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Dear Family Members:

The purpose of this CD-ROM is to provide a visual collection of photographs and other materials of the Van Hovenberg\* clan. We might consider it a trial run in an effort to collect, collate, and make available genealogical data in a format that takes advantage of recent technological processes including personal computers, the internet, and digital technology.

[\* Spelled thus for ease of reference. It is also referenced as Hoevenberg, Hovenburgh, Hoevenburgh, etc.]

The CD comprises four parts.

CENSUS provides some images from Federal Censuses relevant to the Van Hovenberg and Leonhard families.

DOCUMENTS provides a small sampling of relevant documentation.

PHOTOS provides photographs that are rather small (ca. 100-200 KB in JPG format).

LARGE provides the original scans for the photos, in BMP and TIFF format, sometimes to resolutions of 10 MB or more. In this way, the interested party can adapt the photos in various ways to enhance them.

The incomplete census data is in TIFF format but again should be instantly accessible by the software on most personal computers today. Zooming in will be required to read the entries. The documents are in JPG format, but should be viewable using most software and some zoom.

The balance of these remarks is to provide a brief context and then description of the various photographs. The context of the below remarks is not absolutely accurate, but it is accurate enough for purposes of this trial run.

Dr. Henry Van Hovenberg (1790-1865) was the son of Henricus van Hovenberg, a Revolutionary War veteran, and the grandson of Eggo Tonkins van Hovenberg, the first van Hovenberg in the United States from about 1720, where he served as the first pastor at the Dutch Reformed Church in Rhinebeck, New York.

Henry van Hovenberg married Jane Catherine Heermance, daughter of General Martin Heermance, in 1812, and they had four children who survived infancy:

1. Martin Henry van Hovenberg
2. James Oliver van Hovenberg
3. Sarah Jane van Hovenberg (married Thompson)
4. Charles Ruggles van Hovenberg

There have been a number of researchers into the van Hovenberg family. These include Alma Rogers van Hovenberg, Vivian van Hovenberg Allen, James van Hovenberg, Herman Leonhard, and Juliette van Hovenberg, the daughter of Alfred Andrew van Hovenberg. All of these individuals are ultimately descended either from James Oliver or Martin Henry.

Martin Henry was born 1813-1816 (there is some dispute in the record but his baptism is recorded in 1816) and died in 1899. His first marriage was to Charlotte Reed Phelps, and they had several children, of which two survived childhood: Jane Catherine (b. 1848), and Charlotte (b. 1850). Charlotte lived and died in New York, while Jane Catherine went on to marry into the van Rensselaer family.

A third child, born 1855, is attributed to the union of Charlotte Reed and Martin Henry van Hovenberg, but see below. This child, William Reed Phelps van Hovenberg, died in 1885.

Martin was a lawyer in New York City, setting up practice in the late 1830's. In 1848 under circumstances that are still unclear, Martin Henry established a liaison with Mary Theresa O'Connor, born 1831 in Ireland. They had a child, Martin Henry Radcliffe van Hovenberg, who was born in 1849 (some records indicate 1848). In the census of 1850 Martin Henry was still living in New York City.

According to family legend, and other information, Martin Henry and Mary Theresa moved to Baltimore and lived there several years. The normal sequence (from newspaper accounts) is that they had the following children:

1. Martin Henry Radcliffe (1849-1914)
2. Alfred Andrew (1855-1938)
3. Charles Augustus (ca. 1857, died in infancy)
4. George (ca. 1857, died in infancy)
5. Juliette (1858-1940)
6. Robert Edward (1860-1923)
7. Frank Richard (1862, died before 1892)
8. James Jacob (1866-1943)
9. Frederick Kierstad (ca. 1867, died in infancy)

Martin Henry Radcliffe was born in NY, the other children up through Juliette were born in Maryland, Robert Edward was born in New York, and the other children were born in Manchester Township, New Jersey, which is the right bank of the Passaic river directly opposite to Paterson, and which now comprises a number of towns, including Totowa, Haledon, Hawthorne, and so on. The family moved to New Jersey by 1862.

Now here is the remarkable thing about Martin Henry and his two families. Neither family had the slightest inkling of the other -- at least in family lore, or in any public genealogical record -- until the descendants of James Oliver and Martin Henry's second family made contact in 1998.

Frank Richard died without issue. Three other sons died in infancy. This left Martin Henry Radcliffe, Alfred Andrew, Juliette, Robert Edward, and James Jacob. Some brief remarks.

1. Martin Henry married a woman named Emma L., of Swiss descent; they lived and died in Haledon, without children.
2. Alfred Andrew moved to California and settled in the San Francisco Bay Area after the death of his father in 1899, and had three daughters, two of which died without children. The third daughter is currently untraced.
3. Juliette married Henry Leonhard, a businessman of German-Swiss parentage, and they had six sons, of whom all reached adulthood except Julian who died in a college hazing incident. They are the subject of a separate and complex lineage.
4. Robert Edward married Emily Spangenmacher; they lived and died in Haledon, without children.
5. James Jacob married Alice Scelotte in 1888 in New York City; they had a son, who died by 1892, three daughters, Emily (1891), Alice (1892), and Gertrude (1893), and another daughter who died in infancy in 1896. Alice Scelotte van Hovenberg died in 1899. After 1900, James Jacob migrated to California

following his brother Alfred Andrew, and lived there for a few years, remarried in 1905 (Gwendolyn Silcott), and brought his three daughters out to California soon thereafter. They lived with Robert Edward and his wife in the intervening period. All three daughters married and had children.

Martin Henry, his wife Mary Theresa, Frank, Martin Henry Radcliffe, his wife Emma, Robert Edward, his wife Emily, Alice Scelotte, and her two children who died in infancy, are all buried in the van Hovenberg family plot at Laurel Grove Cemetery in Totowa.

In Paterson, Martin Henry continued his practice in the law, all the surviving sons, Martin Henry Radcliffe, Alfred Andrew, Robert Edward, and James Jacob were lawyers. Robert Edward and James Jacob were also accomplished pianists and church organists.

We now turn to the individual folders.

## CENSUS

All census images were downloaded from genealogy.com which has a number of the censuses online for a small fee (\$20 a month.) I have downloaded them here simply for the purposes of conveying information to my family members.

1860HVVH: A page from the Dutchess County NY census showing Dr. Henry van Hovenberg, his wife, his daughter in law, Charlotte Reed Phelps, and her children.

1870VH2: Martin Henry Van Hovenberg, Mary Teresa, and the surviving children in Manchester Township, NJ, in 1870.

1880VH: Martin Henry and his children in Manchester in 1880.

[The 1890 census was destroyed by fire in 1927]

1900JHL: Henry Leonhard, Juliette, and their sons in 1900.

1900JJVH: James Jacob and his three daughters, in Paterson, 1900.

1900MRVH: Martin Henry Radcliffe and his wife, 1900.

1900REVVH: Robert Edward and his wife, 1900.

1910AAVH: Alfred Andrew, his wife Ruth and first daughter Ruth in 1910.

1910JJVH: James Jacob, his second wife, and two daughters at home in 1910.

1910MRVH: The same as 1900MRVH, except 1910.

## DOCUMENTS

Cemetery: A copy of the card listing the burials in the van Hovenberg family plot. The December 1892 date for several burials refers to the transfer of remains from the Sandy Hill Cemetery which was in the process of being shut down.

Mhvhltr: Not a photo, but a letter written from Martin to his sister Sarah Jane April 6, 1838, which discusses among other things James Oliver. A treasured gift to me from James van Hovenberg and Vivian Allen after we made contact in spring of 1998.

Mhvhobit1: Obituary of Martin Henry van Hovenberg from the Paterson Daily News, October 4, 1899

Mhvhobit2: Obituary of Martin Henry van Hovenberg from the Paterson Morning Call, transcribed.

MhvhSpeech1,2,3: from the Paterson Morning Call of July 31, 1934, a copy of a speech by MH van Hovenberg given in 1845. The latter paragraphs of this long article contains important family history.

MtvcvhObit: Death notice for Mary T. van Hovenberg, Paterson Daily News, March 30, 1878.

Obit 1,2,3: Obituary notices for several members of the family. James Jacob van Hovenberg changed his surname to "Jerome" in 1918 due to anti-German prejudice (he was confused with the German general von Hindenberg.) These are copies of decades old xeroxes but were the main source of family information for the west coast transplants for many years.

## PHOTOS

aavh01: Alfred Andrew VH, probably from the 1890's

asvh01: Alice Scelotte VH, probably at the time of her marriage in 1888.

asvh02: Alice Scelotte VH, probably from the later 1890's.

clancop: A group shot of the VH family taken in San Jose, CA in 1923 (San Jose being the residence of Emily and her husband), perhaps after the death of Robert Edward. Back Row: the three daughters of JJ VH, Emily, Gertrude, and Alice. The man between Emily and Gertrude is Gertrude's husband, John Vodvarka. Middle Row (seated): Gwendolyn Silcott, Ruth (wife of Alfred Andrew), Juliette, James Jacob, Alfred Andrew, Front Row: children of Alfred Andrew, Alice, and Emily.

clanen: the same photo, only in black and white.

FRVH01: We believe that this is Frank Richard van Hovenberg.

GVH01: Gertrude VH at about age 1.

GVH03: Gertrude VH Vodvarka, in 1923.

GVHgroup: Marked on the back, October 1, 1903. This is a school class photo, Gertrude is in the second row of standing children, fifth from the left. Taken in New Jersey.

HRL01: Hermann Leonhard, probably around 1920.

HRL02: Hermann Leonhard, in the 1930's

JCVH01: From the Internet, here is a photo of Jane Catherine van Hovenberg from Martin Henry's first marriage.

JHL01: Henry Leonhard, from the 1880's.

JHLFaded: Henry Leonhard, from around 1910.

JJVH01: James Jacob, from around 1905. (note the ring)

JJVH02: James Jacob, around 1910.

JJVH03: James Jacob, around the time of his first wedding, 1888.

JJVH04: James Jacob, from a tintype, mid 1880's.

JJVH05: James Jacob, dated 1877, age 11.

JJVH06: James Jacob, his son in law John Vodvarka, and Herman Leonhard, 1923.

JJVHfam: James Jacob, his wife Alice, and his three daughters, Emily, Alice, and Gertrude. Dated September, 1893.

JJVH&LVH: James Jacob and Juliette on the occasion of the west coast visit of Juliette and Herman Leonhard, 1923.

Julian: Julian Leonhard, around 1900.

JuliaVR: From the Internet, Julia van Rennselaer, daughter of Jane Catherine van Hovenberg.

JulieF02: Juliette van Hovenberg Leonhard from around 1910.

jvhl&jhl: Juliette and her husband Henry from around 1927.

Jvhl01 to 06: Several photos, some duplicates, of Juliette from around 1890 to the 1930's.

Lfam01: A group setting of the five surviving Leonhard sons, probably taken around 1915.

Mhrv01 & 02: Two photos, from the same pose, of Martin Henry Radcliffe van Hovenberg.

Mhvh01: Martin Henry van Hovenberg, probably taken in the 1870's.

Mtocvh01: Mary Teresa van Hovenberg, probably taken in the 1850's. The original photo -- not seen in many decades -- showed Mary holding two babies, we thus assume that Charles Augustus and George (cited above) were twins.

Revh01: Robert Edward VH, probably taken in the late '80's.

Revh02: Robert Edward VH, probably from the early '80's.

Revh03: Robert Edward VH, in his Knights Templar uniform.

Theol: Theodore Leonhard, probably taken in 1920.

ttjjvh: The original scan of the tintype of James Jacob cited above.

vhclan02: One of a series of photos from the same 1923 shoot described above under "clan". Back Row: John Vodvarka, Alfred Andrew, James Jacob, Second Row: Ruth, Juliette, Herman (behind Juliette), Gwendolyn Silcott, Next Row: Gertrude, Alice, Emily, Front Row: children of Alfred, Alice, and Emily.

vhclan03: Alfred Andrew, Juliette, James Jacob

vhfam01c: November, 1895.

From the left: Martin Henry VH, Emma, wife of Martin Henry Radcliffe, Robert Edward, Alice Scelotte, James Jacob holding Gertrude. In front: Juliette holding Charles, Emily and Alice in from of Sarah Jane VH Thompson.

From the right: Martin Henry Radcliffe, Henry Leonhard, unidentified woman, Emily Spangenmacher VH, three unidentified women, in front, unidentified girl, the other three Leonhard boys, Julian being the eldest.

Interpolations: There are four unidentified women and an unidentified girl. There are various ideas about who these people might be: the mother of Mary Theresa, one or both of Martin's daughters from his first marriage, and so on. They might be members of the Leonhard family. This is one of the mysteries that we are still investigating.

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I am still in the process of going through quite a bit of data that has been painstaking acquired by others, most particularly Vivian Allen and Jim van Hovenberg, for the van Hovenberg family, as well as for other families in my background that I am tracing.

Any feedback, contacts, or further information would be much appreciated. Since all of this material concerns tracing our own family history, you are welcome and indeed encouraged to share it with other family members.

Best to all,

Alan Kennady