



Somsen horizon

Volume 15 – number 26 – October 2012

- ◆ *Retrospect of Stephen Somsen*
- ◆ *Chocolate Cherry Cake*
- ◆ *Somsen Calendar*
- ◆ *Fourth Worldwide Reunion*
- ◆ *New discoveries*
- ◆ *A worldwide interview*
- ◆ *Dinner in the Country Club*
- ◆ *America trip*
- ◆ *The Somsen immigrants*
- ◆ *Visit to Bruce Crist*
- ◆ *100 Somsens*
- ◆ *Hendrik Lammers deceased*
- ◆ *Donald Somsen deceased*
- ◆ *Louisa Mae Rice deceased*
- ◆ *Paypal for donations USA*
- ◆ *Family announcements*



BOARD OF THE SOMSEN FOUNDATION

Johan Somsen [1089], *chairman and translator (English)*
 Schietbaanweg 11, 8162 GP Epe
 Tel: 0578-629 893 / 06 290 324 84
 E-mail: johan.f.somsen@wxs.nl

Margriet Iserief-Somsen [2878], *secretary*
 Jan Tooropstraat 2, 3817 PZ Amersfoort
 Tel: 033-461 96 43
 E-mail: somsenstichting@casema.nl

Jan van Daatselaar [679], *treasurer*
 Esstraat 22, 7131 CT Lichtenvoorde
 Tel: 0544-375 783
 E-mail: 7131ct22@gmail.com

Berto Somsen [423], *database*
 Burg. Wilhelmweg 27, 7151 AA Eibergen
 Tel: 0545-476 272
 E-mail: bc.somsen@telfort.nl

Harry Somsen [146], *editor Somsen Horizon*
 Doetinchemseweg30, 7021 BS Zelhem
 Tel: 0314-621011
 E-mail: somsen@oudzelhem.nl

Helmut Somsen [1562], *archive and German relations*
 Provinzialstrasse70, 46499 Hamminkeln
 Bundesrepublik Deutschland (BRD)
 Tel: 0049-287 35 36
 E-mail: helmut.somsen@t-online.de

Oscar Somsen [2040], *webmaster*
 De Gaillesingel46, 6716 LC Ede
 Tel: 0318-625566
 E-mail: somsen-nacion@planet.nl

Wim Somsen [518], *events*
 Hoge Heurnseweg8, 7095 CJ De Heurne
 Tel: 0315-652 115
 E-mail: jwsomsen01@hetnet.nl

ADVISORS OF THE SOMSEN FOUNDATION

Dick Somsen [130], *genealogy*
 Monteverdilaan175, 8031 DL Zwolle
 Tel: 038-454 23 60
 E-mail: somsengenealogie@kpnplanet.nl

John Somsen [2353], *relations USA*
 4579 Daisy Drive, Kissimmee
 FL 34746-6386, USA
 Tel: 001 407 397 91 07
 E-mail: somsen@crocker.com

INTERNET

Somsen website: www.somsen.org
 Login **GENEALOGY** :
 Password:

BANKAFFAIRS USA
 Stephen D. Somsen
 47231 East Fir Street
 P.O. Box 526
 Darrington, WA. 98241 USA
 phone: 001 562 430 0079
 e-mail: ssomsen@aol.com

For DONATIONS we would like to encourage you to use the PAYPAL button on our website. If this is really a problem then forward a cheque to Stephen Somsen.

Colophon

Somsen Horizon is issued by the Somsen Foundation
 Published: Once a year, in May. Printings: Dutch: 200, English: 100

Somsen Newsletter: January and October
 Copy and pictures for the next issue before Jan. 1, 2013

Supporters

The magazine is sent free of charge to all who transfer an annual gift of at least \$ 20,- A gift above this amount will be greatly appreciated! Please use PAYPAL on our website

Editorial staff Somsen Horizon
 E-mail: somsen@oudzelhem.nl
 Copy and pictures for the next issue before March 1, 2013

Lay-out: Ruud Wassink
 Printed by: Arboris Kopietotaal. BV Zelhem.

We gladly permit copying of articles
 on condition that the source is mentioned

Contents

page

Board, advisors, colophon, objective and contents	2
Preface	3
Retrospect of Stephen Somsen, Chairman of the New Ulm Reunion	3
Chocolate cherry cake, Celia Berkseth's Recipe	6
Somsen Calender	6
Fourth World Wide Somsen Family Reunion in New Ulm, Minnesota	7
New discoveries	8
Reunion Experience - a worldwide interview	9
Participants Somsen Reunion	10
Participants Somsen Reunion	11
Reunion Experience - a worldwide interview (part 2)	12
Dinner in the Country Club	13
America trip	14
Wish the Somsen immigrants had stayed in The Netherlands	15
Visit to Bruce Crist, Paula Crist Somsen and their daughter Jennifer	16
100 Somsens	17
Hendrik Lammers of the Somsenhouse deceased	17
Donald Eugene Somsen deceased	17
Louisa Mae Rice deceased	18
Paypal for donations USA	19
Family Announcements	19
Photo collage participants Somsen Reunion New Ulm	20

Objective of the Foundation

The aim of the foundation is:

To preserve and promote the solidarity between people bearing the family name of Somsen, those who are/were related to them or those who are interested in them

The foundation will try to achieve this object for example by:

- ◆ doing historical research into the family history and the history of the region
- ◆ collecting documentation and genealogical data
- ◆ keeping and taking charge of a family archive and data bases
- ◆ publishing a periodical
- ◆ providing information to persons, institutions and official authorities
- ◆ organising activities so as to realise the object of the foundation



Cover photo

participants Somsen reunion on the stairs of Turner Hall

Preface

***"He who does not honour the past
loses the future;
he who destroys his roots
cannot grow."***

Friedensreich Hundertwasser (1928 – 2000)

You are holding a special edition of our family magazine Somsen Horizon. This 26th issue largely concentrates on the Worldwide Somsen Reunion we had in New Ulm, MN, in the USA this summer. It replaces our October Newsletter. We think the reunion was so special that we did not want to wait reporting on it as late as May 2013, the regular month of issue of Somsen Horizon.

The reunion was a very special gathering. In spite of the great distances that most participants had to bridge there was a group of about 100 visitors that had travelled to the far Midwest. Many of our American cousins came by plane – the distances are so enormous in this huge country-but there were also several guests that had ventured a ride in the car of several days to be there. And then there were also 10 Dutch Somsens that had crossed over from Europe. For a matter of fact, a trip that does not compare by far with the way the first Somsens travelled to the United States in 1851 and 1881.



Johan Somsen

At the reunion we commemorated the history of our relatives of bygone centuries in various ways. This is not the place to dwell on it in a more detailed manner but I would like to make an exception for the splendid presentation of the Rice family. In a clear survey they expounded on the immigration into the USA in the past centuries and then they focused on the ancestors of their own. A very clarifying and moving lecture.

It was a remarkable coincidence that I found the quotation at the top of this foreword in the plane on my return journey to The Netherlands. It struck me deeply and for me it was a confirmation that the path we have taken with our family foundation is extremely valuable. In these hectic times we can hardly find time for this kind of activities. Our attention is so strongly claimed

by our daily worries. But how beautiful it is that we can still find some time and energy to cultivate the history of our own roots. In her article further on in this magazine Marilyn Olson-Lear describes why she thinks that our family is so unique: it comes down to the fact that we value our own history. I wholeheartedly agree with her.

In this magazine we have also included a special recipe of one of our American relatives for in some families certain traditions exist in which the culinary element plays a prominent role. This is also a small piece of history. We would like to share more traditional "Somsen-recipes" with you in our following publications.

I hope that you will read this magazine with pleasure and if you want to try out the recipe I wish you a tasty meal.

Finally, a word of thanks: the Organizing Committee may deservedly look back on a very successful reunion and I have no doubt that I can express my feelings of gratitude also on behalf of all participants.

On behalf of the board,
Johan Somsen [1089]

Retrospect of Stephen Somsen, Chairman of the New Ulm Reunion

by Stephen Somsen [2459]

During the reunion in 2007 a group of Somsens from the USA, England and Germany came together for the first steps towards the next reunion in the USA in 2012. Stephen was one of them. Five years is a long period. Life takes its normal course and we are busy with our everyday things. But suddenly there's the moment that the first serious preparations have to be made. Stephen was the one who took the chair and he has played this role with great success and charm.



Speech

Our Somsen Family gathering in New Ulm, Minnesota started on a very warm Friday afternoon at Hermann Heights Park. Many in the family walked up the spiral



Somsen Reunion Paver

staircase of the Hermann Monument to get a sweeping view of New Ulm and the Minnesota River valley. Perhaps some saw or even photographed the “Somsen Reunion Paver” on the path leading up to the monument.

As the afternoon turned into evening we shared warm greetings and great stories while enjoying cool beverages and good pizza at picnic tables both inside and outside the picnic pavilion. Theo Somsen [227] brought his copies of the now sold-out Somsen family book and helped many of us to better understand our many family connections. Apparently the positive energy of our family gathering brought a pleasant and welcome change in the weather. Just as we were saying “good night” and were leaving the park, a very strong breeze swept through New Ulm with a long, steady, soaking rain into the night that was followed by a dramatic drop in air temperature.

Saturday morning began with clear skies and perfect summer weather as the official Somsen Family Reunion for 2012 began at Turner Hall. We heard from Johan Somsen [1089], our Somsen Foundation Chairman, about the history of our fine organization and past reunions.

Marilyn Olson-Lear [3850] entertained and informed us with a very well researched and thoroughly prepared trivia game open to all who could answer her many excellent family related questions. Marilyn also shared her favorite Dutch related art and photos and memorabilia.

Pamela Rice [3847] and Patricia Rice [3848] guided us out into the sunshine and onto the front steps of Turner Hall for a few good family group photos to include Somsens from the USA and Canada and Somsens from the Netherlands.

After lunch we enjoyed a most entertaining multi-media



Somsen Street

PowerPoint presentation produced, prepared and presented by the Rice family to include Ed. Rice, Sr. [3845], Ed Rice, Jr. [3849], Pamela Rice, Patricia Rice, and Cindy Overman Rice [3846]. We learned a great deal about Dutch immigration to the USA and the role the Somsen family has played in that part of Dutch history and American history.

Saturday afternoon also included a self-guided walking tour of mostly Somsen related sites in downtown New Ulm. One highlight included a photo display at the New Ulm Library that showed the family home of Meta Koch Somsen [2455] and Henry N. Somsen, Sr. [2453]. Their home site was both the birthplace of Henry N. Somsen, Jr. [2456] and ultimately the location of the present day library.

Our evening entertainment stepped up the tempo of the proceedings quite literally. A very gifted square dance caller and his very capable (and sometimes patient) lady assistants guided us through an evening of musical motion that included more than a few laughs as we learned the difference between the allemande left, the allemande right and the promenade.

We were blessed with another beautiful morning on Sunday when we gathered at St. Peter's Church for our Somsen Reunion Service of Remembrance, Praise and Hope led by our worship leader, Rev. Phil Somsen [2685] and Pastor Brad Olsen [3892]. We sang, we prayed, we reflected on our past and considered our future as a family.



commemorative stone

Many in the family boarded an air-conditioned motor-coach on Sunday afternoon for a tour of Schell's Brewery followed by a tour of Somsen related sites in and around New Ulm that included Somsen memorials at the cemetery and the Somsen Wildlife Management Area also known as the “Somsen Slough.” It was noted that the Dutch translation for the Somsen name is such that one could call the site “Somsen Somsen.”



Somsen Slough

On Sunday evening we enjoyed a social hour and a buffet dinner at the New Ulm Country Club overlooking the Cottonwood River Valley. We all shared a very tasty cake for dessert that was beautifully decorated with the Somsen Tree Family Logo.

Our evening entertainment was led by Jaci Winquist [3893] and Coleton Christy [5721] as they fired us up for some spirited karaoke music. Family members sang and danced, sometimes solo, sometimes together and a good time was had by all. However, all too soon it seemed, the evening and our 4th Worldwide Somsen Family Reunion came to a close. There were many hugs and tears, but also many smiles.



Somsen cake

Postscript:

Many, many thanks to all who attended the reunion and to those who could not attend, but were there with us in spirit.

A special and most heartfelt thank-you to the following people:

Johan Somsen, our current chairman, for his steady and constant encouragement for the success of our reunion in New Ulm.

Theo Somsen, co-author of our deeply cherished, superbly written, and sold-out family book, for documenting our 2012 reunion by photo and video.

Oscar Somsen [2040], our webmaster for Somsen.org,

for helping many in our family understand how we are related to each other.

Marilyn Olson-Lear, chair of the 2002 reunion in Baldwin, and an invaluable resource, advisor and contributor in 2012.

Becky Errigo [3899], our reunion treasurer, registrar, and task coordinator.



Somsen bag

Special kudos to Becky for her excellent work in creating the walking tour map.

Pamela Rice for being our unofficial photographer and for her work in arranging the service of the square dance caller and team.



Reunion committee USA without Jeanie Somsen –Jacobson and Stacey Lynn Vargecko- Aicken. This picture was taken last year at the fireplace in Turner Hall in New Ulm.

*Front: Pamela Rice [P-3847], Marilyn Olson-Lear [P-3850]
Back: Paula Crist [P-816], Becky Kerr Errigo [P-3899],
Stephen Somsen [P-2459]*



*Jeanie Somsen –Jacobson
[P-773]*



*Stacey Lynn Vargecko-
Aikens [P-2541]*

Chocolate Cherry Cake Celia Berkseth's [801] Recipe

by Greg Berkseth [3856]

In one of the hotels where many "Somsens" stayed during the reunion in New Ulm there was a sudden feeling of excitement in the Berkseth branch. Kathy Berkseth [3911] had baked a Chocolate Cherry Cake at home and had brought it with her. Everybody present ate it heartily and Kathy's husband Greg Berkseth [3651 to] has been so kind as to reveal the secrets of his mother's recipe.



Kathy [3911] and Gregory Berkseth [3856]

This is a from scratch cake recipe that has been a family favorite for years. There always seemed to be a pan of chocolate cherry cake in the cupboard when I was growing up. One of my brothers-in-law said it kept him coming back to the house as much as my sister. My wife Kathy could make the cake, but the frosting was not right. Mom stayed at our house and Kathy watched her make the frosting and she has been able to make the frosting ever since. Kathy usually makes a cake and brings it along whenever the family gets together, including the 2012 Somsen Reunion in New Ulm.

Cake

1 cup sugar
1 cup butter
1 cup buttermilk
2 eggs
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 tablespoons cherry juice (juice from the maraschino cherry jar)
15 maraschino cherries, diced
1 ½ cups flour
1 ounce Bakers Unsweetened baking chocolate, melted (1 square)

Mix butter and sugar. Add 2 eggs and beat well. Add buttermilk and baking soda. Add flour and cherry juice. Beat together. Add melted chocolate and diced cher-

ries and fold in. Put in 9 inch X 13 inch greased cake pan and bake for ½ hour at 350 degrees F.

Frosting

1 ½ cups sugar
2 ounces Bakers Unsweetened baking chocolate (2 squares) or 3 tablespoons coco powder
½ cup milk
1/3 cup butter
1 teaspoon vanilla

Boil sugar, chocolate, and milk for 2 minutes. Add vanilla and butter. Allow to cool while stirring constantly with a wooden spoon until the frosting reaches a consistency to spread (15 to 30 minutes).

The secret Kathy learned from Mom was to boil the frosting longer – the original recipe said to boil for 1 ½ minutes. One of my favorite memories growing up was licking the spoon and cleaning the pan of the remaining chocolate frosting. A chemist by trade, I have helped Kathy stir the frosting with poor results. Stirring too vigorously results in a grainy rather than a smooth chocolate frosting, so stir slowly as the frosting cools. I hope you enjoy the cake and frosting as much as we do.

Somsen Calendar

For the very first time the Somsen Foundation is producing a family calendar. Twelve months with pictures and details about the history of our family. And of course a nice way to remember holidays in the Netherlands and the US. The calendar will be printed in A5 and will look wonderful on your desk. **Moreover a nice gift for your children and other relatives!**

The price is \$ 10 (mailing costs included). If you combine it with your donation for 2013 the price will be only \$ 5



To order this beautiful calendar trans-

fer \$ 10 (or \$ 5 + your donation for 2013) preferably by using PayPal on our website (www.somsen.org) or to our financial contact: Stephen D. Somsen [2459], 47231 East Fir Street, P.O. Box 526 Darrington, WA, 98241 USA, tel.: 001 562 430 0079, e-mail: ssomsen@aol.com), clearly mentioning the number of calendars, your name, P-number and address

Fourth World Wide Somsen Family Reunion in New Ulm, Minnesota

by Marilyn Olson-Lear [3850]

Marilyn is one of the many enthusiastic American Somsen-descendants who from the very first reunion in 1997 has always participated. In 1997 she came with two of her sisters to the reunion in The Netherlands, in 2002 she was active in the organization of the reunion in Baldwin, WI, in 2007 she came with a group of 14 direct family members to Aalten and this year she was again present in New Ulm, MN. Also here she made a valuable contribution.

She has also quite regularly provided articles for our publications. And now once again: a report on how she has experienced the reunion in New Ulm.



Marilyn Olsen-Lear Berkset [3850] and daughter Jaci Winquist Olsen [3893]

If you heard a different lilt in voices you heard or talked within Baldwin sometime between July 30th and August 14, you were probably hearing the voices of Netherlands Somsens who were in the USA to attend the Fourth World Wide Somsen Family Reunion in New Ulm, Minnesota on August 3, 4, and 5. This reunion celebrates and reunites the descendants of two families of Somsens who immigrated from The Netherlands to the USA and the descendants of their family members who stayed in The Netherlands. Six of the ten Netherlands Somsens who attended this year's reunion came to Baldwin before the reunion or stayed in Baldwin after the reunion. They returned to Baldwin after being here in August 2002 for the Second World Wide Somsen Reunion in Baldwin.

While in Baldwin, some of the Netherlands Somsens toured the Jon-De Farm, the Ethanol Plant, and Emmert and Sons Equipment, while others participated in Farm-City Day at the Jon-De Farm. They enjoyed meals with Barb and Al DeLander, Grace and Dennis Emmert, and Irene Somsen. Root beer floats were a new treat for some of them.

Ninety-four Somsen descendants attended the reunion in New Ulm from 15 states in the USA and 6 cities in The Netherlands. They represent the two Somsen

families which immigrated to the United States. Hendrik Jan's 1851 immigrant family settled in Oostburg Wisconsin upon arrival, and then established families and careers in New Ulm Minnesota and in western states. Jan Hendrik's 1881 immigrant family settled and stayed in Baldwin Wisconsin, where they are buried in the Baldwin Cemetery. As Jan Hendrik's 15 children, 13 who lived to adulthood, and 11 born in the USA, matured, they and their descendants established careers and homes in the Baldwin area and throughout the USA. The photo at the back shows the 1881 descendants of Baldwin's Jan and Janna Somsen who attended the Somsen Reunion in New Ulm this August.



Marilyn Olson-Lear Berkseth during de quiz

The Saturday program at New Ulm's Turner Hall included a history of the Somsen family presented by Johan Somsen; a trivia quiz on The Netherlands, the USA, and the Somsen family by Marilyn Olson-Lear; a power point presentation on Dutch immigration and the Somsen family immigration by Ed Rice Sr, Ed Rice Jr, Patricia Rice, and Pamela Rice; a walking tour of Somsen sites and historic sites by Becky Errigo; evening square dancing entertainment, planned by Pamela Rice.



Somsen law office

The Sunday program began with a church service at St Peter's Episcopal Church, where the Somsen family had worshipped. It was lead by Pastor Phil Somsen with music by a chorus of Dutch Somsens and

American Somsens, and closing by Pastor Brad Olson. The message of the service by Pastor Phil included remembering and honoring past generations and their contributions, celebration of the present and all that we have, and preparing for the future by creating memories. Those in attendance shared memories, blessings, learnings, and prayers. Psalm 121, sung by The Somsens as they left Rotterdam to sail to the USA, and was sung in Dutch by the Netherlands Somsens attending the reunion. A contemporary version in English was sung by both Dutch and American Somsens. The closing thought by Pastor Brad was on the importance of family and community in a society that promotes individualism.



Schell's Brewery

Sunday afternoon was filled with a tour of the famous Schell Brewery in New Ulm, including sampling their beers; and a tour of historic Somsen sites - wild life management area, cemetery, Somsen Street, law office, and homes. The evening concluded at the New Ulm Country Club with dinner and karaoke singing, led by Jacqueline Winquist and Cole Christy.



Karaoke singing

The Somsen family is a unique family! It's a very large family, but that's not what makes it unique. The Somsen family is unique because: This family has: a 311 page published 12" x 8 1/4" hard cover genealogical book with family photos and stories written in both English and Dutch, along with generational lists beginning in 1666, in which each person has his/her own personal number (P #); a website to keep family information and photos up-to-date; its own Somsen Foundation of contributing family members; the annual Somsen Horizon magazine and two newsletters, all in color, published by the Foundation with

articles contributed by members world-wide; and a World Wide Family Reunion every five years, alternately in The Netherlands and in the United States of America.

This began when two Dutch men, Theo D.F. Somsen and Derk J. Somsen met each other while doing family research in The Netherlands, and discovered that they had common ancestors. They continued collecting names and photos of family members, photos of where they lived and worked, and stories of their families in The Netherlands. Since both men also had family members who had immigrated to The United States and to Europe, they asked these immigrants for photos and information so that family information would be complete.

Upon completing all this research in 1997, they thought it should be printed in a bound hard cover book that would preserve all the hard work they had done, but only if family members would buy the book to pay for its printing. Family members enthusiastically replied that they wanted this book and would buy it. Then Theo and Derk thought they'd like to meet the people they'd been studying for so many years - those they knew and those they had just learned about.

The first Somsen Family Reunion was held in August 1997 in the city of Aalten, the area of the Achterhoek, the province of Gelderland, in The Netherlands, the original home of the Somsens. Somsen descendants came from The Netherlands, the United States, Germany, England, Italy, Portugal and Greece for a weekend of meeting family members they knew, meeting ones they knew about but hadn't met, and meeting those they had never even known about.

Since then the World Wide Somsen Family Reunion has been held every five years - 2002 in Baldwin Wisconsin, 2007 in The Netherlands, 2012 in New Ulm Minnesota, 2017 in The Netherlands, and 2022 back in USA again. The joy of meeting and re-meeting family members, and the reunion hosts' pride in showing off their little part of the world continues.

New Discoveries

by Kaye Ridley [2533]

By mere coincidence Kaye Ridley [2533] heard about the Worldwide Somsen Reunion in New Ulm. Kaye is the daughter of Isabel Somsen [2396] and Henry Charles Kogelschatz [2530]. She decided to take a plane to Minnesota which she did not regret at all. Besides some well-known family members that she had not seen for many years she made the acquaintance of a multitude of new cousins. She is determined to come to the next Somsen Reunion in Netherlands in five years.



Kaye Ridley [2533], Ken Anderson [3934]

It was Friday, and arriving into Minneapolis airport was exciting since it was my first trip into this state. Wanting to make the best of my time, I headed out directly over to walk the Mall of America. Off to New Ulm I go in the early evening. While driving into New Ulm for my first world reunion the drive was beautiful, the evening was setting a view of warm clouds of August and in the far distance some lighting which was a small but a nice show.

Arriving in New Ulm I couldn't wait to get myself ready to meet the family at our picnic. Wondering how this would happen since it was my first one for meeting family I have never known. I arrived at the Herman's Pavilion picnic area, first to be greeted by Stephen Somsen. Then here comes my other cousin who was Dutch, Theo. Oh, Theo, he was so gracious to show me the many SOMSEN history books and genealogy he had on the table, this was exciting for us all. I was totally engrossed in the family then as the evening ended and we started to go back to our hotels, a big surprise came from the weather, couldn't shut the windows fast enough. A few of us got drenched. And Ron Zignego, a special thanks for getting drenched to close my car windows. FYI, the cup holders were full from the rain.

The tour and dinner slide show was a large education for me; I didn't know we have two branches of Somsens one being from 1881 and my newly claimed family of 1851. Yes, then came the ah-ha moment; I have missed so much in not going to the past reunions, wonderful family from all over the world. As the night went along we toured the monument at the park of the large statue of Herman the Great; he being honored back in the 19th century by German immigrants in New Ulm for leading the Germans against the Romans in the first century. Great Somsen history in this town, plus about the Germans cause it is my father's side. It is a town recognized for the largest population of Germans in the US. In the bus trip, touring the town, getting to know Phil Somsen and his wife, plus the Beer tasting at the Schell's Brewing Co. Then talking politics with cousins was too much fun.



Kaye Ridley, Evy Somsen [2696], Phil Somsen

The night's meeting others were fabulous, sharing time with my closest cousin from California, Ken Anderson. We knew each other as kids him visiting the family in Utah where I lived. These were moments to remember of us, as he did of me, saying: "aren't you the one that told me if I didn't straighten up you would give me a knuckle sandwich"? We laughed, and remembered some wonderful days with the Utah Somsen family, cousins, Aunts and Uncles.

Fabulous memories for me this weekend, realizing I had cousins all over the world was amazing, as if I



Vicki McEvoy, Lois Wernlund McEvoy [3862]

didn't just meet them for the first time, it was like close feelings, just like old buddies. The late evening over at Applebee's where sharing laughs with Theo, his sister, Ken, Johan, Lois, Sandy, Ron, and so many more where our laughter had to be heard throughout the establishment.

I just hope I will be able to attend our Netherlands reunion, where my fun will start up again in 5 years.

Reunion Experience - A Worldwide Interview

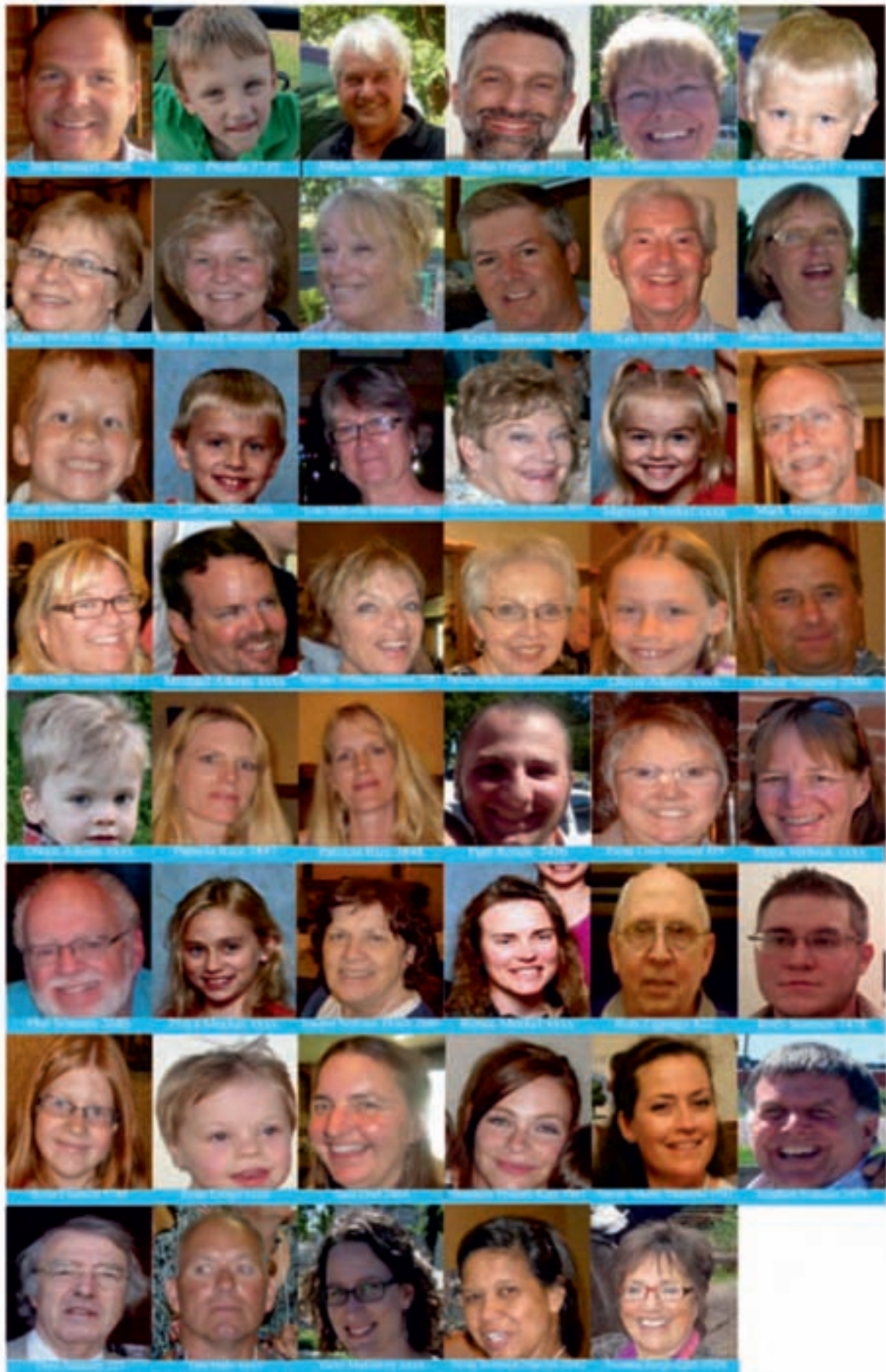
by Amy Vargecko [2542], Rory Somsen [7478], Coby Somsen [299] and Oscar Somsen [2040]

The authors of this article met at the reunion or just before. After the reunion we exchanged some e-mail. Enough to call it an interview. We thought it might be nice to share this with our other relatives and talk about our experiences during the "4th World-Wide Somsen Reunion of New Ulm 2012". As you can see below: Four different people and four different stories. But a wonderful experience for all of us.

Participants Somsen Worlwide Reunion New Ulm MN USA 2012



Participants Somsen Worldwide Reunion New Ulm MN USA 2012



How did you find out about the reunion?

Rory: When I first heard about it I was not quite sure about the reunion. Would I really want to go? Would it be fun? After all, I did not know anyone of the people that were going to attend. I had some contact with Oscar when he asked me to write a little bit to introduce myself. But, I did come, together with my mother lone [7468]. And I'm not sorry! My father James [3479] also wanted to come but unfortunately he was in the hospital during the reunion weekend.

Amy: I had heard about the very first reunion in Holland. It took 10 years and an evening with my aunt Susan [2543] to ask myself, "Why not get involved?" One quick email to Johan [1089] in 2007 took care of that. After a great experience in Holland I only regret not getting involved sooner...better late than never, though. That whole experience made such an impression on my sister and me that we never questioned whether or not we would be attending the reunion in New Ulm. To reunite with some family members we had met in Holland and meet even more from right here in the U.S. It felt like the reunion actually began for my mom and me a couple of weeks prior to New Ulm, however, when Oscar and his family, whom we had never met, contacted us as they were making their way from California to Minnesota for the event and stopped to visit with us in Logan, Utah. That was especially nice for my mom Sharon [872] who wasn't able to travel to New Ulm.

Coby: If I recall, my parents told me about the reunion; I put it on the calendar as soon as I heard the dates! I attended the Baldwin reunion in 2002, but it wasn't until I spent time in Holland with Theo, and Johan and Yvonne [3926] (and Helmut's [1562] family in Germany as well) that I really became excited about the Somsen Foundation. Much like Amy said, after spending time in Holland I knew there was no way I would miss the next US reunion! It also worked out nicely that New Ulm was a town I'd never been to, and it was only a 5 hrs. drive from where I live.

Oscar: We joined the first Dutch reunion in 1997 but only got really enthusiastic when we met several US relatives during the third one, 10 years later. We had not attended the first US reunion in Baldwin but now we promised to return the visit and come to New Ulm. When the time came we had to think long and hard. It is not cheap to travel all this far with a family of four. But, when we thought of combining it with a family visit and a journey from California to Minnesota, we decided to take the plunge.

What did you experience during the reunion?

Amy: It's hard to put into words what it is like to be in a place with so many people that you've either just met or are only getting reacquainted with after meeting them for the first time a few years earlier and feeling

like you are picking up where you left off...as if the conversations never ended. Maybe that's what is meant by "family ties." It doesn't seem to matter how close or distant the relation is,...everyone is still family.

Rory: As soon as I met Johan I realized what was in store for us. Johan is quite the jolly fellow and made me feel comfortable and welcome. He seems to find time to talk with really everybody! I soon after met Steve [2459] and Oscar. It was also fun being able to spend some time with cousins closer to my age. I spent a lot of time just talking with Vicky [McEvoy, no P-number yet], Coletton [5721], Hedda [2848] and Bente [2847], sometimes escaping from the reunion altogether.

Oscar: I had the good fortune of being in contact with the organizers. During the reunion I was busy on the computer to show the ancestry to the participants. This enabled me to talk to a lot of people. Sometimes realizing that we were in fact closely related.

Coby: I had a great time meeting new family, seeing those I had met before, and then of course spending time with my immediate family as well. I see my parents quite often, but we are usually busy with grandkid activities and other things. Being at the reunion with my parents (and my aunts and uncle too) gave us a chance to talk about topics that don't usually come up—memories of my grandparents, my dad's childhood, etc. I also enjoyed trying to figure out how I was related to each person I met - I think I finally have the 2 branches figured out! The tour was really enjoyable as well - it was fun to see the Somsen name in so many places!



Left to Right: Amy, Coby, Rory and Oscar during the reunion

What do you think now that the reunion is over?

Amy: When we attended the reunion in Holland my mom, sister and I had a fantastic time, just the three of us, taking part in all the family activities, meeting so many relatives, learning more about our heritage, seeing where our family originated, and being able to travel together. This year I think it was being able to share all the same experiences with my sister again, only this time, with the addition of our families and loved ones from home. Hopefully we'll add my brother and his family to the mix for the next one.

Coby: I think it's time to start saving for 2017!

Oscar: Like Amy says. It's just wonderful meeting people for the first time and realizing that you have been related to them all your life. And now, afterwards it's just fun knowing about having so many family members 'all over the world'. To Coby: No need to save for your accommodation. You're welcome to stay with us. As well as everybody else.

Rory: The reunion I will remember was filled with Good family, Good food, laughs, smiles and many good stories of our history. Thanks for the memories and hope to see you in 2017 in Holland!! Thanks to all the family and organizers for making the reunion possible and for doing a job above and beyond expectations.

Dinner in the Country Club



America Trip

by Hedda Somsen [2847]

Together with her twin sister Bente [2848], her parents Oscar [2040] and Yeng [2042] Somsen – Nacion, Hedda Somsen made a wonderful journey through a large part of the USA. In this article she shares her impressions of this trip.

Since there was a worldwide reunion for the Somsen family this year I went to America for three weeks together with my father Oscar [2040], my mother Yeng [2042] and my twin sister Bente [2847]. It was a super vacation because I had never been to America. Of course one of the best moments was the weekend in New Ulm.

Mama, Bente and I flew together to San Francisco on July 20.



Golden Gate Bridge

Papa was in America already, in Las Vegas. After not having seen him for a while we all came together at my mother's sister. She lives near San Francisco and that is where we stayed for

the first few days. Of course we went to San Francisco and saw all the major sites. Then we travelled with my aunt's family to Reno. On the way there we passed by Lake Tahoe. Although we had not yet been in America for a week we had already seen so much. Everything was so big. This was also the case in Reno. I have never seen so many gambling places.

After being in Reno for 2 days we said goodbye to the rest of my family and drove on to Salt Lake City. In one day we crossed all of Nevada. That was quite a ride! I did not know that there was nothing to be seen



The 'strip' in Reno

for such a long time along such a boring road. But even though there was nothing to be seen it was also impressive. Miles and miles of desert and mountains! After an 8-hour drive we stopped in a little town on the border of Nevada and Utah: Wendover. After one night we continued because we were only 2 hours away from Salt Lake City. On the way there we stopped twice, though. Once on a parking lot in the Salt Lake Desert and once at the Salt Lake itself. Everything was still so impressive. All the white salt in the desert and the enormous Salt Lake. After a short ride we arrived at Salt Lake City. Here we had arranged to meet with Sylvia Somsen [766].

After talking with her for a while we continued. The first thing we wanted to see was of course the Temple of Salt Lake City. A very impressive building in a very beautiful city. After walking around for a while we went looking for a motel. The next morning we had arranged to meet Darren Somsen [2544]. He had been to the Netherlands five years ago and he wanted to show us around in Salt Lake City before we would continue to the North. Together with his wife Katrin [3935] he went with us to the Pioneer Memorial Museum and showed us Park City to finally stop at the campsite where his parents Don [873] and Susan [2543] were. They were also in the Netherlands five years ago. After a nice meal we really had to leave. We had arranged to spend the night at Don's sister Sharon [872] and her husband Patrick Vargecko [2539] in Logan, a city three hours north of Salt Lake City.



Somsens in Salt Lake City



With Don, Susan, Darren and Katrin

Their daughters Stacey [2541] and Amy [2542] were to come to the reunion in New Ulm. After a cozy night we continued further north and after some time we were near Yellowstone National Park. After a long drive through a lot

of mountains we arrived there. My parents had arranged that we could stay at the Old Faithful Inn, the hotel next to the Old Faithful geyser. You could not wish for a more beautiful place. All geysers there are super beautiful. After a wonderful night in Yellowstone National Park we drove through the park.

On the way we saw beautiful things like deer and bison. After leaving Yellowstone National Park we continued to a small town, Buffalo, right between Yellowstone National Park and our next wonderful destination: Rapid City. Before Rapid City we passed through Sturgis. Here there would be a huge motor festival the week after we were there. Although we were too early there was already a lot to be seen. After a short stop we continued to Rapid City. After finding a motel there we quickly continued to Mount Rushmore.



Geiser in Yellowstone

In the meantime we made a stop at one of the caves in the area and went inside as well. Then we quickly continued. Bente and I had always wanted to see Mount Rushmore and it did not disappoint us. Something as impressive as that is definitely worth seeing. We sat



At Mount Rushmore

there for a long time to see the evening show. Then we returned to the motel for a good night's sleep because the next day we were to continue to Pierre, the capital of South Dakota. In the meantime we were already near to New Ulm. After Pierre we continued to Orange City. Maybe a little deviation from our route but in Orange City we had an appointment with Mark [2703] and Miriam [2687] Vellinga-Somsen. They were also going to New Ulm the next day. Apart from the landscape that had started to look more and more like that of the Netherlands I felt very much at home in Orange City.

After 2 weeks in this huge America I thought I was back home in the Netherlands. Everywhere there were Dutch items and in the middle of the city there were small windmills that represented windmills from the Netherlands.



Orange City

After another wonderful night we continued to New Ulm to meet them again. After resting in our hotel for a while we went to the first gathering in the evening. Everything had already started and it was a very nice evening. We talked until it was late and when it started getting cold outside we continued in the bar. We got to know a large new part of our family and the weekend had really started in a great way.



The youngster take night cap

The next morning we were expected early in Turner Hall to meet all the Somsens and to talk to each other again. Many Somsens that were in the Netherlands five years ago were easy to recognize. It was very nice to see them again but it was also great to meet many new people. After talking we officially started with speeches by Stephen [2459] and Johan [1089]. Then we did a quiz about the Netherlands and America and continued with a walking tour passing by Somsen sites. When everybody was back in Turner Hall dinner started. We all had a wonderful meal after which the Square Dance started. This is when I and some others left for a swim, but I am sure it was a wonderful evening. On Sunday morning everybody went to church. It was a wonderful happening. A beautiful service with input by various Somsens. After the worship we had a rest and then continued to the bus that first took us to Shell's Brewery. Here we had a tour around the site and were told about Shell and the beer they made. At the end there was tasting. Unfortunately America has an alcohol limit of 21 years. So no alcohol

for me. But it was still nice. After this the bus took us past more sites such as Somsen Street and the Somsen Slough. After this nice tour we could rest a little before going to the Country Club for our last dinner. As a nice closing of the weekend we had Karaoke singing after dinner.

Too bad that this was already the end of the weekend. That evening it was time for saying goodbye and making plans for the next reunion in five years. All in all a wonderful weekend. The next morning we travelled on to the East because we only had a few days left before flying back to the Netherlands. From New Ulm we drove to Madison. Here lives a family that we met at the reunion and where we could sleep: Greg [3856] and Kathy [3911] Berkseth. They showed us around Madison. After a good night we continued to Chicago, our final destination. Two days later we would fly back from there to the Netherlands. Our first evening in Chicago we spent on Navy Pier. A huge pier with all kinds of nice things to do such as a fair and a cinema. Although we did not do anything special we had a wonderful night. For the rest we walked around Chicago. The next day we first travelled all the way to the south of the city to see if there was anything interesting there.



Two Twins,
 Pamela Rice [3847],
 Hedda Somsen [2847],
 Bente Somsen [2848]
 and Patricia Rice [3848]



Chicago Airport

Too bad this was not so good so we went back to the center to see the Shedd Aquarium. Here we had a nice walk and saw a lot. At the end we returned to our hotel for a rest so we could go to the airport early.

So the next morning we went to the airport to return the car and fly back to the Netherlands.

A long but beautiful journey through a huge country that will always stay with me. We saw a lot of beautiful things and had a wonderful weekend in New Ulm.

Wish the Somsen immigrants had stayed in The Netherlands!

by Theo Somsen [227]

On the Sunday morning of August 5, 2012, during the 4th Worldwide Somsen Reunion in New Ulm, Minnesota, Theo Somsen offered a surprising look upon the immigration of Somsens into America in 1851 and 1881. His analysis may make one wonder!



Brother and sister, Theo [227] and Hanna [392] van Os - Somsen

Dear relatives,

You all probably know that historians often develop other insights regarding the past as time progresses. Napoleon for example, was seen as a dictator and a conqueror shortly after his downfall but nowadays we also recognize his positive contributions to numerous social developments. Think for instance of the introduction of the Civil Code and the metric system.

If you look at the reasons why the Somsens (and with them many, many others!) emigrated to America then the historians let us know that their departure from Europe was the result of the poor economic conditions (such as crop failures, poverty and unemployment) at the time and the desire for more religious freedom (something that played a specific role in The Netherlands in the years after 1834). That is the common view on the history of emigration. But is that all there is? Isn't there anything else to be said about it now in 2012? I think there is.

Of course the Somsens who decided to emigrate then had a rough time in The Netherlands. And of course for some early Dutch immigrants also religious motives played a role. Nevertheless, I think that particularly the Somsens mainly felt attracted by the messages they received from that distant America. Messages from earlier immigrants who wrote in their letters: There is no King here! And: There are no laws here and no taxes!

Yes, who would not give way to such heavenly temptations!

Dear cousins. Once they reached America they felt cheated. Of course, there was a King, but the only difference was that he was called "President". And of course there were "laws". Laws that are strictly maintained. And as for the taxes: Republicans and Democrats both cherished them! Ergo: the Somsens (and again: many, many others!) have been misled by these messages that reached The Netherlands. Actually your American ancestors were lured to America under false pretences.

Now I can imagine that you are confused and you may wonder: what are the consequences of this for us, des-

cendants of these emigrated Dutch people? Well, my advice is this: Come back to The Netherlands!



New Ulm, Minnesota

Come back to The Netherlands, because:

- 1 We have neither a King nor a President but an amiable Queen (the third one since 1898!).
- 2 Of course we also have laws, but we like to stick to them only when we feel like it.
- 3 And finally: as a former tax official we had better not discuss this subject.

So: Welcome Home!

(Note: a USA-relative spontaneously asked me to buy a house for him in The Netherlands ...)

Visit to Bruce Crist, Paula Crist Somsen and their daughter dochter Jennifer

by Johan Somsen

After the New Ulm reunion Yvonne and I travelled a little around. Not too far but still we visited three states: Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin. When finishing our circular trip we got back to Minneapolis and spent some time with Bruce Crist [817], his wife Paula Crist Somsen [816] and their daughter Jennifer Rosen Crist [2764]. They live on the banks of Lake Minnetonka where we made a nice boat-trip.



Bruce Crist [817], Yvonne Reijs [3926] and Jennifer Rosen Christ [2764] on lake Minnetonka

100 Somsens...

by Petra Veerman

Petra Veerbeek is Emma Somsen's [1190] neighbour. She accompanied Emma to the reunion in New Ulm. After the reunion they made a wonderful journey in the USA visiting Baldwin and Minneapolis. After that they travelled to California. Petra appreciated it to dedicate a few words to this special experience.



Emma Somsen [1190] and Petra Veerbeek on top of Herman's Monument in New Ulm

Yes and then finally the day has come. After several months of looking forward to a holiday in America, we are on a flight with the necessary hurdles. I acquaint myself with the United States for the very first time. It is Saturday, 4 August 2012.

And then I am suddenly in Turner Hall in New Ulm (Minnesota, USA) and I am among some 100 Somsens.

What does that feel like? Welcome, warmth, cordiality, friendliness ... and so I could go on for quite a while. And before the day is over you feel you have been adopted and you have become a member of the family. Well, one Somsen more or less doesn't matter, does it?

I would like to thank all the Somsens that I met during or after the reunion very heartily for all their (and here I go again) warmth, cordiality and friendliness. I felt very welcome. Apart from the holiday in the United States I also enjoyed the reunion and everything connected to it so much! Once again thank you all very much.

Hendrik Lammers of the Somsenhouse passed away

This newspaper article, taken from the Tubantia paper of August 7, 2012, commemorates the death of Hendrik Lammers, who lived at the Somsenhouse almost all his life. Hendrik and his wife Truida have

always been very loyal supporters of the Somsen family. In 2007 we dedicated a plaque at the entrance to the Somsenhouse indicating that all the Somsens originate from this site.

IJzerlo/Dinxperlo – Last Monday August 6 Hendrik Lammers, aged 89, passed away in Dinxperlo. He died after a short sickbed in Dr. Jenny old people's home where he had lived together with his wife Truida for nearly one year.

Hendrik was renowned in the whole environment. In the beginning as a cattle dealer but later more as a poet of poetry in the vernacular of the Achterhoek.

Until September 2011 he was the resident of the celebrated Somsenhouse in IJzerlo which is the cradle of the large Achterhoek Somsen family. Descendants of this family have spread all over the world. Quite regularly they organize reunions at which the Somsenhouse has a central place. Hendrik Lammers is considered a member of the family by the Somsens. At the entrance to the house there is a commemorative plaque. In the summer of 2007 Hendrik Lammers wrote the poem "Somsen People" on the occasion of a Somsen reunion.

The Lammers family got seven children. Hendrik will be buried at the cemetery "De Punt" in Dinxperlo on Saturday at 11 a.m. One hour before there is an opportunity to bid farewell.



Donald Eugene Somsen [831]

Donald was born in the River Falls Hospital on July 1, 1928, the son of Albert and Minnie (Kappers) Somsen. He will join his sisters Muriel and Evelyn and brother LeRoy. He attended the Baldwin Grade School. At the age of 12 when he could handle a hammer, he began working at his Dad's egg production business. He made 30 dozen egg cases which required 51 nails to complete and his salary was three cents a case. At the end of a week he had enough money for a movie ticket and popcorn at the local theater. He worked for his Dad all through high school and then he was helping with the candling of the eggs and receiving the eggs from the farmers.



During his high school years he participated in football, basketball and track and as a member of the band. It was during the last two years of high school that he started dating Irene Johnson, a country farm girl. They both graduated from Baldwin High School in the class

of 1946. Donald went on to attend the Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis. After he graduated he was hired at the Nash Garage in Baldwin as their bookkeeper. Don and Irene were married at the Woodside Lutheran Church on November 27, 1948. To this union they were blessed with four children, Kathryn Jo, Jerry Donald, David Lee and Joan Marie. In 1950, Don's Uncle Bernard J. Somsen was building 2 houses on Newton Street and encouraged them to buy the one of their choice, as they were living in a small trailer house behind Don's parents' home. Kathryn was a very tiny baby at the time, and over a span of 14 years, the next 3 would be born. The home on Newton Street is still their home.

Donald was hired at St. Croix Electric as a bookkeeper in 1955 and 10 years later he became the Manager. He retired from St. Croix Electric after 35 years in 1990. He was always sports minded and refereed basketball and hockey games for 25 years, was a Boy Scout Leader for several years, served on the Volunteer Fire Department for 25 years, Village Clerk for 10 years and 4 years as Village President. He was a Sunday School teacher at Gethsemane Lutheran, served on many boards and was President of the Council for a few years. His interest in the Baldwin Hospital led him to be on the Board in 1970 and became President of the now Baldwin Area Medical Center, retiring from that position in 2005. They enjoyed being with family at Sunnyside Resort and Marina at Balsam Lake and spending as many weekends as possible at their trailer.

Don and Irene enjoyed traveling throughout the United States and joined some tour groups to Europe. The highlight of all Don's travels was to attend the World-Wide Somsen Reunion in the Netherlands in 1997 where he met many relatives. They visited the farm where his Somsen ancestors lived. His Grandparents immigrated to America in 1881 and settled on a farm in the Town of Baldwin. Five years after that Reunion, another Reunion was held in Baldwin and several from the Netherlands attended, renewing friendships. His many hobbies included reading, cross word puzzles, refinishing furniture, fishing (especially his yearly trips to Canada), ice skating, golfing (winning four 1st and 2nd place trophies in the Senior Golf League at the Hammond Golf Course), water skiing (last time when he was 73) attending all sports games, especially when the Grandchildren were involved. He always said that was the best part of retirement! Don was a great "fixer-upper" and was available for repair work for others.

He is preceded in death by his parents, sisters and brothers-in-law, Muriel and Nolan Penning, Evelyn and Doyle (Tim) Tousley and brother and sister-in-law LeRoy and Arlene (Zillmer) Somsen, a daughter-in-law, Carol (Timmerman) Somsen and a niece, Connie Somsen. He is survived by his wife Irene, 4 children and their spouses: Kathryn and Gary Reed, Jerry

Somsen, David and Carol (Hailey) Somsen, Joan and Billy Moore, 12 Grandchildren and spouses: Jeffrey and Nichole Reed, Jason Reed, Jennifer and Thomas Williams, Sarah and Kevin Pugh, Joseph Somsen, Patrick and Heidi Somsen, Suzanne Somsen, Gina Somsen, Jonathan and Jessica Somsen, Mick Torres, Tyler Torres, and Jenna Torres, 7 Great-Grandchildren: Sophia and Madison Reed, Phillip and Catherine Williams and Wyatt, Nolan and Eli Pugh, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Louise Mae (Berkseth) Rice [3842]

Louise Mae Rice, (nee Berkseth), age 75, died on July 7, 2012 in Westlake, Ohio, from complications of nasopharyngeal cancer. Louise, the daughter of Oscar and Celia (nee Wernlund) Berkseth, was born and grew up in Baldwin, Wisconsin, graduated from Baldwin High School, class of 1954. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin River Falls in 1958 with a B. S. Degree in Elementary Education and taught kindergarten in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, and Brook Park, Ohio.



On August 19, 1961, Louise was married to Dr. Edward Rice Sr. of Milwaukee at the First Reformed Church in Baldwin. They made their home in Westlake (Cleveland) Ohio where Ed was employed as a Mechanical Engineer at NASA Glenn (formerly Lewis) Research Center. Their marriage was blessed with four children: daughter Cynthia Rice-Overman (Dan), twin daughters Pamela and Patricia Rice, and son Edward Rice Jr. Louise is the grandmother of Danny Jr; sister of Marilyn Olson-Lear, Barbara DeLander, Ann Kerr, John Berkseth, Grace Emmert, Gregory Berkseth, and the late Donald Berkseth; and aunt of seventeen Berkseths and five Rices. She is preceded in death by her parents, Oscar and Celia, and brother Donald.

The funeral service was held on July 12, 2012 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Westlake, with Pastor Sherman Bishop, presiding minister, and Pastor Bradley Olson, Louise's nephew, assisting minister. Music was by nieces Jacqueline (Olson) Winquist, Corinne (Berkseth) Baker, and Sarah (Berkseth) Tomesh. Internment was at Evergreen Cemetery in Westlake with nephews James Emmert, Jerry Emmert, George Rice Jr, and Craig Rice; son Edward Rice Jr, and son-in-law Dan Overman as pallbearers.

Our new American financial contact: Stephen D. Somsen

by Johan Somsen [1089]

We are extremely pleased that Stephen. D. Somsen [2459] is prepared to take over the task of Marieke G. Edwards – Jager Gerlings. We want to stimulate foreign payments to be done via PAYPAL, but it is important to have a contact in America.



Stephen D. Somsen
[2459]

Stephen is no stranger to us. We have regularly met him at the Worldwide Somsen Reunions and this time he is one of the people in the organisation of the reunion in New Ulm, USA.

In our next publications we will get further acquainted with Stephen.



PAYPAL for donations USA

This method is safe and simple, saves a lot of work and there are no extra expenses for you

- Go to the homepage of our website www.somsen.org
- Go to DONATIONS in the menu on the left
- Click the DONATE button (wait a little)
- Fill in the simple FORM: donation amount \$ 20 (a gift above this amount will be greatly appreciated)

We thank you very much for your cooperation!

If there are any questions or problems, please contact us. When it is a big problem to pay via PAYPAL you can forward your cheque to:

Stephen D. Somsen [2459]
47231 East Fir Street
P.O. Box 526
Darrington, WA. 98241
USA



Family Announcements

In this column we would like to draw your attention to the family announcements that have reached us. We are very much pleased to present them to you and are grateful to everybody who took the trouble to inform us about the merry and sad events in their and our family.

This also enables our advisor Dick Somsen from Zwolle to keep our genealogical files up-to-date, so that we, in turn, can inform you in Somsen Horizon. We really appreciate it very much that you send in your family announcements (together with pictures please!) to our secretariat: Somsen Foundation, Jan Tooropstraat 2, 3817 PZ Amersfoort, The Netherlands.

Born:

20-05-2012: Pim [7505], s.o. Freek Vincentius Gerardus Spanbroek [6445] and Jantien Somsen [552]

31-07-2012: Isis Christine [7537], d.o. Frederik Jan (Frederik) Somsen [551] and Anna Maria (Hanneke) Miedema [7321]

Deceased:

07-07-2012: Louise May Rice-Berkseth [3842], 75 , Westlake, OH. USA

16-07-2012: Gerrit Jan Kremers [1849], 90, Neede

03-08-2012: Obert Weston Somsen [2466], 92, Jamestown, ND. USA

11-09-2012: Donald Eugene (Don) Somsen [831], 84, Baldwin, WI. USA

21-09-2012: Norene Somsen-Pern [2675], 71 , Meridian, ID. USA (*)

08-10-2012: Gerritje Margrietha (Gerrie) Somsen-Kok [179], 72, Doesburg

30-09-2012: Mary Tkach-Kocur [3531], 94, Minneapolis, MN. USA

(*) due to a lack of space we will place her obituary in the next Somsen Horizon



Louise



Donald



Norene



Gerrie

Photo backside: participants Somsen reunion on the stairs of Turner Hall



Somsen USA-branch 1851



Somsens from The Netherlands



Somsen USA-branch 1881

New Ulm - Somsen Reunion 2012