



# VAN VOORHEES NIEUWSBRIEF

Volume 28 Number 2

Fall 2011

A Publication of the Van Voorhees Association, Organized in 1932  
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## Editorial

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

Lately there have been several TV programs where **medical doctors have advised everyone to do medical genealogy!** That means take a pen and notebook plus a tape recorder and visit all the elderly in your family. Get them and keep them talking! Their minds may wander a bit and you may need another disk or chip to record it all; but don't interrupt or you could lose valuable information. Don't try to edit anything until later. Don't worry if they may be *senile* or you *think* they are senile. When you check documents later for verification, you may be surprised to learn that some memories never fade, even though they may be just a tiny bit off the mark.

**COLLECT ALL their stories and ASK what EVERYONE in the family Died from and what other health issues they have had! Don't limit it to just the immediate/direct-line family members.** You need to know about all blood-related cousins, uncles, aunts and their siblings too. This is the only way to find out about **Recessive Genes**. Often it takes 2 bad genes to create a major illness. Since just 1 doesn't cause trouble, it means it is *recessive* and can be passed down several generations before a person gets the 2<sup>nd</sup> one to create a health problem. This is what happens in breast cancer, etc., as well as not-so-serious medical issues such as baldness or simple things like left-handedness, musical talent and

artistic abilities, etc.

The non-medical stories can be entered to give a complete picture/biography of each person. How often have you wondered what it was really like to live 70-100 or 150+ years ago? Who were all these unknown grandmothers, uncles, aunts, and cousins? What may at first seem like trivia might turn out to be life-saving later. Going back several generations, you may also find some cousin marriages. These marriages can definitely influence your health.

For *my personal* genealogy, I use Excel spreadsheet that I turn into graph paper for easy indentation. Under every surname (a file for each) I can have separate sheets for Unknowns and Miscellaneous data. Sometimes years later, while doing more research in other local libraries, I find the missing links. When major health issues are involved, this is extremely valuable information!

**The preceding is why I strongly urge you to buy all of our Genealogy Publications (p-6)!** They contain the names of many of these grandmothers, siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles. These publications are not just a basic line of the males with birth and death dates. Yes, you do have to take the other names and search for data on them. **Without those names, however, you have very little to help you medically!**

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~ VAN VOORHEES ASSOCIATION WHO'S WHO ~

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~ MEMBERS--AT--LARGE ~

David R. Voorhees

## In Memoriam

**Suzanne Voorhees** of Howell, NJ died on Wed., June 8, 2011 at the age of 75. Born in Montclair, NJ, she lived in Glen Ridge and Manasquan before moving to Howell in 1979. She worked in banks for 47 years – as a platform assistant for Mid-Lantic Bank in Howell, then as a teller with the PNC Bank (Howell Branch). **David Voorhees**, her husband, died in 1986.



She is survived by 2 step-sons (**David Voorhees** of Trenton, Fla. and **Robert Voorhees** of Portland,

**Jacques Vanbrunt Voris** died on Feb. 8, 2011. He was a long time member of the VVA, as well as his

**Edward Harlan Voorhees** (VVA #10532), born on Oct. 23, 1918, died on Mon., Apr. 18, 2011 at age 92. He had a long career in the U.S. Marine Corps.

**James A. Van Voorhis** (VVA #20778), son of the late **Ralph S. and Edith Van Voorhis**, died on Sat., May 21, 2011.

He is survived by his 2 brothers (**Clarence Van Voorhis** and **Ralph Van Voorhis**); a sister (**Helen Timpner**); several nieces and nephews; and Muriel



**Margaret Harriot Voorhees Booton** was born on 8 Nov. 1908 in Woodbridge, NJ and died 12 Aug. 2011 (aged 102 years 9 mos. 1 day) in Pleasant Hill, TN. She was one of 5 children (**Miriam Morgenson, Wm. H., Jr., Florence Thompkins** and **Laura Voorhees**) of **Wm. Henry Voorhees, Sr.** and his wife, **Nettie Dally**.



Margaret graduated in 1926 from Woodbridge High School where she was in the senior play and played varsity basketball for 3 years. She worked in Newark, NJ at Prudential. Later, also in Newark, she was a receptionist and chauffeur for her aunt, **Dr. Florence Voorhees, MD**. In 1941 she married Berwin (Bus) Howell Booton and had 1 daughter, **Carol Joan**. Margaret and family lived with her parents until moving in 1949 to Rahway, NJ and remained there until Berwin died in 1968. Margaret next moved in with her father-in-law in Iselin, NJ. and later back to Woodbridge, where she was very active in the First Congregational Church – teaching Sunday School,

Ore.); 3 step-daughters in Farmingdale (Ruth Vitola, Betty An Gravatt, and **Jo Ann Voorhees**); Raymond Scheffler (brother) and wife, Nancy, of PA; Henriette Foster (sister) of Rochester, NY; 5 grandchildren; Benjamin Scheffler (nephew) and wife, Patricia; and Debra Kennedy (niece) and husband, Carl.

Rev. Tom Detamore officiated at the service. Internment was in Cedar Lawn Cemetery, Howell, NJ. All burial arrangements were via the Clayton & McGirr Funeral Home, 100 Elton-Adelphia Rd. (Rte. 524) in Freehold Twp.

For more details see: [www.claytonfuneralhome.com](http://www.claytonfuneralhome.com)

family from its beginning. A survivor is **Pat Voris**.

He is survived by **Helen Marie Bennett Voorhees**, his wife, of Napa, CA.

Buchman (his caregiver).

The funeral Service was held at Anthony Chapels (Brighton), 2305 Monroe Ave., Rochester, NY 14618. Interment was in Ptttsford Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please send contributions to the Humane Society at Lollypop Farm, 99 Victor Rd., Fairport, NY 14450.

Visit [www.anthonychapels.com](http://www.anthonychapels.com) for memories and a photo of **James**.

singing in the choir, working in committees and all functions. She retained membership in this church even after moving elsewhere.

In 1991 she moved to North Ft. Myers, FL with Carol Joan and Wayne R. Sheeley (son-in-law), and was active in Good Shepherd United Methodist Church. The whole family moved to Pleasant Hill, TN in 2008, where Margaret was an assisted-living. **Margaret** is survived by **Carol Joan Sheeley** (daughter) and husband Wayne; 2 grandchildren (**Kimberly A. Krupski** and husband Cliff Walling; and **Scott W. Krupski** and wife Debbie); 3 great-grand children (**Kyle, Lauren and Ty Krupski**); 2 step-grandchildren (Saundra Sheeley DeMita and Richard and Lisa Sheeley; 8 step great-grandchildren; Grace Moffett Heath (1<sup>st</sup> cousin); and numerous multi-generation cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Donations may be made to the Wharton Association (of Wharton-Munson Home in Uplands Retirement Village, Pleasant Hill, TN) and sent to Bob Winkler, PO Box 221, Pleasant Hill, TN 38578. Internment will be in Cloverleaf Cemetery in Woodbridge, NJ.

## In Memoriam continued

**Eleanor Jane Mondale Poling**, born in 1960 as the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 3 children of **Joan** (nee Adams) and Walter Mondale, died at her home on Sept. 17, 2011 at age 51. This was the result of a 2<sup>nd</sup> bout with brain cancer. She is survived by Chan Poling (husband), both of her parents, and her 2 brothers.

**Eleanor** is descended from **Steven Coerte Van Voorhees** and his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Willempie Roelofse

Seubering, through several generations to **Elizabeth Voris Harris Archer** whose great-grand-daughter was **Joan Adams**, who married Walter Mondale.

For further genealogy, read "**Political Figures: The Van Voorhees-Mondale Connection**" (data submitted by Marc Hoover) on page 14 of the *Spring 2011 Nieuwsbrief*.

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### Florence Christoph, the Van Voorhees Association Genealogist

**Florence Anna Weaver Christoph** of Selkirk, NY died at home on Monday, July 4, 2011 with **Peter** at her side. They were married 52 years. Born in Montgomery County, NY, she grew up on a small farm in Stone Arabia. Entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade in a 1-room school, she graduated 3<sup>rd</sup> in her class from Canajo-harie High School. Just after graduating from Hartwick College with honors in mathematics, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1959 she married a fellow student, **Peter Christoph**. She taught high school math for 2 years before becoming a homemaker and mother.



She was involved in multiple community activities: president of the PTA, served on committees of the Bethlehem Historical Assoc. and the Town of Bethlehem, showed children's movies monthly at the fire in Selkirk, and won some women's bowling league trophies. For several years she cared for a granddaughter while her daughter lived at home. She also loved animals and usually had at least 1 cat or dog in the house -- the last being a rescued dog. As an admirer of Hajo Christoph's (her father-in-law) artwork, she brought his art to the Albany Institute of History and Art where many are displayed.

Her hobby was genealogy -- finding all her ancestors were in America by 1760. With her children in

high school, she made this hobby a certified professional career and wrote multi-volume genealogies of the Schuyler and **Van Voorhees** families. Her other books included *Upstate New York in the 1760s, Records of the People of the Town of Bethlehem*, and *Vital Records of Jerusalem Reformed Church Records, Feura Bush*. **Flo** and **Peter** co-edited several volumes of colonial New York government documents. She was even introduced to the Queen of the Netherlands when she visited Albany.

Flo's last project was an illustrated timeline of the congregational history of *The First Lutheran Church in Albany, America, and Lutheranism*, displayed in the church's Hartwick Lounge. An active member of this church, she sang in the choir and served on the congregational council. In her final illness she maintained her cheerful spirit and sense of humor -- attitudes impressing all those around her.

Predeceased by one sister and 4 brothers, she is survived by Peter Christoph (husband); Daniel W. Christoph (son) and wife Ronda of Milwaukee, WI; Richard P. Christoph (son) and wife Tammy of West Lawn, PA; and Anna Lise Hall (daughter) and husband Richard and Amanda Bottieri Hall (granddaughter) of Nashua. A service was held at First Lutheran Church, Albany, NY. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Peter's ALS Regional Center (19 Warehouse Row, Albany, NY 12205) or The First Lutheran Church (646 State St., Albany, NY 12203-1217).

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### Remembering Florence Christoph, the Van Voorhees Association's Genealogist from 1993-2011

Working with Flo was a pleasure and an inspiration. She never had any harsh words, although she certainly had cause to voice them. A professional, leading amateur for many years, can easily feel frustrated, impatient and critical. But Flo was just the opposite.

A clear test of Flo's good nature was the evening when she was presented with the 40 boxes and bags of Van Voorhees genealogical material that had piled

up over many years and had been relocated to an unknown repository by the Rutgers University library. The papers suddenly reappeared. Flo very willingly accepted the large pile of letters, reports, notebooks, news clippings and whatever items that were tossed together like a chef's salad. This was certainly a challenge and Flo gave of her time and health to sort out the mess and make genealogical sense of it. She was very generous of her time .. and in a most friendly

## Remembering Florence Christoph continued

manner. There was only excitement for the hundreds of discoveries and the prospect for a spectacular printed genealogy. I heard nary a criticism or complaint. She was a self-starter and, after a few days of 'rest,' charged into preparing the next volume while its predecessor was still warm. All of this enthusiasm resulted in 2,552 printed pages plus a CD, all covering the Van Voorhees Family in America from 1660.

Flo's warm personality was displayed at our Reunions. Toting her desktop computer and printer plus some notebooks, Flo ran our Genealogical Workshops

As Chairman of the Van Voorhees Association Genealogy Committee, I had the pleasure of working with Flo Christoph for about 10 years. Needless to say, Flo was a delight to work with. She had just the right blend of instructing us when we needed it and getting out of the way when we needed to be learning something on our own. Flo loved the challenge of going after one of our "unknowns" and this rubbed off on the rest of us. She was a fine person and her leadership will be greatly missed.

In my opinion Flo had the greatest impact on Van Voorhees Genealogy of all the talented people who worked on our genealogy of the last 130 years. Flo spent thousands of hours reviewing all the previous

The passing of Florence Christoph marks the loss of a true family TREASURE. After her monumental (perhaps unprecedented) contribution to our organization, I'm very sorry she didn't enjoy a much longer retirement. It was a distinct privilege and extraordinary learning experience to assist her in trying to iden-

My memories of Flo as a friend are very personal. She survived breast cancer .. twice. She heard about my siege with it and offered to be my mentor - I could call her *any time*. Not many people would do that. As I said in the Spring 2011 *Nieuwsbrief*, we

for several years. She answered member's questions, taught them the basic guidelines for research, and was more than patient if someone did not immediately agree with his/her ancestral data that Flo had in her database. Flo also prepared and presented slide shows of Van Voorhees genealogy and famous people.

The Van Voorhees Family became Flo's adopted Family. Flo had become so close to us that she felt as though she was one of us. We felt very pleased about the closeness that had developed.

Flo, you were a lovely person indeed. We miss you. (contributed by **Manning Voorhees**, Past President)

work done (40 file boxes that we call the 'Van Voorhees Collection') and carefully entering all this information into our Master Genealogist database.

Along the way Flo did original research on hundreds of Voorhees lines. Using the Master Genealogist database, Flo published the Van Voorhees Genealogy covering the first 10 generations plus the children of the 10<sup>th</sup>. To cap it all off, with the assistance of her husband, Peter, and Judith Van Voorhis, Flo managed the transfer of the 'Van Voorhees Collection' to the New York State Library (in Albany, NY), where it is now safely residing for the use of future generations. (contributed by **Robert F. Voorhees**, Genealogy Committee Chairman)

tify people in the VV database with unknown connections to Steven Coerts. I'm glad I saved our e-mail correspondence reflecting that very rewarding, very frustrating and sometimes very funny experience. Via con Dios! (contributed by **Marc E. Hoover**, Genealogy Committee: Voorhees Notables)

also shared genealogy nightmares and triumphs. From the preceding, you can see her Magnificent Contributions to the Van Voorhees Association!

With great personal grief, I bid you farewell, dear friend. (by **Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall**, Editor)

*Memories are the Treasures of the Mind.*



## BOOK ORDER FORM for The Van Voorhees Association Publications

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<i>The Van Voorhees Family in America: The 7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Generations (in 2 books)</i>	_____		\$85.00	_____ +	\$12.00
<i>The Van Voorhees Family in America: The First 6 Generations PLUS The Van Voorhees Family in America: The 7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Generations (in 2 books)</i>	_____		\$135.00	_____ +	\$21.00
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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](http://www.heritagebooks.com) or by mail to the address: Heritage Books Inc.

Attn. Herbert Bates

The Van Voorhees Association has recently published the **9<sup>th</sup> Generation CD** (including children of the 9<sup>th</sup> 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**

**Soil, Cultivation, and Husbandry in New-Hampshire**  
by **Jeremy Belknap**, member of the **Philosophical Society in Philadelphia**, and of the **Academy of Arts and Sciences in Massachusetts** 1813

(This article, written almost 200 years ago, describes how a farmer might think as he came to a newly acquired piece of land on the frontier.) Editor's NOTE: The grammar, terminology and spelling of some words are not of modern usage. Some terms are no longer in the dictionary.

There is a great variety of soil in New-Hampshire. The interval lands on the large rivers are accounted the most valuable, because they are overrun and recruited every year by the water from the uplands, which brings down a fat slime or sediment, of the consistence of soap. These lands produce every kind of grain in the utmost perfection; but are not so good for pasture as the uplands of a proper quality. The wide spreading hills of a moderate elevation, are generally much esteemed, as warm and rich; rocky moist land is accounted good for pasture; drained swamps have a deep mellow soil, and the valleys between hills are generally very productive.

In the new and uncultivated parts, the soil is distinguished by the various kinds of woods which grow upon it, thus: white oak land is hard and stony; this kind of soil will not bear grass till it has been ploughed and hoed; but it is good for Indian corn (its meaning since the 19<sup>th</sup> century is maize), and must be subdued by planting, before it can be converted into mowing or pasture. The same may be said of chestnut land.

Pitch pine land is dry and sandy; it will bear corn and rye with ploughing; but is soon worn out, and needs to lie fallow two or three years to recruit.

White pine land is also light and dry, but has a deeper soil, and is of course better; both these kinds of land bear brakes (any of several ferns especially bracken) and fern; and wherever these grow in large quantities, is an indication that ploughing is necessary to prepare the land for grass.

Spruce and hemlock, in the eastern parts of the state denote a thin, cold soil, which after much labor in the clearing, will indeed bear grass without ploughing, but the crops are small, and there is a natural tough sward (a lawn or meadow) commonly called a rug, which must either rot or be burned before any cultivation can be made. But in the western parts, the spruce and hemlock, with a mixture of birch, denotes a moist soil, which is excellent for grass.

When the white pine and the oyl-nut are found in the same land, it is commonly a deep moist loam, and

is accounted very rich and profitable.

Beech and maple land is generally esteemed the most easy and advantageous for cultivation as it is a warm, rich, loamy soil, which easily takes grass, corn and grain without ploughing; and not only bears good crops the first year, but turns immediately to mowing and pasture; that soil which is deepest, and of the darkest colour, is esteemed the best.

Black and yellow birch are signs of strong land, and generally the strength of land is judged of by the largeness of the trees which it produces.

There are evident signs of a change in the growth on the same soil, in a course of time; for which no causes can be assigned. In some places the old standing trees, and the fallen decayed trees, appear to be the same, whilst the most thriving trees are of a different kind. For instance, the old growth in some places is red oak, or white ash; whilst the other trees are beech and maple, without any young oak or ash among them. It is probable that the growth is thus changed in many places; the only conclusion which can be drawn from this circumstance, is, that the same soil is capable of bearing diverse kinds of trees; but there is a difference sufficient to denominate the soil from the growth.

Several ways of raising a crop on new land have been practiced. The easiest and cheapest method was originally learned of the Indians, who never looked very far forward in their improvements. The method is that of girdling the trees; which is done by making a circular incision through the bark, and leaving them to die standing. This operation is performed in the summer, and the ground is sowed in August, with winter rye, intermixed with grass. The next year, the trees do not put forth leaves, and the land having yielded a crop, becomes fit for pasture. This method helps poor settlers a little the first year; but the inconvenience of it is, that if the trees are left standing, they are continually breaking and falling with the wind, which endangers the lives of cattle; and the ground being constantly encumbered by the falling trees, is left fit for mowing; so that if the labor be not effectually done at once, it must be done in a succession of time.

Some have supposed, that the earth, being not at once but by degree exposed to the sun, preserves its moisture, and does not become so hard; but the experience of the best husbandmen has exploded this opinion. The more able sort of husbandmen, therefore,

choose the method of clearing the land at first, by cutting down all the trees without exception. The most eligible time for this operation, is the month of June, when the sap is flowing, and the leaves are formed on the trees. These leaves will not drop from the fallen trees, but remain till the next year, when, being dry, they help to spread the fire, which is then set to the trees. This is done in the first dry weather of the succeeding spring, and generally in May; but if the ground be too dry, the fire will burn deep, and greatly injure the soil. There is therefore need of some judgement to determine when the wood is dry enough to burn, and the soil wet enough to resist the action of the fire. Much depends on getting what is called a good burn, to prepare the ground for planting. To ensure this, the fallen trees are cut and piled; and the larger the pile, the better chance there is for its being well burned. But if the land be intended for pasture only, the trees are cut down, and the trunks of the trees are left to rot, which, in time, turn to good manure, and the pasture is durable.

Some husbandmen prefer felling trees in the winter, or very early in the spring, before the snow is gone. The advantage of this method is, that there are fewer shoots from the stumps of the felled trees, than if they are cut in the summer; these shoots encumber the ground, and must be cut out of the way, or destroyed by fire. The disadvantage of cutting trees in the winter is that they will not dry so soon, nor burn so well, as those cut in the summer, with leaves on. Besides, the month of June is a time when not only the trees are easiest to be cut, but the feed is in the ground, and people can better attend to this labor, than when they are preparing for their spring work, or have not finished their winter employments. The days too are then at their greatest length, and more labor can be done in the course of a day. This labor, however, is often paid for by the acre, rather than by the day; and the price of felling an acre, is from one to two dollars, according to the number and size of the trees.

The burning of trees generally destroys the limbs and smaller trunks; the larger logs are left scorched on the ground, and sometimes serve to fence the field. After the fire has had its effect, and is succeeded by rain, then is the time for planting. No plough is used, nor is it possible for one to pass among the roots and stumps; but holes are made with a hoe in the loose soil and ashes; in which, the feed being dropped and covered, is left to the prolific hand of nature; no other culture being necessary or practicable, but the cutting of the fireweed, which spontaneously grows to the

height of five or six feet, according to the strength of the ashes. It bears a white flower, and has a winged seed, which is carried everywhere by the wind, but never vegetates, except on the ashes of burnt wood. It exhausts the ground, and injures the first crop, if it be not subdued; but after the second year disappears. About the second or third year, another weed, called pigeon-berry, succeeds the fireweed, and remains till the grass overcomes it. It rises to the height of three feet, spreads much at the top, and bears bunches of black berries, on which pigeons feed.

When the trees are burnt later in the summer, wheat or rye is sown, mixed with the seeds of grass, on the new land. The feed is scattered on the surface, and raked in with a wooden or iron tooth rake, or a hoe. The husbandman knows on what kind of land to expect a crop, from this mode of culture; and is seldom disappointed. Sometimes a crop of Indian corn is raised the first year, and another of rye or wheat, the second year, and the land is sown with grass, which will turn it into pasture or mowing the third year. The first crop, in some land, and the two first crops in any good land, will repay the expense of all the labor. It is not an uncommon thing for people, who are used to this kind of husbandry, to bring a tract of wilderness into grass for the two first crops; the owner being at no expense but that of felling the trees and purchasing the grass feed. Many husbandmen, in the old towns, buy lots of new land, and get them cleared and brought into grass, in this way, and pasture great numbers of cattle; the feed is excellent, and the cattle are soon fatted for the market.

Husbandmen differ in their opinions concerning the advantages of tilling their new land the second year. Some suppose that mixing and stirring the earth, does it more good than the crop injures it; others say, that one crop is sufficient before the land is laid down to grass; and that if it be sown with crops of grass which follow, will more than compensate for one crop of grain. When the feeding with grass is neglected, the ground becomes mossy and hard, and must be ploughed before it will receive feed. Land, thus sown, will not produce grass so plentifully, as that which is seeded immediately after the fire has run over it. Besides, this neglected land is generally overspread with cherry-trees, rasp-berry bushes, and other wild growth; to subdue which, much additional labor is required. In good land, the first crops of hay are, on an average, a ton to an acre. That land which is intended for mowing, and which takes the common grass well at first, is seldom or never ploughed after-

## Soil, Cultivation, and Husbandry in New-Hampshire continued

ward; but where clover is sown, it must be ploughed and seeded every fourth or fifth year; good land, thus managed, will average two tons of clover to the acre.

In the interval land on Connecticut river, wheat often yields forty, and sometimes fifty bushels to the acre; but in common upland, if it produce twenty bushels, it is reckoned profitable, though it often falls short of that. Indian corn will sometimes average thirty or forty; but it is to be observed that this latter grain does not produce so largely, nor is the grain so heavy on new as on the old lands well cultivated. This however is owing much to the lateness of the season in which it is planted; if planted as early on the newly burnt land as on the old, it will be nearly as good. Of all grains, winter rye thrives best on new lands, and Indian corn, or barley, on the old. Barley does not succeed well in the new land; nor is flax raised with any advantage, until the land has been cultivated for some years. The same may be said of oats and peas; but all kinds of esculent roots, are much larger and sweeter in the virgin soil, than in any other.

The mode of clearing and cultivating new lands, has been much improved within the last thirty years. Forty years ago it was thought impossible to raise Indian corn without the plough and the hoe. The mode of planting it among the burnt logs, was practiced with great success at Gilman-town, about the year 1762, and this early method of culture soon became universal in the new plantations. It is now accounted more profitable for a young man to go upon new, than to remain on the old lands. In the early part of life, every day's labor employed in subduing the wilderness, lays a foundation for future profits: Besides the mode of subduing new land, there has been no improvement made in the art of husbandry. The season of vegetation is short, and is almost wholly employed in preparing, planting and tilling the land, in cutting and housing fodder, and gathering in the crops. These labors succeed invariably, and must be attended to in their proper season; so that little time can be spared for experiments, if the people in general were disposed to make them. Indeed, so sudden is the succession of labors, that upon any irregularity in the weather, they run into one another; and if help be scarce, one cannot be completed before the other suffers for want of being done. Thus hay is often spoiled for want of being cut in season, when the English harvest is plentiful. It is partly from this cause, partly from the ideas of equality with which the minds of husbandmen are early impressed, and partly from a want of education, that no spirit of improvement is seen

among them, but everyone pursues the business of sowing, planting, mowing, and raising cattle, with unremitting labor and undeviating uniformity.

Very little use is made of any manure excepting barn dung; though marl (lacustrine sediment) may be had in many places, with or without digging. The mixing of different strata, is never attended to, though nature often gives the hint by rain bringing down sand from a hill on a clay bottom; and the grass growing there in greater beauty and luxuriance than elsewhere. Dung is seldom allowed to remain in a heap over the summer, but is taken every spring from the barn, and either spread over the field and ploughed in, or laid in heaps, and put into the holes where corn and potatoes are planted.

Gardens, in the country towns, are chiefly left to the management of women, the men contenting themselves with fencing and digging them; and it must be said, to honor of the female sex, that the scanty portion of earth, committed to their care, is often made productive of no small benefit to their families.

As the first inhabitants of New-Hampshire came chiefly from the southwestern counties of England, where cider and perry (fermented pear juice) were made in great quantities, they took care to stock their plantations with apple trees and pear trees; which throve well, and grew to a great size. The first growth is now decayed or perished; but a succession has been preserved, and no good husbandman thinks his farm complete without an orchard. Perry is still made in the old towns, bordering on Pascataqua river; but in the interior country the apple tree is chiefly cultivated. In many of the townships, which have been settled since the conquest of Canada, young orchards bear well, and cider is yearly becoming more plentiful.

Other fruits are not much cultivated, but from the specimens which some gardens produce, there is no doubt that the cherry, the mulberry, the plum, and the quince, might be multiplied to any degree. The peach does not thrive well; the trees being very short lived. The apricot is scarcely known. The white and red currant grow luxuriantly, if properly situated and cultivated. The barberry, though an exotic, is thoroughly naturalized, and grows spontaneously in hedges or pastures.

In regard to tree-fruit, we are in too northern a climate to have it of the first quality, without particular attention. New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, have it in perfection. As you depart from that tract, either southward or northward, it degenerates. I believe however, that good fruit might be produced even

## Soil, Cultivation, and Husbandry in New-Hampshire continued

in New-Hampshire, with suitable attention. A proof of this is, that sometimes we have it by mere chance. In theorizing on the subject, three things appear to me particularly necessary, all which are totally neglected by the generality of our husbandman. The first, after procuring thrifty young trees of the best kinds, and grafting such as require it, is, to choose a situation for them, where they may have the advantage of a warm rich soil, and be well sheltered from the chilling blasts of the ocean. The second, is to keep the trees free from superfluous branches, by frequent use of the pruning hook, and the earth always loose about their roots. The third, is to defend the trees from insects, particularly those which by feeding on the fruit, render it small and knotty, as we frequently find apples and pears; or by depositing their eggs in the embryo, occasion its falling off before it comes to maturity, as is observable in the various kinds of plums. But the most of our farmers go on the path traced out by their ancestors, and are generally averse to making experiments, the result of which is uncertain, or to adopting new modes of husbandry, the advantages of which, are in the smallest degree problematical. There are few cultivators among us who theorize, and still fewer who read.

It has often been complained that grain, flax, and esculent vegetables, degenerate. This may be ascribed to the feed not being changed, but sown successively, on the same soil, or in the same neighbourhood, for too long a time. The Siberian wheat, for several years, produced good crops; but becoming at length naturalized to the climate, it shared the fate of the common kind of wheat, and disappointed the expectations of the farmer. Were the seed renewed every five or six years, by importation from Siberia, it might be cultivated to advantage. It must be observed that the Siberian wheat which was sown in New-Hampshire, about 12 years ago, was brought hither from England, where it had been sown for several preceding years. Whether an intermediate stage is favorable to the transplantation of seed from north to south, and the success of its cultivation, may be worthy of inquiry. With respect to plants, which require the whole season to grow in, it is observed that the removal of them from south to north ought to be by short stages; in which case they accommodate themselves, by insensible degrees to the temperature and length of the vegetating term, and frequently acquire as good a degree of perfection in foreign climes, as in their native soil. Such are the resources of nature.

Agriculture is, and always will be, the chief busi-

ness of the people of New-Hampshire, if they attend to their true interest. Every tree which is cut down in the forest, opens to the sun a new spot of earth, which with cultivation, will produce food for man and beast. It is impossible to conceive what quantities may be produced of beef, pork, mutton, poultry, wheat, rye, Indian corn, barley, pulse, butter and cheese, articles which will always find a market. Flax and hemp may also be cultivated to great advantage, especially on the interval lands of the large rivers. The barley of New-England is much esteemed in the middle states, and the demand for it is so great, as to encourage its cultivation. It is, besides, a kind of grain which is not liable to blast. Hops will grow on almost any soil; and the labor attending them is so inconsiderable, that there can be no excuse for neglecting the universal cultivation of them. The consumption of them, and consequently the demand for them as an article of commerce, is continually increasing.

The first meat cattle imported from Europe into New-Hampshire, were sent by Captain John Mason and his associates, about the year 1633, to stock their plantations, and to be employed in drawing lumber. These cattle were of a large breed, and a yellow colour, procured from Denmark. Whilst the business of getting lumber was the chief employment of the people, the breeding of large cattle was more attended to than it is now. Calves were allowed to run with the cows, and suck at their pleasure. Men were ambitious to be distinguished by the size and strength of their oxen. Bets were frequently laid on the exertions of their strength, and the prize was contended for as earnestly as the laurel at the Olympic games. This ardor is not yet wholly extinguished in some places; but, as husbandry hath gained ground, less attention is paid to the strength, and more to the fatness of cattle for the market, and calves are deprived of part of their natural food, for the advantage of butter and cheese.

As the country becomes more and more cleared, pasture for cattle increases, and the number is continually multiplied. From the upper parts of New-Hampshire, great herds of fat cattle are driven to the Boston market; whence the beef is exported fresh to Nova-Scotia, and salted to the West and East Indies.

At what time and by whom the horse was first imported does not appear. No particular care is taken by the people in general, to improve the breed of this majestic and useful animal, and bring it to that perfection of which it is capable. The raising of colts, is not accounted a profitable part of husbandry, as the horse is but little used for draught, and his flesh is of no value.

## Soil, Cultivation, and Husbandry in New-Hampshire continued

The proportion of horses to neat cattle, is not more than one to twenty. Few live and die on the plantations where they are bred; some are exported to the West Indies Islands; but the most are continually shifted from one owner to another, by means of a set of contemptible wretches called horse-jockies.

Asses have been lately introduced into the country; the raising of mules deserves encouragement, as the exportation of them to the West Indies, is more profitable than that of horses, and they may be used to advantage in traveling or carrying burdens in the rough and mountainous parts of our wilderness.

Sheep, goats, and swine, were at first sent over from England, by the associates of Laconia. Sheep have greatly multiplied, and are accounted the most profitable stock which can be raised on a farm. The breed might be renewed and improved by importing from Barbary, the mutton, which is said to be the parent stock of the European, and consequently of the Amer-

ican sheep. Goats are not much propagated, chiefly because it is difficult to confine them in pastures. Swine are very prolific, and scarcely a family is without them. During the summer, they are either fed on the waste of the dairy and kitchen, or ringed and turned into fields of clover; or permitted to run at large in the woods, where they pick up nuts and acorns, or grub the roots of fern; but after harvest they are shut up, and fattened on Indian corn. The pork of New-England is not inferior to any in the world.

Domestic poultry of all kinds, is raised in great plenty and perfection in New-Hampshire. In some of the lower towns they have a large breed of fowls, which were imported from England about 20 years past; but this breed is permitted to mix with the common sort, by which means it will, in time degenerate. The stock of all domestic animals, ought frequently to be changed, if we would preserve them unimpaired, or restore them to their original perfection.

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### Van Voorhees Association in California by Robert F. Voorhees

We have more Van Voorhees Association members in California than any other state. This is as it should be, since CA is the most populated state. CA has been a magnet for immigrants for 150 years.

The discovery of gold early in 1848 changed everything. In the next two years, nearly 1% of the American population (about 180,000 people) set off for the gold fields. Men flooded into CA from China, Japan, Australia, and Europe. "Go west young man, go west," was coined.

By 1850, when CA became a state, its population was 92,000 -- 90% of them male. The population rose more than 300% in the 1850's and grew between 40% and 50% in each of the next 3 decades. But it was in the early 20th century that the population really soar-

ed. In 1900, there were 1.5 million Californians. 30 years later there were 5.7 million. During the depressed 1930's CA grew by 20%. Much of this migration came from the drought-stricken mid-west. Millions of service men passed through CA during WW2. The state's population grew by 53% in the 1940's and 48% in the 1950's. By 1961 CA had overtaken NY as the most populated state.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, however, CA's population grew by only 10%, the smallest population growth in its history. Much of this growth came from immigration, both legal and illegal. For the first time CA had a net outflow of population among American citizens.



## Genealogy Update Oct . 2011

by Robert F. Voorhees

With the loss of Flo Christoph our Van Voorhees genealogy enters a new era. It is very doubtful going forward we can afford a genealogist of Flo's capability. Before she passed away and after she retired, Flo told me directly she didn't think we needed to replace her in kind (more on this below). Thus in the future we will be relying more on volunteers. Flo has left us with a genealogy gold mine -- a Master Genealogist database including over 93,000 names, over 68,000 people, over 132,000 events (An event is, for example, a birth or a death.), over 10,000 places, almost 15,000 Citations, and over 900 sources. (Some people are listed with more than one name or spelling.) This database will be tightly controlled by your Genealogy Committee for security purposes; however, the database is for the use of our members and we will be happy to share parts of it as needed. In addition to me, Manning Voorhees, Judith Van Voorhis, and Ann Nunn have the Master Genealogist software and the latest database. We are getting a lot of inquiries thru our website and our Facebook page. We try to get people to join our Association prior to giving out a lot of information. We have kept annual dues at an affordable \$10 per year to encourage new members.

The books and CD we published in the past cover the first 10 generations and the children of the 10th. We have no plans right now to publish a genealogy covering later generations. The reason is there are quite a few living people in the 11th and 12th generations and we need to respect the feelings of some people that don't want to see their names in print. This is not to say we are out of the publishing business. For example, it would be fun to publish a book or CD of Voorhees diaries or a book on Voorhees Civil War veterans. Master Genealogist is so powerful I can visualize specialized reports which would be extremely interesting as example articles in the *Nieuwsbrief*.

Over the last 130 years we have had the benefit of a lot of very good research. Flo carefully got this information into TMG. This is not to say we have everything on the early generations, but we have a very large part of it. Our DNA project has confirmed a lot of the early work. Just in the last 10 years there has been an explosion in genealogy information. We have not been able to keep up. The Mormon Church ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)) is digitizing 20 billion records now on microfilm. Ancestry.com (\$160 per year subscription) has 7 billion records including all census data from 1790 on. The 1940 census records

will be released on April 2, 2012 and will be available free of charge from the government (It's not clear yet how this will work.). Ancestry owns [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com). They also own [www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com) and [www.familytreemaker.com](http://www.familytreemaker.com). This last mentioned is the largest free standing software package (\$32). Ancestry has what they call TreeSync which lets people upload their Familytreemaker data to Ancestry database on the web and download data from the web to their Familytreemaker software. Building family trees for free on the web seems to be the wave of the future. If you trust Ancestry, these on-line trees can be either public or private. Most people seem to make them public and there are 10's of millions of them on Ancestry. You have probably seen Ancestry's national TV ads. What they are trying to do is marry genealogy with Social Networking. The largest social networking genealogy site is Myheritage.com. They have family tree builder software that can be downloaded for free. Geni.com claims to have the world's largest family tree.

Let me hasten to say we have no plans to put our information on the web. We do plan to carefully take information from the web and use it to add to our TMG database. I'm talking here mainly about original source material such as census records. We understand that many of the trees on Ancestry are not worth very much. Also let me hasten to say that we still get the majority of our information from our members, so keep it coming.

Before I put out the call for volunteers, let me say a few words about our database. Flo developed the database to be useful in outputting in book form. Our published genealogies were created from the TMG database. Flo did several things that were aimed at publication. 1) Census data was placed in a note and not in a normal citation. This means the census data prints out in most reports and makes the information on people more interesting. 2) Flo would use a citation on head of household but not on each spouse or child. This practice avoids printing out a half a page of IBID's in every page in a book. IBID is a term used to reference a source that was cited in the preceding endnote or footnote. 3) Flo didn't use TMG flags at all, because they were not needed in publications. TMG Flags can be created for any number of things -- they are *yes or no*. A few examples are: Union Soldier in Civil War, *yes or no*, Confederate soldier in Civil

War, *yes or no*, living *yes or no*, a Mason *yes or no*, Revolutionary War *yes or no*, World War 2 *yes or no*. I would like to add flags to our database because it makes it easy to print out reports (for example, a report listing all the Voorhees that served in WW2). I would like to have a flag in the database for everyone in an *Unknown Line* (cannot be connected to the immigrant ancestor). This would be in addition to the way we handle unknowns now -- most of the unknowns have a father in the Appendix of all Voorhees #193711. #193711 has a lot of kids.

I can handle entering information into TMG for the time being, so we don't need more people with TMG software. What we do need are people who have access to Ancestry databases and who would be interested in special projects. For example, Ancestry has 7 million men in its WW2 draft records. Over 400 of these are Voorhees (all spellings). We hope to have someone take these Voorhees names and put them into some kind of order or list. We would like to do the same with WW1, the Civil War, War of 1812, and the Revolutionary War. Oscar M. Voorhees (1864-1947) founding President of the Van Voorhees Association (1932-1947) left us with a stack of hand written index cards of Revolutionary War Voorhees. We need someone to use these cards and compare them to what is in Ancestry.com and other sources.

Flo was a long time subscriber to Ancestry.com. (Kindly, she paid for the subscription.) She found census data on 1,000s of Voorhees, but by no means all Voorhees. We need people to look up census data on names I provide. We want to concentrate on census data from 1850 to 1930. 1850 was the 1st census to list by name all people in a household. 1930 is the last census available. We need to try and get this job done before April 2, 2012 when the 1940 census becomes available. We also need persons who are interested in going thru the Social Security Death Records on names I provide. We have lots of people in our database who have probably passed away and we just have no record of it. This is very important because the government is rumored to be considering making these records private and not available to the public.

Finally, for those of you looking for a challenge, I can supply names of some of our *Unknown Lines*. We

have at least 700 names we can't connect to Steven Coerte Van Voorhees. A lot of these are published in the Appendix of our books. Some of these we will never connect. As an example, I go out to Denver several times a year to visit my daughter and grandchildren. On one of these trips I went to the Denver Genealogy Library (a very nice library, I might add). They have several newspaper articles about a stage coach driver named John Voorhees, who was killed by Indians about 1870. We probably have 600 John Voorhees in the database -- fat chance of finding him. I'm sure even the newspaper had no idea where he came from and he probably had no family within 1,000 miles of Denver. This would be one of those where he left town (wherever he came from) and was never heard from again.

**If you are interested in working on our family genealogy, please contact me at**

We are extremely pleased with our Master Genealogist software (company name: Wholly Genes Software) selected by Flo and Judith Van Voorhis many years ago. We have no plans to even think about switching vendors. (The other options would be Ancestry's Family Tree Maker \$32, Legacy Family Tree \$30, and Roots Magic \$30.) Wholly Genes charges \$34 for the most basic Master Genealogist and \$59 for the Deluxe version, which we must have.

Wholly Genes is hard at work on the new Version 8 Master Genealogist. It has been in beta test for several months. I am hoping they have it ready to discuss in detail by the time of their Southern Caribbean Cruise Nov. 13-20, 2011. My wife and I are going on this cruise. (Somebody has to do it.) We went on the first 4 genealogy cruises and enjoyed them greatly. We missed the last 2 and this one is the 7th annual.

Version 8, when it comes available, will be compatible with 64-bit computers that Ann Nunn, Manning Voorhees, and I have. It's a matter of not being able to do reports with Version 7 on 64-bit computers. Everything else works. Version 8 will really shine doing reports with 64-bit computers. (I have one 32-bit computer left to do any reports we need).

For you geeks out there, IBM's PC computer introduced in 1981 was an 8 bit computer.



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Dutch Village Dolls in Drenthe Costumes (left)  
and  
Markt Plaats (Civic Center) Stage with Dutch  
Dancers (right)



## NEWS FLASH 1673! The Dutch retake New Netherlands

by Helen and Dick Quodomine

Edited by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

NEWS FLASH 1673! The Dutch retake New Netherlands renaming it New Orange. The Dutch now control their former colony lost to Britain 9 years ago.

The **Van Voorhees Association** is a member of the New Netherlands Institute. In 2009 we attended the **Van Voorhees' Reunion** at The Institute's seminar celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage to China that ended when he went aground in Albany. It detailed how the 40 year Dutch New Amsterdam Colony shaped America and Americans. We knew the seminar in 2010 was a must-attend when we saw the following speakers and their subjects: Dr. Charles T. Gehring (Director of the New Netherlands Research Center) as moderator, Dr. Joyce Goodfriend (*The Dutch Restoration of 1673/74 and 17<sup>th</sup> Century New York History*), Dr. Dennis Maika (*Dutch Merchants in English New York City, 1664-1673*), Donald G. Shomette (*Raid on America: the Dutch Naval Campaign of 1672-1673*), **Dr. David Voorhees** (*A Provisional Government: The Dutch Administration of Governor Anthony Colve*), Dr. Daniel Richter (*New Netherlands' Restoration in the English Imperial Context of the Stuarts' Restoration*), and the Internationally acclaimed historical artist, Len Tantillo (*The Appearance of Change: Creating images of an overlooked history, New York 1660-1720*). Here is a synopsis of this fascinating seminar.

After the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Anglo-Dutch Wars (1652-1654 and 1665-1667) Britain, Sweden and The 7 Netherlands Provinces formed an alliance. However, Britain still wanted to monopolize the East Indies Trade, France wanted The Netherlands as part of its empire, and Spain wanted the Dutch removed from the New World. With Spain's passive support in 1672, 14 million French and 7 million British declared war on 2 million Dutch in 7 separate Netherlands Provinces. The French quickly occupied 4 of the 7 Dutch Provinces, and the larger, more powerful British ships patrolled the English Channel. They threatened to sink or capture the rich Dutch Indies trade ships. German states started absorbing Dutch territory in the East, and Sweden decided not to act. With money and people fleeing to safer havens, it seemed that the outnumbered and out-gunned Dutch would be eliminated from history; however, these large enemies underestimated the resilience of the Dutch. Since their rich East Indies and African trade ships were protected by the British and French Navies, the Dutch gambled

that their rivals' rich North American communities would be protected by ships manned by privateers and non-professional navy seamen. The fleets of the 2 most powerful Dutch Provinces (Zeeland and Holland) met by accident in the Caribbean and attacked their enemies in their North American economic pockets. First they raided and crippled the Caribbean part of the infamous Triangle Trade. Next they captured or destroyed half the rich Tobacco fleets of Virginia and Maryland, and finally destroyed and captured French and British fishing communities and fishing fleets of North America. Although ordered not to capture any land, the Dutch fleet accepted the surrender New Jersey, New York, and Delaware with only token resistance. This bold action gave the Dutch a reprieve that they used to build up their defenses and destroy much of the English Fleet. The Dutch were now in a position to negotiate a lasting peace. The Americans expected the same enlightened leadership that they had from the Dutch before the British took over in 1664; but Anthony Clove, the new Dutch Governor, was not given any instructions or support from The Netherlands. Holland and Zeeland were having their own political problems at home and were at war with powerful enemies. Since the British in 1664 had realized the economic and political importance of not altering anything about this enlightened, tolerant and successful former Dutch colony; the Americans were not upset when the British reoccupied the Colony 14 months later. The concept of national identity was new, and people were more loyal to their area than to a questionable and often changeable national government thousands of miles away. Dutch hostilities with Britain continued until 1678 and with France and Spain until 1689.

The British and Dutch fought 3 bloody wars between 1652 and 1678. There are many reasons why American historians ignore this important 3<sup>rd</sup> Anglo-Dutch War and only briefly mention the first 2 Wars. The political outcome of the 3<sup>rd</sup> War was the same as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anglo-Dutch War. The Netherlands would keep its East Indies possessions and still have a small presence in the Caribbean. The Anglo-Dutch Wars were only part of the fluid turbulent period that encompassed the World between 1580 and 1763, and historians would concentrate on other events that, they believed, had more impact on America. Religious differences in America do not and did not gener-

ate the same hatred and bloodshed that they do and did in the rest of the World. Religious tolerance was, and still is, an important part of our national identity. Here are just a few of the World's religious and economic conflicts during that period. The Stuarts wanted to establish Catholicism as the official English religion but lost the 1715 and 1745 rebellions. The British, French, Spanish and Americans would fight over what is now the USA and Canada. The Spanish King would buy and conquer Portugal then boast that the sun never sets on the Spanish Flag: a statement repeated in later years by British Monarchs. Much of the World would eventually copy the mercantile principles of wealth, religious tolerance and republican government, initiated by the Dutch. The victors write

history; and Britain, France and Spain wrote the historical accounts of that period choosing to ignore the Dutch contribution to these principles and our history.

A special presentation by Len Tantillo showed how 3-D computer graphics can bring to life historical concepts allowing the modern painter to accurately recreate past historical scenes.

PS: did you wonder what happened to the privateers and other seamen who were suddenly unemployed when the World powers signed the Peace Treaty in 1689? You heard names like Blackbeard, Captain Kidd, the Amazons (Mary Read and Anne Bonny) and the most lethal of them all was Bartholomew Roberts. The 33 year period is called The Golden Age of Piracy and would now begin.

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## Holland, Michigan: Tulip Fest 2011

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

This was not the 1<sup>st</sup> time I've attended a Tulip Festival, but it was my first Tulip Fest in Holland, MI. Since I visit Holland, MI usually once a year (often twice), I know my way around town. It was a delight to see our Dutch heritage so well displayed!

My 1<sup>st</sup> stop was Dutch Village, where I had previously (Nov. 2010) volunteered for my husband and me to come in costume and do whatever duties they wished. We received *Training Manuals* plus free entrance to The Village to refresh our memories and see the new additions. After this we headed for our nearby hotel. Our *assignment* was on Sat., the last day, starting at 9AM. Roy and I, both costumed, were there till 6:30 PM.

The next 3 days we visited 3 other major sites – Veldheer's Tulip Farm with a Wooden Shoe Factory and Stores, Windmill Island, and the Marktplaats (inside the Civic Center just for the Tulip Fest) in downtown Holland. I wore my Dutch Market Dress (c. 1600s) with the Drenthe Headdress for these 3 visits.

Much to my surprise there were no Drenthe head-dresses for sale and none worn anywhere; therefore, I saw no Drenthe costumes. The Drenthe lace head-dresses (over-caps) previously sold had at least 1 highly-visible seam and the *real thing* does not. When

last in De Nederlands, (a good 10 years ago), the Drenthe ladies were having serious problems finding and/or making them. They were always handmade by little old ladies, most of whom now have died.

Apparently I am the only one in the USA with a seamless (only 1 *invisible* seam) Drenthe headdress. It was a good thing I was there to represent Drenthe and our family. I finally completed a gold-cloth *oorijzer* and no longer use my gold-foil one (ibid.: Fall 2009 *Nieuwsbrief* p-16). My next project is a light-weight tin or aluminum *oorijzer* – perhaps cut from a large can (minus contents) and spray-painted gold.

The Dutch activities were numerous with many occurring at the same time. There was a daily-ticket trolley (on and off at sites of interest) that covered the downtown area. I'm not sure if all or any hotels in the area ran their vans to a trolley stop. There were numerous parking lots (for a fee) and some rather distant street parking. Special tour buses, as well as the trollleys, took you to the door of the Marktplaats at the Civic Center.

All fees mentioned in this article are those for major festivals as of my visit. They are often less at other times of the year when multiple-site fees are available and, in some cases, group prices also apply.

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### Hope College

The college also serves meals at specified places during Tulip Fest and probably at other festivals. At the Tulip Fest this year lunch (\$8) was from 11 AM to 1 PM, dinner (\$11) was from 4:30 to 6:30 PM., and desserts were made fresh daily. Since we did not eat

there, all I have is brochure information. It might be possible to have them cater a meal for our group.

Hope College has a **Voorhees Hall** that is very impressive. *Mea Culpa*: I erred the spelling in the last *Nieuwsbrief* in my article on the Hope College Choir.

### Veldheer's Tulip Farm and Wooden Shoe Factory and Gift Store

Veldheer's Gift Store is always a stop on my annual visit(s). The items are lovely and I like their selection of Dutch tiles – in and out of frames. There are many other trinkets as well as some items of clothing, tea towels, chocolates, etc. The *klompen* maker frequently demonstrates his craft and is very knowledgeable about the various types of wood used over the centuries. Klompen are also for sale. Try them on (wearing 2 pairs of heavy socks) first!

Artisans will inscribe or paint a name and/or design on various items, such as wooden-shoe pins, *klompen* and Delft-style tiles. Most of this can be done while you wait. You also can watch these artists at work. Since I have tulips at home, I didn't need to buy more; however, their Gardening Shop (next to the Gift Shop) is the place to go for tulips as well as other flower bulbs and you can buy Dutch cheese here too.

The flowers are beautifully displayed in garden settings and, yes, there are windmills. For circa \$10 you can tour the gardens and take pictures. At the windmill I am in my Dutch/Drente Market-dress costume.

They have at least 600 varieties of tulips. You can buy them in bulk (100-500 bulbs) or in smaller mixed packages. (There is a special price for only 10 bulbs of each kind.) They will mail them to



you at the right time of year for planting. Their fields are full of flowers in bloom — and not just tulips at tulip time.

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### Windmill Island

Windmill Island has the atmosphere of a little Dutch fishing village with a street of brick buildings. Having been to these *non-touristy* towns in De Nederlands, I can say this is truly representative. The Posthouse Museum is an exact replica of a 14<sup>th</sup> century wayside inn. An entrance fee (\$10) includes an informative movie.



There is De Zwaan/the Swan, (left) a 240-year-old working, grain wind-mill, and a lot of flowers (circa 150,000 tulips in season), a Dutch barrel organ capable of playing for 2 hours without repeating, an imported 100-year-old Dutch carousel of hand-made animal figures (from East Groningen), eating facilities, and a Gift Shop loaded with *goodies*.

There are costumed performers and clerks plus Dutch *klompen* dancing. This year on the *edge of town* (left the in windmill picture) were the tents of *traders* (French traders, including a fur trader, and an English trader) providing *goods* (that you can buy) for the *Dutch settlers* of this region.

The lengthy walk to see all the sights is very informative. The costumed performers really keep in character.

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~ Where Flowers are, Honey is also found. ~

### Holland Museum

On this trip we did not visit the Holland Museum. We have been there before. At one time they had an extensive Gift Shop, where I got some excellent books on Dutch art, etc.

In 1886 Dutch author, Dingeman Ver Steeg, urged Holland, MI (in his book, *De Pelgrim Vaters van het Westen / The Pilgrim Fathers of the West*) to preserve items and memories of the Dutch settlers.

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### De Marktplaats / The Market Place

There was the usual street-washing. This year both the governor and his wife donned Dutch costumes and scrubbed the streets with brooms. While I physically was unable to watch the parades from curbside, I saw it on live TV on the huge screen at the Marktplaats inside the Civic Center.

Entrance to the Marktplaats was free. It had separate vendors selling Dutch items as well as food and

In 1897 the 1<sup>st</sup> museum, a replica of a log cabin, was built on the campus of Hope College. Over the years the museum has built a new facility and expanded greatly. Several Dutch paintings (2 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch portraits and 19<sup>th</sup> century paintings) have been donated by locals. The Dutch Galleries, a section of the museum, was officially opened in 2007 by the Dutch Ambassador to the USA.

drink. Almost all vendors were in Dutch costume and they knew which province they represented. Most items were very artistic and most were handmade.

In front of the stage was a large area with chairs and tables where you could rest, eat or watch stage performances (Dutch dancing and singing, costumes or live TV of the parades). The timing of all these was well coordinated so one did not miss anything.

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### Dutch Village (officially: Nelis' Dutch Village)

You just can't miss this: it's on US Rte. 31 at James St. When I saw it years ago, my first thought was that it replicated on a much smaller scale the **Open-Air Museum at Arnhem, Nederlands**. That is exactly what it does and the details are accurate.

Frederick Nelis of Beverwyck, Nederlands in 1910 asked his son, Harry, to go to America and find good farmland. In 1911 the rest of the family came and eventually settled on 80 acres in Holland, MI. Years later that 80 acres became Dutch Village. Today it is still run by the descendants of Frederick Nelis.

It is advisable to see the movie (circa 18 minutes) right after entering – before you tour around. On Saturday, the last day of Tulip Fest, Roy and I were dressed in the Dutch costumes we wore to the 2009 Reunion in Albany. The only difference was that this time I wore the Drenthe head-dress. My major volunteer job was to 'fill in the blanks' between the movie and dancers. I wish I could have stopped the movie after every scene and expanded on each description, because we had been to every place mentioned. Alas, I barely had time to describe my costume and tell a little about Dutch heritage and history.

In Dutch Village is a Museum with Dutch costumes on both manikins and dolls. It was interesting to find

that individual villages differed in their headdress from the *provincial norm*. On the Doll Wall I made a delightful discovery! I found a doll with a lace head-dress from Utrecht Province near Amersfort, where the Couwenhoven family originated. It was almost identical to the Drenthe one -- except that is was a little bit longer. Drenthe's is just shoulder length.

Other buildings include a Dutch house-barn, complete with furnished rooms in 1 section and live animals in the other part. In the picture you can see the doors of the Dutch closet-bed (on the right).



There is, of course, a carillon in the entrance tower and 2 barrel (street) organs – 1 large and 1 small

## Holland, Michigan: Tulip Fest 2011 -- Dutch Village

(hand pushed). One building has a room where children can dress in Dutch costume and have their picture taken. Other crafts are demonstrated too.

There's a 'canal' and a special bridge over it. In De Nederlands I recall Roy driving over one of these (always narrow, but that one was exceptionally so) while we feared the sides of the rental car would surely get scraped. Across this bridge the 'town square' has bleachers to sit on while dances and other performances take place. This is only a starter to all that is there.

It costs \$10 to enter Dutch Village; however, entrance to the shops, café and Queen's Inn are free. There is ample parking – also free. We visit these, as aforesaid, every year.

The main Dutch Village shop also makes and sells *klompen* with demonstrations from time to time. They have intricately carved Wedding Shoes: *klompen* carved for his bride by the groom-to-be over the cold

continued

winter months and completed in time for his spring wedding.

Other items are a vast array of Delft wares, Dutch lace, gorgeously ornate handmade candles with demonstrations of how they are made, Christmas ornaments, figurines of *Sinterklaas* and his horse and *Swartz Piet*, tablecloths and scarves, some lace caps, seamen's hats, Dutch costumes, jewelry, wooden bowls, cookie presses, several types of wind-up clocks, books on Dutch cooking and heritage, plus many other souvenir items. With this long list I've still probably left out some things. Even if you don't buy anything, it's so much fun to look and learn.

The Café, where we ate lunch, has excellent Dutch food and very reasonable prices. Connected to it is a shop where you can buy other Dutch foods (including delicious Dutch cheeses) as well as more cloth items, trinkets, and souvenirs.

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### Queen's Inn at Dutch Village

The building, still owned by Dutch Village is operated by another business during festivals. This company also serves as caterers for special events and banquets (e.g. weddings, etc.) in the building.

Sadly, the décor is not Dutch, as it was several years

ago. A Dutch-food smorgasbord (circa \$12 including drinks and desserts) is served (11:30 AM to 7 PM) during Tulip Fest. Although we were not that hungry and didn't eat there, we did thoroughly inspect the food isles. They looked good and smelled wonderful.

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### De Boer Bakkerij & Dutch Bros. Restaurant

This place is at 360 Douglas Ave. It has expanded greatly since we first discovered it a few years ago. They too have traditional Dutch food.

You can buy desserts to eat there and/or take with you. Forget your diet at the dessert counter!

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### Russ' Restaurant(s)

This company has 3 restaurants in Holland, MI. We prefer the one at 390 East 8<sup>th</sup> St. #1 just because of the dining room's *olde* and charming décor; however,

the food is just as good at the 2 others.

They have traditional Dutch food in a dining room and there is also smorgasbord room here too.

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### Dutch Heritage Show

This is possibly the best item and I saved it for last. Roy and I worked at International Night at Gannon University (Erie, PA) for 20 years – retiring just last year. Over many years and in many places we have seen numerous 1-ethnic-group programs. None were as complete and well presented as this one! No, prejudice does not play a part in my comment.

The program lasts a good 75 minutes with no inter-

mission. It portrays Dutch customs and creative vignettes of provincial life in De Nederlands. All wear 1-of-a-kind authentic Dutch costumes. Dutch dances are presented by both children and adults. Songs are in Dutch and English with live music accompaniment.

Tickets were \$18 for adults and \$9 for students aged 18 and younger. Undoubtedly, the costumes form a large part of the performance costs.

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### Final Comments on Holland, Michigan

The places mentioned here are the ones of interest to most of you. Many more places in the area worth a visit – too many to mention in this article. **This town is truly a treasure of Dutch heritage! It is the only town that I know that teaches Dutch dancing**

**in the school system – starting in Junior High!** In fact, I know of no other school system that teaches any kind of ethnic/folk dancing. Recently TV announced that Square Dancing (our only American Folk Dance) has been dropped from all schools.

Over the years, 1 Dutch shop disappeared along with the next-door restaurant. Queen's Inn closed and a Chinese restaurant briefly replaced it. (I literally sat in the car and cried when I discovered that.) Fortunately, Queen's Inn has reopened on a limited basis; but the charming Dutch décor is gone. There used to be a Dutch Street Organ Festival in July ...every year; but now that is no longer true. I will have to check to see when the next one will be held ... if at all .....

We need to feel grateful to our Ruinen cousins for their work in restoring Dutch traditions. With other recruits they saved the old Dutch windmills – restoring some and rebuilding others .. including the one where Steven Coerts Van Voorhees worked. Not only this, but circa 1967 they also were involved in founding *Het Volk van Grada*, a dance group starting in Ruinen, that became famous all over De Nederlands. Everyone knew about this group when we first went there in 1980; however, I was unable to see their program. In 1985 we watched them dance in Emmen, a small town near Ruinen. In the late 1990s they had so influenced the entire country that every province had their own Dutch dance group.

As Dutch descendants, we need to patronize the Dutch heritage in Holland, MI! If (Heaven Forbid!) it does not succeed, our major American source of Dutch heritage will be gone ... probably forever.

I am asking you to support having a Van Voorhees Reunion in Holland, MI. IF it is held during a festival, we need to book hotel space almost 1 year in advance -- definitely no later than 6 months ahead. The room rate will be much higher too. Our hotel had tour buses coming and going (circa 2-nights-stay each) the entire 5 nights we were there.

The VVA Reunion need not be held during a festival. Dutch dancing at the places aforementioned still takes place but not every hour. We could hold our Dutch dinner at Queen's Inn or Hope College or some

other location.

I can find out if we could also arrange for a performance of the *Dutch Heritage Show*. I do know that it travels around Michigan and the group is thinking of going even farther away. Here again, we would have to schedule and commit (guarantee a definite number of an audience) a long time in advance.

**The VVA Reunion needs to be in the summer so children and grandchildren can attend.** It is not more difficult to get to Holland, MI than to Albany, NY .. or other areas far from an airport. I do suggest having a car at your disposal because tour buses have schedules and limit time at various sites. To have our own tour bus is very expensive.

A short drive through the inland countryside near Holland will remind you of De Nederlands – no doubt the reason so many Dutch settled here. Those of you who are older hopefully will bring your children and grandchildren along – surely one of whom can drive. The Marktplaats (at the Civic Center) would not be around; however, almost all the artisans have nearby shops that you can visit. A number of these stores are located close together -- within easy walking distance of each other. Parking would not be the problem it is during festivals.

**Will those of you in the Holland, MI area support me in this endeavor? I need Volunteers – the more the better** – as “many hands make light the work.” Tell me/us what you are capable of doing and all of us will be most grateful!

Those who are interested in such a Reunion, **PLEASE REPLY with your Comments** to both:

**Marilyn Van Voorhis, Editor**

and

**Bob Voorhees, Genealogy Chairman**



2 views of the large  
Street Organ  
With  
Performers in  
Dutch costumes  
at the 'Town Square' in  
Dutch Village  
in  
Holland, Michigan  
(All Dutch photos courtesy  
of Dr. Roy E. Voshall)





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