Jacque Larue, and John Berrie." The Nelson work was cited by Al Stokes as the source for the patent data in The Van Voorhees Family.

In a letter written last December, John said, "A photo of the original first page of the Consistory minutes of said church [First Reformed Church of Hackensack], written in Dutch, is found on page four in The Old Church on the Green. Translated to English these memoirs of Domine Petrus Tassemaker state that on Sunday July 25, 1686 he installed: 'Henrick Jorsese, elder for the east side [and] 'Aelbert Stevense, elder for the west side.'" [Ed. Thus, Albert must have resided in the Hackensack area in 1686. After all, our ancestors were farmers and there were no budget motels in those days. It might also be noted that all of Albert's children from Jannetje on 22 April 1690 were baptized in Bergen or Hackensack, according to The Van Voorhees Family. Jannetje's baptism predates the 1696 patent.]

John goes on to say, "According to the Genealogical History of Hudson and Bergen Counties, New Jersey, by Cornelius B. Harvey [1900, The New Jersey Genealogical Pub-

lishing Co., New York NY], on pages 83 and 84 he states that Albert Stevense purchased from Captain John Berry, in 1686, a large farm extending from the Hackensack to the Saddle Rivers. A portion of this land is mentioned on page 236 of Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey, 27 November 1695 concerning the purchase of 420 acres by David Acarman with the southwest corner abutting Major John Berrie and Albert Stevense. Later Albert received a patent for a tract of land near New Bridge, just north of Hackensack dated 27 April 1696. This land is described as 75 acres, on the Hackensack River, between David Akarman, formerly (owned by ?) Jaques Larue and John Berrie. (Larue and Berry had a dispute over this land.)"

A letter dated 10 February 1947 from Morrison, Lloyd & Griggs to Col. Leigh R. Lydecker states, "The original Berry patent ran north to the approximate location of Cole's Brook, Newbridge. The next patent north of that ran from Newbridge to River Edge, approximately, and this was made to Jacqus LaRoux." John notes that "just below Cole's Brook (about the present day Route 4, off Main Street, are Z[abriskie]-Voorhis Streets. Directly west 1,000 feet south of Route 4 is the Albert P. Voorhees home at Paramus Road and the Garden State Parkway."

John gave us a memo written by Fred Bogert on 15 December 1977 that discusses the accompanying map of the Hackensack plots with a few contemporary streets superimposed. Mr. Bogert says, "Here is the rough land plat of the area between the Saddle River and the Hackensack River as it was surveyed and reconstructed some years ago by Willard DeYoe and Jack Quackenbush who spent considerable time checking land titles and old deeds. It is the only one of its kind I have ever seen covering the earliest land patents in this section. The black line starting at the southern boundary of Jacob Van Saun's tract and continuing north to the Albert Zabriskie tract is unidentified but is believed to have been a later 'setting off' of property sold by the original patentees. The complications of trying to identify these early tracts are compounded by the disappearance of original boundary markers such as 'a white oak tree' or 'a black oak tree' given as marking points on the original deed. This is as close a picture as can be made, at this time, of these early land tracts.

continued on page 12

FOR SALE

A small farm, situate in the Corporation of North Brunswick, Three-mile Run, Middlesex County, adjoining lands of Cornelius Cornell and John Hampton, and westerly by a road leading from the post road to George's road, about in the centre, containing eighty seven acres and a half, one half new ground and meadow of the best quality, the house is one half new, an excellent Dutch barn enclosed with cedar, and a quantity of apple trees, peach trees, pear, plumb, and other fruit, likewise a well of good water at the door, and a never failing stream of water running through the same, most

excellent for a tanner. Possession will be given by the first day of May, and a good title given. JOHN A. VOORHEES

Jan. 30, 1805 [14 Feb 1805]

[Ed. Eleanor's articles about the deeds and sale advertisements of our Voorhees ancestors in Somerset and Middlesex Counties NJ are fascinating. Yes, these are the raw material of genealogists, but they also relate the lives of our ancestors. This is where we came from.]



Hackensack --
continued from page 11

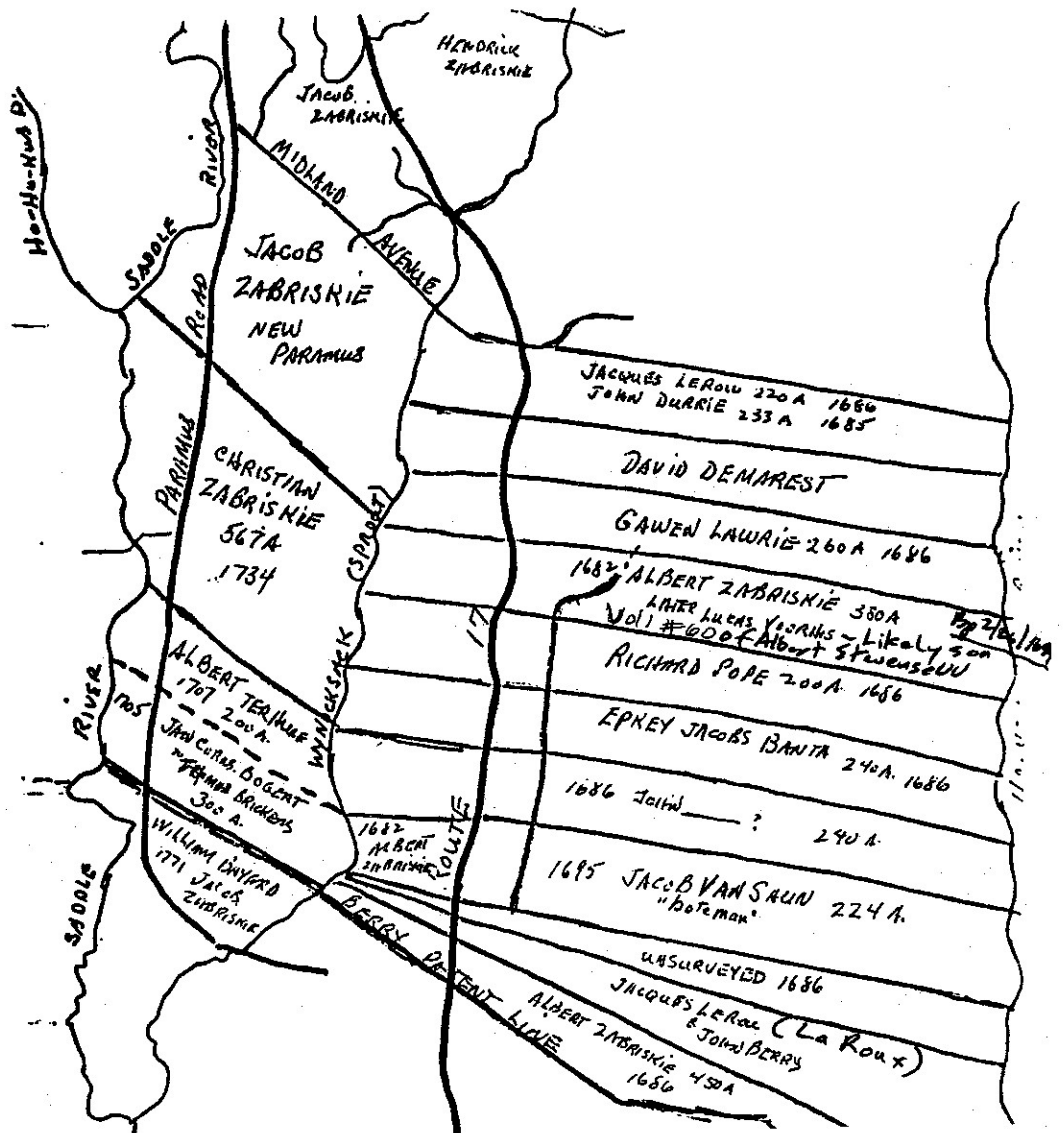
In another letter before last Christmas, John wrote, "There seems to have been a broad band of land in Hackensack from the Hackensack River to the Saddle River that stayed in the family many years. A second band about the Old Bridge area of River Edge, a third band in the Kinderkamack area, now Oradell, and a fourth section in the old Ramapo tract now mostly the Wyckoff, Oakland area."

Many of Albert Stevense's descendants remained in the Hackensack region. Mark Voorhis, author of the article about John R. Voorhis on the first page of this *Nieuwsbrief* and nephew of John, drew our attention to an Internet site that contains several old deeds concerning Albert's descendants. The address is <http://www.usgenweb.com>. The site contains a wealth of transcribed genealogical information.

John has visited the region of Albert Stevense's land and surrounding area, "dug when 200 year old houses were demolished and [has] known the descendants who still lived there in my youth and later years." This first-hand knowledge will continue to be very helpful as John pursues his inquiry into the date of Albert's first land purchase. John reasons that Albert was the first member of the Family to relocate in New Jersey. Lucas resided in Flatlands for all or most of his life; see his deed of 1724 in the preceding article for property on the Millstone River in Somerset County NJ.

Any member who has helpful information for John can contact him on jrv111@att.net.

Thank you, John, for your story of an engaging challenge -- best of luck. We also thank Fr. Bill Lydecker who supplied John and us with some old correspondence.



MISSING COUSINS

Mail for these members of the Association has been returned marked "undeliverable". This unfortunate situation arises because we were not informed of their new addresses and the postal forwarding period expired. If anyone knows the whereabouts of these cousins, please advise Manning Voorhees. As we have said in the past, please let us know when you move or you will run the probable risk of being lost forever to the Association.

- Mrs. Paul G. Norris, Richmond Hill GA
- Mrs. Barbara Fitzsimmons, LaJolla CA
- Miss Margaret V. Barrett, Chicago IL
- Mr. W. Keith Curl, Seven Devils SC
- Ms. Kathleen P. Ternay, Columbia PA

REUNION 2000 -- CELEBRATION OF OUR NEW GENEALOGY

Our Reunion this year will be in the Reformed Church in Highland Park NJ, across the Raritan River from New Brunswick, on October 7th. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us. Details will be in the Fall *Nieuwsbrief*.

History will be made at this year's Reunion. We will celebrate the new genealogy -- after all, considerable energy and money have been expended in its production. Marilyn Brack plans to have stacks of *Van Voorhees Family in America* for your purchase if you have not previously ordered our new genealogy. *Through a Dutch Door* will also be available at the discount combination price with the genealogy or for sale singly.

Peter Christoph will be our speaker. Peter will paint a word picture of our ancestors as they lived and migrated based upon his transcriptions from and studies of the many family diaries in the Van Voorhees Collection. He is a well

known historian of the New Netherland and Colonial eras. Peter's accomplishments have earned his designation as a Fellow of The Holland Society of New York.

We hope to offer the optional dinner on the night of the Reunion at O' Connor's restaurant in Middlebush that has been popular with us in the past. Accommodations for Friday evening, October 6th, are available at the Clarion Hotel in nearby Edison. A block of rooms has been reserved at a rate of \$84.00 per night that will include a continental breakfast on Saturday, the day of the Reunion. We have stayed at the Clarion before -- the Hotel has a restaurant, lounge, gift shop and a newly renovated exercise room, but does not have a pool. Please telephone the Clarion on 732-287-3500 and ask for the Van Voorhees Association block of rooms.

See you all then!

HITTING PAY DIRT THROUGH THE BACK DOOR HOW I FOUND GRANDFATHER AT SALT LAKE CITY

By Sara Voorhees Pessel

Sara Pessel, of Milford NJ, relates how perseverance in genealogical research can be very fruitful. Thank you, Sara, for your inspiring experience.

Armed with the knowledge that grandfather was a German immigrant who worked as an Evangelical Lutheran minister in Belleville, Illinois, my husband and I set off on a side adventure to the genealogy capital of the world -- Salt Lake City, Utah, to document his family's history.

Our first challenge... finding parking in the metropolis. There were parking garages but that didn't do us much good since we had a truck camper which wouldn't make any clearance. After looping around the city a few times we found a parking spot big enough for the camper and hoofed it to our destination. Little did we realize that our next adventure was going to be just getting to the proper place in Historic Temple Square. The courtyard was beautiful with flowers in bloom, gorgeous buildings, and helpful young ladies standing around to offer assistance. Our hosts directed us to the Family Search Center at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building located at 35 East South Temple Street where we were struck with awe at the opulence. The huge room at the entrance was bedecked with green marble, huge portraits, and gold leafing. Eager greeters directed us to the fourth floor to begin our search. (There was no admission fee.)

Upon entering the fourth floor there were still more folks standing around waiting to help! I can't recall when we've ever seen so many volunteers in one place. We linked with a volunteer who recommended that we start by typing my husband's surname in the computer for a search. We followed directions well and keyboarded: P E S S E L. Much to our disappointment -- but not surprise -- nothing showed up. The volunteer said she was sorry we couldn't find anything but that new information arrived all the time. She advised us that we would be able to perform the same search from the Internet that we did there in her presence.

At this point the wind was knocked out of our sails, but since I still wanted to putz around the place and, perhaps, even do a little research on my side of the family, my husband humored me. We browsed amongst the shelves and found a three-ring binder used as a church information locator. We used the church information locator to find the shelves with information from churches in Illinois and then from there we determined which county we needed to search. We hit pay dirt and didn't even know it at the time when we uncovered information about St. Paul's United Church of Christ (UCC) in Belleville. St. Paul's transformed itself into a UCC but was called the St. Paul Evangelical Church when grandfather pastored there.

We found information on family baptisms as well as both grandparents' place of birth in Germany. (We've now begun the search of German maps to find grandmother's hometown of Plathe Province in Saxon.) We left Salt Lake City armed with the knowledge that we had to re-route our return to New Jersey through Belleville, Illinois to see what else we could learn. (A day after we left Salt Lake City, an unexpected tornado tore through downtown Salt Lake City just a few blocks from where we parked our truck camper causing more than \$150 million in damages.)

We reasoned our trip rerouting with the logic that we wanted to see the National Park's famous St. Louis Arch which was just across the river from Belleville, IL. In Belleville we found not only the church where grandfather preached and the cemetery containing his remains and his wife's, but also lots of intriguing pieces of information. For instance, the pastor shared with us that Grandfather was instrumental in laying the foundation for a protestant hospital, a care and support ministry for the elderly, and even the city's public school system! We were so grateful we made the side trip to Belleville. Perhaps now our next trip will take us to Germany. Only time will tell!



GOVERNOR VOORHEES' TREES

Margaret Ramsey, of Vincentown NJ, sent us a clipping from the August 5, 1999 issue of the Courier-Post about two tulip trees planted in 1855 and dedicated in 1968 to Gov. Foster M. Voorhees. The trees stand in front of the Glendale United Methodist Church in Voorhees NJ. The local powers-to-be want to widen the roadway in front of the church and the very old trees are in the way. Or, perhaps we might say now, "were in the way." All of us have heard about this sort of thing before and it is known as "progress." The church, which was built in 1855 when the trees were planted, is on the National Register of Historic Places -- and the trees are included on the site plan. We wonder what our cousin Foster would say if he were around today. Incidentally, the town of Voorhees NJ is named in honor of Foster.

Thank you, Margaret.

MILESTONES

Ann E. Van Voorhees Keller, of Fairfield OH, was called on December 16, 1999... she is survived by her husband, Robert.

Paul Mattson, of Lockridge IA, passed away on September 29, 1998... he is survived by his wife, Roberta, and mother, Marie.

Merlin Vorhies, who resided in Iowa, died on August 25, 1999 at the age of 94... he was the son of Cordella and Edgar Vorhies.

BOOK REVIEW -- DUTCH BY DESIGN

by Kevin Denton

This review appeared in the Fall 1999 issue of *de Halve Maen* and is reproduced by permission of The Holland Society of New York, 122 East 58th Street, New York, N.Y., phone 212-758-1675 or <Hollsoc@aol.com>. We thank The Holland Society for their courtesy. Jannetje Stevense van Voorhees was the daughter of Steven Coerts and married Jan Martense Schenck. This is the story of their home which was disassembled and then reassembled for viewing in the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn (number 2 subway from Manhattan). Don't miss it if you plan to be in New York City -- it really is our Aunt's/Grandma's home, as hard to believe as that may be.

Kevin L. Stayton, *Dutch By Design: Tradition and Change in Two Historic Brooklyn Houses* (New York: Brooklyn Museum and Phaidon Universe, 1990). [Ed. This 128 page publication with many photographs may be purchased from the Brooklyn Museum of Art for \$13.95 plus \$8.00 s&h to an address in the United States and \$15.50 s&h to an overseas address. New York residents must add 8.25% sales tax against the purchase price. We were advised to allow 8-10 business days for delivery. The Museum is located at 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn NY 11238-6052, telephone 718-638-5000, ext. 237. You should cite ISBN 0-87663-776-4 with the title and author.]

Cultural historian David Steven Cohen has identified four regional types of houses built by Dutch Americans. Three are of stone or masonry -- the sandstone houses of New Jersey and Rockland County, New York; the fieldstone houses of the Mid-Hudson Valley; and the brick houses of the upper Hudson River Valley. Only one is of wood -- the frame houses of Kings County, New York, and Monmouth County, New Jersey. Yet it is fair to speculate that far more of our ancestors lived in wood-frame houses than in the other types and that the frame was the typical Dutch vernacular house. The fact that the phrase "Dutch house" brings to mind a stone or brick house is not surprising. A precious few Dutch frame houses remain. Many were lost to fire or were susceptible to demolition. Moreover, stone and brick tend to retain their character in spite of thoughtless renovation, while some aluminum siding and a bay window may be enough to disguise a true Dutch wood-frame house.

We are, thus, fortunate that two Brooklyn Dutch wood-frame houses are celebrated at the Brooklyn Museum. The houses of Jan Martense Schenck (circa 1675) and his grandson, Nicholas Schenck (circa 1775), were dismantled and their rooms first installed in the museum in 1929. This splendid book, written by the museum's Curator of Decorative Arts, is a careful study of the houses and their furnishings, but it is also a portrait of life among the Dutch of New Amsterdam. Rarely are the elements of the material and the cultural presented with the balance that they are in *Dutch by Design*. Readers with a particular interest in architecture can be thoroughly immersed in the structural detail which the book offers while additional chapters relate the history of the Schencks.

One architectural detail of the Jan Martense Schenck house which makes it unique and deserves comment is the presence of curved, diagonal corner braces between the posts and beams in the ground floor rooms. Typical Dutch framing calls for a series of freestanding "H-beams" supporting the second floor. The corner braces-numbered parts of the original framing-are both a puzzle and a source of fanciful tales. First, are they needed? All that the beams support is a one-half story loft, a task adequately handled by beams simply mortised into posts. Secondly, in my opinion, the braces clutter and make clumsy a framing which is beautiful in its simplicity. They resemble the "knees" of a ship's hull, and there lies the fancy. One Reverend Schenck visited the house in the 1830s and later wrote that the house was the obvious product of a ship-builder -- even though there was no evidence to support this supposition. From this speculation grew the legend that the house was built by one Captain Schenck, a "pirate-sorcerer," who practiced devil-worship and later haunted the house.

Dutch by Design is available from the Brooklyn Museum of Art and would be a welcome addition to any Society member's library. It contains numerous illustrations and a number of full size color plates of the restored room interiors.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER

Nick Voorhees, of Sarasota FL, sent us this New Year's message and we share it with you. Thank you, Nick.

May you get a clean bill of health from your dentist, your cardiologist, your gastro-endocrinologist, your urologist, your proctologist, your podiatrist, your psychiatrist, your gynecologist, your plumber and the IRS.

May your hair, your teeth, your face-lift, your abs and your stocks not fall; and may your blood pressure, your triglycerides, your cholesterol, your white blood count and your mortgage interest not rise.

May you find a way to travel from anywhere to anywhere in the rush hour in less than an hour, and when you get there may you find a parking space.

May Friday evening, December 31, find you seated around the dinner table, together with your beloved family and cherished friends, ushering in the new year ahead. You will find the food better, the environment quieter, the cost much cheaper, and the pleasure much more fulfilling than anything else you might ordinarily do that night.

May you wake up on January 1st, finding that the world has not come to an end, the lights work, the water faucets flow, and the sky has not fallen.

May you go to the bank on Monday morning, January 3rd and find your account is in order, your money is still there and any mistakes are in your favor.

May you ponder on January 4th: How did this ultramodern civilization of ours manage to get itself traumatized by a possible slip of a blip on a chip made out of sand.

May we relax about the future and realize that we still have a long, long time until we pass by which time the computer is long since obsolete and so are we.

May God give you the strength to go through a year of presidential campaigning, and may some of the promises made be kept.

May you believe at least half of what the candidates propose, and may those elected fulfill at least half of what they promise, and the miracle of reducing taxes and balancing budgets happen.

May you be awe struck by God's sense of humor as you wrestle with the possibility that a professional wrestler could become president of the United States.

May what you see in the mirror delight you, and what others see in you delight them.

May someone love you enough to forgive your faults, be blind to your blemishes, and tell the world about your virtues.

May the telemarketers wait to make their sales calls until you finish dinner, and may your check book and your budget balance, and may they include generous amounts for charity.

May you remember to say "I love you" at least once a day to your spouse, your child, your parents, your friends; but not to your secretary, your nurse, your masseuse, your hairdresser or your tennis instructor.

May we live as God intended, in a world at peace and the awareness of His love in every sunset, every flower's unfolding petals, every baby's smile, every lover's kiss, and every wonderful, astonishing, miraculous beat of our heart.

(Author Unknown)



CORNELIA VOORHIS MASON

1931-1999

We were shocked to learn about the death of Cornelia Voorhis Mason on December 31, 1999. Cornelia was eating lunch with her daughter when a massive stroke occurred. She joined the Van Voorhees Association in 1959 and later became active with the Executive Committee. Cornelia served as Chairperson of our Nominating Committee for many years and also as respondent to inquiries posted on our Internet site for the past few years. She was a strong supporter of the Family and the goals of the Association. At the time of her death, Cornelia was working on a slide presentation of Dutch architecture from the New Netherland period. Her ideas and advice will be greatly missed.

Cornelia resided in Larchmont NY and was a retired teacher. She was in the Albert Line and earlier served as the Line Representative for that descendant line. Cornelia was the daughter of Peter Albert Hopper Voorhis, Sr., and Cornelia Baird. Her aunt, Charlotte Calvin Voorhis, was a very early active member of the Association. Cornelia was predeceased by her husband, Lowell Mason, in 1990 and is survived by daughters Cornelia, Elizabeth and Emily and son Robert.



WHAT'S IN A NAME

Our newsletter is called the *Nieuwsbrief*, which is supposed to be a Dutch rendition of the American word "newsletter". The July 1999 newsletter of The Holland Society of New York commented upon the *Nieuwsbrief* and concluded with this amusing thought: "One unusual thing. The thing is called the *Nieuwsbrief*. There are six letters in *Nieuws*, making for the question: What is so brief about *nieuws*? The word "news" has four letters, indicating North, East, South and West. Therefore, in Holland, they not only have North, East, South and West, but they also have I____ and U____, which are directions known only to the Dutch.



ACQUISITION REQUEST

Jeanne V. Adams is looking for a copy of The Van Voorhees Association At Its Tenth Anniversary, 1932-1942. Unfortunately, there is no supply of this publication in the Association's inventory. If you have a copy and are willing to give it or sell it to Jeanne, please write to her at 1207 West Wilshire Blvd., Oklahoma City OK 73116-6108 or mail to: <jadams@theshop.net>.



NEW MEMBERS

Tom Van Voorhies, our Membership Chairperson, reported the following 55 new members as of February 29, 2000. A hearty and warm welcome to each of you -- we hope to greet you at the next Reunion on October 6th.

Ruth Ann Hazlet Kirk, Pahrump NV
Carolyn Kay Peterson, Portland OR
Joan Hise Bancroft, Paradise CA
Evelyn Ruth Voorhees Findlay, Bloomington ID **
Nancy B. Steward, Apollo PA
Sheri M. Stern, Issaquah WA **
Jentink Christenson Narducy, San Jose CA
Stephen C. Sherwood, Endeavor PA
Lauren Sherwood, Durham NC
Megan E. Sherwood, Richmond VA
Sue H. Fletcher, Pilesgrove, NJ **
Gary James Van Voorhis, Ellington CT
James Blakeslee Hardway, Milan OH
B. Joanne Dominguez, Vacaville CA **
Edgar O. Morgenson, Ambler PA
Wilene Smith, Wichita KS
Sharon Wright, Louisville KY
Duane H. Anderson, Sacramento CA
Katherine K. Keller, Kingston NY
Sarah Munson Lennon, Rochester NY
Mark William Voorhis, Walkersville MD
Linda Blizzard, Grapevine TX
Gayle J. McCotter, Bremerton WA
Walter Lee Voorhees, Jr., Pacheco CA
Jan E. Harris-Kimball, Corvallis OR
Robert John Pollock, Duluth GA
Mary Voris Chen, Endicott NY
Jinny Voris Batterson, Richmond VA **
William Hugh Van Voorhies, Indianapolis IN ***
John H. Anderson, Twin Falls ID **
Patricia Bennett Voorhies, New York NY
Sarah Bennett Schneider, New York NY *
Edward Van Voorhees, Jr., Nashville TN **
Loir Simpson, Chester SC
Thomas Nyle Frankhouser, Benwood WV
Stephen Coerte Voorhees, Merry Point VA
Mary Jane Battaglia, Placerville CA
Joan M. Smith, Owasso OK **
Donald E. Voorhies, Palm Desert CA **
Cheryl L. Robinson, Lewistown OH
Lennard Eugene Vorce, Columbia MO
Frederick Allen Spicker, Spokane WA
Carl Robert Voorhees, Brielle NJ
Charles Perry Jones, Cedar MI
Donald Ross Voorhees, Clermont FL
Glenn D. Voorheis, Saginaw MI **
John Culver Donaldson, M.D., Phoenix AZ
Curtis S. Moyer, King & Queen VA ***
David H. Harden, Lilburn GA
Mellisa K. Voorhees, Wellsboro PA **
Gladys Van Voorhis Parks, Phoenix AZ **

Janita Galbraith Loder, Ballwin MO
Robert Eric Heisler, Willard OH
David Voorhees Williams, Tulsa OK ***
Debra L. Voorhis Marchetti, Reading PA ***

Life Members

Tom also reported the following new Life Members. Life Members are very important. They show a dedication to our Family and strong support for the Association. We thank each of you very much.

Edward John Voorhees, Sr., Bakersfield CA
Adrienne Barr, Wayne NJ
Gerald M. Haslam, Pleasant Grove UT

Key * *Junior Member*

** *Sustaining Member*

*** *Contributing Member*

HANKE KLEINSTRABRINKGREVE

1925-2000

Hanke Kleinstra-Brinkgreve was an Honorary Member of the Van Voorhees Association and earned the affection and respect of our Family.

The Van Voorhees Association has lost an important friend with the death of Hanke Kleinstra-Brinkgreve from complications of heart disease in the Netherlands on January 29, 2000, four days after her seventy-fifth birthday. Many of us came to know Hanke and her home "de Heeshof" when we visited Drenthe in search of our ancestral roots. Although she was not of Van Voorhees descent, she was nonetheless an integral part of our family.

Born Johanna Brinkgreve on January 25, 1925 in Deventer, Hanke married in 1943 Hille Kleinstra, a renowned Dutch photographer and author. In the last years of World War II, the couple lost everything when their home was destroyed by bombing and they were forced to rebuild from scratch, as insurance did not cover war damage. During the early 1950s the couple traveled widely in Africa, where they became concerned about the health and welfare of rural Africans. In 1957, English doctor Michael Wood founded "Flying Doctors" to provide emergency health care to those Kenyans unable to reach medical facilities, and Hanke and Hille became instrumental in organizing Stichting AMREF/Vliegende Dokters Nederland, the Dutch arm of Flying Doctors.

In the late 1950s Hille and Hanke purchased and lovingly restored an old thatched-roofed farm house in Hees as a retreat and studio. Although the house was built in the 1880s and was not even on the land where the seventeenth-century Voor Hees farm had stood, because it was one of the oldest structures in the rural community of Hees it soon attracted the attention of Voorhees family tourists. As an example of her broad intellect, Hanke soon became curious about the "peculiar Americans" who peered into her windows, wandered about her garden, and snapped photographs of everything.

Rather than lose patience with this invasion of her privacy, she welcomed Voorheeses into her home and learned everything she could about our family and its history in America and origins in the Netherlands.

In 1971 Hille Kleinstra died unexpectedly from a heart attack, and Hanke assumed the responsibility of continuing his work. She lectured widely in the Netherlands and abroad on his photography, continued to promote AMREF/Nederland as a board member and editor of its Newsletter, appeared in countless radio and television broadcasts, authored numerous articles and works on Africa including such childrens' books as *De dokter uit de vogel* (1985), and produced such film documentaries such as "Afya" (1990). Her concern always remained organizing Dutch relief efforts for victims of famine, droughts, and war throughout the world; an advocacy she would pursue until the end of her life.

Despite her busy schedule, Hanke found the time to maintain a correspondence with Van Voorhees Association members. She visited Helen Voorhees, former Association president, when she traveled in New Jersey, and always welcomed Voorheeses into her home. Hanke's diligent pursuit of separating fact from fiction in the Dutch origins of the Van Voorhees family aided many researchers in recovering a more realistic picture of our family's history in the Netherlands.

Hanke is survived by a brother, Jan P. Brinkgreve, and a sister, Mies Brinkgreve, both of Rijswijk, Netherlands, as well as by countless Voorhees, who consider her a part of their family. Funeral services were private and the remains were cremated. -- *David William Voorhees*

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE KINGS COUNTY, NEW YORK

The British demanded and often received from former Dutch citizens signed oaths of allegiance to the English King after the fall of New Netherland. Following is a listing of many signers in Kings County. The list was obtained from <<http://www.rootsweb.com>> by Ted Snediker and is reproduced with his permission. We appreciate his courtesy. Mr. Snediker reworked the list and we alphabetized it. Glee Van Osdol-Krapf, our Representative for the Coert and Lucas Lines, sent us Mr. Snediker's listing. Thank you, Glee. We reproduced the entire listing so that our many collateral lines will also be shown. Mr. Snediker told us that he included only those signers who were immigrants, thus excluding those who were native born in New Netherland.

Mr. Snediker wrote:
Friends & Cousins,

One of the many items in O'Callaghan's Documentary History of the State of New York is "The Roll of Those Who have Taken the oath of Allegiance in the Kings County in the Province of New Yorke the 26 27 28 29 and 30th day of September In the Third year of his May'tsh Raigne Annoque Domine 1687."

Many... will already be familiar with this list. It enumerates, by village, those who took the oath, and is annotated as

to whether the individual is a native (i.e., born in America) or, if not, how many years he had been here. In all, it's perhaps one of the more useful lists in our toolkit as NN researchers. I did some fiddling with this list, and came up with a version that lists only the immigrants, by approximate year of immigration. Sometimes, I find fiddling like this gives one a different perspective on the times and the communities involved, as well as the individuals. I thought it was kind of interesting, and so am sharing it in hopes that some of you may likewise find it of some use or interest. Regards,
Ted Snediker

Source: Edmund Bailey O'Callaghan, *The Documentary History of the State of New York* (Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co., Public Printer, 1850) Vol 1, pp. 429-432. Note: Spelling has been retained as presented by O'Callaghan except that names have all been capitalized, and the character ff has been rendered as F.

Aaten, Adriaen Hend 1651	Dorland, Jan Gerrise 1652
Aertsen, Jan 1661	Dreths, Josias 1661
Aertsen, Reynier 1653	DuChaine, Anthonij 1663
Aertsen, Simon 1664	Durie, Josst 1675
Albertse, Ruth 1662	Elbertse, Elbert 1637
Ammerman, Dirck Janssen 1650	Franssen, Joost 1654
Bale, Vincent 1683	Fredricks, Jan 1652
Bogaert, Theunis Gysbertse 1652	Gulick, Jochem 1653
Boisbilland, John 1685	Haecks, Simon 1671
Broulaet, Bourgon 1675	Hafften, JacobHenk 1664
Brouwer, Adam 1642	Hanssen, Simon 1639
Brouwer, Jan 1657	Hegeman, Hendrickus 1651
Bruynenburgh, Jan Hanssen 1639	Hegeman, Jacobus 1651
Bruynsen, Ruth 1653	Hegeman, Joseph 1650
Buijs, Jan 1648	Hendricks, Ephraim 1654
Casperse, Johannis 1652	Hendrickse, Albert 1662
Casperse, Joost 1652	Huijcken, Willem 1666
Claaesen, Hendrick 1654	Janse, Jan 1651
Clement, Jan 1665	Janse, Lambert 1665
Cockevaer, Alezander 1657	Janse, Pieter Guil 1642
Cornelisen, Matthys 1663	Janse, WillemGuil 1640
Cortejou, Jacques 1652	Janssen, Hans 1640
Couverts, Luijcas 1663	Janssen, Swaen 1654
Couverts, Theunis Janse 1651	Juriaense, Barent 1658
d Beauvois, Jacobus 1659	Kamminga, Hendrick Janse 1678
Damen, Jan 1650	Kat, Claes Cornelissen 1662
Daniel, Peter 1677	Kiersen, Jan 1649
Davies, Willem 1653	Klock, Pelgrom 1656
Debaene, Joost 1683	Kockuyt, Joost 1660
DeCamp, Laurens Janse 1664	Koeck, Laurens 1661
DeConsilie, Jean 1662	Kume, Adriaen 1660
DeWitt, Peter Janse 1652	Laenen, Gijsbert Thysen 1663
Dirckse, Paulus 1651	Laenen, Theunis JanseVan Pelt 1663
	LaFebre, Isaack 1683
	LaForge, Adriaen 1672

Lamberse, Thomas 1651	Smack, Hendrick Matthyse	Van Bueren, Jacob Willem	1664
LeQuie, Jean 1657	1654	1649	Van Wyck, Cornelis Barens
Lott, Pieter 1652	Souso, Anthonij 1682	Van Cassant, Isaac 1652	1660
Loyse, Cornelis 1651	Spiglelar Jan 1662	Van Cleeff, Jan 1653	Van Zutphen, Jan Barens
Lubberse, Thijs 1637	STEVENSE, JAN 1660	Van de Water, Jacobus 1658	1657
Luyster, Pieter Cornelis 1656	STEVENSE, LUYCAS 1660	Van Deventer, Jan 1662	Vandermij, Tielman 1674
Luyster, Thys Pieterse 1656	Stoffelse, Dirck 1657	Van Duyn, Gerrit Cornelis	Vandijck, Achias Janse 1651
Messcher Adam Machiels	Stoffelse, Gerrit 1651	1649	Vandijck, Jan Janse 1652
1647	Strijcker, Jacob 1651	Van Dyckhuys, Jan Theunis	Vandijck, Karel Janse 1652
Miseroll, Jr., Jean 1667	Strijker, Gerrit Janse 1652	1653	Vechten, Claes Arende 1660
Oake, Jan 1651	STRYCKER, JAN 1652	Van Kerck, Sr., Jan 1663	Vechten, Hendrick 1660
Palmentier, Michiel 1664	Thyssen, Hendrick 1666	Van Meeteren, Kreijn Janse	Verkerck, Roeloff 1663
Para, Pieter 1659	Tierckse, Thomas 1652	1663	Verschier, Wouter Gysbert
Pieterse, Lefferd 1660	Tull, Pieter Pieterse 1657	Van Nesten, Pieter 1647	1649
Probasco, Christoffel 1654	Van Aerts Daalen, Simon	Van Nuys, Auke Janse 1651	Waldron, Daniel 1652
Reyere, Adriaen 1646	Janse 1653	Van Pelt, Wouter 1663	Wijckoff, Pieter Claasen
Ridder, Barent Joosten 1652	Van Amach, Theunis Janse	Van Pelt, Anthony 1663	1633
Rijcken, Hendrick 1663	1673	Van Sichgelen, Ferdinandus	Wijnhart, Cornelis 1657
Romeyn, Stoffel Janse 1653	Van Amesfoort, Jan Harmen-	1652	Willemse, Hendrick 1649
Schamp, Pieter 1672	nessen 1658	Van Sutphen, Dirck Janse	Willemse, Johannis 1662
SCHENCK, JAN	Van Boerem, Willem Jacobs	1651	Willemse, Willem 1657
MARTENSE 1650	1649	Van Vilet, Jan Dircks 1664	Willemsen Abram 1662
Schenck, Roeloft Martense	Van Bosch, Jan Wouterse	Van Vliet, Dirck Jansen 1664	Willkens, Claes 1662
1650	1659	VAN VOORHUYS, COURT	Woertman, Dirck Janse 1647
Seeu, Cornelis Jansse 1660	Van Brunt, Rooth Joosten	STEVENSE 1660	◆
Sleght, Hendrick 1652	1653	Van Wickelen, Evert Janssen	

DRENTHE, NETHERLANDS HOME OF THE HUNEVEDDEN

by Eleanor H. Casagrand
Assistant Editor

Hans Meijer of the Netherlands has developed a very well illustrated website on the Hunebedden in Drenthe, the province of his youth. He describes Drenthe as "a province of outstanding beauty with sand dunes, woods, moors, heather, picturesque villages, 200 years old farmhouses with thatched roofs. And mysterious stone graves..!" He has graciously given us permission to borrow freely from his site and to duplicate the accompanying building instructions and photo of the monoliths. Additional information and photos can be found at his site <<http://www.noord.bart.nl/~jbmeijer/d1eng.htm>> and at <<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Valley/1912/hune.html>>.

The Netherlands is a flat country with no mountains and few rocks. But in Drenthe, within a radius of 20 miles, 52 megalithic monuments are scattered over a beautiful landscape. Situated in the dark peat marshes are strange tombs called *Hunebedden* (*hunen* or *huynen* = giants). These structures are the first physical evidence of permanent settlement in the Netherlands. Farmers of the New Stone Age, ca. 3.400 to 3.000 BC, built dolmen-like structures from huge granite stones deposited by Scandinavian glaciers in the last great ice age. These early settlers built huge burial chambers that are older than Stonehenge and the

Egyptian pyramids. They buried stone artifacts and pottery with the deceased to accompany them on their journey into the afterlife. After the burials, they covered all but the entrances with sand.

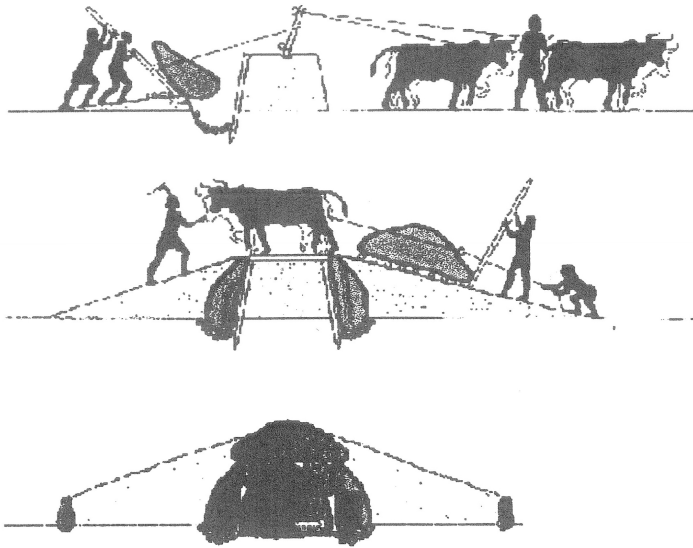
Some of the stones weigh more than 20 tons. It would take at least 100 people to pull the weight of one of these stones. Archaeologists have proposed a theory on how farmers with few tools constructed these megalithic structures. First they selected boulders with a flat side that they probably had to dig out of the sand. They then placed the stones on wooden rollers or sleds by means of levers. Manpower and oxen did the rest.



D15 , Loon (near Assen)

Experimental archaeologists have demonstrated that 30 strong men could move heavy boulders in this way.

Hunebedden building-instructions



These Neolithic farmers began construction by building an earthen dam. They then placed two rows of standing side-stones in pits against the dam, flat side inwards, and secured by cobbles and sand. They closed both ends with two end-

stones. Next they built an inclined hill of sand. They dragged heavy capstones, flat side downward, to the top of the hill and placed them on top of the side-stones. When the stone framework was in place, they removed the sand within the structure and filled the openings between the stones with smaller boulders and flattened stones. On the south side they constructed an entrance with two or four passage side-stones and a passage capstone. They paved the floor of the chamber with small pebbles and grit. Finally they covered the barrow with sod, sand and cobbles, leaving only the top of the capstones visible. Sometimes they strengthened the foot of the hill with an oval garland of smaller boulders, called kerbstones.

The pottery in the tombs indicate that these farmer-settlers had already started on the path toward civilized life. Farmers cut the woods with stone axes and cultivated the arable land. The spread of food production was of vital significance in the development of European society. It allowed man to settle in villages close to the growing crops. A sedentary way of life and dependable food supply led to population growth, specialization and crafts such as pottery making and weaving of fabrics. Thus successful agriculture paved the way for the emergence of civilization.

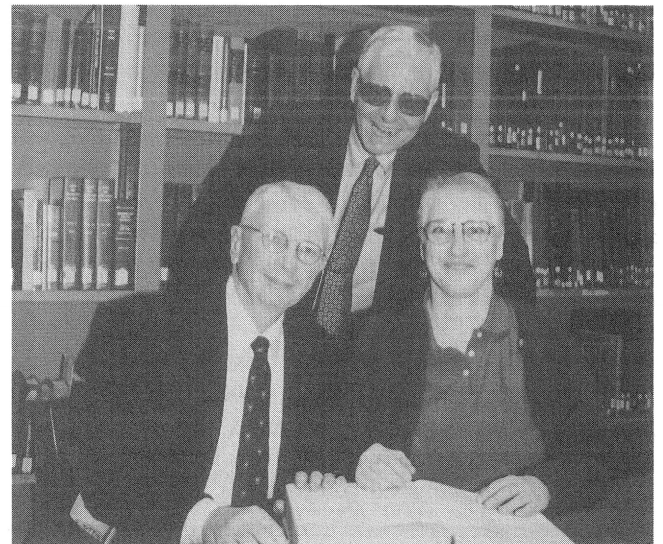
[Ed. The interesting Hunebedden can be seen in the broad vicinity of Assen, which is approximately 25 miles northeast of Hees, as "the crow files."]

NYG&B ACCEPTS FUTURE CONTRIBUTION OF VAN VOORHEES GENEALOGICAL FILES

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society will accept the Association's contribution of the Family genealogical and historical files when volume two of *Van Voorhees Family in America* is completed. Future storage and accessibility of the Van Voorhees Collection became a larger and larger problem as the Collection developed during the data assimilation phase for volume one of the forthcoming genealogy.

Proper and safe lodging of the material, which consists of original documents, articles, genealogical research by members, photographs, hundreds of letters, diaries, old family bibles, etc. and etc. became a prime concern. This concern was compounded by the need to provide ready accessibility to the material by members and serious researchers. The NYG&B was founded in 1869 and has library and storage facilities in its building at 122 East 58th Street, Manhattan NY. The Library is noted for its specialization in the Dutch and Colonial eras of New York and its scholarly quarterly, *The Record*, is highly regarded. When volume two of the new genealogy is ready, several dozen file boxes with the Van Voorhees Collection will be shipped to the NYG&B library. Our data have been carefully organized by Florence Christoph and Judith Van Voorhis. Members will be able to use the records in the NYG&B library.

Our arrangement with the NYG&B was negotiated by Bo Holly, our Treasurer, with Joy Rich, Director of the Library for the Society. The Association thanks Bo for his successful undertaking and thanks the NYG&B for their willingness to make the Van Voorhees Collection available in future years.



Joy Rich, Director of the Library for the NYG&B, meeting with Bo Holly, our Treasurer on the left, and Manning Voorhees on October 29, 1999 in the Society's library. Photo by Bob Gibson, Assistant Librarian.

VAN VOORHIS, PENNSYLVANIA

by John Van Voorhis

John Van Voorhis resides in Greenville SC. Thank you, John.

Some years ago (probably 12 or 13), Millie and I were coming south through western Pennsylvania. A few years earlier I had discovered that there was a little town not too many miles east of Washington PA named "Van Voorhis." We took the occasion to look for it, and it was not terribly easy to find, since it is quite small. We found it eventually. It has a U. S. post office and a tavern and several streets of residential area. We were told that the principal of the local junior high school, Dr. Charles Gersna, had written a book about the town and we were able to obtain a copy. The full title is: *From the Furrows to the Pits: Van Voorhis, Pa.*, printed by McClain Printing company of Parsons, WV 28287, copyright by Charles Gersna, 1986. International Standard Book Number is 0-9615747-0-4 and Library of Congress Card Number is 85-081274. Sadly, at the time we bought the book, we were told that Dr. Gersna had terminal cancer.

Just to pique your interest, page 23 says: "The Van Voorhis family is certainly renowned in the United States. There are reunions nationwide each year. A park in Long Island, a park in New Jersey, a town in West Virginia, streets in Monongahela, Bethel Park and Morgantown, West Virginia, a battleship in the U.S. Navy and a U.S. Army fort in the South all bear the Van Voorhis name."

He describes, somewhat inaccurately, the coming of Steven Coerte to America (he says in 1630). He goes on to say that Steven's son Daniel, was born in 1738 (Steven must have been a vigorous old man to have a son over a century later!!, and of course we know Steven did not have a son named Daniel.) In any event there no doubt was a Daniel who came to Washington County, PA.

On page 24 the interesting anecdote is told: "There is a story that the Van Voorhis family, while living on the Zuider Zee in the Netherlands, were farming their land, came across a pirate's buried treasure and thus they became affluent and left Holland. Another story relates that after leaving New York to settle a new area, one of the brothers was killed by a poisonous arrow." The first story is curious, since I did not think Hees was anywhere near the Zuider Zee. [Ed. The pirate's treasure yarn must have come from John Poortman's fictitious tale about Steven Coerts. Poortman's work is in Dutch.]

Dr. Gersna goes on to state that the town of Van Voorhis, the subject of this study, was named after Townsend Van Voorhis and his son Luther, who had lived on the farm owned presently by Mary Wukovich. Townsend purchased this farm in 1878. He had resided in East Pike Run where his son Luther was born in 1871. Luther's son Kenneth was born in 1907 and now [presumably 1986] resides in Pittsburgh. There is a picture on page 29 of the Van Voorhis homestead, now owned by the Wukoviches. There are other references in the book to the dwelling and possessions of Daniel Van Voorhis, one showing an inventory in 1848 noting a set of Granite China Ware for \$2.50, a set of glassware, spoon and pitcher for \$1.00 and a bureau which sold for \$10.00.

It appears that the town itself was not constructed until after 1900 when coal mining became the predominant industry in an area which was once a farming community. The book, 226 pages in length, seems to be a creditable work of the history of a small town and includes many pictures, including some Van Voorhis.

WHAT'S WITH THE COUSINS

Stacey Robin Krapf married Jeffery Todd Cooper on November 6, 1999 at the Reeders United Methodist Church, Reeders PA. They were married by the Rev. Nicholas Salios, Jeffery's step-father. Stacey is the daughter of Glee Van Osdol-Krapf, our Coert and Lucas Lines Representative, and the late Calvin Krapf, who served as our Treasurer. She was given away by her brother, Allen. After a honeymoon in Scotland, they settled into their home in Tannersville PA. Jeffrey is a music teacher at a middle school in East Stroudsburg and Stacey works as a supervisor in the mail room of Signa Insurance.

Esther and Allan Lackey will host the reunion of the Lackey-Schanck family on July 15, 2000 in their home near Guysville, Athens County OH. Allan is busy completing his research into the ancestry of William Schanck and wife, Sophia. The last published genealogy of this family was in

1909. If you are interested in attending the reunion in July, please contact Bradley E. Cox on 419-963-3523.

Margaret Ramsey McClusky, of Lincoln MA and our former Representative for the Aeltje Line, proudly announced the arrival of Sarah Ann McCluskey on December 10, 1999. Sarah joins Russell and Cassie in Margaret's growing family.

Dr. Peter W. Voorhees, of Winnetka IL, has been appointed to the Frank C. Engelhart Professorship in Materials Engineering at Northwestern University. Peter serves on the Space Studies Board of the National Research Council, Washington DC., in addition to his teaching and research responsibilities at Northwestern.

Timothy Jason Abruzzo entered the world on February 29, 2000. He is the son of Elaine and Peter Abruzzo, of Kings Park, Long Island NY, and joins his three sisters, Samatha,

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

OUR DRENTHE COUSIN

Jan Tissing, our cousin and friend in Drenthe, continues to produce excellent genealogical work and recently told us that he, too, is a descendant of Albert Coerts van Voorhees. As we reported in the last issue of the Nieuwsbrief, Jan's wife, Bertha, is also a descendant of Albert. Steven Coerts van Voorhees had two brothers, Albert and Jan, whose father, Coert, moved from Middlehees a very short time before Steven was born. We have added the locative "tho Voorhees" to Coert's name although he was also known as "tho Middlehees" before his move to the Farm of Voorhees. Albert succeeded to the land lease for the Farm of Voorhees from his father.

The accompanying genealogical diagram shows that Jan is also descended from Jan Coerts van Voorhees, who rented the Farm of Middlehees and probably changed his locative to "van Middlehees." Steven Coerts rented a succession of farms before leaving for New Netherland in 1660. Through a Dutch Door relates this Family history in detail as well as providing several genealogical charts during the Drenthe era and into the immediately succeeding years. Jan Tissing's Albert and Jan Lines join with his parents.

Bertha's line from Albert runs from Albert's grandson, Hilbert. Jan Tissing descends at this point from Hilbert's brother, Jan.

Jan Tissing is a school principal and district language administrator. Once again, he has provided us with valuable additional information and dates for our very early ancestors back home. We are very appreciative -- thank you, Jan.

BASEBALL PLAYER CY VOORHEES

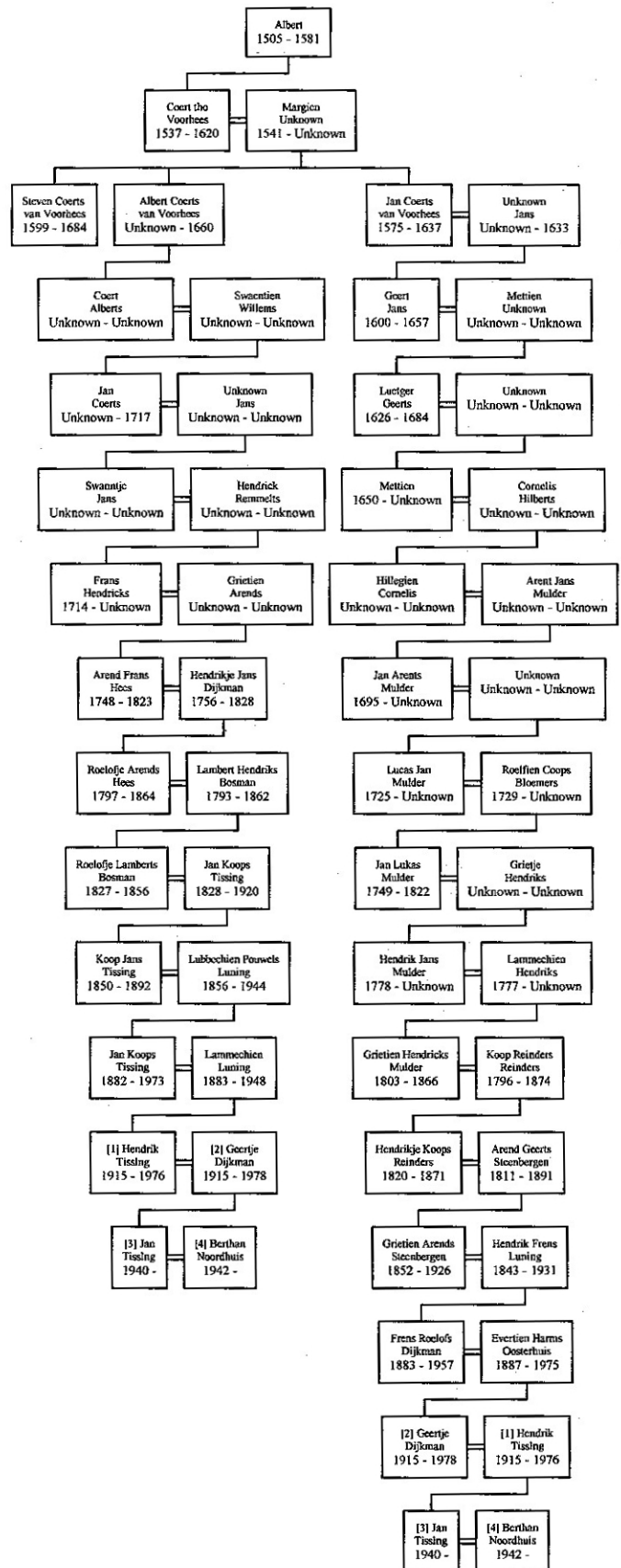
by Scott Voorhees

Did you know that there has been a professional baseball player named Voorhees?

Actually, he was a pitcher named Cy Voorhees (not be confused with Hall of Famer Cy Young). Cy was born on September 30, 1874 and pitched only in the 1902 season. He pitched for Philadelphia and Washington and compiled a total record of three wins and four losses with a 3.94 ERA including one shutout. He also batted .391. Cy never played again professionally and there is no other listing in baseball records for anyone with any of the spelling variations of our Family name.

Scott is our Vice President and an avid sports fan. Thank you, Scott.

ALBERT TO JAN TISSING



Ashley and Stephanie. The proud grandparents are Lynnora and Tom Van Voorhies. Tom is our Membership Chairperson who said that Timothy, "Being born of leap year, he will always remain young."

The Rev. Frederick W. Pyne, of Adamstown MD, has published volume five of his eight volume series, *Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence*. Picton Press, P. O. Box 250, Rockport ME 04856-0250 is the publisher. Fred holds the genealogical designations of CGRS and FACG.

Rebecca and Craig Mattson, of Lockridge IA, are the proud parents of Gunnar Paul Matson who was born on September 22, 1999. Craig is the son of Roberta Vorhies Mattson and the late Paul Mattson, and is the grandson of Marie and the late Sam Vorhies.

Dr. David William Voorhees, of Manhattan NY and Professor of History at New York University, has received a Gilder Lehrman grant for research at the New York Historical Society into the affairs of Jacob Leisler. Gottingen University has received full funding from the German government for research into Leisler in Europe. David is director of the Papers of Jacob Leisler.

Will Daniel Vorhies arrived on October 18, 1999, the son of Megan and Bill Vorhies, of Iowa. Darby Sue Mantemach was born on October 21, 1999. She is the daughter of Susan and Todd Mantemach. Susan and Will are the children of Carol and Dan Vorhies.

Paul Van Voorhees, of Honolulu HI, continues to be our traveling cousin. Paul wrote in his Christmas 1999 letter that during 1999 he visited Bangkok twice (Paul's favorite city), Budapest twice, San Francisco, Seoul, Tokyo and New York City, where he saw four Broadway shows. A planned Elderhostel to Turkey was cancelled. Whew! We sure hope to see you again at the October Reunion, Paul -- please plan around it.

Donald Sinclair, of Highland Park NJ and our Member at Large of the Executive Committee, has published another book with Grace W. Schut: *New Jersey and the American Revolution*. More than two decades in the making, this is a bibliographical reference work comprised of 765 pages, 3,328 entries, an 81 page index and so forth. It is available for \$38.00 from Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University Libraries, 169 College Avenue, New Brunswick NJ 08903. We saw Don several weeks ago in the Special Collections Department of the Rutgers Library -- said that he was busily working on another book.

Donald E. Voorhees, of Atlantic Highlands NJ, was featured in the August 19, 1999 issue of the *Asbury Park Press* for his paintings of golfing scenes. Don is renowned for his golf paintings that are hanging in at least 900 galleries. Together with his wife, Terry, Don operates a gallery in Middletown NJ. His Internet address is <<http://www.donald-voorhees.com>>. You'll see some terrific paintings of florals, land and seascapes, business art and the Royal Bouquet painted at Het Loo in the Netherlands.

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Vice President: Scott T. Voorhees, 147 Grand Boulevard, Emerson NJ 07630-1744, (201)967-1013,
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LINE REPRESENTATIVES

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Coert Line: Mrs. Glee Van Osdol-Krapf, 215 Washington St., Tamaqua PA 18252-1324, (717)668-1818
<gleek@f-tech.net>
Jan Line: Mrs. Martin (Marie) Avelsgaard, 836 Larsmont Rd., Two Harbors, MN 55616
<mariefaye@yahoo.com>
Lucas Line: Mrs. Glee Van Osdol-Krapf (see above)
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Hendrickje Lines: Ted L. Bogert, 113 Tate Ct., Orlando, FL 32828, (407)273-7148
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MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Donald A. Sinclair 108 North 2nd Ave., Highland Park NJ 08904-2421, (732)545-0568

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Genealogical & Historical: The Rev. William J.F. Lydecker, Box 148, Ashland NY 12407-0148, (518)734-5987
o *Genealogist* Mrs. Peter (Florence) Christoph, CG, 181 Maple Ave., Selkirk NY 12158, (518)767-3004,
<xoph@acmenet.net>
o *Associate* Ms. Judith K. Van Voorhis, 2880 Rosendale Rd., Niskayuna NY 12309-1506, (518)393-5106,
<mevanv@albany.net>
o *Inquiries:* Mrs. Martin (Marie) V. Avelsgaard (see above)
o *V.V.F.A.* David R. Voorhees, 209 Lamb-Hopewell Rd., Hopewell NJ 08525, (609)466-1139
<voorhees@injersey.com>
o *Citations* Mrs. James (Adrienne) Haney, 36B Fox Meadow Rd., Leominster MA 01453, (978)534-7283,
<AdrienneH@aol.com>
Membership: Albert T. (Tom) Van Voorhies, 9 Purdy Ave., East Northport NY 11731-4501 (631)368-7483
o *Internet Inquiries* Ms. Cornelia V. Mason, 32 Elkan Rd., Larchmont NY 10538, (914)833-1276
<nilla3@cyburban>
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NEWSLETTER

Editor: Manning W. Voorhees (see above)
o *Assistant Editor:* Mrs. Robert (Eleanor) Casagrand, 12 Fern River Rd., Wayne NJ 07470-4803, (973)256-3218
<EHCmags@aol.com>
Publisher: Robert E. Van Voorhis, Jr., 4503 Coronado Court, Cedar Falls IA 50613-6322 (319)268-1511,
<revv@cfu-cybernet.net>

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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:

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