



VAN VOORHEES NIEUWSBRIEF

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A TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW – BUT CONTINUE WE MUST

by Scott T. Voorhees

For those in attendance at the Annual Meeting in October, it was once again a time to see the “cousins,” exchange genealogical information, enjoy some interesting presentations and be updated on the activities of the organization. It was also a time to come to the harsh realization that, after ten years as president of the organization, Manning Voorhees had truly decided to step down from the position. Those of you who know Manning are well aware of the void that has been created. Those of us serving on the Executive Committee have seen first hand his ever-present professional manner. Like his predecessor, Don Vorhis, who also served in the post for ten years, he has helped set the standard of how to carry out the duties of the position. These two men’s dedication has made the organization what it is today, and we all owe them a great deal of gratitude. And now we must look to their successors!

One of the hallmarks of an organization’s success is the dedicated commitment of its members. Many people are needed to keep an organization growing and moving forward. Like most volunteer organizations these days, the Van Voorhees Assn. is having difficulty attracting people to perform these organizational tasks. A look at the “Who’s Who” list reflects a number of individuals performing multiple roles. We need others to come forward to remain a vibrant organization for the membership. Today we all have many demands on our time, but one can always find the time if you really want to participate. And boy are there opportunities! Currently we are looking for a president, a secretary, associate editors for the newsletter and help with fielding inquiries off the website. We also have line representative vacancies and every other position sorely needs assistants.

At the annual meeting I gave every attendee a new job title, Volunteer Recruiter. I asked that in addition to looking at themselves, to look to other family members, friends, and business associates. Everyone has skills or talents that could

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NEW EDITOR

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

As the new editor of the *Nieuwsbrief*, I would like to thank everyone for their support! Manning Voorhees has been especially helpful in this transition. While I still have a lot of procedure to learn, I want to assure all of you that I will continue the present schedule of the issues. Because of my family commitments, it is necessary for me to make new deadlines for receiving Articles. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation!

CALENDAR: IMPORTANT DATES to REMEMBER NEW DEADLINE DATES for receiving Articles!

FALL-WINTER (Sept.) ISSUE: by APR 15st

SPRING-SUMMER (Feb.) ISSUE: by OCT. 15st

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Meetings will be held (1) **Sat., April 27, 2002** at 9:30 am. (in a Conference Room at the Courtyard at the Marriott, Newburgh, N.Y.) and (2) **Sat., Oct. 12, 2002.**

The **ANNUAL REUNION** will be on **Oct. 12, 2002.** More details will be given in the next issue. So far the plans sound very exciting. It will be truly a memorable event!

be utilized by the association. Don’t be afraid. We will only have you assume what you are comfortable with. Many of the positions can have their duties divided up or segmented, so that the overall time and effort is not overwhelming.

Some people have accepted the challenge. Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall has graciously assumed the role of editor of the *Nieuwsbrief*, succeeding Manning. Others have agreed to continue in positions on a temporary basis. Please step forward so that the dedicated efforts of people like Manning and Don are not in vain.

Your association is knocking. Will you answer?

(New Editor’s Note: I would like all of us to thank Scott, a very capable ‘cousin,’ for volunteering to be Acting President!)

A STORY OF THE VAN VOORHEES FAMILY IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

by Michael A. Apgar

(Presented at the Annual Reunion of the Van Voorhees Family on October 6, 2001)

"I am proud, proud, proud of the conduct of these (men)!"

-- Alvin Coe Voris (#8), Colonel,

Comdg. Sixty-seventh Regiment Ohio Vol. Infantry (Subsequently Brevet Major General of Volunteers)

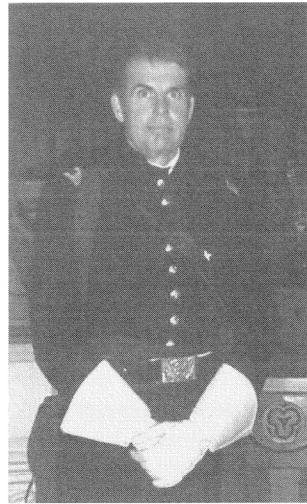
I've been a Civil War buff since I was a boy. I am an avid reader of history, especially about the action and drama of war and have visited several of the most famous Civil War battlefields. My participation as a "background artist" in some films about the Civil War—Lincoln and the War Within (PBS) and Gettysburg (Turner Pictures) provided further perspective. With the assistance and encouragement of Van Voorhees historians, Florence Christoph and Judith Van Voorhies, Annie Brokaw Tobin, and the help of many others plus material from the family archives, I've been able to compile records of more than 500 members of the Van Voorhees clan who served in the Union army. I am convinced that many more—perhaps more than a thousand—did so.

In the two centuries since Steven Coerte Van Voorhees set foot in America until the American Civil War, his descendants had multiplied and grown prosperous. At an average of nine children per family in the first six generations, there were tens of thousands of members of the Van Voorhees family in the U.S. by 1860. Most were distributed across the northern tier of "free states," which had abolished slavery by early in the 19th century; a considerable, although relative few, lived in the southern "slave states."

There are records of more than 500 members of the Van Voorhees clan who served in the Union army. I am convinced that many more—perhaps more than a thousand—did so. Also, more than two dozen Van Voorhees have been identified in the ranks of the Confederacy; probably a few score were Rebels. The involvement of this cast of family characters spans the entire history of the Civil War, including participation in all of the major campaigns and battles, from First Manassas through Appomattox.

Van Voorhees' served in volunteer regiments from at least 19 different states (including NJ, NY, OH, PA, MA, VT, NH, CT, RI, MD, IN, IL, WI, MI, MN, KY, IA, KS and CA) as well as in the regular US Army, Navy and Marine Corps. Most served in the ranks of the infantry, cavalry or artillery; but others served as a surgeon, a chaplain, a musician, and numerous officers of line and field rank—one of whom became a major general. At least a hundred members of the Van Voorhees family perished during the war, many others were disabled or debilitated for life by the hardships of exposure, strenuous exertion, poor diet and camp sanitation, anxiety and stress. Many families were disrupted or prevented by this ordeal. Imagine how many more family members would be around today, if these men had left descendants!

In this brief presentation, mention of only a few individuals is possible. Hopefully a fuller account can be drawn up at a later time. For purposes of continuity, let's begin with Alfred



Mike Apgar in a Civil War dress uniform.

H. Voorhies (#1), whose final diary entries inside the stockade of the dread Andersonville prison were read by Peter Christoph at our last reunion. Alfred's picture and words are posted on the Van Voorhees website, so he should be a familiar point of departure for many of us. Annie Brokaw Tobin, who had contributed the material on the website gave me enthusiastic support and more information on her Civil War ancestors.

Alfred Voorhies (#1) was Annie's great-great-uncle. Shortly after the Confederate bombardment of the small Federal garrison at Fort Sumter in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina started the shooting war in April 12, 1861, Alfred answered President Abraham Lincoln's call for volunteers to put down "the Rebellion." Alfred and his brother Robert C. Voorhies both joined Company H of the First New York Cavalry regiment in the summer of 1861. It was the first volunteer cavalry unit organized by a northern state.

Robert and Alfred's brother Clark G. Voorhees (#2)—Annie's gggrandfather—had also joined the army. In fact, he was among the first to rally to Abraham Lincoln's call to preserve the Union. Within a week of the firing on Fort Sumter, Clark enlisted in the 10th New York Volunteer Infantry. He was photographed attempting a fierce scowl and brandishing several weapons (typical of images made of young soldiers during the first weeks of the war). Soon after this picture was taken, Clark left his new unit and went home. According to regimental records, he was sick at the time. Perhaps other factors were involved in his decision to desert. At any rate, a month later, apparently feeling better, Clark parlayed his previous brief military experience into a position as Sergeant in the 84th New York Volunteer Infantry. This photo was probably made shortly after Clark enlisted in the 10th New York his first enlistment, because his uniform lacks the sergeant stripes that Clark should have received when he enlisted in his second regiment and the uniform is one of standard issue—not one of the fancy Zouave variety sported by the 84th New York.

Unfortunately, it didn't take long to find out that the conflict would not be resolved by posturing. Cornelius Van Voorhies, who had grown up in Fishkill New York, was the sole support of his widowed mother. Cornelius moved west in the fall of 1861. Two months later, in November 1861, he enlisted as a Corporal in the 13th Iowa Volunteer Infantry. The following April he was killed at the battle of Shiloh (in Tennessee).

Richard M. Voorhees (#3: postwar photo), a Captain in the

65th Ohio Infantry, was also wounded at Shiloh. A bullet hit him in the left hip and exited through his abdomen. At six feet two inches tall, Richard was big enough so that his pelvis bone was just sufficiently high to deflect the bullet that would probably otherwise have killed him. Even so, Richard was permanently disabled. Nevertheless, he demonstrated his devotion to the Union cause by serving for the remainder of the war in the Veteran Reserve Corps. Afterwards Richard returned to his home and family in Ohio, where he pursued a career as a prominent attorney.

For many men, soldiering was their first extended time away from home. Their precarious military experiences provided them with a different perspective and an opportunity to reflect upon their former civilian lives. James C. Voris, who enlisted in Company B, 5th Pennsylvania Reserves on August 17, 1861, wrote to his mother on November 8, 1862 that *"I have plenty of time to study and think of our past and future things and I think I have done wrong. And I have made up my mind to lead a different life if God spares me through this struggle for our country I shall devote my whole time to your welfare and Happiness and you shall not work so hard no more. Mine is the Strong Arm that shall maintain the family while you shall set at your Ease and rejoice in your Son."* Imagine how this message must have warmed his mother's heart—and how her heart must have broken when son Jim was killed at the Battle of Fredericksburg only a month later.

The citizen volunteer armies of the North and South mauled each other repeatedly for the first two years of the war without decisive effect. September 17, 1862 was the single day during which more Americans were killed than any other (until September 11, 2001) as a result of the Battle of Antietam (Maryland). George A. Pomeroy (#4), a Captain in the 1st Minnesota Infantry, was among the severely wounded. He survived, but had to forego a pending promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in another regiment. Instead, he accepted a position as a Paymaster, with the rank of Major, in the U. S. Army. He served with distinction, but never recovered from the wound, dying in Nebraska during 1868 (at the age of 32).

When news of the Federal defeat at Chancellorsville reached Washington on May 5, 1863, Abraham Lincoln wrung his hands and agonized, "My God, what will the country say?!" The next day, elements of the First New York Cavalry, including brothers Alfred (#1) and Robert Voorhies, were acting as bait to lure Confederate raider John Mosby and his band into an ambush. Unfortunately, before they had cleared the line of fire, four of the "bait" horsemen were shot by trigger-happy Union infantrymen. One of these four victims of "friendly fire," Robert Voorhies, was killed outright. No picture of Robert is known to exist.

In the west, Union forces were able to invest—and eventually wrest—the last Confederate holds on the Mississippi River: Vicksburg, Mississippi and Port Hudson, Louisiana. These victories, however, were only achieved at heavy cost. Colonel Garrett Nevius (#5), a Van Voorhees family member who commanded the 11th Illinois Infantry, was killed while leading the first assault on the outer defenses of Vicksburg on May 19th. Adam Clarke Van Voorhees, a 21-year Corporal in the 42nd

Ohio Infantry, was shot in the head and killed in a second assault three days later, leaving a young, childless widow. Oscar Newell Voorhees (#6), a Corporal in the 160th New York was shot through the upper left thigh at Port Hudson on June 14th. He was subsequently discharged for disability from this wound.

On July 1, 1863, the two major opposing armies in the east collided at the little Pennsylvania town of Gettysburg. Clark Voorhees' (#2) regiment (84th New York) suffered many casualties, and Clark was taken prisoner. Charles Voorhies (95th New York Infantry) was killed, while Lewis Voorhees (97th New York Infantry), John Voorhees (153rd Pennsylvania Infantry), and Simon Vorhies (25th Ohio Infantry) were wounded as the outnumbered and outflanked Union soldiers were forced back through the town to a defensive position centered on Cemetery Hill.

The following afternoon, the battle continued with a Confederate assault on the left flank of the Union position. John and Charles Voorhees, brothers in Company B, 11th New Jersey Infantry, were wounded, Charles losing both eyes. James Knox Webb, another family member in Company C was severely wounded. He subsequently transferred to the Veterans Reserve Corps—unable to soldier in the field, but willing to play a supporting role.

A Confederate attempt on the evening and night of July 2nd to take the Union right flank on Culps Hill was turned back by a single, heavily outnumbered Union brigade. Lt. Col. Koert Stevens VanVoorhees (#7), of the 137th New York, helped to lead the successful Union defense of Culps Hill. His regiment suffered the highest loss of any Federal unit engaged in that desperate action, which was as critical to the eventual Union success as the more publicized defense of Little Round Top by the 20th Maine on the opposite end of the Union line. Despite being wounded himself, Koert Stevens, remained throughout the fight. Koert Stevens VanVoorhees was a master brick mason, a working class man who must have achieved high rank through his ability rather than social position or eloquence. He was later severely wounded in the Wahatchie Valley (below Lookout Mountain Tennessee) in late 1863, but rejoined and commanded his regiment through General Sherman's March to the Sea and the Carolinas' Campaign. Perhaps as a result of his lack of social position, Koert Stevens was not promoted to full colonel—despite glowing recommendations by his commander John Geary (later Governor of Pennsylvania)—until the war was nearly over.

On July 3rd, the spectacular attack on the center of the Union position, known as "Pickett's Charge" was repulsed, at fearful cost, including a wound to Benjamin Franklin Swarthout, whose 126th New York Infantry regiment was stationed on Cemetery Ridge (behind the present location of the Cyclorama). Benjamin later returned to action and served through the rest of the war. Another Van Voorhees, on the opposite side, William F. McCarty, 8th Virginia Infantry (Garnet's Brigade, Pickett's Division) was captured near the Confederate "high water mark." He took an Oath of Allegiance to the United States the following spring and was discharged (a year prior to the end of the war).

While the Rebel tide climaxed, then ebbed away, on Ceme-

continued on page 4

tery Ridge, a large Confederate Cavalry force attempted to move around the Union right flank, east of Gettysburg. A feisty defense by outnumbered Union horse soldiers turned the Rebels back and dramatically demonstrated the emergent superiority of the Federal cavalry. Unfortunately Charles V. Voorhies, a private in the 7th Michigan Cavalry (one of the regiments of "Wolverines" under freshly-minted General George Custer) became at least the twelfth Van Voorhees casualty of the Battle of Gettysburg. Charles was disabled for life by a wound received during this action.

The closing act of the Battle of Gettysburg was an ill-advised Union cavalry charge on the Confederate right flank by Elon Farnsworth's Brigade. General Farnsworth lost his life in this senseless attack, but Major Harvey B. Van Voorhis, 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry, returned unscathed. Harvey had a fantastically huge mustache¹, which might have served to or throw off the aim of his astounded—or amused—opponents. However, he was wounded and captured at Brandy Station, VA the following autumn. Harvey was later paroled, returned to his unit, and soldiered on. He would be mustered out with honors with his regiment after the end of the war.

Within a fortnight of the Union victory at Gettysburg and the fall of Vicksburg (on July 4th), the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, the first all-black unit raised in the North, led an assault on Battery Wagner, on Morris Island just south of the entrance of Charleston Harbor. This action, which resulted in loss of nearly half the regiment, demonstrated the determination and ability to fight by black soldiers, a quality which many whites—both North and South—had doubted. The story of this regiment—in which the failed assault was the climax—was the subject of the movie, *Glory* (starring Matthew Broderick, Denzel Washington, and Morgan Freeman) made in 1989. At least sixteen African-Americans with variants of the name Voorhees served in the Union Army. Two of them, Isaac Voorhees (a 23-year-old teamster born in Philadelphia) and James W. Vorce (a 21 year-old sailor born in Cleveland) enlisted in the 54th Massachusetts.

Black soldier recruits were subject to harsh treatment, which underscored the prevailing blatant racial discrimination of the time. James Vorce decided within two weeks that the army was not for him. He deserted, in the face of "\$21.25 to be deducted from his pay for an Enfield Rifle Musket and equipments complete." A note in his file stated, "Probably to be found in Boston. Lost or destroyed his gun and equipments."

Isaac Voorhees accompanied his regiment from its training ground near Boston to Morris Island, South Carolina, and participated in the ill-fated charge on Fort Wagner. He survived this action, only to succumb to "*chronic diarrhea—contracted while in the service... in the regimental hospital on Morris Island*" before the year ended. In fact, twice as many soldiers in both armies and an even higher proportion of African-Americans died from non-combat-related causes mostly disease than died from the effects of battle.

Lt. Col. Alvin Coe Voris (#8), commanding the 67th Ohio Infantry, was also wounded in the assault on Fort Wagner. A bullet hit him in the left side and glanced downward through his abdomen. Fortunately, he was evacuated to a hospital ship,

where a surgeon removed a piece of flattened lead within two hours of the injury. Alvin would recover and return to action later in the year.

Meanwhile, Clark Voorhees (#2: Annie Tobin's gggrandfather) was eventually paroled, formally exchanged and returned to his regiment in October 1863. He was promoted First Sergeant, in time to participate in new Army Commander-in-Chief Ulysses Grant's Overland Campaign of 1864 (in Virginia).

During the first two weeks of action, at the Battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania, more than a dozen Van Voorhees family members were killed, wounded or captured. Among them were Lucien A. Voorhees (#9), First Sergeant of Company A, 15th New Jersey Infantry. Lanky Luke was a regular correspondent with his hometown newspaper, the *Hunterdon County Democrat*, from the time of his enlistment until he was killed in action at Spotsylvania.

Alfred Voorhies (#1) was one of those captured and sent to the stockade prison called Camp Sumter, near the rail siding at Andersonville, Georgia. The exchange of prisoners, which occurred during the first years of the war, had been discontinued for several reasons. First, the Confederates tended to cheat on their paroles; many returned to the field before they were properly exchanged. Second, the black Union soldiers were treated harshly by Southerners — often enslaved or killed outright — and not exchanged. Third, simple math was on the side with the larger numbers, so releasing captured Confederates simply prolonged the war. Unfortunately neither side was prepared to care for the large number of prisoners taken during 1864. Southern resources for soldiers and civilians were stretched beyond limit, so Confederate prisons were horrible. Tens of thousands of Union soldiers died as POWs during the last year of the war. Alfred was one of at least seven Van Voorhees to succumb to a combination of starvation, exposure and disease, in prison pens at Andersonville in Georgia, Florence in South Carolina, and Salisbury in North Carolina.

On May 28 First Lieutenant Voorhees Dye (#10), of the First New Jersey Cavalry, was killed in action at Hawes' Shop, Virginia. In a display of pig-headed and arrogant bureaucracy—amazing even today — the Bureau of Pensions fended off his dependent mother from receiving any aid for several years. Reasons included the fact that Voorhees' father had died the previous year, leaving a farm worth three thousand dollars, and the claim that although he sent money home with a fellow officer for his family, he hadn't specifically named the recipient as his father. The paper-pushing nitpickers then asserted that money attested as sent by Voorhees to his father was not documented as money for his mother! It took twenty years for Voorhees' grieving widowed mother to secure the award of a monthly stipend — and only then at the personal direction of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior (which included the Bureau of Pensions). A sheaf of Voorhees' letters expressing concern, dispensing advice and forwarding money is in his mother's pension file.

By the end of the first month of the 1864 campaign, the Union army had suffered more than 50,000 casualties, including more than a score of Van Voorhees. Near the crossroads of Cold Harbor, by Bethesda Church, Clark Voorhees' 84th New York Infantry was preparing to return to New York City to

muster out of the service. Their three-year term of enlistment was nearly up. On the day prior to his regiment's departure, while participating in an assault on the Confederate lines, Clark was wounded in the leg by a shell fragment. It was several months more before he was finally able to go home.

Albert Voorhees Wyckoff (#11), a promising young man who had risen to Sergeant Major of the 15th New Jersey Infantry also had his life snuffed out at Cold Harbor. His picture hangs in the National Park's Visitor's Center on the battlefield. This battle was the subject of a recent book, aptly entitled *Not War, But Murder*.

Although only a minority of Union soldiers could be considered abolitionists, Colonel Alvin C. Voris demonstrated a commitment to black emancipation. He led a regiment in the Army of the James, the most politicized army—and the one with the most black units—in the Union service. Alvin also served briefly as commander of a brigade, and then a mostly black, infantry division. At least one Van Voorhees, Benjamin Franklin Swarthout (a sergeant wounded at Gettysburg), accepted a commission as an officer in a black regiment. He became a Captain in the 2nd US Colored Troops.

Peter Voorhees (a.k.a. Petter Vorhees), a 37-year-old, illiterate black farmer, born in Ringgold County, Georgia, enlisted in the 8th U.S. Colored Troops at Columbus, Indiana in the fall of 1864. He attested that, "I am a refugee direct from Georgia." Peter was wounded in action during the climactic assault, which overwhelmed Confederate defenses at Petersburg, Virginia on April 2, 1865. Apparently this wound — or succeeding complications — was severe, as Peter was "absent sick in U.S. General Hospital at Fort Monroe, Virginia" for at least the next 8 months. Despite, or perhaps because, of being down and out, he was still "charged on June Roll \$7.09". It is uncertain whether Peter recovered and returned to Indiana after he "was discharged from the service Nov. 10, 1865, his company having been mustered out on that date, he being at the time absent sick."

After the war ended, Lieutenant Colonel Alvin Voris (#8) found his name on a list of field officers recommended for retention in the army. In May 1865 Alvin was awarded the brevet rank of Colonel. He was appointed by General Grant as military governor of a multi-county tract of Virginia. Alvin struggled ably to facilitate the transition from war to peace and to assist the former black slaves in their unaccustomed role as freedmen. He returned to civilian life in 1867 — being awarded by brevet the rank of Major General for "distinguished services in the field" — and resumed his career in Akron Ohio as a prominent attorney.

In 1873, Alvin made medical history, when an emergency operation in response to severe chronic pain and recurring inability to urinate (from which he suffered chronically) recovered most of a *minié ball* from his bladder. Apparently the chunk of lead which had been removed within hours of being wounded was a piece of the bullet which had been sheared off when it hit Alvin's accouterments before entering him! Over next decade, the bullet gradually worked its way through the upper wall of the bladder. This remarkable event was reported in on the front page of *The Clinic* (a medical periodical). Alvin made a thorough recovery, served in the Ohio House of Representatives, and lived nearly three more decades. (Ed. Note: A

minié ball is more than ½ inch in diameter and about ¾ inch long. Fired from a rifle or musket, it can mushroom when hitting soft tissue and can shatter on contact with a hard object.)

Gradually, the old soldiers faded away, many haunted throughout their lives by images of violence and horrible suffering. John Nelson Voorhees (#12), once an artificer in the 1st Michigan Engineers, was photographed sitting on a bench (reportedly the day before he died in Mt. Tabor Oregon, where he moved — possibly in an attempt to find peace — in his later years). His countenance could be titled "mine eyes have seen the glory... and the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword."

In conclusion, the story of the Van Voorhees family in the Civil War is both heroic and tragic on an epic scale. It was terrible that this war occurred and calamitous to the Van Voorhees family—many of whose potential progeny were extinguished by the war. When the whole tale is considered, we can all heartily agree with the words of General Alvin Voris (#8): "I am proud, proud, proud of these (men)!"

The sacrifices by the Van Voorhees family—both soldiers and their loved ones left at home—preserved the Union and rid it of the institution of slavery. The effort to maintain, strengthen and improve this freedom and the achievement of social equality in our country continues to our day. As Lincoln said in his Gettysburg address, ... "it is rather for us, the living to resolve that these men shall not have died in vain, and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth." These words still resonate for us today. We have a strong and positive family example to cherish and strive to uphold.

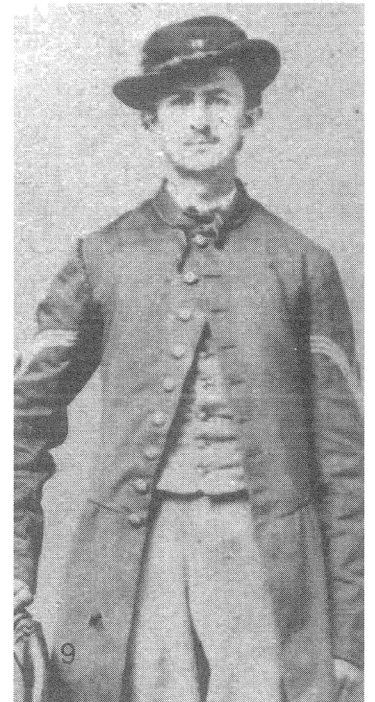
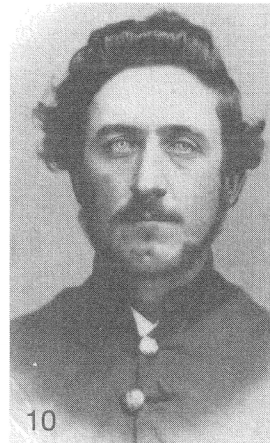
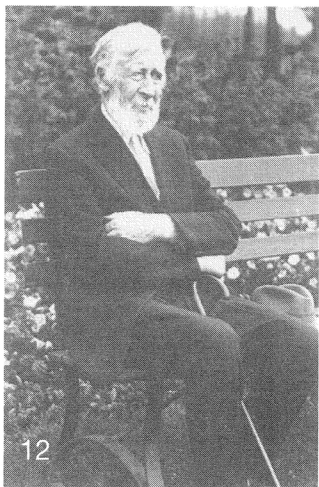
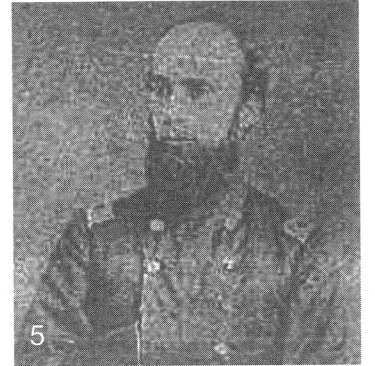
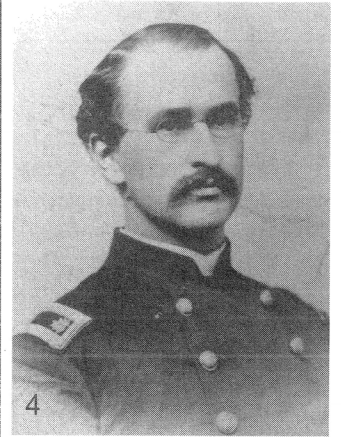
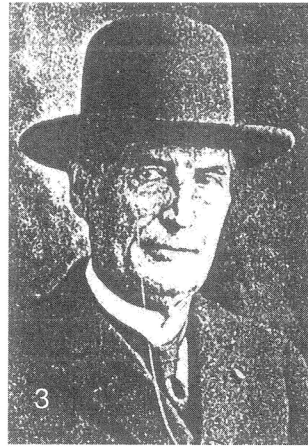
I'm still looking for material, so copies of any letters, diaries, photos or stories about Van Voorhees Civil War soldiers would be gratefully appreciated and acknowledged.

(References will be furnished by the author upon request, but are too voluminous to print with this article.)

We wish to express our thanks to the following persons for contributing the photos in this article.

#	Name	Donor
#1	Alfred H. Voorhies	Annie Brokaw Tobin
#2	Clark Grover Voorhees	Annie Brokaw Tobin
#3	Richard M. Voorhees	Van Voorhees Assn.—Florence Christoph
#4	George A. Pomeroy	USAMHI-NYS Adj. Genl. Ofc.
#5	Garrett Nevius	USAMHI
#6	Oscar Newell Voorhees	USAMHI-NYS Adj. Genl. Ofc.
#7	Koert Stevens Van Voorhees	Seward Osbourne
#8	Alvin Coe Voris	USAMHI—Roger D. Hunt Coll
#9	Lucien Augustus Voorhees	USAMHI—John W. Kuhl
#10	Voorhees Dye	USAMHI—John W. Kuhl
#11	Albert Voorhees Wyckoff	USAMHI—John W. Kuhl
#12	John Nelson Voorhees	Van Voorhees Assn.—Florence Christoph

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#1 -- Alfred H. Voorhies; #2 -- Clark Grover Voorhees;
#3 -- Richard M. Voorhees; #4 -- George A. Pomeroy;
#5 -- Garrett Nevius; #6 -- Oscar Newell Voorhees;
#7 -- Koert Stevens Van Voorhees;
#8 -- Alvin Coe Voris; #9 -- Lucien Augustus Voorhees;
#10 -- Voorhees Dye; #11 -- Albert Voorhees Wyckoff;
#12 -- John Nelson Voorhees

The JUNIOR CORNER: The Dutch Language

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

Did you know that the Dutch and German languages are closely related? I think the Dutch language is about 40% German, 40% Olde (an old spelling of old) English and 20% French. I could say that Olde English is very much like Dutch. Many modern English words, especially scientific ones, are the same everywhere in the world.

Did you know that many common English words have a Dutch origin? Here are only a few examples.

Dutch Word	Phonetic Pronunciation Speech	Part of	English Meaning
baas	bahss	noun	boss
naam	nahm	noun	name
bijten	bye-ten	verb	bite
remedie	remedy	noun/verb	remedy
drink(en)	drink(-ehn)	verb	drink
schaats	shkahts	noun	skates
God/god	khot	noun	God/god
schip	shkip	noun	ship
jacht	yahkt	noun	yacht
snoepen	s-new-pen	verb	snoop

koekje	coo-k-yeh/coo-kee	noun	cookie
standard(e)	stahn-dahrt(eh)	adjective	standard
kool sla	coal-slah	noun	cole slaw
taan(e)	tahn(eh)	adjective	tan
landschap	lahnd-shkahp	noun	landscape
tailleur	tah-ee-ler	noun	tailor
men	men	noun	men
wafel	vah-fell	noun	waffle
onder	awn-der	adverb	under
zee	z-ay (rhymes with say)	noun	sea, ocean

If you study German in school, you can quickly learn Dutch. After 2 years of German in college, I learned how to pronounce Dutch (from a Traveler's Phrase Book). Next, I would read a sentence and say it aloud with my eyes closed. While speaking, I would pretend it was German. Most of the time I could understand every word. Later I sang Dutch songs and hymns. Notice that the Dutch often double the vowels. Other small letter changes are: f = v; v = w or b; b = p; d = t or tt; and so forth. German nouns are capitalized; but Dutch nouns are not. Here are just a few Dutch words like the German ones.

Dutch	Phonetic Pronunciation	German	Phonetic Pronunciation	English Meaning
auto	auto (same as English)	Auto	auto (same as English)	auto
baan	Bah-n	Bahn	bah-n	road, way, path
autobaan	auto bah-n	Autobahn	auto bah-n	major highway
avond	ah-vahndt	Abend	ah-bend	evening
bad	baht	Bad	bahd	bath
bed	bet	Bett	bet	bed
goed(e)	khoot(eh)	gut(e)	goot(eh)	good
Heer	hair	Herr	hair	Lord, Mr.
heilig(e)	high-lick(eh)	heilig(e)	high-lig(eh)	holy
leven	leh-vehn	Leben	lay-ben	life
moeder	moo-der	Mutter	moo-ter	mother
melk	mehlk	Milch	milk	milk
paar	pahr	Paar	pahr	pair
paniek	pah-nick	Panik	pah-nick	panic
reis	rice	Reise	rise-zeh	journey, trip
staf	stahf	Stab	stahb	staff, rod
tante	tahn-the	Tante	tahn-the	aunt
vader	fah-der	Vater	fah-ter	father
van	vahn	von	v-on	from, of
voor	v-or	vor	v-or	before
zand	zahnt	Sand	Zahnd	sand

Did you know that many states and places have evening classes in "Survival" German for adults and children? Call your local high school or community college for information. DANK (Deutsch Amerikaner National Kongress), a national German club, often gives classes through a local chapter. Now that you see how easy it is, tell your parents and grandparents. Maybe you can help them learn Dutch!

Language Tips for Adults

If you already know German, you could try learning Dutch on your own. Get a Dutch phrase book, large dictionary (set of 2 books), and a tape. (No computer software programs or videos are available.) There are books on Dutch grammar. Check for these at a large bookstore. An excellent pocket-sized "starter" book for grammar is:

continued on page 8

ANWB Phrase Book: DUTCH for Travellers

by Hans Hoogendoorn, Brigitte Kristel, & Bob Ordish
2nd edition, c. 1999 by Royal Dutch Touring Club ANWB,
the Hague ISBN 90-18-01107

Singing is a great way to remember words and increase your vocabulary. Some song books are listed on the Internet, but very few are available in the USA. In the Netherlands, the large music store in Arnhem has the best selection. It is:

Bergmann B.V. Internationale Muziekhandel
6811 DG Arnhem - Koningstraat 19
Telefoon: 085-424314 NL 0031

They sell sheet music, compact discs, tapes and musical instruments. The clerks are very helpful.

I'd like to leave you with one last thought on this subject. It is an old Dutch proverb:

"Who knows the language is at home everywhere."



NEWS WITH THE COUSINS

Cora Jean VanderPloeg (V.V.A. #12211) and her husband, Bill, will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Nov. 17th at the Phoenix Christian Reformed Church in Phoenix, Ariz. Congratulations, Cora & Bill! We wish you many more happy anniversaries!



THE LACKEY-SCHANCK CONNECTION

submitted by Allen and Esther Jean Lackey

The biennial reunion of the Lackey & Schanck cousins will be held in Berlin Twp., Delaware Co., Ohio on Sat., July 20, 2002. It will be held at the West Berlin Presbyterian Church where there is a covered picnic area. Although the mailing list has been updated, we ask you to make sure all members of your family are informed about the place and date. Please inform Bradley E. Cox [13358 TR 7, Rawson, O 11 45881; Tel. 1-419-963-3523] of any address changes since the 2000 reunion. In late May or early June there will be a reminder giving directions, local motels, etc.



FAREWELLS IN 2001

Stanley Harvey Voorhees, age 87, died on August 29, 2001 in Toms River, N.J. He is the father of Don Stanley Voorhees and Judith Voorhees-Barro (see Who's Who under Sales). Six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren survive him.

Grace Van Voorhis passed away in 2001. She always accompanied her husband, Frank, to Reunions and Association Meetings. Frank, who was a long-time and hard-working Board Member & Line Representative, died several years ago. Grace is the mother of Richard Van Voorhis.



NEW MEMBERS

Tom Van Voorhies, Membership Chairman, has enrolled 30 new members plus 7 upgraded memberships. We want to welcome all of you now and also formally at the Reunion on Oct. 12, 2002.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Carey Wayne Black | Houston, TX |
| Julie Faith Van Voorhis Monafu | Chesterfield VA. |
| Elizabeth (Betty) Smartt Carter | Leeds, AL. |
| Neville Rodgers Mulock | Darien, CT. |
| Jeffrey Lynn Chambers | New Orleans, LA. |
| Elizabeth Joy Van Voorhis Rosser | Waipahu, HI. |
| Karen Elissa Chimenti | Aquebogue, N.Y. |
| John Edgar Van Voorhis | Gilbertsville, PA. |
| Bonnie W. Voorhies Covington | Trumansburg, N.Y. |
| Samuel David Van Voorhis | Westerville, OH. |
| Mary Cureton | Fountain, CO. |
| Timothy Paul Van Voorhis | Ames, IA. |
| Joyce Ditmore | Leesburgh, IN. |
| Gerald Jason Voorhies | Fairfax, VA. |
| Tracy Lynn Glazer | New Richmond, OH. |
| Margaret Ellen Voorhies | Cedar Park, TX. |
| Jeanette Gerry Heath | Oswego, N.Y. |
| Michael Jacob Voorhies | New Orleans, LA. |
| Louanna Rachel Heath-Hammond | Hatboro, PA. |
| Wiley Joseph Voorhies | N. Richland Hills, TX. |
| Carol Van Voorhis Lundberg | Rockford, IL. |
| Christopher Drynan Voris | Las Cruces, N.M. |

Junior Member

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Victoria N. Smithee | Lubbock, TX. |
|---------------------|--------------|

Sustaining Members

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Courtney Elaine Jacks Williams | Frisco, TX |
| Christopher Paul Gusinger | Sterling Heights, MI. |
| David Alan Van Voorhis | Slidell, LA. |
| Michael Voorhees Dawes | Thompson, CT. |
| Lawrence Sm. Heiney | Albermarle, N.C. |

Life Memberships

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Marie Voorhees Avelsgaard | Two Harbors, MN. |
| Janyece Katharine Narducy | San Jose, CA. |
| Judith Voorhees Barro | Toms River, N.J. |
| Robert F. Voorhees | Greensboro, N.C. |
| George H. Buttler, III | Poughkeepsie, N.Y. |
| Judith E. Wright | Lewis Center, OH. |
| Dorena Louise Mitchell | Evanston, IL. |



E-MAIL ADDRESS

If you have acquired an email address since joining the Van Voorhees Association, we would like to have it. There may be a time when we'd like to reach you sooner than ordinary mail service can provide. Please notify our Membership Chairman, Albert T. Van Voorhies (Tom) of your address at: <avanvoor@suffolk.lib.ny.us>.



THE VOORHEES FAMILY AND THE LOW DUTCH COLONY OF CONEWAGO

by Larry Michael Voreis

The following article is Part I in a series on the migration of the Voorhees family to the Low Dutch settlement of Conewago in York County, Pennsylvania beginning about 1765 and to Mercer County, Kentucky in the spring of 1780. The author, who is writing a book *A Voreis Family History, Some Descendants of Peter and Sophia Vanderbogert Voorhees of the Dutch Colonies in Pennsylvania and Kentucky*, lives in Greenville, SC and has been researching his Voreis-Voorhees family connections for the past five years, an endeavor which has led to a detailed study of the Low Dutch settlers in Pennsylvania and Kentucky. His email address is voreis@greenville.infi.net

In the course of establishing my family ties to Steven Coert VanVoorhees through the line of Jan Stevense, Jan, and Peter Voorhees, my investigation brought me inevitably to the Low Dutch Colony of Conewago on the western frontier of York County, Pennsylvania. Most of the information on the Conewago colony comes to us from the writings of the Rev. J.K. Demarest. Demarest, an early pastor of a Presbyterian Church in Gettysburg, was writing a history of his church when he discovered, in the beginnings of his own congregation, the remnants of the Dutch Reformed Church of Conewago. Demarest found a record noting that one of the early pastors of his church, the Rev. John Black (1794-1800), also preached at the Dutch church. Demarest was puzzled as to what had happened to the Dutch who had all but disappeared from Adams County. The results of his investigation were published in 1884 in a series of articles published in the *Gettysburg Star*.

The Dutch Migration to Conewago

In the early 1700s, the country west of the Susquehanna was known as the Far West. To Dutch settlers living in New Jersey, York County seemed as far away as California is to Easterners today. The movement to the western frontier started in 1730 when the Governor of Virginia offered inducements to attract settlers to the Shenandoah Valley. Land speculators were hired to circulate among New Jersey Dutch and Pennsylvania German settlements, using the lure of large quantities of cheap farm land to start the migration to Virginia. John Hiite a German, and Jacob Van Meter a Dutchman, were engaged to settle 200 families on land ceded to them. In the wake of the movement to Virginia, settlers from New Jersey were drawn to the settlement of York, located astride the Great Wagon Road that led west from Philadelphia, forded the Susquehanna and passed through the settlement at York before crossing the Appalachians and turning south toward Hagerstown, eventually entering the Shenandoah Valley at Frederick Town (later Winchester, Virginia).

There were other important factors that may have played a major role in drawing Dutch families to Conewago in the years before the Revolution. Perhaps it was the shortage of farm land caused by the Dutch practice of inheritance called "partial division;" it was customary for a Dutchman to leave half his estate to his wife with the other half divided equally

among male and female children resulting in ever smaller farms from one generation to the next. There was also the deteriorating political situation and escalating resistance to the British, a shortage of paper money, instability in commercial affairs, turmoil throughout the region — all of these factors must have played a role in their decision to leave New Jersey. They may have been anticipating the onset of the Revolution and putting some distance between themselves and the English in New York. The Dutch always had a stubborn contempt for their English rulers, ever since the takeover of New Netherland in 1664.

The Scotch-Irish were the first to arrive in York County in 1736-1740, followed by the Germans. By the time the Dutch started to arrive in 1765, most of the best farmland was taken. The Dutch chose to settle in the Conewago Creek valley, south and east of present-day Gettysburg. The Conewago Dutch settled an area extending from a point 2 miles east of what is now Hunterstown, not far from the junction of Little Conewago and Big Conewago creeks, along the road running in a southwesterly direction to a point on the Baltimore Pike, and down the pike to an intersection known as Two Taverns. This road is still known today as the "Low Dutch Road." The settled area is shaped like a half-moon, with a cemetery at each end.

The Conewago Dutch called themselves "Low Dutch" so they would not be mistaken for their German neighbors, who were known as "High Dutch." The term "Low Dutch" signified they were from the lowlands of Holland, while the Germans were from the highlands. The Dutch clan were very particular about whom they associated with. They did not want to be mistaken for Germans!

The Dutch migration to York County continued for several years, coming mainly from the New Jersey counties of Bergen, Essex, Somerset and Middlesex. This was another group migration of an estimated 1,000 Dutch, according to A. Van Doren Honeyman, who made a study of the baptismal records of the Dutch Reformed Church of Conewago, published in 1915. The Conewago Dutch lost no time in finding a suitable location for a church, and by 1769 one was built. The Dutch Reformed Church of Conewago was on the northern end of the settlement, about a half mile from the cemetery. The first baptisms, by the Rev. J. M. Van Harlingen, were recorded in the fall of 1769. Peter and Sophia Voorhees arrived in Conewago between March 1766 and November 1768. We can assume this because their son Francis was born in New Brunswick in 1766 and son Peter was baptized in Conewago on 17 November 1768. Their family at that time included Jacobus, who at age 16 may have stayed in New Brunswick (he was married there circa 1771); Margarita, 14; Neeltje, 12, John, 10, Christina, about 7; Jannetje, about 4; and Francis, 1 (all ages approximate).

Some Conewago Dutch Families

We are fortunate that the records of the Reformed Dutch Church of Conewago have survived and the original Dutch

writings have been translated for us. These old church records, along with the history written by the Rev. Demarest, give us an account of the Conewago Dutch. The Dutch church, which is no longer standing, was on the York Pike near the Duttera railway station about a half-mile from the Dutch cemetery, which is still standing. This cemetery is the resting place of Bantas, Demarests, Voorhees and VanArdsdales, who lived in the Conewago colony. Conewago families who would later appear as prominent members of the Kentucky Dutch community were: Aten, Banta, Bice, Brunner, Bogert, Bergen, Brower, Carnine, Cassart, Cozine, Conover, Commingore, Covert, Duree, Demaree, DeBaun, DeMott, Dorland, Hoagland, Monfort, Scomp, Smock, Terhune, VanNuys, VanArsdale, Voorhees, Wycoff, Westerfield, and others.

There are three sources that list the male heads of Conewago families. The earliest is *The History of the Low Dutch Colony*, by Demarest; another is *Adams County Church Records*, by Wright; and the third is *Banta Pioneers*, by E.M. Banta. The Demarest history was published in the *Gettysburg Star* in 1884, and is the most contemporary. The book by Wright contains an excerpt published in the *Somerset County Historical Quarterly* in 1915. The Banta list and the Demarest list contain several additional names not listed in *Adams County Church Records*. All three sources are based on translations of the old baptismal records of the Reformed Dutch Church of Conewago, which can now be found at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia. From these three sources I count a total of 181 Dutch families living in Conewago. Given the typically large Dutch family during those times, this would easily translate to Honeyman's population estimate of 1,000 Dutch in the Conewago settlement.

According to the Rev. Demarest, the Demarees*, Ackermans, Brinkerhoffs, Bogarts, Terhunes, Bantas, DeBaums, De Motts, Voorhees, Brouwers, came from New Jersey. The Houghtalins (Hoaglands?) and Cosines came from the west bank of the Hudson, near Haverstraw. The Brokaws can be traced to New York. The Cosarts and Monforts, two of the first comers, came from Somerset County, New Jersey, near Millstone. The VanDykes and VanArdsdales came from Essex County, New Jersey. There is evidence that Gerardus Riker, a fourth-generation descendant of Abraham Rycken from Holland who first received a land grant in New Amsterdam in 1638, moved from New York and joined the Conewago colony in 1779.

Holding true to their roots, the Conewago Dutch were farmers who made their living from the land. Even the mechanics among them — the Demarees* were carpenters and painters; the VanArdsdales were blacksmiths — expected to make the best part of their living from the soil. They did not found a town at Conewago. Maybe they realized that Conewago was to be merely a way point, a place to gather their strength, increase their numbers, and prepare for the opportunities that would come as the frontier developed farther west.

*[The surname, Demaree or Demare, is a variation of the name, Demarest. In a letter (dated 2 April 1873) by David V.

Demaree, he says the Demarees of the Low Dutch colony in Kentucky are descendants of Samuel Demarest and Susana Brower (Brouwer in the Conewago Baptism Records). David also says that they changed the spelling of their name to Demaree in the early Kentucky days. Although I have seen the Demarest spelling in some records, the Conewago and Kentucky branch used Demaree.]

The Banta record tells us the first tract of land at Conewago, 200 acres, was purchased by Cornelius VanArsdale of Somerset County, East New Jersey, on 22 June 1765. Witnesses were Francis Cossart and Hendrick Banta. The Dutch liked to name their farms. Hendrick Banta owned a 400-acre farm he called Loss or Gain. He later donated the land in the center of his tract for the Low Dutch Church and cemetery. Another Banta named his farm Mount Misery, Francis Cosart recorded his deed as Cosart's Dream, David Cosart called his farm Barren Hill, Peter Cosart named his Indian Spring, Francis Monfort's farm was Walnut Bottom, Peter Monfort's farm was Turkey Range, the two tracts owned by the Rev. Cornelius Cosine were named Pleasant Plain. The Conewago settlement was well watered by Plum Run, Rock Creek, Beaver Dam, Swift Run and Brush Run, all of which fed into Little Conewago, then Big Conewago, and eventually the Susquehanna. The road that was used by the Low Dutch to travel to and from church became known as the Low Dutch Road and is called that today. It can also be found on some maps of the Gettysburg Battlefield.

The Conewago Dutch Church

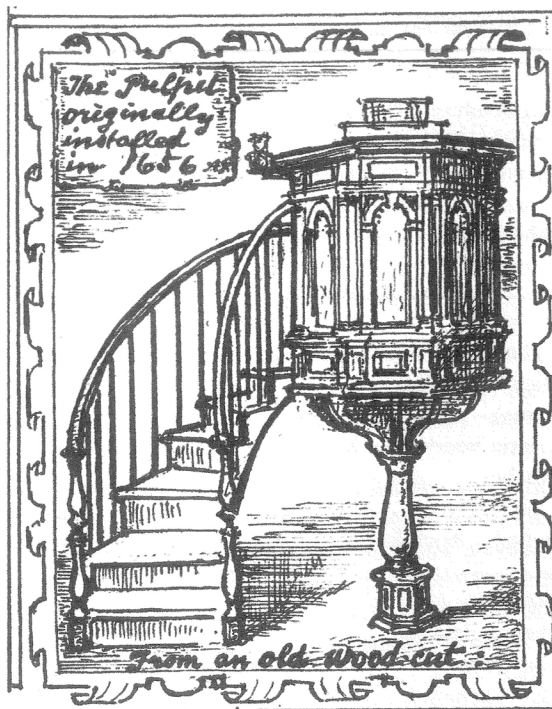
While Demarest was researching his manuscript, he came across records that contained a drawing of the church layout, with the seats marked with the names of the families, which he estimates was made about 1790. So, from Demarest, we have an accurate description of the church, and its members. On Sundays, the whole Dutch community went to church, "old and young, rich and poor, all who were not actually disabled, on every Sabbath morning, dresses in their best..."

The church building was of frame construction, resting on a foundation of stone gathered from the surrounding fields. Inside the church the Dutch, unlike the Scotch-Irish, provided stoves to heat it, one on each side of the entrance. The pulpit, very high and shaped like a wineglass, located opposite the door.

The Rev. Demarest describes the interior of the church from the drawing he found:

There is a broad middle isle, and there are two narrow ones at the side walls. Extending completely around the church is a narrow bench. The space before the pulpit is ample for the communion service, held once in three months, for the performance of the marriage ceremony, which however, rarely took place at the church, and for baptismal administrations, which were required with a frequency which now in Adams county we should consider most extraordinary.

The Dutch easily and quickly built their church, but ministers were scarce. Both the Dutch Reformed Church and the German Reformed Church relied on the Classis of Amsterdam, Holland, for their ministers. Up until 1770, only about



An example of a wineglass shaped pulpit from a Dutch church, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey, HABS No. NY-3129-A, available online at [HYPERLINK http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/hhhtml/hhhome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/hhhtml/hhhome.html)

70 Dutch ministers had arrived in this country. As the Dutch scattered farther from New York City and New Brunswick, New Jersey, it became ever more difficult to find a Dutch preacher. It was not uncommon for a German Reformed minister to serve the Dutch, since they spoke both languages. The Conewago Dutch worshipped in the Dutch language, and church records were recorded in Dutch until about 1800. Unfortunately the early records of the Classis of New Brunswick are lost, so the early Conewago Dutch ministers are unknown. A missionary from the Classis of New Brunswick, the Rev. (Domini in Dutch) John M. Van Harlingen, baptized 13 children at the Conewago church on 23 October 1769, which is the first entry in the baptismal record. Van Harlingen was born in Millstone, New Jersey and most likely was well known to the Conewago Dutch, since many families, including the Monforts and Cosarts, came from that place. Van Harlingen preached exclusively in Dutch, having been trained at one of the universities in Amsterdam.

Domine Johannes Leydt, another missionary preacher who at that time was pastor of the church in New Brunswick, New Jersey, baptized Hilena (Helena), the ninth child of Peterus Voorhees and Sophia de Bogart, on 8 September 1771. In the spring of 1772, Van Harlingen returned to Conewago to baptize another 27 children on 31 May 1772, including Voorhees family members: Anatie, daughter of Davet Demere and Lena Voorhees; and Jacobus, son of Cornelius Voorhees and Johanna Langstrate.

In the fall of 1772, the Conewago Dutch received the Rev. Cornelius Cosine as the first pastor they could call their own. Cosine, who preached at Conewago until his death in 1788, was married to Maria Brouwer, the daughter of one of the Conewago families. After his death, she returned to Haverstraw, New York, where she married David S. Demarest of Hackensack, New Jersey. I mention this here because you will see these names in the Low Dutch settlement in Kentucky, in a following article. The baptismal record of the church tells us that on 11 October 1772, Cosine baptized Aabram (Abraham), the 10th child of Peterus Voorhees and Sophia de Bogart, from whom the Voreis branch of the Voorhees family descends. It was about this time that several of the Conewago families, including Peter and Sophia's family, moved to Berkeley County, Virginia (a movement to be covered in the next article). Peter and Sophia may have been living in Berkeley County, Virginia as early as 1770, which means they would have returned to the Conewago church for the baptism of Helena in September 1771, and Abraham in October 1772. This would not have been unusual or difficult. The Dutch were fiercely loyal to their church, and the trip from Shepherdstown, in Berkeley County, Virginia, was less than 50 miles, a two- or three-day journey up the Great Wagon Road to Conewago.

Cosine was succeeded by the Rev. George G. Brinkerhoff, one of the first admitted to the ministry of the Dutch Reformed Church without credentials from Holland. Before receiving his call to Conewago in November 1789, Brinkerhoff served as "home missionary" to the settlers in the northern counties of New York.

The Breakup of the Conewago Colony

The church in Conewago, and the settlement itself, began to decline in numbers beginning in 1772 – 1773, when several family groups moved to the vicinity of Mecklenburg, Berkeley County, Virginia, (later named Shepherdstown), on the banks of the Potomac River about 50 miles southwest of the Conewago settlement. There was a larger migration to Kentucky beginning in 1779. The year 1783, the last year of the Revolutionary War, was known for its crop failures. In 1786, Indians burned 35 homesteads around Conewago and terrorized the people. Another large group left Conewago and migrated to the area around Genesee County, in northern New York, in April 1793. By 1817 only five Dutch families remained in Conewago, all others having gone either south to Kentucky or north to the lake country of upper New York. The last baptism recorded at the Conewago church was in July 1791. With the break-up of the congregation the last pastor, the Rev. George Brinkerhoff, resigned in November 1793. The Dutch always showed a fondness for the preaching of the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians and so, after 1793, most of the remaining York County Dutch fell in with the Presbyterians. Years later, in the Kentucky settlement, we will again see the same pattern of behavior when the Dutch settlement in Harrodsburg, Kentucky, unable to secure a Dutch minister, would turn to the Presbyterian Church.



VOORHEES FAMILY BAPTISMS AT THE CONEWAGO REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH, 1771 - 1791

Baptized by Dom. Johannes Leydt

8 Sep 1771 Voorhees, Petrus and Sophia de Bogart - Hilena (Helena)

Baptized by the Rev. J.M. Van Harlingen

31 May 1772 Demere (Demaree), Davet and Lena Voorhes - Anatic
 Voorhees, Cornelius and Johanna Langstrate - Jacobus

Baptized by Domine Cosine, who then becomes pastor

11 Oct 1772 Voorhees, Petrus and Safya (Sophia) Vandenbogert - Abraham
 21 Mar 1773 Persel, Pieter and Maragrieta Voorhees - Dierck (Richard)
 26 Nov 1773 Voorhees, Roelof and Elizabeth Neefis (Nevius) - Aaltie
 2 Jan 1774 Blinkerhoff (Brinkerhoff) Jacobus, and Catrintie Voorhees - Martyntie
 12 Jul 1774 Degraf, Abraham and Catrina Voorhees - Rachel
 18 Sep 1774 Demaree, David and Lena Voorhees - Catrina
 6 Aug 1775 Voorhees, Roelof and Elizabeth Neefis (Nevius) - Roelof
 22 Jun 1777 Demaree, David and Lena Voorhees - Sara
 25 Jan 1778 Degraf, Abraham and Catrina Voorhees - Machil
 10 May 1778 Passel (Persell), Peter and Maragrieta Voorhees - Jemime
 23 May 1779 Brinkerhof, Jacobus and Catrienna Voorhees - Jores
 3 Oct 1779 Degraft, Abraham and Catriena (Voorhees?) - Cornelius
 6 May 1781 Persel, Pieter and Maragrieta Voorhees - Rachel; Jan
 12 Aug 1781 Brinkerhof, Jacobus and Catriena Voorhees - Albert
 10 Aug 1783 Persel, Peter and Margrieta Voorhuis - Abraham
 22 Feb 1784 Degraft, Abraham and Catriena Voorhees - Maragrieta
 24 Jul 1785 Cichim (Kitchin) Derrick, and Maragrieta Voorhees - Maria
 18 Sep 1785 Voorhees, Abram and Breghee Speeder - Maria
 12 Feb 1786 Degraft, Abram and Catriena Voorhees - Abraham
 9 Apr 1786 Voorhius, Jacob and Sara Sickels - Abraham Wilson
 12 Nov 1786 Kichin, Derrick and Marigrieta Voorhees - Maragrieta
 14 Oct 1787 Voorhees, Gerret and Lena Holenset - Baratie

Baptized by Dom. Geo. G. Brinkerhoff

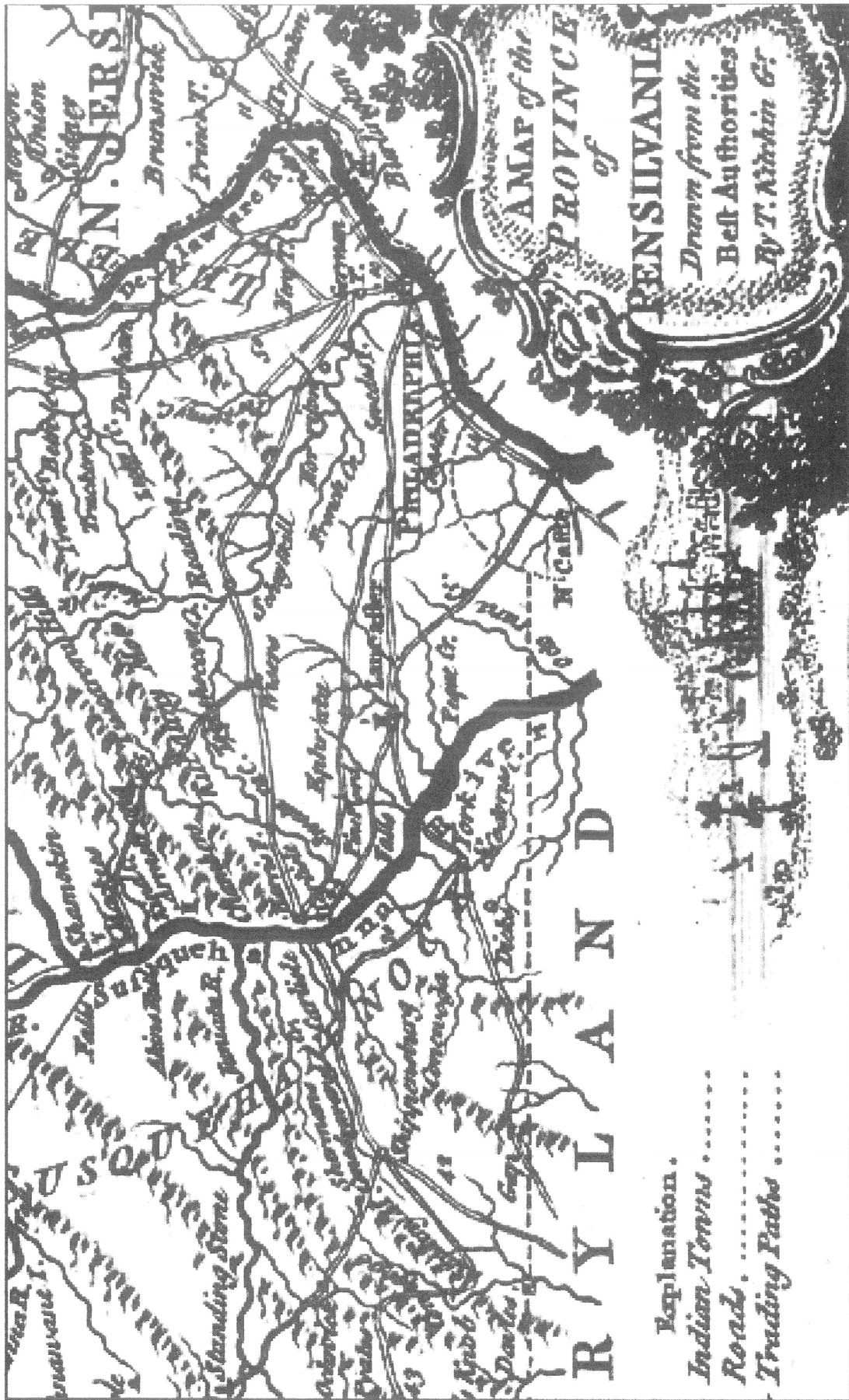
20 Dec 1789 Johnston, Abraham and Cathrina Voorhees - Andries
 20 Jun 1790 Brinkerhoff, Jacobus and Cathrina Voorhees - Isaack
 17 Jul 1791 Johnston, Abraham (?) and Cathrina (?) Voorhees - Abraham

The names are shown as they appear in the Adams County Church Records (pp. 114-131) by Wright.

References

- 1 York County was formed in 1749 from a portion of Lancaster County and includes present day Adams County which was formed in 1800.
- 2 Rev. J.K. Demarest, *History of the Low Dutch Colony of Conewago, Adams County, Pennsylvania*, appearing in a series of articles in the *Gettysburg Star*, beginning January 8, 1884.
- 3 Demarest, quoting an 1883 article in the *Lutheran Quarterly*, by a Dr. Shumaker.
- 4 John T. Cunningham, *Colonial New Jersey* (New Jersey: Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1971), p. 132.
- 5 Vincent Akers, *The Low Dutch Company, A History of the Holland Dutch Settlements of the Kentucky Frontier, The de Halve Maen* (The Holland Society of New York), Vol. LV, No. 2 (Summer 1980), Part I, p. 2.
- 6 F. Edward Wright, *Adams County Church Records of the 18th Century*, (Westminster, Maryland: Willow Bend Books, 2000), p. 114, citing the *Somerset County (New Jersey) Historical Quarterly*, v. IV, pp. 267-281, *The Conewago Colony - Baptisms*, by A. Van Doren Honeyman, 1915.
- 7 Akers, *The Low Dutch Company, Part I*, p. 2.
- 8 Wright, *Adams County Church Records*, p. 116
- 9 Florence A. Christoph, compiler and editor, *The Van Voorhees Family in America* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 2000), p. 293.
- 10 Joan England Murray, *The Bantas of Pleasant Hill Kentucky, their ancestors and descendents* (Palatine IL, 1985), p. 11
- 11 Akers, *The Low Dutch Company, Part I*, p. 2.
- 12 A. Van Doren Honeyman, ed., *The Conewago Colony - Baptisms 1769-1793*, *Somerset County Quarterly* (Somerville, New Jersey), Vol. 4, No. 4 (Oct. 1915), pp. 267-281.

continued on page 14



A map of the province of Pennsylvania, drawn by Thomas Kitchen (London: R. Baldwin, 1756), Library of Congress, Maps of North America, 1750-1789, Call No. G3820 1756 .K5 Vault (Digital IDg3820 ar071100). Available online (<http://memory.locircagov>)

13 Correspondence: Judith Purcel Beckham of Joshua Texas, to Martin Schmidt of The Filson Club Historical Society, dated 31 March 1982, containing a copy of an article published in the Fort Worth Star Telegram in 1982, about the early history of the Ryker / Riker family.

14 Elsa M. Banta, *Banta Pioneers and Records of the Wives and Allied Families*, (United States: E.M. Banta, 1983), pp. 99-103.

15 Demarest, *History of the Low Dutch Colony*, pp. 8-9.

16 Ibid. #15

17 Ibid. #15, pp. 11-12.

18 Wright, *Adams County Church Records*, p. 116.

19 Demarest, *History of the Low Dutch Colony*, p. 13.

20 Ibid., Wright, *Adams County Church Records*, p. 117.

This is Peter Voorhees (VVA #249) and his wife Sophia Vanderbogert.

21 Revolutionary War pension application of John Voris

(S14772), affidavit dated 14 March 1833, Mercer County, Kentucky. In his affidavit John testified "...I was born in the county of Middlesex near New Brunswick in the state of New Jersey and when very young I moved with my father to York County Pennsylvania and about twelve or thirteen years of age we moved to Berkley state of Virginia where I resided when I was called into the service of my country in the Revolutionary War..." John was born on 18 December 1758 which dates the move to Berkley County as 1770-1771.

22 Demarest, *History of the Low Dutch Colony*, p. 13.

23 Banta, *Banta Pioneers*, p. 111

24 William Lamb Vories, *Biographical Sketches of Vories and Montfort Families* (New Castle, Kentucky: Press of Henry County Local, 1905), p. 12.

25 Demarest, *History of the Low Dutch*, pp. 24-27.

26 Ibid. #25, pp. 14-15.



DUTCH TRADITIONS: THE TULIP AND FLORAL FESTIVALS

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

Our word, tulip, is derived from 3 sources. The French tulipe and Italian tulipa came from the Persian word, toliban, meaning turban. Apparently they thought that this style of turban resembled a tulip. Persian legend says that the first tulips sprang from drops of blood shed by a lover. Persian poets wrote and sang of this symbol of declared love. Near Kabul, the Great Mogul Baber counted 33 different wild species. The Turks, who began cultivating tulips over 1000 years ago, by the reign of Sultan Suleiman (1494-1566) were hybridizing them. At this time the tulip was a symbol of the Turkish Empire.

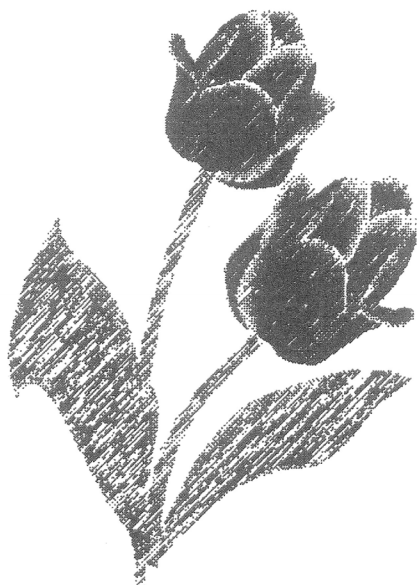
The exact origin of the tulip is debatable. They grow

wild around the Black Sea, in the Crimea and Caucasus steppes, the Tien-Shan and Pamir Alai Mountains, and the region once controlled by the Turkish Empire.

One story claims that the tulip was brought from Constantinople to Augsburg, Germany by Conrad Gesner in 1559. Whatever followed this importation is not documented. Probably the tulips did not thrive enough there to warrant intensive cultivation or maybe they were eaten.

About 1580 the first tulips came to the Netherlands from Constantinople, Turkey. Some sources say they were brought to Europe by Ogier Ghislain de Busbecq (1522-1592), the ambassador of the Holy Roman Empire. He then gave the bulbs to Charles de l'Ecluse (1526-1609), a renowned botanist in charge of the Emperor's garden of medicinal plants in Vienna, Austria. To test their edibility, he once fried them and ate them with oil and vinegar. Because of his Protestant beliefs, Charles de l'Ecluse (now called Carolus Clusius) moved to Holland in 1593 and became a professor at the University of Leiden. Here he had great success with experimental cultivation of tulips on the damp sandy soil along the North Sea between Leiden and Haarlem. He was assisted by Cluyt, a skilled botanist, beekeeper and pharmacist of Delft. Now the tulip began its journey to fame.

Tulips remained a rarity until about 1630. By then tulipomania had set in. Even though hyacinths and gladioli bulbs were available, only tulip bulbs were highly treasured and brought fantastic prices for unique varieties. One bulb was said to cost (1) a coach + 2 horses, or (2) several acres of land, or (3) a nice house or (4) 6000 florins. One reported ridiculous price was paid by an overly eager Dutch merchant. He bought only 1 rare tulip bulb for all of the following items:



- 2 loads of wheat
- 4 oxen
- 4 barrels of beer
- 1,000 lbs. of cheese
- 4 loads of rye
- 8 pigs
- 2 casks of butter
- 1 silver mug
- 12 sheep
- 1 suit
- 2 barrels of wine
- 1 marriage bed with linens

Not to be outdone by this wild tale, there is a similar story about an equally absurd price. Another Dutchman bought 3 bulbs of the Semper Augustus variety of tulip for 30,000 guilders, which at that time was enough money to buy a grand house on a canal in the most prestigious section of Amsterdam. The price for 1 Semper Augustus bulb was 13,000 florins/guilders. To put this in proper perspective you must know that skilled workers in the 1630's were earning only 2.8 guilders per week. Even middle-class urban society got in on the act. Market speculation was the rage of the times. The total number of bulbs sold by merchants, who didn't even possess them, was more than actually existed.

In the mid-1630's new and cheaper varieties were developed. When these were marketed, prices fell drastically. Those high-priced bulbs now sold for only 5-15% of their original cost. Merchants went bankrupt. Many people lost fortunes. Finally in 1636 the Dutch government ended gambling in the tulip market with special regulations for the entire flower industry. Still, it took years for the economy to recover. By the end of the 1600's the tulip mania was replaced by that of the hyacinth. The Dutch flower trade did not reach its greatest importance until about 1776. The tulip, however, remained such a favorite that it became a symbol of the Netherlands.

Today all bulb flowers cover more than 54,000 acres of land in 2 main areas – south of Haarlem and north of a line between Alkmaar and Hoorn. In the south you can see acres of greenhouses where bulbs are cultivated all year long. Many however, are still planted outside on strips of land divided by canals. When in full bloom, the effect is like that of an enormous patchwork quilt of many colors. Shortly after blossoming, the stems are cut off mechanically in order to strengthen the bulb. Soon after this, the bulbs (about 10 billion bulbs per year or 80% of the world's production) are harvested and sold. New bulbs are planted in autumn.

There are more than 2000 varieties of tulips which bloom from about the end of March to the end of May in the Netherlands. From mid-April to mid-May is the best time to view the most bulb flowers in bloom (crocus, hyacinth, narcissus, lilies and tulips). On the 1st Saturday in April there are floral floats in a parade from Haarlem to Noordwijk. After the first round of bulbs are gone, the irises appear followed by gladioli in August. On the 1st Sat. in Sept. from 9 am. to 4 pm., another floral float procession takes place from Aalsmeer to Amsterdam.

For those of us who won't get to the Netherlands this Spring, there are Tulip Festivals here. The ones I know about include tulip sales of both bulbs and blooms, various Dutch souvenirs and crafts, Dutch Klompen (wooden shoes) sales and dances, Dutch foods, washing the streets, and in some places Draaiorgel music (Dutch street organ). Usually the mayor is present with other notables. There is a parade during which ladies in Dutch garb wash the streets with brooms. Men, also in costume, carry buckets of water and empty them ahead of the scrub team. The mayor gives a short speech and the dancing begins. In Clymer, N.Y. the scrub team and men pause along the parade route several times to dance and then proceed with more street washing. The festivities and procedures vary from place to place. In every case, a good time is had by all.

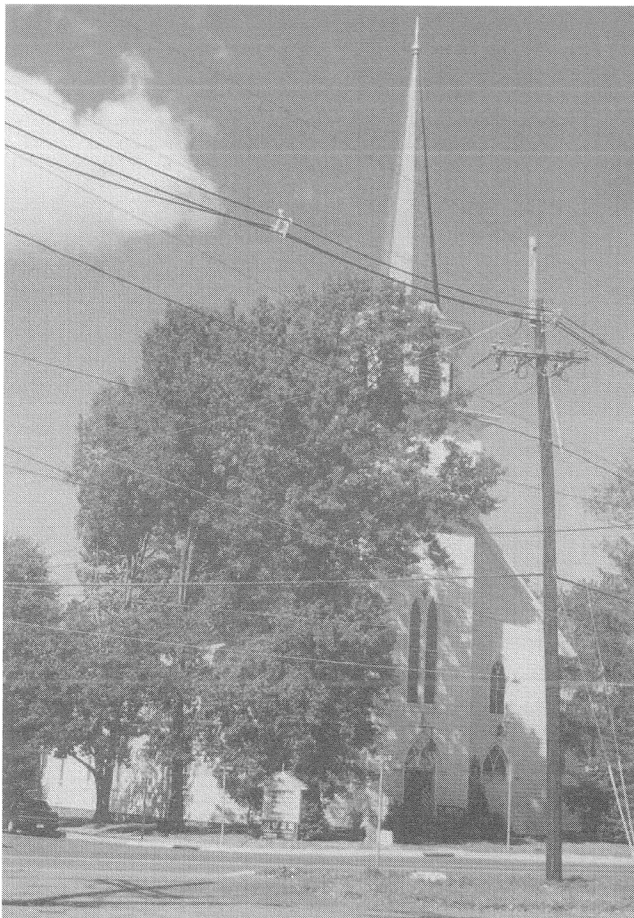
Here is a short list of 10 sites for Tulip Festivals. I suggest you look on the Internet (about 29,192 websites) for other locations and dates. You can also check local newspapers and the Chamber of Commerce in various towns.

1. Clymer, N.Y. (NW, near Pa. border) in mid-May (May 18, 2002)
2. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada – "Tulip Festival of Spring" in mid-May
3. Pella, Iowa – May 2nd to 4th, 2002
4. Hofstra Univ., Hempstead, N.Y.
5. Oak Harbor, Wash. — "Holland Happening" each April
6. Skagit Valley, Wash.
7. Holland, Mich.
8. Fulton, Ill.
9. Albany, N.Y.
10. Orange City, Iowa



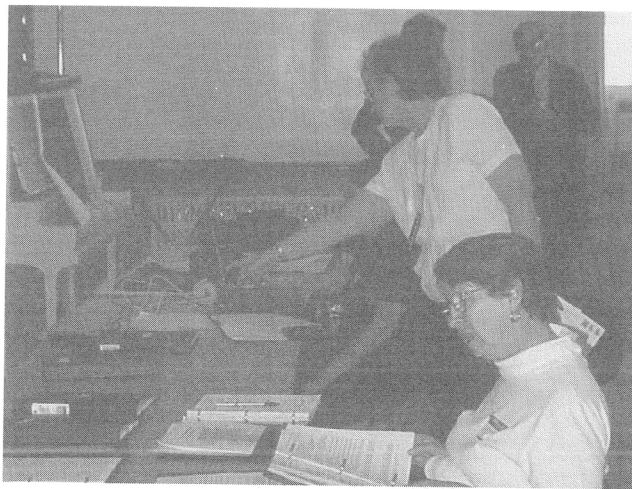
THE REUNION OF OCTOBER. 6, 2001

The Reunion was held at the Six Mile Run Reformed Church in Franklin Park, N.J. As usual David Voorhees had lined up an excellent program. Our thanks to Dr. Roy E. Voshall for this exterior photo.

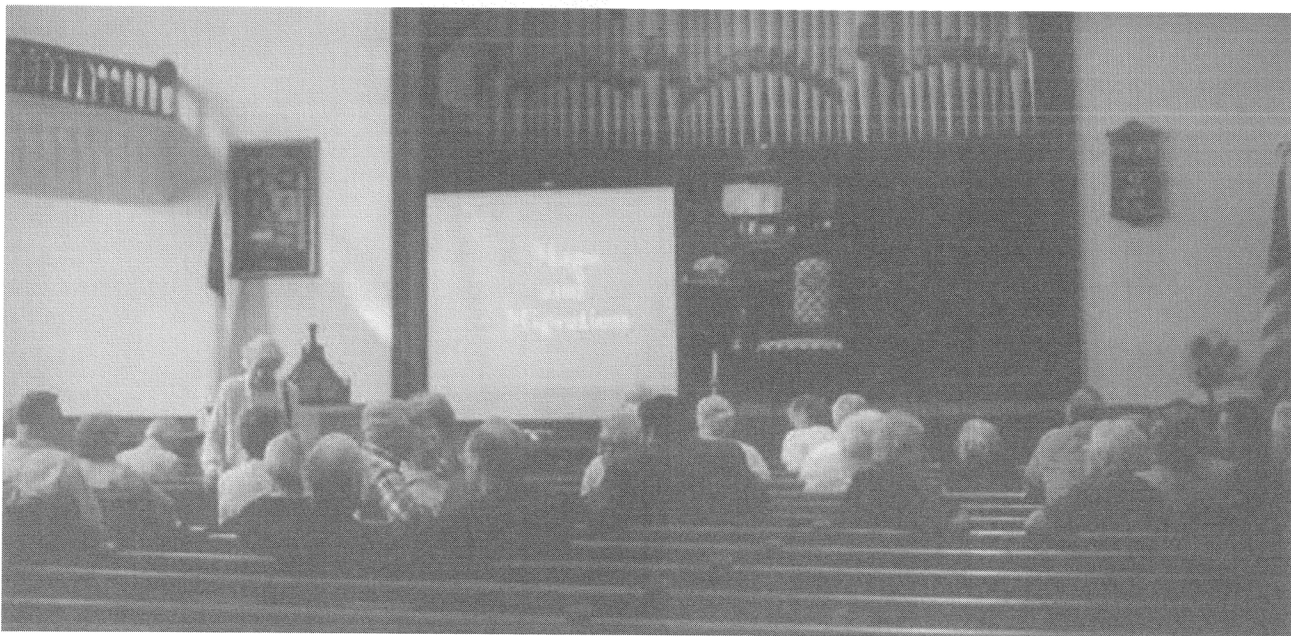


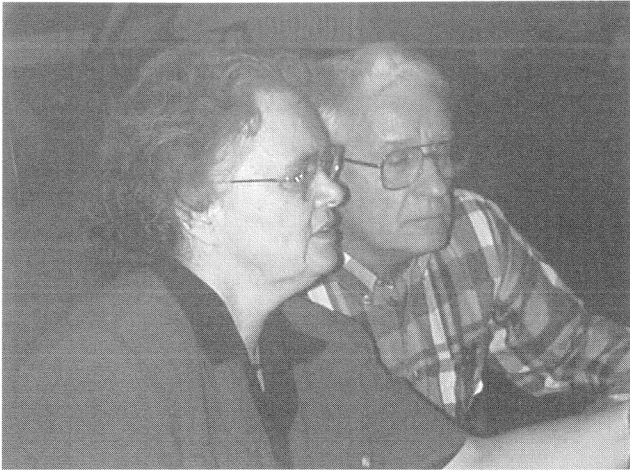
In addition to the talk by Mike Apgar (included in this issue), Florence Christoph presented a wonderful slide show with maps and portraits involved in the Van Voorhees migration westward from New York.

A big Thank-You to Dr. William R. Voorhees for all of the interior photos: Mike Apgar in his uniform (pg. 2), the 2 sanctuary pictures, Judith K. Van Voorhis with William H. Voorhees, the genealogy table, and Scott Voorhees presenting a gavel and plaque to Manning Voorhees.



Studying Genealogy was taken in the Church Hall, where we had lunch. In the foreground is an Unknown person. Behind her (arm outstretched & pointing) is Florence Christoph. Behind Florence's head is Mike Apgar. Dr. Roy E. Voshall, is next to the window.





Judith K. Van Voorhis and William H. Voorhees study computer files together in the Church Hall.



Scott Voorhees presents a gavel & plaque to Manning Voorhees in recognition of his many years of service to the Association.



Van Voorhees Association Annual Meeting -- Were you there?

ATTIC RECORDS AND PHOTOS

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

It's time to clean out your attic. Those old records and photos of the family are a priceless heritage for you and your generations to come. If you have some records and/or photos that you would like to share with us, we'd be pleased to receive them. However, please send us COPIES and not the originals! Also please include as much additional knowledge as you have about each. For example, participation in the military, occupation, special attributes, etc. I've been adding my childhood memories to a computer genealogy file. My grandchildren

love their copies. Even if your memories are not something usable in a book, your descendants will love your efforts.

Peter R. Christoph is still seeking readable Photocopies of old Voorhees diaries revealing the life and times of our ancestors in the 18th and 19th centuries. His address is:

Peter R. Christoph
181 Maple Ave.
Selkirk, N.Y. 12158



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VAN VOORHEES FAMILY IN AMERICA: THE FIRST SIX GENERATIONS

This genealogy guide, available now (see Book Order Form, #1), consolidates data with more than 1,029 pages, over 3,777 footnotes, a user's guide, surname and place index, bibliography, Van Voorhees and given-name index, appendix, illustrations, and information about the author (Florence A. Christoph, a certified genealogist and specialist in Dutch Colonial history). The Introduction is by Dr. David W. Voorhees, a professor of history at New York University and editor of *De Halve Maen*.

The next edition of this series will start where the first stopped and proceed through 6-8 more generations. It will also show dispersal routes via maps. I'm sure you will be excited about the second book. In the future there is hope that a third volume will bring us up to the present. This series is both unique and outstanding! I know of no other family with such extensive genealogical records. Now is the time to buy, because the supply is limited and there are no plans to print more copies.

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