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VAN VOORHEES NIEUWSBRIEF

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FACEBOOK PAGE

by

Scott Vincent Vorhees
Facebook Administrator

<https://www.facebook.com/vanvoorheesassociation/home>

In April of 2016, the Van Voorhees Association launched a new presence on Facebook. The previous Facebook page had become inaccessible and ineffective as a service for the organization. Facebook, as a social media giant, gives the Association an elevated means to reach additional individuals who might be interested in the goals and attributes for this genealogical society. It can serve as a great tool to further the membership as well as serve those individuals who are already members. This page can be a forum for addressing inquiries from the members or the general public. Members are also invited

to promote their own reunions or genealogical events on the site.

In addition to discussing the mission and goals of the Association, the page can also be a source for other stories or content about genealogy, The Netherlands, or all things Dutch. You are invited to participate in this source as a means of sharing your interest, your questions, and your support of the Van Voorhees Association. Consider becoming a *Friend* today of the Van Voorhees Association Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/vanvoorheesassociation/home>



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From the Editor:

We would like to encourage our members to please submit obituaries for publication in the *Nieuwsbrief*. This is an important part of maintaining accurate genealogy. We would also like to encourage you to let us know if you have had any family reunions. We know they are happening and it would be great to share that with our members.

We have established deadline dates for submission to the *Nieuwsbrief*. It will be February 1 for the spring/summer edition and August 1 for the fall/winter edition.

It would be nice to have the document submitted in Word or PDF file format, but I do understand that some of you do not have access to a computer. Please don't let this stop you from sharing this important information.

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Facebook Page..... | 1 |
| Who's Who..... | 2 |
| VVA Website..... | 3 |
| Colonel James Lesley Voorhees and the Erie Canal..... | 4 |
| Laura Ann (Voris) Morton (1830-1908)..... | 10 |
| How to Print Directly to a PDF File in Windows 10..... | 15 |
| In Memoriam..... | 16 |
| Book Form..... | 18 |
| Dues Form..... | 19 |

The Van Voorhees Association Website

by

John R. Turner, Webmaster

www.vanvoorhees.org

Our website provides some early family tree information in addition to the history of the family. It provides information about the Netherland origins in Hees and Ruinen for anyone interested in researching these areas.

We do occasionally update or add links to the Research Links page as new areas of interest are identified or suggested. The Calendar of Events page has a button for submitting events and I encourage anyone to avail themselves of this feature for any Dutch related event big or small. We all would like to know what is going on. Having recently finished the book "Through a Dutch Door", listed on our publications page, I can safely recommend this for anyone wanting to know more about why our family decided to come to America. If still not satiated by that there is a link to an Internet Reading List to explore. As always feel free to contact us with questions through the feedback form or email addresses listed. Recently one submission was made by Wakiza Gámez regarding Daniel Van Voorhis, an early silversmith.

DANIEL VAN VOORHIS

One of the finest early American silversmiths of the Revolutionary period was Daniel Van Voorhis. He was born at Oyster Bay, Long Island, on August 30th, 1751; a son of Cornelius and Neeltje Van Voorhis. He was a great, great, grandson of Steven Coerten, the first of the family to come to the United States. He was also a contemporary of Paul Revere and fought in the Revolutionary War. Daniel Van Voorhis was married in 1775 to Catherine Richards by whom he had nine children (3 girls, 6 boys), two of whom left descendants according to "The Historical Handbook of the Van Voorhees Family in the Netherlands and America."

(Continued on p. 10)

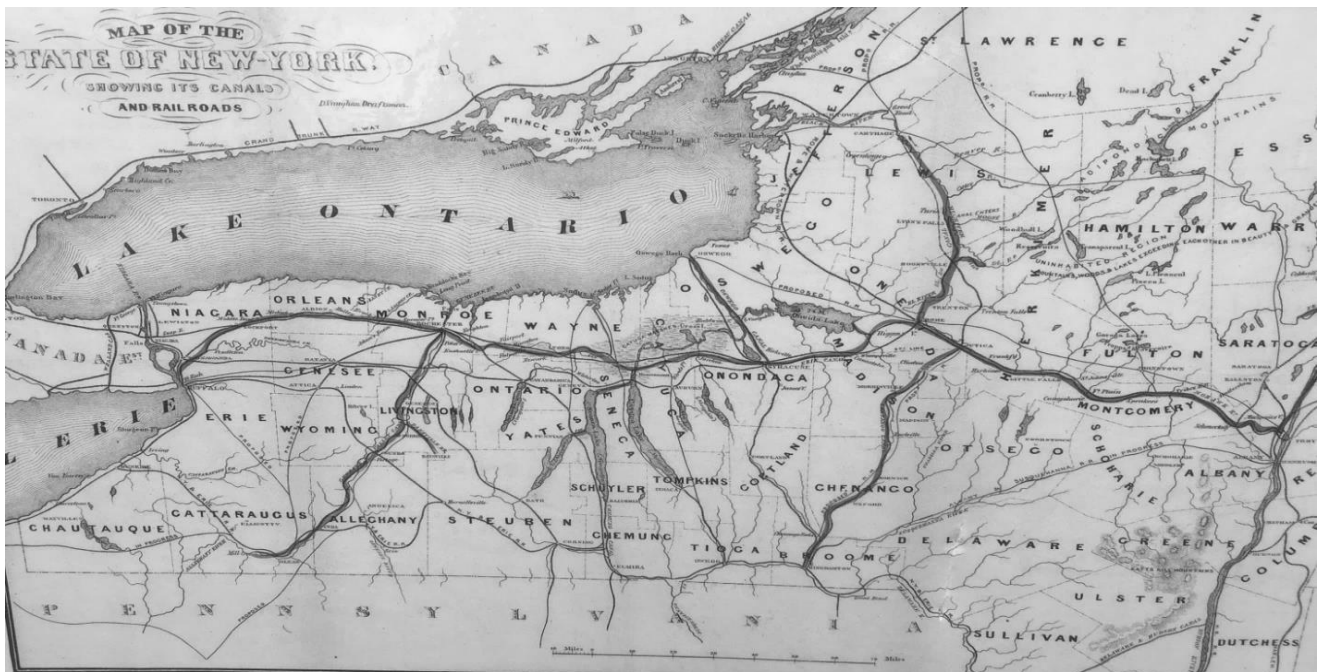
Colonel James Lesley Voorhees and the Erie Canal

By Bob (Robert F.) Voorhees

Along with dozens of other Voorhees families Colonel Voorhees benefited greatly as a result of the Erie Canal. James Lesley was born in 1794 in what was later Voorheesville so named after his father (now Glen) Montgomery Co., NY. In the winter of 1812-13 with his father and step-mother he migrated to Onondaga Co., NY (Syracuse area). His father died suddenly in 1816 leaving young James Lesley on his own. James Lesley developed a lumber business—he would buy forest land, clear the land and sell it to farmers. He owned saw mills to cut the timber. He was widely known as the “tall pine of Lysander” through his ownership of large tracts of pine lands which covered the county. Later he integrated forward to build wooden roads, dams, and docks. The canal was by far the cheapest way to transport lumber. Special canal boats were built just for lumber. One example of a major project—during the years 1844, 45, 46 James Lesley and his family lived in Brooklyn NY during the time the Colonel was engaged in the construction of the extensive Atlantic docks in the port of NY. Lumber was shipped down the Erie Canal to the Hudson River

and from there by steam ship down to Brooklyn. In the 1850 census James Lesley listed his assets as \$400,000 (10 million dollars in today’s money). James Lesley died in 1865.

Erie Canal construction was started in 1817 and finished in 1825. Even though there was no Federal money in construction of the Erie Canal (it was 100% financed by the state of NY—and cost a little over 7 million dollars), leaders such as George Washington were keenly aware of potentially losing the land west of the Appalachian Mountains. Populations divided by mountains tend to become separate nations unless some easy means of communications exists between the two. Without the gritty determination of a small group of men convinced of the prospect of a great nation and a keen sense of how to deploy power, the Erie Canal would not have been built and the western territories would have broken away. (President Monroe vetoed a bill to provide money for the Erie Canal—not because he was against the canal but because he was against providing Federal money for infrastructure).



Erie Canal Map

When completed in 1825, the Erie Canal was the marvel of its age. The canal stretched 363 miles (4 feet deep and 40 feet wide) from Buffalo on Lake Erie to Albany on the Hudson River. From Albany it was 150 miles down the Hudson to the vast harbor of New York City and its well developed port facilities. Once open traffic on the canal expanded rapidly. Agricultural products moved east while manufactured goods and, increasingly, immigrants moved west. The Erie Canal's agricultural cargoes soon found markets throughout Europe. In the process, the canal would influence such mighty decisions as the repeal of tariffs on food in Great Britain in 1846, freeing European labor for work in the factories and reducing costs of production throughout the European as well as the American economy.

In the summer of 1831, Alexis de Tocqueville, the famous French observer of the American scene, traveled by horseback across the state of NY, generally following the route of the Erie Canal from Albany to Buffalo. As soon as he ventured even a short distance away from the developed areas along the path of the canal de Tocqueville found only the frightening wilderness. Here is how he described the countryside as he rode 15 miles northward from the canal at Syracuse one July afternoon into "one of those deep forests of the new world whose somber savage strikes at the imagination and fills the soul with a sort of religious terror": How can one paint such a sight?...Nature has sown pell-mell in incredible profusion the seeds of almost all the plants that creep over the ground or climb above the soil. Over our heads stretched a vast dome of vegetation. Below this thick veil...there was one vast confusion: a sort of chaos...Generations of trees have succeeded one another there through uninterrupted centuries and the ground covered with debris...It is like a fight between death and life. Sometimes we happened to come on an immense tree that the wind had torn up by the roots, but the ranks are so crowded in the forest that often despite its weight it had not been able to make its way right

down to the ground...A solemn silence reigned in the midst of this solitude...Man was missing from the scene.

Digging a ditch four feet deep and forty feet wide with hand labor through hundreds of miles of this primeval forest was the greatest challenge the builders of the Erie Canal would have to confront. The only sources of power were the traditional ones—human muscle plus horses, mules or oxen. There was just one innovation of importance that had become available only recently: the newfangled blasting powder manufactured by a young (founded 1803) Delaware chemical company E.I. Du Pont de Nemours, providing more bang for the buck than the black powder used over the centuries but nowhere near as powerful as the dynamite and nitroglycerine that would be developed in the future.

The Erie Canal's projected landscape was so untamed when construction began that there was no scheduled stagecoach line west of the headwaters of the Mohawk at Rome, NY which meant that the stages traveled only 125 miles westward from Albany before turning back toward the Hudson. Fewer than ten towns punctuated the middle section between Rome and the Seneca River to the west, where the first wave of construction was planned. At the proposed terminus of the canal at Lake Erie, the neighboring towns of Buffalo and Black Rock contained only 700 people between them. (Voorhees Avenue in Buffalo was named after an Erie Canal merchant.)

In 1815 Colonel Voorhees and his father purchased 600 acres of wood lands north of Syracuse. This was his start. This land would be exactly the same land traveled by Tocqueville. Colonel Voorhees owned a lot of land in today's Fulton, NY north of Syracuse. There is a Voorhees Street in Fulton. There is a city block park in Fulton named Voorhees Park—the Colonel donated the land to

Fulton. The Fulton Cemetery sits on land sold to the cemetery association by the Colonel.

New York, which in 1820 had surpassed Virginia as the nation's most populous state, would remain so, for population growth in villages along the Erie's route was phenomenal. Of course the Erie Canal carried freight as well as people, and its completion drove shipping costs down dramatically. The Erie Canal proved an immediate and extraordinary success. Before the canal had been finished politicians began discussing its enlargement to accommodate the immense volume of traffic. By 1837, the entire loan on the original canal was paid. In 1825, more than 40,000 passengers traveled on the new waterway, even though it had not yet gone into full service. Later the canal served as the last leg of the Underground Railroad, ferrying slaves from Syracuse to Buffalo near the Canadian border. The Colonel had two slaves—a married couple. He built a house for them on his estate. Even after slavery was outlawed in NY State in 1827 the former slaves stayed with the Colonel. They stayed with the Voorhees family even after the Colonel died in 1865. The male is buried in the same cemetery where the Colonel is buried in an unmarked grave.

Postscripts

In the 1820's the Colonel was in the New York State militia. As was the custom he was elected to be a Colonel by the men under him and he was known as the Colonel for the rest of his life.

James Lesley was always interested in politics. Even at a young age in Montgomery Co he, his father, and his uncle started the Washington Benevolent Society (Federalist Party) in that county. In 1833 James Lesley ran for the NY legislature under the Anti-Masonic ticket, and lost. In 1837 he ran for the NY legislature under the Whig party and won. We believe he was friendly with Henry Clay, the leader of the Whig party. The

Colonel owned land in Kentucky. We have a letter to Henry Clay written by the Colonel's sister in law. Both the Colonel and Abraham Lincoln were Whigs as the party went out of existence in the mid-1850s and morphed into the Republican Party. Lincoln was elected as a Republican and the Colonel was one of his Republican electors in the 1860 election. The Colonel's house, finished in 1833, which sits on a hill, became known as Whig Hill (and it is known as Whig Hill even today). It is on the National Historic Registry and is currently owned by a doctor and his wife.

So far as known the Colonel was not a member of any church but he contributed liberally to several. He owned a pew in the old Presbyterian Church in Baldwinsville, NY. He also owned two pews in the Christian church at Plainville, NY. The cemetery where the family is buried is behind this church.

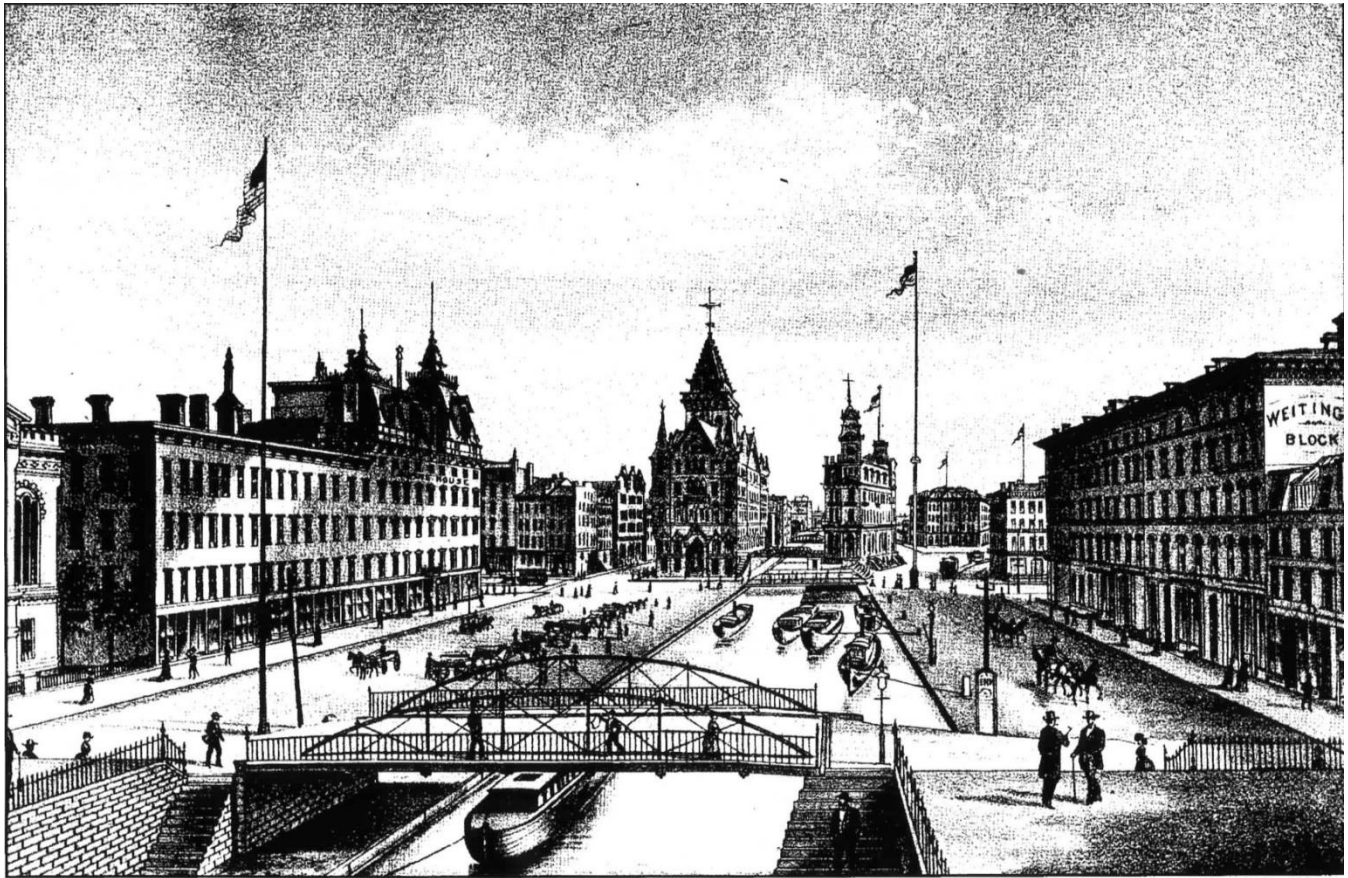
When James Lesley first came to the Syracuse area he spelled his middle name "Lesley" but for reasons unknown he soon changed the spelling to "Leslie" and most of his descendants followed this form. This upset Lesley Elanora Voorhees (1870-1970), the original genealogist for this line, as she felt that ancestors in Scotland spelled it "Lesley" and so should we. When Richard Lesley Voorhees was born in 1941 she made sure that the parents used the "Lesley" spelling.

From 1850 to 1857 the Colonel owned the Voorhees House Hotel on Clinton Square and on the Erie Canal in downtown Syracuse. The hotel was built by his son in law who was killed by a train in 1847. The Colonel owned the empty lot next to the Voorhees House Hotel. Onondaga Co came to him and asked for the land to build a new court house. He agreed to give the county this empty lot in a no cost exchange for another lot in down town Syracuse. In 1857 there was a financial panic in the United States and the Colonel was forced into bankruptcy. He lost the hotel and most of his other

assets but he was allowed to keep his house which remained in the family after his death in 1865. The hotel burned down in 1942. The hotel was known as the Empire House after 1857, the original name.

In time the railroads would eclipse the Erie Canal but it would be a long time. Steam mattered more to powering boats on the Hudson River and on the great lakes. These power boats enhanced the connection between the Erie Canal and the lands

further west. And well before the railroads would make a difference the telegraph invented by Samuel F. B. Morse would radically collapse both time and distance. As late as 1852, thirteen times more freight was carried on the enlarged Erie Canal than on all the railroads in NY State. This large disparity reflects the mix of business in the early years of the railroads, which was only incidentally to carry merchandise and primarily to transport passengers



Courtesy of The Erie Canal Museum

Clinton Square, Syracuse, New York

Voorhees House Hotel, on Left & Old Onondaga Co. Court House, far left (you can only see a portion of the courthouse)

under more favorable conditions than the crowded and often disagreeable conditions aboard the packets. The railroad system in the early days was not sturdy enough to carry the heavy bulk grain and timber that sailed with so little effort on the waters of the Erie Canal. Consequently, the canal continued to put up stiff competition even as the railroads matured. When tolls were abolished in

1882, the Erie Canal was serving over 20 million people annually.

Some consideration was given to routing the Erie Canal on Lake Ontario and other lakes but this idea was vetoed because of security concerns—French and English ships. Remember the Erie Canal construction was started just 2 years after the end of the War of 1812. The inadequate transportation

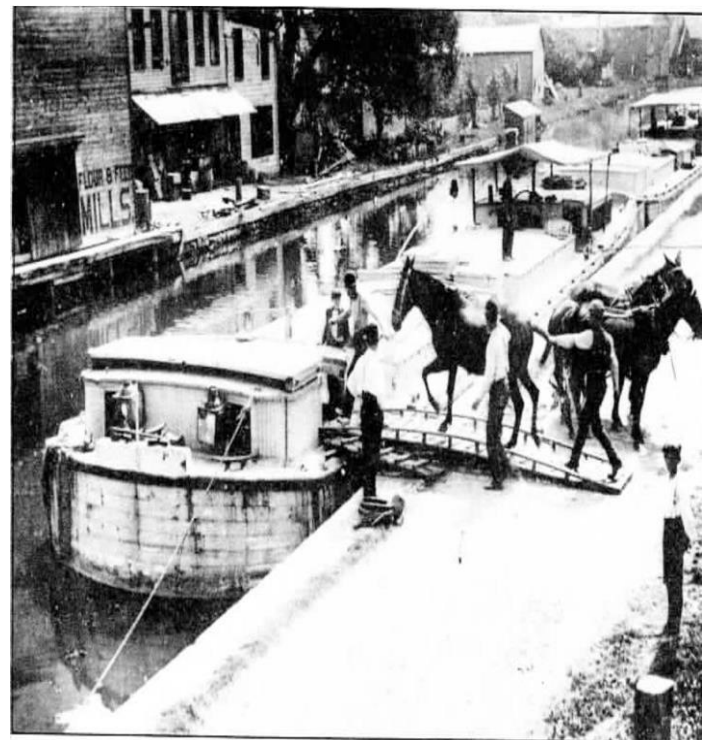
system that came to light during the War of 1812 was one strong reason to build the Erie Canal. Routing the Erie Canal on rivers such as the Mohawk was not an option because the technology to control the river did not exist. But the canal had to be near rivers and lakes as a source of water. Using steam to drive the canal boats was not an option because the wake from the boats weakened the sides of the canal. Canal surfaces were mostly dirt so constant maintenance was required even without steam power.

Horses versus Mules—mules were generally preferred on the Erie Canal. Mules require less rest. Mules are more nimble and sure footed climbing in and out of bow stables and up and down horse bridges. Mules are less skittish and not so apt to be alarmed, eat rougher food, and are smarter (than horses). A mule won't walk off a bridge, a horse will. Mules are more nimble and sure footed climbing in and out of bow stables and up and down horse bridges. Mules are less skittish and not so apt to be alarmed over unusual sights or sounds along the tow path. A horse might drink water dipped up from the canal that is contaminated by sewage and become sick but a mule would refuse it no matter how thirsty it might be. Mules have smaller footprints. Another factor was that the hindmost part of a horse sways when it walks or climbs. This sometimes caused it to stumble or miss its footing while getting off the canal boats. Horses were sometimes preferred because they are larger and can walk faster. Horses might pull a boat at 4-5 miles per hour while mules would be 2-3 MPH. Canal boats loaded with lumber might weigh 80 tons. Mules might typically be used on a cargo boat and horses on a packet boat (passenger).

In the winter the canal was drained to prevent ice damage to locks and lift bridges as well as to prevent erosion along the canal's banks. In November, massive steel gates were dropped into place to stop the flow of water into the section to be drained. With the gates in place the water was



Erie Canal Mules



When Horses Pulled Boats

released into creeks and tributaries flowing away from the canal. About a foot and a half was left behind so fish could survive and the canal could be cleaned. In May, the steel doors were slowly raised allowing the water to flow back into the canal.

The canal boasted a wide assortment of fish, everything from carp and catfish to pike and small mouth bass. The canal was a splendid fishery and fishermen were familiar sights on the canal's banks.

The canal would have been a nightmare for environmental people. All waste from animals to people was just shoveled overboard into the canal.

Erie Canal locks and lift bridges operated on demand daily. Depending on the time of year, most locks operated from 7 am to 10:30 pm. In early spring and late fall operating hours ended at 5pm.

Canal boats would have to have a toll pass to go through the locks.

OK what does the Erie Canal have to do with the "Wizard of Oz"? Well Chittenango was the canal town L. Frank Baum, author of "The Wizard of Oz" called home. Chittenango has an annual Ozfest every summer.

Lionel D. Wyld published an Erie Canal Bibliography listing close to 100 books. I have probably 25 of them. The ones I used the most for this article are "Wedding of the Waters" by Peter L. Bernstein, "Erie Water West" by Ronald E. Shaw, "The Artificial River" by Carol Sheriff, "Canal Days" by Jeanne Munn Bracken, and "The Erie Canal" by Dan Murphy. I recommend all of these books.



Canal Boats In Winter Quarters 1871

(Continued from page 3, VVA Website)

He began his work in Philadelphia, where it is said he learned the trade. Almost immediately, and for the next several years, his name begins to appear in the accounts of Thomas Shields, who advanced him cash and paid him for making silver objects. Daniel Van Voorhis first appears publicly as a silversmith in his own right in 1780. Late in 1782, his move to Princeton coincided with the temporary relocation of Congress from Philadelphia to that city. In May of 1784, he stopped briefly at New Brunswick before moving on to New York City. Once back in New York, he formed a series of partnerships that make his career as a silversmith a complicated one:

Van Voorhis, Bayley, and Coley (1784-85)

Van Voorhis, Bayley, Coley, and Cox (1785)

Van Voorhis and Coley (1786-87)

Ban Voorhis and Schanck (1791-93)

Van Voorhis and Son (1797-1805)

In 1798, he took his son into partnership upon his becoming of age. After his son's death in 1805, he

gave up silversmithing and accepted an appointment as weigher in the United States Custom House in New York. He died at his home, 36 Sands Street, Brooklyn, NY at the age of 73.

Daniel's work is mainly early neoclassical, with hollowware that is urn or oval-shaped and engraved with shields and swags. A substantial number of his pieces survive and can be found in various museums (e.g., The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Art, St. Louis Museum of Art, Richmond Museum of Art, Chicago Museum of Art, Yale University, Williams College, and the R.W. Norton Art Gallery).

More detailed information on the life of Daniel Van Voorhis can be found in:

Wall, Diana diZerega. "The Van Voorhis Family: Artisans in Post-Colonial New York City." Tales of Gotham, Historical Archaeology, Ethnohistory and Microhistory of New York City. Eds. Meta F. Janowitz & Diane Dallah. New York: Springer, 2013. 211-224.

LAURA ANN (VORIS) MORTON (1830-1908)

by

Dr. Frank "Mike" Davis

Researcher & Owner of RootsQuest Press, LLC

Contact: rootquestpress@yahoo.com

Two years before his death in 1997, my father told me that "I represented the last DAVIS male in our family tree". Shortly after hearing this, I embarked on a "roots quest" to discover my ancestry from scratch, and to ultimately create a "family history book" to give to my four children so they might know, and to hopefully appreciate, how their ancestors impacted the communities within which they lived.

In 1997, I found that my dad had a great-great grandmother, Laura Ann Voris, who was born in the early 1800s in Ohio. At that time, I had no idea that she, or I, was connected to the "Van Voorhees Family", and I had hit a solid "brick wall" trying to discover the identity of her biological father. After 14 years of researching Laura's life, accompanied by a great deal of patience, tenacity, and a little help from newly discovered cousins, I had finally

“uncovered” her heretofore “mysterious” dad, which Laura had kept secret for 75 years.

By 2013, I was finally able to publish a 511 page “e-book” detailing Laura Voris’ direct connection to the American “Van Voorhees Family” Patriarch, Steven Coerts. This genealogy/history book also includes the identities of her numerous collateral relatives and descendants, which are not yet found within the current “Van Voorhees in America” books and databases.

My 16 year research journey included numerous “pleasant surprises”, such as meeting some very nice “living” Van Voorhees cousins. I learned that Van Voorhees families had migrated to nearly all regions of Ohio in the early 1800s, and that many of these cousins had positively impacted the early development of the State of Ohio.

In 2016, working as a Doctor of Optometry in Cincinnati, Ohio, my “roots quest” work continues to yield surprises, as not a month goes by when I discover that a new patient of mine is connected to the Van Voorhees Family!

By now, I hope that your curiosity is piqued with at least 3 questions: “Who is this Laura Ann Voris?”; “Who is Laura’s father, and How did you find him?” and “How did our Van Voorhees cousins help to shape Ohio’s early formation?”

Laura was born in 1830 in Perry County, Ohio, a southeastern portion of this State named in honor of the famed “War of 1812” hero, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry (“Don’t Give Up the Ship!” was his motto). Laura’s mother, Susannah “Susan” Noble Beveridge (sometimes “Beverage”), age 26, migrated with her mother and 5 siblings to Harrison Township, Perry County, Ohio from Loudoun County, Virginia, in 1827.



Laura Ann Voris, ca. 1893, Newark, Ohio

To date, all I know about 4th Great Grandma Susan Beveridge is that she gave birth to Laura out-of-wedlock, she was a distant cousin to President George Washington, and that Susan probably died alone and unmarried working as a seamstress in Columbus, Ohio, after 1869.

How does one discover the identity of the father of a child born out-of-wedlock? At first, I thought that this process would be simple, as all I had to do was locate the birth and death records for Laura and her children, right?

Wrong: As it turned out, your Cousin, Laura Ann Voris, led a very complicated and interesting life which resulted in a 16 year quest to unmask her biological Van Voorhees father, and Death Certificates were not available in Ohio in early 1908.

Here is the condensed version which summarizes my journey to find the pertinent records of Laura Voris' children:

1. In 1849, Laura Voris married William Morton in the eastern Ohio County of Belmont, and by 1851, William and Laura (Voris) Morton probably resided in Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio (which is the adjoining County west of Perry County) with their children, Elizabeth and George Washington Morton. [Note: The Morton family hails back to the early days of Colonial Massachusetts.]

By 1855, William Morton divorced Laura, probably in Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio. Their son, George Washington Morton, was their only living child at that time, and he resided with Laura until adulthood.

2. In 1855, Laura (Voris) Morton married her 1st Cousin, Isaac *Vorys*, in Columbus, Ohio. [It was legal in Ohio to marry your first cousin in Ohio, until 1863.] *Who is this heretofore unknown Van Voorhees family member?* Further complication: Isaac and Laura had a daughter born out-of-wedlock in 1854, namely, Martha Vorys.

In 1860, they resided in Columbus, Ohio (near Laura's mother, Susan Beveridge) with George Washington Morton, Martha Vorys, and with their two legitimate children: Charles and Tressia Vorys.

3. By 1863, Isaac Vorys has disappeared from recorded documents: either he had died or had divorced and moved away. In 1863, Laura (Voris) Morton Vorys married Abner Belt in Columbus, Ohio. I am thankful that she did this because I am the direct descendant of their only daughter, Ellen "Nellie" Belt, who was born in 1868 in Licking County, Ohio. Laura and Abner Belt resided in Licking County until 1882, when Abner died. [The Belt families were early settlers in eastern Ohio.]

4. In 1884, Laura (Voris) Morton Vorys Belt married Enos Seward in Licking County, Ohio.

They had no children together, and Laura divorced him in 1890.

5. By 1895, Laura (Voris) Morton Vorys Belt Seward had moved from Newark, Licking County, Ohio to Lima, Allen County, Ohio with only her daughter, Ellen "Nellie" Belt. [The photo of Laura that appears within this Article was taken around this time period.]

6. In 1897, Laura (Voris) Morton Vorys Belt Seward married Peter Baker in Allen County, Ohio, and she lived with him in Champaign County, Ohio until they divorced around 1905.

7. On July 17, 1905, Laura (Voris) Morton Vorys Belt Seward Baker's first husband, William Morton, proposed marriage a 2nd time, in Franklin County, Ohio.

8. In 1908, Laura died in Lima, Allen County, Ohio while residing with her daughter, Ellen "Nellie" (Belt) Patterson. There is disagreement among Laura's descendants regarding whether Laura actually remarried her first husband; however, her tombstone and her mortuary records reads: "Laura A. M". At the time of her death, William Morton lived either in Franklin County, Ohio, or in Wisconsin.

To summarize, during her 78 years of life, Laura Ann Voris lived in various Counties from Ohio's eastern to western borders, was married six times with five husbands, and she bore one illegitimate child, along with five legitimate children.

When Laura was born in 1830, women in Ohio were not legally permitted to control real and personal property, and both Laura Voris and her mother, Susan Beveridge, would be stigmatized by society due to Laura's illegitimate birth status. Tenacious "Grandma" Laura was able to survive, and thrive, by marrying 5 men from age 18 until her death in 1908.

Laura's mother never married, worked as a seamstress in Columbus, Ohio, and probably died alone around 1870 at the age of 69. I was inspired to dedicate my e-book to Susan Beveridge because of her courageous act of giving birth to Laura, out-of-wedlock, against the norms of her society.

The Journey of Discovery – Finding Laura's Father

As a genealogy and history researcher, I have found that discovering the identity of an illegitimate child's parents to be a near impossible task due to the scarcity of reliable primary source documents. The "first step" involved verification that Laura's surname was indeed "Voris". At this time, I had no idea that this name was connected to the Van Voorhees family. Laura's death, cemetery, and obituary records did not contain her birth father's name.

Four of her children's "Death Certificates" listed their "mother's" name as follows: "L. Ann Voris" on George Washington Morton's record; "Laura A. Voris" on Charles Vorys' record; "Laura A. Voris" on Tressia (Vorys) Hauenstine's record; and "Laura Beverage" on Martha (Vorys) Rankins record. [Martha is the only person in Laura's family to reveal that Laura had "Beverage" family ancestry.] Laura's first "Marriage Record" with William Morton lists her as "Laury (sic) Ann Voris".

For the "second step", I googled the phrase "Vorism Surname Spelling Variations", and guess what appeared on Google's search page: "Frequency of Names" on the "vanvoorhees.org" website, where I discovered that "Vorism" represented 6.1% of Voorhees surname variants. Now I realized that to uncover Laura's biological father, and to find out where she resided during her first 18 years of life, I must study *every* Van Voorhees family living in Ohio from 1800 to 1850.

At the conclusion of this extensive research project, I detected some consistent and recurring patterns regarding the Van Voorhees surname in

Ohio, which began with a fascinating man named Isaiah Vorism (1750, NJ to 1834, OH).

Editor's Note: Isaiah Vorism is found on page 784, "The Voorhees Family in America, The First Six Generations", published by The Van Voorhees Association.

Isaiah, a Revolutionary War soldier originally from New Jersey, was the first person to change his Van Voorhees family surname to "Vorism" as evidenced by his military records. Isaiah Vorism had several children (whose descendants are fully described in my e-book to the year 2013), three of whom were sons named "Abraham", "John", and "William".

Abraham and his descendants retained the "Vorism" surname, and his 9 children were early settlers of Franklin and of Fairfield Counties in Ohio by 1823. Today, there are two large law firms in Columbus, Ohio and in Cincinnati, Ohio bearing the Vorism variation of the Van Voorhees surname.

John adopted the "Vorism" surname and his family migrated from Perry County, Ohio to Mercer County, Ohio by 1826, and then they moved to Noble County, Indiana by 1835 becoming the earliest settlers of that area.

William also took the name "Vorism", and he was among the early settlers of Perry County, Ohio by 1818 and later, of Bremen, Fairfield County, Ohio in 1835.

By now, I knew that "Grandma" Laura was from the "Vorism" line, and that she was born in Perry County, Ohio in 1830. I also discerned that she was not the daughter of John Vorism because he was living near Indiana, in Mercer County, Ohio by 1826. However, William Vorism lived only 13 miles from Susannah Beveridge in 1830, so my "tentative working theory" was that William was most likely the birth father. My next task was to confirm this theory.

“Step three” was to examine all of the Voorhees, Vorys, and Voris 1840 Federal Census records in Ohio to look for any non-identified children around age 10. I was able to account for all Voorhees (and the variant spelling surnames) identities, and all of William Voris’ children’s names *except* for an enumeration of an unknown “female” living with William Voris who fit the proper “birth range” for Laura, as a 10 year old girl.

“Step four” in my journey to verify “William Voris” as Laura’s father turned out to be what I call the “serendipity” aspect of genealogical study. Have you noticed that your “lucky” discoveries occur after you have done a lot of hard work?

After researching the families of Laura’s first (and last) husband, William Morton, I found two living descendants of his, Glenn Morton and Christine Morton (cousins of each other), who were willing to help me solve this detective mystery.

People often ask me, “Why do you study *dead* people so much?” My reply is that, over the last 20 years, I have (happily) discovered several hundred *living* cousins, and have developed friendly relations with fellow researchers, archivists, and librarians.

Soon after meeting them over the internet, my newly found Morton cousins sent me the following document, which added further evidence that my “working theory” was correct:

Leonard Wilson, “The Heraldic Achievement of the Ancient Family of Morton”, 1933:

“William Henry Morton was born December 16, 1824 at Newcastle, Delaware. He married at St. Clairsville, Ohio, April 5, 1849, Laura Ann, born in Fairfield County, Ohio, May 21, 1830, daughter of William and Susan Noble (Beveridge) Voris

granddaughter of Thomas and Tacy (Roberts) Beveridge, and great-granddaughter of John and Susan (Noble) Beveridge and of Mary Roberts.”

Because I could not verify the sources of Leonard Wilson’s information, I continued to search for further evidence. A few months later, our Morton cousins surprised me with the “smoking gun” document which they found in the Franklin County, Ohio Probate Court records, transcribed verbatim as follows:

“Marriage License Application No. 12409”, Probate Court, Franklin Co., OH “Marriage Record” document dated July 17, 1905: “Laura A Baker”, “70 years of age on the 21 day of May 1905”, lists her father as “Wm B Voris”, and that she was born in “Perry Co. Ohio”. “William H. Morton, 70 years of age on 16 Dec 1905 whose residence is Franklin Co., OH, and his place of birth is Newcastle, Del., his occupation is Miller, whose father’s name is Benj. Morton, whose mother’s maiden name is Hutchinson, that he was married twice”

[Notes: William Morton intended to marry Laura Ann (Voris) Morton Vorys Belt Seward *Baker* for the 2nd time. This “Marriage License” was granted on July 17, 1905, and was also declared “Void” on July 17, 1905 because this “Marriage not Solemnized”.]

Alas! Here was a reliable Court document which confirmed that William Voris (1781, NJ to 1854, OH), son of Isaiah Vorys, was in fact Laura Ann Voris’ biological father. Laura had waited 75 years to identify him on any heretofore known records.

Editor’s Note: Remainder of article entitled, “How Did Laura Ann Voris Branch of the Van Voorhees Family Help to Shape Ohio?” by Dr. Frank “Mike” Davis, will be continued in the next Nieuwsbrief.

How to Print Directly to a PDF File in Windows 10

blog.eogn.com/2016/08/04/how-to-print-directly-to-a-pdf-file-in-windows-10/ Dick Eastman

I have often written about the benefits of going paperless. (See <https://goo.gl/dq0QCo> for my articles concerning going paperless.) Instead of printing things on paper, I suggest using your computer to create PDF file of the documents instead. PDF files are easy to create, require less space, are easier to send by mail (by using email), are easier to copy, are easier to find in the future, and, if you really need something on paper in the future, can be printed at any time.

Macintosh users have had the capability for years of creating PDF documents from any application. Strangely, Windows did not have that capability until recently. Windows users have always needed to install third-party software in order to create PDF files. Now that has changed. Windows 10 lets you print directly to PDF from any application.

If you are using Windows 10, you can print to PDF while using almost any application by selecting FILE from the pulldown menus, selecting PRINT, and looking at the list of available printers. You should see a new “printer” called **Microsoft Print to PDF**. It isn’t really a printer. Instead, it is a piece of software that emulates a printer but creates PDF files instead of paper documents.

Click on Microsoft Print to PDF. When prompted, give the new PDF file a name and save it somewhere on your PC.

Some Windows 10 users report they do not see a Microsoft Print icon under the list of printers. If that happens to you, check for it under the Devices & Printers menu by opening Start and searching for printers. Should it fail to appear there, you need to enable a Windows feature that got turned off. Type Windows features into the Start menu to open the Turn Windows features on or off menu, and enable Microsoft Print to PDF.

Life without paper is great!



IN MEMORIAM

Leonard G. Voorhees

April 9, 1925 - March 20, 2016



Leonard Gordon Voorhees, age 90, was born on April 9, 1925 on the family farm in Swenoda Township, Swift County, Minnesota, the son of Henry S. and Ethel B. (Huston) Voorhees. He was baptized and confirmed and grew up on the family farm near Danvers. He attended school at District #34 in Swenoda Township. Leonard served his country during WWII in the United States Army from May 14, 1945 to November 26, 1946.

On August 20, 1953, Leonard was united in marriage to Margaret Mary Nagler at Church of the Visitation in Danvers by Father Doerrer. This union was blessed with over 63 years of marriage. He lived and farmed on the family farm his entire life and he started LenMar Farms. He was a member of the Minnesota Guernsey Association, the DHIA, Mid America Dairy, and served as an officer for 34th School District. He enjoyed dairy farming, milking his registered Guernsey cows, working in his shop, and hunting. He enjoyed showing dairy cattle and watching his sons and grandchildren show their 4-H livestock.

Leonard's wish was to pass from this life in his home on the family farm, where he had been born. He was called from this life on Sunday morning, March 20, 2016, at his home in Swenoda Township.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret Voorhees of Danvers; two sons, Kevin (Kim) Voorhees of Benson and Craig (Celeste) Voorhees of Murdock; five grandchildren: Dustin (Erin) Voorhees, Andy (Lyndsie) Voorhees, Chelsea (Nick) Lundberg, Kaylee Voorhees, and Cole Voorhees; three brothers: Delmar Voorhees of Appleton, Jerry (Janet) Voorhees of Alexandria, and Ward (Carol) Voorhees of Morris.

He was preceded in death by infant twin sons; his parents, Henry and Ethel Voorhees; brothers: William (Bill), Richard, Norman, Don, and Max; and a sister, Pauline Voorhees. Blessed be his memory.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11:00 am, Monday, March 28, 2016 Church of the Visitation, Danvers, MN 210-Washington Ave. Danvers, MN

Mildred Van Dyke

Longtime Member of the VVA

Mildred Dunham Van Dyke, 103, of Basking Ridge, NJ died on March 2, 2016. Mrs. Van Dyke was born Mildred Elizabeth Dunham in Trenton in 1913 to Calving Thompson Dunham of Basking ridge and the former Emma Strickler Moyer of Hershey, PA. She grew up in Trenton, spending all of her summers in Basking Ridge with her grandmother, Mrs. Charles B. Dunham and her aunts, the Misses Jane and Margaret Dunham.

After Trenton High School, she graduated Cum Laude from Wilson College in 1934 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She also did graduate work in English at Northwestern University and in Latin at the University of Wisconsin. Three years

before her marriage in 1938 to the Reverend Reinhardt (Ray) Van Dyke, she taught Latin and English in Bernards High School, Bernardsville, NJ.

Mr. Van Dyke, a Reformed Church and later a Presbyterian minister, served churches in Nassau, NY, Sussex and Clayton, NJ. In the latter part of his ministry when he was on the staff of the New Jersey Council of Churches and in retirement, they returned to Basking Ridge in 1963. Mr. Van Dyke served as chaplain at the Lyons veterans Hospital for eleven years. They were also active in the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Van Dyke was a church school teacher, president of the women's Association, a Deacon and an Elder. She served on the Historical Records Committee for 18 years, 14 of which she was Chairman. She also helped author the new church history.

Mrs. Van Dyke pursued many other activities and interests. As a member of the Basking Ridge Garden Club, she wrote the History of the Club for its 75th Anniversary. For ten years she volunteered for the New Jersey Garden Club at the V.A. Hospital at Lyons, arranging flowers and delivering bouquets to the lounges and to veterans in the infirmary.

She was interested in politics and served as a Bernard Township Republican Committee woman for ten years and as a Committee Secretary for two years.

Mrs. Van Dyke had a great love of nature and the outdoors. She enjoyed walking, birding, trout fishing and tennis. She also loved to play games, especially bridge.

For many years, Mrs. Van Dyke volunteered as a genealogist. She was a member and Regent of the Basking Ridge Chapter NS DAR, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, the Huguenot Society, Descendants of the Founders of New Jersey, and the National Society of New England Women and Colonial Dames of the XVII Century.

She was also a member of the **Van Voorhees** and **Van Kouwenhoven (Conover)** Family Associations. She was Honorary Historian and Trustee of the Somerset Historical Society of the Somerset Hills.

Mrs. Van Dyke was a descendant of Sara de Rapelye, first child of European parents, born in New Netherland (NY State) in 1623. Locally, she is descended from Salomon Boyle who in 1732 bought 600 acres next to Basking Ridge, in Millington, from the Proprietors of East Jersey for 250 pounds. She also traced her lineage to Ebenezer Byram who built and was tavern keeper at the Black Horse Inn in Mendham and who also brought the carpenters from his native Bridgewater, MA to build the first building of the Presbyterian Church here. Another interesting ancestor was Jacob Bergen, who was the tavern keeper at what is now the Nassau Inn in Princeton and also tavern keeper at the French Arms Tavern in Trenton where the Mechanics National Bank stood at the corner of W. State St. and Broad St. Mrs. Van Dyke possessed a copy of the agreement of Jacob Bergen to rent the Long Room of the French Arms Tavern to the Second Continental Congress held in Trenton.

Mrs. Van Dyke is survived by three sons, Reinhardt Van Dyke, Jr. of Port Washington, NY, Robert B. Van Dyke of Rindge, NH and John D. Van Dyke of Green Brook, NJ and four daughter-in-law's, 12 grandchildren: Jeremy Van Dyke, Benjamin Van Dyke, Garret Van Dyke, Jr., Cynthia Van Dyke, Jamison Van Dyke, Joshua Van Dyke, Jared Van Dyke, Ashley Van Dyke, Chelsea Van Dyke, Jonathan Van Dyke, Joseph Van Dyke and Robert Van Dyke. There are also 16 great grandchildren.

Her husband of 53 years, the Reverend Reinhardt Van Dyke died in 1992. She was also predeceased by a son, Garret C. Van Dyke in 1998 and by a brother Charles B. Dunham and a sister Margaret B. Dunham, II.

Mrs. Van Dyke is buried at the Evergreen Cemetery, 90 West Oak St., Basking Ridge, NJ.

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Through a Dutch Door: 17th Century Origins of the Van Voorhees Family now must be purchased from Heritage Books Inc. The code name is V3758 and the price is \$22.00. The book can be ordered via website www.heritagebooks.com or by mail to the address: Heritage Books Inc.
 100 Railroad Ave., Suite 104
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The Van Voorhees Association has published the 9th *Generation CD* (including 9th generation children).
Members of the Van Voorhees Association: \$29 plus \$3 shipping and handling = **\$32 (total)**; and
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Checks or money orders should be made out to the **Van Voorhees Association** and
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PLEASE - Do not forget to send in your 2017 DUES - payable Jan. 1, 2017!

DUES FORM

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

Dues for 2017 through December 31 are payable January 1, 2017.

Please check the membership desired (below). Note any change of address. Use your entire 9-digit zip code (to save money on postage). Add your Email address (if you have one). **Your dues are deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes.**

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