

# Familienverband der Familien Groeneveld



Chairman:

Dr. Albert Groeneveld, Zeisigweg 25, 48683 AHAUS  
Tel.: 02561-43478 Email: albert.groeneveld@web.de

Office:

Günther Groeneveld · Reformierter Kirchengang 17 · 26789 LEER  
Tel.: 0491-9796995 · Fax: 0491-9768953  
Email: gunthergroeneveld@gmail.com



Internet: [www.diegroenevelds.de](http://www.diegroenevelds.de)

50th newsletter

Ahaus, January 2013

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

While writing this newsletter, with snow flurry and icy roads outside, I'm gladly remembering the midsummer weather during our recent family reunion, on May 26 and 27, 2012. We had blue skies and sunshine all day, the thermometer indicated 25° C (77° F) – weather conditions like this are not very common at the East Frisian seaside.

I'm looking back at these wonderful two days with some photos and reports. We started the family reunion with a bus tour around the Krummhörn and visited the world's most leaning tower in Suurhusen, the windmill in Rysum, the picturesque harbour of Greetsiel and then came back to Emden. The evening event took place in our Hotel „Faldernpoort“. On Sunday morning we met in the city centre of Emden for a guided tour, and afterwards we enjoyed an interesting harbor cruise. When we had to say “good-bye”, many participants asked for another reunion within a short time.

On behalf of the board of the Groeneveld Family Association I wish you all the best for 2013, good health and good luck!

Dr. Albert Groeneveld

## The first Groeneveld family reunion in Emden

The Groeneveld family reunions have a long tradition of now more than 100 years, but in 2012 for the first time we met in Emden. After all you'll find more Groenevelts in the Emden telephone directory than in any other German town, Grönevelts (ö instead of oe) included in this statistics. The meeting point was our Hotel Faldernpoort, and considering the rooms and the dinner buffet it turned out it had been a good choice. Some participants arrived a day early to take advantage of the wonderful weather at the sea side. It seems Emden is a very interesting place for tourists, which I realized at the latest when I had to book our own hotel rooms two days prior to our meeting. The Faldernpoort Hotel was fully booked, so we had to accept another place, a hotel close to the ferry harbor. After a short welcome in the Faldernpoort Hotel yard we started our bus tour on time at 3 p.m. We had more passengers than available seats in the bus, but somehow we managed to handle the situation. The younger people and those young at heart moved together or even sat on the bus floor.

The first stop was at Suurhusen's (straight) church with its leaning bell tower. Meanwhile it is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's most leaning tower, and thus replaces the famous „Leaning tower of Pisa“. Tjabbo van Lessen welcomed us at the entrance, he is a cousin of Freerk van Lessen, one of our members of the board. Maybe some people assumed that East Frisians have a rather poor command of words, but Tjabbo van Lessen proved that black is white.



Considering our tour schedule I had previously „granted“ him 30 minutes time for our visit. He gave us detailed explanations and background stories about the church and tower, (see photo), and he told us afterwards why he always would agree to this kind of time limit: “Usually it takes more time, but no one ever complained.” The picture taken in the church shows that we all listened carefully to him and lost track of the time. So we learned about the history of the Suurhusen church, and Tjabbo also knew why the bell tower is leaning: the low lying ground around Suurhusen requires dewatering, and the successful drainage measures led to declining groundwater. Thus the oaken foundation began to molder and the tower leant over more and more. People first noticed this development in 1885, more than 400 years after the construction of the tower. Between 1929 and 1939 the tower moved extremely by more than 50 cm (20 inches), structural measures helped to stabilize the tower. Since the turn of the century the angle of inclination is 5.2 degrees (2,47 m respectively 8 ft 1 in). Nevertheless our group was very courageous, we were

### Midsummery temperature records at our family reunions

In the past we were very lucky choosing the dates for our family reunions.

Family reunion dated	Observed daily high	Longtime average temperature
June 7, 2003	78,3 ° F	68,4 ° F
May 29, 2005	83,3 ° F	64,8 ° F
May 10, 2008	79,3 ° F	61,3 ° F
May 26, 2012	77,0 ° F	64,8 ° F



standing in front of the tower while Tjabbo gave us more details about the famous building (see photo). With our bus we drove past the Emden VW car plant directly to the estuary of the Ems river, the viewpoint there is called Emden Knock. Mrs. Gerda Reershemius had gotten on the bus in Suurhusen and had taken charge of the tour. When we arrived at the historical monuments the bus had to turn. The two statues show Frederick William, Elector of Brandenburg (1620-1688) and Frederick the Great, King in Prussia (1712-1786). Mrs. Reershemius explained, that the elector is looking out to the sea, because he had mainly been interested in East Frisian harbors and seafaring whereas his great-grandson, the king, is looking inland because he believed in the fertile East Frisian soil. The participants of the 2005 family reunion had been standing on the other side of the river Ems mouth during their tour around the Dutch Reiderland. Meanwhile a tunnel (length 4 km / 2.5 mi) has been built to connect both sides, however only for the transport of gases. We continued our tour to Rysum. When Manfred Groeneveld from Plön saw the signs with local village names, he remembered his active career as a soccer player during the fifties. With his TV Bunde team he often had to play soccer in this area. „The hospitality of the audience would sometimes depend on the final score“ he said. Since his team TV Bunde was quite successful at the time, everyone could imagine his thoughts. Upon arrival in Rysum, a small village on a dwelling mound, we walked up to the highest point which is in fact 6 m (20 ft) above sea level. If there were no dikes, we could have used a submarine for our tour through the “Krummhörn”, since most parts of this area are well below sea level. The Rysum church is situated on the highest point, in the middle of the village, and inside the building you’ll find the oldest still functioning organ in Northern Europe. Next to the church a photo of our whole group was taken, then we strolled on to the Rysum Dutch-style gallery windmill for our break with coffee, tea and cake. For every East Frisian drinking tea is rather a ceremony than a fast liquid food intake, but we had to hurry. The miller invited us to have a look at his mill which was in operation, and no one wanted to miss this interesting visit. Climbing the narrow and steep stairs was a challenge and required a little bit of physical fitness. But when we reached the outdoor deck, the so-called “Galerie” we had fantastic clear views from the village over the lush green Krummhörn meadows to the North Sea sparkling in the sunshine. From Rysum we drove on via Upleward and Manslagt to Greetsiel, which is a must in every tour around the Krummhörn. Upleward became known for it’s inland beach, which is separated from the sea by a dike, whereas Manslagt is famous for it’s martial name. According to some regional historians the meaning of „Manslagt“ is „man slain“ or „murder“. After a short walk around Greetsiel and it’s picturesque harbour the bus took us back to Emden. The evening event in the Faldernpoort Hotel began with a buffet which offered, among other delicacies, local gastronomic specialties like „Emder Matjes“ (herring Emden style) and „Emder Pannfisch“ ( fish out of a pan). The afternoon program had been a little exhausting, but nevertheless everyone was talking enthusiastically about the days experiences and the news from the last four years, since the 2008 family reunion. In my short address I remembered this family reunion celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Groeneveld Family Association with more than 150 participants. We are very happy about the very good relationships we maintain again with our American relatives since this jubilee. Many family members had sent their regards from the United States, and I know that they always love to welcome German guests. Most of the family books we had published in 2008 have meanwhile been sold, therefore the financial status of our Family Association allowed us to ask ..... (continue page 5)



„Courageous“ Groeneveld family



## Participants of the Groeneveld family reunion on 27. / 28. Mai 2012 in Emden

Recently I received some older Groeneveld newsletters from the sixties and the seventies, and I noticed that the names of family members who attended the family reunions had regularly been published. It seems this was very popular at the time, and I would like to take up this idea now. The youngest participant in Emden was Bernhard Groeneveld (N 273), aged 8, he came from Friedland with his father Sigmar. The oldest participant was Anna Groeneveld, aged 90, from Ihrhove, she was accompanied by her daughter Roswitha de Buhr (N 251). Wolf-Hinrich Groeneveld (820 I) from Hamburg and Lieselotte Töppich (988 VIII) from Bad Zwischenahn should have been honored for her „Golden Participation“, because 50 years ago, on November 24, 1962 both participated in the 18<sup>th</sup> Family Reunion which took place in the restaurant “Zur Waage” in Leer. Unfortunately I wasn't aware of this fact in May 2012. Back then, 50 years ago in Leer, some family members had to cancel their appearance at the last minute. According to newsletter no. 13 the weather report forecasted icy roads and drifting of snow. So we were better off in May!

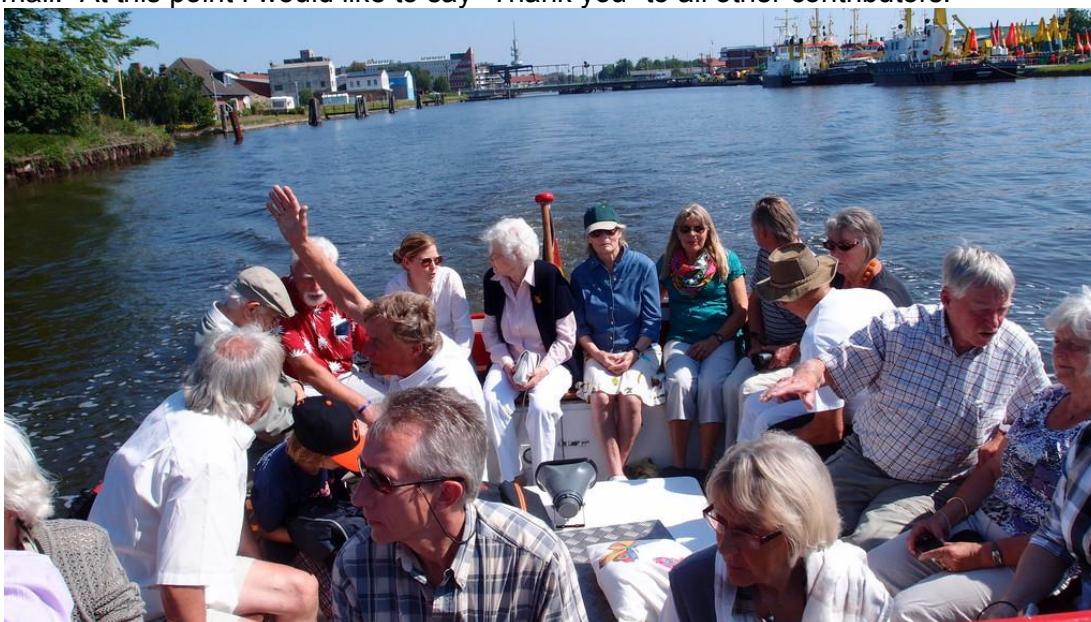
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Wolf-Hinrich (820 I) and Bärbel Groeneveld, Hamburg   | 20. Josephine (3036) Groeneveld, Braunschweig   |
| 2. Karla (812 a) and Folkert Heller, Aurich              | 21. Gesa Groeneveld (2412 I) and Henning Hahn-Groeneveld, Hoppenrade                                |
| 3. Annelie (988 IV) Hofmann, Minden                      | 22. Eldert (NL) and Sigrid Groeneveld, Kuchen   |
| 4. Ursula Eckhardt (988 II), Oldenburg                   | 23. Sigmar (N 181 I) and Bernhard (N 273) Groeneveld, Friedland                                     |
| 5. Karl Heinz and Lieselotte (988 VIII) Töppich          | 24. Engelbert (N 183) and Jutta Groeneveld, Norden  |
| 6. Johann (2381) and Karin Groeneveld, Bunderhee         | 25. Roswitha de Buhr (N 251), Emden and Anna Groeneveld, Westoverledingen                           |
| 7. Anke and Hinrich (2155) Groeneveld, Moosburg          | 26. Berend Groeneveld (N 177), Bielefeld  |
| 8. Astrid Groeneveld, Konstanz (2706)                    | 27. Inga Groeneveld – Coleman (N 259a), Bielefeld   |
| 9. Hilda (2056) and Ludwig Meinders, Ostrhauderfehn      | 28. Frauke (N 259) Groeneveld, Bielefeld  |
| 10. Klaus and Lydia de Boer (2131 I b), Ostrhauderfehn   | 29. Ulrich Kobusch, Bielefeld   |
| 11. Günther Groeneveld (2623), Leer                      | 30. Elisabeth and Maren (E 219) Groeneveld, Norden  |
| 12. Helmuth Groeneveld (2153), Bückebug                  | 31. Waltraud Groeneveld (zu E 152), Rhauferfehn, Johann Groeneveld (E 151), Rhauferfehn-Schatteburg |
| 13. Anna (2406) and Gerhard Schultz, Lingen              | 32. Alfred and Maria (D 118) Peters, Bielefeld  |
| 14. Beate and Albert (2407 II) Groeneveld, Ahaus         | 33. Karl-Ontjes (D 120) and Mechthild Groeneveld, Frankfurt   |
| 15. Karl-Heinz Groeneveld (2720), Jever                  | 34. Manfred (D 135) and Jürina Groeneveld, Plön   |
| 16. Helga and Helmut (981 XVI) Groeneveld, Seligenstadt  | 35. Hans and Erna Groeneveld, Emden (Uphusen)   |
| 17. Johannes (2064) and Matthias (2603) Groeneveld, Leer |   |
| 18. Johann and Elisabeth Fresemann, (813 IIa), Jemgum    |   |
| 19. Rika (3035) Groeneveld, Hamburg                      |   |



From left: Astrid Groeneveld (2706), Gerhard a. Anna Schultz (2406), Maren Groeneveld (E 219)

for only a small fee for the family reunion which everyone appreciated. Our event ended around midnight, after we all together had spent an eventful day and interesting evening. The next day, Pentecost, we met again with many participants for a guided tour of the Emden city centre. We started at the so-called Delftufer, the old part of the harbour, and saw the historical Town Hall as an example for the old history of Emden and the bunker museum from more recent times, it is one of the remains of World War II. The tour guide told us about nights with bombs falling during the war, and the worst memories came back to Johannes Groeneveld. As a child he often had to take shelter in one of those bunkers, and on the streets he even saw people burning. – We walked back to the Delft waterfront and went aboard a boat for our harbour tour. We appreciated the fresh breeze on deck because it was welcome as a relief from the heat (see photo). Back at the dock it was time to say goodbye.

One family member handed a donation of 220 € over to me for our association, so that we can afford printing and mailing the news letter furthermore instead of just sending it via e-mail. At this point I would like to say “Thank you” to all other contributors!





Luise Schapp, 100 years old

## Luise Schapp, née Groeneveld celebrated her centenary

On April 11, 2012 Luise Schapp celebrated her 100th birthday with her family in Aurich. When Winston Churchill was almost 90 years old and was asked, how someone could grow this old, he just said: „No sports!“. Luise Schapp proved him wrong. Back in 1928 she was Germany's best female broad jumper and in 1929 she became North Germany's hurdle race champion. However she attracted the attention of other athletes not only by her athletic achievements, but also because of her long blond braids. Rumor has it that she was asked: „Which magic forest do you come from?“ On her 26th birthday she married Dr. Wilhelm Schapp, an attorney at law, who was 54 years old at the time. Luise Schapp also went for law studies, in 1942 she completed the first part of her studies in Celle, and in

1947 she completed law school with the so-called second state examination (bar exam) in Hamburg. During her years of study her two sons Hayo and Jan Willms were born. After her husband had died in 1965 at the age of 80, she took over his law firm. However she also became involved in politics and was a member of the county council of the Aurich district as well member of the Lower Saxon Parliament. During her political work she focused on strengthening the role of women in our society, her own life and professional career can be looked at as an example. Despite her ripe old age Luise Schapp still is very hale, she gave up driving herself only a few years ago.

## Questionnaire concerning the organization of Groeneveld family reunions

During the evening event at our recent reunion we handed out questionnaires to all participants and asked about wishes and ideas for coming family reunions. As expected we received many different replies: all guests appreciated a date set in May or June, especially the Pentecost weekend seems to be suitable. The majority said that a schedule for two days rather than only one day would be very welcome. The program should always include touristic activities, first of all a boat trip on the river Ems. Regarding the frequency of our meetings people gave different opinions (every 2 years or every 4 years), but obviously the majority favors the shorter interval (2 years). The next issue was the distribution of the newsletters. Most participants said, the letters should be sent to the members of the association only. However the opposite opinion has also been expressed intensively: we should send the newsletters to all Groenevelts known to us, in order to introduce the family association to possible new members and give them a chance to become acquainted with us. Exactly for this purpose I had received the donation mentioned above.

## New research concerning the Großwolde stirps

Last summer I exchanged some interesting e-mails with Robin Blanker from the Dutch capital Den Haag. He is active in genealogical research and discovered that his family's roots lead to the Groeneveld branch Großwolde. Thus we learned about sons of Abraham Berends (N12) respectively Nanne Harms (N16), ancestor of US Großwolde branch, which had been unknown to us until then. I will publish the findings in family letter 51 .