



VAN VOORHEES NIEUWSBRIEF

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General Membership Meeting: Announcement and Reminder October General Meeting

The annual Business Meeting with elections and appointments will be held, as usual, in October and in

New Jersey. The precise date and site will be announced later.

We are *Hoping* to have a big Fall Reunion in 2009 with speakers and activities to celebrate Henry Hudson's historic voyage for the Dutch East India Co. and founding of Albany in 1609 – both 400 years ago. Planning has already begun.

Henry was English, not Dutch; but England refused to support his ideas of a northern sea route to China. The Dutch East India Co. welcomed him warmly and sponsored his journey by providing the *Half Maen*, an 80-ton vessel, plus a crew of 20 sailors. This ship has been reconstructed and tours the US east coast frequently, and it has even cruised the Great Lakes.

Attracted by the fur trade after 1609 waves of Dutch came to this *nieuw wereld* and founded the city of Nieuw Amsterdam. A major result was Dutch settlements up and down the East coast from Fort Orange (Albany), NY to eastern Pennsylvania, east through

Connecticut, south through New Jersey and all of Delaware and, of course, the entire state of NY.

The Dutch accepted every religion at home and abroad, so there were religious refugees in all Dutch areas – especially Huguenots and German Reformed Church members. Language among these was not a problem, since German and Dutch are quite similar and many of the Huguenots had already fled to Holland or was living in Flemish-speaking border areas.

The Van Voorhees family were late-comers (not arriving until 1660); however, Steven's descendants married into Dutch and Huguenot families already here – some coming almost as early as Henry Hudson and many arriving from 1610 to 1630. If we research the earliest Van Voorhees wives, we will find French and German names popping up repeatedly along with the Dutch ones.

Annual DUES: Still Only \$10.00!! (Life Members and other options on Dues Form, p. 22)

If you check, you will find that 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 possibility of future CDs and books. Our bills come in every month. The 2008 dues were due on Jan. 1, 2008. To determine your dues status, please check the 1st line of your mailing label. If the

mailing label does not say 2008 or *Life*, we have made a mistake or your dues for 2008 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

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)

Internet Monitoring & Communications.: Ann Nunn

Civil War Consultant: Mike Apgar

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

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~ **MEMBERS-AT-LARGE** ~

Ted L. Bogert

David R. Voorhees

Notes from the Genealogy Committee by Bob Voorhees

Great News! Flo Christoph will continue as the Van Voorhees genealogist for another year (2008) and hopefully beyond. I believe I'm correct in saying this will be her 15th year as our genealogist. With the able assistance of Judith Van Voorhis, Flo has entered 88,902 names into our Master Genealogist (TMG) database. What a job she has done. I don't think my calculator would count the number of hours she has put in on our behalf. Flo had successful knee replacement surgery Jan. 4, thus she will be mostly out of action for the next 6 weeks or so.

Year 2007 (the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Van Voorhees Association) was a very successful year. With Flo's leadership and hard work, the Genealogy Committee completed *The 9th Generation CD*. Sales of this CD are running ahead of forecast. We want to thank all on the Committee who had a hand in completing this CD, and especially thank those who have purchased the CD. These dollars will go toward funding additional research.

We are thinking of additional publications but probably not before 2009 or 2010. You might expect us to suggest a new publication titled, *The 10th Generation* (and the children of the 10th) but this is not the way we are thinking. The problem with the 10th and 11th generations is they include a large number of living people and some would not want their names included. Rather we are thinking of using the 1930 census as the basis for the next publication. Names in the 1930 census are already in the public domain. The 1940 census will be available in 2012 (1940+72 years) so we will need to keep this in mind in our planning. Additionally, the census is the single most important *source* of information. When we receive information from members or other publications, we always try to cross check with the census. Obviously if we go beyond 1930, we have no census to refer to.

Our next publication will certainly include many updates to the first 9 generations and the Unknowns. Some Unknowns have been resolved since we released the 9th generation CD a few months ago. As our database becomes more and more complete with accurate information, it seems we have a better chance of resolving some of the Unknowns. TMG Version 7 has some new features involving finding duplicate individuals; and, as we learn how to use it, these new features may be helpful.

When we are working hard on a publication (as we

did in 2007) the routine entering of new information tends to fall behind. Eventually, we have to freeze the data and work to complete the task. So in 2008 we want to work on updating our database with new information already on hand and with new information as it comes in. **Over half of our information comes from our members, so please keep us in mind! We can handle almost any file format, if you want to send us your genealogy file attached to an email.** If you're not sure we have your data, please contact me at _____ and I will try to let you know what we have and this will indicate to you what we don't have.

Secondly, we want to work hard on our Unknown Lines. These are lines that we cannot connect to our immigrant ancestor, Steven Coerte Van Voorhees. We currently have over 700 names in our database that are in the Unknown category. As much as possible we want to work together on these, meaning several members of the Genealogy Committee and/or with members at large.

Thirdly, we want to put some effort into *flagging* out distinct groups of Voorhees. The best way to describe this is with examples. Wouldn't it be fun and interesting to be able to print out a list of all the Voorhees who served in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, the First World War, and the 2nd World War? Wouldn't it be fun and interesting to print out all the Voorhees who were Masons .. or doctors .. or lawyers .. or clergy-men? Obviously our database contains a lot of this information, but it is incomplete. Sometimes when we are entering data, we just don't know that a person was a Mason, or he served in the Civil War. New databases are coming available that enable us to cross check our information with the database.

As an example, Ancestry.com recently put on line the entire National Park Service database listing US Civil War veterans. I counted about 800 Civil War Union soldiers with the name Voorhees or one of its derivatives. There are about 75 Civil War Confederate soldiers with the name Voorhees. Mike Apgar has done extensive work on Civil War Voorhees and has a list of about 14 black Union soldiers with the name Voorhees. All of these activities take manpower. We would like to add several new members to our Genealogy Committee. Please contact me if interested. We would particularly like to have someone from California

Notes from the Genealogy Committee continued

on the Committee. Also we would like to find someone interested in World War 2 history. Because the Van Voorhees Association was going strong during World War 2, we have a lot of original letters and records from this period that would be fun to analyze.

Fourth, TMG recently introduced Version 7 of their software and we will be switching to this new version sometime in 2008. It has some new features which will be handy to have.

Finally, I plan to work with Flo in 2008 and put together a document I will call, "Design Criteria Memorandum." This document will set out all the TMG data entry standards we use. This would be things like how dates and place names are input, what modifications need to be made to which source templates, and many more. I would eventually plan to publish this document in the *Nieuwsbrief*, as I think it will be of interest to our members. Also when the day comes when Flo and I are not around, the document will be of assistance to those that follow.

There are many changes going on at Ancestry.com, the largest company in genealogy, that are of significance to the industry and to us. Ancestry has created a new corporate name, The Generations Network. They have received a \$300,000,000 investment from a venture capital firm and are expanding rapidly outside of the US. They are ramping up aggressively in the US to go after a much larger customer base. They introduced completely new Family Tree Maker genealogy software. They were forced into the *completely new* because all their programmers had left the company and also because they wanted to make the program more internet friendly and friendlier to other components within Ancestry. As reported earlier, Ancestry has purchased Sorenson, a DNA testing company, and plans to get more involved in DNA.

Since 1999 almost 2 million people have submitted family trees to Ancestry's Online Family Tree System called Ancestry World Tree. After March 2008 this system will no longer be supported and those trees not converted to the new system will be frozen. The new system will be called Ancestry Member Tree System. This new system has a lot of new features including integrated record search, **the ability to invite family members and friends to edit and contribute**, and GEDCOM import and export.

Ancestry Member Tree System basically eliminates the need to have your own genealogy software and provides software for you on the internet -- a trend much broader than just the genealogy field.

We have no interest in Ancestry Member Tree System because the underlying software is not as feature rich as TMG; however, it may be an appropriate system for a lot of people. We are aware that a number of Master Genealogist users are talking to Wholly Genes Software (maker of TMG) about setting up a network where more than one researcher can edit and contribute to a TMG project. One of the early users of new TMG Version 7 has discovered a mysterious button labeled "Family Data Exchange Options" and users on the newsgroups are wondering what the heck this is. We will be following this new development to see if it is something we should consider.

The National Genealogical Society national conference will be held 14 to 17 May, 2008 in Kansas City, MO. The Federation of Genealogical Societies will hold their national conference 3 to 6 Sept, 2008 in Philadelphia, PA.

Genealogy cruises continue to be profitable for both the software vendors and the cruise lines. The next Legacy Family Tree (Millennia Corp) cruise will be on the *Norwegian Jewel* departing from London 16 July, 2008 and arriving back in London 28 July, 2008. This cruise will schedule stops at Copenhagen, Berlin, St. Petersburg, Tallinn, and Stockholm. The next Roots-Magic cruise will be the Mexican Riviera (Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan, and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico) from Sept 28 to Oct 5, 2008. The Master Genealogist (Wholly Genes Software) cruise aboard the *Caribbean Princess* will depart Brooklyn 26 Oct 2008 and arrive in San Juan, Puerto Rico Sun 2 Nov, 2008. This cruise visits St. Kitts, West Indies; Antigua, West Indies; and St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands. Note it is a repositioning cruise which does not start and end in the same place. Another genealogy cruise sponsored by Fly Away Travel (not a software company) is on Royal Caribbean's newest ship, *Liberty of the Seas*. This cruise starts in Miami, FL on Sat. 25 Oct 2008 and returns to Miami Sat 1 Nov 2008. This cruise stops at San Juan, Puerto Rico, Philipsburg, St. Maarten, and Labadee, Haiti. Note that this cruise is Saturday to Saturday.



Status of Voorhees Surname DNA Project

by Bob Voorhees

Our project continues to add people. We currently have a total of 13 *Voorhees* tested. In the fall 2007 *Nieuwsbrief* we reported 7 people tested so we have added 6 more or an 86% increase. All 13 people match perfectly on 12 markers. Ten people tested at 25 markers: 7 of these match all 25; 2 of them match on 24; and 1 matches on 23. Eight people tested at 37 markers: 7 match on 36 markers and 1 matches on 33 markers.

This last person, matching 33 of 37 markers, is most interesting. Thirty-three of 37 markers indicate a 99% chance that we share a common ancestor. Of note here is that his name is not Voorhees and nothing close to Voorhees. I'm not going to mention his name in the interest of privacy, but his family has been in the US for a number of generations. We have been in touch with this family member. He had a relative, now deceased, who commissioned some research in the Netherlands on his family name. It, in fact, shows that in the 15th and 16th centuries the family name was Voorhees or something close to Voorhees and at some point along the way it was changed. So this line of people probably descended from the ancestors of our immigrant ancestor, Steven Coerte Van Voorhees. This is the only line I know of in the US that descended from the ancestors of Steven Coerte.

We have a copy of this research and Manning Voorhees is looking into it to see if we can pinpoint the common ancestor. Manning has, for some time, been working on a project to identify ancestors and relatives in the Netherlands from the 16th and 17th centuries. Manning is the right man for this job, since he made publication of the book, *Through a Dutch Door, 17th Century Origins of the Van Voorhees Family* happen in 1992.

Locating Steven Coerte's ancestors in Holland is extremely complicated. Here is a quote from page xv of our *Dutch Door* book: *The Dutch system of naming children in the late 16th and 17th centuries can be confusing, particularly since the same relatively narrow numbers of names seem to recur. Generally, a son's last name was his father's first*

*name to which was added s or sen or even sen – all variations found in US Dutch records. Thus, Steven Coerts' son could be Coert Stevens or Stevensen or Stevenszen. This name reversal would be continued in many instances through successive generations. It will be noted that some female names end in je or tje. This diminutive is added to a basic woman's name--e.g., *Antje* (Ann + tje). See page 747 of our *1-6 Generations* book for the article titled "The Stephenson Family Descendants of Steven Lucas". This is in the Appendix which lists Unknowns.*

To further understand the complexity, here is another quote from page 18 of our *Dutch Door* book: *As for the inhabitants of the farms at Hees and their mutual family-ties, there are positive and continuous data only for the first decades of the 17th century onwards. There are two important reasons for this. On the one hand, the accounts of the rentmeester of Dikninge begin in this period. On the other hand, maybe more important, from this time on a patronymicum* is consistently used, usually followed by a dwelling place, such as for instance Albert Coerts van Voorhees. 15th and 16th century data mostly lack these additions; consequently, we have to do with a first name and only the addition to/tho/toe/te Hees. This is why making a family genealogy before 1600 is a difficult and risky job. To/tho/toe/te Hees did not always mean a person actually lived there; it could also mean that a person was born at Hees. Jan to Hees in de Weyde, for example, appeared as a tenant of Dikninge between 1568 and about 1590. He was born at Hees (probably Voorhees), but lived at a farm in the parish of Ruinerwold (then called Blydenstede).*

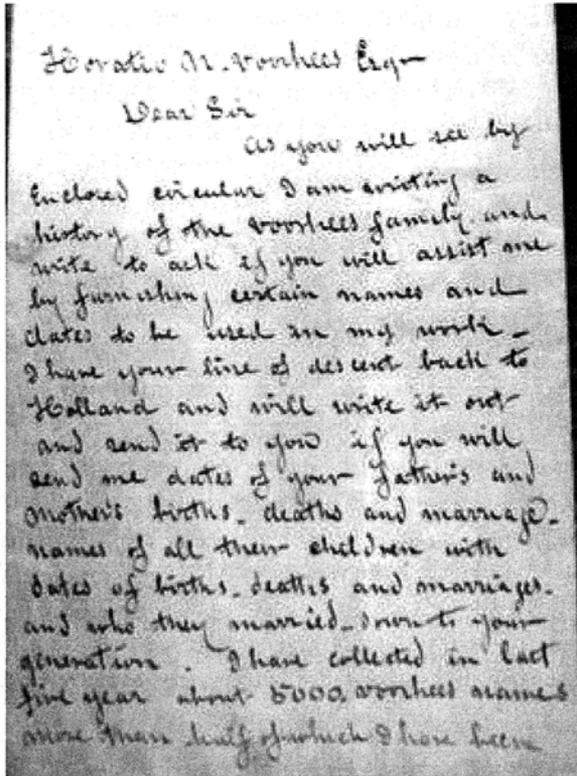
***Editor's Note:** The definition of *patronymic* (*patronymicum*) is a name received from a paternal ancestor; especially, one formed by a prefix as in *Fitzgerald* (an Irish/English corruption of the French *fitz*, meaning son or son of), son of Gerald, or suffix, as in *Johnson* (German *sohn*, Scandinavian *sen* or *ssen*), son of John.

DNA Ancestry Beta: For details go to the website of the Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter (<http://blog.eogn.com/eastmanonlinegenealogy/2007/09/dna-ancestry-be.html>), which has the following announcement (written by The Generations Network, parent company of Ancestry.com.) with several topics of interest: Introducing DNA Ancestry; Created DNA Ancestry to help users; and, Where to purchase a DNA test kit, how to use it, mail the kit to the lab, and viewing your results.

Letter from Elias William Van Voorhis to Horatio Nelson Voorhees by Bob Voorhees

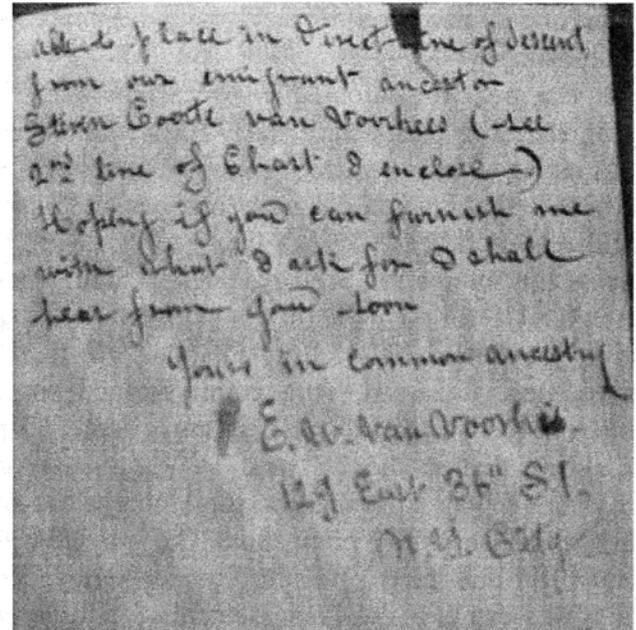
This letter, written by Elias William Van Voorhis (b. 28 May 1844 and d. 21 Sept. 1892) of New York City, was sent to Horatio Nelson Voorhees (b. 5 Jan. 1811 d. Jan. 1888) of Glen, Montgomery Co., NY. In it Elias requested information on Van Voorhees genealogy. Fortunately for us, his handwriting is legible;

but you can see how difficult it is to do research with only handwritten documents. Below is the letter on 1 sheet of paper: Fig. 1 is the front and Fig. 2 the back. Elias published his 725 page book of genealogy of the Voorhees family in 1888



Horatio N. Voorhees Esq
Dear Sir
As you will see by enclosed circular I am writing a history of the Voorhees family and write to ask if you will assist me by furnishing certain names and dates to be used in my work - I have your line of descent back to Holland and will write it out and send it to you if you will send me dates of your father's and mother's births, deaths and marriage, names of all their children with dates of births, deaths and marriages, and who they married down to your generation. I have collected in last five year about 5000 Voorhees names more than half of which I have been

Fig. 1



add to place in first line of descent from our emigrant ancestor Steven Boote van Voorhees (see 2nd line of chart I enclose)
Hoping if you can furnish me with what I ask for I shall hear from you soon
Yours in common ancestry
E. W. Van Voorhis
127 East 34th St.
N.Y. City

Fig. 2

Fascinating Tidbits about Drenthe Provincie, De Nederlands by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

Did you know that the famous painter, Vincent Van Gogh, spent a few months in **Drenthe** in 1883? He was so emotionally affected that he said, "Drenthe is so beautiful. It draws me and pleases me so very much that it would be better if I had never seen it." Today the **Ruinen/Hees** area is a vacation spot for European tourists, who come by the busload.

Peat bogs in the **Ruinen/Hees** area had their last cutting in 1992. Bog mummies were found there.

The towns all have a *brink* (open square with trees) in the center. In olden times this was often a pasture as well as gathering place for markets and street fairs, etc. Just off the *brink*, **Ruinen** has a lovely House Museum (including a barn) with costumed guides. It is well worth seeing, as it gives one a good picture of how our ancestors lived.

Drenthe is home to quite a number of *hunebedden* (gigantic megalithic tombs). These are formed by several upright rocks covered by a large cap-stone. There are so many that a map of their locations can be purchased by tourists.

The *rentmeester*, who collected rent for the **Hees** farms, was located in the **Dwingeloo** monastery - next to **Ruinen** then, but a part of it now.

Dwingelderveld, a national park in this area, has numerous camp sites; but, beware! There are signs (in Dutch only!) warning about poisonous snakes.

Favorite colors used in church interiors, including our ancestral Ruinen church, are dark green and maroon. These are the colors I chose for my 50th wedding anniversary party in 2006.

Biography of Rev. C.E. Van Voorhis
(originally prepared by Charles E. Van Voorhis)
submitted by Bruce Van Voorhis

This is an account of the life of Rev. C. E. Van Voorhis, as written by his close friend and fellow pastor, Dr. Stephen N. Cook, in February, 1881, and handed on by his son, Rev. Scott Cook to Rev. W. D. Van Voorhis, my father, in January, 1934.

Charles Edward Van Voorhis, 3rd son of Samuel and Sarah Myers Van Voorhis, was born October 11, 1809 in Dutchess County, NY. His parents moved to Washington County, PA near Williamsport in 1814 where they remained until 1823, when the family moved to Crawford County, OH, settling about seven miles east of Bucyrus.

Their Crawford County home was in the midst of a wilderness with only one house between the Van Voorhis cabin and the little city of Bucyrus, which contained only a few cabins. Samuel, father of the subject of this sketch, and his older son had preceded the family and had erected a cabin of the rudest sort. When the rest of the family arrived, the hut had only a dirt floor and was but partially covered. A winter of great severity followed and the reader can easily imagine the sufferings of a family in such circumstances among strangers and without the means to procure the most ordinary comforts.

In this home during the six following years Brother Van Voorhis grew to manhood with no religious training except that his father, who was reared by his maternal grandparents under Dutch-Reformed and Presbyterian influences, required his children to observe "The Sabbath" by reading the Bible and quietly deporting themselves. He had not heard a sermon or been at a religious meeting during all these six years. Yet no immoralities had developed excepting "his love for the fiddle and the dance which was their only social amusement." Their neighbors spent their Sundays in hunting and in other sports, and drunkenness was a common vice.

In 1830 John Secrest preached at the home of Oliver Jones on the subject of "The Conversion of the Eunuch." This was the first sermon that Brother Van had the privilege of listening to, and he remarked to his comrades on the way home, "If there is any truth in the New Testament, these fellows have it." Secrest and others preached here occasionally until June of 1831, when Brother Van, then age 22, confessed his Master, and was baptized -- the first of his family. They all followed him soon after.

Brother J. H. Jones, John Kline and other pioneers came out about the same time, and a congregation

called Whetstone Church was set in order that summer. They were visited by Secrest, N. J. Mitchel, John Sargent, J. Miller and J. Morris.

On July 9th, 1832, Brother Van joined his fortunes for life with Miss Susan Jones, daughter of Daniel and Catherine Jones. This marriage was a fortunate one, as sister Van was a most zealous Disciple, a faithful wife and mother, and an able helpmeet in the Lord in all Brother Van's arduous labors in the gospel. At the time of their marriage they had, as their joint capital with which to begin life, two good characters, four willing and industrious hands and \$1.25 in money, \$0.75 of which was expended in securing a license, and \$0.50 as a reward to Brother Secrest for performing the sacred rites of matrimony. The fruits of this marriage were 8 sons and 3 daughters. The first child (Ellen) died at the age of 14 months. The remaining 10 grew into adulthood and all are "now" living except Lemert who died on Dec. 24th, 1870. On Sept. 19th, 1870, Brother Van was called upon to mourn the loss of his faithful wife of 38 years. Her qualifications for the very responsible position of a preacher's wife were surely more than ordinary, since Brother Van was away from home for much of the time in his labors in the field, and to his wife was entrusted the training of the family and management of the home. I cannot convey to the reader a better idea of her Christian witness than by saying that these 10 children, 8 boys and 2 girls, all became Christians before they were 17 years old, and throughout their lives were active in good works in the various congregations where their lots were cast. This, in connection with the fact that four of the sons passed through the terrible ordeal of temptation of army life in the war of the Rebellion, shows the result of family training, and proves false an old saying: "Preachers' children are always bad children."

During the winter of 1833-34, Brother Van began to exercise his gifts as a public speaker. Besieged by the brethren of the day and by the necessities of the little, weak Whetstone congregation to have someone lead and instruct them, it was not long before his abilities became known abroad, and calls from other neighborhoods for the bread of life put Brother Van permanently at work. There was no trouble in those days in finding a field, for the world was the field, and thousands were desirous of knowing more about the sect (Disciples of Christ) which was everywhere spoken against. Brother Van visited many places in

Crawford, Richland and Knox counties. He was not much concerned about his salary, for it was not until he had labored for three years, and could count his converts to the Gospel by the scores, that he received from the hands of a Brother Hull his first money for preaching. ("Brother Hull took grandfather one day back behind the church where the former was the preacher. He asked him if he had come to the place in his preaching where he could accept money without its engendering pride. Grandfather assured him that he was conscious of having attained that degree of divine grace, whereupon Brother Hull soberly handed him 95 cents." ... Rev. W. D. Van Voorhis) About this time he also received five bushels of wheat that was too smutty to be used. No one who has not had experience in the hardships and privations of pioneer preaching of those days can form any estimate of the labors, the sacrifices, the hardships that were then the common lot of the preachers. They went forth in the cause without purse or script, or even promise. Clad in their homespun and with no book but the Bible from which to draw their convincing sermons, they went to their task. There could be but one motive attributed to these men by both friends and enemies, viz. sincerity and love of truth. This brought converts into the church wherever the faith was proclaimed.

Brother Van labored in this section of the country until 1837, when he moved to Wayne County (near Millwood) to labor in company with James Porter in a large territory (composed the counties of Wayne, Richland, Stark and Knox) at a salary of \$155 for the first year, and \$300 after this, with some donations. ("No wonder that grandfather thought \$600 a year was too much for me to receive as a salary from the Weston Church after I graduated from Hiram in 1896. I really think as I look back upon it, that he was right in the matter." ... Rev. W. D. Van Voorhis) He labored 3-4 years, and very many became obedient to the faith, and the cause was planted in many places which in after years became the scenes of strong congregations. Then there was but one meeting house belonging to the Disciples of Christ in all that section. So, in the summer preaching was done in the woods and in the barns, and in winter in school houses and by firesides or wherever the people could be called together. It was then generally the custom to baptize immediately after people presented themselves. Often

it was "the same hour of the night."

From Wayne County Brother Van moved with his family in 1840 to Columbiana County (between Salem and New Lisbon) where he was engaged to work for a cooperation of Columbian churches at a salary of \$300 a year. His labors were very much praised, and great success attended his meetings everywhere. These churches were at peace among themselves, and all contended earnestly for the faith and for all delivered to the saints. His family had so increased that it was only with strictest economy (by living in the cheapest manner possible) that he was able to provide for them. He avoided living in towns and villages in order to diminish his expenses, and keep his boys from bad associations.

From Columbiana County he moved to Belmont County where he labored for a cooperation of congregations of that section. His labors here were great. He traveled almost always on horseback. His stay in one place was mostly for two or three days, and his visits would be arranged on a circuit requiring five or six weeks to complete. His co-laborers during these years were John Reed, John Sargent, James Porter, Jonas Hartzel, John Henry, Cyrus Bosworth, Dr. W. H. Belding, Eli Regal, George Powell, A. B. Green, Wesley Lamphere, A. S. and William Hayden, John and Thomas Rigdon, Stephen Cook, A. Grayham, William Jackson, and many others. With many of these he was intimately associated in his ministry in eastern Ohio. He, in company with John Henry, held debates with Lutheran and Presbyterian ministers.

In the spring of 1846 he moved to Knox County and purchased a farm northeast of Bladensburg where he has since (1881) resided. His labors were now immense, since it combined continual preaching and looking after the work of a large farm. The churches which enjoyed the most of his labors were his own home church in Dennis (outside of Bladensburg), Millwood, Union Hill, Yankee Ridge, Oxford, Center Village, Pleasant Grove and Milford. ("My grandfather still continued to minister to the churches of Belmont County up into the 80's. I can remember his trips down there." ... Rev. W. D. Van Voorhis) In these churches he labored from 1-5 years and also held many meetings in different parts of the county - in fact, throughout the whole state of Ohio.

Addendum to the Biography of Rev. C.E. Van Voorhis
by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

In a lengthy phone conversation, Bruce and I determined that we are 4th cousins – descendants of Rev. Charles E. Van Voorhis. We had much to share about the Ohio Van Voorhis clan. I started to edit the biography and then realized there was more history than could be inserted -- thus this article.

Charles' grandfather is Capt. Daniel Van Voorhies, who married his 2nd cousin, Sarah Voorhees Brett (no children by her 1st marriage). Sarah was baptized in the Dutch Reformed Church in Fishkill, NY – a church with several founders including her grandfather, Johannes Coerte Van Voorhees. They had 2 children before she died at the age of 31. It is thought that she was buried on her grandfather Johannes' farm in the Van Voorhees Cemetery. This cemetery no longer exists; but the remaining stones (no bones or bodies found) were placed in the churchyard of the Fishkill Dutch Reformed Church. Her stone is next to that of Johannes and his wife, Barbara Van Dyke/Dycke Van Voorhees.

When Sarah died, Samuel was only 3 and his sister, Sarah, barely 6 weeks old. Daniel left the children to be raised by Sarah's parents, "Court Voorhees" and his wife, "Catharyna Vilken" (spellings given in the records of the Dutch Reformed Church in Fishkill, NY). Capt. Daniel remarried, had 4 more children, and his 2nd wife died at the age of 33. He married a 3rd time, had 2 more children and this wife lived to the age of 78.

Samuel, after marriage, moved near his father in Washington Co., PA. He was still there when Daniel died on Feb. 21, 1819 at the age of 80. In Daniel's Will, probated Apr. 21, 1819, Samuel received \$300 - a lot of money in those days. No doubt it financed his trek west to Bucyrus, Ohio. As previously stated, Samuel was a pioneer with ordeals beyond any modern tent-camping trip. Samuel's wife, Sarah Myer (several spellings in records at Fishkill, NY), died on Sept. 20, 1848 at the age of 64. Samuel died on Feb. 24, 1857 at the age of 82. Both are buried in Whetstone Cemetery, Bucyrus, Crawford Co., OH. Probably Samuel spent his last years living with his son, Isaac, on Isaac's farm. It is unclear whether this was originally Samuel's farm. In any case, this farm was bisected by a creek. Actually, only 1 small corner of it was cut off from the rest. For many years this corner was probably used as a wood-lot. Later Isaac donated it to become Whetstone Cemetery. When I finally found it a few years ago, I could not locate the

graves of either Sarah or Samuel. Eventually I noticed a broken tombstone in the weeds just over the bank going down to the stream. It was Samuel's. I retrieved it and leaned the 2 pieces against a tree. I never could find Sarah's stone. It was obvious that the upper bank had caved in and fallen down the steep embankment. Probably Sarah and Samuel were buried on the edge of this bank. Two years later I revisited the site and Samuel's broken stone was exactly where I had placed it. Whetstone Cemetery is well cared for, but no one knows exactly who does this. There are several Van Voorhis stones as well as those with other names. Locals in Bucyrus say that relatives take turns mowing the grass, etc. Our thanks to them!

Rev. Charles E. Van Voorhis and his wife, Susan (Jones), had their first child die early; however, their 10th, also a daughter, was also given the name Ellen - a common practice used for several centuries. There were 12 children (counting the 1st Ellen who died in infancy); but my father was not sure if #12, Tefrona (b. Jan. 14, 1860), was adopted or not. (Sarah was 47 when Tefrona was born.) Charles did marry (after 1870 when Susan died) a 2nd wife, Ellen Ferguson; but they had no children together. She died July 9, 1896 and he died Dec. 12, 1896 (age 87) at his farm home in Bladensburg, OH. He is buried in the Dennis Church Cemetery in Jackson Twp., Knox Co., OH -- just across a dirt lane from the front doors of his beloved church. Both wives are buried with him and all 3 names are on one stone pillar. In keeping with customs of the Disciples of Christ, his stone reads *Elder* Charles E. Van Voorhis. (Officially in this denomination, ordained elders can teach, give communion, preach, baptize and perform marriages.)

My great-grandpa, William Linas (5th child of Rev. C.E. Van Voorhis) was minister of the Martinsburg Disciple church (4 miles west of Bladensburg); and William's son, James E., was a deacon in the Disciple church in Ravenna, OH. James' son, Merrill (my father), was ordained a life-time elder in the Disciple church, but by then (late 1940s onward) elders normally function as pastors only in emergencies.

Cemeteries in Bladensburg, Dennis and Martinsburg have many Van Voorhis names. The next page (courtesy of Dr. Roy Voshall) has photos of several family tombstones, Rev. C. E. Van Voorhis' Dennis Church, and the Disciple church in Martinsburg, OH.



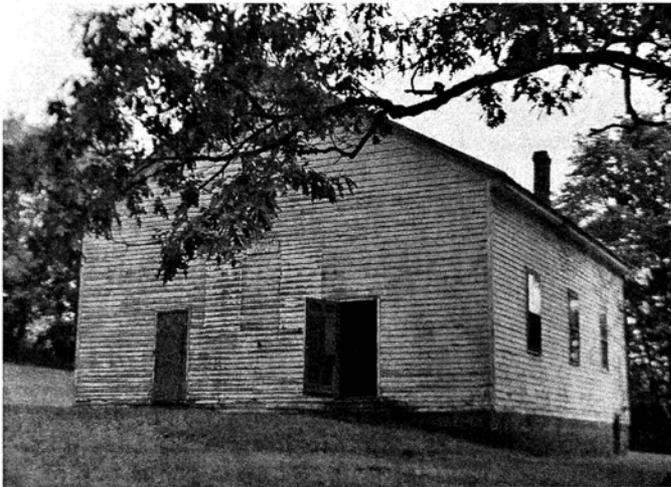
Samuel N. Van Voorhis Tombstone
At Whetstone Cemetery



C.E. Van Voorhis



C.E. Van Voorhis (Enlarged)
Tombstone at Dennis Church Cemetery



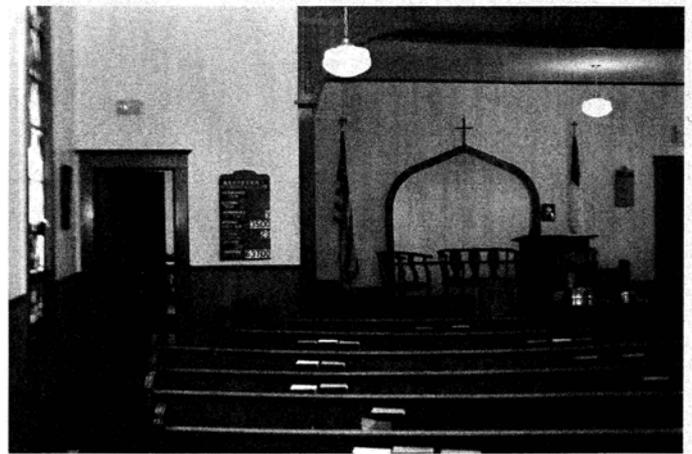
Dennis Church – Exterior



Dennis Church – Interior



Martinsburg Christian Church – Exterior



Martinsburg Christian Church - interior

Our Cousins, the Schencks, have 2 Farm Houses in the Brooklyn Museum by Fredrick V. Bonner

In early 2007, I noticed some news items saying the Period Room Exhibits and the Schenck Houses were closed for renovation. The name *Schenck*, pronounced *Skenk*,* rang a bell. I consulted my Van Voorhees family records and, sure enough, found **Hendrick Van Voorhees** (a great grandson of our progenitor, Stephen Coertse **Van Voorhees**) married circa 1734 Sara **Schenck**. Sara's parents were Jan Rolofse **Schenck** (1670-1753) and Sara Willemse **Van Kouwenhoven** (1674-1761). Both were born in the Flatlands section of Brooklyn called Nieuw Amersfoort.

Jan **Schenck**'s mother was Neeltje Garretse **Van Couwenhoven** (1520-1704) who, I suspect, was a brother to Jan Martense Schenck, builder of the older Schenck House in the Mill Basin neighborhood of Flatlands in Brooklyn. I presume the Van Voorhees farm was within walking distance to the Schenck house and that all of these Dutch settlers attended the Flatland Dutch Reformed Church (3931 Kings Highway) established in 1663 by order of Peter Stuyvesant.

In late July 2007, my wife and I were staying in the Hotel Beacon (W. 75th on Broadway) when we learned the Period Room Exhibits and the Schenck Houses in the Brooklyn Museum had reopened. The next morning, we went to the W. 75th Street subway station, boarded the #2 **Broadway** Express at 9:25 and arrived at the Brooklyn Museum Station at 10:02. Great timing because the museum opened at 10:00 AM (Hours for the museum are Wed.-Fri., 10 AM - 5 PM; Sat. - Sun., 11 AM - 6 PM).

The Brooklyn Museum is one of the largest art museums in the world. As you emerge from the subway station (1 of the cleanest in the city!), you see a handsome Beaux-Arts building fronted by a very avant-garde entrance pavilion and public plaza. Started in 1897 with many later additions, the original design was by McKim, Meade and White.

The Brooklyn Botanical Gardens is to the right of the museum and Prospect Park surrounds both institutions. The museum entrance-fee is \$4 for seniors (compared to \$20 at the Metropolitan Art Museum in Manhattan) and your sight lines are not blocked by hordes of summer tourists.

We were directed to 4th floor of the museum for the Schenck Houses. As you approach the two houses, the older one (built in 1676) appears to be younger, because the exterior consists of clapboard siding that

has been freshly painted in the ancient barn-red color. I'm sure this was meticulously researched.

The 1676 Schenck House is basically two rooms: the larger south room contains the kitchen and main living area with a large dining table, a desk and many cupboards. There is a large open Dutch hearth for cooking and warmth. All floors are bare wood, kept clean by scrubbing with white sand. The smaller north room features built-in bunk beds with backs to the fireplace for warmth. There is a huge **KAST**,** the classic Dutch wardrobe.

The newer Schenck House, built in 1775 in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn by Nicholas **Schenck** (one of Jan Martense **Schenck**'s grandsons) appears to be older because the exterior is covered with very old, very dark shingles -- possibly an influence from the New Englanders who settled eastern Long Island. As you enter this house from a Dutch doorway into a central hallway, you quickly see what a difference a century makes in terms of affluence and material possessions. The 1775 Schenck House has four main rooms off the central hallway: a large dining room with sideboards and grandfather clock; a parlor with fine furniture and a rug; a bed chamber featuring a four-poster bed and fancy dressing table; a second bed chamber with a huge **KAST**.** The house has an unfinished second floor (closed to the public) that probably provided a storage area and additional sleeping spaces for children and servants.

These two houses provide a strong visual impression of how our Dutch ancestors lived their daily lives in the 1600s and 1700s in Brooklyn. I urge all Van Voorhees cousins to find the time and make the trek to the Brooklyn Museum.

Following our tour of the Schenck Houses, we had time left to visit the wonderful Period Rooms, the Harry Luce Center for American Art, the Dinner Party by Judy Chicago in the Center for Feminist Art and Beaux-Arts Court surrounded by 700 Years of European Paintings. Then we boarded the #3 Broadway Express at 12:17 and 26 minutes later arrived at the Macy's Station at W. 34th St. and 7th Avenue. We walked through Macy's and crossed over to 6th Ave. and then two blocks north to W. 36th St. and turned right to Keens Steakhouse at 72 W. 36th St. Formerly called Keen's English Chop House, it was established in 1878 as a man's pipe-smoking club. That's why you will see 88,000...yes, 88,000...clay pipes on the ceiling. My wife and I prefer the middle room, once

called the Clam Bar, for our annual summer luncheon of steak tartare (1 portion for 2), 3-leaf green salad,

French fries and a wonderful bottle of Beaujolais. What a rewarding day!

Editor's Notes

* *Skenk* is the English pronunciation of *Schenck*. Dutch would be *Schkenck*. This *schk* for *sch* is distinctly Dutch, not German or any other language, and is so difficult to pronounce that it was used in WWII to identify non-Dutch 'spies.'

** *Kast* means cupboard, press, or closet. It is the shortened version of *kleerkast* (pronounced *clare-cast*) meaning wardrobe, clothespress, or cupboard. *Kleer* means clothes.

Nieuws van Verwanten (News from Cousins)

Captain Kenneth J. Voorhees [son of **Charles F.** (VVA Life member) and **Maxine Voorhees**], a native of Milltown, NJ, graduated with distinction from the US Naval Academy in 1981. After completing initial nuclear power and submarine training, he reported to the *USS New York City* in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. In 1983 & 1989 he received the L.Y. Spear Award for achievement.

From Jan. 1987 to Dec. 1988, Capt. Voorhees served as an instructor at NROTC Villanova University and received a Master's Degree in Business Administration. After the Submarine Officer Advance Course in May 1989, he reported to the *USS Ohio* as Navigator and Operations Officer. In Sept. 1994 he was Executive Officer of the *USS Cavalla*. From Sept. 1996 to July 1998, he was Executive Assistant to the Deputy Commander of the US Pacific Fleet. In May 1999, Capt. Voorhees became Commanding Officer of the *USS Alaska*, which in July 2001 was awarded

Dr. Peter W. Voorhees, son of **Manning Voorhees**, is a theoretical physicist and chairman of the Material Science Dept. at Northwestern University. He designed an experiment on the space shuttle *Endeavour* was launched on August 8, 2007. The goal of the experiment "is to better understand the fundamental science

The Voorhees Family: Legacy of Art (submitted by **David Voorhees**)

Rosalie Stigletts at age 87 is the first person to join the **DAR** as a descendent of **Abraham Voorhees**. She had difficulty proving her ancestry in the mid

Robert F. Van Voorhees (an attorney now located in Washington, DC) has practiced law in the fields of environmental safety and health since the 1970's. He has represented clients in changes to regulations and standards in the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Courts of Appeals and District Courts. For the last twenty

the Comsubgru-9 Command Excellence Award. Next Capt. Voorhees served as Deputy Commander for Readiness and Training on the staff of Comsubgru-9 from Feb. 2002 to May 2003, when he became Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer for the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility – a command of \$1.1 billion and over 10,000 military and civilian employees. In June 2005 Capt. Voorhees took command of the Naval Intermediate Maintenance Facility, Pacific Northwest. For these accomplishments, Capt. Voorhees is entitled to wear the Meritorious Service, Navy Commendation and Achievement Medals plus several unit decorations.

On 13 July 2007 at the Change of Command Ceremony in the state of Washington, Capt. Voorhees introduced the principal speaker. A short time after this **Capt. Voorhees** with his wife (**Lovelyn Mun**) and daughter (**Asia Malia**) returned to Hawaii for his next tour of duty.

of coarsening a process that happens in nearly every material composed of two crystals, such as the high-temperature metal alloys used in jet engine turbine blades." For article in Chicago Sun-Times go to <http://www.nbe5.com/13844914/detail.html>.

An Open Reception was held at the *Hand in Hand Gallery* in Flat Rock, NC on July 20, 2007 for artists of the **Voorhees** family.

1800's; therefore, Florence Christoff supplied Rosalie with a copy of the Abstract of Abraham's pension to prove her ancestry went back to hum.

years he served as counsel to the Underground Injection Control Group of the American Chemistry Council. He represented Kuwait and Saudi Arabia before the United Nations Compensation Commission on compensation claims for environmental and natural resource damages caused by the Gulf War.

Judge Richard Lesley Voorhees (married to **Barbara Humphries**) is a Federal District Judge in the Western District of NC at the Federal Courthouse at Charlotte, NC. He hears all cases in the Statesville, NC Federal courthouse. For a number of years he served the Western District of North Carolina in the Federal Courthouse at Asheville, NC. After returning to Charlotte, he was presented with a portrait that is now hanging in the Asheville Federal Courthouse.

Judge Voorhees (born in Syracuse, Onondaga Co., NY) attended grade school in Westfield, NJ. He graduated from R.J. Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem, NC in 1956 and from Davidson College, Davidson, NC in 1963. From 1963 to 1965 he saw active US Army duty as a second lieutenant in Korea

Jason Voorhees, son of *a Mrs. Voorhees*, is a *Name* found in the Erie Times News (p-24, Fri., Aug. 24, 2007). Further research revealed him to be *a fictional character* from the *Friday the 13th* series of films, which first appeared back in 1980. His name has also appeared in novels, comic books, humor magazines,

and Fort Bragg, NC. Discharged from the Army with the rank of Captain, Judge Voorhees attended law school received his law degree in 1968 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC.

He practiced law in Gastonia, NC from 1968 to 1988, when he was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the Western District of NC. Confirmed by the US Senate on Oct. 14, 1988 and commissioned on Oct. 17, 1988, he served as Chief Judge of the Western District of NC from 1991 to 1998. He occasionally sits by designation on the Fourth Circuit of Appeals in Richmond, VA.

Judge Voorhees has a married son (**Steven Coerte Voorhees**), a married daughter and one grandson.

TV shows, etc. In one of the *Friday the 13th* films *a Pamela Voorhees* character is also present.

We have to wonder *where* the writers (Ron Kurz, Victor Miller, Sean S. Cunningham and Tom Savini) found this surname and *Why* they chose it. It certainly is not a tribute to our family!

Washington Benevolent Society

by Bob Voorhees

Fig. 1 shows Fort Johnson built in 1763 as a residence by Sir William Johnson. Fort Johnson is about 5 miles west of Amsterdam, Montgomery Co., NY on the north bank of the Mohawk River.



Figure 1 Fort Johnson

Fig. 2 is a map of Montgomery Co., NY, which is 28 miles northwest of Albany, NY. Today, Fort Johnson is a museum and it houses a significant number of artifacts donated by the descendants of Dr. Samuel

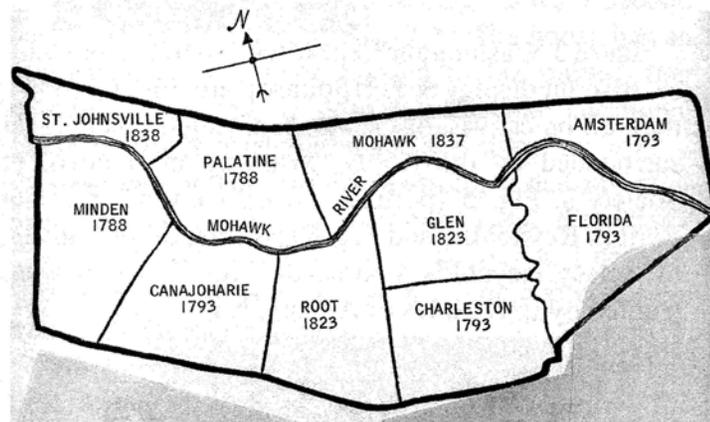


Figure 2 Towns in Montgomery Co.

Voorhees. Among these artifacts is (Fig. 4) a likeness of George Washington engraved for the Washington Benevolent Society Booklet. This is booklet No. 2 (Fig. 3) and it certifies that Peter Voorhees has been regularly admitted a Member of the "Washington Benevolent Society" of the Town of Charleston and County of Montgomery, instituted on the 19th day of January, 1811. It is signed by James Voorhees, President and Samuel Voorhees Secretary. The Town of Glen was carved from the Town of Charleston in

Washington Benevolent Society continued

1823. Peter Voorhees lived in Voorheesville (now Glen Village) in the Town of Glen. He was born 7 Jan 1764 in Monmouth Co., NJ and died 12 May 1816 in Plainville, Town of Lysander, Onondaga Co., NY. In 1811 at the age of 47, he became a member of the Washington Benevolent Society. James Voorhees and Samuel Voorhees were two of Peter's three sons. James Leslie Voorhees (born 6 Aug 1794 in Town of Glen, Montgomery Co., NY and died 19 Dec 1865 in Plainville, Town of Lysander, Montgomery Co., NY) was 17 years old in 1811. Dr. Samuel L. Voorhees (born 1 Nov 1787 in Burlington Co., NJ and died in Amsterdam, Montgomery Co., NY on 4 Nov 1870) was 24 years old in 1811.

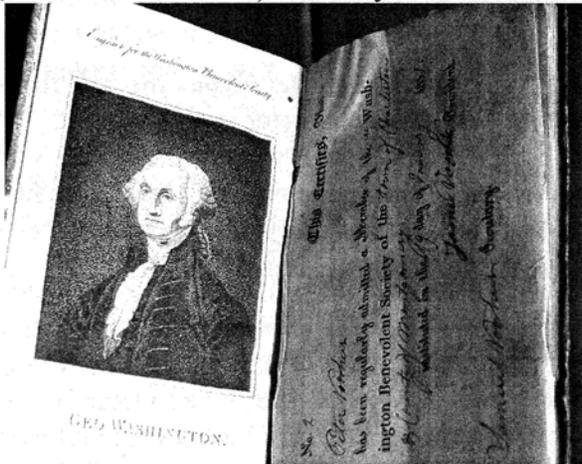


Figure 3 Washington Benevolent Society Booklet

Also on display at Fort Johnson are Fig. 4 (portrait, oil on canvas, of George Washington, in an oval surrounded by the words "Washington Benevolent Society"). Fig. 5 (portrait, oil on canvas, of Lydia Bartlett Reynolds), and Fig. 6 (portrait, oil on canvas, of Betsey Reynolds Voorhees). Figs. 5 and 6 were painted by Ezra Ames of Albany, NY.

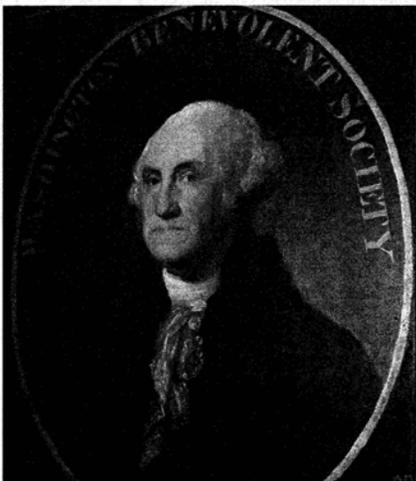


Figure 4 George Washington Portrait

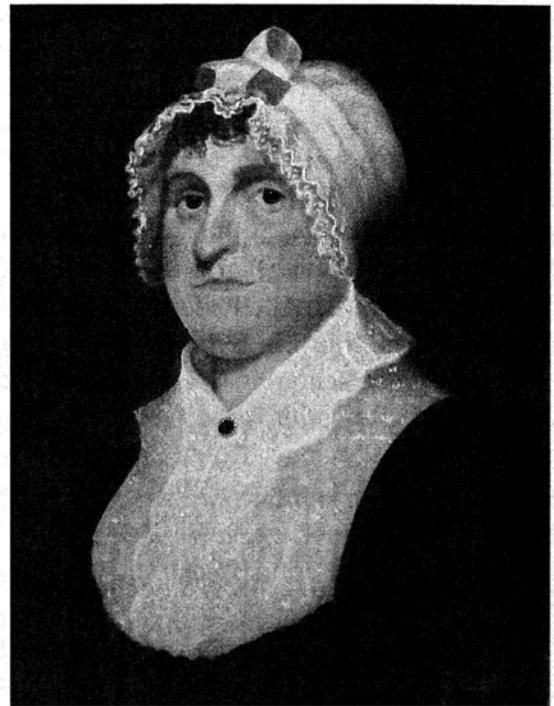


Figure 5 Lydia Bartlett Reynolds

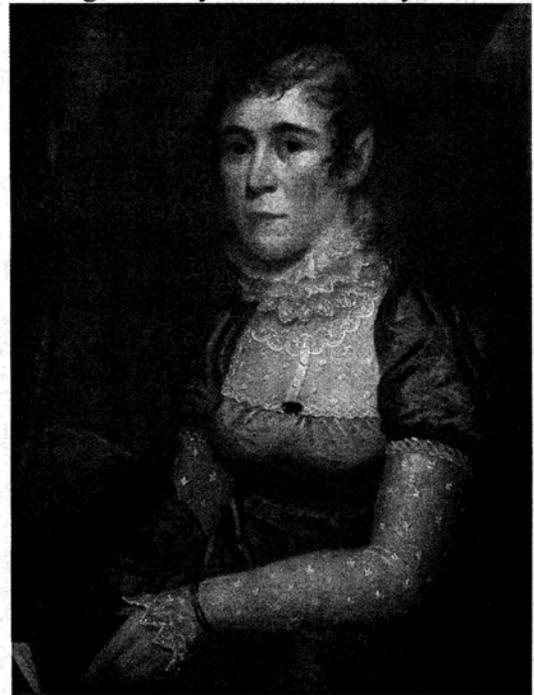


Figure 6 Betsy Reynolds Voorhees

Dr. Stephen Reynolds, husband to Lydia and father to Betsey, was President of the Washington Benevolent Society in the Town of Florida, Montgomery Co., NY. His picture, from the book "Ezra Ames of Albany, NY," is shown in Fig. 7. One of the Reynolds Family Association books states that Dr. Stephen Reynolds traveled to Philadelphia and commissioned Sir Gilbert Stuart to paint a replica of one of his portraits of Washington (the Washington

Washington Benevolent Society continued

oil painting now at Fort Johnson). I find no mention of Dr Reynolds in the book, *Gilbert Stuart's Portraits of George Washington* by Mantle Fielding. Dr. Stephen Reynolds practiced medicine in Minaville, Town of Florida, Montgomery Co., NY for 42 years before retiring to Schenectady, NY. Dr. Samuel Voorhees practiced medicine in Amsterdam, NY for more than 40 years. He also invested in real estate which is why there is a Voorhees Street in Amsterdam. Voorhees St. is just a few blocks from the boyhood home of Kirk Douglas, whose real name was Issur Danielovitch .



Figure 7 Dr Stephen Reynolds

Fig. 8, also from the book *Ezra Ames of Albany, NY*, is Marcus T. Reynolds, son of Dr Stephen Reynolds and Lydia Bartlett Reynolds.

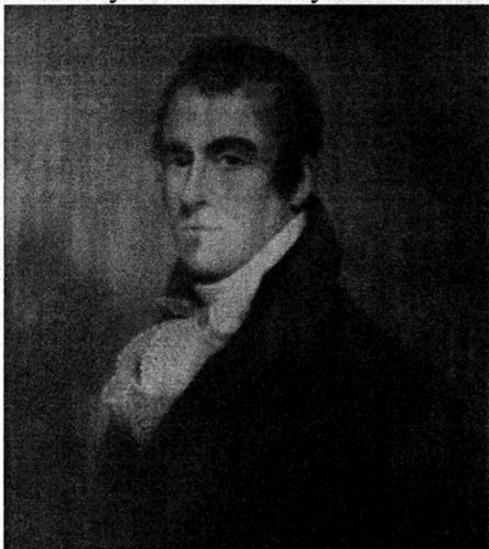


Figure 8 Marcus T. Reynolds

There is no doubt of the closeness of the Voorhees and Reynolds families (Fig. 9, the Voorhees--

Reynolds memorial at Green Hill Cemetery, Amsterdam, NY). Note the long grass in Fig. 9. Just before this photo was taken the cemetery caretaker ran off with all the money and the cemetery upkeep suffered. Both Samuel L. Voorhees and Marcus T. Reynolds attended Union College in Schenectady, NY. Marcus Tullius became a very successful lawyer in Johnstown and Albany NY, and was also a railroad President for many years. Samuel Voorhees came to Minaville and lived with and studied medicine under Dr Stephen Reynolds. He became a doctor and married Betsey Reynolds on 24 April 1811.



Figure 9 Voorhees/Reynolds Memorial

Dr. Stephen Reynolds (born 1 Sept 1765 in Amenia, Dutchess Co., NY) died 8 July 1833 in Amsterdam, NY. Lydia Bartlett Reynolds (born in Lebanon, New London Co., CT) died 27 Aug 1843 in Amsterdam, NY. They were married 29 Oct 1787 at Warrensburg, Town of Florida, Montgomery Co., NY. Betsey Reynolds (born 9 Dec 1790 in Minaville, Town of Florida, Montgomery Co., NY) died 8 Feb 1858 in Amsterdam, NY. Marcus Tullius Reynolds (born 29 Dec 1788 in Minaville, Town of Florida, Montgomery Co., NY and died 11 July 1864 in Albany, NY) is buried in Albany Rural Cemetery.

A few words of background on the Reynolds family: John Reynolds immigrated to Watertown, Middlesex Co., MA from London, England in 1634. The Reynolds family Association was formed in 1892. This Association adopted the coat of arms found on the tombstone (Fig. 10) in the old cemetery in Bristol, RI. I have included it in this article because I think it is particularly attractive.

The Federalist Party was an American political party in the period 1792 to 1816. The Federalists controlled the federal government until 1801. The party was formed by Alexander Hamilton who, dur-

Washington Benevolent Society continued

ing George Washington's first term, built a network of supporters for his fiscal policies. These supporters grew into the Federalist Party, which wanted a fiscally sound and strong nationalistic government.



Figure 10 Tombstone in Old Cemetery – Bristol, RI

The Democratic-Republican Party, also known as the Republican Party (not related to the present-day Republican Party), was founded in 1792 by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. It became the dominant political party until the 1820's when it split into competing factions, one of which became the modern-day Democratic Party. Its members identified the party as the Republicans, Jeffersonians, Democrats, or combinations of these such as the Jeffersonian Republicans.

Thomas Jefferson was President of the US from March 4, 1801 to March 4, 1809. Historians call the period of 1800-1816 the Jeffersonian era. During the early part of this period, the Federalist Party lacked organization and came close to extinction.

I had some difficulty getting information on the Washington Benevolent Society. However, I hit pay dirt in David Hackett Fischer's book: *The Revolution of American Conservatism, The Federalist Party in the Era of Jeffersonian Democracy*. Chapter 6 in this book is titled "Federalists and the 'French System of Fraternity': The Birth of the Washington Benevolent Societies."

Few pro-Federalist Washington Associations are known to have appeared before 1808. Early in 1808 a

group of young men in New York City decided to found a fraternal order which would combine the mummery of the Tammany Societies, the benevolent activities of the Hibernian Provident Society, and the partisan political enthusiasm of young Federalists. Tammany and Hibernian were Jeffersonian societies. On Feb 22, 1809 the Society held its first public meeting and it was an instant success. The Washington Benevolent Society idea spread rapidly from New York City into western New York State, and eastward to Vermont, Connecticut, and western Massachusetts. By 1810 it had reached Maryland and Rhode Island and by 1812, New Hampshire, eastern Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Ohio. A New England Republican complained that Washington Societies were "sprouting up like mushrooms in the shade." The dignified portions of meetings were held in churches and meeting houses, and the frivolous dinners in taverns; but as the societies caught on, many of them built their own meeting places. The first of them, possibly the first building ever erected in America for partisan purposes, was Washington Hall on Broadway in New York City, with its cornerstone laid on Washington's birthday, 1809, and the structure completed in 1812 (Fig. 11).



Figure 11 Washington Hall

Fig. 12 is a picture of George Maxwell Voorhees, son of Dr. Samuel Voorhees and Captain of Company D, 93rd New York State Volunteers during the Civil War. He was born 16 Mar 1826 in Amsterdam, Montgomery Co., NY and died there 14 Sept. 1909. This photo was taken at the home-stead on Main St in Amsterdam about 1908. His dog's name was Hector. We believe this picture of George Washington (on the wall behind George Maxwell) now hangs at Fort Johnson.

The War of 1812 was especially unpopular in

Washington Benevolent Society continued

New England and among the Federalists. At least 3 New England states refused to let their militia join in the war. Dr. Samuel Voorhees served as a surgeon in the War of 1812. Peter Voorhees did not serve in the War of 1812 even though he was a Captain in the New York State militia. Late in 1812 Peter Voorhees, his 2nd wife Sally, and son James Leslie Voorhees moved to Onondaga County, NY and purchased land. We don't really know why they moved; however, economic opportunity was surely one reason. If the War of 1812 had anything to do with it, we don't know.

The Voorhees and the Reynolds of Montgomery Co were staunch Federalists. Clearly they were interested in politics. Peter Voorhees was a member of the New York State Assembly during the 22nd Session (August 1798 and Jan thru April 1799). James Leslie Voorhees ran for the Assembly in



Figure 12 George Maxwell Voorhees 1832 on the Anti-Masonic ticket and lost; however, he was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1838.

VAN VOORHEES READING LIST

by Manning W. Voorhees

Abend, Firth Haring. *A Dutch Family in the Middle Colonies, 1660-1800*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1991. This is the story of the Haring family, whose progenitor arrived in New Netherland during the 1630's, and how the family evolved with the changing culture in the Dutch colony and during the succeeding years until the 19th century. While not mentioned by the author, the Voorhees family surely evolved in a similar way.

Bachman, Van Cleef, *Peltries and Plantations; the economic policies of the Dutch West India Company in New Netherland, 1623-1639*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1969.

Bailey, Rosalie Fellows. *Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York*. New York, William Morrow for the Holland Society of New York, 1936 (reprint, New York, Dover, 1968). This book is also available on CD from www.genealogyCDs.com It is one of five works on the CD, which is entitled *Five Early Dutch Long Island History Texts*. When the web site opening page appears, click New York CD's.

Bailey, Rosalie Fellows. *Dutch Systems in Family Naming New York - New Jersey*, 21 pages, National Genealogical Society ("NGS"), (reprinted in 1965 from the NGS *Quarterly* Mar. 1953 and Dec. 1953).

Order from NGS on <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>. Use the author's full name for the publication search, not the title. The Dutch followed a complicated system for naming their children. Interestingly, genealogists today benefit from this system because it often suggests the names of grandparents and other family members.

Balmer, Randall Herbert. *A Perfect Babel of Confusion : Dutch religion and English culture in the middle colonies*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1989. Most of our New Netherland ancestors were members of the Dutch Reformed Church ("DRC"), which influenced their lives to a great degree. This influence, however, presented difficult and changing situations. The DRC evolved into today's Reformed Church in America.

Bergen, Teunis G. *Register in Alphabetical Order, of the Early Settlers of Kings County, Long Island, N. Y., from its First Settlement by Europeans to 1700; with Contributions to their Biographies and Genealogies, Compiled from Various Sources*. New York: S. W. Green's Son, 1881 (reprint, Salem, Massachusetts: Higginson, n.d.).

Billington, Ray Allen. *Westward Expansion, A History of the American Frontier*. New York: Macmillan, 1949. This book attempts to follow the

VAN VOORHEES READING LIST continued

pattern that Frederick Jackson Turner might have used had he ever compressed his voluminous researches on the American frontier within one volume. Frederick Jackson Turner (1861-1932) is widely regarded as one of the most influential American historians of the early 20th century. He is best known for his essay, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History." With this volume and subsequent editions (see 5th edition, 1982) Billington clearly established himself as Turner's successor on this subject.

Brodhead, John Romeyn. *History of the State of New York*; 2 v. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1871 (revised ed., 1872).

Burghers of New Amsterdam and the Freemen of New York, 1675-1866. Vol. 18 of Collections, New-York Historical Society, 1886.

DeJong, Gerald F. *The Dutch in America, 1609-1974*. Boston: Twayne Publishers/G. K. Hall & Co., 1975. This study of the Dutch-American follows primarily a chronological approach by noting why Hollanders left their native land at various times in history, describing where each wave of immigrants settled.

Jameson, J. Franklin, ed. *Narratives of New Netherland, 1609-1664*. New York, C. Scribner's Sons, 1909 (reprint, New York, Barnes and Noble, 1967). Travel accounts and descriptions of the colony. This book is also available on CD from www.genealogyCDs.com It is one of five works on the CD, which is entitled *Five Early Dutch Long Island History Texts*. When the web site opening page appears, click New York CD's.

Kenney, Alice P. *Stubborn for Liberty: The Dutch in New York*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1975.

Maika, Dennis J. *Commerce and Community: Manhattan Merchants in the Seventeenth Century*.

Ann Arbor, Mich.: UMI Dissertation Services, 2003.

O'Callaghan, E.B. *Documentary History of the State of New York*; 4 v. Albany: Weed, Parsons, 1849-51 (octavo ed.); 1850-51 (quarto). This set draws from several documentary sources. *Documentary History of the State of New York*, vol. 3, has "Rev. Gideon Hawley's Journey to Oghquaga, Broome Co., 1753"

and "Journal of Rev. John Taylor's Missionary Tour through the Mohawk and Black River Countries, in 1802." Vol. 2 has "A Description of the Genesee Country," 1804, and "Description of the Country between Albany and Niagara in 1792." The four volumes are available on CD from <http://www.genealogyCDs.com> entitled *Documentary History of New York*, (4,500-plus pages and maps). Click New York CD's on the opening page.

O'Callaghan, E.B. *History of New Netherland*; 2 v. New York, Appleton, 1848.

Pointer, Richard W. *Protestant Pluralism and the New York Experience; A Study of Eighteenth-Century Religious Diversity*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1988.

Rink, Oliver A. *Holland on the Hudson, an economic and social history of Dutch New York*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1986. An excellent formal history of New Netherland.

Ritchie, Robert C. *The Duke's Province; a Study of New York Politics and Society, 1664-1691*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1977.

Rosenzweig, Lee A. *Brooklyn's Flatlands, beyond the fields*. Brooklyn: Israelowitz Publishing, 2002. This book is mainly black and white photographs made from the late 1800's to the early 1970's. It includes a sixteen page reprint of *History of the Town of Flatlands* by Dr. Anson DuBois; fifty copies were originally published in 1884. *Brooklyn's Flatlands* also includes two Flatlands maps of 1873.

Shorto, Russell. *The Island at the Center of the World*. New York: Doubleday, 2004. This is the story of a forgotten colony and the Dutch, and how they shaped the world – written in a very easy manner. A must-read if one does not plan on reading further (ibid. the next page for a brief review of this book).

Smith, Richard. *A Tour of Four Great Rivers: The Hudson, Mohawk, Susquehanna and Delaware in 1769, Being the Journal of Richard Smith of Burlington, New Jersey*, ed. by Francis W. Halsey. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1906. Republished as *A Tour of the Hudson, the Mohawk, the Susquehanna, and the Delaware in 1769*.

VAN VOORHEES READING LIST continued

Fleischmans, NY: Purple Mountain Press, 1989 (paper, reprint).

Smith, William. *The History of the Province of New York*, first printed in 1757.

Smolenyak, Megan Smolenyak and Ann Taylor. *Trace Your Roots with DNA*. Royale, 2004. While this book does not discuss Dutch and early Colonial life in America, it provides an excellent discussion about new genetic testing that genealogists and family historians are widely embracing to verify traditional genealogical conclusions and, in some cases, to show the way through genealogical brick walls.

Spier, Peter. *The Legend of New Amsterdam*. Garden City: Doubleday, 1979. A children's book in full color on every page, it includes a map of New Amsterdam in 1660. This is the year that Steven Coerts van Voorhees arrived. New Amsterdam had some 300 buildings and nearly 1,500 residents in 1660.

van der Donck, Adriaen. *A Description of the New Netherlands* (sic), translated by Jeremiah Johnson and edited by Thomas P. O'Donnell. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1968. Dr. van der Donck wrote the definitive description of the natural wonders of New Netherland in 1655. This is the 1841 translation edition. The author is a key personality in Mr. Shorto's book, listed above.

Van Voorhees Association. *Through a Dutch Door, 17th century origins of the Van Voorhees Family*. Baltimore, Gateway Press, 1992. To order, access <http://www.vanvoorhees.org>, click Publications. *Dutch Door* contains the results of original research into the Family during the 16th and 17th Centuries in the Netherlands plus essays on related topics. A feature of the volume is the *Van Voorhees Letters*, that Van Wyck, Frederick. *Keskachauge, or The First White Settlement on Long Island*. New York:

Putnam's, 1924. Also available on CD from <http://www.genealogyCDs.com> (947 pages with maps and illustrations). Click New York CD's on the opening page. Keskachauge, which was spelled in slightly different ways, was the Indian name for Nieuw Amersfoort, which became Flatlands, where Steven Coerts van Voorhees and many other settlers from the Netherlands lived, farmed and transacted their affairs. There are many references to the Voorhees Family and other Dutch families of interest to researchers of family history. If you obtain the CD, when using the search function first enter **Voorhees** or **Voorhies** and omit given and patronymic names; these latter names were not spelled in a consistent manner by our ancestors. The CD includes a detailed map of the Three Flats of Amersfoort, showing a relatively large plat labeled **Voorhees** and another **Voorhees** house, along with other Dutch-named spots of the era.

Webb, Stephen Saunders. 1676: *The End of American Independence*. New York: Knopf, 1984 (paper, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1985).

Wilcoxon, Charlotte. *Dutch Trade and Ceramics in America in the Seventeenth Century*. Albany: Albany Institute of History and Art, 1987.

Wolley, Charles. *A Two Years' Journal in New York and Part of Its Territories in America*. London: John Wyat and Eben Tracy, 1701. Reprinted with an introduction and notes by Edward Gaylord Bourne (Cleveland: Burrows Brothers, 1902, reprinted Harrison, New York: Harbor Hill Books, 1973).

Zwierlein, Frederick James. *Religion in New Netherland, 1623-1664; a history of the development of the religious conditions in the province of New Netherland 1623-1664*. Rochester: J. P. Smith, 1910.

The Island at the Center of the World by Russell Shorto Book Review by Bob Voorhees

If you have not read this book you should consider reading it. *Island* is among the best books ever written about New Amsterdam, the Dutch settlement on Manhattan that became New York City. As **David Van Voorhis Wood** pointed out to me, *this book*

states that **Annetje Rapelje**, who married **Cornelis Coerte Van Voorhees** (grandson of **Steven Coerte Van Voorhees**) was descended from the first Dutch child to be born in New Amsterdam. She was **Sarah Rapalje** born 9 June 1625 (see page 41 of *Island*).

Editor's Note

According to **Huguenot Society Records**, **Sarah Joris Rapalje** (the first of 11 children of Joris Jansen/Janszen Rapalje and his wife, Catalyntje Jeronimus Trico/Triko) was born 9 June 1625 (as stated) in Fort Orange (now Albany), NY -- the first white child born there. She had a total of 14 children (8 by her first husband, Hans Hanssen Bergen from Norway, and 6 by her second husband, Teunis Gisbertsen/Gysberts Bogaert/Bogart).

Annetje Rapelje was the 5th child of **Daniel Joriszen Rapalje** and his wife, **Sarah Abramsz Clok** (Clok/Cloq/Klok/Kloc). **Daniel** (the 11th child of Joris Janszen Rapalje and his wife, Catalyntje

Jeronimus Trico/Triko) was the **brother of Sarah Joris Rapalje**; thus **Sarah is the aunt of Annetje. Annetje**, baptized at the Dutch Reform Church of Brooklyn, NY on 17 March 1681, married **Cornelis Coerte Van Voorhees** circa 1696.

In dealing with hand-written records it is very easy to misread some of it and get other parts mixed up! As a descendant of **Cornelis and Annetje**, I've done considerable research on many females in my ancestry; and I think the Huguenot Society has meticulous records that can be trusted.

**Would I read the book if given a chance?
Absolutely Yes!**

Fine Words Don't Fill the Belly **(OLDE NEDERLANDSE PROVERB)**

NJ-GSNJ New Book: Somerset County Articles in GMNJ
submitted by Manning W. Voorhees

Somerset County Articles in The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey -- Summary and Descriptions, 1925-2006 by Judith Green Watson (who authored a similar book of Monmouth County Articles in GSNJ) is now available. This finding aid identifies all 167 articles published in volumes 1 through 81 of **The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey** that have Somerset County as their focus. The book will help researchers more readily identify and access

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The book is available for \$10 (plus \$2.00 postage) from GSNJ. New Jersey residents must add 7% sales tax. GSNJ members are entitled to a 10% discount.

articles that may be of interest to them. Brief descriptions are provided of each article, along with the volume and page number on which each article may be found. All related articles and corrections are cross-referenced. The book includes a chart for the lengthy serialized article "Records of the Harlingen Reformed Dutch Church, Montgomery Township, Somerset County" that shows, by year, in which volume and on which page events were recorded.

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submitted by Bob Voorhees

If you haven't visited our new and improved web-site, please do so. Ruth Yos is doing a terrific job as our new Webmaster! Thanks Ruth, for all your hard work!

Information on all our publications plus where and how to purchase are there on the website. Notice the **9th Generation CD** which is selling very well. Every

person in your family should have their own copy of ***Through a Dutch Door*** (a wonderful gift) that is now available only from Heritage Books.

We get visitor statistics from Powweb, the company that maintains our website. Over the last 12 months we have averaged about 26,000 hits (requests made to the site) per month. Over the last

12 months we have averaged about 20,700 page WWW.VANVOORHEES.ORG continued

months we have averaged about 16,300 downloads per month. Over the last 12 months we have averaged

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about 11,000 visits per month. A visit is one visitor going to our website.

In Memoriam

Jack McKim Vorhies, DDS, MSD, of Greenwood, Ind., died on Mar. 12, 2007 at the age of 84. He was the son of **Bacil Vorhies** and **Irene Schuster Vorhies**. Born Feb. 19, 1923 he married Georgia Reese on Nov. 2, 1943. He graduated from Indian University School of Dentistry and practiced over 40 years until retiring in 1994. Interested in Charolais cattle, he bought 1200 acres to create Indian Creek Ranch. Here he bred bulls that won prizes at state fairs in Indiana and Illinois plus the national competition, American Royal, in Kansas City, MO. He also collected historical papers and co-authored *Indiana Obsolete Notes and Scrip*. He was a member of 4 dental and 4 orthodontist groups, American Charolais Assn. (also an officer), SAR, American

Harry L. Voorhees, Sr., of Dorchester, MA, died Apr. 27, 2007 in Boston at the age of 77. Son of **Dr. Lamar S. Voorhees** and **Naomi Usher Voorhees**, he grew up in Newton, NJ. He graduated in 1946 from Newton H.S. as valedictorian and in 1950 he graduated from Princeton University as a Philosophy major. In 1971 he received a Masters degree in Education Administration from Temple University. Also in 1971 as an active member of the Phoenixville Democratic City Committee, he was elected to the Phoenixville Borough Council. He was a member and Vestry-man of St. Peters Episcopal Church in Phoenixville. He taught Chemistry and Physics in PA

John Voorhees died in Santa Cruz, CA in May 2007 at the age of 84. He grew up in Nashville, Tenn. where his family owned a hardware business. He served in the infantry in Europe during WWII. Afterward he graduated from Vanderbilt University. He worked in planning in OK and AR. He became the city planner for Raleigh, NC and later a developer, planning subdivisions with shared gathering places for homeowners. He also was

Elizabeth M. Shiffner Voorhees of Berkeley, NJ died at home Aug. 5, 2007 at the age of 85. Born in New Brunswick, she lived in North Brunswick and Manahawkin before moving to Berkeley in 1982. She was a member of the First Reformed Church of New Brunswick. She was predeceased by her parents, 3

Numismatic Assn., 102 Infantry WWII European Theatre, the Masons (Scottish Rite), Rotary International, and other local groups. He gave his large collection of research books to the American Numismatic Society's library.

Predeceased by his son (**Scott Vorhies**), he is survived by his wife of 63 years (**Georgia Reese Vorhies**), 4 sons (**Larry, Brent, Carl and Mark A. Vorhies**), 2 daughters (**Joyce Vorhies Hickman and Rhonda Vorhies Holland**), his sister (**Dorothy Vorhies Schroeder**), 19 grandchildren, and 7 great-grand-children. Memorials can be made to the Mt. Auburn United Methodist Church, 3100 W. Stones Crossing Rd., Greenwood, IN 46143, where he was a member.

at Central High School in Philadelphia and Springfield Twp. High School in Oreland, where he was President of the Springfield Education Assoc.

After retiring, he became an active volunteer for the Mass. Citizens for Life and enjoyed attending both the Boston Symphony and the English Speaking Union.

Survivors include 3 children (**Harry L. Voorhees, Jr.** of Andover, MA; **Thomas R. Voorhees** and **Naomi E. Voorhees** of Phoenixville, PA), his former wife (**Vera Voorhees** of Phoenixville, PA); and 2 grandchildren (**Katherine M. Voorhees** and **Simon J. Voorhees** of Andover, MA).

innovative in his home styles. In NC where he lived more than 30 years, he was once president of the Wake Co. Chapter of the ACLU and aided establishment of the NC Human Rights Fund and, in the late 1970s, PFLAG. He was an avid outdoorsman, tennis player, and supporter of the arts. Before retiring, he moved to CA. Memorials can be made to The Diversity Center, P.O. Box 8280, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

brothers and a sister. Survivors include her husband (**Robert F. Voorhees**), a son (**Robt. F. Voorhees, Jr.** of Whiting, Manchester), a daughter (**Betty Jean Voorhees** of Toms River, NJ), 3 sisters-in-law (Clara Shiffner, Mildred Gaunt and **Gloria Voorhees**), 5

nieces and 10 nephews plus their families, her extended family and a caregiver. Burial was in the

Van Liew Cemetery, North Brunswick, NJ.

In Memoriam continued

Geraldine Voorhees of East Syracuse, NY died on Oct. 14, 2007 at the age of 87 in Crouse Hospital with her family present. Born in Gloversville, NY, she was formerly employed at Johnstown Knitting Mill. She was predeceased by her sister, brother and son-in-law (J. Montana Jr.). Survivors are her husband of 63 years (**Robt. E. Voorhees**), 3 daughters

(**Betty Voorhees Montana** of East Syracuse, NY, **Patricia Voorhees Miller** of Johnstown, NY; and **Janet Voorhees Hamrick** of Oriskany Falls, NY), 7 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, plus nieces and nephews. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery, Fonda, NY.

Mildred Bell Bradsher Voorhees (age 83), a prominent North Carolina artist, died peacefully Oct. 29, 2007 at home in Asheville, NC on the 8th anniversary of the death of her husband, **Edwin H. Voorhees**. Born in Petersburg, VA on Feb. 28, 1924 she attended St. Catherine's School and Duke University. She married **Edwin H. Voorhees** when he was a pilot in the US Navy during WWII. After living in NYC for 19 years, she moved with her husband and 6 children to Bogue Sound in Morehead City where they owned Dee Gee's Gift Shop. Almost 40 years later (in 2005) she moved to Asheville. She continued to paint until just a few days before her death. Her artistic achievements and hospitality were well known here and

abroad.

Preceded in death by a son (**Brad Voorhees**, infant, died of polio in 1949.) and **Edwin H. Voorhees** (husband), she is survived by 6 children (**Kirk Voorhees** and wife **Patty** of Alexandria, VA; **David Voorhees** and wife **Molly Sharp** of Tuxedo; **Rev. Ted Voorhees** and wife **Caren Goldman** of St. Augustine, FL; **Susan Voorhees** and **Jane Voorhees** of Asheville, NC; and **Chad Voorhees** and wife **Amy** of Morehead City), 14 grandchildren and 4 great-grand-children. Her ashes and those of her late husband were interred in the St. Francis Chapel Memorial Garden. Donations can be made to Mountain Area Hospice of Care Partners.

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Through a Dutch Door: 17th Century Origins of the Van Voorhees Family can be purchased through
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The book can be ordered via website www.heritagebooks.com OR by mail at the following address:
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The Van Voorhees Association is pleased to announce the publication of the *9th Generation CD* (which includes the children of the 9th generation). For members of the Van Voorhees Association the price is **\$29 plus \$3 shipping and handling** and for non-members is **\$39 plus \$3 shipping and handling**. 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**



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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)

