



Vol. 39 Number 1

VAN VOORHEES NIEUWSBRIEF

Spring/Summer 2022

A Publication of the Van Voorhees Association, Organized in 1932
Copyright ©2022 and all Rights Reserved by the Van Voorhees Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As mentioned in the last Nieuwsbrief, Don Coons is our new Membership Chair. Don has had a lifelong interest in genealogy and self-published a 600 page volume of his family lines in 2020. Don joined the VVA in 2010 after a chance encounter with Robert Voorhees while doing research in a Montgomery County NY library. Bob overheard Don discussing Anna Voorhees and said "I think we are related". It turned out that both are descendants of Steven Coerte Van Voorhees. Bob provided Don with his direct line to their shared ancestors.

Don has reformatted our membership database and processes the dues payments. On that subject; we have 192 life members. **Of our 215 annual members, only 36 are current in their dues payment.** Some dues have been unpaid for several years. Dues income are vital for the VVA to be able to publish the *Nieuwsbrief*, make our publications available, and conduct research. Please refer to your mailing label to determine your paid status. If in arrears, please complete the membership form and mail with your payment directly to Don Coons.

Finally, you will note the position vacancies in our Who's Who listing. Please contact me if you are interested in filling a vacancy or assisting someone in a currently filled position.

Scott T. Voorhees

REMEMBER TO VISIT US ON OUR WEBSITE

www.vanvoorheesassociation.org

&

[facebook.com/vanvoorhees
association/](https://facebook.com/vanvoorheesassociation/)

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Membership Chair Update
- 3-15 Robert Leland Voorhees, WWI Diary
- 16-19 Historical Handbook of the Van Voorhees Family in the Netherlands and America, IX, Van Voorhees Families in New Jersey
- 20 Joseph Harenburg Voorhees
- 20-21 The Do's and Don'ts of Genealogy Research
- 22 In Memoriam
- 23 Reprint of 1998 Nieuwsbrief Article – The Cornelius Low House
- 24 A Yankee on the North Side – Uncle Levi Van Voorhis
- 25 VVA Who's Who
- 26 VVA Book Order Form

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR UPDATE

As your recently appointed Membership Chair, let me say a heartfelt “thank you” to all members. Your membership is the engine that allows the Association to do things such as publishing and distributing our Nieuwsbrief as well as updating our website and Facebook page. All Members are descendants of Steven Coerte Van Voorhees so we are all “cousins”.

New Members!

We are pleased to welcome four new members so far this year. We welcome Barbara Jean Voorhees (descending from Jan Stevense Van Voorhees, a son of Steven), Patricia Toshcoff (who is still documenting her line to Steven Coerte Van Voorhees), Patricia Ellen Voorhis Siecinski (descending from Albert Stevense Van Voorhees, a son of Steven), and Rebecca Eastman (descending from both Lucas Stevense Van Voorhees and Jan Stevense Van Voorhees, two sons of Steven). Rebecca is unique in that both of her parents were able to trace their ancestry to Steven Coerte Van Voorhees.

Encourage Family to become Members

Becoming a member of the Association is fairly easy once you can connect to the Van Voorhees family. If you are a member already, then your parents, siblings, cousins, children, and other related family members should have a very easy path to membership. If any of your family members are daunted somewhat by the need to document their Van Voorhees family, just send me a note (decoons@comcast.net) and I will assist in the process.

Please encourage other members of your family to join our Association. A membership application form is available through our website: <http://www.vanvoorhees.org/>

Some Benefits of Membership

Our Association newsletter, “Van Voorhees Nieuwsbrief” is sent to all members. It provides updates and shares genealogical information that might be useful to members. The latest version, published in Fall/Winter 2021, had articles on Abraham Voorhees (a Revolutionary War soldier), Dutch influence and contributions to the United States, reprint of portions of a printed handbook of the Association, a primer on Pedigree Charts, and other articles. Intended to provide information for members on genealogical research and Van Voorhees specific details of interest, the Nieuwsbrief is something to be proud of.

Members can also purchase books and other media of interest to the Van Voorhees family. These materials are listed on our website and in each Nieuwsbrief. Understanding more about the family and about early Dutch immigrants as well as Dutch influence can be very rewarding.

The Van Voorhees Association is “the largest Dutch family in America”. There is a certain sense of connection to the early history of our country and to a family traceable to the arrival of Steven Coerte Van Voorhees (and other family members) aboard “de Bonte Koe” or the Spotted Cow in 1660. Surprisingly few can trace their ancestry to a period so long before our country’s independence.

Make sure that we have your current details

The most recent Nieuwsbrief was undeliverable to nearly 30 individuals. If you have shared your e-mail and your phone number then we have two other methods for contacting you if mail to you has been returned. Please visit the website at <http://www.vanvoorhees.org/forms/address.php> or send an e-mail to me at decoons@comcast.net or to addresschange@vanvoorhees.org and provide your current details (plus your phone number and e-mail address) to make sure our information is correct. Call me at 302-752-8881 or contact me by e-mail if you have any questions.

Suggestions

We always welcome your suggestions of how we can improve the benefits of membership. Any ideas, thoughts, or reflections of what we have done or could do would be of interest. Feel free to send me a note with your input.

Don Coons

ROBERT LELAND VOORHEES, 1895-1965, WORLD WAR I DIARY

Submitted by John R. Turner, Grandson

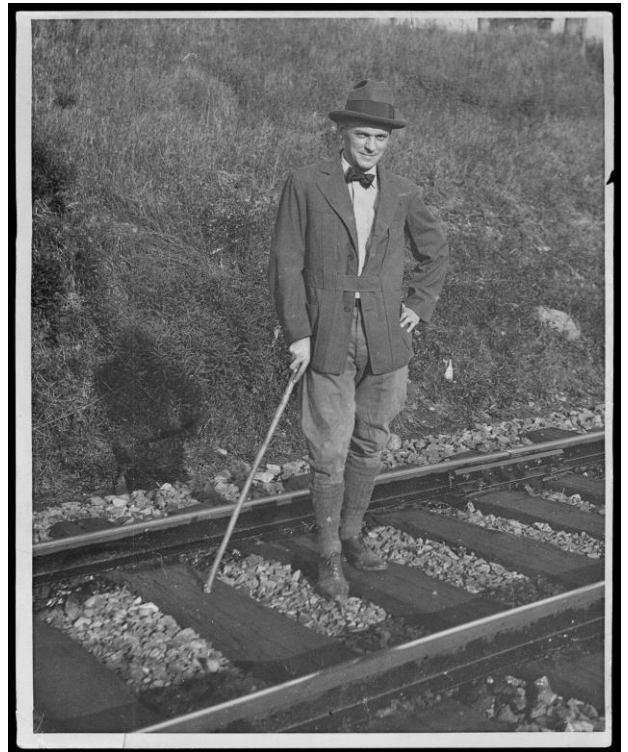
Robert L. Voorhees (51803) *VVA 9th Generation Index*, was the son of Edward Burnett Voorhees (35772) and Anna Eliza Ammerman (35773). He was born January 20, 1895, at New Brunswick, Middlesex, New Jersey. His siblings are Jeanne, Edward, John, Marion, Theodore, Ralph and Justin.

A reference was found to Rutgers University for Robert and his brother, Theodore. Their father, Dr. Edward B. Voorhees, was a professor of Agriculture at Rutgers. He conveyed information about agriculture by traveling across the state of New Jersey. He had residence at the Rutgers Experimental Station after his retirement and died there. Theodore became a veterinarian. After discharge from World War I, Robert assumed the job of Agricultural Editor at the Syracuse Post Standard, Syracuse, New York. He became the Editor in Chief in 1946 and retired that position in 1960. According to his death certificate he died March 24, 1965, residing in Syracuse, NY for 46 years.

He married Gertrude Basteda Suydam (51814) September 25, 1920, and they had two daughters, Barbara and Marie, who is the mother of John R. Turner. John says, "I think the diary reveals the spirit of the day much better than a history book would, so I feel it is appropriate to publish it in its' entirety. I intentionally left the spelling, grammar and odd words, just as he put them down." In the diary, Robert's nickname for his future wife, Anna Ammerman, is *Rufus*.



ROBERT L. VOORHEES - 1920



ROBERT L. VOORHEES

Jamesville, NY, Hike
October 1921

ARMY AND NAVY DIARY

This book is the property of **ROBERT L. VOORHEES**

Residence RIVER ROAD, NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY

Date of Enlistment 25 Feb 1918

Enlisted at NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY, under "Selective Service" Act

Arrived at Training camp at Camp Dix, Wrightstown, NJ

Date: 25 Feb 1918

Left Training Camp: 26 May 1918

Started for France 27 May 1918, 10:30 am

Arrived in France 10 June 1918, 4:30 am

Enlisted in Battery "A"

In case of accident, notify (mother) A. E. Voorhees, River Road
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Addresses of Home Friends

Gertrude B. Suydam
255 Seaman Street
New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA
-or-
137 Church Street. c/o Hart Bros.

- Alanson D. Prentiss
U.S.S. George Washington
c/o Postmaster, New York City, USA

Miss Katherine F Runyon
209 Grant Avenue
New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA

- John H. Voorhees

- Pvt. Theodore Voorhees
165th Aero Squadron
American Ex. Forces
35 Eton Place, c/o u.s. Air Forces
London, SW, England

- Pvt. Elmer G. Bracher
Base Hospital #8
Am. Ex. Forces

- Justin M. Voorhees
c/o Chas. Smith
Brooklawn Farms
Morris Plains, New Jersey, USA

John H. Voorhees
Agronomist, Agri. Dept.
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York, USA
Greycourt Apts., Ithaca, N.Y.

- Cpl. Robert B. Watson
Sqdrn H - NA Aero Squadron
Carl Field
Wichita Falls, Tx

- Miss Mathilda Voorhees
808 California St.
Urbana, Illinois

- Ted
115 Aero Squadron
APO 713A, France
American School Detachment
Montpellier University
Montpellier, Hérault
France, APO949

We soldiers, "Sammies" if you sentimental Americans prefer to call us so, lead a life over here which no adjective in my vocabulary can adequately describe: not that it is so terrible, or boresome; or disheartening; rather it is more a sort of hap-hazard existence, a spasmodic nomadism carried out at the dictates of someone else who generally picks out the most unpleasant and disheartening weather as a most auspicious time. We have a great deal of contempt for superior officers and are very apt to put a question mark after "superior". There is no doubt that the private is greater than Pershing. It is hard to understand why he should be decorated for what we do sitting safely 100 miles from the trenches, like the W. K. Kaiser's stalwart sons.

Aunt Lu writes me a letter

I tell the Top Kicker what I think of him -

I will go back - to Rufus, i.e. Rufus refers to his wife, Gertrude Basteda Suydam

Superior Officers

Eldon. - Seymour at Verrieres: ·

"Has anyone seen the regimental gas guard?"

1st Serg. - Boltz at Fey-en-Haye:

"Sir every-damned horse is buried."

Serg. - Boltz on the cart going into St. Remy:

"I've lost my bubble. "

"We hit Verrieres late at night. I found a hole, crawled in and slept til morning. When I woke up I found that I had had a Boche as Bunkie - he was some two weeks dead-in my judgement.

"And once I used. a fresh one as a dinner table."

- The three. in Champigneulle.

CampDix5/25/18

It is exactly three (3) months since I came and, to all appearances, we leave tonight. Out barracks bags are gone, our packs are packed and ready, our beds are all folded up, and a subdued excitement pervades the regiment. Bonne chance.

5/26/18

We are entrained and pull out of camp at 1:30am. A very tiresome trip to N.Y.C. via South Amboy. Go aboard H.M.S. Cedric (White Star) for Liverpool. Spent boresome day on board. Worn out by constant bustle and moving. The great adventure is begun.

At Sea 5/28/18

It is the second day out and' I am convinced that not even a U-BOAT could drive away the deadly ennui of the trip. The ocean is as calm as glass. No-one has been sea-sick. I spent four weary vigils on guard last night and today.

At Sea 5/30/18

Fourth day out. Yesterday and today, we had very heavy weather, the sea very choppy. A great many of the men were sick. Our hole beneath the forward deck positively stinks. Each day is a week long.

At Sea6/1/18

Yesterday we plowed thru. a long, heavy swell. Many of the men are still sick, but I begin to feel immune. I suppose you are beginning to feel lonely now. I know I am, tho in a peculiar way which doesn't hurt. ·Today it is beautiful and calm. I am striving to pass the long hours by reading "Dombey and Son", a book which I find extremely interesting. I haven't written a letter yet. We are getting close to the "danger zone". The ships, there are thirteen, had target practice today. I hope that is all the occasion they do have, to fire.

At Sea6/3/18

Yesterday was as usual, a day when it was disagreeable on deck, and unbearable below. Today we had a choppy sea. We entered the danger zone. I suppose we'll be quite nervous from now on. It is to be expected. We should land on Friday 6/7/18.

At Sea 6/5/18

Tenth day out, very nasty and disagreeable. Everybody is somewhat nervous and wishing that our convoy would show up. We placed as extra (assistant) gunner aft when our battery went on guard today. Saw the U.S. cruiser that had come with us leave for home. Felt a sinking feeling as our convoy has not shown up yet .

Eleventh day At Sea6/6/18

On guard this morning when our convoy was sighted off starboard quarter. Counted nine destroyers. They inspire a wonderful feeling of confidence. Here we were only 280 miles out last night. Evening came with a bright warm sun.

Twelfth day At Sea6/7/18

For some reason I was unable to sleep well this morning; about 4:30am I arose and went on deck. The first sight that greeted my eyes was land, the highlands of Scotland, which have always held a romantic interest for me. Crossing to starboard I saw Ireland rising from the sea. It was a beautiful, bright, warm day and the sight of land after so many weary days of gazing over an unbroken expanse of water made the day a fit end to the first lap of our journey to the Great Adventure. All day long our interest continued unabated. More destroyers came, looking like quick weasels of the sea, darting here and there in eager search of their prey and guarding their great, ungainly brood zealously. Myriads of the mosquito fleet swarmed about, lending a comic touch to the scene. Steam trawlers steaming past had their iota of interest as the sweepers of the sea, brave, unheralded work. Two small dirigibles hovered over us. By 11:00am Ireland had faded in the distance. By 11:30 we saw the Isle of Man to port. Land has been visible all day. We can distinguish hamlets and green fields.

In England6/8/18

We anchored in the Mersey last night at 10:00pm. After a little sleep we were roused at 2:30am for breakfast. By 8:00am we were embarked in fine compartment coaches on the Midland Railway. We travelled all day thru wonderful English country, which I admired extremely. Towards evening we arrived in Southampton, where we spent an extremely uncomfortable night. The rations which were issued to us were very poor and I became rather sick. But our sea journey is over and gone, which is a great comfort. First lap is finished.

In England6/9/18

We loafed around the rest camp all this Sunday morning. It is a very nice city (Southampton). We left after dinner and embarked on a Channel steamer which pulled out at 8:00pm. I slept very comfortably in an aisle, knowing nothing of the trip.

In France- Havre6/10/18

France gave us a very cold, dismal reception. We marched five (5) miles to another rest camp, thru a cold, steady rain. We were a very wretched lot on arrival. But the sun came out shortly and we spent a comfortably and happy afternoon.

In France- Le Havre6/11/18

Loafed around the rest camp all morning. After dinner we marched to the railroad station and entrained in the famous "Hommes 36 - Chevaux 8" troop trains of France. We travelled very uncomfortably all thru the night.

France6/12/18

Travelled all day thru France which is a country much like our own. The forests are different - the trees high and slender, but the fields are much the same. Reached city of Vannes, province of Morbihan, about 7:00pm where we took a branch line up into the hills about eight (8) miles to Camp Meucon, an American artillery camp. It is not yet finished, but I expect to spend a comfortable and interesting period of several months here.

Camp Meucon6/13/18

Spent day in our barracks getting settled. Took a much needed bath and changed. Feel fine. France is more like our own country than England. The hills here are furry and of scant vegetation. The people about are of the true peasant type, living in very interesting stone houses which must accommodate a good many. They all have wine and beer which I have sampled, but do not like very much. We start training on Monday, 6/17/18. I hear that equipment is coming in every day.

Camp de Meueon.....6/17/18

Started gun- drill on our French 75's today. They seem to be, as they are, finer guns than our 3 in. They are simpler and more efficient. The work is quite different, too, and, I think, more efficient.

Camp de, Meucon6/26/18

Reorganization of the battery, today. The B.C. detail is started off with me on it. Was appointed first-class private - 4 months after I entered the army. Small honor tho, as some also were appointed who don't know a squad movement. Have received 10 letters from Rufus!!!

Camp de Meucon7/1/18

Six months of this tragic year have gone. Who can tell what the next six will hold for me. I am now safely embarked on B.C. Detail work, being styled an orientationist. I only hope the army can teach me enough in the time given to enable me to acquit myself worthily.

Camp de MeuconJuly 4, 1918

Spent a quiet morning, but things livened up considerably from mess-time at noon. We entertained a bunch of French non-Coms or, rather, they entertained us. We watched a review of the 53rd. F.A. Bgde., a baseball game, potato races, etc. The day was quite an affair. There were many visitors to camp, male and female. Aside from the peasants of the countryside, the people dress and look much like our own and are the same, I guess, in spirit and sympathy, too. Altogether, it was a very pleasant day.

Camp de Meucon.....7/7/18

The regiment was paid today. In the afternoon, perhaps because of this, Barney Martin and I took a walk out to the town, sat on the side of hill, the steeple of its gothic church showing for many kilometers. We walked around a little and then entered a wine shop on the main street. Found many of the boys there. We had a couple of bottles of wine. It made me kind of sick - it was so very hot outside - that I quit and went outside to look around. We had to hurry back for retreat. About twenty fellows were drunk.

Camp de Meucon7/8/18

Jackie gave us a heart-to-heart talk tonight, telling us the short-comings of the battery and what we must do. Also told us that we were scheduled to leave in exactly three (3) weeks for the front. Got settled in orientation work today. Hope it continues this time.

Camp de Meucon -.....7/13/18

Went to signal school in the morning, to the range in the afternoon, where I sensed the firing of our battery. 155 's directly in front nearly split my head open. Received five (5) letters tonight. - Mother's was fine, Rufus' no good.

Camp de Meucon Aug. 1, 1918

Since I last wrote in this diary things have gone on about as usual except that a noticeable "speeding up" of our training is taking place. We go out on hikes or fire on the range quite often. Sergeant Gens,- the instrument sergeant, has left for the O.T.C. and I am about the only one in the battery to take his place. But know from experience how a battery is run and expect to stay a private for a long time to come. Am beginning to think the war will last long.

Camp de-Meucon8/11/18

Have taken our three day hike and came back successfully. The battery in fair_ shape. B.C.-made me a cpl. on the 8th with the hint that I was shortly- to become instrument sergeant. Speed the day. We leave here very shortly for the front.

On route to Western Front 8/19/18

We, the battery, pulled out of the gun park at Camp de Meucon at 4:30am for Vannes, where we entrained in "le train unique"; our destination is Toul. We passed thru many large cities on our way, among them Saumur where P. Wolrath and E. Gens- are stationed in S.A.S.-A.P.O. #708. Travelled for two nights and three days, much more comfortably than here tofore, "fetching up" to Toul from the South, a course due to railroad congestion, I imagine. The country grew more and more attractive as we go eastward and about Toul and beyond it is beautiful. We disembarked at Toul 8/21/18 and hiked to Chandenay, some five kilos away, where we billeted. The hike was at night. In the distance toward the front, we saw star shells, projector signaling, and other light. Occasionally, we could hear the batteries working and see shrapnel burst. Above our heads was often the hum of an aero plane. I guess we are in it now for sure. "Bonne chance."

Chandenay- West Front.....8/28/18

A Boche plane came over this morning and was merrily popped away at by our "Archies". Then about a dozen of our planes went in pursuit and Herr Bache went back in a hurry. Kaiser and I slid out of formations this morning and went for a swim. Fine!!

Martincourt..... 9/3/18

At last the regiment is on the front, tho only, so far, in army reserve. We moved up at night from Chandenay and took up this position. It has not been too exciting, but we have- had a slight taste of gas. There are air fights every day. This morning a Boche very calmly clicked off (2) of our captive balloons. He' had guts. He sailed right over our position at about 800m height so we may-be "strafed" a little tonight. Fairly accurate rumor has it that we are shortly to move about four (4) kms. forward which will put us about 1 km. behind the very front lines. So it seems that the 30th fatigue artillery regiment is at last to try its mettle. Wrote to Rufus last night - a short letter.

Sezerais Sector.....9/9/18

We had quite a day today. - Pvt. Day and I walked up to our forward position to wrap up our stuff and bring it back. We were all finished and were hurrying back for supper; we saw shells (H.E.) exploding on the road ahead of us that we had to travel, but they slackened up quite a bit as we got up there; we stopped at a French anti-aircraft gun mounted on an automobile chassis and asked a Poilu there if "les Boches" were "fini". He did not understand at first, but then a comprehending smile lit up his countenance and "Oh, oui, oui", he said. We started on up the hill. Just as we reached the crest we heard a shell whistling toward us. There was nothing to do; it seemed as if it was coming for at least five (5) minutes. At last it hit with a thud about 12 meters away and exploded with a great bang. Needless to say we hurried on, then. When the next one came over we were at least a hundred meters away. It was my first experience under shell fire and not very pleasant. It was great luck that a shell fragment didn't plough thru one or the other of us.

First Forward Strike.....9/8/18

Was working in my little dug-out where I do the battery's map work when "Kid" Martin brought me a letter from Rufus. How overjoyed I was. It was a fine, beautiful, strong-hearted letter, tho, as several written earlier have not come to me yet, there were several things I could not understand in it. But I guess I read it fifty (50) times in the first hour. Won't it be nice when I am back home with you, mine own little girl? I do. I do.

Le Puits Ferme.....Sept. 11, 1918

We moved into this position for action today. All the guns are in the pits and ammunition in the racks. We know a drive is impending, feel that it is to be "made in America", and hope confidently for its success. Our mission has come in and Lieut. Calley and I were figuring it in our little dugout when a messenger from B.N.1-A.H.6 came in, panting, and informed us that h-4 meant four (4) hours before the zero hour instead of four (4) minutes. We looked at our watches. We had exactly thirteen minutes to begin firing and no preparations made!

Le Puits FemeSept. 12, 1918

Somehow or other we got started. It seemed as if Hell had- broke loose then. Every battery was firing furiously, continuously. For two hours we did counter-battery work with gas; of what variety, we knew not. For the next hours we cut, barbed wire in front of the trenches in "No Man's Land". Then the real thing - the BARRAGE started. It was wonderfully

inspiring, to know that our dough-boys were going over the top - into a hail of shot and shell - into death and torture - while we were helping them as best we could by pumping all sorts of shells into the Boches - "walking thru" their territory, as we call it. The barrage lasted for us for one (1) hour and (12) minutes, tho other guns fired for many hours longer, particularly the "heavies". I controlled one gun, as we did not have sufficient officers, and- ceased firing exactly on the minute.

Sept. 13, '18

Today is Friday, and the 13th! We have moved forward and are waiting to go further. I'm picked to be killed or something, on such a day, but instead I received about fourteen (14) letters from Rufus, the family, my new sister-in-law, Lance, Bobbie Watson. Who can say the day is unlucky? We moved out about 4:00 to our new position. It is plumb on the edge of "No Man's Land" and our guns are right in the open for anyone to see who wishes. I, needless to say, hunted up the only dugout available and set my detail to work getting comfortable. Several dough-boys are lying out in the field - No Man's Land. They never got there. I kind of wish somebody would remove them. We fired several barrages.

No Man's Land- Fey-en-Hey Sept. 14, '18

We fired. several barrages today, but otherwise, made ourselves comfortable. Except for a little gas last night, I find this war quite comfortable. I would like to have a bath, tho, to remove some three weeks' crust.

Fey-en-Hey..... Sept. 15, 1918

This is one of the most beautiful Sabbaths I have spent in France. We did not fire a shot. I went forward and saw several dead Boches. A Boche aviator calmly shot down three of our balloons directly in back of us. But I have seen several airplanes go down and know that some of them were

German, tho some were Allies, too. I received a fine letter from Rufus. I had to smile, tho, when she spoke of an excursion to the shore with two "poor sozer-men" and a dinner at Price's where the poor half-starved dears ate to their hearts' content. It was a splurge in honor of Mrs. Connolly's birthday. I only ...ash those poor dears could eat some cold, canned Willie, go thru teeming rain with soaking feet for four days - and in a drive, too - avec tres moutarde and just a bit of shell fragments.

Old GermanTrench.....Sept. 19, 1918

We moved up here yesterday from our position in front of Fey-en- Heye, which was being spasmodically shelled. This trench runs thru a woods and we were going to pitch our tents close to it so we could run into them in case of shell fire. But we had no more than got there than we were shelled - viciously and accurately – for about twenty (20) minutes. Visscher was rather badly wounded in the hip. So, of course, we bunked in the deep dugout for the night. I felt considerably better. The guns, in the rear of us, were shelled about 10:00pm but we got off free. Our dugout is about 30 feet under- ground and quite safe. Sept. 16 I received another letter from Rufus, three in one, and Sept. 18 I received two cartons of Piedmonts, a box of Nabisco's, a Sunday Times, Commencement Tarquin and Alumni Quarterly. Things are coming pretty good.

German.Dugout9/20/18

Received letters today so I must needs enter the glorious event in this diary. There were two from mother, two from Marion, and neither last nor least, but because I save the best 'til last, seven from "Rufus who carries on".

Sept. 22, 1918

Expected to spend a quiet Sunday today, but was sent up the valley to the front lines to observe our fire on Boche positions. Wandered around all day and couldn't find any point for observation. Saw Fritz shoot some mustard gas.

Sept. 26, 1918

Was made a sergeant today. As a result I am quite happy and proud. I hope I prove worthy of the confidence shown in me, as the position is one of the most important in the battery. I also received three letters from Rufus, one each from John, Jeanne and Ted. A glorious day, altogether.

Fey-en-Heye.....Oct. 1, 1918

Day and I walked back to Marney this morning and had a unique, hot shower - both, the first in over a month. From there we continued to Martincourt where we purchased some jam and things. A bottle of red wine between us was too much.

Essey.....Oct. 5, 1918

Pulled out of our position at 7:00 and travelled without mishap til we reached Essey to the west, where we bivouacked. It seems that we are on a four day hike to the Verdun sector. I guess we're due to see some real scrapping. I hope so, if it will end the war any sooner.

Varvinay..... 10-6-18

Travelled during the night from Essey to this place. We slept on the floor of a beautiful little church. Every other house is a heap of ruins. In the afternoon we had a fine time inspecting German- officers' dugouts, bomb proofs and places of amusement.

Camp Pontoux Recourt10-7-18 ·

Reached here at 7:00 am after a miserable all-night hike in the rain. Everybody and the horses were so all in, that we spent the night here too. It is beautiful country. For two days we have gone thru a region unmolested by le Boche.

Camp de Grand Fosse.....10-8-18

Traveled to this point during the day, which made it much nicer, tho we had considerable rain. It is wonderful country. We pitched pups on a hillside and I kept sliding out into the rain. I was cold and miserable.

At Futeaux.....10-9-18

Pulled in here after a short hike. Our schedule says from 2 to 10 days in reserve. I hope it is ten but I know it will be two. So goes this life. I hope they outfit us. Our outfit is strewn all along the road. We go fast.

At Futeaux10-10-18

Loafed around all day getting washed and shaved up. About 4:00 was ordered to get ready to move out at 5 a.m. tomorrow morning! What did I say? · Ahead of us lies to Argonne Forest and some mighty heavy fighting.

Near Apremont10-15-18

We came up here two days ago and encamped in a meadow between two hills. It looked like a calm, peaceful spot until Fritz began to throw a few 77s in. This morning he blew up a kitchen and got a half-dozen horses in the 2nd battalion beside us so I guess we 'll move up into the hills pretty shortly.

Argonne Forest10-20-18

Tis a very rainy Sabbath so I hike off into the woods for a little shelter I know of, and proceed to write a little history, which is lots better than making it. We pulled out of Apremont one muddy, wet morning and travelled all day thru this now famous Argonne Forest till we pulled into some village - Lancon - for the night. The next morning I came forward with the major and battery commanders of the first battalion. We picked out positions. Then the officers went back while I waited for the battery to come up. I spend the afternoon searching out kitchens. Altogether, I had four meals. Battery got in and settled at about ten p.m.. At twelve -we were shelled by heavies. One horse was killed, one wounded. Warner was cut up and several Fourguns and limbers got holes in them. Next day we moved more to one side and pitched tents in a quiet grove. We passed a comfortable night. Next morning shells came over pretty close, wounding, seriously, two men in C directly behind us. One of our men was knocked over but unhurt. Passed a quiet night, which brings me to Sunday the 20th. Looks as if we have a big job ahead of us.

Bois de NegremontOct. 29, 1918

We are still in this position, waiting - for another drive to start, possibly. It is only 12 miles to the border. I think we ought to reach it before New Years if we start soon enough. We loaf around during the day and sleep all night, firing very little. We are shelled occasionally, gas, H.E.

GAS ! VerdunNov. 16, 1918

On Nov. 1, at 3:30 A M., we started firing preparatory to the doughboys going over the top, ceasing at 9:30. We sat around then, waiting. At about 12:00 the word came in that the doughboys had only been able to advance about 1/2 kilometre. At 1:30 we started another three-hour barrage so that they could try it again but afterwards we heard that they had not even followed it. We were pretty well dejected. Orders came in later to haul out and go up front for direct fire on the Boches in the Bois de Loges, but we were still hanging around on the following day when we started out about 4:00. We got down into the valley, into a town called Chevieres, before we learned that the Germans were in full retreat. We followed them then, for several days, getting past Stonne before we could fire a shot. Then orders got conflicting because of the Germans seeking an armistice. We went thru Stonne three times. Finally we hauled out on the back trail and trekked for many days, finally going into echelon at Boleycourt. The next day the firing battery went into position in front of Verdun, Nov. 14, '18.

VerdunNov. 16, '18

Red Thurber and I took a walk over the famous battlefields here, today. It certainly is wonderful; impossible to find even one square foot of ground not dug up by a shell. We wandered around the whole day.

VerdunNov. 18, '18

Today we hauled the guns out of position and "retreated" to the city of Verdun where we lodged ourselves in large, stone barracks. How long we will stay I do not know. I suppose discipline will recommence.

Verdun.....11-19-18

Discipline has recommenced. Sgt. Voorhees missed reveille so Sgt. Voorhees takes a detail, all of whom are in the same boat, down to wash the caissons, fourguns and escorts. I guess I'll get up tomorrow morning.

Verdun 11-23-18

Saturday- Red, Al and I got passes and went to Verdun. We wandered around the deserted city, hit the ycu (?) line for supper and then went to a ycu (?) vaudeville show which we enjoyed very much - the first in nine months.

Verdun.....12-3-18

Still here! I guess it is getting on my nerves for today I discovered that I had spilt a can of condensed milk in my "M. G. Musette" (?) bag. Later.. I spilt my whole bottle of ink. I wish they'd get busy and give us something to do or take us home. This life is intolerable; it is only waste. I hate it and am mighty impatient to get home. I want to see Rufus, hold Rufus in my arms, hear her voice as she says - I love you - as I know she will say it. How much I have to look forward to - it makes it worse.

St. Remy.....12-7-18

Reveille at 2:30 at Verdun. At four we started on a five mile hike to Dugny, where we loaded on a train. Travelled all day mighty uncomfortably. I am troubled with a bad cold. Spent a miserable night.

St. Remy.....12-8-18

Unloaded our materiel at a place a few miles from Semure and then went back to St Remy. On the way one of our coaches burned up so we had to hike a couple of miles. But this is a clean place and full of people. Beautiful day.

St. Remy12-11-18

Life still goes on at St. Remy. Tonight, in an attempt to lighten things up, we journeyed over to the Cabaret du Moulin. We partook of some "vin rouge" which was acceptable as long as we had "limonade" to use as a seltzer. But when that gave out, it was terrible. We ate cheese and fried bread and had some french fried "pommes de terre". Then we started the piano and danced with the cook and her sister. Oo la la! Altogether we had a fairly good time and an inexpensive one, as it only cost us four francs apiece.

12-13-18

Today. is Friday the Thirteenth! It passed uneventfully enough and I turned. over the sergeantcy of the prisoner guard, which I had carried for twenty-four hours, over to Peck. But at night it was announced that complete inspection would be made on the morrow by officers - old maids - of the 1° Army Headquarters. That means standing around under pack and at attention off and on all day, bawlings out, and further pleasant details. So today only prophesied disaster. Received letters - three from Rufus, 1 mother, 1 Harold, 1 John, 1 Louise. A thing that tickled our sense of humor occurred today. Medical Major lined the battery up in the street in single rank and held "short-arm" inspection. The women looked rather alarmed- wonder if they thought descent on their chastity impended.

St. Remy.....12-25-18

Christmas Eve and on guard, a dismal thought until I thought of how I was guarding all the stables and hence all the mangers in this little town which might be a French Bethlehem. Later I took a detail to pack Xmas packages - quite Christmassy.

St. Remy12-27-18

Red and I slipped over to Montbard after retreat, slipped past the MP' s and had a wonderful time. I bought a watch and a knife, which took most of my pay. We had a supper of "boulet", french fries and horse steak. Looked in at a dance for a time.

St. Remy12 28-18

Day, C.R. came back today. The same old Yankee. We went over to the "greasy spoon" where Bill Boltz entertained us and also paid for the dinner and champagne. Got a letter from Ted. today. He is in France, instead of at home as I expected.

St. Remy1-1-19

The first of the New Year and a glorious, clear day. Red, Day and I took a walk up over the hills on the other side of the canal. The view was beautiful. At last, heading for a chateau that we saw in the distance, we hit a stone state road. A milestone told us that La Mairie was 1k8 distant, so we headed for it. It was a decrepit little village, but had more than neat little inn presided over by a motherly old lady. We inveighed her into promising to cook a first-class dinner for us on the next Sunday; and so, home to stand out first retreat in 1919.

St. Remy1-5-19

Dinner at La Mairie. Chicken, french fries, salad, bread and coffee; some red wine and a bottle of Chablis. Presto, fine. Stood us in 14 fr. Had lots of fun selling cigarettes and tobacco to some Frenchmen who came in. Worthwhile.

St. Remy.....1-8-19

Stood Sergeant of prisoners guard today. Old lady tried to present two of the prisoners with "unboute de vin rouge". A case where I had to know French. Otherwise, work passed off satisfactorily.

St. Remy 1-11-19

Red and I walked to Montbard after supper, drawn to walking by a glorious moon. The walk along the canal is fine under such circumstances. In Montbard we had a good time watching MP's and peering into dark corners. Left watch.

St. Remy1-12-19

Day on KP today, so Red, Haag and I walked to La Mairie where we had a dinner of steak, fries (-) last Sunday. In addition, we had to have a bottle of Champagne, which mellowed us in fine shape. Came home to find three (3) glorious letters from Rufus. Answered "toute de suite". Bed, 9:15.

St. Remy1-18-19

Notice of another furlough today. Was asked to hand in names of men in my section who wished to go. Put mine in at the last moment and was one of those whose names were drawn out. Destination is La Muleales Bains.

St. Remy1-19-19

Left here by auto truck at 1 PM for Les Laumes, where we waited for a train till I was nearly frozen. Pulled out about 6 PM travelling to the South.-. Passed thru Dijon about 8:00 o'clock. Compartments are beastly dirty and cold.

Monte Carlo 1-21-19

Pulled into Monaco about 8 this morning after a mighty tiresome ride. Was allotted Hotel Balmoral for non-coms. Fine place. Walked around a bit and went to bed, as I. was mighty tired. Slept like a brick. ·

Monte Carlo1-22-19

Got up about 8:30 and had breakfast. ·I looked the other chaps up. Bought three handkerchiefs ·and two butterflies for Rufus - 56 francs, half my fortune gone but worth it. Walked around some more and so to bed.

Monte Carlo1-26-19

Today is the Sabbath and very beautiful. I spent the day in sunning myself and sleeping. In the evening I went down to see the burning of the boat - a ceremony in honor of St. Devote, the 1° Christian here.

Monte Carlo 1-27-19

Spent a quiet day. In the afternoon I went to see the remainder of the St. Devote ceremony, this time a procession from Monaco to the church. It did not impress me much. ·

Monaco 1-30-19

Lack of transportation gave us one more day in this wonderful place however, they awoke us at four this morning to entrain. We left at about ten o'clock. The end of a perfect trip.

St. Remy2-1-19

Back again at 11 AM to find snow on the ground and much coldness. Went on sick call at 1 PM to see about some kind of poisoning I evidently picked up on trip. MD did not diagnose. Go to hospital in morning.

Semur2-2-19

Sent here to 309 Field Hospital where I am lying in a ward. The poisoning has made me quite sick. I am listless, my stomach is upset and I suffer considerable pain. It makes me suffer mental agony when I think that the division might sail for home while I am here. There is no telling what might happen then. I might go to the Army of Occupation and hang around with casuals for a long time. Lost records are no joke.

Sermur 309th F.H. 3-2-19

Have been here a month today. Am undeniably better, but very bitter towards an army that can permit-such an ill-run hospital and such attention as is here afforded. I should be with my battery now! Instead I am still weak and unsteady and sick. I have been the subject of neglect and carelessness. Preparations for inspection seem more important than treatment of the patients. I should be well and away. But here I am! I have not had my temperature taken since I have been here; yet I know that I had a high fever for four days and all of the symptoms of the flu. I try to tell the doctor. He laughs, says he understands, and passes on. Nothing is done. Sanitary conditions are terrible, one toilet seat for forty men suffering from poison and skin diseases! A place to wash where I feel as if I were rubbing my face with all of, the bacilli in the world.

Base #103, Dijon 3-4-19

Rufus' birthday and I was sent today to Dijon, a 60 km ride in a bumpy ambulance. But the place is bigger and better regulated, better food. I have hopes here of speedily being fixed up. I pray to God so.

Dijon 103 3-5-19

Sent to bed with temp of 102. Got the flu. Guess I can stand it if anybody can. I have plenty of resistance. Weaker than a damn dog. They carry me out every day.

Plombieres 4/14/19

Convalescent again! But, now, after so long a time, it really begins to seem as if I was on my way to being discharged. But I suppose the carelessness and negligence that is so rife among hospital officials will hold me here until after my division has sailed. It is shameful! No personal energy or expression of desire or even need, can make any impression upon it. Sent to this station today. Best mess yet discovered in the A.E.F.

DECLARED FIT MAY 16, 1919

St. Aignan May 5, 1919

Travelled here from Plombieres on the American Line. Was going home as U.S. Casual, but my guts took a fit so I am lying here in a tent hospital. Seem to be a pretty nice place. Prescription is graduated work.

St Aignan 5/28/19

Moved to U.S. Casual Co.

Delayed three weeks because of a change in orders. RLV

St. Aignan 6/18/19

Left here at 4:00 on an Hommes 40 - Chevaux 8 for the Port of Le Havre.

Le Havre 6/20/19

Arrived here today at about 10:00 A.M.. Were quartered in prison pen for night.

Le Havre.....6/21/19

Slung equipment at 12:30 and left for ship. Boarded S.S. La Lorraine (Cie. Generale Transatlantique) at 3:00 P.M. Were scheduled to leave at 9:00, but because of trouble (strike) were delayed until 2:00A.M. •

On Board La Lorraine6/22/19

Pulled out a little after 2:00 A.M. Sunday. Went along all day at good clip. Cherbourg coast in sight in morning, English coast in afternoon. Fair boat, fair quarters, fair food.

Second Day out6/23/19

Ran into the tail end of a norther today. I was frightened knowing that if I got sick, vomiting would surely kill me, my stomach as it is. I did get a little sick but not enauseated. But I was scared. Had calisthenics on upper deck in morning and a "chic" French lady insisted on taking part, gratefully kissing the embarrassed officer afterward. (Many of the boys were sure they saw New York, tho it is supposed to be 3,000 miles away.) (Voyez vous, it was very breezy.)

Third- Day Out6/24/19

Calm again today. Relief to find my stomach better, tho still a little "queazy". Scheduled to arrive Sunday afternoon. Full of confidence and hope and expectancy. I am going back to Rufus - she still loves- me, I know.

Eighth Day Out6/29/19

The lop-sided old tub is still showing us an uneventful passage. Saw ice-bergs one day, and countless porpoises. We expect to hit New York tomorrow and discharge the 1st or 2nd of July. My luck if I am held for "French itch".

Camp Merrit 7/1/19

Came into New York yesterday and disembarked at 10:00 A.M.. We reached this camp about 4:00 P.M. I was all in from this cold. Called up Rufus - which I didn't mean to do. Feel much better today after a bath and good food.

Camp Merrit 7/2/19

Was given a pass for 24 hours. Hurried out to New Brunswick, found Rufus at home, went to Suydams and my folks, met Connelly's and others. Oh, it is good to be home again.

Camp Dix 7/5/19

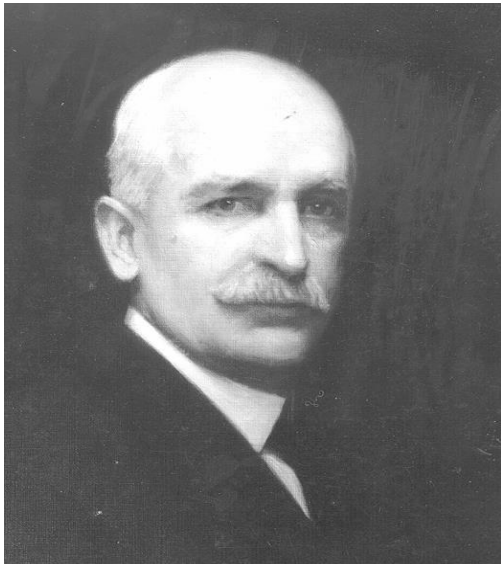
Came here on Fourth of July. The "old place looks familiar". Told different tales about how soon we will be discharged.

7/7/19

Went thru the rigmarole today, all day. Was worried thinking I would be held over until tomorrow, but got paid and discharged all O.K. Taxied to Trenton and took 7:48 for home where I found Rufus and the family.

FINI LA GUERRE i.e., END THE WAR

FATHER AND MOTHER OF ROBERT LELAND VOORHEES



EDWARD BURNETT VOORHEES, 1856
(35772)



ANNA ELIZA AMMERMAN VOORHEES, IVY HALL
(35773)

Anna Voorhees bought Ivy Hall in 1916, according to Wikipedia. When John R. Turner visited the house as a young child the face of the house was completely covered in ivy, hence its name, Ivy Hall. It is now called the Cornelius Low House and in 1979, Middlesex County, New Jersey, bought the house and grounds under the guidance administration of the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission. The County acquired the Low House to use as a local heritage museum for discussing the history of New Jersey and its context within that of national events.

According to the New Jersey Historical Trust, the Cornelius Low House is one of the finest examples of Georgian architecture in all of New Jersey. Constructed in 1741, the house has survived essentially unaltered. It is one of two remaining buildings from the once-thriving early New Jersey settlement of Raritan Landing. The Cornelius Low House is listed on the state and Nation Registers of Historic Places, and was surveyed in 1937 for the Historic American Buildings Survey. Cornelius Low was a leading citizen of Raritan Landing, a port community on the Raritan River in central New Jersey that flourished between 1720 and 1835.

The Van Voorhees Association toured this home during their 1998 Reunion and on page 23 of this issue, is a reprint of the article in the Summer/Fall 1998 edition of the *Van Voorhees Nieuwsbrief*.

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

This is the fifth 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 member, 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”!

IX

VAN VOORHEES FAMILIES IN NEW JERSEY

Conditions in the early years of the eighteenth century encouraged the removal of many Dutch families from the western portion of Long Island. In not a few the number of children was large, and early marriages were not infrequent. Places for home-making had to be found. Some went farther eastward on Long Island to Jamaica and Oyster Bay, a township that extended then as now extended from the Atlantic Ocean to Long Island Sound. Some went northward across the sound to Westchester and the counties beyond, but the majority went to New Jersey where political conditions were quite favorable, and much good land was to be had.

All of Steven Coerten’s five sons remained at Flatlands, except Albert and Jan. In 1684 Albert moved to a plantation along the west bank of the Hackensack river near a place called Kindekamack, situated a few miles north of the present city of Hackensack, later the county seat of Bergen County, New Jersey. In the process of time many new communities have been formed in that section. Albert’s home was near the present Borough of Oradell. Kinderkamack remains only as the name of an important highway running northward through the section. All of his thirteen children made their homes in the northern counties of New Jersey. The early families at first spelled the name Van Voorhis; many later dropped the Van.

Albert Van Voorhees was one of the two elders chosen in 1686 at the organization of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Hackensack, his colleague being Theodore Brinkerhoff. Many of his descendants have been prominent in the church life of Hackensack and neighboring communities.

Late in life, Jan Stevenson lived for a time on an estate situated a few miles west of New Brunswick, but his will was probated in New York in 1735. Before 1700 a large migration had set in from Long Island to Middlesex, Somerset and Monmouth counties in central New Jersey. Middlesex and Monmouth counties bordered on the Raritan bay and were of easy access from New York by boat across the lower bay. Somerset county lay to the north and west of Middlesex, with the Raritan river as its main artery to the sea. The Raritan is formed by a juncture of the North Branch, which flows southwardly through the length of Somerset county, with a South Branch which, though it rises farther north than the South Branch, joins it from the south at a point nearly thirty miles inland from its mouth at Perth Amboy. This ancient capital of East Jersey, was a principal gateway to the entire region. New Brunswick, twelve miles to the west, on the southern bank of the Raritan, was the principal inland town. At the head of navigation and at the dividing line between Middlesex and Somerset counties, this town was deemed of such commercial importance that in 1730 it received from King George II a charter as the “City of New Brunswick,” the two hundredth anniversary of which was elaborately celebrated in 1930.

A mile northwest of the city on the Somerset county side of the river was “the Landing,” which became a shipping point for grain and produce raised farther inland, much of which was brought down the river on flat boats during high water of the early spring. Here later an important mill was erected known for many years as the Voorhees mill.

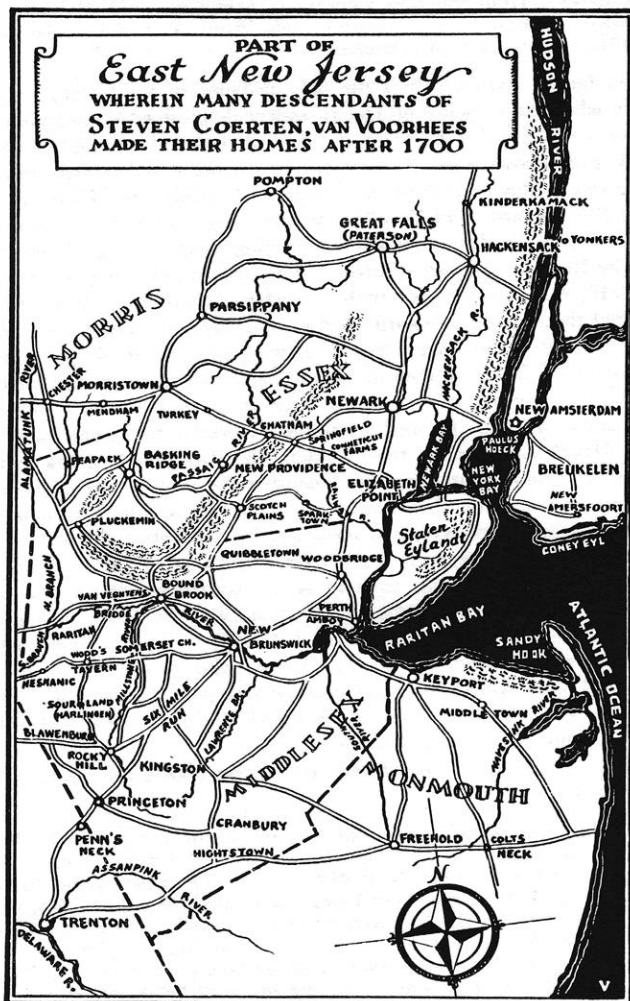
Much of the land in Middlesex, Monmouth, and Somerset counties was fairly level, and though more rolling than land to which the Dutch had been accustomed, it attracted them by its fertility. When Somerset county was set off from Middlesex by an act of the New Jersey Assembly that convened at Perth Amboy in May, 1688, a reason for the act was thus stated:

“Forasmuch as the uppermost part of the Raritan River, is settled by persons whom in their industry and manuring their land, (are) forced upon quite different Ways and Methods from the other Farmers and Inhabitants of the County of Middlesex, because of the frequent floods that carry away their fences on their meadows, the only arable land they have, so by consequence their interest is divided from the other inhabitants of the said county ...”

It was therefore enacted that the territory within carefully prescribed bounds “be divided from the said County of Middlesex and hereafter be deemed, taken, and be a County of this Province; and that the same be called the County of Somerset.” So far as known, this is the only instance in the history of the state when the presence of Dutch settlers determined the erection of a new county, which, however, received the name of an English shire.

It is not known when the first member of the Van Voorhees family removed to this section of New Jersey. Possibly near 1700. From that date onward, Van Voorhees families began to arrive in increasing numbers. A few statements respecting them may be of interest.

The Reformed Dutch Church at New Brunswick, when organized in 1717, was in association with an earlier church begun about 1699, located about three miles westward on the main highway, now the Lincoln Highway, that ran from New Brunswick by way of Kingston and Princeton to Trenton, then as now at the head of navigation on the Delaware. The records of this church in New Brunswick are remarkably complete. In 1887, after celebration of its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary, the minister, Dr. Richard H. Steele, published a volume containing his Historical Discourse, and other addresses delivered on the occasion, and also an appendix containing lists of families, officers and members for the entire period.



In a note on page forty Dr. Steele states that of the children of Lucas Van Voorhees six came to New Brunswick and vicinity and were members of the church at its organization in 1717. He names four sons - Hans, who had married Neeltje Nevius; Roelof, who had married Helena Stoothoff; Minne, who had married Antie Wyckoff; and Albert, who had married Catryntje Cornell - and two daughters, Catalyntche, who had married Roelof Nevius, and Willemtje, who had married Martin Nevius. In a paragraph of this address Dr. Steele makes this interesting statement:

“Perhaps no name is more prominent in our early records than that of the distinguished Elder Minne Van Voorhees, one of the ancestors of the large family of this name in this section of the state. He came to this vicinity from Long Island about the year 1715, and two years after, on the organization of this church, we find his name on our list of communicants. He resided at first on the property now known as the College Farm, and was the proprietor of a large tract of land in that vicinity, including the mills below the city; subsequently he removed to New Brunswick, and resided here until his death, which must have occurred about the year 1734. He was a man of great prominence in the church, elected to the office of elder when quite a young man, and a ruling spirit in the congregation. In the controversies which Mr. Frelinghuysen sustained in the early part of his ministry, he found in Minne Van Voorhees a staunch and intelligent supporter. From the fact of his cooperation with his pastor, the inference is natural that he was a kindred spirit. Tradition reports him to have been very gifted in prayer and exhortation. His memory was so retentive that he was able to repeat nearly the entire sermon after hearing it preached. When Mr. Frelinghuysen was exhausted with his excessive labors, he would frequently call upon Minne to take the evening lecture in one of the neighborhoods, and he would conduct the services with great edification. His name was very precious in the church for several generations, and he has left behind him even until this day a savor of great piety.”

The number of men of the Van Voorhees name who served in the Consistory of the New Brunswick Church is quite surprising. Roelof Van Voorhees, an older brother of Minne, was chosen a Deacon at the organization in 1717 and an Elder in 1725; and Albert, a Deacon in 1725 and an Elder in 1734. During the century and a half at least eighteen men of the Van Voorhees name served as deacons and sixteen as elders. A number of these were in office for several terms of two years each. During the same period, 138 of the name were in the membership of the church, some for many years.

For a time these families continued to be known as Van Voorhees, as the records of baptism show, but from 1750 on, most of them dropped the Van, retaining Voorhees only as the family name. Several variant spellings are noted.

In the six other early Reformed Churches in the Raritan Valley members of the Voorhees found opportunity to show devotion to the Christian faith. The Church of Six Mile Run, on the road from New Brunswick to Princeton, was the Christian home of several prominent families, but its early records are available in the same fullness as those of the New Brunswick Church, some of them having been destroyed by fire. Much is also learned respecting the Raritan Church at Van Vechten's Bridge, now at Somerville, with records beginning in 1699, the Sourland Church, later Harlingen, the Hillsboro Church at Millstone, the Church on the North Branch, later at Readington, and the Church at Bedminster, in the northern part of Somerset county. Families of the Voorhees name were connected with all these churches.

This is true also to a lesser degree of Middlesex and Monmouth Counties. The English and Scotch settled in them in larger proportion, and many Dutch families became associated with Presbyterian and other churches. Almost as much can be learned respecting these families from church records, as from their activities in civil life. An important chronicler of the early days of the section westerly from New Brunswick was Hon. Ralph Voorhees of Franklin township in Somerset County, in which the Six Mile Run Church is located. He was a great grandson of Minne Van Voorhees, and though a farmer was for a term a member of the New Jersey State Legislature, and later a lay judge of the Somerset County Court.

For many years he accumulated historic data respecting the section and its early families. Much of this was first published during 1873 in a magazine printed in series of twelve articles, later *New Brunswick Daily Fredonian*, from author's death in the *Somerset County* and notes by the editor, Abram Van ancestry will be recognized in his name. information, and not a little of special Voorhees Association. Shortly before Ralph Voorhees had accumulated were have a special need for them, but, as no been able to regain possession of them. fortunate that Ralph Voorhees had care, and that his articles were



Hon. Ralph Voorhees 1796-1878

Somerville, entitled *Our Home*, in a republished with corrections in the 1874 to 1876, and again after the *Historical Quarterly*, with corrections Doren Honeyman, whose Dutch Those articles contain much of general interest to members of the Van his death many of the documents that borrowed by someone who claimed to receipt was taken, the family has never This is indeed to be regretted, but it is examined their contents with so great published while he was still living.

The Van Voorhees Association has as yet made no effort to accumulate ancient documents. It is known that a large supply of papers and memorabilia is in the Ralph Voorhees Library of Rutgers University, which may be examined at any time.

One document, however, has been presented which is of great interest because it bears the date, February 23, 1738 - nearly two hundred years ago. It is a photostat of a deed for a tract of 345 acres conveyed by Nicholas Lake of New Brunswick to John Van Voorhees of Somerset County, the consideration being "four hundred and twenty-seven pounds current money of the Province of New York." This tract was situated about five miles north of Princeton along a branch of Bedens Brook near the present village of Blawenberg. Part of it remained in the family for three generations. In 1889, this tract with adjoining property was purchased by the State of New Jersey as a site for an "Epileptic Village," now an important public welfare institution.

John Van Voorhees was, it is believed, the only son of Abraham Stevensen, the youngest son of Steven Coerten, our immigrant ancestor. The land descended through his third son, Abraham, to his grandson, David Voorhees, and was one of the first productive farms of the section. The deed above referred to is in the possession of David Voorhees's children. The photostat was presented by the oldest son, Mr. J. Stanley Voorhees of New York City, one of the Founders of the Van Voorhees Association.

The officers of the Association desire to be informed of other historic documents for the light they may throw on the history of the period.

In the years following the War for American Independence, many venturesome descendants of early Voorhees settlers in New Jersey made their way to central New York and to Western Pennsylvania, and thence to Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and to states farther south and west. Of some of those who bear the Voorhees name something will be told in other chapters. Only a few families, whose stories are of more than average interest, can be singled out for comment at this time.

This takes us through page 53 of the original handbook, which contains 122 pages. We will continue to publish material over the next several issues.

JOSEPH HARDENBERGH VOORHEES

Volume I Correction

By H. Lee Voorhees

In Volume I, page 673 under Hardenbergh Voorhees (7760) it states that Hardenbergh and Garretta VanSyche Vliet had only one son, Richard Voorhees. The last name of Garretta was incorrect due to a marriage certificate error. The actual name of Garretta was VanDyke Vliet. She was the daughter of Ida VanDyke Vliet. An interesting side note is that Ida Van Dyke's grandfather was John Honeyman (accepted by most professional historians) as the spy that advised George Washington to attack Trenton on Christmas Eve and changed the course of the American Revolution.

Joseph Hardenbergh Voorhees (1839-1883) was the tenth child of Joseph Issac (1785-1844) and Dinah Hardenbergh Van Doren (1800-1840). On the death of his parents, he moved from Hillsborough to Tewksbury and was raised by his uncle, Benjamin Van Doren. On July 9, 1864, he married Garretta Van Dyke Vliet, daughter of Richard S. Vliet (1808-1889) and Ida Honeyman Van Dyke (1830-1866). Richard S. Vliet was the founder of Vlietown (around Pottersville, NJ) and owner of Vliet Mill. Joseph passed away in January 1883 and is buried in New Germantown Cemetery, Oldwick, NJ. Garretta subsequently, married William S. Lunger and is believed to have passed in 1921.

Joseph and Garretta had three children, William (1866-1951), Katherine (Kate) Voorhees Van Pelt (1868-1921) and Richard Vliet (1877-1930).

William Voorhees married Rosella Philhower and had no children. Rosella Philhower and William are buried in the Fairmont Cemetery in Tewksbury, NJ.

Katherine married Harry VanPelt and had one son, Frederick. They are buried in Fairmont Cemetery also.

Richard Vliet Voorhees married Martha Becker and had five children; Clarence Richard married Katheryn Kenney Zellers of Somerville, NJ and had five children, Carol Ann Duhamel (1936-2011), Joyce Harris Ernst (1938-2015), Richard Zeller (1938-2021), John Gary (living) and Harry Lee (living). Mildred Voorhees Kavanaugh married Edward Kavanaugh and had two children, Vincent and Vera. Evelyn (never married), Lester Voorhees (never married) and Orlis Voorhees married Virginia Hough and had one son, Scott (living).

* * * * *

The Do's and Don'ts of Genealogy Research

By Ancestry.com

Whether you are new to genealogy or a veteran, your work can only benefit from a refresher in these basic genealogy do's and don'ts. Here are the things you need to know to make your work shine.

Whether you are new to genealogy or a veteran, it never hurts to have a refresher on the basic do's and don'ts of genealogy. These are the things you do and do not want to do in order to make sure your research is accurate, sound, and verifiable. After all, you want to be sure that you are putting the correct people and facts on your family tree because this is something you are compiling that future generations will likely use as a source. Here are the things to do (and not do) to make sure your work produces a reliable family tree.

1) Do Cite Your Sources — This is an important one. Too many inexperienced genealogists ignore the crucial nature of adding sources to your work. Every time you add a fact to your family tree, be it a name, date, place, or anything else, you must cite your source. This acts as both a roadmap for you (to look at where you've been in your research, so you know

where to go), and for those who are using your work as a source (so they can re-trace your steps in confidence that you are leading them in the right direction).

2) **Don't Take Someone Else's Word for It** — You can get genealogical facts from a variety of places. However, unless it is a primary source, meaning it was generated by the person mentioned in it at the time the event happened or a person who was present when the event happened, you must look for verification. Family stories, things you read in genealogy books—even published family histories—and anything else that was not recorded at the time it happened by someone who was there is possibly incorrect. You must look for verification. If no primary sources are available, you must look for enough corroborating secondary sources to be reasonably sure the fact is true.

3) **Do Label Photographs** — Nothing is more frustrating to a genealogist who is using photographs than to find some that belong to their family, but aren't labeled. If they are very old photos, you may have no idea who is in them, and only have a vague idea that they are connected to you. This is why it is so important to label photographs as soon as possible after you take them, including the names of the people in the photos, where they were taken, and when, along with any other pertinent information, such as special events in the photos, like parties. If you come across old photos and are told who are in them by people who would know, label your copies right away. Use either an archival-safe pen on the back of the photo, or put it in an album with a label underneath of it. For electronic photos, make the file name the label.

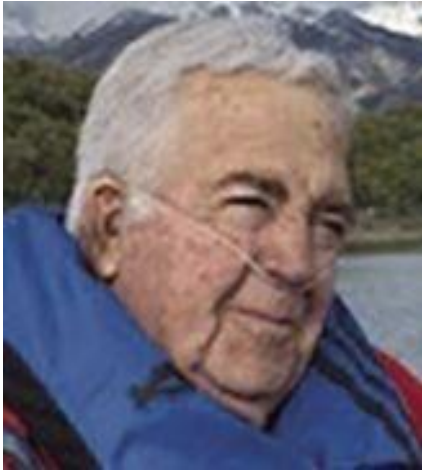
4) **Don't Copy Someone Else's Online Family Tree** — You can certainly use the online family trees of people with the same ancestors as you as a starting point to your own research on that line, but do not copy them verbatim. You do not know how accurate they are. Even if the trees have sources listed, you cannot be sure of the accuracy of the sources until you have investigated them yourself. It can be tempting to let someone else do all the work for you, but you won't be sure your family tree is accurate. Use the online trees as outlines for your own, but verify every fact on them yourself before adding anything from them to your own family tree.

5) **Do Be Organized** — You will collect quite a bit of paper and electronic files in your genealogy research. It is important to keep these as organized as possible. You need to keep a copy of everything you come across, and devise a filing system for both physical and electronic records that makes it easy for you to find whatever you need in an instant. The worst thing you can do is just pile things up with no method to it. Even if you have looked a record over, again and again, you never know when you will find a new piece of information that will cause you to need to look at an old, familiar record again to compare the facts listed or to see how they relate to each other. It is usually best to organize things by family, and then by the type of record within that family; you may also have sub-folders for various types of records of related families to the main family. Use alphabetical order for records with family names, and chronological order for records in sub-folders. Buy paper files for physical records, and make files on your computer for electronic ones. Do this, and you will always have everything you need in your genealogy research at your fingertips.

6) **Don't Forget to Periodically Back Up Your Electronic Family Tree** — Computers crash, break and get hacked. Don't lose all of your hard work to a computer malfunction (or theft). This could mean years, or even decades of work lost. Make a habit of backing up your family tree at least once a month. If you have an online tree, back it up to the cloud. If you have a family tree software program, back it up to an external hard drive or a recordable disk. Label each backup with the date you made it, and you will always have a way to restore the most recent version of your family tree if something happens to your computer or website. For extra security, make two copies each time you back up your family tree, with one copy always being a hard copy regardless of whether you use the cloud or not. Take that hard copy and store it somewhere secure, away from your house, so your work will not be lost if there is a flood, fire, earthquake, or another natural disaster that damages the contents of your house. You will be glad to have the peace of mind of knowing your hard genealogical work is always protected.

* * * * *

IN MEMORIAM



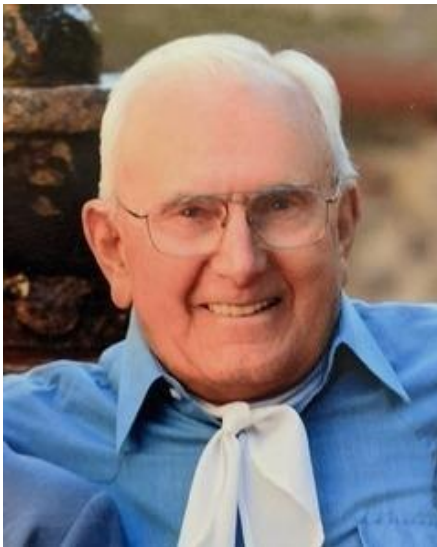
Arlyn A. Voorhis, age 78, died Saturday, August 28, 2021, in Logan, Utah. Arlyn was born July 30, 1943, in Quincy, Illinois, the son of Albert and Gladys Stuffing Voorhis.

He graduated from Unity High School in Mendon in 1961 and enlisted in the United States Navy after his graduation. Arlyn farmed in the Ursa and Missouri areas for many years.

He is survived by his children, David, Darren, Arla, Melinda (Wyndam) of Providence Utah and stepdaughter Melanie (Brian) Jurgens of Longmont, Colorado along with 7 grandchildren. Also surviving are two brothers Dan (Sheryl) Voorhis of Macomb, Les (Diana) Voorhis of Ursa, and a sister Georgene (David) Zimmerman of Quincy.

Arlyn was preceded in death by his parents. Per Arlyn's request cremation has been accorded and no formal services will be held.

IN MEMORIAM



Frederick "Fred" Dallas Voorhees, 98, peacefully passed away January 8, 2021, at his home on Rancho Mission Viejo. He was born March 13, 1922, in Baldwinsville, NY. Fred married Rose Henrietta Nuss on May 9, 1942. From driving a cart delivering milk door to door to running the Yerba Buena Ranch, to working for Rancho Mission Viejo, he loved talking to people and telling stories of his life. He is survived by one daughter, 2 grandchildren, one daughter-in-law, and 3 great-grandchildren, but the number of people who have said, "He was like a father to me," are innumerable. We are pleased to say that he is truly doing "Fantastic," now that he is reunited with family and friends who passed before him.

Comments from his daughter:

Fred was one of twelve children born to Clancy Voorhees (b. Baldwinsville, NY) and Clara Group (b. Syracuse, NY). Fred married Rose Henrietta Nuss (b. Fulton, NY on 3 Aug 1923, d. 13 Dec 1989) on 9 May 1942 in Baldwinsville, NY. Fred

and Rose had one daughter, Patricia Rose Voorhees, who married Norman Robinson Wykoff III on 5 Feb 1965. Patricia and Norman have two children: Jonathan Voorhees Wykoff and Hollie Lynn Wykoff. By age 6, Fred started delivering milk every morning and got one quart of milk for his mother per week. Until the early 1950s, Fred and Rose worked farming on a dairy in the Cato, NY area. After moving to Arizona, they spent the rest of their lives ranching: last in San Juan Capistrano, CA. Fred was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. "My dad always enjoyed getting his Van Voorhees Nieuwsbrief."

THE CORNELIUS LOW HOUSE AT THE REUNION by Editor & President Manning Voorhees

This article was published in the Summer/Fall 1998 edition of the *Van Voorhees Nieuwsbrief*

We have made arrangements for you to tour the Cornelius Low House around 3:00 P.M. on the afternoon of the Reunion. The Genealogical Workshop and fellowship will continue if you wish to remain in the Reformed Church.

The Low House (rhymes with "cow") is located on River Road in Piscataway, and few minutes drive from the Church and a reasonable drive to O'Connor's for the optional dinner. In excellent condition, it is listed in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places and has been cited by the Historic American Building Survey of the Library of Congress. Notwithstanding its historicity, the Low House has contemporary facilities for visitors for visitors.

The exhibit in the Low House on October 10th will be Life in the Raritan valley, Perspectives on Commerce and Community from 1700 to 1830. It is most interesting and certainly topical for a Reunion of our family heritage association. The following text is taken from a brochure about the Low House.

"In the mid-1700s, Piscataway was a thriving mercantile community, and one of the more significant trading centers in the United States. The currents of the Raritan River carried agricultural goods to markets in New York City, and outward from there to American and Caribbean ports. A prominent merchant, surveyor and attorney, Cornelius Low prospered in Raritan Landing, building extensive warehouses in this predominantly Dutch region.

"The history of the Low family in America dates back to 1659. Leaving his homeland in Holstein, Holland, Peter Cornellessen Low emigrated to the United States, settling in Esopus (Kingston), New York. In time, the family, under Peter's son, Cornelius, made its way to New York City and later to Newark, New Jersey.

"Over the years, Cornelius Low, Sr., and wife Margaret Van Bursum, bore fifteen children. Their third son, and Museum namesake, Cornelius Low, Jr., was born in the port town of New York in 1700.

"Cornelius married Johanna, daughter of Isaac Gouvemeur of Newark, in 1729, and brough her to live with him at Raritan Landing in 1730. The couple had eleven children between 1731 and 1748, however, only five survived into adulthood. Two sons, Isaac and Nicholas, were involved in Revolutionary politics, with their papers preserved in various collections; one was a patriot, the other a loyalist. The brothers were merchants and well placed in New York City society. A

third, Cornelius III, became a lawyer in New Brunswick. The two daughters, Sarah and Gertrude, married two brothers, Alex and Hugh Wallace, both of whom were merchants and politicians in New York City.

"Cornelius Low died in 1777. His estate was not settled for many years, due voth to the confusion of the Revolutionary years and the drawn-out attempts to collect debts dur his estate. During this time, the widow of Cornelius Lows' son, Cornelius III, and their daughter, Mary Margaret, lived in the Low House. The mansion was being maintained by John Pool, Jr., who eventually bought the house and warehouses in 1793.

"Over the next two-hundred years, the Cornelius Low House was home to five successive families, including the Pools, Metlars, Voorhees and Strongs. Tradition has it that General Charles Cornwallis, later to be second in command of British forces in America, occupied the house for a short time in the spring of 1777.

"The Cornelius Low House stands today as one of the finest examples of classic Georgian manor homes in the United State. Completed in 1741, the magnificent two-and-one-half story stone structure is situated atop a bluff overlooking river Road (known as Raritan Landing in the 18th century) in Piscataway. The site chosen by Cornelius Low served a dual purpose: after floods threatening his original home on the flats by the Raritan River, the elevated grounds provided a secure residence; and with his warehouses in the Landing below, Mr. Low could easily survey his holdings from the grounds of his new home.

"Originally referred to as Ivy Hall, the Main portion of the Low House is forty feet by thirty feet, with a two-story wing of stone about thirty feet square. Quarries to the west of Bound Brook (Ed. Bound Brook is near Piscataway) are believed to have supplied the approximately 350 tons of sandstone required to competed the home. Additional construction over the next several decades extended the house to include a frame addition in the rear, built before 1800.

"Several original portions of the Low House have been meticulously maintained. The house contains a center hall where you may see the original paneled staircase and wainscoting, eight additional rooms and seven fireplaces. In two of the fireplaces on the second floor, the original delft Dutch-blue Biblical scene tiles may still be found, and in the rear of the house, a few twelve pain window sashes remain"

A YANKEE ON THE NORTH SIDE - UNCLE LEVI VAN VOORHIS

By John Van Voorhis

My grandfather's brother Levi (1844-1941) was born in my hometown, Decatur NY, and during his long life was a teacher, farmer, merchant, and Baptist deacon. At age 20 he enlisted in the Union army late in the war and serving with Company "L" of the Third New York cavalry in the Virginia campaign during the final year of the Civil War.

He recalled this episode, as recorded in a Huron, SD newspaper, a city where he lived for many years:

"On guard duty doing the Civil War, Van Voorhis and his mates found themselves suddenly surrounded, also badly outnumbered by Rebels. Deciding to make a break for freedom, Van Voorhis and a companion, William Allen ... succeeded in dodging a hail of bullets and making their way back to the Union camp. Allen's leap over a picket fence in making his get-away would have done credit to any of our modern-day track athletes, Van Voorhis said, his eyes sparkling with memories of the incident."

At age 93, Uncle Levi was given special recognition as one of two remaining Civil War veterans in South Dakota. His

vigor is shown by the following news clipping: "Of course there will be an automobile ready to transport Mr. Van Voorhis in the Memorial Day parade, but should the committee overlook that detail, the matter probably will be of little concern to the sprightly veteran. For what is a mere mile or so to a person whose daily routine includes more than five miles of walking each day." He stayed extremely active in Civil War veterans' reunions and was present at a very famous one in Gettysburg in 1938.

I met a granddaughter of Uncle Levi's in Spearfish, SD and she told me that when she was a teenager, Levi offered to take her on a trip. The thing he failed to tell her was that they would FLY! She was not too happy at that prospect. This was early in the years of air transportation.

Despite living much of his life in South Dakota, Uncle Levi came back east periodically to visit relatives. I had the privilege of meeting him in our farm home when I was four years old, but I regret I do not recall the words of our conversation. At that time children were "to be seen but not heard!"



LEVI & TIRZAH VAN VOORHIS FAMILY

As recorded in VVA (9006), Levi returned from the war to be a teacher, a farmer, and then a merchant in nearby Richmondville, New York, the home of this wife, Tirzah. He then moved to South Dakota, where he lived the remainder of his life. He died at age 96 after suffering a fall while visiting a son in Sacramento.

VAN VOORHEES ASSOCIATION WHO'S WHO

ACTING PRESIDENT

Scott T. Voorhees

FINANCE SECRETARY

Scott T. Voorhees

VICE PRESIDENT

Position Vacant

TREASURER

Position Vacant

SECRETARY

Position Vacant

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Position Vacant

GENEALOGY COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Robert F. Voorhees

EDITOR, VAN VOORHEES NIEUWSBRIEF

Marie Voorhees Avelsgaard

INQUIRIES - Robert F. Voorhees (above)

Temporary - Position Vacant

GENEALOGIST - Robert F. Voorhees (above)

Temporary - Position Vacant

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Don Coons

ARCHIVIST

John R. Turner

INTERNET MONITORING

Ann Nunn

VOORHEES NOTABLES

Marc Hoover

PUBLICATIONS CONSULTANT

Larry Voreis

LDS RESOURCE

Joyce Fesler

PUBLICATIONS SALES

Scott T. Voorhees,

FACEBOOK ADMINISTRATOR

Scott Vincent Vorhees

WEBMASTER

John R. Turner

VAN VOORHEES BOOK ORDER FORM

Please use or copy this form, complete shipping information and enclose a **check** or **money order** payable to:

The Van Voorhees Association

Please mail it to:

Our publications can also be ordered on our website: www.vanvoorhees.org

Please print

Name: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Street: _____ Email: _____
 City: _____ VVA # _____ Phone: _____

PUBLICATIONS

| Title | Quantity | Price Each Set | Price Total | Shipping Each Set | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------|
| <i>The Van Voorhees Family in America:</i> | | | | | |
| <i>The First 6 Generations</i> | _____ | \$ 60.00 | _____ + | \$ 9.00 | \$ _____ |
| <i>The Van Voorhees Family in America:</i> | | | | | |
| <i>The 7th & 8th Generations, Vol. 1 & 2</i> | _____ | \$ 85.00 | _____ + | \$12.00 | \$ _____ |
| Buy both sets together and save! | _____ | \$135.00 | _____ + | \$21.00 | \$ _____ |
| | | Subtotal | _____ | Subtotal | \$ _____ |
| | | Shipping Total | _____ | | |
| | | GRAND TOTAL | _____ | | |

***Through a Dutch Door: 17th Century Origins of the Van Voorhees Family*, must be purchased from Heritage Books Inc.**

The code name is **V3758** and the price is **\$22.00**. This publication can be ordered via website: www.heritagebooks.com

Or by mail to this address: Heritage Books Inc.
 65 East Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157-5026
 Phone 1-(800) 876-6103 Fax: (410) 871-2674

9th Generation (including 9th generation children)
Not available in book form. Will be sent by email attachment.

Members of the Van Voorhees Association: \$32.00
Non-members: \$42.00

Non-members price includes a free one-year membership to the Van Voorhees Association (if desired). Please include a membership form with your order. Please include your email address, and please address any questions to

Check or money orders should be made payable to the: **Van Voorhees Association**
 Please mail to:

VAN VORHEES MEMBERSHIP FORM

The purpose of the Van Voorhees Association is to provide genealogical research for members of the association which is comprised of descendants of the Van Voorhees Family. Membership is open to any descendant of the Van Voorhees Family whose patriarch was Steven Coerte. The Van Voorhees Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the genealogy of the Van Voorhees Family. The association retains a genealogist who continues to research the family history. The Van Voorhees Association also maintains a genealogical data base to aid members of the association in tracking their lineage. The Van Voorhees family is reported to be the largest Dutch family in America.

Members of the association receive a newsletter, *Van Voorhees Nieuwsbrief*, detailing reunions, historical information about the family, and the latest finds in genealogical research.

If you wish to join the Van Voorhees Association or renew your membership, please print the membership application form and send it, along with the appropriate amount in dues, **payable to the Van Voorhees Association to:**

Mr. Don Coons

MEMBERSHIP DUES: *Please select one*

Regular \$10.00/year Junior \$2.00/year Sustaining \$15.00/year

Contributing \$30.00/year Life \$200.00 *One-time payment*

TYPE: *Please select one* New Renewal for Year _____

MEMBER INFORMATION *Please print*

Name: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Street: _____

City: _____ VVA # _____ Phone: _____

VAN VORHEES FAMILY TREE

Please use additional sheets as needed to complete your Van Voorhees lineage, as far as known. Please be sure to include the names of your children. Also, if possible, please include date of death and place of birth and death, even if exact place of birth or death is unknown. We need to get a general idea where people lived.

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-------|--------|-----------|-------|
| PARENTS: Father | Birthdate | Death | Mother | Birthdate | Death |
|------------------------|-----------|-------|--------|-----------|-------|

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Grandfather | Grandmother |
|-------------|-------------|

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Great Grandfather | Great Grandmother |
|-------------------|-------------------|

Other: _____



PRSTD STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit #29
Jamestown, NC

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

