

Die Familie Von Dem Fange

#

JUNE, 1998

<http://www.vonfange.com>

Vol. 16, No. 1

UPDATE: REUNION IN KANSAS JULY 25 & 26, 1998!

Plan Your Summer Vacation Now!

by Mickey Suelter and Paul von Fange

It's not too late to join the family! The VonFange Family Reunion slated for Saturday, July 25th and Sunday, July 26, 1998 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lincoln, KS, is shaping up to be the biggest and best yet. We've heard from family members in California, Arizona, Oklahoma, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Washington, Kansas and Indiana that are coming.

You'll see the German hymn book published in 1785 that came over with Gerhard and family to the United States in 1839. We'll have old family pictures for you to see and help identify. The Genealogical database will be there on computer to be updated with your information. There might even be a few interesting things for sale! You'll be able to meet Paul von Fange of St. Paul, MN, the publisher of the VF Genealogical Newsletter. There will be games, videos and a playground for the kids. But best of all, come meet and visit with the descendants of Gerhard and his brothers and sisters - the extended Von Fange family in America. A great time is guaranteed!

For those of you with access to the Internet, all the latest information is posted at the family's new web site: <http://www.vonfange.com>. Check in

frequently for the list of those family members planning to attend and the latest version of the planned activities.

Here's the updated schedule:

Saturday, July 25th

7:00 pm **Our Dutch Cousins** by Erich & Art von Fange with videos, slides, pictures, genealogy, etc.,

St. Paul Lutheran Church (see map)

Sunday, July 26th

10:30 am Church service at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lincoln, KS

12:00 noon Meal - smothered steak & all the trimmings (\$9.00 adults, \$5.00 age 10-18, 9 and under free)

1:30 pm Welcome, Introductions, Tell Us What You Brought!

1:45 pm Paul and Erich von Fange - The VF Genealogical Newsletter Story

2:30 pm Group and individual family pictures; digital camera pictures all afternoon

3:00 pm Fellowship, displays, computer updates, for sale items available all afternoon

5:00 pm Meal - cold cuts, cheese, veggies, chips (\$4.00 per person, 9 and under free)

7:00 pm Program by Erich von Fange on **Biblical Archaeology and the Bible**

Here's who's planning to attend so far:

Paul von Fange and his son Michael, St. Paul, MN (Newsletter Publisher)
Erich & Esther von Fange, Adrian, MI (Newsletter writer)
Arthur & Bettie Von Fange, Syracuse, IN and their 3 sons John, Neil & Curt
Dorothy Von Fange Werner, CA
Meta Hieber, Broken Arrow, OK
Arleen Hitchcock, San Diego, CA, daughter of Meta Hieber

Phyllis Von Fange, Salina, KS
Karen Steely and her mother, Seattle, WA (descendants of Walter C. VonDemfange, Kansas City)
Wilbur & Ruth Von Fange, Kirkwood, MO
Lenora & Wavelyn Schneider, Salina, KS
Jane & David Nelson, Topeka, KS
Luella Bell, Tuscon, AZ
Stanley & Mickey Suelter, Lincoln, KS, and Travis, Todd & Tyler
Cecil & Ardith Von Fange
Lawrence & Doris Von Fange
Harold & Edna Von Fange
Louis & Mildred Obermueller
Harold & Lorene Buttenhoff
Victor & Lois Suelter
Wendell & Sheri Suelter, Seth & Sam Roy, Gail & Joy Von Fange
Clarence & De Von Fange
Rodney & Lisa Von Fange, Jill & Ross
Carl & Linda Von Fange, Kansas City, KS and Chris (Newsletter layout)
Donald & Imogene Von Fange, Wichita, KS

Don't forget: reservations are needed by **July 15th** for the meals to Mickey Suelter, Route #2 Box 36, Lincoln, KS 67455, **with payment** made out to **The Von Fange Reunion**. Remember to specify how many are for the noon meal and how many for the 5 pm meal.

Change those plans! Join the Family! Come on to Lincoln! Tell us that you're coming - by mail to Mickey Suelter, Route #2 Box 36, Lincoln, KS 67455 or by email to Phyllis Von Fange at vonfang2@midusa.net. **DON'T FORGET TO BRING OLD FAMILY PICTURES, LETTERS, POST CARDS, DOCUMENTS, CERTIFICATES, MEMORABILIA! AND MAKE A COPY OF EVERYTHING TO GIVE US FOR THE VF ARCHIVES!**

Here is a list of motels of the area for reservations, if needed:

Lincoln: Post Rock Motel Highway 14/18, (785) 524-4424; Woody House Bed & Breakfast Highway 18 and North St., (785) 524-4744

Ellsworth - (about 20 miles south) Best Western Garden Inn, (785) 472-3116

Salina - (about 35 miles east on I-70), Best Western Mid-America Inn 1846 N 9th (785) 827-0356; Ramada I-70 & North 9th (785) 825-8211; Red Coach Inn I-135 & West Crawford (785) 825-2111

If you have any suggestions on the program or needs or wants, let us know via email to Mickey Suelter, msuelter@nckcn.com. Or call her at 785-524-3544 or fax at 785-524-5239.

Where Are These People?

Please help us find the following people - we need new addresses. As you can see, we've been updating our database with the results of our research, so please comb the list and help us out with all these Von Fange descendants:

Jason Audemberge;
Daniel Barksdale;
Quentin Bassett;
Olga Behrman;
Jon Bell;
Gwenda Bliss;
George Bode;
Alma Buck;
Peggy Sue Burton;
Carry, Corbin Cain;
Curtis Crawford;
Kelley, Monte, Tammy
Eckelman;
Rachel Ellis;
Esther Fleetwood;

Mark Fritze;
Joseph Kelley;
Clarence, Eugene Kruse;
Geraldine Lyster;
Barbara Meyer;
Elizabeth Murphy;
Lucille Nierman;
Mary Nunn;
Arvella Robinson;
Charles, Robert Schroer;
Arvella Smith;
Sandra Sullivan;
Teresa Taylor;
Jerrell Thetford;
Gregorie Troeger;

Dana, Kevin Vogt;
Barry, Duane, Gary, Howard, Irma, Reinold, Wilma
Von Fange;
Beth Wever.

Die Familie Von Dem Fange

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NOTE: The Zuroveste Letters will continue in the next issue!

The Lincoln KS Area Before the Von Fanges Arrived in 1888

(Most of these notes are taken from the Pioneer
History of Kansas - 1933)

The map shows circled numbers from 1 to 22 and some of these are mentioned below. The original farm of William Von Fange is #19. We know that the famous Spanish explorer, Coronado, visited the Lincoln area along the Saline River in 1541, and camped on the bluff south of town. One pioneer came upon an old Spanish gun barrel 3 feet below the surface and found other signs of the Spanish presence.

The first settlers built comfortable earth sheltered dugouts, but these were soon overrun by mice and then, in turn, by snakes. Rattlesnakes were collected in a morning. The last buffalo in Lincoln County was killed by Wilson Schofield in October 1873 in Vesper Township west of Lincoln (Map #21). Others report a buffalo killed on Spillman Creek in 1876 by Ed Jackson.

There are many tales of Cheyenne Indians in the area in the 1860s, sometimes joined in raiding by Sioux, and in 1863 there was a battle between Pawnees and Pottawatomies south of Lincoln (Map #13). Here was an Indian camp and the stone cave near the south bluff on Bullfoot Creek where skulls and bones were found. The last Indian raid in Lincoln County was in 1869 (Map #15).

Map #9 shows the location of a soldier's camp. Two pioneers were killed by Indians (Map #10) and Mrs. Weichell was taken prisoner in May

1869. Map #11 shows where Mrs. Alderdice was taken prisoner by Indians and her children killed. Map #12 indicates a soldiers' camp and Indian burial ground. Four men from the Moffitt farm (Map #17) went out to kill a buffalo and were attacked and killed by Indians. Map #18 shows where General Alfred Sully had his headquarters on the Schermerhorn farm and store in 1868 while he investigated Indian conditions in central Kansas.

Kansas, the new promised land, was opened for settlement in 1854, but the first settlers faced many hardships and dangers as they tried their hand at taming the wild sod of Kansas. Corn was a major early crop. They broke out hedgelines along section lines for fireguards to prevent very deadly prairie fires. One once swept in with a heavy gale blowing and carried flames and sparks with the speed of an express train.

One August day in 1874 the air became hazy in the north as if a storm was approaching. It nearly hid the sun. Then the settlers, looking to the sky, saw grasshoppers like snowflakes coming down and falling to the ground in countless numbers. In an incredibly short time the devastation was complete and nothing was left of corn and other crops.

There were hot winds and frequent draught. Yet Kansas was a good land with fertile soil, checkered with streams and ground cover of nutritious grasses. The climate, variable, was healthy with the heat of summer mediated by pleasant breezes and refreshing showers and sunshine. The mild hazy days of autumn were especially welcome with an invigorating atmosphere.

This was the land that William Von Fange, Charles Von Fange, and sister Catherine (who married Henry Aufdemberge) came to in 1888 to begin a new life. William's daughter, Martha Meyer, says her father was a good hunter. If he heard a turkey call while doing morning chores, he dropped everything to go on the hunt. Another daughter, Lena Wolting, gives us an eloquent picture of life in those first tough years: At first there were hard times. There was no work to be had since families were large and each settler did his own work. They had several cows and hauled milk to the Lincoln creamery. For meat they lived mostly on jack rabbits and cottontails. Prairie chickens and quail were also plentiful. Four miles west was a small coal mine where Henry, Ernest and Jess mined coal for heat in the winter. The coal was poor but it did burn. They sold coal to others for \$1.25 a load and made about \$5.00 a week. The main winter work was native rock that they drilled and split for posts. The broken ones were sold for building purposes. That was then!

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:

Mary Schroer	Lawrence Von Fange
Phyllis Von Fange	David Nichols
Sherr Saunders	
Lenora Schneider	
Karen Steely	

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Look what's inside...

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