

Announcing 2009 Van Voorhees Family Reunion Plans

The Van Voorhees Association is pleased to announce 2009 Voorhees Family Reunion plans. Please save Oct 2 and 3, 2009. The title of this reunion will be the Van Voorhees Association Henry Hudson 400 Celebration Reunion. The venue will be Albany, New York and the headquarters hotel will be the downtown Albany Hampton Inn. We hope that the program will be sufficiently powerful to attract our members from all across the country. We are a national organization with members in almost every state and more members in California than any other state.

This reunion is billed as a two and a half day event (Oct 1, 2, 3) however it is designed such that members can arrive Friday afternoon Oct 2 and depart Sunday Oct 4 or members can arrive Wednesday Sept 30 (or even earlier). The official opening activity will be Thursday evening. There is a lot to do in and around Albany. Also, this reunion is designed such that you will not necessarily need a car. Trolley bus transportation will be provided to and from the Hampton Inn to reunion functions and activities (from Thursday evening thru Saturday evening). Like any city environment, it's hard to find parking.

The Van Voorhees family dinner and business meeting will be at the Hampton Inn Friday evening Oct 2. It will be catered by Yono's Restaurant (the restaurant in the Hampton Inn). We anticipate an outstanding dinner. The Blauvelt Family held their 82nd annual reunion on Sept 18, 2008 at the Hampton Inn and Yono's catered their dinner. George Blauvelt told me it was the best reunion dinner they had in years.

The unique feature of this reunion is that the Albany based New Netherland Institute (www.nnp.org) will be holding their annual (since 1979) "Rensselaerswijck Seminar" at the same time and we will participate with them in most if not all of their functions. They have invited other Dutch family associations such as ours to participate and we can look forward to meeting some of these people. The "Rensselaerswijck Seminar" headquarters hotel will be the same Hampton Inn that we are using.

The tentative program (subject to change) will start with a 5 pm to 8 pm reception Thursday Oct 1 which will include a lecture by noted historian\author. Friday Oct 2 will begin with 4 presen-

tations, 10 am to 3 pm, followed by a tour of the replica of Henry Hudson's ship, Half Moon. Saturday will begin with 4 presentations, 10 am to 3 pm, followed by a tour of the New York State Museum. The New York State Museum is planning a special Henry Hudson exhibit. This will be followed Saturday evening with a 5 pm to 8:30 pm reception and New Netherland Dinner (we will have our own Van Voorhees section of the dinning room). Details will follow in a subsequent Newsletter and on our web site. Each Van Voorhees Association member attending will receive a unique neck wallet badge holder so we can be identified and get to know each other.

My wife and I plan to arrive at the Hampton Inn Wednesday afternoon Sept 30. On Thursday morning Oct 1 we plan to start at the Visitor's center and view a film—a presentation and exhibit on the early Dutch settlers in Rensselaerwyck and then tour Albany on the Albany Aqua Duck (www.albanyaquaducks.com) which is a land and river tour. The duck tour is based at the Visitor's Center and is a 5 min walk from the Hampton Inn. In the afternoon we plan to visit the Albany Institute of History & Art which is planning a special Henry Hudson exhibit. Also in the afternoon we hope to visit First Church in Albany (www.firstchurchinalbany.org), the oldest church in upstate New York and the 2nd oldest church in New York State. This church, a Dutch Reform Church, was established in 1642 in what was then called Rensselaerswyck, the first permanent settlement to support the fur trading post at Fort Orange (now known as Albany). The present church building, built in 1798, is across the street from our Hampton Inn. The hour glass and pulpit at this church were carved in 1650 and shipped to Albany in 1657 along with a weathervane shaped like a rooster. Some of our members will look forward to attending this church Sunday morning Oct 4. I think we will find a number of our people will want to participate in these activities on Thursday so after we get a response from interested parties we can formalize the day with, for example, transportation to the Albany Institute of History & Art (1/2 mile from Hampton Inn).

Hampton Inn & Suites Albany
Downtown
(Please make your own reservations)

Please note that there is more than one Hampton Inn in the Albany area so be sure to get the right one. The street address is 25 Chapel Street, Albany, NY 12210. The phone number is 518-432-7000. We have negotiated a special Van Voorhees Association rate of \$109 per night. Use **Group Code R07**. A hot breakfast is included with the room. For those planning to attend, I would suggest making your room reservation sooner rather than later. We don't want to have anyone disappointed. The hotel only has 165 rooms (I stayed there one night and the rooms are very nice and modern) and I do expect the hotel to be full when we are there. They will have the out of town New Netherland people plus October is "leaf" season in upstate NY and this will bring people in. We do have a block of rooms reserved but we are just guessing at how many rooms we will need and we will have to release all our rooms 30 days before the reunion. There are always those annoying extra charges such as tax on the room (\$15.26 per day) and if you have a car, parking behind the hotel, \$13.50 per day (come and go as you please). Since this is a downtown hotel there is no free parking. I understand that cab fare to and from the Albany Airport is \$20 to \$30 each way depending on the cab company selected.

The downtown Hampton Inn is very well located for this reunion. It is 0.7 mile from the New York State Library and Museum. It is 0.5 mile from the Albany Institute of History & Art. It is 0.4 mile from the River Front and the Half Moon ship. It is 0.3 mile to the New York State Capitol Building. It is 0.2 mile to Quackenbush Square, Quackenbush House, and the Albany Visitors center. It is 0.4 mile to the Ten Broeck Mansion. It is 1 mile to the Schuyler Mansion. It is across the street from the First Church. The Quackenbush House, ca 1730, is the oldest existing structure in the City of Albany. It is considered to be one of the finest remaining examples of Dutch urban architecture in the US. It is now an expensive restaurant. Schuyler Mansion, ca 1763, was home to Philip J. Schuyler, the renowned Revolutionary War General and US Senator (we have 35 Schuyler's in our Van Voorhees database). He and his wife, Catherine Van Rensselaer, descended from affluent and powerful Dutch families. The wedding of Elizabeth Schuyler to Alexander Hamilton took place in the house in 1780. The Ten Broeck Mansion was built in 1797

for General Abraham Ten Broeck and his wife Elizabeth Van Rensselaer. In 1777, as a brigadier General, he commanded the New York Militia at the famous Battle of Saratoga. It is now home to the Albany County Historical Association. The Half Moon ship is a full-size replica of Henry Hudson's 17th century vessel. It was constructed in Albany in 1988-1989 in preparation for the 2009 anniversary celebration.

Reunion Communications

Judith Van Voorhis and Flo Christoph live in the Albany area and I'm sure will be able to answer any questions you might have relating to the area. I will also be happy to field any questions. I would like to start an email list of members planning to attend the reunion. As your plans firm up, please send me your plans and home mailing address in an email with the subject line: Van Voorhees Association Henry Hudson 400 Celebration Reunion and I will maintain a list until after the reunion. Those without email please drop me a note at 4100 Brambletye Drive, Greensboro, NC 27407.

Additional Reunion Information

Please get into the habit of checking our website, www.vanvoorhees.org, on a regular basis. Ruth Yos, our webmaster, is doing a wonderful job with our website and she plans to have current reunion information on the website as it comes available. Please look for updated reunion information in the Spring 2009 Nieuwsbrief. The New Netherland Institute will have information on their website, www.nnp.org, on the 32nd Rensselaerswijck Seminar. As we move thru 2009, those planning to attend will be asked to register with both the Van Voorhees Association and the New Netherland Institute. Registration with the Van Voorhees Association will cover our Friday night dinner. Registration with the New Netherland Institute will cover Thursday night reception, Friday presentations, Saturday presentations, and Saturday night dinner. You will be able to pick and choose which of these you want to attend but we hope to see you at all of them. Transportation will be included. Final speakers and topics will be announced later but

we know that one speaker will be our own Florence Christoph (Flo has been the Van Voorhees Association Genealogist for more than 15 years). Flo's talk is not yet titled but will cover genealogy in America including examples taken from Van Voorhees Association work. Peter Christoph, Flo's husband, will speak on Dutch manors along the Hudson River. Rensselaerswijck was the most successful Dutch manor. Another speaker will be Dr. Jan Folkers. Dr. Folkers lives in the Netherlands and will travel to Albany to attend the meeting. His topic is expected to be Genealogy in the Netherlands. Dr. Folkers is well known to us as he conducted and managed research for our book: "Through a Dutch Door, 17th Century Origins of the Van Voorhees Family". Two sections in this book were authored by Dr. Folkers. Manning will tell you that "Dutch Door" never would have happened except for Jan Folkerts. Charley Gehring recommended Jan to us. Note: Russell Shorto, author of "The Island at the Center of the World": the Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan & the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America, is not available as a speaker because he is now living in Amsterdam, Holland.

New Netherland Institute and New Netherland Project

a 28 page booklet titled: "Dutch ReNew Netherland Institute has a range of corporate purposes and activities (see www.nnp.org). Since 1979 they have sponsored the annual Rensselaerswijck Seminar. One of the main purposes is to support the New Netherland Project. The New Netherland Institute and the New Netherland Project have offices together in the New York State Library. The New Netherland Project has been transcribing, translating, and publishing the official 17th-century Dutch colonial documents since 1974. About 65% of more than 12,000 pages held by the New York State Library and the New York State Archives have been translated and 18 volumes of the New Netherland Documents Series have been published. When completed, the series will consist of 24 volumes of official manuscripts, edited, annotated, and indexed for use by researchers. In addition, the Project publishes translations of related volumes of records of local governments and institutions. The

New Netherland Institute recently published *naisance: The Story of the New Netherland Project*". This booklet is available free with only a \$5.00 shipping charge from www.nnp.org/shop. It is a very interesting story. Peter Christoph, mentioned above, was, in the early 1970's, curator of historical manuscripts at the New York State Library. The association of Peter Christoph and Dr. Charles Gehring was the first step that led to the establishment, in Sept 1974, of the New Netherland Project, under the sponsorship of the New York State Library and the Holland Society of New York, and with Dr. Gehring as translator and editor of New York Colonial documents. Dr. Gehring continues today as Project Director. Peter and Flo Christoph co-edited seven volumes of New York English records from the 1660's which were originally part of the New Netherland Project.

In celebration of the Henry Hudson Quadricentennial in 2009 the New Netherland Institute has embarked on a four-part project. The first part is a traveling exhibition, called "Light on New Netherland" covering 17th century Dutch in the New World, from Connecticut to Delaware, including Beverwijck and New Amsterdam, to be shown throughout the former New Netherland area and beyond, ultimately becoming a part of the permanent exhibit of New York City's New Amsterdam History Center. This traveling exhibition will not be in Albany when we have our reunion in Oct 2009. The second part is a documentary 30 min DVD focusing on the New Netherland Project and its connection to modern times. The title of the DVD will be "Illuminating New York's Dutch Past" and it will be available for sale at www.nnp.org/shop in the first part of 2009. The third part, called "Discovery and Invention: The Worlds of Henry Hudson" is an exhibit to be developed by the Museum of the City of New York in co-sponsorship with the New Netherland Institute. The fourth part is a history/exhibit book that will focus on the Dutch-American heritage. The introduction will be written by Russell Shorto. This

Book will be available for sale mid 2009 at www.nnp.org/shop.

Van Voorhees Association Collection

The Van Voorhees Association Collection is now contained in about 25 file boxes located in Niskayuna (suburb of Albany), NY in Judith Van Voorhis' home. It contains copies of bible records, deeds, wills, census records, cemetery records, family group sheets, correspondence files, photographs, journals, obituaries, books, and the manuscripts of Oscar Voorhees (founder of the Van Voorhees Association in 1932), Harold Hazelton, Donald Sinclair, and Albert Stokes (all past Van Voorhees Association genealogists). It is a virtual library of Voorhees information. Each folder and file box is labeled. For the past 15 years Flo and Judith have been going thru these files making sure that all the information contained in them is entered into our Master Genealogist database. The time has arrived when we need to get these records to a library and we have settled on the New York State Library in Albany. Flo and I met with Paul Mercer head of the archives at this library and they are very interested in having our collection. They will provide, with their own truck and crew, shipping of the documents. After receiving the file boxes they will, over several years, index the collection and make the index available on line. Flo and Judith will manage this transfer. It seems altogether fitting for the official 17th-century Dutch colonial documents and the Van Voorhees Collection to be housed in the same building. The New York State Library already has the original Van Voorhees letters which were translated and published in our book, "Through a Dutch Door".

Florence Christoph

We are very pleased to announce that Flo Christoph will continue as the Van Voorhees Association genealogist in 2009 and it will be her 16th year as our genealogist. We deeply appreciate her service.

The Onrust Project, 2006-2009, Building the Replica of New York's First Ship of 1614

Under the auspices of New Netherland Routes, Inc., (NNR), a non-profit organization dedicated to rediscovering New York's historic byways, The Onrust Project is seeking to reconstruct Adriaen Block's ship, the Onrust (1614), the first decked sailing vessel built by

Europeans in the New World. It is America's first yacht. And yes Block Island (south of Rhode Island) is named after Adriaen Block. Using authentic 17th century shipbuilding techniques, only recently re-discovered, construction of this 50 foot yacht started Fall of 2006 on the south bank of the Mohawk River at the well-known Mabee Farm Historic Site (The Mabee House is 300 years old and the oldest house still standing in the Mohawk Valley), of the Schenectady County Historical Society, in Rotterdam Junction, NY. The Onrust is designed by Gerald de Weerd, of the Netherlands, an internationally recognized expert on 17th century Dutch shipbuilding.

The original Onrust was launched into Upper New York Bay in April 1614. The ship explored the northeastern coastal areas and rivers, sailed through the treacherous passage in the East River, explored the harbors of Long Island and Connecticut discovering the Housatonic and Thames Rivers, and sailed up the Connecticut River past the site of Hartford, CT. The Onrust continued on to Narragansett and Buzzards Bays, and Cape Cod. On the basis of this voyage, the Dutch laid claim to the territory of New Netherland.

I visited the Onrust at Mabee Farm in Oct of 2008. It looked to me to be about 80% complete at the time. It is scheduled to be completed for New York's 2009 Quadricentennial Celebration of Henry Hudson's 1609 voyage. A sailing schedule has not been released however they do have a website, www.theonrust.com, where they can keep people posted.

New Netherland Routes, Inc. was organized to promote the study and preservation of New York's many historic transportation routes and their crucial role in our nation's development. These routes include Native American trails, early European trails, wagon routes, waterways, early paved roads and turnpikes. As an important part of its mission, New Netherland Routes creates replicas and scale models of historic transportation vehicles and associated equipment and encourages preservation of related artifacts.

Recreating Fort Orange

The City of Albany and the State of New York have been planning to recreate Dutch Colonial Fort

Orange on the banks of the Hudson River. If this comes to pass, the Half Moon would get a permanent home. We are interested in learning the status of this project. A tentative plan has been outlined in which 12 to 15 acres next to Albany's port would be developed into a living history museum, complete with staff in period costume, a shipyard, demonstrations of Dutch colonial-era trades, and pastures with livestock. Artifacts unearthed during area construction projects and archeological studies would be put on display as well.

History of Albany

The city of Albany is located in the Hudson River Valley about 150 miles north of New York City in the state of New York. The community was settled in 1648 but was preceded by fur-trading operations that began in 1614, shortly after Henry Hudson discovered the river that bears his name in 1609. The Dutch first knew the area as Maykans Landt, or "land of the Mahicans," the Algonquin speaking Native Americans who occupied the Hudson Valley prior to the Europeans. A trading post was established at Fort Orange in 1624 prior to the founding of a permanent community called the Fuyck in 1648. Fuyck became the city of Albany in 1686. During the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, Albany grew into one of the most important trade, transportation, and military regions in North America. The Erie Canal was finished in 1825. The Mohawk & Hudson Railroad, opened between Albany and Schenectady in 1831, was the first railroad in New York State. In 1797, Albany became the permanent capital of New York State and went on to become a major political center, helping shape New York's and the nation's growth and prosperity. Thurlow Weed, 1797-1882, was a New York political boss, operating from Albany. Weed was a masterful political organizer and became arguably the most powerful man in New York for at least a decade. He controlled the Whig Party totally. While he never held national office himself, he was the principal political advisor to the prominent New York (Auburn) politician William H. Seward (governor of New York State in 1838 and 1840) and was instrumental in the presidential nominations of William Henry Harrison (1840), Henry Clay (1844), Zachary Taylor (1848), Winfield Scott (1852), John Charles Fremont (1856), and Abraham Lincoln (1860). Harrison, Taylor, and

Lincoln became president. There were four Whig Presidents. Harrison and Taylor were the only Whigs to be elected President. John Tyler was a Whig and he became the 10th President after William Henry Harrison died in office. Millard Fillmore was a Whig and he became the 13th President after Zachary Taylor died in office. Like Seward, Weed abandoned the Whig party in the late 1850's and became a Republican. Weed supported Seward and then Lincoln for the nomination in 1860. Lincoln appointed Seward Secretary of State in 1861 and he served until 1869 (during his term he acquired Alaska from the Russians). Martin Van Buren was governor of New York in 1829 and was the first Dutch President of the US, from 1837 to 1841. Theodore Roosevelt, was governor of New York from 1898 to 1900 and the 2nd Dutch President, from 1901 to 1909. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was governor of New York in 1928 and 1930 and the 3rd Dutch President, from 1933 to 1945. Van Buren and Theodore Roosevelt were members of the Dutch Reform Church (FDR was an Episcopalian). Theodore Roosevelt and FDR were Masons. There is no evidence that Van Buren was a mason.

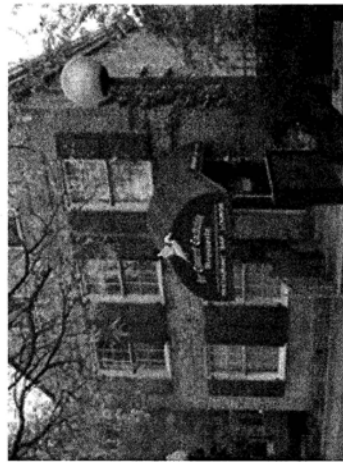
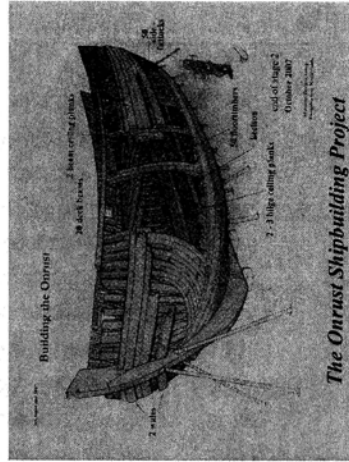
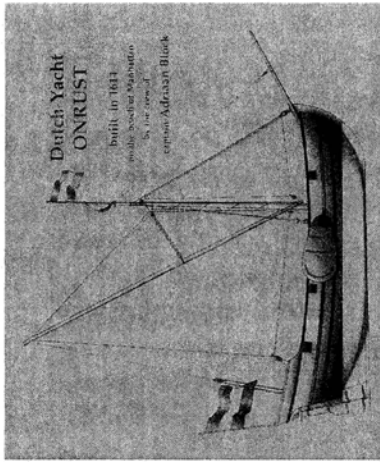


Robert F. Voorhees

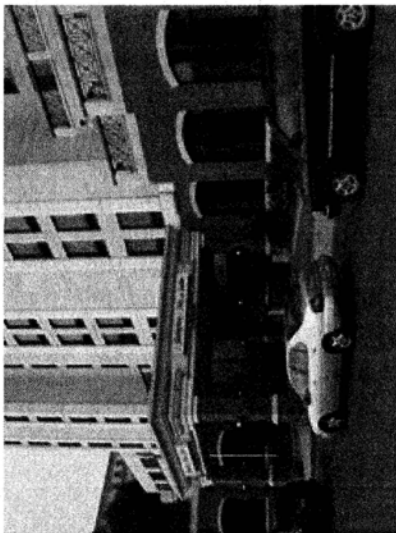
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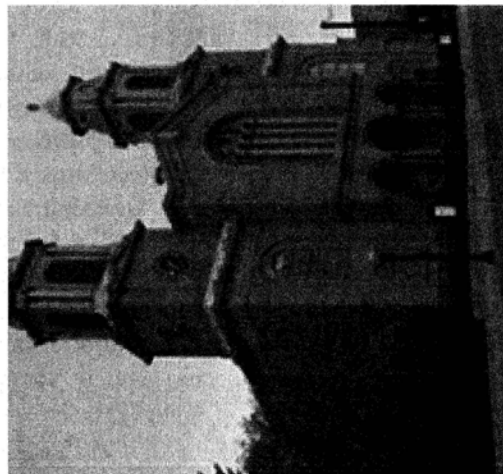
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