

Newsletter

of the

descendants

of the

Hoppe

Family of

Bantorf,

Hannover,

Germany

In this issue...

Memories of WW II

Obituaries

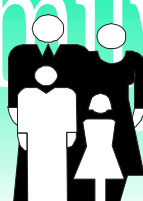
Poems

Reunion Notes

Germany Visit

The Family Record

Hoppe Family Reunion



Number 10

July 1999

Memories of end of WW II Geschichten vom Ende des 2. Weltkrieges



In the previous issue, the army services of three Hoppe brothers were detailed.

In this issue, a cousin recalls memories of living in Germany as a boy of six years old at the end of World War II. He is Burkhard Hoppe, pictured at left, and he currently lives in Schmiechen, west of Munich.

Burkhard's original text is presented alongside an English translation.

At the end of the war we lived in Wallensen, a village with about 900 inhabitants. We were myself, my mother and her father, my grandfather. My grandmother had died in March 1944 and my father was in the war at the east front (see footnote, pg. 2). We lived in the home of my grandmother's birthplace. In front of this house were lime trees which had a diameter of 20 inches.

The American armed forces advanced over the Rhine from the west, followed by Englishmen in the north and Frenchmen in the middle part of Germany, while the Russians marched from the east. On the advance of the Americans there was still fighting on the Rhine. On the other hand, they could cross the Weser, a river 80 yards wide and 13 feet deep, in the vicinity of Hameln, without fighting. A militia from old had blown up the bridge in Hameln after the army was already on the other side of the bank, partly obstructing the crossing of the river. Wallensen is 18 miles from Hameln.

Early in 1945, my grandfather and I overheard from the house a discussion on the road which had the potential to initiate a turn in the war. Here the local farmer leader and another party official discussed how the invasion of the Americans could be stopped. The party official suggested felling the lime trees in front of the house "...then the Americans would have to work on it and would continue to advance no longer." Fortunately, however, the soldiers were faster in their advance than the Nazis were with a saw to the trees.

Thursday, April 5, 1945 was a sunny spring day. Around midday we heard a

Wir lebten zum Ende des Krieges in Wallensen, einem Dorf mit ca. 900 Einwohnern, Wir, das waren meine Mutter und ihr Vater, mein Großvater. Seine Frau war im März 1944 verstorben, mein Vater war im Krieg an der Ostfront. Wir wohnten in dem Haus, in dem meine verstorbene Großmutter geboren und aufgewachsen war. Vor diesem Haus standen Linden, die einen Durchmesser von 50 cm hatten.

Die amerikanischen Streitkräfte drangen über den Rhein weiter nach Osten vor, gefolgt von Engländern im Norden und Franzosen im mittleren Teil Deutschlands, während die Russen nach Westen marschierten. Auf dem Vormarsch der Amerikaner hatte es noch Kämpfe am Rhein gegeben, dagegen konnten sie die Weser, ein Fluß mit 70 m Breite und bis 4 m Tiefe, bei Hameln ohne Kampfhandlungen überqueren. Vom Volkssturm, eine Miliz aus alten, teils körperlich behinderten Menschen, war die Brücke in Hameln gesprengt worden, nachdem die Armee bereits auf der anderen Seite des Ufers war. Wallensen ist 30 km von

(continued from previous page)

Hameln entfernt.

Anfang April 1945 haben mein Großvater und ich vom Haus aus ein Gespräch auf der Straße mitgehört, das die Wende im Kriegsgeschehen einleiten sollte. Hier diskutierten der Ortsbauernführer und ein weiterer Parteifunktionär darüber, wie der Einmarsch der Amerikaner verhindert werden könne. Der Parteifunktionär schlug vor, die Linden vor dem Haus zu fällen, „...denn dann hätten die Amerikaner daran zu kauen und kämen nicht mehr weiter voran.“ Zum Glück waren aber die Soldaten schneller im Ort, als diese Nazis mit einer Säge bei den Bäumen.

Donnerstag, der 5. April 1945, war ein sonniger Frühlingstag. Um die Mittagszeit hörten wir das Brummen von Panzern. Schnell wurden weiße Betttücher an den Häusern aufgehängt. Ein Panzer fuhr in die Mitte des Ortes und gab einen Schuß in die Luft ab. Als alles ruhig geblieben ist, passierten 24 Stunden lang Panzer und Trucks die Straße in Richtung Osten. Danach war für einige Stunden Ruhe, bis der Troß folgte.

Diese Soldaten suchten sich die schönsten Häuser im Dorf aus, um darin zu wohnen. Die Eigentümer mußten zusehen, wo sie verbleiben konnten. Wir hatten hier Glück. Weil mein Großvater als Lehrer in Hannover tätig war, war das Haus an einen Arzt vermietet, der dort wohnte und seine Praxis eingerichtet hatte. Er selbst war in Rußland. Die Praxis wurde von einem Arzt dreimal in der Woche benutzt, der 6 km entfernt lebte und dort seine eigene Praxis hatte. Neben der weißen Fahne war deshalb auch das Rote Kreuz angebracht. Der amerikanische Arzt kontrollierte das Haus und bat darum, diese freie Arztpraxis benutzen zu dürfen. Er hat sie **nicht** beschlagnahmt.

Dieses war auch das erste Mal, daß ich einen Farbigen gesehen hatte. Wenn ich heute daran zurückdenke, so muß dieser Soldat über 2 m groß gewesen sein. Er fragte mich: „Du Chocolat?“ und gab mir ein Stück. Ich habe es probiert und fand es ganz prima, denn dieses war das erste Stück meines Lebens gewesen. Er setzte sich, hob mich auf sein Knie und faßte in die Seitentasche seiner Uniform. Zu Tage kam eine ganze Tafel Schokolade, die er Stück für Stück mir zum Essen gab. Herrlich! Doch der nächste Tag zeigte die Wirkung weil Schokolade stopft.

humming of tanks. White sheets were quickly hung up at the houses. A tank drove into the center of the town and delivered a shot into the air. When everything remained calm, tanks and trucks began rolling through on the road toward the east and continued for the next 24 hours. Afterwards, there was peace for some hours until the unit train followed.

These soldiers chose for themselves the most beautiful houses in the village in which to live. The owners had to wait and see where they could remain. Here we were lucky because my grandfather was a teacher in Hanover and the house was rented to a physician who lived there and had his practice. The physician was in Russia and the practice was used by another physician three times a week. This physician lived four miles away and had his own practice there.

Therefore, beside the white flag the red cross was also attached. The American physician controlled the house and asked to be allowed to use this free medical practice. He did **not** seize it.

This was also the first time that I had seen a black person. If I remember correctly, this soldier was over 6'-6" tall. He asked me: "You chocolate?" and gave me a piece. I tried it and found it completely supreme because this had been the first piece of my life.

He sat down, lifted me on his knee and reached into the side pocket of his uniform. Out came a whole bar of chocolate which he gave to me piece by piece for a meal. Wonderful! But the next day showed the effect because chocolate plugs.

Burkhard and his mother, Hanna, visited his father in a German camp. When the Russian front came near, they left by train on January 6, 1945. After that time they never heard from his father again.

In the summer of 1946, a man came from a village where Burkhard's grandfather was born. The man told that he and Burkhard's father were imprisoned around the end of January 1945 by the Russians. In this prison camp his father suffered from dysentery and died in a military hospital March 25, 1945 in Landsberg/Warthe (now in Poland).

Burkhard's mother is 91 and lives near Munich. He and his wife, Gerti, have two children, Gerald and Anja. They all live in the area of Augsburg and Munich, where Burkhard works for the Federal government, marketing for the transportation department.

German

boy

watches

American

army

advance



Hoppe Family Reunion is published for the
Hoppe Family Association, an informal
organization of descendants of the
Hoppe Family of Bantorf, Hannover, Germany.
On the internet at <http://www.4w.com/pages/hoppe>

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Obituaries

Herbert

enjoyed

fishing,

scuba diving

and old cars



**Herbert W. Hoppe
1929-1998**

Herbert William Hoppe, son of Arthur William and Verlyn Leath (Van Meter) Hoppe, was born on August 29, 1929 in Wray, Colorado and died September 28, 1998 at the Phillips County Hospital, Phillipsburg, Kansas, at the age of 69.

Herbert graduated from Diablo High School in Concord, California. On November 18, 1949 he was united in marriage to Jessie Marie Keller in The Chapel of the Chimes in Oakland, California.

In 1990, after retiring from the Navy, Herbert and Jessie moved from Boulevard, California to Phillips County where he resided until his death.

Herbert was a member of the Masonic Lodge. He enjoyed fishing, scuba diving and rebuilding old cars. One of his greatest joys were his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Jessie, of the home; three sons: Donald William of Harney County, Oregon; Eric Lauren of Devils Lake, North Dakota; and Daniel Wayne of Phillipsburg; four daughters: Lorri Marie Craig of Billings, Montana; Allena Charmaine Hoppe and Melanie Jayne Hoppe of Reno, Nevada; and Jennie Rebecca Hoppe of Phillipsburg; two brothers: Jerry of Palmdale, California and Larry of Livingston, Texas; three sisters: Judy Brown of St. Helen's Oregon; Sharon Hill of Las Vegas, Nevada; and Sandy Hays of Santa Ana, California; 10 grandchildren: Jaymi Katherine, Jerry William, Nicholas Eugene, Jacob William, Kierstin Marie, Andrea Lynette, Benjamin, Michaela Marie,

Dakota Michael and Devanie Sueann.

Herbert will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

Funeral services were held Monday, October 5 at 2 p.m. in the Olliff-Boeve Memorial Chapel with Pastors Tom James and Aaron Rust officiating.

Lisa James and Kendra Hrabe sang "Daddy's Hands" and "Amazing Grace" and Van Bradley, soloist, sang "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" accompanied by JoAnn Rust. "Love Me" was played on tape.

Casket bearers were Donald William, Daniel Wayne, Larry, Lauren and Jerry Hoppe, Bob Brown, Mike Craig and Andy Moore. Honorary bearers were Fred, Benjamin, Edwin, Jerry William and Dakota Michael Hoppe and Nicholas Eugene and Jacob William Hoover.

Interment was in the Plum Creek Cemetery with Military Honors by the Kansas National Guard.



**Harold Schroeder
1910-1998**

Harold Christoph Heinrich Schroeder, 88 years, 5 months and 20 days, died Nov. 15, 1998, at the Heritage Care Center in Fairbury, Nebraska. He was born May 25, 1910, on a farm one mile west and 3/4 miles south of Plymouth, to August G. and Sophie Heidelk Schroeder. He was the second of five children, two boys and three girls.

He was baptized June 12, 1910, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Plymouth by the Rev. Max Lehninger.

On June 8, 1924, he was confirmed at St. Paul's United Church of Christ north of Jansen, by the Rev. Emil Vogt. He attended school one mile west of Plymouth at District 43 and finished grade school at District 95, near Harbine.

He was united in marriage to Leola Hacker on Feb. 23, 1933, at Peace Lutheran Church, west of Plymouth, by the Rev. A. Heckel. Three children were born to this union. They were members of Trinity Lutheran Church at Jansen, then at St. Paul's Lutheran of Plymouth, and returned to Trinity after they retired. He served his congregation at St. Paul's as a trustee and member of the building committee to build the new parochial school and at Trinity as treasurer.

He farmed throughout his lifetime: first east of Jansen, then north of Plymouth, and then returned to farm the family farm east of Jansen. In 1968 he semiretired and they moved to a new home on the edge of Jansen. He raised cattle and for years he raised a Charolais Angus herd. They were members of Silver Circle of Plymouth and the card group in Harbine. His hobbies were his horses, collecting many antique wagons and buggies, playing cards and fishing.

Preceding him in death were his parents; brother, Chester; and sister, Jean Darrow.

Survivors include his wife; son, Duane and his wife, Lois; daughters, Joyce Heidemann and her husband, Lee; and Suzanne Heidemann and her husband, Donald, all of Jansen; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; sisters, Lela Daily of North Platte and Ruth Vogel of Peoria, Illinois; brothers-in-law, Gaylord Darrow of Savannah, Illinois, and Alvin Haecker and his wife, Elsie, of Plymouth; sister-in-law, Martha Haecker of Plymouth; and nieces and nephews.

Services were November 19, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Jansen, with the Rev. Brian Kohl officiating. Music was provided by C. J. Freese and Norma Jean Wurm. Pallbearers were Mark Schroeder, Robert Schroeder, Ron Schroeder, Jarrod Heidemann, Todd Heidemann and Wade Heidemann. Honorary pallbearers were Doug Jiskra, Scott Shepard, Bruce Kobza and Robert Lambert. Burial was in the Fairbury Cemetery.



**Orpha (Hoppe) Jimenez
1921-1998**

Orpha Henrietta Sophie Hoppe Jimenez, daughter of August and Ida Hoppe, was born July 19, 1921, on a farmstead near Jansen, Nebraska. She died December 9, 1998 at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Orpha grew to adulthood on the family farm and was an active member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ. She attended country school and graduated with honors from the 8th grade. She then worked on the farm with her family.

In 1943, Orpha met a young soldier from the Air Force Base in Bruning at a local dance. She saw this young man, named Francis Jimenez, only a couple more times before he was shipped overseas. But he and Orpha continued to communicate by letter. As Francis says it, she wrote him long letters, sometimes as long as twenty pages.

When a medical condition brought Francis back to the United States, he wired Orpha from his native New York City and asked her to come visit him and his family. With incredible faith in God and a lot of guts, Orpha, a shy, Nebraska farmer's daughter, headed off to New York City.

Orpha and Francis were married by a military chaplain on June 10, 1945. Understandably, her family had their doubts that the marriage would last. Not only did it last; it thrived and grew, and became a thing of ultimate beauty, love, and joy.

Following their marriage, Francis spent a few more months in the military, before being discharged. He then worked for Pan American Airlines in New York City for a short time. But Orpha's midwest roots were calling the two of them back home.

Harold was

collector of

antique

wagons and

buggies

Orpha had

“green

thumb that

went clear

to her

shoulder”

Mildred

served in

Kansas

State

Legislature

So Orpha and Francis moved to Beatrice, Nebraska, where Francis worked as an auto mechanic and later for a manufacturing firm. Then while he studied at the University of Nebraska, Orpha worked at the Beatrice State Home and later at the State Home in Lincoln.

Francis then began his lifelong career as an airplane mechanic and ultimately, foreman of the aviation shops for the Nebraska Army National Guard. This allowed Orpha to return to her first love, which was being a loving wife and mother. As Orpha saw it, the happiest times of her life were with her family. Francis and her family were her life.

Orpha was an active member of Sheridan Lutheran Church where she was very involved in the Ester Circle, quilting group, and delivering meals on wheels. She enjoyed traveling and was fortunate to have had the opportunity to travel to several parts of the country with Francis.

She also loved to garden and had a special knack for raising plants. As Fran said it so well, “Mom had a green thumb that went clear up to her shoulder blade.” She also enjoyed sewing and crocheting.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and her brother, Marvin.

Orpha is survived by her husband, Francis, of Lincoln, daughter, Francine and her husband, Monte Baatz, of Lincoln, two granddaughters, Nicki and Gretchen, of Lincoln, several nieces and nephews, other relatives, and many, many friends.

May God bless the memory of Orpha Jimenez.

Mildred Elizabeth Otis 1914-1999

Mildred Elizabeth Otis, daughter of John Davies and Sophia Hoppe Otis, was born October 9, 1914 in Logan, Kansas and died May 15, 1999 in the Long Term Care, Phillips County Hospital, Phillipsburg, Kansas at the age of 84.

Mildred was baptized September 20, 1931, and she was a member of the Plum Creek Evangelical United Brethren Church.

She taught in several grade schools in Phillips County - Crow, Science Valley, Agra and Gretna. She also taught in Otis and Lacrosse, Kansas. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from Ft. Hays State, she taught math at college for a while then transferred to teach the Star Unit, US

Army Air Force stationed at Walker Field.

From there she moved to Washington, D.C. to work at the Naval Tidal Basin. In her time off she both attended and taught at George Washington University. In 1946, she moved to Bloomington, Indiana to both attend and teach at the University of Indiana. In 1947 she moved to Lawrence, Kansas to both teach and attend Kansas University, where she received her law degree.



Before starting her law office in Agra she served one full term as the Representative from this area in the Kansas Legislature in Topeka.

She then moved back to Phillips County and set up her law office in Agra.

She cared for her parents until their deaths in 1967 and 1980.

Mildred was preceded in death by her parents and a nephew, Kenneth Otis. Survivors include her brothers, Fred C. Otis and wife, Muriel, of Salina, Kansas and John H. Otis and wife, Gretchelle, of Agra, Kansas and by nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was an attorney at law and a member of the American Bar Association and the Kansas Bar Association.

Mildred will be missed by her brothers, nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Notice

Descendants of F. C. and Agnes (Gibson) Hoppe are invited to a reunion of the John McTurk Gibson family. This event will be held on Saturday July 29, 2000 in Fairbury, Nebraska at the Community Center. For more information contact Weldon Hoppe.

The Hoppe family reunion is the following day at the same location.

Poems

I Want to Dwell in Heaven

Song by Mildred Otis

I want to dwell in Heaven
With Father God abide
And see my friend and Savior
Lord Jesus at His side.

Chorus: Where the deaf shall hear
And the blind shall see
And the lame shall walk
Through Eternity.

I want to dwell in Heaven
Beyond this earthly life
Where harmony and peace rule
There is no hate nor strife.

Chorus

I want to dwell in Heaven
And join my parents there,
Others who have gone before
All in God's tender care.

Chorus

They Burned the Home Place Down Today

by Nancy Hoppe Lowe

Echos of voices now silent.
Tears and laughter of souls
no longer there.
Memories, with the smoke,
rise to heaven like prayers.

The land, the house, the big white
barn.
Witnesses to the love and struggle,
The pain and pride of the
generations they sheltered and
sustained.

Time.
Relentless and unforgiving.
Both enemy and friend.
Brought them to this day.
Brought them to this end.

My father's home.
This place of his birth.
Now, ravaged by time
Returns to the earth.

One Road, One Heart

by Jessica (Nicki) Baatz

There are two people I know, they wrote
the book on love.
They share a bond that was blessed from
above.
They've weathered all storms that drive
many apart.
They havemade forgiving a beautiful
art.
He was raised on an island, her in the
midwest.
Their chances at love were very slim at
best.
But though the worlds they grew up in
couldn't be farther apart,
God brought them together, now the two
share one heart.
It's been 50 years since their road
together started,
Through all twists and turns that road
never parted.
They're a true perfect marriage, a fairy
tale come true,
My Grandpa and Grandma, my heroes
are you.

Reunion Notes

The 1998 Hoppe Family Reunion
was held on Sunday July 26 at
Fairbury, Nebraska. A total of 49 people
were in attendance.

A pot-luck dinner was held in the
Community Center after which a brief
meeting was held. Officers of the
Association were elected as follows:

Dick Hoppe, President
Fred W. Hoppe, Vice president
Nancy Lowe, Sec-Treas.

It was announced that the 1999
reunion will be held in Agra, Kansas at
the American Legion Hall on Sunday
July 25, 1999.

It is a sad note that since the time of
the reunion last year when Agra was
chosen as the location of the 1999
reunion, two cousins from the Agra
area have passed away. We looked
forward to seeing Herb and Mildred at
the time of this year's reunion and they
will be missed. We hope that their
families will share their presence with us
at the reunion.

1999

Reunion

July 25 in

Agra, KS

Cousins Visit Germany



Neuschwanstein Castle



Vineyards along the Rhine



Burg Eltz



Tour of Bantorf by Mr. Welge

The first two weeks of October 1998, Wendel and Donna Hoppe, Sharla and Brian Rader, and Weldon and Paula Hoppe visited Germany, the culmination of a quest that began in 1992.

Our research that led to the formation of the Hoppe Family Association, this newsletter and the 125th Anniversary Reunion in 1994 began in 1992. Through searching for a copy of a book relating to the Hoppe ancestral town of Bantorf, Wendel was put in touch with Burkhard Hoppe in Germany.

Further research determined that Burkhard was a cousin who also descended from the Bantorf Hoppe's. Subsequently, Burkhard attended the 1994 reunion and invited us to come to Germany in the future.

We spent several days with Burkhard and his family. During that time we were shown various sites in their area such as: the Neuschwanstein Castle, old walled cities like Rothenburg, the Burg Eltz, and vineyards in the Rhine valley.

We spent the last several days of our trip in the area of Bantorf. We visited the church in Luttringhausen where the Hoppe family attended and saw the houses in Bantorf and Wichtringhausen that the Hoppe families lived in.

We were guided on a tour of the area by Mr. Welge, the man who compiled the book that originally put us in touch with Burkhard in 1992. In our contacts with people in the



The Hoppe dinner table



Typical street scene



Rothenburg





House where Hoppe's last lived before coming to America

area, three people (Mr. Welge, the pastor of the church in Hohenbostel and the Frau who looks after the church in Luttringhausen) all mentioned Capt. Fred Hoppe as having been to Bantorf a couple of years ago, looking for the same things we were.

We are grateful to Burkhard and his wife, Gerti, for their hospitality. We hope to return the favor sometime.

Perhaps sometime in the future they will be able to come to another Hoppe reunion.



Church in Luttringhausen



Interior of church in Luttringhausen

The Family Record

Hoppe Genealogy Record¹

Births:

- 1.2.1.2.1.2.1 - 6 Dec 1997 Myles Peterson Hughes
- 1.2.1.2.2.2.1 - 16 Apr 1998 Lorina Rebecca Hoppe
- 1.1.1.10.1.3a.2.1 - 24 Sep 1998 Morgan J. Mashlan; Huron, South Dakota

Marriages:

- 1.2.1.2.2.2 - 14 Feb 1997 Scott & Jennifer Hoppe

Deaths:

- 1.1.1.9.1 - 28 Sep 1998; Phillipsburg, Kansas; Herbert W. Hoppe
- 1.1.3.1.2 - 15 Nov 1998; Fairbury, Nebraska; Harold Schroeder
- 1.1.3.4.1 - 9 Dec 1998; Lincoln, Nebraska; Orpha S. (Hoppe) Jimenez
- 1.1.1.2.1 - 15 May 1999; Phillipsburg, Kansas; Mildred E. Otis

Address List Updates²

- David Otis (1.1.1.2.3.2) P.O. Box 1064 Ulysses, KS 67880 (316)424-2819
- Michelle Mashlan (1.1.1.10.1.3a.2) 469 14th St. SW Huron, SD 57350
- Jon Hoppe (1.1.1.10.1.3a.1) 2880 Minert Rd. Concord, CA 94518

Previous Newsletters Returned Undeliverable (Please provide current address)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jennifer Hash (Columbus, IN) | Linda Hash (Columbus, IN) |
| Bruce Hoppe (Florida) | David W. Hoppe (Sacramento, CA) |
| Michael Hoppe (Glenellen, CA) | April Hughes (APO AE) |
| Randy McFall (Lincoln, NE) | |

¹Genealogy reference numbers such as, "1.1.1.7.2," refer to the listing on pp. 58-69 of *Friedrich and Sophie Hoppe, German Immigrants to Jefferson County, Nebraska, August, 1994*. Copies are available.

²Corrections or additions to the listing on pp. 72-73 of the book referenced in Note 1.

Be

Y2K

Compliant!

Attend the

Year 2000

Hoppe

Family

Reunion

July 30

Fairbury, NE