



Volume 27 Number 2

VAN VOORHEES NIEUWSBRIEF

Fall 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.

Happy Holidays Are Coming Soon!

It's almost the **HOLIDAY SEASON**. The **Van Voorhees Association** has

3 Wonderful Gift Suggestions:

- 1) **Membership** for 1 year or a **Lifetime** (page 27),
 - 2) **Genealogy Books** and a **Genealogy CD** (page 12), and
 - 3) **4 Coasters** with the **Van Voorhees Family Crest** in 4 vivid colors (page 7).
- Any or all of these would be the **Perfect Way to pass on our Dutch Heritage to Children, Grandchildren,**

Nieces, Nephews,

Brothers, Sisters, and Cousins.

In just a few minutes *your ENTIRE GIFT LIST* can be filled via U.S. Mail by using our Order Forms and an Email or Phone Call (pages 27, 12, & 7).

You don't have to worry about Traffic, Crowds, Bad Weather or hunting for a Parking Space.

It is **Quick** and **Easy 1-Stop Shopping ... without ever leaving home!**

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~ VAN VOORHEES ASSOCIATION WHO'S WHO ~

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ibid.: Genealogy Committee (below)

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~ MEMBERS--AT--LARGE ~

David R. Voorhees

Ted L. Bogert

William Voorhees: Do You Know Any Living Descendants?
submitted by Robert F. Voorhees, Genealogy Committee Chairman,
& edited by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall, *Nieuwsbrief* Editor

William Voorhees (#174103*) was born in 1771 in PA, 07718. On 4 Mar 1798 he married first Abigail Cafferty (#174104*), at Monmouth Co., NJ. (They were listed as William Vores and as Abigal Laverty.) According to courthouse records of Monmouth Co., NJ, they were married by Justice James Tapscott. Abigail Cafferty (#174104) was born on 18 Dec 1775 in NJ, 07718 and died on 8 Oct 1815 at age 39. Later William (#174103) married secondly, Anna Wicoff (#193311*) who died circa 1 Sept. 1861.

(*Editor's Note: These numbers are used in the Van Voorhees Assoc. Genealogy Database to identify all descendants of Steven Coerts Van Voorhees.)

William died on 8 Jan 1855 at Cranbury, Middlesex Co., NJ, 08512 and was buried at Westminster Cemetery there. His tombstone has sunk so deep into the ground that his age can no longer be seen.

Justice James Tapscott witnessed the New Tag (name) of William Voorhees (#174103) who was also listed as John William (#174103).

The 1850 Census of South Brunswick, Middlesex Co., NJ (p.166, #129) lists William Voorhees age 77 NJ, Ann age 72, and Ann Morris 49. Ann Morris is a daughter of William.

The Will of William Voorhees, Sr., of South Brunswick was dated 27 Aug 1854 and probated on 22 Jan. 1856 (New Brunswick Wills, Vol. F, p. 169). It mentions his wife, Ann, "who is to receive the house and lot in the village of Cranbury where I now live near the Presbyterian church," daughters Rachel Snedeker ("to receive the house and lot where she now lives in Union Twp., Broome Co., NY"), Deborah Grover, Abigail Bulkeley and Ann Morris plus sons Abram, Joseph, Ruliff, Gilbert, Josiah, William, and John. The executors were his son, Abram, and son-in-law, James Grover.

Miss Agnes Storer, who was a genealogist for the Van Voorhees Association in the 1930s, sent a transcript of the above Will to Ida Brokaw. Miss Storer lists a deed of 1 April 1862 wherein James Grover is listed as the surviving executor of the Will of William Voorhees; because Abraham Voorhees, one of the executors, died about Oct 1, 1856 and Anna Voorhees died on or about 1 September 1861. James Grover, the remaining executor, sells at auction to the highest bidder, John Voorhees of West Windsor, a house and lot containing 45/100th acres (on Church Street in the village of Cranbury) for \$1,215. Being a lot of land, William M. Conover (a later variation of the name,

Van Couwenhoven) and Josiah Buckley bought on 26 Jan. 1849 a deed from and executed by Ralph C. Stults and his wife (a granddaughter of Jacob W. Voorhees) to William Voorhees in Book 49 p. 100 (Deed Book 89, p. 166 Middlesex Co. NJ).

Ida Brokaw Jones (wife of Frank Jones of Freehold, NJ) in 1936 says that William (#174103) and Ann had 13 children, 9 of whom lived to maturity. Ida Brokaw Jones was the great-granddaughter of William and Anna (the 2nd wife). The Historical and Preservation Society records in Cranbury, NJ mention correspondence between Charles Cafferty and Mary Louise Cafferty (great-granddaughter of Josiah Cafferty). Also they mention Mrs. Shults (granddaughter of Jacob W. Voorhees and Almira Disbrow Voorhees). In 1914 Charles Cafferty interviewed Almira in Cranbury, NJ. Jacob W. Voorhees (son of Abraham Voorhees) was a brother of William Voorhees born in 1806. Charles Cafferty also corresponded with Lila Brokaw Jones.

Research by Manning Voorhees in 2002 produced the following data. On 29 Jan 1849, Ralph C. Stults and Hannah, his wife, of South Brunswick, Middlesex Co., NJ, sold to William Voorhees of Upper Freehold Twp., Monmouth Co., NJ, land in the village of Cranbury along Church street containing 45/100^{ths} of an acre, being the lot of land William A. Conover and Isaiah Buckley bought of Ralph Stults jointly (Deed Book 49, p. 100, Middlesex Co. NJ).

Also located by Manning Voorhees was the following information. On 9 March 1841 William Voorhees and wife Ann Wicoff of the township of Upper Freehold, Monmouth Co., NJ sold to Rachie Barcalow for \$800 a lot (in Middlesex Twp.) starting at the southeast side of the road leading from aforesaid village to Allentown (Deed Book 36, p. 59, Middlesex Co. NJ).

On 7 March 1848, Grace Sillcocks of the city of New Brunswick, Middlesex Co., NJ, sold to William Voorhees of Middlesex Co. for \$550 all that land in the village of Cranbury beginning at the northeast corner of the lot belonging to Rachie Barcalow and family to Jan Kam (Kass?) in the east side of the Bordentown and South Amboy Turnpike Rd. (Deed Book 47, p. 128, Middlesex Co., NJ).

On 6 June 1946 Charles Cafferty wrote that Abigail Cafferty (William's 1st wife) died 8 Oct 1815. Soon after, William purchased 121 acres of land between Allentown and Cranbury from Abel Robins and the deed was recorded April 27, 1819. On 1 Feb. 1842 William Voorhees of Upper Freehold purchased 10

William Voorhees: Do You Know Any Living Descendants? continued

acres of land (possibly in Cranbury). For one year 1809-1810 he lived in Union, Broome Co., NY. Abbie Voorhees (daughter of William) said, on one of her visits to PA, that 2 Quakers made such a fuss over her as "Chillies little granddaughter."

The 1850 Census of South Brunswick, Middlesex Co., NJ (p. 159, #20) lists Ralph Stults age 47 NJ (farmer), Hannah age 42 NJ, Jane age 51, John Henry age 18, Peter age 15, William age 13, Amanda age 11, Sarah age 9, Ralph Voorhees age 4 and Elias Voorhees age 1, James Davison age 35 (farmer), Mrs. Ann Dey age 85. Apparently this is the Ralph and Hannah Stults who sold the farm. Charles Cafferty wrote in 1946 that a Mrs. Nellie Voorhees Stults is the daughter of Abraham Voorhees and the granddaughter of Jacob W. Voorhees and his wife, Almira. Charles Cafferty, in another undated letter, states that Nellie's mother was Maggie Hartman and her grandfather was Jacob W. Voorhees and his wife, Almira Disbrow Voorhees.

A letter (dated Feb 21, 1945) from Charles Cafferty to "Dear Cousin" states "your eldest uncle must have been George Douglas Voorhees born Dec. 1825 who related to his granddaughter the story about John W. being born in PA." The story then states that William Voorhees was born John William Voorhees in PA in 1771 (two days journey from Princeton, NJ) and that William's father died when William was 3 months old. William's mother was a Rachel Davis, a Quaker, who died in 1771 at or after the birth of John William. John William was then taken in by his uncle, John Voorhees who had a son named John (ibid.: paragraph 4 above). For this reason John William was always called William. His uncle John and cousin John died in PA and John William came back to the ancestral home near Princeton, NJ. There must be an error here, since the George Voorhees (born in 1825 and died in 1845) could not have talked with a granddaughter. He did have a brother George D. who was born in 1846. These two Georges were grandsons of William and Abigail Cafferty Voorhees and sons of William Voorhees born in 1806.

A letter dated 16 Jan 1946 from Charles Cafferty to Miss Ashley states that Miss Ashley was a granddaughter of William Voorhees who married first Elizabeth Pearson and second Matilda Pearson. (Miss Ashley was Mary Louise Ashley, born 1870, daughter of Elizabeth Voorhees and Charles Ashley. Elizabeth was the daughter of William who was a son of John William Voorhees.) Circa 1870, Charles Cafferty states that Abigail Cafferty was a sister of Charles'

great-grandfather, William Cafferty. Another comment says, "That prim little second wife of John William was Ann somebody, I wish I knew her maiden name." This statement indicates that John William had a second wife which appears to be confirmed by both the 1850 Census (which lists his wife as Ann, age 77) and the Will of John William wherein he lists his wife as "Ann."

Charles Cafferty lived in Apalachin, Broome Co., NY. John William is said to have lived in Union, Broome Co., NY for a short period and his daughter, Rachel, remained there to live with her Cafferty grandparents. She lived in the area all her life. The Will of John William states that his daughter Rachel was to receive the house and lot where she now lived in Union, Broome Co., NY.

On 13 March 1946, Charles writes to "Cousin Mary Louise" that Mrs. Stults' father was Abraham and her grandparents were Jacob E. and Almira. He does not know who her uncles Jacob W. and William were. He thinks it was her grandfather's brother, William, who married Alamanda _____. Mrs. Stults had an aunt Ann or sister Ann who married Ezekiel Ridgeway.

A letter dated 26 Feb 1946 from Lila Brokaw Jones of Freehold, NJ, to "cousin Mary" indicates that Miss Ashley may be Mary Ashley. Lila states that she was born and raised in the east side of Dutch Neck, NJ and that she now knows that her mother spent most of her married life almost adjoining her ancestral home. "I too remember Aunt Abbie and went to her funeral in Amboy." Abbie was her mother's favorite aunt. "Grandfather Joseph's wife died about three weeks after mother was born and she was taken in by a great-aunt, Martha Dey, who made her home with her brother John Dey. Mother never knew any other home until she married Thomas Duncan Brokaw. ... My mother had three brothers who died in the Civil War." Lila Brokaw (daughter of Rebecca Voorhees, granddaughter of Joseph Voorhees and great-granddaughter of William Voorhees) was born in 1875.

Abigail Cafferty (#174104) was born 18 Dec. 1775 in NJ, 07718 and died 8 Oct 1815 at age 39. This date apparently came from Mary Louise Ashley in her correspondence with Charles Cafferty (ibid.: *Joseph Cafferty and his Descendants* by Grant L. Misbach).

The 1820 Census of Union in Broome Co., NY lists the following Caffertys: William (p. 32), John (p. 30) and Josiah Jr. (p. 31).

The 1820 Census of Owego, Broome Co., NY, lists Josiah Cafferty (p. 32) and Enoch Cafferty (p. 28).

Apparently the Caffertys of union and Owego are

relatives of Abigail since her daughter, Rachel, is reported to have lived in Union, Broome Co., NY with her grandfather, Josiah Cafferty. Rachel, who married a Snedeker, is listed in her father's Will to inherit the

lot and farm in Union where she lived in 1856.

For further information about research on William Voorhees (#174103), read the **Genealogy Committee Report**, which follows this article.

Genealogy Committee Report by Robert F. Voorhees

The Genealogy Committee continues its work. Our motto is like the Post Office motto, "Neither rain, nor snow, nor hail shall keep the postmen from their appointed rounds". We get a steady stream of new information from new members and from members completing or updating work on their own genealogy. We make heavy use of the Ancestry.com database especially the census data. Their indexing is getting better and better. The following example shows how Census names can vary and how Ancestry.com can pick up the names: 1870 Wheeler Voorhies, 1900 Wheeler A. Voorhes, 1910 Wheeler Newman Voorhees, 1920 Wheeler N. Voorhies, and 1930 Wheeler Newman Voorhees. He does not show up in the 1880 Census and there is no 1890 Census because of a fire in Washington DC.

I'm going to devote some space in this *Nieuwsbrief*

We have 3 "Theories" in addition to the facts (listed after these theories) in our files.

1. William may have been a "Cafferty." In this regard, you might read the Cafferty-Voorhees text, by Gary L. Misbach, *Joseph Cafferty and His Descendants*, that was microfilmed by the LDS (Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, or the Mormons) in 1968. It is available in your local FHL (Family History Library), which probably will be housed in a local Mormon church. Their microfilm roll number is P36907 0564380 (the leading zero in the last digital series is not listed in the book but is required by the FHL for reference purposes). The section about the Voorhees Tradition (i.e., William) is pertinent, but then so is the entire text. William married Abigail Cafferty and his name might have been changed to Voorhees for appearance purposes. Perhaps that is why William is labeled as a "tradition" in a text having precise information that was the apparent product of research and, after WW II when the book appeared, no one was still willing to state facts as they might have existed.

Voorhees Cafferty was apparently the nephew of Abigail Cafferty Voorhees – a fact that intrigues me.

2. William might have been John Voorhees, son of William Hendrick Voorhees and Catherine Hance. This John was said to have been born in 1769 some-

to our search to find the father of William Voorhees (TMG # 174103) born in 1771 at PA (or NJ). Florence Christof, Manning Voorhees, Joyce Fesler, and I have probably spent more time on William than any other Voorhees in the entire database.

Manning has described the search to one of our members as follows. William is, beyond any doubt, one of the most elusive people in the Voorhees clan. A small legion of researchers has combed the records for him with no success over the past many decades. The manager of the Cranbury Historical Center in Cranbury NJ told me several years ago that William was the most sought after name among visitors to the Center and that one person from Philadelphia appeared at the Center every three months or so asking if anything new had been discovered.

where in Monmouth County, NJ. William was said to have been born in 1771, although the township birth report indicates 1772. The jurisdictional boundaries in the mid-18th century were different from those of today: then Monmouth County extended close to Dutch Neck and Cranbury. It is thought that William might have lived for a while in Dutch Neck. The father of Abigail Cafferty moved to this area about the time that William and Abigail were married. We can find no information about this 'John', who was inserted as a son of William Hendrick Voorhees by Elias Van Voorhis in his genealogy of 1888. We know only of John's stated existence and year of birth.

As pure speculation, Catherine Hance might have had a brother who lived in Pennsylvania and who was the father of William. When this brother and his wife died (as in Gary Misbach's story), William Hendrick Voorhees might have journeyed from the Cranbury region (Monmouth County at the time) to Pennsylvania and brought the child, John William, home. His name might have been changed to John – providing the opening for William Hendrick Hance to have a natural child and heir named William, which happened in 1777. As the William Voorhees story circulated

Genealogy Committee Report continued

orally for a century or so, it could have changed gradually and became the version Misbach related and/or was told to him by William's descendants. We have no facts, however, to support this version, and one would have to explain why William changed his name from John to William as a young man.

3. Misbach has an elaborate story about William having been born to Rachel Davis (a Quaker) and an unknown father in Pennsylvania, about a 2 day trip from Cranbury at that time. A map of the roads of the mid-18th century indicates a roadway from Cranbury to Pennsylvania (now Bucks Co. area, which would compare with a two day trip). Misbach's story contin-

ues with William's uncle in the Cranbury area traveling to William's homestead in Pennsylvania and then bringing him home after both Rachel and the unknown father (the uncle's brother) died shortly after William's birth. We cannot find any record or indication of this uncle or his handicapped son, John, or of William's stated father, John William, Sr., or his father's name being shortened to William, Sr. Misbach said that William was renamed by the uncle from "John William" to "William" to avoid confusion with the handicapped son, also John. The Misbach tale leads to more questions than it resolves; but we find ourselves coming back to it in whole or part.

Our current files contain the following data.

Children of William¹ Voorhees (174103) and Abigail Cafferty (174104), his 1st wife, were as follows:

- + 2 i. Debora² Voorhees (174109) born on 29 Nov 1798 at Dutch Neck, NJ, 07718. She married James Grover (174110) on 22 Feb 1816 at Middlesex Co., NJ, 08902. D. on 15 Mar 1880 at Red Bank, Monmouth Co., NJ, 07701, at age 81. Bur. at Fairview Cem., Middletown, NJ.
- + 3 ii. Gilbert Voorhees (176947) born on 18 Dec 1799 at NJ, 07718. He married Charlotte Allen (176948) on 6 Dec 1821 at Burlington Co., NJ, 08010. Died before 1880, his wife is listed as a widow in the 1880 census.
- + 4 iii. Ann Voorhees (174108). Born on 26 Nov 1800 at NJ, 07718. She married first Jacob Wyckoff (193302). She married second (--?--) Morris (181200). D. on 1 Mar 1856 at age 55. She is listed with her parents in the 1850 census as Ann Morris age 49.
- + 5 iv. Josiah Voorhees (174116). Born on 12 Nov 1802 at NJ, 07718, he never married.
- + 6 v. Rachel Voorhees (174113) born on 22 Jul 1804 at NJ, 07718. She married John Snedeker (174114). D. on 25 May 1880 at age 75.
- + 7 vi. William Voorhees (181188) born on 13 Feb 1806 at NJ. He married first Elizabeth Pearson (193303), on 27 Jan 1828. Died on 15 Feb 1862 at age 56.
- + 8 vii. Abraham Voorhees (163463) born on 23 Aug 1807 at NJ. He married Lucinda VanKirk (163464) on 3 Oct 1833 at Presb. Ch., Cranbury, Middlesex Co., NJ, 08512. Died on 29 Aug 1856 at age 49. Bur. at Brainard Cem, Cranbury, Middlesex Co., NJ, 08512, age 49y 4 days.
- + 9 viii. John Jacob Voorhees (174117). Born on 10 May 1810 at NJ, 07718. Died at FL, he had no children.
- + 10 ix. Joseph Voorhees (174106) born on 12 Mar 1812 at NJ, 07718. He married first Rebecca Perrine Ford (174107), on 9 Dec 1835 at Allentown, Lehigh Co., PA, 17910. He married second Susan Ford (193304). Died on 6 Jul 1865 at age 53. Bur. at Allentown.
- + 11 x. Abigail Voorhees (174111) born on 31 Aug 1814 at NJ, 07718. She married first Elijah Mack (193305), on 4 Jul 1834 at Monmouth Co., NJ. She married second Jirah Isham Bulkeley (174112). D. on 8 Jul 1887 at age 72. Bur. at Westminster Cem., Cranbury, Middlesex Co., NJ.
- + 12 xi. Ruliff Voorhees (181202). Born on 24 Sep 1815 at NJ, 07718. Died at Medina, Orleans Co., NY.
- + 13 xii. Elizabeth Voorhees (193306). Born on 24 Sep 1815. D. on 24 Sep 1815, twin of Ruliff, died at birth.

There were no children of William¹ Voorhees (174103) and Anna Wicoff (193311, his 2nd wife. William (#174103) had 7 sons (as shown above).

We would very much like to find a living male descendant who is interested in a Y-chromosome DNA test. If we could show that William's line matches the Voorhees signature DNA it would be a big help in narrowing the field of possibilities.

If you are a descendant of (John) William Voorhees or know of someone who is, please contact Robert F. Voorhees, Genealogy Committee Chairman (ibid.: "Who's Who" in this issue of the *Nieuwsbrief* for phone, address, & email).

Van Voorhees Semi-Septcentennial Celebration with Coasters
by Robert F. Voorhees

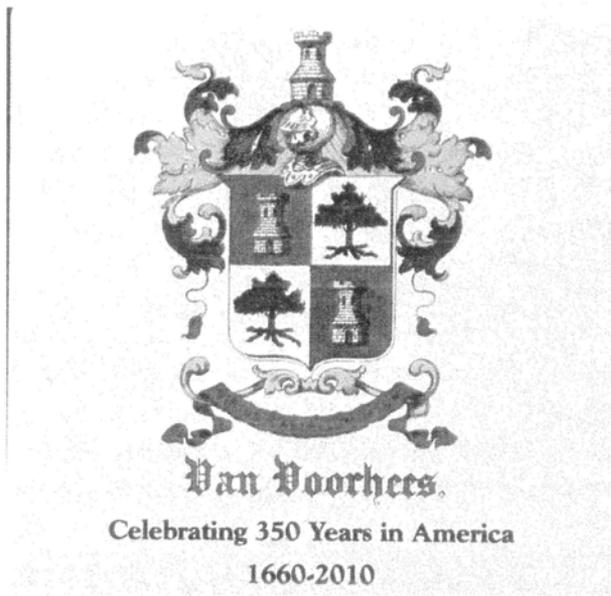
To commemorate the **Van Voorhees** family's **350 years in America**, the Van Voorhees Association is pleased to offer for sale a set of 4 custom-made, absorbent, stone coasters in 4 colors. The art work is a unique rendition of the **Van Voorhees Coat of Arms** followed by the words, "Celebrating 350 Years in America, 1660-2010."

Please note these coaster sets do **not** come with a frame or stand (as shown in the pictures below); however they can be framed individually or as a set of 4. These coasters are sure to become collector's items!

The coasters work well and look great. The textured finish, which keeps liquids from bonding with the

bottom of a wet glass or dish, features 4 vivid colors on a durable bisque stone tile. Absorbent and with a back almost completely covered with cork, these coasters will enhance your home decor and protect your furniture. They make a **perfect holiday gift!**

Each coaster measures 3.625 inches by 3.625 inches by 1/4 inch and weighs only 4 oz.; therefore, a set of 4 weighs 1 lb. Each set of 4 coasters comes in an attractive specially-made box. For those of you who ordered the Van Voorhees trivet, the coasters have the same art work, color, and material so the trivets and coasters make up a matched set. Please note: we are sold out of the trivets.



Pricing and Availability



Once our current inventory is sold, it is doubtful we will be able to justify placing another order (because of the minimum order requirement). So please don't assume we will have unlimited availability.

The price of **each set** of 4 coasters is **\$15** regardless of quantity ordered.

Shipping and handling (US Post Office Priority Mail) is **\$6** for **1 set** of 4, **\$8** for **2 sets**, and **\$12** for **3 or more sets** of coasters. For example, for **1 coaster set** make a check out for **\$21**. For **2 coaster sets**, make check out for **\$38**. For **3 coaster sets** make check out for **\$57**, for **4 coaster sets** make check out for **72**, etc. Only NJ residents need to add 7% sales tax on the total order (including shipping charge). These coaster sets are in stock and ready to ship.

Please make check or money order out to the **Van Voorhees Association** and mail it to:

Robert F. Voorhees
4100 Brambletye Drive
Greensboro, NC 27407

Please also include your **email address** and/or your **phone number**, so we can communicate if necessary. Please contact me with any questions:

email:

or

phone:

If we are able to sell all the coaster sets we have in inventory, your Association will make a modest profit. You can feel good about the fact that 100% of any the profit will go toward Van Voorhees Genealogy Research.



Nieuws van Verwanten: News of Cousins

by Marilyn V. Voshall

Perul Voorhees of Boise, Idaho celebrated her 100th birthday on June 15, 2010. Her comment was, "I never dreamed I'd make it to 100. Now I'm working on 200."



Her celebration wish was granted: she rode in a fancy Pierce-Arrow (1928 car) leading a parade of classic cars down Main St. in Boise, Idaho. Her daughter, **Pat Voorhees Toshcoff**, was with her. In 1926 she

Capt. Kenneth J. Voorhees, after 29 years of dedicated service, retired on 30 June 2010 from the Navy in a big ceremony in Hawaii where he was stationed. He was a native of Milltown, NJ and graduated with distinction from the US Naval Academy in 1981. In 1985 he got an MBA from Villanova University. After courses in nuclear power and submarine training, he became a Captain and was on several deployments. His outstanding service led to several high positions - - Comptroller for the Puget South Naval Shipyard, Command of Naval Intermediate Maintenance Facility of the Pacific Northwest, and Director for Maintenance and Material Readiness at Commander Submarine Force of the US Pacific Fleet. He is entitled to wear the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service, Navy Commendation and Navy Achievement Medals as well as several other decorations. In both 1983 and 1989 he received the L.Y. Spear Award.

A local group of Voorhees held a Reunion 14 Aug. 2010 at the Oppenheim Senior Citizen's Center in Oppenheim, Fulton Co., NY. A Voorhees Road and Voorhees Cemetery are also there in this town.

sneaked downtown to 'The Bucket of Blood' dance hall: that is when and where she met her husband, **Dale Voorhees**. They were happily married until he died at age 60. She still lives at home with 2 adopted stray cats. In 1974 at a young 64, she started painting. She traveled the world until her mid 70s. Just recently she quit doing her home gardening including pruning her roses.

We all wish you a much belated but very Happy Birthday!



As a civilian, he is still working for the US Navy in Hawaii, where he lives with his wife, **Lovelyn**, and daughter, **Asia**.

His proud parents, **Charles F. Voorhees** (VVA #102231) and wife, **Maxine**, were married 54 years on 7 July 2010 and still live in Milltown, NJ. This picture, taken in 2007, shows these 5 (left to right): **Charles**, **Maxine**, **Asia** (then at age 13), **Kenneth** and **Lovelyn**.

The photo, sent by Arnold Brown, a VVA member whose heritage line goes back to Henry G. Voorhees (#34089), shows those in attendance plus the ages of the older ones.

Back Row Standing (L-R): David Winkler, Betsy Ross Voorhees, Pat Brown, Arnold Brown 79, Ernest Voorhees, Herman Brown 80, Joan Brown, Brenda Rice, Ken Rice, John Vrooman, Dan Brown, Dan Rice, & Michael Rice;

Middle Row Standing (L-R): Henry (friend of Betsy), Erma Voorhees 83, John Caudy Jr., Richard Caudy, Donna Caudy, Ruth Vrooman 81, Irina Mariano Brown, & Pamela Rice;

Sitting (L-R): Stella Fonda, Dick Fonda 85, Frances Winkler 93, John Caudy Sr. 94, Bob Caudy 91, & Esther DeVost;



Kneeling: Kyle Fonda (Tim Fonda's son).

AVELSGAARD NEWSLETTER (September 9, 2010)

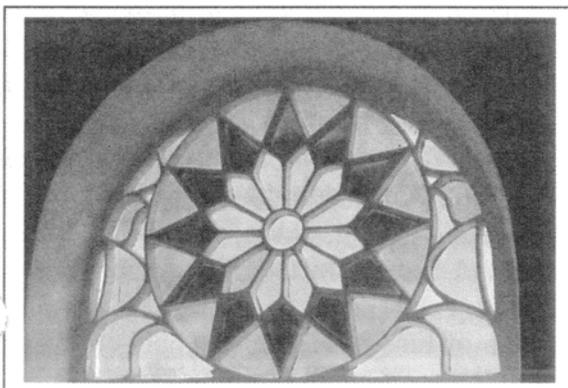
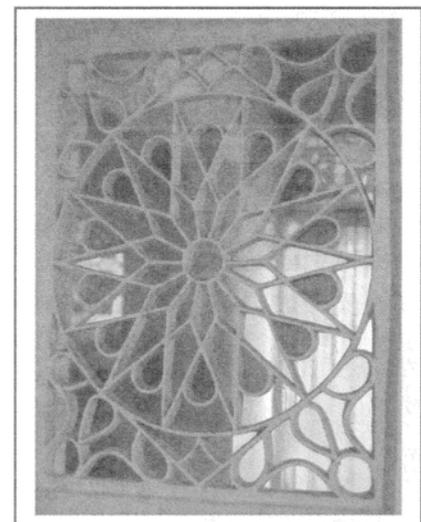
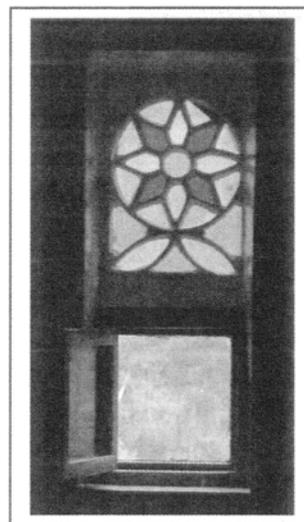
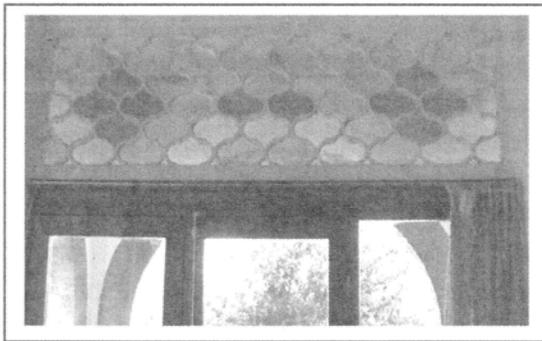
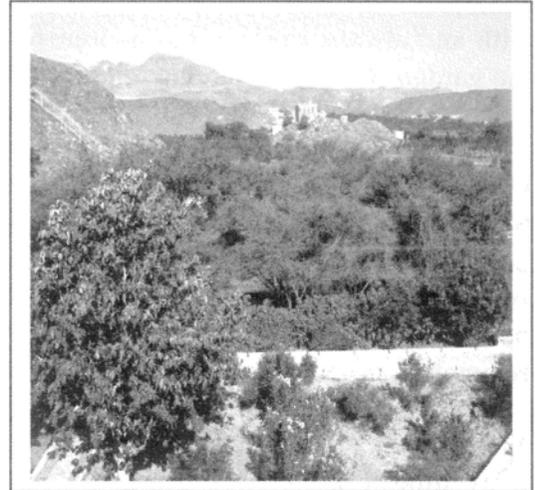
by Martin & Marie Avelsgaard

Greetings from the Middle East in Sana'a, Yemen! We have lived here since the end of July and we think we could write a book! School has started and we are both breathing a bit easier.

Many of you have asked what kind of house we live in, so we will share that with you. The Sana'a International School (SIS), an accredited college preparatory school for pre-K to grade 12, sits on 34 acres, on the outskirts of the capital city of Sana'a, which has a population of about 2 million. Our home is the only residence on the campus and sits in a secluded canyon, at a slightly higher elevation than the school (over 7,000 ft.). It is very private and looks out over mostly undeveloped land. The grounds are fenced and guarded. All other employees of SIS live in the city.

The director's house was built in 1981-82 and has 4+ bedrooms and is quite roomy. It was designed by a Dutch architect and we were told by the German Ambassador that the setting and house remind him of a villa in Tuscany! We have a large garden that we have been trying to bring back to its glory. We have had many workers weeding, trimming, planting fertilizing and planting. It is starting to take shape.

Most Yemeni homes are built of quarried stone and brick but ours is all brick. A unique architectural feature of Yemeni homes are the windows. Please notice the upstairs windows. The lower part is for viewing and ventilation and the upper part serves as a fanlight and is filled with colored glass to throw light inside the room. We have 40 colored glass windows and each has a different design.



The climate is fantastic! Even though we are 15 degrees from the equator our temps are moderate because altitude determines the climate. We get about 15 inches of rain a year and it can come from India or East Africa. Currently, our highs are about 80-85F and lows 68-72F. We have received more rain than usual and others say it is more green than normal.

We have lots of help. Our gardener, Solomon, is Ethiopian and loves his plants! He's a joy to work with and always smiles. He has transformed areas of the garden with new plantings like coffee plants, succulents and plants I can't begin to identify. He has also planted and strategically placed 16 large pots. Our other help is our maid, Manny, who is Pilipino. She cleans and does the laundry and ironing. No one has clothes dryers, as the clothes dry outside extremely fast. One would think with all of this help we don't have much to do but that's not the case. You have to remember, nothing happens fast in Yemen. Shopping of any kind takes a great deal of planning and effort. Marty's job takes a good amount of energy and so does mine. I am a Para for the 6 year old class but will be teaching the class when the current teacher takes maternity leave.

YEMEN NARRATIVE

Today is Thursday and the start of our "weekend." Friday is Yemen's holy day, a day of worship. The five times a day call to prayer is getting quieter as Ramadan and the days of fasting come to an end. The donkey is braying so it must be time to get up. Our overnight sleep was going well until a 1:30 am cell phone call. I answered it because the call ID said it was Naji, the administrative assistant at SIS. He must have misdialed and Ramadan explains the early time of day. Ideally, all Moslems are to observe Ramadan which is a month long, yearly event forecast by the phase of the moon. But, like anything that is required, there are those who don't do it. They are to fast (no food or water from daybreak to sunset) and pray for those less fortunate than themselves and also to help

them with food. The people are up all night and many have parties and it is said more food is consumed during Ramadan than otherwise. Most shops and stores in Sana'a are closed until after noon or later. It will end Sept. 8 or so, whenever an astrologer determines the moon phase, and then there are five days of holiday, when new clothes or toys are bought for the children and you visit friends and relatives.

Recently, we went to our local street market for fresh bread and fruits and veggies. These markets are located all over the city, but the one closest to us is especially colorful and the produce is fresher. It's like nothing you can imagine. Besides each small shop, there are also small trucks unloading goats & small calves to the butcher, carts of every size selling all kinds of produce in the street, small shops lining the street and always lots of noise and smells! We went to a shop selling fresh pita bread. By fresh, I mean you can see them bake it in a brick oven right before your eyes! We still don't know much Arabic so I was holding up ten fingers to indicate how many I wanted. Now Yemen is the poorest Moslem country in the world, but that didn't stop the Yemeni man from giving us 50 riyals to help us pay for our bread. Of course we couldn't say no! We thanked him profusely and then felt very humbled.

If anyone is interested we do have a face book account. There hasn't been much time to spend on it but there are some pictures from a spice/coffee store. If you'd like access just ask to be our friend! We miss all of you and appreciate hearing from you!

Editors Note: All of your cousins' prayers are with you!

In Memoriam by Marilyn V. Voshall

Clyde E. Voorhees, Jr. (VVA #10610), born 15 Feb. 1916, died 15 Mar. 2010 at age 94 in Fremont, CA. In 1938 he got a BA in Physical Education from San Jose State University and later a Master's degree in Health Education from Stanford University.

A teacher and coach at Washington High School, he became the 1st principal at Irvington High School in 1961. He was a member of Sparticus, (San Jose State Univ. Alumni Assoc.), SIRS (Calif. Retired Teachers's Assoc.), and the Snails Club. His favorite pastimes were camping,

fishing, gardening and playing cards.

His survivors include his wife, **Bernice**; 3 children -- **Jill M. Ballard** (VVA #12467) & husband Gary; **Kris D. Williams** & husband Mike; and **Jeffrey M. Voorhees** & wife Marny; 4 grandchildren -- **Heidi, Mathew, Joseph** and **Douglas**; 3 step-children -- Francis R. Heath & wife Carolyn; Bill Nordvik & wife Victoria; and Kurt Nordvik & wife Lydia; 8 step-grandchildren -- Kelli, Karla, Bill, Rob, Kraig, Kyle, Randy, and Scott; and Dorothy Abbott (his 1/2 sister).

A Celebration of Life for Clyde was held on 3 Apr. 2010 in the Chapel of the Roses at the Fremont Elks Club, Fremont, CA.

Roy Dale Voorhees, son of **Carl G.** and **Margaret**



Bauer Voorhees, was born 21 Mar. 1921 in West Chester, Iowa and died 24 May 2009 in Ames, Iowa. His parents lost their farm during the Depression but regained financial stability to send Roy to the Univ. of Iowa in 1939.

He joined the Air Corps in Dec. 1941 and became a pilot who trained others. He married Mary Peck 10 Sept. 1942. In 1943 he was sent to England and flew 55 bomber missions in Europe. He also participated in the 1944 D-Day Invasion. After WWII, he got his BA from Georgetown Univ. School of Foreign Service and an MBA from George Washington Univ. while working at the Dept. of Defense in the late 1960s. He retired as an Air Force Colonel in 1971.

Because of his knowledge of logistics, he immediately became an Associate Professor at Iowa State

Richard E. Voorhees, son of **Ernest Voorhees** and the late **Diane May Voorhees**, was born 31 Aug. 1955 in Gloversville, NY. He died 2 Aug. 2010 in Oppenheim, NY. On 7 Sept. 1975 he married his high school sweetheart, Amy E. Young.



He was an EMS Coordinator at Fulton-Montgomery Community College; Clinical Instructor of EMS for the Red Cross, American Heart Assoc., and US Dept. of Homeland Security; member of the NYS Regional Faculty; Instructor for the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control; and the Chief of the Oppenheim Volunteer Fire Dept. for 30 years. He was also a paramedic for the Ambulance Service of Fulton Co., in Gloversville, NY. He gave countless hours of service, requiring courage and dedication, to his com-

Univ. An accomplished researcher, he wrote articles in the Journal of Business Logistic, the Transportation Journal and other pertinent publications.

His survivors are **Mary P. Voorhees** (wife); 3 children – **Kristen MacRae** and husband Roderick of Chicago, Ill.; **Mary Gretchen Green** and husband Michael of Fort Worth, Tex.; **Rox Voorhees** and wife Christa of Denver, Colo.; **Bret Voorhees** and wife Jennifer of West Des Moines, Iowa; daughter-in-law Carol Voorhees, wife of his late son **Van** (died 1996), of Virginia Beach, Va.; 9 Grandchildren; 12 Great-grandchildren; **Donald Voorhees** (brother) and wife Berta of Orlando, Fla.; **Mary Hanzlik** (sister) and husband Martin of Novato, Calif.

A Celebration of Life was held 25 July 2009 in Washington, Iowa led by Father Al Aiton. Family participants were **Bret and Rox Voorhees** (sons), Lt. **Col. Van J. Voorhees** (grandson), **Mary Green and Kristin MacRae** (daughters), and **Audrey Voorhees** (granddaughter). Burial was in Elm Grove Cemetery.

munity.

His survivors include **Amy Voorhees**, wife; **Ernest Voorhees**, father; 4 daughters – **Kathy Glanovsky** & husband Jeff; **Kristy Buccolo** & husband Mike; **Kelly Voorhees**; **Kayla Norris** & husband, Robert; 3 grandchildren – **Nicholas Buccolo**, **Marshal** and **Mira Norris**; sisters -- **Vicki Voorhees Deninno**; **Brenda Voorhees Avery** & husband Lee; **Dawn Voorhees Carpenter** & husband, Bruce; **Lisa Voorhees Ploss** & husband, Brad; **Erma Voorhees**, his aunt; June Young, his mother-in-law; plus several nephews and nieces. All reside in Oppenheim except his daughter, Kathy Glanovsky & husband Jeff of Little Falls, NY. Funeral Services were held at Miller-Plonka Funeral Home in Dolgeville, NY by the Oppenheim Volunteer Fire Dept. on 4 Aug. 2010 and also on 5 Aug. 2010 by Pastor James Thomas followed by burial in Rural Park Cemetery, Ingham's Mills, NY with full fireman's honors.

Editor's Note: The following information is all we received concerning these cousins.

Jeane Van Voorhis White of Alexandria, Minn. died on 21 Aug. 2009.

Her daughter, **Jocelyn Olson**, survives her.

Abby Roche of Ocala, Fla. died before 8 June 2010.



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

To get a Set of **4 Coasters** with the **Van Voorhees Family Crest** in **4 Vivid Colors**, see page 7.

Did You Know?

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

The **Flatbush Dutch Reform Church** in Brooklyn is the oldest Dutch Reform Church in the USA. It is probable that **Steven Coerts Van Voorhees** plus his 2nd wife, **Coert Van Voorhees** and wife, plus several other sons and grandsons of Steven are all buried in the churchyard. Since many stones are now missing or unreadable, exact locations cannot be confirmed. I do know that many tombstones there during WWII (when my father took us to see the graves of our ancestors and cousins) are now missing.

Dr. David W. Voorhees has painstakingly *decoded* the handwriting and translated the Dutch of the **Flatbush Dutch Reform Church Records!** *Olde Dutch* is not found in modern dictionaries. Having done some of this type of work myself and seen these original books, I bought both volumes and highly recommend his books, *Flatbush Church Records*,

The **Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum**, in the heart of Brooklyn, NY, is the **oldest known Dutch farm in the USA**. Some of it is original and some is reconstructed from original plans. I have been there and I can recommend it as well worth a visit.

Museum hours are: Tues.-Sun. 10 AM – 4 PM; and

In mid July 2010 workers excavating ruins at the New York Trade Center discovered a row of sturdy, upright wood timbers were spaced at regular intervals in the gray brine-soaked muck. Preliminary investigation determined these were part of a vessel about 30 feet long. Archeologists were called in. An **old 1797 map** shows this area as the site where Lindsey's Wharf and Lake's Wharf once jutted out into the Hudson River. More digging and more artifacts suggested that the first recovered portion

For further information and questions, go to the following 3 sites:

1. Dutch-colonies@rootsweb.com or
2. new-netherland@rootsweb.com and
3. <http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/07/14/18th-century-ship-found-at-trade-center-site/>

Harold Vanderbilt, a **Dutchman**, **invented** the game of **Contract Bridge**. That's not all he did. He was skipper of a U.S. sailboat that won the America's Cup and drafted the basic rules for yacht racing. In business he fought with Robert R. Young for control of the New York Central railroad.

He invented Contract Bridge in 1925 while on a 3-

In the town of **Voorhees, N.J.** there is a **Voorhees High School Music Association** (composed of administrators, teachers, staff, parents and music stu-

Volumes 1 & 2! **Volume 1** is from **1677-1720** (ISBN 0-9628194-1-7) and **Volume 2** (ISBN 078-09628194-2-5) is from **1654-1709**. A Preface in each book explains church history, tenets and procedures relative to the contents of that Volume -- Baptismal and Marriage Records, Meeting Minutes, Disciplinary Actions, etc. The left pages are still in Dutch (modern print, not handwritten) and the right pages are in English. He made it easy to follow by having each line in Dutch directly across from its English translation. You may purchase these (at a discount for both) only through the **Holland Society**. For more details see:

<http://www.hollandsociety.com/index1.html>

General Information: info@hollandsociety.org

Webmaster: webmaster@hollandsociety.org

Public Tours are at 1 PM and 3 PM.

The address is: **Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum**

5816 Clarendon Rd.

Brooklyn, NY 11203

Tel.: 718-629-5400 and Fax: 718-629-3125

website: www.wyckoffassociation.org

may be just a fraction of the entire ship. In this case, the ship might be 2 or 3 times larger – i.e., 60 to 90 feet long. It is now surmised that this ship has been buried undisturbed for more than 200 years.

One unusual and unidentified piece of metal is semi-circular, several feet in diameter and probably supported by a brick base -- all built into the hull.

Knowledgeable boaters, who know a bit about boat building or maritime history, are requested to view a slide show and offer their interpretations.

week steamship cruise from San Pedro, Calif. to New York City via the Panama Canal. He based his new game on a combination of Auction Bridge and Plafond, a French card game similar to Auction Bridge. He played his new game after lunch every day and often in the evenings too while on the cruise. The game caught on and is still played today.

dents) providing support for all VHS Band functions, wind and jazz ensembles, concerts, and competitions plus giving scholarships to deserving music seniors.

ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG AT GARRET VOORHEES' HOMESTEAD, MIDDLEBUSH, NEW JERSEY

by Manning W. Voorhees

The Amwell Road has been a key element of the highway system for central New Jersey since the turn of the 18th century. "Although (the Amwell Road) was probably established by custom and use as early as 1690, it was formally laid out by authority on June 6, 1712." It started at John Inians' Ferry that ran across the Raritan River from 1686 to 1791, where the Albany Street bridge is today connecting New Brunswick and Highland Park, and went westward in time to Middlebush and Millstone in Somerset Counties and to Flemington in Hunterdon County. It is also known today as State Highway 514 running westward from the Rutgers Campus in New Brunswick (Hamilton St.).

Our story centers on the Amwell Road in Middle-

bush where O'Connor's Beef and Chowder House is today, a few miles west of the New Brunswick city line and less than one-half mile west of DeMott Lane. The Van Voorhees Association met on several Reunion days for dinner at O'Connor's in past years. Contemporary growth forced a redesign of the Amwell Road at this spot. Since the site is in a historical district, New Jersey law required an archeological exploration of the land that will be covered by new roadway after old artifacts were found. There is a historical marker by the curb on the Amwell Road noting that the homestead of Garret Voorhees was burned by the British at that site. But first, some genealogy and history so that we may understand "who's who in the zoo."

Genealogy and History

My 5th great grandfather was Garret Voorhees (1720-1785, #208 in VVFA). We shall identify him for simplicity as Garret I; in reality, there were four "Garret's" in succession starting with Garret I.

Through a series of transactions that culminated in 1701, a large tract of land along the Raritan River in the region near New Brunswick was assembled and named Raritan Lots. It was created and sold by investors to several individual farmers. Middlebush grew from Lots 2 and 3. Garret I acquired land over time on the south side of the Amwell Road, just beyond today's Middlebush Reformed Church, in what was Lot 3; he appeared in a tax document as owning 25 acres in 1745. He is said to have held 183 acres at a later time. Garret I also held so-called "out lots" and he gave three to his sons Garret II (1750-1823, #720, see #639 in VVFA), Minne (#718, see #637) and Roelof (#719, see #638). The farm of Garret I, 183 or 200 acres, was bequeathed to another son and my 4th great grandfather, Peter G. Voorhees (#723, see #642; he used the patronymic initial).

The homestead of Garret II was probably initially given to him by Garret I sometime around the son's marriage to Matilda Ditmars in 1776 (see #639 in VVFA) and was formally conveyed to him on 1 May 1783. It contained 58.5 acres on both the south and north side of the Amwell Road, although it was largely on the southerly side. The consideration in 1783 was £650 and the property included two woodlots of 15 and 20 acres each. The bulk of Garret's homestead was immediately near the present Middlebush

Reformed Church. Later writers clearly indicated that part of the homestead of Garret II is the present day O'Connor's Restaurant.

The Revolutionary War is the next big event in our story. New York and New Jersey were the sites of active fighting and major battles that heavily influenced the successful outcome for the Patriots. The British general, Sir William Howe, traded victories with General George Washington, upon which Sir William dispatched troops under Lord Charles Cornwallis and the Hessian leader, General Leopold de Heister, to the New Brunswick region with the objective of trapping Gen. Washington. The idea failed. Of note, however, is that significant numbers of troops of both the German and British commanders encamped along the Amwell Road west of Middlebush as far as the Millstone River.

The prolific historical writer, James P. Snell, wrote, "On the 19th day of June (1777), the British general (de Heister) having found it impossible to entice Washington from his stronghold in the hills (i.e., "the heights of Middlebrook"), the troops of Cornwallis and de Heister suddenly evacuated the positions they had held during the preceding five days and moved rapidly back to New Brunswick." Judge Ralph Voorhees (1796-1878, #1934 in VVFA), the son of Garret II and also a prolific writer, wrote in *Our Home*, "When General de Heister's army left Middlebush, tradition states they attempted to burn every building between that place and New Brunswick. Some of the fires were put out, and some build-

ings failed to take fire. The following important property was burnt or destroyed: Garret Voorhees, of Middlebush - Dwelling house, with six rooms, entry and kitchen, two well curbs, and two new corn cribs, altogether £300; also one half-blooded horse, 3 years old, 14 ½ hands high, saddle and bridle, £26,5s; thirty acres of wheat in the field destroyed, £45; six yearling calves, and large Dutch cupboard, £12; 346 panels (sic) fence, £25,10s; the grass of seven acres of meadow destroyed, 4 bedsteads, 110 fowls and other damages, amounting in all to £451.17s.8d (\$1,129.70).”

Near the end of October 1779, Lt. Colonel John Graves Simcoe led a group of British Rangers from Staten Island into Somerset County. “Penetrating as far as Millstone [they did] a considerable amount of damage. ... They ... went to Millstone, and there burned the Somerset County court-house (fn., 27 October 1779) with its contents. That building stood about twelve rods west of the present (in 1881) Millstone bridge. ... From thence the troopers followed the Amwell Road towards New Brunswick, intending,

when they should come to the house standing at the corner of the junction of the Amwell Road with the highway leading to the Princeton road, to take to the right. The house they were looking for was that of Garret Voorhees, which had stood at the place named, but had been burned two years before by the British. The guide which they had impressed at Quibbletown (New Market) supposed he knew the place perfectly well, but he was ignorant of the fact that the house had been burned, and he therefore unwittingly led them astray.” The British foray is known as Simcoe’s Raid.

Garret II claimed compensation for damages on 25 September 1782 under an act of the Legislature during the preceding year. With the proceeds, he rebuilt his homestead which subsequently developed into the present day O’Connor’s Restaurant. Garret II is stated in the archaeologists’ report to have been a teamster during the Revolution. He also served in the local Militia as a private and sergeant.

Archaeologists’ Report

Let’s fast forward some 220 or more years. Growth in the Somerset region of Middlebush has been strong and the Amwell Road had to be redesigned for traffic to move more expeditiously. Work on the Amwell Road in front of O’Connor’s was commenced and then “... temporarily halted so archaeologists can examine the remnants of an 18th century blacksmith shop.” That blacksmith shop was built by Garret II. “Phase One of the dig began in February (2008) after metal detecting and hand excavations led (to the) discovery of dense quantities of nails and brick related to a hearth, said Michael J. Gall, senior archeologist ...” The location of the shop certainly was good since the Amwell Road was well trafficked and blacksmithing was a necessity of commerce. No one could miss Garret Voorhees’ blacksmith shop.

On 23 September 2008, Mr. Gall, the senior archeological investigator, told me on site that no indications of fire had been discovered at the excavated site of the blacksmith shop. Thus, he had concluded that the shop was erected after the destructive raid of 1777 and logically after Col. Simcoe’s attempted raid of 1779. British Major John Andre* on 15 June 1777 drew a map of Middlebush showing roads and buildings in detail; the homestead of Garret II was clearly shown but a building for the blacksmith shop was not shown. The homestead of Garret II, further away from the Amwell Road and behind the site of the

future shop, must have been the structure burned by the British, for which Garret II received the damage compensation award claimed in 1782.

*(Major Andre was later hanged for his role in the attempted surrender of West Point by American Gen. Benedict Arnold. *ibid.* Reference 5)

As mentioned earlier, during the Revolutionary War (1775-1783) Garret II was a teamster and a militiaman fighting the British. He was twenty years old approximately when the War commenced. His father, Garret I, was a blacksmith and the archeologists presume that he may have taught that trade to his son, Garret II. However, records available today do not create a clear picture. “Soon after constructing his home, archaeological evidence suggests that Garret (II) also set out to build a small blacksmith shop between his home and (the) Amwell Road, in order to generate money to fund the rebuilding effort and recent land purchase. ... no documentary evidence pertaining to the shop has been located, and historic records do not specify that Garret (II) was a blacksmith.” (I wonder if Garret II rented the shop to a blacksmith.) The “recent land purchase” refers to the formal conveyance of the 58.5 acres from Garret I to Garret II for £650 on 1 May 1783 (see above). Garret II received no more than £451 and change from his compensation claim. Thus, he appeared to need additional funds.

"The shop was bounded to the east by a small shed, post-supported canopy, or animal enclosure. ... Garret Jr.'s shop stood roughly 76 feet in front of his house and approximately 40 feet off the original Amwell Road alignment. Evidence suggests that the shop was erected in line with and just west of the dwelling's western gable end. The orientation of the shop with the house, and its off-set position to the dwelling, strongly suggests that it was constructed at the same time as or immediately after the rebuilt house."

"The construction methods used in Garret's shop and the abutting shed are worth note. Above ground, the shop took on an appearance typical of most small outbuildings. It measured 18 feet east/west by 20.5 feet north/south and its gable end faced the road. The shop's exterior was likely sheathed with clapboard siding and its roof covered in cedar shakes ... Architecturally, the shop consisted of a wood frame building constructed with earthfast (see explanation below), longitudinal assembly techniques ... Such techniques have been observed in Post Medieval buildings in England, but are less common in continental Europe, where transverse or H-bent assembly techniques were the norm ... This entailed the separate pre-fabrication of both the east and west long sides of the building. Each longitudinal assembly was comprised of two ends and a center post, atop of which was seated a wall plate. The central post was slightly off center. Once connected through mortise and tenon, each longitudinal section was raised into place. The base of the three vertical or upright posts were each set within an elongated post hole, which extended roughly two feet below ground surface. Some of the post holes were dug to the surface of shallow, shale bedrock. Soil, rocks, and brick fragments were used to fill the area around each post within the post holes to stabilize the walls."

"Short tie-beams, oriented in an east/west direction, were then placed atop the wall plates, stretching between each long wall. The ends of the northern and southern tie-beams would have been placed on the wall plates directly above the corner posts. The central tie beam, however, was likely offset from the two central posts in the long walls ..., as suggested by an interior central post ... It appears that the interior central post (indicated by 'Feature 55' on the enclosed sketch) was located roughly one foot south of the axis formed by the central wall posts ... The presence of this post is curious, as it would not have been required to support the central tie beam unless that tie beam was also used to support heavy loads below. One pos-

sibility is that a winching system was connected to the tie beam. Such a system could have been used to lift carriages while wheels were replace(d) and cradle draft oxen while being shoed. (Oxen cannot stand on three legs, and thus need to be supported in a body cradle while being shoed.). ... The width of the door opening may have allowed wagons to be backed or pulled into the shop where parts could be repaired or replaced."

"The layout and post configuration of the blacksmith shop is intriguing, particularly as evidence indicates that (the) shop was constructed with longitudinal wall assembly methods rather the transverse H-bend wall assembly methods. The latter is a common feature on early Dutch buildings, and was typically employed by continental Europeans during the Post Medieval period ... The former has been observed as a common feature of Post Medieval English buildings. By the late 18th and 19th centuries, however, a hybrid combination of English and Dutch building methods was at (the) time utilized in the northern Middle Atlantic. ... (This observation is most interesting as it suggests that after 100 to 150 years Dutch building techniques were blending with those of the prevailing English in rural central New Jersey.)"

"Artifact distribution indicates that the hearth would have been located along the east wall of the shop ... The base of the hearth was not identified as it had been dismantled when the shop (was) out of use. Examination of the brick recovered indicates that some of the brick was likely made on site. The brick appeared to have been crudely made on the ground surface on top of a bed of grass or hay, which left impressions on the base of some bricks."

"The aforementioned shed, post supported canopy, or enclosure measured roughly 21.5 feet east/west by 12 feet long north/south. The structure appears to have been crudely constructed and consisted of four posts set into the ground, which may have supported a roof and walls. ... Clearly, this building was not erected with adjacent walls (to the blacksmith shop) positioned at right angles, suggesting that it may have been built haphazardly and slightly later than the shop. The shed ... may have been enclosed in walls or, more likely, simply been a post-supported canopied roof intended to shield horses from the sun and inclement weather while being re-shoed. It may also have been used by customers as an area to tie their horses to hitching posts in front of the structure while awaiting the services of the blacksmith."

"The shop Garret, Jr. erected may have served multiple functions. Initially, it may have been built to facilitate the production of building hardware, such as wrought nails and spikes for the reconstruction of the nearby Voorhees house. Garret, Jr. may have also utilized the shop to conduct farriering* tasks on the team of horses he owned and utilized to transport goods as a teamster. However, it is unclear if Garret, Jr. continued to work as a teamster after the war. Whether for his own horses or horses owned by others, artifacts recovered from the site clearly indicate that Garret, Jr. did perform farriering* tasks at his shop. Further, based on the location of the shop and the material recovered, it seems that the shop's primary function was as a street front business. Its location along the heavily traveled east/west thoroughfare enabled Garret, Jr. to cater to teamsters on their way to and from New Brunswick who required farriering* services for their horses, as well as repairs to the wagons. The shop likely also served the local community, making architectural nails, and repairing broken tools and hardware, as well as performing farriering tasks for community members."

*(**Editor's Note:** A *farrier* is a *blacksmith*; but in older times he might also do veterinary work.)

"Earthfast"* construction was mentioned above as one of the techniques used by Garret II for building the blacksmith shop and adjoining shed. Earthfast entails inserting the vertical beams of a structure directly into post holes about two feet in depth. This, obviously, was a cheaper method of construction for Garret II and was "... a Medieval building technique ... thought to have gone out of use in New Jersey by the mid 18th century." A further cost saver was the use of an earthen floor for the blacksmith shop.

*("The archaeologists note that earthfast construction was known to survive decay in the ground for several decades, depending in part on the particular wood used." *ibid.* Reference 5)

The archaeological site ran 43 feet north/south and 95 feet east/west, or 4,085 sq. feet (0.09 acres), 2,468 of which were archaeologically excavated. A total of 33,410 "artifacts" were found within this excavation area. Fuel represented 54% of the artifacts and was heavily slag. There were 109 charcoal fragments retained. Charcoal was the usual fuel used, not coal. The next largest group of artifacts were 9,767 architectural items comprising 29% of the total – 7,951 of which were pieces of brick. Nails, spikes, door hardware, and so forth were also included in the

architectural category.

Farriering material – horseshoes and related nails – consisted of 2,152 horseshoe nails and 13 horseshoes. Together, they represented 6% of the total artifacts. "Farriering tasks left a cascade of cut nail tips and pulled nails. The majority of the nails recovered lacked nail tips, indicating that during the farriering process, most nails, when hammered into the shoe and hoof, protruded through the hoof's outer wall, and were thus clipped. Nails present in recovered horseshoes and shoe fragments also indicate that not all nails had been successfully removed from the shoe after the shoe was pulled from the horse's hoof. The quantity of shoeing related artifacts recovered suggests that farriering may have been a primary activity at the Voorhees site blacksmith shop."

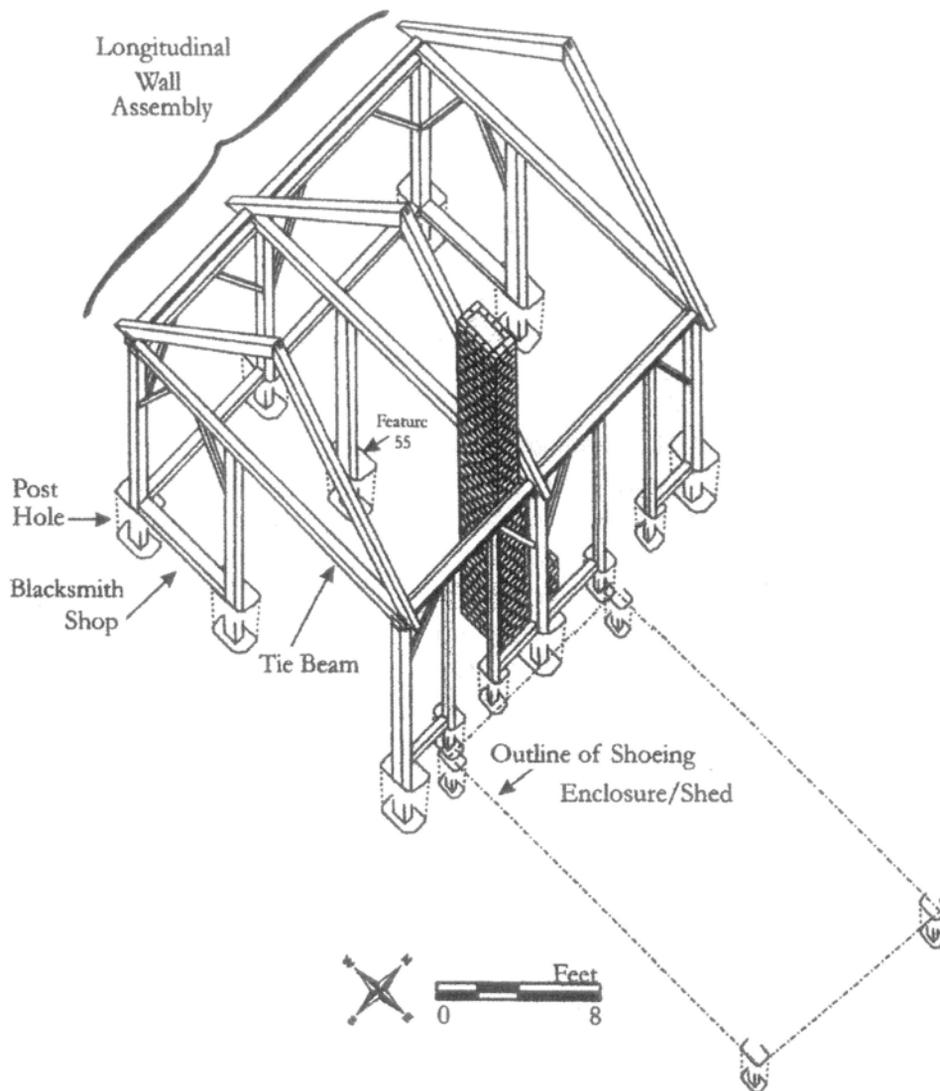
There were many other types of artifacts recovered by the archaeologists, such as some tools, domestic articles and so forth. However, the foregoing were selected for this article to show the nature and character of the blacksmithing business conducted in the shop owned by Garret II.

In today's world, when we have a cavity, we romp to our well educated and equipped dentist. In the world of Garret II, however, someone with a toothache would go either to a barber shop where the tooth would be pulled or, believe it or not, to a blacksmith. The archaeologists found a human molar with a cavity that was a hole almost entirely across the outer side of the tooth. They opine, "... it is probable that the tooth was pulled in the blacksmith shop by the smith using tongs or pliers available in the shop." Ah yes, from Ole Dobbins to a customer's toothache.

The blacksmith shop of Garret II ceased operations sometime in the latter 1790's or in the first decade of the 19th century. There is no record as to the actual date when operations stopped. It is interesting to note that the blacksmith shop "...did not stand long enough for (the) support posts to decay in place (i.e., inserted into the ground). Rather, it is probable that the building may have been dismantled or more likely moved to a different location."

We are very appreciative of the large amount of information revealed by the archaeologists in their report (*ibid.* Reference 5) and thank them for providing me with a copy. We also thank the State of New Jersey and the Engineering Division of the County of Somerset for funding the archaeological effort.

Illustrations are on the following page.



On the Left is an axonometric drawing of the Voorhees site earthfast blacksmith shop plus an outline of the shoeing shed (or enclosure) based on cultural features and deposits. Note: the type of rafter depicted and use of a false wall plate are speculative. Although many posts in this drawing have the same base, only Structural Post Feature #55 (mentioned in the preceding text) within the blacksmith shop has an assigned number.

Structural Post Features numbered 15, 53, 54A, 54B, 56A, 56B, 59, 65 and 67 within the blacksmith shop are not depicted.

References:

1. Elsie Beatrice Stryker and Ralph W. Thomson, *Where the Trees Grow Tall*, Franklin Township Historical Society, 1963, p. 6
2. John Inian was a merchant in New York and an investor. Stryker, op cit, p. 122.
3. Florence A. Christoph, *The Van Voorhees Family in America, Volume I, The First Six Generations*, Van Voorhees Association, 2000.
This genealogy and other Voorhees Family works may be purchased:
ibid. BOOK ORDER FORM in this *Nieuwsbrief* OR
The Van Voorhees Association website: www.vanvoorhees.org.
4. Stryker and Thomson, op. cit., pp. 6-7 and 122-23
5. Michael J. Gall, Phillip A. Hayden and Robert Lore, June 25, 2009, *Blacksmithing and Farriering in Eighteenth Century Somerset County: Archaeological Excavations at the Voorhees Site (28-So-153)*, Franklin Township, Somerset County, New Jersey, report prepared by Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc., Cranbury, New Jersey, for the Somerset County Engineering Division, Somerville, New Jersey, pp. 3-1 to 3-8. The report of Messrs. Gall, Hayden and Lore is approximately 200 pages in length with diagrams, maps and pull-out exhibit
6. James P. Snell, *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey*, compiled by James P. Snell, Everts & Beck, Philadelphia, 1881
7. Ralph Voorhees, *Our Home*, "The Raritan and Its Early Holland Settlers," Vol. I, No. 11, November 1873, as

- digitized by Google Books and downloaded therefrom on 10 August 2010 in a collection entitled *Our Home A Monthly Magazine of Original Articles*, ed. by A. V. D. Honeyman, Volume for 1873, p. 495
8. Stryker and Thomson, op. cit., p. 24 and Snell, op. cit., pp. 75-76
 9. Snell, op. cit., pp. 75-76. There was considerable destruction and damage in the Somerset area. Jaques Voorhees (1733-1792, #223 in VVFA) probably had a leading role in the construction of the County Court house that Col. Simcoe destroyed. With respect to Col. Simcoe's impressed guide, it is interesting to speculate that the guide might have misled the Colonel, knowing full well that Garret Voorhees' homestead had been destroyed, thereby leading the British into a trap further down the Amwell Road toward New Brunswick where they were ambushed by the Patriots. How would someone feel if he were shanghaied by the enemy? – bitter, I would presume. Captain Peter L. Voorhees (ca. 1758-1779, #715 in VVFA) of the Continental Army was a hero in the ambush and was killed with British sabers. But, that is another story. Capt. Peter L. was the first cousin of Garret II
 10. Daughters of the American Revolution, genealogical service. See <http://services.dar.org> (as of 19 August 2010). Garret I is "ancestor" #119119
 11. *Asbury Park Press*, 31 August 2008, p. A3
 12. My Central Jersey.com, www.mycentraljersey.com, 29 August 2008, accessed 6 June 2010

Cornelius Westbrook Van Voorhis by Robert F. Voorhees

Some of you will remember the booming radio voice of Westbrook Van Voorhis (born 21 Sept. 1903 in New York City and died 13 July 1968 at New Milford, Litchfield Co., CT). He was famous for his distinctive voice which he used to narrate the "March of Time" newsreels from its inception in 1931 to its conclusion in the 1950's. Westbrook was noted for his sharp sense of the dramatic, his absolute command of his voice, and his flawless sense of timing. He also narrated a movie version shown in movie theaters during World War II. He was guest narrator on several Government-sponsored radio programs. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy, but entered broadcasting in the late 1920's and was one of the first radio announcers before joining "The March of Time". He did not take to the Naval Academy. He inherited \$100,000 (we are not sure from whom, but probably his father), quit the Academy, decided against a legal career (His father and grandfather were New York lawyers.), and finally took a slow trip around the world. An actor next, he played in 12 flops in 18 months, and then quit to try radio. He was an announcer on a small local radio station when Time discovered him.

In 1932 he married Constance McKay, whom he had met when she was the heroine of a Broadway play in which he was the villain. Her father was Hugh McKay and her mother was Margaret Britton. They had a daughter ca. 1933 named Nancy. She married Thomas Atkinson. They had a son named Ashmead

Scott Van Voorhis born ca. 1935. He was apparently not living when Westbrook died in 1968.

In 1936 he began work with the advertising dept of Life Magazine. He was signed exclusively by Time, as its voice in 1937. Until then he had worked for some 50 programs, under at least 5 names. After 1937 he was no longer anonymous, and "Van" as he was sometimes called, was introduced under



his own name to the world each week on March of Time's weekly broadcasts. He was narrator of the films *The Ramparts We Watch* (1940) and *We are the Marines* (1942). In 1949 he narrated the documentary *Crusade in Europe*. In 1951 he appeared in *Door with No Name* and *The Pacific*. Later he was a radio and TV commentator for CBS News in NY. In 1961 he appeared in the film *Ladies Man* with Jerry Lewis.

Westbrook had a colorful father, also Cornelius Westbrook Van Voorhis (born 1877). Camille D. Van Voorhis wife of Cornelius Westbrook Van Voorhis of NYC, on 4 June 1910 obtained a divorce on grounds of non-support and desertion. She testified that her husband lost \$42,000 playing roulette in NY in 1908. He did not contest the divorce. Cornelius Westbrook Van Voorhis, ex-Secretary and Treasurer of the Havana (Cuba) Electric Railway Co. and having offices at 52 Broadway, was arrested and locked up in

Ludlow St. jail, and charged with the appropriation of money belonging to the firm to his personal use. Camille married Francisco De Sousa soon after the divorce. These two show up in the 1920 census living in Binghamton, Broome Co., NY with a step son named Westbrook Van Voorhis, age 16. So Westbrook was 7 years old when his mother and father divorced and he apparently lived with his mother growing up.

Westbrook moved to New Milford, Litchfield Co., CT in 1951 where he and Constance remodeled a former tobacco barn into a comfortable home. He was a tall (6 foot 1 inch), imposing man who had a grand sense of humor and a very curious mind. In 1959 his first wife died in a tragic fire at their home in New Milford.



Westbrook (he rarely used Cornelius) did have considerable difficulty coming to terms with his wife's death and became addicted to alcohol. He remained in the portion of the house that had not burned. He eventually married (2nd) Mabel Elizabeth Throckmorton, who was an old family friend. July 13, 1968



Westbrook died at age 64 at New Milford Hospital due to pneumonia. He was survived (in 1968) by his widow (who died in 1984); a daughter, Mrs. Nancy Atkinson of NY; and two stepsons, Robert Chaffee of Clinton, NY and A.E. Scott, Jr. of NY. Funeral services were held at the Lillis Funeral Home with the Rev. Elbert Hamlin, the rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, officiating. Westbrook and his 2nd wife, Elizabeth, are buried together in Center Cemetery, New Milford, Litchfield Co., CT.



When Flo Christoph and I started working on the genealogy of Cornelius Westbrook Van Voorhis (born 1903) his line was in the "unknown" category.

We now have him connected back to the immigrant ancestor. His father's name was Cornelius Westbrook Van Voorhis (born 1877), son of William Roe Van Voorhis (born 1858), the son of was Cornelius Westbrook Van Voorhis (born 1813). This is the kind of project we have so much fun with. Flo did a lot of work on this, but one of the most helpful pieces of information came when we learned that Cornelius Westbrook Van Voorhis (born 1877) had joined the Holland Society in 1905. The Holland Society was very helpful in giving us his "genealogical record of the candidate". To become a member of the Holland Society the candidate has to prove his ancestor came to America from the Netherlands before 1675. So, obviously, this genealogy information was critical. The Holland Society and DAR records are similar.

Most of the information for this article came from our genealogy work and from sources on the internet. I want to give a special thanks to Michael Ryley Bradbury of New Milford, CT. Michael is very active in www.findagrave.com. You can find a lot of information and pictures at this website on our subject. On top of this, Michael knew Westbrook personally and provided some interesting details in an email. I would like to share this email with you.

"I thought I would send you these three photos. The two of him at his desk were obviously publicity photos which I had saved from the debris of the house on Vancar Road in New Milford where his wife, Constance was killed in a fire, which is the house photo. My father was Van's attorney in New Milford for many years; we enjoyed many evenings of Van regaling us with tales of his exploits over the years. His wife, Connie, was a delightful lady and welcomed the community at large to their home which they had constructed in a former sandpit. They created a 'bowl' in which they would invite performers to come and present their talents; it had great acoustics.

In 1962, after the fire, Van had construction people tear down what remained of the charred part of the building which left a sizeable portion of the original barn from which they had constructed the house. He hired me to help clean up the remains of the fire as well as help build fences as he wanted to raise sheep on his property. He had a great deal of trouble dealing with Connie's death and took a lot of solace from Jack Daniels. He was still broadcasting but come Friday night he would have someone come down to New York to pick him up and by the time he arrived in New Milford he was pretty much 'three sheets to the wind.' He would remain in this condition until it was

time to return to New York on Sunday night. It was amazing by the time he arrived in New York he was sober as a judge. He invited an old friend and her son, who was my age, to come up for weekends; the son he hired to act as a watchman during the week and to

work with me. Eventually he and this very nice lady, Elizabeth Throckmorton, married.

After that summer I graduated from college and spent two years in the Peace Corps so I never saw Van again before he died."

Why They Moved

submitted by Robert F. Voorhees

I have long had an interest in studying why our ancestors moved. Flo Christoph has done a lot of work in this area. Today we have Van Voorhees in all 50 state and many foreign countries. This will be the first in hopefully a series of articles on "Why They Moved." This article deals with pioneers in general; but in the future I hope to have examples of actual Van Voorhees Ancestors and why they moved. If any of our members reading this Nieuwsbrief have interesting examples of Van Voorhees on the move, I would be interested in hearing about it. (My email is:

The following article is a letter written by Timothy Dwight, late President of Yale College, in 1821. Part of the charm of this letter is that it was written almost 190 years ago. Timothy Dwight wrote many letters and all went into a set of books (4 volumes) titled, *Travels: in New England and New York*. Dwight died before the books were published in 1821.

In this letter Dwight describes the successive stages in the settlement of new land, from pioneering to the ultimate cultivation in well-settled communities. Among historians this letter has attained the rank of a classic in economic history. Robert F. Voorhees

Editor's Note: In no way does the content of the following letter express the sentiments, philosophy and opinions of myself or the Van Voorhees Association. It is here only for its historical value and is only the personal opinions of Timothy Dwight.

Quoted Letter of Timothy Dwight

Vermont has been settled entirely from the other States of New-England. The inhabitants have, of course, the New-England character, with no other difference beside what is accidental. In formation of Colonies, those, who are first inclined to emigrate, are usually such, as have met with difficulties at home. These are commonly joined by persons, who, having large families, and small farms, are induced, for the sake of settling their children comfortably, to seek for new and cheaper lands. To both are always added the discontented, the enterprising, the ambitious, and the covetous. Many, of the first, and some, of all these classes, are found in every new American country, within ten years after its settlement has commenced. From this period, kindred, friendship, and former neighbourhood, prompt others to follow them. Others, still, are allured by the prospect of gain, presented in every new country to the sagacious, from the purchase and sale of lands: while not a small number are influenced by the brilliant stories, which every where are told concerning most tracts during the early progress of their settlement. A considerable part of all those, who *begin* the cultivation of the wilderness, may be denominated foresters, or *Pioneers*. The busi-

ness of these persons is no other than to cut down trees, build log-houses, lay open forested grounds to cultivation, and prepare the way for those who come after them. These men cannot live in regular society. They are too idle; too talkative; too passionate; too-prodigious; and too shiftless; to acquire either property or character. They are impatient of the restraints of law, religion, and morality; grumble about the taxes, by which Rulers, Ministers, and School-masters, are supported; and complain incessantly, as well as bitterly, of the extortions of mechanics, farmers, merchants, and physicians; to whom they are always indebted. At the same time, they are usually possessed, in their own view, of uncommon wisdom; understand medical science, politics, and religion, better than those, who have studied them through life; and, although they manage their own concerns worse than any other men, feel perfectly satisfied, that they could manage those of the nation far better than the agents, to whom they are committed by the public. After displaying their own talents, and worth; after censuring the weakness, and wickedness, of their superiours; after exposing the injustice of the community in neglecting to invest persons of such merit

with public offices; in many an eloquent harangue, uttered by many a kitchen fire, in every blacksmith's shop, and in every corner of the streets; and finding all their efforts vain; they become at length discouraged: and under the pressure of poverty, the fear of a gaol, and the consciousness of public contempt, leave their native places, and betake themselves to the wilderness.

Here they are obliged either to work, or starve. They accordingly cut down some trees, and girdle others; they furnish themselves with an ill-built log-house, and a worse barn; and reduce a part of the forest into fields, half-enclosed, and half-cultivated. The forests furnish browse; and their fields yield a stinted herbage. On this scanty provision they feed a few cattle: and with these, and the penurious products of their labour, eked out by hunting and fishing, they keep their families alive.

A farm, thus far cleared, promises immediate subsistence to a better husbandman. A log-house, thus built, presents, when repaired with moderate exertions, a shelter for his family. Such a husbandman is therefore induced by these little advantages, where the soil and situation please him, to purchase such a farm; when he would not plant himself in an absolute wilderness. The proprietor is always ready to sell: for he loves this irregular, adventurous, half-working, and half-lounging life; and hates the sober industry, and prudent economy, by which his bush pasture might be changed into a farm, and himself raised to thrift and independence. The bargain is soon made. The forester, receiving more money for his improvements than he ever before possessed, and a price for the soil, somewhat enhanced by surrounding settlements, willingly quits his house, to build another like it, and his farm, to girdle trees, hunt, and saunter, in another place. His wife accompanies him only from a sense of duty, or necessity; and secretly pines for the quiet, orderly, friendly society, to which she originally bade a reluctant farewell. Her husband, in the mean time, becomes less and less a civilized man: and almost everything in the family, which is amiable and meritorious, is usually the result of her principles, care, and influence.

The second proprietor is commonly a farmer; and with an industry and spirit, deserving no small commendation, changes the desert into a fruitful field.

This change is accomplished much more rapidly in some places than in others; as various causes, often accidental, operate. In some instances a settlement is begun by farmers; and assumes the aspect of regular

society from its commencement. This, to some extent, is always the fact: and the greater number of the first planters are, probably, of this description: but some of them also, are foresters; and sometimes a majority.

You must have remarked a very sensible difference in the character of different towns, through which I have passed. This diversity is in no small degree derived from the original character of the planters, in the different cases.

The class of men, who have been the principal subject of these remarks, have already straggled onward from New-England, as well as from other parts of the Union, to Louisiana. In a political view, their emigration is of very serious utility to the ancient settlements. All countries contain restless inhabitants; men impatient of labour; men, who will contract debts without intending to pay them; who had rather talk than work; whose vanity persuades them, that they are wise, and prevents them from knowing, that they are fools; who are delighted with innovation; who think places of power and profit due to their peculiar merits; who feel, that every change from good order and established society will be beneficial to themselves; who have nothing to lose, and therefore expect to be gainers by every scramble; and who, of course, spend life in disturbing others, with the hope of gaining something for themselves. Under despotic governments they are awed into quiet; but in every free community they create, to a greater or less extent, continual turmoil; and have often overturned the peace, liberty, and happiness, of their fellow-citizens. In the Roman Commonwealth, as before in the Republics of Greece, they were emptied out, as soldiers, upon the surrounding countries; and left the sober inhabitants in comparative quiet at home. It is true, they often threw these States into confusion; and sometimes overturned the government. But if they had not been thus thrown off, from the body politic, its life would have been of a momentary duration. As things actually were, they finally ruined all these States. For some of them had, as some of them always will have, sufficient talents to do mischief; at times, very extensive. The Gracchi*, Clodius, Marius, and Mark Anthony, were men of this character. Of this character is every demagogue; whatever may be his circumstances. Power and profit are the only ultimate objects, which every such man, with a direction as steady, as that of the needle to the pole, pursues with a greediness unlimited and inextinguishable.

*(Editor's Note: The Gracchi brothers were Roman plebeian noblemen serving as Tribunes in the 2nd cen-

tury BC, who attempted to pass legislation to redistribute property among plebians. As a result of this, they were considered to be Populists and, thus, the founding fathers of Socialism & Populism.)

Formerly the energetic government, established in New-England, together with the prevailing high sense of religion and morals, and the continually pressing danger from the French, and the savages, compelled the inhabitants of regularity and good order not surpassed perhaps, in the world. But since the American Revolution, our situation became less favorable to the existence, as well as to the efficacy, of these great means, of internal peace. The former exact, and decisive, energy of the government has been obviously weakened. From our ancient dangers we have been delivered; and the deliverance was a distinguished blessing: but the sense of danger regularly brings with it a strong conviction, that safety cannot be preserved without exact order, and a ready submission to lawful authority.

The institutions, and the habits, of New-England, more I suspect than those of any other country, have prevented, or kept down, this noxious disposition; but they cannot entirely prevent either its existence, or its effects. In mercy, therefore, to the sober, industrious, and well-disposed, inhabitants, Providence has opened in the vast Western wilderness a retreat, sufficiently alluring to draw them away from the land of their nativity. We have many troubles even now: but we should have many more, if this body of foresters had remained at home.

It is however to be observed, that a considerable number even of these people become sober, Industri-

ous citizens, merely by the acquisition of property. The love of property to a certain degree seems indispensable to the existence of sound morals. I have never had a servant, in whom I could confide, except such as were desirous to earn, and preserve, money. The conveniences, and the character, attendant on the possession of property, fix even these restless men at times, when they find themselves really able to accumulate it; and persuade them to a course of regular industry. I have mentioned, that they sell the soil of their first farms at an enhanced price; and that they gain for their improvements on them what, to themselves at least, is a considerable sum. The possession of this money removes, perhaps for the first time, the despair of acquiring property; and awakens the hope, and the wish, to acquire more. The secure possession of property demands, every moment, the hedge of law; and reconciles a man, originally lawless, to the restraints of government. Thus situated, he sees that reputation, also, is within his reach. Ambition forces him to aim at it; and compels him to a life of sobriety, and decency. That his children may obtain this benefit, he is obliged to send them to school, and to unite with those around him in supporting a school-master. His neighbours are disposed to build a church, and settle a Minister. A regard to his own character, to the character and feelings of his family, and very often to the solicitations of his wife, prompts him to contribute to both these objects; to attend, when they are compassed, upon the public worship of God; and perhaps to become in the end a religious man.

I am, Sir, yours. & sic

Distinguished Van Voorhees Family Members
(from The Van Voorhees Association Archives)
edited by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

Congressman **Nelson Holmes Van Voorhes** was born in 1822 in Washington Co., PA. In 1832 the family moved to Athens Co. in Southern Ohio. Here he became an apprentice in his father's printing office and farmed for several years. In 1850 he was elected to the Ohio state legislature and eventually became its speaker.

During the Civil War, **Nelson** joined the 92nd Regi-

Enders McClumpha Voorhees (#46505) served in World War I in the 73rd field artillery at Camp Jackson. His photo/portrait can be found in the Van Voorhees collection. Born on 28 Apr 1892 in Amsterdam, Montgomery Co., NY, 12010, he grad-

ment of U.S. troops and attained a commission of colonel in 1863. After leaving the military, **Colonel Van Voorhes** again became speaker of the Ohio Assembly from 1871-1874. In 1874 he was elected to the House as a representative in the 44th Congress of the U.S. In 1876 he was re-elected for 2 more years in the 45th Congress. (Submitted by Ross T. Dunlop.)

uated from Dartmouth College, Hanover, Grafton Co., NH, 03755. He was elected to the Holland Society. He married Blanche Pauline Andrews (#46506) on 15 Sept. 1923 at Boston, Suffolk Co., MA, 02101. They had no children. In 1934 he joined

the Van Voorhees Assoc. He died on 13 Apr 1980 in New York City, NY, at age 87.

He was a member of the board of directors and chairman of the finance committee of United States Steel Corp. when the steamer, *Enders M. Voorhees* was built.

He was also general auditor and assistant to the vice president of Ajax Rubber Co. from 1921 to 1925, and

U.S. Senator **Daniel Wolsey Voorhees** was born 26 Sept. 1827 in liberty Twp., Butler Co. OH, the son of **Stephen Voorhees and Rachel Elliott Voorhees** of the **Lucas Line: Stephen, Peter, Stephen, Petrus Van Voorhees, Jan Lucasse, Lucas Stevense and Steven Coerts**. In 1827 he moved with his parents and 2 siblings to a home near Veedeersburg, Fountain Co., IN. Daniel's known homes in were in Covington and Terre Haute, IN. He died in Washington, DC on 10 Apr. 1897 and was buried in Terre Haute, IN.



Wm. E. Wilson in his book, *Indiana, A History*, says: "Voorhees, a Democrat, an exponent of popular sovereignty, opposed to the war, opposed to emancipation, and in the Gilded Age of the 1870's and 1880's an enemy of the Eastern moneyed interests, served 31 years in Congress as representative and senator ..." **Daniel** had the quality of "... personal honesty. It is perhaps more for that virtue, in a period of shabby public morals, than for his brilliance as an orator and his long and steadfast service to his party in Indiana, that the Tall Sycamore of the Wabash should be remembered in the company of distinguished Hoosier politicians." **Daniel** was over 6 ft. tall with a large head and broad shoulders and when excited "his hair stood out like the quills of a sycamore's button ball .." (p. 111)

In 1856 **Daniel** ran for Congress against James Wilson with debates similar to those of Lincoln and

Lt. General **Daniel Van Voorhis** was born in 1878 Zanesville, OH and died in 1956 in Washington.

Daniel Van Voorhis joined the army in 1898 as a Corporal in the 10th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. In 1898 he was appointed to Captain and in 1900 he became a Second Lieutenant



then vice president of the Johns-Manville Corp. from 1927-1937. In 1948 he was chairman of fiscal management of the National Military Establishment. In 1953 was a member of the Advisory Committee on Fiscal and Organizational Proceedings for the United States Department of Defense.

(Submitted by Robert F. Voorhees)

Douglass. Wilson says **Voorhees** position was similar to Douglass: "I do not favor the institution of slavery, I don't want it here; but they have a right to it elsewhere; property in slaves is not to be distinguished from other kinds of property which are protected by the same constitution." (p. 112) **Daniel** lost by 230 votes and moved from Covington to Terre Haute.

From 1858-1861, **Daniel** was U.S. Attorney for IN. In 1859 Gov. Willard's wife's brother was arrested with followers of John Brown at Harper's Ferry and charged with treason and murder. **Daniel** went to Charlestown, VA to eloquently defend John E. Cook. Cook was judged innocent of treason but guilty of murder and hanged. Daniel's trial speech "received praise from all parts of the nation." (p. 113)

Daniel was elected to Congress in 1860 and served in the House for most of 1861-1873. When he arrived Fort Sumter had fallen and South Carolina had seceded. While originally opposed to the war against the South, he supported preserving the Union.

In 1876 **Daniel** campaigned for B.J. Williams, the democratic candidate for governor of Ind. Williams won and in 1877 appointed **Daniel** to the U.S. Senate after the death of Oliver P. Morton. As a U.S. Senator, **Daniel Voorhees** was a leading Indiana politician and renowned orator in the mid to late 1800s. He had an active part in bringing about the building of the Library of Congress. (vol. 23, p. 254) A clipping from the *Sullivan Union* (paper in Terre Haute, once in Sullivan Co.) states **Daniel** was Chairman of the Senate.

(Submitted by Manning Voorhees and published in the *Nieuwsbrief* of Jan. 1, 1997.)

in the Regular Army. In 1929 he graduated from the Army War College and in 1930 was appointed as Colonel in command of the newly formed experimental Mechanized Force. This unit was renamed the 1st Cavalry Regiment (mechanized) in 1933 and in 1936 became the 7th Cavalry Brigade, Mechanized.

Daniel was a key figure in the mechanization of the U. S. Cavalry. General Creighton Abrams, the Army

Chief of Staff between 1972 and 1974, called him the "Grandfather of the Armored Force."

(Submitted by Lt. Col. J. A. Ward: for more data

The diary of **Alfred H. Voorhies** was transcribed from the original by his sister. Margaret and Gene Whelan had it in their possession and shared it with Pat Whelan Brokaw who transcribed it to pass on.

Anne Tobin found a book (*The First New York Cavalry from April 19, 1861 to July 7, 1865* by Wm. Beach; publ. 1902) with data about **Voorhies** service-men. The following data is from that book.

Voorhies, Alfred H. – age 22 years. Enlisted Aug. 5, 1861 at New York; mustered in as private. Com-



pany H, Aug. 5, 1861 to serve 3 years; re-enlisted Jan. 1, 1864; captured May 13, 1864; died of disease Aug. 13, 1864; at Andersonville, GA.

In a list of Union Soldiers buried at Andersonville (from the Official Record in the Surgeon's Office at Andersonville) is:

No. of Grave and Name: 5503

Voorhies, A.H.; 1 cav. Co. H,
died August 13, diarrhea c.

Also in the same time period is another Voorhies who enlisted in the same unit.

Voorhies Robt. C. – age 19 years. Enlisted Aug. 5, 1861 at New York; mustered in as private. Company H, Aug. 5, 1861 to serve 3 years; killed May 6, 1863 in action at Upperville, VA.

(Submitted by Annie Brokaw Tobin and published in the *Nieuwsbrief* of Jan. 1998.)

Donald Voorhees was born 26 July 1903 in Allentown, PA and died 10 Jan. 1989 in Cape May, NJ. **Donald** was musically very versatile. He was a conductor, composer and even actor on both radio and television.

In 1966 he received the Individual Achievements in Music, an Emmy Award for his work on the TV series, The Bell Telephone Hour.

From 1935-1941 and 1949-1953, **Donald**, with Ardon Cornwell, was the musical director and conductor for the radio and television show, Cavalcade of America. He also served as conductor and director of the Bell Telephone Hour Orchestra for 26 years – from its first radio broadcasts in 1942 until the last TV episode in 1968. After this, he remained in the Music Dept. and conducted footage of The Bell Telephone Hour for The Bell Telephone Jubilee (USA) on TV in 1976.

Donald was an actor as well as conductor in 1967



in 2 episodes on The Bell Telephone Hour -- *The Many Faces of Romeo and Juliet* and *First Ladies of the Opera* (which he composed). In 1967 he was also the Host of 1 TV episode of The Bell Telephone Hour and *The Virtuoso Teacher*.

Donald Voorhees was also the 1st conductor of the Allentown (PA) Symphony Orchestra from its beginning in 1951 until 1983.

(This data came from 3 sources: 1. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, 2. IMDB, the Internet Movie Database, and 3. Florence Christoph, VVA Genealogist.) **Editor's Note: Merrill G. Van Voorhis**, my father, faithfully listened to almost all of **Donald Voorhees'** programs. I can remember that the whole family sat quietly in the living room and listened every week. I was told that **Donald** was a cousin, but my dad lacked the details. This lack never dampened my high regard for **Donald Voorhees, my foremost inspiration** for a music career; although my music destination was a bit different. I became an AGO organist, choir director, folksinger (in 24 languages, for charity), accordionist, pianist, and music composer/arranger with an extensive electronic Music Studio at home.

Ten goed vriend is beter dan zilber en goud!

A good friend is better than silver and gold!

(Olde Dutch Proverb)



Editor's Note: This is the major portion of *The Duet*, a painting by the Dutch master, **Jan Miense Molenaer**. It was painted between 1629 and 1631. It is an Oil-on-Canvas work (26.125" by 20.5") and is on display at the Seattle Art Museum in Seattle, WA.

Scholars think this is a self-portrait of the artist, Jan Miense Molenaer, and the lady is **Judith Leyster**, also an artist. This couple was in love and got married in 1636.

Jan Molenaer, has 1 foot on a foot warmer, a heavy tin or iron box that was a common necessity to ward off chills. There was no central heating in those days. It must have been cold in this room because of their attire.

She is wearing a maroon velvet jacket edged in ribbon with a long-sleeved brown blouse or chemise under it, and a heavy olive-green taffeta skirt. Both of their ruff collars, her cap and her apron are white. He doesn't even remove his plumed, beige-felt hat while inside. His outfit consists of a gold and brown striped doublet also with a brown shirt under it, a bright red cape, and brown velvet knickers. Both

would be wearing heaving stockings, although hers are not visible.

Jan is playing a theorbo, which is a mix of the Lute family and Guitar family of instruments. Even today, some guitars have a double neck.

Judith is holding a brown wooden recorder. It is difficult to judge whether it is a soprano or alto recorder, as this would depend on her size. To me it looks a bit long for a soprano, but yet not quite long enough to be an alto recorder.

As any good musician knows, it is a visual image of the proverb on pg. 25. For a spectacular performance, musicians must have a special esprit de corps or ESP. This allows them to essentially read each other's

minds and/or feelings for a piece of music; therefore, they automatically always keep the same rhythm (even when it changes for emphasis) and proper volume (in relation to the other instruments). In this respect, the entire painting could be a symbol of unity as well as love or combine both ideas as unity in love. It obviously shows harmony between Judith Leyster and Jan Miense Molenaer.

One of the most spectacular examples of this esprit de corps and ESP is the famous Johann Strauss Orchestra and its director, **Andre Rieu**, the well-known **Dutch** violinist. Andre lives in his own lovely castle in Maastricht, where he was born. This town is located in Limburg Province, De Nederlands.

Coming Attractions: Some Articles in the Spring Issue

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

Don't miss the next *Nieuwsbrief* for a better understanding of our shared Dutch heritage! There is going to be more historical information about our migration across the USA. The preceding, "Why They Moved" (with a "Quoted Letter of Timothy Dwight") by Robt. F. Voorhees on page 21, is only the first in this series of articles.

Also coming is an article on 2 *olde* churches in Bergenfield, NJ. Included will be data from some family tombstones as well as the actual **cause of death** for 4 Van Voorhis members! **One of them might be your ancestor .. ?** This information will

save some of you a lot of time* (ibid. the Dutch Proverb on page 27), since you won't have to go to a County Court House and search through the Death Certificates. As you know, I am a strong advocate of including Medical History in your personal Genealogy Records.

There are even more, equally exciting, articles on the agenda. **DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES** and **keep us up-to-date on your current address** – 2 very important things to ensure that you receive your *Nieuwsbrief*. The **DUES FORM** is found below the Dutch proverb on **page 27**.

***Tijd gewonnen, al gewonnen.**

(Oude Dutch Proverb)

The translation could be either the first or second one below.

Time gained, all gained.

OR

He who gains time, gains everything.

OR

Time is money.

The last translation is a modern idiom.

(Please don't forget to MAIL in your 2011 Dues !!)

Annual DUES: Still Only \$ 10.00 !!

If you check, you will find that most organizations similar to ours have dues \$25.00 or more. We have kept ours to a minimum to encourage maximum family membership. Our genealogy files are probably the largest of any family group in the USA. Your Dues support **continuing Genealogical Research** and the possibility of **Future CDs and Books**. Our bills come in every month. The 2010 dues were due on Jan. 1, 2010. To determine your dues status, please check the 1st line of your mailing label. If the *mailing label* does not say 2010 or Life, we have made a mistake or your dues for 2010 have not been paid. Your Dues are Deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes.

DUES FORM (Please Clip Out and Send In With Your Dues)

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, 2009 were payable January 1, 2009. 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.

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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)

