

OSTFRIESEN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA



AMERICAN-OSTFRIESEN ZEITUNG

*Eala Freya Fresena! Lever Dod Als Slav!**

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OSTFRIESEN-AMERICAN ZEITUNG
Ostfriesen Genealogical Society of America
Eala Freya Fresena! Lever Dod Als Slav!
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The newsletter of the Ostfriesen Genealogical Society of America is published four times a year. Please write: Lin Strong, Editor, OGSA Newsletter, 168 North Lake Street, Forest Lake, MN 55025 or email - lstrong@frontiernet.net with comments or suggestions.

We are happy to consider any contributions of genealogical information. Whether we can use your material is based on such factors as general interest to our members, our need to cover certain subjects, balance through the year and available space. The editor reserves the right to edit all submitted materials for presentation and grammar. The editor will correct errors and may need to determine length of copy.

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Ostfriesen Genealogical Society of America & Lin Cornelius Strong

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OGSA is a 501C3 non-profit organization.

Your donations are tax-deductible.

- Foster and increase interest in the culture, history and customs of Ostfriesland.
- Provide and exchange historical and genealogical information for those of Ostfriesen heritage.
- Preserve and celebrate our Ostfriesen heritage.

OGSA Contact Information

Mail Address: OGSA, 1670 So. Robert St., #333
W. St. Paul, MN 55118

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Wednesdays: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Thursdays: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm & 6:00 to 9:00 pm

Saturdays: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Closed holiday weekends.

The OGSA office is open by appointment, and OGSA members may be available to help. If you are coming from a distance, please call to verify hours.

Call Gene Janssen 952-939-0617 for additional information.

OGSA Phone No.: (651) 451-6472 (leave message)

Or (651) 269-3580

Email: info@ogsa.us

OGSA MEMBERSHIP

MEMBER PRIVILEGES include four issues of the *American-Ostfriesen Zeitung* (January, April, July, October), four program meetings each year and one special event, special member order discounts, and access to the OGSA library.

OGSA 2017 MEMBERSHIP—Send your check for \$22 (sent by pdf file or downloaded from our website) or \$32 for paper copies payable to **OGSA, 1670 South Robert Street, #333, West St. Paul, MN 55118**

Foreign membership is \$22 if downloaded or sent by pdf file. You can deposit your membership at Sparkasse in Emden, Germany if you prefer.

- ◆ **The membership year is from November 1 through October 31. Please renew early so you do not miss an issue! This helps us keep costs down!**
- ◆ If you join midway during the year, you will receive the code to download all back issues for that year or paper copies if you join at the \$32 level.
- ◆ **Back Issues: membership for 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 newsletters—\$10 per year; 2016 newsletters \$18 / back issues of print copies of newsletter still in stock \$3 each.**
- ◆ **Each year has a separate code on the “members only” site on www.ogsa.us.**
- ◆ **Please include your name, address, email address, phone number and up to eight names you are researching in Ostfriesland along with their village names.**
- ◆ **Questions about your membership? Please do not hesitate to contact us at info@ogsa.us.**

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President: Lin Strong: Lin@ogsa.us; (cell: 651-269-3580)

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Lübbert Kruizenga: lkruizenga@hotmail.com

Janice Olson: jkolson@comcast.net

Richard Wiekert: nrwiekert57@gmail.com

Andrea Janssen Severson: agseverson@gmail.com

Don Soeken: DonSoeken@gmail.com

AMERICAN-OSTFRIESEN ZEITUNG STAFF:

Lin Strong, News Editor / Cell 651-269-3580 / Lin@ogsa.us

Please put “Newsletter” in the subject line

Contributing Authors: Jill Morelli, Rudy Wiemann, Gene Janssen

Columnists: Rudy Wiemann, Lin Strong

Proofing: Karen Williams

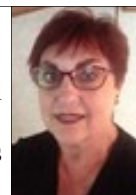
NEWSLETTER MAIL ADDRESS:

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Please send all newsletter correspondence to this address.

MOIN, ALLE!

We are pleased to announce that speakers at our 2018 conference will be Pastors Jürgen Hoogstraat and Andrea During Hoogstraat from Victorbur. You will not want to miss their presentations or the others we have planned! We will have a conference brochure available after January 1st. A lot of fun events and surprises will be included—***so make sure you save the last weekend of July 2018!***



Jürgen has been writing emigration articles for the Ostfriesische Nachrichten newspapers which he's given to us for our journals! Thanks to him and to Gene Janssen for the translations. We are the benefactor of these great stories!

One of my favorite villages in Ostfriesland is Dornum! What's not to like? It has an amazing Boch windmill, two castles, a church with a crypt, many older buildings, a great antique/hardware/gift store and a synagogue. We were so fortunate this year to have a tour of that synagogue led by George Murra-Regner. Information on other Ostfriesen Jewish communities will be in the next issue.

A couple months ago, I received a request for a picture of a gravestone in Ostfriesland from 1899. I had to tell him the grave no longer exists. One of the hardest things for visitors to Germany to comprehend is the removal of graves after 30 to 40 years if the rental is not paid to extend that time frame. Not only do they have to pay for the right to use that site for that time frame (dependent on community), but they also must maintain the grave with plantings.

Volunteers are taking pictures of gravestones now and posting them to findagrave.com or other sites, but graves are also being removed all the time. The posting of gravestone pictures online has also created some controversy—"what right do you have to take a picture of our relative's gravestone and put it online?"

Are there any older gravestones? Yes, a few of them. If the church starts a newer cemetery, they will most likely leave the stones in the older one intact. Sometimes unique older grave stones remain—but in most cases, they are removed, set against a fence for a family member who wishes to take the stone or crushed up and used for pathways.

The *Rhododendronpark Hobbie* in Westerstede is a wooded 170 acre park, full of Rhododendron, some of them more than 100 years old and up to 30 feet in height—in every color you can imagine. ***If you are ever there in May—make sure you visit it.***

**Eala Freya Fresena! Lever Dod Als Slav! Hail, Free Frisians! Better Dead Than Slave! (front cover)*

Check out our website—www.ogsa.us

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Help us plan programs for the next couple of years, including the 2018 Conference! Don't want to join a committee, but have some program or speaker suggestions & ideas? Contact us! info@ogsa.us

Our George, Iowa Program
Are you coming? Could you help with serving, research assistance and clean up? If you will be staying overnight—please contact the editor!

The 2018 Conference is being planned at this time—we will need your help! Contact us to see how you can get involved!

Do you have a project or program idea for OGSA? Please share!

Bring your photographs to a family reunion this summer! Have others help you identify those in the pictures!

HELP! WE NEED YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS!

In this issue . . .

COVER PICTURE: Stickhausen Garden Party, see page seven

From Warm Feet in Victorbur to "Hot Chili"	4	Artist, Andreas Kruse	17
Not Everyone Stayed—Some Emigrants Returned	5, 6	How did you get hooked...	18
Carolinensiel Harbor	6	News From Ostfriesland	19-21
Stickhausen & A Garden Party	7, 8	A Misunderstood Woman or a Cruel Murderer	22, 23
Genealogy Websites	9, 10	Family Bible Preserves Memories of Emigrants	24
The Story in the Dash!	11	Trail of Aurich Methodists Leads to Oregon	25
Touring Ostfriesland	12	Intrigue, Love & an Ostfriesian Nobleman	26, 27
Harvesting Peat on the Moor	13	Absent-Minded Professor, Boyd Bode	28, 29
Updrögt Bohnen	14	Membership, Obituaries	30
Dornum's Synagogue	15, 16	Upcoming Issues, Books, Misc., Programs	31, 32

From Warm Feet in Victorbur to "Hot Chili"

The family of Peter Lührs (Uthwerdum) and Moodje Lübben (Moordorf)

Her untiring work keeping feet warm at Victorbur is legendary. Ellemina Ukena Lührs (1851-1942) heated up innumerable foot warmers, *Karkstoven*, in her home next to the church, thus providing comfortable warmth for worshipers in the cold church. (Churches had limited heat at that time, and these small wooden stoves were heated with a piece of hot coal. This was wonderful for women who put their long skirts around the small stove warming them from the bottom up!)

Oma Lührs, as she was lovingly known, had been widowed at a young age and had served for years as the caretaker of the St. Victor Church of Victorbur. She was born November 2, 1851 at Forlitz-Blaukirchen the daughter of Ocke Valentin Ukena and Aaltje Wietjes Klaassen Lengen. She moved to Emden with her husband, Peter Jeles Lührs, Sr., who worked as a brakeman for the Imperial German Railway. Emden is where their two children were born: Ockelina Lührs (1879-1946) and Peter Jeles Lührs, Jr. (1882-1959).

After the premature death of her husband, the three returned to *Südbrookmerland* and lived next to the St. Victor Church of Victorbur. This is where the children were confirmed: Ockelina in 1896 and Peter, Jr. in 1898. Ockelina never married and remained in her mother's home in Uthwerdum, but Peter decided to emigrate alone to America in 1911 and moved to Ogle County, Illinois, an area occupied predominantly by Ostfriesians.

However, a bride awaited him at home, and he returned to Ostfriesland to marry Moodje Coobs Lübben on March 1, 1913 in the Victorbur church. Moodje had been orphaned at age 13 and her life was not easy.

In 1896, at the age six, this daughter of the Moordorf *Colonist* Coob Wiechers Lübben and his wife Hillrika Janssen, and her siblings, Anton and Coobina, lost their father who was only thirty years old. Her mother married a second time, but died not long

afterwards, in November of 1903.

Her guardian arranged a first job for the 14-year-old, Mootje, with a merchant named Orlemann of Aurich, but she had to give up both subsequent positions after two years due to illness. Moodje had a son named Koobus born in 1911. Her last job before emigration was with a family in Sande and on the North Sea island of Borkum until September of 1912, after which she returned to Moordorf.

Thus, Peter Lührs made his way a second time to America and again Ogle County, Illinois, was the destination for the young married couple. Little Koobus remained in Uthwerdum with grandmother (*Oma*) Lührs and her daughter.

The newlyweds had only a short time together. When their daughter, Moodje, born in the USA in 1913, was only three years old, mother Moodje died at the age of 26. Daughter Moodje, later known as "Maud" Lührs worked as a waitress before her marriage. She married Floyd H. Ridenour and was blessed with two children. Maud (Moodje) Lührs Ridenour died in October, 1996.

Some years after the death of his first wife, Peter Lührs, Jr., became acquainted with a young American named Heti Adams. A first glance at her name reveals no connection to Ostfriesland; however, upon further examination one soon comes across the Ostfriesian roots of this young woman.

Heti (pronounced Hattie) was known as Grietje when she and her parents, Geerd Harms Adams and Rena Ocken. from Uttum, in the Krummhörn, came to settle in Ogle County, Illinois in 1894.

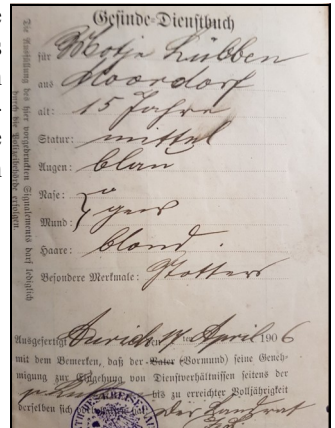
Soon after their marriage, Peter and Heti Lührs began farming their own land and did so until the start of World War II. After 1940 they operated a small pub in Mount Morris, Illinois, where Heti did the cooking.

For some time the numerous immigrants in Illinois had developed a taste for American customs, and so Peter and Heti provided mostly burgers and hot chili in their pub. Nowadays these small pubs in the American-

Ostfriesian towns are often the only reminders of the thriving businesses on "Main Street."

Most of these formerly important streets have declined, and the villages are happy to have a small pub survive into the 21st century. Peter Lührs visited his Ostfriesian homeland again in 1954, but by that time his mother and sister had died.

Peter died in 1959 of a severe illness in a hospital in Freeport, Illinois, not very long after his visit to Ostfriesland. His second wife, Heti, died in Illinois in 1976. Peter and Heti both belonged to the Ostfriesian-Lutheran Immanuel congregation of Oregon, Illinois, and are buried in that cemetery.



Dienstbuch for Motje Lübben. (Working record book)



Grandma Ellemina Ukena Lührs with her daughter, Ockelina, and grandson Koobus Lübben

Not Everyone Stayed—Some Emigrants Returned

Among the many emigrants who left 19th century *Südbrookmerland* were also families who were disappointed in the new homeland and for whom expectations were not fulfilled. Gradually, the desire to leave America: to return home and to begin anew.

The return voyage was prohibited for many because it was not possible to afford the high costs of a second such journey, but others were happy to be able to return to Ostfriesland. Sometimes it was appeals for help from family members which brought the new Americans back, or it was the disappointments regarding economic progress in the new land.

One of the best-known *Südbrookmerlander-USA*-returnees in the 19th century was Jelte Gerds Ockinga from Bedekaspel, who had spent fourteen years in the USA and then wanted to return across the great sea. He'd had a very good start: his emigration was well-supported financially. And at the end of his life the bachelor left considerable investments to his heirs.

Jelte Ockinga, born September 21, 1819, in Bedekaspel, was the sixth child of the church custodian Peter Jacobs Ockinga and his spouse, Gretje Enne Thieben. At the time the family managed the farm called *Babel* located by the *Großes Meer* (the big lake). Sometime later the family moved to Hinte to operate a farm there.

Except for the unmarried son, Tjardt, and a sister, Mareke, (married to a merchant named Tormin in Hinte), the next generation returned to *Großes Meer*. Jelte's brother Jakob Remmers Ockinga took over a farm at Forlitz; brother Enne Ockinga took on the *Babel* farm; sister Hauke married the village mayor of Bedekaspel named Poppinga.

In 1853, aged 34, bachelor Jelte Ockinga crossed the big pond, going to a settlement predominantly of Ostfriesians in the state of Illinois. Hinte is one of the few congregations in which emigrations from the village to America were documented over a long period of time in the church records, and



Contemporary depiction of a farm in Morgan Co., IL, about 1860 (Woodlawn Farm) Jelte Ockinga lived in this area from 1853-1867.

thus, we find his emigration recorded there.

His destination was Morgan County, where there were other Ostfriesian settlers. Again and again letters came to *Südbrookmoorland* in which Jelte told his siblings about his sojourn. The first address for the letters were to the farm of his brother Jakob and Jakob's wife Wolbrecht Reiners at Forlitz. His brother Enne at *Babel* was often taken to task about his lazy letter-writing habit.

Alongside questions about financial transactions and farm economics near and far, Jelte also reported about very personal experiences in his new homeland. He was especially struck by the 1867 suicide of his friend, Jans Knottnerus, who had gone to Illinois from Rysum in 1844.

Jans' emigration is also recorded in the Rysum church archives in the *Chronica Rysumana*, in which the local pastor had notated his emigration information. We only know about the tragic end of emigrant Knottnerus from the letter sent to *Südbrookmerland*.

Jelte wrote home: "*I have to report that the death of my old friend Jantz Tohden Knottnerus came about by suicide, because he hanged himself. I don't know yet how that all came about. I wanted to learn more but because of the distance from here to there have not been able to do so.*"

Jantz came last year to visit me and complained about



Only ten days underway in 1894: a letter from Illinois to Jelte Ockinga traveled by train to Emden.

all kinds of difficulties and said that he was so depressed in life that he was about ready to shoot himself to which I replied that he should not do such a thing, and that if he was not happy here he should seek his fortune somewhere else, and I mentioned three different Ostfriesian settlements to which he could go and easily find refuge. However, he was in such a state of mind that he didn't seem to pay much attention to me. . . "

Did his friend's suicide prompt Jelte Ockinga's return? At any rate, the diligent church historian of Hinte reported his return to Ostfriesland in 1867. He, too, was drawn back to the *Großes Meer* where he lived alone until his death in Bedekaspeel in 1898.

Jelte's contact with America by letter went unbroken, and he was in constant contact with his long-time friend Jakob Ommen in Chapin, Illinois.

CHALLENGE!

We know you enjoy OGSA's newsletters! But what other person do you know that would also enjoy them?

One of the challenges as a society that we face is that the younger generations are not joining. We need them interested in their heritage!

YOU can change that! **Buy a gift membership for one person.** This is the best gift—they will remember it four times a year when they get this newsletter!

Maybe it's a son, daughter, grandchild, niece, nephew, neighbor, or someone else in your community that might be interested? **You may never know what a valuable gift this will turn out to be.**

The Carolinensiel Harbor

A picturesque harbor in a small seaside village—Carolinensiel. Although it no longer lies directly on the North Sea, it is still a major tourist destination.

Sophie Caroline, the consort of the village founder Georg Albrecht of Ostfriesland, gave the fishing village founded in 1730 its name.

The core of Carolinensiel, especially the part around the Museum Harbor, is great for sightseeing. Homes with beautiful gardens, a harbor without distracting commercial activity, rows of house fronts of similar design - all offer some unusual photo ops.

Four of the German Siel Harbor Museum's historic homes feature permanent exhibitions: the *Groot (Big) Huus* (an old granary), the Captain's House, the Old Parsonage, and the Old Sea Rescue Storehouse / *Sielhafen* Museum.



HARBOR STATUE



Stickhausen's Burg & Turm

More than 10,000 people attended the 2017 Stickhausen *Turm* Garden Party, a two-day event. Vendors sold plants, garden supplies, pottery and everything else imaginable on this heavily wooded site. This event raises money to help with the upkeep of the Stickhausen medieval tower which is now a museum.

Many local residents have no idea of the importance of this former fort located on the Jumme River—many more have no clue as to its location. Where is it? About 15 kilometers from the city of Leer.

Burg = Castle / *Turm* = Tower

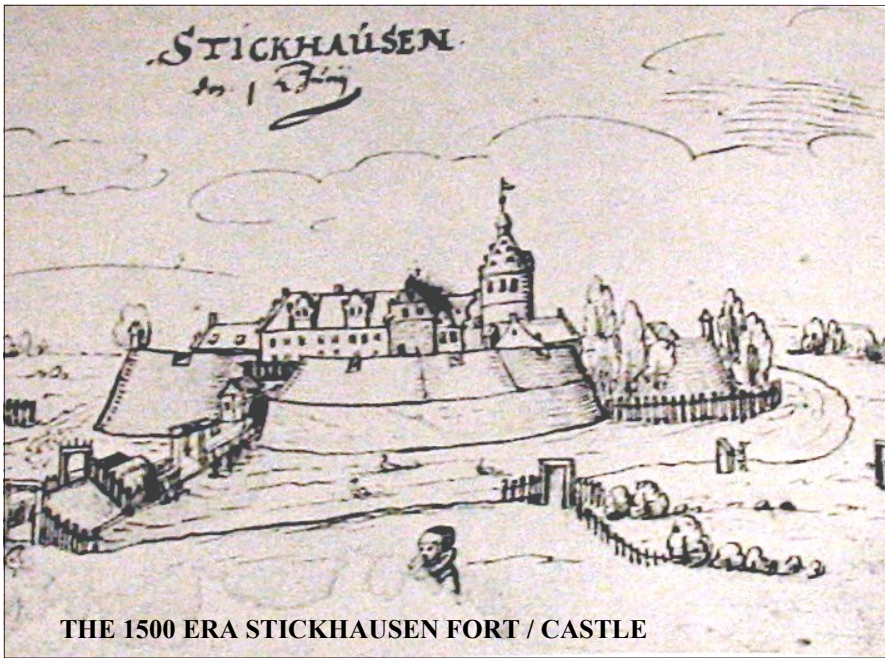


Stickhausen's Fort Then and Now



In contrast to the other castles in East Frisia, the Stickhausen Castle was never built as a chieftain's residence. It was built around 1435 by the Hansestadt Hamburg to protect their westward trade routes. After violent clashes the Hamburgers gave the property about the year 1453 to the chief and later Count Ulrich I Cirksena.

This left the castle as a replacement for the older *Grenzfest* *Schlüsselburg* in Detern. This castle was part of the border fortification between Ostfriesland and the neighboring Oldenburg area. The older castle was repeatedly



destroyed and rebuilt, and lost its importance after the construction of the castle of Stickhausen.

In the beginning, the castle of Stickhausen consisted of a stone house surrounded by a moat. In addition, there was a *Vorburg* with gates and other buildings (castle grounds). For protection, the entire complex was surrounded by ramparts and a second trench.

Count Edzard I (Cirksena) built the existing round tower about 1498. Edzard's participation in the Saxon feud led to the castle being conquered by a coalition of princes who occupied the property for three years.

After the Reformation, Countess Anna built a cannon platform in the style of polygonal bastions, which was called *Dwenger* (*Zwinger*). Stones of the abandoned monastery of Barthe were used in its construction. In addition, stones were used from the castle of Uplengen which was demolished by Enno II. Further construction activity was completed by Count Johann II, who died at the castle in 1591.

In the years from 1622 to 1624, during the Thirty Years' War, the troops of the mercenary Ernst von Mansfeld took over the castle. After the withdrawal of the Mansfeld troops, the Ostfriesischen Counts again took ownership for a short time, until the castle was again occupied by foreign troops in the years 1637 to 1640—this time from the Hessians, who completed an expansion to the fortress.

The entire complex at that time included a triangular shaped main castle with corner tower, the old *Vorburg*, stable, peat barn, *Burggrafenhaus* (count's residence) and garrison church on the upper floor of the gatehouse. It also included the *Zwinger* with *Pulverturm* (tower) and the *Ravelin* located south between Jümme and this *Oerwerk*. To the east of this was the new construction including barracks, residential and commercial buildings. This was a huge fortress of which little remains today.

After 1744, when the Prussians took over the government, there was no use for the castle. Frederick the Great ordered the removal of the fortress. All that remains today is the large round tower and the former gate building, rebuilt and expanded in 1822 for the office of a local official. An older coat of arms of 1578 can be found on an exterior wall. (See photo above)



The tower was used as a prison as well as an apartment of the local government official. The village of Stickhausen developed from the former grounds portion of the castle. In 1885 the castle came into private ownership. The tower was damaged in WWII and repaired and renovated in 1951.

Today there is a museum of local history and folklore in the tower which is open during summer months.

SOURCE:

OGSA: Amt Stickhausen articles

Genealogy Websites

Ancestry.com is not the only website you should check to find information. It may be one of the easiest to use—but there are a lot more out there!

FINDAGRAVE.COM

Don't have time to drive to another state just to get a picture of a gravestone? Use this site to see if someone already took a picture. One of the most amazing sites on line and all volunteer based—and free!

This is not just for the United States, either.

You can also search for the grave sites of famous people—although the why to that question is not answered.

How about some humor? Interesting epitaphs anyone?

Grave of Wm. "Lucky" Baldwin: "Here lies Lucky and always will lie!"
Glenna Anderson had "I was Somebody!" put on her stone because many years from now she thought no one would remember her.

Dentist, Dr. Denby noted "I'm filling my last cavity!"

Lilly Edith Zimmermann Gray "Victim of the Beast 666." Read the story on this one - her husband was some character!

Mary Jane McEwen Farrar was bitten by a coyote in the chicken coop and the story is on her tombstone.

You can search for a surname in any state—for instance there are records for 75 Grussing's in the state of Minnesota.

<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi>
The search form is also located on this page.

You can edit pages, add pictures and obituaries by joining the site. For instance, one of my uncles was on the website not as Gerhard, but Gerbard. The spouse of my father was his mother—my father and grandfather's name were the exact same. You must join to suggest/edit any of the information—and have patience. It took three days for the information to be updated. There is no charge for any use of this site.

WWW.GENEALOGYBANK.COM

Major collections on this website include U.S. newspapers, including foreign, ethnic and other special interest publications. Some are as early as the 1690s. They have a wide range of other data, too, some of which is found on similar sites.

Their subscription fee of \$69.95 per year is well worth the price if you are doing a lot of newspaper research. You need to search for uncommon names and terms in order to get results. If you are looking for Janssen in Illinois, you will be spending a week or more looking at all the entries.

Use this website in conjunction with FAMILYSEARCH.ORG to narrow down the time frame for records you are searching. If you are looking for obituaries, check for the actual death date first—and then search for the obituary during the entire month after that date. Newspapers in small towns came out once a week in most cases.

Search using key phrases such as: "Illinois" OR "Iowa". The OR tells the search that it can use either of those

places. Or be more specific: "German Valley, Illinois" will tell the search engine to only look for what is in quotation marks.

OCR scanning is quite accurate for books; however, newspapers are a different story. Different fonts and the quality of the print all affect the quality of the scan.

Once you find a newspaper, you can also click on "list all pages in this issue".

If you search for "Amador", you will find articles for Amador Township, Minnesota and Amador County, California. Searching for a more unusual surname like Grussing results in over 650 entries without using any other filters. Almost 1,000 records appear for the surname search for the surname of Jurgena. Narrow down the dates and add given names for better results.

You can narrow down a search to only a week, or more broadly to years. Try scanning for other family members who might have lived with your ancestor.

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GREAT WESTERN TRAIN WRECKED

Three Persons Killed and Several Seriously Injured at German Valley, Ill.

FREEPORT, Ill., Feb. 7.—A defective switch caused the wreck of a Great Western train at German Valley early this morning, the engine dashing into the C. A. Illmer elevator. The dead: Martin Cline, engineer, Chicago; Paul Jacobson, railway mail clerk, Chicago; Louis Neils, railway mail clerk, Minneapolis.

Seriously Injured: R. F. Brumble, fireman, Dubuque, scalded and internal bruises; James Harlock, Starles, Minn., riding in cab, scalded; G. H. Jamison, Chicago, express messenger, scalded and severe bruises; Mrs. I. N. Koontz, Port Dodge, Iowa.

Thousands of persons have been at the wreck all day assisting in searching for the dead. The injured passengers were taken to their homes.

A search under "German Valley" showed the following train wreck in 1907. Make sure you note the name, date and location of the newspaper when printing and saving the data.

Check to make sure your article is all on the page you have copied—it may be a multi-page article.

Search for women under their maiden and married names. Be aware of local customs in earlier times in the USA—women were known by their husbands' names: i.e. Mrs. Henry Fokken was the name on the obituary in 1912, not Grietje Ammermann Fokken.

Note that you can narrow your search by state, but not all newspapers within that state have been digitalized. Keep checking, more newspapers are online each month! Check all the helps and indexes on each site to make sure you get everything you can find. Then go back and check again every few months to see what new data has been added.

DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY OF AMERICA / [HTTPS://DP.LA/](https://dp.la/)

The **Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)** is a US project aimed at providing **public** access to **digital** holdings in order to create a large-scale **public digital library**. It officially launched on April 18, 2013, after 2.5 years of development. **Use of this site is free!**

You can search for a place, neighborhood, ethnic group, churches, schools, universities, businesses, military and anything else you can think of!

There are over 50 hits on just the topic of "Ostfriesland". Many topics are covered: the Reformation, aeronautics, geology, printing, proverbs, education, history, economic conditions, Low German, currency and much more!

Click on the special exhibitions, maps and the timeline tabs at the top of the page.

DPLA Images lets you search the Digital Public Library of America, a collection of millions of cultural heritage objects from libraries, archives, and museums across the country, for images.

Exhibits include: Quacks & Cures, Patent Medicine; Montana Free Homestead Land; Patriotic Labor, America During WWI; America during the 1918 Influenza Pandemic; The Golden Age of Radio in the USA; Torn in Two: Mapping the American Civil War; Leaving Europe: A New Life in America; America's Great Depression and Roosevelt's New Deal; Indomitable Spirits: Prohibition in the United States; Staking Claims: The Gold Rush in Nineteenth-Century America

The Story in the Dash!

In my column on page three, I referenced gravestones. What each of these stones or markers have in common is the dash between the date of birth and the date of death. i.e. 5 Dec 1890 - 3 Apr. 1918.

The dash between the birth and the death is the story about how a person lived their lives. As genealogists, we are always searching for those stories, otherwise our family history is just names and dates.

Did the person who died in 1918 die because they were a casualty in World War I or did they die of the Spanish Influenza? Were they married? Where did they live? Were they immigrants? Those are only a few of the unknown's.

Maybe you don't care about the stories and are just amassing ancestors—but maybe you should care. Maybe we can learn something important about how our ancestors lived their lives and what they valued.

My great grandmother was making pork sausage in 1912 and tasted a tiny sample the mixture—and from that small taste she got trichinosis and died when it ate through her stomach lining. She left ten children and my grandmother was only ten. My grandmother missed her forever and wanted to live long enough to see her daughters grown up and married. She lived to the age of 93. She often told me this story and related how hard it was for them to grow up with no mother. Their Dad's sister, their Hilke *Tante* (Tante = Aunt) came over every day to help care for them and my grandmother never forgot how important her care was for them.

My great-great-grandfather, W.D. Ammermann, was the first settler to buy land in the area now known as Rheiderland Township, Chippewa County in Minnesota. The first purchase he made when the family came by rail car to Renville, was an organ. This was hauled out to the prairie where they lived in a tiny cow herder's shack until they could add an addition.

He woke the family every day playing the Psalms on this organ. This family was deeply religious and the services of the Bunde Christian Reformed Church were

first held in their home. Many of the early immigrants came to their home first when they arrived and a pot of soup was always on the stove.

My great-great grandmother, Trientje Petersen liked to sit outside on the front porch of the home she shared with her daughter's family and when her other numerous great-grandchildren would visit, or walk by on their way to church or school she would always have an apple for them. She had pushed a quarter into the apple which was a huge sum of money for that time and she died in 1917.

After her husband died in 1894, Trientje bought, sold and mortgaged a lot of properties—unusual a woman at that time. I was quite stunned when I saw the amount of papers I had copied. I later found her ancestors were very important in the history of the city of Bremen, Germany, many of them were mayors and members of parliament. She was quite a shrewd negotiator and not afraid of taking risks!

My parents and grandparents lived through the depression in the 1930's. Many of you can relate how frugally this generation could live and how they preserved foods, butchered meat and became as self-sufficient as they could.

The stories of my father's family are well-known. With 13 children, each of them had different memories of their lives. Eleven of them lived to be adults and when I challenged them to write for a family history book, more stories than I could believe came to light.

As a child we went visiting every Sunday afternoon or someone came to our home. We loved it when they had kids so we could play outside all afternoon.

Of course there were always some families we did not want to visit because the cousins were not so nice.. Or of the family had no kids and we had to sit prim and proper in their "good" living room. Plus they all spoke in Low German so they thought we could not

understand them! Mom always baked a cake on Saturday in case visitors came. This was life in a small community.

On Saturdays we took a bath in the tub in front of the cook stove and Mom curled our hair with rags that she made into rollers. Who else remembers something like that?

In the summers we would walk to a neighboring farm and play with Sandra and Sharon Ulferts. No one worried at that time that two girls under the age of 12 would walk a mile on a gravel country road to a neighbors home. We also went "swimming" in the stock tank—something that would never be thought sanitary today.

What stories of your life have been recorded? What's in the dash of your life? If you don't write these stories down—who will? A gravestone with your birth and death dates is just that. No matter who you are and what you've accomplished, the story of your life should be preserved.

Get a notebook and start writing. How you write and how you spell are not important! Do you start with your birth and write about each year? Not necessarily! Start anywhere in your life and write!

- Write down your memories about your parents, the places you lived and where they worked.
- Memories of the games you played with your siblings and your cousins.
- Who were your best friends throughout the years and why they were important in your life?
- How did you celebrate the 4th of July? Christmas? Memorial Day?
- Where did you go visiting on Sunday afternoons?
- Who were your grandparents? Not just the names and dates-but what was important to them and how did they live their lives?

Get a pen and notebook and start writing! You can, of course, use our computer or tablet, too! It's one page at a time—or even one paragraph at a time.

Who will take me up on this challenge—what story is in your dash?

Touring Ostfriesland



Front: Carmine Dwyer, Dee Johnson, Hope Gordon, Brenda Harms Kilgore, Lin Strong, Debbie Fisher, Cheryl Rule, Sharon Crow, Sandy Hilgert.
Rear: Gary Gordon, Nancy Einfeld, Doug Einfeld, Marsha Othoudt, Jurgen Hoogstraat, Lorene Duin, Gisela Schmidt, Mike & Joan Elder, Jenny Hilgert.

Each tour group starts with a bunch of strangers arriving in Bremen who within hours are fast friends—and often times related! All wish to see the villages of their ancestors and to experience a part of the lives they led. Lots of laughter accompanied this group—everywhere, along with lots of surprises and even some newly found relatives. Marten Hagen joined the group for a day and soon found relatives among the group. A relative Sharon Crow never knew she had was found by Marten's aunt who then came to the Holtrop church to meet her.

Sandy, Brenda and Jenny stood on the Fredrich-August Groden roadway and could not help emotions that overwhelmed them. One of the highlights was the Victorbur Church tour with Jürgen and Andrea along with a wonderful lunch provided by them!

Gisela Schmidt, Else & Hinderk Oldenburger, Marten Hagen and his aunt, Töbke Aden Hagen, were only a few of the others who helped. The staff at the Upstalsboom-Gesellschaft went out of their way to find connections in advance for the tour members. See others who helped on the next page.

What else did they exclaim about? The world's largest pizza, the best apple *Kuchen* ever, *Frikadelle*, shopping, windmills, churches, tea & *Kluntje* and just about anything else you can imagine. We enjoyed Gary's bravery for putting the metal stockade at the Remels Church → around his neck!

We found the first home place where the Saathoff family lived; we visited castles, museums, Dornum's Syna-



DOUG & NANCY



BRENDA & JENNY

gogue, Esen's church bell tower and Dornum's church crypt. They climbed a dike filled with sheep and learned about diking, land reclamation and sheep—and what they leave behind. Thousands of pictures were taken.

Lorene also visited the home where her great-grandmother was born—now part of a community center. They left with good memories of beautiful Ostfriesland.



WALKING ON THE DIKE WITH SHEEP



GARY



Marten Hagen & Antje Lengen with her newly met American cousins: Sharon Crow & Carmine Dwyer.

Harvesting Peat on the Moor



Jürgen, Doug, Lorene, Debbie, Hope & Jonny

Many of our ancestors harvested peat to heat their homes and sold it as their crop. This was hard work—there is an old saying “*Erste Dod, Zweite Not, Dritte Brot*”—or to paraphrase, the first generation of peat harvesters died, the second strived to make a better life and the third generation thrived.

None of them could imagine that their descendants would willingly go out into a peat field to cut and stack peat—as an educational tool!



Sandy

Everyone got in on the chore. We were first served tea and cake in a building on the moor, then walked out to the field for the demonstrations.

Thanks to **Lisa Buß** and her friends for coming to help tour members better understand the peat culture. Serving tea were **Thea Kleen** (OGSA member, Lori Kapler’s cousin) and **Anneliese Schoon**.

Peat cutters were **Jürgen Kleen** and **Didi Theilken** and **Jonny Stulken**. All took their Ascension Day holiday (also Father’s Day in Germany) to teach us about life on the moors! Luckily the weather was perfect!



Hope, Doug, Lorene & Jenny
Stacking Peat



Lisa Buß & Jonny explain the
harvest process to Nancy & Sharon



Carmine

Updrögt Bohnen

[Editor: Visitors to Ostfriesland hear the term *Updrögt Bohnen* and have no idea what it is. My grandmother made it and Lisa Buß has made it for me, too! Our ancestors needed to preserve their beans for use during the cold winters. The following is Lisa's recipe—and her friends—for the beans they harvest at the *Striek Haus* Museum garden (picture right)]

For this Ostfriesian national dish the *Ostfriesische Speckbohnen* are most suitable. They are soft shelled and are ripe when they are a gold/yellow color. After harvesting them the strings on both sides of the bean pod are removed. The beans are then strung using a needle and heavy thread/string into a "bean ribbon" and dried in a well aired, dry place, usually in the kitchen—often hung from rafters. They may be also preserved in a pillow case made of cotton. For this dish, one to two handfuls of beans per person are needed (according to Anneliese).

Recipe for four persons from *Ostfriesisches Kochbuch und eigener Erfahrung von uns allen* (Ostfriesian Cookbook From Our Personal Experiences)

Ingredients:

400 grams beans (about 5-6 cups)

500 grams potatoes (3-4 large, cut in quarters)

1# marbled bacon, chopped

4 *Mettwürste* (German sausages), sliced or smoked pork chops

Dried pork chop

Salt/Pepper

Optional: one large diced onion, browned with bacon

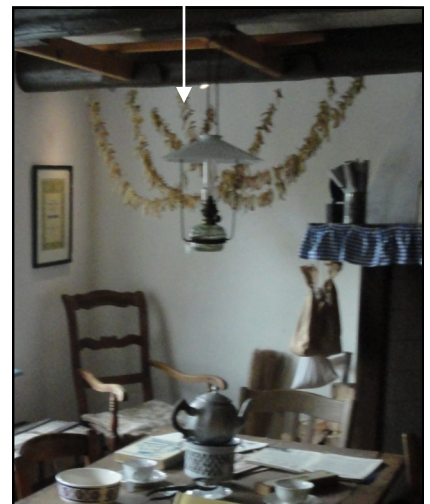
Soak the beans in plenty of water a day before cooking. After that cut each bean into pieces and cook in fresh water about 30 minutes, retain about 1/3 of the cooking water (discard the remainder).

Add fresh water, the bacon and the chopped beans and cook on slow heat for one to 1-1/2 hours with a bit of salt.

Then add the potatoes and the sausage, cooking until tender, season with salt and pepper to taste. Some cooks add a bit of vinegar to the pot during the cooking process.

After vegetables are tender; mash the beans and the potatoes together. Some families prefer to eat the beans and potatoes separately.

This dish can be served with pickled pumpkin or pickled red beets.



Dornum's Synagogue

Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass) in Germany changed the lives of the Jews who lived in Dornum—and all over the world—forever.

On the 9th of November 1938, the Nazis raided synagogues all over Germany and burned their contents. The Dornum synagogue was not the only victim—any Jewish relics in the village were confiscated and burned. There is now a Star of David in the market square of Dornum signifying the place where the synagogue treasures from that village were burned. Today Dornum has the only surviving Jewish synagogue in Ostfriesland.

The first recorded Jewish presence in this small village was in the early 1700s. They supposedly came to Dornum as money-lenders sometime after the *Dreissigjaehrigen Krieg* (Thirty Years' War, 1618-1648), when the noble owners of the former *Herrlichkeit* (noble domain) of Dornum were in need of money to finance their elaborate lifestyles, and procured monies from both Jewish and non-Jewish money-lenders.

At first, only one Jewish family could live in the village, because of Ostfriesland's restrictive "single-family" law. After the Christmas flood of 1717, this law was abolished and Jewish families were allowed to reside in the villages without restrictions. Additionally, letters of protection were issued by the Count of Ost-

friesland, and Jewish books were allowed. In 1723, the Jewish community bought land for a cemetery. The first record of a prayer room is from 1730. Community relations were good: the Jews of Dornum were recognized as citizens, and were well-accepted members in local society. In the nineteenth century, about 800 people lived in Dornum, including a small Jewish community—about 63 in 1861; the number peaked at 85 in 1905. By this time most Dornum Jews were craftsmen, merchants and cattle traders.

In 1841, a proper synagogue was finally constructed. Dornum's Jewish citizens took out a loan to pay for the structure, using their houses as collateral. The building was updated a number of times in the following years; it first acquired electric lighting in 1920. Heating was never installed and cold clay (earthen) floors were always a problem for those attending services in winter months.

Ancestors of the famous American comedy team, the Marx Brothers (Groucho, Harpo, Zeppo, and Chico), famous on radio, stage and screen in the early 1900s, were members of this Dornum synagogue.

In 1908, the Dornum Jewish community also maintained a school attended by 28 children. The teacher also served the congregation as *shochet* (ritual butcher) and *chazzan* (cantor). Numbers dwindled after World War I, and by 1933 only 53 Jews remained in Dornum.

Due to the rise in power of the National Socialists (Nazis), over 20 left by the end of the year, some emigrating to the Americas, some to Scandinavia, some to Palestine. After 1933, the synagogue in Dornum was seldom



GEORG MURRA-REGNER



DORNUM MARKET SQUARE—STAR OF DAVID



CEMETERY



INTERIOR VIEWS OF SYNAGOGUE



used, since the required number of 10 male church attendants for a *Minyan* was no longer possible. The Dornum castle was the headquarters of military troops prior to World War II and they paraded past the synagogue several times a day.

By 1938, only 15 Jews still lived in Dornum; they sold the synagogue in October. The new owner was a local cabinetmaker, whose house was directly adjacent to the synagogue; he used the building as a furniture store. Nevertheless, local Nazi SA and SS members plundered the building on *Kristallnacht* and burned all the contents on the market square, along with items from the local rabbi's dwelling.

The cemetery was sold during the war and the gravestones were removed; but at some point after 1945, Allied forces restored both. Dornum's synagogue, later used as a storage site, was renovated in 1981.

In 1990, it was converted into a memorial site with a commemorative plaque. At least 11 Dornum Jews died in the *Shoah* (Hebrew term for the Holocaust). After the Second World War, the former Jewish Synagogue served as a furniture store, for fuel storage and as a business space.

In 1990, the "Synagogue Dornum" was founded, an association which aims to set up to maintain and restore the synagogue in Dornum, to maintain the Jewish cemetery and to set up a permanent exhibition on the Jewish history of Dornum.

In 1991, the synagogue was restored with the help of monument preservation funds as well as help from the municipality of Dornum. Since then, it has served as a memorial and information center.

George Murra-Regner is the curator of the museum. Artifacts in this museum came from almost every country in the world. Included in their collection is a 300 year old Torah, the law on which Judaism is founded.

Murra-Regner is the author of numerous books on the history of the Jewish communities in Ostfriesland. His parents lived through the Holocaust and he was born after WWII. Murra-Regner has made it his mission to preserve the history of the Dornum Jewish community and personally oversees the care of the cemetery. We thank him for his service.

Artist, Andreas Kruse



If you met Andreas Kruse on the street, you might think he was a sailor or fisherman. He is, however, a talented artist and you will find his art studio at Rathausstraße 13, Leer in the Altstadt.

When asked if his picture could be included in an article about his art for an Ostfriesen society in America, his skepticism was evident. Little did he know that his artwork has been in my home in America for many years.

This Jemgum born artist's drawings and watercolors of the city of Leer are of great interest to visitors and, at one time, were sold at Leer's Bunting Tee Museum Gift Shop.

While these are still part of his collection, he has

become well-known for his marine art. His marine paintings are found in museums, shipping companies, shipyards and aboard many German Naval ships. Many of his paintings are part of private art collections.

Fine Art America's profile on his life notes: "As a small boy, the navigation of small boats on the [Ems] river had a great fascination for him. His father recognized the talent of the boy at an early stage and gave him a watercolor paint box, which turned out to be the foundation of his artistic career.

Andreas Kruse uses all painting techniques to show coasts, ports and delicate vessels with an almost photographic accuracy. But this would not be enough for a painter and an artist. He adds the representation of the different moods at sea, the artistic uplift of maritime details, which stimulate the imagination.

The marine painting observer is able to feel the wind, the sea and the prevailing weather, and the ship is alive, and not merely an object made from steel and rope." ¹

Check out his other works online and the YouTube video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7LU9981PaY>



Interested in more information? www.der-marinemaler.com

SOURCE:

¹ <https://fineartamerica.com/profiles/andreas-kruse.html?tab=about>
 Information in parenthesis & several pictures - Other internet sites

How Did You Get Hooked . . .

How did you get started searching for your ancestors? Sometimes it is more about a grandparent, parent, aunt or uncle, or even a question someone innocently asks!

Beverley Fieg, Phoenix, Arizona

It's been many years since I started on my genealogy journey. Growing up as an only child with no close relatives nearby, I never heard many family stories. Luckily, about thirty years ago, my mother's cousin wrote to her that she was trying to determine the family lines of their Bickford surname. My mother gave that letter to me. This cousin had pages of handwritten snips of census entries that she had found on microfilms. I took up the challenge to help her separate the families.

I spent many hours pouring over census microfilms and mastering the Soundex system. At that time, we used the new technology of computers and I joined mailing lists to share information with others with the same interests. Of course one name leads to others, and I found I was soon researching many family lines. I wrote letters to local historical societies and courthouses and sent many requests for vital records. Our family vacations were spent visiting cemeteries and libraries.

I was fortunate that my background as a Medical Technologist prepared me for documenting my findings. I was well trained to always record each entry and its source. This journey has taken me to so many places around the US and Germany and I have met so many wonderful people along the way.

My father always used O. as a middle initial because he didn't like the name Ogle (his mother's maiden name). I wish he had been alive when I found that he descends from the Revolutionary War hero Joseph Ogle and that his line traces back to the Ogle Castle in Northumberland, England. My mother would have been proud to know that I traveled to the small villages in Ostfriesland, Germany where her grandparents came from and that I walked the actual land of her ancestors.

The more I research, the more information there is to find. The relatives and ancestors that I never knew have become a real family to me and, in writing their stories, my own children and grandchildren will know their family history.

Willee Ackermann, Bloomington, IN

Being the youngest of six children in the home of newly arrived Ostfriesians in Minnesota, from earliest memory my world was very German. That meant conversation, food, our Lutheran faith and total lifestyle on the 1930s MN prairie. When it was time to attend school, I was reluctant to recite anything because my answer might be in German, but could also be in English?

Three of our Mother's bachelor brothers had immigrated to MN a few years before our family, and were not geographically close. Transportation was exceedingly limited. Mother faithfully wrote her parents and siblings in Ostfriesland, as a pattern for her Sunday afternoon's leisure from farm labors. In return, she also received news from her large family there. Depression era conditions precluded luxuries as camera, radio, or such. Then the war came with even more limited resources. Correspondence was on ruled paper, scraps of paper, and margins of the newspapers. I remember that Mother received a gift of lovely stationery from our Grandmother for one of her birthdays.

I knew relatives existed, but had no visual connection UNTIL my first-ever trip to Germany in 1984 when our son who was in the military was stationed there. In a short two weeks, I met and bonded with cousins by the dozens, a few remaining aunts and uncles, visited numerous gravesites and got the 'genealogy bug'. Since then, I have become the 'keeper of the family box' of all things Ostfriesen!

My daughter-in-law and I published our family histories for both sides in 2004 and 2005, back to 1620 on Mother's side and 1595 on Father's side. This information was provided to us by our Ostfriesen cousins; therefore, no searching and wondering for us. (Copies are in the St. Paul Research Library and also in Aurich: MENTJES and MENKEN).

In March, I was blessed with my fifth trip to Germany where I connected with six sibling cousins for an afternoon, in Cologne while on a Viking Rhine River Cruise. So I'm hooked on Genealogy!

Mel & Cheryl Schrader, Brookings, SD

I'm not sure how Mel and I got into genealogy, but I think it had to do with some Steffens family reunions. I started looking into the Steffen information we received at the reunion and at our next reunion hooked us up with the Ketelhut family in Kimball, SD. Family reunions helped us meet so many of our relatives from all over the United States.

Mel got interested in genealogy when we attended the 2010 conference in Waterloo, Iowa. Lin Strong helped us correct information we had received—so the quest started. Also, Pastor Hoogstraat's presentations introduced us to Ostfriesland and we learned that some of his relatives were also our relatives.

We have attended many Ostfriesland conferences since then and have met such wonderful people. Our trips with Lin helped us learn about Ostfriesland. In 2012 we took our son and his girlfriend on a tour with Lin. What a great experience for them and us. Lin took us to Hatzum so they got to see where their Schrader ancestors went to church—and we took an amazing number of pictures of that church, too.

In 2016, we extended our tour and met with Mel's cousins in Neermoor. There we learned so much information on the Klock family. We have pictures and family trees that we can add to our growing collection.

We are looking forward to the conference next year. Hopefully, many of the friends we made on our two trips will be there. We will be heading back to Ostfriesland this October to help Mel's cousin celebrate her 80th birthday. Genealogy continues to bring much joy to our lives!

Cheryl, Scott & Mel Schrader in the Hatzum Church





NEWS FROM OSTFRIESLAND

Emder Zeitung, 1/7/2017

The townsfolk of Arle, Roggenstede, and Canhusen (member communities of the associated communities Dornum, Großheide, and Hinte, respectively) are being made constantly aware of the change in energy policy by the huge installations rising in close proximity to their homes. The folks from Arle, unnerved by the steady rumbling of rotors to a point where they and their children are robbed of their sleep, asked through the media for sleep accommodations if the situation does not improve. Nevertheless, more generators will be installed.

The Windpark Corporation "Südermeedland" plans two additional generators in Schwittersum and another one in Großheide. In addition, six generators are being built outside of Nenndorf and five in Loppersum. One of them, going up 3,000 ft. from a new development in Hinte, will stretch skyward a full 600 ft.

Anzeiger für Harlingerland, Ostfriesisches Tageblatt, 1/9/2017

Esens - On Saturday, the Volunteer Fire Department of Esens held a collection drive for discarded Christmas trees. Within the town they were accepted at six locations, and local farmers and businesses supported the action by providing transportation where needed. The members of the Volunteer Fire Department Holtgast at the collection location Hayungshauser Weg were glad of the good response despite the cold weather: "The trees will be donated to feed Easter



fires in the region. The crackling of the burning needles is so pleasing," said a young fire fighter. The fire fighters receive a small donation for the trees they accept with which the training of young firemen will be supported.

Jeversches Wochenblatt, Friesisches Tageblatt, 1/9/2017

Langenoog - Not only throughout Germany has the drifting of hundreds of thousands of plastic bubbles on the beaches attracted the attention of the media, but pictures of the colorful profusion of blobs could even be seen on television in far-away Japan.



Emder Zeitung, 1/19/2017

Emden - The glare ice condition prevailing for several days has caused more than the usual number of emergency admittances at the Emden Klinikum, where since its beginning 20 patients underwent operations, mostly for broken bones. Compared to the situation of a year ago, however, the present situation at the Klinikum is more manageable, as there is no shortage of beds. A year ago the accident operation department needed every available bed.

Emder Zeitung, 1/23/2017

Hannover/Weener - The reconstruction of the Friesian Bridge across the Ems River at Weener could take longer and cost more than anticipated. At a summit meeting, railroad and state government officials have not yet been able to agree if the damaged bridge should be repaired or



replaced. (ref: Apr. 2016 issue, pg. 6.) A new bridge would make river traffic to and from the Meyer Werft shipyard easier, but could cost 15,000,000 euros more and take until 2024 to complete. Repair work for 30,000,000 would be completed in 2021.

The railroad and the Meyer Werft shipyard are opting for a new bridge, Meyer Werft for a bascule or swing bridge with opening enlarged to 56 meters (184 ft.) The state government is backing this proposal. The company which insured the ship which collided with the bridge will pay 4,000,000 euros in damages, the German railroad will pay 26,000,000 euros, Meyer Werft shipyard 1,000,000, and communities and business in the region, possibly the Netherlands as well, are expected to cover the remainder.

Yahoo News, 2/3/17

The unexpected early death of the horse whisperer Tamme Hanken (1960-2016) (ref: Apr. 2017 Issue, pg. 13) was mourned by his many fans, but they will soon see the popular "XXL East Friesian" again. On Tuesday, February 7, a cable channel will start a new documentary, "News from the Hanken Farm -



Tamme Hanken forever.” It will attempt to explain how his widow Carmen manages the days’ events and what became of Tamme’s apprentice Anton.

As part of the documentary, Carmen Hanken will travel again to the places where Tamme once helped animals in distress. The first trip will lead her to a farm in California where Tamme once freed a horse from a severe hoof problem. Carmen is anxious to get an impression of the state of that horse’s health. She will witness other cures as well on her trip, e.g., leech treatment in Hollywood. But Tamme will always be the front and center person - five additional sequels running on cable on Tuesday evenings will see to that.

Emder Zeitung, 2/10/2017

Ostfriesland - At the annual meeting of the delegates of the water sports societies of East Friesian lakes votes were cast for better cooperation in the training of young members. Especially the training in sailing should be better coordinated. There was agreement that the children and youths of the various lakes should soon train together.



Emder Zeitung, 2/16/2017

Emden - Ferry service between Emden and Delfzijl in the Netherlands has been



discussed for seven years, but neither city has been able to establish the financial soundness of the project nor come up with the prediction that this may come about in the foreseeable future.

A missive by Emden’s mayor, Bernd Bornemann, to the working group Ferry Connection Knock-Delfzijl makes it clear that both cities are throwing in the towel on a waterway connection, which for all intents and purposes is now dead.

Emder Zeitung, 3/28/2017

Ostfriesland - The enterprise group Bunting, well known for its proprietary East Friesian tea blend, has announced that it will cut the pay of about 5,700 employees by 5% and has submitted a program to the employees’ council listing measures it intends to take. There will be a process of changes by which Bunting plans to lower personnel costs and streamline its administration, the latter affecting 70 positions. The affected full-time employees are scheduled to receive balancing vouchers.

Anzeiger für Harlingerland, Ostfriesisches Tageblatt, 3/31/2017

Bensersiel - The ferry service between Bensersiel and the island of Langeoog has been augmented by the addition of the coastal cruise ship “*Flinthörn*.” Built in 1968 and able to accommodate 200 guests, the “*Flinthörn*” heretofore has offered excursions to the seal banks and fishing grounds in the tidal zone. With its introduction into ferry service, a dependable transportation schedule to and from the island has been assured, an important factor, as the number of day trippers to the island has increased greatly. The official introduction of the new service will take place on Monday, April 2, in Langeoog’s harbor to which islanders, guests, and friends and fans of the “*Flinthörn*” are invited.



Anzeiger für Harlingerland, 4/6/2017

Neuharlingersiel - Sand blown in from the beach is deposited on the turf covering the dike. In time this creates an overlay of loose material on the important fine-grained clayey top layer which the storm-whipped waves will wash away along with the torn-out grass roots. The sand-grass layers have reached a combined thickness of 8 to 12 inches - time to remove them by the process of “planing,” as the installation of sand-catching fences have proved to be of no avail. Once the grassy sand layers have been planed, new grass will be sown.

Ostfriesen Zeitung 4/5/2017



Leer - The mixed choir “*Orpheus*” was founded by four businessmen in Leer in 1842. It is the second oldest ensemble in Ostfriesland and currently has 34 active members. On Sunday it presented a festive program in the Lutheran Christuskirche (Church of Christ) which was filled to capacity.

Emder Zeitung, 4/18/2017

Emden - For the first time in 20 years, people once again took to the streets for an Easter March for peace and disarmament. Surely, the 60 participants who came out in the morning with banners, slogans, and self-made paintings did not overwhelm the onlookers quite like the annual Easter Marches in the larger cities of Germany’s denser population centers. Nevertheless, the initiator Harmut Ukena was satisfied

and already announced an Easter March in the coming year.

Jeversches Wochenblatt, 4/17/2017

The first warm days awakened the mood for traveling. In the campgrounds and RV parks the season has begun, and many RV hookups are in use. For those wanting to have a good look at such a "living room



on four wheels," the "Caravan Salon" in Sande has scheduled a sale on Saturday and Sunday, April 22/23. Here ten dealers will show off the newest models. A hundred or more campers and motor homes by around 25 manufacturers will be on hand. On top of this, there will be numerous offers of various accessories.

(ED: RVs in Europe are much smaller than in the USA due to the smaller streets, lack of large garages, etc. RV'ing has become very popular in resort areas.)

Emder Zeitung, 4/19/2017



Marienhafte - The sports society "Fortuna 70 Wirdum" is happy about the strong participation of its athletics department in the Störtebeker Run. 335 runners from barely five to fully 80 years met in Marienhafte to take part in the 22nd street run. As before, several Easter vacationers used the opportunity to compete.

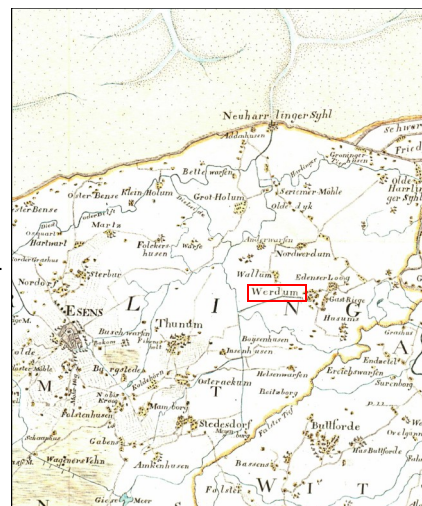
News from Wirdum

Located about four miles inland, the town of Wirdum likely grew out of a mound settlement (the name "Wirdum" may be derived from "Warf Home") sustained by an agricultural economy in the then flood prone coastal region, where it was first mentioned in 1297.

Its 700 year anniversary was duly celebrated in 1997. It reached great importance for Harlingerland as the seat of powerful chiefs and the learned Ulrich von Wirdum who wrote the history of his clan in Latin, called "*Familia Wirdumana*," to which we still owe many an interesting contribution to the history of Harlingerland, its chiefs and preachers.

Today tourism is the basis for Wirdum's economy. As an official health resort known for the purity of its sea breezes, it draws many patients suffering from lung ailments, as well as newcomers, and annually 140,000 overnight guests. Many attractions play a role in this. There is the windmill built in 1748, a historic smithy, a wood fired baking oven, and the *Burg Edenserloog* of the once powerful chiefs. In addition there is a yearlong cultural program for young and old.

Werdumer Blatt, 4/9/2017



Wirdum Celebrates Easter 2017

In sunlight, without rain, but with lots of wind, the Easter bunny again this year hid Easter eggs for the little ones. The Historical Society was not to fall short of its traditional duty to engage the Easter bunny, giving chairman Johann Pieper once again the opportunity to greet many small and large Easter guests for the Easter egg hunt.

Pieper thereupon led them to the Museum lawn where the Easter bunny, aided by special friends, had hidden 300 colorful eggs. Shiny eyes of children were to be seen everywhere when the search began, and the kids soon held their agreed upon goods of two eggs in their hands. All those who were not so fortunate could count on help from parents and grandparents. **Werdumer Blatt, 4/18/2017**



By: Dr. Karl-Heinz Frees, translated by Gene Janssen

A Misunderstood Woman or a Cruel Murderer?

SOURCE: H. (QUADE) FOELKE KAMPANA, (1350 -CA. 1418)
Unser Ostfriesland No. 12 68th Year (2016)

The presentation of this malicious woman who is supposed to have killed her own daughter, her son-in-law and her father-in-law, and also allowed two nephews to starve to death has entered the annals of Ostfriesian history as a synonym for a heartless female, and provided quite enough grist over the years for suspicions, vile gossip and sensationalism. So it can come as no surprise that numerous, early Ostfriesian historians have taken up the theme.

Yet, in spite of the wealth of written descriptions of this woman, many narratives must have sprung from speculation or legendary remembrances. No contemporary witness accounts exist about either the actual or supposed deeds. Moreover, one must reckon that these horrible stories about this person developed over a span of

Foelke Kampana (1355 – c. 1418), also known as **Foelke the Cruel**, was a Frisian noble. She served as regent for the Frisian territories Oldeborg, Brokmerland, Auricherland and Emsigerland in East Frisia in 1400 during the absence of her son Keno II and in 1417 during the minority of her grandson Ocko II.

Born in Hinte, Foelke was the daughter of Frisian Kempo von Hinte, chief of Westerborg van Hinte, and married in 1377 to Frisian knight Ocko I tom Brok (d. 1389), lord of Oldeborg, and chief of Brockmerland, Auricherland and Emsigerland in East Frisia. In 1389, her spouse fell in battle fighting on the side of the count of Holland. Foelke had tried to assist them, and raised her own army to aid him, but when she arrived, he was already dead.

Wikipedia

generations in folk tales and resemble sagas or fairy tales handed down in an oral tradition.

First was Eggerik Beninga in 1530 in his first book in which he reports the tale; then came Ubbo Emmius in 1596. Barely 200 years later T. D. Wiarda (in 1791) up to Onno Klopp in 1854 among other historians latched on to the view that Foelke Kampana was a cruel murderer. And, this evil woman provided plenteous material for novels about her and her time in the past—such as in the works of M. Raven (1887); S. J. Meyer-Abich (1943) as well as the Dutchman, S. Bartstra.

In 1842 C. A. Beinhöfer wrote a tragic historical drama in five acts and Marie Ulfers in her work of 1950 *Fro Foelke* used the same subject matter, and numerous essays have also dealt with it. Everyone judged this person, a maid from Hinte and Strackholt, as an evil, lascivious, deceitful, and cruel woman, who, after the murder of her husband, Ocko I. tom Brok in 1389, directed the course of the House of tom Brok along with Widzeld, her illegitimate son. Both of them functioned as guardians for the minor heir, Keno.

Since 1377 Foelke had been married to Ocko I. tom Brok. To this marriage three children were born: son Keno and two daughters, one of whom, Okka, was allied with Lütet Attena of Dornum (more later).

And yet—do these accusations have an historic basis? None of the above mentioned historians ever doubted the happenings around the turn of the century, 1400. Most followed Beninga's lead without discrimination, even embroidering more information. However,



**FOELKE KAMPENA STATUE
IN DORNUM**

historic research demands evidence for the cruelties alluded to.

Not until later times did Schoolmann in 1976 and H. van Lengen in 2001 undertake an objective discussion and an historically, plausible evaluation about Foelke.

The first deed ascribed to Folke was blame for having her two nephews (both named Aylt) "miserably starved to death" according to Beninga's theatrical report. The connection between the two victims arose from a bloody feud which Foelke's husband Ocko had with Folkmar Allena from Osterhusen, and from which he merged victoriously.

The two nephews named Aylt were among the prisoners taken during that fight. Their familial relationship is explained in various

ways; however, it is important for the whole story. Okko had them brought as prisoners to Aurich where, according to Beninga, they were miserably starved, but Beninga does not charge Okko with this deed, but declares that the perpetrator of the deed was the infamous woman, Foelke.

Years later in 1444 this blame was repeated in the Ostfriesian *Häuptling's* (chieftains/leaders) grievances [No. 565] against Hamburg. That that is what is supposed to have happened in 1379 was, however, a falsehood since the dispute actually happened in 1408 between Foelke's son Keno and Folkmar according to testimony in the *Ostfriesische Urkundnebuch*, No. 211.

Since the date listed by Beninga is incorrect, the charge of murder against Foelke must also be false especially since a number of resources mentioning the persons involved prove the same. In 1406, according to the *Ostfriesische Urkundnebuch*, No.201, the two "deceased" Aylts are listed in a conciliation agreement. Again the *Ostfriesische Urkundenbuch* provides further proof at No. 215.

In 1408 one of those two Aylts is listed as a host for the *Vitalienbrüder* (pirates). Further, a reference to an actual imprisonment is found in an entry of May, 1409, in which Provost Hisko of Emden asks the Bishop of Münster to intervene with Keno on behalf of the imprisoned Aylts because he fears that Keno would take their lives—*Ostfriesische Urkundenbuch*, No. 219.

This cruel deed is correctly documented by Ubbo Emmius in the year 1409. So, all resources prove that it was not Ocko but his son, Keno, who was responsible for the awful deed because he had come of age in 1400 and, he alone was guiding the course of the House of tom Brok.

A later source (*Ostfriesische Urkundenbuch* from 1461, No. 774) points unmistakably to Keno as the perpetrator of the

deed. The proof is found in a will of one of the Aylt brothers named Wiard zu Uphusen und Oldersum. Therein Keno is named as the perpetrator of this deed on Aylte and "his mother's sister's son" Aylte, both of whom "lost their lives miserably" in Aurich.

There is no mention of Foelke in these records which again lessens the charges against her.

A further serious incident which has been ascribed to Foelke is that which accuses her to be a horrible murderer in the beheading of her son-in-law, Lütet Attena, and his father, Hero von Dornum und Nesse; Beninga relates the story in 1397.

Preceding this incident was the fact that Okka, the daughter of Foelke, led a very loose life which led to a break in the marriage to Lütet which had taken place in 1395. Perhaps the ongoing feud between the Attenas and the tom Broks had evolved into an aggressive atmosphere.

Foelke's alleged advice to her son-in-law Lütet that he kill his wife because of her behavior more likely came from the "political machinations" of both *Häupling* families, not from his mother-in-law. The time asserted by Beninga is also incorrect for this crime.

At any rate, the document (No. 171) from 1400 provides evidence that the elderly Hero, the father-in-law, was a co-signer in a legal process between the Hanseatic League and the Ostfriesian *Häuptlinge* in regard to the harboring of the pirates actually five years after his supposed beheading. That terrible deed, however took place in 1410 as reported by Ubbo Emmius (page 225).

The end result remains certain: that actually all the killings took place, but the ascription and blame on Foelke do not coincide with the historical facts. In both cases the perpetrator is not Foelke, but her

son Keno! The most that can be pinned on her is that she is guilty via association.

It is not intended to make Foelke Kampana an innocent victim, but it seems important to discover the exact responsibilities, which leads to the question of why such a woman was accused of these crimes. This is nearly impossible for us with our present-day sense of legality to determine what with the usual procedures of the Middle Ages in Ostfriesland and elsewhere regarding feudal justice and the desire for recompense. An appropriate punishment could also have been accepted in some sort of financial manner.

An open-air play by Helmut Saathoff performed at Wiesmoor in the summer of 2016 presents a case for weakening the clichéd concept of wicked Foelke based on research and letting this notorious woman appear in a more favorable light.

A FAVORITE SUMMER DESSERT

ROTE GRÜTZE

At least four or more cups of red or blue fruits, fresh or frozen (Raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, cherries (pitted and chopped), plums, rhubarb, currants, etc.) Cook on low heat in two cups of water until fruit is dissolved.

In one cup of water add 1/2 to 1 cup sugar, 1 Tbsp. corn starch and 3 Tbsp. minute tapioca. Add this to the fruit mixture stirring as the mixture comes to a rolling boil.

Serve chilled over ice cream or with vanilla pudding.

Family Bible Preserves Memories of Emigrants

In addition to the oft-used resources in archives and libraries, valuable memories of early emigrant families can also be found in small, private family holdings in Ostfriesland. A fine example are the notes of the Uthwerdum cooper, Hinrich Teten (1842-1929) and his wife, Justina Dorothea Uden (1844-1921). Very little is known about the family that resided after 1839 near the historic wind mill in Uthwerdum, and thus, the notations from 1878 on were welcomed by the American relatives of the cooper.

All of the important family milestones were recorded in the family Bible and thus kept for posterity, including births, marriages, deaths within the immediate family, as well as information about the emigration of other family members. The Teten's family Bible was bequeathed to Gerhard Rebel, a tailor, and his wife, Maria Uden.

Maria was a niece of Justina Uden Teten and had cared for her aunt and uncle in her household in Uthwerdum until their deaths in 1921 and 1929. The Teten Bible was then given by the Rebels to their daughter, Alma Rebel Wittke and her husband, Franz Wittke, of Uthwerdum. Many sad family tales are revealed in the data from this bible.

To begin with: six children were born to Hinrich and Justina Uden Teten, and almost all of them died soon after birth. Only a son named after his paternal grandfather, Wilhelm Christoph Teten, lived to the age of 11 years. This paternal grandfather had also worked as a cooper in Uthwerdum.

And so it happened that during their retirement years the nieces and nephews took care of the old cooper and his wife. Entries in the family Bible also indicate that Hinrich and Justina Uden Teten had cared for their parents until their deaths: Wilhelm in 1866 and Antje Teten in 1878 in their household.

In 1872 Hinrich Teten wrote in the Bible:

"My sister Katharina left for America on October 10, 1872." Hence, we know the exact date of her emigration. A bridegroom awaited Katharina in America. Her brother-in-law, Justus Weegens from Oldersum, had emigrated with his family in 1869 and apparently his wife, Rixte, had died soon after their arrival.

The Oldersum Weegens and the Uthwerdum Tetens were thus doubly related: two brothers had married sisters from Uthwerdum. The widower, Justus Weegens, entered into marriage with Katharina Teten in the Ostfriesian church of Forreston, Ogle County, Illinois in 1872.

His brother Koene Weegens had married Johanna Teten in 1865 in Oldersum. He never knew about the marriage of his brother and sister-in-law in America. After only a few years of marriage Koene Weegens, a railway crossing keeper, died in 1871 as the result of a train accident at Emsdetten. The next misfortune came quickly after that when their child, Harm Justus Weegens, drowned in Oldersum in 1873.

Leafing further through the pages of the family Bible one discovers that the sister of the Uthwerdum cooper sought her way in the new world. He wrote at the beginning of the 20th century: "my sister Johanna left for America on November 8, 1904."

In 1880, after the tragic death of her husband on the rail line between Emden and Emsdetten, she married Jakob Hinderks from Pilsum. However, Jakob Hinderks never made it to America. He died in 1904 on board the ship traveling to America, and, thus, Johanna arrived on American soil as a widow.

She had a number of destination choices. Her sister Katharina and hus-



band, Justus Weegens, lived in Forreston, Illinois, to this day a predominantly Ostfriesian settlement in the northern part of the state.

Other relatives, such as the family of her brother-in-law, Christoph Weegens, also lived in Illinois. Her son Wilhelm (named after his grandfather) lived in Philipps, Wisconsin, and that is where the native of Uthwerdum spent her twilight years. She died in 1926 in her son's house at the age of 89.

In order to make the family connection clear, her son had the surname of his father placed on his mother's grave marker. The name of her second husband is thus left out. In addition, a cousin in Illinois received the name of the old Uthwerdum cooper: Wilhelm Justus Weegens. He lived from 1876 to 1950 in Ogle County, Illinois.

Although much has been retained about the Weegens family in Uthwerdum, the history of the emigrants from the Uthwerdum craftsman family, Teten, are found only in that family Bible.

The Trail of Early Aurich Methodists Leads to Oregon

The middle of the 19th century witnessed the greatest growth of Methodism in Ostfriesland. During this era of intense interest in questions concerning Christian faith, the Methodist preacher Franz Klüsener (1837-1916) preached with great success in Ostfriesland and in Oldenburg.

Klüsener had worked in Aurich since 1866 and from there went to Neuschoo. Later one of his pupils was the revivalist preacher, Remmer Janssen, of Strackholt, and the two developed a close friendship. Often Klüsener attracted hundreds of listeners with his enthusiastic style of preaching, and at first it seemed that many localities in Ostfriesland would become Methodist congregations through his actions.

Following the founding of a congregation in Aurich, sister congregations were planned for Engerhufe, Victorbur and Moordorf, none of which was started. Instead, a congregation was founded in Neuschoo in 1868 which is still there. The Aurich congregation was disbanded in 1966 and united at that time with Neuschoo.

Even today there are many traces of Klüsener's activity in northwest Germany, especially the structure influenced by him, the *Friedenskirche* (Peace Church), which was built in Oldenburg.

The young Geertje Harms Poppen from Wiegboldsbur belonged to a strong group of followers from Klüsener's time in Aurich. Born in 1847, she was the daughter of Harm Ubben Poppen and Antje Theessen. Young Geertje went gladly and often to hear Klüsener preach, and after emigrating to America she worked diligently to found an Ostfriesian Methodist congregation.

Among the converts of this new movement in Ostfriesland, she also met her spouse, Hermann de Vries, son of Friedrich de Vries and Trientje Buhr born at Timmel in 1844 and raised in Aurich-Egels. Hermann worked on the land and even as a young man in Aurich was known for his knowledge about cheese making.

They were married in the spring of 1877 and started a family. Geertje moved to Hermann's home at Egels. That is where the children were born: Friedrich, Maria, Antje, Harm and Trientje. Then, after busy exchanges of letters with their friend from the Methodist congregation in Aurich, Hippe Jelken, who had already left for America, the couple decided to emigrate to eastern Nebraska in 1885 along with their children and many other friends and congregational members.

In addition, Hermann's brother Wilhelm joined the group. The immigrants arrived in New York July 12, 1885 aboard the USS *Werder*. In America Wilhelm de Vries, the skilled shoemaker, stayed with his brother's family.

The deciding factor for the de Vries family was the proposed founding of an Ostfriesian-Methodist congregation which still exists. Geertje Poppen from Wiegboldsbur, now age 38, found fulfillment in the services and the congregational work of this church. They made their home in a sod house near the church to avoid a long trek to church. Hermann and Geertje gladly heard the sermons of the local Methodist preacher, Thomas Blank, who had come from Strackholt.

Geertje gave birth to a son, Wilhelm Hinrich, in 1885 and a daughter, Theda, in 1888. At first the family lived on a rented 80-acre farm. Within two decades the family succeeded in acquiring a total of 440 acres of land in Nebraska.

Because of an article in their beloved Methodist newsletter "*Der christlicher Apologete*," the family decided to move further west to Oregon in 1902, along with other

Ostfriesian neighbors from Macon, in order to establish a Methodist congregation there.

The German Methodist Church of Pratum, Oregon, was founded largely through the influence of the de Vries family. After initial services in a school, as they had done on the prairie in Nebraska, Hermann and Geertje donated property and money for the building of the church in Pratum.

Until Hermann's death they lived next to "their" church. Hermann de Vries was well known for his daily meditations there, and Geertje was proud of her handwritten hymns which she had brought from the church in Aurich.

The five sons felt at home in Oregon and settled in the vicinity of Salem, Oregon, while the daughters, Tini and Theda, moved to Portland. Eventually daughter Antje wearied of the climate in Oregon, and she moved with her family to Kansas.

Hermann de Vries died at Pratum, Oregon, in 1920 and his wife Geertje then moved in with her daughters in Portland, where she died in 1930 at the age of 83. Over the years some of her siblings also came to the U.S. while other relatives are still residents in the Südbrookmerland area of Ostfriesland.



School Children — Macon, NE



Intrigue, Love & an Ostfriesian Nobleman

Source: Stefan Pötzsch in *Unser Ostfriesland*, Nov. 14, 2016, translated by Gene Janssen)

Not only was he intelligent and well-educated, but the Ostfriesian Georg von Knyphausen was an extraordinarily attractive man, known as *Le beau Knyphausen* [the handsome Knyphausen] at the court in Berlin. The Frenchman Dieudonné Thiebault, in his memoirs about his twenty-year sojourn in Berlin, described him as "*one of the most handsome of men around because of his proportions comparable to the Belvedere Apollo*." Indeed, Thiebault also called him "*arrogant, vain and foppish*." And finally, he possessed a comfortable fortune.

Georg von Knyphausen seemed to be a lucky person. At the age of 32 he was the chamberlain/butler for Prince Heinrich, the younger brother of Frederick the Great and belonged to the court residing at Rheinsberg. Georg made many trips to Stockholm, Moscow, Petersburg and Dresden.

It must have been in 1782 when he became acquainted with the 20-year-old Charlotte von Kraut, daughter of Carl Friedrich von Kraut *Oberhofmarschall* (high ranking official of the royal court) and his wife, Else Sophie von Platen.

Wikipedia: The *Apollo Belvedere* is a celebrated marble sculpture from Classical Antiquity. It is a 3rd-4th century copy of a 2nd century sculpture. It was rediscovered in central Italy in the late 15th century, during the Renaissance. From the mid-18th century it was considered the greatest ancient sculpture by ardent neoclassicists, and for centuries epitomized ideals of aesthetic perfection for Europeans and westernized parts of the world.

the locals in Berlin she was known as the *Krautentochter* (weed or plant daughter).

Charlotte was an attractive, wealthy young woman, heir to the territory called Löwenberg and the Hoppenrade castle in Brandenburg. Her mother had tried to marry her off at the age of fif-

teen. Else Sophie von Platen not only wanted her only daughter to marry young, but also to have her far away. She based her hopes and plans on the influence of her husband's fortune and vast property holdings.

At first she set her cap for the English diplomat James Harris (later Lord Malmesbury). English diplomats were often moved around, even being posted to India or other distant British colonies. However, Harris turned out to be no lover of Prussians and removed himself from consideration.

His successor, Hugh Elliot, only 26 years old, let himself be persuaded and he married the 16-year-old Charlotte. Nowadays it cannot be clearly determined whether Hugh Elliot was an extremely impulsive and envious man, as Theodor Fontane described him in his *Wanderungen durch die Mark Brandenburg* (Walking tours through Brandenburg) [Vol. 5], or whether the young woman was fickle and leading an unbridled life as described in other sources.

At any rate, the young husband suspected his young wife of having an affair with the Dutch ambassador in Berlin. The ambassador, an older man, vehemently denied any contact with Charlotte Elliot. Hugh Elliot eventually became convinced of the ambassador's innocence.

At this same time Baron von Knyphausen appeared at Rheinsberg after a diplomatic mission, became acquainted with the young couple, and became the confidant of the young, unhappy wife. They saw each other often, with conversations, planning and advising. In 1782 Hugh Elliot was transferred from Berlin to Copenhagen and then an episode began which would end dramatically.

Elliot left his wife Charlotte and a little daughter in Berlin with instructions that

they join him in Copenhagen in the spring. Charlotte had no intention of joining her husband in the North. Furthermore, she sought the advice of Georg von Knyphausen, beginning a secret correspondence with him, something which would certainly burden many a marriage even today.

Then Charlotte's own mother informed her son-in-law about the immoral exchange of letters of her daughter. That was not all, however. She suggested ways for him to proceed. He then appeared in Berlin, seized the letters and had the daughter, Luise Isabella, brought to Copenhagen.

Elliot wrote to Knyphausen that it was his right to deliver him up to the law or the person of the king. He would, however, relinquish that right if Knyphausen would come to Copenhagen to fight him. Of course, Knyphausen refused, and countered that Elliot should come to Berlin where a duel could be announced.

Duels had been forbidden in Prussia since 1713. True, Frederick the Great had reduced the punishment for them, but nevertheless they were legally forbidden.

Two months passed when suddenly rumors swirled around that Hugh Elliot was coming to Berlin to carry through on his demands. Because of the dueling prohibition, the Ostfriesian nobleman took off for Mecklenburg-Strelitz, telling the diplomat that he would wait for him there. To be sure, that location seemed less suitable because of its proximity to Prussia.

Of course, this disagreement was the topic of conversation at the Rheinsberg Court. Even Prince Heinrich meddled in the affair and tried to persuade Knyphausen to drop his plans. Knyphausen remained obstinate, which caused Prince Heinrich to release him from his service and ban him from the court.

Fourteen days later Elliot travelled via Rostock and Strelitz to Rheinsberg, visiting first his mother-in-law at Hoppenrade Castle, the seat of the von Kraut family, appar-

ently seeking her advice.

Then he appeared before Knyphausen in Fürstenburg. According to Knyphausen's account (in a letter to his father), this meeting was more of an attack. Elliot supposedly threatened him with a walking stick and a pistol. Moreover, he was accompanied by two armed men. Elliot demanded that he meet him for a duel outside the city.

Curiously, the adulterous relationship with his wife was not the reason, but an arrogant letter from Knyphausen to Elliot. He told Prince Heinrich's adjutant, *"If Knyphausen had done nothing more than seduce my wife, so be it, for she will soon repay him, but see—he wrote this letter to me and I had to respond."*

So, both parties met before the city gate. Naturally, news of the impending duel spread rapidly through the small city, drawing many onlookers. But the duel did not happen on this day. After a lot of to and fro they had to postpone the deed since Knyphausen did not have a second and the approaching darkness was not favorable for the use of weapons.

In the meantime, the Prussian general treasurer had learned about the place and time of the duel and told Knyphausen that he would be arrested also in Fürstenberg. Whereupon Knyphausen went to Penzlin which was in Mecklenburg further from the Prussian border, and there he waited for Elliot who did not appear.

So, Georg von Knyphausen secretly returned to Berlin, letting the English diplomat know that he would meet him outside the city of Berlin or any other city in Saxony of his choosing. Hence, Elliot chose the little Saxon city of Baruth, and actually a pistol duel took place there the next day. In the first and second rounds at 15 paces both parties missed their target. In the third round Knyphausen wounded his opponent in the hip, thereby ending their dispute.

Returning to Baruth, Knyphausen was arrested by a legal servant and sixteen citizen guards. The following day he came under guard by the Saxon military. Attempts to gain his release via the Prussian ambassador

in Dresden were unsuccessful, so Knyphausen decided to escape from Baruth.

At first he hid in the Britz Castle which belonged to Duke Hertzberg. When he headed for Berlin he was arrested and put under house arrest. Worse, the Prussian general treasurer brought charges against him because of the duel. However, he succeeded in presenting his case as a harmless occurrence, and the court regarded it as a minor disagreement. Nevertheless it cost Knyphausen a lot of money.

On 30 June 1783 the marriage between Hugh Elliot and Charlotte von Kraut was dissolved because of the illicit letters. On 1 October 1783 the marriage between the twenty-one-year old *Krautentochter*, Charlotte, and the Ostfriesian nobleman took place (at any rate a probationary arrangement or engagement). The official wedding took place on April 25, 1784, after which Georg von Knyphausen travelled with his young wife to Ostfriesland to introduce her to his family at the Lütetsburg palace.

Georg & Charlotte arrived just in time for the death of his father, Carl Phillip von Inn-und Knyphausen. The atmosphere during their visit was chilly. The Ostfriesian relatives were not enamored of the bride and the circumstances of the marriage raised serious reactions. Thus, both sides were happy to bid farewell. Knyphausen and his wife took up residence in the Hoppenrade Castle north of Berlin.

Meanwhile, lucky stars did not crown the marriage. The division of the paternal inheritance led to disagreements in the House of Knyphausen and surrounding the inheritance of the *Krautentochter*, namely the realm of Löwenberg, which led to decades-long legal processes. In 1787 Georg Anton Wilhelm zu Inn-und Knyphausen became very ill. His extreme pain from caries and bubo could only be alleviated at the last with opium.

In 1788 their four-year-old son

Karl Wilhelm Tido died. One year later, on December 25, 1789, Georg von Knyphausen died at the age of 45. He was buried in the von Kraut crypt in the St. Nicholas Church of Berlin.

Charlotte was now 28 years old, divorced once and now a widow. She felt she was too young to withdraw forever to Hoppenrade in the country. In 1790 she reappears at the court at Rhensberg. There she met the equestrian, von Arnstedt, a good looking conversationalist. On December 16th of that same year she became the spouse of von Arnstedt.

However, this marriage also did not go well. Fontane reported that "the amiable companion became a drunkard and a gambler." Another three children were born to this marriage. Through the course of the years von Arnstedt exhibited a mental illness, and, thus, the third marriage of the *Krautentochter* was dissolved in 1809.

Luise Charlotte Henriette von Kraut, divorcée Elliot, widow Knyphausen, divorcée von Arnstedt, a capricious, fickle young woman, married off by her mother at the age of 16, was not a happy woman in her three marriages. She died September 13, 1819. Her extravagant lifestyle meant that she left behind large personal debts.

Georg von Knyphausen did not die a happy man. The duel brought him many troubles and an unhappy marriage. And the third party, Hugh Elliot? His diplomatic career was ruined after the duel and the divorce. ♦



HOPPENRADE CASTLE

The “Absent-Minded Professor”: Boyd Henry Bode

This past year I have been researching and writing a paper about the Jan Middents Cornelius Bode family of Uphusen. In the course of that research and the subsequent writing of the paper, much information could not be included. For Boyd, my great uncle, what “hit the cutting room floor” were the funny stories and events relayed by others. Let me share a little about what didn’t make the paper and what I have learned about Boyd.

First a little background: Bayoden “Boyd” Henry Bode was born 4 October 1873, in Ridott Township, Stephenson County, Illinois to Hendrik Jans Bode and his wife, Grietje Wienenga/Wientjes. He was their third child, and oldest surviving son of the family of eight children.

Boyd’s father, Hendrik, was an early minister in the Christian Reformed Church and served as a home missionary and at pastorates in Iowa. Boyd described his father as a “16th century Calvinist,” a not so subtle description of a man with less than modern beliefs.

Early in his life it became obvious that Boyd’s life was to be defined by books and education and not farming, but the reasonable answer for a learned Ostfriesen was to enter the ministry. Boyd defied that precept and said later “I never gave it any thought.”

Boyd very seldom played with other boys but always had his nose in a book. But, multiple contemporaries described him as always flat on his stomach on the floor reading. To the delight of the neighborhood boys, he was awkward about hitching up the horses, and similar duties which all the boys of his age were expected to learn and do.

The family moved frequently, eventually residing in Leighton, Iowa, located northwest of Oskaloosa. Boyd attended Penn College, a Quaker institution located in

Oskaloosa and graduated in 1896 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Boyd continued

his education at the University of Michigan, receiving another bachelor’s degree before attending Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

While he was at Cornell, Boyd and his father carried on a correspondence. But the conversation between this father and son could have occurred between any student in college at any time with his or her parents: “*No less than \$20 please....*”

Hendrik admonished his son to be frugal. Boyd agreed that he “will be frugal in the future.”

In 1900, the year of his father’s death, Boyd graduated from Cornell University with a Doctorate in Philosophy. After graduation, Boyd accepted an assistant position at the University of Wisconsin, teaching general psychology, history of modern philosophy, logic, and theories of evolution. Boyd often taught courses in philosophy of religion and philosophy of evolution in the same year. Boyd saw the congruence between the two theories and not the schism. His father viewed evolution differently:

“At home one day, young Bode [Boyd] remarked that something might be said for evolution. His father rushed out of the house, hitched up his horses, and drove all day, praying for his son’s soul.”

But this belief could also narrow employment opportunities. Boyd applied to teach at Calvin College, a college affiliated with the Christian Reformed Church of his father, and was rejected as a candidate because of his beliefs in evolution.

On 20 August 1903, Boyd married Bernice May Ballard in Warren, Jo Daviess County, Illinois. Boyd met Bernice while he was an instructor at the University of Wisconsin and Bernice was a student.

Bernice and Boyd had two children: Hendrick Wade Bode, born 24 December 1905 in Dane County, Wisconsin, and Eleanor Bode, born 24 August 1909 in Jo Daviess County, Illinois.



Boyd was the iconic “absent-minded professor.” His stature as a nationally renowned philosopher resulted in contemporaries recording some of the mishaps of his life that otherwise would be lost. Here are a few examples.

Boyd was totally dependent upon his wife to take care of the house, the children and him. Boyd’s wearing apparel was not a focus of his attention. When Boyd traveled, Bernice would pin the pieces of his clothes together so he knew what to wear with what.

Boyd was once irritated by a sensation under his collar. He realized later in the day that he had put his long underwear on—upside down! He had inserted his hands through the legs. One time Bode went to a party dressed in two shirts, one over the top of the other. In spite of Bernice’s care, Boyd was always rumpled and his mustache was always on the verge of being out of control.

In 1906, to improve his station and salary, Boyd and the family moved to the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana where he was an instructor and within six years advanced to full professor of philosophy. At this time his interests moved away from philosophy to the philosophy of education.

“When he said he was going to teach philosophy of education I asked what that was. He looked at me..., and said, “I don’t know, but I do know that I am tired of philosophy that does nothing. I think it may do its best work in education.”

In 1921, Ohio State University in Colum-

bus, Ohio, offered him a position within the field of education, teaching philosophy, and offered him twice his present salary. The family moved to Columbus, Ohio, where Boyd remained until his retirement in 1944.

Ralph Tyler, a contemporary and faculty member, remembered: *[Boyd Bode] came across the hall to my office one day in seeming perplexity. Handing me several examination papers, he asked me to read them. Then he asked, "What do you make of them?" I said, "They sound like articles from True Story magazine.*

What question did you ask on this examination?" He replied, "Define deduction and give two illustrations from your own experience." I then looked at the question as mimeographed. It read: "Define seduction, and give two illustrations from your own experience."

Boyd loved baseball and watched practices as well as the games of the local university teams. On one occasion, Bernice, whom he called the "Colonel," asked whether he would mind taking care of their son, Hendrick, and take him to the game.

Boyd agreed and headed off for the game with Hendrick in the stroller. Hours later he returned from the game without the baby. Recognizing that he must have left Hendrick at the field, he headed back and

found the baby asleep where he had been left.

After he retired and achieved emeritus status, Boyd observed, *"Emeriti, like youngsters in their first childhood, should be seen but not heard."*

Boyd died on 29 March 1953 in Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida, at the home of his daughter Eleanor, of cancer. Bernice died on 27 November 1957. Both are buried at the Evergreen Cemetery in Achalua County, Florida.

SOURCES:

¹ Robert Appledorn, *The Ostfriesen Families of German Valley, Illinois*, (South Saint Paul, MN: OGSA, 2012), entry no. 0496 for Bajdden "Boyd" Bode.

² "Rebel," *Time* (24 November 1947): 77.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Robert V. Bulough, Jr., *Democracy in Education: Boyd H. Bode*, 32-33.

⁵ Mrs. Howard Minium, Grand Junction, Iowa, to H. Gordon Hullfish, Columbus, Ohio, letter, August 1956.

⁶ James Herbert Kelley, editor, *Alumni Record of the University of Illinois* (Urbana-Champaign: University of Illinois, 1913) 670; download from <http://babel.hathitrust.org>.

⁷ "Boyd Henry Bode, Correspondence 1896-1899," manuscript collection; The Ohio State University, University Libraries, Special Collections, Columbus. Letters span from 28 December 1896 to 9 November 1899; eight of the letters were authored by Boyd Bode and nine by his father, Hendrik.

⁸ Boyd Bode to Hendrik Bode, letter, 22 November 1897.

⁹ Hendrik Bode to Boyd Bode, letter, 16 January 1899.

¹⁰ Boyd Bode to Hendrik Bode, letter, 21 April 1899.

¹¹ Norman De Jong, "Boyd H. Bode: a Study of the Relationship between the Kingdom of God and Democracy," dissertation, May 1972 Ph. D. thesis for Doctor of Philosophy degree. 57.

¹² Ibid., 60.

¹³ "Rebel," *Time* (24 November 1947): 77.

¹⁴ H. Gordon Hullfish, Ohio State, Columbus, Ohio to Hendrik Bode, Bell Telephone Laboratories, letter, 22 May 1956, H. Gordon Hullfish papers, "about Boyd H. Bode".

¹⁵ Jo Daviess Co., Ill., certification of marriage (1903), Bode-Ballard.

¹⁶ De Jong, "Boyd H. Bode: a Study ...," 58.

¹⁷ Social Security Administration, "Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014," database, *Ancestry*, entry for Eleanor Browne, February 1974.

¹⁸ De Jong, 88.

¹⁹ Kelley, *Alumni Record of the University of Illinois*, 670.

²⁰ De Jong, 63.

²¹ H. Gordon Hullfish to Hendrik Bode, 22 May 1956.

²² De Jong, 65.

²³ "Education Notes," *The New York Times*, 14 May 1944. E9.

²⁴ Ralph W. Tyler, "Remembering Boyd Bode," *Curriculum Theory Network*, 5:1 (1975), 61-62.

²⁵ Bulough, *Democracy in Education: Boyd H. Bode*, 20.

²⁶ "Greetings & Homage," *The Ohio State University Monthly*. Columbus, Ohio: Ohio State Alumni Association, 39: (15 November 1947) 4.

²⁷ Florida Bureau of Vital Statistics, death certificate no. 9464 (1953), Boyd Henry Bode; Gainesville.

²⁸ "Mrs. B. B. Bode," obituary, *Columbus Dispatch (Ohio)*, 28 November 1957, p. 7, section B.

Just in time for summer picnics!

Hot German Potato Salad

10 large potatoes, cooked with skins on, peeled and sliced. Chill.

1 lb. package of bacon, cut into small pieces; fry in pan with one large chopped red onion and 1/2 c. chopped celery.

When bacon is crisp, drain well saving bacon, vegetables and 1/2 of the grease.

To that add 1/2 can of frozen apple juice (thawed, do not add water) to grease, bacon and vegetables. Cook over low heat and add 3 Tbsp. corn starch, 1 tsp. celery seed, 1 tbsp. dry mustard, 3 Tbsp. vinegar. Cook over low heat until sauce thickens. More corn starch, vinegar (to taste) may be needed. Pour sauce over potatoes in crock pot, stirring gently, add two or more bunches of chopped green onions and/or chives. Cook on low heat for a couple hours.

Sharon's Braised Sauerkraut

2 – 32 oz. jars sauerkraut, 1/4 cup olive oil, 1 onion, finely chopped, 1 teaspoon caraway seed, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon sugar, 1/2 cup chicken broth, 1 pound bacon (chopped and browned), 1 small raw potato grated

Drain kraut, brown bacon and drain; then brown onions in drippings and drain well. Put kraut, sugar, caraway seeds, salt, oil and broth in roaster with bacon and onions. Cook on top of stove for one hour on low or in oven 325 degrees for one hour.

Membership Page

New Members

Ballard, Carol, 2365 Chambers Lake Lane, Lacey, WA 98503 Email: gvgirl.ballard@gmail.com

Barnes, Norma, 4902 S. Oxbow Ave., #205, Sioux Falls, SD 57106 nkwibarnes@yahoo.com Researching: **Hoogstraal** family that emigrated from Freepsum in 1867 and eventually settled in the Chancellor area of Turner County, South Dakota.

Billmire, Donna Brandt, 1545 Hlavek Rd., Decatur, TX 75234, Phone: 940-255-8378, Email: scrapnook@embarqmail.com

Bruns, David, 11456 Buck Lake Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32317 Email: dbrububba@aol.com

Foster, Debbie, 275 N 1600 E Rd., Paxton, IL 60957 Email: fosterd934@aol.com

Fuller, Dorothy, 43501-174th St., Henry, SD 57243-5304 Phone: 605-532-5708 Researching: Dirksen (Visquard); Roelfs (Rysum); Mundhenke (Detmold)

Grafft, Rita, 4104 E. Lang St., Farmville, NC 27828 Email: lrgrafft@msn.com

Hacking, Roberta, 848 Suzanne Ct., Langley, WA 98260 Email: 4hackingin@whidbey.com

Harms, Paul Researching: Harms (Wittmund, Blomberg); Siemens (Nord-Dunum) contact OGSA to coordinate with this person

Jones, Kent J., 1505 First Ave. SE, LeMars, IA 51031 Phone: 712-540-2960 Email:

aspngold@gmail.com Researching: Lubben (Sandel); Ommen (Fulkum) Kleihauer (Marx) Janssen (Velde) Popken (Horsten)

Koester, Burchard, 602 S. Florida Ave., #817, Alamogordo NM 88310

Kunz, Nadine, 639 S. Essington Dr., Round Lake, IL 60073 Phone: 843-201-1015 Email: nkunz0623@sbcglobal.net Researching: Baumann (Schwerinsdorf); Blank (Kieffeld); Engelmann (Kieffeld, Remels); Saathoff, Hassler, Simmering (Hesel); Specht (Filsum)

Nelson, Peggy, 42204-189th St., Willow Lake, SD 57278 Phone: 605-625-3036 Email: pgnells@itctel.com Researching: Spieker (Ihrhove, Steinfeld, Visquard, Großwolde, Wirdum); Hassebroek (Oldersum); Symens (Neermoor); Thaden (Dunum, Aurich, Funnix, Wittmund); Janssen (Bangstede, Victorbur)

Pohorsky, Judi, 1712 Morris Ave. NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405 Phone: 319-396-6116 Email: pohojsta@aol.com Researching: Janssen (Jever) Roelf (Middels) Busker (Accum) Knaek (Oldenburg)

Post, Carla, 15130 S. Union Ave., Ayr, NE 68925 Email: carlasue97@yahoo.com

Sauer, Sabra & Craig, 475 Boehm Rd., Victoria, TX 77905 Email: cssauer@amigo.net

Shaw, David, 6929 Ash Hollow Lane,

Lincoln, NE 68516 Email:

dshaw@unmc.edu

Smith, Suzanne, 3963 Pharaoh Rd., Salt Lake City, UT 84123 Email:

sasmith24n7@gmail.com

Solberg, Bonnita, 3822 Cypress Hill Dr., Spring, TX 77388 Email:

bdsunmt@sbcglobal.net

Address Changes

Cassens, Robert, 1635 N Wells St., #1711, Chicago, IL 60614-

6015 Email: dtcassens@aol.com

Daling, Kay, 1643 NW Vasquez Way, Silverdale, WA 98583 Email: kaydal-ingl@msn.com Phone: 360-271-6258

Hoodjer, Corey, Email: hoodjeco@gmail.com

Mower, Pat

pat.mower59@gmail.com

Olson, Carolyn, cofairviewfarm@gmail.com

Van Gerpen, Emory, emoryvg@gmail.com

Donations—Thank You!

Deters, Philip	Harms, Paul
Mattes, Glenda	Medill, Jackie
Schubert, Jeanette	Wiemann, Rudy

Please notify us if there are mistakes in the above information!

info@ogsa.us

OBITUARIES



Charles DeVries was a loyal OGSA member and his smile, kindness and presence at meetings will be missed.

Charles was born in Parkersburg, Iowa, April 5, 1932 to Thomas & Mabel DeVries and died in Edina on April 23, 2017.

Charles married Mary Myrl Muetzel n April 17, 1953, and lived in Harlan, IA and Rockville, MD; before moving to their long term home in Edina, MN. Charles was a faithful member of Bethel Lutheran Church in Parkersburg, Iowa and a founding member of St. John's Lutheran in Rockville, MD.

Roger Hook was born May 16, 1939, in Grundy Center, son of Martha Meester and Harm Hook. On June 16, 1961, he married Nancy Tanner in Grundy Center. Roger graduated in Grundy Center in 1957 and served in the U.S. Army/ Army Reserve from 1962-68.

After leaving the service, he spent most of his life with Nancy on their family farm. Roger was active at the Bethany Presbyterian church, where he served as a deacon.

He was on the REC board and the Grundy County school board. Roger and his wife Nancy were members of the Ostfriesen Heritage Society for many years.



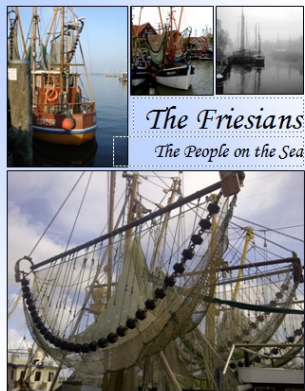
Ed Marks of Holland, IA, died at home on Thursday, March 23, of congestive heart failure and chronic kidney failure.

He was born Oct. 11, 1928 in Stout, son of Luke and Henrietta Bulthuis Marks. He married Lillian Mae DeVries on May 5, 1956, at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Grundy Center, IA.

Ed received his education in the Dike School System and was drafted into the U.S. Marine Corps in 1952. He worked for the Townsend & Merrill Lumber Co. (later known as Ubben Building Supplies) and retired from Farmers Cooperative Co., Dike, after 20 years.



OGSA'S BOOK CORNER

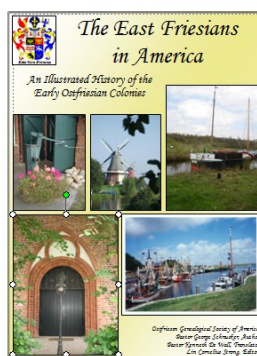


The Friesians *People on the Sea*

This 230 page book is a fantastic reference book on Ostfriesen history. Pictures and illustrations are also included. Originally written in German by Franz Kurowski, it was translated into English by Gene Janssen. \$34 includes postage and handling.

The East Frisians *in America*

Written by Pastor George Schnueker. Translated by Pastor Kenneth DeWall. An illustrated history of the Ostfriesen colonies, written in 1917. This is an amazing look at the colonies from a pastor who served in many of the communities. It was originally written in German. \$26 with postage.



The Ostfriesen *Who They Were & How They Lived.*

Written by Pastor Jürgen Hoogstraat and based on his 2003 OGSA Conference lectures. A fascinating look at the daily lives of the Ostfriesen who lived in small villages. ***This is the book you need to understand how your ancestors lived.*** \$20 includes postage!



UPCOMING ISSUES:

- Shanty Chor's
- Church Crypts & Vaults
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- Herrlichkeiten
- Delft Tiles
- Loquard's Church Treasures
- Jever's Castle

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The Lutheran Legacy Foundation has matching funds for charitable organizations and OGSA recently invested in this fund.

OGSA Board Members, Don Soeken and Dee Johnson, are on the Heritage Fund Committee.

Need more information? Contact Don, Dee or Lin Strong at info@ogsa.us

Research Materials!

Recently published books

Other books will arrive this year including Aurich Reformed Church.

UTTUM Ortsfamilienbuch —privately published. Thorsten Harms, compiler. In stock.

EMDEN— the history of this city, translated by Gene Janssen
OLDERSUM (1652-1910), Two Volumes, Theo. Voss
In stock!

NEW! HINTE ORTSSIPPENBUCH —In transit to the USA!

PILSUM/MANSLAGT ORTSSIPPENBUCH — Fall 2017

Several new books are being completed during the next year among them: ***Berdum, Westerholt, Langeoog.***

Are you interested in Ostfriesen history books? OGSA has a good collection of them, and they are in English.

Wo Sind Sie Geblieben, Six Volumes **+ Index on DVD**

The author excerpted data found in obituaries published in the Ostfriesische Nachrichten from the late 1880's into the 1920's. This DVD \$85 includes s & H. The original set of books sold for over \$240. Contact us at info@ogsa.us for more information.

Tour to Ostfriesland

Bremen, Bremerhaven, Ostfriesland and The Netherlands. End of May/June 2018
Contact Lin Strong for more information 651-269-3580 or email Lin.Strong269@gmail.com
Tour sizes are limited to 20 or less.

References available! Interested in other dates?
These tours are not sponsored by the Ostfriesen Genealogical Society of America.



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Clay County Genealogical Society, Hastings, NE

Email: ClayCountyNE@charter.net

Introduction to Ostfriesen Genealogy Research; Internet Resources; Genealogy Problem Solving; Beginning DNA & Using GedMarch

- Saturday, October 21, 2017, Taught by Lin Strong

Tazewell County Genealogical Society, Pekin, Illinois

Email: mabush64@msn.com

