



Volume 34 Number 1

# VAN VOORHEES NIEUWSBRIEF

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## REMEMBERING MANNING VOORHEES

by

Scott T. Voorhees, President

When Manning stepped down as president in 2001, I wrote a brief tribute entitled; "A Tough Act To Follow". Thankfully Manning continued to be always available to provide counsel on a variety of Association matters; whether it was pertaining to the By-Laws, our tax exempt status with the IRS, genealogical indexes, publication state sales tax matters or trips to Drenthe. He always provided a thorough, well thought out response. It was extremely comforting knowing he was there as a resource.

But he was much more than that. I had the privilege of working with him for over thirty years. His death represents to me the passing of the last pillar of the association, following the death of past president Donald Vorhis a few years earlier. I will miss hearing that deep baritone voice but most of all I will miss our friendship. The Van Voorhees Association will continue, but it will never be the same.



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## A TRIBUTE TO MANNING WILLIS VOORHEES

By Bob Voorhees, Chair, Genealogy Committee.

Manning Willis Voorhees, a resident of Toms River, Ocean County, NJ, died September 1, 2016. He was born October 27, 1927 in Staten Island, Richmond County, NY. He was buried in Blawenburg Church Cemetery, Blawenburg, Somerset County, NJ.

Manning was a member of the Van Voorhees Association for 46 years, joining in 1970. In 2001 Manning was wearing three hats—President, serving ten years, Nieuwsbrief Editor, and Chairman of the Genealogy Committee. When Manning retired in 2001, Scott Voorhees became acting President, Marilyn Van Voorhis Voshall became Nieuwsbrief Editor and I became Chairman of the Genealogy Committee. Manning agreed to become Vice-Chairman of the Genealogy Committee, a position he held until his death. Thus, I had 15 great years working closely with Manning. What a pleasure it was working with this gentleman. Dealing with Manning was fun. He was always there for us on any question. He will be missed.

Manning's accomplishments were many. In my opinion he is one of four members that have really made a difference for the Van Voorhees Association. The first was Elias William Van Voorhis (1844-1892) who published the first Van Voorhees genealogy in 1888. The second was Dr. Oscar McMurtie Voorhees (1864-1947) who founded the Van Voorhees Association in 1935. The third was Albert L. Stokes our genealogist for 20 years who wrote first four generations book published in 1984. The fourth member was Manning.

In the mid 1980's Manning became Chairman of the Historical Committee. Manning was in charge of hiring Dr. Jan Folkers and raising money for the resulting book, "Through a Dutch Door", published in 1992. This book answers questions such as who Steven Coerte's forebears were in the Netherlands, what prompted him to emigrate in 1660 and what became of those family members who remained behind.

In 1993 Manning talked to Charles Gehring to get his ideas on a genealogist for the Van Voorhees Association. He recommended Florence Christoph. Flo was hired and did a fantastic job for the next 20 years. Flo authored volume one, covering the first six generations published in 2000 and volume two, covering generations seven and eight published in 2003. Manning raised \$45,000 to publish these books. These

books would never have happened without Manning's drive to make it happen. Our genealogy books are of even more importance for our association now that our software vendor, The Master Genealogist, has gone out of business.

To sum up, I don't know anyone that put as much time and effort into the management and success of the Van Voorhees Association than Manning and those of us that knew and worked with him were very fortunate.

## IN MEMORIAM



**MANNING W. VOORHEES**

October 27, 1927 – September 1, 2016

Manning W. Voorhees, age 86, beloved husband of Lois Voorhees, passed on 1 September 2016. Mr. Voorhees resided in Toms River, NJ after retiring from Citibank in New York, and was active in the Van Voorhees Association. Mr. Voorhees is survived by his wife Lois, his sons Peter W. Voorhees of Winnetka, IL and David H. Voorhees of Woodstock, IL, his grandchildren Rebecca Voorhees of Cambridge, England and Alex Voorhees of Chicago, IL, and his great-granddaughter Evelyn Voorhees-Byrne of Cambridge, England. Funeral service was held Saturday, 10 September at 10am in the Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lakewood, NJ. In lieu of flowers, donations were sent to the Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 20 Monterey Circle, Lakewood, NJ.

Published New York Times, September 4, 2016.

## Colonel James Leslie Voorhees and the Central New York Military Tract

By Bob (Robert F.) Voorhees

As mentioned in the last Nieuwsbrief, Colonel Voorhees purchased a 600 acre forested lot in 1815 in the Town of Lysander, Onondaga Co., New York, northwest of Syracuse. This lot was one of the lots in the Military Tract of Central New York. What was the Military Tract of Central New York?

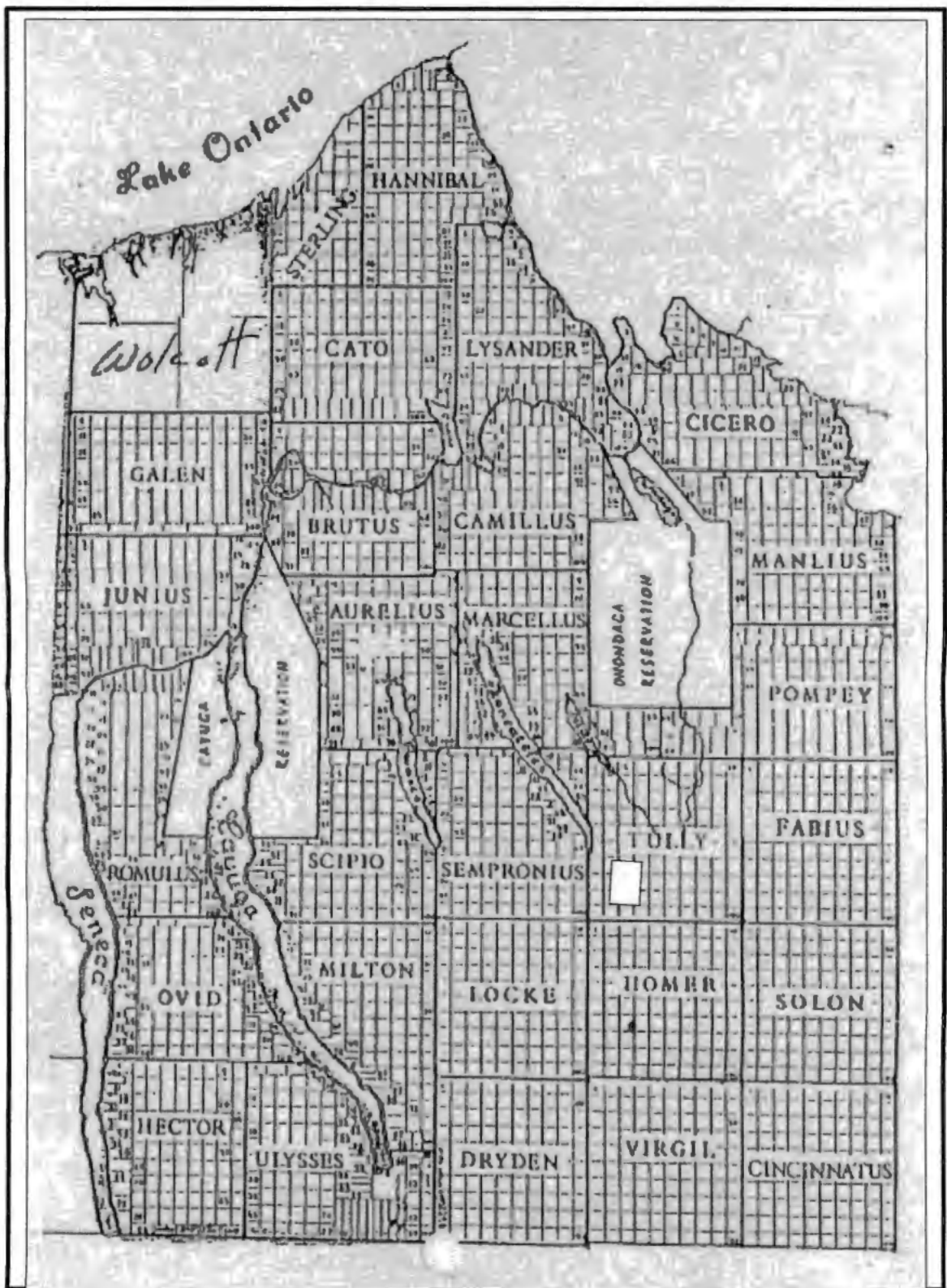
There was little faith in the currency during the Revolutionary War. The shortage of actual currency, the use of the barter system and the deep suspicion of the citizens towards any form of taxation had all contributed to the need for finding other means to encourage enlistments. But New York did have a vast surplus of land and a need to persuade New York soldiers to enlist. New York had a need to fill two regiments of infantry commanded by Colonels Goose Van Schaick and Pierre Van Cortlandt. (Note good Dutch names). These troops became known as the New York Line and were enlisted for three years. In July, 1782, the state of New York set aside the area known as the Military Tract. The Military Tract of Central New York was about 1.8 million acres of bounty land and extended roughly from Lake Ontario southward to the south end of Seneca Lake and from the east line of present Onondaga County westward to Seneca Lake. The present counties of Onondaga, Cortland, Cayuga, and Seneca were included along with portions of four additional counties—Oswego, Tomkins, Schuyler, and Wayne. Approximately 3,000, 600 acre lots were envisioned. All non-commissioned officers in the two regiments would get the 600 acre lots—each lot to be as square as possible. Deeds in Central New York commonly still refer to these “Military Tract Lots” today as “Great Lots” or “Farm Lots”.

The big problem that delayed the whole Military Tract plan, was the need to negotiate a treaty with the Cayuga and Onondaga Indian tribes to release their claims to the main portion of this land.



Col. James Leslie Voorhees, 1794-1865

Please notice the time frame. The two New York regiments were established in March 1781 and Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown seven months later. The treaty of Paris which ended the Revolutionary War was signed Sept 3, 1783. The boundaries of the area that would become the Military Tract of Central New York, were not established until July 1782, but it was not until 1789 before the divisions of the land was agreed upon with the Indian Nations. It took another year to survey the area into lots. It was not until the middle of 1790 that the names of the eligible soldiers (or their heirs and assignees) were put in a barrel and matched with Township Lots. Because it took so long for the soldiers to actually get their land, they were given script (an “I Owe You”) prior to 1790. Many got tired of waiting years for the land they were promised and resorted to selling their claims. Distrustful and illiterate soldiers often sold their claims for ridiculously small amounts.



Central New York Military Tract

As prospects of receiving the land became better and more was learned about the Military Tract, prices rose. Temptation grew for dishonest soldiers and land promoters to sell the claims more than once. This was easy because of the tax recording of the sales. The expense and difficult communications and the ignorance of many title holders were one cause of this laxity. Honest mistakes were also made because boundaries were not carefully defined.

Although all the land in the tract was not disposed of by 1804, it was all open to sale and settlement. The state was always obliging and lenient towards its tenants and grantees, and the transactions were concluded with as little friction as possible considering the magnitude of the operation.

The obstacles encountered in fulfilling the bounty promise were extremely frustrating. The State had expected to deal with the Indian affairs in the Tract, but claims to territory by other states, confusion resulting from errors in surveying, squatters, title difficulties and lack of agreement in interpreting the laws passed to designate who should receive bounty lands, all combined to keep matters in a state of turmoil for many years.

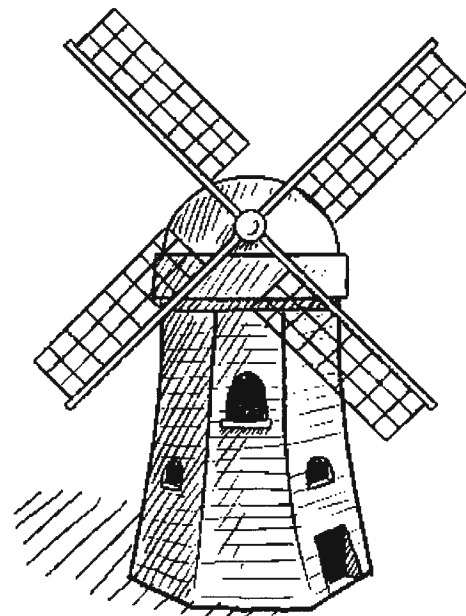
## POSTSCRIPT

The surveying was an enormous undertaking. The majority of the 20 surveyors were former officers. The names of several of the surveyors later appeared among those that were given bounty rights. Originally, 25 townships were surveyed. More were needed and three more townships were added. The names of the original townships are usually "classical" in origin: Lysander, Hannibal, Cato, Brutus, Camillus, Cicero, Manlius, Pompey, Romulus, Scipio, Sempronius, Tully, Fabius, Ovid, Milton, Locke, Homer, Solon, Hector, Ulysses, Dryden, Virgil, and Cincinnatus. Those added later were: Junius, Galen, and Sterling. Much speculation has been made through the years concerning the names given to the townships. The selection of the names was credited for many years to Simeon DeWitt, the surveyor-general, who was a "classical buff." He denied, however, the honor. By the late 1800s, the State Land Office began to believe that

the actual naming of the townships was done by Robert Harpur who was Deputy Secretary of the State of New York and Secretary of the Land Board at the time. One needs to remember that this was the time period of the French Revolution with its Romanticism and spirit of neo-classical revivalism. The community near Albany had taken on its name of Troy in 1789 and this also helped launch a classical naming spree affecting the entire Empire State.

Goose Van Schaick (1736-1789) was a Continental Army officer during the American Revolutionary War. He was the son of Sybrant Van Schaick, mayor of Albany. He was appointed brevet brigadier general in Oct 1783 and he served until Nov 1783, (the Revolutionary war ended Sept 3, 1783). He is most famous for his April 1779 expedition against the Onondaga Indians, starting from Fort Stanwix. His force of 558 men did not lose a man.

Pierre Van Cortlandt (1721-1814) was an elected politician from New York State and later a colonel commanding the Third Westchester Militia Regiment and later a general. With NY Gov. George Clinton away from the state in active military service Lt. Gov. Van Cortlandt had full charge of the Revolutionary government of the state and directed the entire war effort. Gen. George Washington ever referred to Pierre Van Cortlandt as his most trusted friend and ally.



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## Colonel James Leslie Voorhees and the American Whig Political Party

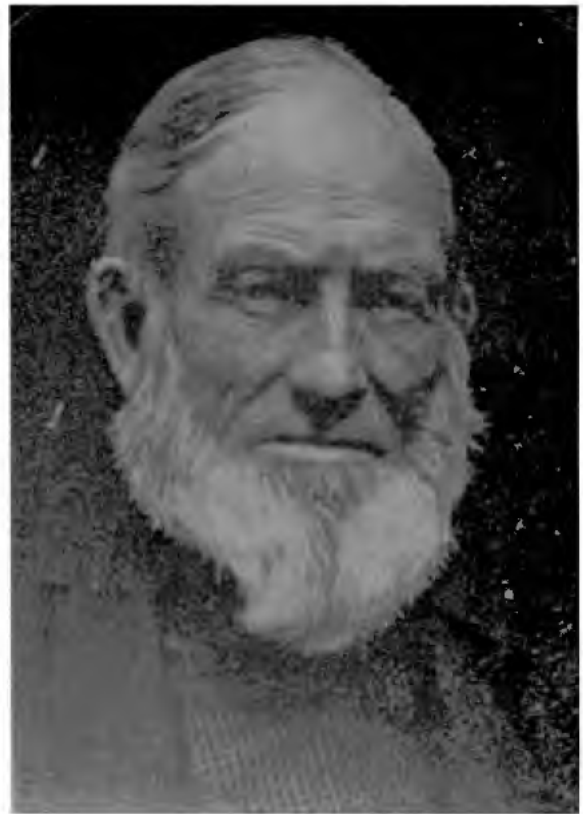
By Bob Voorhees

Colonel Voorhees (1794-1865), ran for the New York Assembly in 1832 as a member of the Anti-Masonic political party and lost. He ran for the New York Assembly in 1838 as a member of the Whig party and won. He was friendly with Henry Clay, the leader of the Whig party. Colonel Voorhees was such an ardent Whig that his home in Plainville, NY (near Syracuse) became known as Whig Hill (it is Whig Hill today). In the mid 1850's Colonel Voorhees and Abraham Lincoln were both Whigs. When the Whig party dissolved they both became Republicans. Lincoln was elected President in 1860 and Colonel Voorhees was one of his electors.

The American Whig party was formed in 1833 from a merger of the Anti-Masonic party and the National Republican party. The Whig party was dissolved in 1854 and succeeded by 1) the Know Nothing party, 2) the Republican party, 3) Opposition party (opposition to slavery), and 4) Opposition party (opposition to secession).

The American Whig party was founded following the tradition of the British Whig party. The party's main goals were to reduce the powers of the presidency, namely the perceived, by the Whigs, egregious actions of Andrew Jackson. The party favored economic protectionism, restraining the size of the federal government, and scaling back presidential decrees. These policy principles were embodied in Henry Clay's "American System," which were the heart of Whig policy ideas and had three main goals: 1) tariffs to protect and promote American industry 2) a healthy banking system to promote commerce, 3) federal dollars for American infrastructure. Further the Whigs favored a foreign policy that placed American interests first and scaled back American entanglements abroad.

The first of two elected Whig presidents was William Henry Harrison, who died only 30 days into his presidency. His vice president was John Tyler, who was doubted as a Whig. He cautiously pursued Whig policies. The second elected Whig president was Zachary Taylor, who died after a year and a half in office. His vice president was Millard Fillmore who endeavored to follow Taylor's policies. Taylor was a



Colonel James Leslie Voorhees

former American General famous for his bravery and successes in the American-Mexican war. He was not a politician and never held any office before his election to the presidency. The Whig party, a party of reformers, favored outsiders to the office.

### Postscripts

The Anti-Masonic Party was founded in 1828 and dissolved in 1838. It strongly opposed Freemasonry and was founded as a single issue party aspiring to become a major party. It introduced important innovations to American politics, such as nominating conventions and party platforms. It is interesting to note that Colonel Voorhees' father, his son, and his grandson were Masons but he was not. The Anti-Masonic Party had trouble finding qualified candidates that were not Masons.

The Know Nothing party, mainly active between 1854 and 1856, was a movement that arose in response to an influx of migrants. The "American System" was an economic plan that played a prominent role in American policy during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was rooted in the "American School" ideas of Alexander Hamilton. The plan "consisted of three mutually reinforcing parts: a tariff to protect and promote American Industry; a national bank to foster commerce; and federal subsidies for roads, canals, and other "internal improvements" to develop profitable markets for agriculture. Congressman Henry Clay was the plan's foremost proponent and the first to refer to it as the "American System". The plan was advanced by the Whig party.

Henry Clay ran for president three times and lost all three times. In the 1824 election Clay was evolving into the Whig Party (party lines were forming anew in 1824). In the 1832 election Clay ran as the National Republican Party candidate. In 1844 Clay ran as the Whig candidate.



**WHIG HILL, PLAINVILLE, NEW YORK**



**LAURA ANN (VORIS) MORTON (1830-1908)**  
**HOW DID LAURA ANN VORIS' BRANCH OF THE VAN VOORHEES FAMILY**  
**HELP TO SHAPE OHIO?**

By  
Dr. Frank "Mike" Davis  
Researcher & Owner of RootsQuest Press, LLC  
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*Editor's Note: This is a continuation of last month's article, "Laura Ann (Voris) Morton (1830-1908)" by Dr. Frank "Mike" Davis.*

After identifying Isaiah Voris (1750, NJ to 1834, OH) as Laura's grandfather, I contacted several Van Voorhees genealogists who helped me complete her ancestry. Below is the list of her ancestral grandfathers' names, and a summary of Laura's vital statistics:

Laura Ann Voris [10] William Voris, 9) Isaiah Voris, 8) Abraham Van Voorhees, 7) Auke Janse Van Voorhees, 6) Jan Stevense Van Voorhees, 5) Steven Coerts Van Voorhees, 4) Coerte Albertse, 3) Albert Coerte, 2) Coerte Thoe, 1) Jan Thoe], b. 21 May 1830, Harrison Twp., Perry County, OH <within the residence of her grandmother, Tacy (Roberts) Beveridge>, or born in Somerset, Perry Co., OH <within the residence of her father, William Voris>; married six times to five men (bearing six total children with her first three husbands); d. 10 o'clock a.m., 31 Aug 1908, Lima City Hospital, Allen Co., OH ("Exhaustion, Result of a Fractured Hip"); Buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Section 36 South, Lot 160, Lima, Allen Co., OH, under the headstone title "Laura A. Morton".

### **The Van Voorhees/Vorisy/Voris**

#### **"Invasion of Ohio"**

To describe how Laura Voris' "Family" (which includes you, the Van Voorhees reader), along with her "Collateral Relatives" and "In-Laws", influenced the economic development of Ohio, I will begin with her eldest ancestral USA grandfathers, and proceed down the line to her father, William Voris.

**1. Columbia and Mahoning Counties, Ohio:** Two of Laura's ancestral grandfathers married into the Seubering/Sebring family; namely, **5) Steven Coerts Van Voorhees**, who took a second wife, **Willemtje Seubering/Sebring**, and **7) Auke Janse Van Voorhees**, who married **Catherine "Sebring"**. Laura's Sebring cousins founded both cities of Sebring, Ohio and Sebring, Florida.

Willemtje and Catherine (Seubering/Sebring) Van Voorhees descend from their Dutch Patriarch, **Roelof Lukassen Seubering**. His numerous descendants (our Van Voorhees Cousins) are listed at <http://sebringohiohistoricalsociety.org/Familytree.html>.

The town of Sebring, Mahoning County, Ohio was created by the Sebring brothers George, Oliver, Ellsworth, Fred, and William, and by their sisters, Eve and Emma Sebring, who are all direct descendants of Roelof Lukassen Seubering. George Sebring later founded Sebring, Highlands County, Florida.

While living in East Liverpool, Columbia County, Ohio in the late 1800s, the five Sebring brothers dreamed of building their own "pottery" town, one that would bear their name and stand as a memorial to their work and ideals. They made frequent excursions throughout Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania in search of a desirable site to build commercial potteries, and to create a new town. The brothers finally decided upon an area in *Mahoning County, Ohio* (80 miles west of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania), an area which they considered to be "the most elevated and healthful tableland of our (Ohio) state."

In April, 1898 work began on the factories, stores, and homes that would become known as "Sebring,

Ohio". Miles of carefully planned paved streets, sanitary sewers with a modern disposal plant, electric lighting, two telephone systems, and numerous comfortable homes made Sebring one of the most pleasant industrial cities in Ohio in the early 1900s.

The Sebring family's first five pottery factories employed 3,300 workers. The pottery industry flourished for many years, and soon Sebring became known as the "*Pottery Capital of The World*". In 1912, Sebring became the site of a factory which produced a motor car, far ahead of its time. The modern "*Chrysler Sebring*" automobile was named in honor of renowned endurance car race called the "*12 Hours of Sebring*", which took place in Sebring, Florida.

**2. Franklin County, Ohio:** Laura Voris' grandfather, **9) Isaiah Vorys** (1750-1834) was among the pioneers of both Franklin County, Ohio and of the city of Columbus, Ohio.

In August, 1776 Isaiah enlisted in a New Jersey Revolutionary War Regiment, part of George Washington's "Continental Army", at "Sherwood's Ferry" (later called "Frenchtown"), New Jersey. On January 23, 1777, twenty days after General George Washington won the "Battle of Trenton", Isaiah Vorys and his fellow brigade of New Jersey soldiers captured Elizabethtown (now called "Elizabeth", NJ) from the occupying British forces. He was honorably discharged from the Continental Army in 1781. New Jersey is nicknamed "*The Jersey Blue State*" because of the "blue uniforms" worn by Isaiah and by all of New Jersey's Continental Army Revolutionary War soldiers.

Isaiah Vorys migrated from Washington County, Pennsylvania to Franklinton (a western neighborhood of modern Columbus, Ohio), Franklin County, Ohio between 1800 and 1808, so he was an early pioneer of Ohio, which became a State in 1803.

Just prior to 1800, "Mingo" Native American tribes had been living in Franklin County for hundreds of years. In 1796, the Mingos left the Columbus area because of the "Treaty of Greenville", which was signed on August 3, 1795 at Fort Greenville, now Greenville, Darke County, Ohio. The parties to the treaty were a coalition of Native American tribes, known as the Western Confederacy, and United States government represented by President George Washington's appointee, General Anthony Wayne, a Revolutionary War hero. At that time, the State of Virginia held the

territorial rights to central Ohio, which was called the "Virginia Military District".

A professional surveyor named "Lucas Sullivant" was hired by Virginia to plot land in the middle of Ohio for settlement by Virginia's Revolutionary War veterans to whom George Washington could not afford to pay cash wages. In 1795, Sullivant's task became hazardous when he and his crew were often attacked by Mingos and by wild animals. One worker was killed by Mingo gunfire as they surveyed what is now Franklin County.

In 1797, Lucas Sullivant opted to accept his surveying wages in land "payment", rather than with cash, and then he created a town on the west bank of the Scioto River, a waterway that runs through modern Columbus, Ohio. Because Lucas was a great admirer of Benjamin Franklin, his town was named "Franklinton". Before Columbus became an incorporated city in 1816, Franklinton was the most populated community within the northern part of the Virginia Military District.

In March, 1798 a Scioto River flood washed away all of the houses standing in Franklinton at that time. Rather than replace all of these structures, Lucas Sullivant "moved" Franklinton a quarter mile west of the Scioto River to "higher ground". He generously donated the land to those settlers who had lost their homes; hence, "Gift Street" was created, where Isaiah Vorys built his first reputable inn, or tavern, by 1808.

Franklin County was officially "carved" from Ross County, OH on March 30, 1803. Between 1803 and 1824, Franklinton served as the county seat for Franklin County, Ohio and it became an important town during the "War of 1812", when it served as a mobilization and training center for General William Henry Harrison's army. In 1813, General Harrison held a major conference with Ohio's Native American leaders under an elm tree behind Lucas Sullivant's home in Franklinton, so it's easy to imagine that Isaiah Vorys' inn was "booked full" at that time.

In 1870, Franklinton was annexed to Columbus, Ohio. In 1997, the Franklinton neighborhood celebrated its bicentennial with the dedication of a statue of Lucas Sullivant along the Scioto River waterfront. Nowadays, one of the major roadways running through downtown Columbus is "Sullivant Avenue".

Prior to the incorporation of the City of Columbus, Ohio in 1816, Isaiah Vorys had assisted in laying out the 1<sup>st</sup> plat of land within the heart of this town. In 1817, his second inn, called the "White Horse Tavern" was officially licensed to operate by the City of Columbus on South High Street (modern "German Village"). Both of Isaiah's inns offered more items than just food and drink; his taverns had held the reputation, throughout Ohio, for providing "first rate" lodging facilities, meeting rooms, and horse stables, west of Pittsburgh.

**3. Clinton County, Ohio:** By 1830, two of Isaiah Vorys daughters, **Ann (Vorys) Hallam and Sarah (Vorys) Hallam** (Laura Voris' Aunts), and their children, had migrated from Pennsylvania to Sabina, Clinton County, Ohio to become early settlers there.

**4. Fairfield County & Franklin County, Ohio:** In 1823, Isaiah Vorys' eldest son, **Abraham Vorys** (Laura Voris' Uncle, *and also her father-in-law!*), and his large family migrated to Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio from Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia. Fairfield County was created December 9, 1800 by the "Northwest Territory" U.S. government officials, two years before Ohio achieved Statehood on March 1, 1803. It was so-named for the beauty of its "fair" fields.

From 1796 to 1822, Abraham Vorys was among the first "teamsters" who regularly undertook 700 mile treacherous, round trip journeys with his teams of horses and wagons, across the Appalachian Mountains, between Wheeling and Richmond, Virginia. Until Ohio River traffic was made safe from Native American attacks, Ohio County West Virginia settlers relied on Abraham for their basic supplies.

Abraham Vorys "invaded" Fairfield County with 5 sons and 4 daughters, and many of their descendants reside in Fairfield and Franklin Counties, Ohio to this day. As mentioned earlier, Laura (Voris) Morton married Abraham's youngest son, Isaac Vorys, in Columbus, Ohio in 1855.

Laura and Isaac Vorys' only son, Charles Vorys, died in Lima, Allen County, Ohio leaving no issue, but their two daughters, Martha (Vorys) Rankins and Tressia (Vorys) Hauenstine, married and migrated to Nebraska as early settlers in the late 1800s.

There is not enough space in this Newsletter to explain how all 9 of Abraham's children helped to shape central Ohio, so I will briefly mention his eldest son, Isaiah

Vorys, Sr. (1796, Ohio County, WV to 1866, Lancaster, Fairfield Co., OH) . In 1823, Isaiah arrived at Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio with his father and his 8 siblings. He utilized his "roughing and finishing" carpentry skills to construct residential and commercial buildings, some of which showcased Dutch architectural motifs. Isaiah also crafted various furnishings, including ornate grandfather clocks.

Lancaster, Ohio was originally called "New Lancaster", and its first settlers arrived there in 1798. It was so-named for Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and became incorporated in 1831. It is thought by some historians that "Wheeling Street", which runs parallel to Main Street in Lancaster, was named to honor of the Vorys family who had migrated there from Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia.

The eldest son of Abraham Vorys, quickly became a reputable architect and contractor within Fairfield County. Between 1824 and 1826, Isaiah Vorys, Sr., built an addition to the historic "Mumaugh Memorial/Garaghty Home" at 162 E. Main Street home in Lancaster, which is available for touring today.

By 1824, Abraham Vorys and 7 of his 9 children had moved to Franklin County, Ohio in proximity to Abraham's father, Isaiah Vorys (1750-1834). They were all among the early settlers in and around Columbus, Ohio.

In 2016, nearly all of the families who have retained the VORYS surname spelling in Franklin County, Fairfield County, Perry County, Hocking County, and in Athens County, in Ohio are the descendants of Laura Voris' Uncle, Abraham Vorys (1775, NJ to 1840, OH) . When variations of the "Vorys" name occur among Abraham's descendants, they are usually the result of Census enumerators, of public officials, and/or of family members themselves who recorded his VORYS surname according to the way it *sounded* to them during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**5. Perry County, Ohio:** Between 1810 and 1819, Isaiah Vorys' (1750-1834) middle son and Laura Voris' father, **10) William Voris** (1781, NJ to 1854, Bremen, Fairfield County, OH), migrated from Washington County, Pennsylvania to Somerset, Perry County, Ohio.

Perry County was created in 1818. In 1820, Somerset contained only 27 households, so William Voris, his wife, Sarah (McCroy) Voris, and his 6 children were among the earliest inhabitants of Perry County.

Interestingly, the future Union Army General Philip Sheridan of Civil War fame, moved to Somerset in the 1830s and worked there as a "store clerk", so William most likely conducted business with the Sheridan family.

In 1835, William and his entire family, consisting of wife, Sarah, and now 7 children, migrated to Bremen, Fairfield County, Ohio. It is likely that William Voris took his illegitimate daughter, Laura, with him to this new residence, and I often wonder how Sarah felt about this situation.

**6. Hocking County, Ohio:** William Voris' eldest son (and Laura Voris' half-brother), **Isaiah Voris, Sr.** (1807, PA to 1880, Logan, Hocking County, OH), moved to Hocking County, Ohio by 1850. Isaiah and some of his children worked as "boatmen" on the Hocking Canal, which was a branch of the Ohio-Erie Canal, a major thoroughfare for business activities starting in 1838.

Only a few weeks ago, my family and I were vacationing in the Logan, Hocking County, Ohio area which is known for its scenic woods, waterways, and rock formations, which includes "Old Man's Cave". As I looked at the Logan city map, I noticed a "Voris Road" in the northwest section of Hocking County. When I asked the owner of Logan's canoe livery if she knew of Voris Road, she replied, "Oh yes, I know some Voris families." Ironically, had I not researched Laura Voris' ancestry, then I would have been ignorant of that fact that my family was actually vacationing in the middle of Laura's half-brother's original lands.

## SUMMARY

"Who was Laura Ann Voris?" One tenacious lady! She was able to survive the stigma of being born illegitimately, with no property or voting rights, by staying continuously married via 5 different men during her 78 years of life.

The journey to identify Laura's father led to surprising results. First, I had no inkling that I was connected to the Van Voorhees Family! Second, when I begin this quest, I had no idea that my research would lead me to discover and to study her grandfather, Isaiah Voris (1750-1834), which resulted in a 511 page e-book containing several hundred of his descendants.



**Laura Ann Voris, ca. 1893, Newark, Ohio**

The biggest challenge when writing this article was trying to focus on just one aspect of our Van Voorhees family, such as the influence of a few Vorys and Voris people had in the early formation of Ohio, because several whole books could be written about Isaiah Voris' descendants.

How did our Van Voorhees family help to shape Ohio? When Isaiah had arrived in Ohio, most of this state was covered solid with trees. Many of his children and his grandchildren were hard working farmers who had to cut down those trees, rip out their stumps, and produce tillable lands for high yielding crops, in order to survive and thrive. A few of Isaiah's offspring labored as reputable craftsmen to create quality finished products for their communities, and some became prominent attorneys and judges within their counties.

Beyond Ohio, several of Isaiah's descendants served valiantly in all of our Wars, some have held congressional offices. His family members married into both sides of the Hatfield and McCoy "feud", and numerous Isaiah Voris' progenies became pioneers and early settlers of our Western States.

\*\*\*\*\*

I welcome any thoughts, comments, corrections, and/or additional information you may have, related to this Article. Please contact me at:  
[rootsquestpress@yahoo.com](mailto:rootsquestpress@yahoo.com). ...Dr. "Mike" Davis

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Frank "Mike" Davis received his "Doctor of Optometry" (O.D.) in 1978 from The Ohio State University (O.S.U.) in Columbus, Ohio. In 1987, he graduated from Bethany Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois with a "Master of Divinity" (M.Div.) degree, with emphasis on "Pastoral Counseling" and the "Interpretation of Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic Languages". Dr. Davis received his "Juris Doctor" (J.D.) degree from Capital University Law School, Columbus, Ohio in 1997. Thereafter, he became a "bi-monthly Columnist" writing "Medico-Legal" informational articles for "Primary Care Optometry News" Journal. In 1995, Dr. Davis became interested in "genealogical research" after his father informed him that: "You represent the last surviving male Davis within my ancestry". Throughout the 1990s, before the internet became vogue, Dr. Davis spent many of his lunch hours drafting "query letters" and then "snail mailing" them to various libraries within the USA, and to archives around the world, seeking "primary source documents" connected to his DAVIS ancestors. Dr. Davis' ancestry includes England's "Plantagenet Royal Dynasty", represented by 14 Kings who ruled England from 1154 C.E. (King Henry II) to 1485 C.E. (King Richard III).

Shortly thereafter, Dr. Davis discovered that he also descended from three "Mayflower Pilgrims" (Richard Warren, John Howland, and John Tilley) of Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts (ca. 1620 C.E.), and that his ancestors included the "Van Voorhees Family" of Long

Island, New York (ca. 1660), purportedly the largest Dutch family in the USA today. The creation of this "Isaiah Vorys of the Van Voorhees Family" (1750-1834) genealogical book was inspired when, after 18 years of extensive research, Dr. Davis discovered that his ancestral grandmother, Laura Ann Voris, was Isaiah Vorys' granddaughter. By the year 2000, Dr. Davis learned that numerous ancestral family members had assumed major roles in the early development of the USA during the 1634 C.E. to 1865 C.E. time frames. In 2001, he began drafting a multi-volume "U.S. History Book" series with this theme: "The Formation of the USA, from the Mayflower Pilgrims to the Civil War Era, through the Davis Family's Eyes". In his attempt to reveal U.S. History in a unique and interesting way to all age groups, Dr. Davis has applied the "Nonfiction Historical Drama" *genre* based upon primary source genealogical documents, and he has adopted the *writing style* of English author, "Jane Austen" (1775-1817). Dr. Davis' ultimate goal ("bucket list") is to convert his "telling" of fascinating U.S. historical events into a "Roots-like" movie series.

In the mid-2000s, Dr. Davis founded "RootsQuest Press, LLC" with the goal of assisting anyone interested in discovering their own family's "roots", and for the purpose of researching, authoring, and producing USA History Books and Movies based upon genealogical discoveries. Dr. Frank "Mike" Davis may be contacted at: [rootsquestpress@yahoo.com](mailto:rootsquestpress@yahoo.com).

\* \* \* \* \*

## An Unknown Resolved

### Hats off to Raymond Bintliff of Acton, MA for resolving one of our unknowns.

We did not know the father of Daniel H. Voorhees (1795-1882). Ray obtained a death certificate for Daniel H. Voorhees and it clearly shows his father to be Hendrick Voorhees (#30832) (1756-1804). Ray can now trace his ancestors all the way back to the immigrant ancestor Steven Coerte Van Voorhees.

Flo listed many of our unknowns in the appendix of the Gen 1-6 book. This includes pages 747-826. We can use all the help we can get in resolving our unknowns.

## DNA TESTING

By Bob Voorhees

First some definitions:

Y-DNA testing looks at the DNA in the Y-chromosome, a sex chromosome that is responsible for maleness. All males have one Y-chromosome in each cell and copies are passed down (virtually) unchanged from father to son each generation.

**Used For:** Y-DNA tests can be used to test your direct paternal lineage - your father, your father's father, your father's father's father, etc. Along this direct paternal line, Y-DNA can be used to verify whether two individuals are descendants from the same distant paternal ancestor, as well as potentially find connections to others who are linked to your paternal lineage.

Maternal DNA, referred to as mitochondrial DNA or mtDNA, is passed down from mothers to their sons and daughters. It is only carried through the female line,

however, so while a son inherits his mother's mtDNA, he does not pass it down to his own children. It does mean, however, that both men and women can have their mtDNA tested.

**Used For:** mtDNA tests can be used to test your direct maternal lineage - your mother, your mother's mother, your mother's mother's mother, etc. mtDNA mutates much more slowly than Y-DNA, so it is really only useful for determining distant maternal ancestry.

The 4 top companies in DNA testing are MyHeritage DNA, 23 and Me DNA, Ancestry DNA, and FamilytreeDNA. We started with FamilytreeDNA 12 years ago and we have been happy with them. I am the Group Administrator for the Voorhees project. All of our work has been with Y-chromosome. Someone needs to look into mtDNA to determine whether we should be doing something in this area.

I would like to find someone interested in becoming the new Group Administrator.

\* \* \* \* \*

## GENEALOGY REPORT

By Bob Voorhees

It has been two years since Wholly Gene's announcement about the demise of Master Genealogist software. Many TMG users are interested in migrating to a new program however few have done so far. Nothing is available to do the job however two that show promise are Family Historian, a British software, and Roots Magic (Utah). We will keep monitoring these two programs. I have been using Roots Magic for some of my own genealogy information.

Currently, the development of the Historical Research Environment (HRE) project shows some promise. It's team of developers, headed by Robin Lamacraft, is committed to creating a path for importing TMG projects. This is an open source project to create a new program called HRE. The plan is that HRE will be compatible with existing TMG databases.

Since Flo Christoph passed away the position of Van Voorhees Association Genealogist has been open. Since this is primarily a volunteer position it has been difficult to fill. We are interested in talking with candidates.

## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Voorhies adds one more title to his credit

BY COREY VAUGHN | THE DAILY IBERIAN, New Iberia, Louisiana, Feb 12, 2017

Some of the titles Donald "Doc" Voorhies carries include philanthropist, teacher, actor, director, mentor and supporter of New Iberia's arts and culture. He can now add to that list The Daily Iberian's 2016 Citizen of the Year.

"We are so excited to honor Doc Voorhies as Citizen of the Year," Daily Iberian publisher Christina Pierce said. "He is legendary in this community for giving not only financially, but giving generously of his time and his talents."

For years, Voorhies has been a tour de force in providing help to local community organizations as well as his students. Voorhies prefers to stay in the background, and said with a laugh that he accepted the award with a bit of reluctance.

"I was actually at a party with friends, and she (Daily Iberian Teche Life Editor Vicky Branton) was there and announced it to the group, so I couldn't get out of that, which I tried to do," Voorhies said with a laugh.

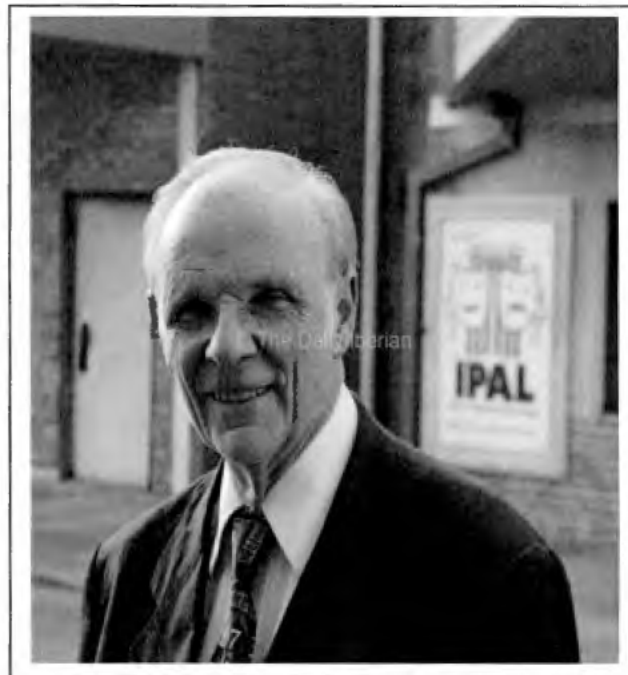
Each year since 1993, The Daily Iberian has selected a person, or sometimes a group, whose generosity and contributions to the community have stood out. The Citizen of the Year Award was inspired by the efforts of Teche Area residents who rallied to help others in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in August 1992.

"Actually I was very honored because of all the others who have received (the award)," Voorhies said.

### Our past honorees

Some of those previous winners include Da Berry Queens in 2015, Dave Feldman in 2014, the New Iberia City Park PlayGround Enhancement Project in 2013, Phanat Xanamane in 2012, Cathy Indest in 2011, Zachary P. Mitchell Sr. in 2010, Bernice "Chic" Borel in 2009, Jeff Jolet in 2008 and the late Brudley Kibodeaux in 2007.

Voorhies wears many hats, but above all considers himself a teacher. The New Iberia native graduated



**Donald "doc" Voorhies,**

Shown outside the Essanee Theater, Home of IPAL, is The Daily Iberian's 2016 Citizen of the Year.

from Catholic High School in 1963, then went to Loyola University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics. Following that, he attended the University of Pennsylvania to obtain a master's degree in math education research and a Ph.D in educational psychology with an emphasis in learning theory.

Earlier in his life, Voorhies never had plans to teach. The 71-year-old said he was plagued with a stuttering problem throughout his life that he thought would have disqualified him from teaching. It wasn't until the first time he received the opportunity to teach that he knew what his vocation would be.

"I walked into the first class the first day, and within one minute I knew that's what God had created me for," Voorhies said.

### **N.I.'s the place to be**

After teaching in a suburb of Pennsylvania called Phoenixville for 4 1/2 years, Voorhies said he came realized that wasn't the right place for him.

He said, "One day I was riding through town and I said 'You know, I'm still looking at this place like a tourist despite being here four years. I'm going home.'"

Voorhies landed a job at his alma mater, CHS, and continued to teach for more than 30 years. It's a job he loved so much that he even came back to it after six years of retirement when he was substituting a class.

"I was standing in class and there was (Catholic High School principal) Ray Simon, he said, 'Look Doc, we are in search of a physics teacher. Would you consider doing it?' I said sure," Voorhies said.

While on the phone during a Beta convention, Simon said without hesitation that Voorhies was a master-class teacher who has inspired hundreds, if not thousands, of New Iberia students.

"He's phenomenal. He's a master teacher, a great motivator of the students. He loves his kids," Simon said. "He supports Catholic High, but he also supports many civic causes, especially related to IPAL. He's really an inspiration for others, even those he didn't teach."

### **An IPAL stalwart**

Apart from teaching, Voorhies is most widely known for his relentless support for New Iberia's Iberia Performing Arts League. The nonprofit organization has blossomed into a vibrant theater and arts community in New Iberia at its home base of the Essanee Theater on Iberia Street.

Something happened in 2006 for Voorhies during his first production that made him fall in love with the organization. The play was "Fiddler on the Roof," and Voorhies said he was urged by a friend into performing for the first time.

"They needed a bunch of old men to be in 'Fiddler on the Roof' and the director was Katherine Caffery. She pestered me to do it," Voorhies said. "I kept telling her no, I had never been on a stage. She finally said if I

could teach school for 30 years in front of a classroom, then I could perform."

Voorhies credits the performance for curing his long-lasting stuttering problem. Although he speaks clearly in front of a class, it wasn't until "Fiddler on the Roof" that giving speeches at civic organizations came much easier.

### **Man Stearns on 'Doc'**

Mac Stearns, an IPAL veteran who was involved with the production, said "Fiddler on the Roof" was when he really got to know Voorhies as a person.

"Doc was in the chorus, and I played the rabbi," Stearns said. "It just so worked out that we sat together on the side for an awful lot of the time, and he started talking to me about IPAL, asking questions. He was very curious. He had just tried out for the show I guess for the heck of it."

"Once in the show, he began to ask questions. Being Doc, he's always curious about everything around him. In those conversations he began to see, I guess, how he could help out and how he could contribute, so he did. Once he started, he was just so loyal and so helpful."

Voorhies' many contributions to IPAL have included writing grants for the nonprofit, which Stearns said IPAL had never received before. More importantly, Stearns said it was his volunteer and close relationship with productions that proved him invaluable.

"His time, advice and support to IPAL were highly important," the veteran actor said.

"His grant writing was helpful, but as it turned out, wasn't necessary because the contributions in time and patience were far more important. We're just so fortunate that he tried out for 'Fiddler on the Roof.'"

### **Also helps museum**

Voorhies hasn't just stuck to IPAL for charitable efforts. The Bayou Teche Museum, which regularly has exhibits depicting the history, arts and culture of the area, is another place where Voorhies put his support behind when he provided the seed money for the Doc Voorhies wing of the museum.



"Doc Voorhies gave the seed money that was substantial enough to encourage other patrons to contribute to get the full amount to buy the building bearing his name," said Marcia Patout, director of the Bayou Teche Museum. "He's the one that everyone said, 'If he's giving that much, we can make up the difference.' That's why it's called The Doc Voorhies Wing."

During New Iberia's sister city exchange program with Woluwe-Saint-Pierre, Belgium a few years ago, Voorhies also took in chaperones in his home, allowing him to serve as a tour guide for the city and cultural ambassador. Voorhies said he still stays in touch and plans to visit Europe in the near future for a visit.

Other activities Voorhies has been a part of include grant writing for the Iberia Cultural Resources Association, taking roles in academic science and literary fairs and opening his home to Christmas and Garden Club tours.

A reception at The Daily Iberian, 926 E. Main Street, was held February 22 to honor Voorhies and his contributions.

\* \* \* \* \*

## IN MEMORIAM

### Betty E. Voorhies

Betty E. Voorhies, 88, went home to her heavenly Father on October 31, 2016. She was born on June 9, 1928, in Dayton, Ohio, to the late Robert and Christine Clark.

She retired from Pitney Bowes after 27 years of service. She moved to Four Seasons Retirement Center in Columbus, Indiana, around 2005.

Betty is preceded in death by her loving husband, Donald E.; her parents, Robert and Christine Clark; and brothers, Herb and Chuck.

She is survived by her son, Ken and wife Jennifer Voorhis of Mammoth, Wyoming; daughter, Gail Voorhis

and family friend Pat Bennett of Shelbyville, Indiana; grandchildren, Bonnie Jo (Voorhis) and husband Dan Dzieszinski, Woody and Robin Voorhis and Leslie (Todd) Lewis; great-grandchildren, Lysi, Belle, Drew and Xander Lewis; brother, Raymond and wife Norma Clark; and sisters-in-law, Carol Clark and Norma G. Clark. She was also survived by nephews, nieces and other family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, you may honor Betty by sending donations in her memory to provide young people opportunities to experience the Great Smoky Mountains or Yellowstone National Park. To do so contact Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont (GSMIT.org) or Yellowstone Association (Yellowstone.org).

Arrangements were entrusted to Baker-Hazel & Snider Funeral Home in Dayton, Ohio.

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*Through a Dutch Door: 17th Century Origins of the Van Voorhees Family* now must be purchased from Heritage Books Inc. The code name is V3758 and the price is \$22.00. The book can be ordered via website [www.heritagebooks.com](http://www.heritagebooks.com) or by mail to the address: **Heritage Books Inc.  
100 Railroad Ave., Suite 104  
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Attn.: Herbert Bates**

The Van Voorhees Association has published the 9th *Generation CD* (including 9<sup>th</sup> generation children).  
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-year 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,**

**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.**

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