

Mary L. Rogers

23 March 1899 , Stormville, Dutchess County, New York

GEORGE VAN NOSTRAND, son of John and Lamache Ryerson, b. Apl. 21, 1746; m., July 20, 1769, Hyletje Durland; settled in Dutchess Co. Name, "Van Noorstrandt." Issue:

Joseph, m. Elizabeth Mead. (2:6)

Helena, m. Abram Du Bois of Glenham.

"STORMVILLE, DUTCHESS Co., N. Y. "

MR. HENRY A. STOUTENBURGH:

" DEAR SIR,—While looking over the Fishkill Times yesterday, I saw a piece from you in regard to your visit to Fishkill last fall. I happened in the village the same time. Cousin James Dean sent for me to come in the bank. I met you there. He wanted to know what I knew in regard to the Van Nostrand family, which was very little, as I was taken by surprise and at the same time had considerable on my mind, as I am a poor lone widow with a farm. My mind was not on my ancestors. He said you had as far as George, who married Hilche Dorland, that was my great-great-grandfather. He bought and settled on the adjoining farm to mine—then the town of Fishkill, now it is the East Fishkill division—but what year I do not know as the family now owning it have not the old deed. George had two children, Joseph and Helena. Helena married late in life a widower, Abram Du Bois of Glenham. Joseph married Elizabeth Mead and staid on the father's farm. They had six children, George (my grandfather), Phebe Ann (Mr. Dean's mother), Sarah, Helen Maria, James (Mrs. F. R. Benjamin's father), and Catherine. After their father's death the farm was sold to settle the estate. The children remained in the town of Fishkill and East Fishkill except two, Catherine, who married Doctor John Clapp and moved first to Ohio, then different parts of the west; Helen Maria married an Adams and went to Ohio in 1835. 1836, they bought a farm of 86 acres for \$600 in Berkshire township. I have the first letter she wrote home—is the reason I am able to give these dates. George (the second as I call him, was my grandfather) married Lavina Gildersleeve (who was of Long Island family). They had two children, both boys; the first died in infancy, the second, Joseph Henry (was my father), born December 1st, 1827, died February 29th, 1884. He married Mary Elizabeth Berry, June 9th, 1858. They had two children, Mary Lavina (that is myself), born May 28th, 1859, and Francis Seymour, born August 9th, 1861. He married Harriet N. Page of Syracuse, November 30th, 1897, and on October 5th, 1898, they had a son which I was allowed to name. It being the only one except my brother of the original Van Nostrand family, I thought it should be named after the first Van Nostrand we knew of, so I called it George and they added the Page to it. My brother lives in Syracuse, 203 Borden Avenue. He is a postal clerk running from Syracuse to New York. This is all I know in regard to the V. N's. Mr. John P. Lounsbury

of Wappinger Falls has the V. N. bible, which has the dates, no doubt. I think I told you of its whereabouts. I have the watch that belonged to the first George, it has his initials on the back; also a chair made by him, even the seat is leather, his own tanning, and the tacks were made by him. I believe he was a blacksmith. It is as good as when made; the second George put rockers on it and it has always been in the living room, as it is very comfortable. The first George carried on blacksmithing with his farm, his son Joseph was only a farmer, the second George and Joseph (my grandfather and father) were both wagonmakers and first class. They also had a farm (small one). Father learned my brother the trade, which he worked at some before going in the mail service. A few years ago my brother received a letter from a Van Ostrand in South Haven, Michigan. I think his name was Stephen. He had a drug store in South Haven, and a son Robert in the post-office at that place. He was born near Kingston this State, but moved out there. When in this state they spelled their name the same as we with two n's. He was quite positive we were of the same family. He had his family tree and offered to send it to my brother, but we knew nothing before George, who married Hilche Dorland; I have heard George was of a family of ten children and he came from Long Island to D. C.; so my brother did not send. If you are still collecting, this one at South Haven has his family tree, and perhaps you would know whether we were a branch of that same tree. He wrote my brother it would be no disgrace to be a relative, a distant one at any rate. I am very sorry he has lost the letter. I do not know as any of this will interest you in any way. Should you at any time have a chance I would be pleased to know of my V. N. ancestors before George & Hilche, and should you have it in print please let me know. I was always very proud of my name Van Nostrand, although I gave it up before I was eighteen and my husband only lived three years. He had consumption, was sick about eighteen months. I still live on the farm and own it; the only burying since 1762 was after my husband's death. I bought his brother out and the old Van Nostrand homestead is the adjoining farm. I have told all I know and you will really be tired and need rest. After I saw your piece yesterday I thought perhaps the family at South Haven might be a branch.

"Very truly,

"MARY L. ROGERS,
"Stormville,

"Dutchess Co., N. Y.

"March twenty-third, ninety-nine."

Title:

A Documentary History of Het (the) Nederdeutsche Gemeente: Dutch Congregation, of Oyster Bay, Queens County, Island of Nassau, Now Long Island, Volumes 6-10, Henry Augustus Stoutenburgh, Author. Publisher: Higginson Book Co.