

Voorhees
Fam

WILL OF ANDREW WORKMAN VOORHEES, AMWELL TOWNSHIP,
WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Will book, volume 12, page 157, Washington County, Pennsylvania

I A. W. Voorhes of Amwell Township, Washington Co., Pa. being of sound mind & in declining health do hereby make this my last Will & Testament. I give bequeath & devise all my property both real & personal in the following manner viz:

1st I wish all my property both real & personal to be sold & the proceeds therefrom to be disposed of in the following (except the one half of the lot which is now occupied by Nelson Voorhes that will be disposed of further along in my will.)

After all my just debts & funeral expenses are paid I give & bequeath to my son Peter Voorhis (700.00) I desire him to have this so he will be enabled to pay for his home.

I give & bequeath to the Presbyterian Church in Amity 300.00 to be paid to the Officers of the Church to be invested & the Annual Interest thereon to be used for the necessary expenditures of the Church.

The Balance after the above bequests are made to be equally divided between my 9 children viz: Albert Voorhis, Nelson Voorhis, Peter Voorhis, Jane Carter, Margaret Carter, Elizabeth Penn, Nancy Hathaway, Julia A. Szwagler (dec), Rosanna Baker,

The following children have heretofore received some money which amounts I desired to be deducted from their respective shares. Albert Voorhis has recd 800.00, Jane Carter has recd 400.00, Margaret Carter has recd 400.00, Nelson Voorhis has recd 600.00.

Eliz. Penn is to have 500.00 deducted from her share providing the Est has the 500.00 bail money to pay that it is obligated to pay for Henry Penn. If the Est does not have to pay that bail money above named, she is not to have the 500.00 counted out of her share.

I desire my executors to make Nelson Voorhes a deed for the lot he occupies then this equals the 600 dollars that has been named heretofore to be counted out of his share. I desire my Exrs to present my grandchildren Henry Hathaway & Dellia Voorhis & Bell Evans with the following bequests Henry Hathaway to have my gun & 20.00 in money Delia Voorhis a cow worth 25.00, Bell Evans to have 100.00 in money.

I appoint for my executors, my son Peter Voorhis & son-in-law Zachariah Baker and I do hereby empower them to make all sales, make deeds for property without applying to Court for authority.

I authorize my exrs. To purchase suitable tombstones for my grave.

This my last Will & Testament made & signed in the presence of witnesses this 3rd day of Nov. 1885.

A. W. Voorhees

Witness Elisha Iams
Dr. D. H. Lewis

Will probated December 1, 1885



BLINNEY PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY (Very Old)
 (Near) Bridgeville, Alle Co. Pa.

Voorhees Family

NUMBER OF INTERMENTS-----122
 " " " Over 70 years of age- 31
 " " " " 80 " " " -30
 " " " " 90 " " " - 9

OLDEST INTERMENT----- 1817

OCGS REFERENCE ONLY

OLDEST PERSONS INTERRED
 Patterson, Mary (wf Peter)----91
 Alexander, Mary (wf Thomas)----96
 " " Thomas-----90
 Jeffrey, Rev. William-----97
 Jordan, Mary (wf Stewart)----96
 Donleavy, Margaret (wf Pat)---96
 Ross, Elizabeth Jordan-----92
 Leslett, Rachel (wf Frank)----98
 Liggett, Alexander-----95

Old Church removed to Bridgeville. Building gone.
 Old Stone Wall around Graveyard in fine condition. The
 Corners are circular. The W.P.A. Workers built a second
 wall close to the road and all is in fine condition.

Many Washington County Ancestors burries there .

Revolutionary Soldiers-----Marked----1
 War Between The States-----3
 World War (Several without stones)-----2

Comer, Cornelius (Who) Revolutionary Soldier.

Records taken by Mrs. Alice Patterson and
 Miss Elizabeth Weaver.
 Aug. 23, 1937.

Monmouth Roots



First Voorhees in Monmouth County

On October 7, 1695, John Bowne, merchant, of Middletown, Monmouth Co., NJ sold 500 acres of land in Pleasant Valley near Holmdel, Monmouth Co., to four young Flatlands, Kings Co., NY men. All four of these men were born in Flatlands; they were all brothers-in-law. They were:

- Steven Coerte VanVoorhees, age 28, born 1667ca and died Feb. 16, 1723 at Gravesend, Kings Co., NY. He married Eva Janse Vandyck Feb. 9, 1687.
- Cornelis Willemsen Couwenhoven, age 23, born Nov. 20, 1672 and died Dec. 16, 1751 at Middletown, Monmouth Co., NJ. He married Margaretta Schenck Sep. 8, 1700.
- Pieter Wyckoff, age 20, born 1675ca and died 1759 at Flatlands, Kings Co., NY. He married first Willemtje Jansen Schenck in 1696 and second Anne Elizabeth VanPelt Sept. 5, 1716.
- Garret Roelofse Schenck, age 24, born Oct. 27, 1671 and died Sept. 5, 1745 at Pleasant Valley, Monmouth Co., NJ. He married Neeltje Coerten VanVoorhees 1693ca. Neeltje Coerten VanVoorhees, born June 30, 1676 and died Aug. 4, 1750 in Holmdel, Monmouth Co., NJ, and Steven Coerte VanVoorhees were brother and sister.

Steven Coerte VanVoorhees and Pieter Wyckoff subsequently sold out their rights in this tract of land to Garret Roelofse Schenck and his wife Neeltje Coerten VanVoorhees and his brother John Schenck. The 500 acres was then divided into 3 farms, those of Garret and John Schenck and Cornelis Willemsen Couwenhoven. Garret Roelofse Schenck and his wife Neeltje Coerten VanVoorhees obtained the largest share, some 200 acres. It is believed that Garret and Neeltje moved from Flatlands to their farm in Pleasant Valley in the spring of 1696. John Schenck and Cornelis Willemsen Couwenhoven, it is believed, moved to Pleasant Valley in 1697.

Garret and Neeltje became prosperous. In addition to the homestead farm, they owned several tracts of land and a wharf in the vicinity of what is now Keyport NJ; land at New Brunswick NJ; and 6,500 acres of land at Pennsneck near Princeton NJ. Garret and Neeltje were among the original members of the Dutch Reformed Church at Freehold NJ, organized in 1709 (this church is known today as the Old Brick Church). Garret was one of the first two deacons and subsequently served as an elder.

About 1736 a cemetery was established near the center of the 500 acres (the 3 farms at Pleasant Valley). This cem-

etry is known today as the Schenck-Couwenhoven Burial Ground. In 1965 the Conover Family Association succeeded in having this cemetery designated as a New Jersey Historic Site. Both Garret and Neeltje were buried here.

Garret's stone reads: Garret R. Schenck, b. Oct 27, 1671, d. Sept. 5, 1745, aged 73 y, 10 m, 8 d. Son of Rolof Martense Schenck and Neeltje Garretse Couwenhoven.

Neeltje's stone reads: Neeltje Voorheese, b. Oct 1, 1675, d. Aug 4, 1750, aged 74 y, 10 m, 4 d. Wife of Garret R. Schenck and daughter of Koert Voorheese.

In 1997 about 100 stones were observable, not necessarily these two.

Thus Neeltje Coerten VanVoorhees, third generation in America and a granddaughter of Steven Coerte VanVoorhees (b. 1600ca at Hees, Drenthe, Netherlands), became the first Voorhees to move permanently to Monmouth Co. NJ.

Some 23 years later Hendrick Voorhees, 4th generation in America, born 1696ca, died 1766 in Monmouth Co. NJ, was the 2nd Voorhees to arrive in Monmouth County when on Jan. 28, 1719 he purchased 250 acres of land at Topanemus in Freehold Township—about 2 miles northwest of Freehold Court House and near present day Monmouth Battlefield State Park.

Hendrick Voorhees had 16 children (10 males, 6 females) with his two wives—Jannetje Andries VanArsdale and Sarah Schenck. We believe that all of his children were baptized at the Old Brick Church, beginning in 1720 and ending in 1748. This church was about 5 miles from his farm.

In 1750 Old Tennent Presbyterian Meeting House (about two miles from his farm and within the current Monmouth Battlefield State Park) decided to build a new church and Hendrick must have decided to join this church since his name and his son John's name appear on the subscriber list to pay for the new church. In 1754 Hendrick and his friend Tunis VanDerveer are listed as owning a pew together in the new church. Tunis VanDerveer's daughter Nieltje married Hendrick's son John. John died before his father and is buried in Old Tennent Cemetery next to the church. Presumably Hendrick is also buried in Old Tennent Cemetery although there are no burial records to support this.

Between 1690 and 1720 many New York Hollanders moved from New York to New Jersey to escape perceived social and political turmoil. Just before 1690 a revolution had taken place in England which drove King James into exile and placed William of Orange on the throne of Great Britain. The political situation in New York became unsettled. On

Upcoming Genealogical Events



6 May 2006 – Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society meeting
<<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usmags/>>

7 May 2006 – MCGS General Meeting. Speaker: Chad Leinaweaver "Same Sources, Different Results"

3 June 2006 – Spring Conference co-sponsored by (GSNJ) Genealogical Society of NJ & NJ State Archives. Features four speakers and research assistance sessions. May include a Book Fair & Society exhibit area. Location: NJ State Museum Auditorium. <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~njgsnj/events.html>>

7-10 June 2006 – NGS Conference in Chicago, IL

9 July 2006 – MCGS General Meeting – Show 'N Tell. "They Say That Clothes Make the Man and Also the Woman"

14-15 July 2006 – American-Italian Family History & Culture Conference in Pittsburgh PA. Keynote speaker: John Philip Colletta. <www.rootsintheboot.org>

13-18 August 2006 – International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in New York City <www.jgsny2006.org/>

30 Aug-2 Sep 2006 – FGS Conference in Boston MA

10 Sep 2006 – MCGS General Meeting
Speaker: John Konvalinka

29-30 Sep 2006 – State-wide Genealogy Conference in Pittsburgh PA <www.genpa.org/PaConf06Sub.html>

Exploring Your Jersey Roots

The Genealogical Society of NJ is pleased to announce a partnership with the NJ State Archives in presenting "Exploring Your Jersey Roots III," a spring program with numerous sessions scheduled over the course of several weeks, 26 April to 3 June 2006.

The event will include a series of Wednesday night lectures between 26 April and 24 May 2006, and will end with an all-day genealogical conference on 3 June 2006, which will offer two program tracks. Booksellers and other genealogical vendors will be onsite.

The schedule for the Wednesday sessions is as follows:

26 April – *Internet Sources for New Jersey Genealogy* by John W. Konvalinka

3 May – *Using the Records of the East and West Jersey Proprietors* by Joseph R. Klett

10 May – *The New Face of Familysearch.org* by Cheri C. Wortmann

17 May – *Tracing Your Immigrant Family at the New Jersey State Archives* by Bette M. Epstein

24 May – *Genealogy for Kids* by Casey Zahn

All Wednesday sessions will be held in the NJ State Archives Manuscript Reading Room at 6:30 pm. Parking is available behind the building. The NJ State Archives will offer extended microfilm room hours on each Wednesday, 4:30 to 6 pm. Light refreshments will be served. Each lecture is \$8.00, or \$40.00 for all events.

Please Visit Our Website!

The "What's New" page of our website has new material.

(1) 1793 Militia Census for Monmouth County

(2) Members-Only page contains the following:

- Queries published in this newsletter 1989-2005
- Surnames our members are researching
- Index to The Monmouth Patent I & II

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~njmcs/>

May 16, 1691 Jacob Leisler, a very popular man in Kings Co., NY, was put to death by hanging in New York City. Then in 1695 an act, passed by the English House of Lords and approved by the King, exonerated Leisler. It stated that said conviction, judgment, and attainder of Jacob Leisler, deceased, be and are repealed, revoked, made and declared null and void to all intents and constructions whatsoever, as if never made. It restored to Leisler's family the property that had been confiscated. Many young Hollanders questioned their security. New Jersey, then run by proprietors, was offering attractive deals on land and religious freedom.

Bibliography

The VanVoorhees Family in America, the first 6 generations, compiled by Florence A. Christoph. The VanVoorhees Association, 2000.

The Wyckoff family in America, a genealogy in 2 volumes, 3rd ed., vol. one, "Descendants of Nicholas Wyckoff", 1980.

Conover, Pioneers and Pilgrims, Celebration of a Family, by Elizabeth Conover Kelley, 1982.

The Reverend William Schenck, his Ancestry and his Descendants, compiled by A. D. Schenck, US Army, 1883.

Early Dutch Settlers of Monmouth County NJ, by George C. Beekman, originally published 1901.

History of the Old Brick Reformed Church, 1699-1999, Mary F. Brotherton, editor.

History of the Old Tennent Church, by Rev. Frank R. Symmes, 1897.

New Jersey Graveyard and Gravestone Inscriptions Locators, Monmouth Co., NJ, compiled by Edward J. Raser, 2002.

by Robert Voorhees

Are You Doing Monmouth County Research?

We need you to write an article on your project, a special circumstance that you found, or . . . just tell us about your ancestor! For additional information, call Carol York (732) 671-0593, or send your article to: The Monmouth Connection, MCGS, P. O. Box 5, Lincroft NJ 07738-0005.

Proposed Amendment to MCGS Bylaws

The Executive Committee of the Monmouth County Genealogy Society met Friday, 17 March 2006 and voted to present an amendment of the Bylaws to the general membership. The purpose of the amendment is to allow officers the option of serving for three one-year terms instead of the present two-year term limit.

As required in the Bylaws each member will receive a copy of the proposed change, by e-mail or postal service. A vote to approve the amendment will be taken at the 7 May 2006 meeting.

The proposed change – old language in brackets, new/proposed change underscored – follows:

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS, Section 2: All officers shall be elected for a term of one year, their term to expire at the end of the Annual Meeting in May. No officer may serve more than [two] three consecutive elected terms in any one office.

ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS of the Bylaws states: Section 1 - The Bylaws may be amended at any General Meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided such proposed changes have been sent in writing to all members of the Society at least thirty (30) days prior, and that such amendments have been presented to and approved by the Executive Board.

Section 2 - Amendments to these Bylaws shall take effect at the close of the meeting at which they were adopted.

Judy Bretzger, President

LET'S VISIT . . .

The Old Wall Historical Society

Wall Township, formed out of Howell Township in 1851, was named after Garret D. Wall, a United States Senator who was elected Governor of the State, but declined the position. In earliest times the area now known as Wall Township was part of Shrewsbury Township which included the territory that is now Ocean County and extended all the way south to Little Egg Harbor Township. In 1801 Howell Township was formed out of part of Shrewsbury Township and included the present area we call Wall Township.

The genealogy records of the Old Wall Historical Society are housed in the "keeping room" of the museum which is

the Allgor-Barkalow Homestead. This room, though small, has a wealth of information available to local genealogists.

Reference books available, to name only a few, are Stillwell's four volumes, *The Jersey Shore* by Wilson (3 volumes), and the two volumes of *Monmouth County Families* by Ann Pette Miles.

Other books on file to be mentioned are *New Jersey Marriage Records 1665-1800* by Nelson, *Monmouth Book of the Dead*, and records of Wall Township Cemeteries. There are other books of historical, as well as genealogical interest, such as ten books on quilting.

Printed census records, with indexes, for Wall Township for the years 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1885 are available. Records, with indexes, for the Townships of Atlantic, Ocean, Freehold and Shrewsbury in the years 1850, 1860 and 1870, and for Howell Township in the years 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 are also here. The 1850 census records for Wall Township are actually under Howell Township, since Wall was not incorporated until 1851. At that date it became a township after breaking away from Howell.

Bible and genealogy records for many local families are also on file in this library. If you are researching a local family, keep in mind that Belmar, Lake Como (formerly South Belmar), Spring Lake, Spring Lake Heights, Sea Girt, Manasquan, and Brielle were formerly a part of Wall, so the records may be here. Researchers needing to make copies can do so at a per copy charge.

The Old Wall Historical Society is in the Allgor-Barkalow Homestead which was originally the home of James L. Allgor, an early postmaster of the township. This building has been restored to about 1844 and is open Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4. It is located at 1701 New Bedford Road, Wall Township. The telephone number is (732) 974-1430.

De Hearn, president of the Old Wall Historical Society says, "Come one and all for a tour and bring the children." There is no admission charge.

Also on the property is the old Blansingburg School, a one-room building which was moved from Sea Girt Avenue and formerly was the school for grades kindergarten through eight being taught by one teacher. It dates from 1855, and is restored with a number of original fixtures. Second graders from Wall Township schools spend one day a week in the Blansingburg School, dressing in clothing authentic to 1855 and bringing their lunches wrapped in waxed paper and a tin can "lunchbox".

Joan Nock and Judy Fury

Education Update

"Energy and persistence conquer all things."
– Benjamin Franklin

Happy Spring!! Our Special Censuses course was a wonderful success. The 19 participants gained valuable insight on Federal non-population schedules, 1890 NYC Policeman's Census, and many more obscure items that offer insight into our ancestor's lives.

Looking ahead, our committee is hard at work on continuing the very successful mini-workshop program format for this next year. Remember it is our goal to provide everyone a chance to get helpful research guidance. If you would like to have a particular topic presented, please contact me <michelle@chubenko.us> or any member of the Education Committee.

Please mark your calendar and share the date: Genealogy 101 parts 1 and 2 are scheduled for Saturday, October 7th and November 4th.

Michelle Chubenko

Orthographical Eccentricities: {bad spelling}

from: *Volume XXIII, Calendar of NJ Wills, Vol. 1 1670-1730, p. 661*

Read them out loud and they will make more sense to you.

"scowling" – schooling
 "ekceketere" – executrix
 'a Larrum" – alarm
 "Engen Gall" – Indian girl
 "cussen" – cousin
 "meaney kinenesies – many kindnesses
 "enuatory" – inventory
 "aire" – heir
 "Eirn and steel wate neet" – iron and steel net weight
 "yeowman" – yeoman
 "Sixnis" – sickness
 "extorsinat" – extortionate
 "starnill" – sterling
 "chears" – chairs
 "neygrois" – negress
 "spectrelea" — ?
 "Debts Dangerously dew" –
 "Human" – yeoman