



# VAN VOORHEES NIEUWSBRIEF

Volume 26 Number 2

Fall 2008

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

The annual Business Meeting with elections and appointments will be held on **11 Oct. 2008** at the Church on the Green (First Reformed Church), 42

Court St., Hackensack, NJ. (The church is right across the street from the Bergen Co. Courthouse.) We will meet in the Fellowship Hall from **9 AM to 3 PM.**

## Planning for a Fall 2009 Reunion

(We continue to need more volunteers to help plan and run the event)

We are planning a **Fall Reunion in 2009** with **speakers and activities** to celebrate Henry Hudson's historic voyage for the Dutch East India Co. and the founding of Albany in 1609 – both 400 years ago. Various possibilities and details are still coming in and being thoroughly investigated. At least 1 activity involves **Dutch-costumed guides**. You are welcome and encouraged to come in costume, if possible. Your

editor, who makes her own ethnic costumes (from pictures and patterns), plans to write an article on Dutch costumes for the Spring 2009 *Nieuwsbrief*. It will include drawings, references, quick-and-easy sewing ideas, plus suggestions for materials and current patterns which one can find in almost any place where yardgoods are sold.

## Your Christmas Shopping just got Easier! Give a Van Voorhees Association Membership!

**Annual DUES: Still Only \$10.00!!**

**(Life Members and other options on Dues Form, p. 12)**

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

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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

**WEBSITE:** [www.vanvoorhees.org](http://www.vanvoorhees.org)  
Send Suggestions to: Ruth Yos

**PROGRAMS:** Position Vacant

**PUBLICITY:** Position Vacant

**Tel.:** *email:*

**Tel.:**

*email:*

Ted L. Bogert

~ **MEMBERS-AT-LARGE** ~

David R. Voorhees

Vacancies

## Notes from the Genealogy Committee (Fall 2008)

by Robert F. Voorhees

The Genealogy Committee is having fun. Without the press of imminent publication we are able to work on all those things that get pushed aside when a publication deadline is upon us. This includes entering new information, trying to resolve unknowns, and answering questions from (1) members and (2) our website ([www.vanvoorhees.org](http://www.vanvoorhees.org)). If you have any new information to submit, this is an excellent time to do it. If you aren't sure what we have on your line, I can usually send you what we have so you'll know what we don't have. My email is [rfvoorhees@gmail.com](mailto:rfvoorhees@gmail.com).

We have come a long way with our Van Voorhees genealogy. Elias W. Van Voorhis (see picture) published his landmark 725 page, *Genealogy of the Van Voorhees Family in America* in 1888. Elias was a lawyer in New York City. He never married and died in 1892 at age 48. 96 years passed before the next Voorhees Genealogy publication appeared: *The Van Voorhees Family, the First Four Generations* by Albert L. Stokes, Genealogist, published by the Van Voorhees Association in 1984. In 1992 we published *Through a Dutch Door, 17th Century Origins of The Van*



*Voorhees Family*. In this decade the Van Voorhees Association has published three genealogies: In 2000 we published *The Van Voorhees Family in America, The First Six Generations*. In year 2003 we published *The Van Voorhees Family in America, The Seventh and Eighth Generations*. In 2007 we published *The Van Voorhees Family in America, The Ninth Generation* in CD format. The 1992, 2000, and 2003 books would never have been published without the leadership of Manning Willis Voorhees. Florence Christoph has been our Van Voorhees Association Genealogist for over 15 years. The 2000, 2003, and 2007 books and CD would never have happened without her tireless hours of work. If we had a Voorhees Hall of Fame, Elias Van Voorhis, Manning, and Flo would be the first three to get inducted. Many have contributed to the Voorhees genealogy over the years. I will mention three researchers: Harold Hazleton (died 1972), Albert L. Stokes (died 1994), and Donald Sinclair (died 2004) as especially deserving. More should be said about the people that have contributed so much to Voorhees Genealogy but will be left for future *Nieuwsbrief* articles. I'm going to discuss all the Presidents of the Van Voorhees Association in another article.

Below is a brief chart of these presidents.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dates Served</u>	<u>No. of Years Served</u>
Dr. Oscar McMurtie Voorhees	1932 - 1947	15
Dr. Irving Wilson Van Voorhees	1947 - 1958	11
Mrs. Edward L. (Ruth S. Voorhees) Voorhees	1958 - 1961	3
Miss Helen McMurtie Voorhees	1961 - 1981	20
Mr. Donald George Vorhis	1981 - 1991	10
Mr. Manning Willis Voorhees	1991 - 2001	10
Mr. Scott Thomas Voorhees	2001 - present	7

Critical to our success is the genealogy software we use: The Master Genealogist (TMG) by Wholly Genes Software [www.whollygenes.com](http://www.whollygenes.com) of Columbia, MD. A few months ago TMG version 7 (upgrade \$34) became available and we are switching to the new version. For those of you interested in learning more about TMG consider joining the Roots Users Group of Arlington, VA. This group has a website [www.rootsuser.org](http://www.rootsuser.org) and a monthly newsletter. They are the only national in scope TMG users group that I know of. The name Roots is a little misleading. Roots was a genealogy software that grew up in the 1980's with the growth of the personal computer. In the early

1990's Roots was widely used by many professional genealogists including Flo Christoph and Judith Van Voorhis. TMG was first introduced commercially in 1993 and many professional genealogists including Flo and Judith soon switched from Roots to TMG. This was an extremely important decision as TMG has grown into the leading sophisticated genealogy software. Roots no longer exists.

TMG is sponsoring their 4th genealogy cruise: Caribbean Princess, 7 night Caribbean cruise, departing 26th Oct 2008 New York (Brooklyn) to San Juan, Puerto Rico. It is interesting that TMG has already announced that they will **not** be sponsoring a cruise

## Notes from the Genealogy Committee (Fall 2008) continued

in 2009. I hope to find out the reason(s) for this and I will report back to you. I can think of several possible reasons including (1) it takes up too much staff time, (2) the difficulty in finding trips which include 3 days at sea (so they can have 20 hours of presentations without cutting into port time), and (3) a waning interest in cruises. I think these cruises will be replaced with something and it will be interesting to see what it is. Also, the other genealogy software vendors may continue their participation with the Cruise industry.

We now have 15 people in our Voorhees DNA Project. This compares with 7 this time last year. We need a lot more people tested before we will begin to be able to differentiate between our 4 lines (the 4 sons of the immigrant ancestor). Our paper genealogy is so good that DNA technology does not offer us as much as it does other families. Also, virtually all the Voorhees in America descend from 1 immigrant ancestor. This is unusual and makes our task much easier. We are pleased with our DNA project and we are pleased with our Vendor, Familytreedna.

DNA in genealogy is considered a growth industry

and this stimulates a lot of change. Ancestry DNA cut DNA testing prices to below half of the prices Familytreedna charges. Ancestry DNA is trying to combine conventional genealogy with DNA testing. They claim they have made enhancements to their search and comparison functionality. Ancestry lets users with the same last name compare DNA information. If Familytreedna starts to lose market share, they will be forced to respond in some way. We are interested in seeing what happens. It would not surprise me to see more mergers and acquisitions.

Another trend in the genealogy industry is for the social networking websites such as Facebook and My Space to begin providing genealogy services. For example, if you have a Facebook account you can add an application called Family Tree to your profile that lets you create a family tree and share it with others.

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG & B) has given its entire collection to the New York Public Library. This includes 75,000 volumes, 30,000 manuscripts and 22,000 reels of microfilm.

### The Holland Society of New York by Robert F. Voorhees

In New York City in 1885 the Holland Society of New York ([www.hollandsociety.com](http://www.hollandsociety.com)) was founded in order to collect information respecting the settlement and history of New Netherlands. Out of approximately 850 members, 31 carry the Voorhees name, which is the largest single family name in the Holland Society. Many of these 31 are also members of the Van Voorhees Association.

The main objective of the Holland Society is to find and preserve documentation about the inhabitants' lives and times in order to elucidate the social, political, and religious patterns in the Dutch colony. Historical publications are sponsored, along with encouragement for family studies and genealogy. Many of the Society members are especially active in genealogical research and publication. For many years the editor of their excellent quarterly magazine, *de Halve*

*Maen*, has been David William Voorhees.

The Holland Society originated the New Netherlands Project which is translating and publishing the 17<sup>th</sup> Century records held by the New York State Archives. The Holland Society supported publication of *The Island at the Center of the World* by Russell Shorto. Among their other current sponsorships are *Papers of the Jacob Leisler Project* and *Records of the Translations of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Flatbush, Kings Co., NY*.

The Holland Society had for many years shared offices with the NYG & B. After the building was sold, the Holland Society recently moved to 20 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan. The new offices and library are both attractive and impressive. The Holland Society has 22 local branches around the country, which carry on the work of the Society.

## ***Na eer en staat volgt nijd en haat.***

***(After Honor and Crown follows Envy and Hate.)***



## Australia's Dutch Connections before the English Arrived!

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

Yes indeed! The Dutch Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie (Dutch East India Co. or VOC) ship, *Dyfken*\* (*Little Dove*), commanded by Capt. Willen Janszoon (circa 1570-1630) sailed into the Gulf of Carpentaria (now in Queensland) in Australia. This was the first European ship on record to make a visit to Australia. In late 1605 the *Dyfken* was in Java searching for trade and gold. Capt. Janszoon decided to sail south where he discovered the west side of the Cape York Peninsula and landed at the Pennefather River on Feb. 16, 1606. The land here was swampy and the natives killed some crew members as they trekked around on various explorations. Before turning back at Cape Keerweer (Blind Alley) and going home, Capt. Janszoon managed to map several hundred miles of the western coast.

Many other Dutch ships followed in the wake of the *Dyfken*. In 1616 Capt. Dirk Hartog, commander of the *Eendracht*\*\* (*Union/Concord/Unity*), landed on the west coast and named this area "Eendrachtland" ("Concord Land"). In 1618 the *Zeewolf* (*Sea Wolf*) arrived at a point north of where Capt. Hartog had previously landed. In 1627 the *Gulden Zeepaert*\*\*\*

(*Golden Seahorse*) under Capt. Francois Thijssen explored over 1,100 miles of the south coast. They were the first recorded Europeans to see this part of Australia. In 1644 Abel Tasman, a Dutch seafarer, named this new continent Nova Hollandia (New Holland). This name prevailed until 1824 when it was officially changed to Australia.

While the Dutch made charts of the Australian coast and landed more than 40 ships there, they never created colonies. Capt. James Cook arrived in 1770 to explore the east coast of 'New South Wales' (Australia) and claim it for Great Britain.

### Editor's Notes:

\*The *Dyfken* (modern spelling: "Duijken") was of the *pinnace* design just like the *Bontekoe* which in 1660 carried Steven Coerts Van Voorhees and his family to Nieuw Amsterdam.

\*\*This ship continued in service and in 1624 under Capt. Adrian Josiszzen Tienpont brought Joris Janszen Rapalje and his wife, Catalyntie Trico (Huguenot refugees & 2 of my ancestors) to Nieuw Amsterdam.

\*\*\*The modern spelling is "Zeepaard."

### References:

1. *De Nieuw Nederlanse Mercurius*, March 2008, newsletter of the New Netherlands Project
2. *The Hudson Valley Dutch and Their Houses* by Harrison Meeske c.1998

### Further Information

1. New Netherlands Project website: [www.nnp.org](http://www.nnp.org) & clicks on "Books & More" and then "Amazon"
2. Nieuw Holland ibid.: [www.voc.linet.net.au/](http://www.voc.linet.net.au/)

## The Date Dispute about the Founding of New York City

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

Apparently there is a dispute about when New York City was founded. Possible dates range from 1623 or 1624 to 1663 or 1664, and some say even later. Henry Hudson arrived in 1609. Shortly thereafter fur trade began and numerous Dutch ships landed for this purpose. In addition there were many refugees in the Netherlands who were eager for a new start in a land free from religious persecution. Dutch fur-trade ships arrived (on record) in 1612. To maintain continued contact with the Indians, it is most probable that some "colonists" remained. Furthermore, it is well known that the original name was *Nieuw Amsterdam*. It was renamed *New York* by the British after they took over

in 1663. These are the facts.

In 1624 my Huguenot ancestors arrived in Nieuw Amsterdam, a thriving town/city; but they were immediately sent up the Hudson river to Fort Orange (Albany: also founded some years before this) where the West India Co. needed more settlers. Since Nieuw Amsterdam was thriving in 1624, simple logic would be that it must have had settlers for many years prior to this date.

The Seal of New York City uses 1625 as the founding date. We certainly hope this 'founding date fight' never detracts from the Dutch accomplishments as the original founders.

References: Numerous History books and the Huguenot Society

## ***Oost of west, huis is best!*** ***(East or west, home is best!)***

### **Nieuws van Verwanten (News of Cousins)**

(Editor's Note: Some items are current and others, while a bit old, are interesting tidbits about our cousins.)

**Keira Danielle Van Voorhis** was born at 7:56 PM on Monday, 28 July 2008. She is the daughter of **Gregg and Jodi Van Voorhis** of Potomac Falls, VA; granddaughter (4<sup>th</sup> grandchild) of **Ronald and Mary**

**Jane Van Voorhis** of The Villages, FL; and grandniece of **Roy and Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall** of Erie, PA.

**Bret Voorhees**, Bureau Chief of Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, was helpful in assessing the Iowa flooding earlier in 2008.

**Pat Voorhis** personally took over management (in 2008) of his Starlite Hotel in Erie, Pa. He also owns an automotive business in nearby Greene Township.

**J. S. Voorhees & Co.** Hardware Store (owned by **J. S. Voorhees**, **J. A. Driscoll**, and **J. L. Voorhees, Jr.**),

that was in Baldwinsville, Onondaga Co., NY, ran the following poetic ad in 1902.

"In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love" is a saying very old, and very true; and, if by chance this strikes you, and you think of keeping house, then we've a word to say young man to you.

We'd like to have you just step in  
and glance around our stock.  
Its equal you can't find, we know,  
in many and many a block.  
We picked it out with greatest care,  
you need not be afraid,  
For daintiness, and service too,  
'twill please most any maid.  
You'll want your house all clean and bright,  
with decorations quaint.  
To fix it up to suit your bride,  
we'll furnish you the paint.  
We'll put you in a kitchen stove,  
with every fixture too,  
And guarantee to please the girl  
who is going to cook for you.  
We've knives and forks and carving sets,  
spoons and all such fixtures,  
Coffee pots, cream freezers, tacks,  
wire to hang your pictures.

We'll put you in a furnace,  
or a lantern, flat irons, too,  
A parlor stove, a wash machine,  
all this, and more we'll do.  
We'll sell you flower seeds or grass,  
Timothy\* or clover, (\*a type of hay)  
Peas and beans and corn enough  
to plant your farm all over.  
We've plows and hoes and harrows too,  
rakes and spades and axes,  
Everything to till your ground,  
and help you pay your taxes.  
But, as our space is limited  
we can't enumerate  
The things we have, which we feel sure  
will please you and your mate.  
So we would ask that you step in,  
and see our stock and, more,  
The courteous treatment you will find  
at the Voorhees Hardware Store.

### **Rutgers University Receives Voorhees Portraits in a Memorial Service, Oct 18, 1936**

This presentation, with 200 attendees, was a formal affair including an organist, choir, ushers and university officials. It was given by the Van Voorhees Association. Dr. Oscar M. Voorhees, president of the VVA gave the speech concerning portraits of **Ralph**

**Voorhees**, **Garret Voorhees** and **Sarah Whitaker Voorhees**. Former Rutgers University president, Dr. Wm. H.S. Demarest\* spoke on **Foster M. Voorhees**.  
\*Demarest, NJ is named after his Dutch family. Your editor lived in Demarest during WWII.

**Garret Voorhees**, born in 1784, was a 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin of Commander **Ralph Voorhees** and great-great-grandson of both **Minne Van Voorhees** and Antie

Wyckoff. He married Sarah Whitaker, who was the daughter of Nathaniel Whitaker of Bernards Twp. in Somerset Co., NJ.

## Nieuws van Verwanten/News of Cousins: Rutgers Receives 4 Voorhees Portraits continued

**Foster McGowan Voorhees**, son of **Nathaniel W. Voorhees** and Naomi Leigh, was born in 1856. He was a member of the Rutgers class of 1876, Phi Beta Kappa, the Philosophian Society and Delta Upsilon fraternity. He became a lawyer with a practice in Elizabeth, NJ. Here in 1888 he was elected assemblyman from Union Co. He was a senator from 1894 to

**Ralph Voorhees** (pictured), a descendant of **John Voorhees** and Mary Mount, was born in New Brunswick, NJ in 1772. He entered the U.S. Navy early in 1812 and saw action on several ships. In 1815 he was captured; however, he and his crewmates were exchanged shortly thereafter when the war ended. He continued to serve and was promoted sev-



1898 when he received an LL.D degree conferred by Rutgers University. In 1899 he became governor of NJ. He also received LL.D. from Princeton University in 1901. He became, as governor, ex-officio trustee of Rutgers until the end of his governorship and then he was a full trustee until his death in 1927.

eral times. In 1836 he became Master Commandant. While in New Haven, Conn. in 1839 he met and married Harriet Ingersoll, sister of a naval officer and daughter of Judge Johathan Ingersoll. In 1840 as Commander of the *Preble*, he was sent to the Mediterranean Sea where he acquired a fever leading to his death in 1842 in Smyrna.

**Reference:** *The Daily Home News* of New Brunswick, NJ dated Monday, Oct. 19, 1936

### In Memoriam

**Rev. Arthur Morten Vorhes**, son of **Carl A. and Mable (nee Lee) Vorhes**, was born Feb.12, 1924 in Milwaukee and died at age 84 on Sun., 13 Apr. 2008 in Eau Claire, WI. His youth was spent in Wisconsin and Iowa. In 1946 he graduated from St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN and began internship. On 12 June 1948 he married Barbara Jean Quandahl, who was a fellow student at St. Olaf College. Ordained in 1950 after graduating from Luther Theological Seminary, in St. Paul, MN, he



served as pastor in numerous Lutheran churches. He was Executive Director of Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp in Iowa in 1988 when he retired to Eau Claire,

WI and volunteered in the Luther Hospital Step Force program. He also traveled to Israel, Norway and Holland, plus making mission trips to Poland & Slovakia. In 1993 he and Barbara visited Hees. Barbara says he enjoyed reading the *Nieuwsbrief*.

He is survived by **Barbara J. Quandahl Vorhes** (his wife); 4 children: **Rev. Peter Arthur Vorhes** and wife Liz of Calumet, MI; **Ruth Naomi Piper** in Perryville, MO, **Stephen Lee Vorhes** in Eugene, Ore.; **Mary Elizabeth Vorhes** in the Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN area; 4 grandchildren: **Erik Vorhes** and wife, Erica Schemper Vorhes; **Kirstin Vorhes**, **Richard Piper** and wife Melissa; and **Roman Piper** and wife Rachel; and 1 great-granddaughter: **Zora Jean Schemper Vorhes**.

Burial was in Ames Municipal Cemetery, Iowa.

### *Psalm 23 (23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm in Dutch)*

*De Heer is mijn herder, niets kom ik tekort; Hij laat mij weiden op groene velden.*

*Hij brengt mij aan water, waar ik kan rusten, Hij geeft mij weer frisse moed.*

*Mijn schreden leidt Hij langs rechte paden omwille van zijn Naam.*

*Al voert mijn weg door donkere kloven, ik vrees geen onheil waar Gij mij leidt.*

*Uw stok en uw herderstaf geven mij moed en vertrouwen.*

*Gij nodigt mij aan uw tafel tot ergernis van mijn bestrijders.*

*Met olie zalft Gij mijn hoofd, mijn beker is overvol.*

*Voorspoed en zegen verlaten mij nooit, elke dag van mijn leven.*

*Het huis van de Heer zal mijn woning zijn voor alle komende tijden.*



## James Leslie Voorhees, Jr. Never Served in the Civil War by Robert F. Voorhees

I have often wondered why James Leslie Voorhees Jr. did not serve in the Civil War. Probably the main reasons involve his family situation. He was born in the Whig Hill manor house in Plainville, Town of Lysander, Onondaga Co., NY on 1 Dec. 1831. He received his early education in his father's home (Whig Hill) where a teacher was employed for the purpose. Later he probably had locally available schooling in Plainville and then attended the Munro Collegiate Institute in Elbridge, Onondaga Co., NY, thus becoming the first member of his family line to attend college. On 1 Feb. 1854 he married Parna Eleanor Schenck, daughter of John Schenck and Perlina Sullivan. After the marriage, the couple lived at his farm at Jack's Reefs, Onondaga Co., NY. A 1<sup>st</sup> cousin, Henry Voorhees (1800-1887) of Canajoharie, Montgomery Co., NY held a 1<sup>st</sup> mortgage on the farm. Nora, as Parna was called, had four children—Martha Northrup Voorhees born 3 Oct. 1854, John Schenck Voorhees born 11 Aug. 1856, James Hubble Voorhees born 23 Dec 1860, and Henry Peter Voorhees born 1 Dec. 1861. At some point, probably around 1860 or 61, James and Nora and family moved from the farm to a house in Plainville. James never did enjoy farming and may have hired a tenant farmer to run his farm. Another possible reason for the move to Plainville could have been that Nora's health was beginning to fail and she wanted to be closer to her family and James's family. Nora died of consumption (tuberculosis) on 17 June 1865 at the age of 32.

The state of NY was able to fill Civil War manpower quotas through volunteers through 1862 and into early 1863. In 1863 a draft was put into effect starting in New York City and one result was the commencement of the New York City draft riot on 13 July 1863. In mid 1863 James Voorhees was taking care of a sick wife and caring for four children aged



9, 7, 3, and 2. James was age 31 in mid 1863. Age 31 might have been considered "old" for Civil War duty—over 75% of the 400,000 men from New York State who were inducted into Civil War service were 30 years of age or younger. The arithmetic average inductee age in NY was 25 years and 8 months. It was a young man's war—the largest NY inductee age group was age 21 (11%), followed by age 18 (10.8%), age 19 (9%), age 22 (7.5%), age 23 (6.3%), and age 20 (6.2%). Thus over 50% of the NY inductees were ages 18 through 23.

Of the 250,000 Union (all Union states) men ages 18 to 35 that were drafted in 1863 and 1864 only 6% actually served in the war. 94% avoided service by paying commutation (typically \$300) or hiring a substitute or simply not showing up. In 1864 counties, such as Onondaga, were paying volunteers bounties of as much as \$1000. The first bounties paid in 1862 were \$50 and gradually increased through the war. Congress did anticipate public indignation against the draft and left many opportunities of evasion open to the draft aged man. The underlying purpose of the Civil War draft was to act as a threat and spur volunteering rather than functioning as an end in itself. Every community had the opportunity to raise its quota and thus entirely avoid the draft. Almost all of the men that fought in the Civil War were volunteers, an amazing display of patriotism.

On page 85 of the 1878 *History of Onondaga Co., NY* by Professor W.W. Clayton is this paragraph: "Thus it will be seen that, besides the filling of the complete regiments made up from Onondaga County, recruiting was going on briskly here from the beginning to the end of the war. Indeed, it began before the war broke out, and continued so long as a man was needed to complete the last great struggle with the Rebellion in front of Richmond in 1865. We have no means of determining the exact number of men furnished to the Government, first and last, by Onondaga Co., but the aggregate was more than 10,000 men. Onondaga Co. raised about 1,000 men over and above her quota."

Thus it is likely that there never was a Civil War draft in Onondaga Co. James Leslie Voorhees Jr. probably never had to face a draft. My guess is that his friends and neighbors were understanding of his personal situation and did not put pressure on him to join the war effort.



### Postscripts

James Leslie Voorhees, Jr. married secondly Sarah Catherine Bradt (photo) on 10 April 1867. They had 6 children, giving James a total of 10 children. Of these 10 children, 4 died young, 3 never married, and 2 married and had no children. One of the 3 children who never married was Lesley Eleanora Voorhees, who spent many of her 100 years doing genealogy. (She died in 1970.) James' two wives were his own cousins. After their marriage, James and Sarah moved to Baldwinsville,



#### Bibliography:

*New York in the War of the Rebellion, 1861 to 1865* compiled by Frederick Phisterer, Albany, Weed, Parsons and Company, 1890

*History of Onondaga Co., NY* by Professor W.W. Clayton, Published by D. Mason & Co., Syracuse, NY, 1878

[WWW.civilwarhome.com/conscription.htm](http://WWW.civilwarhome.com/conscription.htm) Conscription (Military Draft) in the Civil War

Voorhees Genealogy Books by Flo Christoph

Onondaga Co., NY and he operated a hardware business for the rest of his working years. He kept his farm. It was run by tenants for a number of years and then, for more than 30 years, by Martha Voorhees, one of James' unmarried daughters.

Onondaga Co., a strong supporter of Abraham Lincoln in the election of 1860, had been a conspicuous center of Abolitionism (with its headquarters in Syracuse). The war was expected; the abolition of slavery, as one of its consequences, was hoped for.

Of the NY men enlisting in the Civil War, about 70% enlisted for a 3 year period of service.

About 400,000 men (or 21% of the total male population) of the state of NY served in the Civil War. Of these 53,000 men (or 13.25%) died in the Civil War.

### Erroneous Abraham by Robert F. Voorhees

(The 1<sup>st</sup> part of this article provides background for the 2<sup>nd</sup> part.)

#### Steven Coerts (Coerte/Coerten) Van Voorhees

**Steven**, born in 1600 at the farm of Voorhees in Drenthe Province, the Netherlands, emigrated\* in 1660 with his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife (Willemtie), children (except for Marchien), and son-in-law Jan Kiers. He settled in Nieuw Amersfoort\*\* on Long Island. He died on 16 Feb. 1684.

**Editor's Notes:** \*From 1600 to circa 1650, Drenthe peasants had expanded their agriculture and increased their prosperity; however, very few owned any land whatsoever. Rents and taxes were set without any regard for the weather and, therefore, crop returns. In other words, they were still very close to a subsistence level. As a younger son, **Steven** would not inherit his father's property rights – i.e., only the right to rent his father's farm: this privilege went to his

older brother. **Steven**, by emigrating, got the opportunity to own property. He soon acquired a house and land and set up his own business. Thus, he became a very successful businessman – something he never could have achieved in the Netherlands.

\*\*Nieuw Amersfoort, situated at the crossroads of two Indian trails (where the original Indian village of Kaskachague stood), was in a flat wooded area called Vlackebos. (*Vlak* or *vlake* means *flat* and *bos* means *woods* or *bushes*.) After the British took over in 1663-1664, the town's name was changed to Flatland (the English translation of the Dutch term, *Vlackebos*). In 2009 Amersfoort in the Netherlands will celebrate its 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### The 4 Children of Steven Coerts Van Voorhees and his 1<sup>st</sup> wife, Aeltje Wessels

**Coert (Koert) Stevense(n)**, born 1638 in the Netherlands and still alive 20 June 1699 (unknown death date), married (date unknown) Marretje Gerretse Van Couvenhoven (baptized 10 April 1644

at New Amsterdam and died between 1702 and 1709).

**Wessel**, baptized 25 Sept. 1640 in the Netherlands, was buried there on 14 Jan. 1641.

## Erroneous Abraham continued

**Marchien (Merghin) Stevense**, born circa 1640 in the Netherlands and died there (possibly 28 Oct. 1702), didn't emigrate with her family. She married Roelof Oostinge on 14 Dec. 1664. She may have had a 2<sup>nd</sup> husband named R Emmelt Willemse.

**Hendrickje Stevens(e) (#1)**, born circa 1640 in the

### The 6 Children of Steven Coerts and his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Willemtie Roelofs Seuberige

**Lucas Stevense**, (born about 1650 in the Netherlands and died sometime after 28 Dec. 1724) first married Catherine Hansen. He married his second wife, Jannetje Minnes, on 26 Jan. 1689. Lucas did not marry a third time, as some thought (i.e., to Catherine Van Dyck). Lucas should not be confused with Lucas Stevensen, a member of the Dutch Reformed Church of NYC at that time.

**Jan Stevense (Stevenson)** was born in the Netherlands. His death date is unknown; however, his Will is dated 3 Jan. 1723 and was probated 20 Nov. 1735. Jan first married Cornelia Reiniers Wizzelpenning on 17 Mar. 1678. About 1681 Jan married his second wife, Femsnetje Aukes (baptized 12 Mar. 1662 at Brooklyn).

**Albert Stevense** (born in the Netherlands and died after 14 May 1727) on 24 Apr. 1681 married Helletje Reiniers Wizzelpenning, sister of Cornelia (wife of his brother Jan). Helletje died about 1691, and Albert

The basic details of this account of the family group of the immigrant, **Steven Coerts**, were contributed by Manning W. Voorhees to be published in the *New Netherlands Connections*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 1996.

Note that our above immigrant ancestor, **Steven Coerts**, had 4 sons -- (1) Coert, (2) Lucas, (3) Jan, and (4) Albert. When we speak about "Four Lines," we are referring to the descendants of these 4 sons.

It is interesting to note that Elias W. Van Voorhis, author of the landmark 1888, 725-page book, *A Genealogy of the Van Voorhees Family in America* (ibid. pg. 24), thought that Steven Coerts had not 4 but 5 sons, including Abraham Stevense Van Voorhees. For approximately the next 60 years it was thought that Steven Coerts had 5 sons. In 1932 after the Van Voorhees Association was formed, they continued to list 5 sons. In the early days of the Van Voorhees Association it was a very common practice

Netherlands (unknown death date -- probably before her husband), married Jan Kiers (Kiersen/Kierz) in the Netherlands. They emigrated with her family. His Will, dated 4 August 1705, was probated 3 Sept. 1705.

later married his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Elena Vander Schure (baptized 23 Oct. 1667 in New Amsterdam).

**Aeltje Stevense** (born in the Netherlands) married Barent Jurjansen Ryder, who emigrated to New Amsterdam in 1658 and was still alive on 7 Oct. 1707.

**Jannetje (Jantje) Stevense** (born in the Netherlands) first married Jan Martense Schenck, who emigrated from the Netherlands in 1650. Schenck's Will (dated 28 Jan. 1688-1689) was proved 5 July 1694. Jannetje was married a second time on 29 Feb. 1690 to Alexander Simpson. Her death date is unknown, but it was prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage of her 2<sup>nd</sup> husband (Simpson) on 19 Sept. 1709.

**Hendrickje Stevense (#2)** (There are 2 daughters born in the Netherlands and named Hendrickje!) married circa 1676 Albert Albertsz Terhuyn (baptized 13 Aug. 1651 at Flatbush), who died between 7 Feb. 1707-1708 and 20 Sept. 1709. Hendrickje died in 1692 or 1693, when her husband married again.

to assign an Executive Committee member to each of the family lines. The Abraham Line in 1938 was represented by Mrs. A. Longstreet Stillwell of Somerville, NJ.

We do not know exactly when the Van Voorhees Association realized that there was **no son named Abraham**. Flo Christoph reports that Edward L.N. Voorhees of Sierre Madre, CA researched this Line in 1951 and he concluded there was **no son named Abraham**. In the 1984 Van Voorhees Association's book, *The Van Voorhees Family, the First Four Generations, Volume 1* (Albert L. Stokes, genealogist), there is **no Abraham** listed. Flo Christoph explains this mistake in detail on pages 825 and 826 in the year 2000 book, *The Van Voorhees Family in America, the First Six Generations*. (See the Book Order Form on page 11 to purchase your copy.)

***Bij een val men leren lopen met veiligheid.***  
(By a fall men learn to walk with safety.)

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