

# Die Familie Von Dem Fange

# 29

FEBRUARY, 1999

<http://www.vonfange.com>

Vol. 17, No. 1

## FOUND: VON DEM FANGES IN GERMANY!

by Paul von Fange

Talk about a Christmas present! After surviving the blizzard of '99, trapped for a day in the middle of Wisconsin with my three children, I came home to a letter with that characteristic red/white/blue border indicating another country. The upper left-hand corner said 'Luftpost' which meant it was from Germany, and on the back of the envelop was the return address of Rüdiger von dem Fange.

I was momentarily stunned - a first name I had never seen in the context of our family, and a last name with which I was more than familiar - from Germany! I tore it open to find a hand-written letter in



Von links nach rechts (from left to right): Falk, Dominique, Rüdiger und Ray von dem Fange

German (and was most grateful for those 3 years of study in high school!). It began:

*Lieber Herr Paul von Fange,  
Pfarrer Jürgen Loest aus Ueffeln  
hat mich gebeten an Sie zu wenden  
wenn ich Auskünfte über die v.d.  
Fanges haben möchte...*

Or, in my best-guess English:

*Dear Mr. Paul von Fange,  
Pastor Jürgen Loest at Ueffeln  
had recommended my contacting  
you when I had made an inquiry for  
information about the Von Dem  
Fanges.*

And on the letter went for over a page, concluding with a hand-drawn ancestor chart going back to 1702 (Johann Heinrich von dem Fange of Ueffeln), containing names or references to 40 individuals! These are the treasures that every genealogist seeks!

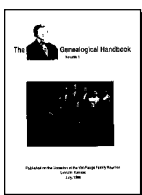
There was one particularly poignant sentence in Rüdiger's letter: "Meine Familie dachte immer, daß wir die einzigen mit Namen von dem Fange sind," which means, "My

family has always thought that we are the only ones with the name 'von dem Fange.' But as Rüdiger is about to find out, he's got hundreds of family members in the Netherlands and the United States, eager to know these 'new' von dem Fanges.

Rüdiger writes that he has two sons, Falk and Ray, one grandson and granddaughter Dominique. They live in the city of Döbeln which is located in the extreme east central part of Germany, south of Berlin and just above the bulge that the Czech nation forms into Germany. Döbeln is in the middle of a triangle formed by 3 famous cities: Dresden, Leipzig, and Chemnitz, each one about 30 miles from Döbeln.

We have sent Rüdiger the Von Fange Genealogical Handbook so he can begin to catch up on the American Von Fanges and correspondence with this new family has begun. Look for more on the German 'von dem Fanges' in the next issue.

Rüdiger's hand-drawn family an-  
(Continued on page 2)



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the 155-page  
**VON FANGE  
GENEALOGICAL  
HAND-BOOK**

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# von dem Fanges Found In Germany!

(Continued from page 1)

cestor chart appears elsewhere in this issue. The complete German text of Rüdiger's letter follows (there will be some typos since I was unable to decipher every character). If you would care to provide an English translation of all or part of the letter, we will print that in the next Newsletter.

*Lieber Herr Paul von Fange,  
Pfarrer Jürgen Loest aus  
Ueffeln hat mich gebeten an Sie zu  
wenden wenn ich Auskünfte über  
die v.d. Fanges haben möchte. Ich  
betreibe seit etwa 1980  
Nachforschungen über die  
Familie. Von meinem Vater, der  
1964 verstorben ist, wurden mir  
einige U?eunden meines  
Vorfahren überlassen. Die  
Hachtorschungen gestalteten sich  
sehr schwierig, da auf der  
Heiratsurkunde meines Ur-Ur-  
Großvaters Johann Heinrich von  
dem Fange von 1806 dessen  
Herkunft nicht angegeben war.*

*Ich selbst bin in Leipzig  
geboren und habe bis vor 2 Jahren  
in Leipzig gewohnt. Ich lebe jetzt  
mit einer neuen Lebenspartnerin  
in Döbeln. Ich bin von Beruf  
Maschineningenieur, habe 2  
Söhne, 1 Enkeltochter (18 J.), 1  
Enkelsohn (1 J.).*

*Ich habe von Pfarrer Loest  
erfahren, daß sie bereits mit einer  
Familie v.d. Fange in K.-M.-Stadt  
(jetzt Chemnitz) in Verbindung  
standen. Das ist eine verwandte  
Familie. Ich habe aber von diese  
Familie bisher nichts gewußt. Ich  
stehe in Deutschland mit 5 Familie  
v.d. Fange in Verbindung. Alle  
stammen von Geschwistern meines*

*Großvaters ab (1847-1924), mein  
Großvater wurde bereits 1907  
geschieden und deshalb war keine  
Verbindung mehr da. Ich bin am  
13.03.1941 geboren. Meine  
Familie dachte immer, daß wir die  
einzigen mit Namen von dem  
Fange sind. Lieber Herr Paul, ich  
würde mich sehr freuen, wenn ich  
Informationen über die Familie  
erhalten könnte. Das trifft zu auf  
die von Fanges in den USA aber  
auch und(?) Informationen aus  
Uuffeln. Ich kenne die USA nicht  
und verstehe/spreche kein Wort  
Englisch. Ich bin in der  
Russischen Besorleungszone  
(später DDR-Ostdeutschland)  
aufgewachsen und beherrsche  
etwas die russische sprache. Mein  
Traum ist, einmal die USA  
kennenzulernen. Vielleicht einmal  
Marathon Boston, New York? Ich  
bin Freizeitsportler, bin die  
Marathonstrecke 1998 7x gelaufen.  
Momentan mache ich aber infolge  
Kniebeschwerden eine Pause(?).  
Ich lege Ihnen ein Bild der  
Familie bei, welches am 11.4.98  
entstand, dem Geburtstag (18.)  
meiner Enkeltochter Dominique.  
So, lieber Herr Paul, das soll erst  
einmal eine Information sein,  
nachfolgend noch eine kurze  
Aufzeichnung, damit Sie meine  
Familie einordnen können. Aber  
vielleicht ist das aller für sie  
garnicht so neu? Na, wir werden  
sehen. Ihnen und der Familie alles  
gute.*

*Hertzlichst,  
Rüdiger von dem Fange*

# THE POSTCARD PROJECT

Postcards - rarely used today, but they were a common means of communication in the early 1900s. And the Von Fange ancestors were no exception - we've seen several dating from the 1910-20 timeframe from various members of one Von Fange clan corresponding with another. Especially common were postcards sent from the Kasas Von Fanges to the Indiana Von Fanges and vice versa. We've also seen several of William's childrens' families corresponding via postcards between the Pfortmillers, the Obermuellers, the Meiers and the other Von Fanges.

Postcards are extremely valuable in family research. Not only do they provide dated (very useful!) glimpses into the daily activities and lives of our ancestors, but also frequently incorporate a picture on the other side of one or more family members. This was apparently a common practice in the early 20th century to have family photos taken for postcards to use to update distant family members on how the family was doing and what everyone looked like.

So now to the project - and we need your help. 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

(Continued on page 3)

# The Zuroeveste Letters

Part XV 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:

I am moved to write you a letter, because I consider it my duty to do so. As far as I am concerned, I am, thank God, still quite hale and healthy and I hope that you may receive my letter in good health. I will further make mention in my letters that I have entered the holy estate of marriage on Nov. 19 with my present wife Regina Louise Geist, who hails from Hassbuger near Osnabrueck. She is 25 years old and belongs to an honorable family with whom I am still living here in the city. Happy and satisfied. I like it here very much; better than before when I roamed about in the world from one place to another and from one hotel to another. It is now nearly six years since I bid farewell from you, my dear parents and relatives. You may perhaps think that I may have forgotten you or do not think of you very often. But this is not the case. The thought of you is always new and will never be extinguished in my heart.

Since the time I parted from you I have seen and experienced much. I have done hard work with good and with bad people and along with this I have had evil associates. But I have overcome all this and have learned to know the world. But now I live with my wife alone and this kind of life I like much better. I further want you to know that the winter here this year is quite severe and lasting such as I have not experienced here before. It has already been wintery for more than two months. The situation here is rather bad. Many have never experienced a winter like this. Factories and businesses are almost at a stand-still. The wages are now low. Working for the State, through which thousands of people had their employment, is now quiet. And last summer state workers were not paid.

*(To be Continued . . .)*

of the original. Here is a paraphrase of the poem:)

Ueffeln, where the spruce trees grow  
on the ancient mounds,  
And strong men quarry the great  
building stones,  
Where the people build their sturdy  
homes and sow and reap,  
There stands the old church at  
Ueffeln. This is my home.

Ueffeln, where the smith forges iron,  
where the miller grinds our grain,  
Where the people gather in joyous  
fellowship.  
Honest workmen all - they pay their  
debts.  
What more could we ask of life in  
this dear town?

Ueffeln, where the people gather to  
worship in their ancient church,  
Where the clock in the old tower  
chimes the hours,  
Where the pastor proclaims the Good  
News, the Amen of peace,  
That is where I want to close my  
eyes in eternal rest.

And here is the original German:  
Wo die Tannen gruene an des Gehnes  
Hang  
auf dem Wiemelsberg man graebt nach  
Mauersand,  
wo man saet and erntet und auch Haeuser  
baut,  
dort liegt Kirchspiel Ueffeln, da bin ich zu  
Haus.  
Wo die Schmieden klimpern, wo der  
Mueller mahlt,  
wo man Biere trinket und sie prompt  
bezahlt,  
prompt bezahlt mit echtem, baren guten  
Geld,  
darum dreht sich alles auf der lieben Welt.  
Wo die Leute sonntags in die Kirche geh'n  
wenn die Turmuhr schlaegt des Morgens  
frueh um zehn,  
wo der Pastor predigt, das Amen spricht in  
Ruh',  
dort moecht ich mal schliessen meine  
Augen zu.

## The Postcard Project

*(Continued from page 2)*

be periodically included in future Newsletters to update those of you without Internet access.

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

## UEFFELN: YEARNING TO RETURN HOME

(Heinrich Altoeder wrote a beautiful and tender song which expresses his love for his home town - and our home town - Ueffeln, Germany. He yearns to return to his village and his church to live out the remainder of his life in this wonderful setting full of rich memories. A direct English translation does not catch the beauty

## 1975 INTERVIEW WITH ALVIN AND EMMA VON FANGE

The entire Von Fange family is indebted to Phyllis Von Fange, Salina, Kansas, who painstakingly transcribed a tape-recorded interview done in 1975 of Alvin and Emma Von Fange of Lincoln, Kansas. We are additionally grateful to Sylvia Ortiz and Leonard Von Fange who had the foresight to take the time to conduct this tape recording and leave our family with a treasure from the past.

Phyllis provides an introduction to this transcript: "This was an interview with Emma P. (Oetting) Von Fange (age 81) and husband

Alvin John Von Fange (age 82), Lincoln, Kansas, with some prompting by their son Leonard, that was made on March 19, 1975, at their home by Sylvia Ortiz, who I understood was connected with the Lincoln County Historical Society at the time. It sounded like some other man was there with her but he was never identified."

### The Interview

**Emma:** My father came over when he was 14. He came to Iowa with a family who was a good friend of his mother's. He went to school there. Then the rest of the family decided they would come--some of his brothers-- so they landed in the Ozarks. My father decided they were a close-knit family and should all stay to-

gether so he took off for the Ozarks too. They bought up a parcel of land there so it would all join and they settled there in the community, oh, from a 100 to 180 acres apiece, for the six brothers. Of course, he was the younger one, so he was more or less the chore boy around. They sent him over to get the parents, the rest of the family, two brothers and a sister, my Aunt Lena, the grand-



*Emma and Alvin Von Fange*

parents. They came over and they all settled there in the Ozarks. There weren't any of them married. One of them had to do a stretch in the Army before he got out and the other one learned to be a parochial school teacher but I don't think he finished so, of course, he was the learned one of the bunch. He had to do all the book work; he was the main fellow that they all turned that over to. He was also the school teacher for all of us kids for awhile. Of course, we were completely German and they were Lutherans and so we had to be Lutherans and we had to talk German until they finally had a public school. Then it was required that we go to the public school. I was 7 years old and I couldn't speak a word of English at that time, but I soon

learned. They all told me words to say. They weren't exactly hoyle but .... Anyway, they set there in their nice little nest about so long, and then we really spread out in the community with the public school. To get back to it, they also built a church and we had our parochial school part of the time. The public school wasn't as strict as they have it now. Of course, it was up there in

the hills and we only had six months of school. We finally started dairying and they put out farming but it was so rocky. Again, my dad started out for Kansas. He thought he couldn't make a living there. So he took off. I was 15 years old by that time. Then they followed, some of them, about three of the brothers. Part of them stayed there in the Ozarks. One family settled down and

they are scattered over Lincoln County, only our cousins. The family stayed in the Ozarks. They're still there, some of them, the biggest share of the cousins. Of course, the old folks are all passed away by now.

My mother (Wilhelmina Lach) was born in West Prussia, Germany. They got acquainted in Leavenworth. He went back to the mines there to make out so they could run the farm and he got acquainted with her there. Meanwhile, all the other brothers naturally also got married. Anyway, our family settled down over north of Beverly, Kansas. They didn't have any cars. Very few had cars. At that time they had these big wheel cars, they had rubber tires, but they were almost

like buggy wheels. These folks by the name of Hansons--they were friends that we knew that had moved out here--By the way, they are related to these Gablemans, the mother, she was a Hanson. That's probably enough of my hash .....

*(Leonard suggests she tell some more about her mother.)*

**Emma:** Oh, yes, they landed in Leavenworth. She was, more or less, an orphan. Of course, there, when you were 14, a lot of the children went out on their own and made their own living. Her mother died when she was young and so she took off to Berlin where she knew these folks and, after awhile, about when she was 18, she came over on the ship with a blind lady. Then the rest of their family came over and they settled in Leavenworth and that's how she came to be there when my father met her.

*(Leonard suggests she tell the story of dynamiting the well)*

**Emma:** Yeah, that was in the Ozarks. We had springs there but they would go dry back in the Ozarks. My father started digging a well and he hit solid rock. He dug through and he'd dynamite it. He'd go down there and set the blast. My brother Bill -- I was 14 and my brother Bill was 12--and we had one of those windlass (where you rolled the rope up to pull them up on). Of course, we were on that and we'd have to get him out of there. He'd say, "Now, don't let go of it or you won't have any papa!" So we were, oh, we were important! We just hung on to that and, of course, we'd wind him up and after about so long after he had it all scraped out and brought out in a tub, why he'd go back after another load of rock.

*(Sylvia asks her a question if they found enough water)*

**Emma:** Yes, oh, sometimes we'd have to wait for it to run in for it to do a big washing or something like that, but it run in and it was good, cold water. They had good water there.

*(Sylvia asks her if she remembered something--can't make out what)*

**Emma:** Yes, I very definitely remember. You see, we were the "Dutchmens" there so we named the other kids "Yankees" to get even with them. They were the Yankees and we were the Dutchmens. We were the only ones that knew anything about Christmas trees. My folks brought that custom over and we trimmed and they fixed up Christmas trees every year. So some of these so-called Yankees, they got curious. The kids we went to school with, we'd tell them back and forth, and they didn't believe that we had a thing like that. We'd put homemade candles on them. We made the little candles and put them on, and they were just lit candles, you know. So, they'd have to come and see. Then we'd have a special on New Year's, why it was a custom we called "strip the tree." So, it got every time we'd "strip the tree," we'd have just a lot of company--those kids, you know, to help "strip the tree." Of course, we didn't have ornaments like they have now. At that time they had candy roping and we'd make homemade cookies of all sorts of animals and, of course, everything was made of German recipes and custom and all that was hung on there--colored sugars and things like that--apples and oranges.

**Sylvia:** Did you eat them all then?

**Emma:** Yes, it was all laid out on the table, a whole table full of stuff, and then it would usually get parceled out so each one would have his choice all around the house.

*(Sylvia asks another question but can't hear what it is)*

**Emma:** Yeah, well, we had -- my mother made homemade bread and I definitely remember when we raised the hops for it on the trellis and we harvested it in the fall of the year and it lasted all winter through and she would make the yeast out of those hops and use cornmeal and syrup and pouring that over that and that would be the yeast, and whenever she would get out her bread paraphernalia, why she'd have to soak this yeast and crumble it into, oh, big chunks like, and let it dry, and then they would set it the night before, a great big dishpan full of dough. In the morning it would raise way up high and be about this big around and so deep. She'd make about six, seven, big loaves. That would run until it would be gone and then maybe, twice a week anyway, she'd have to make that much and bake it in a wooden range. And it wasn't an up-to-date range either. It was only one that would, oh, it's not comparable to what they have now, and have to stoke it with wood so it would be the right temperature and sometimes it would be quite a job if some of the wood was dry and some of it was green and they couldn't regulate the temperature with it too good, but we made out.

Oh, we had butchering, of course, the big butchering deals. We made different kinds of sausages and things. We made blute vorsch (sp?), that was an old German dish. We made sour pigs feet--what did we call that?--And we made head cheese. When we rendered lard, I remember, they saved the cracklings and ground those through and put apples with it and we used that for a spread on bread.

## Bartholomew County Family History Book

Thanks to the sharp eyes of **Mabel Tormoehlen** of Brownstown, IN, we learned of an effort in Bartholomew County, IN, original home of the Von Fange family. Specifically, Mabel read that a Bartholomew County Family History book was to be published and she wrote us a letter in case we had not heard. Well, we hadn't heard and we're glad Mabel took the time to write. The biography and picture of Gerhard Von Dem Fange will now be included. Here's what we know about the book.

The Bartholomew County Genealogical Society is preparing a Bartholomew Co. Families Histories book. The book will be similar to those already published for Brown, Monroe and Shelby counties. It will focus on family histories, schools, churches, cemeteries, businesses and social and civic organizations. It will not include a general history of Bartholomew Co. **WE WANT TO INCLUDE YOUR FAMILY BIOGRAPHY!**

You may submit as many biographies as you wish, along with a picture for each. Biographies (500 words or less) and one picture will be published at no charge. **There is a charge of 15 cents per word over 500 and a \$6.00 charge for each extra picture.** All pictures will be returned to the submitter after the book is published. Space may be purchased by active churches and schools at the rate of \$50 for 1/4 page, \$75 for 1/2 page and \$100 for a full page. Memorial/tribute, business and organization/club space may be purchased at the rate of \$75 for 1/4 page, \$150 for 1/2 page and \$200 for a full page. All funds collected will be held in escrow until the book is sent to the printer. Use the form below to order your book now! After publication the price for the book will rise to \$75.

To the right is a form you can photocopy (you do save all your Newsletters intact, don't you?) and submit if you would like to order a book or submit a family biography or both.

Send biographies and orders to: **Family Histories Book Committee, 4432 Carya Square, Columbus, IN 47201.**

Enclosed is a biography of \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to order: **BARTHOLOMEW CO. FAMILY HISTORIES**

\_\_\_\_\_ copy/copies @ \$45.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

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For \_\_\_\_\_ extra pictures, I enclose \$6.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

For embossing our name in gold (lower right corner) add \$5 \_\_\_\_\_  
(use up to 24 spaces): \_\_\_\_\_

For postage and handling to mail my book, add \$5 \_\_\_\_\_  
*(local orders may be picked up in person)*

Please reserve a 1/4 page, 1/2 page or full page for a: memorial, tribute, business, club or organization (see rates in the article):

Name of person or group: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School or Church: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (            ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my story to be edited for minor items to improve clarity and consistency:

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Where Are These People?

Please help us find the following people - we need 36 new addresses out of the 376 we send the Newsletter. Also, check the web site for the latest addresses needed:

Jason Audemberge;  
Quentin Bassett;  
Olga Behrman;  
Jon Bell;  
Peggy Sue Burton;  
Carry, Corbin Cain;  
Clara Claycamp;  
Curtis Crawford;  
Gary Deiter;  
Kelley, Monte, &  
Tammy Eckelman;  
Rachel Ellis;  
Evelyn Fellwock;  
Esther Fleetwood;  
Ila King;  
Barbara Meyer;

Elizabeth Murphy;  
Mary Nunn;  
Steve Obermueller;  
Jerrell Thetford;  
Dennis, Gregorie  
Troeger;  
Dana, Kevin Vogt;  
Carl, Catherine, David,  
Gary, Howard, Paticia,  
Walter, Weldon Von  
Fange;  
Beth Wever.

## Die Familie Von Dem Fange

The VON FANGE Genealogical Newsletter

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*The great Rubber Duckie Race held at the Von Fange Ditch in Seymour, Indiana (see story in Erich's Mailbag)*

## **ERICH'S MAILBAG**

We received an unexpected e-mail from **Ronald Voortman** in the Netherlands who told us about some research he did of our family in Ueffeln. For example, Herman Fangmer lived in Ueffeln in 1954 and could possibly be related to us. We hope to learn more from Ronald.

Among those enthusiastic cousins who sent kind words about the newsletter, and/or ordered a copy of the Von Fange genealogy handbook were: **Reinold and Jean Von Fange, Sherry Saunders, Col. James and Donna Head, Alma Buck, Harriett Von Fange, Mary Scholz, Ruth Barringer, Carolyn Kuhlman, June Hines, Dorothy Werner, and Kathy Fruewirth.**

**Paul and Geneva Kelley**, sent us research they completed on two of Gerhard's children and one grand-

child who were residents of Columbus IN: Gerhard Henry II (1846-1937), Louis Frederick (1854-1932) and Herbert and Cordelia (Von Fange) Bassett. We thank them for providing information we did not have before.

**Sue Von Fange**, Sarnia ONTARIO sent us an interesting article about the many varieties of ancient German titles, kinds of nobility, etc. Plus - she will be moving to Colorado the end of February, 1999 to take a new position!

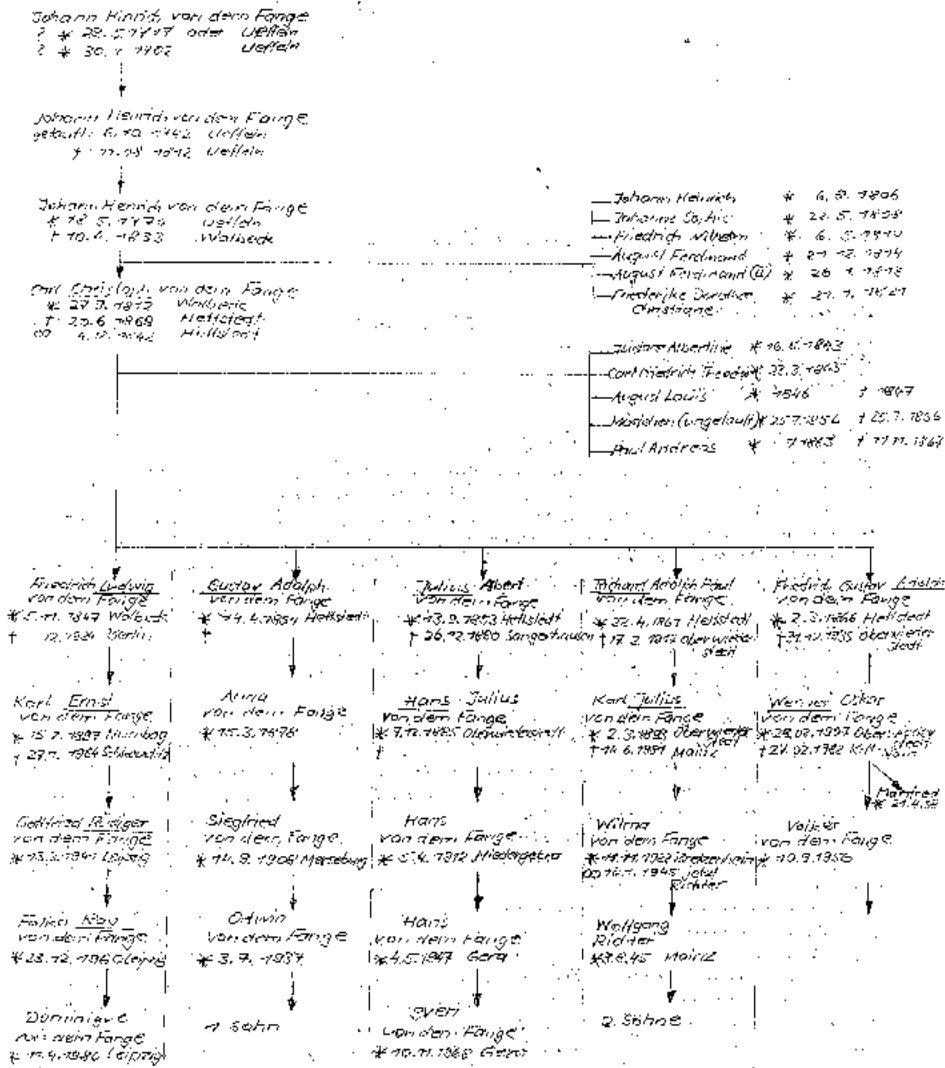
We had cheery greetings and news from two of our Dutch cousins, **Peter Van der Vange and Henni Vander Vange**. Henni hopes to make another trip to the USA.

**Walt and Verl Von Fange** sent us a story and picture of the great Rubber Duckie race on the Von Fange Ditch in Seymour IN. This

fund-raiser for children lured almost 11,000 people into buying a duckie for the race and the winner received a new car.

Congratulations to cousin **Ingrid Werner**, Fremont CA, entering freshman at the University of Missouri this fall, who will be starting pitcher for the women's softball team. She whizzes her pitches at 67 mph and has a five year scholarship for a bachelor and master's program in physical therapy at the University of Missouri.

**Sherri Saunders**, a descendant of both Gerhard and of Louise Catherine (Zuroeveste), who married Charles Von Fange, is interested in the excerpts about Zuroeveste we are printing in the newsletter and in finding out more about the Zuroeveste family. Can any cousins help her on this?



## 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
- Alma Buck
- Harriett Von Fange
- Mary Scholz
- Ruth Barringer
- Carolyn Kuhlman
- June Hines
- Dorothy Werner
- Glenna Otte
- Lucille Nierman-Wessel
- Jane Von Fange
- Meta Hieber
- Shirley & Reinold Von Fange
- Kathy Fruewirth

This is the ancestor chart hand-drawn by Rüdiger von dem Fange of Döbeln, Germany, the first (and previously unknown) von dem Fange family member in Germany from whom we have received ancestral information.

The VONFANGE Genealogical Newsletter

### Look what's inside...

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**NOW - EIGHT FULL PAGES!**