



VAN VOORHEES NIEUWSBRIEF

Volume 28 Number 1

Spring 2011

A Publication of the Van Voorhees Association, Organized in 1932
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VAN VOORHEES GENEALOGY DATA: Editor's Comments

We have probably the **most extensive Genealogy Research of any family organization** in the USA (and possibly the world)! Only various monarchies definitely have more detailed data. This is a great source of family pride – thanks to our Genealogy Committee and those who initiated the original research!

Lately various **MEDICAL PROGRAMS on TV tell people to get their MEDICAL GENEALOGY!** As you know, I have been advocating this for several years.

This is where our Genealogy Research excels! While we don't have medical data, **we do have both men (fathers) and women (mothers and maiden names for them) in the Van Voorhees family PLUS** often including the **In-Laws!**

This is not all – there is even more! As often as possible, we have (1) **baptismal dates and churches**, (2) **birth, marriage and death places**, (3) as well as **burial sites**. These give you the basis for your further research.

Death Certificates, an important source of medical data, are usually in the Courthouse of the county where the death occurred. In some cases, however, the very old certificates are found in the Genealogy Room of the County Library. The **old obituaries** are excellent sources of extremely detailed **medical data** as well as giving a list of family members, life style, business connections, etc.

BUT as a starter, you NEED NAMES – those in our Genealogy Publications! Check our **BOOK ORDER FORM** (on page 20) for the list and prices.

DUES REMINDER

Dues through December 31, 2011 were payable on January 1, 2011. These **DUES pay the cost** of printing and mailing the *Nieuwsbrief* as well as for our continuing Genealogical Research and publications. We have 1 of the **least expensive Membership Dues** anywhere.

None of our VVA Officers and Contributors receives any money for their work. For us, it is a Labor of Love and Responsibility. We do have Openings for you to contribute and assist us.

THANK YOU for Volunteering and Paying your dues promptly.

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~ VAN VOORHEES ASSOCIATION WHO'S WHO ~

ACTING PRESIDENT: Scott T. Voorhees

VICE-PRESIDENT: Judith K. Van Voorhis

FINANCE SECY.: Scott T. Voorhees (above)

TREASURER: Position Vacant

SECRETARY: Position Vacant

Immed. Past PRES.: Manning W. Voorhees

CORRES. SECY.: Position Vacant

ibid.: Genealogy Committee (below)

~ GENEALOGY COMMITTEE ~

Chairman: Robert F. Voorhees

Vice-Chairman: Manning W. Voorhees

Inquiries: Robert F. Voorhees
(Chairman: ibid. above)
Temporary (to fill vacancy)

Genealogist: Robert F. Voorhees
(Chairman of the Genealogy Comm.)
Temporary (to fill vacancy)

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~ MEMBERS--AT--LARGE ~

David R. Voorhees

FLO CHRISTOPH RETIRES

by Manning Voorhees

Florence Christoph retired earlier this year as our Genealogist, capping an 18-year term heralded by enormous accomplishments for the Association. Flo has been named as Genealogist Emeritus in honor of her achievements and her solid dedication to the Van Voorhees Family. She has also been named as an Honorary Life Member in recognition of her role in the world-at-large as *the* authority about Van Voorhees genealogy and history.

Flo was recommended to Father Bill Lydecker by Charles Gehring (Director of the New Netherlands Project) and succeeded Albert Stokes as Genealogist in 1993. Al also served in this position for 18 years and was finishing his second volume on our genealogy. Retiring for health reasons, Al gave Flo this work for completion and to bring our data base up to date. I recall meeting Flo and Peter in the parking lot of the Bergen Dutch Day (New Jersey) celebration that year. They were returning to Selkirk, New York, from Philadelphia via Al's home in Princeton, New Jersey, where Al briefed Flo about what was happening on the Van Voorhees genealogy front. I stared at Flo's and Peter's car which was jam packed with notebooks, files and boxes full of papers turned over by Al. "All of that is ours," I wondered. Wow! Flo subsequently spent much of her time organizing material and building up a computer data base which soon soared into the 24,000-name range and beyond.

Little did I know then what would happen. Our Reunion in 1997 was held in the Six Mile Run Reformed Church in Franklin Park, New Jersey. Before the Reunion, Dorothy Stokes telephoned David R. Voorhees and told him that there was some genealogical material in her attic that he might want to fetch and give to Flo at the Reunion. David visited with Dorothy on the day before the Reunion and fully loaded his van with some 40 "boxes and bags" full of letters, notebooks, obituaries, news articles, family research reports and whatever, all containing valuable Van Voorhees genealogical data. David appeared at our reception in the Holiday Inn on the day before the Reunion looking as though he had just moved the Empire State Building – and, in one sense, he had. The material that he gave to Flo that night, which filled 3 cars going back to the Albany, New York, area, was most probably the Association genealogical files that were originally lodged in the Rutgers University library and removed by the University sometime in the latter 1970's to a designation unknown. I remember that time because

Helen Voorhees, who was President then, asked me more than once to see if the files had been shipped to Staten Island, as she had been told. They had not been. No one seemed to know where the files were until Dorothy telephoned David in 1997 and he subsequently obtained them for Flo. The files dated to Oscar Voorhees' time, in the 1930's, as well as recently relative to 1997.

Flo went to work with the 40 boxes and bags and, assisted by Judith Van Voorhis who lives nearby, organized the information, created useful indices and filled a slew of filing boxes that occupied considerable real estate in the Christoph home, as well as the Van Voorhis home. What may not be known about this endeavor is that Flo suffered occasional breathing problems caused by the accumulated dust and visited the ER for treatment. This is duty beyond the call of a genealogist.

Our original goal was to publish a revised Family genealogy utilizing the information that was given to Flo by Al in 1993 and data that had been developed by Flo. It was clearly apparent that this task had been greatly enlarged by the material taken from Al's attic. Flo folded these newly found data into the material previously given to her by Al as she and Judith sorted and indexed the piles of papers. Our then forthcoming Volume I, *The Van Voorhees Family in America, The First Six Generations*, began to take form. All names, dates and "who begat whom" were carefully checked with independent censuses, church baptismal records, internment reports, obituaries, family bibles, period newspaper articles, real estate deeds and so on and on – all of the tools used by a genealogist were searched to confirm the data in Flo's newly created Van Voorhees Family files. Flo developed a team of helpers across the country that searched these records as she requested. In addition, many Association members sent the results of their research to Flo. She said that each postal delivery brought more data. The first published result of this enormous effort was in the year 2000 when Volume I became available. It is a tome of 1,028 pages plus up-front material. Flo said that during the many days that the work was being paginated and prepared for the printer, there was not a chair in her home that did not have a pile of computer output on it.

After taking a few days "off," Flo commenced the production of Volume II of the new genealogy. This embraced the Seventh and Eighth Generations in two

FLO CHRISTOPH RETIRES continued

books totaling 1,524 pages, and was published in 2003. Flo then commenced work to complete Generation Nine. Assisted by Bob Voorhees, this was published in 2007 on a CD. Thus, a total of 2,552 printed pages plus a CD have become the definitive source of information about the Van Voorhees Family in America.

Genealogy is a challenge that is never completed. New information is continually appearing that was earlier unknown, amplifies previously known data or corrects these data. A genealogist never rests. After publication of the CD, Flo processed a stream of new information that she developed and was also sent to her by Association members. Her published work contains many so-called Unknowns that cannot be tied into Steven Coerts but who are targets of ongoing research to this day. Flo managed this research and performed most of it. One of her most notable achievements is our computerized data base of Family Names that is now pushing towards the 100,000 person mark. The latest Van Voorhees data base totals 14.2 MB (as of 1 March 2011). Some entries are brief and others are longer. Flo's efforts have resulted in an exceptionally valuable genealogical gem and Family asset.

Another fact that is not known: Flo kept her eye on our financial picture and did not bill the Association for all of her time spent on our behalf. Her hourly rate, per an agreement that was executed in 1993, was below the rate typically charged by a professional genealogist. This is dedication, indeed.

We are very proud to name Florence Christoph as Genealogist Emeritus. We are most thankful for her remarkable accomplishments and her personal interest in our welfare. Enormous strides have been made by her that have put the Van Voorhees Family on the genealogical map and that have thrust the Association into the forefront of family heritage groups.

As an amateur (but avid) genealogist, I am extremely aware of the research necessary to do the job properly. Every detail must be fully documented.

Flo has stated that, knowing so much about us, she sometimes wished she had Van Voorhees ancestry. I replied that we both have ancestry in the Buchanan Clan in Scotland. That's as close as it got.

We have shared thoughts on the frustrations about missing links and the joys of solving difficult genealogy problems. She is a much more knowledgeable

The picture does not end here, however. Flo and Peter make a notable team. Peter assisted Flo in the publication of her printed works and proofread Volumes I and II, or 2,552 pages, after volunteers completed the first proofreading. Peter is a historian and a retired archivist for the New York State Library in Albany. He also had the vision that led to the New Netherlands Project. The division between historian and genealogist is often a debatable matter. However, the Christophs set aside this problem over many breakfasts when they would put their respective disciplines together. Flo would ask a question with a historical perspective and Peter would respond. They would then set a research course to resolve the question at hand. Peter wrote two articles for *Through a Dutch Door* (published by the Association in 1992), the story of our Family in Drenthe before Steven Coerts left in 1660 for New Netherlands. Peter was also the speaker at our 1986 Reunion; his talk then was the basis for one his articles in *Through a Dutch Door*. Throughout this time, Peter was a resource for us where we drew upon his deep knowledge of early Dutch society and New Netherlands.

Peter also worked with Flo when our genealogical files were lodged with the New York State Library for permanent retention. This material is irreplaceable and yet must be available to Association members and researchers. Permanency is critical as is a well maintained and protected repository. The New York State Library provides these advantages in a professional manner. It was developed by Peter and Flo as the home for the Van Voorhees Family material and the delivery of our files was supervised by them.

In recognition of Peter's contributions to the Association, we are pleased to announce his appointment as an Honorary Life Member of the Association.

Thank you both very much.

EDITOR'S NOTE

colleague! On a personal level, I feel privileged to have her as my friend! Our prayers for the future go with Flo and Peter in their retirement!

I **APPRECIATE** all that **Flo and Peter Christoph** have done for our Van Voorhees Association! I would also like to give both of them an **ENORMOUS THANK-YOU** from ALL of US!

I cannot possibly add enough exclamation points to both of these statements!

Van Voorhees Association Genealogy Update

by Bob Voorhees (Greensboro, NC)

Florence Christoph has been the leader of our Van Voorhees genealogy effort for 18 years. To say she will be missed is an understatement. For the time being I will be maintaining our Master Genealogist database (currently **91,000 names**) including the entering of new data. Backup copies will be maintained by several of our committee members, as in the past. Our Genealogy Committee will in general take over the tasks that Flo was doing. We will maintain the same high standards and level of genealogy activity established under Flo's leadership. In the coming months we will be thinking about whether we can afford a genealogist and whether we need a genealogist (so much good work has been done over the last 75 years and it is important to note that this work is in our database—the database was used to produce the books and CD). Most associations like ours have only volunteer genealogists. In recent conversations with Flo, she has questioned whether we need a professional genealogist at this point. We may want to consider hiring (1) professional genealogists to work in a specific geographical area on a specific genealogy problem and/or (2) an expert in TMG and/or internet genealogy to work on specific projects.

Technology, including the internet, is changing the face of genealogy. We will be trying hard to keep up. The first annual Rootstech conference was held in Salt Lake City Feb 10-12, 2011. From all reports it was a big success. It was hosted by Family Search (Mormon Church) and sponsored by many companies such as Ancestry.com. (Google Rootstech to find the 60 page program in pdf). The 2012 Rootstech is scheduled for Feb 2-4 at the Salt Lake Palace.

The majority of our genealogy information has always come from our members and I hope this will continue. All of us need to feel a responsibility to keep the database up to date.

We particularly like to receive obituaries which usually contain genealogy information. If you run across a Voorhees obituary in your local paper, please send it to us. Obituaries are good sources of information for *Nieuwsbrief* articles—we like to honor Van Voorhees family members that have passed. The 1940 US Census information will come available in April of 2012. It is not clear whether this census information will be available free from an arm of the government or from a traditional commercial source such as Ancestry.com. We will be developing a plan to utilize this new information.

We have 2 specific projects in mind and are looking for volunteers to work on these projects: (1) organizing our large collection of Voorhees pictures (Marie Avelsgaard got a good start on this project but as many of you know she has moved to Yemen.) and (2) scanning all of our *Nieuwsbriefs* to pdf files. We have newsletters and letters to the membership that begin in the 1940's. These form a rich history of our Association. Please contact me if you would be interested in working on either of these projects.

As we anticipated, Ancestry.com is growing in importance with their Y chromosome DNA program. Almost all of our testing has been done through

Familytreedna.com in Houston.

A majority of the markers used by Ancestry and Familytreedna are the same, so we are able to compare results. For example, we recently had a 12th generation Voorhees in Oregon submit his Ancestry.com DNA results to us and we were able to show that the comparable markers match almost perfectly with the Voorhees signature DNA. In our database we had this line only thru 9 generations, so we were able to add 3 generations (15 people) to our database.

Our webmaster is doing a marvelous job for us. Be sure to check out our website at:

www.vanvoorhees.org.

Bob Velke is working hard to bring out version 8 of Master Genealogist. Version 8 will have a number of improvements including support for 64 bit computers. A near final version has been in beta test for several months. One of my favorite and I think accurate reviews of Version 7 (which we now use) is: "If you like to track and record every last detail and your genealogy research is closing in on obsession, TMG (The Master Genealogist) may be the genealogy software of your dreams. While not the best choice for people who want something simple or don't like to read user manuals, TMG 7 is a powerful, flexible and comprehensive program that pretty much does it all." Thanks to Judith Van Voorhis and Florence Christoph for selecting, in the mid 1990's, TMG as the Van Voorhees Association genealogy software.

Ancestry.com claims that their business is growing partly due to growth and interest in social media like Facebook. Our Webmaster has established a Facebook page for the VanVoorhees Association. Please use for Family News, Local Reunion News, Genealogy Queries, etc.

We would like to find someone in our Van Voorhees Association who would be interested in being our 'Social Media Genealogy Coordinator. This person would (1) help develop a Van Voorhees Association strategy and policy for Facebook and (2) then carry it out.

The National Genealogical Society Family History Conference will be held in Charleston, SC from May 11-14, 2011. This year the theme will be the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The annual conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies will be held Sept. 7-10, 2011 in Springfield, IL.

THE VAN VOORHEES FAMILY IN THE CIVIL WAR

by Michael A. Apgar

By the mid-nineteenth century, the descendants of Steven Coerts Van Voorhees had spread across the entire North American continent. More than 450 members in the Van Voorhees Family (including 33 spelling variants among those carrying the family surname!) served in the Union Army during the Civil War (1861-1865). Seven members of the family are known to have enlisted in the Confederacy. The Van Voorhees who fought for the Union served as in both the Regular Army and in units raised in 18 different states (CA, CT, IA, IN, KY, KS, MA, MD, MI, MO, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT and WI).

The family was represented in all branches of the service (infantry, cavalry, artillery), including some specialized units (engineers and sharpshooters). Most served in the ranks as enlisted men, many earning promotions during their terms of service. Thirty were awarded commissions as officers, one eventually being a brevetted major general. (Note: This was Major General Alvin Coe Voris, written about in the 1999 *Nieuwsbrief*.)

These soldiers came from all walks of life, although most were farmers (as were the majority of Americans during that time). Their ages at enlistment ranged from 16 to 47 years, although most were in their early 20s. (This is typical of most wars, which are started by older men and fought by younger ones.)

Van Voorhees struggled through every major campaign and participated in virtually all of the major battles of the war. The resulting toll on their lives and health was staggering. At least 29 men were killed or mortally wounded in battles. Another 34 died during military service, including 21 of disease (6 of these while POWs), 3 from accidents (drowning or fall from horse), and 10 for unspecified reasons (probably disease).

At least 44 Van Voorhees were discharged because

they were no longer able to "soldier": 31 for disability (generally meaning chronic illness), 8 disabled on account of wounds, and 5 for unspecified reasons. Seven others accepted transfers to the Veteran Reserve corps (aka the "Invalid Corps"), in which they performed duties less rigorous than service in the field.

The Civil War service of members of the Van Voorhees family should be a source of family pride today. These men were instrumental in preserving the Union and in ridding the United States of the cruel and unjust institution of human slavery, although the latter was likely not the primary motivation of many, if not most – at least initially. To this, there were certainly exceptions, including 3 African-American Van Voorhees, who enlisted in all-black regiments.

The war widened the experiences, travel and awareness of those who participated in the military. Many of the survivors undoubtedly counted their wartime exploits as the most notable period of their lives. However, the lives lost or curtailed by injury and disease, the emotional distance and distress among the veterans and their families, and the economic deprivation suffered generally should also be acknowledged. These traumatic results should be a sobering reminder of the costs of failure to find peaceful political solutions to the problems confronting a democratic society.

May we always remember these tremendous sacrifices by our family to advance the unity and justice of our nation ... and gain from this remembrance the resolve to commit ourselves to continued progress and fairness during our own lives.

Editor's Note: Mike Apgar, a VVA member and our Civil War Consultant, was the speaker at the Oct. 2001 Reunion, where he gave a presentation on this subject.

The Pioneer Settler Upon the Holland Purchase and His Progress

by Orsamus Turner 1849

written by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

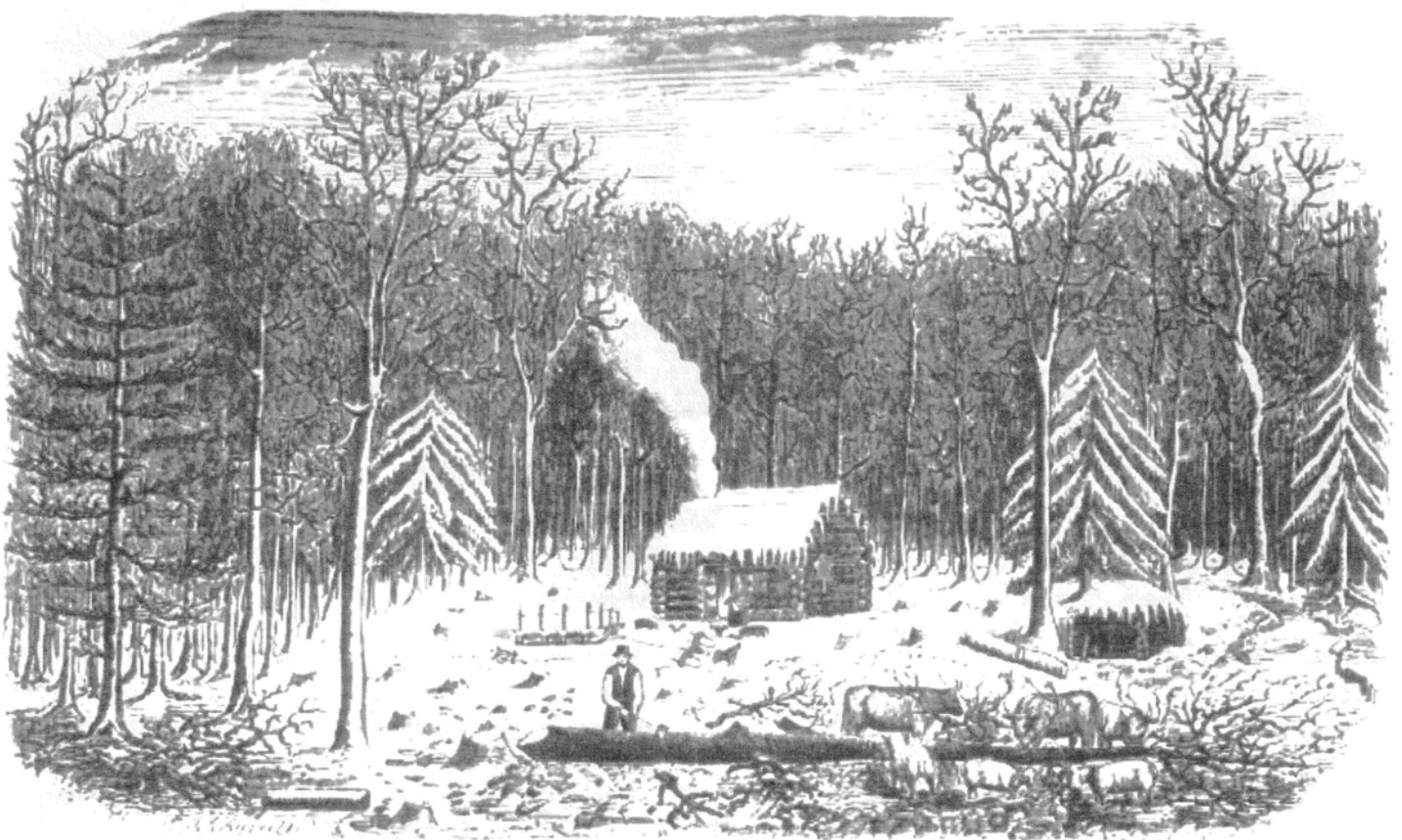
from copied pages of *Pioneer Settler* submitted by Robert F. Voorhees

Parts of this article are quoted from the above book, starting at page 502 of the chapter entitled, "The Pioneer Settler Upon the Holland Purchase and His Progress."

"Through the deep wilderness, where scarce the sun can cast his darts, along the winding path The Pioneer is treading. In his grasp is his keen axe, that wondrous instrument, that like the talisman, transforms deserts to fields and cities. He has left the home in which his early years were past, and, led by hope, and full of restless strength, has plunged within the forest, there

to plant his destiny. Beside some rapid stream he rears his log-built cabin. When the chains of winter fetter Nature, and so sound disturbs the echoes of the dreary woods, save when some stem cracks sharply with the frost; then merrily rings his axe, and tree on tree crashes to earth; and when the long keen night mantles the wilderness in solemn gloom, he sits beside his ruddy hearth, and hears the fierce wolf snarling at the cabin door, or through the lowly casement sees his eye gleam like a burning coal." (This chapter's poetic foreword is by Alfred B. Street.)

The picture below is an engraving (#1) showing a typical pioneer setting in early America.



This winter scene shows how far the pioneer has progressed in the preceding months. Although he has not completed his house, he has moved in anyway. The chimney, of sticks mortared with straw, is not finished and does not rise above the roof – an obvious fire hazard. The roof is of "peeled elm bark" and the window is "of oiled paper." Even this glass substitute is a luxury in the wilderness with the nearest neighbor at least a mile or so away. The door is of 3 hewn planks. If he has a floor, other than dirt or clay,

it would be of "split logs" pressed into the dirt/clay.

It looks like there are probably at least 3 sheep plus 1 cow, a bull and an ox near the pioneer who is still chopping logs. He will need to chop a lot more of them for winter fuel. Next, there are lots of stumps to remove before crops can be planted in the spring.

In the background outside the cabin door, his wife is feeding 2 pigs and 3 chickens with grain held in her outstretched apron. The ox sled is all he had to carry his meager belongings – a bed, 2 chairs, a pot, a ket-

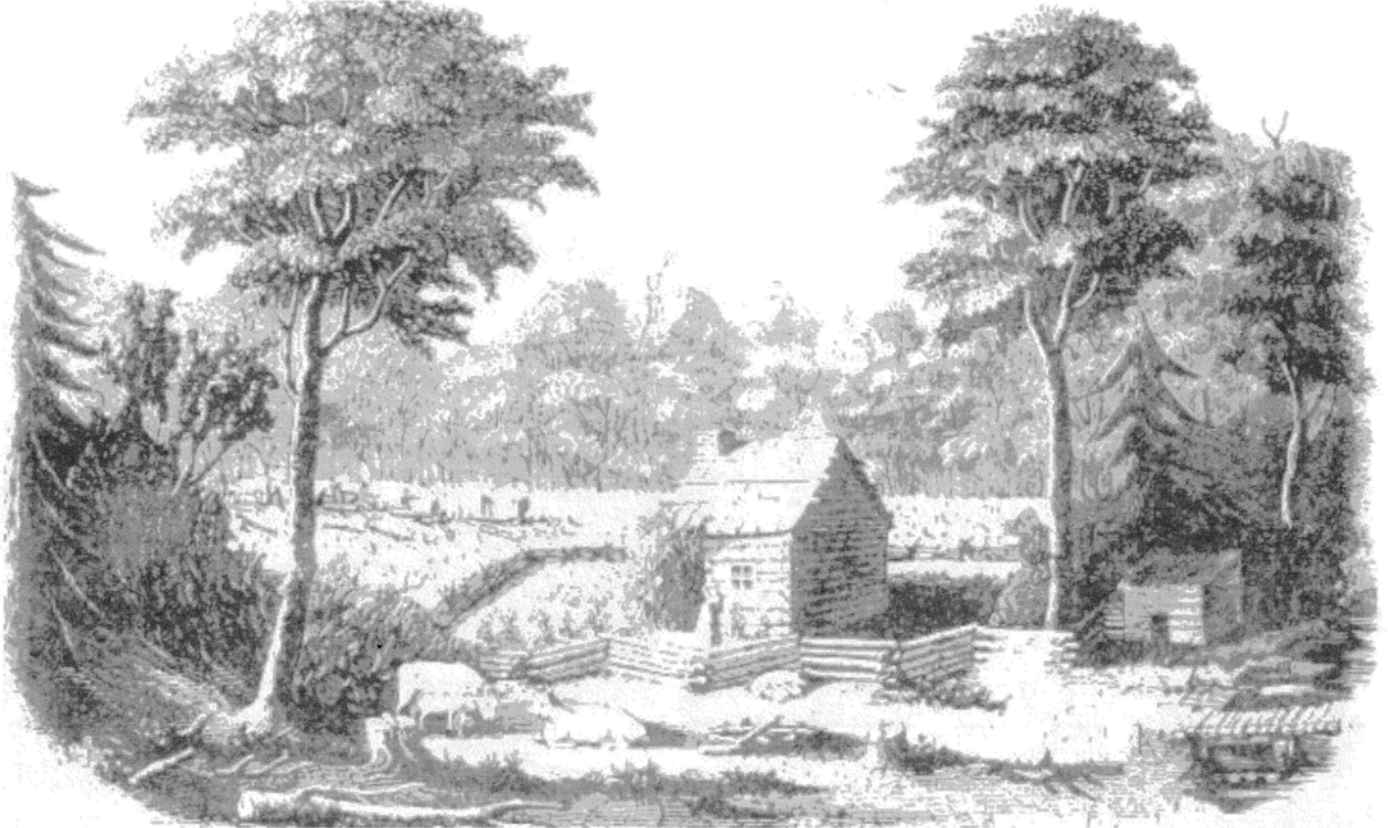
The Pioneer Settler Upon the Holland Purchase and His Progress continued

tle, and very few other essentials. Imagine bringing these over a trail – not a road – and probably having to widen it here and there in the process. On the right is a small stockade “hovel” used to store hay.

While this pioneer had a land grant, it is not yet paid for. He will buy his land when his crops are harvested the following year. It may take more than 1 year’s surplus crops to pay off his grant. (Some pioneers, most notably the Irish, headed into the Pennsylvania

forests and squatted on the land. When government agents found them and demanded payment, the Irish promised to pay *soon*; however, before officials returned to collect the money, the Irish had packed up and disappeared farther west into another remote area. Too often, the Indians object to this intrusion and directly killed them with arrows or scalped some of them – including my 5th or 6th great-grandmother and 2 of her daughters.)

The next engraving (#2) depicts the progress made since the winter scene in #1.



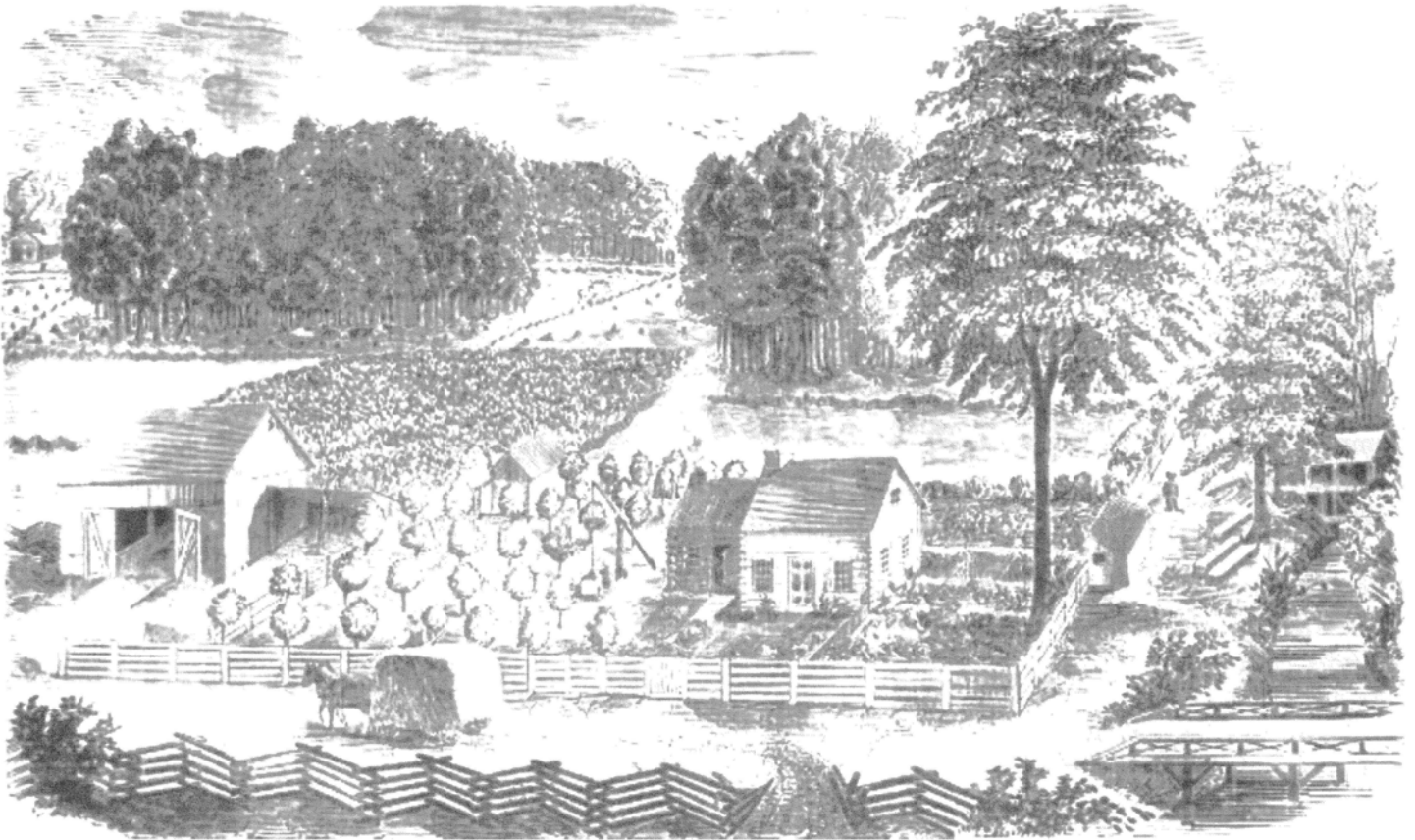
After the harsh winter, mid to late summer has finally come and much progress can be seen. The chimney has been finished. A nice, small shed was built behind the house. Inside the fence is both house and shed, neatly stacked sheaves of grain and a vegetable garden (planted in “corn, potatoes, beans and pumpkins”). The cow has a calf and the sow is nursing 4 piglets. His wife is holding their child, born on the property, as she looks at the flowers she planted (“marigolds, pinks, sweet williams, daffodils, sunflowers, hollyhock,” on 1 side of the door a hop vine and on the other a morning glory). Logs for the fireplace are stacked to the right of the sow and her piglets. Large logs are waiting to be cut are to the right of the resting cow. A bridge was built across the stream.

A smudge pot will help to keep the mosquitoes at bay.

In the background a field was cleared with the help of new neighbors, who came to join them. Men band together and rotate from farm to farm to help each other with heavier chores. This practice continues today among the Amish and many others on family-owned farms. While not evident here, women also joined together for quilting and, when sealable jars became available, canning. Often whole families migrated from farm to farm for harvesting chores. The men worked in the fields while the women cooked meals for them in the kitchen.

Even with this progress, there is still much left to be done: a smoke-house for meat is needed as well as a barn with a threshing floor.

The 3rd engraving (#3) shows the same property (as #1 and #2) in the summer 10 years later.



After 10 years 30-40 acres have been cleared, enclosed and planted. The kitchen garden has expanded. An orchard is between the barn and house. In the back he has fine wood lots and probably plans to increase his fields by clearing at least 1 of them.

Haying season has begun. There is 1 team of horses in front and it looks like there is another team with a wagon on a back field. (Coert, father of Steven, had 2 teams of horses on the van Voorhees farm just outside Ruinen, in Drenthe Province, Nederlands.)

The house has been enlarged and a barn built of boards (not logs like those of the house) with a wagon shed attached was added. There is a well for water (seen as the long slanted pole to the left of the new kitchen). It is the same kind used in the Ruinen area. I've seen these at several museums in Drenthe, Nederlands. Steven Coerts Van Voorhees and his

forbears undoubtedly had wells exactly like this one.

A shed on the lane to the right of the house might be used for firewood or chickens. Along the lane behind this shed is another shed structure for undetermined uses. The structure back behind the new bridge is probably a mill with a waterwheel. In the left rear corner of this scene is a schoolhouse. By this time the pioneer has paid off his "article" (grant) and owns the farm.

This is immense progress from beginning with only an ox cart and an unfinished, dirt-floor cabin plus a bare minimum of livestock and household goods. Prosperity is visible in every part of this picture.

We should be forever thankful to our ancestors for their vision, tribulations, hard work, thriftiness and moral fortitude — a gift that has given us many of our opportunities today.

DE DEUGD BELOONT ZICH ZELVE !

(Olde Dutch Proverb)

(Virtue is its own reward !)

Northern New York's County Militias

by Robert F. Voorhees

edited by Marilyn V. Voshall

Here are a few notes on county militias. The founding fathers were extremely worried about a standing army taking over the country. After the Revolutionary war, the Continental army was reduced in size to as low as 3,000 men. It was felt that state militia would be the best way to protect the country. A 1792 Act stipulated that all men in the country between the ages of 18 and 45 would be required to be in the militia. The militiamen were required to provide their own uniforms and firearms. This is one reason why the right for citizens to bear arms was so important to the founding fathers. Officers up to Captain were usually voted in by the enlisted men; then officers such as Lieutenant Colonel would be voted in by a vote of the officers. **James L. Voorhees**, after 1822, was known as the "Colonel" for the rest of his life. (See Oswego Co. below.)

Often the militia would meet for drills only once per year. These events usually turned into town parties (lots of liquor even though it was against the rules). Higher ranking officers would often use their position

as a springboard to political office.

As you might suspect the militia as a general rule proved not very effective in actual battle. Many men would show up for duty without shoes or firearms. Many had never fired a gun. Leadership was always suspect. For example, the overwhelming majority of the soldiers used in the War of 1812 were militia. The militia system failed to provide an adequate force, particularly to prosecute the war vigorously. The militia system broke down at the state level largely because the constitution divided responsibility for the militia. There was no coordination of training or organization of militia at the state level nor any clear definition of the proper relationship of state versus federal authority over the militia during war time. During the War of 1812 issues were raised concerning (1) who was authorized to call militia into service, (2) who paid them, (3) who equipped and organized them, and (4) how and where they were to be used. Fortunately, the war ended before many of these problems confronted the federal government.

Montgomery Co., NY

11 April, 1796 **Peter Voorhees** (1764-1816) promoted to Captain in the Montgomery Co, NY militia.

25 March 1797 **James Voorhies** (1776-1838) Promoted to Ensign of Co of grenadiers. Note: James Voorhies was Peter Voorhies brother.

8 April 1799 **James Voorhies** declined.

13 June 1808 **David Vorhees** (1771-1840) promoted to ensign vice J.J. Leanderson. Note: David Vorhees was Peter Voorhies 1st cousin.

31 May 1809 **Peter Voorhees** promoted to Lieutenant Colonel Commandant in Montgomery Co., NY militia.

9 Feb 1810 **Lieutenant Colonel Peter Voorhies'** regiment: Peter Van Buren Chaplain; Judah Burton, junior, lieutenant, vice Grove, deceased; Timothy Hutton, junior, ensign, vice Burton, promoted; Chester Elliot, lieutenant, vice E. Fosgate, absconded.

23 May 1812 Twenty-sixth regiment--**Peter Voorhies**, lieutenant Colonel; Robert G. Dunbar, Captain; John U. Smith, lieutenant; Cornelius V. Putnam, Ensign--a new company of light infantry.

Notes: **Harriet Voorhees** (1793-1854), Peter's daughter, married John U. Smith on 7 April 1813.

Cornelius V. Putnam was a close friend of Peter Voorhies.

20 June 1812 Twenty-sixth regiment--(late) **Peter Voorhies**, lieutenant colonel; Sylvanus Wilcox, lieutenant Colonel, vice Voorhies, resigned.*

(*Quoted from Records and means that Peter resigned & Sylvanus took over.)

Onondaga Co., NY

1814 **James L. Voorhies** promoted to Ensign

Note: James L. Voorhees (1794-1865) was Peter's son. They moved together from Montgomery Co. to Onondaga Co. early in 1813.

Oswego Co., NY

1822 **James L. Voorhies** promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and henceforth referred to as the Colonel.

The Story of the Stolen Horse and Cutter
[as told to Lesley Eleanora Voorhees (1870-1970) many years ago]
submitted by Robert F. Voorhees

The scene is laid at "Whig Hill" which was then the home and farm of Col. James L. Voorhees. I do not remember that the time was ever told me, so I will have to do some "figuring". I do know that the Colonel was living (he died in 1865); that my father, James Leslie Voorhees, Jr., was a young married man (he was married in Feb. 1854), and that DeWitt Toll was the Police Constable and lived in Baldwinsville, Onondaga Co., N.Y., so I think the late summer of 1854 would be about the right date..

My father, James L. Voorhees, Jr., had recently married a daughter of Deacon John Schenck of Plainville, an own cousin of my mother, whom we children were later taught to speak of as "Cousin Nora". Father was then living in Plainville but working for his father on the farm.

One day, late in the summer of 1854, the men were driven from their work in the fields by a sudden shower and took refuge in the carriage house which still stands, old and dilapidated across the road from the house. Father threw himself down in a cutter (a cutter is a small one horse sled) that stood nearby, and as the men visited and waited for the storm to pass, he took out his pencil, leaned out and idly wrote his name on the underside of the vehicle. The storm passed; the men returned to work, and the incident was forgotten.

Sometime during that winter a horse and this cutter were stolen. It was done so quietly and cleverly that no clues were left and it looked as though the stolen property would have to be written off as a total loss.

Time went on and sometime later in the winter father and a friend were in Syracuse, and as they walked along one of the streets they passed a house bearing the sign of a Clairvoyant. Father's friend said, "Jim, why don't you go in and see if this woman can tell you anything about your stolen property?" So, more as a lark than any belief in such powers, father went in. I do not know whether the woman went into a trance or how much father told her, but knowing father I think it was mighty little. After a silence the woman began talking, with pauses between each sentence. "You have lost something — it is in two parts —, one part went east and one part went west, and you will recover both articles when you least

expect it." Then after a pause, she said, "I see your wife leaving her home and driving off with a man in a sleigh." This amused father because at that time his wife was something of an invalid and he felt sure that she would not be going sleigh riding with anybody. However he paid the woman and the two men resumed their business in Syracuse. Later on when father got home, he said laughingly, "Nora, what is this I hear about your going sleigh riding with a man?" Cousin Nora said, "Why Jim wherever did you hear that? Sull (her brother, Sullivan Schenck) came by and said it was such a lovely day he thought it would do me good to get out in the sunshine."

Again time went by, and it might have been the following spring that Dewitt Toll stopped by father's house about dinner time and was of course invited to eat with them. It was the custom in those days for anyone having business in the neighborhood to stop over the noon hour with a friend. During the meal Mr. Toll said that he was on his way to Hannibal (Oswego Co.) in hopes of catching a thief said to be there, and asked father if he would like to go along. Of course father went and as the two men came to Hannibal they stopped at the hotel there. As they entered they saw a man sitting at a table with his back to the door and his coat hanging over the back of his chair. I do not know how Mr. Toll knew he was the wanted man, but anyway he arrested him and searched his coat. In it he found a note book giving information about stolen property. Among these items was "Horse sent to Albany - Cutter sent to Chicago."

The Colonel had a son-in-law living near Chicago and word was sent to him to have the livery stables in Chicago searched and, if a cutter was found with father's name written on the underside, it would be part of his property. Uncle Henry did this; the cutter was found and returned, and the horse was found in an Albany livery stable and returned, thus ending a good story.

I do think the part about the Clairvoyant most interesting. One may not believe in such powers, and yet occasionally one hears something like the above that has to be accepted. Perhaps it is a power that in time will be developed in many people.

The Lesley and Voorhees Connection

by Robert F. Voorhees (Jan. 2011)

Peter, James and Jean Lesley migrated to America from Aberdeenshire Scotland (not necessarily together) in 1753. Peter Lesley (1738-1816) was a cabinet maker and settled in Philadelphia. It is believed that Jean (later called Jane) Lesley (1735-1811) lived with her brother in Philadelphia. James Lesley (died ca 1791) was a student at College of NJ (later Princeton) and later a teacher at the same institution. He never married.

Peter Lesley had 13 children with two wives. The 4 sons (Peter, Jr., James, Joseph and Robert) that grew to maturity were all by his 2nd wife.

(1) Peter Lesley, Jr. (born 1793 and died 1855) was called "the younger" to differentiate him from his father. He was for many years secretary and treasurer of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Co. His son, J. Peter Lesley (called J.P. Lesley), was born in 1819 and died 1903. He graduated from the University of PA in 1838. He graduated from College of NJ Theological Seminary in 1844 but spent nearly his whole active life in geological work. He became the leading authority on coal formations of North America. He was secretary and librarian of the American Philosophical Society, 1858-1885. His daughter Mary married Charles W. Ames and they moved to Minneapolis where he became a very successful Law book publisher. Another son of Peter Lesley Jr. was Allen Voorhees Lesley (1822-1881). He was a physician and in 1844 married Jane Lesley Voorhees (1816-1874). She was the daughter of Henry Peter Voorhees (1791-1863) of Fultonville, Montgomery Co., NY. They lived in Fultonville for a few years then moved to New Castle, DE. They were 2nd cousins one time removed and, yes, his middle name was Voorhees and her middle name was Lesley.

(2) James (born 1795 and died 1863) married and had 3 children. He was trained to the banking business and was connected with the Harrisburg, Dauphin Co., PA banks until 1845, when he was chosen cashier of the Bank of Chambersburg, Franklin Co., PA. He resigned this position in 1858 to become cashier of the Union Bank of Philadelphia. He was a man of high character and a strong anti-slavery man at a time when it required courage to oppose the slave system. It is traditional in Chambersburg that many VA runaways received his assistance in making the perilous journey over the "Underground Railroad." Although he was never active in politics, Mr. Lesley was ap-

pointed consul at Lyons, France, by President Lincoln.

(3) Joseph was born in 1800 and died in 1860.

(4) Robert was born in 1802 and died in 1861. We have no evidence that Joseph or Robert ever married. The 1850 US Census has a Joseph Lesley age 45 and a Robert Lesley age 41 living together at Spring Garden, Ward 3, Precinct 1, Philadelphia, PA. John Rosbrugh (1714-1777) and James Lesley undoubtedly knew each other at College of NJ even though John Rosbrugh was probably 25 years older than James Lesley. Both were born in Scotland and both "on scholarship," so to speak, as students. In the book, *Life, Labors and Death of Rev. John Rosbrugh* by Rev. John C. Clyde (1880), we have the following: "The committee appointed to dispose of the money in the hands of the treasurer of New Jersey College (later Princeton) appropriated for the education of poor and pious youth, brought in a state of their accounts since the year 1758, which is as follows: 1758, Nov. 23, Paid by the treasurer to Mr. William Tennent 'for the use of Mr. Leslie,' 13 Pounds; 1761, Aug 3, To Mr. Rosborough, per order, 30 Pound; 1762, May 25, To Mr. Rosborough, per order, 14 Pounds." James Lesley was first a student then a teacher at College of NJ and he was at this institution at the same time as John Rosbrugh. We have long wondered how Henry Voorhees met Jane Lesley. My theory is that Jean Lesley (1735-1811) met Henry Voorhees (1740-1827) through her brother James and John Rosbrugh and/or Rev. William Tennent Jr. (more on him and Henry Voorhees later).

Henry and Jean were married, probably in Philadelphia, on March 25, 1763. Jean Lesley was 28 when she married and 5 years older than Henry. Henry grew up on his father's farm near Freehold, Monmouth Co., NJ and was baptized at and attended Old Tennent Presbyterian church. Henry would have very likely met John Rosbrugh at this church or at College of NJ, a distance of about 18 miles.

John Rosbrugh was ordained in Dec 1764 and he entered upon regular "pastoral labors" in the congregations of Greenwich, Oxford, and Mansfield Woodhouse, NJ. Having entered upon the full work of the ministry, he felt that he "ought to take to himself a wife." Belonging to the class known as the Scotch-Irish, it was most natural for him to seek a "helpmeet" from among those who were of similar origin. Some

The Lesley and Voorhees Connection continued

20 miles from 1 of his churches in Allen Township, in "forks of Delaware" (now Northampton Co., PA), had been for nearly 40 years, a settlement of the Scotch-Irish. To the Irish, or Craig Settlement as it was called, therefore, he looked for a wife. Rosbrugh met and married a girl who was a member of the Irish Settlement, or Allen Township Presbyterian church.

Through the next few years, Rosbrugh continued his ministry to a number of different churches including the Allen Township Presbyterian church. In 1772 he was assigned full time to the Allen Township Presbyterian church.

Several years after they were married, Henry Voorhees and his wife Jean Lesley Voorhees moved from Monmouth Co., NJ to Allen Township, Northampton Co., PA and joined the Allen Township Presbyterian Church. Two entries in the Northampton Co deed books prove they were there. (1) On 10 Mar. 1768 Henry and Jane borrowed 200 pounds from George Klein of Bethlehem. This was evidently a mortgage on a property; however, several deed book pages are missing and the land is not identified. (2) On 27 Apr. 1769 Henry Voorhees is a witness to a sale of property.

On 26 Dec. 1770 Henry Voorhees and his brother Roelof (1742-1799) purchased 220 acres of land on the south branch of Rancocas Creek in Burlington Co., NJ, not far from Mount Holly. This land was

divided into 2 farms and was the home of both brothers for many years. This location would have been very good for Jean Lesley as it was within 20 miles of Philadelphia and her brother and all of her relatives.

Upon their leaving, Reverend John Rosbrugh gave Henry and Jean the following letter: "This is to Certify that Hennery Voorhees and his Wife has lived several years by past in this congregation, and still has supported a good character and having removed from us last Spring (of 1771) and now desires a Certificate, We therefore recommend them to ye care of divine providence, and also ye care and fellowship of our Christian brethren where they now live, as regular members clear from any publick scandle known to us; certified with advice of ye session of Allentown this 11th day of Jan 1772 pr me signed John Rosbrugh VDM."

The following letter was sent from Old Tennant Church Freehold, Monmouth Co., NJ 29 May 1773: "This will certify whome it may concern, that Hendrick Vorhes has been a member of this congregation since his infancy (he was baptized there) except a few years now last past, he maintained a good character acting as becomes a Christian, as far as known to me. Signed William Tennent. Witnesses also signing: Joseph Ker, John Anderson, William Couwenhoven jur, Derick Sutven, Rot Rhea, Peter Forman, John Craig, Nath. Scudder, John Lloyd."

End Notes:

1. It is interesting that the 13 Pounds James Lesley received in 1758 to attend College of NJ was paid by or through William Tennent, the pastor of the Old Tennent Presbyterian church in Freehold. This suggests there may have been a direct connection between James Lesley (and Jean Lesley) and Old Tennent Presbyterian church. Rev. William Tennent, Jr. was born 1705 in Armagh County, Ireland. He died in 1777. He came to America with his father in 1716. With his brothers, he was a ministerial student at the famous Log College at Neshaminy, Bucks Co., PA. Log Collage may be considered the virtual beginning of what is now Princeton University. After Log College, he went to study theology under his brother Gilbert who was preacher of the church in New Brunswick, Middlesex Co., NJ. He was the pastor of Old Tennent Church near Freehold, Monmouth Co., NJ for 44 years from 1733 to 1777.

2. The College of NJ (known as Princeton University after 1896) was a child of "the Great Awakening", an

institution born in opposition to the religious tenets that had ruled the colonial era. The principles on which Princeton was founded may be traced to the Log College in Neshaminy, Bucks Co., PA. founded by William Tennent in 1726. William Tennent Jr. was, for many years, a trustee of the College of NJ. Nassau Hall (on the College of NJ campus) was built on 4.5 acres of land and, when completed in 1756, was the largest stone building in the colonies.

3. The original township of Allen, Northampton Co., PA was erected in June 1748. The beginnings of the settlement were about 1728 when emigrants from the northern part of Ireland, of whom the Craig family was the principal, and after whom it was called, "the Craig, or Irish settlement." The residence of James Craig was in the vicinity of the Presbyterian Church near Weaverville. James Craig purchased 250 acres from William Allen, a part of the 5,000 acre tract taken up by Thomas Penn by a warrant dated London 1732. James Craig had 3 sons: William, Thomas, and

The Lesley and Voorhees Connection continued

Robert. William took an active part in the division of Bucks County, and he was elected the first sheriff of Northampton County. General Thomas Craig and Captain John Craig were sons of Thomas Craig, and both served as officers during the Revolutionary War.

4. Hendrick Voorhees (ca 1696-1766) moved from Flatlands to Freehold, Monmouth Co., NJ in 1719 and purchased 250 acres. It was on this farm that his son, Henry Voorhees (1740-1827), grew to manhood. The Craig farm of, eventually, some 600 acres was to the West of and contiguous with the Hendrick Voorhees farm. John Craig, Sr. (ca 1650-1724), first founder of the family line in NJ, was a Scottish Presbyterian "Dissenter" who arrived in the colony in 1685 along with his family. He resided most of his years in Perth Amboy, but in 1695 he acquired a large farm at "Topinemes" in Monmouth Co., NJ, which he later expanded. The present Craig farm was purchased in 1720 by John Sr.'s son, Archibald (1678-1751). Archibald and his wife had 11 children, 7 girls and 4 boys. Archibald gave the farm to his son, Samuel

(1708-1746) in 1744. Samuel set about building a 1 1/2 story Dutch framed house in 1746. This farmhouse still stands today inside the boundaries of the Monmouth Battlefield State Park.

5. The definition of Scotch-Irish is someone who was born in Scotland, moved to Ireland and then came to America.

6. John Rosbrugh meets a tragic end. Answering the call from George Washington for soldiers, Rosbrugh raised a company of men from Allen Township. They requested that he command the company and he agreed. Later he is relieved of this duty and became Chaplain of the Northampton County Militia. During the Battle of Trenton, Rosbrugh lost his life, leaving a wife and 5 small children. There are several versions of the "sad event." One is by Junkin (#2 below): "The heroic pastor was surprised in a farm house near Pennington, Mercer Co., NJ by a straggling party of British troops who, finding he was a Presbyterian and a Whig, stabbed him mortally with their bayonets."

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Political Figures: The Van Voorhees-Mondale Connection

Data submitted by Marc Hoover
Edited by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

Elizabeth Voris Harris Archer descended from both Steven Coerte Van Voorhees and Lambertje Seubering, sister of Steven's 2nd wife, Willempie Roelofse Seubering.

Steven Coerte Van Voorhees

2nd m. Willempie Roelofse Seubering

Lucas Stevense Van Voorhees

2nd m. Jannetje Minnes

Albert Lucasse Van Voorhees

2nd m. Catryntie Cornell

Cornelius Voorhees m. Magdalena Van Nuys

son: **Albert Voorhees**

married

Lambertje Seubering m. Jan Stryker

Pieter Stryker m. Annetje Barends

Jan Pieterse Stryker m. Margaret Schenck

Peter Stryker m. Antje Perrine

Maria Stryker m. Hendrick Banta

dau.: Anna Banta

Cornelius Albert Voris m. Catherine Woodfield

Gabriel Voris m. Julia Mary Hotchkiss

ELIZABETH VORIS Harris Archer

Political Figures: The Van Voorhees-Mondale Connection continued

ELIZABETH VORIS, b. Aug. 27, 1829, KY, m. (1) **Lysander Western Harris**, (b. c.1829), Nov. 24, 1850
Elizabeth L. Harris, b. c.1851/1854-5 (listed as 25 in the 1880 census), dau. of above

1st m. **Thomas Leonard Adams**, (b. 1845/6, IN), (Pleasant Twp., Switzerland Co., IN, 1880, listed as Farmer
[2nd m.c. 1858 **John Archer** (b. 1814 & d. 1911)]

3 Sons of Eliz. L. Harris & Thom. L. Adams (**Charles Ryan**, Frank Raymond, John Harris)

1. **Charles Ryan Adams**, b. Jan. 5, 1874, Switzerland, Co. IN, m.c. 1901 Myra Oldfather
studied at Hanover (Ind.) college, University of Chicago, and McCormick Theology seminary.
ordained a Presbyterian Minister in 1901; Trustee of Western College for Women in Oxford, OH;
Dean of Chapel at Park college, Kansas City
Secretary of New Era Movement for Central District of General Assembly of Presbyterian Church
Both Charles & his wife were killed July 1, 1948, an auto-train collision at Bachman, Clay Twp.,
Montgomery Co., OH, (*Who Was Who in America*, v. 2, 1943-50, page 16, in *Massillon, Ohio*,
Evening Independent, July 2, 1948).

4 Children of Chas. R. Adams & Myra Oldfather (**John**, Helen, Philip, Dorothy)

1. **John Maxwell Adams**, b. Nov. 29, 1902, Greensburg, IN, m. Eleanor Jane Hall

3 Children of John M. Adams & Eleanor J. Hall

1. **Joan Adams**, b. Aug. 8, 1930, Eugene, OR
BA, Macalester College, 1952; Asst. slide librarian Boston Mus. Fine Arts, 1952-53; Asst. in
Educations at Minneapolis Inst. of Arts, 1953-57; Tour Guide at National Gallery of Art,
Washington, 1965-74; hostess Washington Whirl-A-Round, 1975-76; ambassador to Japan,
1993-96. Author: *Politics in Art*, 1972, *Letters from Japan*, 1998; Bd. of Govs. of Women's
Nat. Dem. Club; hon. Chmn. Fed. Coun. On Arts and Humanities, 1978-80; Bd. Dirs. of the
Assoc. Coun. of Arts, 1973-75; Am. Craft Coun., NYC, 1981-88; J.F.K. Ctr. for Performing
Arts, 1981-90; 1987-2003 Minneapolis-St. Paul area arts & orchestra organizations; member
of Phi Beta Kappa Epsilon; Democrat; Presbyterian; home is 2116 Irving Ave, S Minneapolis,
MN 55405-2541 & E-mail: joan.mondale@mac.com

m. Dec. 27, 1955 **Walter Frederick Mondale**,
(Vice-President 1977-1981 and Democratic presidential candidate in 1984).

3 Children of Joan Adams & Walter F. Mondale

1. **Theodore Adams Mondale**, b. Oct. 12, 1957, m. Pam -----,

3 children, (*Who's Who in American Politics*, 2007-8)

2. **Eleanor Jane Mondale**, b. 1959/60

1st m. April 9, 1988 Keith Van Horne (*New York Times*, April 10, 1988)

2nd m. Chan Poling, June 15, 2005

3. **William Hall Mondale**, b. 1961/2

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The Schraalenburgh Dutch Reformed Church in Bergenfield, NJ

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

The Schraalenburgh Dutch Reformed Church was the original name of the *olde* South Presbyterian Church at 150 W. Church St. in Bergenfield, Bergen Co., NJ (ibid. Map below). The first church building was erected in 1723 (just 150 feet east of the present

The *Olde* South Presbyterian Church/Schraalenburgh Dutch Reformed Church

John Henry Goetschius, the pastor of the *olde* South Presbyterian Church from 1748 to 1774, was a principle founder of Queen's College (now Rutgers Univ.)

Many Revolutionary War soldiers are buried in this churchyard, located on West Church Street next to Cooper's Pond. Hundreds of graves there are not even listed in the record books. In the past, no record was made of the burials or sale of grave plots. *Olde* South

building, which was built in 1799). Barely 1 year later there was a schism. Some church members thought this church had become much too liberal; so in 1724 they split and built the *olde* North (Dutch Reformed) Church in Dumont (ibid. Map below).

Church records are from 1896 to 1921.

John Koromhas deciphered handwriting from the church notebooks, put them on a computer and made a map of known names and sites. Ask him for a map of all areas (with recorded and unrecorded graves). Volunteers are welcome to walk in the cemetery. If you list gravestones not previously recorded, please turn in a copy of your findings to the church office.

Here are some Van Voorhis names found there and recorded. Note that the cause of death is also stated!

Voorhis, David H. d. Jan. 7, 1899 of Arthritis aged 81 yrs. 1 mo.

buried in the Family plot in Cresskill, NJ (ibid. Map below)

Voorhis, Jane Westervelt d. Nov. 9, 1899 of Apoplexy aged 76 yrs. 11 mos.

buried in the Family plot in Cresskill, NJ (ibid. Map below)

Voorhis, Anna Campbell d. Feb. 5, 1904 of Myelitis aged 51 yrs. 10 mos.

buried in the Jochure plot in East Orange, NJ (East Orange is just west of the junction of Rte. 280 & the Garden State Parkway.) & later moved to NY Cemetery (ibid. below) in Hackensack, NJ.

Voorhis, Henry D. d. Jan. 30, 1910 of Senility dementia aged 87 yrs. 6 mos.

buried in the Family plot in Westwood, NJ (ibid. Rte. 502 on Map below)

For more information, go to the church or its website. South Presbyterian Church at 150 West Church Street in Bergenfield, Bergen County, NJ 07621
website: <http://www.southpresbyterian.org/>



On the Map, notice that Cresskill (mentioned above as a burial site) is just a short distance from Dumont, the location of the *Olde* North Dutch Reformed Church. I lived in Demarest, NJ during WWII. Demarest, also a Dutch town (founded by Wm. Demarest), is about 1 mile west of the Hudson River and the Alpine Ferry (if still running) and 2 miles south of the NY state line. Sadly, I've forgotten much that I learned then from my father about the many Dutch sites in the New York and New Jersey areas. For more NJ family gravesites as well as Demarest connections, see "New York/Maple Grove Cemetery Records" below.

The (*Olde*) North Dutch Reformed Church

The members of this church were much more conservative, so they broke away from the South Church in 1724. They moved north and built a new church in at the corner of Washington and Madison Avenues in Dumont, NJ. Originally the name was the Old North Dutch Reformed Church of Dumont. Later it was shortened to the Old North Reformed Church. For more cemetery inscriptions (copied by Mrs. Frances Westervelt in 1911) and documents, you

The Schraalenburgh Dutch Reformed Church in Bergenfield, NJ continued

can visit the Historical Room at the church. The address of the church and cemetery is: Old North Church at the junction of Washington & Madison Avenues in Dumont, Bergen Co., NJ.

The cemetery, an integral part of the church proper-

ty, has no name. The fence surrounding the cemetery was erected to prevent vandalism. Any damage to the gravestones is solely from the decay of old age. A list of every tombstone was made in 1911 and, since then, no further burials were made.

Below is a list of Van Voorhees family members who were buried there. Notice the spelling variations in the names. The *s/w* below might mean 2nd wife.

Van Voorhis, Elizabeth (Demarest) b. 1824, d. 1846 at age 22 yrs. 5 mos. 14 days,
s/w **John A Van Voorhis**

Voorhease, Elizabeth b. 1790, d. 5 Sept. 1823 at age 33 yrs. 6 mos. 16 days

Voorhease, Jacob b. 1748, d. Nov 1819 at age 71 yrs. 5 mos. 24 days

Voorhees, Albert b. 1780, d. 8 Nov 1867 at age: 87 yrs. 11 mos. 14 days,
s/w **Margaret Voorhees**

Voorhees, Elizabeth b. 1750, d. 1805 at age 55 yrs. 9 mos. 5 days,
s/w **Henry J Voorhees**

Voorhees, Jane b. 1753, d. 31 Mar 1825 at age 72 yrs. 11 mos. 11 days,
s/w **Nicholas Voorhees**

Voorhees, Margaret (Demarest) b. 1791, d. 2 June 1842 at age: 51 yrs. 7 mos. 22 days,
s/w **Albert Voorhees**

Voorhees, Nicholas b. 1745, d. May 1837 at age 90 yrs. 10 mos. 18 days,
s/w **Jane Voorhees**

Voorhees, Perinda b. 1760, d. Nov 1821, s/w **Isaac Voorhees**

New York/Maple Grove Cemetery Records

The address of this cemetery is 583 Hudson St. (formerly Plant Rd.) in Hackensack, NJ. On the Map above, Hackensack is SW of Bergenfield. The Dutch Reformed Churches of New York City started this cemetery – a fact explaining the original name. Now it is controlled by an Association. More land was purchased in increments over the years to create a very large cemetery. In 1945 Herbert S. Ackerman and Arthur J. Goff completed copying existing burial records and plots up to 1890. They compiled data on the tombstones with burial records to give more complete information.

I decided to add burial records from this cemetery

to those above, even though none of them are my direct ancestors, because they reflect Dutch influence in northern NJ. The Van Voorhees (multiple spellings) and the Demarest names in this cemetery show distinct marital relationships between these two families. Interestingly, some descendants (not included below) of John Henry Goetschius, pastor of the *Olde South* Presbyterian Church/Schraalenburgh Dutch Reformed Church, are also buried here.

Again notice several spelling variations of the Van Voorhees family names. Even when it is obvious that a person is the same as that above, the name can have a different spelling!

The names below are from page 2 of the New York Cemetery Records. Notice that the men had more than 1 wife. The death dates tell which was the first, second or even third.

* #45 **Elizabeth Voorhiesen** b. 10 Mar. 1767, d. 10 June 1785 (Dutch) aged circa 18 yrs. 3 mos.
dau. of David Demarest* & wife of **Peter Voorhesen**

ibid.: #44 Maria Demarest* (below) probably Elizabeth's mother

#52 **Rachel F. Voorhis** d. 21 Feb 1856 aged 1 yr. 4 mos. 25 days
dau. of **Albert & Maria Voorhis**

#56 **Maria Christie Voorhis** d. 25 May 1887 aged 66 yrs. 10 mos. 7 days
wife of **Albert Voorhis, Jr.**

#57 **Albert Voorhis, Jr.** d. 11 Nov. 1862 aged 43 yrs. 8 mos. 15 days

#58 **Christiana Ackerman Voorhis** d. 1 Sept. 1849 aged 29 yrs. 2 mos. 19 days
wife of **Albert Voorhis, Jr.**

The Schraalenburgh Dutch Reformed Church in Bergenfield, NJ continued

- #59 **John A. Voorhis** d. 9 Aug. 1848 aged 2 yrs. 3 mos. 10 days
son of **Albert & Chris. Voorhis**
- #60 **Hannah Campbell Voorhis** d. 3 Mar. 1877 aged 76 yrs. 2 days
wife of **Nicholas A. Voorhis**
- #61 **Nicholas A. Voorhis** d. 16 Oct. 1884 aged 84 yrs. 9 mos. 7 days
- #62 **Mary Christie Voorhis** d. 25 Oct. 1843 aged 46 yrs. 6 mos. 7 days
wife of **Nicholas A. Voorhis**
- #63 **Albert N. Voorhis** d. 30 July 1850 aged 83 yrs. 5 mos. 15 days

Notice the connection between #45, **Elizabeth (Demarest) Voorhiesen** and the Demarest family below – especially #43 and #44.

- #39 Sarah Haring Demarest d. 22 June 1842 aged 41 yrs. 2 mos. 24 days
wife of David Demarest
(probably 3rd & last wife of David Demarest)
- #40 Anna Demarest d. 27 Feb. 1854 aged 25 years 7 mos. 9 days
- #41 Rachel Demarest d. 11 Dec. 1846 aged 15 yrs. 11 mos.
- * #43 David J. Demarest b. 26 Nov. 1727 d. 27 Nov. 1816 aged 89 yrs. 1 day
- * #44 Maria Demarest b. 10 Apr. 1733 d. 8 Jan. 1785 (Dutch) aged circa 51 yrs. 8 mos.
wife of David Demarest
(probably 1st wife of David Demarest & mother of #45 **Elizabeth Voorhiesen** above)
- #46 Elizabeth Veal Demarest d. 8 June 1804 aged 66 yrs. 5 mos. 7 days
wife of David Demarest
(probably 2nd wife of David Demarest)

There are even more Van Voorhees connections to the Huguenot Demarest family who arrived in New York sometime in the 1600s. **Voorhis D. Demarest** was president of the Demarest Family Association in 1964 when they compiled *The Demarest Family Genealogy*.

References:

1. Brief basic data about the *olde* South Presbyterian Church and cemetery (Van Voorhis names, etc.)
submitted by Carolyn Leonard
2. Detailed data including a Map was found on the Internet
3. Old North Church: some data submitted by Bob Winship
4. Genealogy Society of Bergen Co., Ridgewood Public Library, 125 N. Maple Ave., Ridgewood, NJ 07450
5. Bergen Co., NJ Cemetery Records copied c.1916 (found at Ridgewood Public Libr., #4 above)
6. New York Cemetery Records compiled by Herbert S. Ackerman & Arthur J. Goff in 1945 (ibid. #4 above)

Hope College Chapel Choir Review by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

Hope College is a Dutch Reform school in Holland, MI. There is a **Van Voorhis** building on the campus. When the Chapel Choir came to Erie, PA recently, I attended the concert.

The Choir, founded in 1938, has toured the USA, Canada and gone abroad 7 times. The voices of these 44 young people were collectively and individually magnificent! All were not music majors, but each one was certainly capable of being a professional singer. Brad Richmond, the director, plus a pianist and an organist completed the group.

The program for this year was a mix of liturgical

religious numbers, *olde* English pieces, a couple of modern spoofs, plus some other modern songs. Most of the concert was *a capella*.

If your church or organization would like them to perform, you should first contact:

Carrie Hodson at hodsonc@hope.edu
or, secondly:

Hope College Dept. of Music
Nykerk Hall
127 E. 12th St., Holland MI 49422
(Tel.: 616-395-7650)

In Memoriam

Anson ('Nick') E. Voorhees (born 4 Dec. 1920, the son of **Judah Edgar and Clara Voorhees**) died peacefully on Oct. 2, 2009 in Bradenton, FL. He attended Stanford University and graduated from the Wharton School of the Univ. of Penna. in 1947. During WWII he served in the US Army and was a disabled veteran. Nick owned and operated (1) an insurance agency in northern NJ for many years and (2) a seasonal resort on Indian Lake in the NY Adirondack Mountains. For years he commuted between them. He was a deacon at Grace Presbyterian Church in Mont-

clair, NJ. and president of the Passaic Co., NJ chapter of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship. Founder of Mountain Ministries (an annual Christian conference and retreat), he participated in mission trips to South Africa and northern Europe.

Nick's wife, Doris, died just 4 months later in Feb. 2010. They are survived by **Jane Voorhees Stettner** (daughter) and husband **Donald** of Blairstown, NJ; **Chloe Stettner** (granddaughter) of Philadelphia, PA; **Jon Voorhees** (son) and wife, **Brenda**, and **Josiah Voorhees** (grandson) of Indian Lake, NY.

James D. Voorhees, born 14 Nov. 1917 (VVA#10716) in Harrisburg, Pa., died at age 93 of a stroke at his home in Denver, Colo. After graduating from Yale Univ., he was Commander of a landing ship tank in WWII. He married Mary Margaret Fuller, who died in 1990, in 1943 and had 3 children: **Dayton, Jane and Susan**. He got his law degree at Harvard University after WWII.



James helped found the law firm of Moran, Reidy and Voorhees and worked as an oil and gas lawyer. Years later in 1980 he retired from the law firm of Davis, Graham and Stubbs. A conservative Republi-

can and member of the Denver School Board in the 1960s, he led the majority vote to desegregate their schools. As a result, he endured protestors near his home. Later as president of the Denver School Board, he still believed it was the right thing to do.

He is survived by his 2nd wife, Rosemarie Steward Voorhees, whom he married in 2002; **Jane Voorhees Kiss** (daughter) of Grand Junction, Colo.; **Dr. Dayton Voorhees** (son) of Albuquerque, N. Mex.; **Susan Voorhees Maxfield** (daughter) of Topeka, Kansas; **Katrina Voorhees Berman** (sister) of Moscow, Ida.; step-sons Henry Michael Perry of Houston, Texas and Mark Steven Perry of Phoenix, Ariz. and step-daughter Ann Perry Strazza of Denver, Colo.; 4 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, and 5 step-grandchildren.

James A. Van Voorhies, son of **Albert A. Van Voorhies** and **Eleanor MacDonald Van Voorhies** was born 15 June 1932 in Ridgewood, NJ and died at age of 78 on 12 April 2011 at Southern Ocean Medical Center in Manahawkin. On 16 Mar. 1952 he married Mary E. Schiller. A summer resident of Long Beach Island from 1970-1987, **James** moved there permanently after retiring in 1987 from Singer Kearfott of Little Falls, where he worked for many years. He once owned numerous boats. He was an active member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Brant Beach and a volunteer bus driver for the St. Francis Program of Meals-on-Wheels.

Predeceased by his son, **Peter J.**, in 2006, **James** is survived by **Mary Schiller Van Voorhies**, his wife of 58 years. Other survivors are **Cynthia Van Voorhies Collins** (daughter) and her husband, Richard, of Hawthorne; **Jill Van Voorhies Denise** (daughter) also of Hawthorne; 4 grandchildren in Hawthorne -- **James**

and **Tina Van Voorhies**, and **Rachael and Maddie Denise**; **Lee Ann Van Voorhies DeFilippo** (sister) of Easton, PA; **Marilyn Van Voorhies Brack** (sister; VVA Chairman of Publications and Sales) and her husband, Frederick, of North Haledon, NJ; **Albert T. (Tom) Van Voorhies** (brother; VVA Membership Chairman) and his wife, Lynnora, of East Northport, NY; and 6 nieces and nephews -- **Steven Glenn Van Voorhies**, **Lisa Van Voorhies**, **Elaine Van Voorhies Abruzzo** and husband, Peter; **Derek DeFilippo** and **Audrey Defilippo Egan** and husband, Rob; plus 5 grandnieces and grandnephews -- **Samantha R. Abruzzo**, **Ashley S. Abruzzo**, **Stephanie M. Abruzzo**, **Timothy J. Abruzzo** and **Audrey Egan**.

A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, 23 April 2011 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Long Beach Blvd. and 59th St., Branch Beach, NJ 08008. All arrangements were made via the Bugbee-Riggs Funeral Home in Ship Bottom, NJ.

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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 (2) Please address any questions to

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

Nieuws van Verwanten (News of Cousins)

Welcome to the Family!

Austin Yan-Fong Voorhees was born at 11 AM on March 17, 2011 in Fairoaks Hospital, Fairfax, VA. He is the son of **Kenneth Robert Voorhees** and **Heather Loc-Yee Wong Voorhees**, daughter of Steven How-Yan Wong and Gretta Elaine Krepps Wong. **Kenneth**

Robert Voorhees is the son of **Robert F. Voorhees** (VVA Genealogy Chairman) and **Gretchen (Chris) Myers Voorhees** and grand-son of **Henry Austin Voorhees** and **Catherine A. Fait Voorhees**.

The Austin-Voorhees Connection submitted by Robert F. Voorhees

Richard Austin (b. 1598 in Titchfield, Hampshire, England) died in 1638 in Charlestown (Bunker Hill), Massachusetts Bay Colony. (Steven Coerts Van Voorhees was born in 1599.) Anthony Austin (also b. 1636 in Titchfield, England) died in 1708 in the Mass. Bay Colony. Dr. Nathaniel Austin (b. 1678 in Suffield, Hampshire, Mass.) died in 1760 in Suffield, Hartford, Conn. Capt. Nathaniel Austin (b. 23 May 1703 in Suffield, Mass.) died 13 Apr. 1777 in Sheffield, Berkshire, Mass. Lt. Joab Austin (b. 29 July 1740 in Sheffield, Mass.) died 5 Mar. 1820 in Homer, Cortland Co., NY. Henry Austin (b. 26 Dec. 1770 in

Sheffield, Mass.) died 24 Aug. 1829 in Skaneateles, Onondaga Co., NY. Warren Austin (b. Mar. 6, 1798 in Owasco, Cayuga Co., NY) died on Nov. 7, 1887 in Skaneateles, NY.

Henry Warren Austin (b. 1 Aug. 1828 in Skaneateles, NY d. 24 Dec. 1889 in Oak Park, Cook Co., IL.) was married on 2 Oct. 1859 to **Martha Sophia Voorhees** (b. 5 Oct. 1829 in Lysander, Onondaga Co., NY and d. 17 Dec. 1897 in Oak Park, Cook Co., IL.). Henry Warren Austin, Jr. (b. 22 Jan. 1864 and d. 25 June 1947 in Oak Park, IL) was married to Edna Lee Harris and they adopted 3 children.

Some Olde (c. 1500-1700) Dutch Birthing Customs by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

In the 1600s babies were born at home in a *kraamkamer* (birthing room: a special bedroom for giving birth and later seeing visitors), with *een luiermantelkast* (layette cupboard), *een wieg* (cradle), *een vuurmand* (a domed device to dry diapers), and *een bakermat* (a long, low basket put near the fire to cradle the reclining mother or wet-nurse while she nursed the baby). The free-standing bed was heavily draped for warmth. All babies were swaddled right after birth. Mothers were pampered before and after giving birth in hopes of reducing the high mortality rate.

Aeltje Wessels, Steven Coerts Van Voorhees' first wife, died along with the baby (Wessel Coerts), about 1 year or so after giving birth to her 4th child. I think it was due to infections -- common then due to the lack of knowledge about germs. I know that my grandma's sister had a home birth in the early 1900s. The mother eventually died from puerperal fever and the smaller twin also died.

New mothers were given special foods to help them regain strength. Some of these were *havermeel* (an oatmeal porridge -- probably a combination of sweetened and/or fried bread crusts in milk flavored with cinnamon and anise), sugar candies, and sweetened breads/buns with or without preserved-fruit fillings. Anise was usually placed in all of these to "increase a

mother's milk supply."

In addition, there was *kandeel* (a very special holiday drink). The recipe includes (1) ¼ tsp. of ground mace, ¼ tsp. of ground nutmeg, 2 cinnamon sticks (3" each); zest of 1 lemon, and 10 whole cloves -- all boiled together in about 1½ cups of water. (2) In the top of a double boiler, cook 6 well-beaten egg yolks + ½ cup of sugar. (3) Combine 1 and 2, then slowly add 1 whole bottle of Rhine wine while stirring constantly. This makes a thick drink that is usually served warm to new mothers.

The painting on the next page is *The Newborn Baby* painted in 1675 by Dutch artist, Matthijs Naiveu (1647-1726). He began to specialize in painting nursery scenes in the 1670s.

This scene shows a lavishly decorated *kraamkamer*. Even the bedside stand is draped with very expensive cloths and even a fringed Persian rug. The cherub above the canopy bed is there to promote fecundity. The new mother, still in bed, is attended or instructed by her mother. The aunt, holding the baby, rests her foot on a foot-warmer. A woven-basket cradle is placed nearby. The child, eager to help, presents her new sister with a candy.

In the next room the father celebrates the birth with friends (seen on the right, through an open doorway).



On the left is *The Newborn Baby*, the painting referred to in the preceding paragraphs. Only *kraamkameren* of the wealthy were as elegant as this one; however, it does give you an idea of the care given to mothers following a baby's birth.

The Dutch believed that all children born in happy marriages were proof of the pair's ability to conceive as well as a gift from God. There are many Dutch paintings showing children cherished and happy.

References & Recommended Reading

1. *Matters of Taste: Food and Drink in 17th Century Dutch Art and Life*
by Donna R. Barnes & Peter G. Rose
2. *A Bit of Old Holland: Recipes from Dutch Village, Holland, Mich.*
3. *Dutch Cooking* by Heleen A. M. Halverhout
4. *Dandy Dutch Recipes* edited by Mina Baker-Roelofs
5. *The Art of the Dutch Republic 1585-1718*
by Mariet Westermann

The Daniel Denton Book: A Priceless History of New York circa 1640-1670 by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

In this article I tied some dates concerning Daniel Denton to those of the Van Voorhees family and history. I hope this will make the story more relevant.

Daniel Denton published the 1st English language book about New York in 1670. The complete title was *A Brief Description of New York: formerly called New-Netherlands: with the Places thereunto Adjoyning, Together with the Manner of its Scituation, Fertility of the Soyle, Healthfulness of the Climate, and the Commodities thence produced, Likewise A Brief Relation of the Customs of the Indians there*. In 1670 it was published and printed in London for John Hancock & William Bradley. Later it was published in 1845 by Gowans in New York.

Today it would be a booklet or pamphlet, since it had just 25 pages. Only 2 known original copies of the book have thus far been auctioned – one bought at a Sotheby auction in 1987 for \$16,000 and recently sold at Christies in London (Lot #28, Sale #2915) for 49,250 £ sterling (circa \$77,864 US).

Daniel Denton was born circa 1626 in Yorkshire, England. He was the son of Helen Windblank and the Rev. Richard Denton.

[Huguenots, Joris Janszen Rapalje and Catalyntie Jeronimus Trico (ancestors of Maretje Gerretse Van Couwenhoven, wife of Coert Van Voorhees -- some Rapalje children married into other lines of the Van

Voorhees family.) fled to the Netherlands, hastily married in Amsterdam on Jan. 21, 1624, and 4 days later sailed to Nieuw Amsterdam on the *Eendracht*. On arrival they were sent to Fort Orange/Albany. In 1625 their daughter, Sarah, was born. Returning in 1626 to Nieuw Amsterdam they prospered greatly. In 1637 in the Wallabout (inner bay) on the East River they purchased land from the Indians and thus became the 1st settlers on Long Island!]

By 1640 Nieuw Amsterdam was a thriving city in the fur trade. Other Dutch areas sent furs there for export – mainly to Europe. Daniel Denton sometime in the 1640s went with his father to Massachusetts, then to Connecticut and finally to Long Island. In 1650 he was a town clerk of Hempstead in Queens Co. and in 1656 was clerk in the town of Jamaica. Rev. Richard Denton, a pastor in Hempstead in 1650 later went to Halifax, Nova Scotia; however, Daniel stayed in Long Island. Daniel Denton married Abigail Stevenson* circa 1659 and had 3 children -- Daniel, Abigail, and Mercy. (Abigail's father, Steven*, is not part of the Van Voorhees family.)

[On Apr. 16, 1660 Capt. Pieter Lucasz sailed *De Bonte Koe* to Nieuw Amsterdam with these passengers aboard: "Steven Koorts from Drenthe," his "wife and 7 children" (ages 22, 10, 8, 6, 4, and 2) and "Jan Kiers, farmer and wife from Drenthe." (Here the wife

of “Steven Koorts” was his 2nd wife, Willemtje Seubering. Jan Kier’s wife, Hendrickje Stevense, was the daughter of “Steven Koorts from Drenthe” and his deceased 1st wife, Aeltje Wessels.)]

In 1664, Nieuw Amsterdam became British New York. Also in 1664 Daniel Denton received a grantee of a patent (deed) in Elizabeth-town, NJ. From 1665-1666 he was a Justice of the Peace in New York.

In 1670 Daniel Denton wrote his book while returning to London. It attracted entrepreneurs eager to seek their fortunes in America by describing the fish, fowl, crops, edible vegetation, topography, soil plus jobs and other economic goods readily available in the area between the Hudson and Delaware rivers. He was divorced in 1672. Abigail kept their infant, Mercy, and later remarried. (Daniel and Abigail, stayed with their father.) Denton now became involved in settlement enterprises and possibly also the fur trade.

Daniel said the Indian name for the main island was “Manahatan” and described Indian society and their customs. He failed to tell of Indian and white man conflicts, instead saying, “it hath been generally observed that where the English come to settle, a Divine Hand makes way for them: by removing or cutting off the Indians either by Wars one with the other, or by some raging mortal Disease.” He also mentioned that the only town in Staten Island “is capable of entertaining more inhabitants.” He barely noticed the Dutch other than to write that the British were much more effective in controlling the Indians.

Another main theme of his book is its appeal to the struggling poor of Britain. He notes that “those which Fortune hath frowned upon in England, to deny them an inheritance amongst their Brethren,” “may pro-

cure here inheritances of land and possessions, stock themselves with all sorts of Cattel, enjoy the benefit of them whilst they live, and leave them to the benefit of their children when they did.” He writes “here any one may furnish himself with land, and live rent-free, yea with such a quantity of land, that he may weary himself with walking over fields of Corn, and all sorts of Grain.” ... “How many poor people in the world would think themselves happy, had they an Acre or two of Land, whilst here is hundreds, nay thousands of Acres, that would invite inhabitants.”

Denton’s book reveals some colonial attitudes too – self reliance, egalitarianism for all society, “where a Waggon or Cart gives as good content as a Coach, and a piece of their home-made Cloth, better than the finest Lawns” (delicate fabrics often embroidered) “or richest Silks,” ... and it is “surely here, where the Land floweth with milk and honey.”

After Denton wrote this book, he did not publish anything else. In 1673 he returned to America and lived in Piscataway, NJ. Here he was appointed as magistrate. In 1674, he moved to Springfield, MA and became both a town recorder and school teacher. In 1676 he married Hannah Leonard with whom he had 6 children (Alice, Hannah, Samuel, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Thomas). In 1684 he went back to Jamaica, NY. In 1689 became county clerk of Queens Co. He died in 1703 without making a Will.

The amount of personal observation and details given by Daniel Denton makes this book valuable as an historical reference. You can purchase a newer copy from G.S. MacManus (a rare-book dealer) for \$330. About 266 other dealers also have Denton’s book for sale on this website: www.abebooks.com.

References

1. Some Data about Daniel Denton submitted by Manning Voorhees
2. Internet: Faculty Publications re Daniel Denton (Libraries of University of Nebraska at Lincoln)
3. www.abebooks.com
4. my personal Genealogy Files (numerous historic books and family records)
 - 4a. Huguenot files in New Paltz, NY & Van Voorhees Association publications
 - 4b. *Keskachauge or the First White Settlement on Long Island* by Frederick Van Wyck





Albert T. Van Voorhies

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