

Die Familie Von Dem Fange

30

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<http://www.vonfange.com>

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MORE FROM GERMANY!

by Erich von Fange

In our last issue, #29, we announced our contact with a whole new set of cousins who live in former East Germany. We have had much correspondence since that time. Here are some of the highlights of what we have learned from our cousin Ruediger von dem Fange. Since he speaks no English, having been raised in the Russian Zone, and our German is pretty wretched, this has been an interesting experience, but we are managing to communicate.

In exchanging old family records, we find that our GGG Grandparents, Johann Heinrich von

dem Fange (1740-1812) and his wife Margaretha Maria (Fissen) are also Ruediger's GGG Grandparents. And this makes us 4th cousins. Ruediger still hopes to uncover further family records to help us all trace our connection with our Dutch and earlier German cousins. This is exciting! Rev. Loest in Ueffeln and Gerard van der Fange in Doorn, Holland have been a big help to Ruediger and to us in tracing our common ancestry. Ruediger has solved the mystery of our distant relatives in Berlin and Hettstedt, Germany.

Ruediger sent us a very detailed atlas of the region around Ueffeln. He is much interested in researching place names that just might have a family connection. These are some of the names he has found in this region of streets, roads, villages, mountains, etc.: Auf dem Fange, Fange, Im Fange, Zum Fange, Im Fang, Fangweg, Fangstrasse, Am Fangberg, Fangberg. This could get interesting, but may be difficult to research.

Ruediger has a very special heirloom belonging to his grandfather, and perhaps older generations. It is a ring with an engraved coat of arms (see illustration above). We don't know the significance of the X within the circle but we hope a society specializing in coats of arms can be

helpful about this. The other symbol we first thought was an animal figure, but on closer examination we believe it represents a claw. If you remember, and if you have Newsletter #3, we told the story that the name Fange or Fangen may refer to an old 'claw society.'

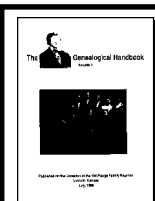
A faction of 13th century Flemish insurrectionists (just a little to the west of the Ueffeln area) were known as the Clauvwaerts (men of the claw) who rose up in rebellion against the invasion and brutal arbitrary rule of the French. The powerful French faction was known as

the Leliaerts (adherents of the lily). Eventually, we understand, the Clauvwaerts were outlawed and scattered into various German states. Could the name "Von dem Fange," the old ring, and the crest showing a claw and another symbol relate to the Clauvwaerts? Ruediger does not know how old the ring is or what the meaning of the crest is, but he will search this out in museums etc. in his area. We discovered that there is a Clauvwaerts society today in Belgium, and a very nice person there e-mailed us back that he doubted any connection. But what does he know? This is a very interesting possibility.

Stay tuned. We hope to learn more and more about our ancestry in the year 2000.



VON DEM FANGE



Get your copy of the 155-page
**VON FANGE
GENEALOGICAL
HAND-BOOK**

mailed to you postage paid with every donation to the VF Newsletter of \$20 or more! **Make your checks payable to Paul von Fange and send requests and payment to 'Erich von Fange, 808 Savannah River Drive, Adrian, MI 49221'.** This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! These handbooks were printed only for the reunion - so order now!

Family Mourns Four of Its Members in 1999

The first four months of 1999 saw the deaths of four beloved members of the extended Von Fange family. On January 27th, Harold H. Von Fange of Lincoln, Kansas died. Two days later, Louis Obermueller, also of Lincoln, died in Wichita. In April, on the 7th,

Arthur W. Von Fange slipped into his final home, followed two days later by Lawrence W. Von Fange of Lincoln. We all mourn their loss, extend our condolences to their families and are grateful for the many years each shared with their loved ones.



Harold Von Fange

Harold Henry Von Fange, 79, Lincoln, died Wednesday, January 27, 1999, at the Lincoln County Hospital Long Term Care Unit.

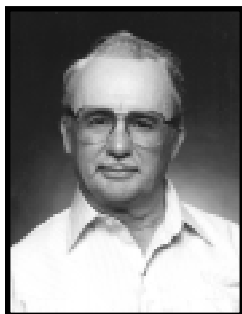
He was born January 19, 1920, in Lincoln and was a lifelong resident of the area. He was a farmer-stockman.

He was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lincoln.

Survivors include his wife, Edna (Aufdemberge) Von Fange, of the home; a son, Steven Von Fange, Beverly; two daughters, Janet Cork, Stone Mountain, GA, and Tamera Von Fange, St. George; two brothers, Lawrence Von Fange, Lincoln, and Donald Von Fange, Wichita; four sisters, Alvena Meyer, Lincoln, Clara Pflughoft, Topeka, Lenora Schneider, Salina and Luella Bell, Tucson, Ariz.; one grandchild; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m Saturday, Jan. 30, 1999 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lincoln, the Rev. Gary Wolf officiating. Burial followed at St. Paul's Cemetery.

Harrison-Hall Funeral Home, Lincoln, was in charge of arrangements.



Louis Obermueller

Louis Obermueller, 84, Lincoln, died Friday, January 29, 1999, at Wesley Medical Center, Wichita.

Mr. Obermueller was born August 20, 1914, at Lincoln. He was a farmer and a member of the school board and Lions Club, both of Lincoln.

He was preceded in death by twin daughters, Roxann and Patricia, in 1941; and a son, Daryl, in 1997.

Survivors include his wife, Mildred of Lincoln; a son, Gordon of Lincoln; a daughter, Judie Turnbull of Salina; three brothers, Nolan of Big Horn, Wyo., and Delbert and Virgil, both of Lincoln; a sister, Lorene Buttenhoff of Lincoln; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

The funeral was at 2 p.m Tuesday at St. John Lutheran Church, Lincoln, the Rev. Gerald Radtke officiating. Burial was in St. John Church Cemetery.



Art Von Fange

Arthur William Paul Von Fange was born in Natoma, Kansas in 1919 and his parents, Jess and Dora Von Fange moved to Deshler, NE, in 1922. After a year at the University of Nebraska, he joined the army in January 1941. In 1946 he attended the Illinois Institute of Technology, graduating in 1949. He worked for the Carrier Corporation, and later for the Ransburg Corporation in Indianapolis. In 1961 he pioneered a new business, Electro-Painters, in the area of electrostatic coating (or painting). After developing E-P internationally, he sold the business in 1975 and moved into the ministry of the word - Living Word Communications.

In 1980 Art and Bettie moved to Syracuse, Indiana where they continued with travel, and construction and ministry with RV Maps Volunteers. In 1998 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. On April 7, 1999, he slipped into his eternal home.

Art found no greater satisfaction than serving God, his wife and family. They are grateful to our loving and gracious Father in heaven for allowing the privilege of knowing Arthur as husband, father and grandfather.



Lawrence Von Fange

Lawrence William Otto Von Fange, 80, Lincoln, died Friday, April 9, 1999, at his home.

He was born April 24, 1918, in Lincoln County. A lifelong area resident, he was a farmer-stockman. He was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church where he was an usher and chairman of the building committee for the parish hall addition, a trustee and on the financial board. He had served on the Farm Bureau and Farmway Credit boards and was on the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee from 1972 to 1982.

Survivors include his wife, Doris; a daughter, Cathy Bruce of Salina; a brother, Donald of Wichita; four sisters, Alvena Meyer of Lincoln, Clara Pflughoft of Topeka, Lenora Schneider of Salina and Luella Bell of Tucson, Ariz.; and a grandchild.

The funeral was at 2 p.m Tuesday at St. Paul Lutheran Church, rural Lincoln County, the Rev. Gary Wolf officiating. Burial was in St. Paul Cemetery.

The Zuroeveste Letters

Part XVI in a series

This continues an ongoing look at the letters of Johann Heinrich Zur Oeveste, a German immigrant arriving in the 1830's, the same time as our ancestor Gerhard Von Dem Fange. The text of these letters is provided courtesy of MaryBeth Glick, Columbus, IN.

Cincinnati, February 21, 1840

Dear parents, brothers and sisters:

And last summer state workers were not paid. There are now hundreds of people in the city who have no work and earn nothing. Whoever has had no earnings will probably go hungry. How and for what reason these bad times come I cannot exactly tell you. One hopes for better times. If God gives me health, I am considering that perhaps next fall or at least within a year to move away from here to my land. This winter I have already been on my land for 6 weeks to work. I think that in the future I can make a better living there than here in the city. There are too many people here and the wages are too low. My intention was to move to my land already this winter, but the area is still sparsely populated. So we have postponed this for the time being. Many Germans have bought property in that area, and gradually they move there and in the future there will be a beautiful German colony. If my brother or one of my cousins had the desire to travel to America, he could come to Cincinnati and move with us to the country. But I cannot advise anyone. Here everyone must have his own free will. One person will get along quite well, the other does not. For one who comes from Germany it is best for him to settle on the land immediately if he has enough money. But it costs very much at first to begin. If one has once come to the point where he can make a living, he can live a good life. For the first 5 years there are no taxes here, and later you will have to pay a small tax. Little is known here about manuring, although in some places it would probably be good to do so.

(To be Continued . . .)

Where Are These People?

Please help us find the following people - we need 38 new addresses out of the 380 we send the Newsletter.

Also, check the web site for the latest addresses needed:

Joni Abell;	Rachel Ellis;
Jason Audemberge;	Lisa Ellwein;
Olga Behrman;	Evelyn Fellwock;
Jon Bell;	Esther Fleetwood;
Carry, Corbin Cain;	Jeff Herbert;
Clara Claycamp;	Ila King;
Curtis Crawford;	Barbara Meyer;
Gary Deiter;	Mary Nunn;
Kelley, Monte, & Tammy Eckelman;	Steve Obermueller;

Betty Starks;
Jerrell Thetford;
Dennis, Gregorie Troeger;
Dana, Kevin Vogt;
Alvin, Carl, Catherine, David,
Gary, Howard, Patricia, Walter,
Weldon Von Fange;
Beth Wever.

THE POSTCARD PROJECT UPDATE

Last issue we asked for copies or original postcards from family members. Little did we realize what one person had in store for us.

That person was Delores Butenhoff of Lincoln, Kansas. For years she had kept a collection of postcards from her Aunt Anna Meier. She has graciously sent to us the entire collection of over a hundred original postcards. They appear to be from about 1909 into the 1920's. We see that Anna Meier lived in or was visiting Lincoln, Kansas, Denver, Colorado, St. Louis, Missouri, and Santa Monica, California. Many of the postcard are ornate, in color, 3-dimensional and some even originate in Germany. They are written by many people, including Alvin VF, Aunt Frieda, Momma, Martha, Matilda Troeger, Minna, Erwin, John H. V., Selma V. and many others.

One card, sent from Natoma, Kansas, dated September, 1909, was to Anna from my grandmother, Dorothea, before she was married to my grandfather Jess. She wrote: *"Dear Girlie, Rec'd your card some time ago and was glad to hear from you. Jess thought that was a pretty good card alright. Tell Minnie I sent her a card too but by mistake wrote her name wrong. I sent it in Emma Meier's name. Well, how are you all? Got a card from Clara last night. Wish you could come out here once. I'm still in the store. Do you remember when you paid me a visit in the store? Truly yours, Dora Jahn."*

Not much to that postcard, right? On the contrary! To the genealogical researcher, a wealth of information and further questions emerge: 1. The use of the term 'girlie' sug-

(Continued on page 5)

1975 INTERVIEW WITH ALVIN ANDEMMMA VON FANGE

The Interview (continued)

Alvin: We made oatmeal sausage.

Emma: Oh, yes, we made “gritso vorsch,” that’s the German name for it. That was made with raw ground

pork and onions and oatmeal, and then it would be cured—I think, a little salt peter in it—and then it would be hung up and cured and then, when we used it, it would have to be soaked, till it would be soaked, oh, over night probably, and then it would be boiled. This blute vorsch, usually what we call butchering meat, when they made that, they’d all come together, a whole

day. Each uncle had his particular job at this butchering. One had to do the scraping, the other one fixed this, and one cooked the sausage, the other ground it, and the other one worked the recipe. He’d say how much to put in it. The other stuffed. And then they cleaned the entrails to use for that. In the evening, that’s when the sausage making would go on. They’d get out this big boiler and put these sausages in there and boil until about midnight. Of course, then they’d have their card playing that went along and, oh, a little schnapps maybe, (laughs) and what-have-you, smoke, and they’d watch their—if they had any time left over after all that process went on.

Sylvia: What did the kids do?

Emma: Oh, we’d have a ball! We’d tie the sausages. And we’d always vie for the job of grinding, but sometimes we’d play out. You see, we had to grind that all by hand. We didn’t have even a great big sausage grinder. We ground that by hand.

Sylvia: Did you play any games?

Emma: Oh, yeah. We played Andy Over and Hide and Go Seek, of course.



Emma and Alvin Von Fange

Alvin: Pump, Pump, Pull Away.

Emma: Well, we weren’t indoctrinated with these Yankee games then so much. This was all Dutch (laughs).

(Someone asked “What about medical facilities?”)

Emma: Oh, we collected elderberry blossoms and that would be a tea and we had catnip tea. I guess that’s what it was. It grew there.

Sylvia: What did you use it for?

Emma: As a tea—for medicine. For stomach aches. We used one medicine for the whole works usually. We had pinter oil. I remember that. That was the only thing we had for itch, for these chiggers. They were quite bad there and then we’d go out and pull this pinter oil—that

was a weed there—and we’d just rub our legs with that and that would fix the chiggers all right.

Leonard: Your granddad always had a cup of sassafras tea—

Emma: Oh, yes, in the spring, we went out and dug sassafras roots, that’s a tea. They dig it usually, I think, in February and then they usually put a big root in a big kettle on the stove and the same big root

stayed in there and when it got low, I’d just pour some more water on it and brew up some more tea. And it wasn’t bad either. It really wasn’t. Oh, we made molasses. My dad cooked molasses with a driver. I remember, I had to poke the old horse along to keep it going. We just had one horse on that machine, whatever it was, they’d just keep a—that horse would have to be riding

and they’d feed in the stalks of the cane. They’d raise the cane and it would be stripped, you know, and cut and then, when the molasses process would start, the kids would all have to get in and help. He’d have this big bag, working with the juice and he’d be cooking that, and one of them would have to help with pressing the stalks and one would have to poke the old horse along to keep it going. And that was another meal.

Sylvia: Were there any weddings?

Emma: I don’t remember any weddings in particular. It seems to me I remember vaguely when my uncle got married but I was quite young then. I can’t remember any of them really, any wedding that took place

while we were there in the Ozarks. They had big shivarees, I know that.

Alvin: You might tell her about (can't hear rest).

Emma: Oh, well, I ran to the neighbors with her. We didn't know what to do. My sister Minnie stuffed big kidney beans up her nose when she was a child, about age 4. My dad wasn't home and my mother got worried because it started swelling so she sent me over to the neighbors to see whether she had any remedy. She didn't know exactly what to do either and she thought, well, to take a feather maybe and tickle her nose and make her sneeze and so that didn't work either. So we went back home and I told my mother that she didn't have any remedy. It wasn't long after we got home then, why Minnie started sneezing and the beans flew out after we got home. (everyone laughs)

Q: Were there some fun things that you did after you got out here?

Emma: Oh, well, we lived over here by Shady Bend then. Of course, then we got acquainted with these folks around there. We had grown up, Bill and I, and we had a young folks choir and once a week we went down there to the church and we had a minister there and he had a Bible reading and then we had a social hour—we'd go out and play games—I guess they still play those. Grandpa here, he was raised here, knows them.—“Post Office” was one of them, and “Go In and Out the Window”...

Sylvia: What's “Go In and Out the Window”?

Emma: Well, they'd line up in a circle, isn't that it? And they'd sing with it.

Sylvia: Do you remember what they'd sing?

Alvin: Yes.

Sylvia: Sing that song for us.

Alvin: (singing) Go in and out the window, Go in and out the window, Go in and out the window, And you'll go past your bride.

Alvin: Or “lover” it was rather than “bride.” That's about what it was. And then they would repeat it again. There would just be one who would “go in and out” and, of course, they would go around in a circle and when they faced him, if it was just the right one, then certain guys would just light in and kid the dickens out of him.

Sylvia: And that was the game?

Alvin: Yes, but there's still some more to it yet. (continues singing)

Go forth and face your lover,
Go forth and face your lover,

Go forth and face your lover,
For you have gained a day.

I measure my love to show you,
I measure my love to show you,

I measure my love to show you,
And that's for all the day. (end of singing)

Emma: Another game was “Spin the Platter.” Of course, that was a parlor game. These others were lawn games, played outdoors. They had “Spin the Platter” and—let's see—it's been sixty years since I played those things—I don't hardly remember any more.

Sylvia: Did you ever have box suppers?

Emma: Oh, yes, we had box suppers! That was great entertainment. Also, we called up the liaisons--we had those. We had them here at #8 school house here on the corner at that time, and also over at what we called Logan School house over north of Beverly. We attended those. That was lots of fun, too.

To be continued in next newsletter.

THE POSTCARD PROJECT

UPDATE *(Continued from page 3)*

gests a close friendship between Anna and Dora. How did they get to know each other? Through Jess, Anna's cousin? **2.** There was significant communication between the many Von Fange families - no less than six people are referenced by name. **3.** Minnie and Clara were both sisters of Anna and are probably the ones referred to in the postcard. But who is Emma Meier? We have 8 Emma's in the VF database, but no Emma Meier! **4.** This postcard confirms that Dora Jahn was working in the store in Natoma in September of 1909, was not yet married to Jess, and that Jess was in Natoma during that time where we know he had a store - all valuable clues in establishing timelines for an ancestor. **5.** For me personally, this is a treasured memory of my grandmother, written in her own hand. And all this from one postcard - hundreds to go! Delores - thank you again; the entire family owes you a debt of gratitude for sharing this treasure.

So, once again, this is a call for every family member to search through their pictures and archives for any postcards from Von Fange family members and send us a photocopy of both sides (or originals are welcomed too - we'll add them to the Family Archives). In any case, we will attempt to collect as many postcards or copies as possible and document their content, date and pictures. The collection will be posted on the Von Fange Web Site and will be periodically included in future Newsletters to update those of you without Internet access.

So—let the search continue, make those copies, and send them to Erich von Fange, 808 Savannah River Drive, Adrian, MI 49221 . THANKS!

Bremerhaven Harbor In 1838

by *Erich A. von Fange*

Since our ancestors left Germany mainly in the 1830s and 1840s to try to carve out a better life for themselves and their children, we ought to see what the *Urheimat* (ancestral homeland) was like in these times that made our relatives look to the West across the ocean.

The kingdom of Hanover emerged out of assorted dukedoms, duchies, electorates, towns, capitals, and lesser kingdoms, much too tangled to describe here, but we may say that if you read something of Hanover, Brunswick, Lüneburg, Celle, or Calenberg, you are in the right territory for our family history.

Ernest (1497-1546) introduced the Lutheran religion here, and his sons in 1569 set the stage for the birth of the kingdom of Hanover. Hanover officially became of kingdom in 1814 and was annexed to Prussia in 1866. It is a curious quirk of history that Great Britain and Hanover were ruled by the same series of kings from 1714 to 1837, but when Victoria ascended the throne in 1837 in England this cozy arrangement ended because Hanover had a sexist law that a woman could not ascend the throne. So the new king of Hanover was Ernest Augustus, the fifth son of George III (who had presided over the Revolutionary War and so lost the American colonies).

Ernest Augustus had a fine gift of irritating everyone and he teetered through one crisis after another until his death in 1851. For young men the future consisted chiefly of serving as cannon fodder for a hated monarch in a succession of intrigues, petty and major wars. Another dread-

ful burden was that the eldest son in a family inherited the property, and the rest of the children had somehow to shift for themselves.

The flow of Germans to America had increased to a flood and their letters back home (like the *Zuroeveste* letters) of the adventure and promise of the new lands set many minds thinking about joining the emigration to America. We have a copy of an 1853 document where Herman Henry Von dem Fange officially renounced allegiance to the King of Hanover.

Our ancestors all left Germany from the harbor of a little village of Bremerhaven. Here is a newspaper account of what that port was like when Gerhard and others came to America.

"Ten years ago the area was a mud flat with no residents. Our beautiful little town of clean small houses grew like magic. A peaceful environment was created and law and order prevailed. Everyone who saw it felt it was like a dream come true.

The shipping industry was at a standstill in the winter. The contrast that followed in the springtime was one of rejuvenation and the shipping suddenly started up again. People were rushing back and forth, day and night. You could hear the voices of hundreds of sailors joining in song.

Very soon countless refugees came from all over the area. In their faces you could see their despair along with new hope. Men, women, children, elderly and babies, strangers, all roamed the streets. They found refuge on the ships in the harbor.

The Elise is the most beautiful of the ships. You can hear the laughter and carrying on. The ship was anchored in the harbor, waiting for the

necessary wind to take it into the ocean. A boat carrying police officers came toward it with a signed search warrant and went on board to check the passengers waiting to leave Germany. A man everybody liked, pretending to be someone else among the passengers, was arrested and taken away from the arms of his wife and children. He was accused of being a political aggressor trying to escape.

As evening came you could see wagons in the distance, but no one came close. Darkness covered the streams and ocean and it looked as though a storm may be coming. You can see the lights along the shore. You can see people getting the ships ready to sail. The workers seemed to be at peace but wore the mask of death, knowing they would never need a coffin but would some day die at sea.

The scenery was different in the morning. The wind is now favorable and the Copernicus will lift the anchors and set sail. The passengers worry over the long wait as they stand hopefully on the deck, but they had to go below to get out of the way as the sails are being raised. But one Mother ashore calls out once more to her son, just wanting to visually embrace him one more time."

Die Familie

Von Dem Fange

The VONFANGE Genealogical Newsletter

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OUR MAILBAG

We are beginning to develop quite a file on the Nentrup clan. About half of the descendants of Gerhard are also Nentrups, since William (G6-G15) and John Dietrich (G16-G19) married Nentrup sisters. Our Kansas City cousin, **Karen VonDemfange Steely** tells us that her great grandmother was a Nentrup and has given us the information she has gathered. In recent months we have heard from other Nentrup descendants who would like to know how we might be related. If you have any Nentrup information lying around, please share with us and we will pass on copies to those who have e-mailed us.

Our Dutch cousin **Henni van der Vange** tells us that she hopes to visit friends and cousins in America again if her doctor sees good improvement of a lower back problem. She gave us new information about the origin of the Fange/Vange name. More about this in a future issue.

Lucille Farrar (G27) sent us detailed family information, and we appreciate being able to make some corrections in earlier records we have. She has been a great help to us in past years also.

The **Mormons** have announced a new WEB site:

www.familysearch.org

Tell us how useful this was to you if you try it out.

A young lady in Idaho stumbled into our WEB site and asked for help in tracking down her family history. Her name is **Julie Zuroeveste**. We are sharing what we have with her. If you have Zuroeveste blood, you may be hearing from her.

We are very pleased to see much new interest in genealogy among the younger generation of Gerhard's

descendants. We were happy to receive inquiries, information, and/or handbook requests from the following, mostly via e-mail:

Mike Rohmaller (G12) is into genealogy, requested a Handbook, and I told him I used to play chess with his great grandpa Gus Pfortmiller in the 1930s.

Rev. **Don Moorman** (G17), Newberry Park CA, is a history buff and is descended from Ben VF. Josh Moorman and Seth Moorman also requested Handbooks and sent us updated family information.

Toby Swanger (G19) is excited about sorting through the Welmers who married into the Von Fange relationship. We gave her some leads to work with and hope to hear how she is doing with her family tree.

Joe Browning (G24) tells us his grandfather, Edward VF, who died in May 1999, greatly enjoyed the Newsletters. Edward's grandfather was Herman Christian VF whose name was linked with the famous Von Fange Ditch in Seymour IN. Joe is very much interested in researching his family history.

Phyllis Von Fange (G6/G14) has been a great assistant for a long time in helping us with our records. She is very interested in our newly found German cousins with lots of questions.

Jeff Troeger (G6) helped us with an address we needed. Thanks!

Sharon Waltersdorf (G6) requested a Handbook and gave us a number of address updates. Thanks for your help, Sharon.

Anita (Tombaugh) Achterberg (G7) requested a family history Handbook and gave us much additional family data for our records, especially on the Woltings. We thank you for your interest and support over the years, Anita.

Delores Buttenhoff (G7) sent us a large collection of picture postcards that once belonged to her aunt Anna Meier, daughter of Wm & Ida VF Meier. The messages on the cards give us a picture of family life several generations ago. Many thanks for this family treasure, Delores!

Cousin **Lenora Schneider** (G8) sent us obituaries for these cousins: Lawrence VF, Harold VF, Louis Obermueller, and Walter Deiter. We send our deepest sympathies to these families. Thank you, Lenora for all your encouragement and support over the years.

Our only Delaware cousin, Dr. **Duane Mehl** (G9), enjoys the Newsletter and requested a Handbook. Thanks for the kind words and generous support of this project.

We thank **Arleen Hitchcock** (G9) for sending us a printout of the G9 family (Jess VF) that she had worked out.

Dorothy Werner (G9) sent a fascinating article on the estimated 30-40 thousand miles of stone posts erected in north-central Kansas, each weighing 350-400 lbs. Our father Jess was one of the Von Fanges that quarried these posts when time was available. She also sent us some ancestral family pictures and old picture postcards for future Newsletters.

Myron Glick tells us that daughter Lisa (G16) studied a semester in the Netherlands - the land of several hundred or more of our mutual cousins.

Mabel Tormoehlen (G18) tells us that husband Harold asked a friend who lives near Ueffeln to research the von dem Fange name there. His reply gives us a good lesson in the social standing of the old farms from around 900 to the present, the inde-

(Continued on page 8)

WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF SPACE!

Is your Newsletter collection incomplete? (30 issues so far, 1983-2000) We have some extra copies of each issue. We will be glad to send you whatever issues you need to complete your collection. Just send a donation to cover

mailing costs. First and last call before we have to dispose of the extra copies to make room for other records. Contact Erich von Fange, 808 Savannah River Drive, Adrian MI 49221, or e-mail at fangmer@lni.net, phone 517-263-8315. Please don't delay. We need to make space.!

OUR MAILBAG

(Continued from page 7)

pendent farms versus those under a lord of the manor, and how the different ranks were allowed to use the village common land. We hope Harold will write an article for us some day about this old village pattern of life.

Kirk Bassett (G26) sent thanks for the careful research passed on to him and done by Geneva Kelley (G3), as well as the first picture we've seen of his mother, Cordelia Elise Von Fange Bassett Seife, daughter of Louis F. Von Fange.

We thank **Lucille Walter Farrar** (G27) for her generous support and interest in the Newsletter. She requested a Handbook, asked us to add her brother to the mailing list and gave us additional family information. Thanks, Lucille.

Delores Dringenburg (G33) sent us kind words, support and a Handbook request. This cousin is a

descendant of Anna VF Bode.

We were pleasantly surprised when **Kari-Anne Fange** from Norway surfed the net for family history info and discovered the Von Fange pages. She is wondering if there is a connection and so are we. We hope to hear more about this in the coming months. Geographically, this would make good sense. Every generation there were more children than available farmland to inherit.

The beautiful 344-page **Family Histories...of Bartholomew County** has been published. The story and picture of Gerhard VdF and his family appear on page 300.

Karen Steely, who attended our last Von Fange Reunion in Lincoln KS, is working hard on family history. She recently sent us a printout of her ancestry so we can see just how we are all related. She is descended from the Von dem Fange branch that settled in Kansas City in the 1850s.

Contributions Support the Newsletter ...Thanks!

If you feel you can help support a future issue, please send your check of any amount made out to: Paul von Fange at the address below.

The following family members contributed to this and future issues:

David Nichols
Phyllis Von Fange
Kirk Bassett
Lucille Farrar
Dorothy & Duane Mehl
Anita Achterberg
Arleen Hitchcock
Mike Rohmaller
Delores Dringenberg
Lenora Schneider
Mabel Tormoehlen
Sharon & Ken Waltersdorf
Mrs. Marvin Von Fange
Debra Perry
Henry Von Demfange
Meta Hieber
Mildred Obermueller

The VON FANGE Genealogical Newsletter

Look what's inside this April, 2000 Issue...

- 1 More From Germany!
- 1 The Von Fange Genealogical Handbook
- 2 Family Mourns Four of its Members in 1999
- 3 The Zuroeveste Letters
- 3 The Postcard Project Update
- 3 Where Are These People?
- 4 1975 Interview with Alvin & Emma Von Fange (con't)
- 6 Bremerhaven Harbor in 1838
- 7 Our Mailbag
- 8 Contributions ... Thanks!

EIGHT FULL PAGES!