



VAN VOORHEES NIEUWSBRIEF

Volume 22, Number 1

Spring/Summer 2004

A Publication of the Van Voorhees Association, Organized in 1932
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Highlights of the Van Voorhees Association 2003 Reunion

The Van Voorhees Association Meeting was held on October 11, 2003 at the Old Dutch Reform Church (Fig. 1) in Kingston, NY. Our new book, *The Van Voorhees Family in America: Vols. 1 & 2 (set)* was unveiled and book sales were brisk all day (more details on pp. 5 & 6).

Our speaker, Beverly Swerling (ibid. p. 13 #3), spoke on "The Dutch in New York City." Afterwards there was a talk by Peter Christoph (ibid. p. 13 #2).

Activities included a morning breakfast and gathering (Fig. 3), genealogy workshop, and an excellent catered lunch. After lunch, Thomas Sheehan (Fig. 2) gave an organ recital on the church's pipe organ. A business meeting included the election of officers. The results may be found in "WHO'S WHO." The finale was a guided trolley-bus tour of the old sections of Kingston, first capital of NY.

Wearing Dutch clothing to our meetings is encouraged and two people wore costumes. Figure 4 shows Marilyn and Roy Voshall dressed in 17th century Drente costumes in front of the Drente provincial flag.

Thomas M. Sheehan (Fig. 2)

Thomas M. Sheehan, a 15-year-old twelfth-generation member of the Van Voorhees family, gave an outstanding performance. Tom studies organ under Dr. Jack Davis who is the retired organist of the Cabot Chapel at West Point where he played for over 30 years. Thomas played "Variations de Concert" by Joseph Bonnet, (1894-1944) and the old Dutch Hymn, "We Gather Together", the arrangement from folk melody that was in use before 1600. (The familiar arrangement by Kremser is from the 1800s).

Membership Dues for 2004

We are so lucky to have this organization. Few other families have one. Furthermore, our Van Voorhees Association is educational in nature, not just another social club. We research and copyright the information printed in all our publications.

Membership makes a nice gift for all occasions. A lifetime membership for your children and/or grandchildren will leave a legacy of lasting memories. You'll find the amounts and form on page 16. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Fall 2004 Business Meeting of the Van Voorhees Association

The General Business Meeting of the Van Voorhees Association will be held at the Fishkill Courtyard Hotel, Fishkill, NY from 9:00 to 10:00 AM on Saturday, October 9, 2004.

All members are invited to attend; but you **must register by Sept. 1, 2004**. This is so we can arrange for a room

large enough to have chairs for everyone. **Please contact Patricia Zander, Secy.** Her address is in "Who's Who"

Unfortunately, a 2004 Reunion will not occur this Fall due to a lack of volunteers. A 2005 Van Voorhees Association Reunion is being planned. The exact date and place for the 2005 Reunion will be announced later.

**REMINDER -- Nieuwsbrief items for the 2004 Fall issue are due by Sept. 1, 2004.
Please send all material to the Editor, listed in Who's Who.**

Feature Articles

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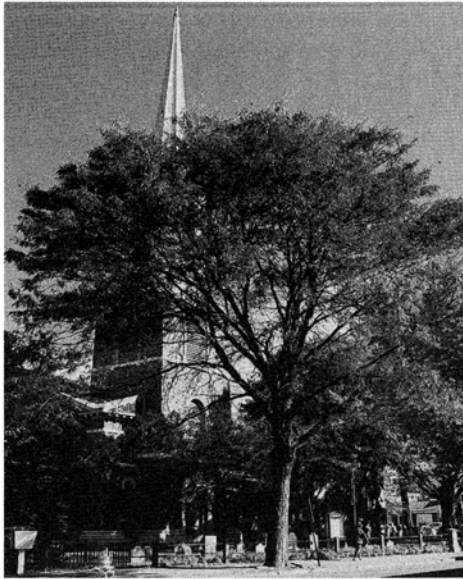


Fig.1 Old Dutch Church – Kingston, N.Y.

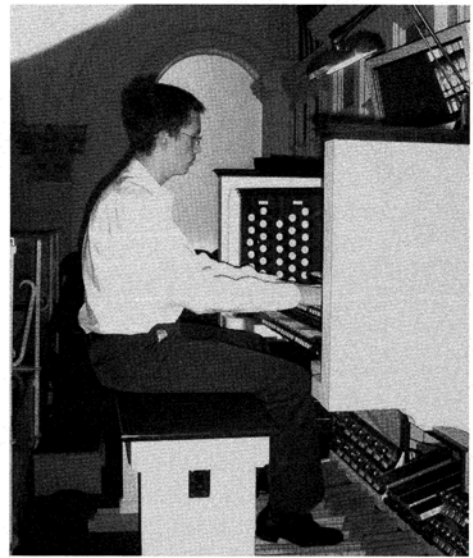


Fig.2 Thomas Sheenhan at the Pipe Organ



Fig. 3 Gathering of the attendees



Fig. 4 Marilyn and Roy Voshall

Notes from the VanVoorhees Association Genealogy Committee

by Robert Fait Voorhees

The Van Voorhees Genealogy Committee is pleased to announce that Florence Christoph has agreed to continue as the VanVoorhees Association Genealogist in 2004 and 2005. Flo has done much for the Association over the years and we are pleased that this work can continue.

We have sold over 200 copies of our new, year 2003 book, *The 7th and 8th Generations of Van Voorhees Family in America*. We are very pleased with this rate of sales. Our thanks go to Flo Christoph, Manning Voorhees, and Judith Van Voorhis for the untold hours put into this book and excellent job done. The books we have available for sale, 1) *Through a Dutch Door, the 17th Century Origins of the Van Voorhees Family*, 2) the year 2000 book, *The First 6 Generations of Van Voorhees Family in America*, and the year 2003 book, *The 7th and 8th Generations of the Van Voorhees Family in America*, are the envy of family genealogy associations the world over.

The Van Voorhees Genealogy Committee has established 6 objectives for 2004. These areas of work and effort are:

1) Catalog errors, corrections, omissions, and updates for the year 2000 book and the year 2003 book (the year 2003 book contains Appendix A, pages 1147 to 1239, a 92 page update to the year 2000 book).

2) Focus on the "Unknown" Voorhees. "Unknown" Voorhees are Voorhees and descendants of Voorhees whose ancestors are unknown. In other words we cannot connect them back to Steven Coerte Van Voorhees. The year 2000 book contains 79 pages (Appendix, pages 747-826) of "Unknowns" and the year 2003 book contains 64 pages (Appendix B, pages 1241-1305) of "Unknowns". These "Unknowns" are very frustrating for us and we very much want to make progress in filling the gaps.

3) Initiate (and continue) work on what could potentially be our next publication, *Generation 9 and the Children of Generation 9 of the Van Voorhees in America*. We already have a lot of information on generation 9 but we need to begin to identify areas where we lack information. It should be emphasized that we have no commitment from the Van Voorhees Association Board of Directors to publish another book. However we want our membership to know we are actively collecting information that could be used in a future publication.

4) Transition the Van Voorhees database (more than 70,000 names) from Version 4d of "The Master Genealogist" to Version 5.11. "The Master Genealogist" is developed and sold by Wholly Genes Software of Columbia, Maryland. Version 5.11 has been in development for several years and offers over 100 new and improved features. The Van Voorhees database is maintained by Flo Christoph and backed up by Judith Van Voorhis and other members of the Van Voorhees Genealogy Committee. Flo Christoph used The Master

Genealogist Version 4d, WordPerfect Version 11, and Adobe Acrobat to input to Picton Press, who published our year 2003 book for us.

5) Develop knowledge and capability in electronic publishing. Electronic publishing can provide services to our membership, which would not be economically possible using the printed word. Upper most in our minds is maintaining security of our information. For the first time we are offering a CD for sale—see elsewhere in this Nieuwsbrief.

6) The extensive Van Voorhees collection currently resides with Flo Christoph and Judith Van Voorhis. It is approximately 20 boxes of file folders and 3 boxes of books. They will continue to arrange and catalogue this material to make it more useful. When this collection has served its purpose, tentative plans call for donating the material to the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. The NYG&B has already agreed to accept it (we need to reconfirm this as there have been some personnel changes at NYG&B recently).

The Van Voorhees Genealogy Committee would like to encourage all Association members to contribute to accomplishing these objectives. Well over half of all the information in our year 2003 book, *The 7th and 8th Generations of the Van Voorhees Family in America*, came from you, the members of our Association. So we need your help in identifying errors in our books, finding the lines of our "Unknowns", making sure we have your up to date research on your family lines. Please feel free to contact anyone on the Genealogy Committee:

Genealogy Committee—Van Voorhees Who's Who
Chairman, Robert F. Voorhees,

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Vice Chairman, Manning W. Voorhees,

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Honorary Chairman, Rev. William J.F. Lydecker
Genealogist, Florence Christoph, CG,

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Archivist and Computer Resource, Judith K. Van Voorhis,

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Inquiries, Marie Voorhees Avelsgaard,

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Internet Monitoring and Communication, Ann Nunn,

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Director of Sales, Marilyn Brack,

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**Van Voorhees in America
Index CD – Available For Sale**

by

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The Van Voorhees Association is pleased to announce the availability of the Van Voorhees in America Index CD. The two main files on this CD are:

1. SurnameAndPlaceMaster Index
2. VoorheesMasterGivenNameIndex.

Both of these files combine the indices found in the year 2000 book, the first 6 generations (sometimes called Volume 1) and the year 2003 book, generations 7 and 8 (sometimes called Volume 2) in one convenient place. In the printed copy of Volume 2 we were not able to include a Place Index. The Place Index for Volume 2 is included in this surname and place file. We believe this Index CD will be of great interest to active genealogists that already own Volume 1 and 2 and also will be of interest to those considering purchase of Volume 1 and 2 but want to check to see if persons of interest are included.

These files are provided in 3 different formats—Microsoft Word (.doc), Adobe Acrobat Reader (.pdf), and WordPerfect (.wpd). For example, the Microsoft Word file, SurnameAndPlaceMasterIndex.doc, is 979 single column pages, including surname, given first and middle names, date of birth, date of death, and page number of either Volume 1 or 2. The Microsoft Word file, VoorheesMasterGivenNameIndex.doc, is 325 single column pages, including first and middle given names, date of birth, date of death, and page number of either Volume 1 or 2. In addition, additional files are provided breaking down the large files into smaller files to increase the speed of loading and to enable users with limited computer memory to use the files.

This Index CD is available from the Van Voorhees Association for \$19 plus \$3 shipping and handling. Residents of New Jersey please add 6% sales tax (\$1.14)

on cost of CD only. To order, **please make out your check or money order to The Van Voorhees Association.** Mail your payment to:

Basic computer file management ability is required to use this CD. These files do not start themselves. Also required is software to read these files. This would include Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or Adobe Acrobat Reader. Adobe Acrobat Reader Version 6.0 is available for download (free) from:

www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html

As an added bonus, several additional files (in all 3 formats) are included on this CD. These include the article, "Spelling of the Voorhees Name not a Consistent Art", color and black-and-white pictures of the Van Voorhees coat of arms, several maps (including a map of Drenthe), Van Voorhees Association membership application, and Van Voorhees Association Book order form. Also included is the file, "On the Go.exe". This is a self opening Corel Presentations Show on the Go player file which is Flo Christoph's excellent slide presentation given at the last two annual meetings. It has maps showing where the Van Voorhees descendants lived in a series of generations along with pictures showing the migration routes in the 19th century. It also includes over 60 VanVoorhees pictures, and a total of approximately 20 pictures of Van Voorhees reunions, tombstones and houses. If you missed this presentation at the reunion it is well worth seeing and owning.

Proceeds from the sale of this CD will be used by the Van Voorhees Association to further our Van Voorhees genealogical research.

Nieuws van Verwanten (News of Cousins)

Yvette Van Voorhees was mentioned in the *Anchorage Daily News* on March 12, 2003 in the article, "Ban remains on use of Native names for school mascots." "Yvette Van Voorhees, a Native alumna of West Seattle, supported the old nickname. 'A mascot is not a good-luck charm. It's an honor that a group of people think that much of you.'"

Alexa Leigh Van Voorhis was born on Oct. 20, 2003 (8

lbs. and 20 inches long) to **Lee K. Van Voorhis**, an attorney in Washington, DC., and his wife, **Cynthia Sue Brown Van Voorhis**. Also in the family is her brother, **Colton Robert Brown Van Voorhis**, who is now 3 years old. The proud grandparents, **Ronald G. Van Voorhis** and his wife, **Mary Jane Kavel Van Voorhis**, are delighted to have a girl in the family, since they have two sons. (Your editor also welcomes Alexa, a grandniece, to the family.)

EXCITING NEWS !!!

The Van Voorhees Association announces publication
of
Generations 7 and 8 in 2 books,
(The children of the 8th are primarily 19th century.)

THE VAN VOORHEES FAMILY IN AMERICA

Volume 1 & Volume 2

with

1,524 pages, over one Million words, and 25,000 names,

is compiled and edited by
Florence A. Christoph,
CG and specialist in Dutch Colonial Genealogy.

These volumes include an Introduction by
Peter Christoph,

User's Guide, Surname Index,

Van Voorhees Given-Name Index,

Author's Notes, 50 illustrations
and

Over 4,000 footnotes.

Also included is an
Appendix of 75 pages
that Updates Material in

The Van Voorhees Family in America:
The First Six Generations.

To order, see the Book Order Form on page 6 of this issue of the *Nieuwsbrief*.

Please visit our web site at www.vanvoorhees.org

BOOK ORDER FORM

I. Individual Books Not in Combination

	Quantity	Cost	Shipping
<i>The Van Voorhees Family in America: Vols. 1 & 2 (set)</i> \$85.00 plus \$12.00 shipping each set	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<i>The Van Voorhees Family in America: The First Six Generations</i> \$60.00 plus \$9.00 shipping each	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<i>Through a Dutch Door</i> \$ 22.00 plus \$5.00 shipping each	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

II. Books in Combination

<i>The Van Voorhees Family in America: Vols. 1 & 2 and The Van Voorhees Family in America: The First Six Generations</i> \$135.00 plus \$21.00 shipping per set (3 books)	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<i>The Van Voorhees Family in America: Vols. 1 & 2 and Through a Dutch Door</i> \$95.00 plus \$20.00 shipping per set (3 books)	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<i>The Van Voorhees Family in America: The First Six Generations and Through a Dutch Door</i> \$70.00 plus \$17.00 shipping per set (2 books).....	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<i>The Van Voorhees Family in America: Vols. 1 & 2 and The Van Voorhees Family in America: The First Six Generations plus Through a Dutch Door</i> \$145.00 plus \$29.00 shipping per set (4 books).....	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<i>Van Voorhees in America Index CD</i> \$19 plus \$3 shipping	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

SUB TOTAL _____ \$ _____ \$ _____

Sales Tax @ 6% For All New Jersey Addressees

Only on the Cost of Book(s) & CD(s) \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL INCLUDING SHIPPING \$ _____

Please make your check or money order payable to The Van Voorhees Association. PRINT below.

Name: _____ VV#: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip (incl. plus four, please) _____

Telephone: _____ email: _____

Mail to:

Please also ensure that
"North Haledon" is clearly stated on your mailing envelope. Please enclose this complete form or a photocopy
with your order. Do not use the Enclosed Dues Envelope for your Order.

Dutch Education and De Voorlezer (literally translated: The Reader)

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

The Netherlands led Europe in education standards even before 1572. After 1572 the government began regulating and expanding the school system. In fact, reading was the most important subject. Their schools taught reading to everyone regardless of status or sex. Writing was secondary and arithmetic followed that. The main purpose of literacy was so everyone could read the Bible, hymnal, and religious tracts. Protestantism had taken a great hold and reading was essential to the faith. It also helped people read their tax forms and other government documents. In 1593 a visiting French scholar was amazed to discover that even Dutch servant girls could read.

The government (either nobles or towns) controlled the appointment of all teachers; however, the Reformed Church had the final approval. This was to ensure that all school masters and mistresses were godly folk and worthy role models. In some cases teachers were merely political appointees without the knowledge, skill or desire to instruct. Most, however, were devoted to their profession.

Teachers were paid a very low salary by the towns. To supplement their income, teachers often worked for the local church -- i.e., as choir director, bell ringer, etc. Parents who wished to have their children also learn to write and do math had to pay a fee per subject per student for this.

These one-room schools (similar to the one-room schoolhouse in America) were usually attached to or next door to the Reformed Church. Students were divided into small groups by sex and age. The learning system was rigid and based on memorization. It began with alphabet books (like our pre-school ones today) followed by recitation. The final step was to memorize psalms, some Bible verses, and the complete catechism (both questions and answers). Elementary education ended after learning the preceding.

To reinforce Protestant thinking, the two most important questions and answers in the catechism were: (1) "Who is the head of the Reformed Church? Christ alone." and (2) "What then is the Pope? The Antichrist." In Catholic areas, however, teachers avoided such controversial issues because they needed the school fees from Catholic parents. Still, some Catholic parents refused to send their children to public or Reformed schools. The result was that Catholic children in general, although more literate than elsewhere in Europe, were not as literate as Protestant children. As late as the 18th century in rural Utrecht province, only 57% of Catholic bridegrooms could sign their names, while 75% of Protestants could do so. In 1630 in Amsterdam 57% of bridegrooms and 32% of brides could sign their names. In 1680 it was 70% and 40% respectively. Among Catholics there was still a smaller percentage for both. Interestingly, among the Ashkenazic Jews the percentage for women was barely over half that of Catholic brides.

Social and moral training was another very important factor in Dutch schools. School children were brought into

the Reformed churches and seated in rows with their teachers. There they had to listen to lengthy sermons and sing together. Outside of school and church they were required to show respect for both their elders and 'betters' (a higher social class). In 1583 in Zeeland they were reported and punished if they failed to step aside and boys neglected to doff (tip) their hats when meeting grownups. The Mennonites maintained the strictest rules among Protestant groups. Anabaptists forbade their members to enter taverns or drink alcoholic beverages and even discouraged laughter. Their dress was also very plain. By the mid 1600's Dutch preachers were calling for a stricter observance of the Sabbath, reduced toleration, and purification of society. At this time they claimed Dutch society was heavily engaged in immodesty, extravagance, adultery, prostitution, and disregard for the Sabbath; therefore, as punishment, God had destroyed, among other things, the Dutch conquest of Brazil. (This Brazilian incident had an indirect influence on Steven Coerts coming to Nieuw Amsterdam: *ibid.*, *Through a Dutch Door.*)

School punishment varied and was administered by the teacher. In *De Schoolmeester*, (*The Schoolmaster*) an oil painting done c. 1663-65 by Jan Steen (b.c. 1626 & d. 1679), a student extends his hand (palm up) for a whack given by the teacher with his ferule (a wooden spoon-like object). Steen did a series of paintings on Dutch elementary schools of his day. His *The Village School* (or *The Unruly School*), done in oil on canvas, is a satire on those schools without proper teachers and discipline. Other forms of discipline were beatings with a rod, various forms of humiliation, and detention. Teachers generally were protected by law from parents who objected to their disciplinary methods.

Even university students had a rigorous regimen and rules. There were strict curbs on drinking and a ban on students carrying weapons. They were awakened at 5 am in the summer and 6 am in the winter. Morning prayers and Bible reading were their first activities, followed by tidying their rooms. All of this occurred before breakfast.

This school system, even with its faults, instilled a deep sense of social responsibility. Of course, there were neighborhood watches and armed burghers on patrol day and night. In Holland it was unacceptable to slap servants or treat them in an undignified manner. Even after dark and alone, people felt safe in their homes and on the streets. People left their homes unlocked while away for days and never had things stolen. Even Dutch sailors were famous for their cleanliness and orderly behavior onboard their ships, and they were less boisterous ashore than in other countries. Crime was extremely low.

It is important to state here that in the 1600's Dutch women had more equality than women in any other society or country. They could read, dress as they pleased (regardless of social rank), speak their minds, travel unaccompanied and

unchaperoned, work and conduct business. Dutch women were less subservient to men. Wife-beating was rare, because neighbors would report the husband to the local Church and authorities. Wives often walked together to church, while their husbands walked behind with the children. Perhaps this was due to their pre-historic culture influencing the educational opportunities. Nevertheless, we Dutch women should be grateful for our inheritance.

This heritage followed the Dutch immigrants to Nieuw Amsterdam. The same system of schools and patrols were set up here; but there were a few differences. In small communities the living room of a house was often used as school, court, and town meeting hall. It could also be used as a temporary church. Instead of a schoolmeester (school master), they had a voorlezer (reader, lay minister and court messenger, who acted as the school teacher). He lived in a two-story house built by the Dutch congregation. The largest first-floor room served for community business. Quoted below are the twelve "Articles of Agreement" between the Town of Midwout, Long Island and their voorlezer.

1. "The School shall begin at 8 o'clock and end at 11 o'clock, in the afternoon from one to four o'clock. Before the opening of the School the bell is to be rung 3 or 4 times."
2. "At the opening of the School he shall have one of the children read the morning prayer as it stands in the catechism. And school shall close with the prayer before meals. In the afternoon it shall open with the prayer after meals and close with the evening prayer. The evening school shall begin with the prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ and close with a song from the Psalms of David."
3. "He shall teach the children on Wednesdays and Saturdays the prayers and the questions and answers in the catechism, in order that they may recite them before the minister. At the catechism he must be present himself."
4. "He shall also keep the church clean and ring the bell three times before the meeting. Item. Before the sermon he shall read a chapter of the Holy Scriptures, then the Ten Commandments and the Creed and then lead in singing. Item. In the absence of the minister he shall read a sermon from an orthodox writer with the prayer from the catechism and close with singing."
5. "He shall provide a basin of water for the Holy Baptism and receive therefore 12 styvers from the parents or witnesses. Item. For the Holy supper he shall provide bread and wine at the church's expense."
6. "He shall be discreet, temperate and industrious and patient with the children and affable in their instruction."
7. "He shall receive as pay from the A-B children and for spelling glds 2, for reading and writing from each pupil glds 1-10, for evening school and for day school 3-0-0 each quarter year in day school."

8. "He shall invite the people to funerals and dig the graves and toll the bell and receive therefor for persons 15 years of age and above glds 12, and for those of less years glds 8. And if he shall go outside the Town he shall receive glds 3 for each town that he visits and if he goes to New York or over the river glds 4."
9. "He shall collect the Minister's salary and carry messages for the church, if any there be and do anything else. Item. He shall collect also the Town levies and taxes, and notify the constable and overseers of all meetings and be on duty at meetings attending to everything connected therewith."
10. "For his service as court messenger he shall receive for citations 18 stuyvers, provided he pays to the Secretary 6 stuyvers; for summonses 18 stuyvers; for attachments 18 stuyvers; and for public sales, suitable daily pay, etc."
11. "He shall receive further for a yearly salary the sum of glds 300 in sewan or grain at market price, to be delivered at the Ferry; also free house rent and use of the garden and house lot belonging to the school."
12. "The aforesaid service shall begin at Christmas in the year 1666, old style, and end at Christmas 1667 old style. And if it happened that at the end of the year the Magistrate or the Schoolmaster wished to make a change, they shall be bound to give each other timely and proper notice. Thus done and confirmed in the meeting of the Consistory and Constable and Overseers of Midwout upon Long Island, and subscribed by both parties on December 25th, 1666 old style."

If the above (#12, 1st sentence) were written in old Flemish (Dutch) script, it probably would look like this.

*The aforesaid service shall begin at
Christmas in the year 1666, old style,
and end at Christmas 1667 old style.*

You can visit an old Dutch school at Historic Richmond Town. Details are under "Places and Events" at the end of "The Junior Corner" in this issue.

Bibliography

- The Voorlezer's House: An Illustrated Guide*
Court Minutes, Flatbush Town Records, (1664-1670)
And the *Historic Richmond Town Visitor Guide & Map*
Pamphlets by the Staten Island Historical Soc.
- Through a Dutch Door* by the Van Voorhees Assn.
- The Dutch Republic: Its Rise, Greatness, and Fall 1477-1806* by Jonathan I. Israel in 1995
- Masters of 17th Century Dutch Genre Painting*
publ. by the Phila. Museum of Art in 1984
- Dutch Painting* by Christopher Brown

The Junior Corner: DUTCH SCHOOLS by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

Back in the 1660s Dutch children attended only elementary school. After that, they went to work. This work was often at home with their parents. Boys did chores and girls learned housekeeping. When they reached the age of 12-14, they were often apprenticed to a tradesman or another family. Here they perfected the skills necessary to earn a living.

The elementary school taught them to read and, if their parents paid the fees, also to write and do arithmetic. They were all taught in a single room, but they were separated into small groups by sex and age. After they learned to read, they had to memorize Psalms and prayers plus the entire catechism book.

The classroom walls were of rough plaster. Windows were few. Lanterns, hung from the ceiling or walls, provided light. A tin box for matches, pitcher or jug for water, and other items hung from pegs on the walls. There might be shelves to hold various things, such as candlesticks and extra supplies. In a rich community, there might be a cupboard. Many classrooms had a potted plant or two either hanging from the ceiling sitting on a high shelf.

The floor was made of wide boards or stone slabs fitted together. The stone could be very cold in winter. In the Netherlands there was a kitchen-type fireplace for heat and a teakettle in the cold months. In early Nieuw Amsterdam the fireplace was probably only in the kitchen and the class was held in the living room of the teacher's home. Still, the room wasn't very warm so everyone wore heavy clothes. They often kept their hats on too. Everyone brought his or her snacks and lunches from home. These were usually carried in wicker or wooden baskets.

Students had tables for desks. These tables looked a bit like our wooden picnic tables. The seats were benches, not attached to the table. The bench, about 10-12 inches wide, was just a board on 4 legs. The table and bench might have 4 students on one or both sides, or it might be smaller with only 2 children on just one side. In early Nieuw Amsterdam they probably didn't even have a desk -- only a bench. The teacher had a chair plus a larger desk.

Textbooks would be shared, if they had them at all. Each student would have a slate board on which to do assignments. The teacher would have a large slate on which to write samples for the students to copy. If they wrote on paper (a very scarce item), they did it with a feather pen dipped in ink from a small bottle. The pen was made from a goose feather with the hard end sharpened into a point. Each student would have to read aloud for the teacher. If the assignment was to

memorize something, the student would be called to the desk to recite it.

Every pupil was expected to study hard and learn whatever was taught. If they didn't, they would be punished. For not learning, they might have to wear a dunce cap or a board around their neck. For bad behavior, the punishments were often corporal -- that is, a spanking of some type.

Each school was different. In Midwout (now a part of Brooklyn, N.Y.) in 1666, school started at 8 AM with a student reading the Morning Prayer from the Catechism. It ceased at 11 AM with the Prayer-before-Meals. There was a 2-hour break. In this small community, many of the children went home for lunch. The afternoon session began at 1 PM with the Prayer-after-Meals. School closed at 4 PM with the Evening Prayer. Sometimes there was school in the evening. This began with the Lord's Prayer and closed with a song from the book of Psalms in the Bible. On Wednesdays and Saturdays there were catechism classes.

The teacher had several extra duties, according to his agreement with the Constable and Overseers (like our Mayor and City Council) of the town of Midwout. He had to keep the school clean. On Sundays (when the classroom was used for church) he had to read a whole chapter from the Holy Scriptures, the 10 Commandments, and the Creed; then he also had to lead the singing. Another duty is stated: "Before the opening of the School the bell is to be rung 3 or 4 times." If this quotation were written in old Flemish (Dutch) script, it probably would look like this.

*Before the opening of the School
the bell is to be rung 3 or 4 times.*

If possible, go and visit this schoolroom in Richmond Town on your summer vacation.

Bibliography

Masters of 17th Century Dutch Genre Painting publ. by the Phila. Museum of Art in 1984

Plate 83, Catalog 107 & pp. 318-319

Dutch Painting by Christopher Brown pp. 64-65

"The Village/Unruly School"

The Voorlezer's House: An Illustrated Guide

Court Minutes, Flatbush Town Records, (1664-1670)

and the *Historic Richmond Town Visitor Guide & Map*

Pamphlets by the Staten Island Historical Soc.

Numerous other Art books and Dutch Guide books



Dutch House-School Illustrated by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

This drawing shows a small house-school similar to that in a tiny village in Nieuw Netherlands (1640-65). This room is the parlor, village meeting room, perhaps a temporary church, and the school. The other first-floor room (not shown) would be the kitchen. The teacher's wife would be there. Upstairs would be two sleeping rooms. Notice the teacher is using a wooden spoon to whack the hand of a naughty child. The stone floor is cold, so there is a fire in the open-hearth fireplace. The footed pot may contain hot

erwtensoep (pea soup) for them all. The basket may hold a small loaf of bread to be eaten with the erwtensoep. A water jug and candle lamp are hanging on the wall beneath a shelf holding a small teapot, books and lantern. A corked jug is in the niche -- probably containing a special drink just for the teacher. The small cupboard can be used for cups, spoons, books, chalk, and other supplies. The student's desk has two boards so pupils may sit on both sides. The teacher's desk, in contrast, is little more than a tall bench.

Places & Events

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

Historic Richmond Town is a good place to see a Dutch town with a Dutch school. There are 36 buildings plus a cemetery on 25 of the 100 acres at the **Richmond Town Restoration site**, which is a joint project of the Staten Island Historical Society and the City of New York. These buildings are dated from 1670-1869, and more are being reconstructed. Even the Visitors' Center (the former County Courthouse from 1837-1919) and Historical Museum (the former County Clerk's and Surrogate's Office from 1848) are over 100 years old. A restaurant is also on the premises. The Museum Store is worth a visit too. During the summer there are costumed craftsmen and guides plus some weekend festivals. At other times, most of the houses can be seen via a tour led by costumed guides. For further information, call 718-351-1611 or write to: Historic Richmond Town at 441 Clarke Ave., Staten Island, NY 10306.

Pella, Iowa is a lovely town with charming Dutch architecture, Dutch bakeries, Dutch restaurants, and Dutch shops with imported goods. Among the many Dutch antiques in the Dutch Museum, there is an authentic, imported, Dutch Windmill (which actually grinds grain) plus a large imported Draaiorgel (street organ) and some mannequins in provincial costumes. Take a camera and definitely forget your diet!

The **Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum in East Flatbush, Brooklyn NY** has two events in June. (1) It is holding a Pinkster Carnival on Sunday, June 6, 2004 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. The rain date is June 13th. Admission to the Carnival is free. Pinkster was the Dutch colonial celebration of Pentecost. The house with costumed guides requires a ticket, but it is well worth seeing. (2) On Sunday, June 27, 2004 at 2 p.m. there is a program, "Brooklyn Farms Past & Present." For further information call 718-629-5400 or email info@wyckoffassociation.org.

First Voorhees in Monmouth Co., NJ

by Robert Fait Voorhees

On Oct 7, 1695, John Bowne, merchant, of Middletown, Monmouth Co., NJ sold 500 acres of land in Pleasant Valley, near Holmdel, Monmouth Co., NJ to 4 young Flatlands, Kings Co., NY men. All 4 of these men were born in Flatlands and they were all brothers-in-law. They were:

- Steven Coerte VanVoorhees, age 28, born ca 1667 and died Feb 16, 1723 at Gravesend, Kings Co., NY. He married Eva Janse Vandyck Feb 9, 1687.
- Cornelis Willemsen Couwenhoven, age 23, born Nov 20 1672 and died Dec 16, 1751 at Middletown, Monmouth Co., NJ. He married Margareta Schenck Sept 8, 1700.
- Pieter Wyckoff, age 20, born ca 1675 and died 1759 at Flatlands, Kings Co., NJ. He married first Willemtje Jansen Schenck in 1696 and second Anne Elizabeth VanPelt Sept 5, 1716.
- Garret Roelofse Schenck, age 24, born Oct 27, 1671 and died Sept 5, 1745 at Pleasant Valley, Monmouth Co., NJ. He married Neeltje Coerten VanVoorhees ca 1693. Neeltje Coerten VanVoorhees, born June 30, 1676 and died Aug 4, 1750 in Holmdel, Monmouth Co., NJ, and Steven Coerte VanVoorhees were brother and sister.
- Steven Coerte VanVoorhees and Pieter Wyckoff subsequently sold out their rights in this tract of land to Garret Roelofse Schenck and his wife Neeltje Coerten VanVoorhees and his brother John Schenck. The 500 acres was then divided into 3 farms, those of Garret and John Schenck and Cornelis Willemsen Couwenhoven. Garret Roelofse Schenck and his wife Neeltje Coerten VanVoorhees obtained the largest share, some 200 acres. It is believed that Garret and Neeltje moved from Flatlands to their farm in Pleasant Valley in the spring of 1696. John Schenck and Cornelis Willemsen Couwenhoven, it is believed, moved to Pleasant Valley in 1697.
- Garret and Neeltje became prosperous. In addition to the homestead farm, they owned several tracts of land and a wharf in the vicinity of what is now Keyport, NJ; land at New Brunswick, NJ; and 6,500 acres of land at Pennsneck, near Princeton, NJ. Garret and Neeltje were among the original members of the Dutch Reformed Church at Freehold, NJ organized in 1709 (this church is known today as the Old Brick Church). Garret was one of the first two deacons and subsequently served as an elder.

About 1736 a cemetery was established near the center of the 500 acres (the 3 farms at Pleasant Valley). This cemetery is known today as the Schenck-Couwenhoven Burial Ground. In 1965 the Conover Family Association succeeded in having this cemetery designated as a New Jersey Historic Site. Both Garret and Neeltje were buried here. Garret's stone reads: Garret R. Schenck, b. Oct 27,

1671, d. Sept 5, 1745, aged 73 y., 10 m., 8 d. Son of Rolof Martense Schenck and Neeltje Garretse Couwenhoven. Neeltje's stone reads: Neeltje Voorheese, b. Oct 1, 1675, d. Aug 4, 1750, aged 44 y., 10 m., 4 d. Wife of Garret R. Schenck and daughter of Koert Voorheese. In 1997 about 100 stones were observable, not necessarily these two.

Thus Neeltje Coerten VanVoorhees, third generation in America and a grand daughter of Steven Coerte VanVoorhees (born ca 1600 at Hees, Drenthe, Netherlands), became the first Voorhees to move permanently to Monmouth Co., NJ.

Some 23 years later, Hendrick Voorhees, fourth generation in America, born ca 1696 died 1766 in Monmouth Co., NJ, was the 2nd Voorhees to arrive in Monmouth Co. when on Jan 28, 1719 he purchased 250 acres of land at Topanemus in Freehold Township—about 2 miles northwest of Freehold Court House and near present day Monmouth Battlefield State Park.

Hendrick Voorhees had 16 children (10 males, 6 females) with his two wives—Jannetje Andries VanArsdale and Sarah Schenck. We believe that all of his children were baptized at the Old Brick Church, beginning in 1720 and ending in 1748. This church was about 5 miles from his farm. In 1750 Old Tennent Presbyterian Meeting House (about two miles from his farm and within the current Monmouth Battlefield State Park) decided to build a new church and Hendrick must have decided to join this church since his name and his son John's name appear on the subscriber list to pay for the new church. In 1754 Hendrick and his friend Tunis VanDerveer are listed as owning a pew together in the new church. Tunis VanDerveer's daughter Nieltje married Hendrick's son John. John died before his father and is buried in Old Tennent Cemetery next to the church. Presumably Hendrick is also buried in Old Tennent Cemetery although there are no burial records to support this.

Between 1690 and 1720 many New York Hollanders moved from New York to New Jersey to escape perceived social and political turmoil. Just before 1690 a revolution had taken place in England which drove King James into exile, and placed William of Orange on the throne of Great Britain. The political situation in New York became unsettled. On May 16, 1691 Jacob Leisler, a very popular man in Kings Co., NY, was put to death by hanging in New York City. Then in 1695 an act, passed by the English House of Lords and approved by the King, exonerated Leisler. It stated that said conviction, judgment, and attainder of Jacob Leisler, deceased, be and are repealed, revoked, made and declared null and void to all intents and constructions whatsoever, as if never made. It restored to Leisler's family the property that had been confiscated. Many young Hollanders questioned their security. New Jersey, then run by proprietors, was offering attractive deals on land and religious freedom.

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In Memoriam by Manning W. Voorhees

Alice Voorhees Adams

Alice Voorhees Adams was called on October 25, 2003 in her 84th year. She was the daughter of **Ralph W. Voorhees** and **Jane Drake Manners**. She was born in New Brunswick, NJ on June 9, 1920. Her grandfather was **Rev. Dr. Oscar M. Voorhees** and her grandmother was **Alice Robertson MacNair**. Alice was in the **Lucas Line** of descendants from Steven Coerts.

Alice joined the Van Voorhees Association on Sept. 1, 1932 at the age of twelve and became member number 92. Her grandfather founded the Association at an organizational meeting at the Empire State Club, Manhattan on May 1, 1932. Alice was part of the action almost from the beginning and subsequently for many decades.

In 1944, Alice married George L. Adams who died in 1987. Alice was also predeceased by a daughter, **Elizabeth Teo**. She is survived by her daughter, **Melissa Adams**, of Atlanta, Ga. and her son, **David Adams**, of Silver Springs, Md. In addition to her children, Alice is survived by brothers -- **Alan M. Voorhees** of Alexandria, VA and **Ralph W. Voorhees, Jr.** of Highland Park, NJ. Five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren also survive her. In her earlier years Alice was a resident of New Brunswick, NJ and then moved to neighboring Highland Park, where she resided for most of her life. Alice

graduated from Middlebury College and was a member of the Highland Park Board of Education, among other activities. Her latter years were in Bridgewater, NJ.

Dedication to the Van Voorhees Association was a hallmark of Alice's life. She helped to fulfill her grandfather's dream with an unbroken role in the activities of the Association for many decades. Alice could always be counted upon to attend each meeting of the Executive Committee until she moved to Bridgewater. If no one had an idea or a solution to a problem, Alice did. The Association held its annual Reunion and semi-annual Executive Committee meetings for many years at the Reformed Church in Highland Park, where Alice was an active member and sang in the choir. Very quietly, in her inimitable way, Alice always ensured our welcome at the Church with no problems. This is merely an example of what Alice did to help us accomplish our goals.

When I was President of the Association, I recall that Alice always sat in the Executive Committee meetings and, for some reason, directly opposite me. Her smiling face will not be forgotten nor will it be forgotten by everyone else. Often after an Executive meeting and Reunion, I would receive a handwritten letter from Alice with a critique and suggestions. We have, indeed, lost the grand lady of the Family.

Sources: Ralph W. Voorhees and, largely,
Van Voorhees Association records.



Dutch Erfenis (Heritage) Recensie (Review)

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

Recently several books and a movie have come to our attention. We think you also may be interested in them.

1. **Our Low Dutch Heritage 1600-1860** by Larry Michael Voreis, a V.V.A. member, is now on sale through Burr Oak Publications (ISBN 0-9729449-0-7). Past issues of the *Nieuwsbrief* contain excerpts from this book.

2. **The Island of the Center of the World**, a novel by Russell Shorto and published by Doubleday & Co. (ISBN 0-385-50349-0), a division of Random House, is being promoted by **The Holland Society of New York**. Here are some quotations from a letter by its president, Wm. Van Winkle. "This work focuses on New Amsterdam and tells the story of the many contributions our Dutch ancestors made to the American way of life." "The book is based on research done by the **New Netherland Project**" Some of this research has been initiated and funded by **The Holland Society** over many decades. Most was funded by the State of New York plus some matching Federal grants and individual donations. This book was reviewed in the *Wall Street Journal* on Tuesday, March 16, 2004 on page D 6. Additional reviews are found in the *New York Times* (Thurs., Mar. 18, 2004) and *The New York Times Book Review* (Sun., Apr. 4, 2004).

I have seen examples of the excellent work done by the **New Netherland Project** at the New York State Library on Madison Ave. in Albany, NY (zip code: 12230). Peter Christoph, husband of Florence Christoph (our Certified Genealogist), was the initiator for the original funding of Charles Gehring's **New Netherland Project** and has been active with it ever since. One of their greatest achievements was the translation of Pieter Stuyvesant's papers and other Dutch documents of Nieuw Amsterdam. Since these records were in *olde* Dutch, they had to hire and bring in linguistic specialists from The Netherlands. Several years ago while searching for details about the *Bonte Koe** in The Netherlands, I was reading captains' logs pertaining to the Dutch West India Co. It was difficult work to decipher the handwriting of each captain plus a foreign language in an older version and without benefit of any dictionary. (Unfortunately, I found nothing.) The job done by the **New Netherland Project** is truly phenomenal.

*Steven Coerts came to Nieuw Amsterdam in this ship. For more details, read **Through a Dutch Door**, which still may be purchased from the VanVoorhees Assn. via the Order Form in this issue.

3. **City of Dreams: A Novel of Nieuw Amsterdam and Early Manhattan**, a book the *Los Angeles Times* called a "near perfect historical novel," was written by Beverly Swerling, our afternoon speaker at the 2003 Reunion. She is also the author of a second book, **Shadowbrook: A Novel of Love and War** (which will be part of a trilogy on

the American Revolution), should be at your local bookstores by March 2004.

A journalist before becoming a spinner of tales, Beverly is also an avid amateur historian. It was natural for her, once she began creating stories, to put them in an accurate historical context. Among her many published novels are *Women's Rites*, *A Lasting Fire* and *The Morgan Women* writing as Beverly Byrne, and *Juffie Kane* and *A Matter of Time* writing as Beverly S. Martin.

She lives with her husband in Greenwich Village in New York City in a house that, fittingly enough, was built the year Thomas Jefferson died.

4. **Girl With A Pearl Earring** is both a movie and a painting. The movie has lots of Dutch scenery (from Delft) and many portrayals of Dutch customs, all depicting life in the 1600s. The costumes are lovely. Aside from the plot, the scenes and costumes are largely taken from Vermeer's paintings. The background research for this movie was very thorough. If you haven't already seen the film, it is now available on both DVD and video for purchase or rental. I recommend reading or scanning the books, listed below (nos. 5 & 6), before seeing the movie. I looked at the books again after viewing the film, which I recently bought.

Girl With A Pearl Earring, the painting by Johannes Vermeer, is an oil-on-canvas done c. 1665. Its size is about 46.5 cm. x 40 cm. (circa 18.3 in. x 15.7 in.). Currently it hangs in Mauritshuis in The Hague.

Johannes Vermeer, born in 1632 in Delft, died there in 1675 and was buried in the Old Church of Delft. His father owned a tavern, De Mechelen, in Delft and lived on the premises with his wife and two children, a daughter named Gurtruy born in 1620 and Johannes. He also sold paintings there, so little Johannes was well acquainted with artists and their work. On April 30, 1653 Johannes married Catherina, the girl down the street. They had at least 11 children in their 22 years of marriage., none of whom inherited any of their father's talent. The couple moved in with Catherina's mother, Maria, who was nearly 70 at the time. Maria helped pay the bills, because Johannes sold only a few works. He also stood behind his father's debts. Even with the help of a servant or two, Catherina had very little time to do anything but care for the children and handle household duties. She knew nothing of her husband's business transactions.

Charmed by the light reflection on pearls, Vermeer used them on numerous women in his paintings. As you will notice, he used the same models in several paintings. He also painted many scenes of Dutch life.

5. **Vermeer** by Pascal Bonafoux (published by Konecky & Konecky, ISBN: 1-56852-308-4) is hardback.

6. **Vermeer** by Martin Bailey (published by Phaidon Press Ltd., ISBN 0-681-46285-X) is paperback.

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VOORHEES ANCESTRY OF HOWARD B. DEAN

by Manning W. Voorhees

Marc E. Hoover alerted us to a web site that sets forth the ancestry of Dr. Howard Dean. We all know that Dr. Dean was running for the Democratic presidential nomination. What we all may not know is that Dr. Dean is a Voorhees. He descends from the Coert Line with a split descent commencing at the 5th Generation. The URL for the Internet site is:

http://members.aol.com/_ht_a/wreitwiesn/candidates2004/dean.html. Thank you, Marc. You have given us a very interesting genealogical story.

The web site has a great many of Dr. Dean's ancestors cataloged by generation and not by ancestral line. Marc set out his Voorhees ancestry commencing with Steven Coerte and running through the Jerome split at the Fifth Generation. I have sketched Dr. Dean's Voorhees ancestry in the chart on the accompanying page including the John split, also at the 5th Generation. Thus, any errors in our cousin's genealogy taken from the extensive name listings on the Internet site are mine.

Person identification numbers on the accompanying chart are those of *Van Voorhees Family in America*, Volumes I and II. Asterisks indicate names derived from the web site. Dates, locations of events and other relevant

information have been omitted in the accompanying chart for simplicity. These data can be found in Volumes I and II as well as to some extent on the web site for the "asterisked" names. Mr. William Reitwiesner, author of the Internet site, listed Dr. Dean's English ancestry in England. He did not do this for Dr. Dean's Voorhees ancestry in Drenthe before the emigration of Steven Coerte in 1660. This information is in *Through a Dutch Door*. Mr. Reitwiesner cited Volume I of our new genealogy as a source. He apparently did not use Volume II.

The reader will quickly note that the genealogy includes Femmetje Bennet, wife of Daniel #128, and her daughter-in-law, Femmetje Bennet, wife of John #511. Yes, these ladies were separate people with the same name. Femmetje, wife of Daniel, was the daughter of Jan Adriaense Bennet and Femmetje Rapelye, and the daughter-in-law, Femmetje, wife of John, was the daughter of Johannes Bennet and Malte Latten. Ah, this is what drives genealogists nuts.

Unfortunately we will not be able to call Cousin Howard "Mr. President" next January, so we will not be able to hold our Reunion in the White House ballroom.

VOORHEES ANCESTRY OF HOWARD B. DEAN

<u>Gen.</u>	<u>Jerome</u>	<u>John</u>
1.		Steven Coerte van Voorhees #1 Aaltjen Wessels
2.		Coert Stevense van Voorhees #4 Marretje Gerritse van Couwenhoven Cornelis Coerte van Voorhees #25
3.		Antje Rapalye Daniel van Voorhees #128
4.		Femmetje Bennet
5.	Jerome Van Voorhees #514 Anna Townsend	John Van Voorhees #511 Femmetje Bennet
6.	Abraham Van Voorhis #1547 Abbie Scofield	Abraham Van Voorhis #1527 Alida Luyster
7.	Bartow White Van Voorhis #3854 Helen Tappen	Maria Van Voorhis #3735 Robert Wetmore Dean
8.	Helen Abbie Van Voorhis #8660 Thomas Andrew Maitland	Issac Dean #8361 Eliza Jane Richards
9.	James William Maitland #14932 Sylvia Wigglesworth	Herbert Hollingshead Dean * Marion Atwater Brush *
10.	Andrée Belden Maitland * Howard Brush Dean, Jr. *	Howard Brush Dean, Sr. * Marie Fahys Cook *
11.		Howard Brush Dean, Jr. *
11/12		Howard Brush Dean, III * Judith Steinberg *
		Andrée Belden Maitland *

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