



STEPHEN VOORHEES, 1840-1863, UNION ARMY, CIVIL WAR

By William Bradley

Stephen Voorhees was the son of Garret S. Voorhees (32791) and Adeline Veghte Voorhees, (32792). He was born on the family farm in 1840, the second of six children, and grew up in the Bedensville area of Montgomery Township, Somerset County, New Jersey, with his siblings, Cornelia, Ellen, Abraham, Samuel B., and Edwin W. In the 1860 US Census, Rocky Hill postal zone, he is listed as living on the family farm and working as a farm laborer. He and his youngest brother, Edwin W. Voorhees, were very close, despite their twelve-year age difference.



Somerset County map 1850, note GS Voorhees farm north of Beden Brook



Garret S. Voorhees and Adeline Veghte Voorhees (ca 1850)

**SCHEDULE 1—Free Inhabitants in Montgomery Township in the County of La
of Laurens enumerated by me, on the 13th day of Apr 1860. Montana
Post Office Rocky Hill**

Dwelling-house in order of valuation.	Family numbered in the order of valuation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	Description.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	Value of Estate Owned.		Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.
			Age.	Sex.	White, Black, or Indian.		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
222	222	Stephen Voorhees	44	m		Farmer	9600	14000	Pa
		Caroline "	37	f					Pa
		Margaretta "	8	f					Pa
		Charles "	5	m					
		Dominus Pappels	22	m		Farmer Laborer			
		Dick Bennett	46	m					Ireland
		Philip Brown	14	m	B	Servant			Pa
		Myr Belliam	21	f					Ireland
223	223	Garret S. Voorhees	50	m		Farmer	11000	4000	Pa
		Adeline "	40	f					
		Conelia "	21	f					
		Stephen "	20	m		Farmer Laborer			
		Ellen "	15	f					
		Abraham "	16	m		Farmer hands			
		Sam B. "	14	m					
		Edwin M. "	8	m					
		Mary L. Brown	14	f	B	Servant			

US Census form from 1860 with Garret S. Voorhees and sons Stephen and Edwin

In spite of early optimistic predictions, as the summer of 1862 approached, the American Civil War was not going well for the North. When the war began in April 1861, recruitment of soldiers was not a problem; many young men caught up in early patriotic fervor were eager to get into the

fight. But as the war dragged on, and casualties mounted, recruitment became more difficult. By July 1862 the Union Army was in urgent need of additional troops. President Lincoln called on the northern states to supply volunteers for the military, 300,000 for three years of service and 300,000 for a nine-month commitment. Each state was given a quota, which required it to provide that number of recruits.

In 1862 Stephen Voorhees was twenty-two years old, a prime age for military recruitment. There were rumors that a draft would be instituted if the state quota could not otherwise be raised. So, Stephen enlisted with the New Jersey Volunteers for a nine-month tour of duty. He was mustered into service on August 30, 1862 and joined the 30th Regiment of the New Jersey Volunteers at Flemington NJ.



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Stephen had a close and loving relationship with his family. Fortunately, he kept a diary during his time in the military. In it are observations, personal reflections and excerpts from letters written home. He must have been a deeply religious person, based on his diary entries.

He writes on August 30th:

“Father I would not have you think that I forgot my God O no. If it were not for prayer and a hope of Heaven I should be of all most miserable. We have a chapter read and a prayer offered before we lie down to sleep. Mr Van Cleef prays but when he is not with us (for some times he is on guard) some of the Boys read a chapter and I pray the best I can asking God to teach me how to pray and what to pray for. Father I would not have you think that I am not happy for I am, and trust that God will bring me safe through and home to my friends again but if otherwise ordered I hope it shall be prepared for.”

He writes on September 8th:

“I am happy hoping that I am a Christian”

By October 4th his regiment arrives at Fort Baker, one of the perimeter forts guarding the southern approach to Washington DC. His regiment calls their compound “Camp Somerset” in honor of their home county in NJ.

He writes to his mother on October 9th:

“Mother don’t worry about me for I am content with my lot I find great comfort in prayer and look to God to take care of me. We have five in our tent and have a Chapter read and prayer offered every night we seem quite like a little family when we all get together.”

On October 19th he writes to his father:

“I think a great deal of that letter you sent me for in it I find the words of eternal life and O how much they are worth to the immortal soul. I am glad I resolved to be a Christian before I left home if I had not I’m afraid I would have been ruined there is so much here to draw away the mind from Heavenly things to earth.”

In a separate letter to his mother that day:

“Tell Father to pray for me that I may not go astray for he knows what a Christian has to contend with here.”

He writes to his sisters and brothers, but he writes several especially touching notes to his youngest brother Eddie, of whom he is very fond:

“To Eddie, October 19th

You must be a good boy and say your prayers every night I want you to be a Christian so that if we never meet on earth again, we may meet in Heaven.”

... and on November 19th:

“You must say your prayers and offer a short petition for your soldier brother and this a great consolation to me. For in Him that all my trust you say Father that my testament is a friend for me yes it is the best friend that I have and not a day goes over my head but that I go to it for counsel and then often that go to my Father in Heaven of how soon I may have to stand

before the cannon's mouth and my daily prayer is that I may be brave and meet my fate like a man and find that these reflections tend to draw me nearer to my God."

Eddie wrote an equally tender letter to Stephen:

Bedensville October 14, 1862

My Dear Brother,

We received your welcome letter on Monday afternoon. You said in your letter that I must write but you must remember that I am a little boy. I have been picking apples today to take to the still for cider. Steve, I do wish that you could have some and if we could send you some it would be so nice. Steve, I have been thinking about you today. When it rained today how you have it, it makes me feel sad. I miss you when I go to bed for I am use (sic) to having you to sleep with me and keep me so warm. Yes and when I get in bed I am so cold that I have to wrap myself up in the covers and I dare say if you could get as good a bed as you used to have, you would be glad enough and when I get awake in the night I shove my foot around the bed and feel for you and where is Steve then. I think he is gone out to see the girls. And then I think no, no he is gone to war. Yes he is doing a far better work than going to see the girls. Fighting for his country brave boy. Steve how are your guns, have they got bayonets on. Yes they have I suppose they must be very handy are they very heavy. I hope not for it would be so heavy for you to carry. And Steve remember when you go out to battle that if you are to fall be prepared for death. Steve I must bid you good-bye.

Write soon to me

Farewell from your affectionate little brother

E. W. Voorhees

(PS Eddie had no help with this G. S. V.)

Following a visit into the city of Washington on October 27th, Stephen is inspired and writes in the diary:

"As I stood and gazed at the paintings of Washington, Jackson and other noble statesmen I thought could it be that they should ever fall in the hands of traitors and also that beautiful building? The thought came quick to my mind forbid it God, rather let me die first and all our noble boys shot down with me."

... and in a letter to his mother on November 7th:

"Dear Mother You say you miss me not doubt you do but you know my country would miss me more in this hour of her peril. I would be cruel man not to sustain her. Now mother you must keep up a good heart and trust in God for He doesth all things well what ever awaits me and if we may not meet again on earth we may meet in Heaven. This is the prayer of your son, Stephen."

Stephen becomes very ill and writes on November 20th:

"I was taken by the mesles [sic] and was very sick."

On December 1st his regiment marches out of Camp Somerset but Stephen and others suffering from illness were left behind. On December 2nd they were transferred to Emory Hospital in Washington DC. While there on December 11th he writes this prayer:

*Teach me Almighty Father how to die
Give me the [forward] to eternity
Wherein I have offended of forgive!
While yet I am living, teach me how to live*

On December 13th he expects to be released to join his regiment. He writes to his brother Samuel:

“I am going to my Regiment you know and do not know how soon I shall be in Battle. I hope wherever I chance to meet the foe I may be brave and what ever my fate may be I trust I’m prepared to meet it.”

Apparently, he was too sick to rejoin his regiment so remained in the hospital.

The Battle of Fredericksburg took place between December 11 – 15, 1862. It was a disastrous defeat for the Union Army with thousands of casualties. Some of these were transported to Emory Hospital where Stephen remained. He writes to his father on December 19th:

“Father we have been whipped again. I know you feel very bad about it but not as bad as I do for we have the wounded all around us shot in every possible manner and we [here there] hear their groans. We have 25 of them in our ward and how they looked when they were brought in you could hardly tell them from Black men. We done all we could to make them comfortable they only reminded me of the Battle of Fredericksburg.”

... and to his sister, Ellen, referring to one of these wounded:

“In one of his delirious turns on coming out of a conflict with the Rebels he said that we may have peace, O that we may have peace. Great God send us Peace.”

His father probably writes the next entry in the diary. It says simply:

Stephen Voorhees 1863, Died January 7th. Father and Mother with him at Washington, D.C.

The final entry notes that the text preached at Stephen’s funeral included a passage from Isaiah 40:

“Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

Like so many young men during that terrible time, Stephen was taken away from home and thrust into a world he was neither familiar with nor prepared for. He was fortunate to come from a large, loving family. His faith was strong and his hopes sustained by a belief in being reunited in the afterlife. Despite this, it is not difficult to detect his underlying fear of what awaited him. A sense of near terror seems to crescendo toward the end. It was a blessing that his mother and father could be with him at the time of his death.

His little brother Edwin, was devastated by Stephen's death. Over a century later, Edwin's 89-year-old daughter, Lucy Shephard Voorhees Sawyer, was asked about family members involved in the Civil War:

“Well, the one that was nearest to us was my father's brother Stephen. He was very close to Uncle Stephen. Stephen went to war and he caught fever and died in Washington DC. Father was broken hearted. He was ten years younger than Stephen. Father never got over losing his brother.”



Edwin Walton Voorhees (ca 1910)

Stephen never participated in battle so his bravery was never tested. Perhaps that was a blessing. His writings give no indication that he was full of bravado, more likely haunted by fear and doubt. He was very honest in expressing concern over how he would react in battle:

“... how soon I may have to stand before the cannon's mouth and my daily prayer is that I may be brave and meet my fate like a man...”

“I hope wherever I chance to meet the foe I may be brave and what ever my fate may be I trust I'm prepared to meet it.”

Though not involved in combat, he did witness some of the human toll and suffering of war. During his time in Emory Hospital he shared space with battlefield casualties from Fredericksburg, with their gruesome wounds and tortured groans.

Isn't it ironic that two-thirds of all deaths in the Civil War were due to disease and not a result of the fighting? Stephen would succumb to complications of a disease - considered relatively benign today - that was as deadly as wounds inflicted in combat. His body was ravaged by disease, not battlefield wounds, but the suffering he endured was just as real.

Stephen Voorhees was one of the over 600,000 men who died during the war. Many of them were like Stephen: young and at an age when they should have been embarking on their life journey. Many were coming straight off the farm; naïve to the ways of the world and frightened of what war bode for them.

Stephen was fortunate; he was fortified by love of family, belief in the Union cause and his strong Christian faith. Yet I suspect, at heart, he was just a scared boy. Had he survived, and completed his service, he would certainly have come away a changed person; perhaps cynical and jaded; perhaps more rooted in his faith; perhaps emotionally traumatized, but certainly no longer a naïve farm boy.

Edwin would work on the family farm until he reached his age of majority. He then embarked on his journey. He met his future wife while picking blackberries at the adjacent farm in Bedensville. They would have six children. Lucy, my grandmother, was the third child. She would marry Herbert Sawyer, a Methodist minister. One of his churches was in Flemington NJ. Edwin loved to visit Lucy from his home in New Haven CT. It would bring back memories of his brother Stephen who had trained there after joining his NJ Volunteer Regiment in 1862.

Lucy recalls:

“My father loved Flemington because his brother had been there in the camp... in the Civil War his brother Stephen had been encamped there. They came down to visit us. He had a wonderful time looking around, you know.”

Editor's Note: William Bradley is the grandson of Lucy Voorhees Sawyer (37674), daughter of Edwin Walton Voorhees (35106).

IN MEMORIAM

DOROTHY Voorhies Brooks, 1931-2020

Doris (Dotty) Voorhies Brooks passed away peacefully on Friday, May 8, 2020. Dotty was born in Louisiana on October 19, 1931; the second born child of Lois and William Voorhies. Dotty was married to her lifelong companion, Roy, who preceded her in death on December 4, 2016. They married on August 9, 1950 and together they lived out their beautiful version of happily ever after. Five children were born from this union. Michael J. Brooks (deceased), Cynthia B. Dragan, Peggy B. Metzger, Kathleen B. Bee, and Jennifer B. Baron. Dotty and Roy had eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren, all of whom were a great source of pride and deep love. Dotty's life was centered around the love of her family as well her art and creative endeavors. She wasn't easily intimidated by new adventures and failure wasn't in her vocabulary. She courageously embarked upon all new undertakings with confidence and excitement. If she made the choice to do something, she did it - and did it exceptionally well. Dotty's adventurous spirit led her to write a beautiful and touching memoir entitled Sky Blue Pink. She discovered that writing about her life led to an even better understanding of who she was. It provided the opportunity for her (and her readers) to revisit many of her emotions and invoke countless special

memories of a life well lived through persistence, presence, and steadfast love. All those who knew Dotty will remember her incredible artistic talent as a painter. She was a successful portrait artist and dabbled in many other painting genres up until her final stages of life. She accepted several awards for her work, but that was never as important to her as why she painted - for love and self-expression. Her creativity never left her, and she had a deep gratitude for the purpose and passion that brought to her life. Her and her husband Roy were the best of friends and incredible life partners. They were passionate about playing backgammon together and kept a little score book on their game table. They passed this love of the game down to all their children who then passed it to the grandchildren and even the great grandchildren. Humor was always included in their games as Dotty was known to "talk to her dice." Somehow, it seemed they listened and nobody questioned it. She would laugh throughout the game with a joy that was contagious to all those lucky enough to witness. Dotty and Roy shared their love of laughter and fun and perhaps that was what kept their romance kindled until the end of their lives. They were a beautiful example of unconditional love and a happy marriage. Dotty was an integral part of creating a beautiful and strong foundation for her family and will continue to be a constant source of inspiration to all who knew and loved her.

“Historical Handbook of the Van Voorhees Family in the Netherlands and America”

This is our third time at reproducing The Van Voorhees Association’s published handbook, 1935, entitled, “Historical Handbook of the Van Voorhees Family in the Netherlands and America”, With Illustrations by Stephen J. Voorhies. We hope you were lucky enough to have purchased one when it was still in print, as it has been out of print for quite some time. Once again, we extend a thank you to one of our longtime members, John Van Voorhis, for transcribing the book into Word format. We are sharing this with our membership in the next several issues of our newsletter. The contents page will not be included as the page numbers will be irrelevant. There are some interesting stories in this book, so keep watching for them in future issues of the “Van Voorhees Nieuwsbrief”!



VI

THE FAMILY ARRIVES AT NEW AMERSFOORT

When Steven Coerten came to New Netherland it was with the purpose to make his home in New Amersfoort on the Island of Nassau where a number of Dutch families had been living for some years. An inducement, in addition to the evenness of the land, reminiscent of the fatherland, and its bordering on that body of inland water now known as Jamaica Bay, also reminiscent of the Zuider Zee, was the fact that land tenure was fairly certain, and there were opportunities to purchase meadow and pasture lands, and also a home and a business.

It was a happy group indeed that, after six or more weeks on shipboard, and a brief stay in New Amsterdam, arrived at the new settlement, and was welcomed by former fellow citizens of Drente, and by others whom they soon came to know as neighbors who were already settled in their new homes with a hopeful look toward the future.

There was first father Steven Coerten, a Patriarch indeed! At sixty years of age he was the head of a large and interesting family. Then came his daughter Hendrickje, and her husband Jan Kiers, eagerly seeking a place where youthful energy might find suitable opportunity for initiative. Then came the oldest son, Coert, who had encouraged the family migration. He too was ready to face the vicissitudes of pioneer life in the new land. The name of the mother of these older children has not been learned.

Then came Willempie Roeloffse Suebering, or Sebring, Steven's second wife, and the mother of six sturdy children. She willingly shared the fortunes of her husband in the new world. During the long voyage she had kept her brood in health which was much to her credit. We now know that they all grew to maturity, as did one other son, Abraham, born after the family had arrived. These children were introduced to their neighbors as Lucas, who was ten, Jan, Albert, Aeltje, Jannetje, and Hendrickje. This is the order in which their names appear in Mr. Bergen's books and in the Genealogy of the Van Voorhees Family. It may be the order of their birth, though there are reasons to indicate that the three girls were older than Albert, and Aeltje and Jannetje were twins. On the *De Bonte Kou* passenger list, ages only were given - 22, 10, 8, 6, 4, 2. As this accounts for only six when there seven, the suggestion that two were twins has been made. That there was also a son Abraham was asserted by Mr. Bergen, and accepted by Elias Van Voorhis in his genealogy, but no dates respecting him have been found.

Now on the soil of the new world at New Amersfoort Steven Coerten and Mother Willempie, with their vigorous brood shod in wooden shoes, and dressed as fashion decreed for the well-to-do of Drente, looked about for a location for a home. Before winter set in, he made a purchase, as will be told in another chapter, and soon all the home furnishings they had brought with them, and additional purchases, were duly distributed, and the routine of pioneer life had begun. Each child found place in the family economy, and began the real task of becoming adjusted to the new environment.

A point of interest was the Dutch Reformed Church that had been organized at New Amersfoort six years before their coming. A warm welcome was prepared when it was noised abroad that the minister, Rev. Johannes T. Polhemus, was coming on Sunday to hold a service in a neighboring loft, and consult with the people about the church they were to build when funds would allow. Toward this the family contributed with its savings, and offered in addition timbers from the wood lot so that the work went forward and was completed about three years later.

A year after the church was built a great change took place in the political status of New Netherland, including New Amersfoort. In 1664 a British man-of-war came to anchor off the tip of Manhattan facing the guns of the Dutch fort, and demanding the surrender of the colony from Peter Stuyvesant, the testy governor. It mattered not how proud the Dutch, nor how brave their governor, superior British cannon backing an imperial demand made surrender inevitable.

While many loyal Dutchmen wept when they beheld their flag replaced by the English ensign, they had one triumph with which to console themselves. The far-seeing pastor of the Church of Manhattan, Rev. John Megapolensis, whose son had studied at Harvard, and knew something of English rule, secured the inclusion in the articles of capitulation of a clause

insuring the independence of the Dutch Reformed Church. Though the burgers of New Amsterdam, and of New Amersfoort as well, had to accept a new government and avow a new allegiance, the ancient church order, coming out of the Reformation through the independence of the United Provinces under William of Orange, and finding its latest interpretation in the rules adopted in 1619 by the Synod of Dordrecht, was still to prevail. Thus a strong bond of union with the Fatherland was to hold, though former political ties must thereafter be relinquished.

NEW AMERSFOORT

Some historians hold that New Amersfoort was the earliest white settlement on Long Island. Reference to an early map of Kings County shows that it is located several miles inland, near the shores of Jamaica Bay, a landlocked body of water having access to the Atlantic ocean through a narrow inlet at what is now Rockaway Point.

New Amersfoort was on the site of an ancient Indian village, called Kaskachague, at the crossing of two ancient Indian trails. From that village as a center, one trail led southwestwardly toward Gravesend, and beyond to the Narrows near Ft. Hamilton, and northeastwardly to the East River at Newtown Creek, corresponding generally to the present Kings Highway; the other led northwestwardly in the general direction of the present Flatbush Avenue toward what is now downtown Brooklyn, and southeastwardly a short distance to the "Shell Banks" at Mill Avenue on the shores of Jamaica Bay. The banks, still in evidence, were immense heaps of banks of oyster, clam and other sea shells, the refuge of an extensive "sewan" or "wampum" manufacturing industry carried on by the Indians from time immemorial. Here the Canarsie Indians, the native bankers of the period, had their "mint." In this vicinity they laboriously cut out and polished the shell beads called sewan or wampum then used as money throughout the Atlantic seaboard. This Indian currency has been found as far north as Hudson Bay and Alaska.

This far inland location became the site of a very early, if not the earliest, white settlement on Long Island for a very sound reason. Long Island generally was quite heavily wooded and much of it stony and difficult to till. To clear and prepare the land for cultivation would involve much time and strenuous labor. At this crossing of Indian trails, however, were several small, treeless prairies or plains several thousand acres in extent, of rich black soil, elevated slightly above sea level, surrounded on the southeast and northwest by forest-bordered streams, and on the south and east by sedge meadows and the waters of Jamaica Bay. Some of the land had been crudely cultivated by the Indians. Here the early Dutch immigrants found land ready for immediate cultivation with a minimum of labor - almost a complete counterpart of the lands in Holland which they had left for homes in the New World.

Amersfoort was a town in Holland whence had emigrated in 1630 one Wolphert Gerritse, who with Andreas Hudde, probably acting as agents of the Dutch West India Company, obtained from Indian chieftains, in 1636, deeds to several thousand acres of land in this section. He gave the name of his native town to the new settlement.

The date of the first permanent settlement at New Amersfoort is not definitely known. The earliest arrivals undoubtedly came for purposes of trade. There is evidence that as early as 1624 farmers were cultivating fenced-in lands leased from the Indians. By 1636 Indian chiefs had been induced to trade away the patrimony of their people. The generation intervening between 1636 and 1660, the year Steven Coerten and his family arrived, afforded sufficient time for the establishment at Amersfoort of a considerable community of Dutch farmers, artisans, hunters and fishermen.

STEVEN COERTEN, LAND OWNER

Our common ancestor must have been possessed of substantial means, or at least of excellent credit, for it is of record that, on November 29, 1660, within six months after his arrival, he purchased from Cornelius Diercksen (Hooghlant) for 3400 guilders (\$2000) — a very considerable sum of money for those days - several scattered parcels of land aggregating some thirty-one morgens, or sixty-two acres; also, a house, houselot, and brewery. The deed of conveyance was written in Dutch and, accompanied by an English translation is recorded in book B of Flatbush records at page 27. A copy of this quaint and interesting document follows:

“Praise to God. In Midwout, November 29, 1660, A.D., Appeared before me Adriaen Hegeman, herein Secretary of Midwout and Amersfoort in New Netherland, and before the hereafter named witnesses, Corneles Deresen Hooghlant on the one side and Steven Koerten on the other; the said Cornelis Dircksz Hooghlant acknowledging that he has sold and he, Steven Koerten, that he has bought of him, a parcel of maize land situate within Amersfoort, between the bowery of Wolffert Gerritsen Van Couwenhoven and Frans Jensen, Timmerman (carpenter), wide on the west side thirty-six rods, on the east side thirty-two rods, large nine morgens; further a piece of woodland situate north of the land of Elbert Elbertsz, south of the land of Frans Jansz, wide on the east side thirty-two rods, on the west side twenty-four rods, running from the maize land to the land of Spysser, about west-northwest, large seven morgens; a piece upon the flats, lying between the Town and Jan Martensz, wide thirty-eight rods, large ten morgens; a piece of Meadow situate between Spysser and Jacob Van Couwenhoven, large five morgens; amounting together to thirty-one morgens: Together with the house and houselot lying and being in the Town of Amersfoort, and the ricks, with the brew house and all the brewing implements, kettles, tubs, vats and all that belongs thereunto, with a wagon, plow and iron harrow, with two oxen together with the grain that is at present sowed upon the said land and four schepels of pease and four schepels of buckwheat. This above is sold with everything thereon that is earth-and-nail-fast; and further with such active and passive obligations and equities, as the seller has possessed the same to the date hereof according to the transport thereof, for which purpose it is herein mentioned: in which it shall be surrendered to the purchaser on the day of transfer. This aforesaid land, houselot and house and the above are sold and shall be surrendered to the purchaser free and unencumbered without any burdens resting thereupon or emanating therefrom, savings the Lord’s right.

For this purchase of this aforesaid land and rights Steve Koerten, purchaser of the aforesaid land and belongings, promises to pay to the aforesaid Corneles Deresen Hooghlant, or to whosoever may acquire his title, the sum of 400 guildens, Holland money and 3000 guildens in good strung negotiable sewan, viz, in four installments: the first installment of 400 glds Holland money payable by exchange in Holland in the next coming summer; and the second installment in May 1662, 1000 glds; and the third installment in May 1663, 1000 glds; and the fourth installment in May 1664, 1000 glds.

For the accomplishment and fulfillment hereof the parties on either side, each in his capacity, pledge their persons and property, nothing excepted, in subjection to all laws and judges. Thus done and executed in Midwout upon Long Island, in presence of Witnesses hereunto invited. December 4, 1660. A. D.

“Cornelis Diercksen
Steven Koers
Nicholaes de Meyers
Aucke Yans”

It will be noted that the down payment for these lands was exactly nothing, and that the bulk of the deferred payments - 3000 gulde (guilders) - was payable in “sewan” or strings of Indian money.

The affairs of Steven Coerten seem to have prospered. In 1664 he became a Magistrate, a post of dignity and influence. In July of that year the Dutch surrendered New Netherland to the English. The change in sovereignty from Dutch to English caused considerable uncertainty as to the validity of land titles. In 1665 the inhabitants of New Amersfoort applied to the English governor at Albany for a patent of confirmation. Under date of October 4, 1667, Governor Nicolls issued a patent, known as the Nicolls Charter, to eight named inhabitants of “Amesfort als Flatlands.” *Steven Coerten* and *Coert Stephens*, his eldest son, were two of the eight patentees named in the Charter which confirmed in the town and in the inhabitants thereof title to their respective land holdings.

During his lifetime Steven Coerten acquired several other tracts of land in and about Flatlands. His sons and daughters married into the “best families” of the settlement and appear also to have prospered. In 1673 the Amersfoort or Flatlands Town records were destroyed by fire, wiping out much evidence of prior land transfers, and making the tracing of early land titles very difficult. Steven Coerten died on February 16, 1684, at the ripe age of eighty-four, possessed of several tracts of land in and about Flatlands, as is evidenced by later conveyances made by his heirs. He left a will dated August 25, 1677 of which no copy is extant.

His sons and grandsons appear also to have had a flair for real estate. Thus it came about that in the third generation members of the Van Voorhees family in Flatlands were among the largest landholders of the landed aristocracy of that day. Several tracts of land that were purchased before 1725 remained in the family until about 1850, when they were partitioned among the several heirs who from time to time during the latter half of the last century disposed of them to land development companies. To this day two worthy descendants of Steven Coerten live on a corner lot that may be part of the house-lot and brewery, the homestead purchased by Steven Coerten in 1660.

Long after the English occupation in 1664 the Dutch inhabitants clung tenaciously to their native customs and language. The descendants of Steven Coerten in the third generation following his death in 1684, conforming to the English custom and to the requirements of English law, gradually adopted "Van Voorhees" as the family name. This is revealed in family letters and in deeds recorded in the early part of the 18th century. As an example, Garrett Coerte, grandson of Steven Coerten, and son of Coert Stevensen, purchased in 1703 a farm of ninety-six acres at New Utrecht lying northwestwardly from the New Utrecht Dutch Reformed Church. The deed runs to "Garrett Coerte." He died in 1704, owning the farm, which was conveyed in 1713 by "Kort Van Voorhuys, eldest Son and heir of Garrett Koerte, deceased." From this time on, Van Voorhees or Voorhees, though variously spelled, became the family name of the descendants of Steven Coerten. However, one branch of the family was known for a time as Stevenson, and another branch - descendants of Eldert, oldest son of Lucas Stevensen = still bear the name Eldert.(1)

Footnote 1. Two sections of this chapter - "New Amersfoort" and "Steven Coerten, Land Owner" were read by Ralph S. Voorhees, A.M., LL. B, at a rally held in New York City June 30, 1934.

THE FAMILY GROWS

In this world no family remains stationary, and changes were to be expected in that of our common ancestor. Shortly after the arrival Coert Stevensen made the acquaintance of Marretje Gerritse Kouwenhoven, a granddaughter of Wolpert Gerritse Van Kouwenhoven, who had been one of the largest landowners of the section. Her family did not oppose his intentions. A little later the bans were published and the wedding day announced. Pastor Polhemus arrived in due time and the marriage was solemnized, very possibly the first in the new church. If the Domine's record of marriages had been preserved the date could be stated. It was no doubt recorded in a family Bible, but that too seems not to have been preserved. We must be content with the fact, and with the further statement that in the home that Coert Stevensen made on a corner of the Kouwenhoven or Couwenhoven plantation nine children were born and grew to manhood and womanhood.

As it happened an extended law suit was necessary to compel the executor of grandfather Couwenhoven's estate to make full payment to the heirs. When this was done, Coert Stevensen became one of the well-to-do men of Amersfoort. The assessment roll of 1675 shows that his estate was larger by 15 pounds than that of his father. A year later the situation was reversed, for the father, having added twenty-five acres to his holdings, was assessed for 25 pounds more than the son.

Eight years passed after Coert Stevensen's marriage before Lucas, the second son, took upon himself the responsibilities of a home. In 1671, when twenty-one years of age, he married Catherine Hansen Van Noortstrand, and settled in Flatlands, not far from his father's home.

During decade that followed marriages occurred in quick succession. In 1773 Jannetje married Jan Roelofse Schenck, and they made their home in Flatlands. Within a year Aeltje married Barrent J. Van Ryden or Ryder, and removed to Ryder's Lane on the way to Gravesend. If these sisters were younger than their brother Albert, they were married at the early age of sixteen. If older than he, they were but eighteen.

Then in 1676 the youngest daughter, Hendrickje married Albert Albertse Terhune. They lived first at Flatbush, and then about 1684 removed to near Hackensack, N. J. Here, after the birth of their eighth child, Hendrickje died, and Albert Terhune married again in 1693, and five children were born. In 1705 he married a third time and one daughter, Annetje was born the following year. This name will be noted, for by the second marriage there were two daughters of essentially the same name, the first dying in infancy.

The significance lies in the fact that Steven Coerten seems to have had two daughters named Hendrickje. The first had married Jan Kiers and they came to America with her father but had no children. Elias Van Voorhis knew of this marriage, and also of Hendrickje who married Albert Terhune. He therefore concluded that she had married a second time after the death of Jan Kiers. But as his will has been discovered as probated in 1704, after the death of the second Hendrickje, the conclusion was incorrect. Steven Coerten therefore had two daughters named Hendrickje, the one by his first wife, and the other by the second, which the custom of the time did not oppose. Some facts respecting the older Hendrickje will be noted in a letter from the home land quoted in a later chapter.

Two years after the marriage of Hendrickje Stevense and Albert Terhune, Jan Stevensen married Cornelia R. Wizzelpenning, who did not survive the birth of a son Stephen. On October 8, 1680, he married second, Femmetje A. Van Nuyse, and they lived on the road toward Flatbush on a portion of the ancient highway now called Amersfoort Place.

That same year Albert Stevense married Barrentje Willemse, who did not survive the birth of a daughter, Cornelia. In 1681 he married second Tilletje R. Wizzelpenning, a sister of his brother's deceased wife, Cornelia. Two children were born to them, both named Stephen, as the first born did not survive. In 1684, when thirty-two years of age, Albert Stevense moved to a plantation near Hackensack, N.J. He was the first of the sons of Steven Coerten to leave the Island of Nassau and make his home in New Jersey. There in 1693 he married third Helena Vander Schure.

On February 16, 1684, three years after Albert's first marriage, Steven Coerten died, having lived fourteen years beyond the scriptural age of three score years and ten. There were then thirty living grandchildren in America, nine in Coert's family, five in Lucas's, two in Jan's, four in Aeltje's, five in Jannetje's, four in Hendrickje's, and one in Albert's. He was a patriarch indeed. When past middle life he had left the home of his ancestors in Drente, had founded a home, his children grown to maturity and settled in homes of their own. He indeed rejoiced in a growing group of thirty grandchildren, all inheriting something of his Dutch sturdiness, and destined to perpetuate his blood through many generations.

CHART ILLUSTRATING THE GROWTH OF THE FAMILY OF STEVEN COERTEN

The dates on this Chart are for the most part those given in the Van Voorhees Genealogy. A few corrections have been entered, but there has been no opportunity to examine the data to be found in other genealogies. Where exact dates are not given, the years of birth are partly conjectural.

Some errors are noted when the order of the birth of the children in a family is not known. The children of Steven Coerten are entered in the order in which they appear in the Family Genealogy, though it is believed that two daughters, Aeltje and Jannetje Stevense, were older than their brother Albert.

The sons of Steven Coerten are designated, as in the Condensed Genealogy: A, Coert; B, Lucas; C, Jan; D, Albert, and E. Abraham; and the grandson by the numerals - 1 to 26 - therein given them. If all their birth dates had been known they might have been numbered chronologically.

An evident error appears in the order of the children of Lucas Stevensen and his second wife, Jannetje Minnes, as given in the Family and the Condensed Genealogy. The son Minne was listed as younger than Albert, who was born May 10, 1698. But Minne was married on April 25, 1717 - at seventeen if this order were correct. A record recently received gives his

birth year as 1696, in which case he was twenty-one when he married and removed to New Brunswick, NJ. Roeloff, his brother, was evidently older, for he was married in 1715, and two years later was ordained a Deacon at the organization of the Reformed Church in New Brunswick. The birth date given him on the Chart, 1693, is however conjectural. As a result of this rearrangement the numbers given these three brothers are not consecutive.

This form of Chart was adopted to illustrate graphically the remarkable growth of Steven Coerten's family of grandchildren. It will be noted that during the year 1683 a child was born in five of the seven families, and that in the two other families a child was born during 1682 and also during 1684. A / after a name indicates that the child died in infancy.

The officers of the Association are aware that in this book complete accuracy had not been attained. They therefore invite corrections and may later take occasion to print a table of *errata*, to be sent to those who request it, and especially to libraries. Some inconsistency in the spelling of names is admitted, due to inconsistent records and also to the curious flourishes that make some signatures difficult to decipher. The type of this Chart is being held with the purpose of reprinting it with additions and corrections in such form that the line of descent of the purchaser may be typed thereon. A number of orders have already been received at \$1.00 each. Those sending them have consented to the delay that the Chart may be perfected.

This takes us through page 35 of the original handbook, which contains 122 pages. We will continue to submit material over the next several issues. Pages 36 and 37 are printed in tiny letters and were impossible to copy by keyboard. Therefore, these pages will be skipped from this retyping.

IN MEMORIAM JANET JOSSART VOORHEES

Janet Jossart was born January 1, 1932, in Benson, MN, the daughter of Richard and Agnes (Sather) Jossart. She was raised on the family farm south of Benson. And attended country school through the eighth grade. Janet was united in marriage to Jerry Voorhees on January 13, 1951. When Jerry entered the United States Army and was stationed at Fort Rucker, AL Janet moved to Alabama to be with him. After about one year in Alabama Janet returned to the Benson area and began raising her family. Jerry and Janet were blessed with six children. The family moved to Willmar for a short time and on to Marshall, MN where Janet worked in the Schwann's sandwich plant. In 1993, Jerry and Janet retired to Lake Ida near Alexandria, MN. She enjoyed living on the lake. Janet was a good Norwegian who disliked lutefisk but loved lefse. She was a wonderful camping partner. She enjoyed playing cards, working puzzles, eating peanut brittle and loved playing with her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

On Thursday, April 16, 2020, Janet joined the angels at the age of eighty-eight years young. She was welcomed with open arms by her parents; her son, Robert; and many other loved ones. Janet is survived by her husband of sixty-nine years, Jerry Voorhees; daughter-in-law, Mary Voorhees; children, Alan Voorhees and wife, Michele, Colleen Anathan and husband, Jim, Julleen Roush and husband, Leo, Terry Voorhees and wife, Kris, and Jennifer Karrow and husband, Jeff; She is also survived by her loving siblings; Adeline Ellingboe, Joan Razink and husband, Delmer, Marilyn Larson and husband, Kermit, and Richard Jossart and wife, Linda; brothers-in-law, Ward Voorhees and wife, Carol and Del Voorhees and special friend, Marlys. Janet was grandmother to fourteen children; and great grandma to eighteen children. We continue to be blessed to have had her in our lives for many years. We will always miss her. All her family loves you for all your love and support.

A private memorial service was held Monday, April 20, 2020 at the Anderson Funeral Home in Alexandria. A private graveside service at Kinkead Cemetery followed. Visit www.andersonfuneral.net for recordings of the service.

Ida Ryder, Granddaughter of Steven Coerte Van Voorhees

By Michael Morrissey

Note from Michael: She is a new granddaughter of Steven Coerte VanVoorhees. She and Isaac (featured in last newsletter) are the only new grandchildren I have found.

In an earlier newsletter, a new grandson of Steven Coerte Van Voorhees was introduced, Isaac³ Van Voorhees (Lucas², Steven¹). A new granddaughter has also been found, Ida³ Ryder (Aeltje² VanVoorhees, Steven¹). She married Sameul Gerritsen on 14 Jun 1695,^[1] giving her maiden name as Ryder. Their first child, Bernardus, was born on 04 Jun 1696^[2] and baptized on 9 Aug 1696^[3] (though the published record transcribes his name as [F]erdinandus). The record reads: 1696, *[Aug]ust 9: *[F]erdinandus: parents: Samuel Gerritse, Ida Barends; Witnesses: Barent Juriaanse, Aaltje Stevens.

Though the record does not state the relationship between the parents and the witnesses, they are all recorded with their patronymic names, so Ida almost certainly the daughter of Barent. The witnesses are Barent Jurianz Ryder (35041) and his wife Aeltje Stevense VanVoorhees (30045), the maternal grandparents.

The naming of Samuel and Ida's children also support this placement. Dutch families, including the VanVoorhees family, generally named their eldest children after their grandparents, with later children named after their uncles, aunts or themselves.^[4] The name Bernardus, is a variation of Barent, so their first child, Bernardus, was named after his maternal grandfather, Barent Ryder. The children of Ida Ryder³ and Samuel Gerritsen are:^[5]

1. Bernardus⁴, born 04 Jun 1696, named after his maternal grandfather
2. Gerrit, born 27 Aug 1698, named after his paternal grandfather
3. Samuel, born 03 Jan 1700/01, named after his father
4. Rem, born 09 Mar 1702/03, named after his paternal uncle
5. Aeltje, born 09 Mar 1702/03, named after her maternal grandmother
6. Jacobus, born 25 Mar 1708
7. Maria, born 28 Jan 1710/11, named after her paternal grandmother
8. William, born 22 May 1713, named after his paternal uncle
9. Johannes, born 20 Aug 1716

Their son, Bernardus⁴, married Jannetje Schenck. The family moved to Monmouth, NJ, where most of their children were baptized. They adopted the surname Verbryck.^[6]

Their son, Gerrit⁴, married Mary Wyckoff. The family moved to Monmouth, NJ, where many of their children were baptized. They sometimes used the surname, Verbryck,^[7] but also used the surname Gerritse.^[8] They eventually settled near New Brunswick, NJ.

Their son, Rem Gerritsen⁴, married Antje⁴ VanVoorhees (30955) (Steven³, Coert², Steven¹). She did not marry Rem Gerritse Van Nostrand (31013) as previously thought. That Rem Gerritse married

Aeltje Monfoort as can be seen from the baptisms of their children, their oldest two children being named after their grandparents who served as witnesses.^[9]

Annetje VanVoorhees died by 1749 as Rem Gerretsen married second Catherine Bennet.^[10] Rem's will, dated 23 July 1781, names his children, including Stephen, Ida (and bond against Abraham Low), Anna (and bond against John Voorhees), Mary (and bond against Domincus Stryker), Samuel, Barbara and Garret.^[11] [Note: the last 2 children were by his 2nd wife, Catherine Bennet.]

Their daughter, Aeltje⁴, married Garret Wyckoff on 04 Dec 1726. Their family also moved to Monmouth, NJ, where many of their children were baptized.

Their son, Jacobus⁴, married Sarah Voorhees (30958), daughter of Steven Coerte VanVoorhees (30029) and Agatha Jans (30952). Their family also moved to Somerset Co., NJ.

Their daughter, Maria⁴, married Jacob DeBevois with license dated 06 Sep 1736. Their family also moved to Monmouth, NJ, where many of their children were baptized.

Their son, William⁴, married Mary (--?--). Their family also moved to Somerset Co., NJ where his will (which mentions his brothers, Rem and John) was proved on 22 Mar 1755.

Their son, John⁴, married first Elizabeth Vandervoort on 16 Sep 1749 at the Reformed Dutch Church of Flatbush, NY. He married second Jannetje Williamson on 17 Mar 1764. John died on 27 Feb 1766 in Gravesend, NY.

[1] "The Gerritsen-Willemsen Family Record and the Williamson Family of Gravesend", by Aline L. Garretson, RECORD 133(2002):165.

[2] "The Gerritsen-Willemsen Family Record and the Williamson Family of Gravesend", by Aline L. Garretson, RECORD 133(2002):165.

[3] Old First Dutch Reformed Church of Brooklyn, New York, First Book of Records, translated and edited by A. P. G. Jos van der Linde, pg 163.

[4] *Dutch Systems in Family Naming New York-New Jersey* by Rosalie Fellows Bailey in *Genealogical Publications of the NGS* May 1954 No. 12.

[5] "The Gerritsen-Willemsen Family Record and the Williamson Family of Gravesend", by Aline L. Garretson, RECORD 133(2002):165.

[6] Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey (GMNJ), vol 22, pg 88.

[7] GMNJ, vol 22, pg 88.

[8] GMNJ, vol 23, pg 68.

[9] *Records of the First Reformed Dutch Church of Jamaica, Long Island*, RECORD 105 (1974): 205 and RECORD 206(1975):21.

[10] New Netherland Ancestry, Additions and Corrections to "Willem Adriaense Bennet of Brooklyn, N.Y." - Adriaen3 Bennet (Adriaen2, Willem1)

[11] Documents Relating to the Colonial, Revolutionary and Post-Revolutionary History of the State of New Jersey, Vol 35, Calendar of New Jersey Wills, Vol 6, pg 159.

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The Stevensen Branch of the Van Voorhees Family^[1]

By Michael Morrissey

Because of the use of patronymics as surnames by many early Dutch families, by the time surnames were required by the English after taking over New Netherlands, descendants of the same families often ended up with different surnames. Family traditions have long suggested that the descendants of Steven Lucas³ Van Voorhees (87631) (Lucas², Steven¹) had adopted the surname, Stevensen.

Establishing a branch of the Stevensen family as descendants of Steven¹ Coertse Van Voorhees, has been a long process. Henry Hoff wrote an article reviewing early records and substantiating the link between the families. DNA tests have demonstrated this link for one Stevenson family. This article will review Henry Hoff's analysis and conclude that this Stevensen family is indeed a branch of the Van Voorhees family.

Stephen³ (87631) Lucas Van Voorhees (Lucas², Steven¹) almost certainly did marry Marritje Wyckoff (139204), though she was the elder daughter of Cornelius Wyckoff baptized on 11 Dec 1681,^[2] not Mary Wyckoff (30158),), the younger daughter of Cornelius Wyckoff, baptized in 1701. Though rare, Dutch families did sometimes have children with very similar names.

In his discussion of Steven Stevenson,^[3] Mr. Hoff discusses Steven's use of both his patronymic name, Lucassen, and his surname, Stevenson, to effectively demonstrate that Steven Lucassen and Steven Stevenson were the same person. Mr. Hoff's analysis the baptismal records of their children in 1713 and 1715 and the baptismal sponsors clearly place both Steven and Mary in their respective families. These children are too early for Mary Wyckoff (30158) to have been the mother. The family had earlier children whose baptismal records have not survived.^[4]

His father, Lucas, consistently used his patronymic name, Stevensen. He appears as such in several deeds records of Kings Co. NY,^[5] a deed record of Somerset Co., NJ,^[6] church records^[7] and the 1731 census of Flatlands, NY.^[8]

I believe Mr. Hoff's analysis of the children of Cornelius Pieterse Wyckoff is correct. Though there were no requirements for how heirs are listed in wills, the pattern Mr. Hoff cites is common and fits well if the elder daughter, Mary, was still living. A letter from Simon Jans Van Arsdalen^[9] dated 9 Sep 1698, states the Geertje [his daughter, wife of Cornelius Wyckoff], had eight children at that time. The 1698 Census of Flatlands^[10] shows nine children in the household of Cornelius Wyckoff (implying a child, probably Annetje, was born in the interim). Given what is known of the family, I believe those numbers are only possible if the elder Mary is still living.

There is some evidence that Steven⁴ (30713) (Gerrit³, Coert², Steven¹) Voorhees did not live to maturity, as Mr. Hoff surmises. When his father, Gerrit, wrote his will he named seven children. However, in 1711, Aeltje and Mary each sold their 1/6 portion to their brother, Coert^[11]. That implies that one of the children died before the will was proved, reducing the number of legatees. At this time it is not known whether it was Steven or his sister Geertje who died

young. Given there are no other known records of Steven⁴ (Gerrit³, Coert², Steven¹) Voorhees as an adult, I believe Mr. Hoff's analysis is valid. Shortly after, Coert sold some of the land back to Roleof Terhune[12]. Coert apparently acquired all of the shares by 1719 and sold the property to Johannes Lott[13]. Part of the estate was still not settled at that time as the land bordered land of the heirs of Garret Coerten.

In his analysis of the children of Cornelius Pieterse Wyckoff, Mr. Hoff believes the younger Mary was deceased by 1726 because she is not mentioned in her father's will. The Reformed Dutch Church of Flatlands, NY, kept its own register of the use of the shroud. It is possible that the death of either Mary may be implied from the records there[14]. In either case, I think Mr. Hoff has established the identity of Steven Stevenson as a Van Voorhees descendant.

[1] See Van Voorhees Family in America, First Six Generations, by Florence Christoph, pg 5, pg 56, pg 747, and Van Voorhees Family in America, The Seventh and Eighth Generations, V2, pg 1186.

[2] Records of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Flatbush, Kings County, New York, Volume 1, translated and edited by David William Voorhees, pg 412.

[3] Henry B. Hoff, "A Branch of the Van Voorhees Family: The Stevenson Family of Rockland County", NYGBR 132 (2001):243

[4] Steven Stevenson is not listed in the 4 Feb 1709 Rate Listing of Jamaica. Thus his marriage and the baptisms of his earlier children were probably in Kings Co. where few records from that time period have survived.

Two Centuries in the History of the Presbyterian Church, Jamaica, L.I., by James Madison MacDonald, pg 243.

[5] Kings Co., NY, Deeds, Vol 5, folios 42, 44, 49 in 1727.

[6] East New Jersey Land Records, Books I2 and K2, abstracted by Richard Hutchinson, pg 72

[7] Old First Dutch Reformed Church of Brooklyn, NY, First Book of Records, by A. P. G. Jos van der Linde, pg 148.

[8] The Documentary History of the State of New York arranged under direction of the Hon. Christopher Morgan, Secretary of State, by E.B. O'Callaghan, Volume IV, pp. 122-131. Albany: Charles van Benthuyzen, 1851.

[9] <http://www.hullhome.com/VanArsdallen.htm> and

<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~bstevens/vanosdol2.html#anchor314521>

[10] *Documentary History of New York*, E. B. O'Callaghan, (c)1849, Vol. III, pg 133-138.

[11] *Kings Co. Conveyances*, Liber 3, pg 212. The land described was late in the possession of Gerret Coerte, late of Flatlands, deceased, and was bequeathed by him 'to his six children in equal proportions,' with other recitals, conveyed to 'Coert Van Voorhuys' two equal sixth shares in the lands and rights of common mentioned in the recitals.

[12] *Kings Co. Conveyances*, Liber 3, pg 215. Coert sold back to Roelof Terhune the two equal shares of the meadows that he had purchased.

[13] *Kings Co. Conveyances*, Liber 4, pg 264. The deed mentions the land bordering the land of the heirs of Garret Coerten. This is probably the land occupied by Willemptje, wife of Garret Coerten, according to his will, until her death. The disposal of that land has not been determined. See also, *KESKACHAUGE or The First White Settlement on Long Island*, by Frederick Van Wyck, pg 300-302.

[14] *Church records*, Flatlands Reformed Dutch Church, Family History Library, United States & Canada Film 888716

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**Aeltje Voorhees, wife of Albert Terhune,
Aeltje Voorhees, wife of Johannes Willemse, and
Aeltje Voorhees, wife of Garret Terhune**

By Michael Morrissey

The first two women above lived in Kings Co., NY and were thought to have been born about the same time. The third has been identified by Terhune family researchers¹, but is not included in the Van Voorhees Family Association publications or database. To identify the parents of these women named Aeltje, this article will first review Aeltje⁴ Voorhees (30708) (Gerrit³, Coert², Steven¹), thought to have married Johannes Willemse. It will then review Aeltje⁴ Voorhees (30708) (Steven³, Coert², Steven¹), thought to have married Albert Terhune.

Aeltje⁴ Voorhees (30708) did not marry Johannes Willemse as previously thought.² Johannes married Lammetje Brinkerhoff³ on 04 Mar 1690/91.⁴ His will,⁵ written in November 1745, mentions his wife Lammetje, so he did not marry Aeltje. Instead, it appears that she is the Aeltje Voorhees who married Albert³ Terhune (31020) (Jan², Albert¹), *not* Aeltje⁴ Voorhees (30957) (Steven³, Coert², Steven¹) as previously thought.⁶ This is based on further information now known about Aeltje's mother, Willemtie Pieters Luyster, and Peter Nevius, the "father-in-law" of Albert Terhune, Aeltje's husband.

Albert³ Terhune (Jan², Albert¹) married a woman named Aeltje, but her maiden name and parentage have been contested. Albert's wife was named as Aeltje Voorhees in their marriage record of 17 Oct 1708:

"Albert ter Huynen, and Aaltie Voorhees; both born and residing in N. Amersfoort."⁷

The record does not state whether either of them was previously married, leaving open the possibility her maiden name was different. The will of will Albert Jans Terhune, dated April 11, 1721 at Flatbush, Kings County, New York and probated 18 Dec 1721 at Kings County, New York,⁸ names Peter Nevius as Albert's father-in-law, causing researchers to propose different methods of reconciling that statement in the will with the marriage record. However, Albert's will⁹ also named Koert Voorhees as his brother-in-law, so Aeltje's maiden name was almost certainly Voorhees.

¹ <http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~batrhune/genealogy/Early%20Dutch%20Family%20Ties/page35.htm>

² Van Voorhees Family in America, First Six Generations, by Florence Christoph, pg 15,

³ The Family of Joris Dircksen Brinckerhoff, by Roeliff Brinckerhoff, pg 76.

⁴ The source for this date is unknown (probably Gravesend marriages), but their only daughter, Aeltje, married Daniel Rapalje on 22 Sep 1711 at the DRC of Flatbush, NY, both named in Johannes's will, so the date cannot be too far off.

⁵ Abstract of wills on file in the Surrogate's Office, City of New York (Volume IV. 1744-1753), pg 205, ABSTRACTS OF WILLS LIBER 16. Page 388

⁶ Van Voorhees Family in America, First Six Generations, by Florence Christoph, pg 14.

⁷ Records of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Flatbush, Kings County, New York, translated and edited by David William Voorhees, pg 287.

⁸ <http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~batrhune/genealogy/Early%20Dutch%20Family%20Ties/page35.htm>

⁹ Abstracts of wills on file in the Surrogate's Office, City of New York (Volume II. 1708-1728), ABSTRACTS OF WILLS LIBER 9, pg 242.

Albert did not have a second wife named Aeltje, as some have proposed, since Aeltje Van Voorhees survived him. She married second Jan Elbertsen before 7 Apr 1728 when Jan Elbertsen and Aeltje (not specified as his wife) were witnesses for the baptism of Jan, son of Peter Luyster and Annetje Barkeloo,¹⁰ Peter being Aeltje's maternal cousin. The Elbertsen family was living in Flatlands at the time of the 1731 census.¹¹ Jan Elbertsen and Aeltje Voorhees, his wife, joined the Reformed Dutch Church of NYC, from Flatlands on 22 Aug 1732.¹² Aeltje, wife of Jan Elbertse was buried there on 4 Dec 1734.¹³

Willempje Pieters Luyster, mother of Aeltje Voorhees, was the mother-in-law of Albert Terhune. She is mentioned in the will of her husband, Garret Voorhees,¹⁴ dated 1 Oct 1702, which was proved 23 Sep 1704. As Hmtie. Courtie [her previous husband's patronymic name], she married second Peter Roos with license dated 21 Sep 1704.¹⁵ Peter Roos died before 13 May 1713 when his will¹⁶ was proved. It mentions his wife, Willmeutie, and their son, John. Peter Roos is listed in the 1709 Tax List of the East Ward.¹⁷ There is a gap of 12 years in the surviving records, but Willemptje does not appear in the later lists, even though she was to inherit everything from her husband during her life. Willempje herself died in 1744.¹⁸ This suggests she remarried and/or moved elsewhere.

Peter Nevius' first wife, Jannetje Schenck, probably died before 1 Mar 1718 as she is not mentioned in a deed from that date by Peter Nevius to Albert Terhune.¹⁹ No marriage record has been found for Peter Nevius and Willempje Luyster, but based on the reference in Albert Terhune's will, it is almost certain they did so by 1721, Peter Nevius then being Albert's **step**-father-in-law.

The naming of Albert Terhune and Aeltje Voorhees' children²⁰ support this placement:

1. Garret, born 1709, named after his maternal grandfather,
2. John, born circa 1711, named after his paternal grandfather,
3. Anne, born circa 1712, named after her paternal grandmother,
4. Willemptje, born circa 1714, named after her maternal grandmother,
5. Sarah, born about 1716, named after her paternal aunt, Sarah Terhune.

¹⁰ Records of the New Utrecht Reformed Church, RECORD 112 (1981):134.

¹¹ The Documentary History of the State of New York arranged under direction of the Hon. Christopher Morgan, Secretary of State, by E.B. O'Callaghan, Volume IV, pp. 122-131. Albany: Charles van Benthuysen, 1851.

¹² Records of the Reformed Dutch Church in the City of New York, NYGBR vol 60, pg 280

¹³ Year Book of the Holland Society of New York, 1899, *Record of Burials in the Dutch Church, New York*, pg 162

¹⁴ Abstracts of wills on file in the Surrogates Office, City of New York (Volume I. 1665-1707) ABSTRACTS OF WILLS LIBER 7. pg 395

¹⁵ Marriage Licenses Issued by the State of New York - Supplementary List 1665-1786, University of the State of New York, State Library Bulletin, *History*.no. 1, Apr 1898.

¹⁶ Abstracts of wills on file in the Surrogate's Office, City of New York (Volume II. 1708-1728) ABSTRACTS OF WILLS LIBER 8. pg 105

¹⁷ New York City Assessment Rolls 1699-1734, Family History Library Film 0448033. For more description see NYGBR Newsletter Fall 1996, pg 26.

¹⁸ Lincoln C. Cocheu, "The Van Kouwenhoven-Conover Family", *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* Vol.70-71,81-83 (1939-40, 1950-52): 71:72.

¹⁹ Kings County Conveyances, Liber 4, pg 177

²⁰ Van Voorhees Family in America, First Six Generations, by Florence Christoph, pg 15

Who then did Aeltje⁴ Voorhees (30708) (Steven³, Coert², Steven¹) marry? First, all of the children of Steven³ VanVoorhees (30029) (Coerte², Steven¹) were born later than previously thought,²¹ as they all are listed as being born by 1698. However, the 1698 Census only lists three were born by then. The earlier placement for all of the children may be based on the marriage date of 09 Feb 1687 for Steven and Eva, which I have not been able find a source for nor confirm. A later marriage date and later birth dates fit well with their children:

Child	Org Birth	Est Birth	Marriage	Age at marriage	Comment
Coert	1694	1694	1716	22	
Lucretia	1690	1696	abt 1713	17 vs 23	first child in 1714
Mary	1698	1698	abt 1719	21	first child about 1720
John	1696	1702	abt 1727	25 vs 31	
Annetje	1688	1704	abt 1727	23 vs 29	last child bap 1743
Aeltje	1691	1708	abt 1729	21 vs 38	last child bap 1750
Sarah	1692	1710	abt 1732	22 vs 40	not listed in 1731 census

Steven's daughter, Aeltje, married Gerrit Terhune,²² son of Roelof Terhune (68264) and Mary Voorhees (30709). Garret was born on 30 Aug 1709,²³ much closer to Aeltje's revised estimated birth date in 1708. The family moved to Millstone, Somerset Co., NJ where Gerrit wrote his will.²⁴ He died on 20 Sep 1781.²⁵ It mentions all of his children, except Roelof, who predeceased him. There children were:

1. Mary, baptized 27 Jun 1733,²⁶ named after her paternal grandmother,
2. Stephen, born 27 Nov 1735,²⁷ named after his maternal grandfather,
3. Roelof, born circa 1740, named after his paternal grandfather,
4. Eva, born circa 1745, named after her maternal grandmother,
5. Garret, baptized 25 Feb 1750,²⁸ named after his father.

So, there were only two, not three, Aeltje Voorheeses. However, they married different men than previously thought.

²¹ Van Voorhees Family in America, First Six Generations, by Florence Christoph, pg 13

²² <http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~batrhune/genealogy/Early%20Dutch%20Family%20Ties/page35.htm>

²³ Family Bible record of Stephen Terhune, dated 1741, transcript (in Dutch) by Grace L. Russell, owner of Bible. October 6, 1934. DAR book from an LDS film, an English translation in Somerset County Historical Quarterly, vol 2, pg 130.

²⁴ Documents Relating to the Colonial, Revolutionary and Post-Revolutionary History of New Jersey, Vol 35, Calendar of New Jersey Wills, vol 6, pg 390.

²⁵ Family Bible record of Stephen Terhune, dated 1741, transcript (in Dutch) by Grace L. Russell.

²⁶ *First Reformed Church, Raritan (Somerville) Baptisms*, Somerset County Historical Quarterly, vol 2, pg 215.

²⁷ Family Bible record of Stephen Terhune, dated 1741, transcript (in Dutch) by Grace L. Russell.

²⁸ *Records of the Harlingen Reformed Dutch Church*, Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey, Vol 18, pg 8.

Family Cobbler Recipes May Hold Clues to Your Roots

AncestralFindings.com

Does your family have a cobbler recipe that has been passed on for generations? That recipe might be able to show you something about your family's history.

So many families have recipes that get handed down through the generations. It might be a favorite pasta recipe or recipes for pies. For many, these are huge family traditions — and knowing a little something about your family's generational recipes can tell you a surprising amount about your heritage.

What about your family? Have you got any cobbler recipes that your mother or grandmother used to make? If so, then you'll be interested in learning more about the history of cobblers.

Where Did Cobblers Come From?

Cobblers are a homemade dish, not something that originated in a chef's kitchen or a fine restaurant. They stem back to the first settlers on the American continent — who were by necessity very good at making do with the things available to them. Many of those earliest settlers were either **Dutch or British**, and they'd brought with them recipes for things like pies or traditional English steamed puddings.

Problem was, the American wilds didn't have all the ingredients necessary to make those traditional dishes. Over here, foragers found fruits and berries — peaches, plums, cherries, blackberries, and things of that nature. That may even be where the name "cobbler" came from because it's a dessert cobbled together from what is available.

Even after the United States officially became a nation, cobbler recipes continued to evolve. **Pioneers** made cobblers and as they traveled westward, the recipes changed. People started adding dollops of biscuit dough, using fruit preserved in syrup, baking powder to leaven the dough — whatever pioneers and settlers had on hand to make a sweet dessert.

What made cobblers practical for settlers was the fact that they could be made in a Dutch oven over an open fire. Not so with pies and other desserts, which need an oven and specialized dishes. Settlers and **pioneers** needed only to oil the Dutch oven, add whatever fruits they had, and top it with dough that they could make from ingredients available to them.

What Defines a Cobbler?

The tricky thing about cobblers is that they go by a variety of names — cobblers, pandowdies, grunts, crisps, and so on. And we'll get into some of these variations in a minute. First off, let's talk about the basic ingredients that need to be present for a cobbler to be a cobbler.

No matter the name, all cobbler recipes require:

- Fruit
- Flour
- Butter
- Sugar

The fruit and sugar go together, sometimes with added spices for extra flavor, and the flour and butter make the dough. There might be a few extra things tossed in there depending on your family's recipe or what's on hand, but in general, if it's missing any of the above four ingredients, then it might not be a true cobbler.

Cobbler Variants Say a Lot About Where the Cobbler is From

It's true! If you've got a family cobbler recipe that has been handed down for generations, there's a good chance the cobbler's type or filling can tell you a little something about where it came from. Peach cobblers, for instance, originated in the Deep South, where peach trees are common. In fact, peach cobblers are so popular in the South that in the 1950s, the Georgia Peach Council set aside a holiday for it. April 13 is National Peach Cobbler Day.

Blueberry, blackberry and elderberry cobblers can come from all over the United States, especially the regions in which these berries are most common. Apple cobblers are more of a northern tradition since apples are tough if not impossible to grow in southern climates. In California, apricot, pear, and Tartarian cherry cobblers were the most popular.

Now that you know where some of the different flavors come from, let's get into some of the different cobbler variants!

- **Crisps:** These are a relatively recent descendent of the cobbler. The topping contains oats, which is the key difference between a crisp and a cobbler. They first appeared in cookbooks in 1924 when an apple crisp recipe featured in *Everybody's Cook Book: A Comprehensive Manual of Home Cookery*.
- **Crumbles:** Similar to crisps, but crumbles are the British version of this dessert.
- **Brown Betty:** This is a cobbler variant that uses graham crackers, breadcrumbs, or chunks of bread to make the doughy topping. They first appeared in an 1864 edition of the *Yale Literary Magazine*. Historically, in the midwestern United States, Brown Betty is another term for crisps, so if you have a crisp recipe by that name, that's where it may have originated.
- **Grunts, Slumps, and Pandowdies:** These are all cobblers, but they differ from the usual cobbler in that cooks often make them on the stovetop. All of these recipes originate from New England and the Canadian Maritimes.
- **Sonker:** If you've got a sonker recipe, rest assured it came from North Carolina. It's the same as a cobbler, only made in a deep dish rather than a shallow one.
- **Birds' Nest Pudding:** This one is complicated for a cobbler. Recipes call for apples, brown sugar, eggs, milk, leavening, flour, maple flavoring, and cream. It's an old recipe that was popular in northern states from the mid-1800s onward.

And what about savory cobblers? These are much less common — and they're usually British in origin, although the French have a savory cobbler called a "croustade" that is a hollowed-out piece of bread filled with various hearty ingredients. In the UK, cobblers can be sweet, or they can be filled with lamb, mutton or beef, sometimes with a ring of biscuits around the edges rather than a crumbled topping.

So, there you have it! Cobblers come from all over. Depending on your family recipe, it could very well be that you can trace the cobbler's origins based on the name or the ingredients.

If you do have a treasured cobbler recipe, make sure to share it with the rest of your family, especially the little ones. Kids love a good cobbler as much as adults, but more importantly, passing that recipe along to them keeps the tradition alive for future generations to enjoy.

* * * * *

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