

VAN VOORHEES NIEUWSBRIEF

Volume 20, Number 2

FALL/WINTER 2002³

A Publication of the Van Voorhees Association, Organized in 1932
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71st Van Voorhees Annual Reunion Announcement Columbus Day Weekend, October 10 through 12, 2003

Fall greetings to our cousins everywhere! We have planned a special reunion for 2003 in the 350-year-old City of Kingston, New York, founded by the Dutch in 1652, just eight years before our family's arrival to Brooklyn, New York. Kingston is situated at the foot of the Catskills, on the beautiful Hudson River. It is steeped in history and boasts pre-Revolutionary War architecture and the original settlement where the local native Esopus Indians and the Dutch traded. Peter Stuyvesant walked here and Henry Hudson sailed here on de Halve Maen. Our meeting place, the Old Dutch Church, is on the National Historic Register, and was much admired by Calvert Vaux, the English landscape architect and designer of Central Park, in Manhattan. The Tiffany window behind the pulpit and letter from George Washington, are just an example of the unique, irreplaceable, and one-of-a-kind items on display. *+Please be aware that October is also prime "leaf-peeping" season in the northeast and hotel/B&B accommodations will be sold-out early in the season.*

Friday, October 10: Arrive late afternoon and check in at the accommodation of your choice (Please see the registration form for details). Arrangements have been made for a "pay-as-you-go" dinner in at the Hoffman

House (845) 338-2626. Dinner to commence at 5:30 with welcome and "talk" given by historian Peter Christoph on Samuel Bugby, Colonial Jailbreak Artist. Mr. Christoph will recount Bugby's crime sprees, in humorous escapades that took him through the early colonies from Virginia to New York. Though he proved easy to capture his "break-out" abilities were notorious.

Saturday, October 11: Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall Street, Kingston (845) 338-6759. Free, ample parking is available across from the church's west entrance door on Wall Street, behind the commercial storefronts. The access driveway runs between the bank and the Ulster County Court House.

9:00 am: Registration. Tea, coffee, pastry and fellowship. Start of all day genealogical workshop and historic exhibits. Novelty items offered for sale.

9:30 am: Noted genealogist Florence Christoph's presentation and book signing of newly printed Volume II genealogy, Van Voorhees Generations 6 and 7.

10:30 am: A slide show presentation featuring the migratory path of the Van Voorhees Family in

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North America may be attended during time in an adjacent classroom.

11:00 am: All proceed to church sanctuary for the brief Annual Business Meeting which includes the **election of some officers**. Be sure to read the ballot on page 5. The business Meeting will be the Annual Business Meeting, followed by our keynote speaker, novelist, Beverly Swerling. Ms. Swerling is author of *City of Dreams* (Simon & Schuster, 2001) www.cityofdreamsthebook.com. Her current work, *Shadowbrook*, due out March 2004, examines the early 'plantation' systems of the North, during the mid-1700s, and is set just north of Albany, during the French and Indian War. Her recent research has led her to in-depth examination of the early Dutch records as they were the main settlement group in Albany.

12:15 pm: Proceed to dining area for luncheon and Opa Steven Coert's quiz. (Study tip: review *Through a Dutch Door, 17th Century Origins of the Van Voorhees Family*, 1992)

1:30 pm: Genealogical workshop resumes. Concurrent afternoon historic talk entitled "Following the Frontier: Voorhees Family Adventures in the 19th Century" by noted historian, Peter Christoph.

2:30 pm to 4:30 pm: Trolley tour with guide. Historic tour begins with the Old Dutch Church and wends its way through Crown Street, which claims to possess the four oldest stone houses (Dutch) in America, to Wilbur Avenue where the Mary Powell can be seen at low tide, to Rondout and back.

5:00 pm: Cocktails followed by price fix dinner at the four star, Le Canard Enchaîne Rive Gauche, (845) 339-2003, across Fair Street, on the east side of the Old Dutch Church.

QUESTIONS DURING THE DAY? Please call Patricia Zander on her cell phone at (914) 419-8353 if you require additional information during the annual reunion.

Local Destinations:

For local destinations of interest please contact Kingston Heritage Visitors Center, (845) 331-9506, www.ci.kingston.ny.us Inquire about: the Old Dutch Church Heritage Museum, Fred. J. Johnston Museum, Stockade District, Volunteer Fireman's Hall and Museum, Senate House State Historic Site, City Hall,

Rondout Waterfront and lighthouse, Hudson River Maritime Museum and the Trolley Museum of New York.

Regional Destinations:

Additional regional information may be obtained by contacting the following places:

Ulster County Tourism (800) 340-3566,
www.ulstertourism.info

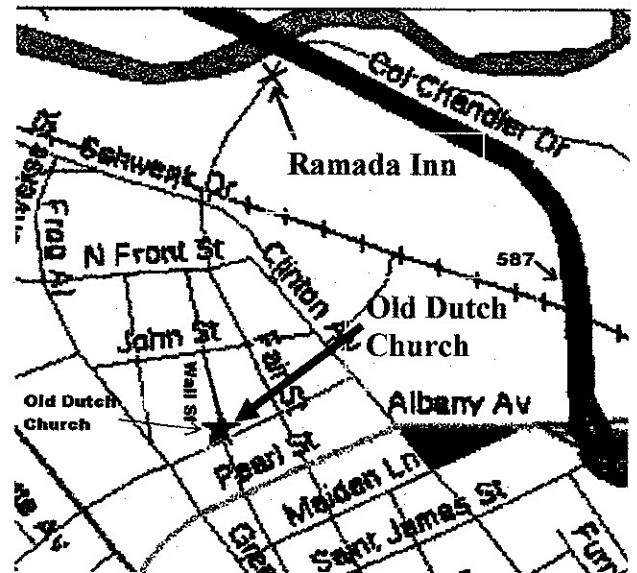
Dutchess County Tourism (800) 445-3131,
www.dutchesstourism.com

Orange County Tourism (800) 762-8687,
www.orangetourism.com

Hudson Valley Tourism, Inc. (800) 232-4782,
www.enjoyhv.com

Inquire about: Huguenot Village - New Paltz, D&H Canal Museum, Woodstock Arts Colony, Old Rheinbeck Aerodrome, Culinary Institute of America, Franklin D. Roosevelt Estate and Library, Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill, Montgomery Place, Clermont, Hurley Stone Houses, Samuel Morse Historic Site, United States Military Academy at West Point, the Vanderbilt Estate and numerous wineries. Please be sure to note that group and public tours of de Halve Maen in Albany, New York may be arranged by contacting the Albany Visitor Center, (518) 434-0405, www.newnetherland.org

Below is a map showing the locations of the Ramada Inn and the Old Dutch Church.



71st Van Voorhees Annual Reunion Reservation and Payment Form:

Name: _____ VVA Membership No.: _____

Address: _____

Name(s) of other attendees in your party: _____

Please check all descent lines that apply to you:

Coert ___ Lucas ___ Albert ___ Merghen ___ Aeltje ___ Jannetje ___ Hendrickje ___

Friday evening dinner at the Hoffman House, circa 1711, National Historic Register.

Participants order ala carte.

Entrée prices range from \$16 to \$25. Space limited to 22 attendees. Call (845) 338-2626 for reservations.

_____ no. of persons Pay as you go.

Saturday luncheon at the Old Dutch Church:

_____ no. of persons x \$15.00 = \$ _____

Price includes morning refreshments.

Saturday evening dinner at Le Canard Enchaîne (845) 339-2003:

_____ no. of persons x \$20.00 = \$ _____

Price includes tax and tip. **** Zagat Survey, 2003.

Total Payment \$ _____

Blocks of rooms are reserved at **reduced seasonal rates until September 10, 2003**, for both Friday and Saturday night.

Ramada Inn, Cecelia Madden, (845) 339-3900, \$95 plus tax.

Holiday Inn, Debra Harris, (845) 338-1299, \$139 plus tax.

Both hotels are conveniently located at Interstate 87 interchange Exit 19. Reservations and payments for hotel rooms are the responsibility of attendees. Please check with service providers for all terms and conditions that apply, including a minimum stay requirement of two nights. *Please be aware that October is also prime "leaf-peeping" season in the northeast and hotel/B&B accommodations will be sold-out early in the season.*

Please submit this form to Patricia Zander, 12 Pellbridge Drive, Hopewell Jct., NY 12533-6229, along with your total payment before September 10, 2003. Make your check payable to The Van Voorhees Association. You may call (845) 226-6994 for further information.

If you are planning to order and pick up the following books at the Reunion, please put an X beside the book and a number in the next blank.

Through a Dutch Door _____ no. of copies _____

Vol. I of *The Van Voorhees Family in America* _____ no. of copies _____

Vol. II of *The Van Voorhees Family in America* _____ no. of copies _____

NOTE: Once we receive your information, the City of Kingston Heritage Area Commission will send you a complete visitor's packet, which along with tourist information will contain road maps of

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**Vol. II of our NEW GENEALOGY,
Includes 7th & 8th Generations +
Listings for the 9th Generation**

AVAILABLE on OCT. 11, 2003

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 the last page 19 of this issue.

THE KENTUCKY LOW DUTCH SETTLEMENTS

by

Larry Michael Voreis

The following article is Part III in a series on the westward migration of the Voorhees family to the Low Dutch settlement of Conewago in York County, Pennsylvania about 1765, to frontier Kentucky in the spring of 1780. Larry Voreis, author of *Our Low Dutch Heritage*, lives in Taylors, SC and would like to hear from other Low Dutch researchers. His email address is burroakpubs@bellsouth.net

When Henry Banta's party of Conewago Low Dutch landed at the Falls of the Ohio (present-day Louisville) in April 1780, the settlement consisted of a blockhouse, 18 cabins on Corn Island, a small fort near present-day 3rd street, a large fort on the east side of a ravine that entered the Ohio at 12th street, and a few cabins scattered through the woods, all occupied by about 100 inhabitants.¹ The District of Kentucky at this time was a county of the colony of Virginia. In May 1780, the Virginia legislature subdivided Kentucky County into three counties: Jefferson, Fayette and Lincoln. The town at the Falls officially became Louisville and was designated the seat of Jefferson County. In each county was appointed a colonel and a lieutenant colonel to command the militia and a surveyor to record land dealings. The militia commanders were all highly experienced Indian fighters, recognized leaders in the Kentucky settlements: Colonels John Floyd in Jefferson County, Benjamin Logan in Lincoln County, and John Todd in Fayette County. Colonel George Rogers Clark stationed at the fort in Louisville commanded a Virginia regiment who enlisted to serve under him. Colonel Clark held a commission from Virginia to command a "regular" Virginia army, which put him in a peculiar position. He did not report to General Washington, commander of the Continental Army, and he could not command the militia troops unless authorized by the Virginia governor to do so. He was, however, held in high esteem by the militiamen and well respected by their officers. This convoluted military structure was quickly put to the test during the winter of 1779-80. Colonel Clark, convinced that the only way to stop Indian raids into Kentucky was to attack the British garrison at Detroit, planned an expedition to do just that. The British made the first move, however, and Clark was forced to go on the defensive. In the spring of 1780, the British-led

offensive got underway.²

Living conditions in the Kentucky settlements were appalling in 1780. The Indian threat forced settlers to the safety of the fortified cabins, called stations, along Beargrass Creek in Louisville and at Harrodsburg, Boonesborough and St. Asaphs, in the interior. Colonel William Fleming, a hero of the Battle of the Great Kanawha, kept a journal of his visit to Kentucky during the winter of 1779-80. In his travels, Fleming saw fortified settlers living in squalid, overcrowded conditions. He noted Whitley's Station had 22 men, 54 women and children; St. Asaph's (also known as Logan's Station) 25 men, 74 women and children and 20 Negroes; Clark's Station 10 men and 23 women and children. Harrods Town was the most crowded of all with a population of about 400.³ At the Falls, Fleming saw sickly people, and many dying children. He described Boonesborough and Harrodsburg as filthy places where the inhabitants were sickly and dead beasts lay about poisoning the air and water. During the winter there was a shortage of corn and the people suffered from a steady diet of boiled buffalo meat. Fleming reported that there were Indians everywhere, and there was terror in the settlements.⁴

The Beargrass Settlements

In early 1780 there were six settlements built along Beargrass Creek. Collectively they were called the Beargrass Stations: Floyd's Station, the Spring Station, Hogland's Station, the Low Dutch Station, A'Sturgus' Station and Linn's Station. A seventh, Sullivan's Station, was on the south fork of Beargrass Creek.⁵ All of the stations except Hogland's are shown on John Filson's 1784 Map. Floyd's Station, built in November 1779 by John Floyd, was in the center of a 2,000-acre tract of land he owned and was the headquarters of the Beargrass settlements. Floyd built his cabin during the "hard winter" of 1779-1780 with the help of his wife, a brother, and a Negro servant. During that legendary freeze, Louisville was completely isolated from the outside world. The shortage of food caused the price of corn to soar to \$165 per bushel and one acre of land was sold for the exorbitant price of one-pound sterling per acre. Besides

starvation the settlers suffered sporadic Indian raids. In December 1779 two men were killed and two boys captured at Bullitts Lick, south of the Beargrass Stations, on the path to Harrodsburg. By the spring of 1780 the situation improved with the arrival of a flood of new settlers. There was a good supply of bread and the price of corn dropped. By 5 May 1780, Floyd was able to write: "near three-hundred large Boats have arrived at the Falls this spring with families, & corn can be bought now for thirty dollars [per bushel]. We have six stations on B. Grass with not less than 600 men... You would be surprised to see 10 or 15 wagons at a time going to & from the Falls every day with families and corn... I expect 200 acres will be tended in corn this year on my place but very little of it will come to my share."⁶

Floyd and several other large landowners welcomed the new arrivals with generous terms that encouraged settlement of private land along Beargrass Creek. These tenant-owner relationships permitted new arrivals to quickly clear land and plant a crop on the fertile banks of the Beargrass while paying rent in the form of corn, a traditional share crop arrangement.⁷ In addition to Floyd's Station, there were two other stations built in the spring of 1780 along Beargrass Creek on Floyd's property: Hogland's Station, where many Dutch settled, about 700 yards downstream from Floyd's Station; and the Low Dutch Station, sometimes referred to as the "New Holland Station." The Low Dutch Station was built by members of Henry Banta's party, and is the one we are most interested in. This is where I believe the widow Sophia Vanderbogert Voorhees, wife of Peter, lived with her children, including 8-year-old Abraham, progenitor of the Voreis line.⁸

The three other Beargrass Stations were the Spring Station, notable for its stockade walls that ran out from the fort to enclose a spring. A'Sturgus Station, also built in the spring of 1780 and named for its builder Peter A'Sturgus, was about 2 miles above Floyd's and a mile northeast of the Low Dutch Station. The sixth, and easternmost station, Lynn's, or Linn's, on the Sinking or Middle Fork of Beargrass Creek, was under construction in March 1780.⁹

The Low Dutch Station on Beargrass Creek

The year 1780 was a benchmark year in Kentucky history. A flood of new settlers made the down-river journey to the Falls, immigrants from Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland. The Banta party

of Conewago Dutch, including the widow Sophia Vanderbogert Voorhees and her children John, Francis, Peter, Helena and Abraham, were among the first to arrive. Also in the Banta party were bachelors James, Cornelius and Luke Voorhees. Theodore Roosevelt, in *The Winning of the West*, noted the arrival of the Low Dutch in Kentucky: "Usually several families came together, being bound by some tie of neighborhood or purpose. Not infrequently this tie was religious, for in the back settlements the few churches were almost as much social as religious centers. Thus this spring [April 1780], a third of the congregation of a Low Dutch Reformed Church came to Kentucky bodily, to the number of fifty heads of families, with their wives and children, their beasts of burden and pasture, and their household goods; like most bands of new immigrants, they suffered greatly from the Indians. Much more than did the old settlers."¹⁰

Lyman Draper's interview with an old pioneer described living conditions at the Low Dutch Station: "We went out on the Bear-grass to the New Holland, Low Dutch Station, about 8 miles from Louisville.... The winter before we came down several at this station perished for want of provisions. Roasted old buffalo hides. The land belonged probably to Col. Floyd. Westerfelt's family killed going to Harrodsburg, near Bullit's Lick. Samuel Westerfelt and his sister got back. This the same summer of 1780."¹¹

There were many casualties in the Beargrass settlements during the Indian attacks of 1780. Billy Easkins was killed in the spring while traveling from one of the stations to the Falls. His companion, Billy Breckenridge, spent six days wandering in the woods after being thrown from his horse. John Galloway, a young man living at the Dutch Station and a seed maker, rode out one evening to check his corn field and was shot within sight of the station. At A'Sturgis' Station, David Spangler went out to find his oxen and was tomahawked and scalped. He was found sitting against a tree with his hat on, still alive. He died that night.¹²

In a letter written on 3 May 1780, Colonel John Floyd vividly described the situation: "Hardly one week pass without someone being scalped between this (place) and the Falls and I almost got too cowardly to travel about the woods without company."¹³ The Beargrass settlements were in a desperate situation.

Organized and equipped by the British commander, De Peyster, the Indians, along with some French and Canadian partisans, originally planned to

attack Clark at the Falls and then recapture the garrisons in Illinois and at Vincennes. Because of the rapid increase in the number of people settling in Kentucky in 1780, the plan was changed. The full force of the attack fell on the interior settlements. De Peyster was another British "hair buyer," who paid bounties for scalps brought to his headquarters at the fort in Detroit. Buying scalps encouraged the Indians to kill woman and children. The attack came in late May 1780. The British war-party moved down the Miami River, crossed the Ohio and marched overland to attack two small stockade settlements, Martin's and Ruddle's stations, on the south fork of the Licking. Led by the British captain, Henry Bird, the force consisted of 600 Indians, several Canadians and several pieces of light artillery. Both settlements were surprised and captured without a fight: Ruddle's Station on 24 June and Martin's Station on the next day. At this point Captain Bird lost his nerve and, fearing a counterattack from Clark, began a retreat to Detroit, but not before losing control of his command. The Indians plundered Martin's and Ruddle's of everything they could load onto horses and forced their captives to carry the rest. Women, children and older men who could slow down their retreat were tomahawked and scalped on the spot. Nearby Grant's Station was abandoned, the inhabitants fleeing to Bryan's Station, some further south to Harrodsburg.¹⁴

At the Falls, Colonel Floyd wrote a letter dated 25 August 1780: "The stroke the enemy has made at the Licking has raised many doubts and fears in the minds of the inhabitants so that numbers are preparing to remove to the interior part of the county."¹⁵ Floyd was referring to Harrodsburg and Boonesborough which were considered safer, more defensible forts.

The men of the Beargrass settlements had many obligations. The most important and dangerous one was service in the militia, but serving in the militia meant more than fighting Indians. There was a serious effort made to maintain the Wilderness Road, a vital communication link with the Virginia capital and the eastern settlements. Late in the year 1780, Captains John Kinkead and William McBride called for militiamen to make repairs and improvements to a stretch of the road that had not been maintained since Daniel Boone blazed it in 1775. Two volunteers for this duty were James Vorhis (Voorhees) and John Demaree (Demarest) who served as "labourers, Gard, packhorsemen and bullock drivers." James and John made the dangerous journey from the Low Dutch

Station on Beargrass Creek to Harrodsburg. They probably rendezvoused with the militia at Whitley's Station or Logan's Station, traditional gathering spots for groups banding together to travel the Wilderness Road. From here they traveled south on the Wilderness Road to the Powell River valley where they worked to improve the section of trail between Moccasin Gap, Cumberland Gap and into Kentucky to Hazel Patch. Even after the "improvements" the road was described as "little more than a miserable packhorse trail."¹⁶

Later that summer of 1780, the more adventurous members of the Beargrass Dutch began exploring the route to Harrods Town and possibly on to White Oak Spring Station, near Boonesborough, where they would have linked up with the Samuel Durie party who arrived there that March. There is one account of the John and Christopher Westerfield families who hired a guide to lead them to Harrods Town. On the first night of their journey they were attacked by Indians. John and Christopher and two others were killed. Polly, Debby and Garret Westerfield, and Betsy Swan, all children, were captured. Garret suffered a seizure after his capture and was quickly tomahawked; Betsy Swan, who was wounded in the attack, was also tomahawked by Indians who probably thought she would slow them down on their retreat. Polly and Debby were the only prisoners who survived the trip to Fort Detroit, where they were eventually exchanged. Mary Westerfield and young Samuel Westerfield survived the attack and escaped. The next day, the dead were buried in a mass grave and the mournful survivors returned to the Low Dutch Station.¹⁷

The Revolution on Virginia's western frontier was particularly bloody in 1780. Around the Beargrass settlements, in Jefferson County, John Floyd reported the Indians killed or captured 131 people in the first nine months of the year, about thirteen percent of the total population.¹⁸

In addition to Indian troubles in the summer of 1780, the Dutch were dejected by the realization that the large tract of land they had hoped to procure was not available. Virginia had offered free land to veterans of the French and Indian War and to those settlers who arrived before 1778. Settlers landing at the Falls in 1780 seeking free land found none. The Dutch sought relief by signing a petition to the Continental Congress that was circulated among the Kentucky settlements. Complaining to Congress about speculators and the lack of available land, the petitioners stated they had three options: remain in Kentucky and be enslaved by

the land laws of Virginia; move farther down the Ohio and become subject to Spanish rule; or settle across the Ohio on land owned by the northern tribes. The last desperate option amounted to suicide. Fortunately, the British attack ended any thoughts of settling north of the Ohio. There were some 400 signers of the 1780 petition including Cornelius Voorhees (Voorhees), Abraham Banta, Albert Banta, Cornelius Banta, Jacob Banta, John Banta, Cornelius Bogard, Peter Demaree, Samuel Harris, John Dorland, Gerardis Riker, and Jacob Westerfield — all Conewago Low Dutch.¹⁹

The Low Dutch Station Near Harrodsburg

In the aftermath of the bloody disaster at Martin's and Ruddle's stations there was an outcry for retaliation. The Kentucky militia, led by Colonel George Rogers Clark, was called out to rendezvous at the mouth of the Licking River, for a raid across the Ohio. Over 1,000 Kentuckians, including many from the Beargrass settlements, met at the appointed place at the end of July, ready for a fight. They left behind young boys and old men to feed and protect the stations. Each militiamen took a few pounds of corn and some dried buffalo and venison for the march to the northern villages. They found plenty of food at Old Chillicothe before they burned the town, the Indians having abandoned the place before Clark's arrival. On the morning of 8 August, they reached Piqua, arranged like a French village with well-built log cabins surrounded by fields of corn, protected by a blockhouse. Here the Kentuckians killed a number of Indians, some say as many as 40, while suffering 14 killed and 13 wounded. After the battle Piqua was burned, standing crops destroyed and everything of value looted. Captured horses were especially prized. After Piqua, several other villages in the neighborhood were destroyed, including the trading post at Loramie's store. After ranging 480 miles in 31 days, Clark brought his men back across the Ohio and disbanded the militia. The captured goods were sold at auction and the money divided among the men as payment. The fall of 1780 was relatively quiet in the Beargrass settlements as the Shawnee contemplated the coming winter without food or shelter.

One of the men serving in Clark's expedition was John Voorhees (Voris), the 21-year-old son of Sophia Vanderbogert Voorhees. John had volunteered in July 1780 to serve in Captain Hardy Hill's company. Other men from the Low Dutch Station serving in the same company were Luke Voris, 18-year-old John

Demaree, and four Bantas: John, Henry, Jacob and Peter. Henry Banta, 18-years-old at the time, was serving a 12-month tour of duty as a guard at the Low Dutch Station having signed up in April, 1780. In the ensuing battle, young Henry Banta was wounded in the shoulder.²⁰

In the spring of 1781, the Dutch decided to move to a safer area south of Harrodsburg, in Lincoln County (present-day Mercer County), on a tract of land they rented from Colonel James Harrod. Led by Henry Banta III, they built another Low Dutch Station at Cove Spring, near Harrod's Station at Boiling Springs. The Harrodsburg Low Dutch Station is shown on John Filson's 1784 Map between Harrodsburg and Danville, south of Harrod's Station. According to historian Vince Akers, the site is on the west side of Harrod's Run (present-day Mocks Branch) just north of present-day Gentry Lane, where the Harrodsburg-Danville Road (US 127) crosses the creek near Cove Spring.²¹

The Low Dutch Station in Lincoln County was intended to be a temporary refuge until the Indian danger subsided and they were able to find a large tract of land for themselves. At this point they had given up the idea of settling at White Oak Springs where the group led by Samuel Durie suffered many casualties. Several tenacious Low Dutch families chose to remain in the vicinity of White Oak Spring Station, not far from Boonesborough, before retreating to the Mercer County Station in January 1782.²²

Some of the Jefferson County Dutch stayed behind at the Beargrass station. The oldest Dutchman in the community, Samuel Demaree Sr., now about age 73 and father-in-law to Henry Banta III and to one of the Westerfields killed in 1780, elected to stay behind at the Beargrass station with his family.²³ The family of the Sophia Voorhees, with her oldest son John acting as head, probably did not move to the Lincoln County settlement with the Banta group.²⁴ There is evidence that Sophia's family moved to the Low Dutch Station at Cove Spring in May 1782. It was then that her son John, who had been working on the construction of Fort Nelson in Louisville, quit work and "moved to the upper counties." My assertion is based on the following fragmentary evidence. Militia payroll records indicate John worked on the construction of Fort Nelson from 20 April 1782 to 20 May 1782.²⁵ In a deposition on 24 August 1835, John testified he left Louisville for the upper counties in 1782, before Fort Nelson was completed.²⁶ This would seem to indicate that Sophia's family lived in the Beargrass settlement

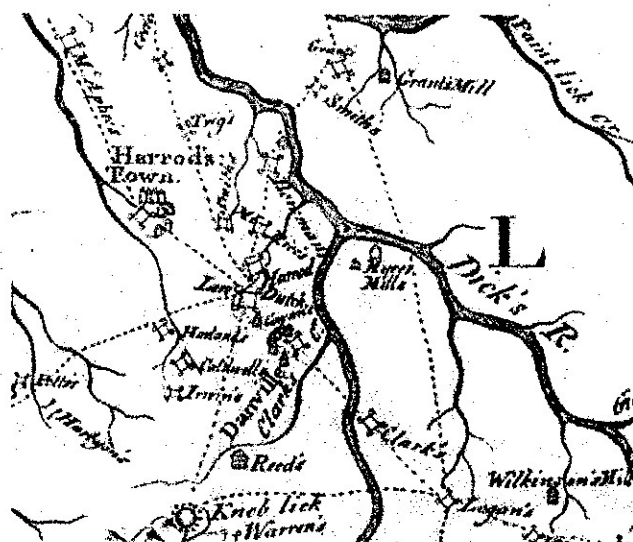
between April 1780 and May 1782; and in Mercer County from May 1782 until sometime before John's marriage to Rachel Monfort on 2 February 1786 at Well's Station in Jefferson County (present-day Shelby County). John and Rachel Voorhees (Voriss) were living in Shelby County in 1799 when their daughter Charity was born. In 1809, when their daughter Hortincy was born, they were again living in Mercer County.²⁷ Brothers Abraham Voorhees (Voreiss) and John Voorhees (Voriss) appear in the 1795 Kentucky census as residents of Mercer County and on the 1795 Mercer County tax List.²⁸ When John and Rachel moved their family to Shelby County in 1799, Sophia may have stayed behind at the Low Dutch Station in Mercer County — a much safer place. This is only an

assumption; I have no proof. I have found no record of Sophia's death or burial—yet.

Interestingly, the children of Peter and Sophia Vanderbogert Voorhees used several variations of the VOORHEES surname. The children of John and Rachel took the name VORISS. The children of Francis Voorhees, husband of Catherine Monfort, sister of Rachel, took the name VORISS. The children of Peter Voorhees, husband of Betsy Hencely, maintained the name VOORHEES. The children of Abraham Voorhees (Voreiss) and Elizabeth Downey took the name VOREISS. You can find more information on these families and the Kentucky Low Dutch in my book, *Our Low Dutch Heritage*.



The Low Dutch Station on Beargrass Creek, Jefferson County, Kentucky



The Low Dutch Station at Cove Spring, Lincoln (later Mercer) County, Kentucky

The above maps are enlargements of John Filson's Map of Kentucky (Philadelphia, 1784). Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, Maps of North America, 1750-1789, 792. Call no. G3950 1784 .F5 Vault. Available [Online]: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gmdhome.html>, accessed April 2003.

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- ¹ Alexander Scott Withers, *Chronicles of Border Warfare* (Cincinnati, 1895), p. 294.
- ² Margery Heberling Harding, ed., *George Rogers Clark and His Men, Military Records, 1778-1784* (Kentucky Historical Society, c. 1981) p. xiv.
- ³ Neal Hammon and Richard Taylor, *Virginia's Western War 1775-1786* (Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania: Stackpole Books, 2002), p. 119.
- ⁴ Theodore Roosevelt, *The Winning of the West, The Founding of the Trans-Allegheny Commonwealths, 1784-1790* 4 Vols. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995), vol. 3, pp. 204-205.
- ⁵ Draper MSS 13CC227-228, Rev. John D. Shane's interview with Captain John Dial (Dyal), 14CC214-216 and 8CC4.
- ⁶ Neal Hammon, "Early Louisville and the Beargrass Stations," *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, vol. 52, no. 2, p. 156.
- ⁷ Ibid.
- ⁸ "The Low Dutch Settlement," *Shelbyville Sentinel-News*, Bicentennial Edition, January, 1974. Florence Christoph, *The Van Voorhees Family in America* (The Van Voorhees Association, 2000), pp. 106-107 (Peter Voorhees, husband of Sophia Vanderbogert, is VVA#249).
- ⁹ Hammon, "Early Louisville and the Beargrass Stations," p. 157.
- ¹⁰ Roosevelt, *The Winning of the West*, vol. 2, pp. 95-101.
- ¹¹ Draper MSS 13CC83-84, Rev. John D. Shane's (JDS) interview no. 25 with [Miss. Campbell?].
- ¹² Draper MSS 13CC16, JDS interview with the daughter of John Thickson.
- ¹³ Draper MSS 17CC128, John Floyd correspondence, 1779-83.
- ¹⁴ Hammon and Taylor, *Virginia's Western War*, p. 127; Roosevelt, *The Winning of the West*, vol. 2, pp. 102-103.
- ¹⁵ Draper MSS 17CC130, John Floyd correspondence, 1779-83.
- ¹⁶ Akers, "The Low Dutch Company, A History of the Holland Dutch Settlements of the Kentucky Frontier" *De Halve Maen*, vol. 55 (1980-81), Part 2, p. 12, citing a deposition by John Demaree on 8 January 1810 in Jacob Bowman vs. Daniel Brewer, Box B-32, Mercer County Circuit Court Records; Louis A. Burgess, *Virginia Soldiers of 1776*, 3 vols. (Richmond, Virginia: 1927-29), vol. 3, p. 1272; Robert L. Kincaid, *The Wilderness Road* (Middleboro, Kentucky, 1973), pp. 157-159.
- ¹⁷ Draper MSS 13CC11-12, JDS interview with the daughter of John Thickston; Akers, *The Low Dutch*, Part 1, p. 21.
- ¹⁸ Patricia Watlington, "Discontent in Frontier Kentucky," *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, vol. 65, no. 2 (April 1967), p. 79, citing John Floyd's letter to Thomas Jefferson, 16 April 1781, *Calendar of Virginia State Papers*, II, 47-49.
- ¹⁹ A.C. Quisenberry, "Five Hundred Kentucky Pioneers," *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, vol. 10, no. 28 (1912), pp. 41-46.
- ²⁰ Akers, *The Low Dutch*, Part 2, p. 12, citing the Revolutionary War pension applications of John Demaree (W7004), affidavit dated Aug. 9, 1832, Mercer County, Kentucky; and Henry Banta (R480) affidavit dated 28 November 1833, Bourbon County, Kentucky.
- ²¹ Draper MSS 14CC214-216, Akers, *The Low Dutch*, Part 2, p. 14.
- ²² Akers, "The Low Dutch Company," Part 2, p. 14.
- ²³ Ibid.
- ²⁴ Sophia Vanderbogert, wife of Peter Voorhees (VVA #249), mother of Abraham Voreis (VVA #871).
- ²⁵ Harding, *George Rogers Clark Records*, p. 120.
- ²⁶ Draper MSS 3CC107, deposition of John Voris; (24 October 1835).
- ²⁷ Christoph, *The Van Voorhees Family*, p. 295; Jefferson County, Virginia-Kentucky Early Marriages 1781-July 1826, *The Filson Club*, Book. 1 (Owensboro, Kentucky: Cook & McDowell Publications, 1980), p. 4.
- ²⁸ *1795 Census of Kentucky*, (Miami Beach, Florida: T.L.C. Genealogy, 1991), p. 181; Betty J. Yenne, compiler, *Mercer County Tax Lists - 1795* (Fort Wayne Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana: 1965), p. 53.

Editor's Note: This article is part of Larry's recent book, *Our Low Dutch Heritage*. He has written 2 previous *Nieuwsbrief* articles (from the book) on the Conewago Low-Dutch colony and the migration to Kentucky. This book is a historical account of the Low-Dutch families who settled in Conewago, York County, Pa. and migrated to Kentucky during the Revolutionary War. Focused on the descendants of Steven Coerte Van Voorhees, the story is told by tracing the western migration of the Low Dutch and their bloody attempts to establish a colony in Kentucky. It sorts out the Kentucky Voorhees, Voris and Vories families, and documents the Voreis branch established by Abraham Voreis (1772-1860) and Elizabeth Downey. The narrative follows the Voreis family to Ohio and finally to Marshall County, Indiana in 1836. While covering the period from 1600-1860, it

also expands our knowledge of the descendants of Lucas Stevense Van Voorhees and Jan Stevense Van Voorhees, who settled in Kentucky. For further information, you can contact Larry at telephone no. 864-264-9354 or his email address, lvoreis@bellsouth.net

Low Dutch and *High Dutch* are terms used almost exclusively in Pennsylvania to distinguish John Thickston; Akers, *The Low Dutch*, Part 1, p. 21.

Nederlanders/Netherlanders from Germans. For centuries in Europe, 'our' Dutch were referred to as *Low Landers* (*Nederlanders*). In Dutch *neder* means *beneath, under, or low*. In German the terms were *hoch Deutsch* (*high German*) and *platt Deutsch* (*flat/low German*). While this usually referred to the Netherlands as being a low and flat country, sometimes it was also used in a derogatory manner.

◆
**Spelling of the Voorhees Name Is Not a
 Consistent Art**
 by Robert Voorhees

Judith Van Voorhis, Van Voorhees Association computer resource, was kind enough to sort Flo Christoph's total Van Voorhees database of 56,614 surnames by name. This would include all the names in Volume 1 (first 6 generations plus the children of 6), Volume 2 (7th and 8th generations plus the children of repeated more than once and counted more than once.

In this data base 21,940 names or 39% are Voorhees name variations and 34,674 or 61% are other names—over 8,500 different surnames other than Voorhees. Of the Voorhees name variations, 15% retain the Van in front of and part of the surname. In the Table I (below),

8), and later generations where the information is available and entered into the database. The following data and observations are not meant as a scientific study but rather present an interesting generalized look at the database when sorted by surname. For example, we know for sure that many of the Voorhees names are the names with the Van have been added to the names without the Van.

Table I

Name	Number	Percent
Voorhees	11,324	51.6
Voorhis	3685	16.8
Voorhies	2121	9.7
Voris	1335	6.1
Vorhies	606	2.8
Voorheis	528	2.4

Name	Number	Percentage
Voreis	326	1.5
Vorhis	320	1.5
Vories	292	1.3
Vorhees	290	1.3
Vorhes	256	1.2
Voorhes	150	0.7
Vooris	130	0.6
Voress	122	0.6
Vorous	61	0.3
Voorus	60	0.3

Vorys	41	0.2
Vores	37	0.2
Voorhess	37	0.2
Vorhus	36	0.2
Vorce	28	0.1
Vorheis	22	0.1
Vorhus	19	0.1
Voores	19	0.1
Others	78	0.4
Total	21,940	100

Other Voorhees name variations with small frequency are Vorris, Voriss, Vorres, Voors, Voohis, Vooreis, Vorhease, Voorhys, Vorhese, Vorheas, Voras, Voures, Voorhus, Voorhese, Voorheez, Vohres, Voorhise, Vohris, Voorst, Voors, Voras, and Voreis.

(Editor's Note: If you know people by the names in Table I, you might suggest that they look up their genealogy and become members of the Van Voorhees Association.)

The higher frequency non-Voorhees names are shown in Table II.

Table II

Name	Number
Smith	311
Miller	238
Demarest	181
Brown	166
Johnson	154
Davis	154
Ackerman	145
Schenck	142
Clark	137
Wyckoff	133
Williams	133
Jones	131
Stryker	128
Conover and variations	125
Thompson	117
Moore	109
Nevius	106
Banta	104
Wilson	101
Hopper	101

Vandoren	97
Taylor	96
Stewart	91
Hoagland	90
Hall	89
Brokaw	89
Baker	88
White	87
Hegaman	86
Bergen	86
Terhune	84
Williamson	83
Cortelyou	83
Stevensen	75
Harris	75
Quick	74
Adams	74
Wood	73
Allen	72
Zabriskie	70
Martin	70
Westervelt	69
Suydam	69
Gulick	68
Brinkerhoff	68
Morris	67
King	67
Lewis	66
Anderson	65
Walker	64
Myers	64
Mouton	64
Garretson	64
Vanderveer	63
Campbell	63
Young	62
Cook	62
Bennett	62
Vanarsdale	60
Stillwell	59
Scott	58
Robinson	58
Jackson	58
Dubois	58
Peterson	57
Perrine	56
Cooper	56
Sutphen	55
Reed	55
Polhemus	55
Wright	53
Stoothoff	53
Phillips	51
Stevens	50
Patterson	50
Davidson	50
Covert	50
Bell	50

Table III is the same data as Table II except sorted by names rather than number:

Table III			
Name	Number	Name	Number
Ackerman	145	Martin	70
Adams	74	Miller	238
Allen	72	Moore	109
Anderson	65	Morris	67
Baker	88	Mouton	64
Banta	104	Myers	64
Bell	50	Nevius	106
Bennett	62	Patterson	50
Bergen	86	Perrine	56
Brinkerhoff	68	Peterson	57
Brokow	89	Phillips	51
Brown	166	Polhermus	55
Cambell	63	Quick	74
Clark	137	Reed	55
Conover & Variations	125	Robinson	58
Cook	62	Schenck	142
Cooper	56	Scott	58
Cortelyou	50	Smith	311
Covert	50	Stevens	50
Davidson	50	Stevensen	75
Davis	154	Stewart	91
Demarest	181	Stillwell	59
Dubois	58	Stoothoff	53
Garretson	64	Stryker	128
Gulick	68	Sutphen	55
Hall	89	Suydam	69
Harris	75	Taylor	96
Hegaman	86	Terhune	84
Hoagland	90	Thompson	117
Hopper	101	Vanarsdale	60
Jackson	58	Vanderveer	63
Johnson	154	Vandoren	97
Johns	131	Walker	64
King	67	Westervelt	69
Lewis	66	White	87
		Williams	133
		Williamson	83
		Wilson	101
		Wood	73
		Wright	53
		Wyckoff	133
		Young	62
		Zabriskie	70



In Memoriam

Staff Sgt. John Michael ("Mike") Teal, a 29-year-old flight engineer from Dallas, Texas died on Sun., March 23, 2003. He was on his 2nd tour of duty to Afghanistan. His helicopter was on its way to pick up Afghan children with head injuries, when it crashed and killed all 6 crewmen

aboard. He was a graduate of Bishop Lynch High School in Dallas. At the University of Mississippi he majored in park and recreation management. He joined the Air Force before graduating. On his return he was planning to get married. He is survived by his mother, Madalyn Teal, Ph.D.

Dr. David Voris (V.V.A. #10896) of 14189, So. 400 in W. Hanover, Ind. 47243 passed away on June 20, 2003. He is survived by his wife (Annette), son (Paul Voris of Chicago) and daughter (Emily Flin also of Chicago).

Additional Memoriams by Manning W. Voorhees

The Family has lost two very dedicated volunteers and supporters. Elizabeth Voorhees Edgar and Ginny Voorhees Ward will be remembered by all of us as proud descendants of Steven Coerts van Voorhees and as wonderful ladies whose friendship we highly valued and from whom we all benefitted.

Elizabeth Voorhees Edgar was called on June 25, 2003 at the age of 97. A long-time resident of Highland Park, New Jersey, Elizabeth lived at the Willows Presbyterian Senior Care residence in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she died. She was born in Newton, New Jersey, on June 9, 1906 and was of the Lucas Line, the daughter of Dr. Shepard Voorhees and Susan Elizabeth Lyons. Elizabeth was a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants and Daughters of the American Revolution. Her obituary in the *Home News Tribune* said that Elizabeth "provided a bridge between the past, when she accompanied her country doctor father in a horse-drawn sleigh as he made house calls, and the present, when she flew in a private plane piloted by one of her grandsons."

She was a graduate of Philadelphia General Hospital School of Nursing, Class of 1927. Elizabeth married Dr. Joseph Hoffman Edgar and moved to Highland Park where she and her husband raised children Joseph Hoffman, James Shepard and John Buxton. She is survived by her sons, eight grandchildren and eight great-grand children.

Elizabeth became a member of the Van Voorhees Association on October 1, 1934, about two years after the Association was formed, as member number 399. Over the years, she was Secretary, Historian and right-hand lady to Helen Voorhees during the latter's term as President. Elizabeth participated in almost all of the Association's growth and successes.

Virginia Voorhees Ward died on January 5, 2002. We learned of Ginny's passing from the April 2003 issue of the *Record*, published by the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. No further details were given in the *Record*.

According to our genealogical information, Ginny died in

her 75th year. She was is the Albert Line and the daughter of Ted Victor Voorhees and Margaret Myrtle Gifford. Born in Ripley, New York, on April 13, 1925, Ginny married Joseph Sheyer Ward. They had children Margaret Helen, Phyllis Ann, Janet Ruth, Sheila Claire and Bernard Voorhees. Barney was Treasurer of the Association for several years.

Ginny was a very active and dedicated member of the Van Voorhees Association for several decades and was an active participant of the Executive Committee. She was very interested in her family genealogy. Ginny researched answers for and wrote the genealogical Q&A article in our newsletter for several years. Many of us will remember her

on the 1991 Association trip to Hees.

Een Nieuw Verwante (A New Cousin)

Hannah Christen Van Voorhis was born on May 1, 2003 to Jeffrey Coert Van Voorhis and his wife, Dr. Lara Totzke Van Voorhis, of Menomonee Falls, WI. Hannah is the 1st granddaughter of Life Member, Steven C. Van Voorhis, of Waukesha, WI.

Genealogy News: *The VAN VOORHEES FAMILY in AMERICA*

Vol. I: the first 6 generations, beginning with Steven Coerts Van Voorhees.

Vol. II, just released & available at the Reunion on Oct. 11, 2003,
comes in 2 books!

1. The 7th and 8th generations: the period from 1775 to 1870 – from the beginning of the Revolution to after the end of the Civil War.
An Appendix will include updates to the first 6 generations as well as unknowns for the 7th and 8th
2. The 9th generation and their children (many of whom lived into the 20th century).

Since the publication of Vol. I, nearly 4000 names have been added to our data base which contains over 75,000 names representing 63,000 people in 14 generations. This includes spouses and in-laws.

The Internet is a wonderful tool; however, not all genealogical data there is accurate. The above books have been carefully researched and documented by the Van Voorhees Association.

Don't disappoint your family this Holiday Season!
Don't wait until the price goes up or they are sold out!
Reserve your copies of all 3 books now!

(See the last page (19) for the Order Form.)

The Junior Corner: *Dutch ROSMALEN* by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

Rosmalen (pronounced *rose-mah-len*) or rosemaling (the Norwegian name often used in English texts) is a painted design which Norwegians claim to have started; however, history and archaeology show otherwise. (The tulip design was actually painted in ancient Egypt!) We find rosmalen all

across Europe from Italy to Scandinavia. It is also present in Asia and Mexico. Depending on your definition, it is found all over the world. The differences involve painting techniques, subjects and colors. Today we find most, but not all, Dutch rosmalen painters in Friesland, a province north of

Drenthe. Here the town of Hindeloopen is famous for its particular style of rosmalen in which oil paints are used. Several years ago I had the privilege of watching some of these masters on my visit to Hindeloopen. Each artist has his own preferred designs, and never are 2 pieces exactly alike. Slight imperfections, as the design is repeated, are a definite sign of handwork.

In Dutch *ros* means *reddish* in color and *malen* means *to paint* or a *picture*. In Norwegian *rose* means *rose* or a *pinkish color*, and *maling* means a *painting*. In both of these countries a shade of red or pink is frequently found in the design or in the background color.

Dutch rosmalen is found on all kinds of hard material. We find it on Delftware, china, interior beams in houses, and *almost anything* made of wood (all kinds of household furniture, interior doors, cupboards, shutters, wooden plates and trays, clocks, candlesticks, sleighs, jewelry, boxes of all shapes and sizes, lamps, display items, toys, etc.). Tole

painting (found on tinware, trays and other metalware) is actually a form of rosmalen. The designs are usually floral but may also include figures, objects, scenes and even written proverbs or scriptures. Not all designs are meant to be a centerpiece: some may be borders or filler material. The final painting might include all of these styles.

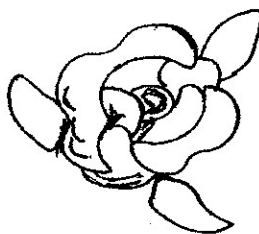
The technique uses quick brush strokes. The final picture is not meant to be precise like a photo. Often it may be quite primitive or representational rather than an exact copy of the real thing. Bright colors are generally used. In Friesian rosmalen there is shading but not any blending of the colors. The amount of blended color varies elsewhere, even in other areas of The Netherlands.

Unfortunately there is no color in our *Nieuwsbrief*. You will have to imagine that or enlarge the simplified floral examples (drawn by Marilyn V. Voshall) and use crayons to color them.

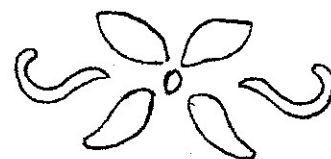
Rosmalen Figures for Coloring



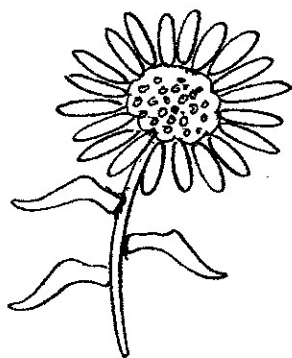
Tulip



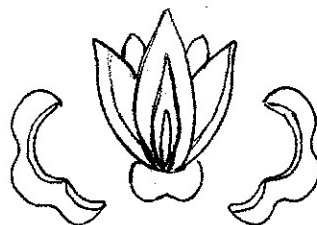
Rose



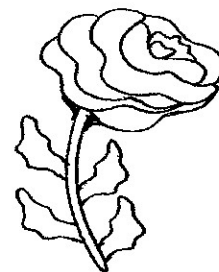
Border



Sunflower



Lotus



Peony

There are many books on this subject. The one I found to be the most comprehensive is *Jo Sonja's Guide to Decorative Painting* by Jo Sonja Jansen (c. 1999: ISBN 0-8230-2562: 288 pages with all illustrations in full color). Ms. Jansen is a Master Teacher who received the Vesterheim Gold Medal from the Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa. (We

toured this museum in July.) Her book contains many color charts and depicts brush techniques. The types of materials to buy are also explained in detail. There are instructions on surface preparation (many types) and finishing, plus selecting and creating a design. In addition it explains the styles and differences used in many countries.

◆
Love Dutch History? Then you will love

***Through a Dutch Door,
the 17th Century Origins of The Van Voorhees Family.***

This 209-page book, first published in 1992 by The Van Voorhees Association, is being re-introduced!

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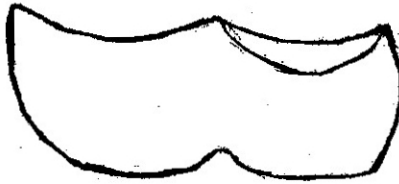
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