



# VAN VOORHEES NIEUWSBRIEF

Volume 21, Number 1

SPRING/SUMMER 2003

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## ANNUAL REUNION 2003, Oct. 10th - 12th, 2003

In celebration of our October release of Volume II of the Van Voorhees Genealogy (available for purchase at the Meeting), we planned a special Annual Reunion for 2003!

Our meeting site will be the 350-year-old city of Kingston, New York founded by the Dutch in 1652. Kingston boasts Dutch art, Dutch houses, Dutch doors and the original settlement where the Esopus (local native Indians) and the Dutch traded. Peter Stuyvesant walked here. Henry Hudson sailed here on the Half Moon.

We invite you to visit [www.iloveny.com](http://www.iloveny.com) (and its numerous links) to find out more about this historic area. This will help you plan a long weekend and make some family connections as well!

**Date:** Columbus Day weekend - October 10th to 12th, 2003

**Site:** Historic Kingston, New York on the scenic Hudson River

### Sketch of the Reunion Schedule (more details in the Fall issue)

**Friday:** A block of rooms is reserved for Friday and Saturday nights at the Ramada Inn (845-339-3900) conveniently located near downtown Kingston. Rates are \$95.00 per night + tax. Other arrangements may be made independently. Optional Dinner (about 6 p.m.) at Hillside Manor where Peter Christoph will present an historic talk.

Oct 10

2862691 Hoffman House  
Exit 19 Virginia Bradley  
845-338-2626

**Saturday:** at the Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall St.

9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.: Registration

Presentation of the newly published Vol. II of Van Voorhees generations 6 & 7 with Florence Christoph, our family genealogist, who is available for autographing your copy.

Computers are also available for genealogical database searches.

Sale of items & books

Optional walking tour of historic downtown Kingston including the Old Dutch Church.

11 a.m. - 12 noon: Annual Business Meeting, followed by keynote speaker

12:15 p.m.: Luncheon

1:30 p.m.: Genealogical workshop resumes.

Proceed to Roundout Waterfront for 2 Options:

1. Visit the Hudson River Maritime Museum and also take a
2. Boat Tour of the Hudson River on which you'll see many historic points.

6:00 p.m.: Optional dinner with "cousins" at the Ramada Inn.

**Sunday (Optional):** All are invited to attend morning church service at the Old Dutch Church.

**Reservation Form:** This form with a separate price for each option will be in the Fall *Nieuwsbrief*.

For more information, contact Patricia Zander at 845-226-6994.

### FEATURE ARTICLES

Volume II of our Genealogy.....	Pages 2 and 17
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**Vol. II of our NEW GENEALOGY,  
Includes 7th & 8th Generations +  
Listings for the 9th Generation**

**AVAILABLE on OCT. 11, 2003**

*by Florence Christoph*

The 7th and 8th generations will cover the period from 1775 to 1870, which represents the period from the beginning of the Revolution to after the end of the Civil War. The children in the 9th generation will be listed, many of whom lived into the 20th century. An appendix will include updates to the first 6 generations and also unknowns for the period from 1775-1870, for whom we have at least 2 generations of descendants.

With the end of the Revolution, the western borders of the United States opened up and advanced with each following decade. By the end of the Civil War, there were Voorhees families in nearly every territory that now represents the Lower 48 and Alaska. Voorhees descendants had traveled west in search of new lands, god and adventure. Their story is the story of the settlement of our country. They were farmers, merchants, doctors, lawyers, ministers, blacksmiths, teachers, musicians, innkeepers, etc.

Since the publication of the first 6 generations, we have received information from many new correspondents which has added significantly to our knowledge. Nearly 4000 names have been added to our data base which now contains over 78,000 names representing 63,000 people in 14 generations. This includes spouses and in-laws. Many members of the Association have sent extensive material on their branches of the family. Others have helped us with research throughout the USA. Records of Voorhees families found in the federal census records from 1850-1900 have been examined.

This new publication will include the grandparents or great-grandparents of many living members of the Voorhees family. A Book Order Form is on another page in this issue.



### **VOORHEES THE HATTER**

The following is quoted from an article by Donna Murray Allen in Family Chronicle, July/August 2002, p. 48, copyright by Moorshead Magazines, Ltd., Toronto ON, Canada.

*"Voorhees, the hatter, has now the best stock of furs, hats and caps ever brought into the city. He has on sale the Stetson hat, the finest manufactured. Call and put one on, and you will not go away without it."*

The quoted piece is from a 19th Century local newspaper. Ms. Murray's article advised readers to find and search through old newspapers for family and genealogical information. Her point is well made. It appears that the area is Portland ME and surrounding area. Does anyone know who Voorhees the Hatter was? -- MWV



### **WELKOM VERWANTEN! (WELCOME, COUSINS!)**

We are listing the new members by state; because we hope that, when possible, the old members will be able to welcome them at the local level.

#### **Regular Members:**

Sandra K. Simmons - Mesa, Ariz.  
Marlyce Chastain - Lawndale, Calif.  
Pamela Lynn Haston - Kennesaw, Ga.  
James B. Knapp, Jr. - Savannah, Ga.  
Diane J. Williamson - Belvidere, Ill.  
Richard Dale Baker, Jr. - Indianapolis, Ind.  
Harry Fielding Vories - Louisville, Ky.  
Marjorie P. Bucklew - Alexandria, La.  
Elizabeth Beasley Ingrish - Alexandria, La.  
Yvonne Owens Hatch - Las Vegas, Nev.  
Jeanette B. Heath - Oswego, N.Y.  
Teresa Archer - Canton, Ohio  
Richard M. Anderson - Phila., Pa.  
Keith W. Van Voorhis - Malakoff, Texas  
Theodore Wm. Bayler - Alexandria, Va.  
Col. James Robert Rowland - Birle, Va.

#### **Sustaining Members:**

Gary James Vorous - San Diego, Calif.  
Nancy Carol Hanson - Mankoto, Kansas  
DeForest Barkley Voorhees, Jr. - Carlisle, Pa.

#### **Contributing Members:**

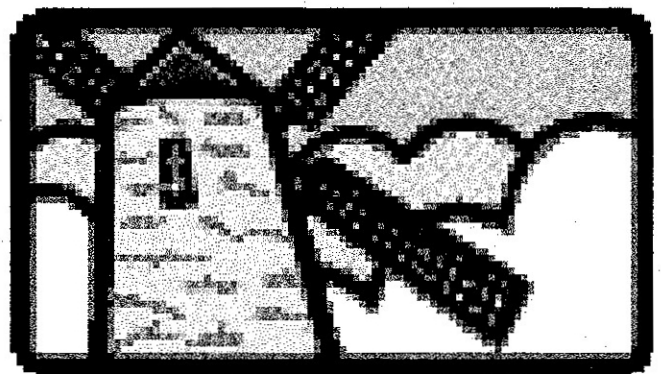
Richard L. Gilbertson - Elkton, Fla.  
Russell O. White - Rock Island, Ill.  
Susan Goodman - Chevy Chase, Md.  
Richard C. Hillenbrand - Syracuse, N.Y.

#### **Life Members:**

India Van Voorhees Penney - Burbank, Calif.

#### **Upgraded Life Members:**

William H. Voorhees - Dunedin, Fla.  
Terry L. Vorees - Adrian, Mich.  
David R. Voorhees - Hopewell, N.J.



# History of Montgomery Co., New York and the Mohawk Valley, Including a Number of Voorhees Families

Montgomery Co., New York, organized in 1772 as Tryon County, in 1784 was changed in name to honor the famed Revolutionary general, Richard Montgomery. Tryon Co., when formed, included all of New York State west of Albany-12,000 square miles. Divided and sub-divided in setting up more than 30 counties, Montgomery Co. today is 409 square miles. Montgomery Co.'s boundaries have remained the same since 1838 when Fulton Co. (immediately to the north) separated over a dispute about the location of the county seat. Montgomery Co., bounded on the south by Schoharie Co. and on the west by Herkimer Co., is divided into 10 towns (Fig. 1). The Mohawk River flows west to east through the entire northern section of Montgomery Co. and continues easterly through Schenectady in Schenectady Co. and reaches the Hudson River near Cohoes, just north of Albany in Albany County. The eastern border of Montgomery Co. is about 22 miles from the Hudson River.

William Tryon (1729-1788) was British governor of

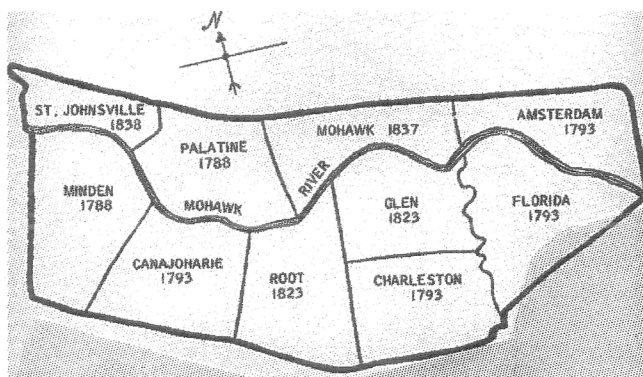


Fig. 1 Towns of Montgomery Co.

New York State prior to the Revolutionary war. He had been the British governor of North Carolina in the late 1760's. Richard Montgomery (1738-1775) was a former British officer who became an American General. He was killed leading a valiant and ill-fated charge of American Forces in effort to capture Quebec on New Year's Eve 1775. American war leaders had hoped to capture Canada to bring them into the Revolutionary War against the British. New York was the 4th of 17 states that named a county after Richard Montgomery. Montgomery's body was not returned from Canada for 43 years after the Revolution and it now rests in St. Paul's Churchyard, New York City. In recognition of his services, Congress ordered a memorial stone within a few months of his death and had it inscribed in Paris under the direction of Benjamin Franklin.

I am indebted to a number of people in preparation of this article. First, my great aunt, Lesley Elanora Voorhees (1870-1970), kindled my interest in history and genealogy. Flo Christoph has said that she got an enormous amount of genealogy information on the Voorhees family from Aunt Lesley -- almost as much as from Oscar Voorhees. Lesley E.

Voorhees was born and died in Baldwinsville, Town of Lysander, Onondaga Co., NY. She was a pioneering graduate of Belmont Hospital School of Nursing (New York City) in the 1890's (Fig. 2). She did not find nursing to her liking and spent 20 years (1900-1920) working for the US Bureau of Census in Washington, DC. She retired to Baldwinsville in 1920 and, having never married, spent 50 years working on genealogy. Secondly, I want to thank Flo Christoph, Van Voorhees Association genealogist, for her assistance in preparing this article. Flo is very patient with and helpful to rookie genealogists such as myself. Thirdly, a number of historians have spent many hours recording and writing about Montgomery Co. and an article such as this could not be written without the availability of their material. They include



particularly Hugh P. Donlon, Katherine M. Strobeck, Washington Frothingham, and Nelson Greene. Finally, two organizations in Montgomery Co. are extremely helpful and capable. These are Montgomery Co. Dept. of History and Archives (Kelly Y. Yacobucci Farquhar, County Historian) located in the old court house (1836) in Fonda, Town of Mohawk; and the Montgomery Co. Historical

Fig. 2 Lesley E. Voorhees

Society (Alessa Wylie, Director) located at Fort Johnson, Town of Amsterdam.

Interestingly, all of the prominent Voorhees in Montgomery Co., New York are descendants of Hendrick Voorhees (1696-1765). Hendrick moved about 1719, near the time of his first marriage to Jannetje Andriese VanArsdale, from Flatlands, Kings Co., New York to near Freehold, Topanemus, Monmouth Co., NJ. I am defining prominent as meaning all of the Voorhees in the 1880 US Census of Montgomery Co. and all of the Voorhees in the more important cemeteries in Montgomery Co. Hendrick and Jannetje were members of the Marlboro Dutch Reform Church. Topanemus was the name applied in early history of Monmouth Co., New Jersey to a locality originally situated in Freehold Township, but now in the Town of Marlboro. The name is perpetuated by its application to an old graveyard situated on a nearby farm and to Topanemus Lake. Hendrick purchased 250 acres of land described as situated at Topanemus and beginning at the south corner of William Laing's fenced field in the rear of the Wickatuck lots. Spottswood Brook is named as one of its boundaries. Hendrick and Jannetje had 9 children. In 1737 Hendrick married his 2nd wife, Sarah Schenck (1696-1766), and they had 6 children. In 1721 Sarah Schenck had married her 1st husband, Johannes Van Voorhees of New Brunswick, Middlesex Co., New Jersey and they had 7 children. Hen-

*continued on page 4*

drick and Sarah's household with 22 possible children must have been a busy one. Hendrick and Sarah's daughter Jane Voorhees (1735-1813) married Gerret VanDerveer (1731-1803). It was on their 1500 acre farm that the British camped during the Revolutionary War Battle of Monmouth. When the British left they burned the buildings and filled the well with rocks. More on Hendrick's descendants who went to Montgomery Co., New York later in this article.

The Hudson River valley and the Mohawk River valley form a transportation corridor that drives the history of the whole area. The 550-foot elevation difference between Albany and Buffalo makes it the easiest route west between Georgia and Maine. In 1609 Henry Hudson sailed the Hudson River in the Half Moon getting as far north as Fort Orange, later called Albany. Fort Orange was established as a Dutch trading post in 1624. (The French began settlement of Canada in 1603.) Schenectady was established as a Dutch trading post in 1649. Six distinct and powerful Indian tribes, who had united and formed a confederacy, inhabited the greater portion of what is now New York State when first visited by Europeans. These tribes were the Mohawks (the eastern most tribe in Montgomery Co., NY.), Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, Senecas, and the Tuscaroras. This tribal confederacy was called by the English the "Six Nations" and by the French, the "Iroquois." The Algonquin Indians lived in Canada. The last Indian battle in the Mohawk Valley found the Mohawks challenged by the Mohicans (an Algonquin-language tribe) who had occupied the valley before being driven out by the Iroquois about 1600. The invaders from New England attacked the Mohawks at Caughnawaga (now Fonda) but were driven off with heavy losses.

The first settlement on the south side of the Mohawk River (in what is now the Town of Florida in Montgomery Co.) was made in 1738 by William Johnson (1715-1774) who at the age of 23 came to manage the estate of his uncle, Sir Peter Warren, Admiral of the British Navy. By this time homes dotted the valley to the west and the Johnson Trading Post, that served both white man and Redskin, received patronage from travelers along the valley. Johnson grew in wealth and in stature with the Iroquois. He later was named the British superintendent of Indian affairs for the colonies. He almost single handedly kept the Iroquois on the British side through the Revolutionary War. He built Fort Johnson (west of Amsterdam) in 1749 and Johnson Hall in Johnstown in 1762, and was by far the wealthiest man in upstate NY.

For 150 years the Mohawk Valley was a dangerous place to live, The English and Iroquois were fighting the French and Algonquin. (Both the English and the French offered the Indians bounties for scalps.) Later, over 1/3 of all the battles of the Revolutionary War were fought in New York state. This partially slowed migration to Montgomery Co. The German Palatines began arriving in 1712 and the Dutch pushed west from Albany and Schenectady. In the 1700's German was the most commonly spoken language; however, the traders needed to know Dutch and Iroquois to conduct busi-

ness. The French lost their possessions in North America with the Treaty of Paris in 1763. After the Revolutionary War ended in 1783, migration to Montgomery Co. and the Mohawk Valley began in earnest. New York became the 11th state in 1788.

The National Shrine of the North American Martyrs is located at Auriesville, Town of Glen, Montgomery Co., NY. The large shrine grounds include a hotel and a 6500-seat coliseum. The shrine is the site of the Mohawk castle and village, where America's first and only canonized martyrs, St. Rene Goupil (1642) and two others were tortured and tomahawked to death.

The Mohawk River Valley is probably the nation's greatest and most famous transportation corridor. Starting about 1790 turnpikes were built including the Mohawk & Hudson Turnpike from Albany to Schenectady and the Old Mohawk Turnpike from Schenectady to Rome, NY. Tollgates were every 10 miles and taverns were at least every mile. Between 1817 and 1825 the 363-mile long Erie Canal was built from the Hudson River to Buffalo, NY. With 83 locks, 18 aqueducts, and nearly 300 bridges, the Erie Canal was, from the beginning, a booming success. The westward expansion of the United States' boundaries plus political and economic events in Europe (that contributed to the American immigration explosion) played a vital role in the Erie Canal's success. As raw materials and agricultural products from new settlements moved eastward, finished goods and newcomers traveled westward on the canal. New York City (replacing Philadelphia) became the young nation's major port as the flow of traffic traveled up and down the Hudson River. Robert Fulton (1765-1815) successfully demonstrated the steamboat in 1807 when his "Clermont" sailed from New York to Albany and back in 35 hours. By 1835, cross-state travel time was reduced from 4-6 weeks to 6 days, and freight costs fell from \$100 per ton to \$5 per ton. Cities and towns sprang up to service this commerce, and populations of the principle cities along the route doubled and tripled from 1830-1850. The first railroad in New York State, the Mohawk and Hudson Railroad, was built in 1830-31 between Albany and Schenectady (17 miles) to avoid the day-long, 23-lock Erie Canal packet-boat ride from Schenectady to the Hudson River. The first locomotive on this line was the famous "DeWitt Clinton". The first train of the Schenectady & Utica Railroad ran in 1836; in 1853 it was part of the New York Central Railroad.

As industry grew, Amsterdam became the largest city in Montgomery Co. with typically 40% of the county's population. Industry in Amsterdam produced a wide range of products including linseed oil, paper, coffins, soap, wringers, malt, buttons, and carriage springs. Amsterdam became especially known for brooms (at least 12 plants), knit underwear (3rd in production behind Philadelphia and Cohoes, NY.), and carpets. Mohawk and Sanford carpet mills got their start here and grew into very large companies. Amsterdam was the 3rd largest carpet-producing city in the United States behind Philadelphia and New York City.

Some famous people are associated with the Mont-

gomery Co. area. Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902) was born in Johnstown, NY. (Her father, Daniel Cady, began his practice of law in 1795 in the Town of Florida, Montgomery Co. before moving to Johnstown.) Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) was born in Adams, Massachusetts and in 1846 became headmistress of the Female Department at Canajoharie Academy, Montgomery Co., NY. Susan first met Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1851. Issur Danielovitch (1916-) was born in Amsterdam on Eagle St. just several blocks from Voorhees St. He later changed his name to Kirk Douglas. Henry Fonda (1905-1982) was born in Nebraska but his ancestors came from Fonda, Town of Mohawk, Montgomery Co., NY. Both Jane Fonda and Peter Fonda have visited the Archives at Fonda to do family research. Henry J. Kaiser (1882-1967) was born in Sprout Brook, Town of Canajoharie, Montgomery Co., NY. George Westinghouse (1846-1914) was born in Central Bridge, Schoharie Co., New York (several miles south of Montgomery Co.).

Andreas Voorhees (1730-aft.1790) was the first of Hendrick's sons to arrive in Montgomery Co. (Town of Mohawk) between 1762 and 1765. He was the only son to arrive before the Revolutionary War. He and his descendants were farmers and lived primarily in Florida and Glen. His son Garret (1761-1831) had a son, John H. Voorhees (1797-1867) who had a son, Nelson Voorhees (1818-1882) who was a famous Union Army scout during the Civil War. The Confederates put a price on his head, dead or alive. John H. Voorhees also had a son, Spencer J. Voorhees (1824-1895) who purchased a farm on route 30A (south of Glen Village). This farm was in the family for 3 generations--Edward Garret Voorhees (1856-1929), Jasper Hogan Voorhees (1897-1990)--before it was sold out of the family and the house razed (much to the dismay of local history buffs). Edward Garret's son, Foster Hewitt Voorhees (1891-1956), moved out of the homestead farm in 1936 and purchased a farm at Sand Flats, Town of Mohawk, Montgomery Co., NY. This farm, sold out of the family in the 1950's, was on the Montgomery Co. Fulton Co. line--the house was in Montgomery Co. and the barn was in Fulton Co. Andreas had a son, Hendrick (1768-1827) who had a son, Abram (1814-1889) who had a son, Albert (1843-1864) who served in the Civil War and was killed at the Battle of the Wilderness.

A second Hendrick son, Garret Voorhees (1748-unknown), came to the Town of Glen, Montgomery Co. soon after the Revolutionary War. Garret's son, Henry G. Voorhees (1772-1854) had a son, Alonzo B. Voorhees (1821-1893). Alonzo was educated at Cherry Valley Academy, Hartwick Seminary, and studied law at Lawyersville, Schoharie Co., NY. He was admitted to the bar in 1848. In 1868 he was living in New Scotland, a railroad crossroads southwest of Albany in Albany Co., NY. He applied for a post office for the town and renamed the town Voorheesville after himself. The town has been Voorheesville ever since. Henry G. had two other sons, Aden Voorhees (1805-1883) and Rulif Voorhees (1807-after 1880), both of whom migrated to Town of Oppenheim,

Fulton Co., New York and purchased farms. Voorhees Road in Oppenheim is named after them. This line had a Voorhees reunion in summer 2002 attended by 35 family members. Garret had a son, Peter (1784-1831) who had a son, Aden (1825-1880) who served in Company K, 1st New York Artillery in the Civil War.

Two other sons of Hendrick, Roelof Voorhees (1742-1799) and Henry Voorhees (1740-1827), in 1770 purchased a 257-acre farm on the South Branch of Rancocas Creek near the Village of Lumberton, Northampton Twp. (after 1860 Lumberton Twp.), Burlington County, NJ. This farm was divided approximately in half with Henry taking the eastern portion and Roelof taking the western portion, which bordered the creek. This was their home for many years. Each had 6 children, all born here. Both brothers served as Revolutionary War soldiers in the Monmouth Co. militia. Roelof died here and is buried along with his daughter, Sarah Voorhees (1782-1796) in the Old Methodist Church burying grounds just across the creek from his farm. At least two of Roelof's children moved to Montgomery Co., NY. John Rulif Voorhees (1773-1852) later went further west and located in Onondaga Co., NY.; but David (1771-1840) remained in Montgomery Co., where he died and was buried in the Charleston Baptist Church Cemetery at Rider's Corners. Near him is buried Rebecca Pease (after 1743-1835) his mother and the wife of Roelof Voorhees, who had come to Montgomery Co. to live with her son in her old age. David had 11 children, many of them remaining in Montgomery Co.

In 1788, Henry Voorhees (1740-1827) purchased 200 acres of land in the Town of Charleston (today Glen), Montgomery Co., NY. (The Town of Glen was formed from Charleston in 1823.) In 1763 Henry had married Jean Lesley (1735-1811) from Philadelphia but born in Fergie, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. This initiated a family friendship between the Voorhees and the Lesleys that lasted several generations. Both Henry and his wife along with a daughter-in-law, Ann Woolston (1761-1796), are buried in Glen Village Cemetery, Glen, Montgomery Co., NY. About 1795, Henry

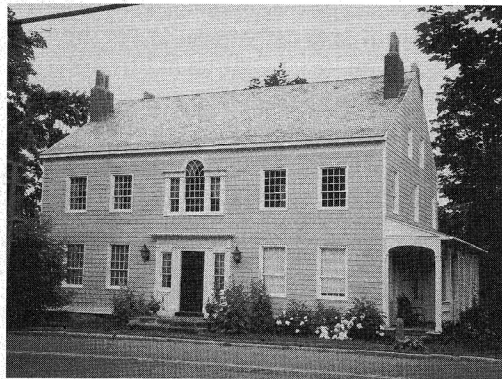


Fig. 3 Voorhees Tavern c. 1776-1796  
Glen, Montgomery Co., NY.

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and his son, Peter Voorhees (1764-1816), were prime movers in building the first Dutch Reform Church in Glen Village. Peter did not take to farming and about 1796 he built a large tavern in Glen Village, which is still there today (Fig. 3). Recently the Hamlet of Glen including the tavern was declared a Historic District and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. From about 1800 into the 1860's Glen Village was known as Voorheesville after Peter Voorhees

moved to Onondaga Co., New York (northwest of Syracuse) in 1813. It is hard to understand what motivated him to move unless it was sheer opportunity for himself and his son. In 1816 Peter was chosen to serve as supervisor of the Town of Lysander, but he died suddenly and did not live to fill the office. His son, James Leslie (Fig. 5), went on to become a very successful lumberman--at one point he owned over 3000 acres of timberland and the Voorhees House on Clinton Square in downtown Syracuse. His home (built circa 1833 in Plainville, Town of Lysander, Onondaga Co., and NY.) is on the National Historic Registry.

Henry Voorhees' homestead farm near Logtown was handed down to his son, James Voorhees (1776-1838), and in turn to his son, Henry Veghte Voorhees (1801-1862). A bull killed Henry Veghte in his own barn. The farm was soon sold out of the family. Henry Veghte's son, John Henry Voorhees (1832-1912), was in the lumber business and served as a Colonel in the 26th New York Regiment in the Civil War. Henry's daughter, Ann Voorhees (1774-1841), married William I. Printup (1766-1842), a farmer who in his day was reported to be the wealthiest man in Montgomery Co. They are buried in the Printup Cemetery on private property that is not well

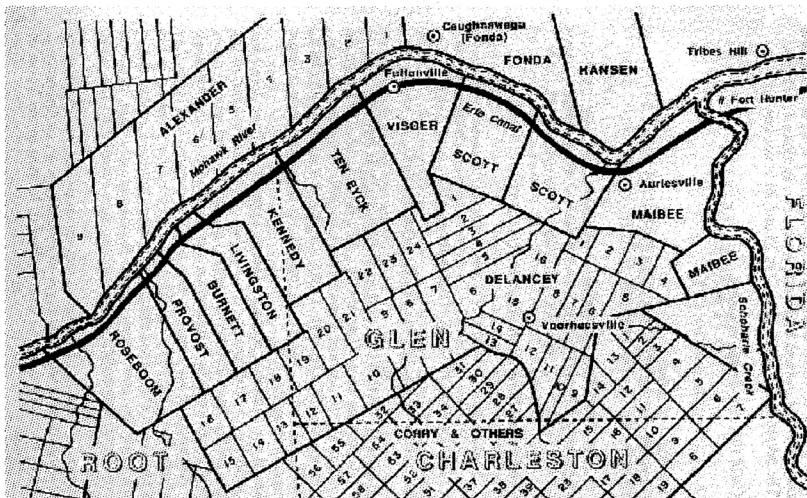


Fig.4 Portion of Montgomery Co. showing the location of patents granted by the Crown before the Revolution and the village of Voorheesville (after 1860 named Glen)

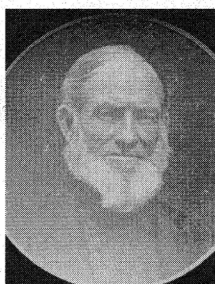


Fig. 5 Colonel James L. Voorhees (1794-1865)

maintained. Henry's son, John Henry Voorhees (1772-1848), owned a farm (Fig. 6) on Schoharie Creek at Mill Point, Town of Florida, Montgomery Co., and NY. John Henry's farm was handed down to his son, William Voorhees (1812-1888), and in turn to his son, John Henry Voorhees (1840-1919) who had no children. The current owner, John Leonard, is working to turn the original brick farmhouse, circa 1810, into a bed and breakfast. More on the John Henry line later.

(Fig. 4).

Also a contractor and builder, Peter built many of the houses in the Voorheesville area. He was a member of the New York Legislature during the 22nd Session, 1798-99, and a member of St. Patrick's Lodge, No. 4 in Johnstown, NY., which was founded in 1766 by Sir William Johnson, who was its first Master. Peter was a Master Mason. Peter with his 2nd wife, Sally, and his son, James Leslie Voorhees (1794-1865)

Peter Voorhees (1764-1816) had 5 children. Samuel Lesley Voorhees (1787-1870) married Elizabeth ("Betsey") Reynolds (1790-1858). He graduated from Union College in Schenectady in 1808 and became a very successful doctor and landowner in Amsterdam. In 1820 they purchased the Roseboom mansion in Amsterdam (built 1790). This home was in the Voorhees family for over 90 years. It was torn down to make way for urban renewal. He served as a surgeon



Fig.6 John Henry Voorhees (1772-1848) Farm today. Far left is the original brick farm house c. 1810

in the war of 1812. Voorhees St. in Amsterdam is named after him. Betsey Reynolds produced award winning needlework and artwork. She attended Sarah Pierce's Female Academy in Litchfield, CT. She was an ardent Federalist. She corresponded with Henry Clay (1777-1852) and she knit many pairs of stockings from the flax which Henry Clay sent her from his farm in Kentucky. A collection of her work is on display at the Fort Johnson Museum. Also on display at Fort Johnson is Dr. Samuel Voorhees' log book (about 1815-1835) and Washington Benevolent Society Documentation for the Charlestown, Montgomery Co. Branch (James Leslie Voorhees was President; Samuel Voorhees was Secretary; and Peter Voorhees member No. 2.) The Washington Benevolent Society was a political party-like organization mostly in the northeastern United States to promote the Federalist Party. Also on display at Fort Johnson is an impressive Erie Canal packet-boat model with the name Femmetje (Phoebe) Voorhees; but the origin of this model is unknown. Dr Samuel Voorhees and Betsey (Fig. 7) had 4 sons. (1) Marcus Tully Voorhees (1812-1844) died and is buried in Pueblo, Mexico. (2) James Leslie Voorhees (1815-1891) graduated from Union College in 1835 and was a lawyer in Amsterdam. He was always interested in politics and, when Henry Clay ran for President on the Whig ticket in 1844, he stumped

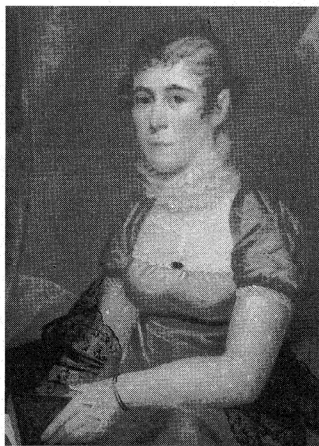


Fig. 7 Betsey R. Voorhees wife of Dr Samuel L. Voorhees

New York State on his behalf. (3) Stephen Reynolds Voorhees (1818-1901) graduated from a Canadian College and entered the drug business. When he was a young man of only 24 years, he took a trip down the Hudson River and contracted a cold. Inflammation in his eyes set in and destroyed his eyesight; and for 59 years he was blind. (4) George Maxwell Voorhees (1826-1909) owned several farms and was a lumberman. Voorhees Road in Town of Perth, Fulton Co., New York is named after him. He fought in the Civil War and was commissioned Captain of Company D, 93rd New York State volunteers. During the Civil War Peninsular Campaign he rescued a table from a fire, which destroyed the "White House" near Williamsburg, VA. The table had belonged to Mrs. Martha Dandridge Curtis who married George Washington (1732-1799) on Jan 6, 1759. In 1912 the table was presented by Josephine Voorhees, daughter of George Maxwell Voorhees, to the Washington, DC. DAR with this inscription: "George and Martha Washington ate their bridal supper in the 'White House' Kent Co., Virginia on this table."

Peter Voorhees' daughter Sarah (1789-1841) married Daniel Cuck (1780-1829). Daniel Cuck was a physician and an early settler of Currytown, Town of Root, Montgomery Co., NY. He was President of the Montgomery Co. Medical

Society in 1814 and the first Post-Master of Root. A portrait of him, painted by H.W. Austin (of Oak Park, IL.), is now in the possession of Judge Richard Leslie Voorhees of Gastonia, NC. Peter's daughter Harriet Voorhees (1793-1854) married Samuel Henry (about 1793-1841) and moved to Weedsport, Cayuga Co., NY. Peter's son, Henry Peter Voorhees (1791-1863), went to work in his father's store next to the tavern at age 11 and was age 22 when his father went to Onondaga Co. Henry Peter (Fig. 8) stayed behind and lived with his uncle, John Henry Voorhees (1772-1848), at Mill Point on Schoharie Creek. Here he successfully ran a store. When the Erie Canal opened in 1825, Henry Peter moved to Fultonville, Town of Glen, Montgomery Co. and became a successful merchant dealing with Erie Canal traffic. In 1827 he



Fig. 8 Peter Henry Voorhees (1791-1863)

built a mansion near the canal in Fultonville, which became known as Voorhees Place. Voorhees Place no longer stands. Henry Peter's daughter, Jane Lesley Voorhees (1822-1881), married Dr. Allen Voorhees Lesley (1816-1874) of Philadelphia. Note that her middle name was Lesley and his middle name was Voorhees: they were 2nd cousins, once removed. They lived in Fultonville for several years after they were married in 1844; but they eventually settled in New Castle, Delaware where in 1855 they

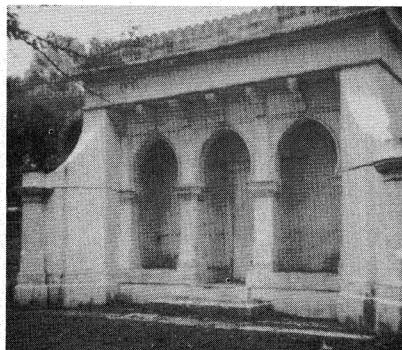


Fig. 9 Voorhees-Lesley mausoleum built by Henry Peter Voorhees (1891-1863) at Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA.

built a mansion, which today is a bed and breakfast. When Henry Peter Voorhees retired in 1856, he and his wife Jane Conover (1791-1874) and daughter, Harriet Voorhees (about 1818-1870), moved to New Castle to live with his daughter and son-in-law (who had no children). Henry Peter Voorhees built a mausoleum at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia (Fig. 9), where he and his family are buried along with a number of Lesley's relatives (16 people in all). Lewis Jackson Bennett (1833-1925) was a young merchant in Fultonville when Henry Peter was in the prime of his career. Bennett moved to Buffalo, New York and became a very successful businessman. He laid out a development in the Buffalo suburbs and named a number of streets after Montgomery Co. people. Voorhees

continued on page 8

Avenue in Buffalo is named after Henry Peter Voorhees.

John Henry Voorhees (1772-1848), mentioned above, had 10 children. His son, Henry Voorhees (1800-1887), had a 112-acre farm in Currytown, Town of Root, Montgomery Co., NY. He started the large stone house (Fig. 10), which stands on this property and his son, Daniel Lesley Voorhees (1832-1897) who never married, finished it. Daniel Lesley served in Company F, 2nd New York in the Civil War. After Daniel's death the home was occupied by 3 unmarried daughters of Henry- Margaret Voorhees (1830-1910),

Anna Eliza Voorhees (1837-1909), and Mary Voorhees (1840-1911). After 1911 the farm was sold out of the family. Henry's son, James Voorhees (1835-1919), served in the Civil War and moved to California.

John Henry's son, Alexander (1802-1851), was a merchant in Montgomery Co. His son, Barnard Leslie Voorhees (1827-1865), was killed in the Civil War. John Henry's son, James Voorhees (1803-1895), was a farmer, lawyer, and judge. He owned property in Onondaga Co. and Montgomery Co. He

never married and lived near Rochester, NY. John Henry's son, John Leslie Voorhees (1806-1888), became a very successful farmer. He

Fig. 10 Stone House Farm built c. mid-1800's by Henry Voorhees (1800-1887) at Currytown Root, Montgomery Co. NY.

married Catherine Ann Enders (1810-1887). They lived at the old John Enders homestead (no longer there) on Queen Ann St. in Fort Hunter, Town of Florida, Montgomery Co., NY. This farm had been in her family since 1758. He served as President of Farmer's Bank in Amsterdam (now law offices). John Leslie, his wife, and 3 of his children are buried in Fairview Cemetery in Amsterdam. The Voorhees-Enders memorial stone (Fig. 11) in Fairview Cemetery is the most impressive of all the Voorhees stones in Montgomery Co. John Leslie's son, John Enders Voorhees (1836-1889), was President of Greene Knitting Co., President of Farmer's National Bank, and President of Edison Light and Power Co. in Amsterdam. He was a very active Mason. John Leslie's son, James Voorhees (1848-1927) had a son, Enders McClumpha Voorhees (1892-1980) who became Chairman of the Finance Committee of US Steel Corp. One of their Ore carriers sailing the Great Lakes was named after him. John Henry's son, William (1812-1888), was a farmer. His son, John Henry Voorhees (1840-1919), married Catherine Elizabeth Enders (1841-1900).

John Henry Voorhees' son, Isaac Newton Voorhees (1810-1897), married Maria Enders (1818-1903). Isaac New-

ton was a farmer and a man of substance. He owned Round Barn Farm on Round Barn Road in the Town of Glen. The house he built soon after his marriage in 1840 is still there. The farm passed to his son, William Henry Voorhees (1854-1904). William Henry built his own home (still standing) about the time of his marriage in 1881. He built the round barn in 1895. When it burned down, it was replaced with a cement-block round barn which is still there. William Henry

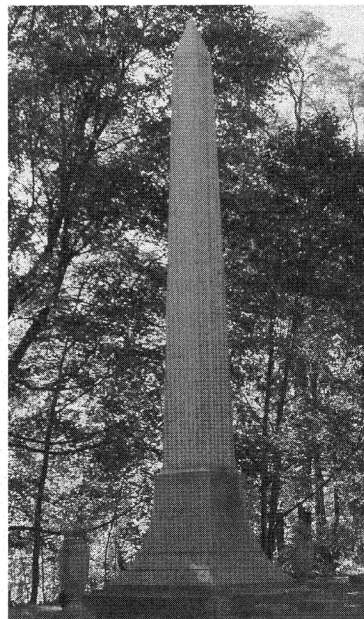


Fig. 11 Voorhees-Enders memorial stone, Fairfield Cemetery, Amsterdam, Montgomery Co., NY. More than 15 Voorhees and Enders are buried here, including John Leslie Voorhees (1806-1888).

passed the farm on to his son, Schuyler Glen Voorhees (1887-1967). Schuyler Glen graduated from Heidelberg College in Tiffin, OH. After teaching a few years in Ohio he returned to Montgomery Co. to run Round Barn Farm. In 1921 he purchased Knickerbocker Farm (Fig. 12) just across the Mohawk River from Amsterdam. His Round Barn Dairy supplied much of the milk and cream for Amsterdam.

Montgomery Co., New York is rich in history. The county has many beautiful and interesting places to see, and the people are friendly. More than half of the county is still farmland. I have thoroughly enjoyed my visits to Montgomery Co.

to do research for this article. I would encourage others to visit. Voorhees families have been part of this county for more than 200 years and, along with many others, have made Montgomery Co. the success it is today



Fig. 12 Knickerbocker Farm House, Amsterdam, purchased in 1921 by Schuyler Glen Voorhees (1887- Co., NY).



## *Nieuws van Verwanten* (News from Cousins)

Ed Voorhees of Dallas, TX, sent us this good news. From July 1st to July 5th, descendants of Joseph Huff-7 Voorheis held their first, ever, Voorhees Family Reunion at Steamboat Springs State Park in Colorado. A total of 47 persons attended (picture below). The youngest was Hannah Lynn Briggs [aged 3 mos.]. Two were senior citizens: Edward Harlan-9 Voorhees and Helen Bennett Voorhees. The attendees were descendants of Joseph Vernor-8 Voorhees and Ermina Belle Briggs-Warner Voorhees.

Those with RV's stayed at RV sites while everyone else stayed in nearby family-size cabins. Seven states were represented: CA, WA, CO, ND, MN, MI, and TX. The planners were Jacqueline Voorhees Anderson of Glendora, CA and her sister, Kathleen Voorhees Hooper of Littleton, CO. We hope to repeat this event in the future.

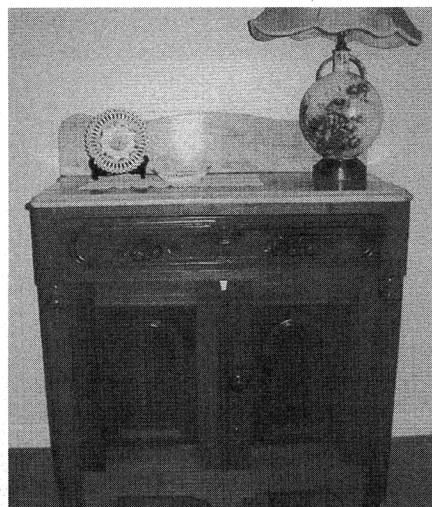
Ted (Theodore) Wm. Bayler of VA, a new member of the Van Voorhees Assn. and his wife, Joanne, attended the Oct. Reunion 2002. Ted brought pictures of their bedroom furniture (Figs. 1, 2, & 3) originally belonging to his great-great grandfather, John Skillman Voorhees (1828-1912). These pieces progressed down the line as follows: John's daughter, Lillian M. Voorhees (1856-1939); her son, Theodore Martin Bayler (1877-1948); his son, Donald J. Bayler (1900-1974); his son, Theodore Wm. Bayler. Note the name, Lillian M. Bayler, crocheted on the bedspread in Fig. 3.

Fig. 4 is a pencil drawing of the farm originally owned by John Stillman Voorhees. It is located at Section 7, Deer Creek Twp., Tazewell Co., IL and now belongs to his great grandson, Louis Martin Voorhees.

Roger Vorhies of Fairfield, along with 36 others, was honored by Gov. Tom Vilsack with the Governor's Lifesaving Award at the Iowa State Fair on Aug. 9, 2002. Roger, the youngest son of Merle and Darlene Vorhies (306, W. Harrison Ave., Fairfield, Iowa 52556), was assisted by 3 others in rolling a burning car off the driver who survived the accident. Fairfield is about 85-90 miles S.E. of Pella, where there is a large community of Dutch descendants. We wish to thank

Darlene for all her efforts in the many Midwest reunions she has previously organized as well as all the information she contributed about the family in that area.

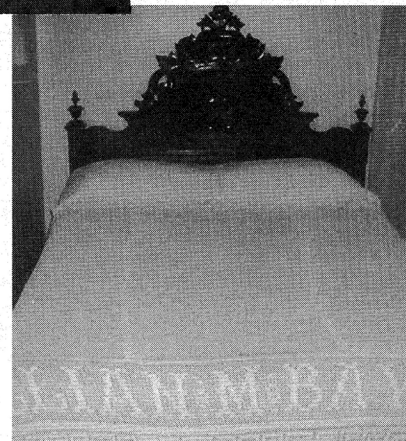
Virgil G. Stoner of Mt. Vernon, Iowa passed away on Nov. 2, 2001. We received this news recently from his widow, Jean Stoner. They had 5 sons and 13 grandchildren.



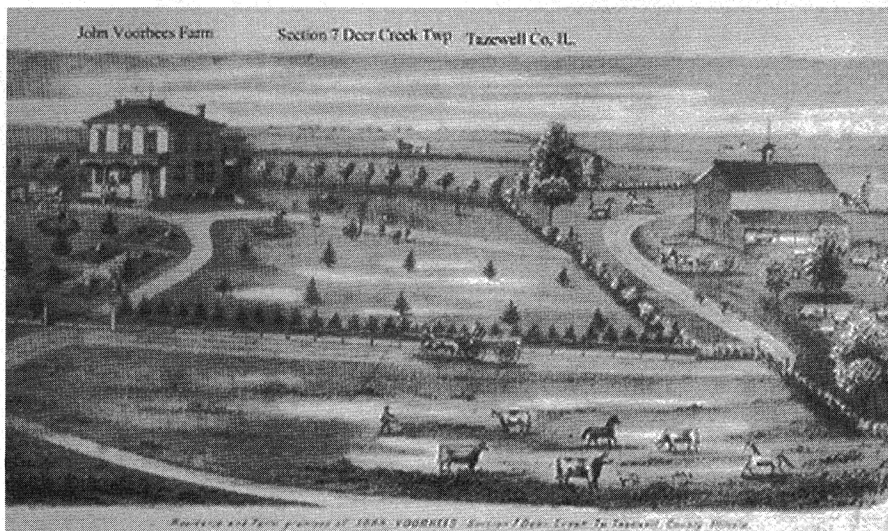
*Fig. 1 Ted Bayler's Bedroom Washstand*



*Fig. 2 Ted Bayler's Dresser*



*Fig. 3 Ted Bayler's Bed*



*Fig. 4 Drawing of J. Voorhees Farm*

## A REAL DUTCH TREAT

We have just received, directly from The Netherlands, an authentic cold-weather recipe. Many of us recall eating this hearty dish (thick, pea soup) in our childhood and, perhaps, continuing the tradition after marriage. For those of you unlucky enough never to have experienced the taste of this delicious soup, I'm including this article with its recipe. Some ingredients and amounts will vary according to individual family tradition. Thanks, Willem, for the recipe! Try it! You'll like it!

### ERWTENSOEP

by Willem Rabbelier

I'm afraid I'm a bit late, but I still don't want to hold back a typical Dutch winter meal -- erwtensoep. Yes, you heard it right - "meal." If cooked the correct way, this soup IS a meal! I think I'm still in time - just before the first snowdrops and crocuses will pop up in your gardens - to reveal the secrets of this soup.

#### *Erwtensoep for 4 Persons*

##### Ingredients:

400 grams of green split-peas  
400 grams (approx.) of shredded meat (pork), which disintegrates easily after cooking  
1 laurel leaf (dried)  
3 leeks  
2 liters of water  
2 potatoes (easily boiled to mash)  
salt & pepper  
1 small (winter) orange root (bigger than the normal roots we use to eat) \*  
1 not-too-big celery root (Essential! It looks like a sugar beet.) \*  
1 handful of celery leaves (not stalk celery!!)  
1 big smoked sausage

##### Procedure:

1. Put the split-peas, meat, and laurel leaf in a big pan filled with 2 liters of water together with 1/2 Table-spoon of salt. Put the fire high and wait till it all cooks.
2. Put the lid on the pan while it cooks. If present, remove the scum with a spoon. Turn down the fire and let it boil slowly.
3. While the soup is boiling over a low fire, prepare the vegetables.  
Wash the celery root. Peel the brown, rough, hairy skin and cut the root in slices; then dice the slices. Wash and grate the carrot (like you grate cheese). Cut the celery leaves very fine.
4. Take the meat out of the boiling soup and let it cool down on a plate.  
Shred the meat.
5. Put all the vegetables in the soup together with the shredded meat.  
Add salt and pepper to taste.
6. Put the smoked sausages in the soup and the lid on the pan.
7. Let it cook slowly for about 30-45 minutes.

Well, if you succeeded, have a nice dinner; but do it before the days get warmer! CAUTION: Take a day off after you have enjoyed the erwtensoep and don't mingle socially. Keep in mind that my children used to call erwtensoep "schetesoep" (a Dutch word that has something to do with heavy blowing).

If you don't know what "celery root" is, go to: <http://www.rabbel.info/erwtensoep.html> . I have put the recipe with further details on this page as part of the CarPark site. Have my warmest regards, and be careful.

\*Editor's Note: I visited the website and learned that "winter orange root" is a carrot 10-30 centimeters long. I also called all the major grocery stores in Erie, Pa. Only 2 stores carry celery root, which is a knobby lump a little larger than a softball and weighs just over 1 pound. The price here for celery root is about \$2.00 per pound.

### NOTICE -- ITEM SALES

Due to a necessary inventory and re-ordering process, we are not currently listing the specific items for sale. Many of them will, however, be available at the Reunion on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2003.

## The Reunion in October 2002

The Voorhees Association Meeting was held at the Six Mile Run Reform Church in Franklin Park, NJ on October 12, 2002. Bob Voorhees gave a PowerPoint presentation on Voorhees in the history of Montgomery Co., NY. Shown in Fig. 1 is Bob (on the right) preparing his presentation. The text of his talk is given in this issue of the Nieuwsbrief.

Some of the Executive Board members are shown in Fig. 2. From left to right are: Manning Voorhees (Past President), Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall (Nieuwsbrief Editor), Tom Van Voorhies (Membership), Scott Voorhees (President), Pat Zander (Secretary), and David Voorhees (Programs).

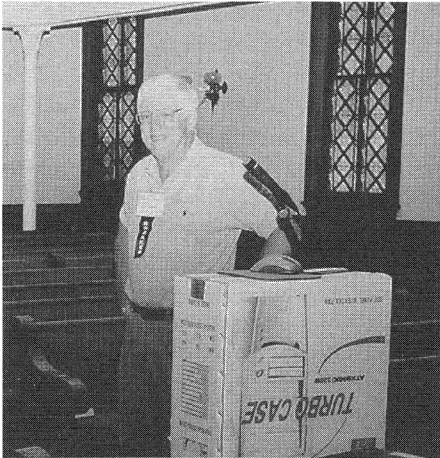


Fig. 1 Bob Voorhees talk preparation

South of Franklin Park on Route 27 is Princeton, NJ. Even in Princeton, the Dutch impact on the architecture exists as illustrated by the building shown in Fig. 4. Except for the American flag, this is a typical Dutch structure that you might find in a city in the Netherlands. This particular edifice is located across the junction of Routes 27 (Nassua St.) and 583 (Mercer St.) in the old section of



Fig. 3 General Conversation

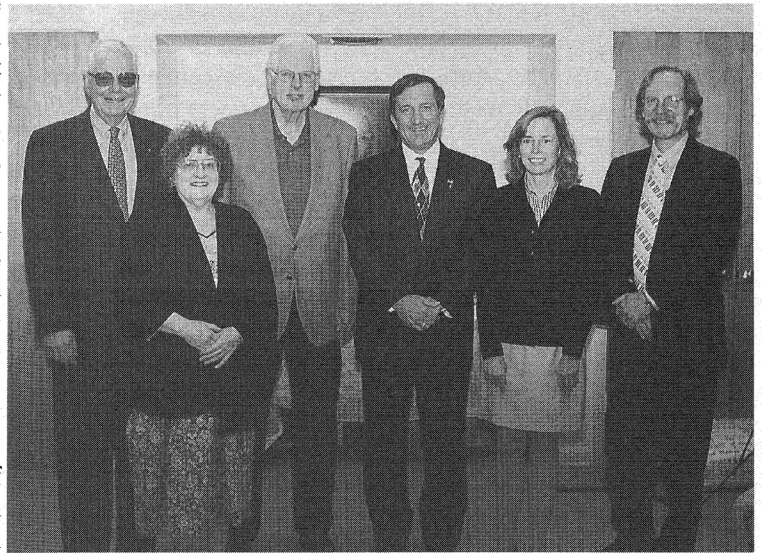


Fig. 2 Some Board Members

Princeton. Sometime in the future there will be an article on Dutch architecture in the *Nieuwsbrief*.

Special thanks to Dr. Roy Voshall for these photos.

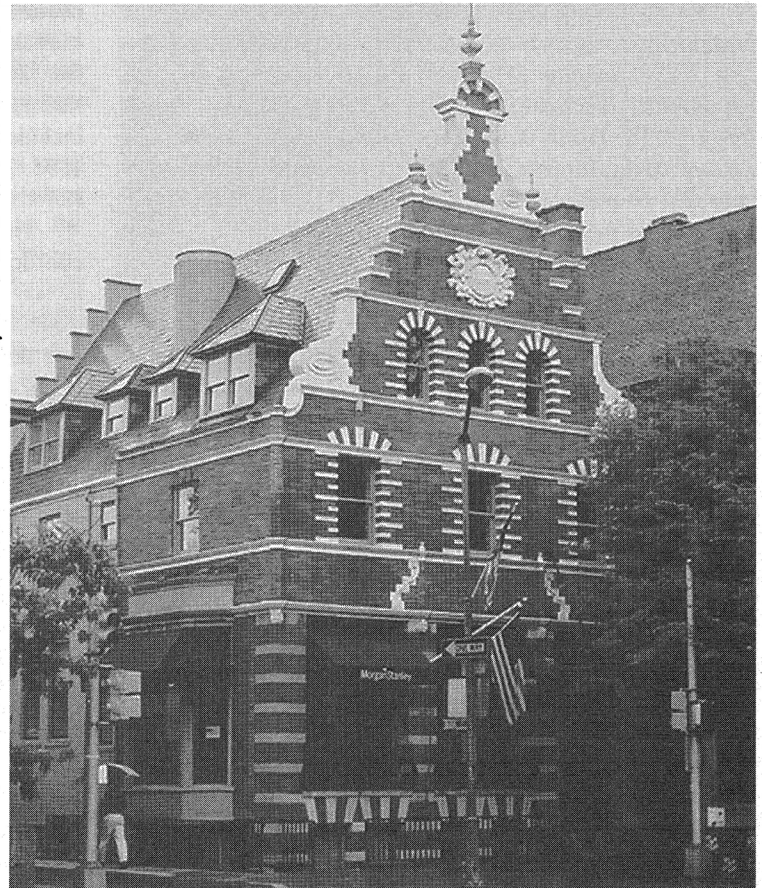


Fig. 4 Dutch Building, Princeton, NJ

## WHY DID STEVEN COERTS COME TO NEW NETHERLAND?

by Manning W. Voorhees

We most likely will never know definitively why Steven Coerts van Voorhees emigrated to New Netherland in 1660. Thoughtful presumptions have been made and will continue to be made, but there is no generally recognized documentation that can be used to support any one presumption over another. While information can always be uncovered in a dusty archive that will reveal Grandpa's thinking, it would appear that the odds of this happening are remote. Nonetheless, there is a rationale that can be constructed from an assessment of probable influences. The danger, of course, is that we will apply our 21st Century rationale to Steven's 17th Century decisional process.

The critical question is why would a sixty-year-old man with a sizable family leave his accustomed surroundings, board a small, crowded bouncing ship and embark on a two-month voyage to the wilderness?<sup>1</sup> Steven had some wealth, at least relative to his neighbors in the poorest area of the United Provinces (then the Netherlands), and probably could have enjoyed a life that was known to him for the balance of his time on earth. Can you imagine uprooting like this? Today, it would be comparable to shedding our American way of life and departing to start over in a fourth world country - oh yes, leave behind all of your possessions, credit cards, medications, television programs and the cell phone.

Steven Coerts was not the only emigrant to the New World with his attained age and family responsibilities. However, a large number of settlers, say in New England, came for religious reasons. Steven did not emigrate for religious freedom. The Dutch Reformed Church (the "DRC") was the acknowledged form of Christianity in both the old country and New Netherland, and Petrus Stuyvesant was a vigilant supporter of the DRC in Steven's new land. The Classis of Amsterdam controlled the church in New Netherland. In this sense, Grandpa was "right at home" when he disembarked at New Amsterdam. Indeed, he was a faithful adherent of Dutch Calvinism in New Netherland and passed this faith to his children. Religion was very important to our forebears.<sup>2</sup>

Steven Coerts probably shared a motivation common to most immigrants to the New World, namely "better opportunity" for him and his family. A strong ingredient in this "better opportunity" scenario began on October 31, 1517 when Dr. Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Saxony, protesting against the evils that he perceived in the then practices of the Roman Catholic Church. This historical watershed launched the Protestant Reformation and resultant religiously oriented civil and economic upheaval and organized warfare.

"People from all walks of life, some of them hungry, others variously dissatisfied, and all affected by a grave economic crisis, vented their anger on the Catholic Church in an unparalleled iconoclastic fury. The rebellion traveled like a heathland fire from western Flanders to Groningen in the northeast of the Netherlands."<sup>3</sup> The Catholic Spanish King, Philip II, ruler of the low countries, appointed the infamous

Duke of Alba "to stamp out heresy. ... He set up a Council with the authority to indict and judge all participants in the recent events. Over twelve thousand Netherlanders of every station in life were victims of this 'Council of Blood' as it was known to its enemies."<sup>4</sup> Philip II recognized the severity of Alba's rule and replaced the Duke in 1573. Earlier, however, in 1568, the Dutch revolted against their Spanish rulers<sup>5</sup> and Drenthe supported the uprising in 1580.<sup>6</sup>

War raged, and in 1592 Maurice of Nassau succeeded in capturing "Steenwijk and Koevorden."<sup>7</sup> The city of Groningen, in the province of the same name, also fell to the States army in 1594 as well as cities in the neighboring province of Overijssel in 1597.<sup>8</sup> The Dutch uprising against the Spanish ran until 1609 and termination of the Thirty Years War, which was partly religious in scope, ended the warring scene for the moment in 1648.<sup>9</sup> Drenthe was obviously a battlefield during much of this long period of conflict. "Only from 1627 onwards the situation improved little by little, and after 1630 Drenthe was completely safe again."<sup>10</sup> Remember when reading these dates that Steven and his two brothers were born in the latter years of the 1500's - Steven being the last in either 1599 or 1600.

An example of the religious animosity can be seen today in Mariakirk (St. Mary's Church) in Ruinen, which is town nearest to Hees. Steven Coerts was probably baptized in Mariakirk in 1599 or 1600.<sup>11</sup> The congregation dates from the 12th Century and became DRC in 1598. A plaque in the sanctuary today lists the many pastors of Mariakirk, but includes only the Dutch Reformed dominees starting with 1598. The earlier Roman Catholic pastors are not mentioned. Reformation sensibilities are still evident today.

The economy of Drenthe suffered during the period of conflict. "Many farms laid waste for years (in 1600 about 33%!)"<sup>12</sup> Eventually, the economy entered an improving trend from around 1625 to 1650.<sup>13</sup> However, this economy was dominated by a basically monolithic agricultural industry of grains and cattle, and peat extraction. Relative to our contemporary world, there was not a broad diversity of economic endeavors which would have had the potential of spurring economic growth in some sectors while other sectors improved slowly. Further, there was no beneficent government as we have today that could have pumped financial assistance into the economy and created incentives toward economic growth. While "things" improved after 1625, I wonder if this equates to our understanding of really better times. It is probable that economic life was healthier during the twenty-five years to 1650, but how much better was it? Then came a long-term downturn. "The results show a decline starting about 1650 ... The break about 1650 marked the beginning of a long depression lasting until 1750, with declining earnings, increasing costs of production and a growing burden of taxation."<sup>14</sup> "The tax burden in Drenthe definitely increased since the introduction of the land taxes of 1643."<sup>15</sup>

The religious turmoil had a further important impact upon our Family. The Roman church owned extensive farmland in Drenthe and was the landlord for Steven's father, Coert, and grandfather, Albert. They paid rent for the farm of Voorhees at the Abbey of Dikninge.<sup>16</sup> Relatives rented the contiguous farms of Middlehees and Achterhees.<sup>17</sup> Their rent was also paid to the Roman Church at Dikninge. One of the results of the Reformation was the secularization of land. "Not until 1598 did ... William Louis, stadtholder of Drenthe, Groningen and Friesland, secularize the Drenthe property of the former orders, which had moved out of the county during the Reformation period."<sup>18</sup> Rent continued to be paid at Dikninge, but to the civil authorities. While not totally inconsiderate, these officials exacted high rents and were not overly prompt with building repairs. Steven's brother, Albert -- the oldest of the three sons of Coert -- assumed the land lease for Voorhees around the time of secularization and occasionally experienced difficulties with paying the rent. "Time and again Albert requested the governing body of Drenthe for reduction of rent: he did so in 1635, 1645, 1647, 1653, 1654 and 1659. The request of 1659 -- remember, this is the year before Steven's emigration -- sent by the steward of Dikninge on Albert's behalf to Drost and Deputies of Drenthe, shows us the bad state of affairs at Voorhees. Speaking of the farm, the request states: "... (that) his house, barn and sheepfold need urgent repairs, before it falls totally into decay ""<sup>19</sup>

Steven Coerts was apparently economically successful, renting a succession of generally larger farms until his emigration to New Netherland. Albert rented the farm of Voorhees. Jan, the middle brother, rented Middlehees until his death in 1637 or 1638, after which his sons rented the farm - the tenant when Steven emigrated was Jan's grandson, Hilbert. Achterhees was rented by members of the family. Arable land in Drenthe of the 17th Century was controlled by a few large owners with little opportunity for small farmers to own their land. The future for Steven's sons and the husbands of his daughters would likely be the same as his experience and that of his immediate family: land renter subject to the economic decisions of landlords. They would not be able to own their farms and would probably be limited to renting small farms like their elders. Today, we would call this the inability to accumulate assets.<sup>20</sup> Further, Drenthe was still recovering from the long-term affects of the Reformation-stimulated warfare and its economy was not terrific. It was tough to make a living. The dominance of agriculture characterized by a few basic products would probably not lead to strong economic growth. This local environment contrasts with the economic success of the United Provinces, which was the world's financial power at that time, the wealth of the Amsterdam merchants and the growth of the national economy.

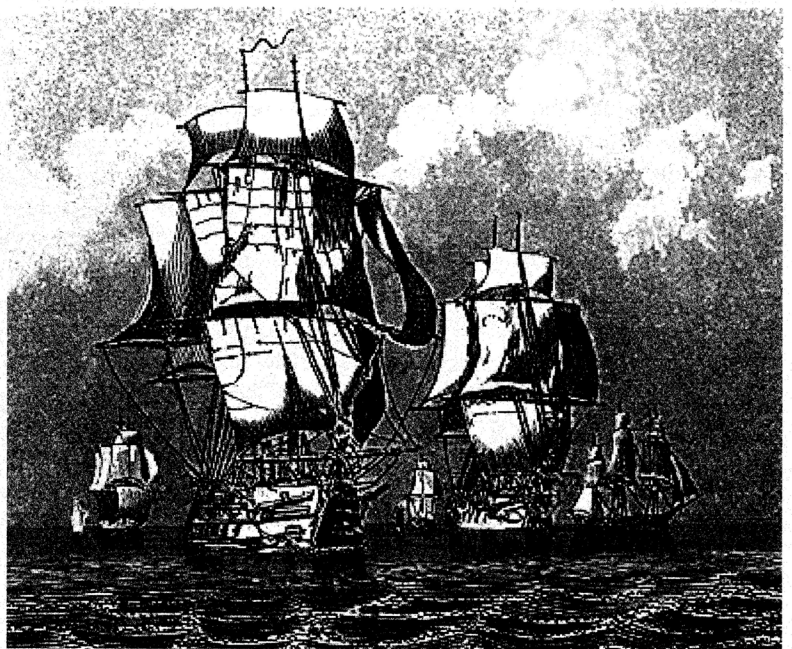
Steven probably took all of the foregoing, stirred several times and decided to emigrate seeking a better opportunity - for himself, perhaps, but certainly for his family. One daughter, Hendrickje (Steven had two daughters named Hendrickje, one with each wife), was married to Jan Kiers, who emigrated with Hendrickje and her father. Daughter Marichien remained in Drenthe and married Roelof Oostinge in 1664.<sup>21</sup>

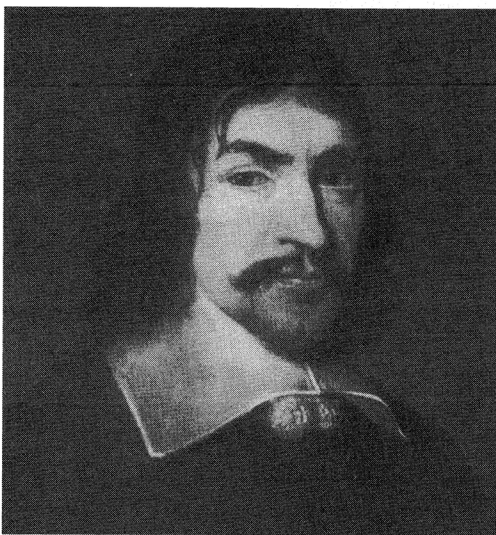
They set sail for New Netherland on 15 April 1660 on the good ship de Bonte Koe, or Spotted Cow. According to Dr. Oliver Rink, this was the second of three trips for de Bonte Koe to New Netherland: 1656 from West Africa with a cargo of slaves and 1660 and 1663 with settlers from the United Provinces.<sup>22</sup> Ms. Lorine McGinnis Schulze, on the Dutch Colonies web site, added a trip in 1655.<sup>23</sup>

It is reasonable to assume that Steven Coerts knew about New Netherland, his family's future homeland. Wouldn't all of us have given some thought to the fundamental question of what's what over there? The answer is apparent.

In 1650, Cornelius van Tienhoven, Secretary of the New Netherland colony, "published a pamphlet intended to encourage families to migrate thither." There were descriptions of the land, crops, planting times, building plans and so on.<sup>24</sup> Five years later in the year of his death, Dr. Adriaen van der Donck's *Description of the New Netherlands* (sic) was published.<sup>25</sup> Van der Donck's work gave glowing descriptions of New Netherland -- it was a paradise. Tales of this wonderland depicted by van Tienhoven and van der Donck must have attracted the attention of farmers and others in Drenthe.

It is noteworthy, in this regard, that Steven probably knew of these opportunities directly from correspondence with his brother-in-law who went to New Netherland before





Jan Gerritszen Strycker

was born in 1615 in Ruinen and arrived in New Netherland in 1652.<sup>26</sup> His first wife was Lambertje Roelofszen Seuberinge, the sister of Steven's second wife, Willemtje Roelofszen Seuberinge. Having emigrated eight years earlier than Steven and Willemtje, there was more than sufficient time to relay favorable thoughts about the new homeland back to Drenthe. Jan was a leader with the formation of Midwout or Flatbush in today's Brooklyn. The so-called disputed portrait of Jan Strycker is reproduced here.<sup>27</sup> Experts argue about whether the portrait is that of Jan as painted by his brother Jacob Gerritszen Strycker or is of someone else unidentified by an unknown artist. It is in the Andrew W. Mellon Collection at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Let's be optimistic - maybe the portrait actually depicts our Uncle Jan. After all, we do not have any rendition of Steven Coerts.

Jan Roelofszen Seuberinge was the brother of Lambertje and Willemtje. He was born circa 1631 in Beyle, Drenthe, and arrived in New Netherland in 1658.<sup>28</sup> Thus, there was more "family" across the ocean. In addition, Willemtje also had brothers Jacob and Daniel, who had settled in the Raritan area.<sup>29</sup>

Willemtje must have had a strong desire to reunite with her siblings across the ocean. Was there "pillow talk" about these feelings with husband Steven?

Aside from being the brother of Steven's wife, Jan joined with another name in our list. He married Adrianna Polhemius circa 1660<sup>30</sup>, the year that Steven and family arrived in New Netherland. Adrianna was the daughter of Dominee Johannes Theodorus Polhemius. The dominee is an interesting character in our story. Dominee Polhemius was a Palatine by birth in 1598. After graduating from the University of Heidelberg in 1620, he became a preacher in Gieten.<sup>31</sup> There were doctrinal differences between the dominee and his congregation. In 1627, he left Gieten for a pastoral post in Meppel. Difficulties developed again, and Dominee Polhemius left Meppel in 1634. The West India Company subsequently assigned him in 1636 to a preaching position in New Holland, Brazil. Time passed, and in 1654 the Por-

him. We know that the greater family were letter writers by the eleven letters written from Drenthe after 1660 that are reproduced in *Through a Dutch Door*.

Jan Gerritszen Strycker

tugese evicted the Dutch from mainland Brazil and the dominee fled to New Netherland, subsequently preaching in both Midwout (Flatbush) and Nieuw Amersfoort (Flatlands). Adrianna was born in Itamarica, Brazil.<sup>32</sup>

Meppel is approximately ten air miles southwest of Hees. Steven Coerts probably rented a farm in the Meppel area during at least part of Dominee Polhemius' preaching tenure in that city.<sup>33</sup> Steven's first child, daughter Hendrickje -- she married Jan Kiers mentioned above -- was born circa 1634. The dominee departed from Meppel on 10 February of that year.<sup>34</sup> Aaltjen Wessels was Steven's first wife and mother of Hendrickje.<sup>35</sup> We do not know when Steven and Aaltjen married, but it may not have been earlier than a year or two before Hendrickje was born. Thus, there appears to be a good possibility that Steven listened to Dominee Polhemius' preaching in Meppel for at least a few years and perhaps the good dominee baptized Hendrickje, although he left Meppel early in 1634. Steven would probably remember him many years later when he heard that his former pastor was now in New Netherland serving the Midwout community where brother-in-law Jan Strycker was an important figure - and so, another personal attraction to New Netherland existed. The Polhemius connection would thicken, of course, when the dominee's daughter married the brother of Steven's second wife.

Some writers on New Netherland speculate that the West India Company (the "WIC") offered financial incentives for farmers and tradesmen to emigrate and settle in the colony. Settlement was flagging and people were needed. New England was growing nicely, which was discomfiting to the Dutch. WIC records are unavailable so it is not known what these incentives were -- deferred costs of passage, loans for the costs of passage, loans or aid of some sort for the purchase of farms, or what? Then, maybe there were no financial incentives. "The surprising surge in immigration after 1657 ... may have reflected an all-out campaign by the West India Company and the Dutch government to provide New Netherland with the people it had long needed."<sup>36</sup> Steven Coerts surely must have heard this call by the WIC - maybe the WIC sent recruiters into Drenthe. It is noteworthy in this regard that there were two sizeable (for those days) emigrations of Drents to New Netherland: in April 1660 on *de Bonte Koe* and in 1662 on *de Hoop*.<sup>37</sup> Steven was not the only Drent to decide that the time had come to start again in the New World.

There was a confluence of many factors that motivated Steven Coerts to start over again in New Netherland at the age of sixty. I have concluded that they can be distilled into a single consideration: altruism. He wanted better economic futures for his sons and the husbands of his daughters and he acceded to his wife's probable desire to be with her siblings. Although Steven was clearly successful in his new homeland, this was probably a concomitant result rather than an objective purely for himself. I will be interested in your comments

-- my addresses are in Who's Who.

A follow-on article will discuss the financial aspects of Grandpa's emigration and purchase of his new farm.



## Footnotes

1. See pp. 19-20 of the Summer/Fall 2000 Nieuwsbrief for Marilyn Voshall's description of de Bonte Koe, the ship that carried Steven and his family across the Atlantic.
2. See Firth Haring Fabend, "Church and State: Compassionate Calvinism in New Netherland," de Halve Maen, Spring 2002. Dr. Fabend was our Reunion speaker in 1994.
3. Wim Klooster, *The Dutch in the Americas 1600-1800*, The John Carter Brown Library, Providence, 1997, p. 4. The present day province of Groningen abuts Drenthe to the north.
4. *Ibid*, p. 4.
5. *Encyclopaedia Britannica 2001, Deluxe Edition CD*, copyright Britannica.com Inc.
6. D. J. Wijmer, "Steven Coerts His Family and His Dutch Background," *Through a Dutch Door*, Van Voorhees Association, 1992, p. 4.
7. *Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1961 Edition, Volume 11*, p. 648. Steenwijk is eleven air miles west of Hees and Coevorden is sixteen air miles east of Hees.
8. D. J. Wijmer, *op. cit.*, p. 4.
9. *Encyclopaedia Britannica 2001*, *op. cit.*
10. D. J. Wijmer, *op. cit.*, p. 4.
11. There is no documentary proof of Steven's baptism in Mariakerk or anywhere else. However, the Dutch Reformed Church was clearly dominant among the population at this time, parents baptized their newly born children as a matter of faith and obligation, and logic would seem to indicate that he was baptized in the Ruinen church because it was the closest congregation. The congregation originated about 1211 as a Benedictine monastery. The monastery moved to Dikninge in 1325 and a congregation comprised of lay people grew thereafter; the building was constructed and reconstructed over the next few centuries. Source of Mariakerk basic data: *De Mariakerk te Ruinen*, published in Dutch by the congregation in Ruinen, 1991, third unnumbered page.
12. D. J. Wijmer, *op. cit.*, p. 4.
13. D. J. Wijmer, *op. cit.*, p. 49.
14. *Ibid*, p. 49.
15. J. Folkerts, "Drenthe and New Netherland Two Outer Provinces at the Time of Emigration," *Through a Dutch Door*, Van Voorhees Association, 1992, p. 107.
16. See endnote 11.
17. Dr. Wijmer raises the possibility that Middlehees and Achterhees were "destroyed and or deserted" in the latter 16th Century as a result of the warfare although they were inhabited again around 1600. See p. 5, *op. cit.*

18. *Historical Handbook*, Van Voorhees Association, 1935, p. 14. Dr. H. P. Schaap, on p. 148 of *Through a Dutch Door*, suggested that secularization in Drenthe occurred after 1603.
19. J. Folkerts, *op. cit.*, p. 109.
20. Assets were also measured in 17th Drenthe as "X horses and Y cattle/cows." Steven Coerts was apparently successful in accumulating a number of animals and thus had some visible wealth. However, substantial wealth and independence came with ownership and control of land.
21. D. J. Wijmer, *op. cit.*, p. 33.
22. Oliver A. Rink, *Holland on the Hudson*, Cornell University Press, 1986, pp. 163 and 165.
23. Lorine McGinnis Schulze, <Dutch-Colonies - L@rootsweb.com>, 17 August 2002, with hyperlink to <<http://olivetreegenealogy.com/nn/ships>>. Ms. Schulze acknowledged the contributions of Mr. Howard Swain.
24. *Historical Handbook*, *op. cit.*, p. 17.
25. Reprinted by Syracuse University Press, 1968, edited by Thomas F. O'Donnell.
26. David M. Riker, *New Netherland Vital Records, 1600s*, CD 11, copyright The Learning Company.
27. Reproduced from de Halve Maen, Winter 1991, Volume LXIV, Number 4, p. 61, with permission of The Holland Society of New York, New York NY.
28. David M. Riker, *op. cit.*
29. David M. Riker, *op. cit.*
30. David M. Riker, *op. cit.*
31. Gieten is about 25 air miles northeast of Hees. Association members who attended the 1984 and 1991 trips to Hees will recall visiting and staying at Gieten.
32. Herbert J. Seversmith, "The Dominy (sic) Johannes Theodorus Polhemius of Flatbush, Long Island," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, December 1955, pp. 125-130, CD 210, copyright The Learning Company. Dr. Seversmith stated that Jan Seuberinge married Adrianna Polhemius in 1661 (vs. 1660) in Midwout. Data about Do. Polhemius are taken from Dr. Seversmith's article.
33. D. J. Wijmer, *op. cit.*, p. 28.
34. Herbert J. Seversmith, *op. cit.*
35. Florence A. Christoph, *Van Voorhees Family in America*, Van Voorhees Association, 2000, p. 1.
36. Oliver J. Rink, *op. cit.*, p. 171. Dr. Rink makes no mention of financial incentives.
37. J. Folkerts, "Emigration from Drenthe to America in the Seventeenth Century," *Through a Dutch Door*, Van Voorhees Association, 1992, pp. 122-125.



# The Junior Corner: de KERMIS

## Part 1: De Poppenkast (the Puppet Show)

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

(We wish to thank Cor Snabel of the Netherlands for some of this material and the inspiration to write this piece!)

De Kermis is a Fair. It had competitions, animals, food, music, dancing, some circus animals, stage shows, and many kinds of carnival tents. It was our County Fair, Circus, Theater, and Carnival all rolled into one big event.

Back in the 1600's when our gr-gr-gr- (many greats) grandpa, Steven, lived in Drenthe Province in the Netherlands, he probably attended these Fairs. At that time there was no electricity, telephones, VCRs, CDs, television or movies! All the entertainment was live. If you wanted music, you either played an instrument or found someone who could. In the absence of movies and TV, you waited until a group of players came to town.

These traveling players brought their own stage - the top of a large wagon pulled by horses. At other times there might be a play performed at the local tavern or in the village church. A few actors performed all the parts and played any music used in the show. Each actor was able to do many things. Sometimes he would act as more than one character in the same play. He would quickly change his costume to fit the part for the next scene. He also might play an instrument when not acting on stage.

Often they had a Poppenkast (Puppet Show). A very famous one, still in use, is the story of Jan Klaasen and Katrijn Pieters. Jan served in the army of Willem III, who was Prince of Orange for 52 years (1650-1702). Willem III was a very important person. He became the Stadholder (governor or ruler) of Holland, Zeeland, Utrecht, and Westervolde in 1672, then of Gelderland & Oberijssel in 1675, and of Drenthe in 1696. Not only did he rule The Netherlands, but he also became king of England, Scotland, and Ireland in 1689. He held all these positions until 1702. So, you can see how important Jan Klaasen was, since he was the Horn Blower -- perhaps the only one (in a modern army band, the solo Trumpet Player) -- in the army of Willem III!

There is even a song, "Jan Klaasen de trompetter," about Jan's adventures in the army. The main theme (in Verse 1) is as follows:

"Jan Klaasen was trompetter in het leger van de prins,  
En hij had geen geld en hij was geen held,  
En hij hield niet van het krigsgeweld,  
Maar trompetter was hij wel in hart en ziel."

In English it reads:

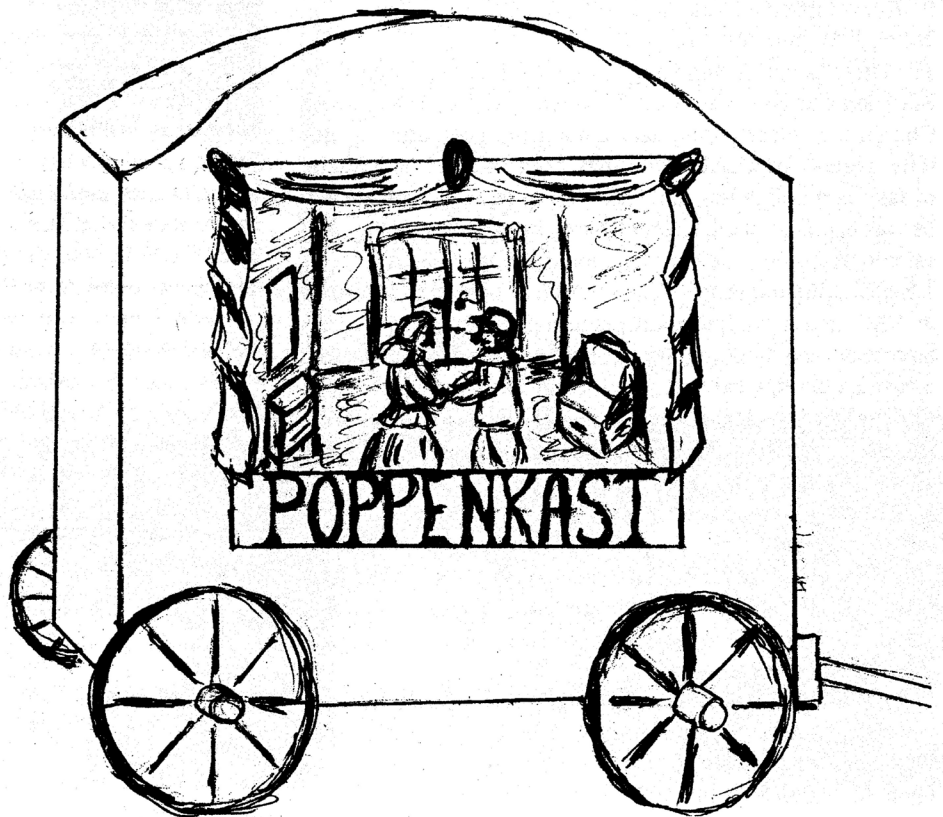
"Jan Klaasen was [a] trumpeter in the army of the Prince,  
And he had no money and he was no hero,  
And he wasn't in war's violence;  
But he was a good trumpeter in heart and soul."

In the 2nd verse the army officers are getting drunk at a pub, when they ask Jan to come and play his trumpet. He does; but later he sneaks out to visit his girlfriend. The next morning, the drunks find themselves freezing out in the gutter.

The 3rd verse describes an inspection visit by the Prince, who notices every detail and then asks:

"Maar waar zit dat stuk ongeluk van a Jan met z'n trompet?"  
("Where sits that unlucky piece of a Jan with his trumpet?")

En niemand die Jan Klaasen zag die bij de stadspoort zat  
En honderd liedjes speelde voor de kind'ren van de stad.  
(And nobody told him that Jan Klaasen sat by the city





gate and played 100 little songs for the children of the town.)

In the 4th verse there is a somewhat vague ending to the story of Jan's army career. He bids farewell to his unnamed sweetheart.

Jan Klaasen zei: Vaarwel mijn lief, ik zie je volgend jaar  
Wanneer de lente terugkomt dan zijm wij weer bij  
elkaar.

De winter ging, de zomer kwam, de oorlog was voorbij,  
Maar 't leger is nooit teruggekeerd van de Mokerhei.

Geen mens die van Jan Klaasen ooit iets teruggevonden  
heeft:

Maar alle kinderen keenen hem, hij is niet dood, hij leeft.

The English translation is:

Jan Klassen said, "Farewell my dear; I'll see you the following year.

When Spring returns, then we will be by each other.

The winter went; the summer came; the war was over;

But the army has never returned from the Mokerhei.

Not any men who were with Jan Klaasen were ever found again.

But the children know him. He is not dead. He lives.

From verses 3 and 4 we learn that Jan loved children and they, in turn, adored him. He didn't lead them off and demand ransom, as did the Pied Piper of Hamelin; but he certainly did like playing "little songs" for them at every opportunity. We all suspect that Jan Klaasen had sneaked out again to play for children when his army unit disappeared.

In 1687 Jan Klaasen married Katrijn Pieters. Normally this would mean great happiness for the couple. Unfortunately, it was not a peaceful marriage. It seems that they could not agree on anything! Every day they argued over this and that, or fought over that and this. It was so loud that all their neighbors could hear them!

This illustration (by Marilyn V. Voshall) shows a typical theater wagon, which would be drawn by a horse. The puppets represent Katrijn and Jan Klaasen in one of their happier moments as they hold hands.

Their story was first told in a puppet theater in Amsterdam. By 1690, it was being presented in every puppet theater in Holland. These Dutch puppets, Jan Klaasen and Katrijn, are comparable to Mr. Punch and Judy, favorites in English-speaking countries as well as in Germany and Austria. Even today, Dutch children enjoy watching Jan and Katrijn, have their fights.

Historical questions about where the real Jan Klaasen was born and where he lived remain unanswered. There are genealogies for more than one Jan Klaasen in the 1700's and all were farmers. Each came from a different town and province. Each has many descendants today who are searching for answers on numerous websites.



## Vol. II to our NEW GENEALOGY

by Manning Voorhees

Florence Christoph is rapidly completing Volume II of the Van Voorhees Family in America. We expect books to be available at the Reunion in Kingston, NY on Oct. 11, 2003. Her text should be sent to the printer sometime this Spring or early Summer. Volunteers have been busy proofreading, and Florence is presently tracking down many "unknowns" whose ties into the Family are not clear at the moment.

Our objective is to produce Volume II so that it will match Volume I and Through a Dutch Door as much as possible. It will be very exciting to have about 7 inches of attractive orange-covered books on our shelves that describe the Van Voorhees Family for some 400 years! The story starts with Through a Dutch Door; and the information trail about Steven Coerts and his family "back home" in Drenthe. It will carry the reader and researcher up to the mid 20th century in some instances.

Volume II contain about 1,500 pages produced in 2 separate books. The page count for Volume I is 1,048 pages including so-called front material. The total genealogy will embrace about 2,500 or more pages. Through a Dutch Door adds another 227 pages overall. Volume II will repeat the indices, bibliographies and remaining "unknowns" in the same manner as in Volume I.

Our plan is to recycle revenues from the sale of Volumes I and II plus Through a Dutch Door into continuing genealogical research by Florence. This will lead to the publication of Volume III and/or a computer CD that will include (1) errata accumulated at that time, (2) addition of ancestors not included in the previous volumes, and (3) further identification of "unknowns." Also being planned is Peter Christoph's book about Voorhees' diaries mentioned in earlier issues of the *Nieuwsbrief*.

Don't disappoint the Family, and don't forget that the year-end Holidays are coming. Your siblings, children and grandchildren will appreciate your gift of the Family for their permanent library. There is also, of course, your personal bookshelf that "will not look right" without all 3 orange Voorhees books.

Editor's Note: In researching my mother's family, I found mention of a book on her genealogy mentioned in several sources. Unfortunately, the book has apparently disappeared. I even had my local library do a "National Library Search!" NO Luck. If you think Through a Dutch Door and Volumes I and II will always be in some library somewhere, think again! We, of course, hope this situation never happens. So,

**DON'T BE SORRY!  
BE SAFE!  
BUY a SET in October 2003!**

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Very few families have an organization like ours. Please help us get the work done by volunteering your services and getting your relatives to join. "Many hands make light the work." If each one of you could act as a back-up to assist us, it would be much appreciated!

Dues through Dec. 31, 2003 were payable Jan. 1, 2003. Please check the membership desired, note any change of address, use your entire 9-digit zip code (to save money in postage), add your email address (if you have one) and mail your dues to: Albert T. Van Voorhies, 9 Purdy Ave., East Northport, NY 11731-4501. Please make checks payable to The Van Voorhees Association. Your dues are deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

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

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby authorize \_\_\_\_\_ to vote for me for nominees from the floor at the 2003 Annual Reunion of the Van Voorhees Association.

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There will be a business meeting and election of officers at the Oct. Reunion of 2003. We need candidates for all offices. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Scott T. Voorhees. (The address is under Who's Who.) There will also be nominations from the floor at the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ VVA #: \_\_\_\_\_

Jared Selengut

**~ VAN VOORHEES WHO'S WHO ~**

**ACTING PRESIDENT:** Scott T. Voorhees  
147 Grand Blvd., Emerson, N.J. 07630-1744  
201-967-1013 svoorhees1@aol.com

**ACTING VICE-PRESIDENT:** Judith K. Van Voorhis  
2880 Rosendale Rd., Niskayuna, N.Y. 12309-1506  
518-393-5106 mevanv@albany.net

**FINANCIAL SECY.:** Scott T. Voorhees (see above)

*oldboy205061931@aol.com*

**SECRETARY:** Patricia J. Zander  
12 Pellbridge Dr., Hopewell Junction, N.Y. 12533  
845-226-6694 pjz@frontiernet.net

**TREASURER:** Bogert Cox Holly  
64 Swede Mine Rd., Dover, N.J. 07801-3741  
973-366-1537 bcholly@bellatlantic.net  
17 Royale Court Lake St. Louis, Mo. 63367-1223  
jathom49@aol.com

**CORRES. SECY.:** Laura Thompson  
636-561-8170

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRES.:** Manning W. Voorhees  
2415 Spring Hill Dr. Toms River, N.J. 08755-2523  
732-886-0426 voorheeszoo@comcast.net

**PRIOR PAST PRES.:** Donald G. Vorhis  
1930 Camelia Circle, Midlothian, Va. 23112-4177  
804-744-8856 dvorhis@earthlink.net

**~ LINE REPRESENTATIVES ~**

**ALBERT Line:** Marilyn Brack  
24 Mary St., No. Haledon, N.J. 07508-3040  
973-427-9246

**COERT Line:** Glee Van Osdol-Krapf  
215 Washington St., Tamaqua, Pa. 18252-1324  
717-668-1818 gleek@f-tech.net

**JAN Line:** Marie Voorhees Avelsgaard  
836 Larsmont Rd.  
Two Harbors, Mn. 55616  
218-834-3716 mariefaye@yahoo.com

**HENDRICKJE Line:** Ted L. Bogert  
113 Tate Court  
Orlando, Fl. 32828  
407-273-7148 TedLBJ@aol.com

**LUCAS Line:** Glee Van Osdol-Krapf (see Coert Line above)

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**~ MEMBER-AT-LARGE ~**

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**GENEALOGY:** Manning W. Voorhees (see Immed. Past Pres. above) & The Rev. Wm. J.F. Lydecker

**GENEALOGIST:** Florence Christoph, CG.  
181 Maple Ave., Selkirk, N.Y. 12158  
518-767-3004 flocc@nycap.rr.com

**ASSOC. GEN.:** Judith K. Van Voorhis  
2880 Rosendale Rd., Niskayuna, N.Y. 12309-1506  
518-393-5106 mevanv@albany.net

**GENEALOGICAL INQUIRIES:** Marie Voorhees Avelsgaard (see Jan Line above)

**SALES:** Marilyn Brack  
24 Mary St., No. Haledon, N.J. 07508-3040  
973-427-9246 *fمبرack@worldnet.att.net*

**MEMBERSHIP:** Albert T. (Tom) Van Voorhis  
9 Purdy Ave., East Northport, N.Y. 11731-4501  
631-368-7483 avanvoor@suffolk.lib.ny.us

**PROGRAMS:** David R. Voorhees  
209 Lamb-Hopewell Rd., Hopewell, N.J. 08525-2810  
609-466-1139 voorhees25@comcast.net

**PUBLICITY:** June Wick  
3 Edgebrook Lane, Monsey, N.Y. 10952-4711  
845-357-2770

**EDITOR:** Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall  
106 Walten Pt., Erie, Pa. 16511-3302  
814-898-2124 mevmusic@aol.com

**PUBLISHER:** Robert E. Van Voorhis, Jr.  
4503 Coronado Court, Cedar Falls, Ia. 50613-6322  
319-268-1511 revv@cfu.net

**ASST. EDITOR:** Manning W. Voorhees (see Immed. Past Pres. above)

**WEBMASTER:** Dr. William R. Voorhees  
224 Wilson Hall, School of Public Affairs  
Arizona State Univ., Tempe, Ariz.  
480-965-8422 Tel.: ~~518-393-5106~~  
www.public.asu.edu~wvoorhee WilliamVoorhees@asu.edu

**NOMINATIONS:** Judith K. Van Voorhis  
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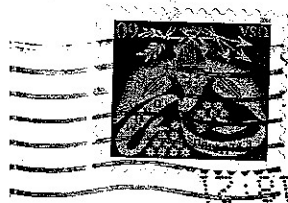
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