

PART 1

For a while Margaret and Martin Vanderhoof have been our earliest 'provable' ancestors.

A good paper trail exists to establish that they moved from Morris County to Phelps, Ontario Co NY around 1809 and tracks the later migration of their children, Peter, Richard, Leah, David D., Catherine and John W. to Michigan in the 1840's. There are many pointers back from Michigan to Penfield and Webster, Monroe Co NY, but the reliability of the history before that has only been circumstantial so far.

We had always suspected that Margaret's name was Doremus but, as no marriage record exists, it was just a good guess! Similarly, no birth record for Martin has ever been found to support the most popular theory - that he was the son of Richard (Dirk) Vanderhoof and Catherine (Yong?) of Pequannock.

What we knew..... well, a couple called Martin and Margaret Vanderhoof are found in only three records.

1) Pompton RDC Baptismal Record

Peter, son of Marten Vanderhoof and Peggy Doremus bapt Oct 5, 1802

2) Abstract of the will of Cornelis Doremus of Preakness Calendar of New Jersey Wills, Administrations, Etc., Volume X -1801-1805 #134.

1801, July 24. Doremus, Cornelius, of Saddle River Twsp., Bergen Co.: will of. Son, George, all real and personal estate; he to pay other legacies. To the children of son, Jacob, dec'd, each \$30. Granddaughter, Sarah (wife of Robert Murphy), \$25. Granddaughter, Margaret [wife of Martin Vanderhoof], \$275.

Executors - son, George Doremus and nephew, George Doremus

(son of brother John Doremus, dec'd). Witnesses - Margaret Jacobus, Philip Dey, John Dey. Proved Jan. 12, 1804. Lib. 40, p. 421.

1804, Jan. 23. Inventory [not totaled]; made by Christian Shurte and John Van Saun. File 3307 B.

3) Bergen County Deeds E page 339

By deed July 3, 1807, George Doremus, of Saddle River, Robert Murphy and

Sarah, his wife, and Martin Vanderhoof and Peggy his wife, of Pequannock, Morris county, conveyed to Jacob Doremus, of Acquackanonk, a tract of 40.08 acres on Singack brook, adjoining David Doremus. The deed recited that disputes had arisen between the parties respecting the division of the farm at Preakness whereof Cornelius Doremus died seized, who died intestate, and the parties being heirs at law of said estate, agreed, June 17, 1807, to leave the division to William Colfax, Encrease Gould and Abraham Willis.

These show that this Margaret was the granddaughter of Cornelius Doremus of Lower Preakness who died about 1804. and who had a sister, Sara who married Robert Murphy. The History of the Doremus Family in America by William Nelson, gives further information that Margaret and Sara were the daughters of David Doremus and Leah Brevoort (also called Leah Provo(st)). who married 26 February 1779.

The first daughter, Sara, was born 12 Dec 1779 and bapt at Totowa 1 Jan 1780. Sponsors were her paternal grandparents, Cornelius Doremus and Sara (Reyerson).

Our ancestor, Margaret, was bapt Sept 2 1784 at Paramus - sponsors Johannis and Grietje Provo. These were possibly her maternal grandparents as Margaret could have been named for her grandmother (Grietje is a form of Margaret)

But the connection with our Martin and Margaret is purely circumstantial at this point - there could have been other couples called Martin and Margaret Vanderhoof, although the giving of two of their grandchildren 'Doremus' as a middle name is a good clue and I suspect that our David D's middle name was also Doremus.

From the obituary of Richard Vanderhoof (son of Martin and Margaret) who died in Wheaton, Illinois in 1894, we know that the family were in the Morristown area until 1809, when they moved to somewhere near Rochester, Ontario, NY (The northern part of Ontario Co became Monroe Co from 1840). Richard's obit says he was five years old at the time of the move.

There is a probable entry for Martin in the 1810 census for Phelps, Ontario Co NJ where he is found on page 399. In the household are two boys under 10 (Probably Peter b 1802 and Richard b 1805) and a girl under 10 (probably Leah b 1808) Martin and his wife are aged 25-44 which fits with a birth year of around 1780 for Martin and 1784 for Margaret. It's worth noting that Margaret would have been only 17/18 at the time of the birth of Peter in 1802 and just 16/17 at the time of their marriage in 1801(?). The naming of their first child Peter has always been a puzzle, since the name

'Richard' (after Martin's presumed father) would have been more in keeping with Dutch naming patterns. They stick to these patterns pretty well for the rest of their children.

It's thought that David D Vanderhoof was born in 1811 soon and was most likely named after his maternal Grandfather - David Doremus the Revolutionary War Soldier (see later)

Martin and family are shown in the 1820 Census of Ontario County on Page 140. The location of their home seems to be near Penfield. In the household are two males under 10 (David, John) one male 10-16 (Richard) One male 16-26 (Richard), one male 26-46 (Martin then aged about 40) There is one female under 10 (Catherine), one female 10-16 (Leah) and one female 26-45 (Margaret then aged about 36). The fact that Richard is included in the males 16-26 rather than the males 16-18 column suggests that he was over 18 at the time of the census, with a possible birth date early in 1802.

By 1830, Margaret is recorded in the Penfield Census (Page 350) as head of household with two males 15-20 (David D. and John?) and a female 10-15 (Catherine?). It has been possible to locate the home of a near neighbour, Francis Francisco (who is a distant relative on both the Vanderhoof and Doremus sides) who had land near West Webster cemetery.

Martin and Margaret's son, Richard is probably farming the original Penfield land, judging by neighbours who remained from 1810. Richard is on Page 346 and is shown as being aged 20-30 with a wife of the same age.

As Martin is absent from the 1830 census, it's possible that he died sometime 1820-1830.

By 1840, There is no mention of Margaret, so we have assumed she died, too (not actually true as we shall see!) Peter seems to have taken over the farm at West Webster along with his wife and five children (2 boys under 5, one boy 5-10, 2 girls 5-10)

Nearby in Webster are Richard and wife with a boy and girl under 5 and a boy and girl 5-10. There is also a record for David which seems to fit as he is 20-30 (born 1811 so would be 29), but strangely he has a female aged 30-40 with him and three children under ten. David's sisters are both married and accounted for elsewhere in the census, so who are these folks? David didn't marry Jane McCarter until 1842 - so this may be

an earlier marriage, possibly to the mysterious Barbara Clark who some researchers have identified.

We knew that the families of Peter, Richard, David and John moved to Michigan sometime between 1842 and 1846 as did Catherine and her husband, David Thatcher and Leah, who married Abraham Parkhurst.

I put some Vanderhoof Info onto the NJ Bergen rootsweb list and had a mail from and had a mail from Pat Wardell, who and has transcribed many Bergen County documents. The mail contained an abstract from an application for a Revolutionary War Pension by a Leah Westervelt of Penfield, Monroe Co NY. Here it is just as I received it

In the testimony for Rev. War pension for David Doremus, Pvt., NJ Militia, Revolutionary War Pension No. R11353: In Monroe Co., NY Common Pleas Court, 11 Jul 1843, Leah Westervelt, age 90, of Penfield, Monroe Co., NY, widow of David Doremus and John C. Westervelt. David Doremus enlisted 1776, m. 1777, d. 1785.

Children of David Doremus and Leah Brevoort: 1) un-named daughter, b. 1778, age 65 as of 13 Jul 1843; 2) Margaret, b. 1781, m. _____? Prentis, age 63 a resident of Penfield as of 23 Aug 1844. Children of John C. Westervelt (d. 1808) and Leah Brevoort Doremus: 1) David, b. 5 Dec 1787, Bergen Co., NJ, of Penfield as of 13 Jul 1843. 2) Elizabeth, b. 12 Sep 1791. 3) Jacob, b. 26 Feb 1794. 4) Jane, b. 04 Oct 1801. Others mentioned in pension: David Dey, age 79, of Romulas, Seneca Co., NY as of 7 Jul 1843, Tunis Hennion, age 75, of Fayette, Seneca Co., NY and cousin of Capt. Cornelius Hennion, as of 11 Oct 1844, Henry J. Terhune, age 75, of New Barbadoes, Bergen Co., NJ as of 13 Jul 1845, John J. Berdan, age 80-1/2, of Saddle River, Bergen Co, NJ as of 13 Jul 1845. Rev. Wilhelmus Ettinge, pastor of the Paramus RDC, Bergen Co., NJ, states that the marriage records of the church for the year 1777 may have been destroyed.

Pat went on to add the following from Bergen Sources.

David Doremus, son of Cornelis Doremus & Sara Reyerse, m. 26 Feb 1779 (NJ license), Lea DeBrevort (Leya Provo; Brevoort), dau. of Johannes Brevoort & Margrietje Van Horn.

David Doremus was bp. 25 Dec 1750 Hackensack Ref Ch; d. 1785 They lived at Preakness, Passaic Co.

As a widow, Lea m. (2) 24 Dec 1786 Johannes C. Westervelt.

Westervelt, John C. (Hons Westervelt))

John C. Westervelt, m. Leah Brevoort (Lea Pervoo; Leya Provost) (widow of David Doremus), dau. of Johannes Brevoort & Margrietje Van Horn.

On 4 February 1796 (recorded 14 December 1805, Bergen Co. W:316) John C. Westervelt of the Township of Franklin, and Leah, his wife, conveyed to Jacob Ackerman of the Township of Saddle River, for £690, 2 parcels: (1) 88 acres strict measure in the Township of Saddle River at Slaterdam, beginning at mouth of Bottle Brook where it enters into the Passaic River; line of Garret P. Van Wagoner; line of Jacob Ackerman. (2) 24 acres more or less, lot of woodland in Wagraw Mountain, beginning corner of Simeon Van Winkle; Jeurian Van Winkle; George Ryerson; land released to Uriah Westervelt; Cornelius Westervelt. Signed by John C. Westervelt, Leah Westervelt (her mark). Witnessed by Robert Murphey, Sarah Murphey.

On 11 May 1805 (recorded 25 March 1806, Bergen Co. X:267) John C. Westervelt of Rockaway in the County of Morris, and Leah, his wife, conveyed to Joseph Cooper of the Township of Franklin, for \$31, 1-14/100 acres in the W end of the small lots un the Township aforesaid, beginning corner of land late the property of Garret D. Ackerman. Bounded S by Garret D. Ackerman; W by John D. Ryerson; N by David D. Ackerman; E by Vreeland's lot. Signed by John C. Westervelt, Leah Westervelt (her mark). Witnessed by Abrm. Ryerson, Polly Ryerson.

Children of John Westervelt & Leah Brevoort:

- * David Westervelt, b. 5 Dec, bp. 30 Dec 1787 Totowa Ref Ch (wit: Hans Post; en zyn housvrou). David was living at Penfield, Monroe Co., NY on 13 July 1843.
- * Elizabeth Westerveld, b. 11 Sep 1791; bp. 23 Oct 1791 Acquackanonk Ref Ch (wit: Antje Westerveld)
- * Jacob Westervelt, b. 17 Feb, bp. 6 Apr 1794 Totowa Ref Ch (wit: Yacob acerman en sine vrow)
- * Jane Westervelt, b. 4 Oct 1801

This throws up some interesting new facts.

- 1) After David Doremus died, Leah remarried and had another family with John C Westervelt.
- 2) Leah was living in Penfield in 1843

- 3) Leah and John Westervelt were in ROCKAWAY in 1805. They must have come to Rockaway sometime between 1796 and 1806.
- 4) The presence of Sara and Robert Murphy as witnesses on the Dec 1805 deed tie this up nicely with the Will of Cornelius Doremus of Preakness.
- 5) Leah's daughter Margaret has married a man called Prentis and is living in Penfield in 1844. This is evidently Margaret Vanderhoof.

PART II

Having digested the Rev War Pension details, I realised that Leah had lived for a while in the Penfield area with her son, David Westervelt.

The West Webster Cemetery records had the following.

Leah Westervelt, wife of John G; died Apr. 24, 1844 @ 93 yr. 6 months.

David Westervelt, born. 1781; died September 2, 1857 @ 76, War of 1812.

I also found an entry in the Ontario Co Deeds index which mentioned that a David Westervelt had bought land from a Robert Kennedy in 1815, So I next checked for any other mention of David Doremus in the Revolutionary War and David Westervelt in the war of 1812. I discovered that the Rev War Pension abstract was made from a group of documents which included affidavits from other members of the family, including Margaret Prentice/Vanderhoof. A law of 1836 made it possible for the widows of Rev War soldiers to claim a pension, but Leah's application was unsuccessful. I learned that David had served with the NJ Militia during the Revolutionary war and, from the names given as witnesses in the abstract, it was probably the unit commanded by Col Teunis Dey of Lower Preakness. The home of Cornelius Doremus (the man who made the will naming Margaret and Martin) was adjacent to the Dey lands in Preakness - where the famous Dey Mansion is located.

Material in the pension application revealed that David was with the 1st Regiment of New Jersey Militia, that he had served in years 1776/1777 and was with the Northern army, probably in the action at Fort Ticonderoga in the Fall of 1777. He was with Captains Henion, Blanch and Mead and was at the Battle of Monmouth and the retaking of Fort Lee. Unfortunately the evidence was provided by men who had been neighbours rather than those he had served under and there was no documentary evidence of his service. David died in 1783.

David Westervelt served with the 1st NY(Laight's) Militia in the war of 1812, probably in the local campaigns around Lake Erie He made an successful application for military equipment after the war and was awarded 68 dollars. In those days, the militia had to provide their own clothing and equipment and got paid for it later!

Then I checked the Ontario Monroe Co Census for anyone called Westervelt (or similar name) from 1810 onwards. I didn't expect to find John C. Westervet as the Rev War Pension Papers reported that he died in 1808 or 1810.

1810 Census Phelps Ontario Co.

A few pages on from the record of Martin Vanderhoof is a Leah Westerfall - I think this is our Leah and her family as the ages of the children fit pretty well. In the Household there is a male aged 10-15 (Jacob b 1794) a male aged 16-25 (David b 1787) a female under 10 (Jane b 1801) a female aged 16-25(Elizabeth b 1791) and a female aged 45+ (Leah herself, b. 1753) Leah seems a bit on the elderly side to have had a daughter in 1801.

The rendering of a 'v' as an 'f' isn't uncommon in those who spoke a form of Dutch.

1820 Census Penfield, Ontario Co

David Westervelt is shown a few entries below Martin Vanderhoof on page 139/140. In the household there is one male 16-26 and three males 26-45. Two of these are likely to be David and his brother, Jacob, but who are the other two? There is also a female aged 16-26 (Jane?) and a female aged 45+ (Leah)

1830 Census Penfield, Ontario Co

On Page 346, on either side of the entry for Richard Vanderhoof, there are entries for a David and a Jacob Westervelt. The David entry has a male 20-30 and a male recorded 30-40 which is puzzling as David would have been 43 by this date. There is only one female in the household and she is aged 70-80, about right for Leah.

The entry for Jacob has one male 20-30 and a female aged 20-30. Again this is inconsistent with Jacob's expected age of 33.

1840 Census Penfield, (Now in Monroe Co due to boundary change)

There is an entry for a David Westervelt on page 12 - just a few entries below those for Abraham Parkhurst (who m Leah Vanderhoof) and David Thatcher (husband of Catherine Vanderhoof) again some inconsistencies.

There is a male 15-20, a male 60-70 (although David would have been 53) There is a female 20-30 and a female 80-90 (presumably Leah)

1850 Census Penfield Monroe Co NY : Household 125

David Westerville age 61 Male farmer property worth \$3,700 born NJ

Eliza Westerville aged 48 female born NY

Samuel Hart aged 28 male born NY

Sabra Hart aged 24 Female b NY

Frances Hart aged 3 Female b NY

This is the last mention of David in Penfield. He died in 1857. Jacob, his brother must have moved away at some point after 1830.

Conclusions

Martin and Margaret Vanderhoof and family seem to have moved from New Jersey to Ontario County around the same time as the Westervelts -(1809) - possibly just after the death of John C. Westervelt in 1808 (date from Rev War pension abstract) Possibly, he left money or land which financed the move and paid for new landholding in Onario Co. The Westervelt and Vanderhoof families lived close together in Penfield/Webster from around 1820 onwards, possibly on the land bought by David in 1815.

The presence of Leah Westervelt (widow of David Doremus) and the many links now known between the families seems to indicate strongly that Martin Vanderhoof's wife Margaret, was in fact the Margaret Doremus mentioned in the NJ records.