



Volume 29 Number 1

VAN VOORHEES NIEUWSBRIEF

Spring 2012

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Happy Anniversary to the Van Voorhees Association!

President's Message by Scott Voorhees

This year marks the 80th year of the founding of the Van Voorhees Association. We have much to be proud of as a family organization. While many have made significant contributions over the decades and have generally been recognized for their efforts, many more have made equally important "behind the scenes" contributions that have resulted in our organization attaining the success that it has. For some it has been supplying missing links in a particular family line, while others have helped with the annual reunion, submitted articles for the newsletter, or provided local research assistance. We would not be

where we are today without everyone's participation.

It takes many people to maintain and advance the mission of an organization. One of the major benefits of participation is developing interrelationships with your "cousins." We come from all walks of life but have one common linkage. In looking back over the years that I have been involved, my greatest pleasure has been in the friendships and acquaintances that have been made. As we continue to move forward, I would encourage everyone to consider what role they can play for the VVA. Congratulations and thank you to all!

Index of Feature Articles

Albert P. Voorhees Genealogy	p-10	Nieuw Amsterdam 1626 from Land Records	p-3
Albert P. Voorhees House	p-9	Nieuws van Verwanten / Cousins	p-13
BOOK ORDER FORM	p-17	In Memoriam (Obits.)	p-14
De Draaiorgel	p-18	Religion: NJ & Revolutionary War	p-12
DUES FORM	p-27	Dutch Settlers in NJ	p-8
Dutch Naming System	p-27	Who's Who	p-2
Genealogy Report	p-6	Why They Moved: Soil Conditions	p-13
New DVD for Sale: Hist. of VVA	p-7		

~ VAN VOORHEES ASSOCIATION WHO'S WHO ~

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ibid.: Genealogy Committee (below)

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~ MEMBERS--AT--LARGE ~

David R. Voorhees

Nieuw Amsterdam Early Land Records from 1626

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

In 1626 Peter Minuit bought Manhattan Island from the local Indians for various goods worth 60 guilders (equal to \$24 in the 1800s). About this time the Dutch West India Co. (WIC) was paying one soldier circa 100 guilders per year. By today's standards this guild-er would, of course, be much more. Though it was somewhat cheap, there are several other major things to consider. The Dutch were the only ones actually paying for American land. The Spanish, Portuguese, French, and English moved in and took it at gunpoint.

In exchange for these 60 guilders, the Dutch got rocky soil areas with swamps between them. What is now downtown Manhattan was then only a marsh full of insects. It just was not a healthy place to live or a good place to farm. The Dutch, however, had a long history (back to, at least, before the Roman empire in BC) of changing saltwater marshes into good farm land over a long period of time. (The farms in Drente, where Steven Coerts Van Voorhees once lived, are examples.)

About 1629 the WIC gave a Dutchman 200 acres (now part of Greenwich Village) for an annual payment of 10% of what he produced on it plus a brace of capons (2 castrated and fattened male chickens) to be delivered every Christmas to the local director of the WIC.

The Indians had a much different concept of land and its sale. The tribe owned the land collectively. They thought the Dutch purchases were for 'tribal' land use and not ownership titles with fences, etc. In other words, each 'tribe' (Indian and Dutch) were given hunting and temporary village rights in exchange for 'money,' gifts and war alliances. Exchanging gifts renewed this friendship 'purchase.' Therefore, they expected to fete the Dutch whenever they visited an Indian village and to receive the same courtesy when they came into a Dutch town or to a Dutch house. It meant food, shelter and an exchange of gifts at every visit. That is, the Dutch townsfolk were expected to feed and house these Indians plus exchange gifts with them every time they showed up in town or at one's door. Of course, the Indians brought gifts to exchange -- in their view the proper way to maintain friendship as well as war alliances. If the Indians were at war with another 'tribe' (Indian or white-man), the Dutch would be expected to send troops to assist, and vice-versa. Obviously, neither side understood the other's culture and viewpoint.

In 1630 Peter Minuit is again buying land for the WIC. This time it was Staten Island from the Tappan Indians for the price of various metal goods and trinkets (axes, wampum, hoes, awls, etc.).

In 1638 Andries Hudde sold 100 acres of land on Long Island to Gerrit Wolphertsen/Wolpherts(e) for 52 guilders). It would be interesting to know if Gerrit had a surname of van Couwenhoven. There were several men named Gerrit Wolphertsen/Wolpherts(e) van Couwenhoven who signed their names using several different spellings and often omitted a surname. (The van Couwenhoven family arrived some time before the Van Voorhees family and they had a farm next to property bought by Steven Coerts Van Voorhees. So Steven's son, Coert, married the proverbial 'girl next door,' Maretje van Couwenhoven.)

In 1648 Brant van Slichtenhorst, hired by the Van Rensselaer family (the largest landowners in Nieuw Netherlands), became manager of their vast properties. He encountered the same problems of Indian misunderstanding that the early Dutch had. This was not only in the Nieuw Amsterdam area but also in the Fort Orange (Albany) area. Once an Indian land broker, who brought several women with him, demanded as part of the sale the right to stay in Brant's house. Several other times Brant had to be the host for as many as 50 Indians from the tribe(s) who sold the land to the Rensselaers. (They owned property all over Nieuw Netherlands.) This meant he had to supply housing, food, beer and brandy for these groups of 'chieftains.' The Indians often were filthy, smelled even worse and, with all that liquor, they got into serious fights. They also stole almost everything they could see. To keep the Indians happy, Brant had to give them presents every time he encountered them on Van Rensselaer lands. This sad state of affairs continued for many years after the Van Rensselaer family bought the property.

The following maps will give you a good idea of the topography of the Nieuw Amsterdam area as it looked in the early days. The map (on the next page) shows the basic lay of the land -- woods, hills, marshes as well as the roads and rivers. It also gives the original Dutch names plus the English translations. It is very interesting to compare this with a modern Dutch map of De Nederlands. You will find many of these Dutch names. In particular, I'm thinking of 3 major cities -- Amsterdam, Amersfoort and Breukelen (Brooklyn).

The last 2 towns are in the province of Utrecht.

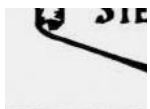
In the modern Dutch dictionary (published 1997), *eylandt* is spelled slightly differently as *eiland*. Notice also that the lower case *s* looks more like an *f* minus the cross bar. This is easily seen inside the scroll at the bottom left (Nassau and Amersfoort where there is an *s* followed by an *f*).

Of course, we are most interested in Long Island, then called Western Nassau Eylandt, because that is where Steven Coerts Van Voorhees, as well as the van Couvenhovens, had their farms in the Flatlands (Nieuw Amersfoort) area.

The Flatbush area was purchased in 1636 by the Dutch West India Co. from the Canarsee Indians. Flatbush became an incorporated town in March 1654. Circa 1660 there were 66 households with a total of 450-500 people (including the slaves) in this town.

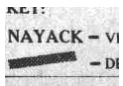
The Flatbush congregation was called the Midwout Dutch Reform Church. Likewise the Amersfoort congregation was the Flatlands Dutch Reform Church. There were 4 congregations served by 1 dominee (pastor). The 1st one they called was Johannes Theodorus Polhemius who served from 1598-1676. When he was the pastor at the Meppel Church, he baptized all 4 children of Steven Coerts Van Voorhees by Maritje Wessels, his 1st wife. When I was there, the gold baptismal font was in the same location where it had always been.

The next map displays the dates of land sales and also the



changes in the over-all landscape. The Canarsee (Canarsie) Indian territory is greatly reduced. More roads have been made to accommodate the increasing population. The name changes show that this map was finalized (using earlier Dutch data) after 1664, when the English took over.

Other interesting property facts are measurement units and safety concerns. It was stated in Boston (1631-32) that ½ acre for a house and yard plus a portion of town fields was not enough to support 1 family. Around 1652 there were 2 lengths used for a rod, the Rhineland rod (circa 12.36 ft.) and the Amsterdam rod (circa 12.071 ft.). The first was usually used; but the latter was sometimes used. A difference of slightly over 6 in. can add up quickly in large land parcels. Fences for protection against invasion were required to be 8-9 ft. high in Fort Orange (Albany). Before 1659 we know that the disturbed Indians in the Nieuw Amsterdam area scalped settlers (men, women and children). In fact, Jacob, son of Joris Rapaille and Catalyntie Trico, was killed by Indians c. 1643 at the age of 4. (There are several members of the Rapaille family who married into



the Coert Line of the Van Voorhees family.)

On this map Nieuw Amersfoort/Flatlands would be at the olde crossroads just slightly S.W. of 'April 23, 1665.' Also note that the 'Road to Nieuw Amersfoort'

has become the 'Kings Highway.'

Comparing these maps gives us valuable insight into the basic needs and problems of our Van Voorhees ancestors as well as a start for even more research.

References

1. *The Island in the Center of the World* by Russell Shorto
2. *New York Times* Jan. 28, 1986: Article by Erik Eckholm
3. *Beverwijck: A Dutch Village on the American Frontier, 1652-1664* by Janny Venema
4. *Flatbush Church Records vol. 1 1677-1720* by David William Voorhees
5. *Flatbush Church Records vol. 2 Deacons' Accounts 1654-1709* by David William Voorhees
6. Huguenot Society records on the Rapaille family plus my other genealogy research
7. many books over many years

Genealogy Update by Robert F. Voorhees

New technology continues to dominate the genealogy scene. An indication is the recently completed Rootstech family history & technology conference on Feb. 2-4, 2012 in Salt Lake City. This was the 2nd annual Rootstech and, with more than 4,500 people registered, it is by far the most popular genealogy conference in North America. The 2013 Rootstech Conference will be held March 21-23, 2013 at the Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints continues their large effort to digitize their vast microfilm collection (20 billion records) and put it up for free on their website, www.FamilySearch.org. FamilySearch believes that genealogy is changing from an activity done by individuals to a group collaborative effort and they are developing new software tools and methodologies to assist in this collaboration. A new GEDCOM is being developed by FamilySearch. GEDCOM is an exchange standard to transfer data between different computer programs.

Google has a team of engineers working on improving Google products for genealogical research. The problem: A large amount of genealogy information is available online today but little of it is findable by search engines. I expect Google to come up with some interesting products in the future. They have had an interest in genealogy for some time—several years ago they considered buying Ancestry.com.

The 1940 US Census will be released on April 2, 2012. Unlike previous census years, images of the 1940 census will be made available from the government as free digital images. Archives.com won the right to host 1940 census images. Starting in mid-April, subscription website Ancestry.com, will begin streaming 1940 census records onto its website, where records will be free to search at least through 2013. Also, upon release, the 1940 US Census Community Project, a joint initiative between

Archives.com, FamilySearch, Findmypast.com (Brightsolid), and others

will coordinate efforts to provide quick access to the digital images and immediately start indexing these records to make them searchable online with free and open access. This project is seeking volunteers from the general public to assist with the indexing (go to <http://the1940census.com>). It is important to note that the indexing of the 1940 census will probably take 6 months and be available late in 2012. Until the indexing is complete these census records will not be very useful.

The 1940 census is the largest (132 million people in 1940 versus 123 million in 1930) most comprehensive, and most recent record set available. Tens of millions of people living in the US in 1940 are still living today, making this a record set that connects people with recent family records. The 1940 census included the standard questions but also introduced some new questions. One example is that the enumerator was instructed to mark who in the family responded to the census questions. Other questions included whether the person worked for the CCC, WPA, or NYA the week of March 24-30, 1940, and the income for the 12 months ending Dec 31, 1939. New and interesting questions were asked such as where people lived 5 yrs before, highest educational grade achieved, and detailed income and occupation. As part of the census, 5% of respondents (two per page) were asked supplemental questions, which included the place of birth of the person's father and mother, the respondent's usual occupation (not just for the week of March 24-30) and questions related to marriage for all women who were or had been married. The enumerators asked women if they had been married more than once, the age at first marriage, and the total number of children to whom they had ever given birth.

Congress is considering taking private the Social Security Death Index (SSDI). About 2.5 million death reports are received by the federal government each year. Losing the availability of these records would be a major loss to genealogy communities. SSDI has become a source for thieves to capitalize on the identities of children and others who have died. Fraudulent tax returns including the decedent's SSN are submitted. If the government would cross check tax returns with the SSDI data it would seem they could identify this fraud but the government may find it easier to just take the SSDI private. This is the easy way for the government.

Ancestry.com continues as the dominant information supplier to the genealogy communities. Ancestry reported a jump in subscribers in 2011 of 22% of 1.7 million up from 1.4 million paying subscribers. Ancestry has told the financial community they expect growth in 2012 of mid to high teens. The stock market values Ancestry at \$1.4 billion. Sales are approaching \$400 million per year. Tim Sullivan, CEO of Ancestry, was the keynote speaker at the recent Rootstech Conference and here are some highlights from his speech.

Genealogy Update continued

Ancestry sees growth in mobile applications. 1) The Ancestry.com app for smartphones has been downloaded 2 million times. 2) 12% of all visits to Ancestry are from mobile devices. 3) A high percentage of the mobile users do not use traditional access from laptop or desktop. 4) Genealogy has typically been a solitary pursuit within the family. The wave of the future, especially with mobile devices, will encourage collaboration within the family.

Ancestry presently employs about 300 software engineers with plans to hire another 80 this year. Recruiting is a major focus of the company. Ancestry has already indexed half a billion records and those records are already on-line at Ancestry. The list will soon be expanded with obituaries and other content. City directories with more than 10 million images are now available on Ancestry. Ancestry is working hard to stay ahead of the competition in viewing census data. A new census viewer is being rolled out now with additional improvements to be added in coming months.

Brightsolid (Findmypast.com) plans to enter the US market and will provide competition for Ancestry.com. Brightsolid is a British company and has been a provider of historical and online genealogy content in the UK. They are launching a new site in the US: www.censusrecords.com. Their strategy is to offer both subscription and pay-as-you-go census information. They would be the first in the US market with a pay-as-you-go offering. Findmypast.com will be launched for the US market later this year.

Late in 2011 Wholly Genes Software came out with version 8 of Master Genealogist. All of our genealogy data is maintained in Master Genealogist. They had some issues and have since come out with version 8.1. I have now upgraded to version 8.1 and our database seems to be working just fine. Others on our Committee will also be switching to version 8.1. On their website Wholly Genes lists 8 pages of improvements of version 8 versus version 7.

I want to make our membership aware that soon we plan to start looking for a new genealogist. We feel we should start this search with our membership before we branch out. This would be a part-time paid position beginning toward the end of 2012 or early in 2013. Our candidate should already 1) be pursuing genealogy as a hobby, 2) have some genealogy research experience and 3) be computer literate. Our candidate should have two computers—a desk top running Windows 7 with minimum suggested Intel i5 processor (i7 preferred) and a second computer which could be a laptop. Our candidate should have experience with Master Genealogist and should subscribe to Ancestry.com. If interested please email R. F. Voorhees at

Upcoming genealogy conferences include Wholly Genes Software Alaska's inside passage cruise Sept. 16-23, 2012; National Genealogical Society Family History Conference in Cincinnati, OH May 9-12, 2012; and the Federation of Genealogical Societies in Birmingham, AL Aug. 21-24.

New DVD For Sale! **History of the Van Voorhees Association 1932-2012** **by Robert F. Voorhees**

2012 is the 80th Anniversary of the founding of the Van Voorhees Association. To celebrate, the Van Voorhees Association is pleased to offer for sale a new DVD entitled, *History of the Van Voorhees Association*. I want to acknowledge Larry Voris of Springfield, MO who did all the scanning for this DVD. Without Larry this DVD would not exist.

Featured on this DVD are searchable PDF (Adobe Acrobat) files of every Newsletter the Van Voorhees Association has ever published, about 67 in all. The first newsletter was published in Nov 1983 (28 yrs ago) and the last one included is Fall 2011. In Sept. 1995 the name was changed from *Newsletter* to *Nieuwsbrief*. After the newsletter file name you will notice the letters ocr. This stands for optical character

recognition. This means that file is searchable using Adobe Reader (available free from Adobe).

Prior to the advent of newsletters, it was the custom for the President to send an annual letter to the membership. We have included these letters written by President Helen Voorhees in the years 1977 to 1983.

There are a number of other historic treasures included on this DVD. Some of the highlights are: 1) 1932 Condensed Genealogy of the V V Family. This is a condensed version of the 725- page 1888 Elias W. Van Voorhis Genealogy. 2) 1935 *Historical Handbook of the V V Family*. This book, now out of print, is well over 100 pages of interesting Voorhees stories and historical information. 3) 1935 -- 275th Anniversary, a 67 page booklet. Lots of history of the Assoc-

New DVD For Sale! History of the Van Voorhees Association 1932-2012 continued

iation is in here plus stories of Voorhees families. 4) 1938 Portraits given to Rutgers University by the class of 1888, including Ralph and Elizabeth Voorhees who donated the original library building to Rutgers, and Oscar M. Voorhees, founder of the Van Voorhees Association (class of 1888). 5) 1942 -- 67 page booklet of the 10th Anniversary of the Association. It is filled with historical information. 6) 1947 obituary for Oscar M. Voorhees. 7) 1962 *Van Voorhees letters 1684-1699*. 4 letters sent between Flatlands and Drenthe Province (Manning points out that these letters were retranslated and included in our

1992 *Dutch Door* book along with several new letters found after 1962). 8) 1982 booklet of the first 50 years of the Association, 76 pages.

We would very much like to have a Subject Index for all these newsletters. If someone would be interested in volunteering for this job it would be much appreciated. Upon completion of the Index we would refund the purchase price of the DVD.

Proceeds from the sale of this DVD will go toward our Van Voorhees Association genealogy research. We are beginning to think about hiring a new part-time genealogist.

The Van Voorhees Association has had 7 Presidents in its 80 year history.

<u>Presidents</u>	<u>Dates Served</u>	<u>Years Served</u>
Rev. Dr. Oscar McMurtie Voorhees	1932-1947	15 years
Dr. Irving Wilson Van Voorhis	1947-1958	11 years
Mrs. Edward Leroy Voorhees (Ruth Suydam)	1958-1961	3 years
Miss Helen McMurtie Voorhees	1961-1981	20 years
Mr. Donald George Vorhis	1981-1991	10 years
Mr. Manning Willis Voorhees	1991-2001	10 years
Mr. Scott Thomas Voorhees	2001-present	11 years

For Van Voorhees Association **Members** the price of this **DVD** is **\$29** plus **\$5** for shipping and handling. For Non-Members of the Van Voorhees Association the price of this **DVD** is **\$39** plus **\$5** for shipping and handling. The **\$39** price **includes** a **one-year membership** in the Van Voorhees Association if you so desire. Importantly **please include your email address with your order**, so we may communicate with you as needed. Hopefully I will be able to email a Newsletter Index to you (at no charge) when it is available. Please address any **questions to**.

Checks or money orders should be made out to the Van Voorhees Association and mailed to: **Robert F. Voorhees, 4100 Brambletye Drive, Greensboro, NC 27407-7772**.

Please note this is a **DVD** and **not** a **CD**. You will need to have a **DVD\CD Drive** on your computer as most computers have (the letters DVD will usually be embossed on the front of the Drive). For those interested, I can supply the content of this DVD on an 8 Gigabyte USB thumb drive (and you can keep the thumb drive). Please add \$10 to your order.

The Dutch Settlers in New Jersey

by **R. William Pauley** (Belle Head, NJ from the Dec. 1988 issue of the *Dutch Barn Newsletter*)
submitted by **Robert F. Voorhees**

These notes on the Dutch settlers in the Raritan Valley of New Jersey were gleaned from various texts and historical booklets that cover Somerset, Hunterdon, and Middlesex Counties. The purpose is to help those who are interested in the New World Dutch Barn to become more familiar with the Dutch migration to this fertile Valley and the names of the families of some of those pioneers.

The Dutch in Nieuw Amsterdam began to farm the West Bank of the Hudson (Bergen County) and along the Raritan Bay in the mid 1600's. Indian attacks made life difficult. In 1660 Peter Stuyvesant ordered

the families to move from outlying farms to safer villages. This led to the first permanent town in northern New Jersey, now known as Jersey City.

The British took over in 1664, forming East and West Jersey, and set up the seat of government in Elizabeth. The intent was to develop New Jersey, which the Dutch had failed to do. The Proprietors granted religious and political freedom to the Jerseys, which meant that a variety of groups saw the opportunities and began to move into the region in the late 1600's. The English and Scots were most common in the East, while Quakers moved into the West

The Dutch Settlers in New Jersey continued

Jerseys, as far north as Princeton.

The Dutch living in New York and Long Island were attracted to the Raritan Valley in the early 1700's when large tracts of land were offered for sale. The river provided transportation and the fertile lowlands were ideal for grain and livestock. A small port was established on the Raritan in about 1730 near the present Rutgers University stadium. Some of the Raritan Landing founders came from Albany area, including Schuyter, Van Dyke, and Suydam. Church records for this period indicate that about 1/3 of the citizens of this area (Middlesex County) were Dutch; and in Somerset County, further west on the Raritan and Millstone Rivers, the majority of residents had Dutch ancestry.

An example of the large tracts of land that were purchased by Dutch businessmen and farmers in Somerset were the buying of the Harlington Tract of over 9000 acres by 17 New Yorkers in 1710. In about the same period, a 10,000 acre tract was bought by a group of Long Island Dutch that was on the opposite,

eastern side of the Millstone. During the early and middle 1700's many family farms and plantations began in the county, and Dutch speaking villages and churches were established. A major center developed in the Raritan/Somerset area a few miles east of the junction of the North and South Branches of the Raritan River. The first Dutch Reformed Church was built in 1699. Reformed Churches were started in the villages of Franklin Park (near New Brunswick) in 1710, twenty miles north in Bedminster in 1758, and Neshanic (in the western most region of Somerset) in about 1750. Included among the hundreds of Dutch families that flourished in Somerset through the Revolutionary War era and that are still prominent today are Frelinghuysens, Bergens, Hoaglands, Staats, Van Cleefs, Strykers and Van Zandts.

Hundreds of Dutch homes in the Raritan Valley have survived, even though few were made of brick and stone. In Somerset County about two dozen New World Dutch barns remain, primarily along the Millstone valley.

The Albert P. Voorhees House in Hillsborough, NJ

submitted by Raymond F. Waters

edited by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

I have owned the Albert P. Voorhees house since January 18, 1985. The previous owner (the mayor of Hillsborough, NJ) had the home cut up into apartments and the home fell in a 'sorry state.' He had purchased the home from the Knoll family. The Van Voorhees/Voorhees family had owned the entire area since the late 1600's.

I and my friend purchased the property as an investment, along with the original home from the 1700's that was destroyed in an earlier fire. (Fire and old houses are not a good mix.) This house was constructed circa 1840. We enjoyed the home so much that we decided to undo all the former errors. We have been 'taking back' the house and reducing the number of apartments since we purchased it.

We discovered, as the old plaster and lathe walls came down, that every room (even in the servants' quarters) had been wallpapered and every room had its own coal-burning stove.

Unusual for its time, there had been an indoor bath-



room; but it was without running water.

The 1st picture (below left) shows the demolition from the dining room to the central hallway. A library is behind the dining room. The main big room is beyond the stairwell.

On the right is the restored central hallway (left in the 1st photo). The banister is mahogany inlaid with *bird's eye* maple. Facing the front door the library is on the right and the big room doorway is on the left. At the foot of the stairs is the dining room door (unseen).



The 3rd photo (right) shows the servants' quarters with a fireplace revealed after being previously covered.

I have owned the Albert P. Voorhees house since 18 Jan. 1985. The previous owner (the mayor of Hillsborough, NJ) had cut the home up into apartments and the home fell into a "sorry state." He had purchased the home from the Knoll family. Since the



late 1600's the Van Voorhees/Voorhees family had owned the entire area.

When the original plaster, ceiling molding and wall trims in all rooms had been removed, samples of each were kept. I also collected samples of wallpaper, pieces of ceramics and pottery. I would be happy to share my images with the Van Voorhees Association.

On September 27, 2009 another fire occurred. The fire marshal and insurance companies determined that the fire was caused by a squirrel on a power transformer that was not properly maintained; so it was the fault of the power company. Volunteer firefighters and 27 fire engines were mobilized into action very quickly. We were told that, if the fire engines had responded 15 minutes later, the entire house would have been in flames in a short time because of the early construction techniques.

A surge of electricity was sent into the basement and it rose up through the balloon-construction walls to the roof. This same balloon construction, interestingly enough, actually saved it -- in the fire's brief existence. The fire, heat, and smoke rose up through the spaces in the walls and openings in the beams; thus the initial damaging fire was allowed to rush to the roof and escape the lower floors. In the photo you get a view of the interior from the dining room to the 3rd floor.



There was extensive damage (nearly \$1,000,000) and we were told to take the money and run. The house would then be demolished. We decided that the home is a major part of the history of our town, state, and country. It tells of a transitional time right after the War of 1812 when America became a major world figure, economically and politically. Along with the new political strength came eco-

nomical advantage. The Voorhees family took every advantage of this new wealth in America.

I have recently restored the home to its structure in 1840 and recorded the process in pictures and a video. It was a very great struggle during this entire ordeal, but when it is 'all said and done,' we feel it was all worth it. Now only the servants' quarters will be my daughter and son-in-law's residence. The main home of approximately 10,000 sq ft. is private.

This is a photo (right) of the restored pantry. Many homes of that era had a pantry next to the kitchen. China, kitchenware, pots and pans and food were kept there. The kitchen was used for cooking and washing dishes.



The last photo is the exterior of the restored home. This is a wonderful home and we delight in learning about the family who lived here.



Their taste in material goods & design tell us a great deal about them. The fact that Albert P. Voorhees had 16 children and provided an extremely stylish and comfortable living environment for their servants tells me they were a very loving and caring family.

One day I will have to tell you about the 'spirits', 'ghosts', and 'entities' that were experienced by the police, firemen, workers and neighbors during this entire ordeal. It is very interesting indeed!

Albert P. Voorhees' Brief Genealogy from Steven Coerte/Koerte Van Voorhees submitted by Robert F. Voorhees & edited by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

1. **Steven Coerte Van Voorhees** (b.c.1600, Hees, Drente, Nederlands) & 1st m.c.1625 Aeltje Wessels (probably in the historic Dutch Reformed Church, Meppel, Drente, Nederlands where all 4 of their children were baptized and where the Wessels were members. Steven was also a member there for several years. 2nd m.c.1649 Willempie Roelofse Seubering, daughter of Roelof Seubering. Steven arrived 15 Apr. 1660 in Nieuw Amsterdam on *De Bonte Koe* with son, Coert, and Willempie & several children by Willempie. Steven died 16 Feb. 1684, Flatlands, Kings Co., NY.

Albert P. Voorhees' Brief Genealogy from Steven Coerte/Koerte Van Voorhees continued

2. **Coert Stevense Van Voorhees** (b.c. 1648, Drenthe, Nederlands) & before 1664 m. Maretje Gerritse Van Couwenhoven, daughter of Gerret Wolfertse Van Couwenhoven & Altje Cool.
Coert died after 1702 and probably is buried in yard of the Olde Dutch Reform Church in Brooklyn, NY.
3. **Albert Coerte Van Voorhees** (b.c. 1673, Flatlands, Kings Co., NY & d. before 1748) & 1st m.c. 1692 in Flatlands, NY Sarah Willemse Cornell (daughter of Wm. Guillamse Cornell & Margarita Polhemus) & 2nd m. 15 Mar. 1743 Willempje Suydam & 3rd m. 1 Dec. 1744 Ida Vanderbilt. Albert took the Oath of Allegiance 26 Sept. 1687 as Albert Coirten Van Voorhuijs, native, & was commissioned Ensign in the Kings Co. Militia 20 Jan. 1691: On 12 Feb. 1702 Barne Jooste of New Utrecht deeded to Albert Koerte ½ of the New Utrecht plantation known as 'Turks' & since called 'Bruynenberg & ½ of a lot in Gravesend + ½ of another lot.
4. **Coert Van Voorhees** (b.c. 1692, Flatlands, Kings Co., NY) & m.c. 1715 Annetje Van Dyck, daughter of Achias Jans Van Dyck & Jannetje Lamberts. They lived at Gravesend & moved to Sourland, NJ & later to Harlingen, NJ. On 4 June 1741 Coert & Daniel Polhemus purchased Hop Island at the south branch of the Raritan River. On 30 July 1746 Coert bought 50 acres (sold 27 Feb. 1768 by heirs of Coert Voorhees – **Albert, Aggias, Bernardus & Jannetje** wife of Wm. Van Brunt) on the south branch of the Raritan River On 9 May 1747, Coert bought the Van Salee patent from his father & on 5 Oct. 1756 conveyed the property in New Utrecht to his sons, **Coert & Bernardus**. Coert died 31 May 1757.
5. **Albert Voorhees** (b. 1 Aug. 1716 at 9AM & d. 26 Sept. 1784 at Harlingen & buried at Belle Mead Cemetery in Harlingen, Somerset Co., NJ.) 1st m. 22 Nov. 1737 Catharyntje De Riemer, daughter of Isaac De Riemer & Annatje Woertman & 2nd m. 30 Aug. 1778 Nelly Van Norstrand. He moved to Somerset Co., NJ c. 1740 & Albert's Will probated 25 Oct. 1784: wife Nelley 'to receive everything "she brought to our marriage plus 100 lbs.;" son Peter 'to provide her with the use of the easterly room in his home' & 'with meat, drink, wood etc. for as long as she remained a widow. Albert's children are: **Annatje, Isaac** (to get 50 lbs. for his 'birth-right'), **Anne** ('a silver pot with A.V.F.C.'), **Albert** (lived on Long Island, NY), **Court & Peter** (both lived in Sowerland). Executors (3 sons Isaac, Court & Peter); Witnesses: Cornelius Van Nuys, John Statts, Jr. & Peter Stryker. Other descendants of Albert give different data & 9 other children of Abraham & Sarah: Albert: b. 29 Aug. 1710, son of Abraham Voorhees & Sarah Kierstead. There is no evidence that *this* Abraham existed.
6. **Peter Voorhees** (b. Thurs. at 2 o'clock on 12 Feb. 1756, Harlingen, Somerset Co., NJ & bapt. at the Dutch Reform Church there on 23, July 1780) & Peter died 21 June 1842, Harlingen, Somerset Co., NJ & was buried at Harlingen Cemetery, Belle Brook, Mead, Somerset Co., NJ.
Peter m. 12 Feb. 1779 Maria Ditmars, dau. of Rem Ditmars & Lena Van Liew.
Peter served in the Revolutionary War. Birth & marriage dates for Peter & his family are listed on a Bible record begun by his father (#5 above). Peter inherited the family homestead & was called 'Peter at the Brook.' Peter's Will* (of Hillsborough Twp., dated 3 Oct. 1832) names son, **Albert**, and 3 daughters – **Magdalena Garretson, Catharine Staats, and Maria Wyckoff**.
Will Executors were his son, **Albert**, and 3 sons-in-law -- Samuel Garretson, Rynear Staats and John M. Wyckoff. *Somerset Co. Wills Book E, p-445. References: 2, 5, 6 below.
7. **Albert P. Voorhees** (b. 30 June 1780 & bapt. 23 July 1780 at the Dutch Reform Church, Harlingen, Somerset Co., NJ.) & m. 27 Jan. 1802 at the same church Helena Longstreet, daughter of James Longstreet & Elizabeth Ten Broeck.
Albert was a farmer in Somerset Co., NJ in Hillsborough Twp.
Albert died 12 Mar. 1861 at age 80 at Harlingen & was buried at Belle Mead Cemetery, Harling, Somerset Co., NJ. Albert had 16 children: 14 married and had children and 2 died as infants.
The Van Voorhees Association has a copy of the family record made by Albert. References: 1, 3, 4 below.
8. **Peter Albert Voorhees** (bapt. 6 Nov. 1802 the Dutch Reform Church, Harlingen, Somerset Co., NJ.) & m. 18 Jan. 1825 Maria Suydam (b. 9 Apr. 1806 & d. 17 Jan. 1883), daughter of John Suydam & Charity ?.
2 Daughters: **Garetta Voorhees** (b. 24 Jan. 1826); Six Mile Run, Somerset Co., NJ, 07920 & **Mary Helen Voorhees** (b. 21 Sept. 1833). Peter died 9 Mar. 1883 in NJ 07718; He was killed crossing the tracks of the Lehigh Valley RR in a carriage with **Abraham Voorhees** (also died), & Peter Cortelyou & John N. Bodin (both severely injured). They were going to Somerville to inspect plans for building a new parsonage.
References: 5, 6 below.

References (other than previously mentioned)

1. Elias William Van Voorhis, *The Van Voorhees Family*, pp. 70-77
2. James P. Snell, *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Co., NJ*, pp. 70 & 829
3. *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, vol. 16, p. 70; Bible records of his father (#6 & #7 above), where Helena is listed as age 16 yrs. 3 mos. & 10 days; Harlingen Dutch Reform Church Records.
4. *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, vol. 32, p. 93
5. Van Voorhees Association Collection: copy of Newspaper article & a memorial Pamphlet regarding the accident & funerals.
6. Samuel T. Wiley, *Biographical and Portrait Cyclopedia of the Third Congressional District of New Jersey, Comprising Middlesex, Monmouth and Somerset Counties*

For more Genealogy Data, see the **Book Order Form** on **page 17** and the series of books:

The Van Voorhees Family in America.

Major Religious Denominations' Views in New Jersey During the Revolutionary War
by Robert F. Voorhees

Where did the major religious denominations in NJ stand during the Revolutionary War? Why was Monmouth Co. New Jersey's most violence-prone county during the Revolution?

Historians such as Dennis Ryan, Michael Adelberg and others have made the following generalizations about the position taken by New Jersey's major religious denominations during the Revolutionary War:

Presbyterians -- a large majority supported the Revolution;

Dutch Reformed Church -- a majority supported the Revolution;

Baptists -- a slight majority supported the Revolution;

Quakers -- a slight majority were either disaffected or actively Loyalist; and the

Anglicans -- a majority, were either disaffected or actively Loyalist.

With regard to Monmouth County, however, it should be mentioned that a great many of Monmouth County's ethnic Dutch were being absorbed into Presbyterian congregations at the time of the Revolution, and thus the line between Dutch Reformed and Presbyterian in Monmouth Co. is blurry. Even though it was more than 100 years since the British took New Amsterdam from the Dutch, some hard feelings may have lingered. Most of Monmouth County's Dutch supported the Revolution.

Over the course of the War, Monmouth Co. hosted well over 100 skirmishes and battles. It was New Jersey's most violence-prone locality and was among the most violence-prone localities anywhere in the new nation. The Sandy Hook Peninsula, on the

county's northeast tip, was occupied by the British longer than any other piece of land anywhere in the 13 Colonies, and this county hosted one of the War's largest battles; the Battle of Monmouth on June 28, 1778. More than 10% of the county's men suffered bodily harm, and an estimated 50 % of the county's families suffered tangible harm to a person or property during the war. Governor Livingston was not overstating the case when he called Monmouth Co. "the theatre of spoil and destruction."

Monmouth Co. (comprising present day Monmouth and Ocean counties) was part of a military frontier that stretched around British-held New York City from central NJ into southern NY State. Across this military frontier, each side launched numerous raids against the other. The Continental and state governments had little ability to protect the people of these localities; this forced locals to adapt to protect the people of these localities and to adopt coping strategies that included cooperating with both sides and embracing armed vigilantism. The war increased violent crime and paved the way for a great deal of opportunistic plundering masquerading as military operations. Most people have heard of the "pine robbers." On most days and for most people in Monmouth Co. the War was a Civil War between Loyalists and Whigs.

This analysis is based on the excellent work of Michael Adelberg who wrote 2 books which I can recommend: *Roster of the People of Revolutionary Monmouth County* and *The American Revolution in Monmouth County: The Theatre of Spoil and Destruction*.

Why They Moved: Soil Conditions

edited by Robert F. Voorhees

This is another in our series dealing with, “Why They Moved.” At the time of the American Revolution over 90% of the population were farmers. Soil conditions were an important factor in determining where people lived. Following is an article on this subject quoted from page 31 of *The History of New Jersey Colony, 1664-1776* by Roberta Weiner and James Arnold.

Settlers in America had to clear the land of trees, an almost unheard-of job in Europe. Because soil wore out and planting crops required a lot of labor, a farmer even with help, could plant only about 50 acres a season. Corn was the easiest crop to raise because it fed both people and livestock. Farmers built rail fences to keep livestock from trampling their crops.

When founders of a colony encouraged new settlers to come to the colony, they wrote in glowing terms about bountiful harvests from extraordinarily fertile soil. Land was scarce in Europe and plentiful in America. The fertility of America’s soil was so astonishing to people accustomed to the worn-out soil of Europe that they didn’t worry about the future of the soil. But they all eventually had to face the fact that the soil’s fertility was limited. Many colonists grew corn as their first and most important crop, and corn (and tobacco) tends to deplete the soil of its nutrients quickly.

Colonial farmers planted the same crops on their land each year, until they used up the soil’s natural fertility. New Jersey’s soil had noticeably deteriorated by the mid-1700s. When that happened, a farmer’s only choices were either to move on to new land or accept smaller crops. For example, some colonial farms could grow only 20 bushels of corn per acre.

When farmers used up the fertility of their farms in the first colonies, many went west. Their new land produced 50 to 100 bushels of corn per acre, until it too was worn out. After fifty years of farming in the west, corn production declined to only 40 bushels per acre. Consider that in modern times, farmers regularly produce as many as 130 bushels per acre with the help of fertilizers.

Colonial farmers knew that soil had limits, but had little idea how to conserve it. The presence of fresh land just to the west discouraged farmers from putting great effort into conserving soil. In the 1700s, most farmers did not fertilize their fields with manure from their livestock, although there was always plenty of it available. Some believed it would make the crops taste bad. Others let their livestock into the fields after the harvest to eat the stubble; the animals cleared and fertilized the fields at the same time. A few people used lime or fish as fertilizer, a practice they learned from Native Americans. When the crops exhausted the soil, they let the field lie fallow.

With unused land so easy to find, farmers also paid no attention to the problem of soil erosion. They commonly plowed rows straight up and down hills instead of horizontally along the land’s natural contours making it easy for rain to wash the soil downhill. Rich fields of black soil gave way to rocky gullies of red clay, and clear rivers turned brown and muddy from all the soil washed into them.

For those of you interested in the history of New Jersey Colony, 1664-1776, I strongly recommend this well illustrated book by Roberta Wiener and James R. Arnold: *The History of New Jersey Colony, 1664-1776*.

Nieuws van Verwanten / News of Cousins

Marie and Martin Avelsgaard were evacuated from Yemen and are now in the USA. Marie writes, “It was a relief to give it up as it was getting very hard to live there with an absence or shortage of basic utilities and

food. What an experience!”

We are all happy to have you safely back. We hope you will write us about your life in Yemen.

Een ploeg dat werkt uitblinkt; maar kalm water stinkt.

A plough that works, shines, but still water stinks.

Olde Dutch Proverb

In Memoriam

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall



Since this year is the 80th birthday of the beginning of the Van Voorhees Association, it is appropriate that we remember our founder, the **Rev. Dr. Oscar M. Voorhees**. The photo is of **Oscar** and his siblings (left to right):



Sarah Whitaker Voorhees (b. on 6 Nov. 1862; d. on 3 Feb. 1966), and **Mary Nutt Voorhees** (b. 11 Apr. 1872; d. on 20 May 1930), **Charles Pool Voorhees** (b. on



7 Apr. 1873; d. on 26 Jan. 1901), **Ralph Spencer Voorhees** (b. 26 Oct. 1867; d. 26 July 1944), **Oscar McMurtie Voorhees** (b. 29 Dec. 1864; d. 27 Aug. 1947), and **Garrett Scott Voorhees** (b. 29 Dec. 1869; d. 27 Dec. 1939). **Ruth Castner Voorhees** (b. 16 Sept. 1879; d. 14 June 1976) is missing in the photo.

Oscar M. Voorhees, son of **Samuel S. Voorhees** and **Elizabeth McMurtie Voorhees**, was born near Somerville, NJ in 1864. He married Miss Martha Elmandorf and had 2 daughters. They lived in New Brunswick, NJ. He died aged 82 on Aug. 29, 1947 in Basking Ridge, NJ at the home of his sister, **Sarah W. Voorhees**. He was survived by his wife (Martha), 2 daughters (**Helen M. Voorhees** of Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA; and **Mrs. Allen H. Connolly** of Basking Ridge), and 2 sisters (**Sarah W. Voorhees** and **Mrs. Alfred W. Armstrong** of Canandaigua, NY).

Oscar got his BA in 1888. In 1891 he got an MA from Rutgers University, graduated from the New Brunswick Theological Seminary of the Dutch Re-

formed Church and was ordained a minister in that church. He became pastor of Three Bridges (NJ) church from 1891-1903, when he moved to the High Bridge (NJ) church as pastor from 1903-1909. Next he became pastor of the Mott Haven church (NY) from 1909-1922. During his NY stay he got his D.D. degree from Miami University in 1911. Since this was not enough to keep him busy, he became Chairman of the War Service Committee of the Dutch Reform Church in America in 1917 and did YMCA service in France (1918-1919).

Elected Secretary of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa (1901-1931), he became its Senator till 1946 and Historian (a life appointment). He was also Treasurer of Phi Beta Kappa (1901-1913) and editor of the Phi Beta Kappa Key (1910-1931) and General Catalogue (1923). Meanwhile he got an LL.D. degree from the College of William and Mary in 1927. His "History of Phi Beta Kappa" was published in 1945. He became Secretary of the Phi Beta Kappa Foundation (1924-1931) and a Trustee (1924-1947). He was the former President of the Hunterdon Co. Historical Society and a member of Delta Upsilon.

Somewhere along the line he became interested in his Dutch heritage. In 1932 he founded the Van Voorhees Association and was its President for 15 years. He edited all its publications including the "Historical Handbook of the Van Voorhees Family in the Netherlands and America," which was published in 1935. Finally in early 1947 he retired (while still President of the VVA) so he could dedicate himself to the completion of a new Van Voorhees genealogy.

Somehow he located many descendants of **Steven Coerts Van Voorhees**, who wished to become members of the VVA. My father was among them – before I was even born. Personally, I am extremely grateful to have received the benefits of his work at birth! Every one of us born after 1932 should appreciate all of his efforts to establish such a great organization!

Ruth M. Voorhees Voelker (a VVA member), the wife of Donald J. Voelker (deceased) was born 11 Mar. 1928 and died at Lutheran Medical Center on 19 Aug. 2011 in Jefferson Co., Colo. She is the daughter of **Frank Voorhees** (died in 2006) and **Jennie**

Hodgson Voorhees (deceased).

Survivors include her 3 children and 1 granddaughter: **Elaine Voelker**, **Richard Voelker**, and **Linda Graham** and her daughter, **Chelsea Graham**.

In Memoriam continued

Jacques V.B. Voris III, son of the late **Jacques V.B. Voris II** and **Helena Voris**, was born Oct. 7, 1937 in Norwalk, Conn. He died on Feb. 8, 2011 at the age of 73 in Norwalk Hospital. He attended the University of Connecticut and, before retiring, was a systems analyst for General Reinsurance. He married Patricia Mills 47 years ago. They resided in Westport for the past 39 years.

Survivors include **Patricia Mills Voris** (his wife);

Robert Gordon Voorhees (TMG 35757), son of **George Harold Voorhees** and **Mary Steinlein Voorhees**, was born 28 Aug. 1924 in Paterson, NJ and died 8 Aug. 2011 in Portland, Ore. at the age of 97. In 1945 he married Wilda Ann Grundy. He served 22 years in the U.S. Air Force and retired as a Chief Master Sergeant. He was a veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam, where he was awarded the Bronze Star. After retiring from the Air Force, Wilda and Robert moved to Oregon and built their dream home (which

Melba McCaskill (TMG 161540), the second child of **Marie Van Vorhess Clendennen** and Oscar Clendennen, was born 1 Apr. 1926 in Globe, Ariz. and died 3 Oct. 2011 at age 85. On 11 Feb. 1950 she married Neal McCaskill. She was preceded in death by her 4 siblings and a son, **Michael McCaskill**.

Survivors include Neal McCaskill (husband of 60+

Augustus (Gus) Voorhees, born in 1938 in Olean, NY, died 16 Dec. 2011 in Inverness, Fla. at the age of 73. He attended High School in Atlantic Highlands, NJ. A Navy veteran, he was for many years a member of the Atlantic Highlands Fire Dept.

He was preceded in death by **Marion Voorhees Egidio** (mother) and **Jean Voorhees Hughes** (sister). Survivors include Maria (wife) and her 3 sons; his 4

Gregory Gail Voorhees, son of **H. Gail Voorhees** and **Earlene Christensen Voorhees**, was born 10 Sept. 1953 and died 29 Jan. 2012 at age 58. His cancer did not diminish his optimism and enthusiasm for life and set an example for others. In 1987 Greg married Billie Wilkerson. Afterwards Billie's two children, Dustin and Tracy, became Greg's.

Greg's career was in sales, where his good reputation was legend – sincerity, generosity, patience and selflessness. He was the perennial “helper” and



Rebecca Voris Huff (daughter) and Robert Huff (her husband) of Summerville, Mass.; **Jacques V.B. Voris IV** and Susan (his wife) and **Quint Voris** (grandson) of Westport, Conn.; 3 sisters – **Terry Voris Seranno** of Delray Beach, Fla.; **Nina Voris Swain** of Houston, Mo.; and **Jacqueline Voris Kinsey** of Springfield, Mass. Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to the Westport Historical Society, 25 Avery PL., Westport, CT 06880.

Robert designed) in the country east of Salem. **Wilda Ann Grundy Voorhees** died 16 Feb. 2009. Robert stayed in the dream home until his death. Both are buried in Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.

Survivors include **Robert Gordon Voorhees, Jr. (TMG 82670)**: son) and wife, DiAnne **Barbara Meza Voorhees**; **Linda Jean Voorhees Baker** (daughter); **Marisa Anne Voorhees** (granddaughter); and **David Robert Voorhees** (grandson).

years) of Midland, TX.; **Laura Jurado** (daughter) and husband Daniel of Greeley, CO; **Lindy Lawson** (daughter) of Indianapolis, IN; **Jane Cappadonna** (daughter) and husband John of Midland, TX; Mary Alice McCaskill (daughter-in-law) of Seguin, TX; 7 grandchildren – **Michael, Tony, Jenny, Chris, Tony, Alex and Catie**; and 11 great-grandchildren.

siblings – **Harry (Bud) Voorhees**, **Carol Voorhees Burdick**, **William Voorhees** and **Marion Voorhees Scheick**; his 4 children – **Karla Voorhees** of Freehold, NJ; **Kenneth Voorhees** of Dubuque, IA; **Amy Voorhees Benbrook** and **Leanne Voorhees Norton** of Leonardo, NJ; 11 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

called “a knight in shining armor.” His hobbies were gardening and golfing as well as being a sports fan.

His survivors are **Billie Wilkerson Voorhees**, his wife of 24 years; 2 children – Dustin Coffin and his wife, Julianne; and Tracy Haynes and her husband, Josh; and 3 sisters and their families – **Lou Ann Voorhees Thompson** and husband, Michael, **Kathy Voorhees Lloyd** and husband, Terry, and **Christy Voorhees Allen**.

Memorial contributions in Greg's name can be made to the Utah Cancer Foundation at 1121 East 3900 South, Suite C 230, Salt Lake City, Utah 84124.

Col. Edward Harlan Voorhees, U.S.M.C. Retired: 1918 - 2011

by **Larry Voreis**

U.S.M.C. Ret. **Colonel Edward Harlan Voorhees**, son of **Joseph Vernor Voorhees** and **Minnie Warner Voorhees**, was born in Winona, Minnesota on 23 Oct. 1918 and died at age 93 on 18 Apr. 2011 in Dallas, Texas. Edward was a 9th generation descendant of **Stephen Coerte Van Voorhees**, in the **Lucas Stevense** Line. He was the 3rd great-grandson of **Cornelius Albertse Voorhees** and Magdalena Van Nuys of the Conewago Low Dutch Colony and the 2nd great-grandson of **Albert Voorhees** and Anna Banta who were in Low Dutch migration to Kentucky in the spring of 1780.

Edward attended schools in Duluth and graduated from the University of Michigan. Later he received a degree in Military Science at the University of Maryland. In March 1942 he married Helen Bennett in Duluth, Minnesota.

Edward joined the Marine Corps in 1940 and served as a rifleman, company clerk, personnel sergeant and later received his commission as 2nd Lieutenant. During World War II he was stationed in New Zealand and later fought at Guadalcanal and was part of the invasion and capture of Bougainville, in the battle of Hellzapoppin Ridge, Guam (between 21 July and 10 Aug. 1944), and landed with the Third Marine Division at Iwo Jima. He was promoted to Captain in 1944 and was with Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 21st Marines. After the War he was served as an instructor at the Marine Corps basic school at Quantico, Virginia. While serving in the Korean War, he survived the winter retreat from Chosin Reservoir. Colonel Voorhees served in the Marine Corps more than 28 years.

After retirement, he managed several departments for the Dallas Public Library. A devoted member of John Calvin Presbyterian church, an Elder and member of the Session, he sang in the choir, taught adult Bible classes, started Prayer Circle and many other committees. He volunteered at North Dallas Shared Ministries for years. Edward loved traveling in Europe, Mexico and the United States. His hobbies were Genealogy and Computer Science.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers and sisters and youngest son, **John Bennett Voorhees**. His survivors are **Helen Bennett Voorhees** (his wife of 69 years); **Edward Voorhees** (oldest son) and his wife, **Karen Mertens Voorhees**; and grandsons,

Aaron and Michael Voorhees. A Memorial service was at John Calvin Presbyterian Church with a reception following. Memorial gifts may be made to the John Calvin Presbyterian Church Memorial Fund.

I had the pleasure of meeting **Edward Voorhees** at a picnic given in his honor by his comrade-in-arms, General Ronald Van Stockum U.S.M.C. Ret., on Thurs. evening, 27 Sept. 2007, at Van Stockum's Allen Dale Estate in Shelbyville, KY, on the lawn of the estate, surrounded by the beauty of an old Kentucky farm. Present that evening were Neal Hammon of Shelbyville, KY, Vince Akers of Indianapolis, Ind. and Larry Voreis of Taylors, of SC, with their wives and the extended family of General Van Stockum. It was a once-in-a-lifetime meeting of students of Kentucky and Low Dutch History. The conversations extended late into the night amid the warmth of comradeship, family heritage and a shared fascination of "the old times." It was an extraordinary occasion.

General Van Stockum served 30 years in the Marine Corps. and settled with his family at his wife's historic Allen Dale Farm in Shelbyville, KY. He is a past president of the Filson Historical Society and author of *Kentucky and the Bourbons: The Story of Allen Dale Farm*, and *Squire Boone and Nicholas Meriwether Kentucky Pioneers*. Neal Hammon is the author of numerous articles and several books on Kentucky pioneer history, including *My Father Daniel Boone* and *Virginia's Western War*. He served in the Navy in World War II in the Pacific and was recalled to service in the Korean War. Historian Vince Akers is a descendant of early Low Dutch settlers in Kentucky and the author of numerous articles on Kentucky Low Dutch history; and he is credited with writing the first comprehensive history of the Low Dutch settlement in Kentucky, *The Low Dutch Company: A History of the Holland Dutch Settlements of the Kentucky Frontier*, published by The Holland Society in *de Halve Maen*. Vince is an authority on Squire Boone in Shelby County and the Long Run Massacre.

Editor's Note: Larry Voreis is a student of Kentucky Low Dutch history, a Voreis/Van Voorhees family researcher, author of *Our Low Dutch Heritage*, a Viet Nam War veteran, our VVA Publications Consultant (Who's Who) and the one (responsible) to be thanked for scanning all the *Nieuwsbrieven* for our new DVD.

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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**

De Draaiorgel: the Dutch Barrel Organ

by Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall

The Street-Organ Festival in Holland, Michigan was mentioned in the Fall 2011 *Nieuwsbrief*. This article is written to define the Dutch *draaiorgel** (pronounced *dry-org-el*) and its importance as part of our heritage. A *draaiorgel* and a *piement* (street organ) may or may not be interchangeable terms. Most of the time now they refer to the same instrument. *(See how to create or acquire your own at the end of this article.)

You will notice that I have placed some of the cities below in De Nederlands which, centuries ago, included both Belgium and Flanders. Belgium did not become a separate nation until 1830. Flanders was split between Belgium and France. Both are still 'Dutch.'

Draai (noun), *draaien* (irregular verb) and *draaijer* (a person) all refer to turning. *Orgel* means organ. Several Dutch words start with *orgel* such as: *bouwer* (builder), *draaijer* (turner/grinder), *maker* (maker), *register* (register, stop), *kast* (case), *koor* (loft), *punt* (pedal), *trapper* (bellows blower or treadle/pump organ), *pijp* (pipe), *spel* or *speel* (playing), and *speler* (player).

Organ stops are those knobs (pulled) or tabs (pushed) that determine what sounds are played – clarinet, flute, trumpet, diapason, etc. Each manual (keyboard) plus the pedalboard has stops specifically assigned to it. In addition there can be stops to indicate the length of the pipes – 2', 4', 8', and 16'. This means that an 8' pipe is about the piano range of 1 C below Middle C to 1 C above it. A 4' pipe is 1 octave higher and a 2' is higher still. The 2', 4', and 8' pipes are normally reserved for the manuals. The 16', 32', and 64' pipes are usually for the pedals. Very few organs have 64' pipes. The total number of pipes divided by 12 (the notes in 1 octave, including the 'black' keys) equals the number of octaves. The average manual has 60-62 notes, just like the 62-note electronic keyboards of today. Usually there are 30-32 pedals. Some older organs here and abroad have fewer than that and may also have the key colors reversed (C being black and C# being white, etc.). I had the privilege of playing these in 2 churches – 1 in Switzerland and 1 in Wales.

Other stops, called couplers, can unite one manual with others and/or with the pedals. Volume control is via a volume pedal that opens & shuts shutters covering the organ pipes. Often another pedal controls the addition of all stops; however, on smaller organs one pedal does both. Playing all stops at once creates the wonderful full-organ sound like that used on Easter Sunday. This brief lesson in modern pipe organ con-

struction will help you understand the development and complexity of the *draaiorgel*.

Panpipes, found in several places around the world, are prehistoric instruments. Several of them, bound together, became the start of the pipe organ. Since this combination was too big to be played by mouth, another method of pushing air through the pipes had to be invented.

Between circa 300-250 BC, Ktesibius/Ctesibius (a Greek from Alexandria, Egypt) created an instrument called *Hydraulis*. There was water in a metal container instead of bellows. Hand pumps controlled the mechanism by pushing air into a diving bell surrounded by the water. This device was used until sometime in the 4th century (300s) AD. Afterward wind pressure via bellows replaced it.

By the 2nd century AD there were Roman pipe organs played in their theaters and at arena games. A surviving model from Aquincum is very small with just 4 rows of 13 bronze pipes – creating a voice range per row of 13 notes (e.g.: Middle C to 1 C above).

The organ really became a part of Europe in 717 AD via Emperor Constantine IV when he gave Pepin, king of the Franks, a pipe organ. In 826 AD Pepin's son, Charlemagne, had the 1st pipe organ built (by a priest from Venice) in Europe and placed it in his palace in Aachen, Germany. (We toured this palace and attended a service in his attached church.) Bellows often replaced cylindrical water-pumps between 800-900 AD in Byzantium (Constantinople). Inch-by-inch, improvements were made over the centuries. By the 1200s the 2.4" wide keys were considerably narrowed to create a keyboard of 2½ octaves.

In the 1300s, mechanical clockworks were invented. It was mainly the Dutch who developed a triple combination of a gong, a striking train and a musical train into a turret clock. The gong/bell made these the first carillon clocks. Unfortunately none of these 14th century turret clocks survive.

Medieval Miracle Plays saw the rise of portative organs with a 2-2½ octave keyboard. These looked like accordions and were carried on the back of 1 priest, while a 2nd priest pumped the bellows; and a 3rd priest walked behind playing the keyboard. In the 1400s churches began to incorporate the portative organs used for Miracle Plays into their services.

By 1500 the church organs in Italy, Southern France and England had 10 stops but only 1 manual. English pipe organs had only 1 manual until the 1600s. Those in the northern Rhineland, which included De Neder-

De Draaiorgel: the Dutch Street Organ continued

lands, had 2-3 manuals. During the 1500s the first barrel organs were made in Europe. Flemish (Dutch) organs influenced those in Spain. At this time the Dutch became the music leader for their excellent pipe organs and carillons and also for their music schools.

A carillon is defined as a tower with a set of bells played by fists pounding on wide lever-keys using the chromatic scale (the 12-note octave). Carillons originated in De Nederlands. In 1480 the first recorded one with a set of bells attached to a manual keyboard was in Antwerp. After 1480 a manual keyboard, with very strong rod-like lever-keys and possibly a pedal-board plus activation by a cylinder, appeared. The earliest example of this was in Bruges in 1532.

In the mid-1600s the Dutch Hemony family was in business as bronze casters. The two brothers, Francois (c.1609-1667) & Pieter (1619-1680), originated in Lorraine, a border area between France and Germany. At that time the two were the most outstanding builders of carillons. First working in Zutphen, Nederlands till 1657, they then moved to Ghent and from 1664 worked in Amsterdam. Their bells had unparalleled beauty and purity of tone, because they used a high ratio of tin to copper when making bronze. Their accurate tuning was done after the bell was cast – a very difficult procedure. They were the first to extend the range to 3 or more, chromatic (12-note) octaves in carillons. This made their carillons a viable solo instrument. Their bells, tunes and mechanisms to play them were called *voorslagen* meaning *first* or *before strokes*. These were carefully selected to appeal to most people. In their lifetime, they produced 200-400 bells and 53 carillons for churches and cities. Many are still used. Worthy of special mention among their most beautiful carillons, and the dates when built, are the ones in these 3 churches – (1) built 1659-1660 for Nieuwe Kerk (New Church) in Delft, (2) built 1659-1663 for Onze-Lieve-Vrouw (Our Beloved Lady) in Amersfoort,* and (3) built 1663-1664 for the Cathedral in Utrecht*. *(Amersfoort and Utrecht, both in Utrecht Province, are connected to our family via the Van Couwenhovens: Maritje Van Couwenhoven married Coert Van Voorhees, son of Steven.)

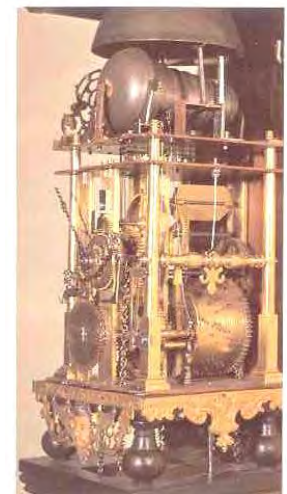
By the 1700s carillons had 2-3 octaves. Compare these to the 20th-century's electronically automated version (developed in the 1950s) with up to 6 octaves played via a peg board or paper rolls.

Starting in the 1600s, music was composed just for carillons. The leading composer in these early years was Matthias van den Gheyn (1721-1785). In the 20

century, music was still being created for them mainly by 4 composers -- Jef Denyn, J.A. F. Wagenaar, John Cage and Daniel Pinkham.

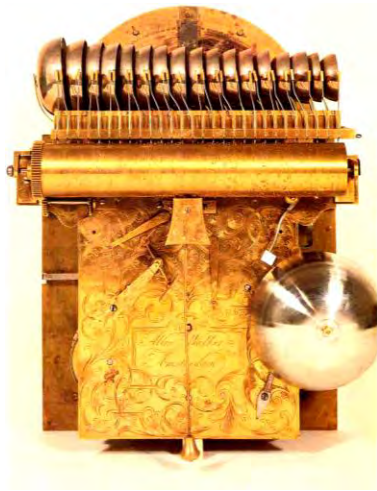
In the 1500s barrel organs were first built in Europe. In the 1600s the Dutch were using organs for secular purposes. It wasn't until the early 1700s when barrel organs began to appear everywhere. This is a mechanical organ in which a cylinder with protruding pins revolves slowly. The pins raise *keys* so wind can enter the pipes. Bellows, controlled by a handle turning the barrel, create the wind. Barrel organs were also driven by weights or springs. They were very expensive and usually found only in palaces, castles and churches. They were still often used as royal gifts. Beethoven* (1770-1827), Mozart (1756-1791), and Haydn (1732-1809) wrote pieces for barrel organs, which became popular in English churches c.1760-1840. *(See Ludwig van Beethoven at the end of this article.)

Combining a rotating drum, like the barrel organ, with a carillon creates a *Speelklok* (playing clock) – a part of *draaiorgel* history. On the right is the South Dutch carillon clock (c.1730) with its barrel having a changeable musical pattern. Notice the 5 rods with bells in the top of the clock. The circle window below the face shows the weights. Below are 2 views of the G. Hogenberg (c.1735) Groningen Stoelklok – the exterior and interior mechanism with striking and musical trains plus a gong. *Stoel* means frame, stool or chair; so this is a 'frame' clock



De Draaiorgel: the Dutch Barrel Organ continued

On the right is the interior movement in the upper part of an Amsterdam musical bracket-clock (circa 1730). There are 17 bells across the top. Wires connect each bell to the roller beneath, which determines the tunes played. This is the basic mechanism used for all sizes of



draaiorgels, music boxes, player pianos, juke boxes, etc. Substitute pipes and other instruments for the top bells and you can create many other mechanical instruments. The big circle on the right below is a gong that strikes the hours. To the left of the gong (barely visible) is a plaque signed, "Allin Walker," and below his name, "Amsterdam." Hanging from a swinging rod in the center is a bell-shaped weight.

With these clockwork mechanisms came chimes and bells. Now there were musical clocks controlled by weights rather than by constant cranking by hand.

In 1736 an important large cathedral carillon was built in Mechelen,* Nederlands (the original home of Beethoven's grandfather). This carillon had a barrel drum 6½' long and 15' in diameter! It also had 90 levers/keys and could play up to 8 tunes in 1 hour. *(Mechelen has a school for carillon-playing as does the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, PA.)

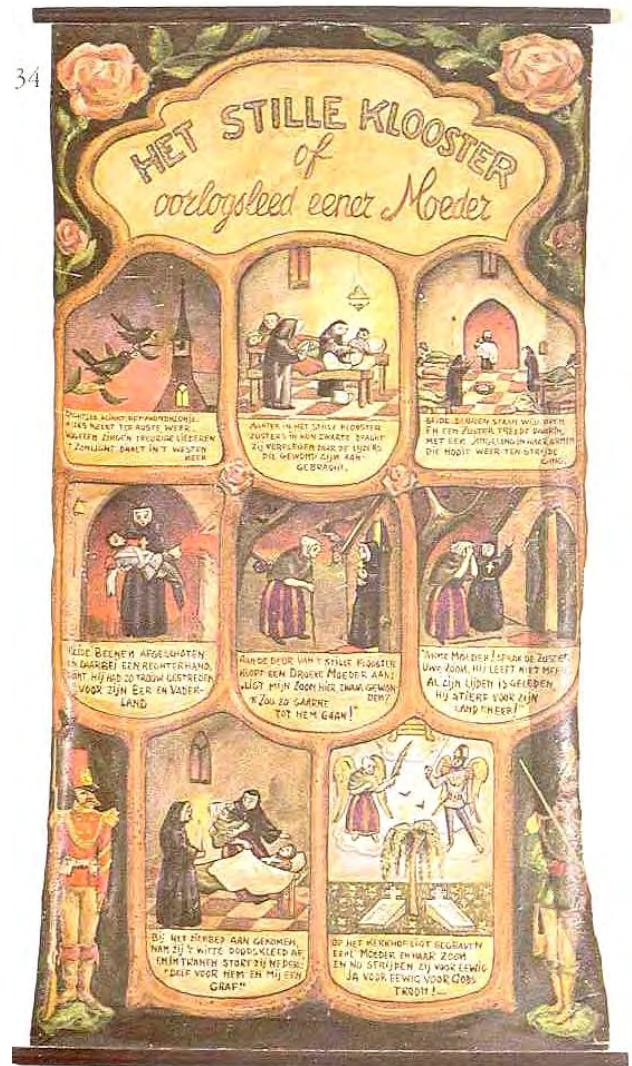
The *Orchestrion* (a Dutch word in the English, but not German, dictionary), a later version of the barrel organ, originated in Germany in the late 1700s. Meant to imitate an orchestra, this big barrel organ had both pipes and percussion. Some showed the instruments moving as they were played. In 1813 Ludwig (the composer) van Beethoven wrote *Wellingtons Sieg* (*Victory*) for it.

In 1821 Dutchman, D. N. Winkel (no relative of Rip Van Winkle*), invented the *Componium*, an advanced form of *orchestrion*. When it was set up to play a simple tune, it would compose variations of it! This instrument had 2 barrels, each with a theme pinned on the far left. On the far right were pins for 7 variations. Both barrels rotate continuously while a clockwork* controller moves them laterally. This instrument is now preserved in Brussels. Think how much work this would have saved Mozart with his famous tune, "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," and all his variations

of it! *[The oldest Dutch clockwork mechanism (probably the oldest musical clock in existence) has 3 trains and dates from 1543. It is now in the National Museum van Speelklok tot Pierement (the Utrecht Museum of Mechanical Instruments). *(*ibid.*: the end of this article for more details.)

By 1875 there was a large international group of automatic musical instruments, mainly due to the Dutch – e.g.: carillons and orchestrions (already mentioned), music boxes and organ clocks, street organs, fair-ground and dance organs. Including the best parts of all of these, the Dutch add a beautiful case and wheels to make the resulting *draaiorgel* portable.

In the 1800s barrel organs appeared on the streets. This is a very unusual *draaiorgel* with 8 illustrated songs. The title at the top is *Het Stille Klooster* (*The*



Quiet Cloister) of (or) *Oorlogsleed eener Moeder* (One Grief-stricken Mother). As you will see from the following sad story, these *draaiorgels* would be placed near hospital cloisters with nearby churches and cemeteries.

De Draaiorgel: the Dutch Barrel Organ continued

With a magnifying glass you can see these pictures better and decipher the inscriptions which are hand written in *olde* Dutch. Dutch was once just a dialect of German and some of it still is. I have translated each poem as literally as possible to help you to learn some Dutch.

1st Picture and Poem (top row):

Lichtjes klinkt het avondklokje,
Alles kleert ter roste weer,
Vogleen zingen theurige liederen
't zonlicht daalt in 't westen meer.
Lightly rings the evening clock,
All (is) dressed in red again,
Birds sing sad songs,
The sunlight smacks in the western sea.

2nd Picture and Poem:

Achter in het stille Klooster
Zusters in nun zwarte draght
Zij verplegen daar de lijders
Die gewond zijn aan-gebraght.
Back in the quiet cloister
Sisters/Nuns in nun-black dress,
They nurse there the patients,
Who are used to being cared for.

3rd Picture and Poem:

Beide Deuren staan wijd open,
En eem zuster treedt daar 'in,
Met een jongeling in haar armen
Die mooir weer ten strijde ging.
Both doors stand wide open,
And one sister/nun walked there
With a youth in her arms,
Who died again in the 2nd struggle.

4th Picture and Poem (2nd row):

Beide beenem afgeschoten
En daarbij een reghterhand,
Want hij had zo trouw gestreden
Voor zijn eer en vaderland.
Both legs shot off,
And thereby a right hand,
Because he had so faithfully struggled
For his honor and fatherland.

5th Picture and Poem:

Aan de deur van 't stille Klooster
Klopt een droeve Moeder aan:
"Ligt mijn zoon hier zwaar gewonden?
'K zou so gaarne tot hem gaan!"
At the door of the quiet cloister
Knocks a sad Mother on:
"Lies my son here heavily wounded?
I would so gladly to him go!"

6th Picture and Poem:

"Arme Moeder! " Sprak de suster,
"Uwe soon, hij leeft niet meer,
Al zijn lijden is geleden,
Hij stierf voor zijn land en eer!"
"Poor Mother," spoke the Sister/Nun,
"Your son, he lives no more,
All his suffering is previous (was before),
He died for his land and honor!"

7th Picture and Poem (bottom row):

Bij het ziekbed aan gekomen,
Nam zij 't witte doodskleed af,
En in tranen stort zij neder:
"Delf voor hem en mij een graf."
By the sick bed came (she) to,
Took she the white shroud down,
And in tears, broken, she resigned:
"Dig for him and me a grave."

8th Picture and Poem:

Op het kerkhof ligt begraven
Eene Moeder en haar zoon;
En nu strijden zij voor eewig.
Ja voor eewig voor Gods troon!
In the churchyard lies buried
A mother and her son,
And now struggles he for eternity,
Yes, forever before God's throne.

In 1875 Leon Warnies started an organ-leasing business in Amsterdam. This meant instead of stationary instruments, he had large *draaiorgels* on trailers. He did all the maintenance including tuning, and the renters got good organs for a moderate price. In 1903 he had the first *book*-playing organs in Amsterdam. The *book* was a repertoire of the best and latest tunes of his day. Now there was competition among lessors. They vied for the best sounding organs with the biggest repertoire and most exquisite painting and trim on the cases. It was an age of prosperity for Dutch *draaiorgels*. In the meantime Belgium was making dance-hall organs while France and Germany were concentrating on the production of large fairground organs.

Dance-hall organs had a softer mellower tone than the harsh quality of fairground ones. Choice of music was paid per 'book' by the public. Control was such that an individual could request a specific tune or series of tunes – e.g.: "foxtrot, tango, Charleston, quick-step," etc. Both of these organs had strong percussion sections which included several types of instruments such as large and small drums, cymbals, xylophone, castanets, triangles and sometimes even cowbells.

De Draaiorgel: the Dutch Barrel Organ continued

Gijs Perlee of Amsterdam was one of the best of several who continued to manufacture *draaiorgels* in



the old tradition of Warnies. Dutch firms (such as De Cap, Hooghuis, Bursens, de Vreese, and Koeningsberg) were the principal manufacturers of dance-hall organs until the 1950s, when production ceased altogether. Above is a partial view of the Dutch *Jeugd-stijl* ('youth' or latest 'style' of this time period) that was built by Louis Hooghuis c.1915 in Grammont.

A Belgian barrel piano in Aalst c.1930 (P. Van Roy) had no keys for normal playing. It's like a wood



cupboard. Here open, top doors reveal piano strings and hammers (not pipes) plus a large paper roll with punched holes for the notes. Bottom doors conceal the rest of the spring-driven mechanisms.

The small insets appear to be made of curly maple. It was coin operated and had a tune selector. This style of instrument was found not only in private salons but also in cafes as a type of juke box. #27

In 1920 Carl Frei moved to Breda where he built his factory to make *draaiorgels*. With an ability for unique craftsmanship, he made a remarkable and totally-new sound-structure for his organs. For his dance hall in Antwerp, Theofiel Mortier imported from Paris a

huge organ (c.1925) with 101 keys and approximately



29 ft. 3 in. across the front by 17 ft. 7.5 in. high! In 1930 Carl Frei got the remains of one of Mortier's organs and created his own masterpiece, *De Schuyt*, a fairground organ with 105 keys (seen above). #43

In 1934 he built another outstanding organ, the 90-key *de Dubbele Biphone*, a *draaiorgel* (barrel organ) that is also a *piement* (street organ). This one is small enough to be pushed by hand, although it may take two strong men to do so. The frame work is the



back side that hides the interior mechanisms. *De Dubbele* means 'the double'; however, *Biphone* cannot be found in Dutch, German or English dictionaries. It might refer to 2 sets of pipes or instruments split into 2 sections in the mechanism. It also could refer to 2 'speakers' creating a stereo effect.

Later on Carl Frei began a new tradition that continues today. He began taking individual orders for his *draaiorgels*.

De Draaiorgel: the Dutch Barrel Organ continued

wide guitar with a crank. Some elaborate ones also have piano-like keys that are played with one hand while the crank is turned by the other. I've even heard classical music played on the latter.

The first 1-man street organs looked like boxes a little larger than a very large 120-bass accordion. (Miracle Play organs, previously mentioned, needed 3 men.) It was fastened to the player by a strap over one shoulder. The bottom pole was to bear its weight. The man played it by a crank (in his right hand). This is a portable *barrel-organ*. Some of us recall that during



WWII *orgeldraaiers* (organ grinders) such as this were seen on the streets of NYC with or without a monkey. It is hard to see the small tin cup for tips in the monkey's hand. Sometimes the monkey would sit on the organ grinder's shoulder. In this picture a Capuchin monkey, dressed in a fancy out-fit, wears a collar with the attached leash held in the organ grinder's hand. This photo was taken in 1892.

Years ago you could buy toys (small metal boxes) with a crank that played music like the barrel organs. I remember having one as a child. In the early 1960's I bought one for my children.

In 1993 in Erie, PA, Fischer Pipe Organs (owned by Paul Fischer) with Organ Supply Industries created the *Strassen Orgel* (German for *Street Organ*). They combined European tradition and modern technology.

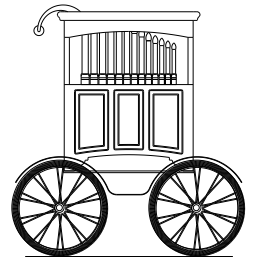
The 20-note scale (22 pipes) is the same as historically used for these pram-sized instruments. Of these 22 pipes, 9 are 'stopped wood' and 13 are *zauberfloeten* ('magic' flutes) with decorative acorns (poplar wood) on the last 7. All 22 pipes are handmade. The bass pipes are wood and the melody flutes are solid brass polished to perfection. There is a double-action wedge bellows with an air reservoir.



Turn the crank to play from a music card the size of a credit card that can hold 100 songs. The music tempo can be adjusted by a rotary dial. It can also be op-

erated automatically via a 12-volt battery with a charger attached inside the case. Tunes can be individually selected or played in series.

Paul sold these as just a solid hardwood (4 choices) chests (shown here). The unit is 12" deep, 18.75" wide, and just 23.525" high. A wheeled undercarriage would increase the height. The drawing (from a Fischer brochure) shows what it could look like with wheels.



The original price with the raised panels, brass handles, canvas cover and 5 music cards was about \$3800. Paul discontinued making these in 2003. Unfortunately the company that bought them sold the patent to a Japanese firm, which went out of business. Today only 2 *Strassen Orgels* remain in Erie, PA. Both belong to my personal friends: one is Paul Fischer.

Having heard one played, I can vouch for their quality. If you find one made by Fischer, it is worth far more than the original price.

Kevin and Linda Sheehan of Sebago, Maine in 2002 bought a small 64-key *draaiorgel* by 3rd generation Elbert Plier from the Elbert Plier Orgelbouw (Organ factory) in Bussum, Netherlands. This world-famous company builds *draai-orgels* to the specifications of the buyer. In the photo the Sheehans (in Alpine garb) are standing beside the back of their *Das Eichhornchen* (German for *The Little Squirrel*), their pet name for the instrument.



Das Eichhornchen has 13 ranks and 200 pipes (189 wood and 11 copper). Melody instruments, that have optional Tremolo, are violin, violin celeste, and bourdon celeste. The counter-melody has horn and oboe. The accompaniment is viola and diapason; and bass is trombone (16 ft.) and gedeckt (8 ft. and 16 ft.). Percussion consists of a bass drum, a snare drum, a cymbal and a woodblock. Traditionally, 16 ft. pipes are never used on a draaiorgel. Since this company builds to order, the Sheehans selected all the instruments and chose to have them.

De Draaiorgel: the Dutch Barrel Organ continued

Das Eichhornchen (seen below) is much larger than



the Fischer *Strassen Orgel*. It is 11ft. high, 15ft. long and weighs 4000 lbs. The Shehans (both age 70) trailer it to fairs and events. This *draaiorgel* is operated only by the hand-cranked wheel. On-lookers are invited to crank it – not an easy job, because you must have strength and control to turn it evenly. If the crank is turned in spurts, the music and its volume will play in like fashion. The ornate front has a cute, hand-carved red squirrel with a baton in the center among the pipes. Other pictures on its façade also have a red-squirrel theme. The log cabin in the background is the Sheehan's home.

The Sheehans have more than 50 books of songs that their organ can play – ranging from old foxtrots, marches and waltzes to a Beatles song. They also sell

a CD of 23 songs. The song selection on their CD was made by Klarity Multimedia, Inc. (Tel.: 888-387-8273), and it has a wide variety of tunes – some Dutch, German, Danish, etc. plus 2 of my favorites: *Nola* and *The Syncopated Clock*,

Summary Notes

Dutch carillons have been famous for centuries. Now Belgium shares in this heritage. Today there are circa 70 carillons in De Nederlands, approximately 70 in Belgium, about 30 in France and just about 100 in the USA. At Maastricht (Andre Rieu's hometown) part of his Johann Strauss Orchestra's program (that was shown on PBS) included playing the church's carillon. In Belgium these have an average of about 45 bells each and the weight varies from almost 14 lbs. for a small bell up to several tons for a large one.

When I was about 14, my mother's 1st cousin arranged a private visit for me to watch the carillon player at Bok Tower (built by a Dutchman who loved the ones in his homeland) in Fla. Today you have to get a very special permit (for insurance reasons) to go up there. You can hear it played free of charge: sit on the lawn and bring a blanket or chair(s) plus perhaps a picnic basket (or visit the nice restaurant near-by).

At the main Dutch Village shop in Holland, Michigan there are Dutch Clocks for sale. Sometimes you will find a 'Spoon' Clock there. It acquired that name because it has a pendulum shaped like the end of an ornate spoon handle. You might also find a replica of a *Stoelklok*, similar to the Groningen one (seen at the bottom of the 2nd page of this article).

Build Your Own Draaiorgel

Those of you with top-of-the-line electronic keyboards (i.e., Korg and Roland) can create your own draaiorgel(s). First delete all those 'grunge' guitars. Replace this deletion with instruments from the Basic Sound Catalog (found in the Guide-book that comes with your keyboard). (1) Now put in a music box and a bell tone plus a vibraphone. (2) Add tin and bottle flutes. (3) Include an accordion. (4) For some heavier sounds, add horns. (I prefer French Horns for a more mellow tone quality; however, adding a small amount of trumpet is also quite nice.)

Among other things, you can control the precise octave ranges of each instrument in the 4 preceding suggestions. The vast majority of draaiorgels do not use 16' pipes (low notes)! Frankly, I prefer the higher notes. Tinker with the 4 suggestions and their almost

infinite, 'tweaking' possibilities until you can obtain the exact sound and tone quality that you prefer.

Although I have about 5000 sounds (combined in three 76-note key-boards (2 Korgs & 1 Roland) and a Roland Tone Box, I created mine with only 1 Korg keyboard.

If you are not that skilled in music, you can try to locate instructions on the Internet and mechanically build one from scratch. Another method is to build a case and buy the inner workings. You can also buy one from a Dutch company and import it here like the Sheehans did. Probably the easiest way is to purchase a kit from Europe and put it together yourself. Several small pushcart (pram or 'baby-buggy') sizes are also available.

Ludwig van Beethoven

(b. Dec. 15-16, 1770 in Bonn & d. Mar. 16, 1827 in Vienna)

He is one of my favorite composers – chosen as my 1st favorite when I was about 10 years old. I found it extremely interesting that he wrote music for mechanical instruments. He also wrote at least 29 dances, 9 of them being Contra Dances. I took parts of two of these, made my arrangement using the melodies, and choreographed this for the German Folkdance Class (ages 12 to 102) in Erie, PA.

The 1st Ludwig van Beethoven (1712-1773), the

composer's grandfather, moved with his family from Mechelen, Nederlands (now in Belgium) to become a bass singer at the Bonn Court in Germany. His son, Johann van Beethoven (c.1740-1792), the composer's father, married Maria Magdalena Keverich, daughter of the Bonn Court's cook,. This makes the composer, Ludwig, ½ Dutch and ½ German; however, today all three of these countries [De Nederlands, Belgium and Deutschland (Germany)] claim him.

D. N. Winkel and Rip Van Winkle and Washington Irving

In 1821 D. N. Winkel, a Dutchman, invented the 'Componium.' While it is amusing to speculate if Irving heard this instrument and learned something about its inventor, D. N. Winkel, the chances are quite minimal. Washington Irving (b.1783, NY; d. 1859),

an American, was living in Birmingham, England, when in 1819 he published *Rip Van Winkle* as part of his collection, *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon*. Here he was using his temporary pen-name, Geoffrey Crayon.

National Museum van Speelklok tot Pierement



The last part of the museum's name means literally *from Play(ing) Clock to Street Organ*. Otherwise this museum is known as the Utrecht Museum of Mechanical Instruments. It is located in the Utrecht Buurkerk (literally translated from olde Dutch as *Citizens* or *Neighborhood Church*). De Buurkerk is the oldest parish church there. The first church on the site was built in the 900s, destroyed by a big fire in 1131, and several times thereafter by other fires. At each restoration the size increased until it became a 'basilica' church; then it was converted to a large 5-aisled 'hall' church by 1456.

The content of the museum (with over 1,100 instruments) is barely covered in their 26-page booklet. For those of you who love *draaiorgels* and other mechanical instruments, this is a definite 'must see' on your visit to De Nederlands. Since Utrecht is not very far

from Amersfoort, which is the original home of the Van Couwenhoven family (**Coert Van Voorhees** married Maretje Van Couwenhoven), this museum is an interesting stop for descendants in the **Coert** Line.

It's open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM and on Sunday from 1-5 PM. Many museums all over Europe are closed on Monday.

When we were there, our tickets covered the whole day. The Restoration Workshop, adjoining the museum and a part of it, is in a building on the site of a former Roman Castellum (fortress). A separate ticket to this may be purchased with the museum ticket and group rates are also available.

Only a guide can turn on any of the instruments. We made one tour by ourselves so we could translate and read all the placards without being rushed. Next we made 3 more tours, each with a different guide who had their own favorites; so we got to hear far more instruments than average.

Music boxes came in a vast array of both sizes and shapes and they were cranked. One was on a table with two drawers to hold the brass cylinders.

We saw musical watches and clocks of many styles. Weights controlled the clocks and the music. Another parlor cabinet held discs for the musical 'grandfather' clocks. (Hiram Inn at Hiram, OH in its lobby has a musical Grandfather clock that has a punched brass 'platter' for the notes. It still works and is worth seeing and hearing.)

Some cabinets looked like victrolas or juke boxes

De Draaiorgel: the Dutch Barrel Organ continued

with very large ‘platters’ on which the music was inscribed. These were hand-cranked. There were various styles of player pianos: one was called a Steinway Pianola Piano “Duo-Art.” Some of the player pianos had display cases (on top) showing the instruments (including violins and violas) as they were being played. These pianos usually had punched paper

rolls like the familiar player pianos.

There were the small portable barrel organs, like the one in the picture with the monkey (on page 23). Of course, there were the huge *draaiorgels* too. The cases of all these instruments were extremely beautiful – whether of fine-grained wood, stained or painted and loaded with intricate carvings.

Items You Can Purchase

In Holland, MI at either (or both) Dutch Village and Veldheer’s Tulip Farm (Wooden Shoe Factory and Gift



Store) you can buy the 2 items pictured below. Because I have had both of these ‘personal treasures’ for years, I can not recall the exact shop where I purchased them. This very ornate



draaiorgel (above) is a refrigerator ornament 2.5 inches high by 3.25 inches wide. There are 3 male figures in the center window. In the arch above them are pink flowers. In the area below them is a bunch of greenery. The charming Dutch village scene with the *draaiorgel* (on the right) is a ‘Delft’ tile that is exactly 5.75 inches square. Unfortunately you cannot see them in full color.

If you are interested in seeing more *draaiorgels*/street organs as well as actually hearing some of them, here are 2 Internet sites.

1. The Carousel Organ Association of America <http://www.coaa>
This gives a list of dates and places for 2012 rallies. These apparently are updated periodically.
2. The 2nd is a video that displays street organs and presents their music.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPDEskBpjEO>

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Internet Sites
Language Dictionaries: Dutch, German, French and Latin

Please don't forget to send in your 2012 dues !!

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

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Regular, \$ 10.00 Contributing \$ 30.00 Junior, \$ 2.00
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Dutch Naming System by Manning W. Voorhees

The Dutch naming system of the 17th century typically had three parts. The first was the given name for the son or daughter, usually in honor of a close relative, the second was the patronymic and the third was the toponym, or name of a place. "van Voorhees" is a toponym meaning "from in front of the village or hamlet of Hees." The toponym could (or would) be changed if a person moved to a different location, although this was not adhered to universally.

Our progenitor in the New World, Steven Coerts van Voorhees, would have been known as Steven Coerts van Middlehees if his father had not moved from the farm of Middlehees to the adjacent farm of Voorhees just before Steven's birth. Thus, the third or so-called last name is not a surname as we know it today. There were earlier residents of Voorhees who used the "van Voorhees" toponym, and there were those who used the toponym "van Hees." All of this can be quite confusing to us when we trace our ancestors. The old Dutch toponym naming system was changed by the British in this country in the latter

1600's/early 1700's and disappeared in the Netherlands in the early 18th century.

Editor's Note: According to our Ruinen cousins, the first 2 children of each sex had a strict given-name structure. The 1st child of either sex was named for the paternal grandparent of that sex and the 2nd named for the maternal grandparent. Therefore, if a man had 3 sons, there could be 3 grandsons (1st cousins) with the same given name, etc. With 3 daughters, there could be three 2nd daughters (granddaughters/1st cousins) with the same given name. Beyond the 1st two of each sex, any name could be chosen – often a sibling of the parent; however, in Nieuw Nederlands sometimes it could be for a dead sibling. Thus, the baptismal records might show 2 or 3 babies from the same parents baptized with the same given name indicating the 1st two were deceased.

More information about Dutch names and their spelling (not standardized) is given in some articles in previous *Nieuwsbriefs*. All of these can be found in the New DVD. See pages 7-8 for details.



Albert T. Van Voorhies

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