



VAN VOORHEES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Nieuwsbrief of Spring 2006:

This will indeed be a News in Brief with the larger version coming later this year. Meanwhile there are some very important reports to the membership.

We are pleased to announce a new Board Member-at-Large: Stephanie H. Capotorto,

Please join us in welcoming Stephanie.

Stephanie will serve as Chair of the program committee. David R. Voorhees will serve as Vice Chair of the Program Committee. Please send your reunion suggestions to Stephanie. We need all the good ideas we can muster.

Our next general membership and Executive Committee meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center in Saddle Brook, NJ on Sat Oct 21, 2006 from 9 am to 3 pm. The address is 50 Kenny Place, Saddle Brook, NJ 07663 phone 201-843-0600. If you plan to spend the night at the Holiday Inn please mention the VanVoorhees Association to get the special room rate. All members are invited to participate. If you plan to attend please let someone on the Executive Committee know so the proper meeting room arrangements can be made. The Genealogy Committee will be on hand to field any genealogy questions. Our current plan is to begin selling the 9th generation CD at this meeting (see below). At this writing we can't promise a reunion program although a reunion program is under consideration. And depending on the reunion program the location of the meeting might change. Please see final resolution on this question in the next Nieuwsbrief.

The last reunion program we had was at Kingston, NY in Oct 2003. We estimate about 5% of our membership attended. This program was excellent but not considered successful in attendance, given the amount of time and effort that went into it. Since then we have not had the energy or volunteers to mount another reunion program. We are still seeking the magic reunion formula in this new era—our membership is spread across the country in almost every state, for example we have more members in California than any other state. Other family associations have similar concerns. One of our members who is also a member of the Wyckoff Association just received a Wyckoff reunion questionnaire stating that in recent years attendance at the Wyckoff annual reunion and membership meeting has steadily declined and the 2005 reunion operated at a financial loss because of low attendance. A contact we have with the Conover Family Association states that their attendance figures at reunions have been declining over the last 5 years. We understand the Olmsted Family Association has not had a reunion in several years for lack of volunteers to run it.

There are what you might call reunion success stories out there. The Bradt Family Association holds a reunion every 5 years in the Albany area. They use the same hotel every time and begin planning 2-3 years in advance. They advertise the event and with an attractive program attract some non-family members just looking for a good program. The Holland Society of New York has about 800 members (25 Voorhees) spread across the country. In recent years they have formed regional groups that meet annually primarily for social purposes although speakers attend most meetings. We know that some Voorhees groups have periodic reunions in various regions of the country (one such group is in Montgomery Co., NY). Those of you out there running such events please keep us posted—would make interesting reading in the Nieuwsbrief. The bottom line is we are searching for the right reunion formula and we need some guidance from the membership.

The VanVoorhees Association is a healthy organization with about 700 members, one third of whom are life members. Like most organizations we always need more volunteers to help pull on the oars. Key jobs are getting done but we have no bench. Some of our volunteers have been on the job for many years and are getting tired. We want to encourage members interested in contributing time and effort to contact us (Scott Voorhees at svoorhees1@aol.com). You do not have to attend meetings to be part of the team. If you have skills such as

Microsoft Excel or Word or web site expertise please let us know. With modern communication members as far away as California are just a click away.

Dues of \$10 per year are due in Jan. Thanks if you are paid up to date. If you aren't, please do so now. We cannot function and continue research without funds. We have tried to keep the annual dues low to encourage membership but this low dues level requires everyone to join. Thanks in advance. See dues order form below.

Notes from the Genealogy Committee

Genealogy Update by Bob Voorhees

Great news. Flo Christoph will continue as our Van Voorhees Association genealogist thru 2006 (And hopefully beyond). Flo has served as our genealogist for over 10 years and has done a marvelous job. She established our Van Voorhees database using The Master Genealogist software and authored our 2000 and 2003 books (over 2500 pages). No one knows more about Van Voorhees genealogy than Flo Christoph.

We are close to being ready to publish our next publication: "The Van Voorhees Family in America, The Ninth Generation". The CD will include the children of the 9th generation. Timing is tentatively set for Fall 2006. Our initial offering of this work (price to be determined) will be in CD format with files in Adobe Acrobat, Microsoft Word, and WordPerfect (all on the same CD). We hope to include on the CD a Surname and Place Index and a Voorhees Given Name Index. We have a lot of pictures, maps, etc of the ninth generation and these will be included on the CD in jpeg format. We plan to include an appendix A file which will be an update of the 1-8 generation books and an appendix B which will be a listing of our unknowns (descendants of Voorhees whose ancestors are unknown—over 500 pages).

If you have genealogy information on the 9th and 10th generations that we don't have please get it to Flo Christoph ASAP. We don't want to leave anyone out. Her email is _____ and her address is 181 Maple Ave, Selkirk, NY 12158. This will be our first publication which will include a few living people. I don't see this as a problem, e.g., the 1910, 1920, and 1930 census data are readily available to the public and include living people. The recently published Wyckoff CD included living people. However, if anyone is concerned please contact me at

We understand there will be members disappointed not to have a 9th generation- book. However, the advantages of a CD over a book are overwhelming, including:

- CD has low production cost, which gets the information out to more customers.
- Shipping cost is low and we can produce and ship to order, no warehouses needed.
- CD has a very large amount of space. All our pictures can be included and space-hogging tools such as larger fonts, more spaces, bold type, etc can make reading much easier.
- Much easier to offer future updates, corrections, revisions.
- The software used has search functions not available in books.
- Hard copy can be printed from the CD (Office Depot, Staples, etc can print from a CD).
- Finally, other family associations like the Wyckoff's are offering genealogy data on CD.

Voorhees Surname DNA Project, by Bob Voorhees

We have initiated a Voorhees surname DNA project. This in no way replaces conventional genealogy and it does not in any way indicate a lack of confidence in all the Voorhees genealogy over the last 125 years. Its just one more tool in our arsenal. DNA testing for genealogy purposes has been with us for a number of years. There are now thousands of surname DNA projects. DNA testing is the process of determining whether two individuals share a common ancestor by comparing an infinitesimal fragment of their respective DNA. A DNA project is the systematic collection of this data for a population of related individuals. This short article can't cover the subject adequately and DNA testing is complicated, at least to me. We want to encourage our readers to read up on this subject, especially if you are even considering participating. All the genealogy magazines have for a number of years carried articles on DNA testing. Also please see "Trace Your Roots with

DNA, Using Genetic Tests to Explore Your Family Tree” by Megan Smolenyak, published in 2004. The www.familytreedna.com web site has excellent educational articles.

Our vendor for this project is www.familytreedna.com based in Houston, TX. They are the largest and oldest genealogy DNA testing company. Our study tests for Y-chromosome. Since women do not have Y-DNA the study is restricted to males (women can participate by finding proxies such as fathers, brothers, cousins, etc). Y-DNA tests are used most for genealogy. The Y chromosome is passed down from father to son, typically unchanged. The sections of the Y-DNA being tested are in the area scientists call junk DNA, since it has no known function. By testing this small portion, you can determine if two men had a common male ancestor, and sometimes approximately when the ancestor occurred.

We have what I consider modest goals for this surname project. First, we want to begin to establish a Voorhees Y-DNA database. We would like for the VanVoorhees Association and its delegates to manage this study as opposed to some other group. Second, we want to attempt to add to the genealogy knowledge on the Voorhees family.

What would success look like? First, once we have established a Voorhees Y-DNA database people with names such as Vorus, Voras, Voors, Voorst, Vohris, Vorys, etc, can join the project to find out if they are part of what we know as the Voorhees family. For example, Isaiah Vorys, born 1753 in NJ and died 1834 in OH. We have hundreds of his descendants in our genealogy, a number of which are members of the VanVoorhees Association. We have not been able to connect this line to Steven Coerte thru conventional genealogy. Second, hopefully we can attract participants from each of the four major male lines—Albert, Coert, Jan, and Lucas (I am the Coert line so we will have at least one data point in the Coert line; I understand a member of the Lucas line plans to participate). If we can establish enough data it may be possible in the future to identify which of the four lines some of our unknowns belong with. Unknowns are Voorhees that we can't connect to Steven Coerte Van Voorhees. We have hundreds of unknowns-- See the 79 page appendix in the 1-6 generation book and the 64 page appendix B in the 7-8 generation book.

These lines back to Steven Coerte VanVoorhees can be 10, 11 or 12 generations long so some participants may not match up. Non-paternity is a catch-all term for situations where the Y-DNA is unlinked from the surname. Common causes are formal and informal adoptions, and aliases or other intentional name changes. Some people may not want to receive this type of information and they should not participate.

The biggest impediment to joining this project is the cost—it's expensive even though we are getting a group rate. Many will feel its just not worth it and that is ok. The cost is \$99 plus \$2 shipping for a 12 marker paternal test or \$169 plus \$2 shipping for a 25 marker paternal test. Familytreedna agrees to keep samples for 25 years in case new technology comes along or in case someone wants to upgrade--upgrading from 12 to 25 markers (without having to supply a new sample) costs \$100. I opted for the 25 marker test because it gives you more information (such as hopefully the distance from Most Recent Common Ancestor--MRCA); others may be happy with the 12 marker test. I don't know enough about this business yet to give good advice on 12 markers vs. 25 markers. S.C. Meates put it this way in a recent article: “You could have matches with other surnames, especially if a low resolution test is taken. The number of markers tested by various vendors range from 10 to 43. Tests for 10 to 15 markers are considered low resolution tests, and tests for 23 to 43 markers are considered high resolution. Typically, low resolution tests are best for ruling out those to whom you are not related and a high resolution test is needed to determine if the relationship is in a genealogical time frame. Vendors provide the ability to upgrade a test to additional markers at a later date but it is usually more cost effective to order high resolution tests initially.”

When some people read the term DNA they think of the FBI and maybe O.J. Simpson. The FBI test looks across a person's full DNA rather than just the Y-DNA. FBI and Familytreedna testing are not compatible.

So how does this actually work? You go to www.familytreedna.com and select the Voorhees surname project and then select either 12 or 25 markers. They will charge your credit card appropriately and send you a test kit. The kit contains two small brushes which are brushed against the inside of your cheek (at least 8 hours apart) for 60 seconds and then placed in small vials for shipment back to familytreedna. There is no blood work of any kind involved. You also have to sign a release form that lets FTDNA share your results with any matches and the Group Administrator (that's me right now). For the results to have any meaning you really have to be

prepared to sign the release form. They send you a nice looking certificate with your DNA numbers on it (suitable for framing, yes). That's all there is to it.

Without ever mentioning any names I will be keeping our membership up to date on this project, thru the newsletter. **Late breaking news:** We now have 25 marker results for 2 Voorhees. I am 11th generation in the Coert line. The other result is 10th generation Lucas line. These two results are an exact match on all 25 markers. There is a 99.9% likelihood that these two results share a common ancestor in a genealogical time frame. The probability that these two results shared a common ancestor within the last 11 generations is 92.58%. We know from our traditional genealogy that the Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) for these two individuals is the immigrant ancestor Steven Coert VanVoorhees. Interesting results and hopefully more to come with additional testing.

Alan Manners Voorhees dies on Dec 18, 2005 at age 83

This obituary was authored by Will Carter and appeared in the Richmond VA Times-Dispatch.

Alan Manners Voorhees, the founder and owner of the Berkeley Hotel, died at the establishment in Richmond's Shockoe Slip after attending his family's annual Christmas party there on Dec 18. The Alexandria, VA resident had celebrated his 83rd birthday the day before.

An urban planner and civil engineer who turned to development later in life, Mr. Voorhees opened The Berkeley Hotel in 1988. The \$10 million, 55 room hotel was built on a vacant lot across from the Tobacco Co restaurant at 12th and East Cary streets. Mr. Voorhees and his partners predicted that a smaller, luxury hotel similar to those found in Europe would appeal to Richmonders.

Although Mr. Voorhees conducted the hotel's business from afar, he remained intimately involved with it, said Julie Greenlaw, its manager. "He really loved this place," she said.

Some of Mr. Voorhees' other projects included Hamilton Court, a development in Washington's Georgetown neighborhood; the Westmoreland Berry Farm and Orchard in Westmoreland County; and more than 700 acres of land along the Rappahannock River that he donated to the Nature Conservancy in 1994.

Mr. Voorhees had a long, influential career as an urban planner and civil engineer that began in World War II when he joined the Navy's Underwater Demolition Team 11. During the war, Mr. Voorhees helped map shoreline attack routes in the Pacific islands to guide Allied invasions of Okinawa and Borneo. He was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Presidential Unit citation.

After the war, Mr. Voorhees returned to his college studies at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. He continued his education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, earning a master's degree in city planning.

After working in Washington as a planning engineer with the Automobile Safety Foundation, he formed a transportation consulting firm, Alan M. Voorhees and Associates, in 1961. Along with many other projects, the firm planned the metro transit systems of Washington and Atlanta. Mr. Voorhees sold the firm to Planning Research Corp. in 1967.

In 1977, Mr. Voorhees spent two years as the dean of the College of Architecture, Art and Urban Science at the University of Illinois in Chicago, where he established the Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Development. The neighborhood planning center was named for his wife, Nathalie Potter, to whom he was married for 51 years until her death in 2000.

During his years as a developer, Mr. Voorhees also developed a penchant for historical maps and began collecting them. He donated 15 of his maps to The Library of Virginia. Other maps from his collection can be found in the Virginia Historical Society and the Library of Congress. In 1999, Mr. Voorhees told a Times-Dispatch reporter, "Collecting maps has been a fantastic experience. If I had not become interested in maps, I never would have learned so much Virginia history."

He became a scholar on anything and everything he was interested in," said one of his daughters, Nancy Voorhees of Bethesda, Md. "He loved life and he loved Richmond." Survivors also include another daughter, Susan V. Hunt of McLean; one son, Scott Voorhees of London; two brothers, Ralph W. Voorhees of Highland Park, NJ., and Fred Zimmerli of Telford, Pa., and 6 grandchildren. A memorial service will be held Jan 19 at Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ, Bethesda, Md.

Genealogy Periodicals, Databases, Software, by Bob Voorhees

We have been doing some investigation of genealogy periodicals, databases, and software. We think many of our members may be interested in this information (not necessarily a complete list). My perception is all the genealogy magazines have been struggling with declining readership even in the face of growing interest in genealogy. This is probably because of increasing use of the internet. As noted below, two new internet-focused genealogy magazines are currently being launched.

Halvor Moorshead based in Toronto, Canada (with offices in Niagara Falls, NY) publishes Family Chronicle Magazine (\$27\yr) which has been around for many years. It has more Canadian content than some of the US based genealogy magazines. Moorshead is now launching a new magazine: Internet Genealogy Magazine—first issue Feb 2006, introductory price of \$20\yr. Moorshead also publishes History Magazine.

Since 1947 Everton Publishing in Logan, Utah (75 miles north of Salt Lake City) has published Everton's Genealogical Helper. New ownership arrived in 2004 to try and revive the company. They have a new company name: www.myancestorsfound.com. They tried launching a new magazine called Family History Magazine. This has apparently not worked and has been dropped and they are now reviving Everton's Genealogical Helper with a lower price--\$27\yr. They apparently have a very large database of books, etc which they are selling on-line subscriptions for \$50\yr. You can get the magazine plus the on-line subscription for \$68. They also publish the "Handybook for Genealogists" 11th Ed, recently available for \$50.

MyFamily.com, Inc, a privately held company based in Provo, Utah (45 miles south of Salt Lake City), has become the largest supplier to our industry. Their general purpose genealogy magazine is Ancestry Magazine (\$18\yr). In 2005 they started Genealogical Computing Magazine, a quarterly journal (\$25\yr). This company has a number of divisions, all increasingly trying to work together and cross sell:

---Ancestry.com, the web's largest collection of historical records, 3 billion names and 4,000 searchable databases. Their products include OneWorldTree, US Census (Flo finds this census supplier to be the best), US Records, and US immigration collection. Within the last several weeks they have announced a new pricing policy--\$180\yr or \$24\mo for everything in the US. They won't let you buy just parts of the database, like census, you have to buy the whole enchilada. All world is \$300\yr or \$35\mo. Several years ago MyFamily.com purchased Genealogy.com—a direct competitor of Ancestry.com. They have been operating these businesses separately but over the next several months will fold Genealogy.com (and its WorldFamilyTree) into Ancestry.com. Ancestry has an e-newsletter called Ancestry Daily News which is sent free to subscribers to the database. I think you can access this newsletter on their web site even if you are not a subscriber. Ancestry.com is almost a must-have for any serious genealogist.

---Rootsweb.com, the web's oldest and largest "free" genealogy community. This site is "supported" and owned by Ancestry.com and they make every effort to sell the Ancestry.com product along the way. Ancestry.com is aggressively trying to develop its own "on line news group" operation within the Ancestry site.

---Family Tree Maker genealogy software. In terms of units this is the largest seller (\$30). They are increasingly integrating Family Tree Maker with Ancestry.com—for example you can search Ancestry.com (if you are a subscriber) from within FTM.

---MyFamily.com offers a variety of easy to maintain family web sites. We might want to consider this approach in the future.

---Heritage Makers, based in Springville, Utah (just south of Provo). This company was founded in 2004 and recently purchased by MyFamily.com. They are a direct selling organization with more than 1200 independent "Heritage Consultants" that market custom published products thru in-home presentations called "Heritage Celebrations". They plan to build this business by building a "party-plan" business.

Heritage Quest Magazine is based in Bountiful, Utah (just north of Salt Lake City). It is bi-monthly and \$28/yr. It is being published by the guys that started the magazine in 1985. The parent company is apparently www.heritagecreations.com. They also have a 48 page bi-monthly Genealogy Bulletin written by William Dollarhide (\$22/yr). The Heritage Quest database company (provides the same kind of data as Ancestry.com) was sold to Proquest, Inc in Ann Arbor, MI in 2001. Proquest seems to be known for its collection of newspaper databases. Proquest and Heritage Quest don't market to consumers; they go after institutions like libraries and societies. For example, the Heritage Quest on-line census data is available free if one is a member of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society or the New England Historic Genealogical Society. The Heritage Quest census data is not as useful as the census data from Ancestry.com.

Family Tree Magazine, published by F&W Publications in Cincinnati, OH. For beginners.

Dick Eastman, who seems to appear as a speaker at every genealogical conference known to man, publishes his free Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter (www.eogn.com). He also has a "Plus" version for \$20/yr. Until recently Dick worked for New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston however they have recently parted ways. NEHGS, the oldest and largest genealogical society in the US, now has its own e-newsletter.

There are a number of scholarly journals—The American Society of Genealogists, Derry, NH has "The Genealogist", The National Genealogical Society, Alexandria, VA has its "Quarterly Journal" and its NGS News Magazine, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B) has its "Record". The New England Historic and Genealogical Society (NEHGS) has its New England Ancestors Magazine and its NEHGS "Register". The Holland Society publishes its quarterly magazine, De Halve Maen, \$28.50 per year to non-members.

The Godfrey Memorial Library in Middletown, CT (www.godfrey.org) has provided a large array of genealogical research sources for a number of years. You can't beat their value for the money (\$35/yr). They offer vital records indexes, newspaper indexes, military indexes and more. In 2005 they added FindUSA which can be very helpful if you are interested in finding people who lived in the past 20 or 30 years.

I also have to mention the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' (LDS) website. www.familysearch.org. I am not aware that they have a magazine but they have undoubtedly the most helpful "free" website. They have recently announced a plan to put all their microfilm onto the internet—that may come to 20 billion names.

The VanVoorhees Association uses The Master Genealogist (TMG) (\$59) (www.whollygenes.com) software produced by Wholly Genes Software, Columbia, MD. This software is used by the majority of genealogy professionals and we are very happy with it. Probably the closest competitor to TMG is Legacy Family Tree (\$30) (www.Legacyfamilytree.com) by Millennia Corp of El Mirage, AZ (west of Phoenix). Family Tree Maker (\$30) (www.ftm2006.com) mentioned above probably has the largest unit volume. Four other software packages that should be mentioned are 1) RootsMagic (\$30) (www.rootsmagic.com) of Springville, UT (just south of Provo, UT), 2) Ancestral Quest (\$35) (latest version of Family Origins) (www.ancquest.com) by Incline Software of South Jordan, UT (just south of Salt Lake City), 3) Personal Ancestral File (PAF) (www.familysearch.org) (free) from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Salt Lake City, UT. PAF is not as powerful as some of the other programs but it's hard to beat "free". 4) Family Tree Legends (\$30) (www.familytreelegends.com) by Pearl Street Software of Boulder, CO. Pearl Street Software also operates www.GenCircles.com community web site where people can upload gedcom genealogy files into a global tree and interact with other genealogists.

An interesting trend in the genealogy software industry is the sponsoring of genealogy cruises. Last year both TMG and Legacy sponsored cruises and they both are doing so again this year—TMG a Nov 11-18 Princess cruise to the west coast of Mexico and Legacy a Sept 6-11 Carnival cruise thru the inside passage to Alaska.

Finally, on conferences. The National Genealogical Society 2006 national conference will be in Chicago June 7-10. Their 2007 conference will be in Richmond, VA May 16-19. The Federation of Genealogical Societies 2006 national conference will be in Boston Aug 30 to Sept 2.

BOOK ORDER FORM for The Van Voorhees Association Publications

Please copy or use this form and mail it with your payment. We are not yet taking orders online.
(Please PRINT.)

Make your Check or Money Order payable to **The Van Voorhees Association** and mail it to

SHIP to: (Email: _____)

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ VVA # _____

I. INDIVIDUAL Books	Qty.	Price (ea.)	Price Total	Shipping (ea.)	Shipping Total
<i>The Van Voorhees Family in America: The First 6 Generations</i>	_____	\$60.00	_____	\$9.00	_____
<i>The Van Voorhees Family in America: The 7th & 8th Generations (in 2 books)</i>	_____	\$85.00	_____	\$12.00	_____
<i>Through a Dutch Door</i>	_____	\$22.00	_____	\$5.00	_____
II. Books in COMBINATION	Qty.	Price (each Set)	Price Total	Shipping (each Set)	Shipping Total
<i>The Van Voorhees Family in America: The First 6 Generations PLUS The Van Voorhees Family in America: The 7th & 8th Generations (in 2 books)</i>	_____	\$135.00	_____	\$21.00	_____
<i>The Van Voorhees Family in America: The First 6 Generations PLUS Through a Dutch Door</i>	_____	\$70.00	_____	\$17.00	_____
<i>The Van Voorhees Family in America: The 7th & 8th Generations (in 2 books) PLUS Through a Dutch Door</i>	_____	\$95.00	_____	\$20.00	_____
<i>The Van Voorhees Family in America: The First 6 Generations PLUS The Van Voorhees Family in America: The 7th & 8th Generations (in 2 books) PLUS Through a Dutch Door</i>	_____	\$145.00	_____	\$29.00	_____
		Subtotal	_____	Subtotal	_____
Shipping to New Jersey? Add 6% Sales Tax on Only Books			_____	(Book Tax, if applicable)	
		Shipping Subtotal	_____		
Grand Total including Books, Tax (if any) & Shipping			_____		

RF Voorhees

1ST CLASS
US Postage
PAID
Permit #29
Jamestown, N

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED



Dues Order Form

Very few families have an organization like ours. Please help us by volunteering your services and getting your relatives to join. If each of you act as a back-up to assist us, it would be much appreciated.

Dues through December 31, 2006 were payable January 1, 2006. Please check the membership desired, note any change of address, use your entire 9-digit zip code (to save money in postage), add your e-mail address (if you have one) and **mail your dues to Albert T. Van Voorhies, 9 Purdy Ave., East Northport, NY 11731-4501.**

Please make checks payable to The Van Voorhees Association. Your dues are deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Regular, \$ 10.00 Contributing \$ 30.00 Junior, \$ 2.00
 Life, \$ 200.00 Sustaining, \$ 15.00

If you did not pay your dues in earlier years, please add that amount to your remittance:

Check here, and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish to receive a membership card.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

VVA Number _____ E-mail _____