



VAN VOORHEES

Volume 27 Number 1 **NIEUWSBRIEF** Spring 2010

A Publication of the Van Voorhees Association, Organized in 1932
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Happy 350th Birthday to Us!

Steven Coerts Van Voorhees arrived in Nieuw Amsterdam on *De Bonte Koe* in 1660. The family has had another long journey since then – economically and geographically. We have spread into every state.

In almost all of them there is a town of Voorhees or Van Voorhis (or 1 of the other spellings) to prove it. In the next several issues of the *Nieuwsbrief* I hope to feature some of their stories.

The time and place for the Fall Executive Committee Meeting has not yet been determined.

There will not be a Reunion this year. We are still working on extensive plans for the next Reunion.

Starting in the Fall *Nieuwsbrief* is a series of profiles of prominent Cousins of past years.

One of these *might* be Your Ancestor. Perhaps he/she is Your Elder Cousin ... and ... their historic homestead is ... in your present neighborhood!

You'll never know ... *unless* ... you get the next *Nieuwsbrief*.

You won't receive a copy ... *unless* ... you are a member & have paid your dues!

(To learn your dues status, please check the 1st line of your mailing label. If the *mailing label* does not say 2010 or *Life*, we've made a mistake OR your dues for 2010 aren't paid.)

Your Dues are Deductible on your Federal Income Tax form.

2010 dues were due on Jan. 1, 2010. Please Check the DUES FORM on page 19.

We now have available the 1st through the 9th Generations of the Van Voorhees Family in America, starting with Steven Coerts Van Voorhees in 1660.

Our Books and CD include Spouses & In-laws, in almost all cases.

(This additional information is vital when tracing genetic diseases!)

For more details on how to get your copies, see our BOOK ORDER FORM on page 8.

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Group Picture at the October 2009 Reunion in Albany, NY



Seated L-R: Ross T. Dunlop, Florence Christoph, Judith Van Voorhis, Marilyn Voshall, Roy Voshall, Chris Voorhees, Robert T. Voorhees, Harold Van Voorhees **Standing L-R:** Larry Miley, Barbara Voorhees, Richard Lesley Voorhees, Ryan George Mills, Scott Thomas Voorhees, Steve Leavenworth, Jeff Lomax, Sue Mills, Martin Avelsgaard, Paul M. Voorhees, Marie Avelsgaard, Rondy Voorhees, Nancy Oliphant, Janice Bunk, Ed Morgenson, Connie Morgenson, Dr. Lee Crandell Park, Jeanette Heath, Mary W. Park, R. Alan Heath, Charles H. Chicks, Barbara T. Chicks, Paul Vorhies, Kathy Vorhies, Ann Knowles, Jean M. Voorhees, Harry L. Voorhees, Jr., Earl Voorhees, Eva M. Voorhees, Kimberly Walling, David R. Voorhees, Bruce Van Voorhis, Richard A. Quodomine, Helen Voorhees Quodomine, Robert F. Voorhees, Carol B. Sheeley, Lester G. Voorhees, Elizabeth Voorhees, James S. Voorhees, Joanne Bayler **(Back row):** Sydney Cagle, Ted Bayler, Ann Tangeman, Clifford Van Voorhees.

Seated Center: Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall & Dr. Roy E. Voshall, both are wearing Dutch costumes circa 1650-1750. Marilyn's 2-piece dress is golden-brown satin with cream lace (bought in De Nederlands) at the neck. Her jacket with slit arms and small draw-string purse are of rosy-red heavy silk covered in multi-colored floral embroidery. A rosy-red pomander, hanging from her waist on a gold chain, contains perfume (very necessary in an age when few baths were taken). She is wearing an antique gold chain with a medallion plus a string of antique pearls. Her earrings are also antique pearls on a gold background. Both of her rings (right and left hands) are gold, set with amber stones. Roy is wearing a dark brown coat with a cut-patterned leather belt, cream shirt, tan knickers and a brown-suede brimmed hat, on which is a *pin* comprised of a small cluster of feathers, filigree button, and rosy-red bow ('his lady's favor' of Marilyn's jacket material). Both outfits were made by Marilyn.

Reunion 2009 in Albany, NY

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

The Albany Reunion was a huge success! We had cousins coming from 17 states: California, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, S. Carolina, S. Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. They represented 3

Lines – Coert (most numerous), Jan and Lucas. Most attended the New Netherlands Institute Seminar and went on all the tours listed in the *Nieuwsbrief* (Fall 2009); but some chose research at the New York State Library and side trips in the Albany area.

Robert F. Voorhees (Genealogy Chairman) was Master of Ceremonies for the after dinner program. He and



L-R: Judith K. Van Voorhis, Florence Christoph, Robt. F. Voorhees, Scott T. Voorhees, & Peter Christoph

Scott T. Voorhees (President) handed out Awards for Outstanding-Service-Over Many-Years to Manning Voorhees (in absentia), Judith K. Van Voorhis (Vice President), Florence Christoph (Genealogist) and Peter Christoph (Past New Netherlands Director).

Paul M. Voorhees spoke briefly about his unique gate (with the hand-carved Van Voorhees family crest) in front of his home (ibid. Paul M. Voorhees article in this issue of the *Nieuwsbrief*). Marilyn Van Voorhis



Voshall described the Dutch costumes she and her husband, Dr. Roy E. Voshall, were wearing (ibid. Reunion Photo) and the Photo Contest (more details following this article).



There were 2 main speakers after the dinner. Mary W. Park, Directress General for the Society of Holland Dames, gave many details about the Society of Holland Dames. Email her at mwpark@informationconsultancy.com for further information. David William Voorhees, Managing Editor of *de Halve Maen* (journal) and VVA member, talked about the history of *de Halve Maen* journal. To reach him and buy any of his books (listed in



the Fall 2009 *Nieuwsbrief*), email him via the Holland Society at: holsoc@aol.com.

The Photo Contest: WHO is She?

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

No one guessed correctly. Three Van Voorhees names were submitted as possible females.

The photo was of a female Mummy, found in the bogs of our ancestral areas of Ruinen and Hees, and displayed in the Drents Museum at Assen, Drente Province, Netherlands. (There are several more Male Mummies from the same bog on display in this museum.) She was part of a Bog-Mummy Tour of the USA (4 museums from 3 countries). In this tour, only 2 mummies had complete facial/skull reconstruction – this *Yde* girl and a man from Germany.

Her body was thoroughly analyzed using the latest forensic techniques. She was only 16 years old when

she was strangled between 54 BC and 128 AD (discovered via carbon dating) and thrown into the bog. She had blond hair with slight reddish tints and was shown as blue-eyed. CT scans and X-rays showed scoliosis, an abnormal spinal curvature found primarily in girls. Bone sizes indicated a height circa 1.4 meters (54 in. or 4 ft. 6-7 in.) -- about average for that era. Her blood type was A.

When I first saw the Drents Museum mummies, none had forensic reconstruction. For some unknown reason (Instinct? ESP?), however, this girl attracted my attention. At Carnegie Museum (Pittsburgh, PA) I saw her again plus her reconstructed face and skull,

Reunion 2009 in Albany, NY: "The Photo Contest: WHO is She?" continued

and bought the book (listed below). This time the face haunted me ... and I realized she looked like me or enough like me to be a sister (whom I don't have) ... and my 4th cousin, etc. To top it off, I have type-A blood!

From a recent Associated Press article out of New York, I learned (again) about **Mitochondrial DNA**, which is **found only in Females** and **passed down only through the Female line**. Included in *Mitochondrial DNA* are certain *genes* for some rare diseases – a recently discovered phenomena. For more information on *Mitochondrial DNA* and RNA, you can check these 2 websites:

<http://labs.transgenomic.com/tests/mitochondrial/MT-DNA-WGNM.htm> and

<http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/handbook/basics/mtdna>. It is possible for women to submit a sample and see if it matches, in the same way that Bob Voorhees is asking the men to be tested for a Van Voorhees profile; but we do **not** have a program for women at this time.

Previously I have talked to our Ruinen and Hees cousins, and all insist that our family has lived in this area since pre-historic times. (I'm sure many of you recall a *National Geographic* article about an English schoolmaster who volunteered his DNA for a local mummy and found he was definitely related ... prob-

ably a descendant.) At present I don't know of any *Mitochondrial DNA* test on this mummy. That is something I would definitely like to promote. First, however, I need to find Van Voorhees females who look like the mummy. So, please check your photo albums and send me identified pictures (Full Name, Address, Email, Tel. No. if the lady is still alive); so I can get permission to use them. The next step is to contact the Dutch Embassy in Wash., D.C. If I fail to arouse interest there, I plan to proceed by contacting *National Geographic* magazine ... with data for a truly sensational story.

Aside from a rare story, this is ***Very Important*** not only for our family, but also for archeologists and medical history. Medically it can help study the progression of human beings over the ages and possibly trace inheritance of unusual traits and diseases.

. If you did not attend Reunion 2009 to see the photo or need to joggle your memory, you can find it in the following book, which I highly recommend as part of **our** ancient history.

The Mysterious Bog People

edited by C. Bergen, Ph.D.; M.J.L.Th. Nickus, M.A.; & V.T. van Vilsteren, M.A.: 2nd edition c. 2005
Publ.: Waanders Publishers, Zwolle, De Nederlands
ISBN: 90-400-9663-5 &/or NUGI:644

**Notes and Pictures from the 2009 Reunion
& Rensselaerswijck Seminar in Albany, NY (Oct. 2-3, 2009)
by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall**

These people are a few of the very talented speakers we heard at the State Museum and Library in Albany.

Henry B. Hoff, was one of several outstanding speakers at the Rensselaerswijck Seminar. He is editor of the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, and a certified genealogist and Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. His lecture, "Researching Dutch Families in New York and New Jersey,"



included Dutch names and naming practices, marriage policies, godparents and problems one has in this research. He had many helpful tips on Dutch ancestor research, especially multiple spellings of the same name and a check of the often omitted church records.

Russell Shorto gave a talk and signed his book, *The Island at the Center of the World*, for all purchasers. This book is extremely well researched and gives a much different and better view of the New Nether-

lands Dutch than the cartoon images many people see. I highly recommend it for adults and children alike!



Jaap Jacobs (Ph.D., Leiden University), a specialist in Dutch Republic colonial history (1600s and 1700s) published, *New Netherland: a Dutch Colony in Seventeenth Century America*. He was a visiting

professor, via a grant given by the New Netherlands Institute, at the University of Pennsylvania and Cornell University for the 2006-2007 academic year. He still works on projects with Charles T. Gehring.

Charles T. Gehring took over the New Netherlands Project at the request of Peter Christoph, who recognized his unique abilities. There were 100s of boxes with 1000s of papers to read and translate. Add the need for extra careful handling of frail, crumbling original documents and you can see the enormous task. A current foreign language dictionary does not have the *olde* forms. *Olde* handwriting styles vary widely. Standardized spelling did not appear until about 1850. Nieuw Nederlands letters and documents were written in the early 1600s. Having worked with *olde* handwriting and *olde* forms of current European languages



(as an ethnomusicologist and genealogy researcher), I can attest to the truly magnificent job he has done. He worked with Jaap Jacobs, Ph.D., a noted scholar (ibid. below), and Janny Venema, a Dutch linguist who is still working with him in Albany.

A master linguist, he has studied Old Icelandic, Old and Middle High German, Gothic, Danish, Dutch and Afrikaans, Swedish, Old and Middle English, Sanskrit, Hittite, Hebrew, Latin, Italian, Low Sorbian, Greek, French, etc. He earned a prized medal from Queen Beatrice of the Netherlands plus admiration from many scholars. His accomplishments easily could fill a book.

Notes from the Genealogy Committee

by Robert F. Voorhees

Good news! Flo Christoph will continue in 2010 as the Van Voorhees Association genealogist. She has been our genealogist for the past 16 years and we are extremely lucky to have her on our team.

At our Oct. 2009 Reunion in Albany, NY we honored 4 of our Genealogy Committee members for their outstanding contributions to our Association. They are **Manning Voorhees** (past President), **Judith Van Voorhis**, **Flo Christoph** and **Peter Christoph**. Each was presented with a monogrammed leather portfolio. Our Association would not be what it is today without these people. (I want to take this opportunity to thank **Scott Voorhees**, our current President, for his years of service to the Association. Scott has held management positions in the Van Voorhees Association for over 25 years).

Our entire **Van Voorhees Collection** (30 some odd file boxes) is now safely at the New York State Library. They will be indexing the collection, a task I'm sure will take several years. This collection has been at Judith Van Voorhis' home for the past 15 years. Judith and Flo have taken the information in this collection and put it into **our Master Genealogist database** (which now has over 90,000 names).

The Genealogy Committee is busy as always. We never run out of things to do. We continue to try and resolve *unknowns* (Voorhees we cannot connect to the immigrant ancestor). Some of these drive us crazy, to be honest. We get a lot of questions from our membership and we encourage these. We often learn from looking into these questions. Keep in mind that we

can tell you what is in our database on your Line, so let us know of your interest.

Master Genealogist version 8 is in Beta test now and will be coming out later this year. I'm not going to go into the many nice new features in Version 8. The main reason for TMG version 8 is that the Report Writer had to be reworked. The main reason for this is the new 64-bit processors and especially the 64-bit operating systems that support them --- Windows 7 and Vista. In redoing Report Writer, some restrictions currently present were also removed, and some great new features were added.

As an example of a current project we are looking into the Voorhees (all spellings) names in the World War II Army draft records. 8 million men registered and over 400 of these were Voorhees. Virtually all of these men show up in the 1930 census. Well over 200 new names have been added to our database, and we are not finished yet. Years of work are ahead of us if and when we look into other data sources such as World War I draft records, Civil War records, and the Social Security death index. In 2012 we will get the 1940 census data, and we are already thinking about how to attack this fount of information. Census data becomes available 72 years after the census is taken. (As you know, the census is taken every ten years.)

I have already filled out and sent in the 2010 census form. This information will be available to the public in 2082, so I may not be around to use it. From a genealogy standpoint, this 2010 census is a major disappointment. You have to go back to the first census

Notes from the Genealogy Committee continued

in 1790 to find a census providing less genealogy information.

Wholly Genes Software (maker of Master Genealogist software) will be sponsoring their 6th annual genealogy conference and cruise, Sept 18-25, 2010. This year's trip will begin and end in Miami, FL. The ship will be the *Norwegian Epic*, a brand new "F class" ship whose maiden voyage will be 17 July 2010. It is 153,000 tons and holds 5,890 passengers and crew. My wife and I went on the first 4 cruises and enjoyed them very much. We probably will not do this one only because we have so much other tra-

Lesley Eleanora Voorhees (1870-1970, Coert Line) grew up in Baldwinsville, near Syracuse, NY in Onondaga Co., NY. She was one of the first graduates of Belmont Hospital Nursing School in New York City. She did not take to nursing and moved to Washington D.C., where she worked 20 years for the US Census Bureau. She never married.

Lesley Voorhees retired to Baldwinsville in 1920 and spent the next 50 years working on genealogy. She published one book, *The Lesley E. Voorhees Cemetery Records*, covering NW Onondaga Co. When Lesley died, she left her genealogy collection

Donald Arleigh Sinclair (Lucas Line) was born in 1916 and died in 2004. Don Sinclair's great grandmother was **Mary Voris** (TMG # 42102).

Joining after WWII, Don was Vice President of the Van Voorhees Association in the early 1980's and on the Executive Committee for at least a decade. The New Jersey Historical Commission presented its Annual Award Pitcher for 1987 to Don Sinclair. He was widely recognized as an authority on the history of New Jersey. From 1947 until retirement in 1982, Don served as Curator of Special Collections at the

Albert L. Stokes (1909-1994), a retired banker living in Princeton, NJ, was hired in 1975 as genealogist for the Van Voorhees Association. Al continued as our genealogist until shortly before his death. (Florence Christoph became our genealogist in May 1993.)

Genealogy had been Al's hobby since 1928. He was very active in the Genealogical Society of NJ, serving as a Trustee for more than 30 years and as Treasurer starting in 1964. Al held memberships in (1) the NY Genealogical and Biographical Society, (2) the Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, (3) the NJ Society Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and

vel planned for this year.

The 2010 National Genealogical Society Family History conference will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah from 28 April to 1 May, 2010. The Federation of Genealogical Societies annual conference will be Aug 18-21, 2010 in Knoxville, TN.

In addition to the 4 Genealogy Committee members honored Oct. 2009 Reunion, I would also like to mention 3 more researchers (below), out of several of our early ones, who had a significant impact on our Van Voorhees genealogy.

to the Onondaga Co., Library in Syracuse, NY with the exception that all her Voorhees records first went to **Dick Voorhees** (my brother) of Gastonia, NC.

Dick's wife, Barbara, carefully copied 3 sets of these Voorhees records, 1 set for each of the following: (1) the Onondaga County Library, (2) the Voorhees Collection handled by Florence Christoph, and (3) Robert F. Voorhees. Florence has said that, of all the records she got from Association members, the Lesley Voorhees records were (with the notable exception of Oscar's) the most voluminous, the best organized, and most carefully documented.

Rutgers University Library. During his tenure, he developed one of the largest and finest New Jersey reference collections in the state.

Don kept Log Books on the Van Voorhees family members. As he traveled around NJ he would carefully record information on any Voorhees that he uncovered. All of our genealogists (Hazleton, Stokes, and Florence Christoph) have used Sinclair's information. Don's Log Books on the Voorhees family are in the Voorhees Collection.

(4) the Society of Colonial Wars. Al served as genealogist for the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America for NJ. Al was honored by the Genealogical Society of NJ and the Van Voorhees Association with the title, *Emeritus*.

Through Al's hard work, the Van Voorhees Association published in 1984, *A Genealogy of the Voorhees Family--the first four generations Vol.1* (now out of print). The 1984 book was the first Voorhees genealogy published since the Elias' book in 1888. Al worked on what was called *Vol.2* (the 5th and 6th generations), but was unable to complete it before his death in 1994.

I should mention **David Voorhees** of Hopewell, NJ (near Princeton), because he was at our Reunion 2009 in Albany. Al Stokes almost never attended any Van Voorhees Association meetings. This upset then President **Don Vorhis**; so Don assigned David Voorhees to be the conduit between Al and the Executive Committee. Twice yearly before Executive

Committee meetings, David visited Al to gather the latest and make reports. Along the way, David got to know Dorothy Stokes (Al's wife). This proved invaluable when, after Al's death, Dorothy discovered in her attic 40 boxes of Van Voorhees records (the Voorhees Collection). Fortunately, this Voorhees Collection made its way to Flo's house in Selkirk, NY.

Van Voorhees Family Crest

by **Robert F. Voorhees**

To commemorate the Van Voorhees family's 350 years in America, the Van Voorhees Association is pleased to offer for sale a custom, 4-color, absorbent, stone trivet. The artwork is a beautiful and truly unique rendition of the **Van Voorhees Coat-of-Arms** followed by the words, "**Celebrating 350 years in America, 1660-2010.**" These trivets are sure to become collector's items.

These trivets work and look great. The textured finish that keeps liquids from bonding with the bottom of a wet glass or dish, features vivid colors on a durable bisque stone tile. Absorbent and cork backed, these trivets will enhance your home décor and protect your furniture.

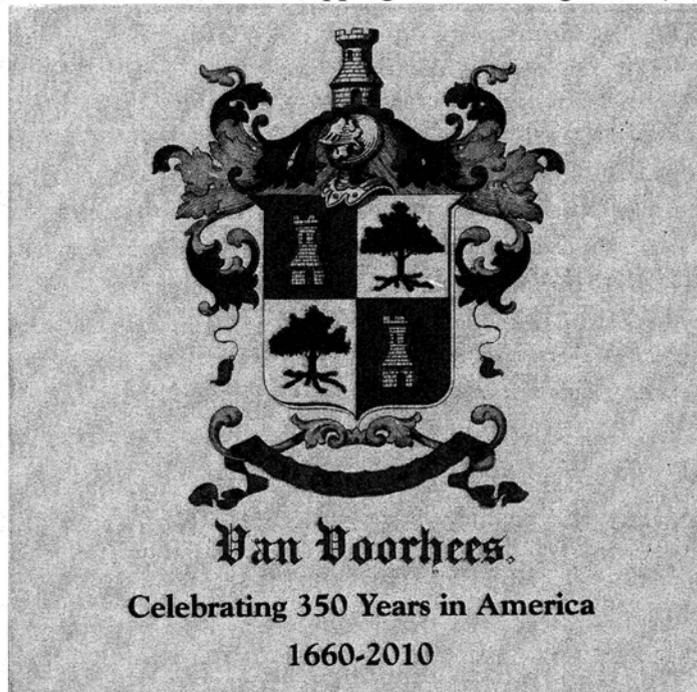
The trivets, 6" x 6" square x 3/8" thick, weigh 12 oz. The back is almost completely covered with cork. Each comes in a specially-made box (right), which gives one an idea for a frame so it can be displayed hanging on a wall. (Editor's Note: I plan to display mine in a frame in a prominent position on a wall.)



Here is a color description of the trivet (seen in the larger photo). The castle is light grey atop an equally light-grey knight's helmet. On each side of the helmet are large acanthus leaves: the light part is golden yellow and the dark part is hunter green. Red curlicues define the inner leaves immediately surrounding the helmet, and the lower dangling leaf tips are also red. The shield has 2 castles, each on a dark red field, and 2 green trees with brown trunks and roots, on a field of the trivet's background beige. Below the shield is a

golden-yellow hanger for a red ribbon with the motto, *Virtus Castellum Meum (Virtue is My Castle)*.

Each trivet is \$15. Shipping and handling is \$5 (via



US Post Office Priority Mail), regardless of the quantity. Thus one trivet is **\$20** (\$15 + \$5 shipping). **Only** New Jersey residents need to add 7% sales tax on the total (\$20 + 7% = \$21.40). For the time being we are going to limit sales to 1 trivet per customer. Make your Check or Money Order out to the **Van Voorhees Association** and mail it to:

Robert F. Voorhees

Special Concerns

Bob will be out of the country June 18 to July 9, so no orders will be filled during this period. Our concern is these trivets will sell out and we will have unhappy customers with orders we can't fill. We don't want you placing an order for naught and we have to return your check. So here is a suggested procedure. Send

Bob an email at _____ and indicate your intention to order a trivet. Bob will respond to your email confirming availability, and you can move ahead and send in your order. He will attach several colored pictures of the trivet to this email, so you can see exactly what you are getting.

BOOK ORDER FORM for The Van Voorhees Association Publications

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

SHIP to: (Please PRINT.)

Make your Check or Money Order payable to:
The Van Voorhees Association
 and mail it to:
Mrs. Frederick Brack:

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

(Email: _____) VVA # _____

	Qty.	Price (ea.)	Price Total	Shipping (ea.)	Shipping Total
<i>The Van Voorhees Family in America: The First 6 Generations</i>	_____	\$60.00	_____	+ \$9.00	_____
<i>The Van Voorhees Family in America: The 7th & 8th Generations (in 2 books)</i>	_____	\$85.00	_____	+ \$12.00	_____
<i>The Van Voorhees Family in America: The First 6 Generations PLUS The Van Voorhees Family in America: The 7th & 8th Generations (in 2 books)</i>	_____	\$135.00	_____	+ \$21.00	_____
Subtotal			_____	Subtotal	_____
Shipping to New Jersey? Add 7% Sales Tax on Only Books				_____	(Book Tax, if applicable)
Shipping Subtotal				_____	
Grand Total including Books, Tax (if any) & Shipping				_____	

Through a Dutch Door: 17th Century Origins of the Van Voorhees Family now must be purchased from Heritage Books Inc. The code name is V3758 and the price is \$22.00. The book can be ordered via website www.heritagebooks.com or by mail to the address: **Heritage Books Inc.**

Attn. Herbert Bates

The Van Voorhees Association has recently published the *9th Generation CD* (including children of the 9th generation). **Members** of the Van Voorhees Association: \$29 plus \$3 shipping and handling = **\$32 (total)** and **Non-members**: \$39 plus \$3 shipping and handling = **\$42 (total)**; (Includes Free 1 yr Membership)

Important: (1) Please include your email address, if possible, so we may communicate with you as needed; and (2) Please address any questions to

Checks or money orders should be made out to the **Van Voorhees Association** and mailed to: **Robert F. Voorhees**

Nieuws van Verwanten: News of Cousins

Rebecca Maria Voorhees has been appointed a Fellow of Peterhouse, which is the oldest college of Cambridge, England. The appointment is effective on October 1, 2010. **Rebecca**, a molecular biologist and graduate of Yale University, will defend her doctoral dissertation this fall at Cambridge and then will join the faculty. **Rebecca** shared the lead authorship of a peer-reviewed scholarly article in the October 30, 2009 issue of *Science*. Her research pertained to the

March 12, 2010 the Coast Guard had a night call from a fishing boat sinking off the coast of New Jersey. The 4-man crew was in a raft when 2 helicopters (for safe rescue in 40° water, 10 ft. waves and 15 ft. swells) arrived. The 1st copter lowered a basket with **Karen Voorhees**, who struggled in the dark to swim to the raft, grab a man, swim back to the basket and put him in. A 2nd copter lowered a basket with Downham, a rescuer soon tossed in the raft by waves.

Richard E. Voorhees, an instructor in Fulton-Montgomery Community College, in Oct. 2009 received for the 2nd time the "Outstanding Instructor-of-the-Year in Continuing Education" award, presented at the annual Continuing Education Assoc. of NY conference in Saratoga Springs, NY. CEANY has members of 85 universities and colleges of SUNY State Univ. of NY, and CUNY (City of NY).

Richard E. Voorhees has taught Emergency Medical Services courses since 1986. In 1994 he became EMS Program Coordinator, managing and teaching various courses all year for the past 23 years. Invol-

Marie Voorhees Avelsgaard will move to Yemen. The new Director of Sanaa International School -- 1 of 35 schools in Quality Schools International a non-profit organization, (www.qsi.org), will be her hus-

crystal structure of the ribosome that synthesizes proteins, and it could lead to a better understanding of the functions of several antibiotics and antibiotic resistance. Better antibiotics might result someday. **Rebecca** spends a lot of time at the giant cyclotron in Switzerland working on these endeavors.

Her proud parents are **Maria and Peter Voorhees** of Winnetka, IL, and her grandparents are **Lois and Manning Voorhees** of Toms River, NJ.

All 4 of the fishermen were rescued. Aviation Survival Technician First Class **Karen Voorhees** rescued 2 fishermen and Downham. (A photo of **Karen Voorhees** and Downham is on the right.)



ed in EMS at state, regional and local levels, he is also a Fulton Co. ambulance medic and fire chief of Oppenheim's Volunteer Fire Dept. He has been Coordinator of Fulton Co.'s Emergency Medical Services, a member of Fulton Co.'s Fire Advisory Board, a representative to the Fulton Co. EMS Advisory Board and a state DEC fire warden. **Richard E. Voorhees** has also received the "Firefighter of the Year" award 4 times and the "EMS Provider of the Year" award twice.



band, Marty. **Marie** will be working at the school too.

Marie has been most helpful in working with the Van Voorhees Association's Indexing Project! We wish her the best for a successful new adventure!

In Memoriam

Frederic L. Voorhees (born 17 Feb. 1936 in Rahway, NJ), son of **Frederic F. Voorhees** and **May Janet LeMon Voorhees**, resided in Freehold, NJ. An athlete in track and field, he graduated from Cranford HS and Fairleigh Dickenson Univ., both in NJ. In NYC for 32 years he worked at Citibank, where he was Vice President. In retirement he enjoyed gardening, hunting, fishing and also making wine at home. On Nov. 6, 2009 he died peacefully at home in Charlotte, NC. A memorial service was held 11 Nov. 2009 in



Charlotte, NC. Donations can be made to the National Kidney Foundation, 620 Montana Dr., Charlotte, NC 28216.

Survivors are **Sandra L. Voorhees** (wife of 32 years); sons **Donald Voorhees** and wife Alisa of Henderson, Nev. and **Daniel Voorhees** of Charlotte, NC; daughters **Debbra Voorhees** of Tinton Falls, NJ, and **Susan Voorhees Shellenberger** and Nathaniel (hus-band) of Tega Cay, SC; **Harold Voorhees** (brother) and wife Alice of Powderly, TX; **Christopher Voorhees** and **Ethan Shellenberger**, grandsons; and **Harold** and **Jeffrey Voorhees**, nephews.

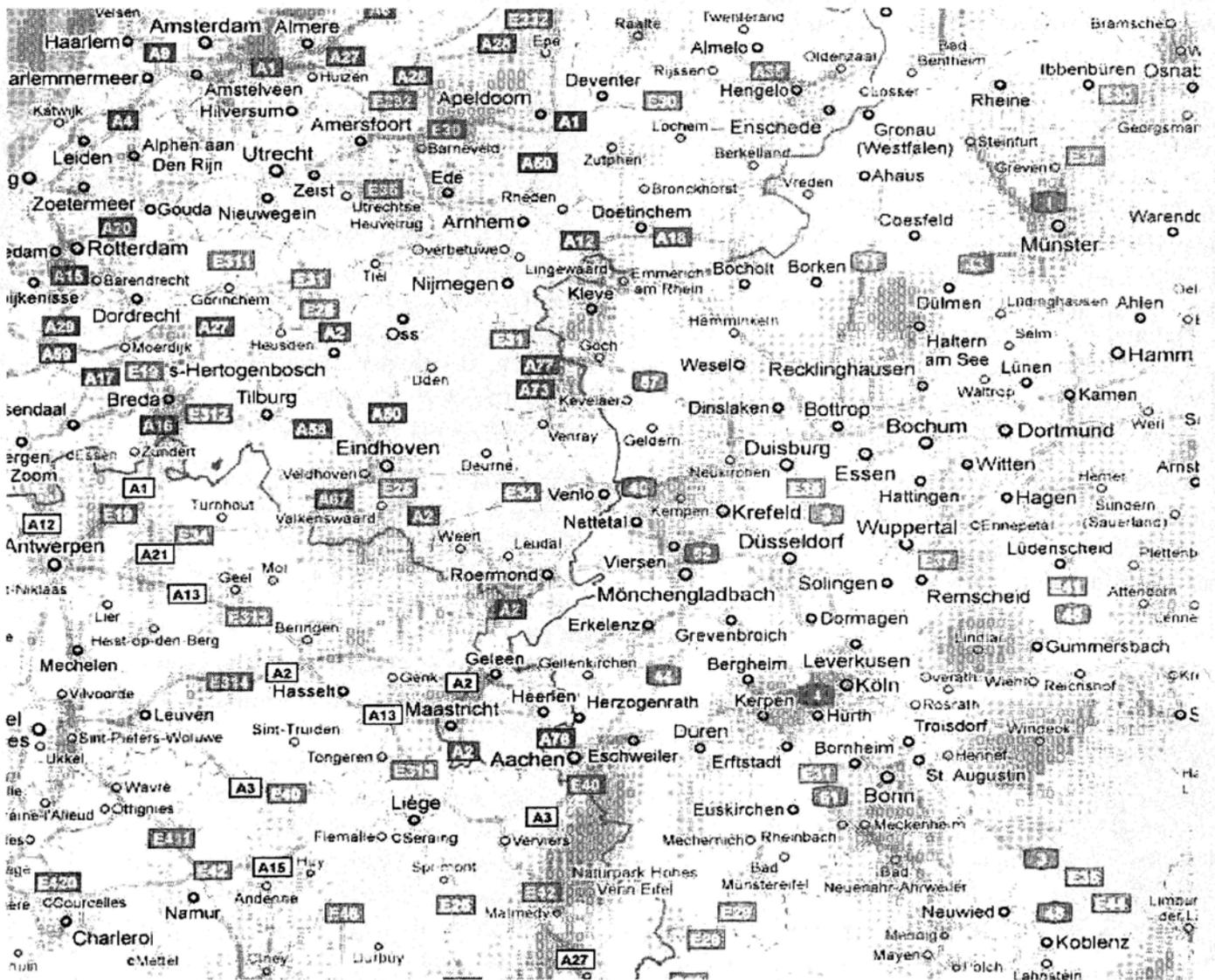
Willem I de Zwijger (the Silent) de l'Orange and the Dutch Flag by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

Willem I (born 1522; died 1584) was the son of Willem (William) the Rich (born 1487; died 1559), Count of Nassau-Dillenburg, and Juliana (born 1506; died 1580), daughter of Bodo III, Count of Stolberg-Wernigerode. His grandfather was Count Johann V of Nassau-Diez and Habsburg *Stadholder* of Gelderland, Nederlands. Born into a Lutheran family, he grew up as a Catholic in Brussels at the imperial court. (Originally Belgium, including Brussels, was part of De Nederlands.) Married 4 times (the last wife surviving him), he had 5 children (3 sons + 2 daughters), all of whom married into noble families.

Willem I's uncle, his father's brother, was Count Hendrik III of Nassau and *Stadholder* of Holland and Zeeland. Rene, Count of l'Orange, (son of Count Hendrik III and the Princess de l'Orange), was

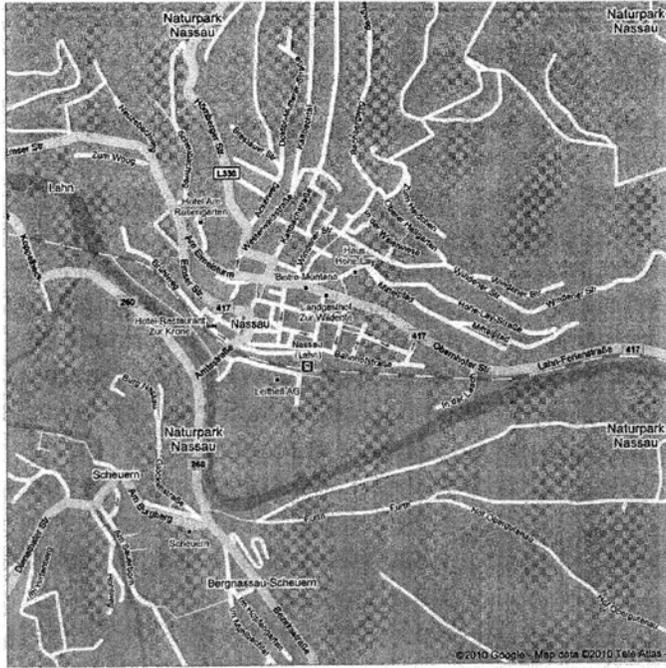
childless and, after willing all of his lands to Willem I, he died suddenly on a battlefield. Acquisition of Rene's lands (plus much more from his parents and 4 wives) left Willem I very wealthy indeed -- probably the wealthiest man in Europe. In control of many areas (including l'Orange and Nassau), he founded the House of Orange-Nassau and created his personal capitol at the Nassau family's ancestral palace in Breda in northern Brabant (Map 1a), Nederlands.

Neither Nassau nor l'Orange are in De Nederlands. At an angle between the Rhein & the Main, Nassau (city) (Map 1a) is just south of Koblenz (north of Frankfurt-am-Main: not shown), Germany. Back then it would have been a large area. The Lahn River and the Muehlbach flow almost through this town (Maps 1a & 1b). (*Bach* in German means *brook* or *stream*.)



Breda + Nassau area (Map 1a)

Willem I de Zwijger (the Silent) de l'Orange and the Dutch Flag continued



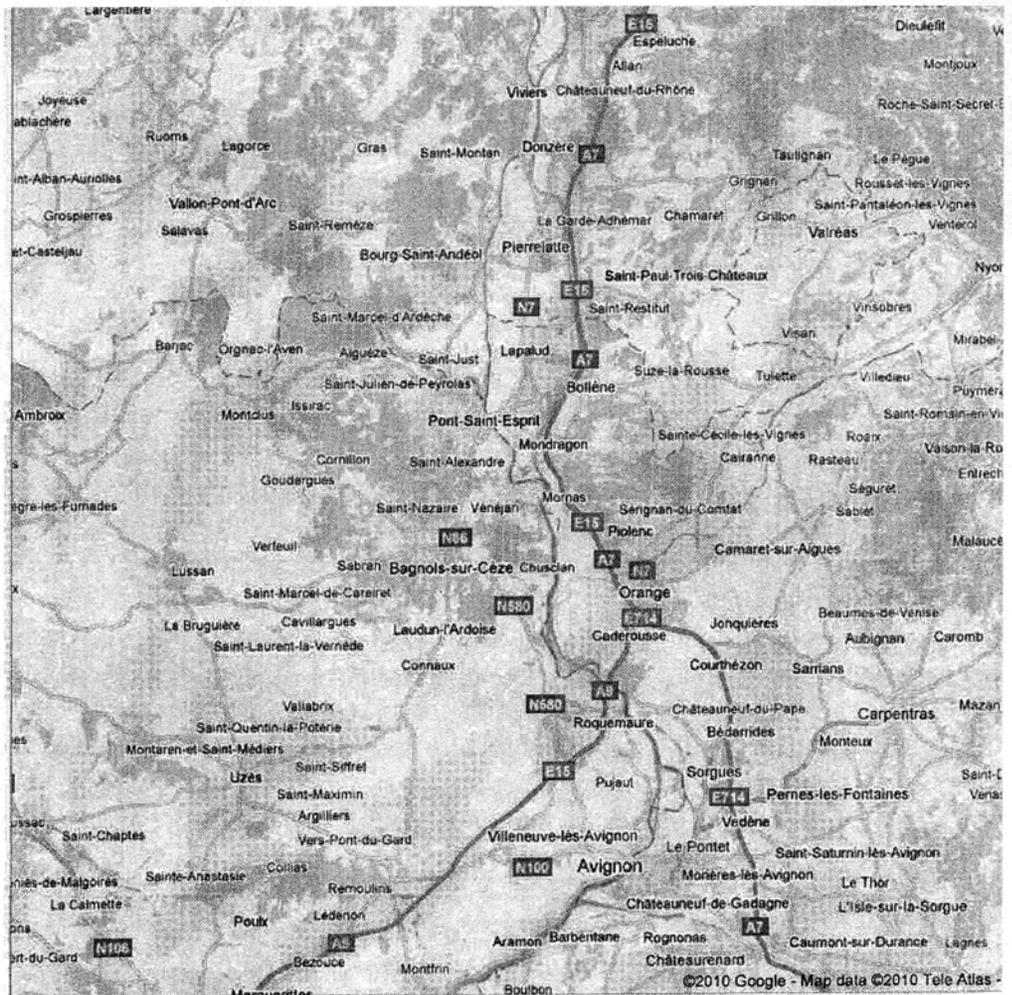
Town of Nassau (Map 1b)



Town of Orange (Map 2a)

In 1393 Marie de Baux, the heiress of l'Orange, married Jean de Chalons of Burgundy. Their heirs became absentee rulers. In 1431 the Count of Provence, in need of immediate ransom money; agreed to make l'Orange a separate entity ruled by its own Count. Being no longer a part of Provence and a fully independent area within France, l'Orange attracted Italian and Jewish merchants as well as becoming a large stronghold of Huguenot Protestants. It is nestled in the junction of the Rhone and Aigues rivers north of Avignon (Map 2b). Today it is "Orange," merely a town in Provence (Map 2a above).

Willem I pardoned his 2nd wife's lover (Jan Rubens, a Calvinist), who eventually became the father of the very famous Dutch artist, Peter Paul Rubens. Frederic Henry (born 1584; died 1647), youngest son



L'Orange area of France (Map 2b)

of Willem I by his 4th wife, succeeded his father and continued the line of House of l'Orange-Nassau in De Nederlands. Frederic was elected *Stadholder* in 1625. There are several more Willems/Williams in the family tree. Willem/William III (born 1650; died 1702), elected *Stadholder* in 1672, married English Queen Mary II (born 1662; died 1694), and thus became the King of England. The family line in De Nederlands continued to Queen Wilhelmina (born 1880; died 1962), Queen Juliana (born 1909; abdicated 1980; died 2004) and present ruler, Queen Beatrix (born 1938). A royal wedding must get permission from both houses of the Dutch parliament. Prince Willem-Alexander (born 1967), the current heir to the throne, and his wife, Princess Maxima, have 3 daughters.

A *Stadholder* in De Nederlands was elected to that office by local nobility and/or wealthy individuals. The *King* was nothing more than a *Stadholder*, who had to be elected by nobles governing various the provinces in De Nederlands. The *King's* son did not automatically inherit his father's position. In some cases, local officials (respected men in the community) chose the provincial *Stadholder*. While this was not universal suffrage, it was the beginning of a return to olden tribal times when a chief was an elected official. The Dutch took the lead in voting rights.

During the 1500s, 1600s and even into the 1700s, religious wars and intolerance were everywhere. The penalty for heresy was death and often a rather horrible one at that. Although the Reformation had taken hold, some Protestants (Lutherans, Episcopalians, Calvinists and even Puritans), when they gained full control, proved to be almost as bad as Catholics regarding religious disagreements. Catholics and Episcopalians, forbidding vernacular translations of the Bible, prosecuted all who did so or who even had such a copy. Other Protestants (Zwingli's followers, Anabaptists, Huguenots, Quakers, etc.) usually had to hide their faith, while the Jews not forced to convert were often pushed around, here and there, in the mix.

Willem I was not only extremely wealthy but also a clever politician who did not divulge his personal opinions -- thus earning the nickname, *de Zeijger* (the *Silent*). He intensely disliked the religious conflicts

surrounding him and was keenly aware of a special religious tolerance in l'Orange where Protestants, Catholics, and Jews lived together peaceably. He did his best to promote religious tolerance everywhere in Europe. This made him so unpopular with Spanish religious fanatics that they murdered him in 1584. Several generations of his descendants, also *Stadholders* in De Nederlands, continued Willem's spirit of tolerance -- a tiny country fighting the huge armies of France and Spain. Eventually De Nederlands succeeded in becoming an independent nation where all religious creeds were welcome; however, by law the Dutch Reform Church must remain the state church.

The top stripe in the Dutch flag is **orange**, the middle one white, and the bottom one blue. This **orange** stripe in the Dutch flag is a constant reminder of Willem I de Zwijger, Prince of Orange, and the religious freedom he gave to De Nederlands. My Dutch friends in Arnhem, Nederlands strongly defend the Royal Family as part of their heritage. Willem I gave his life for freedom of religion, and many of his descendants likewise risked their lives. Not only that, but it was **the Dutch** who **first brought religious tolerance to America** as well! The motherland overruled all Nieuw Nederlands laws and regulations banning any group from living there in full religious freedom as well as other freedoms allowed in De Nederlands. (Most notable among the banned were some rules of Governor Willem Kieft and Peter Stuyvesant: both of them set the stage for Indian violence plus the English conquest and takeover in 1683-1684.) Consequently, Nieuw Amsterdam became a wealthy melting pot for many. In 1683-1684 the Dutch insisted, successfully, that their tolerance and freedom continue under English rule.

Joris Rapaille, an ancestor of those in the Coert Line, was on the Nieuw Amsterdam Council which stood for voting rights and was against dictatorship by the governor(s) of Nieuw Amsterdam. All people of Dutch heritage should forever remember and be proud of our forbears who started this example of religious freedom and voting rights in Europe and America.



Bibliography: also Recommended for further Reading

1. *The Dutch Republic: Its Rise, Greatness, and Fall 1477-1806* by Jonathan I. Israel
2. *Europe, A History* by Norman Davies
3. *Lines of Succession: Heraldry of the Royal Families of Europe* by Michael Maclagan & Jiri Louda
4. *The Island at the Center of the World* by Russell Shorto
5. *France: Euro Travel Atlas* by The Langenscheidt Publishing Group
6. several Travel Guides plus French, German and Dutch Dictionaries

The Original Home of the Van Couwenhoven/Kouwenhoven Family

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

Maretje Gerretse Van Couwenhoven married Coert Stevens Van Voorhees (#4 in our Genealogy, son of Steven Coerts Van Voorhees) before 1664. Baptized April 10, 1644 in the Dutch Reform Church in Nieuw Amsterdam, NY, she was the youngest of 4 children. Her sister, Neeltje, married Roelof Martens Schenck. Her parents were Gerret Wolferts Van Couwenhoven (born in 1610 at Amersfoort in Utrecht Province, Nederlands) and Aeltje Cornelise Cool/Kool, daughter of Cornelis Lambertsen, born in De Nederlands. Born circa 1588 in De Nederlands, Gerret Wolferts was the son of Wolfert Gerrets Van Couwenhoven, the 2nd son of Gerritt Jansz (van) Couwenhoven.

Gerritt Jansz (van) Couwenhoven was (1) "a tenant farmer of the Estate Couwenhoven in the neighborhood Ceulhorst on the Hoogland near Amersfoort, owned by the De Wijs family who were holding it from the feudal Land Lord of Montfoort" and/or (2) the same Gerrit Jansz Couwenhoven who in 1564 was a "tenant of the land of the family Van Vanelveld" and still there "circa 1600." His eldest son, Willem Gerritsz, was a "tenant farmer of Johan de Wijs on the farmyard Couwenhoven" and, before and after 1612, the "owner of about 1 morgen" (2.25 acres) of land.

Ceulhorst could be loosely translated as a wooded, brushy area with clay soil on the *Hoogland* (*high land, field or ground*) about 5 km. N. (on highway N199) from the center of Amersfoort. This estate probably extended down to the Eem River. The Montfo(o)rt family was very rich and powerful in both England and France. It's quite possible a family member had a very large estate in De Nederlands.

Wolfert Gerrets Van Couwenhoven came to Nieuw Amsterdam in 1630 as Overseer of Farms for Patroon Van Renssalaer (1 report), or in 1625 left for Nieuw Nederland with his wife (Neeltgen Jacobsdr.) and 3 sons. In the 2nd report he was a baker and later a bleacher who resided "by the Coppelpoort outside of Amersfoort." (*Koppel* in Dutch has several meanings including *double*; so this was probably a large port (with 2 or more docks) north of the city of Amersfoort, which is in Utrecht Province.

All the Dutch names above have multiple spellings. There are 4 variations of *Couwenhoven*, made by substituting *K* for *C* and *w* for *v* in *Couwen*. Even more can be made if *v* and *w* are interchanged in *hoven*. I found 4 variations for Wolfert, 7 for Gerrets(e), and 10 combinations of just these 2. Also, handwriting is difficult to read – especially in the *olde* style of a for-

eign language. One needs to know Dutch and German as well as *olde* English plus geography and naming principles. *Olde* Dutch and German are different from the modern form in most dictionaries. Maps are also vital and older ones are extremely helpful.

The name itself provides hints. In Dutch *kou* means *cold* and *wen* means *fen, bog or marsh*. *Hoven* could easily be misread, misspelled, a misprint or mispronunciation of *haven* (Dutch for *port*). (*Hafen* is German for *port*.) We are well aware of the errors in English spelling and pronunciation. So, now we have a location: a *cold fen port* or a *cold fen near a port*. What port? Where?

Both Amersfoort and Breukelen are in the Province of Utrecht. It is suggested that the Couwenhovens came from the N.W. section of Amersfoort, N.E. of Utrecht (city). Breukelen is N.W. of Utrecht (city) – approximately 1/3 of the way up the east side of E9 (main highway) from Utrecht to Amsterdam.

Now we need to find a waterway and a port. To make location easy, I'll start with Amsterdam and move east along the Gooimeer to the town of Huizen and the A27 highway running south to Utrecht with some interconnected lakes along the way.

Go back to Huizen, then east (past a bridge) to the Gooimeer. Go further east past a 2nd bridge to the Eemmeer. Just beyond this 2nd bridge is the Eem, a river going south directly into Amersfoort. North of Amersfoort the Eem appears to be surrounded by farmland (ibid. Dutch Map). The Eemdjck (dike) is about 1/5 of the way upriver from the Eemmeer (south) to Amersfoort and the Eembrugge (bridge) is south of the Eemdjck. In olden days this whole area along the Eem was probably marshland. (East of the Eem River on the Eemmeer are the old towns of Bunschoten and Spakenburg, whose residents still often wear traditional costumes.)

Since *our* Wolfert became an Overseer of Farms for Patroon Van Renssalaer, he probably managed a farm near Amersfoort on the Eem River. Apparently he had several occupations and was successful in all of them.

Where is the exact *original* location of this family? Unless we have more definitive records, I believe that Couwenhoven (a *cold marshy-area port*) was a large estate (probably comprising several farms) extending from Hoogland (*high ground*: on the Dutch Map) down to Coppelpoort (a *double* port with at least 2 docks) on the Eem River and it was not very far north of the city limits of Amersfoort.

The Original Home of the Van Couwenhoven/Kouwenhoven Family continued



Dutch Map (enlarged selected portion)

Towns: Huizen, Bunschoten, Spakenburg and south to Amersfoort
Water Areas: Gooimeer, Eemmeer, Eemdijk and Eembrugge; but the River Eem is not marked.
Hoogland is the high ground directly North of Amersfoort.

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1. *History of Sussex & Warren Counties, N.J.: vol. 1*
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3. *From New Amsterdam to New York: The Founding of New York by the Dutch in July 1625* by Dr. Dirk J. Barreveld
4. *Dutch-Colonies-L Archives* Data researched by Judy Tooman
5. Dutch Maps of De Nederlands
6. Dutch & German Dictionaries
7. Dutch Reform Church Records
8. Van Voorhees Association Genealogy books and publications
9. Records of David Kipp Conover, a Van Couwenhoven descendant

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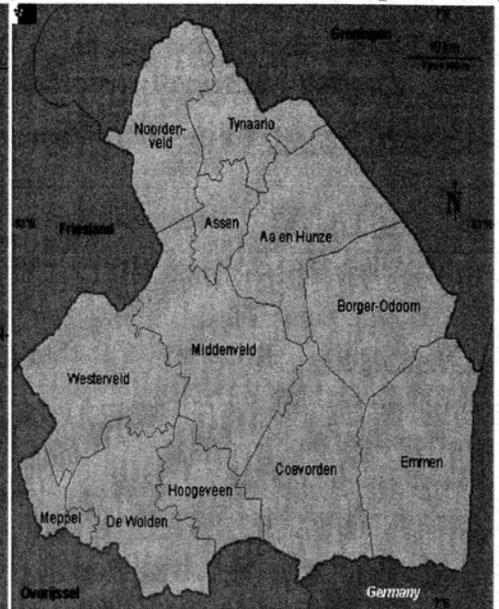
David R. Voorhees

Ted L. Bogert

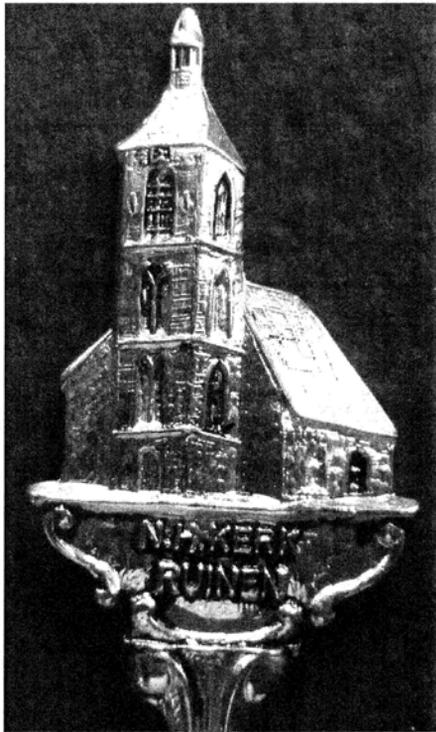
Drenthe Coat-of-Arms and Spoon Collection

Text and Photos submitted by Ralf Hartemink

This is my little Netherlands spoon collection. Drenthe (Map on right) is the Netherlands (Map on left)



Province where Steven Coerte Van Voorhees lived before coming to America in 1660. Ruinen, a small village in Drenthe, is just a short walk from Hees. The church on the Ruinen spoon in the set of 3 (#1 on the left)



and with an enlarged top (below), is the old Dutch Reformed church in Ruinen. I understand that Steven Coerte Van Voorhees and his family attended this Ruinen Church or most likely the one or two church buildings before this one. The *N. H. Kerk*, on the Ruinen spoon stands for *Nederlands Hervormde Kerk* (Dutch

Reformed Church). *N.H. Kerk* is the *official* church of the Netherlands.

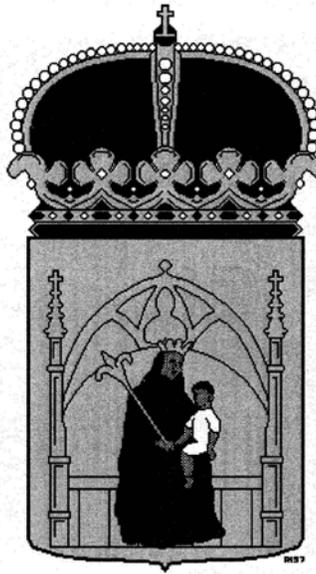
(Editor's Note: The 1st Ruinen church, built circa 600 AD, was very small (almost just a chapel) and it burned. The 2nd building, which was larger, also was totally damaged at some point in history. The present

Dutch Reformed Church in Ruinen, the 3rd building, was constructed circa 1200-1400. After the congregation peacefully voted to change from Catholic to Protestant, the transepts and statues were removed and niches bricked over. A few other minor changes were made over the years, but the *bones* of this 3rd building are essentially the same except for a required fire-proof roof. It is definitely the one that Steven and his ancestors attended. I have gone to services there on each visit to Ruinen.)

Drenthe, a province in the north of the Netherlands, used to be a part of the bishopric of Utrecht, but it became more and more independent. It has not been a separate county or duchy as most of the other Dutch provinces, but it retained the status of "landschap" (a kind of self-governing area). Drenthe joined the Utrecht Union (see Utrecht) but, as a landschap, it did not have any voting rights in the republican parliament (Staten-Generaal). It became a province in 1805. The arms of the province of Drenthe are derived from the seal of the Landschap Drenthe, which has depicted the same composition since 1262. One description reads: "Or, seated on a throne of the same, the Virgin Mary in a mantle azure over a robe gules, wearing a crown composed of three fleur-de-lys; or, in the right hand a scepter or with a fleur-de-lys finial, on the left knee the Christ-child in a robe argent. The shield crested by a coronet of four pearls between five leaves and three diadems or, lined gules. Supporters: two lions rampant or, armed and langued gules."

Editor's Notes:

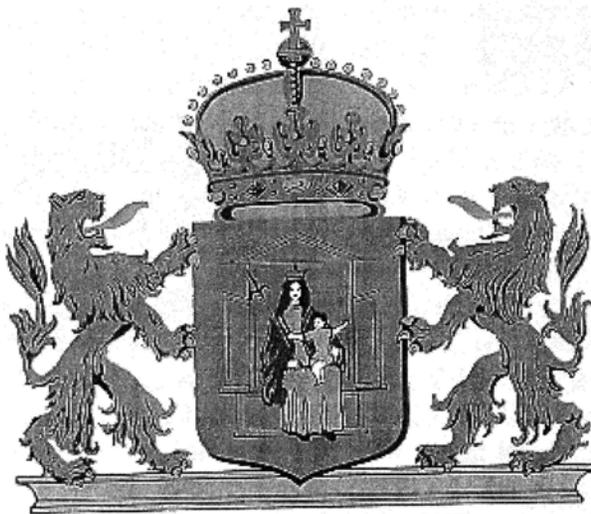
A description of the Drenthe Coat-of-Arms in Dutch (right, below) is: "Een schild van goud, beladen met een Maria-beeld, houdende het king Jezus op de linker knie en gekroond van goud, zittende in een Gothischen temple mede van goud. Het schild gedekt met een hertogelijken kroon." (A literal translation reads: "A shield of gold, laden with a picture of Mary holding the King Jesus upon the left knee and crowned with gold, sitting in a Gothic temple also of gold. The shield is be-decked with a duchess-



like crown.") The body of the crown is red topped with an arc of pearls. The crown base is of gold crosses and further down is a band with red rubies.



Beneath the crown is a gold background which shows off the Virgin in a red robe and blue cape. She wears a gold crown. Baby Jesus on her left knee is dressed in a white shift garment. The photo of the enlarged top of the 2nd spoon (left and in the set of 3 above) displays this same Coat-of-Arms of Drenthe.

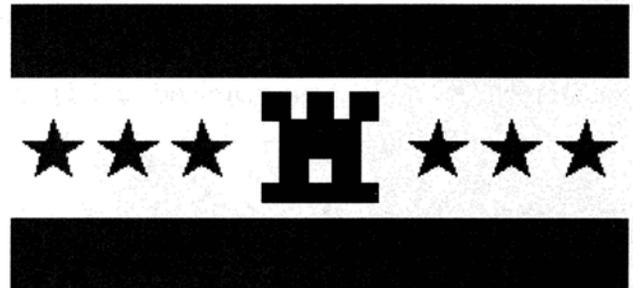


Seal of Drenthe Province

Similar to the Drenthe Coat-of-Arms is a photo of the "Seal of Drenthe Province, Netherlands" (above left). The central portion is identical to the Drenthe Coat-of-Arms; however, the Seal has the addition of 2 lions holding the shield in an upright position.

Beside it (above right) is the Drenthe Provincial flag, which you can purchase at Dutch shops in Holland, Mich. The stars plus top and bottom stripes are red. The castle is black. The stars and castle are on a background of white.

An enlargement of the top of the 3rd spoon (on the



Drenthe Provincial Flag

right in the set of 3 above) displays the Amsterdam Coat-of-Arms. The central shield shows a white stripe with Amsterdam in black. The center X's are white on a vertical black stripe. The two sides of the shield are red.



Paul M. Voorhees' Family Crest Gate

by Bob Voorhees

Talk about a great rendition of the Van Voorhees family crest. See pictures. Paul M. Voorhees (TMG #35706, Coert Line) of Seabeck, WA (near Seattle)

had this Van Voorhees family crest carved from red-wood by a local carver and placed on the gate of his home compound. Pretty neat don't you think?



Van Voorhees Family Crest



Family Crest on Entrance Gate

Paul Van Voorhees, of Honolulu HI, gave us some good news with his Christmas card last December: he had become godfather to a young man who is an official with the government. As background, Paul is a frequent traveler on the Asia mainland and is well

acquainted with several of its cultures. Paul originally met his godson, Yi Chen Wang, in 2005. Two years earlier, Yi Chen was a visiting scholar at Kent State University, in OH. He and Paul were introduced via the Internet in 2005 by an old friend of Paul's from his earlier days in Indianapolis. Paul and Yi Chen subsequently spent time together in Beijing over several occasions and corresponded.



Paul M. Voorhees and Yi Chen Wang

Yi Chen "suddenly asked" Paul during a visit if he could call Paul "Gan Di," which means godfather in Chinese and think of Paul as a surrogate dad. Paul accepted and Yi Chen had a father figure to replace his biological father who had died during the Cultural Revolution when Yi Chen was six years old. Yi Chen had missed a father figure since that social event. Known as Abe, Yi Chen is 44 years old and has a 19 year old son of his own, An Di, from a previous marriage. Yi Chen has a responsible position with the Ministry of Public Security in Beijing as a division director for prison administration. He speaks English fluently. Gan Di and his Gan Er Zi, or godson, converse in both Mandarin and English. Yi Chen has found the father that he has not had for many years. The accompanying photograph shows Paul and Yi Chen in Beijing.

Congratulations, Paul. We are very happy for you. We wish both Gan Di and Gan Er Zi happiness and best wishes for an enjoyable life.

Editor's Notes

I truly appreciate all the material sent to me for the *Nieuwsbrief*! Your help is what makes it such a good publication! Unfortunately, I cannot always include everything in a particular issue; however, I will try to put it in at a later date.

It would help me very much if you would **single-space lines** in all articles sent. If you can't see very well and need to make it larger and in bold, that is fine. It is, however, **extremely time-consuming if I have to change double-spaced or oddly-spaced lines into single-spaced lines. In this case, I sometimes must re-type the entire article.** Often I just don't have the time to do this.

It would also help if you **use a standard font**, such as **Arial** or **Times New Roman** (which I use for the *Nieuwsbrief*). Some **unusual fonts are absolutely**

impossible for me to convert. Here again, **I would have to re-type the entire article.**

Please **don't** make 2 columns or insert pictures. I can do that. **Do**, however, **have your pictures large enough** that, if I need to increase the size a little, they won't appear grainy or odd looking. It's easier to reduce the size of a large photo and still have it look good. When taking photos, please use a device (e.g. tripod, etc.) so (1) the camera doesn't shake and (2) the objects aren't tilting. Please **always send photos and pictures as a separate jpg file.** I rely on my husband, Dr. Roy E. Voshall, to enhance all the pictures and photos; but even experts have limits. In this issue the photos on the whole were very good (except, as usual, newspaper pictures). I place them in the text and do any necessary final *touch-up shading*.

Our Family Crest Motto is:

Virtus Castellum Meum in Latin,
Virtue is My Castle in English, and
De deugd is mijn kasteel in Dutch.
(The Castle at right is from our Family Crest.)



Please don't forget to send in your 2010 dues !!

Dues Form

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

Dues through December 31, 2010 were payable January 1, 2010. Please check the membership desired, note any change of address, use your entire 9-digit zip code (to save money in postage), add your e-mail address (if you have one) and **mail your dues to Albert T. Van Voorhies,**

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

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Regular, \$ 10.00 Contributing \$ 30.00 Junior, \$ 2.00
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If you did not pay your dues in earlier years, please add that amount to your remittance.

Check here, and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish to receive a 2001 membership card.

Name _____

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Albert T. Van Voorhies

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

(Photo courtesy of Dr. Roy E. Voshall)

