

The Von Fange Genealogical Newsletter

FEBRUARY, 2002

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Vol. 20, No. 1

Growing Up (Part 2)

by Alma Buck

I was always the curious one and had to see what was going on around me. As a result, I still carry two scars. One on a finger that I stuck in a hole that Dad was drilling in a stone post to put bolts through to put up a windmill; I was going to get the dust out. Another is on my nose that got cut when I ran across a horse-shoe game and a horseshoe hit me on the nose. That really bled, and I no doubt needed some stitches. But we were never taken to the doctor for trivial things. So it healed and left a scar.

The folks repapered the front room. Wallpaper then was coarse-grained and dark colors. It was called oatmeal paper. You had a choice of dark green or dark blue. I think ours was green. After the furniture was moved back, I took a crayon and reached behind the organ and gave the wall a few streaks. It's a good thing they didn't find it until the organ was moved, or I might not be here today.

There was no heat in the house during the night. The folks would bank the coals in the stoves at night, but that didn't last until morning. Behind the cookstove was a large wooden box that was the woodbox. It had to be filled pretty often to keep the fires going. That meant a lot of wood had to be chopped. Living was pretty primitive in those days, but everyone lived the same way.

Mom always made wool comforters and feather beds to keep everyone warm. She would even take old worn out men's coveralls and salvage the backs of the legs. That was also used for covers. Mattresses were not very comfortable, as some were stuffed with straw, or even corn shucks.

Most women saved sugar and flour sacks to be used for various things. Flour sacks were sewn together to make sheets (We didn't mind the seams.) or used for 'tea towels,' curtains and even diapers. Sugar sacks were made into quilts by embroidering designs on them. They made little girls' panties, aprons and whatever else they needed. Some women even sewed tobacco sacks together and made different things from them. Since bread had to be baked about every day, or at least every other day, sacks accumulated pretty fast, as a lot of sugar and flour was used.

Nothing was wasted, even in the food line. Without ice, it was difficult to keep milk from souring. If fresh milk stood a while, the cream would rise to the top, and Mom would skim it off for butter or take it to the mercantile to trade for things she needed. She also took extra eggs or butter she had churned to trade.

Mom always raised chickens, for meat as well as for eggs. There is nothing that compares with that fresh fried chicken. If she wanted to catch a couple of chickens, she would throw some feed on the ground and call them. Then she'd stand among



Alma Buck
(courtesy of Carol Overman)

the flock, and after she picked out the ones she wanted, she would take a long chicken hook and carefully hook it around a leg and jerk to catch it. Then she'd lay them across a stump and whack off their heads with an ax. After they quit flopping,

Growing Up... (continued on page 2)



On behalf of those who produce the Von Fange Genealogical Newsletter, now beginning our 20th year of publication, we can only say that without your support, this could not happen. What a blessing you all are and we hope to provide many more years of sharing, sleuthing and supplying the stories of a wonderful family. Thank you all! Danke sehr! Dank u!

*Paul von Fange, Erich von Fange,
Linda Von Fange, Dave Nichols*

Growing Up (Part 2)

(Continued from page 1)

she would douse them up and down in some near-boiling water to loosen the feathers and make them easier to pluck. After they were plucked, she'd singe off the hair, and they were ready to wash and cut up to fry or cook with noodles. Usually the young fryers were fried.

When the cream was churned into butter, it was placed in a large crock churn. It had a hole in the lid, and a wooden agitator-type churn. The handle went up through the hole in the lid and was stomped up and down until the butter separated from the liquid. Then it was rinsed several times in cold water and put in wooden

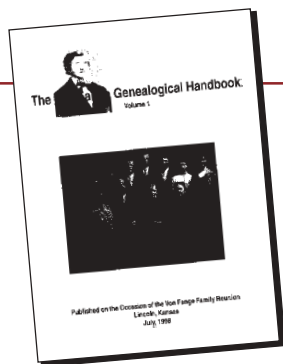
molds. Mom would add salt while washing it. When it came out of the molds, it would have a pretty design on top. Those molds held one pound of butter. The leftover buttermilk was used for pancakes, biscuits, cornbread, or just drunk, if anyone liked it.

Mom baked bread almost every day. She used a 'starter' to make the bread rise. Occasionally she would

buy dry 'yeast foam' at the mercantile. We all loved her fried bread, when she'd take hunks of dough, flatten them and fry them in grease until they were brown. It was delicious with fresh butter, and sometimes jelly or syrup.

(To be Continued . . .)

Family Pictures



VON FANGE GENEALOGICAL HAND-BOOK

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 contain copies of every issue from #1 through #27. Only **14** left!



The Wedding of Jess Von Fange and Meta Meyer

On the back it reads: Uncle Jesses first wedding taken at Meyer's, Sylvan Grove, Kansas, Meta's parent's home. Next to Meta is her sister Emma, next is Jesses sister Emma, than [sic] I (<illegible>), back of me and Emma is Henry Meyer, Meta's brother, back of Emma Meyer is brother Will. The two older men on the porch are my father or Jus father next to the porch post th[e]n Meta's father



The Wedding of Peter van der Vange and Ni Wayan Sukerti

Peter and Yanti were married 3 October 2001 in The Hague, The Netherlands

The Zuroebeste Letters

Part XXII 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, October 10, 1841

Dear parents, brothers and sisters (continued)

Finally I must also say that I had to travel to Cincinnati in connection with this business. Now I hope and wish that you will be so kind to answer about this as soon as possible concerning the correctness of this matter.

Please write again as soon as possible about your circumstances. How gladly we hear from all of you! What a great joy it is for me when I receive news of you occasionally, and that the dear Lord has kept you in good health till now. I hope therefore most heartily that I will receive such news of you for many years. Finally, I must also tell you that I intend to move away from here tomorrow. And when you write again, address the letter to Caspar Geist in Cincinnati. He may open the letter here and show the girl that you have paid the money to Hoelsker in Hespe. And write to me and tell me whether or not you have. I am satisfied with whatever you do. I have nothing special to write to you this time, except many greetings from me and my wife to you and all relatives and acquaintances.

I remain your most obedient son
Johann Heinrich Zur Oeveste

(To be Continued . . .)

Family Photos



Gary and Roger Mehl, sons of Anita Von Fange Mehl
Summer of 1948 at a lake in Wisconsin
(courtesy of Roger Mehl)



Lenora Schneider at her 90th Birthday Celebration, Salina, KS, September 6, 2001.

All her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, from Kansas, Alabama and Florida attended, along with many other family and friends. Congratulations Lenora!
(courtesy of James Schneider)

Special Note

In your correspondence with the newsletter, please include your "G" number if you have one and know it or give us the name of your parents or grandparents.

Die Familie Von Dem Fange

The VON FANGE Genealogical Newsletter

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WHERE ARE THESE PEOPLE?

Please help us find the following people—we need 30 new addresses out of the 384 we send the Newsletter. Also, check the web site for the latest addresses needed:

Jason Audemberge;	Barbara Meyer;
Olga Behrman;	Mary Nunn;
Carry, Corbin, Carol Cain;	Kim Obermueller;
Clara Claycamp;	Kenton Reinert;
Dale, Kelley & Tammy Eckelman;	Jerrell Thetford;
Lisa Ellwein;	Dennis, Gregorie Troeger;
Karen Fay;	Dana, Kevin Vogt;
Evelyn Fellwood;	Alvin, Carl,
Esther Fleetwood;	Catherine, Gary,
Jeff Herbert;	Paul Von Fange;
Royce King;	Beth Wever.

Stephanie in Nepal!



(Editor's Note: Stephanie Spray is the daughter of Jim Schneider (G8) of Huntsville, AL. She recently arrived in Nepal to study under a Fulbright scholarship and sent an email home, from which this article is excerpted.)

I can't describe to you guys how happy I am. Remember how I said in another email that I was nervous or something? All that disappeared and now I am just perfectly at ease and very joyful.

On the plane to Bangkok I sat next to a very nice man from China named Zhang Lun. We talked the whole trip about Nepal and America and China. It was his first trip to Nepal, so I told him about it a bit and we talked about the USA and the world response to the terrorist attack. We talked about US international policy and so forth and about the sadness that will befall Afghanistan's people (the innocents that is).

As I looked out the window we

flew across Thailand, Myanmar, the Bay of Bengal, then India. I watched as we flew over little villages and rivers and farming communities. Then I saw it begin: the amazing unfolding and bunching up of the land. It is just amazing to see the land as it transforms into the middle hills of Nepal. Suddenly beautiful and dramatic mountainous gorges appear and village communities on them.

Then the valley came, with all of the small houses, some shanties, and streets with crazy cars driving everywhere with motorcycles, cows, bikes, huge trucks, buses, tut tuts, and motor driven rickshaws. Wonderful! When we landed I was a bundle of joy, with a big big fat smile on my face. I could hardly wait to get outta the plane. When I did I was so thrilled to see so many Nepali faces. I was saying 'namaste' to everyone and their brother like it was going outta style. I was very happy.

Going through customs was a breeze and I got my luggage with ease. My Nepali is wretched, but I spoke Nepali more than I had in a while. The Fulbright guy Bhijaya Gurung was waiting outside the airport among the crowd of Nepalis who come to beg or gawk at tourists. He helped me through the throngs of people begging and so forth and took me to his car. We got both bags in and then drove to the Fulbright office. I was again like a fool in love. I watched the streets and people were everywhere, selling fruit as cows strolled along and urinated, as children walked from school, people talked to each other, and the crazy traffic!

It is wonderful! People walking, tons of bikes dodging between cars, which are steering all over the place in and outta the lane (there really are no lanes) and everyone with a horn honking and honking. But the best

part is the smell. Oh the wonderful smell! It is like heaven: incense, wood burning, moist air, flowers, petrol, smog and cow dung. I tell you it is the sweetest most homey smell ever! The sounds of small bells ringing as people worship in temples, birds, chickens, crows, barking dogs, honking horns, crying babies, and motorcycles. I think I am most in love with the smell right now. If I could bottle it and send it to you I would. I would wear it every day and be happy. It is sort of a mix of jasmine, sweet smelling cow dung and maybe something a little putrid like petrol plus the nice warm smell of a fire.

I am staying at Mike Gill, the Fulbright director's house with he and his wife and 14 year old son for the next couple nights before I move into an apartment. So, that number I gave you may or may not be correct. Also, I will begin talking with Mike about my studies. All is well. I can certainly tell you that I am as happy as possible, almost euphoric. I had been very anxious before, but I have immediately remembered my love for Nepal. It was just waiting to be enlivened. Love love love love from your totally in happy daughter. :)

From the US send letter sized mail only to:

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Otherwise address to:

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PO Box 380
Kathmandu, Nepal



Marianne, Gerard, Ed, Louis, Robert and Ruud van der Fange
(photo courtest of Robert van der Fange)

Family Pictures

Paul & Geneva

Celebrating 50 years together

*Paul and Geneva Kelly Wedding Photo -
From the 50th Anniversary Booklet
(courtesy of David Nichols)*

The Rev. Dr. Gary L. Mehl was ordained in 1967. He served congregations in Hicksville, Kingston, and Queens before coming to St. Paul's. In addition to his Master of Divinity Degree, he has a Doctor of Ministry Degree from New York Theological Seminary as well as degrees in education and music. Pastor Gary has a great love of families and children. He also loves cooking, fishing, woodworking and gardening. [Gary (G8) is the son of Paul and Anita Von Fange Mehl who is the eldest daughter of Jess Von Fange]

His spouse, Rev. Lyn Mehl, is the Associate Pastor at St. Paul's. Pastor Lyn was ordained on Sept. 21, 1985. Before becoming a pastor she was a secondary school teacher. She served for 10 years as pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church in Elmhurst, Queens. From 1996 - 2001 Pastor Lyn served as both the Director of Pastoral Care at St. Charles Hospice in Port Jefferson and as a Metropolitan New York Synod supply pastor for ELCA Lutheran churches. They have three grown children, three grand daughters and one grandson.



Rev. Lyn Mehl and Rev. Dr. Gary L. Mehl

Our Mailbag

Joyce and Eric Von Fange (G9) of Fort Mill, SC, identified Eric as the mystery VF from the October, 2000 issue, updated us on family websites (www.thelightsource.com, www.andrewscars.com and udogg.com) and commented, "The Von Fange Genealogical Newsletter is a treasure. We appreciate all you do to make it happen. Thanks so much." And thank you both!

Darla Obermueller Lotz (G15) sent us her new mailing address via email.

Dorothy Von Fange Werner (G9) wrote, "The VF geneological news letter came. I enjoyed so much the news of other branches of the relationship. People seem more like family when there is information about them other than just names. But I especially enjoyed the page about Ted. I vividly remember that trip to Guiderock! I was 9 years old and assume I was along to keep Dad awake with my constant jabber, on the trip home. I can still see in my mind the rain and that narrow mud road with the deep ruts to follow made by the cars that went ahead. And I remember the deep ditch on the side of the road, filled with LOTS of water. Must have been a cloudburst. I was pretty scared...Thanks for all your efforts in behalf of everyone on the mailing list...." And a week or two later, "Thanks so much for all your efforts on behalf of the newsletter. It means a lot to me and I look forward to each new issue. I've enclosed a check to help ..."

A **von dem Fange** in Berlin? I received an interesting email from a man in Germany doing research on the Keubler family, "Hello Paul, I've recently found listed in the Berlin Adressbuch (online Address Directory 1799-1943;

<http://62.104.137.106/Adressbuch/de>) Gustav KEUBLER-VON DEM(also DER) FANGE, (Architect, merchant, designer, director) residential in Berlin/Germany between 1914 and 1943. The hiphened double surname leads to my presumption of his marriage to a born VON DEM FANGE. (...which in Germany today is an extremely rare surname!) This Gustav Keubler until now has been unknown to me, unless he is identical with KEUBLER Gustav Hermann *19.7.1880 Reinhardtsdorf (Pirna), Saxony. Do you have any other informations abt a possible identity of the a.m. Gustav and/or his wife VON DEM FANGE? Thank you for any help. Michael." Unfortunately we do not know about this person, but I suggested he email Ray von dem Fange in Leipzig.

Mickey Suelter (G14), Lincoln, KS, emailed us, "Love the newsletter, and it is great that everyone seems to be contributing! I have copied off the newsletter names and will send you new addresses on all the Lincoln County, Kansas people and a few others I have..." And she did - dozens of name and address corrections, plus a contribution! Thanks Mickey!

Curtis Von Fange (G9) wrote, "Hi Paul, newsletter looks good...got it in the mail today. Thought I'd drop a note to let you know of a couple of changes. Curt's email address : vonfange@yahoo.com, Michelle's email address: michvon@hotmail.com. **Christina's** is no longer at Goshen College but I can't tell you what it is...go figger...She is currently working at a child care facility while continuing her education at Ivy Tech State College. **Jonathan** is working with another young man on devel-

oping web pages for customers in the KY/IN area. **Kimberly** is currently enrolled for her Junior year of High School at the Indiana Academy of Science, Mathematics, and Humanities. She loves it, is doing academically well, and enjoys all her newfound friends on campus in Muncie, Indiana. **Stephanie** is in her Freshman year at Shawe Memorial High School in Madison. She enjoys her studies, friends and our song singing on her way to school each morning. **Michelle** is acting Director of Youth as Resources, Regional Office in Indianapolis. She commutes three days from Madison and then works out of her home the balance of the week. She is excited about the opportunities. Curt is working on developing some freelance writing clientele and is doing occasional mechanical and troubleshooting work for various customers around Madison. We are all in good health and well...had too much to eat over Thanksgiving, and are looking forward to spending Christmas with brother John, wife Cindy, and adult kids in Constantine, Michigan."

Bonnie Kennedy (G8) emailed, "I have enjoyed receiving the Familie Von Dem Fange newsletter all these years. Finally getting around to sending a contribution and request for the Genealogical Handbook, if you have any left. Appreciate all your hard work and the information you make available for us all. Thank you." Bonnie also sent an address correction - thanks!

Josh Moorman (G17) sent us his new email address.

Gary Mehl (G9) updated us on family news and an email address.

Kirk Bassett (G26) of Belvedere, CA sent a contribution to the Newsletter.

There are whispers about another great family reunion in the very pre-

liminary planning stages. Watch future Newsletters for details when plans develop and by all means plan to attend. If this becomes a reality, we may even try to publish a Volume 2 of the Family History Handbook for that gathering.

Mabel and Harold Tormoehlen (G18) sent us family news, and they and Walter and Verl Von Fange (G17) asked for a translation of the wedding invitation from Cousin **Peter Van der Vange** and his wife **Yanti** who was born in Bali, Indonesia. We thank Peter for the translation and we send them our best wishes for a happily married life together. You can e-mail Peter at pv26@wishmail.net.

Many thanks to **Janis Troeger (G6)** for helping us with data on the descendants of Ida Wilhelmina (Von Fange) and William L. Meier (G6).

American cousins who had the pleasure of meeting our Dutch cousin, **Henni van der Vange**, when she visited America several years ago, may e-mail her at her friend Aad Cogenbach's email address: Ag.cogenbach@worldonline.nl.

Destiny Clark, a descendant of **Herman Heinrich and Martha (Thompson) Von Demfange** requested some back issues of the Newsletter, a Handbook, and told us how much she enjoys the Newsletters.

Peter van der Vange in The Hague, Holland informed us that the husband of our dear cousin **Hillegonda van der Vange, Dirk Jan van der Laan**, died in November 2001 at the age of 92. We remember climbing many steps up the hill to their beautiful home on the border of Belgium at Noorbeek for a most delightful 'reunion' with them.

Dirk was a gifted writer and he had a passion for rescuing and nurturing rare native Dutch plants to keep them from extinction. We extend our deepest sympathies to cousin Gon.

Jim and Carolyn Schneider (G8) sent Christmas greetings:



Pastor Jürgen Loest of St. Marian Kirche in Ueffeln left a message in the Von Fange web site guest book on November 25, 2001, "Viele Grüße aus Ueffeln und die besten Wünsche für eine schöne Adventszeit- Jürgen Loest." Danke sehr Herr Pastor!

700 Years, Parish Ueffeln-Balkum

This begins a series of excerpts from the history of the Ueffeln/Balkum area in Germany where the von dem Fanges originated. This book commemorated the 700th year of the parish in Ueffeln and, until now, has been available only in German. Thanks to the excellent work of Rosalie Haines, Ph.D., of Elkton, Maryland, an English translation is being done at the request of

Harold Tormoehlen of Brownstown, Indiana. Rosalie has graciously permitted us to publish her work and we will follow in future issues with information on specific ancestors and family history that are part of this book. This selection provides insight as to how some of the von dem Fanges might have worked in Holland and eventually migrated there even before going to America.

Migrant Laborers (Holland itinerants)

From the end of the 16th century until the 18th century (with the exception of a decrease during the time of the 30 Years War 1618-1648) a sudden population increase led to the worsening economic conditions of the population even though in many of the rural areas, especially in those with less soil fertility, progress in agriculture under the conditions at that time was difficult if not impossible to reach. In many of these

areas it resulted in the severe limiting of earning potential, at least of the lower strata of society (**Heuerlings**, rural laborers and renters etc.). To this was also added a further sub-division of the small farms. Both developments led to an oppressive deficit in work and earning possibilities thus forcing the rural population to look to additional work opportunity outside of their home area. This income deficit was especially visible in the spring and summer months, when after the end of the spring planting, the harvest

products from the previous year were low and therefore the price of provisions rose.

At that time there was in the agricultural realm "specialization" meaning that only a few kinds of grain were planted in a mono-culture. In the marshlands of Holland and Friesland, an area of animal husbandry and dairy specialization, specialization meant that all of the agricultural land was used as grass land (grazing and hay). To this concentration of production must be added peat cutting in addition to some other

(Continued on page 8)

Migrant Laborers *(...con't from p. 7)*

kinds of work. In the area of grain planting, the largest part of the work available was limited to only a few weeks in the year when the grain had to be harvested. In the marshes it was for the short time during the cutting of the grasses and with it when the turning of the hay was required. The possibility of cutting peat was limited to the half year of summer. The seasonable work available in of all of these branches of agriculture meant that for only a short time of each year was there more work available and therefore only a short-term demand for labor. This short-term labor demand was directed to a specific group of population excess, the underemployed. All of the above conditions contributed to the development of a system of migrant labor and those who participated were referred to as the Holland and Denmark "goers" (itinerant laborers or migrants).

To Be Continued . . .



Anita Von Fange Mehl at her 95th birthday celebration, Greenport, NY, November, 2001.

Front row seated (left to right): Duane Mehl, Anita Mehl, Gary Mehl holding Cassandra, Philip and Mary's daughter. Back row, left to right, Dottie (Duane's wife); Mary (Philip's wife); Gary's wife Lyn; Gary's son Philip, holding his daughter Madeleine; Gary's daughter Adrienne, holding her son Sebastian; Jamie (Adrienne's husband) holding his daughter Angela. (photo courtesy of Gary Mehl)

Contributions Support the Newsletter...Thanks!

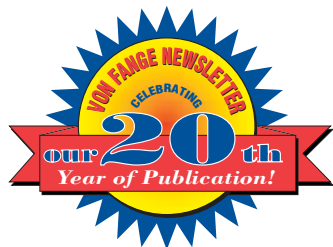
If you feel you can help support a future issue, please send your check of any amount **made out to Paul von Fange** (NOT to the VF Newsletter!!) to the address below.

The following family members contributed to this and future issues:

Mabel & Harold
Tormoehlen
Bonnie Kennedy

Kirk Bassett
Mickey Suelter
Dorothy Werner

David Nichols
and a BIG THANK YOU to Roger
Marty who hosts the VF website!



The VON FANGE Genealogical Newsletter

Look what's inside... **EIGHT FULL PAGES!**

- 1 Growing Up (Part 2)
- 2 Family Pictures
- 3 The Zuroveste Letters
- 3 Where Are These People?
- 4 Stephanie in Nepal!
- 5 Family Pictures
- 6 Our Mailbag
- 7 700 Years, Parrish Ueffeln-Balkum
- 8 Contributions ... Thanks!