

Familienverband der Familien Groeneveld

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Family letter 51

Ahaus, February 2014

Dear relatives, dear friends of the Groeneveld family!

Another family reunion is just around the corner. We would like to meet again on June 7 and 8, 2014 which is the Pentecost weekend. The place will be the Reiherhorst Hotel in Gut Halte (Halte manor) where our family reunion on the occasion of the 100-year-jubilee took place. Following our last family reunion in Emden many participants expressed their wishes for another meeting within a shorter period of time, and we are happy to comply with these requests. This year the Lower Saxony State Garden Show (Landesgartenschau

in Niedersachsen) will take place in Papenburg and will provide a beautiful framework for our reunion. The exhibition itself should be another reason to attend the family meeting. Last year we again had some interesting Groeneveld family stories.

In October Enid Engler, nee Groeneveld, and her husband Kenneth from the United States came to visit Weener, the birthplace of Enid's father. Enid Engler is the granddaughter of Enno Groeneveld, the founder of our family association and author of the first family books

about the Groeneveld family in East Frisia. Wolf-Hinrich Groeneveld, member of the board, went to see the two policemen Rolf and Gerd Groeneveld (No. N 306 and 307) in their police station in Hemmoor, Cuxhaven county.

Anne Groeneveld (No. 3022) went to the United States to pass an internship and she stayed with the family of Andrew (No. 2979) and Jennifer Greenfield during that time.

Anna (No. 2406) and Gerhard Schultz went on a journey to the US Midwest and met with our American relatives.



On behalf of the board of the Groeneveld family association I wish you health and good luck for 2014! I hope to welcome many of you, of our relatives and friends at the next family meeting on the occasion of the State Garden Show in Papenburg.

Dr. Albert Groeneveld

Family reunion 2014 and the State Garden Show in Papenburg

If you ever visited a State Garden Show you know, that these exhibitions do not just present flowers and bushes. In addition to art and culture the young and the young at heart will find many entertaining things. The exhibition offers a variety of ideas for landscape gardening not only for private home owners, but also for municipalities.

We will meet on Saturday, June 7 at 2:15 pm for a short coffee (or tea) break at the "Reiherhorst Restaurant" in Halte, close to Papenburg. The bus will depart at 2:45 pm and take us to the State Garden Show. We'll start with a guided tour around the fair grounds, and later on everyone is free to stroll through the exhibition on his own. The bus will take us back to the "Reiherhorst Restaurant" at 8:00 pm. We are planning for a light meal to conclude the day in a relaxed atmosphere. On Sunday we will visit the Heimatmuseum in Weener at 10 a.m.

If you register in time (so that the planning will be easier for us), the total price for the bus rides, the Garden Show entrance fee and guided tour fee as well as the evening menu (except for the drinks) will be 10,00 Euro only.

As usual, the remittance of 10,00 Euro per person to our family association account will be considered as a registration.

The bank details are:

Familienverband Groeneveld, Deutsche Bank, Leer

IBAN: DE17 285 700 240 0128 181 00

BIC: DEUT DE DB285

Our treasurer Jan Groeneveld will take care of your registration.



Visit of Enno Groeneveld's granddaughter in Weener

At the end of October my wife Beate and I welcomed visitors from the US: Kenneth and Enid Engler from Ticonderoga, New York. You'll find Enid Engler on page 34 of our new family book, no. 611 I. She is the granddaughter of Enno Groeneveld (no. 247), the founder of our family association. Her father Friederich (Fritz) emigrated to Argentina in 1922, later he moved to the United States of America. In our family book he (no. 402) can be found on page 28 with a nice family picture. Enid and Ken Engler handed some precious documents over to me, which had been in the possession of their grandfather Enno and had withstood all family moves in a suitcase. Among these documents is the first handwritten version of volume I of the family book as well as a hardcover working copy of volume I, with handwritten corrections and amendments made by Enno Groeneveld. Unfortunately Enno Groeneveld already died in 1913, and the books and documents travelled around the world in a suitcase with Enno's son Friedrich.

We took with us the old picture of the Norderstraße, shown in the new family book, and went to look for Enno Groeneveld's house in Weener. The house however does not exist any more. My sister Anna and her husband Gerhard Schultz accompanied us during this visit in East Frisia. We met Mr Albert Katenkamp, the long-time owner of a toyshop across the street of Enno's former house, and he told us about many changes in the appearance of the Norderstraße during the past decades. The local newspaper "Rheiderland-Zeitung" reported on the visit of Enid and Kenneth Engler in their Nov 1 printed edition and in their online edition. And of course we visited the ancestral farms in Coldemüntje and Dorenborg and the villages of Wymeer, Ditzum and Jemgum. We concluded the day with our guests in the famous Restaurant "Waage" in Leer, where many family reunions had taken place. The weather was nice during our tour, which we especially appreciated after we had had a hurricane in East Frisia one week earlier. This hurricane unfortunately caused more damage to the Coldemüntje ancestral farm.

Two Groeneveld – brothers in a police station

(Wolf Hinrich Groeneveld)

In East Frisia you'll find more people bearing the name Groeneveld than Müller, Meier, Schulz or Schmidt (most common family names in Germany). And that's good! In Hamburg, where our family lives, eight "Groeneveld" entries are listed in the local phone book, and we could add a few families named Groenewald and Groenewold to this list. This is totally different in the Cuxhaven county, where we own an old weekend cottage in a moor area. Except for our family I could find only four other Groenevelts. So I was quite surprised when I found an article in our Cuxhaven newspaper, the "Niederelbe-Zeitung", about a Police Lieutenant named Gerd Groeneveld. He works in the Hemmoor police station, close to our weekend home. I called the police station immediately and asked for Mr. Groeneveld. "And which one would you like to talk to? We've got two of them." was the reply. And indeed, there are two policemen with our name at this commissioner's office. And even more, they are brothers, Rolf (born in 1962) and Gerd (born in 1965), listed in our family book, volume II, numbers N 306 and N307. With three sisters they grew up in Wingst



Rolf (N 306) and Gerd (N307) Groeneveld

on a small homestead, their parents were Johann (N 200 II) and Else. Rolf told me: "During our childhood we used to work on the farm, we did everything that had to be done like harvesting, milking and clearing out the stables But a small farm like ours does not support a big family." In 1983 Rolf became a policeman: "I have experienced a lot, like the Gorleben protest marches, or bringing down a woman from the third floor to the first floor. The woman weighed 660 pounds, she was expecting a child, and we needed the fire brigade to help her. Another remarkable situation was facing a man with a .44 Magnum revolver - fortunately a dummy. Anyway, this is a very diverse job, I'm enjoying it and I would apply for it any time again." Nowadays Rolf is Chief Commissioner in the Criminal Investigation Department, whereas his brother Gerd, three years younger, has been the police officer in charge for the emergency and patrol duty since 2008. The two brothers get along very well in the police station, just like it has been during their childhood. "There are no problems at all between us" says Gerd.

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Rolf Groeneveld's tractor trip cross-country Germany

Ever since his childhood Rolf Groeneveld (No. N 306) has been an enthusiastic tractor freak, and by now he is the proud owner of three old tractors, all of them manufactured by the Eicher factory, which was producing tractors in Forstern in Upper Bavaria between 1941 and 1992. Last year (2013) he decided to make a long-cherished wish come true: he wanted to show his smallest "Eicher"-tractor, a 1960 model "Tiger" with 25 PS (horse power) and 27 km/h (16.8 mi/h) the place where it was "born". He bought a small trailer, a 1990 model "Eriba Puck", took an eight-week vacation und together with his wife Silvia he went on his long way to Forstern and the Black Forest. There, close to the Schluchsee, the annual meeting of Eicher-tractors and friends takes place, with approximately 300 vintage tractors. Rolf and Silvia were not allowed to use the highways (Autobahn) with their slow-going towing vehicle, they just drove on small roads and sandy paths. Via Hanover, Seesen, Thuringia and finally a route east of Munich they reached Forstern. From there they drove westwards, across the Allgäu (a southern German region in Swabia) via

Kempton to Lake Constance, and there they ferried across the lake to Konstanz. After a detour to Switzerland they headed for the Schluchsee Eicher-Meeting, and from there through the idyllic Glottertal (famous valley in the Black Forest) and the Upper Rhine Valley to France. Back in Germany, they drove around Frankfurt and the old Eicher-tractor took them home safely. The Groenevelts were quite impressed by the friendliness of the people they met during their trip. Rolf: "We merely used small roads through villages and asked farmers if they would allow us to park our caravan for one night. All of them helped us, without exception, and quite often they invited us to have dinner. I'm sure the vintage vehicle helped us, all the people were crazy about the tractor. One day the exhaust pipe was hanging down a bit, but a BMW engineer was very helpful and welded it immediately." Coming back home to their village Odisheim was another highlight of the tractor trip. More than 80 people had gathered to welcome Rolf and Silvia, family, friends and neighbours, even a reporter from the local newspaper was there. For Rolf this trip also meant the



Rolf Groeneveld (Nr. N 306)

discovery of slowness and, despite the tractor sounds, the discovery of silence: no radio and no TV, but quite a lot of nature. He is already thinking about the next tractor trip, maybe to the Netherlands, Belgium and France.

Following the traces of the emigrants

(Anna Schultz tells us about her trip to Michigan and Illinois)

About 150 years ago many East Frisians emigrated to America, one of them was Obbe Groeneveld (No. 626), one of 11 children of Tjabe Syben Groeneveld (No. 422), who hailed from "Grashaus Dünebroek" in Wymeer. After several months on an emigrant ship across the Atlantic and a strenuous land journey they finally arrived at their destination in the Midwest of the United States in the state of Illinois. Several East Frisians had already settled in Illinois as farmers in German Valley and in Forreston. Many of their descendants still live there today and some of them participated in the 100-year-jubilee of our Family association in 2008 – and we were happy to become acquainted with our American relatives.

Some of them have visited Ostfriesland several times over the last few years and they stayed with us, and in the beginning of September my husband and I started our return visit to the United States.

Upon arrival in Chicago we drove to Grand Rapids (Michigan) and stayed with Donna (No. 2372 IX) and David Muyskens. We visited the Gerald R. Ford Museum, it has been dedicated to the former president who is the most famous son of the city. We went to Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, a very interesting outdoor museum, on a day with a suffocating heat at 100° F. Furthermore we got to know Church life in the local Reformed Church whereof Calvin College is an



The „Grashaus“ – Pencil painting by Hinderikus Groeneveld (Nr. 873) painted in 1917

important part. Mark Muyskens, son of Donna and David Muyskens, is a Professor at Calvin College and showed us around. Later on we also met his three children when we had lunch together. Unfortunately his wife Karen died a few years ago. Together with Donna and David we took a ferry across Lake Michigan to Milwaukee, and we called on their daughter Julie and her husband Wayne in their home in Pewaukee. A visit to the Milwaukee History Museum gave us an interesting insight into the life of the Indians, who

The Groeneveld descendents from „Grashaus Duenebroek“ in Wymeer							
Generation 7	Generation 8	Generation 9	Generation 10	Generation 11	Generation 12	Generation 13	Generatio 14
139 Tjabe Syben Groeneveld (died 1793 at Grashaus Duenebroek Wymeer	254 Syben Tjaben Groeneveld, tenant on Grashaus Dünebroek	422 Tjabe Syben Groeneveld	626 Obbe (Ubbo) Groeneveld, emigrated to the US	839 Frederick J. Greenfield	1023 Herman Greenfield	2372IX Donna (Muyskens)	
						2372X Harlan Greenfield	
	255 Ubbe Tjaben Groeneveld	427 Hindrik Groeneveld	642 Anneus Groeneveld	866 Anneus Groeneveld	1060 Anneus	2372 XII Loran Greenfield	2979 Andrew
			873 Hinderikus Groeneveld	1069 Heiko Groeneveld (Owner Grashaus)	2406 Anna (Schultz)		
		440 Heyko Diddens Groeneveld	660 Ubbo Groeneveld	893 I Henry Greenfield	1095 Donna (Smith)		

have lived there before and into the first European houses that were built by emigrants. We then went to Forreston, the original settlement area of the emigrated East Frisians, where we saw many relatives named Greenfield. We went to church in Forreston on Sunday and were even personally greeted on the announcement board. In the afternoon we met the members of the church community. Donna's brothers Harlan and Loran took us on a tour



left to right: Donna Smith (Nr. 1095), Loran Greenfield (Nr. 2372 XII), Donna Muyskens (Nr. 2372 IX), Anna Schultz (Nr. 2406), Harlan Greenfield (2372 X) in Forreston (see table Groeneveld descendents from Grashaus Dünebroek)

around the Forreston area, we saw old Greenfield farmhouses and visited cemeteries where Greenfield ancestors were buried, incl. Ubbo, who emigrated in 1852. There are also many names on the grave stones that are familiar to us from the East Frisian cemeteries. A 25-year-restriction for the use of a grave, as common in Germany, is unimaginable for Americans. Finally we were guests on the large farm of Michael (No. 2952) and Janet Greenfield, where we saw agricultural machinery of a size that is incomprehensible for German standards.

Our American relatives had offered a great program for our visit, but at last we had to return home. This trip is an unforgettable experience for us, because we were warmly welcomed by everyone. Our special thanks go to Donna and David, who have planned everything for us.

A smiley face in the German alphabet

(Anne Groeneveld about her internship in the United States)

Which German student wouldn't like to complete part of his or her professional training in the United States of America. Andrew Greenfield is Vice President at Abiomed Inc. and in charge of marketing, and he offered me an internship at this company. I was invited to live with Andrew, his wife Jennifer and their three children Jordan (12), Ella (11) and Austin (7) during the two months I spent in Georgetown. I have felt very comfortable with them and had a great time. While I was there, I celebrated four birthdays with the family: Andrew, Jennifer, Austin and even Diggs, the dog. A special event was certainly the 7th Birthday of Austin Greenfield in the elementary school in Georgetown. They have a nice custom that

the mother of the birthday child reads a story to the class. I was proud being allowed to read the story "The little old lady who wasn't afraid of anything", and so was Austin. I had written "Herzlichen Glückwunsch" on the chalkboard (rather SmartBoard), and of course the kids didn't know these German words. But they were excited to discover a smiley face (the "ü") in the German alphabet. Abiomed Inc. is worldwide selling extremely small heart pumps, which can be placed into the heart of severely ill patients without major surgery, but with minimally invasive placement through the blood vessels, thus helping these heart cases to survive until their cardiac transplantation.

At the Abiomed summer garden party in Danvers near Boston I met some very happy patients

who owe their lives to these heart pumps and these were quite emotional moments.



Anne Groeneveld (Nr. 3022) and Austin Greenfield (Nr. 2979c)

Andrew and I discussed many different topics during our daily drive to and from work: why do the Americans still measure miles and yards (instead of kilometers and meters)? Why



Anne Groeneveld (Nr. 3022) with Jordan, Austin and Ella Greenfield (Nr. 2979 a, c and b)

are there no DIN-standards for documents? DIN = German Institute for Standardization). As a matter of course I tried to stand up for our European points of view as best I could. However, regarding the courtesy and kindness of Americans in their daily lives, they are superior to us. And I like the slow and relaxed driving on the roads and highways very much and I think it's worth emulating!

At the end of my stay in the USA my parents came to see me, and together we enjoyed a relaxed holiday in Massachusetts. Above all, the Greenfields had invited us to have an excellent special dinner with them, prepared by Jennifer the way she usually does for Thanksgiving. Back at home, we tried to prepare the same delicious dinner for Christmas, and it was a success we think.