

# Familienverband der Familien Groeneveld

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*Family letter no. 52*

*Ahaus, February 2015*

**Dear relatives, dear friends of the Groeneveld  
/Greenfield family!**

The year 2014 is over. I hope that your wishes for this last year have been fulfilled. You might even have been able to keep a few of your New Year's resolutions. In any case one special (German) wish has come true: last summer in Brazil the German national soccer team has been awarded its fourth star for the fourth Soccer World Cup Championship after 1954, 1974 and 1990. We don't know if any Groenevelts have contributed to this success in the background. However, looking at the family crest (letterhead top right) of the Coldemüntje line we recognize that this already has five stars (above the hat). Unfortunately I couldn't find out anything about the meaning of these Coldemüntje stars, seems they have not yet been interpreted by a coat of arms researcher. And as far as I know Soccer World Cup Championships didn't take place back then, so our stars certainly don't originate from a soccer competition. I don't want to go further into this nonserious comparison.

Considering how important the desire to win the Soccer Championship 2014 obviously was for all Germans gives me the feeling that the Germans overall are doing quite well actually. An important event for our Family Association certainly was the family reunion. 70 participants had found their way to Papenburg. You'll find my detailed report in this newsletter. The State Garden Show in Papenburg has given us a beautiful setting for the Family Reunion, we were impressed not only with huge butterflies. I have attached the list of participants, and I hope that I have in each case allocated the correct family number.



On behalf of the Board of the Groeneveld Family association I wish you health and happiness for the year 2015.

Dr. Albert Groeneveld

## Family Reunion 2014 in Papenburg

Wolfgang and Ela could not agree on who of the two should participate in the Groeneveld Family Reunion 2014. Finally, Wolfgang prevailed and that was good for our get-together. Wolfgang – he was a meteorological summer high - brought us summer heat with temperatures above 30 degrees C ( above 86 ° degrees F), though it was almost too much. Fortunately Ela arrived only a day later as a storm with gale-force winds. This intense low pressure system caused devastating damage in many German regions, we hadn't experienced anything like this since storm Kyrill. Luckily all of us were back home when Ela arrived.

Once again the hotel Reiherhorst in Vellage was the meeting point for the start of the Family Reunion. The bus took us to the site of the Garden Show. Although it was only a 20 minutes drive, passengers were not allowed to stand in the bus, so the bus had to go twice. The day before I had asked some participants to come early so that the first group could already leave at 2:45 pm.

Dividing the family members in two groups of visitors was easy, because they would be guided over the garden show grounds in two separate groups anyway.



Two groups of participants in the family reunion – pictures taken on the grounds of the garden show.



**Family members participating in the  
Groeneveld Family Reunion 2014 at the  
Lower Saxony State Garden Show in Papenburg**

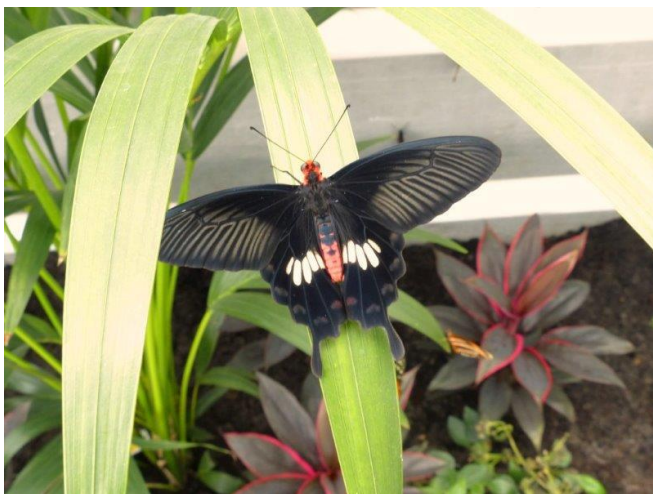
Darren (2991 a) and Julie Chaloner with Donovan and Nolan, USA, currently Copenhagen	Hebo (2392) and Ulrike Groeneveld from Stolzenau with son Marten (3014)
Wolf-Hinrich (820 I) and Bärbel Groeneveld from Hamburg	Wolfgang (2447) and Ulrike Groeneveld from Bremen
Ursula Eckhardt (988 II) from Oldenburg	Sigrid Warnken (988 IX)
Annelie Hofmann (988 IV), Minden	Elke Green (988 VII) with her nicce Amelia Byrne from Australia
Karl and Lieselotte (988 VIII) Töppich from Bad Zwischenahn	Heinrich Elso Groeneveld (2156) and Gisela Anacker from Westerstede
Folkert Heller from Aurich	Johannes (2064) and Hildegard Groeneveld from Leer
Klaus (3131 I a) and Lydia de Boer from Westoverledingenn	Matthias Groeneveld (2603) from Leer
Johann (813 II a) and Elisabeth Fresemann from Jemgum	Helga Munk (2435) from Westoverledingen
Lüppo Freesemann and Violetta Golletz	Ludwig and Hilda (2056) Meinders from Idafehn
Theodor (2618) and Anja Groeneveld from Westoverledingen	Albert (2407 II) and Beate Groeneveld from Ahaus
Gerhard and Anna (2406) Schultz from Lingen	Berta (2244) and Karl-Hinrich Harders from Ihrhove
Karl-Heinz Groeneveld (2720), Jever	Ahlich and Christine Groeneveld from Uphusen
Hans and Erna Groeneveld from Uphusen	Hans Hermann (E 158) and Gertrud Groeneveld from Großwolde
Melanie Groeneveld from Berlin	Emilie Groeneveld from Westoverledingen
Johann Groeneveld (E 151) and Sophia Nee from Rhauferfeh	Ewald (E 160) and Helga Groeneveld, Völlenerfeh
Liesel Leferink (E 156) from Westoverledingen	Artur und Martha (E 159) Vehndel from Westoverledingen
Waltraud Groeneveld with her daughters Karin (E188) and Anke (E 187) from Rhauferfeh	lbeling van Lessen and Marlene Schulte from Leer
Alfred and Maria (D 118) Peters from Bielefeld	Artur (N 244) and son Arne (N 244 b) Groeneveld with Franziska Graefe and Sabine Klippel
Renate Baumeister (N 192) from Leer	
Eldert and Sigrud Groeneveld from Kuchen	



At temperatures close to 30° C (86° F) with high humidity, a tour of a garden show is beautiful, but also exhausting. Anyhow the garden enthusiasts certainly found interesting suggestions for the design of their own gardens. Up to now many hobby gardeners will have been in doubt about decorating the front yard with an empty oil drum. The colourful flower meadow (bottom right) is by all means more traditional and can often be found in the middle of traffic circles.

I guess all of us were excited about the giant butterflies in the butterfly house.

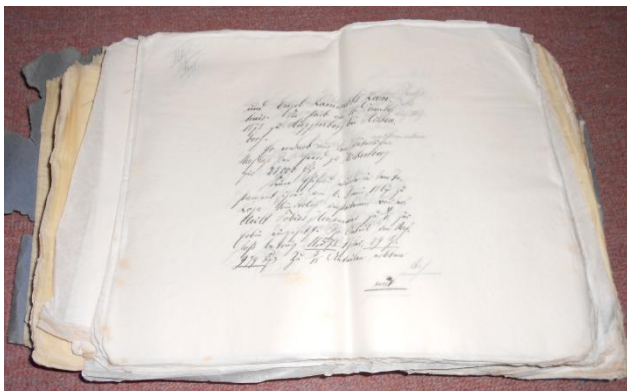
When leaving the hall we had to take care that no butterflies were carried out. A special lock



(2372 XXIII), arrived with his wife Julie and the kids Donovan and Nolan. Currently the family lives in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Family Association van Lessen was represented by Ibeling van Lessen who attended our family reunion.

Upon returning to the hotel Reiherhorst we made use of the time together and discussed the experiences of the day at the dinner buffet. In a short speech I presented the participants of the family day.



had been built at the exit by the organizers.

At a family reunion it's always good to see familiar faces again after two years. But as President of the Association, I especially looked forward to meeting those who attended our family reunion for the first time. The walk around the garden show provided an opportunity for a first meeting and talk. We were particularly pleased about having family members from the United States among our group. Darren Chaloner from Alden MN, a grandson of Lyle Greenfield



During our visit to America my wife and I had received an old suitcase, it was given to us by Enid Engler (611 I), the granddaughter of Enno Groeneveld, the founder of our family association. Its contents was met with great interest. Particularly the handwritten prepublication (see picture left) copy by Enno Groeneveld was admired which later (printed out) became the first edition of the family books published in 1910





On Pentecost Sunday we visited the museum of local history in Weener.

The dedication above the entrance points out that it was established in the former poorhouse. Anna and Gerhard Schultz had visited the museum several times before and therefore had so much knowledge about the place that they guided us and explained the exhibits. Looking at the antique items the older

participants were able to revive cherished memories of their youth. "I remember this too," was an often heard sentence. But hardly anyone knew a treadmill for dogs which had been used to move a churn for the production of butter. Whereas wheelwright Johann Groeneveld (E 151) from Schatteburg spontaneously began with the production of clogs, when he saw the shoemaker's bench (see photo on the right).



For the children, Nolan and Donovan Chaloner, it was a challenge to recognize an old phone with cradle and dial plate. "What's that?" they wanted to know. So fast-paced is the time!

The visit to the museum in Weener rounded off our family reunion 2014.



## Flying visit to Forreton

(by Hinrich Groeneveld)

As flight captain for Air Berlin I came to Chicago in November 2013. Fortunately I got one of the few rotations with a day off at the destination. So, what to do? Spontaneously I remembered the Greenfields in Forreton and Freeport. Loran (G 2372 XII) and his family weren't at home but Harlan (G 2372 X) and his wife Carolyn were happy to see me. From Chicago O'Hare Airport it's about a two hour drive via Interstate 95. The highway was one single construction area with the respective speed limit. Big signs warned me unmistakably to drive carefully: "If you hit a worker – 14 years jail!"

Harlan and Carolyn welcomed me just as cordially in their nice little house in Freeport as four years before, when my wife and me joined a family reunion in Illinois. After a coffee break Harlan took me on a tour in his big Chevy-Pickup. Because he knows my interests very well he took me to Greg Haack, a retired teacher who restores an 80 year old Auburn-sportscar with unbelievable accuracy. I had met Greg already four years before and his Auburn had progressed pretty well but it was still far from completeness. Next stop was the farm of Michael Greenfield (G 2952). He farms about 7500 acres, only with corn. We met

him in the middle of the harvest season. The boss himself drove the harvester (picture) and I accompanied him for a few rounds. I asked Michael how they deal with genetic engineered corn and he told me they have to grow 16% natural corn. After Harlan had shown me a new hiking trail for pedestrians and bicyclists which the town of Freeport is very proud of we met Carolyn and I was invited for dinner in a nice restaurant. For the trip back to Chicago I avoided the Interstate but that wasn't faster either. At least I couldn't endanger any workers on this country road.

## ALS Ice Bucket Challenge

In 2014 many people in Germany have poured a bucket of ice water over their heads and then published a photo of this action on the internet. This may sound a little crazy, but it has a quite serious background. People not willing to have a bucket with ice water dumped over their head were supposed to donate a noteworthy sum of money for the fight against the disease ALS. The movie "The Theory of Everything" about the life of Stephen Hawking who suffers from ALS made this disease well-known. ALS is a very rare medical condition, but usually leads to death within a few years. Because the disease is so rare, the pharmaceutical industry has little interest in expensive research for new approved drugs because the expected profit is (too) low. The Ice Bucket Challenge in Germany was successful and added up donations of nearly 2 million Euros. The ALS researchers at Medical Universities are happy about the benefit from these donations.



Mark D. Greenfield  
(1956 – 2014)

The Groeneveld / Greenfield Family Associations mourns the death of Mark D. Greenfield (2969) from Machesney Park, Illinois (USA). He died from the disease ALS on Nov. 19, 2014 at the age of 58 years.

## 66. Greenfield Family Reunion in South Dakota

Also on Pentecost weekend (June 8, 2014), the descendants of Peter Greenfield met in the Legion Hall in Castlewood, South Dakota (USA). They belong to the Groeneveld "Steenfelde Driever" branch which is described in Volume 2 of the Family Book of 2008 (page 335 ff.) This meeting was attended by 50 people, all descendants of emigrant Freerk Heikes Groeneveld (= Frederick Greenfield, page 342 in Volume 2) respectively his son Peter Greenfield (Volume 2, page 348 with family picture). At the age of 16, in 1868, Peter came to America with his parents. With his wife, Johanna, he had 12 children. Their descendants meet in South Dakota annually. The youngest participant was Miles Greenfield, one year old. Oldest participant was Agnes Greenfield, at age 94, the widow of Peter. E. Greenfield (page 364). Stan Greenfield (Volume 2, page 374), great-grandson of Peter Greenfield, submitted the information about the South Dakota meeting.

## Obituaries

Finally it is my sad duty to inform you that three former board members passed away. Erna Groeneveld from Syke, widow of Helmut Harro Groeneveld (no. 813 V), died August 21, 2012.

Albert J. Groeneveld from Bunderneuland (no. 1053), died February 11, 2013.

Diedrich Groeneveld from Landschaftspolder (no. 948), died October 27, 2014.