



# VAN VOORHEES NIEUWSBRIEF

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Fall 2007

A Publication of the Van Voorhees Association, organized in 1932  
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## General Membership Meeting: Announcement and Reminder SEPTEMBER 22, 2007 General Meeting

Our annual General Membership and Business Meeting will be on Saturday, **Sept. 22**, at 9 AM in the Tyler Room at the Holiday Inn & Conference Center, 50 Kenny Place, Saddlebrook, NJ 07663. The telephone is 201-843-0600. A few rooms will be held for arrival on Fri. night. Be sure to mention the Van Voorhees Association when making a reservation. **NOTE:** the **date** has been **changed** from October to **September**.

We have the Tyler Room from 8 AM to 5 PM. This will be a business-and-get-acquainted meeting with no formal program or speakers. Come at 8 AM for coffee and Danish. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in running our Association!

We are looking for volunteers for 2 very important areas. (1) The first is Annual Meeting Chairman, a job requiring the coordination of various volunteers to secure a site, hotel accommodations, restaurants and speakers. (2) The second is Webmaster of the Van Voorhees website ([www.vanvoorhees.org](http://www.vanvoorhees.org)). This job is self explanatory; however, we would note that the job does **not necessarily require an experienced webmaster**. We would be happy to consider someone who is interest in learning the job. Our current webmaster, who does not have sufficient time to do the job, would be available to help out in a transition period.

### **Annual DUES: Still Only \$10.00!! (Life Members and other options on Dues Form, p. 18)**

Many organizations similar to ours have dues of \$25.00 or more. We have kept ours to a minimum to encourage maximum family membership. Your dues support continuing genealogical research, storage and handling of our books, and future CDs and books. Our bills come in every month. The 2007 dues were due on Jan. 1, 2007. To determine your dues status, please check the 1<sup>st</sup> line of your mailing label. If the *mailing*

*label* does not say 2007 or *Life*, we have made a mistake or your dues for 2007 have not been paid. Your dues are deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes. Please make **checks payable to The Van Voorhees Association**. Please send your dues to:

**Tom Van Voorhies**

### **Please Submit Articles & Items by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall, Editor**

In 99.99% of cases, your Article is Very Welcome! If you have material or ideas, please let me know via Email or Phone -- NOT by Letters which can delay publication. We can discuss the content and, if there are changes, you can easily make them in advance -- maybe before you begin to write. Please use Microsoft Word in 12 or 14 pt., in Bold (if you like).

**ALWAYS** use *Nieuwsbrief* as the **Subject** of an Email (so I won't erase it accidentally) and include your Name and Phone Number. Because I am often gone for extended periods and AOL can erase Emails, I urge you to phone as well and leave a message including the word *Nieuwsbrief*, your name and phone number. If I don't respond in 1 week, please call again.

### Feature Articles

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~ VAN VOORHEES WHO'S WHO ~

**ACTING PRESIDENT:** Scott T. Voorhees

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Judith K. Van Voorhis

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

**SECRETARY:** Position Vacant

**TREASURER:** Bogert Cox Holly

Tel.: *email:*

**CORRES. SECY.:** Laura Thompson

**Immediate Past PRES.:** Manning W. Voorhees

~ **GENEALOGY COMMITTEE** ~

**Chairman:** Robert F. Voorhees

**Vice Chairman:** Manning W. Voorhees (above)

**Genealogist:** Florence Christoph, CG.

**Archivist & Computer Res.:** Judith K. Van Voorhis

**Inquiries:** Robert F. Voorhees

(Chairman: see above)

Temporary (to fill vacancy)

**Civil War Consultant:** Mike Apgar

**Internet Monitoring & Communications.:** Ann Nunn

**Voorhees Notables:** Marc Hoover

**LDS Resource:** Joyce Fesler

**Publications Consultant:** Larry Voreis

**Publication Sales:** Marilyn Brack

**EDITOR:** Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

**MEMBERSHIP:** Albert T. (Tom) Van Voorhies

**WEBSITE:** [www.vanvoorhees.org](http://www.vanvoorhees.org)

Send Suggestions to: **Judith K. Van Voorhis**  
(see Vice-President above)

**PROGRAMS:** Position Vacant

**PUBLICITY:** Position Vacant

Tel.: *email:*

Tel.:

*email:*

Stephanie H. Capotorto

~ **MEMBERS-AT-LARGE** ~

Ted L. Bogert

Glee Van Osdol-Krapf

June Wick

## Nieuwsbrief Mailing List (Spring 2007)

We are not precisely sure how this happened, but in our last mailing some obsolete mailing information was used. This caused some havoc with old addresses being

returned and not properly reflecting many members correct membership dues status. We apologize for any inconvenience and will try to do better in the future.

### PLEASE, HELP Us Keep our MAILING LIST Up to Date !!

You may have noticed that we always mail our *Nieuwsbrief* as 1<sup>st</sup> class mail. We spend this extra money for postage because we routinely get at least 5% or more of our *Nieuwsbrief*'s back as undeliverable for various reasons. When we cannot find a new address, we just have to remove that name from our Mailing List. This problem often exists for our LIFE members (more than 1/3 of our membership), since they do not send in yearly dues. Also, we have some members with 2 addresses (e.g., Florida in winter and Illinois in summer). Often these are returned because we don't know the correct address.

Some *Nieuwsbrief*s are returned because the member has passed away. We are **dependent on family members and friends to notify us** in this case. Rarely, a postman will do so. Obituaries are of great importance to us. If you write one or see one in, please make a copy of the newspaper item and send it to us. We have an obituary section, In Memoriam, in the *Nieuwsbrief*. Furthermore, obituaries often contain valuable data for the Genealogy Committee.

Unfortunately, our website Change-of-Address Form

is not working correctly at the moment. So **PLEASE notify our Membership Chairman directly about all deaths and/or address changes** either by mail, email or phone. (Tom Van Voorhies,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Membership Chairman, Tom Van Voorhies, for his many years of hard work maintaining the Van Voorhees Association Membership List. He does an outstanding job and all of us look forward to working with him in the future. And while we are handing out kudos, let's recognize our Publication Sales Chairwoman, Marilyn Brack. Marilyn does an outstanding job. Many of you may not know that Tom and Marilyn are brother and sister; so we especially owe this family a debt of gratitude.

Obviously Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall, our Editor-in-Chief of the *Nieuwsbrief*, is not writing this paragraph; but we want she and her husband, Roy, to know that we all appreciate their hard work on the *Nieuwsbrief*. They do an outstanding job.

### The Holland Society Plans New Headquarters

Within the next few months, The Holland Society's office and library will be moving to new quarters at 20 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan, directly across from the New York Yacht Club in the Mechanics Building. Since 1963, the society's office and library have been housed

in the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society's building at 122 East 58<sup>th</sup> Street. The sale of that building during the past year, however, has forced The Holland Society to seek new quarters.

### Editorial regarding *In Memoriam*

I don't know whether to be happy (because we have had no deaths) or sad, because no one has sent us any obituaries. We can't memorialize someone without the

data. This is very important to us, as well as to our Data Bank, for use by future generations. For this issue, we have received absolutely nothing.

~ Dutch Proverb ~

*Een ons geduld is meer dan een pond verstand.*

**"AN OUNCE OF PATIENCE IS MORE THAN A POUND OF BRAINS."**

(An ounce of Patience is worth a Pound of brains.)

***Through a Dutch Door: 17<sup>th</sup> Century Origins of The Van Voorhees Family***  
by Robert F. Voorhees

This wonderful book was printed by Gateway Press, Inc for the Van Voorhees Association in 1992. Those of you who don't have a copy should consider getting one for yourself and one for each of your children.

We have been selling *Through a Dutch Door* directly to the public since the book was published in 1992. To expand our distribution, we are negotiating with Heritage Books, Inc of Westminster, MD to sell "*Dutch Door*" thru their distribution channels. If this negotiation is successful, and we think it will be, then "*Dutch Door*" would be available at [www.heritagebooks.com](http://www.heritagebooks.com), [www.willowbendbooks.com](http://www.willowbendbooks.com), and [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) and would no longer be available directly from the Van Voorhees Association. This change should take place in the next several months. Your signal that this change has been finalized will be when we change our publications page on our website ([www.vanvoorhees.org](http://www.vanvoorhees.org)) so that potential customers will be directed to Heritage or Amazon and not to the Van Voorhees Association (Marilyn Brack). The price will be the same, \$22 per book. Combination sales such as "*Dutch Door*" and our genealogy books will no longer be available. For now we will continue to sell our genealogy books and CD direct to the customer as we have done in the past.

Harry Macey at the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society wrote a review of "*Dutch Door*" in the October 1992 issue of the *Record*. We reprint it here.

*"Through a Dutch Door: 17<sup>th</sup> Century Origins of The Van Voorhees Family*. 1992, Hardcover, illus, Index, xviii + 209 pages, price: \$22."

"Clues to the origins of the Van Voorhees family come from their surname, from the record of their arrival in New Netherlands, and from four ancient family letters which were published thirty years ago. To learn more about these origins The Van Voorhees Association commissioned Drs. Jan Folkerts and Drs. D.J. Wijmer, Dutch scholars and archivists, to do research in the Netherlands. They were aided by the discovery, in the

Teunis G. Bergen papers at Albany, of still more 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century letters sent to New York by friends and relatives in the Netherlands. Although they could not trace the lineage back beyond the immigrant Steven Coerte's father with much certainty, the researchers did discover the name of Steven's first wife (Aeltje Wessels) and were able to develop considerable information on later members of the family who remained in the old country. They also developed interesting data on the family's landholdings in the native province of Drenthe, the conditions under which they lived, and the likely reasons for their emigration." (Editor's Note: Our cousins in Drenthe have been able to obtain accurate data on some of the family preceding Steven Coerte. Their other information agrees with ours in "*Dutch Door*.")

"This attractive volume produced for the Association by Gateway Press, includes an extensive scholarly article by Drs. Wijmer, on "Steven Coerts--his Family and His Dutch Background," and two articles by Drs. Folkerts, "Drenthe and New Netherland--Two Outer Provinces at the Time of Emigration" and "Emigration from Drenthe to America in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century" (which touches on other families as well). Another section of the book contains new translations of the now-legendary old family letters. The accompanying illustrations include useful maps and copies of original documents. There is some repetitiveness in the text, as no attempt has been made to edit out material duplicated by the various contributors. But this does not detract from the importance of this publication. We have here an example of what can be accomplished when qualified Dutch researchers are put to work in their country's archives. Steven Coerte Van Voorhees probably has as many present-day descendants as any New Netherland settler. The genealogists among them should be grateful for the Van Voorhees Association's good sense in sponsoring this project. The results will undoubtedly encourage their families to pursue the same goal."

~ Dutch Proverb ~

***STEP BY STEP ONE GOES FAR.***

## THE HALLAM-VAN VOORHEES CONNECTION

by O. Keith Hallam, Captain US Navy (Retired)

My 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather, John Hallam, married Anna Vorys in Washington County, Pennsylvania, on 8 July 1798. John, the first son of Thomas Hallam and Mary Berkshire, was born 7 October 1778 in Maryland. Anna Vorys/Voorhees born 5 July 1775 in Sherwoods, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, was the daughter of Isaiah Vorys (Abraham, Auke Janse, Jan Stevense, Steven Coerte, Corte Albertse, Albert Van Voorhees) and his first wife - whose name not known. Isaiah was the son of Abraham Voorhees, a farmer according to the 1800 Census in Morris Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania. The Van Voorhees family can be traced back to The Netherlands to the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. The first Van Voorhees' coming to America were Steven Coerte Van Voorhees and his wife, six children and his son-in-law, Jan Kiers/Kiersen, who arrived in New Amsterdam in 1660 aboard the ship *de Bonte Koe* (*the Spotted Cow*). For additional information on the Van Voorhees family, whose members can be counted in the tens of thousands in the United States today, the reader is invited to purchase a copy of the 1000+ page book, *The Van Voorhees Family in America, Vol. I* (and others in the series) from The Van Voorhees Association (ibid. page 15 in this *Nieuwsbrief*).

John Hallam and Anna Vorys are the first "junction" in the Hallam-Van Voorhees Connection. John Hallam was a farmer all his life, the last 70 years of which were spent in Amwell Township (this information was derived from his headstone which reads, inter alia, "Resident of Amwell Township 70 years"), Washington County, Pennsylvania. Several of his children preceded him in death and are buried alongside their parents in the "Old Burial Ground-Hallam Cemetery" located in the northeast inter-loop of the intersection of US Route 40 and Interstate I-70, which is about 6 miles east of the center of Washington, Pennsylvania.

Isaiah Vorys (son of Abraham Vorys), who was born 4 August 1750 in New Jersey, married circa 1769 an unknown wife. Isaiah died 16 March 1834 at Columbus, Ohio, age 83, and was buried at Old North Cemetery, Columbus, Ohio. Isaiah's Revolutionary War pension application (S6309), dated 26 September 1832 avows that he was a resident of Franklin County, Ohio, that he was born 5 August 1750 and that he was of Low Dutch descent. (High Dutch was German.) He entered into service as a volunteer soldier in New Jersey, on 3 August 1776 and continued as a private, corporal, sergeant, and an ensign in Captain Locke's Company of Colonel Frelingheysen's New Jersey Regiment for

nearly two years. He was then commissioned an ensign in Cornelius Johnson's Company attached to Colonel George Beaver's regiment, serving in that rank for more than two years. He resigned his commission in 1781 after the cessation of hostilities. He also stated that his father's register of his children was kept in an old Dutch Bible, which was now lost. Isaiah lived in New Jersey and Ohio after the Revolution.

The seven children of Isaiah Vorys and an unknown spouse were: (1) Abraham Vorys, born circa 1772 in New Jersey and married to (--?) O'Neil; (2) Sarah Vorys, born 1 June 1773 in New Jersey and married to Thomas Hallam on 26 August 1798 in Washington, Penna.; (3) Anna Vorys, born 5 July 1775 and married on 8 July 1798 in Washington, Penna. to John Hallam, son of Thomas Hallam and Mary Berkshire; (4) John Voris, born circa 1779 and died in Indiana; (5) Mary Voris, born circa 1782 and died Washington County, Penna.; (6) Hannah Voris, born circa 1783 and died Greene County, Ohio; and (7) William Voorhees, born circa 1783 in New Jersey and died circa 1854 in Fairfield County, Ohio.

A major dilemma exists concerning the date of Anna Vorys (no. 3 above) Hallam's death. A Hallam family Bible reads, in part, "Annie Vories was born July 5, 1775. John Hallam and Annie Vories were married July 8, 1798". Anna's headstone reads, "Anna, Wife of John Hallam Died Aug. 24, 1814 in Her 45<sup>th</sup> year". This death date is almost certain to be in error because Anna was mentioned in her father's will which was dated 1824. As stated, a Hallam Family Bible shows her birth date as being 5 July, 1775 and the Pennsylvania 1820 Census shows a female of the John Hallam household in the 26 to 45 year bracket, which is consistent with Anne's age. So if she died in 1820 after the census was taken, she would have been 45 years old. It is believed that she and three of her daughters died of TB. More research is needed to determine the precise year of her death.

An interesting observation concerning a second Hallam-Van Voorhees "junction" is that John Hallam married Anna Vorys on 8 July 1798 and John's father, Thomas Hallam, married his new daughter-in-law's sister, Sarah Vorys about six weeks later on 26 August 1798. Thomas's first wife, Mary Berkshire, had died on 1 January 1798 and was the first person to be buried in the Old Burial Ground-Hallam Cemetery in Washington County, Penna.



“Anna, Wife of John Hallam Died Aug. 24, 1814 in Her 45<sup>th</sup> year”



“John Hallam DIED March 10, 1860 aged 81 years 5 months 12 days”

My maternal grandfather, Walter B. Dolson was a direct descendant of Captain Jan Gerritsen de Vries Van Dalsen who emigrated from the village of Dalfsen in Overijssel Province, Netherlands in about 1640. Dalfsen is about 18 miles south west of Ruinen in Drenthe Province of The Netherlands, from which the Steven Coerte van Voorhees family emigrated in 1660. As was mentioned earlier, Steven's son-in-law, Jan Kiensen, accompanied the Van Voorhees family to New Netherland. It is an ironic coincidence that Jan Kiensen, the first son-in-law of Steven Van Voorhees, and Jan Gerritsen de Vries, Van Dalsen's first son-in-law, also bore the name Jan Kiensen. However, it is unlikely that the two Jan Kiersens were directly blood related, because the father of the latter Jan Kiensen was Kier Wolters and was born at Arnhout in Drenthe, about 1655. Jan married Gerritje, daughter of Jan Van Dalsen, on 8 September 1685.

I know of no direct connections between my Dolson ancestors and Van Voorhees ancestors who lived in New Netherland in the same time frame and came from nearby areas in The Netherlands. There were, however, close encounters of the two families for several generations starting in the 1660 time frame. For example, Abraham Waldron married Sarah Voorhees and

Johannes Waldron married Anna Van Dalsen. Also Teunis Dolson married Sarah Vermilye and much later in the early 1800's Eliza Van Voorhees married Gedion Vermilyea in the Fishkill, New York area. The Old Dutch Church records both in the Manhattan/Haarlem area and in Fishkill are replete with Van Voorhees and Dolson entries in the same time frame, especially of baptisms; however none are together for the same event.

The resilience, tenacity, long-life, loyalty, and prolific nature of the Dutch people is exemplified, in my view, in the following family statistics: (1) My ancestor Teunis Dolson, born 5 September 1664, first male born in New York City, died 30 August 1766, aged 102 years; (2) John Dolson, born 16 June 1754 was the father of 27 children (all legitimate!); (3) Dolson family members who served in the Revolutionary War included Teunis Dolson, born 1735, and at least three of his five brothers, his son Johannes (John), my ancestor, born 1754, and Teunis's nephew John Dolson, born 1763 (a fifer at age 14); and (4) My ancestor John Dolson, born 1754 and his youngest son Philo, my great grandfather, who died in 1924, lived a combined 170 years! My apologies to my Dutch ancestors – I have only one son, but I have two grandsons.

## Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum Announces Barn Raising

The Wyckoff House & Association, Inc. will break ground for a Dutch barn on Nov. 16-18, 2007 at the Pieter Claesen Wyckoff House in Brooklyn, NY. **Nov. 5th is Dutch-American Heritage Day** and members of other Dutch heritage groups are planning to join in this celebration. This is also the time of the Annual Wyckoff Reunion. In addition, there will be an opportunity to participate in *Five Dutch Days*, a City-

wide celebration of the Dutch in America. Tours of the Farmhouse Museum, an original building, with docent guides in costume are on-going for many months. For further information about this and other events, (1) visit their website ([www.wyckoffassociation.org](http://www.wyckoffassociation.org)), (2) call Yvette Windley at \_\_\_\_\_ or (3) contact Cheryl Wyckoff at her email address,

### **Dutch-American Day is Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>** by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

Did you know, before this, that there is a **National Dutch-American Day on November 16<sup>th</sup>**? I didn't. Apparently it was created quite recently -- in 1991. The reason for choosing Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> was historical. Back in 1776 on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> a small American warship entered the harbor of St. Eustatius, a Dutch island in the West Indies. The ship's name was *Andrea Doria* (also the same name as an Italian vessel that sailed out of New York City and sank in the North Atlantic about 50+ years ago). In July 1776 the United States had declared independence. Much to the delight of the American sailors, the Governor of St. Eustatius fired their fort's cannon in a friendly salute. This was the first time such recognition occurred. The British seized this island a few years later; but the Dutch recaptured it in 1784.

For better or for worse, in America almost all Dutch celebrations center on a Tulip Festival. In a previous issue of the *Nieuwsbrief*, I mentioned several locations for these. Even in The Netherlands there is a Tulip Festival which the Queen attends. I was there and saw a vast array of gorgeous floats covered in flowers (much like our Rose Parade); but I didn't see much of the Queen. We have, however, much more to be proud of than tulips, although I love them and have them in my yard. Windmills and the Volendam cap for females seem to be other stereotype pictures of the Dutch. Unfortunately, too many folk think the lady on a can of Dutch Cleanser symbolizes us. Our Drenthe headdress for females is different from both of these.

Many prominent Americans (besides ourselves, of course!) have Dutch ancestry. Among these are, Martin Van Buren (5<sup>th</sup> President), Theodore Roosevelt (26<sup>th</sup> President), Franklin D. Roosevelt (32<sup>nd</sup> President), Cornelius Vanderbilt (industrial entrepreneur), the Van Renssalaer family, etc. and many others whose present surnames do not reflect their Dutch ancestry. Some of these, mentioned in previous issues of the *Nieuwsbrief*, have married into the Van Voorhees family! Or, should

I say, they have Van Voorhees members in their family tree.

We have much to be proud of in our Dutch heritage. Just remember that **we are the REAL Pennsylvania Dutch** -- not the Germans who are Pennsylvania *Deutsch* (usually mispronounced as *Dutch*). Many place names reflect the Dutch language, especially in NY. Almost every state has a town or village with some version of the spelling of Van Voorhees. The Dutch Reformed Church is still a separate and active church with colleges for training pastors. Back in the mid 1700s it forbade slavery. Christmas just isn't the same without *Sinter Klaus*, even though ours rides "in a sleigh pulled by reindeer" instead of "getting off a boat and riding on a white horse." The Dutch invented double lee-boards for shallow draft sailboats.

In 1602 the Dutch East India Company (de Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie or VOC, for short) received its charter from the Dutch government. Seven years later, in 1609, Henry Hudson arrived on our shores in *De Halve Maen* (the *Half Moon*) and mapped the Hudson River up to Albany, which is far as he dared go in the shallow water. He also drew maps of the lower Hudson and the islands plus some of the NJ coast. While he didn't find a route to Asia, he found lots of land for settlers. In the winter of 1613 on his ship, *Tijger* (*Tiger*), Capt. Adriaen Block sailed along the coast, when his ship began to burn. He and his crew went ashore and built some huts to last until spring, when they continued to explore the area. When they were finally found by another Dutch ship, they abandoned their tiny settlement. Block Island was named for him.

The Dutch West India Company (de Westindische Compagnie or WIC), although planned in 1606-1607, did not receive its charter until 1621. Meanwhile other Dutch settlers were starting to come to Nieuw Amsterdam. Several boat loads of settlers had arrived and began to get into the fur trade. As this lucrative

business increased, the Dutch began to expand their camps into the wilderness in order to be closer to the native population who brought furs to the Dutch in exchange for guns, ammunition, and many other metal products.

Albany, NY was founded by the Dutch in 1614 under the VOC. At that time it was just a trading outpost and military encampment called Fort Nassau. In order to get settlers, the VOC as began sending them to Fort Nassau, which in 1624 was renamed Fort Orange. On Thurs., Jan. 25, 1624 the *Eendracht* [Unity], a Dutch West India Co. ship, with Capt. Joriszen Tienpont set sail for Fort Orange. On board with other male settlers were Joris Jansaen Raporlie/Rapalje and his bride of just 4 days, Catalyntie Jeronimus Trico. Joris and Catalyntie were Huguenots who fled to Amsterdam and received not only sanctuary but a hasty wedding – on Sunday, Jan. 21, 1624. They would not be allowed on board the ship unless married. This was a truly unusual wedding, because they were exempted from posting Banns (1-2 weeks in advance) and it was on Sunday, when weddings were usually not allowed. Joris was only 20 and Catalyntie just 19. Both being under the age of 25 meant that parents normally gave permission, and none were present here. (Joris had his father's permission plus a witness to prove it, and Catalyntie was accompanied by an older sister who was her legal witness.) Their child, Sarah born on June 9, 1625, was the first white baby born in Fort Orange (Albany). (If you are counting the months, there were barely 6 between the marriage and birth; but it was standard practice then for the bride to be 3 months pregnant, thus proving she could bear children. They eventually had 11 of them.) Years later 2 of their granddaughters married into the Van Voorhees family. In 1696 Antje Rapalje married Cornelis Coerte Van Voorhees (#25) and on Nov. 17, 1724 Femmetje Bennett (daughter of Femmetje Rapaille and Jan Adrianse Bennett) married Daniel Van Voorhies (#128).

On March 31, 1624 another WIC ship, the *Nieuw Nederland* (New Netherlands) sailed for America with about 30 families on board. By this time the number of Dutch in North America had increased to approximately 1500. To speed further growth, the Dutch officials in 1629 promised all kinds of rewards to anyone who would collect 50 colonists and pay for their transport to Nieuw Nederlands. These wealthy Dutch, called *patroons*, received huge land grants as well as complete

judicial authority over their property and special trading privileges. These rewards were granted in perpetuity, which meant they could pass them down as they wished to their heirs. This plan did not work well with Dutch settlers who were eager to be free from feudalistic life; so by 1635 the WIC had to buy back about 80% of their *patroon* ships registered in Amsterdam.

In 1656 the Dutch government finally started to support Nieuw Nederlands and take some control from the WIC. Now they offered to rich and poor alike, provided they could prove an ability to earn a living, free passage for themselves and their families. This offer, undoubtedly, was another major factor in the decision of Steven Coerts Van Voorhees to emigrate. In 1660 Walloons and French Huguenots comprised about 5000 of the 10,000 people in the Nieuw Nederlands, which then included Manhattan and Staten Island in NY, all of NJ, and even Delaware and parts of eastern PA. This was the situation when *our* Steven arrived.

Due to mishandling of authority, Dutch governors did not have happy constituents. When the English arrived in 1663, the Dutch did fight back; however, they were actually pleased to be under English rule by 1664. They still kept their language and, aside from a new government and changing the name, Nieuw Amsterdam, to New York, everything else continued basically before.

One important item to **never forget** is **Dutch religious tolerance. The Netherlands was the first European country to permit freedom of religion.** This policy was carried to Nieuw Nederlands as well. So, while Virginia and Massachusetts restricted religious faith to their particular brand, the Dutch in Nieuw Nederlands were allowing people to choose for themselves.

How are we going to celebrate Dutch-American Day? At the top of page 7 of this *Nieuwsbrief* is an account of the festivities at the Wyckoff house in Brooklyn, NY. Maybe you can't attend; but you can put on a Dutch costume for Halloween. I've done this for years and tried to inspire the trick-or-treaters to dress in a costume reflecting their ethnic heritage. Wear a different one each year, if necessary, to depict each branch of your family. If your town or newspaper doesn't mention the day, I strongly urge you to write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper and remind him of this occasion. You should also be sure to mention our Van Voorhees Association.



**Voorhees Surname DNA Project Update**  
by Robert F. Voorhees

Our vendor for our DNA project is Familytreedna ([www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)), the world leader (90% of market) in the field of Genetic Genealogy. They have a total of over 95,000 individuals tested and have facilitated over 4,000 DNA surname projects. Ours is one of these. Familytreedna has educational materials on their web site and I would urge our members to learn more about this exciting field. Anyone interested in participating in the Voorhees surname project please contact me at \_\_\_\_\_ with any questions. Testing is a very easy process: simple brush of the inside of the cheek and mail back to Familytreedna.

You may have heard of the Genographic Project. The Genographic Project is a real time effort to map how humankind populated the earth. It is a 5 year research partnership between National Geographic and IBM with support from the Waitt Foundation and public participation through Familytreedna (Familytreedna does all the testing for the project). People who have been tested by Familytreedna can join the Genographic Project for \$15 with the proceeds going directly to the National Geographic Society. People participating in the Genographic Project can have their results included in a Familytreedna surname project free of charge. I mention the Genographic Project just to keep you informed. We don't have a horse in this race.

In these pages we have not discussed before the "big DNA picture." I think you will find this interesting; but keep in mind we are leaving out a great deal of technical detail (which we don't understand anyway). It is time to introduce the term, *haplogroup*. A *haplogroup* is a cluster of people who share a distinctive marker that all have inherited from a single ancestor. *Haplogroups* are generally capable of distinguishing broad geographic categories, European or African or Asian or Native American. We don't have absolute proof that the Van Voorhees ancestors are in *haplogroup J2*; however, Familytreedna believes this is where our family fits. Here is the Familytreedna description of *J2*: The lineage originated in the northern portion of the Fertile Crescent, where it later spread throughout central Asia, the Mediterranean, and south into India. As with other populations with Mediterranean ancestry, this lineage is found with Jewish populations.

The Fertile Crescent is a historical crescent-shaped region in the Middle East incorporating the Levant, Ancient Mesopotamia, and Ancient Egypt. The Levant is an imprecise geographical term historically referring to a large area in the Middle East south of the Taurus

Mountains, bounded by the Mediterranean Sea on the West, and by the northern Arabian Desert and Upper Mesopotamia to the East. Mesopotamia refers to the region now occupied by modern Iraq, and parts of eastern Syria, southeastern Turkey, and southwest Iran. Ancient Egypt was a long-standing civilization in Northeastern Africa. Central Asia has various definitions but often includes Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Let's run for our geography books.

We now have a total of 7 Voorhees tested for Y-Chromosome DNA. This is an increase of 1 since our last report. This person is of great interest because his line is unknown -- that is, we cannot connect him to the immigrant ancestor through our conventional genealogy (yet). He tested at the 37 marker level. At the 25 marker level he is a perfect match with me (Coert line) and another individual in the Lucas line. He is a 24/25 (96%) match with a 2<sup>nd</sup> individual in the Coert line. He and I are the only two that have been tested at the 37 marker level. He and I do not match at marker 30 and marker 35 (and thus we match 35/37 or 95%). These are locations that more easily mutate and may be helpful in determining what line our unknown individual is in, after we get more people tested at the 37 marker level.

38% of our database is Coert line, 30% Lucas line, 23% Jan line, and 9% Albert line. After consulting my college statistics text, this means for a *random unknown* there is a 38% probability of Coert line, 30% probability of Lucas line, 23% probability of Jan line and 9% probability of Albert line.

All 7 of our individuals match perfectly on 12 markers. This gives us our Voorhees Signature DNA to which others, such as the many Voorhees name variations, can compare. Our goal is to have 40 Voorhees individuals tested with at minimum 2 from each of the 4 lines (we have at least one from each of the 4 lines now). We can learn more when individuals are tested at 25 or 37 markers, so this is desirable. (Familytreedna agrees to keep the DNA sample for 25 years so someone who is tested at say the 12 level can at any time request an upgrade, at additional cost, to 25 or 37 markers without having to supply additional DNA).

Molecular genealogy is based on probabilities and, like forecasting the weather, is not an exact science. In general, the higher the match percentage, the closer two participants are likely to be related. Matches of 35/37 (95%), 36/37 (97%), or 37/37 (100%) and a *common surname* generally indicate a common ancestor in the

time genealogy records have been kept. These kinds of matches *with a different surname* may be a coincidence, but probably indicate a surname change in one line. Matches of 33/37 (89%) or less generally indicate a connection before the time of genealogical records. Matches of 34/37 (92%) can be ambiguous and should generally be interpreted in the context of individual family history.

Ancestry.com, with 14 million users and the world's largest collection of online family trees, is entering the DNA genealogy field through exclusive partnership with Sorenson Genomics, Inc. The Relative Genetics Division of Sorenson Genomics is a direct competitor of Familytreedna. In the coming months Ancestry.com claims they will release technology that captures DNA test results in an ever-expanding, searchable database

(whatever that means). They also claim they are developing technology that will allow users to integrate DNA results with historical documents already in their online family trees (this is what we are doing now). I view this partnership as a good thing for the Van Voorhees Association. The Ancestry\Sorenson partnership will quickly become the major competitor for Familytreedna, and this competition will be good for us. DNA testing for genealogy purposes will grow much faster than it otherwise would have. We will watch closely how Ancestry uses DNA information. They may come up with some new ideas which will be useful for us. It will be interesting to see what Familytreedna, the current industry leader, does to counter the new competition. I would anticipate DNA testing prices to fall.

## Please don't forget to send in your 2007 dues !!

### Dues Form

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

Dues through December 31, 2007 were payable January 1, 2007. 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,**

**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 2001 membership card.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

VVA Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

# Announcement of the New 9<sup>th</sup> Generation CD

by Robert F. Voorhees

The Van Voorhees Association is pleased to announce the publication of the 9<sup>th</sup> generation CD (which includes the children of the 9<sup>th</sup> generation). The price has been set at \$29 plus \$3 shipping and handling for members of the Van Voorhees Association. The price for non-members will be \$39 (plus \$3 shipping and handling); however, this price will include a "free" 2007 membership to our Association (if desired). If possible, non-members should download the Membership Application Form from our web site ([www.vanvoorhees.org](http://www.vanvoorhees.org)) and include it with your order. Importantly, please include your email address, if possible, so we may communicate with you as needed. Please address any questions to

Checks or money orders should be made out to the

Van Voorhees Association and mailed to:  
Robert F. Voorhees,

Again, address any questions to

Florence Christoph, our genealogist, has written an Introduction and Users Guide to the 9<sup>th</sup> Generation CD; see the next article in this Nieuwsbrief. This Introduction and Users Guide will give you a good idea what the CD is all about. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Flo Christoph for all the effort she has put into this CD (and all the previous Van Voorhees genealogy publications). This CD would never have happened if it were not for the hard work of Flo Christoph.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Generation CD Introduction and Users Guide

by Florence Christoph

This CD contains three versions of genealogical material with an index in the following formats: PDF, Microsoft Word and Word Perfect. Each version has the same layout and number of pages. Also included is a file containing pictures and photographs in a Tiff format. For those using Word Perfect the printer has been set as HP Photosmart 8450. You may set your default printer as such or simply wait for Word Perfect to convert the material to your printer.

The genealogy has been prepared using The Master Genealogist which was then converted to WordPerfect from which the PDF and Word versions were made. The numbers assigned to each person in the 9<sup>th</sup> generation have been set to match those in *The Van Voorhees Family in America, the Seventh and Eight Generations* which was published in 2003.

The file labeled Updates to the First Eight Generations contains family groups where significant changes have

been made, with references to the pages in the previous publications in 2000 and 2003. They are arranged chronologically with their generation number following the name. Where possible these families have been carried to the 9<sup>th</sup> generation. Due to the size of the project, it was impossible to include small changes such as date of birth, maiden name of a spouse, place of burial, etc. If you are seeking such material you may contact the Van Voorhees Assoc. to see if such information is now available.

The file labeled Unknowns contains information on families for whom we have significant information but are unable to trace their ancestry back to the immigrant. Wherever possible these families have been traced up to the 1930 census. They are also arranged chronologically and their dates of birth have no relationship as to what generation they belong in.

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The birth dates for the 9<sup>th</sup> generation and their children in the 10<sup>th</sup> generation range from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Some of them served in the Civil war, the Spanish American War, and the two World Wars. Many of them can be found in the Social Security Death index up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They followed the ever expanding westward boundary of the United States seeking adventure and new land, and they joined the gold rush.

The Van Voorhees Association was formed in 1932 and many of the early members were over fifty years old. The early Membership Forms and correspondence provides first hand information dating back to the Civil war. Extensive use of the US Census Records and the Social Security Death Index has helped to verify the personal memories of these early members.

We are deeply indebted to the thousands of descendants who have submitted information to the Van Voorhees Association over the past seventy years. Special thanks go to Ann Nunn and Marc Hoover for their extensive research on the 20<sup>th</sup> century descendants and their patience in proof reading the material. I also wish to thank Bob Voorhees, Chairman of the Genealogy Committee for coordinating the project, Manning Voorhees for his constant support and research

since the conception of the project in 1997, and my husband, Peter, who has encouraged and assisted me throughout the project. This is the result of ten years of sorting, arranging and researching. The material on the CD plus the first 8 generations published in 2000 and 2003 now includes nearly 5000 pages of material. Our data base contains records through the 13<sup>th</sup> generation which contains at least 1000 more pages.

The pages are numbered continuously from file to file. Since this material is produced only for a computer format, page numbers are always on the top right side. A running head has been placed at the top of each page which will indicate whether the family group is part of the 9<sup>th</sup> generation, the updates or the unknowns.

Because of the size of the project we were unable to produce one index for the whole project. There are four indexes, one each for the 9<sup>th</sup> generation, the updates, the unknowns and a separate index of three files for those named Voorhees/VanVoorhees etc.

Each photo is labeled with the name of the person, their date of birth, and their personal number in the genealogy. Several additional photos for the first eight generations have been added. The lists of pictures contain all of those found on this CD. These can be opened and enlarged for printing and framing.

ABBREVIATIONS:

Born, Married and Died are indicated respectively B, M, D.

Cem. -- Cemetery - Ch. -- Church

Luth. -- Lutheran - Presb. -- Presbyterian

Ref. -- Reformed

E. D. -- Election District, as given in some Census Records

Modern abbreviations are used for the names of states.

~ Dutch Proverb ~

***THE NOBLER THE TREE, THE MORE  
PLIANT THE TWIG.***



Tulip Photographs courtesy of Dr. Roy E. Voshall

Rebuttal to Debunking Genealogy and Family Trees  
by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall, Editor

The July issue of *Smithsonian* magazine contains an article, "The Family Tree, Pruned" by Richard Conniff.

It he laughs at the possibility of people today claiming descent from royalty and other historical figures (e.g., the Mayflower Pilgrims, etc.). Actually, he mocks the whole idea of doing genealogical research by using his statistics for the gene percentage we have from just a few generations back. If one talks in percentages only, there is some truth to this.

Recently there have been medical news reports that breast cancer genes can be inherited via the male line. I have been saying this for 3 years – with personal PROOF that it takes 2 Recessive Genes to create 75% (the Common Form) of all breast cancer. I would have never been able to prove this without extensive genealogy and medical data on each ancestor plus that of all related aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. Some of my medical information is about ancestors 1000+ years ago. Yes, I have documented every ancestor in every generation. True, I have not been able to find death certificates for all of these – especially before 1850 in small towns in the countryside, because they weren't always required by the government.

Unfortunately, some old newspapers (1) were not pt, (2) were only weekly or monthly issues with few details, (3) were very brief, or (4) just were worn out and not re-copied. On the other hand, some areas had newspapers with extremely long obits (almost like a biography) with all kinds of details.

Medical records for the sake of inheritable genes are considered to be very important these days. Many doctors now use Genetic Diagnosis and Gene Therapy. Some counties in Ohio have kept the medical records of those who died there since 1900. These are available to family members, if you can prove your relationship. I have heard that other areas in the USA have done or are doing likewise.

If you have a genetic weakness, as we all do (!!), or a genetically transmitted disease, those *debunking percentages* used by Richard Conniff are ridiculously insignificant to us. Ignoring your ancestors and family history could kill you!

We are so FORTUNATE to have the Van Voorhees Association, Florence Christoph (a professional genealogist), Robt. F. Voorhees (our Genealogy Committee Chairman) and other cousins continually expanding our documented records! They have provided all of us with the ancestral names (men and women) and related data (places, dates, etc.) necessary for locating medical data. You must do the medical search, but you can't do it without the names and places and dates.

Please look at the books we have for sale. There is a convenient Order Form (on page 15) for you to fill out. These books are your best guides to locating medical information and one of the best gifts you could ever give yourself, your children and your grandchildren.

~ Dutch Proverb ~

*Geen oude schoenen verwerpen  
eer men nieuwen heeft.*

**"NO OLD SHOES REJECT BEFORE YOU NEW  
(ONES) HAVE."**



**(Don't throw away your old shoes till you have gotten new ones.)**

## Numbering Systems Used in Van Voorhees Genealogy Publications

by Robt.F. Voorhees

An understanding of the numbering systems in our genealogy books and CD will increase their usefulness.

Our books and CD are descending genealogies. We use the NGSQ (National Genealogical Society Quarterly) numbering system. This system deals with all known members of one generation before moving to the next. It uses three types of numbers: one to uniquely identify the individual, one to indicate the generation

into which that person falls, and one to denote his or her birth order within the nuclear family.

The NGSQ System assigns a number to each individual whether or not that child is known to have left progeny. To distinguish between individuals who are carried forward and those who are not, the NGSQ System adds a plus sign (+) preceding the number of anyone who is to be separately treated.

### Individual Numbers

The Arabic number to the left of each person's name uniquely identifies that individual by a number that will not be assigned to anyone else in that specific genealogy. Steven Coerte Van Voorhees, the immigrant ancestor, is #1. Note that his two wives do not have

numbers. His children in birth order, both male and female, are numbered #2 thru #11. A plus sign in front of a number indicates more about that individual will follow in later generations.

### Generation Numbers

In superscript, immediately after the given name of the individual, there appears a number generally called the generation number. The immigrant ancestor is considered generation 1 and his children generation 2, etc.

On the list of each individual's children, a super-script Arabic number is placed after the first child's given name to denote the generation of all the children in the list.

### Birth-order Numbers

When each list of children is presented, birth order is designated by the use of small Roman numerals. These

are placed between the individual's Arabic identification number and the individual's name.

Our year 2000 book covered the first 6 generations plus the children of 6. Our year 2003 book(s) covered generations 7 and 8 and the children of 8. Our new CD covers generation 9 and the children of 9. Thus generation 7 appears in both year 2000 and year 2003 books and generation 9 appears in the year 2003 books and in the CD. Flo Christoph spent scores of hours making sure all these numbers match. (Thank you again Flo for all your hard work.)

on the CD updates generations 1-8.

The books and the CD are one genealogy. Master Genealogist calls it a "Journal Report." It is important to realize that we can't come along later and add an individual (that may have been recently discovered). Doing so would change every number downstream of that individual. So, when we discover a new individual, he or she goes into the "Update" file and not into the genealogy itself. Appendix A in the year 2003 book is the "Update" for the year 2000 book. The "Update" file

Another set of numbers we use, and you may hear us refer to, are TMG (The Master Genealogist) numbers. When an individual is added to our Master Genealogist database he or she is assigned a TMG number. *This number never changes.* So if we know the TMG number for an individual, we can easily look in the database and find that specific person. These TMG numbers are not used in the books and CD per se because we felt they would have no meaning to our membership at large and, when included, they add too much clutter. However you will see TMG numbers in, for example, identification of pictures.

For further information please see: "Numbering Your Genealogy" Special Publication No. 64 by Curran, Crane, and Wray, published in 1999 for the National Genealogical Society. This article is based on this publication.

~ Dutch Proverb ~

**BETTER KEEP PEACE THAN MAKE PEACE.**





**Albert T. Van Voorhies**

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**Picture of the Grain Mill, just outside Ruinen,  
where Steven Coerts Van Voorhees worked.**

**(Photo courtesy of Dr. Roy E. Voshall)**

