

# OSTFRIESEN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA



AMERICAN-OSTFRIESEN ZEITUNG  
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JANUARY 2009 VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1



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# OSTFRIESEN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Volume 12, Issue 1

JANUARY 2009

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 - Lin@ogsa.us** 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 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.

**2009 MEMBERSHIP**—Send your check for \$18 (high speed internet download from our website or newsletter sent by pdf file—make sure you specify which option you prefer) or \$28 for paper copies payable to OGSA 1670 South Robert Street, #333, West St. Paul, MN 55118

Foreign membership is \$18 if sent by pdf file or if you download from our website—\$30 if paper copies. You can deposit your membership at Sparkasse Emden if you prefer.

- ◆ The membership year is from November 1 through October 31 of each year.
- ◆ If you join midway during the year, you will receive the code to download all back issues for that year or the paper copies. Back issues for many past years may be available for purchase.
- ◆ Please include your name, address, email address, phone number and eight names you are researching in Ostfriesland along with their village names.
- ◆ If you have any question about your membership, please do not hesitate to contact the membership coordinator!
- ◆ If you have any question about your membership, please do not hesitate to contact us!

## BOOK REPORT

Levine, Ellen, *If YOUR name was changed at Ellis Island*, Scholastic Nonfiction, New York, 2006

You'd like to teach your children or grandchildren about emigration, but don't know where to start. Or maybe you'd just like a quick tutorial for yourself. This is the book for you—and them!

*"It was the greatest human migration in history. For most of the newcomers, the trip was difficult, often dangerous. They traveled weeks, sometimes months, only to arrive in a place where they didn't speak the language. Often they had nowhere to live and little money. Yet they poured into America. This book is about their journey, their hopes and difficulties, and their adventures."*

That paragraph from the book tells the story—and this small book is interesting, too. A sample of some of the book chapters include the following, but these are just a few of the chapter headings.

- What was Ellis Island?
- Why did people leave their homeland?
- What did people bring with them?
- Where would you sleep and eat on the ship?
- Was the ocean voyage dangerous?
- What happened if you were detained?
- How long would you stay at Ellis Island?
- What was the Staircase of Separation? Do you know?
- Did immigrants ever return to "the old country"?
- Did some immigrants change their names when they came to America?

You can pick up this 80 page book for \$5.99 from Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble and other bookstores. You will learn something in here about emigration that you did not know before.

## HELP! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED...

Get involved, your help is needed and there are always projects.

- Can you translate German into English?
- Typing skills?
- Write newsletter articles?
- Program Committee?
- WHAT talent can YOU offer?

Volunteers are needed to:

Act as one of the hosts at a 2009 OGSA meeting—all meetings are located in Minnesota. Anyone can do this!

Help with one of the four Research Saturdays at the MGS Library.

Help is needed to process mail orders at the OGSA office at MGS in St. Paul. A couple hours a week or month?

There is a January training session if you are interested.

**An organization is only as good as its volunteers.**

## OGSA Mail Address:

**OGSA, 1670 So. Robert St., #333,**

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**Phone No. (651) 451-6472 (leave message)**



**MOIN, ALLE!**

Twelve years—can you believe it? We feel we have accomplished a lot in the preservation of historical and genealogical data during that time. Our primary purpose is educational, and we hope you feel that this goal has been accomplished. Your help, as always, is appreciated!



New to OGSA? If you don't understand some terminology, need help with research, please contact us! There are several email addresses on page 31 for contacts! **We cannot help if we don't know the questions that you have!** There is also a great FYI page on [www.ogsa.us](http://www.ogsa.us) that has helpful information for you! **Check out some of the other new pages on our website, too, including one for Low German.**

This issue is something new—an issue on emigration—stories, letters, books and more. Many articles on emigration have come in from time to time and we always get requests for more—here it is! Let us know if you think this is interesting.

Due to space, everything submitted could not be included in this issue—what a great problem! So, next January, look for another issue on emigration. We need to preserve these stories for the next generations—this is vital. Write down your stories and submit them—with or without pictures. **Do you like this issue? I want to hear from you!** Do you have ideas or articles for other issues?

I've increased the gutter size for the newsletter—so many of you three hole punch your issues and have commented that this was needed. I know you'd like bigger maps, but that takes space and in this newsletter, that is a precious commodity. I continually fight the battle on more white space, larger fonts versus more content. The content usually wins, but none of you seem to complain when all 32 pages are very full.

- ***It's the first of a New Year—time to back up all your data and put it in a safe place!***
- ***Buy a new portable hard drive and use this for your weekly back up.***

The Board of Directors are listed on the inside of the back cover. Contact them if you have comments, concerns. New officers will be listed on the website after January 5, 2009.  
 Lin Cornelius Strong, News Editor

**Inside this issue:**

Book Report	2
The Ostfriesen Emigrants	3
Jann Kaiser's 1851 Diary, 1852 Letter & Genealogy	4-11
Emigration Begins	11
	12
From Ostfriesland to America	12-13
Emigration Costs, Requirements & Information	14
The Franzen's come to America	15-16
Soft Faded Parrot Feathers	17
Catharina Estermann	18
News from Ostfriesland	19-21
Hesel's Neanderthal Roots	21
Sillenstede's Anniversary	21
Member News	21
Links to Deep Roots	21
Westermarsch to Lintelmarsch to America	22-23
Ostfriesians in the Wild West	24-26
A Journey from Dunum...	26-27
Short Stories, JAL Bibliothek	28
Uda's Story	29
New Member, Tech 101	30
Programs, Upcoming Articles...	31-32

**THE OSTFRIESSEN EMIGRANTS...**

*In Ostfriesland there was not enough money for many residents to buy a farm, to own a business or even an opportunity to learn a trade. No matter how hard they worked, they barely survived. Many of them were poor peat farmers with little chance of survival. Then the letters started coming from those who had emigrated to America—all promising great things!*

*There must have been thoughts such as: Why should I work as a servant for the rest of my life when I can own a farm on good soil in the new land? We work so hard and we are still poor and hungry! And what about our children and grandchildren? What kind of a life will they have here? They will be farm laborers and poor all their lives, too!*

*Letters from America made people dream of a new life—a better life for their families. Emigration changed lives—forever. Few of those who left their homeland could ever afford to return. Many lived lives separate from their parents and siblings—never seeing them again. Their only contact was letters. Often entire families emigrated together and lived in the same community. Many immigrants were terribly homesick for their homeland, but could never return. They brought their naming patterns, their religious beliefs and their work ethic to America—all for the promise of a new life. In America, most of them settled in colonies with other Ostfriesen immigrant who shared the same values, work ethic, traditions and, of course, the Low German language.*



**START THIS WORD SEARCH!**  
**The 2009 CONTESTS that all of you can enter!**

**The first person that gives the editor the meaning of LOCKSS—wins a gift. Contact Lin!**

**The meaning is only in THIS newsletter. ☺**

## An Emigration Wave Started By a Letter...

*Kiek Rin* editor Rudolf Störmer of Hesel, received the following 1851 diary and 1852 letter from Kyle Reynolds in Hillsboro, IL where someone had translated it into English. Both the diary (below) and the letter that follows, offer a fascinating look at the challenges of emigration.

Herr Störmer translated the letter back into German and published it in sequels in his well-known Low German magazine, *Kiek Rin*. The teacher Sundermann, who in the 19th century taught in Hesel

and other neighboring villages, got hold of the Kaiser letter and supposedly distributed 1,500 copies among the schools in the area.

As the chronicler Dr. Paul Wesels found out, it started a huge wave of emigration from Ostfriesland to America.



## Jann Kaiser's 1851 Diary...



March 14, 1851

In the evening I went with father to Johann Heeren's to read a letter which he received from North America. This letter, like all news which comes from America, was a very cheerful one. Johann Walher? and his wife agreed to emigrate. It may be that we will also leave this enslaved Europe one day in order to breathe free in the

liberal North America.

June 15, 1851

In Germany, things are getting worse. He who speaks a free, true word, is sent to the gallows. All the great, good and honest men of Germany, who love the light and the truth, are forced to leave their fatherland.

Kinsel went to England, Wonder? To America, etc., etc. Teacher Sundermann suffers in prison because he spoke one true word. Things can, should and must change here, and they will change if there comes a political Luther, who reforms and reorganizes Germany.

I feel so sick in this country that I long for the hour when I will say goodbye. Janßen talked about America; indeed, very pleasant things and he described it exactly like it was known to us from the letters. I won't repeat that all, because if it's God's will, we will see it pretty soon with our own eyes. We made the decision to emigrate this Fall, September 1 to September 15 to leave the tyrannical country and look for a better fate in the wonderful land of golden freedom.

June 23, 1851

In these last days many people are at our house; they made our mother afraid of the big voyage, so she doesn't want to come along anymore. We knew that it was not true, so father went to Janßen and asked that he should tell mother how the voyage really is. They

came about midnight until 2:30 in the morning. The American talk flowed and mother calmed down.

June 24, 1851

We went from Siebestock to Hesel, to Ude Krugmann, Ubbe Backers bride, to ask if they had decided to emigrate with us. They said no, they will stay here. We went to Siepke Althoff, for his servant wanted to come with us. Then we went to Kaiser, he didn't want to emigrate this Fall because his wife was pregnant. Next to Keiser was a family, ?Barroelt Krick, a widow with five children.. They have sold their property and will go with us.

June 28, 1851

Papers report that we sell our house, because we emigrate to America.

July 24, 1851

Couldn't sell our property, otherwise we could have sailed on September 1, to ships go for Bodeker to New-Orleans and with those go all immigrants from our district, about 150 from our neighborhood.

August 7, 1851

Sold our property.

August 21, 1851

Everything sold for a good price except for two cows.

August 22, 1851

We apply for passport.

August 31, 1851

Paid for voyage. Three persons. Met all persons on two wagons who will go with us to America.

*And so the voyage to a new land began...*

# Jann Kaiser's 1852 Letter to Ostfriesland

Dear Friend:

May 6, 1852

So, after a long wait, I pick up my pen. You certainly have waited for it for a long time with profound longing, my dear Friend. I, and my dear ones, who are all in good health and cheerful, give you and your wife and your children our cordial greetings, who, so we hope, are still all in good health and good spirits. We thank God, and we are glad that we are here, here in the country of love and of peace, of freedom and abundance. We wish this high happiness to all our brothers longing in body and spirit in Ostfriesland, who are alarmed about their livelihood in the future.

However, not everybody wants to come here. It costs such trouble and money to start as a farmer. The one, however, who comes here poor and starts as a worker, usually does very well if he went to work and if he is honest. In two to three years he will have earned enough to become a farmer.

Now, in all brevity, something about our encounters and experiences. Our ship was riding at anchor at the river Weser, perhaps half an hour distant from Bremerhaven, until September 8, 1851 in the forenoon at 10:30. Then it sailed in a strong and not very favorable wind into the ocean. Almost everybody was immediately sea-sick, and vomiting, similar to drunkenness. They usually laugh, however, because they know that it doesn't mean very much and will soon be over. Some have been spared, including my wife who was always cheerful. The best remedy against it is to have little or nothing to eat, and to lie quietly in bed.

In the evening the helmsman announced that the ship is leaking and had eight feet of water in the hull. This was an inexplicable matter in the case of a new ship. All able men were called on deck, and ten men had alternately and unceasingly to pump water with four pumps. Six feet of water remained in the ship. We sailed quickly on. We saw the lighthouse of Borkum. At daybreak, a leak was found in the oblique lead tubes of the toilets into which the stupid new cooks had thrown bones, and since they had been blocked, pounded them with a large iron bars and so caused the leak. The leak was immediately repaired, the ship was pumped out, and seasickness faded away.

*On the North Sea and the Channel, you still need warm clothes and beds; however, less of them. On the Mississippi, it gets cold again, often very cold.*

*This is the letter that changed lives. It was shared with families, friends and community leaders—and was the cause of a great wave of emigration to the United States.*

*Jann Kaiser's appeal for others to emigrate also changed Ostfriesland history. The letter is typed as it was received. Herr Kaiser was obviously an observant and educated man as evidenced in this letter.*

We sailed with a strong, but unfavorable wind in all directions through the North Sea, and on September 12, in the afternoon saw the English coast and several buoys and lighthouses. Then came a beautiful night. The wind became favorable and very strong. The ship sailed as quickly as an arrow through the channel and so near passed England's coast that we could clearly see the houses in the streets illuminated with gas light. Everybody was in good health again and gay and cheerful. On the 13th we saw still to the right the chalky hills of England and to the left the city of Calais in France.

Always quickly forward. On the 14th my wife did not feel well, a fact however, which faded away the next day. On the 15th we passed a passenger ship which had left the harbor eight days ahead of us. From the 15th to the 19th there was a very strong wind in the Spanish sea, so that we all, except my wife, again took seasick for a day. A bride from the village Giften near Hildeshelm gave birth to a son on the 19th. Mother and child remain well and in good health. Two small illegitimate children, who had come on the ship in very weak condition, remained weak and sickly, and Frau Hemke Kock and the wife of Broer of Firrel took sick for about two weeks. All the others were in good health and cheerful.

Always, day and night, beautiful weather and favorable wind. We sailed quickly forward, so that we, on the 22nd, had already covered half of our trip. Our captain avoided the trade wind, and he hoped to complete the whole trip in 30 days. But it did not go that way. On the first of October there came a calm which lasted for nine days, so that we did not sail forward but came backward daily about two English miles. The whole surface of the ocean looked like a sheet of glass, so quiet and still. We now had beautiful, very hot weather so that everybody went barefoot and sweated day and night, dressed only in a shirt.

On the 10th, the wind increased, and we encountered a ship with the name of "Phoenix" from Bremen which wanted to sail from Peru to Baltimore. It hoisted the emergency flag, whereupon we put alongside. It had been on the way for 160 days and the food was gone. Our ship provided it to them gratuitously. On the 11th the one illegitimate child died 24 weeks old, born in Stuttgart in Württemberg. Later, on the 17th, the other died, 17 weeks old, born in Hessancassel. Upon the request of our cap-



tain, I delivered the funeral oration while the corpses were being dropped into the ocean. Everybody was devotional and profoundly moved.

On the 14th of October we saw the Island of Puerto Rico through the telescope, far away. On the 15th we arrived at the sand banks of Santo Domingo, 70 degrees to the west of Paris, and 29 degrees of northern latitude. On the 16th we saw to the left the island of Santo Domingo with its high mountains which towered over the clouds and on the 17th to our right the island of Cuba. We sailed from Cuba's eastern tip, passed by Cuba and through the Gulf of Mexico ten days until the evening of the 26th, when we arrived at the mouth of the Mississippi. Here, a thunderstorm moved up from the west. The captain, who hoped to be able to stay near the coast during the storm, let the ship sail at night very quickly under full sails 30 German miles back again into the gulf, and we had to sail until the morning of the 28th before we again reached the mouth of the Mississippi.

Now we saw the continent of North America, for in front of us, and we all were very glad that we have made the trip without real discomfort. A steamer came immediately and towed us over the breakers into the river, where we lay at the banks the whole day because the steamer towed three other ships. In the evening, the steamer towed four large three-masters and sailed with them to New Orleans where we arrived on the evening of the 29th at 4 o'clock under great jubilation and set foot on the long yearned-for land with profound feelings of thanks and praise.

The country on both sides of the Mississippi up to New Orleans in extremely beautiful and fertile. The sugar cane stood in full magnificence. New Orleans in a large and beautiful city. One can see many steamers and sailboats and so much merchandise that one could believe all merchants of the whole world to be amassed here. The city along the river extends for two hours. It was extraordinarily beautiful weather and so hot that one could not walk barefoot on the streets. One sees here people from almost all countries of the world, of all kinds of build and color. The many Germans and Dutch people speak Low German, and we can get along very well with that.

**Our journey was not difficult and most agreeable.** At first when the passengers did not know each other it was somewhat monotonous, but later, however, became so entertaining and animated that time passed quickly for everyone. The little children could always pull little sleds and similar things. Older people sewed, knitted, read, told each other something or took a walk. In the evening we usually sang, at times we played and danced. Almost daily there was something new to be seen. Those with whom meat and bacon cooked in seawater did not agree, had very little to eat. We had, therefore, to use up our provision of bacon, zwieback, and so forth, which we wanted to use on the steamer.

On ships from Bremen the food is by far much more plentiful. There is an abundance of it, as we learned on our way. How-

### **Who was Jann Kaiser?**

**SOURCE: Meyer, Christian Amt Uplengen Firrel, Amt Uplengen Ortsfamilienbuch, Volume 3385. Kaiser (oder Käyser), Harbert Janssen, in Firrel, / OSB Bagband 1279/ Hesel 2303/ Strackholt 1824/ (**Sohn des Jann Hinrichs Käyser**, Firrel), \* 4.3.1777 Firrel, (48 Jahre), + 25.1.1816 Firrel.**

oo 23.10.1801 Bagband, **Wübke Martens, (Tochter des Marten Brunken**, Südermoor), \* 21.8.1780 Bagband, II.oo 1818, **Jacob Ellen Bohlen**, Firrel.

Kinder:

**Fraucke Harbers**, \* 24.1.1803 Firrel, I.oo 27.10.1822 Hesel, **Behrend Frerichs Post**, Bagband, II.oo 1.6.1844 Bagband, Gerd Heeren, Bagband.

**Marten Harbers Keiser**, \* 24.7.1804 Firrel, oo 11.7.1830 Hesel, **Janna Rolfs Juniel**, Firrel.

- **Jann Harbers Kaiser**, \* 16.3.1806 Firrel, oo 23.3.1833 **Siebestock, Johanna Janssen Jürgena, Voßbarg, Siebestock**, am 8.9.1851 nach Amerika ausgewandert (emigrated 8 Sept. 1851). (He wrote on 6 Mar. 1852 from Red Prairie a letter to his cousin **Johann Harms Kaiser in Holtland Nücke**. This letter was sent to teacher **H. J. Sundermann in Hesel in 1852 in Emden**. Later published in **Unser Ostfriesland Nr. 10/2001 page 38ff (Beilage zur Ostfriesen Zeitung vom 17.5.2001)**.

**Brunke Harbers Keiser**, \* 17.4.1808 Firrel, oo 26.9.1830 Strackholt, **Tätje Renken Meyer**, aus Spetzerfehn, Firrel. **Almt Harbers Keiser**, \* 12.1.1810 Firrel, I.oo 1.10.1831 Hesel, **Eilert Eden Focken**, Siebestock, II.oo 25.3.1838 Holtland, **Jürgen Renken Meenen**, Siebestock.

**Jürgen Harbers Kaiser**, \* 26.8.1812 Firrel, konf. 1832 in Strackholt, oo 24.3.1836 Strackholt, **Christina Cassens Duis**, aus Voßbarg, Neudorf, am 1.9.1857 nach Amerika ausgewandert.

**Tätje Harbers Kaiser**, \* 10.1.1815 Firrel, oo 27.5.1838 Hesel, **Jann Casjens Duis**, aus Voßbarg, Neudorf, am 4.9.1854 nach Amerika ausgewandert.

ever, these ships are on the average not so clean. Our ship was very clean and so was every passenger on it. In a large, good ship, and especially in early Autumn, such a trip is almost without danger and trouble. On smaller ships it is, as we have seen, troublesome because such ships rock very easily and rise and fall with the waves. Such movement makes one sick and ill. Our ship was very stable, so that we seldom felt whether it was sailing or not. We, and all our co-passengers, desire therefore to make such a trip again.

On the 30th of October our possessions were examined by a customs official. Nothing had to be paid for because everything we had was taken along for our own need and consumption. On the evening of November 1st we sailed with the steamer Glenco and Captain Lem to St. Louis where we arrived on Sunday morning, the 9th of November. The farther to the North we came, the colder and colder it became, so that we really suffered from it. In St. Louis, the ground

was already covered with snow. The shores of the Mississippi from New Orleans to St. Louis have no friendly aspect, mostly forest. In St. Louis we found many known and unknown people from Ostfriesland, and we got a friendly reception and directions. We arrived at four o'clock and stayed at the house of my aunt Jann Richrich H. Baumann's widow.

The quick change of weather, the drinking of the Mississippi water, and the poor room which we had on the steamer, beginning from New Orleans, had affected our health very disadvantageously, so that we all arrived unwell. Thaddea had remained in St. Louis. On Thursday, the 14th, to our great joy, your father and your brother Harbert came with two wagons and took us to Red Prairie where we found the friendliest reception and moved in with Coob Roolfs Bohlen. Here we refreshed our bodies and minds and in a few days were again healthy and cheerful. On November 26th we moved into an entirely new house of Samuel Dorsey where we paid \$1.50 for a monthly rent and for firewood, and stayed there until the end of January. We visited all our acquaintances living here, and we found a good reception among all, and were very welcome.

First, we intended not to stay here but to move further to the North. However, the hard winter prevented this. The rivers farther north were almost all completely frozen from the middle of November until the end of February. Here in one night it often froze four inches, but the frost usually did not last longer than three days. However, this winter was more severe than it had been in 18 years. We were all very well during the whole winter. As a matter of fact, all the people whom we saw and knew are well and in good health. They say, in summer it should not been so good for newcomers because then some easily contract fever if they work incessantly and hard on hot days.

When we decided to stay here for the time being I tried for several weeks to buy a farm, in which however I did not succeed for lack of money; because the money which I had ordered for that purpose did not arrive through unforeseen hindrances. I rented then, on the day before New Years, a place for the year 1852-3, the neighboring house of Gerd. G. Arkebauer. To the north, in Red Prairie, were 70 acres of land in addition to a garden which had been fenced in one place. Since, however, the land was almost too large for us and the house too small for our family, I rented it out again with the consent of the owners.

I rented another place to the south in Red Prairie into which we moved on the 1st of February. Our house, which is one of the most beautiful here, has on the lower floor a kitchen with living-room facilities and a big parlor, and on the second floor three beautiful rooms, all with wooden floors. The floor in the kitchen is even covered with a multi-covered cover. The ceiling in all rooms are plastered in white, so that one can see no beams as in the official house in Stickhausen. The previous owner himself had lived in this place. He moved, however, to the little town of Staunton, 15 miles distant from here

where he became a merchant.

The land belonging to this place constitutes approximately a quadrangle and has about the size of 300 acres or 225 Diemath. Only about 40 Diemath of it are fenced in, which we can use as building land. The cattle graze on the unfenced land without a shepherd. They come in the evening at the right time into the yard where they rest during the night outside in a fenced-in place, without being tied up. That is the custom here.

*The land and homes are getting more expensive each year because the immigration here is very great.*

The main building stands almost in the middle of the land and about 22 about 22 steps away the workshop belonging to it, which we have rented to Harm Mennen Bohlen and Greje Boeden, who, however, receive only 3/4 to one acre as a garden. They are allowed to keep one cow and one calf and to chop the firewood they need. For that they have to pay me a total of \$12 rent for the year. In the month of February, your brother Harbert, who had married your sister-in-law Wüpké Post on February 8, lived therein.

Half of our building land is bottom land which is just as good as marshland in Ostfriesland, but our upper land as well as all upper land here is very good. Fertilizer is not used at all. In our bottom land which has not been tilled, grass grows so high that a calf cannot go through it. Our place is very romantic, a small river called India Creek flows through it and separates forest and prairie. On the river in the forest are hills of 50 to 60 feet high. All, however, have fertile ground. Wild vines at the foot, as tick as a log, reach 70 to 80 feet high, up to the tops of the trees. The most beautiful strawberries grow wild everywhere. We pay only \$50 cash for the rent. We must, however, carry out different works of fencing in for the improvement of the piece. We have also to plant decorative trees and flowers around the main house. Furthermore, we have to put a roof of wooden boards on the stable for the horses and on the barn. Wood and nails are being furnished to us. Usually, for a place like this \$1.50 to \$2 per acre are paid yearly for rent. The house and the garden are free, the owner pays for this.

Every male person between 21 and 50 years old must work two days a year on public roads or those who don't want to do it have to pay \$1 per day. In addition, everyone has to pay perhaps \$1 per hundred tax per year on his property. The tax is paid according to the debts and needs of the state in which one lives. In the neighboring state of Missouri there is now paid only 1/5% tax because the state is richer than Illinois. This tax is the whole burden which one has. What you give to churches and to schools and so forth is voluntary and there are no poor people here.

For small places of 40 acres, of which perhaps half is fenced and tilled and upon which a poor house of about \$50 to \$100 value stands, costs \$400. Dirk Ostermann has bought such a place an hour distant from here to the south which he has already moved in to.

Frederick Zimmermann has bought a place for \$1,000 to the north in Red Prairie, one hour and a quarter from us, in which case 60 acres are tilled. Large places are relatively cheap. The land near the cities is more expensive, and farther away, considerably cheaper, although the land there is by far better than near the cities. An acre of land is a quadrangle of 69 steps. For our place, which I would like better than all of Siebestock, my owner asks only \$2,500.

We have now, for the time being, acquired the following things: *two working horses for \$40 together; a wagon not entirely new for \$40; two not entirely new plows for \$8; harnesses for the horses \$12; three pigs, a pregnant sow and two fat ones for \$24; grain and hay as fodder for horses and cattle \$24; four cows \$53; 32 chickens \$4; and your father has given us six chickens. A cooking stove, a roasting oven and a baking oven \$14; two bedsteads \$7; a dog \$.50 and in addition several other indispensable things such as an ax and a hatchet, milking utensils, oats and buckwheat for sowing, and in addition several expenses for eating and drinking dishes, which we had to buy. We did not earn anything during this winter because we did not feel strong enough to do day work. Also I did not want to put the children out to work although there was enough opportunity every day and also because I realize that we have enough work in our own place.*

You have to have about \$300 if you want to begin as a

*A bushel of seed usually yields on poor soil 200 bushels. On mediocre, 4-500 bushels, on good black upper soil or even on bottom soil, 700 bushels. Corn thrives best on rich soil. Your bother Heye, when he was here the last time, harvested in the average 650 bushels.*

farmer. However, the one who brings less with him can also get along. Harm Mennen Bohlen, for example, earned throughout the winter half a dollar daily in addition to food and lived at the house of Peter Schneider. As soon as the work in the field begins at the end of March, a worker earns throughout the whole summer \$1 daily in addition to food, and in June even \$1.25. Albert Heidemann had let him-

self to be hired for the whole year for \$140. His wife lives with Jann Brunken. Harm Schlachter of Firrel likewise has let himself be hired as a worker with a German farmer with garden and firewood free and they keep as many cows and chickens as they want. One earns very soon enough to become a farmer.

A farm hand earns usually \$12 a month, in the cities even more; a maid \$6 to \$7. Ubbe Becker who serves in our neighborhood with Samuel Dorsey received \$150 wages per year. The wage is due every month and what he leaves with his employer earns for him 10% interest. That is a lot of money. In addition, he lives very comfortably and well. On many hours on working days he sits in the house of his employer, reads newspapers, or does something else. In the evening he may go out and come home when he wants; the

door is never locked and he is for that reason never looked on angrily. He is very economical and has saved quite a lot. The maids are especially well off because they work only in the house and never in the fields. They do not even milk the cows. Farm hands and maids can therefore make their fortune in an excellent way; and also the children whom one brings along have the best and most beautiful prospects.

The bottom land here is similar to the marshland in Ostfriesland. The grass, however, grows much higher and much denser than on the soil at home. The upper soil is black earth and very rich, underneath loamy. The upper soil, if it is plowed and is planted with grass and clover, yield much more grass and clover than the marshy soil at home.

The untilled upper soil has hard grass mixed with white clover. In the untilled bottom land much wheat and flowers grow. One finds Georgines and lilacs and similar flowers everywhere. Where the cattle tramp the grass and the soil in wet weather, there appears better and softer grass. There are no swamps here at all. Everywhere, even in the rivers, the ground is firm, so that one, if the water is not too deep, can pass through everywhere even on horseback and remain dry. All rivers have good drinking water. In some wells, however, the water is limey, so that it deposits in tea kettles. It tastes very good. You can easily imagine that beautiful fruits grow here. Maize, called corn here, is the main fruit. Winter wheat and oats which is planted here also grow well. After the winter, buckwheat can be planted which grows very high and well and yields very much.

Buckwheat is heavier and has also a more tasty flour than in Ostfriesland. Rye and barley is not planted here in Red Prairie, grows very well, however, as I have seen, an hours drive distant from here. Tomatoes must be planted on the most meager soil and then in rows at least three feet from one another. Then they develop well and are tasty. Otherwise they grow wild. Some bloom throughout the whole summer until the latest autumn front and you can pick them daily. Some even yield a second harvest. Also peas can ripen two times. Rooty vegetables do not go so well and are also not as tasty as at home. Turnips are very good and beautiful. But large beans, and the so-called English ones, do not grow as well and yield less. The German cabbage grows extremely large and strong but freezes in the winter, because it is wild and tender and the stick has little wood. All kinds of cauliflower thrive very well. The Americans cultivate few potatoes and certain fruits because this causes them too much work. The immigrant German and English care more for them. Also many dishes can be made of them. Potatoes cost in Alton 50—60 cents per bushel, here 40—50 cents.

The Americans living here are all very righteous, honest and, in part, educated people, even those who have no religion at all and have neither been baptized nor confirmed. Even those celebrate the Sunday very strictly so that they do not even talk about business, neither sell nor buy something. Many do not even cook a meal on Sunday, but prepare it beforehand. They



consider dishonest people, especially dishonest Christians, with abhorrence. They are hospitable, pleasing, lovable. One never notices pride and haughtiness, although they like decoration, and dress themselves cleanly and beautifully. They have a high idea of freedom, right and truth. You can see on them that truth makes them free and freedom makes them true. In the second place, the immigrant Scotsmen are praised as the most honest ones. After them rank the Germans, which are also loved and esteemed.

The Irish, and, in general all Catholics are not so esteemed here. The Germans living here are on the average too uneducated, therefore not mature enough for freedom, truth and love, and often selfish and by that unpleasing and unfair. However, the good spirit which exists here makes them better people.

The language is the greatest handicap. The weather here is considerably more beautiful than in Ostfriesland in winter. The days are almost always clear and the air is so dry that laundry dries in a few hours. The air is more rarified and therefore distant objects always appear much nearer and larger.

The nights are brighter. Cold and heat alternate often and very quickly and violently with one another. On the 5th of February, for example, we had a heavy thunderstorm with great heat, so that one sweated in the hours and the next morning it froze rather violently. In winter a northwester brings always cold and frost. The thunderstorms and the rain are said to be very heavy in the summer. We have, however, not heard that a disaster occurred. The heat in the summer rises up to 30 degrees (ED.Note: Centigrade).

In winter, when it rains, it rains heavier than at home. But it gets dry so quickly that the roads can be travelled again immediately, although the ground is rich and greasy. (When you come, don't allow yourself to be cheated in new Orleans by the Germans, and on the steamer, do not take the seats between the water wheels, but a place further behind them.)

The bottom land is flat. The upper layer of the bottom and on the rivers is hilly and undulating. But for the greater part it is flat. Here there is much flat land. In some of these hills are deposits of limestone and beneath them slate and coal. We have coal which is very cheap and burns excellently in the hearth.

Most of the farmers let their horses, cattle and so forth run throughout the whole winter in the open air. The horses come in the evening by themselves into the stable, where they are fed with corn and hay. The cattle run alternately into the corn fields and feed on the husks and the grass in the prairies where so much has been left over and is drying up. Some farmers give the cattle wheat and barley straw as an additional fodder. Some, also hay. Some farmers keep the horses the whole year in the stable because they are easily fed with corn and hay and by that become especially strong

and fat.

The hay of farmland, that is of such a land which has been planted with grass and cover and, is very strong. One can also mow plenty of hay from the prairies and on the farmland of wheat barley stubble; however, the prairie hay is very hard, the hay from the stubble is soft and not as good as the wheat hay. The stubble fields which are not sowed are burned in the Spring, in order to be able to plow them again; the growth of the grass is very healthy, to such a degree that the cattle cannot eat it all.

Since the land here is not harrowed, but only plowed once for planting, some farmers have their farm so large that they cannot harvest everything in the summer, since there is a shortage of workers. There are workers who often receive several acres of wheat, barley and buckwheat gratuitously because the farmer can't harvest it himself. I have also seen the most beautiful wheat which was not mowed. The farmer has let the cattle and pigs eat the best and afterwards he burns it in the winter.

Here in Red Prairie, there live 20 families from Ostfriesland and in addition, two families from Germany. All are Lutherans. Only your brother Harbert is a Baptist and our parents have become Methodists. There is no church here yet. An hour distant, however, is a German Lutheran and a German Protestant church. There are three English schools, but no German ones. Every two weeks, a German itinerant preacher comes here who then preaches once to the south in Red Prairie and once in the north. These kind of preachers preach pure Bible religion, so that everyone can participate in it.

My space is getting short for this letter, otherwise I should like to tell you more. Harm Mennen Bohlen and his wife and child who live with us in our small house are both in good health and cheerful. Please tell this to their father Foeda (?) in Firrel and to others and give them our greetings. Coob and Anka are our nearest neighbors to the South. They are very well off because a shoemaker can earn much money here. They have three head of cattle, six pigs and about 40 chickens. They and their children are healthy and quite satisfied. Somewhat to the north lives Jann W. Zimmermann of Firrel. He has 30 acres of land, two horses, 20 head of cattle and so forth. Five weeks ago, his wife gave birth to a daughter and they also have two boys. They are all now in good health and they are very well off so they are quite satisfied. They give greetings to their relatives as well as all their acquaintances. Recently they received a letter from their uncle in Wisconsin who, with all his family, is still in good health. He suffers, however, to some extent from gout in the left knee, a consequence of his trip to California.

Your cousin, Jan Ummen of Klein Remels, who has come with us, is serving with an American only one house distant from ours, for \$10 per month. He is in good health and cheerful, which you might be kind enough to tell his father. He works often near our house because his master has to cultivate for us 15 to 20 acres this coming Spring. His master has 20 large

working oxen with which he is able to cultivate even the toughest virgin land. In the Northwest, one quarter of an hour distant from us Jann Brunken is our neighbor. He has 60 acres of farm land already in use and he keeps a servant, has four working horses, about 16 head of cattle and is very well off. His wife recently gave birth to his second daughter. All are well and in good health.

To the North of his place on Samuel Dorsey's place lives Harm Arkebauer. He has 70 acres of farm land, four valuable working horses which cost \$100 per head and which is always has in the stable, about 20 head of cattle so forth. He and his family are in good health and apparently makes a lot of money. Peter Schneider and Broer Janssen also live on places of Samuel Dorsey. Peter has 70 acres and Broer 40 acres of farmland. Both and their families are in good health.

Gerd S. Arkebauer lives farther distant to the North, about 1 1/4 hour from us at a place with 90 acres of farmland. He has seven beautiful working horses, many cattle, pigs and so on. He has his farm in the best condition and earns a lot of money. The two Arkebauers are apparently doing the best of all the people from Ostfriesland. Frau Hemke Kock, together with her children, traveled with us to Red Prairie. Jann Focken from here, whose wife Geesche is the daughter of Dirk Jelken of Fiebing, gave them shelter as a relative, and also let them live with them for several weeks. Jann Focken who has his own place of 137 acres, and on that place a new blockhouse, which he still does not live in, has lent her this house with some farmland. She has two cows and Willm also wants to buy a horse as soon as he has earned enough. Willm stays at home and goes out as a day laborer and others help him as much as possible. They are now all in good health. The old Hemkemoeh is so cheerful that she never wants it better. She

*I neither want to encourage you for a trip here or to dissuade you. I believe, however, that you can live here much better and the children here have the best prospects. One lives here are much better and more comfortable.*

send greetings to her father, her children, brother, sisters and all relatives.

Corn costs now 25– 30 cents per bushel, wheat 60 cents, barley 60 cents, oats 20 cents, beans \$1, potatoes here in the country 40-50 cents. In Alton up to 80 cents, turnips 20 cents. Fat pigs sell for 4-6 cents per pound, butter now 13 1/2 cents

per pound, a dozen eggs 6 1/2 cents, one pound of the best wheat flour for 2 cents, corn flour 50# for 40 cents, the best coffee beans are 10 cents a pound. Tea costs as much as it costs in Leer. Clothing is more expensive than with you; however, most people buy the material and make their own clothing.

Most of us do not work much in the winter, or not at all. If you want to go out you drive or you go on horse back. You can have meat and bacon for almost nothing as soon as you have cattle. You can keep horses, cattle and pigs in great quantities and you can graze and feed them easily and very cheap. One needs no fertilizer. The soil is rich enough everywhere for all kinds of fruit. Taxes here are very small. No-

body disturbs you, neither a bailiff nor a policeman, nor any official or beggars. You can very well leave the house with all its valuable open even if one goes out for the whole day. Everybody loves you if you are honest. Haughtiness, pride and class-order are not known here. The trip costs much money, but it is worthwhile to come here.

At first we did not like it here because there are so many small and poor houses. Many houses have nothing but a small kitchen. There are, however, large, good and beautiful houses. Your parents also have only a small poor house, consisting of two kitchens. They live in it, however, much more comfortably and better than in Firrel. They are now all in good health, especially your father. That Heye died, you certainly know through Jann Heyen from Remels. Your stepbrother Aljet serves in Alton for \$10 a month.

Jürgen, Harm, Franke and Almina are at home. They are all together cheerful children. Harbert and his family live in their neighborhood, they have now much money because Heye and Harbert saved much. The children of Heye (Frauke and Anna) are pretty, healthy girls.

You together with your wife and children can manage a large farm. Your wife can sew, through which she can save considerably, and can still earn a bit. Here you can always rent a farm or even buy it, small ones and large ones. The worst is the first winter because you have to live on your savings. If you want to come, don't travel in the Spring, but in the Fall. In the beginning or in the middle of September, and the larger the ship the better. The best places in the ship are near the large portholes and also further back. In the aft of the ship it is more airy and usually brighter than in the front.

On the North Sea and the Channel, you still need warm clothes and beds; however, less of them. On the Mississippi, it gets cold again, often very cold. You should take everything with you in the way of clothes and beds. Everything that you have and what you buy, old and new, you can and you may need here—everything. Bring especially wooden shoes; you cannot buy them in St. Louis.

On the ship you need two shirts for everybody. The rest you pack very dry. Tin wares 2 Aker, to pick up your food, small tin pots, 1 Orth large, for drinking, and a moderately large chamber pot with cover. A pair or small pails to wash, bottles for drinking water. If you bring along home utensils and small things such as pliers, a shovel, a hanging lamp, a coffee grinder, a tea canister, knives, forks and so forth, they will come in handy. Earthenware, plates and tea cups can be bought here cheaply. Don't bring iron pots, merely a small one in order to cook on the ship (one can also cook in tin ware) and a copper tea kettle. A German frame saw and drill are useful.

Aces and hatchets here are much better than the German ones. Furthermore, bring along a spade, a pitchfork and hayfork, some rope (linen), one or two horse bridles, one scythe and a hammer. Buy these things in Leer. On food, biscuits, ham, bacon, sweetwood, buckwheat flour and barley grits, some beans and peas, butter and fat, in addition to a pancake pan.

Of drinks, perhaps two pounds of tea (black and Haysan), some chamomile and lilac flowers, coffee beans, Genever and wine vinegar. A good portion of Haideckel root, it comes in very handy on the way. The packing boxes must be solid and not too heavy as they become cumbersome.

Please give greetings to all my relatives and acquaintances who still lovingly remember us. Live well.

God be with us and with you.

*Jann Kaiser*

## And Emigration Begins!

Anyone who wanted to emigrate had to go to Emden or Leer where there were agencies that informed people how to start the emigration process. Then a sale had to be published in the *Amtsblatt für die Provinz Ostfriesland*. They had to sell their home and everything in it. Only a few trunks or boxes could be brought along to America. Some of the occupational or farming equipment was sold to family members. Other goods were usually sold at an auction—similar to the one described in the October 2008 OGSA newsletter.

They then traveled to Bremen and to a whole new world. Most of them had never left Ostfriesland and some had never ventured more than a few miles from the village of their birth. Imagine the fear and uncertainty! Were they being brave—or foolish?

Life on board ship was also scary. They shared room space—and on earlier ships, even bed space with people of all nationalities—and they could not even talk to them. Fresh food, water and supplies were non-existent. They were not only scared and homesick—they were often very seasick, too.

Imagine how scared they were when they had a boat trip with nearly no wind and no progress. When they got to America, they were met with people they could not understand—they spoke a language which was as foreign as the land they had sought.

Many people started with high hopes for a great future for their family, but died shortly after they arrived. Other people didn't arrive in the new land – the emigrant ship Maria Agnes was destroyed in a huge storm in 1854 and all the emigrants were buried on one of the Ostfriesen islands. Many others died on board crossing the ocean! Mothers, fathers, children were buried at sea and so many dreams were buried with them.

Many came with great dreams—some of them unobtainable.

The rest of them came with blind hope for a new life—knowing they would never see their parents, siblings and other family ever again. Many of them never got over missing the family that they left behind.



## TECHNOLOGY 101

This page of the OGSA newsletter is intended for tips and tricks, new info, and anything else we think will help you use your computer more efficiently to do your Ostfriesland research. Is this information you can use and would like to see in this column? Remember, this is YOUR newsletter column! What do you want it to be?

Send your comments to Ray Kleinow at; [rayk29@comcast.net](mailto:rayk29@comcast.net)

**OpenOffice 3.0** I'm sure most, if not all, of you know about Microsoft Office and probably use MS Word, MS Excel and MS PowerPoint but you also know about the cost of this software suite. Yet, my experience in teaching these programs for many years is that most users do not begin to use all of the features of these programs. Then why pay for them? You do have a choice. There is a FREE suite of comparable programs called "OpenOffice" that you can download and that will work with files from the Microsoft Office programs and generate files that will be useable by MS Office. If you are not sure but would like to try this out, you can install OpenOffice on your computer and keep MS Office as well. I understand many people think OpenOffice is easier to use and that it runs faster as well. Also, this is not a program suite for Windows only, there is a variation available for the Macintosh. Version 3 is now available at <http://www.openoffice.org>

**Fire and Water Safe Hard Disk Drive** Want your backups in your home/office but worry about a fire or water damage? Here is a 160GB for \$340 from [www.sentrysafe.com](http://www.sentrysafe.com) that may answer your needs.

**New DVD type disks** are coming with much more space. One type has an estimated storage at 1TB (1,000 GB) per disk! This is reported from GE Holographics. However, their estimated availability is out to 2012. See [http://www.ge.com/research/grc\\_2\\_3\\_1.html](http://www.ge.com/research/grc_2_3_1.html) for more information. Of course, Blu-ray DVDs will hold 25GB on a single layer disc and 50GB on a dual-layer disc. The single layer discs are available now at Best Buy and other stores. Blu-ray discs are intended to be the replacement for our present 4.7GB DVDs anyway so that seems the better way to go. See [www.blu-ray.com](http://www.blu-ray.com) for more details. Recent developments at Pioneer have already pushed that technology to 20 layers giving you 500GB per DVD! And it is reported to be compatible with the current Blu-ray drives that you need to use this technology. See [www.pioneer.eu/eur/content/press/news/500GB\\_Blu-ray.html](http://www.pioneer.eu/eur/content/press/news/500GB_Blu-ray.html).

**Think You Know How to Use Google?** Dan Lynch has authored a new book on using Google that reviewers are saying will teach even experienced users some new tricks! It is called "Google Your Family Tree". You can find out more information and order it at [www.googleyourfamilytree.com](http://www.googleyourfamilytree.com). (I haven't found a source lower priced than this as yet.)

**Photo.stamp.com**—Upload a picture of your choice and they will create one of a kind photo stamps. 20 stamps were about \$18.00, but that is subject to change. Check it out! You can even use an old family photo.

## Do you know what LOCKSS means?

**L = Lots**  
**O = Of**  
**C = Copies**  
**K = Keeps**  
**S = Stuff**  
**S = Safe!**

Share copies of your data with family members. This is not only your family, but theirs, too. And back up your data today!



## Von Ostfriesland nach Amerika...

By Pastor Jürgen Hoogstraat

When people talk about immigration in the U.S. from Ostfriesland, most of them think about people they knew who emigrated in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The first emigrants left Ostfriesland in the early 1600's to settle in the United States. When people left Ostfriesland in those days, they usually emigrated to the Netherlands where there was prosperity, the so-called golden era of the Netherlands. The Dutch salesmen and shipowners sailed and had trade connections all over the world. In their trade, they needed people to work and soldiers to protect the waterways. Here many Ostfriesen found employment, most of them working in the trades. When the Dutch arrived in the United States, they founded the New Netherlands with its capital of New Amsterdam.

Several Ostfriesen families settled and played an important role in the life of this early Dutch colony. The ferry business to Manhattan was operated by the van Borßum family who came from Borßum near Emden. Other important families were the deWitt, Gerdes and, of course, a Janßen family. From time to time, new families arrived in New Netherlands until the area was taken over by the English and was named New England. Thus, the first emigration wave from Ostfriesland via the Netherlands ended.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> century there was no significant amount of emigration to the U.S. from Ostfriesland, but in the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century we find young men curious about the new world. The emigration fever traveled through the German Reich like a fever, people compared it to a fever beginning in Southern Germany and later reaching to the North Sea. From southern Germany people emigrated after the Napoleonic wars and wrote letters to friends and family about their voyage and their adventures. Most of them left from ports in France and Antwerp, Belgium.

In the 1830's, emigration started in the Münsterland and Oldenburg area south of Ostfriesland. Letters and books about these voyages also were read in Ostfriesland. And now the first wave of Ostfriesian emigration arose. The author of very important Ostfriesen history books, Friedrich Arends was one of these early emigrants. Friedrich Arends was born in Emden in 1782 and was raised in a wealthy family in this town. In his youth he was often sick and read all he could about the history



Life aboard an immigrant ship.

of Ostfriesland and his hometown of Emden. He had enough money from his parents to start several businesses that failed. At first he tried to start a sugar plant near Suurhusen and after a economic desaster, farmed near Aurich and again failed. After this he worked for the Hannover authorities for some time, but decided to leave Ostfriesland in 1833. His wife had died, so two daughters and one son accompanied him on his voyage to America. He wrote a very complete diary and told people about his journey from Emden via Oldenburg to Bremen. That journey alone took the family several days!

There was no car, no train, no boat traveling in that direction, so they had to travel by coach or horse and buggy. When the four people arrived near Bremen they were cautious because of warnings about thieves and other dangers waiting in and near the ports. They took a ship from Brake on the River Weser to the North Sea. When they arrived in Brake there was no wind and they had to wait over a week for the right weather conditions. When the wind was right, they started their journey from Germany to the U.S. which lasted almost two months.

On their way to the U.S., Arends eldest daughter died and was buried at sea. After they arrived in the U.S., Friedrich Arends and his children left for Missouri. This state had a good reputation in Europe at that time and several settlers from Ostfriesland followed Arends there in the early 1840's. Two settlers from my family followed him in 1845 and went from Emden, Ostfriesland to Amsterdam and from there they took a ship to the U.S. But there were no prominent Ostfriesen settlements in Missouri during that time.

Exerpts from the Arends book and letters about the journey were often read in Ostfriesland and served as encouragement for emigration to the United

*Arends travelled Missouri and the Midwest after he arrived and wrote a book about the history, geography, nature of that time—as seen through the eyes of an Ostfriesen immigrant.*

States. Arends lost both of his other children in Missouri during the pioneer years and died sick and lonely in Missouri in 1861.

There were several other individual travellers to the U.S., one of them was Albert Pfeiffer who originally came from Bangstede, where his father was the Pastor. After a couple years of military service, he decided to go to the U.S. and became a local hero and prominent in New Mexico history in the 1840's and 1850's.

An Ostfriesen settlement was founded in Texas by the blacksmith Mimke Mimken Saathoff and his family, the Focke Saathoff family and the Hickmann family with other people who accompanied them in April 1846.

In central Illinois a settlement was founded earlier in the area of Montgomery and Macoupin county. This Ostfriesen settlement was Lutheran and the emigrants came from the Remels and Firrel area of Ostfriesland. Most of these settlers came in because of the Kaiser letter sent to the teacher, Sundermann which is found in this newsletter.

When someone without a chance to own a farm in Ostfriesland read this, there must have been thoughts as: „Why should I stay as a servant for the rest of my life when I can start my own farm on good soil in the new land? And what about my children and grandchildren? Here, they will be farm laborers all their life, too!“ These letters made very many people dreaming.

The next area people from Ostfriesland settled was the region of central Illinois around Peoria and Pekin. Here the first settlers came in the 1840's, too, and the most important was Thees Smidt of Hamswehrum, who came at the age of 18 years old in 1848. His father owned a blacksmith shop in Hamswehrum and had several sons who all wanted to take over the family blacksmith shop. Thees was the youngest and saw no chance for success. He emigrated and became successful in producing plows and other farm equipment. In 1854, he travelled to Ostfriesland to hire workers for his

factory in Pekin. His brothers and family had already followed him to America.

In the early times of Pekin and Peoria, the Ostfriesen immigrants often suffered from diseases like cholera. There is very impressive letter written by a young lady from Grimersum in 1850 who upon her arrival in Illinois described the horrible situation there. The personal situation of the family of Lena H. Steen, the young lady, was a catastrophe. (Ed. Note: This letter will be covered in another newsletter).

One of the other important early settlements is Golden in Adams County, Illinois. This was a Lutheran settlement and the first settlers came from the Holtrop and Aurich area. This settlement was founded in 1848 by a little group lead by Jan Gerdes Buß from Ludwigsdorf, near Aurich. The group wanted to travel to the Saathoff colony in Texas, but were informed on the journey about land in the state of Illinois and settled there instead.

And in Ostfriesland, the villages Dietrichsfeld, Plaggenburg and Pfalztdorf were founded by immigrants from the Palatine area of Germany who wanted to emigrate to the U.S., but could not afford it, so they started these villages located near Aurich.

The next important colony settled was Stephenson County, Illinois by emigrants from the area of Neermeer. While the Texas settlement was Lutheran and a Lutheran Ostfriesen church was formed in 1852, the Stephenson County colony was Reformed, and soon also settled by those who followed the Christian Reformed and Baptist religions. Villages like German Valley, Ridott, Forreston, Baileyville still exist in that county and thousands of early immigrants settled in that area.

Very quickly other settlements followed and immigration in the 19<sup>th</sup> century slowed. Two directions of moving westward 1) people from the Reformed settlements in Northern Illinois moved westward to Iowa and north to Minnesota 2) and from there – after the homestead act to South Dakota, Kansas and other states.

Then there were the immigrants from the Lutheran settlements in Adams County and other places who mostly moved to Nebraska, where only a few non-Lutherian Ostfriesen settlements were founded.

## **NEW OSB/OFB**

**Rysum** and **Loquard** are now available. If you are interested in a copy of either of them, or in one of the other OSB that we carry in stock, please contact [zwmirick@comcast.net](mailto:zwmirick@comcast.net) or the editor at [Lin@ogsa.us](mailto:Lin@ogsa.us). We will make sure you are notified when they arrive.



A BUNK ON AN EMIGRANT SHIP

# Emigration Costs, Requirements and Information

Submitted by Gene Janssen

During a visit with Hilda Bruns, Campen, Ostfriesland, in May of 2004, she showed Lin and me copies of an advertisement for the costs of emigration passage on ships from Bremen. With her permission, I've translated the information from the ad plus a page listing a family and their costs.

It is difficult to place a value on the *Mark* for this time period of about 1881. Perhaps someone with economic experience or background could comment. Needless to say, the passage costs were not cheap in a day when a dollar was probably a good days' wage. In many cases families:

- 1) sold their land or property to raise the money
- 2) borrowed it from family members
- 3) received it from a relative (often an older son) who had emigrated earlier
- 4) others had their way paid by someone in the community in the U.S. for whom they agreed to work to pay off the debt upon their arrival.

The notice appears in the *Kaiserlich Deutsche Post* publication. It touts the shipping company *Norddeutscher Lloyd in Bremen* (the company was still in existence in 1956 and 1962/63 when I crossed the Atlantic in its ships.)

The third through fifth lines announce *Regelmässige directe Deutsche Post-Dampfschiffahrt zwischen Bremen und Amerika*; that is: Regularly scheduled direct German steamship passages between Bremen and America.

*Ueberfahrts-Bedingungen* (Passage Conditions) are then listed with: "The following elegantly appointed steamships (26 of them listed) depart:

- From Bremen for New York every Sunday.
- From Bremen to Baltimore every 14 days on Wednesdays, eventually according to need.

- From Bremen to New Orleans and Galveston (including Havre [France] and Havana--from September to May, at least once a month.
- Extra steamers will be put to use if the demand is there.

From Bremen to New York:

I. Cajüte (Cabin)	II Cajüte	Zwischendeck (Steerage)
500 Marks	300 Marks	120 Marks

*Passage-Preise* (Passage Costs):

From Bremen to Baltimore: 120 Marks  
 From Bremen to New Orleans and Havana: 630 Marks / 150 Marks  
 From Bremen to Galveston: 175 Marks  
 From Bremen to Indianola: 190 Marks

Return tickets at pro-rated prices: Children up to 10 years old pay half price; infants (nursing babies) up to one year old pay 9 Marks.

- Passengers do not have to pay the American head tax, it will be paid by the company.

The second page, received from Hilda Bruns, is a photocopy of a ships' contract (no. 7) for the passage from Bremen to Baltimore on the Post-Steamship of the *Norddeutschen Lloyd* named *Köln* on the 4th of May 1881.

In contract with and under the name and direction of the *Norddeutschen Lloyd*, the undersigned makes known herewith that the listed persons agree to the passage requirements and are subject to the conditions of the above stated vessel and that the required space is provided for them in *Zwischendeck* (steerage).

No.	Given/Family Name	Age	Occupation	Residence	Passagepreis from Bremen
1.	Lammert Weber	31	Arbeiter (Laborer)	Woltzeten	120 (Marks)
2.	Greetje Weber	29		(the same)	120
3.	Trientje Weber	6		"	60
4.	Alle Weber	3		"	60
5.	Fenke Weber	2		"	60
6.	Berendje Weber	Sglg (suckling/infant)		"	9
In addition land passage to Pekin, Tazwell County, IL					
Two adults 54.60 and minor children 27.30 Marks					136.50
Totals: 2 adults/3 children/1 baby					565.50 Marks
					Received: 565.50
Written out, five hundred, sixty-five Marks 50 pfennig					
Remaining to be paid to Norddeutschen Lloyd in Bremen before departure: Nothing					
(Contract dated) at Pewsum, the 30th April 1881 signed by <u>Herm. Drost, Agent.</u>					
(The head agent in Pewsum, according to other information) <i>The head of family's signature is not recorded here.</i>					



## The Franzen Family Arrives in America, 1849/50

As far as is known, Hinrich Franzen (born 18 Oct, 1821) was the first of the Franzens to leave Holtrop, Ostfriesland. Hinrich no doubt had more than one reason for leaving. Land was scarce in Holtrop—some people even grew vegetables in their front lawns. There had been a widespread crop failure, too. It had to be better in America.

The sailing ship named Columbia left about the 31st of October, 1849, carrying Hinrich and his little family. The Columbia was one of the largest of the sailing ships—a barque—and on this voyage it carried 207 passengers. Some of these barques could carry 250 passengers.

Despite the larger size, the passengers and crew could bring only a minimum of clothing and other necessities. Most of their Ostfriesian property and household goods would have been converted into money. They would have to buy replacements in America. The Franzen family had many concerns.

Would they be sleeping on hammocks? Where would they store their gear? How would the ship store all the water and food needed for these people?

Food would be simple fare—mostly hardtack, beans, and rice. There might be some flour for a Sunday treat of black bread. In the beginning, a simple vegetable stew might appear. During the journey, a few fish might be caught. All these things, plus crowded conditions below deck assured the passengers that it would not be an easy voyage. (End of Introduction)

Following are excerpts from *When the Wind Blows*, by Anna Wienke, pps.23-25 This is a letter from Hinrich H. Franzen written in New Orleans, dated January 11, 1850. He has just finished the long and tedious voyage and is writing to his relatives back in Ostfriesland.

“To begin with, let this letter bring you most cordial greetings from us all. Perhaps you have been expecting a letter from us for a long time, but on account of the long voyage, we were unable to write to you sooner. We were long in making the trip across and suffered many hardships.”

(Part of the letter is condensed here) The voyage had begun about Oct. 31, 1849, although the author doesn't mention the date. As for the start of many hardships, the first was seasickness. He gives details here—more than you want to know. Nearly every one endured this and there were many people aboard. Just after reaching the coast of England on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, a storm blew them back into the North Sea. The storm lasted for three days, but was followed by a calm of six days. They were not making much progress.

(Continued are his actual words)

“Then another storm of three days duration caught us and again the wind blew against our course. Thus we drifted hither and thither in the North Sea until Nov. 16th, when a strong breeze, favorable to our course, filled our sails and drove us into the English channel. But we had not proceeded very far when the wind turned against us another time and, instead of sailing through the channel in two days, we spent four days doing so.

We now reached the Spanish Sea (Bay of Biscay). But to our great disappointment a dead calm now followed. We were on

high seas but our ship lay as quiet as though at anchor. Not until the 15th of Dec. did a favorable breeze bring us any nearer to our destination.

We were all utterly discouraged. But now we had at least one thing in our favor and that was fair and balmy weather. During the first days of December it was so warm that our summer clothes felt quite uncomfortable. In the forenoon of the 21st day of December, a thunderstorm passed over us and then a strong breeze sprang up which to our great joy carried us westward for ten days. The 29th of December brought us within sight of the island of Haiti and the 30th we reached Cuba. But now another quiet period set in which lasted until January 6, 1850.

At last we neared our landing place, New Orleans. On the 10th of January, we were met by a steamer which towed us into port. During this entire voyage, taking up two and a half months of time, we saw no living being besides those on board, except a few whales and thousands upon thousands of flying fish, about the size of a herring, the latter being very numerous along the shores of Cuba.

We docked at New Orleans at 2 p.m. January 11, 1850. Our joy was indescribable. We had enough to eat while on board ship, but we were heartily tired of ship life and the food we had received there. Amid shouting, cheers and laughter we went ashore.

Even though our voyage was long and tiresome, still we all were thankful for being in the best of health since the beginning of Dec., when we recovered from the seasickness and we sincerely hoped that you, too, are all well. We are not a little surprised at the well-being and courage of our aged mother. She is stronger now than she was at home.

Herewith I shall close, because the fleas are making too much use of their chance to get a "square meal" while I sit still. These "bloodhounds" did the most to take the pleasure out of our trip. Remember us to all friends and acquaintances, and by all means to my father and mother, brother and sister.

You will not be able to write to us, not knowing our whereabouts. We may write again after nine or ten weeks, for we have yet 1200 to 1400 miles to go. With best wishes I am and remain, Your true friend, brother-in-law, brother and son, Hinrich H. Franzen and his mother-in-law.”

End of first excerpt from *When the Wind Blows*. . .

As Hinrich Franzen wrote in his letter to relatives back in Ostfriesland, they still had a long trip ahead of them. They still had to go up the Mississippi River. Following is an account of the river trip as told by Hinrich Franzen's grandson.

Following is an article that appeared in the *Golden New Era* edition August 1986. Newspaper Article Written by Harm H. Franzen in 1925.

Sunday, January 11, was the 75th anniversary of the landing of one of our pioneer townsmen in America—Mr. H. H. Franzen of Holtrop, Ostfriesland.

Mr. Franzen, or rather, baby Harm, arrived in New Or-

leans from Germany on January 11, 1850, after a voyage of 75 days. He came over with a party of ten persons, all of whom are related: His father and mother, Hinrich H. and Antje Franzen; his grandparents, Hinrich and Lena Flesner; his uncles, John H. and Hinrich H. and Wilm H. Flesner, and their sister, Toebke H. Flesner; and his mother's half sister, Trientje H. Flesner; and the writer of the following account, Harm H. Franzen, one year and 7 months old; composed the party.

Mr. Franzen relates the following interesting bits of experience that are well worth reading. "The voyage had been a very rough and stormy one and all but my grandmother had suffered greatly from seasickness. But even though they had such a trip, God was praised when they reached the shores of their future home. But after reaching New Orleans, the trip was not yet completed for we had over a thousand miles to make up the Mississippi River. Before leaving on the second part of the trip, one member of the party, my mother's half-sister, having formed an acquaintance with a member of the crew of the sailing vessel decided to return to Germany. It was impossible to persuade her to continue with us, so we went in opposite directions.

We then started up the river along which were green and luxurious shores, and I was told that when the boat landed, they got off and picked ripe fruit and oranges. Landing at St. Louis, they remained for several weeks, renting a place in which to live and looking for work. My father went down to the levee where the boats unloaded and was fortunate in getting a job helping unload. But he soon found the work was not at all to his liking but it gave him a good chance to talk to some of the deck hands who had considerable knowledge of the country. They mentioned Quincy which was quite a town further up the river, and back of it to the northeast, there was a fine prairie land. So my father, who was the leader of the party and my mother's father, determined to go there on an exploring trip.

They embarked on an upriver boat bound for Quincy, but it being in the middle of the winter, only got part way to Quincy when the boat stuck fast in the ice. Their case seemed to be hopeless, but the weather staying very cold, the ice became thick enough to walk on in safety. However, while waiting for the ice to become thicker, my father got into trouble with the deckhands and they finally threatened to kill him. So he thought it best to hunt a place of safety which he found in the place of an old firebox or pit under an unused boiler.

He crowded into it and hid for several days and nights, my grandfather bringing him something to eat. When the ice was thick enough, they decided to leave the boat. So in the middle of night, they left the boat for the shore on the Illinois side. As it happened, it was on the bluff side where there was no room between the bluff and the water and as they had no way of knowing the land, they stayed close to the water, and were compelled to climb up and down the steep bluffs which were snow covered. And sometimes the hills were so steep, they had to slide down in the snow. The weather was bitter cold and their clothing got wet.

They finally reached Quincy where they found some of the Bartell boys who told them there were two German farmers living 30 miles northeast of Quincy, so they started out again on foot. It was easy to follow the telegraph line which

led to Clayton.

When they had gone about half the distance, they came upon an isolated house. Needing a drink, my grandfather asked my father to ask for help. So, Hinrich went to the door to ask for some water. He found an old German couple lived in the house. The occupants placed them before a hearth with a fine warm fire, and in a short time the lady had a nice cup of tea similar to what they had been used to in their old home in Germany. The old couple asked where they were from and where they planned to go.

During the conversation, a young lad in the house listened to every word. When Mr. Franzen told about finding friends in Clayton, the young lad spoke up and said that he didn't believe that those people lived in Clayton, but instead five miles farther on. He gave his reasoning. These people wore same type of clothing as the visitors and used the same dialect (low German).

At hearing this, Franzen and Flesner were discouraged. Now they would have to leave the telegraph line that they had been following. Mr. Franzen said to the boy: "Can you go with us to point the way?"

"Yes I could, but can you ride a horse?" was the reply.

"Yes," said Franzen, although he could do nothing of the sort.

The boy quickly went to a neighbors house and asked to borrow their horse. In no time, Franzen was launched into the saddle. Mr. Flesner remained with the old couple, having previously made arrangements for them to stay all night and for breakfast the next day. The other two were off, riding at a gallop. All Hinrich could do was hang onto the saddle for dear life, bouncing and jouncing over all the rough spots.

Soon they saw a man who was chopping wood. The first sign of their being at the right place was had from a gate, the kind which were used in Ostfriesland. It consisted of a 20 ft. log. The center of it rested on a ten inch pole standing erect in the ground; the gate was hung on the light end of the pole which balanced the other heavy end of the pole and was easily swung open on the upright pole. Hinrich knew that they had reached the right place. He hadn't seen a gate like this since leaving Ostfriesland.

The boy rode up to the man and asked if they could stay all night, using the American language. "I *denk so*," was the reply. Then Hinrich spoke up and made himself known and where he came from. The man's face lighted up. "You're Hen-Cooper who married Antje Cling?" (Cooper and Cling were the names used in Ostfriesland.) "Come in, come in!" cried the others who lived in the cabin. These two farmers were John Buss and wife, parents of our lumberman. J. J. Buss, and Gerd Franken, parents of Taylor Gerd Franken. Father and the boy stayed all night with them.

The next day, Jann hitched up his team and took his wagon back to fetch Mr. Flesner who never saw St. Louis again. Hinrich returned to that city to join his family. Then he worked at his trade for 13 weeks, making \$80. This money helped the group move to their new location. *The new settlement was called "South Prairie." All that remains today is a cemetery of the same name near Golden, IL. (Adams County). For quite a while, though the Franzen name persisted in Golden, finding its way to a country store, a furniture store, a telephone company and a grain-grinding windmill.*

# SOFT FADED PARROT FEATHERS...



Submitted by Jean Sietsema

As I went through a family photo album with my mother's cousin's widow, an envelope was stuck between the pages and as I took hold of it, old green and red feathers floated onto the photo page. My relative laughed and said "Those are old parrot feathers from my husband's grandfather's adventures. You can read about him in that letter. He was a character." And this is the story of John (Jan) Hempen, sailor, farmer and mayor of Stout, IA.

Jan Hempen was born 18 October 1836 in Petkum, near Emden, the son of Hempe Ubben Hempen and Mareke Janssen. Jan had three brothers Guy (?), Ubbe and Hempe and three sisters, Alice (?Aaltje), Jennie (?Jantje) and Tillie (?Trientje).

Jan left home at the age of 15 to become a sailor and took his first sea voyage from Emden to Liverpool in 1851. He sailed all over the world.

In 1863, Jan came to New York and joined the Navy. He was drafted to serve on the gunner boat Magnolia which was attached to the Eastern Gulf Squadron off the coast of Florida. He served under Chief Commander Admiral Farragut. Jan returned to Europe in 1865 and entered navigation school and worked on his native shores.

In 1868, he married Antje Oltmann and continued his career as a sailor. He recalled two trips that were the most memorable. One was a trip to Edinburgh, Scotland where the captain was taken ill at sea and died in a hospital in Edinburgh. The crew lost two ships on that voyage. The second voyage was to Shanghai and India and around the coast of Africa. Many of his mates died as a result of yellow fever. They were anchored at Amicor when his brother-in-law died of yellow fever after they had been docked for five days and then John got the fever.

The African natives took him 200 miles up the river to Sierra Leone where he was hospitalized for 17 days. Eventually his strength returned and he went back to Europe. His next voyages were to Rio de Janeiro and Pernambucto. His last trip was to the Yucatan and Mexico. He retired from the sea in 1883 after 32 years at sea at the age of 47 tears of age.

Jan and Antje raised seven children, Herman, George, Johanna, Lena, Minnie, Nettie and Mara. They lost two children as infants, one in Germany and one in Grundy County, IA. They first farmed in Grant Township after their 1884 emigration, near his brother Hempe. It was a new career for the sailor, but John said "*I did a pretty good job.*" Eventually Jan, then known as John and Antje retired and moved to Stout, IA in 1908, the first day that Stout became an incorporated town. John was then 72 years old.

John died at the age of 95 in December 1933 in Stout, IA where he had served as mayor for 17 years. He also served as school board secretary and was a member and elder of the Stout reformed Church. At his funeral, he was noted as a man devoted to his family, church community and country. His favorite hymn, *Oh, Where is the Home to be Found* was sung at his funeral. John is buried in the Stout Cemetery with his wife Antje.

The letter was then carefully folded, put back in the envelope and tucked in the pages of family photos. An Ostfriesen immigrant's story rests on soft faded parrot feathers waiting for future Hempen descendants to find.

(ED.NOTE: Names with ? are added by the Editor and indicate names that are not Ostfriesen, but Americanized along with possible given birth names.)

## **\*Paid Advertisement\***

### **OSTFRIESLAND—SOUTHERN GERMANY April/May 2009**

You'd like to go to Ostfriesland and Germany, but don't want to go alone? Don't speak German? No problem! Experience May Day in Ostfriesland—and so much more! Small guided tours by an American born Ostfriesen! Two Ostfriesen trips offered if there is interest. **These are small tours! Space is limited.**

**Tour One**—Ostfriesland, arrive April 23 and spend nine days in Ostfriesland including May Day. Lin Strong will host this tour.

*There will be at least one surprise each day! We stay in the charming sea front village of Greetsiel.*

**Tour Two**—Southern Germany motor coach tour for one week with tour guide Diane Chynoweth. ***You'll enjoy this so much, you'll want to come back! The scenery and sights are incredible.***

**Tour Three**—Ostfriesland, arriving May 2 and staying for eight days. We will also attend some of the Krummhörn organ concerts—the oldest and most prized organs in the world. ***Plus plenty of other tours and fun events.***

- ***If you would like more information, please contact Lstrong@cornernet.com or call 651-269-3580. Local historians help interpret the history of this area. Don't wait, sign up today!***
- ***This tour is not sponsored by OGSA, nor are they responsible for any portion of any of these tours.***



## The “Voluntary” Ocean Crossing of Catharina Estermann

*The 1st and 15th of every month.* From “*Een Markt tho Lehr up Galli*” published by the city of Leer at the 500th anniversary of its Gallimarkt Fair. Translated by Rudy Wiemann

She was born in Leer and in 1848 claimed to be 25, although she was 27. Her father had been a workingman and deceased which qualified her for acceptance in the Lutheran poorhouse where she could have stayed had she been willing to live by its rules. She had been a hired maid once, but for years had taken to the streets offering herself for money.

By 1848, she had already been sentenced several times: four days of imprisonment for indecent conduct and public drunkenness, then twice for eight days for the same reason. Moreover, she had frequently been taken to the police station and received a warning. Finally, in October of 1848 her conduct and incorrigibility resulted in a one year stay in a police run workhouse in the southern part of the kingdom (Hannover).

Her workhouse interlude, however, did not produce the wished for result. Toward the end of August of 1850 she was once again taken in police custody for “drunkenness and perpetrated delinquency.” The carpenter Krüger had notified the police after she had smashed two large window panes in his living room. With lacerated face and completely drunk she was taken to the prison building in the yard of the royal courthouse (*Amtsgericht*) in the Leer Würde Straße.

She kept getting reacquainted with that prison till she was faced with another year in the workhouse. But this time she was offered an alternative, namely “voluntary” emigration to America. The magistrate had been in contact with the agent H. Wiemann who stated that the fare to New York would be 30 *Guilders* and that reservations could be made for departure on the 1st and 15th of every month.

In those days the passengers had to go to Bremerhafen. Wiemann, who owned an agency for emigration related affairs in Leer, informed the magistrate that he would try to book her on the ship leaving on August 1 and, if desired, would make a reservation for her at once as well as be responsible for the acquisition of the necessary travel utensils, etc. Mayor Hilling inquired if arrival on August 5 would still be acceptable so that departure from Leer could take place on August 3. Agent Wiemann confirmed the final departure time of the designated ship and stressed that Ms. Estermann would have to be in Bremerhafen no later than the 3rd.

The treasurer of the Lutheran Poorhouse then declared that the Administration for the Poor had taken on the responsibility for providing suitable clothes for Miss Estermann and that those

would be ready in time of her departure on August 1. It was agreed that Ms. Estermann would report to Mr. Claussen in Bremerhafen to obtain from him the travel utensils as well as a draft for the remittance of five guilders in local currency

**Bur Nachricht für Auswanderer.**

Am 1ten und 15ten November d. J. fertigen wir große Schnellsegelnde dreimastige Schiffe erster Classen von **Bremen nach New-Orleans, Baltimore und Newyork** ab, und nehmen dafür Auswanderer zu billig-festgesetzten Preisen an. Wir bemerken noch, daß wir bei der bremischen Behörde eine Caution von 5000  $\text{\$}$  leisteten, und bei der Königlichen Landdrostei zu Hannover ebenfalls 5000  $\text{\$}$ , im Ganzen also Zehntausend Thaler deponirten, und somit von allen Königlichen Landdrosteien zur Annahme und Beförderung von Passagieren in unseren eigenen, so wie in fremden Schiffen concessionirt wurden. — Wegen Abschließung von Ueberfahrts-Verträgen wolle man sich an uns oder unsern unten bemerkten Herrn Agenten wenden.

**Lüdering & Comp.,**  
Schiffseigenthümer, Kaufleute und Consuln  
in Bremen.

**Carl Peters,**  
Agent für Leer und Umgegend.

### For the Notification of Emigrants

On the 1st and 15th of November of this year\* we are readying large, fast sailing, three-mast, first-class ships from **Bremen to New Orleans, Baltimore, and New York**, and are accepting for them emigrants at low set fares. We also mention that we have arranged for a 5,000 Taler surety deposit with the administration of Bremen and likewise 5,000 Talers with the royal regional administration (for Ostfriesland) of Hannover, that is, we have deposited ten thousand Talers altogether and hold a concession from all royal regional administrations to accept and transport passengers on our own ships and those of others. For executing a contract for passage please contact us or our agent listed below.

**Lüdering & Comp.**

Ship owners, Merchants, and Consuls in Bremen

**Carl Peters** Agent in Leer and Surrounds

\*1856. These emigration ships sailed from Bremen on the

payable to her upon arrival in New York.

After all this had been arranged, Ms. Estermann was released from prison and taken before the magistrate at which time it was explained to her that “*as stated in the protocol of the 24th of the month she had resolved under conditions explained to her to emigrate to America, and that on this day she would be transported by omnibus to Bremerhafen in the care of Mr. Claussen.*”

Catherina thereupon declared that “*she not only were fully resolved to emigrate to America under the stated conditions, but was indeed very grateful for the furnished clothes and the money she was to receive upon her arrival in New York.*” Finally, she was told that she was to behave on the trip and in Bremerhafen or contrariwise be would be transported back at once. Catharina promised to be good.

What happened to Catarina in America is not (yet) known to us. *Can any of you find her?*

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## NEWS FROM OSTFRIESLAND



### **Ostfriesen-Zeitung, 8/15/08**

Canum - Five years ago the Reformed church in Canum was remodeled, and now there is need to rebuild its organ which is suffering from old age and no longer satisfies the demands made on it. The estimated 250,000 Euro required for this project exceed the financial resources of the congregation, and applications for grants have been made, some have already been approved. As part of the Church Organ Project, Canum Pastor Edzard Herlyn envisions sponsorship of specific organ pipes by interested individuals as the core of a local fund drive which, if successful, would enable the congregation to enter into a rebuilding contract early next year. (ED. NOTE: *Anyone interested in helping?*)

### **Jeversches Wochenblatt, 8/15/08**

Hohenkirchen – One of the most extensive North Sea dike reinforcement projects within the administrative district of the 3rd Oldenburgian Dike Association, reaching from Harlesiel to the city limits of Wilhelmshaven, is taking place in Elisabethgroden where over a length of 12 miles the levee is 70 cm low and its slopes too steep by today’s standards. Furthermore, the clay of the outer layer is too sandy, i.e., not sufficiently erosion resistant. As in previous years, the clay is trucked in from an area north of Hohenkirchen where a 110 hectare recreational lake is in the making. Of the 1 million cubic meters permitted to be removed, 650,000 have already been trucked out. The rest will be hauled away during the next two years. Levee construction progresses in a two year rhythm, the beginning of the second year being allocated to the final topping off and profiling of the section begun in the previous year before starting work on a new section.

### **Borkumer Zeitung, 15/8/08**

Borkum - This year’s aerial seal count across the tidal flats of the federal state of Lower Saxony, of which Ostfriesland is a part, reached 6,500, the largest number on record since 2002 when an epidemic caused substantial losses and reduced their number to 4,000 in 2004. Since that time the animals have gradually recovered, and today’s pinnipeds are healthy and well nourished. The annual seal count takes place within the framework of an international seal protection agreement among the federal states of Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein and the countries Denmark and the Netherlands. A thorough analysis of the data gathered will be conducted in the fall by a group of seal experts from the three countries.

### **Ostfriesische Nachrichten, 8/28/08**

Hannover/Leer - On the pastureland along the Ems River outside of the levees in Leer County traces of dioxin and PCBs have been found. Since this land is subject to occasional flooding, test samples of river sediment will be taken in 12 places between Papenburg and Emden to uncover a possible contamination of the river bed itself.

### **Ostfriesen-Zeitung, 9/1/08**

Stickhausen - More than 3,000 visitors attended the Beach Party on recreational Jümme Lake, also known as “Sticki Lake”, where in four large party tents musical offerings from swing to electronic renditions vied for their favor. Light displays, fog machines, and torches over the lake took care of a romantic atmosphere, i.e., until a popular radio moderator, appearing at midnight in the main tent, drew most party stalwarts to his stage from where he kept them in high spirits until 4 o’clock in the morning.

### **Ostfriesen-Zeitung, 9/1/08**

Norden - Last weekend this fair city celebrated its 31st Stadtfest which gravitated around the market place and the streets around its churches. For the younger set, the Kinderstadtfest with its games provided an occasion to expend some excess energy. Excess energy was also expended by a few young men in their cups who mistook each other for their inner demons which needed to be fought. In some cases a visit to the Krankenhaus emergency room and a court citation were the expected outcome.

### **Ostfriesische Nachrichten, 9/1/08**

Münkeboe/Simonswolde - Ostfriesland’s fine late summer weather drew lots of folks from two rural towns out and into participating in last weekend’s special events. In Münkeboe a parade of cars, lovingly decorated to symbolize jokes Ostfriesians tell about themselves, the so-called “Ostfriesenwitze”, attracted many appreciative and tickled onlookers, and in Simonswolde the traditional flea market again stretched 4 km through town and beyond enlivened by a clustering cast of curious curio connoisseurs.

### **Rheiderland Zeitung, 9/1/08**

Weenermoor - Last Friday the local historical association

gathered in Weenermoor's community house for its annual assembly and election of a new slate of board members. Past first chair, Annita Gelder, offered a review "up Platt" of the past year's activities before yielding the rostrum to her successor, Karlheinz Hinderks. Second and third chair, recording secretary, treasurer, two auditors, as well as representatives of the communal subdivisions St. Georgiwold, Weenermoor, Möhlenwarf, and Beschotenweg were either confirmed in their positions or newly elected. It was resolved that the burden of the board be eased through the creation of workshops to tackle specific tasks and activities. The representatives of the subdivisions were encouraged to regularly check its historical markers and other items on permanent display, as they have sometimes been subject to vandalism.

#### **Jeversches Wochenblatt, 9/10/08**

Wangerooze - During the course of the North Sea Symposium "Sculpture", three sculptresses worked for three weeks on their interpretation of the Greek legend of Hero and Leander in the island's rose garden before a crowd of interested spectators who were given the opportunity to witness the creation of a work of art in this medium. The artists will be honored with a reception in what surely must be one of their Muse's favorite locale, the rose garden, and the statues, one each of bronze, ceramics, and wood, will become the property of the event's sponsor, the local Lions Club, and be placed on permanent display.

#### **Jeversches Wochenblatt, 9/10/08**

Jever - The 4th North Sea Show, a consumer oriented exhibition by mostly regional businesses, will take place from October 3 to 5. In every town and village within a 50 km radius posters already advertise this event, and flyers are handed out freely. Those still undecided about coming out and informing themselves of new life style enhancing merchandize may want to do so to enjoy the midway with its offerings of music, dances, and sideshows as well as the obligatory food and drink establishments.

#### **Emder Zeitung, 9/11/08**

Emden - The Martin Luther Congregation is celebrating the 50th birthday of its church. The celebrations are spaced to follow a program which will reach its high mark on the 4th Sunday of Advent, the true anniversary. In order to give this event the heft of the milestone it is, two publications and a DVD have been issued with the history and presence of this house of worship and the life of its congregation.

#### **Ostfriesen-Zeitung, 9/14/08**

Victorbur - The consolidated community South Brökmerland, in order to increase tourism along the eastern shore of the lake Großes Meer, had its benefits assessed by a firm in Cologne which determined that the camping places are not up to modern standards, that the choice of restaurants is coming up short, and that shopping opportunities and party rooms are lacking. It recommends specializing in attracting families and mobile vacationers as well as offering favorable rates to seniors. The region, it concludes, would be of interest primarily to short-time vacationers and day trippers.

#### **Ostfriesische Nachrichten, 9/14/08**

Papenburg - Meyer Werft's first Regional Day, designed to give

its regional suppliers and service providers greater insight into its future needs, was a great success and attracted many more interested visitors than the 600 it could manage. Those who could not be admitted were promised an expanded program for next year. The shipyard boss Bernard Meyer, aims to work with local business still more in the future. The present annual business volume with regional suppliers amounts to about 200 million Euro.

#### **Emder Zeitung, 9/15/08**

Emden - A 200 meter long freighter navigating into the sea locks on its way out of the harbor collided with the locks' south wall causing extensive damage to its stone and brick work. A mobile crane and a team of divers had to be brought in to remove loose plates and to inspect the bottom of the locks for dislodged material. Fortunately, there were no injuries, though the damage is estimated at 500,000 Euro. The freighter, the *Wladyslaw Orkan*, was able to proceed to the Mediterranean with its cargo of wind generator parts.

#### **Emder Zeitung, 9/15/08**

Ostfriesland - The number of employment opportunities for which health, retirement, and care insurance premium remittances are obligatory is at an all-time high. Of a total of approximately 120,000 such jobs in Ostfriesland, 20,000 were added during the past 20 years, including 4,000 from the middle of 2006 to the middle of 2007. Civil service employees and unpaid family members helping in the family business are not accounted for in this tabulation.

#### **Ostfriesen-Zeitung, 9/19/08**

Emden - On Saturday, Emden will throw a party for its children by giving them the run of the City Park, City Hall Square, and the Delft Street along the Inner Harbor, where trampolines, slides, pony rides, a petting zoo, and much, much more will be set up for their enjoyment. And it's all free, except for the pop and the hot dogs. Last year's Kinderfest, Emden's contribution to the World Children's Day, drew 5,000 kids, and the organizers, chiefly Emden's Marketing & Tourism Co. and Lions Club, hope that more will come this time.

#### **Ostfriesen-Zeitung, 9/19/08**

Leer/Jemgumkloster - Construction activity along the road through Jemgumkloster is ongoing in preparation for the 33 caverns to be flushed out of underground salt deposits. These caverns will be the terminus for a natural gas pipeline from Russia through the Baltic Sea to Western Europe. Several drilling licenses have already been approved. The major decision, however, on where to run the brine into the sea is still in contention. The Ditzum location has been dropped in favor of Rysum farther up the estuary. To reach it the pipeline must cross the river and lead around Emden. Work on the caverns is scheduled to begin in October of 2009.



## NOTES FROM THE NORTH...



Happy New Year from the OGSA Board to you and your families. We hope you had a wonderful holiday season. The new year will bring changes to our OGSA organization. The balloted board member election was a great success. Thank you to all who took the time to vote for your board member representatives. We want to send a big thank you to all who volunteered to 'run' and placed their names on the ballot. We appreciate your keen interest in our organization and officers will be determined at a board meeting slated for early January.

Last January all of you received a mailed copy of the proposed new Bylaws and Constitution. These two articles will be ratified at our January 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting to be held at the MGS Library location. We encourage the attendance of as many members as possible to support this process. We plan to use the balance of the day for a research day at the library. Board members will be available to assist you in your research. We don't anticipate the meeting to last long and encourage you to join your friends for a quick lunch together (at a place to be determined).

The Board has decided to hold their board meetings at a time other than the general membership meetings. As we hurried to begin our board meeting at the end of the general meetings, we realized we were not giving proper attention to our attendees. Meeting separately from the general membership meetings will remove this issue. We're doing this as an effort to improve our communication with you.

As outgoing president, I want to thank the current board members for their continued support of the OGSA. Special thanks go to Zella and Nancy for their unending support in the OGSA office; Lin as editor of the newsletter our membership likes so well; Gene for his unending work on the Emigrant Database and the numerous translations; Lübbert as our treasurer and liaison between America and Ostfriesland; Ray for his technical expertise and ability to think outside the box; and to Jill and Rick for their continued willingness to share their suggestions and support from afar. These eight people freely share their time so you as members can continue to be supported in your genealogical research efforts.

Check the listing of upcoming events. We have added more research days at the library in an effort to keep the focus on genealogy and assisting our members and I believe we have some interesting presentation topics for the upcoming year. I wish you a great 2009! Tschüss!

Sharon Arends, President 2007 & 2008

## Hesel's Neanderthal Roots

Ostfriesland was once home to Neanderthals. This was proven by a 40,000 year old flint tool found near here and shown to the public by representatives of the Ostfriesische Landschaft.

The way the tool, an oval, hand-size stone which could have been used as a scraper or saw, is made, permits a rather accurate chronological categorization. Neanderthals are thought to have died out about 30,000 years ago. Ostfriesische Nachrichten, 9/19/08

## LINKS

TO

DEEP

ROOTS

Submitted by Ray Kleinow

**MN Marriage Index** The Minnesota county clerks have put their marriage index online. Right now it is only a start but hopefully will become more complete in time. If you click on the index in the upper left corner you can see what is covered. <http://www.mncounty.com/Modules/Certificates/Marriage/Default.aspx> (This entry from Jan Frye. Thanks, Jan.)

**Civil War Widows' Pension Files** Footnote.com and the National Archives and Records Administration have worked together to make these available online. We are told these are one of the highest used set of records at NARA. They were not microfilmed before, and were only available at NARA in Washington, DC. Now anyone can access them through [Footnote.com](http://Footnote.com). These are important to family historians as they document the lives of some common people who may not have left any other kind of letters, etc. Footnote.com claims they are adding millions of documents every month. They are near 50 million now ranging from the Pilgrim era to the Vietnam War. It may be worth your time to check them out. They are a subscription service but run a 7 day free trial occasionally.

**Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court, Naturalization Declarations of Intention** In the last newsletter we told you about Cook County, Illinois, birth, marriage and death records being available. Now, Naturalization records! The Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County Archives is home to more than 500,000 naturalization petitions covering the years 1871 to 1929. More than 400,000 of these records are Declarations of Intention covering 1906-1929, which were usually the first papers to be filed by those who wished to become U.S. citizens. After searching and getting results, just click on any field of one of the hits to get more information on that the person. (You will not get the usual link indication.) See <http://198.173.15.34/NR/default.aspx>

**DNA Testing For Under \$60?** New York City based Familybuilder, maker of Family Tree, which claims to be the fastest-growing genealogy service on the Internet, introduced its newest product, FamilybuilderDNA. The DNA test is priced at \$59.95. They offer both paternal (YDNA) and maternal (mtDNA) DNA tests. The YDNA test is a 17-marker test and its mtDNA test will analyze 420 base pairs of the HV1 region. Unfortunately people have been reporting many false positives on a 17 marker test, where it looked like people were related, but when tested to 37 markers, showed no match. So this may not be too helpful. *Also, which 17 are tested? If not the same as other testing companies, it might be useful to add this to the ones you have?* There is still much to be learned and a knowledgeable person to help understand the data is almost necessary, in my opinion.

**"Discovering Family History"** (without the quotes) is the latest magazine from the publishers of Family Chronicle and Internet Genealogy. This new magazine is for people who are starting their family history, need a refresher or are tackling a new aspect of their genealogy. In the December issue: Postal History & Genealogy, Basic Training in Military Records, Genealogy Myths Busted!, What is GEDCOM?... and more. To request a **FREE** trial issue visit: [www.discoveringfamilyhistory.com/FreeTrialOffer.htm](http://www.discoveringfamilyhistory.com/FreeTrialOffer.htm)

# FROM WESTERMARSCH VIA LINTELERMARSCH TO IOWA

Helmut Fischer (*Ostfriesischer Kurier*, 23 December 2006)  
Translated by Gene Janssen

In his family journal of 1939 Johannes A. Nordwall, grandfather of Almuth and Franz Hinderks from Marienchor, wrote that he would "...like to find out some things about my grandfather, Tjark Janssen, father of my mother. He was a tenant on a place in the Westermarsch in 1825 when the great storm flood of that year broke over the dikes. He and his father, Jan Tjarks, suffered great losses. Jan Tjarks was obliged to sell his place and become a tenant. My grandfather moved from Westermarsch to Lintelermarsch where he leased the Beekmann place. Later, he was a tenant on the Noosten place in Ostermarsch and subsequently on the Wiebens place at Lintelermarsch. His wife died there in 1845, and in 1851 he moved to America with all his children, except for my mother who was married by then. I still occasionally get news by mail from descendents there." The Hinderks couple has about 200 letters that were sent from America from 1849 on.

It must have been the storm flood during the night of February 3/4, 1825, when Tjark Janssen and his father, Jan Tjarks, lost their property in the Westermarsch. The floods swept over a vast area of the Ostfriesian coastal area with flood stages reported as higher than any in living memory. The dikes that had been raised after the Christmas flood of 1717 were breached, resulting in extensive flooding throughout the whole of Ostfriesland and Nordfriesland. The losses were less than the 1717 flood, but with 800 losing their lives, in addition to the loss of 1,200 horses, 21,500 cattle, 20,000 sheep and 2,200 hogs.

The painstakingly constructed dikes in the Westermarsch were destroyed in one night. Mounds were swept away, and formerly well-traveled roads and paths were under water. Eberhard Rack reports that the west and east coasts of the Westermarsch had been ravaged by storm floods ever since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The village of Itzendorf had to be diked up after the 1717 flood, as well as a mound settlement near Utlandshörn which was then totally lost in 1827, due to the the flood.

The loss of their property was evident to Tjark Jahnsen and his father when they saw the waters surrounding their mound at the light of dawn in 1825. Tillable land had become useless, and rebuilding the structures was of no use, either. So, they moved into the northwest coastal portion of the city of Norden and spent the next 25 years eking out a living in various tenant situations.

The family moved on March 5, 1825, along with their infant

son, Redelf Tjarks Lottmann Janssen, and two of his siblings under the age of six. By 1841, Redelf had eight siblings, and the mother of all these children died in 1845. The children all experienced a somber childhood of rigorous physical labor in the effort to obtain sustenance for the whole family. Rent had to be paid, along with money spent for decent schooling in an ever fluctuating economic environment.

Because of these conditions, a number of the Lottmann family relatives had emigrated around 1840. Redelf mentions them in his letters which he sent back to Lintelermarsch in 1849. He wrote about his uncles who had been in America for more than five years. These letters, arriving during uncertain economic times, must have piqued Tjark Janssen's interest leading to his decision to emigrate with his family. However, before emigrating in 1851 with his many children, he sent his 24-year-old son, Redelf, ahead.

Redelf Tjarks Lottmann Janssen traveled on Captain J. Löschen's ship from Norddeich to Bremerhaven, sailing on September 6, 1849, at 1:00 p.m. Interestingly, in this case the trip to the major emigration port of Bremerhaven was by ship, not by rail. The trip via sea was described by Redelf in a letter of March 20, 1850: "*The view of the islands and the coastal harbors, as well as Jever and Butjadingen, was beautiful, and our crew was in good spirits.*" Most of the accounts about emigration tell about traveling by horse and wagon or train to Bremen or Bremerhaven. He was traveling with two boxes packed with presents and various articles, including:

1 gold sewing needle valued at	3 Taler
2 vests	" 4 Taler
1 white handkerchief	" 4 Groschen
2 mirrors	" 4 Groschen
Ink well/steel pen tips	" 1 Taler
4 hankies/neck scarves	" 16 Groschen
Shaving mug/blade	" 6 Groschen
Razor strops	" 3 Groschen
1 rule	" 10 Groschen
1 spoon, knife, fork	" 5 Groschen 6 Pfennig
3 walking sticks	" 1 Taler
Pocket knives	" 16 Groschen
Large saucer, silver spoon	" 1 Taler
Various provisions, items	" 7 Taler 7 16 Groschen 6 Pfennig

Another document written by Redelf indicates that "...these listed items were given to me from my parents' household upon my departure for America." The items were primarily things needed for daily living. Redelf, in his letters neither recommended or used travel agents. Redelf's self-reliance and initiative was apparent even before his departure from Bremerhaven when he had managed to negotiate a lesser price for his journey

with the shipping company (reduced from 45 Taler to 35 Taler). He left Bremerhaven aboard the "Columbus" on September 15, 1849. The journey by sea lasted 52 days, and he arrived in New Orleans on November 5, 1849.

Emigration and customs procedures apparently went without any problems, since nothing is mentioned about them in subsequent letters. The first days in another world were very likely overwhelming for the young man because he wrote that he often got lost trying to find his widely scattered uncles and relatives. However, the happy and heartfelt joy over his arrival must have lightened the burden of coming to a new land. Familial ties, social customs/decisions, and good advice were all benefits for many immigrant Ostfriesians.

This was portrayed in a letter to his father from New Orleans dated November 11, 1849: *"I have just set foot on the firm ground of America after a fast and safe journey and am very impressed by the many great blessings bestowed on me from all sides with good intentions for the furthering of my sojourn. My first wish is to inform you of the following. I found my two uncles, S. and A. Lottmann, well and content and was welcomed by them with joy though they were surprised by my arrival of which they had not been previously informed. After telling the two of them about your plans yesterday and today we have come to the conclusion that you (here follows a long excerpt from the letter) need to make preparations to come to America."*

Redelf's letter is full of wonder, promise for opportunities in the land, an exact assessment of his future, and he lists details of commerce and shipping along with the news that he had been offered a position in a store or could also work for his uncle for \$1 a day.

Redolf writes a "travel" letter later on March 20, 1850, in which he says: *"I have written about the trip from Norden to Stillwater in regard to weather, wind and health conditions but have not sent because I'm not at the end of my journey yet...I'll write that all in a booklet at the end of my trip and send it home to you."* Most remarkable is the detailed geographic description of his first destination in North America. His relatives who had been there for five years already must have told him much about ways to travel, new stretches of land along the Mississippi, steady trade and business. The information must have been fascinating for the 24-year-old in contrast to Lintelermarsch and the worries of his father for the well-being of his family after the death of the mother in 1845.

With a promising future, clear goals in mind and a positive attitude, he could send a letter from New Orleans dated 17 December 1849 to his brother-in-law, Johann Oltmanns Nordwall, and his wife, Antje Uden Lottmann Janssen, (his sister) who had married on May 17, 1849. In the letter he mentions that someone in the Nordwall family would by then have had a grandchild. Redelf remained in New Orleans into the new year and then traveled the 1,200 miles up the Mississippi River in the springtime.

**Oldenburg Genealogical Society**  
[http://www.genealogienetz.de/vereine/OGF/index\\_e.html](http://www.genealogienetz.de/vereine/OGF/index_e.html)

## SOME OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR OSTFRIESEN EMIGRATION

- Religious freedom—the newer religions were not accepted in Ostfriesland. The newly converted members were persecuted, shunned and abandoned by their communities—and even by family members. No one would buy their crops or sell products to them. Many of the new emigrants were from the Baptist and Christian Reformed faiths. Many members of these early church members were not poor in Ostfriesland, but emigrated for religious freedom..
- More and more immigrants wrote letters about the the good land available for farmers. They could succeed in America while there was no chance of success in Ostfriesland. Often in these letters expressions from the Holy Bible are used: Illinois is the land of milk and honey, the new land given by the Lord, Ostfriesland is compared to Egypt, land of hard work and servants. Cheap land was waiting for industrious, hard working Ostfriesen settlers.
- Many people were very poor—many of them could not make a living to support their families. Many left from the Amt Uplengen area because of the peat farming industry—the saying was that the first generation died, the second generation strived and the third generation thrived.
- Flooding! The immigration fever which started in the 1850's. (i.e. so many people came from Simonswolde to the U.S. that Simonswolde is one of the Ostfriesen towns with the highest percentage of immigration!) A pastor in Rysum begged residents not to emigrate—he was sure the village would be a ghost town. Many people lived in villages along the coast that flooded with each major storm and these villages and farm lands were all below sea level. In the event of a major flood (i.e. 1717 Christmas Flood), the land was useless for the next seven or more years. No crops would grow on the land.
- 90% of the Ostfriesen immigrants didn't immigrate without connections to the new world. The German researchers use the expression "*Kettenemigration*" emigration formed as a chain – one immigrant brings the the next one through family relation or religious affiliation. A strong connection between the families and the new founded settlements helped start colonies in the new world.
- Some improvements made the way west easier including a bridge which had been built across the Mississippi River at Dubuque and a rail line extended to Clarksville in Butler County. From Clarksville, landseekers went to Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota and South Dakota .



## Ostfriesians in the Wild West

(Translated by Gene Janssen from *Ostfriesen-Zeitung*, May 1992; original material from the *Ostfriesen Nachrichten*, Breda, IA 10 Sep 1901)

How many people remember that the state of Texas was an independent republic in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century? And, it was settled by many German immigrants, including Ostfriesians. The state is twice the size of the present-day country of Germany.

Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1821, and the sparsely settled area of Texas belonged to Mexico. The imperial government and subsequent Republic of Mexico pursued a political policy which encouraged the settlement of North Americans and Europeans in the territory which was inhabited mainly by native Americans. Thus, settlers were primarily the Irish and English speaking Americans, who especially settled along the coast even before 1830.

The government granted so-called impresarios huge tracts of land with the provision that they were to find people to settle thereon. The incoming settlers rapidly outnumbered the indigenous Spanish and Indian speaking populations which remained relatively static.

By 1836, the North American settlers were demanding independence. Under the leadership of Sam Houston, the war between Mexico and the settlers came to an end with the battle of the Alamo and the decisive military defeat suffered by Mexico at San Jacinto becoming part of American folklore and history.

The new Republic of Texas continued the “impresario” method for attracting settlers with once again huge tracts of land passing from private hands into ownership by new settlers from Europe and America. At first, land grants of 518 *Hectare* (ca. 1,290 acres) were given to pioneers with that amount reduced to half in later grants. Of course, it was understood that the land represented little value until it had been cultivated and settled.

In 1842, a *Verein zum Schutze deutscher Einwanderer in Texas* (Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas) was founded. The founders were primarily members of the nobility from Prussia, Hannover, Nassau, Hessen-Darmstadt, Kurhessen, Braunschweig, Waldeck, Wuerttemberg, and Coburg who saw the society as a means to alleviate the problems of overpopulation and poverty in their realms. The society was also known simply as the *Adelsverein* (Society of the Nobles). The most active participant from Ostfriesland was the Count of Inn-und Knyphausen. The society proposed sending thousands of German settlers to the New World. The colonists were under contract to pay for a portion of their passage and to emigrate with a stipulated amount of cash. Even though the in-



tent of the society was social, it was also a commercial undertaking. Naturally, the expectations of the settlers and the conditions in America were often very different.

Speculators were interested in making money in Texas, and the agents painted a picture of paradise to be found in the new land. Response to the advertisements was swift. In two years, between 1844 and 1846, about 10,000 German emigrants resettled in Texas sponsored by the society. In 1846 alone, 32 ships left Bremen bound for Galveston with 3,388 people on board.

Numerous people in Ostfriesland were infected with this “Texas fever.” They packed their suitcases and headed to the end of the world to begin a better life. All this was spurred by crop failures which eventually led to a crisis of hunger and starvation in 1846 And 1847.

Three families left in the spring of 1846: the blacksmith, Mimke Mimken Saathoff along with his wife and their seven-year-old son with the same name; a stepson, Jann Heyen and stepdaughter, Trientje, along with her husband, Diedrich Heikmann and their two-year-old son Ludwig; and also a Jann Heinrich Gerdes from Aurich-Oldendorf, who apparently had sought his fortune previously in Westphalia because his wife and two sons were from there. The long and difficult journey from Brake to Galveston was aboard the Oldenburg sail ship, Leo. There was a total of 85 men, women and children aboard.

The April 15<sup>th</sup> departure was under good weather, which was encouraging to the emigrants. Even a calm in the straits of Florida, which prevented the sailing ship from going forward for

several days, could not dampen the enthusiasm of the travelers. With good fortune, the ship crossed this stretch of sea in three weeks instead of the usual six or eight.

These Ostfriesians reached Galveston on July 16, 1846, with a passage that had seen no cases of sickness or death. However, they were not yet at their destination. They remained in Galveston for two days enjoying the exceptional care of the sponsoring society. The abundance of roasted meat, corn, sugar, peas, beans and white bread led them to believe they had arrived in a promised land where the deer roamed freely and the buffalo and wild goats were to be found in the meadow, and coffee beans could be harvested under shade trees.

From Galveston they travelled on smaller ships to Port Lavaca, a small harbor in the San Antonio Bay, where they camped for three weeks until they could be transported to the interior by the Mexican oxen teams.

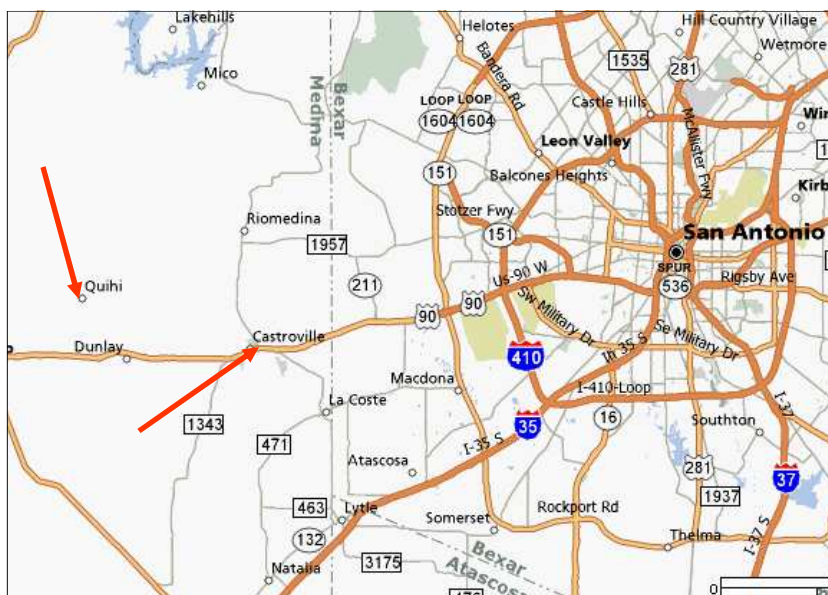
Shortly after the departure the trek was brought to a short halt with the second birth (Engel Saathoff) to occur during the journey. Trientje Heikmann had given birth to a son during the ocean crossing.

The following day they arrived at Victoria, the first interior land stop, and from there they went on through the heat and dust which was finally broken by day long rains. On the third and fourth days they encountered friendly Indians who gave them melons and roasted corn with which they knew not what to do because they were unfamiliar with such foods.

After a 20-day journey, they finally came to San Antonio where they were simply left in the open air and had to wait further. At this point, Engel Saathoff died. Trientje Heikmann and her son did not survive the difficult trek into the wild west either.

Finally, in September the trip continued further to the west as far as Castroville, a settlement named after its founder. Here again they had to wait because, unfortunately, their "impresario" was back in Europe recruiting more settlers. For some of the men the waiting was too long and they volunteered to serve in the army of the young country. They were paid \$100 up front and a monthly salary of \$22 in addition to a homesteading certificate which they sold for an additional \$100.

Meanwhile, landowner Henry Castro returned from his travels and the group from Aurich-Oldendorf was then led to Quihi, ten miles west of Castroville where they arrived on December 25. From this point on they were on their own. Housing needed to be erected. Because of the nearly eight months of living in the open, their clothing was practically in shreds, and the bedding they had brought along had rotted. They bought oxen, horses, cattle, chickens, and other necessary items from the resident Mexicans. There were also wheelwrights and carpenters in their group who could make the *caretos* themselves.



The small number of animals were sheltered on the south side of the new colony and planting was done on the north side, where it was devoured by the wild animals. In general, the first year was a rather catastrophic one. The price of grain rose to \$3 a bushel and the nearest mill was fifty miles away. The man who was in charge of getting the grain milled had to go to an even more distant mill because of rainy weather. This meant a three to four week time without flour or bread. The settlers then lived on deer or turkey which they either hunted themselves or got from the Indians. In fact, the first settlers survived only because there were three companies of soldiers stationed near them due to the war which was not quite ended. The settlers could trade whatever milk, butter, eggs and bread they could spare for excess military rations such as coffee, sugar, rice, beans and bacon.

The interaction between the non-English speaking settlers and the soldiers often gave rise to humorous misunderstandings. A troop of soldiers appeared and asked, "Can we get supper here?" The husband replied, yes, and then ordered his wife to quickly put the kettle on the fire, the soldiers wanted soup (*Suppe*)! Another time someone needed rocks for his defense stockade and asked how many he could get for ten cents. Answer: *Ein Dutzend* (a dozen). The questioner, however, understood a thousand and went away to find something with which he could haul a thousand rocks.

Early the following year the pioneers began to prepare the land for planting. Tools and machinery were purchased, land was fenced in, plowing and planting was done. But this time it was the prairie fires which destroyed everything—something they had not planned for or experienced. Once again they had to start anew.

Only gradually did the settlers achieve somewhat of a normal living and a bit of the success they had expected. However, this was not the land of milk and honey they had dreamed of for themselves or for their children. Contemporaries of the

time have reported that one third of all the adult emigrants to America died within the first three years.

The emigrants became casualties of the climate, the unexpected stresses and unusual living conditions. The fifth census in the United States reveals that in 1850 there were about 8,300 residents with German background in Texas. Of the 10,000 who had come from Germany, many were already deceased or had moved to other areas.

However, the Aurich-Oldendorfer families remained in Texas and, in spite of all the difficulties, saw their lives as better than that in the old country. Their reports were so positive

that they induced more families to emigrate. In 1848, the Faseler family from Wrisse came and three years later more members of the Balzen and Remmers families. In 1854, a Saathoff family from Holtrop arrived in Quihi and in 1856 the Gerdes and Munnik families from Vosskuhlen.

The records of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Quihi and the Methodist church of New Fountain show that at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, 28 Aurich-Oldendorf area families had settled there over the course of thirty years. They represent the first Ostfriesian emigrants to America even before the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the largest number of emigrants arrived.

## A Journey from Dunum...

Submitted by Dennis Faulk

The family of Ricklef Janssen suffered their share of hardships over the years, as had many others in the vicinity around Dunum in the 18th and 19th centuries. Ricklef's ancestors had lived near Dunum since the 1600's, but the year 1832 would shake the family to its very foundation.

Ricklef was a farmer. He had married Ehe Garmers in 1813 and they went about their lives working hard and raising a growing family. By 1832, there were six children; four boys to help Ricklef with the farm work and two girls to help around the house.

The village of OstDunum in northeast Ostfriesland was small and the residents clannish, but the Janssen's were related to or acquainted with nearly everyone. The challenges faced by the Janssen's were those faced by most of the villagers. A sense that others before them had faced similar adversities and gone on, maybe not to prosper, but at least to survive in a simple but dignified life, made their struggles easier to bear.

On May 2, 1832, Ricklef Janssen died. Twelve days later his one year old daughter, Tade, died. By the end of the month, Ricklef's wife, Ehe, was dead as well.

Jann was the oldest son at 17. Garmer was 14, Elisabeth 11, Hayke 8 and Reiner 5. They were split up among relatives and friends of the family. All of the children were old enough to be able to make a contribution to their host families, in return for room and board, until they were able to strike out on their own. Some of their host families treated them well, others perhaps not so well.

The Janssen family were farmers. To farmers, their land is their life. It provides more than a means of making a living. Their sustenance, both physical and spiritual, comes from the land. The language of farming even has a variety of words for the land in its many forms. Land was so precious that the people of Ostfriesland would go to great lengths to obtain and pro-

tect it. However, there was not much land around Dunum that was available for new generations of farmers.

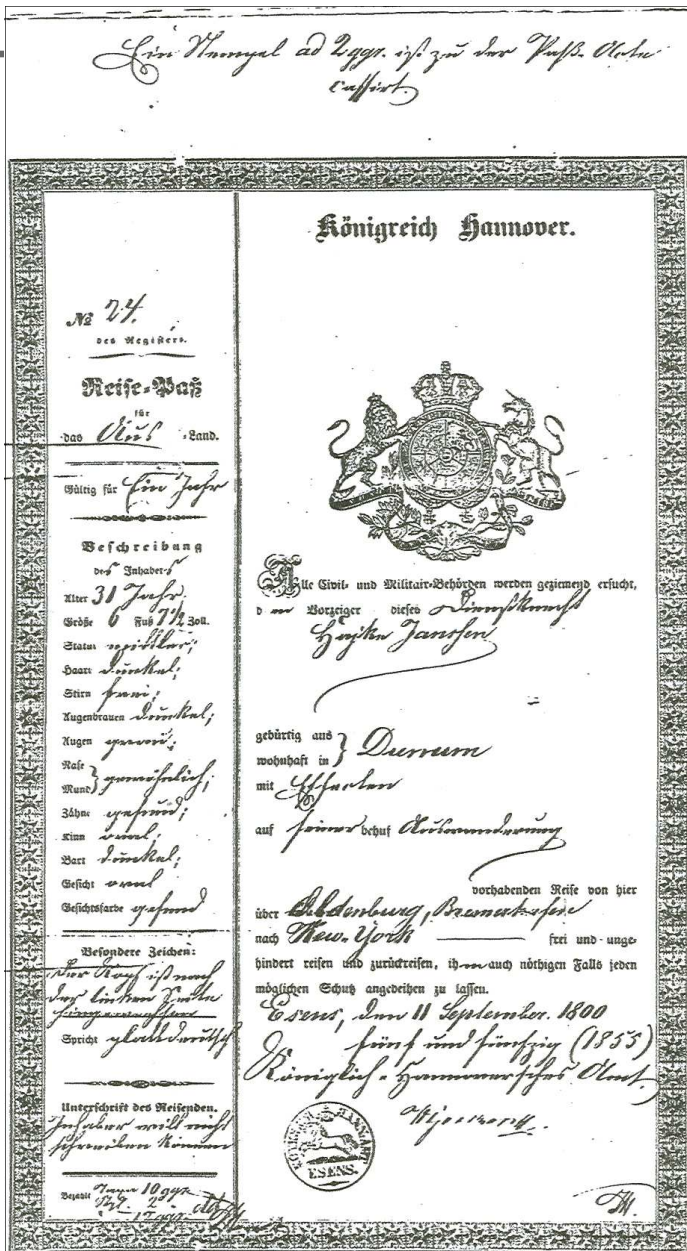
By the 1850's, Hayke and Reiner had decided to try their luck in America. They had heard there was an unlimited amount of land in the United States and that there was so much land the government was giving it away.

Hayke and Reiner combined what money they had, along with what they could borrow from friends and relatives, and traveled to Esens where they obtained their passports. [Hayke's passport is on the next page] From Esens, they journeyed to Bremen where they secured passage on the ship *Albert Boninger* bound for New York City.

*The Prussian ship ARNOLD BONINGER [recte, BÖNINGER], [J. F.] Meyer, master, arrived at New York on Sunday, 25 July 1852, 44 days from Bremen [according to Bremen records, she sailed on 9 June], with merchandise and 397 passengers, to*







Meyer & Stucken. "July 22, latitude 47, longitude 42 45, in a heavy gale from N.N.W. The ship was taken aback and thrown on her beam ends, in which situation she remained two hours. Lost mizzen-topsail and top gallant sail, split jibs and lost jibboom. Same day, saw an iceberg and made the land. 8th July, passed the banks of Newfoundland. 21st, took a pilot from the Nettle No. 2, in latitude 68 30, longitude 40 30." (! Michael P. Palmer / Palmer List of Merchant Vessels)

In New York, Hayke and Reiner were processed through the immigration center at Castle Gardens. While there, they saw many advertisements for settlers to populate the Midwestern states. The railroads were rapidly expanding in Illinois at that time and they were promoting the area heavily. From the time they left the immigrant processing center in New York, Hayke and Reiner Janssen would be known as Isaac and Andrew Johnson.

Isaac and Andrew traveled to Illinois and found work as farm hands around Springfield. Their goal was to work and save as

much money as possible in order to buy farms of their own. Isaac was six feet seven inches tall and Andrew was of similar stature. They had been exposed to hard work early in their lives. The railroads were hiring and paying much more than could be earned as farm laborers so they went to work laying track.

Land around Springfield was becoming scarce and expensive. By the 1860's Andrew and Isaac had saved enough money to begin seriously thinking about finding land to buy. Andrew had already married and started a family. They would have to look further north in central Illinois to find areas that were less settled, where the land was cheaper.

Andrew was making a new life in a land that was far different, in many ways, from what he left behind in Dunum. His loneliness for his homeland and family back in Ostfriesland was tempered by having Isaac nearby to speak with, in his native language, about things only Isaac could comprehend. However, on February 29, 1864, Isaac died.

More determined than ever to realize the dream he and Isaac had shared of owning their own land, Andrew moved north to Woodford County, Illinois and settled near his wife's uncle. After renting a farm for a short time, Andrew bought a 220 acre farm and moved his family there in 1868.

The family also has a letter from Andrew's brother Jann (from Ockenhausen) mentioning the farm Andrew just bought and thanking him for the help he has provided for his family in Ostfriesland. The letter also includes a note from a friend in Funix to a recent immigrant who lived near Andrew stating that the new settler can rely on Andrew for guidance and assistance.

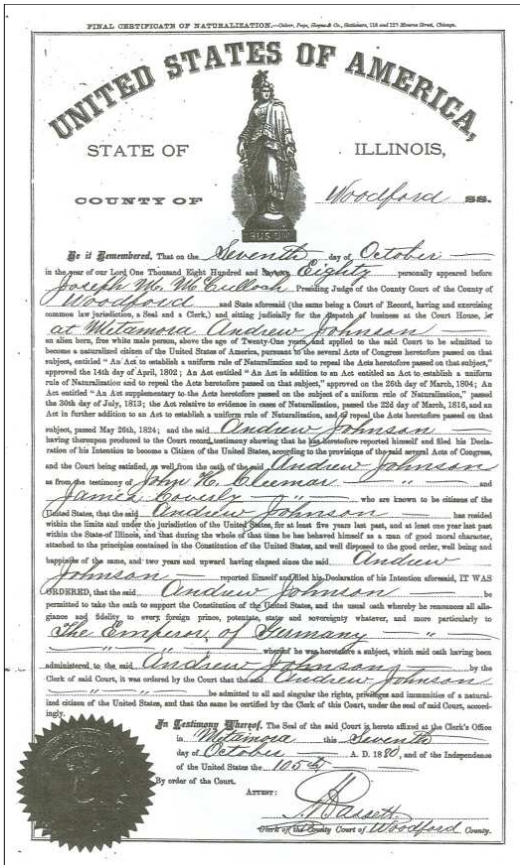
A timber-lined the creek that ran through the farm Andrew had purchased, and from some of the oak and walnut trees, he built a new barn. Then he built a large two story house for his still growing family and, in 1880, a corn crib, with scales in the driveway to weigh the loads of corn.

In 1880, Andrew decided to become a United States citizen in order to be able to vote, serve on juries, and perform other civic duties. In order to provide proof of his age and place of birth, Andrew wrote to the church authorities in Dunum. [Andrew's citizenship declaration next page]. Andrew became active on

**Müller, Edo, Dunum und seine Familien von 1670-1900**

1273 Janssen, Ricklef (Hausmann zu Ost-Dunum)  
 \*20.07.1779 + 02.05.1832 (sohn von Johan Ricklefs & Elisabeth Hinrichs) 00 Garmers, Ehe (\*1788/89) + 20.05.1832 (Tochter von Garmer Haiken, Klein-Werdumer Grode, vierte Tochter)

- 1) Jann \* 10.08.1815
- 2) Garmer Hayken \* 13.05.1818
- 3) Elisabeth \* 15.01.1821
- 4) Hayke Janssen \* 16.07.1824 (later known as Isaac)
- 5) Reiner \* 10.12.1827 (later known as Andrew)
- 6) Tade \* 31.03.1831 + 14.05.1832



the school board and was also a founder and trustee of a local cemetery.

He purchased another 160 acre farm in 1890. In 1891, Andrew's wife Mary died. Three of their nine children had also died by then. Andrew purchased farms of 110 and 90 acres in 1892. Another of his children died that year. In 1894, Andrew purchased another 160 acre farm.

In December of 1896, within 24 hours, both

Andrew and his son Charles had died. Andrew's dream of having his own land had been realized, but the journey from Dunum was over.

Contact Dennis Faulk at [xlhldgs@fairpoint.net](mailto:xlhldgs@fairpoint.net)

### The Johannes 'a Lasco Bibliothek

Emden - The Johannes 'a Lasco Bibliothek (Reformed Church Archive) has financial problems which have forced it to discharge most of its nine employees. According to unconfirmed reports, only three million Euro remain in its foundation account, which once amounted to eight million, and the library's director has been dismissed on suspicion of embezzlement. The interest money derived from this fund pays for most of its expenses, including its payroll. The balance of its income is derived from renting out its facilities, particularly its great hall, Ostfriesland's largest and most representative auditorium for concerts, meetings, or presentations. All programs booked for 2008 will proceed as planned. *Anzeiger für Harlingerland*. 9/19/08

**ED NOTE:** On October 1, 2008 it was noted in the newspapers that only a secretary and caretaker would be left on the payroll. Grants are being sought to further fund the institution. The JAL is a destination for many groups and its collection of books and artifacts is considered remarkable. The 2005 tour had a banquet & concert in its great hall. As of December 15, I was notified that the JAL has closed until there is a resolution or grant funds become available.

## SHORT STORIES...

They bought land, paid for it with the gold from the homeland, sent their children to rural schools; but retained their German customs and language in the small communities in which they lived. That language can still be heard in some of these old Ostfriesen colonies settled by our immigrant ancestors.

They worked hard and underwent hardship so their children would have a chance of a better life. Many of them experienced great homesickness, heartache and loss. But they were tough, and they persevered.

Peterke Eckhoff Amelsburg, a childless widow, married Gerd van Loh in the early 1870's. Gerd died after a farm accident about two years after their marriage with a young son and another child on the way. Gerdine was born after her father's death on December 13, 1875.

Peterke had the support of both families, but must have been financially independent. The family came to Iowa in 1893. Her brother Amos and others had settled near Aplington and persuaded her to buy a farm, that of J.J. Burnham west of town. She died in 1930 and said that she had lived to see many different types of lighting – tallow candles, whale oil lamps, kerosene lamps, gas lamps and electricity.

The descendants of the ancestral Germans who came to America in the latter half of the 1800's, are now typical Americans. For the most part, they are, and have been, good citizens—hard working and thrifty, intelligent and law abiding. America gave them many opportunities and they responded with contributions in farming, in business and in the professions. May they continue to do so. (Frey, Deane, *Die Geschichte of a Family from Ostfriesland—The Frey's*, 4/1978)

## SHIP BOARD EXPERIENCES:

We should remember that these emigrant sailing boats were little communities for a short time: babies were born, people died and even weddings were celebrated. And they call them shipboard romances for a reason! Sometimes life long friendships evolved.

This was an experience that was never forgotten.

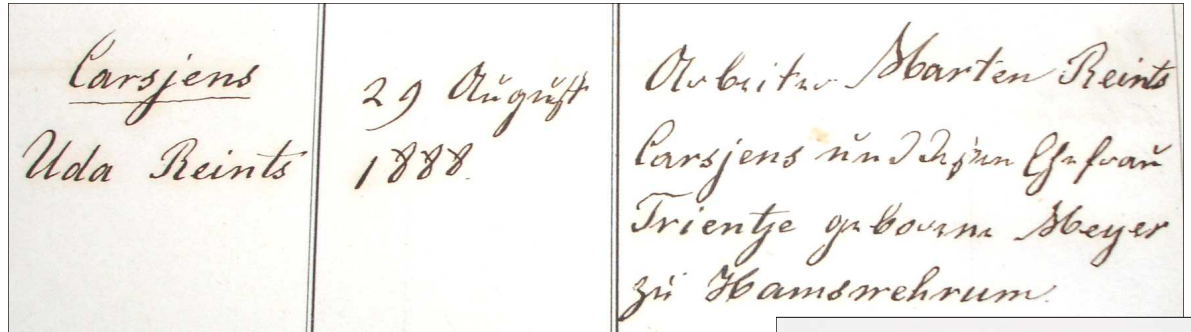
Everyone on board was literally adrift, they had left their previous life along with their families and were excited and scared about what they would find in the new world.

My great, great grandmother and her sister were just 18 and 20 when they left Hamburg for America—an opportunity to join other relatives in the Midwest. But in the meantime, they had to survive life on board a ship. It was not easy for two single women to travel alone at that time. The cabin was open with row upon row of bunk beds—there was no privacy. A drunken Russian was on the bunk below them and many of the other passengers were not friendly. They were scared for most of the trip—and never forgot the experience.



# UDA'S JOURNEY

In 1970, this story was written by Ida (Uda) Karsjens Meyer. This was submitted by Fay Ammermann Marcus whose ancestor was Ida's sister, Wilhelmina Karsjens Meyer. This family emigrated to the USA in 1899 and settled in Iowa. Uda married Hermann Meyer in 1906 and died in Willmar, MN in 1978.



The entry above was taken from the church records of Hamswehrum and lists the child born as *“Uda Reints Carsjens, born 29 August 1888, the daughter of day laborer Marten Reints Carsjens and his wife Trientje born Meyer of Hamswehrum”*.

“I was born in Hamswehrum, Germany on August 29, 1888. As was the custom, I was baptized at about three to six weeks old. We lived in one large room with two beds built into the wall, and had a pantry and one large hall.

We were a poor family. My father worked for a farmer and did a lot of ditching besides. Mother was a housewife, but when possible, helped in the harvest shocking grain. We children helped with the gleanings.

Our church services were held in a school house where different Baptist ministers took turns coming nearly every Sunday afternoon and evening. I had four years of Christian school in Germany, and later when we lived in America, I had four years of public school and also went to Sunday School.

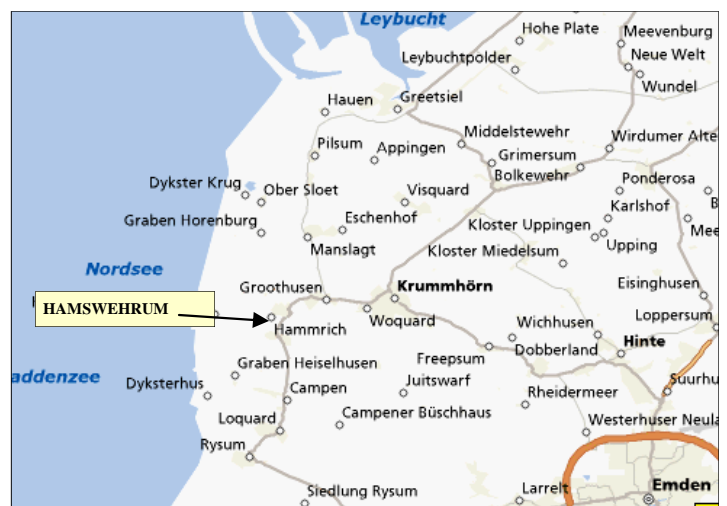
My mother's family had migrated to America about eight years before. They urged us to come as we could make a better living there. After much thought, we finally decided to go. We packed a great big wooden box, which was to hold our belongings. We could take all of our clothing, which wasn't too much, pictures, china and the bedding. We held a sale to sell all of the rest of our possessions.

The next day we started out traveling which took us nearly three weeks before we found a place to live in America. We rode on a lumber wagon to the city of Emden, from there we went to Bremen. We stayed there overnight and the next day we rode to Bremerhaven, where our ship was waiting for us.

We boarded the ship in the afternoon. Mother made us tea and we all felt fine. We bragged about that because we heard that many people get seasick; but towards evening, it was a different story. We were settled in our large apartment, which we called “between decks.”

We were surrounded by people from Poland. These people were dirty and had lice. It didn't take long when they started to throw up. Soon the odor was so bad that we were all seasick except Dad and Jake. The next day, Dad asked the captain if we could live on the upper deck, and he consented. After a few days we ran into a big storm which lasted several days.

Then we wished we had stayed in Germany. Oma Meyer wanted to turn around and go back.





## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### Welcome to OGSA!

*Would you like a membership list? We can now email it to you as an attachment!*

*Do you know someone who might like a sample copy of our newsletter? This is one way we find new members! Contact us!*

**Mary Ballantyne**, 1585 Dows Street, Ely, Iowa 52227-0111; 319-848-4718; mballan@southslope.net; Researching: Rosenberg (Hage & Norden), Engelken (Hagermarsch & Großheide)

**Dorothy Boomgarden**, 508 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Forreton, IL 61030

**Dorin M. Dirkson**, 409 North Highland, Sioux Falls, SD 57103; 605-366-2995; ddirkson@mcleodusa.net Researching: Naatjes (Pogum), Dirksen (Ditzumerverlaat) see article on next page—Puzzlers.

**Wallace Edzards**; 7619 Chaumont Street, Las Vegas, NV 89123; 310-339-0248; wedzards@cox.net

**Jeromy & Debbie Emerling**, 169 South 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Billings, MT 59101; 406-671-8761; dlemmerling@gmail.com; Researching: Grussing, Gretsfield/Greetsfeld, Emerling, Korth

**Patricia Huenefeld**, 509 North Schuyler Street, Lena, IL 61048-9384; 815-369-4968; Researching: Veer, Barkhoff, Huenefeld, Thruman

**Juanita Ingvaldson**, 27539 County Rd 441, Grand Rapids, MN 55744; 218-326-4151; djing@2z.net Researching: Reint Karsjens (Hamswehrum), Reint Eckhoff (Bunderhammrich)

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**Phillip Katzung**, 1709 Tarrytown Avenue, Crofton, MD 21114; 410-721-0183; pkatzung@verizon.net, Researching: Boumann (Pilsun, Canhusen, ?Emden), Voss, Swyter/Swieter (Pilsun) Harms (Victorbur, Engerhafe)

**Jennie Kaufman**, 360 Clinton Avenue, Apt #2H, Brooklyn, NY 11238-1165; 718-857-9112; jennikabo@mindspring.com; Researching: Bartels (Remels, Stickhausen), Hinrichs (Hesel), Gorath (Fiebing, Timmel), Gerdes (Hesel, Strackholt), Frerichs (Strackholt)

**Ryan R Prins**, 2607 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55408-1702; 612-272-4492; ryan.prins@hmed.org; Researching: Schüürmann (Simonswolde), Ludemann (Norden), Van Lengen (Staplemoor & Bunde), Frey (Wymeer), Menken (Weener)

**Lavonne Stiers**, 1839 Andrews Boulevard, Hampton, VA 22663; 757-572-6897; rlstiers@cox.net

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**Glenda Garrelts Mattes**, 65 Commonwealth Avenue, #4A, Boston, MA 02116; no change to email & phone

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*Have YOU moved or changed your phone no. or email address? Please let us know as soon as possible. We need your current information.*

## GENEALOGY PUZZLERS

Brick walls, puzzles, or whatever you call them—are frustrating. Each of the next three issues will feature a puzzle that one of our OGSA members has submitted.

**Dorian Dirkson** submitted one on the “Queries” section of the OGSA website. Within two weeks, we worked together to find both ancestors she was looking for—now that’s a success story!

Her **Ben Dirksen was born as Beene Wirtjes Dirksen (born in Ditzumerverlaat) and his wife Matilda was born as Moetje Geerds Naatjes (born in Pogum)**, both of whom died in Lennox, SD That’s a happy NEW member! Is this part of your family, too? She’d be interested in contact.

*Who are you looking for and what steps have you taken to find them? Send as much data as possible, please! Let other OGSA members help you figure it out! Or we’ll tell you what steps to get the information that you need!*

## The Ostfriesen Emigrant CD

**ROM** is available for purchase. A check for \$26 includes postage and handling. OVER 17,000 names of Ostfriesen emigrants who came to the USA. Make sure you get this Excel database. *This is a must have for your genealogy collection!*

## OGSA MEMBER NEWS

**Rudy Wiemann** was 80 last August. I forgot to include the good wishes of all OGSA members in the October issue!

Last year, **Jean Haemig** became a very proud great-grandmother.

**Janice Colberg** had open heart surgery last Fall to repair a hole between the two upper chambers in her heart. Many of you may remember her from the 2005 tour!

**Lorraine Wessels** had a brain operation to repair an aneurism. Get well!

**Rick & Linda Campen** have a new granddaughter. Congratulations!

There was an article in Ostfriesen papers on **Roger and Nancy Hook and Mary Schmidt** playing Bingo “op Platt” (in Low German. What fun!

**Jürgen Hoogstraat’s father Ulfert**, has just written a book with stories about growing up in the Krummhörn area of Woltzeten. *Save me a copy!*

*Wishing you all health & happiness in 2009. Please keep in touch!*

## Winners of 2008 Contests:

April—**Emdertor**, Dirk Weeldreyer  
*Door to the Emden Harbor*

July—**Tulip Vase**, Norman Hensley

October—**Remels Church money donation box**, Zandra Ogata (all I asked for was what it was, she even knew where it was!

## UPCOMING ISSUES WILL INCLUDE:

- Marienhafes Colorful History
- 1786 Lawsuit / Berdum & Middoge Windmills
  - Marienchor
- Ostfriesland is Part of Holland
  - Driever’s Past
  - Midlum’s Pastors
    - Q & F
    - Ahnenlisten
    - The 1719 Kopfshatzungsregister
  - Ostfriesen Sculptures
- Pictures of “Old” Wybelsum
  - Cloisters
  - Solving Puzzles
  - Delft Tiles

## OSTFRIESEN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA 2009 BOARD MEMBERS:

Gene Janssen: jansseng@corner.net.com (952) 939-0617

Lübbert Kruizenga, Luebbert.Kruizenga@GT.com

Lin Strong: Lin@ogsa.us (651) 269-3580 (Newsletter Editor)

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Sharon Arends mnmax424@msn.com

Ray Kleinow: rayk29@comcast.net

Zella Mirick: zwmirick@comcast.net

Jill Morelli: jkmorelli@gmail.com

Rick Gersema: gersey6@msn.com

## COMMITTEE COORDINATORS:

Program & Meeting Committee: Open  
Publicity: Open

Library: Zella, Nancy, Sharon

Membership Coordinators:

Mail Coordinators: Zella Mirick, Nancy Jensen

## OGSA MISSION STATEMENT

OGSA is headquartered in Minnesota and our official name is **Ostfriesen Genealogical Society of America**. Anyone with ancestors from Ostfriesland or who has an interest in Ostfriesland is welcome to join.

**The purpose of the group is exclusively educational, and specifically to:**

- ◆ Foster and increase interest in Ostfriesen genealogy.
- ◆ Provide an association for those interested in Ostfriesen genealogy.
- ◆ Provide an opportunity for exchange of knowledge about Ostfriesland.
- ◆ Encourage the establishment of Ostfriesen genealogical resources.
- ◆ Hold meetings for instruction and interest of its members.
- ◆ Collect and, when practical, publish genealogical, biographical and historical material relating to people of Ostfriesen descent.
- ◆ Work with other similar societies to preserve and protect Ostfriesen genealogy and heritage.

*Our organization is a 501C3 non-profit organization.  
Your donations are tax-deductible.*

## OGSA INFO.

### Mail Address:

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

### Library Address:

MN Genealogical Society  
1185 Concord St. N.  
So. St. Paul, MN

### OGSA Phone No.

(651) 451-6472  
Leave message

### MGS Hours:

Tues., 6:30-9:30 pm

Wed., 10 a.m.-4 pm

Thurs. 10 a.m.-4 pm

6:30-9:30 pm

Sat., 10 a.m.-4 pm

### Library Contact Person:

Zella Mirick  
zwmirick@comcast.net

# 2009—UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7, 2009

10 a.m.—Noon

## Osfriesland's Beautiful Organs & Their Music

**Mt. Olive Lutheran Church**  
3045 Chicago Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
(612) 827-5919  
Presented by Gene Janssen  
Pictures of Ostfriesen Organs, Their  
Churches & Music, Too!



April 4, 2009 / 10 am-3pm

### It's a Movie Saturday

All About Ostfriesland!

- Old Ostfriesland 1866-1946
- More than a dozen other DVD's to view!
  - Come when you can, stay as long as you want!
  - Bring your Lunch, too!
  - Popcorn provided!

Early Dinner—Glockenspiel  
German Restaurant! RSVP

Becketwood, 4300 West River Parkway,  
Minneapolis, MN  
(Lower level of Chapel)

January 31, 2009 / OGSA Annual Meeting 10 a.m.

Research Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Minnesota Genealogical Society Library, So. St. Paul, MN  
Research Help Available All Day!

Presented by:  
Ray Kleinow @ the  
MGS Library  
More info. in the next  
two newsletters!

September 12  
Emerging  
Digital  
Technology

*All meetings are open to the public. Please join us and bring a relative or friend!*

OSTFRIESEN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
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West St. Paul, MN 55118

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