

TRACKING THOSE VONDEMFANGES AND VON FANGES AND FANGERS AND VANDERFANGES AND VANDERVANGES

by Erich von Fange

Let's see now: we've got the Von Fanges in Indiana and Kansas, plus many other states, the Von Demfanges in Kansas City, Cincinnati and beyond, the Iowa Fangers, the Van der Fanges and Van der Vanges in the Netherlands, and the Von dem Fanges in Germany. Are we missing any major family groups? If not, do you know how they are all connected? This is a sketch of what we know up to this point and your corrections and additions are very much welcomed. We are treating only those ancestors who had children so things don't get too confused. Among the many American cousins who contributed their discoveries of our family history, we list only a few (and apologize in advance for others who did great work also): Geneva Kelley, Lucile Liggett and Roger Marty, Jeff Herbert, Karen Steely, Jim Head, Harold and Mabel Tormoehlen. We have now been at it with the Newsletters for 17 years and have learned much about our forefathers. Here is just a brief outline of the trails we are trying to follow. We are beginning to think of a Volume 2 of the Family Handbook to give much more detail of what we have learned about our family. Since we have concentrated much on Gerhard and his descendants, let's begin there:

A. Gerhard von dem Fange and four brothers and sisters came to America in the 1830s and early 1840s and we know much but not all about them: 1. **Johann Heinrich** 1803-1883, 8 children; lived in Cincinnati, then Bartholomew County IN until 1869 and then returned to Cincinnati; one child, Elizabeth Wilhelmina, married Friedrich Wilhelm Herbert, descendants still live in Cincinnati area. 2. **Anna Maria Elisabeth** 1809-1893, married Gerhard Hagenberg, 2 children, lived in Bartholomew County; no living descendants today. Cousin Geneva Kelley searched out this family. 3. **Herman Heinrich** 1812-1845, moved from Cincinnati to Clinton IA, changed name to Fanger, 2 sons, descendants currently working on their family history. Cousin Jim Head helped solve the whereabouts of this family group. 4. **Gerhard Heinrich** 1815-1899, moved from Cincinnati to White Creek, Bartholomew County, homesteaded there, 11 children, ancestor of the 34 G branches of our relationship. Much work has been done for this part of family history, but still far to go. We can't begin to list all the great help we have had from our 'cousins' to search out this large family group. 5. **Herman Rudolf** 1822-?, married, lived in Cincinnati, 2 chil-



*Henry Von Demfange, Sr. (center),
Kansas City, MO, about 1875
(courtesy of Karen Steely)*

dren, no known current descendants.

B. Two cousins of Gerhard came to America in the early 1840s: 1. **Johan Herman Heinrich** (1823-1855), four children, lived in Cincinnati, son Herman Heinrich (1853-1900) is the ancestor of the Von Demfanges in Kansas City and elsewhere today. Karen Steely, a descendant, and others of this branch have done much great work to search out the data of the descendants. 2. **Johann Heinrich** (1832-1871), lived in Cincinnati, drowned in the Ohio River; of 8 children, two lived to maturity, no known descendants today.

C. Germany: We have records

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of many von dem Fange daughters marrying over a period of three centuries, but none of these family branches have been investigated. With the wonderful help of Pastor Loest in Ueffeln, our Dutch cousins, Gerard and Peter, and more recently our German cousin in Döbeln, Rüdiger von dem Fange, we believe that all current known von dem Fange cousins in Döbeln, Berlin, Hettstedt, and other German cities can be traced back to the Ueffeln area and **Johann Heinrich von dem Fange** (1742-1812) and his wife **Margaretha Maria Fissen** (1742-1800). This same couple is the ancestor of all American groups. Rüdiger von dem Fange has done much excellent work to search out this part of the family history.

D. Holland: We have learned of at least three significant branches of the family in Holland who also originally came from Ueffeln. (1) The van der Fange branch: Our cousin, Gerard van der Fange of Doorn, Holland, has done much work in tracing his branch of the family from the Haarlem area back to Ueffeln, beginning with **Hermann Heinrich Von dem Fange** (1727-1796) and **Margaretha Maria Hohnefänger** (1731-1820). (2) The van der Vange branch: We thank Peter van der Vange especially for much intensive work in working through his branch of the family. He also begins

his branch with the same ancestor as Gerard notes. (3) The descendants of **Anthonia van der Fange** 1801-1873, who married Gerrit Daams in 1829 in Amsterdam. We thank Jelle Wagenaar, a descendant of Anthonia for furnishing us with much information about this branch of the family. This family is a branch of Gerard's family, above.

Who were our ancestors? Meet **Johann Heinrich von dem Fange** and his wife **Maria Margaretha Fissen** (1742-1800). We believe we can trace every American branch and every German branch (Döbeln, Hettstedt, Berlin, etc.) back to this family, and we can also go another two generations earlier. Somewhere back there is when our Dutch cousins emigrated from Ueffeln to Holland. Their common ancestors are noted above and we can go back another generation, but so far we do not have a definite link between our two large family groups. But they all came from Ueffeln. Again we ask that if you note any errors in the above or have additional information on any part of it, please get in touch with Paul or Erich von Fange. There are still unknowns and loose ends to explore and correct. Other branches, now unknown to us, may open up in the future as more and more people get into family history searches. The computer is becoming an awesomely powerful tool for such searches, so we are hopeful that we can share new surprises with you in the future.

FAMILY PHOTOS



*Cordelia Elise Von Fange Bassett,
daughter of Louis F. Von Fange
(courtesy of Kirk Bassett)*

Feedback Needed!

Please drop me a note or email (paul@vonfange.com) - I'd like to know if you enjoy the Newsletter and its content, if you have suggestions for things that could be included and that you wish to continue to receive the Von Fange Genealogical Newsletter.

It gets quiet here in Minnesota in the winter, so let me hear from you!



The Zuroeveste Letters

Part XVIII 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, September 1, 1840

Dear parents, brothers and sister:

Your last letter of March 14, 1840, we have received on June 25, being in the best of health, and which gave us great joy, because it tells us of your health and well-being. About 6 months ago I sent a letter to you which hopefully you have received long ago. We have heard that the bearer will soon be back here. Surely I will receive news about you from him. But since I now have the best opportunity I consider it my duty to tell you about my circumstances so much as is possible for me to do so. Until now I still live here in the city. I have rented a room for which I have to pay \$3.00 per month. The wages I have this summer are not as one is accustomed to. I work in a white lead factory. I earn a dollar a day. But this work is not good for one's health and has already made me somewhat sick, but I recovered in about 14 days. People here generally complain about bad times and lack of money. Food is cheap here, but if one has no money you can't get it. Furthermore I must inform you in this letter that we expect to move to the country next fall because more of our acquaintances will move with us at that time. Dear brother, you have asked me to write to you what kind of land it is, and the surrounding area where we plan to move. This land is covered with timber, all kinds of trees. The soil is rather heavy. In this vicinity there is much grass which is especially good for raising cattle. In this area there are still many wild animals, deer and all kinds....

(To be Continued . . .)

Where Are These People?

Please help us find the following people - we need 40 new addresses out of the 384 we send the Newsletter. Also, check the web site for the latest addresses needed:

Joni Abell;	Ila King;
Jason Audemberge;	Walter Kruckenberg;
Olga Behrman;	Victoria Leshner;
Jon Bell;	Christopher Mehl;
Carry, Corbin Cain;	Barbara Meyer;
Clara Claycamp;	Roy Moorman;
Curtis Crawford;	Mary Nunn;
Kelley, Monte, &	Kim, Steve Obermueller;
Tammy Eckelman;	Jerrell Theftord;
Rachel Ellis;	Dennis, Gregorie Troeger;
Lisa Ellwein;	Dana, Kevin Vogt;
Evelyn Fellwock;	Alvin, Carl, Catherine,
Esther Fleetwood;	Gary, Patricia, Paul, Paul
Jeff Herbert;	Von Fange;
Marilyn Hinson;	Beth Wever.

Die Familie Von Dem Fange

The VON FANGE Genealogical Newsletter

PUBLISHER / EDITOR

Paul von Fange • St. Paul, MN
paul@vonfange.com

HEAD WRITER

Erich A. von Fange • Adrian, MI
fangmer@lni.net

LAYOUT / DESIGN

Linda D. Von Fange • Lenexa, KS

PRINTING / DISTRIBUTION

David Nichols • Indianapolis, IN
nichols-5@msn.com

OUR MAILBAG

Mrs. Orville Von Fange (G14), Overland Park, KS, gave us a new address - thanks!

Uwe Kunert of Hamburg Germany found our web site and sent us the addresses of **Jürg von dem Fange** of Muelau and **Ortwin von dem Fange** of Gräfenhainichen. Our cousin **Rüdiger von dem Fange** had already given us one of these names and we will check out the other.

Harold & Mabel Tormoehlen (G18) are looking forward to about 25 German visitors in their area July 14-15, 2001. One of Harold's friends has control of his church records at Venne Germany going back to 900 A.D. What a treasure those records must be. Harold has sent us much Nentrup information that we have not seen before. Adding to our Nentrup file is the news from Nentrup descendants Barb and Russell Ranshaw of a Sept. 2000 Nentrup reunion in Seymour IN.

We received kind words of encouragement and support for the Newsletter project and a request for the family Handbook from **Sue Von Fange** (G9). She is enjoying her very active ministry as a D.C.E at Peace with Christ Lutheran Church in Aurora CO.

Help! Help! We ran into this item but so far have not identified which **Herman von dem Fange** is noted: In 1870 Herman von dem Fange was selected president of the German United Evangelical St. Peters Congregation in Grant Park. (Missouri? Illinois??) Who can clear this up for us?

We thank **Arleen Hitchcock** (G9) for her very detailed and updated version of the G9 family branch, Jess (Justinus) Von Fange.

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OUR MAILBAG

(Continued from page 3)

Lyle Von Fange (G8) gave us an update of his address and a request for a Von Fange Handbook. Thanks for your kind words about the family history project, Lyle.

Kathy York (G8) furnished us with family data. We extend our sympathies to her family on the death of her mother, Betty Starks in 1994, and her grandmother, Alvena VF Meyer, who died 7/30/2000 at the age of 97.

Thanks to **Lenora VF Schneider** (G8) for giving us family data we had been searching for.

We had an inquiry from **Dan Stevenson**, Philadelphia, whose family roots are also in Ueffeln. We see that the von dem Fanges and his ancestors married into some of the same families there.

Our cousin **Peter van der Vange** lives in The Hague, Netherlands, and keeps in touch with us via e-mail. He has done much valuable work for the Newsletters in tracing family history and he translated much of the Lingen/Ueffeln massacre story from German for us. Thank you Peter!

We also want to thank another Netherlands cousin, **Gerard van der Fange**, who has done very extensive work on the links between Holland and Ueffeln in our family history. He visited Lingen at our request for illustrations to go with the massacre story in Issue #31. We thank you, Gerard.

We tried to call two van der Fange persons, **Erik and Cor**, in the Seattle, WA area, but were unable to make contact. They must be cousins who emigrated there from Holland. Maybe our Dutch cousins can clear up the mystery for us. We have other van der Fange names that some day

we hope to contact.

Thanks to **Anita Achterberg**, Pueblo CO (G7), who gave us family data, a correction, and kind words about our family history project. Thanks, Anita, for your support and encouragement.

We were pleased to read of the work of **Arleen Hitchcock** (G9) who does valuable health analyses for the U.S. Navy in San Diego. We read of her work in the journal, Fleet Public Health. Congratulations, Arleen.

Pastor Jürgen Loest in Ueffeln, who has done so much to uncover our family history, receives our newsletters. He tells us via e-mail that our cousin, **Elaine VF Jordan** (G17), and her husband Mike recently enjoyed a visit to Ueffeln to see where our early family history took place. Elaine sent us a beautiful Ueffeln card that features the church where our ancestors worshiped. She and Mike sang hymns as the organist played for them. She tells us that Ueffeln is just about the cutest town they had ever seen, and we agree!

We were pleased to hear from **Les and Lois Walter** (G27) Sylvan Grove, KS, who requested a copy of the Handbook. Many thanks for your kind words and support.

We have a copy of the program for the organ concert at Saint James Episcopal Church, Newport Beach CA, featuring cousin **Janice VF Massatt** (G9), organist. Very impressive, Jan.

Dirk and Hillegonda (van der Vange) van der Laan, Noorbeek, The Netherlands, wrote, "Thanks for sending us the August 2000 issue ..." and sent their compliments and greetings to us, along with a contribution to support the Newsletter - in Dutch guilders no less! Thanks so much!

Browsing

It used to be that you couldn't find much of the Von Fange family on the Internet. But those days are over. As more and more people and organizations put information out in cyberspace, we find more and more references to family members - ones that perhaps even they don't know exist! For example, using the popular search engine called AltaVista, it returns 153 web pages with "Von Fange" mentioned 320 times; "VondemFange" appears 49 times on 18 pages. However, dwarfing them both is "Fanger" which occurs 19,268 times on 12,495 web pages! However, with all due respect to our Fanger cousins, we can't count that since most of those occurrences are the German word 'fanger'; nonetheless a quick glance reveals that many of the 'hits' are names. In this issue, let's take a look at who's out there.

We'll ignore a couple of well-known denizens of the 'Net: the Von Fange Home page and the extensive references to my Dad Erich and his writings in Pre-History. Not that we don't love them both, but we seek new and different citations.

You'll find a number of articles by my cousin **Curtis Von Fange** in the Internet publication Yesterday's Tractors, an Antique Tractor Magazine and Resource (<http://www.ytmag.com/index.htm>). Plus, be sure to read his Titus Canyon article (Text and Photos by Curtis Von Fange) at <http://desertusa.com/mag99/may/stories/titus.html>.

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The Internet...

We find Von Fanges in other peoples' genealogy work: **GAIL ANN⁶ ALTMAN**. She married **ROY OTTO VON FANGE**, son of **ARNOLD VON FANGE** and **VELMA REINERT**.

Here's an interesting one: someone I don't recognize - a Von Fange picture on the Internet at the TMB Associates web site (www.tmb.com). Can anyone identify him?



Of course, there is the famous Antique Tables Made Daily web site (<http://www.farmtable.com/>) run by my cousin **Tom Von Fange** in Sperryville, VA.



*Antique Tables Made Daily
Tom Von Fange in Sperryville, VA*

Some brief mentions of family members: on the Southwest Texas State University site, student directory, we find **Von Fange, Katrina M** [No_email]; from a list of Phoenix architects: **Von Fange & Assoc.**, 2017 E Rancho Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85016; we see on another site that this architectural firm is involved in two church projects for Crown of

Life Lutheran and Sun City Christian (<http://www.matockenterprises.com/churches.htm>); from another site we learn that **VON FANGE, DUANE CHARLES** is with Von Fange & Associates; from a listing of the members of the Texas Law Review: **Patricia Marie Von Fange**; from the Missouri School Directory, Mr. **John W. Von Fange** Dir. Grnds./Cust.; from the Medical Staff Directory of Delaware: **Deedra Von Fange** - Administrative; from the Wichita North High School North Star: Other key players included Freshman **Jamie Gibson**, who pitched in 10 in her first game. Sophomore **Megan Von Fange** and Junior **Treasette Horner** added eight and seven respectively; we found a web site (<http://www.intelligent-lighting.com/index.shtml>) with the text Copyright© 2000 **Daniel Von Fange**; a plug from his dad **Eric**: *"We no longer chase paper around the office. Everything we need is stored in ORDERS Plus and we know exactly where it is. Are we satisfied? Definitely! There is nothing better out there, period."* **Eric Von Fange**, President, *The Light Source*, South Carolina; at Beta Omega Colony at Indiana University we find **Tim Von Fange**, biochemistry, 3.96;

A quote from my uncle **Eugene Von Fange** at (<http://class.et.byu.edu/mfg201/Quotes/vonfange.htm>): "A close study of each of these dead civilizations indicates that they usually started on their road to glory because of fortuitous circumstances exploited by a strong, inspiring leader. The nation then carried on for a period under its own momentum. Finally, creeping

vanity led the people to become enamored of their undisputed superiority; they became so impressed with their past achievements that they lost interest in working for further change. Soon their sons, coddled in the use of all the great things their fathers and grandfathers had pioneered, became as helpless as newborn babes when faced with the harsh reality of an aggressive and changing world."

Next, we found a picture of the famous Von Fange Ditch in Seymour, IN as part of an 'Overview of Hydro-acoustic Current Measurement Applications by the U.S. Geological Survey in Indiana.' Bet you missed that one!



Plus, here's a 1998 application to build a bridge over the family ditch (<http://199.8.100.1/dnr/water/pubnotice/110698.htm>): Stream : Von Fange Ditch Applicant : Indiana Department of Transportation Carole Korbly Scott 100 North Senate Avenue, Room N642 Indianapolis IN 46204 Description : The existing three-span continuous reinforced concrete slab bridge carrying U.S. 50 over Von Fange Ditch will be widened to improve traffic flow...

That's it for now - check out the Internet and send me any new family information or references you find!

1975 INTERVIEW WITH ALVIN AND EMMA VON FANGE (Part IV)

Question: When you were a little boy, Alvin, what do you remember about what sort of medicine they used to give you? What did they give you to cure a cold, and a sore throat, what did they put on it?

Alvin: I don't know. About the only thing for a laxative was castor oil. And they'd grab hold of my nose and hold it shut and tell me to swallow.

Question: What did you get for a cold?

Alvin: I can't remember. I don't know as I had any particular remedy they gave me, only something connected with goose fat. I don't know what that was for.

Leonard: There was also some kind of medicine that this peddler would bring by. They were pills with numbers on them from 1 to 100. It was a mail-order type

Alvin: I don't know. The only thing was, when I first went to school, why, I started out here at No. 8, that was here on the corner, and I went there a couple of years and I had a man teacher there and I don't know whether it was when I went to school there or a little later, anyway, the boys, they just kind of trying to have a lot of fun with the teachers so, he boarded here, and there was a willow tree down there and it had a lot of sprouts, oh, they were 8 to 10 feet long, and he cut one of them, it was about 8 feet long, and he laid it up on top of the blackboard there in the front and then they started cutting up again in the daytime at the usual time. They tried to have some fun out of him or making a fool of him,



*Alvin & Emma Von Fange at their 55th wedding anniversary
(courtesy of Phyllis Von Fange)*

I don't know, but he just reached up for that switch and he turned around and those guys didn't do anything but just turned right around and sat down again.

Sylvia: You sang that song awhile ago. Do you remember any other games or songs from when you were younger?

Alvin: Oh, let's see-- "My father and mother were Irish." "Your right hand to your partner."

Sylvia: Was that like a square dance or a circle dance?

Alvin: No, you would just go in a circle and you would sing, "My father and mother were Irish and I was Irish, too, Go the right hand to your partner, the left hand to your neighbor." And they'd go on through that and then think of another thing like, "We churn the butter and the old man boots and it was Irish, too."

And they'd think of the craziest things that way and they'd say that.

Sylvia: Did they just kind of make them up as they go along?

Alvin: Yeah, when they'd have another party, they'd have something like that going on. Well, there are a lot that I don't remember any more. Another one was "Lead her up and down the Wabash River." I forget how that one went any more. You know, those days were about 62 years ago. I'm 82 now. I'm forgetting a lot of things.

Sylvia: Do you remember any old, well, these may still be used, beliefs about how you can tell when the weather was going to change or anything like that?

Alvin: Oh, the moon changes, they always say, if the moon is riding like a boat, that's a sign for wet weather and, if it had just enough crook so

you could hang a powder horn on it, that was in the earlier days, that would be a sign that we're going into wet weather. There's a lot of them like-- Whichever way the wind would blow on Easter morning, it would be that way for seven weeks to Pentecost. And Ground Hog Day, I guess everybody knows that one. I had a niece here and she said, "I don't care if he's seen his shadow or not, we're going to have six more weeks of winter." There's another one that-- "If the sun goes down a copper color on a Friday night, why you'll have rain before Monday morning."

(A pause while the tape was turned and various other conversation that couldn't be understood)

Alvin: Well, I was working in Natoma in a dry-goods store there, groceries and clothing and dishes and they sold gas, and you name it, we had it up in there. So, from there, I was working for my brother, and he bought land south of Natoma and he moved out there and so he finally went to work and he traded that land for a store in Luray and I went with him and worked for him there. While I was with him at Natoma, I bought a motorcycle. I gave \$100 for that. Of course, I had that along. So after a few years there in Luray, in 1913, my brother bought a Model T Ford and I had contracted for one but I didn't get it until 1914 so I had a 1914 Model and I gave \$395 for it. That was my transportation from then on, and I had a lot of company, don't forget it! (laughter)

(Evidently tape was turned off and then turned back on as conversation is quite different)

Emma: It was a big 2-story stone house that I think that they finally stored the ice in. I believe someone lived there, right there by the river as

you come over the tracks, of course, now since this new bridge is in, the old bridge was west of there. It set in an angle and they had a circle, sort of, along the river, so the mill, you know where the dam is, well, the mill was right aside of it. That's where they made the flour and we used to go and get 500# of flour there at a time. During the war, when they got word in the first world war that flour and everything was going to be rationed, well, a lot of people started hoarding it and stacking it up. They'd get 500# or 100#. Then they sent out sort of warnings so they all had to come packing back with those 50# sacks of flour to the mill. The Reeses were millers there. I don't know whether there are any of the Reeses left or any of their ancestors here in Lincoln now. But they were the millers. Well, one of them was in the bank. Bloyd's, Virgil Bloyd's wife, you probably know of them. They're still in Lincoln but they were related to the Reeses. And, they also made ice there. That was before refrigeration and everybody would go and get them a 100# hunk and then they had iceboxes and we'd put them in these wooden iceboxes and go chip it off with an ice pick.

Alvin: Tell them about Icy Ball.

Emma: Well, Icy Ball was a little more later. It had two balls and one was mechanical heated and it had ammonia, I guess, in it. Every morning it was a chore to take it. It was like a chest freezer. It would make ice for that day. It had in this tube a ball, really, they called it Icy Ball, and you could freeze one tray of ice in that. And that's when they started getting away from hauling, getting it from the ice house. Well, after awhile, they had an ice house up-town, right east of the post office in

there. It was over on the north side of there, in that alley. That's where you could load. I don't know whether they made it down there and hauled it in. It was hauled in there, I think, and that's where we got our ice then afterwards.

Leonard: You might tell them when we got our first telephone here.

Sylvia: Do you remember that?

Emma: Well, I don't, that was his (Alvin's) department. That was before he (Leonard) was born. That's when they put in their own farmers' line.

Sylvia: (to Alvin) Tell about what happened.

Alvin: Well, that come in when I was just a young guy. My father and mother -- they came through here and first they talked him into the notion of putting a telephone in here and it was supposed to be a pay telephone and anybody that wanted to call would stop here and they could talk where they wanted to but they had to, I think it was a quarter, that they had to pay. So, we had company here one day and there was a shower came up and the two Aufdemberge boys were here visiting. We had the phone hanging on the wall there, of course, on the side to the west. And it started to thundering and lightning and flames started coming out of the mouth-piece where they talk through and one of the boys said, "Haven't you got an axe or something like that? I'll chop the darn thing out of there!" So, after that, why, I guess, it was burned out. They didn't do any more talking and finally they took the phone out again 'cause it didn't pay and so then we got the real farmers, they went together and we got a farmer's system in here and that, oh, it took quite a little while,

TO BE CONTINUED...



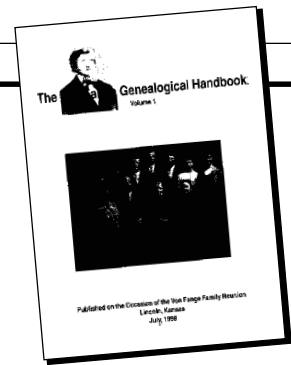
One of the many pictures of a picture taken at the Von Fange reunion in 1998. According to the information on it, back row, left to right, Emma Von Fange (with a ? - apparently someone wasn't sure - are any of you?) and Emma Aufdemberge. Front row, left to right, Mollie Von Fange Marty and Minnie Pfortmiller.

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:

John Rucker	Lois Walter
Lyle Von Fange	Anita Achterberg
Susan Von Fange	Dirk & Gon van der Laan



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 were printed only for the reunion - so order now! **Only 35 left!**

The VON FANGE Genealogical Newsletter

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EIGHT FULL PAGES!