



# Somsen horizon

Volume 21 – number 32 – March 2018

- ◆ *Call for new board members.  
Without you we cannot make it!*
- ◆ *Reunion group is leaving service*
- ◆ *5th Somsen Reunion*
- ◆ *The video registration of the 5th  
Somsen Reunion*
- ◆ *Connect-to-our-roots-trip in  
Engeland and the Netherlands*
- ◆ *Somsen Reunion 2017,  
IJzerlo Netherlands*
- ◆ *The Meekel family from Canada*
- ◆ *Reunion memories by Scott and  
Corinne Berkseth Baker*
- ◆ *Somsen day IJzerlo. Saturday  
September 1, 2018*
- ◆ *Is Somsen Horizon 32 the last  
Horizon?*
- ◆ *In memoriam Christina  
Geertruida Lammers-Prinzen*
- ◆ *Memories of the Lammers family  
of the Somsenhuus*
- ◆ *In memoriam Mimi Zwarts-  
Somsen*
- ◆ *Family Announcements*



*Yearly family magazine*

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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.

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## Colophon

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## Contents

page

Board, advisors, colophon, objective and contents	2
Farewell word outgoing chairman	3
Message from the new chairman	3
Call for new board members. Without you we cannot make it!	4
Reunion group is leaving service	4
5th Somsen Reunion Saturday July 8, 2017	6
The video registration of the 5th Somsen Reunion	9
Somsen Reunion Sunday July 9, 2017	9
Connect-to-our-roots-trip in Engeland and the Netherlands	11
Somsen Reunion 2017, IJzerlo Netherlands	12
The Meekel family from Canada	14
Reunion memories by Scott and Corinne Berkseth Baker	15
Somsen day IJzerlo. Saturday September 1, 2018	16
Is Somsen Horizon 32 the last Horizon?	16
Donations easily made at <a href="http://www.somsen.org">www.somsen.org</a>	17
In memoriam Christina Geertruida Lammers-Prinzen	17
Memories of the Lammers family of the Somsenhuus	18
In memoriam Mimi Zwarts-Somsen	19
Family announcements	19

## 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:*

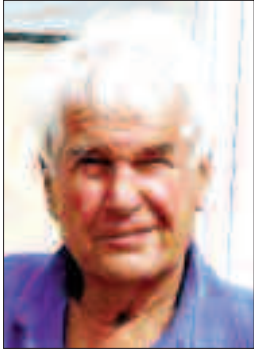
- ◆ doing historical research into the family history and the history of the region
- ◆ collecting documentation and genealogical data
- ◆ keeping and taking charge of a family archive and data bases
- ◆ publishing a periodical
- ◆ providing information to persons, institutions and official authorities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



On the cover

**Photo Welcome sign reunion**

## Farewell word outgoing chairman



*Johan Somsen*

This will be my last contribution to our beautiful magazine Somsen Horizon in the capacity of chairman. More than 10 years ago I enjoyed taking over from Theo not with the intention to organize earth-shaking events but with the aim to ensure our family foundation of a survival. Together with Berto, Harry, Helmut, Oscar and Wim and, of course, other former board members we managed

to do so. We published a large number of Somsen Horizons and Somsen Newsletters and in the last decade there were three major reunions: in 2007 in IJzerlo, in 2012 in New Ulm, MIN, USA and recently our reunion in IJzerlo.

From this place I would like to stress once again how valuable the work of the latest reunion committee was. Congratulations!

With that we have continued a tradition and I do hope that in the future many reunions will follow, also in future generations. The first step for a reunion in Michigan, USA, in 2022 has already been taken and I surely intend to be present there as a Somsen descendant, weather permitting of course.



*Parting board members Harry, Wim,  
Johan and Helmut*

This farewell coincides with that of three other board members. You can read more about this elsewhere in this magazine. This departure is certainly not because of discontent but we felt it was time for a younger generation after so many years. So far this seems to be successful in part. The set of three: Oscar, Berto and Adrie, that continue this special work gives a lot of hope for the future. But they deserve some support from other Somsens, a board of only three people is a little small. A call for this purpose can be found elsewhere but I cannot resist drawing your attention to it in advance.

Also in hectic times as ours in which we are glued to the smartphone, tablet and computer it is valuable to concentrate on history and in our case on the history of our family. It is so special that a group of people who all have the same ancestor from a distant past now honour a Family Foundation that respects and studies the adventures of members of this family. It happened so often to me and that will certainly be familiar to others that I met friends and acquaintances whom I told and showed things about our activities, about our magazines, our family book, about our website with the extensive genealogical database that they were so positively surprised about this unique phenomenon. Of course it is but something very small in the midst of all the world news but no less valuable. Let's continue this and that is only possible when there are people in our family willing to cooperate.

Finally: my farewell is no goodbye so I will still continue to feel involved in our family foundation and I also intend to be present at the various events and the new board members may also appeal to me to help out if necessary.

With this I wish the new board success to carry on with all my heart and I have every confidence in it.

And last but not least a word of gratitude to all the board members with whom I worked together with so much pleasure for so many years.

Johan Somsen [1089]

## Message from the new chairman



*Oscar Somsen*

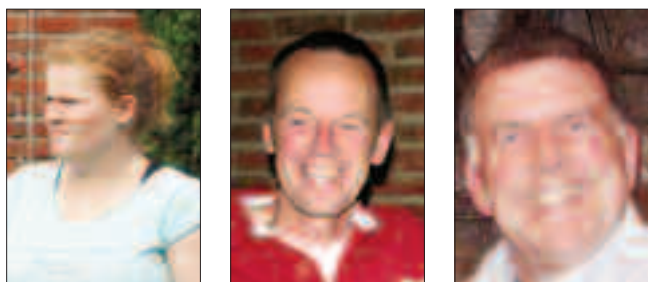
It does not happen so often. Two Chairmen who write in one Horizon. But this time it true. For many of you Saturday November 25 may have passed unnoticed. But for the Somsen Foundation it was a special date. In a special autumn meeting no less than four board members resigned. Johan [1089] who presided over us for many years. Harry [146] who edited Somsen

Horizon and the Somsen Newsletter for many years and who sent them all over the world. Wim [518] who among other things organized many family barbecues, a tradition that was unfortunately interrupted. And of course Helmut [1562], our loyal German Board Member, who managed the archive, who looked at all



matters just a bit different and in doing so put his own stamp on the Foundation. However, they were not ready yet because this Somsen Horizon still had to be made. We will also still find occasions to thank them for all their work and also to ask them for advice or help. But they may enjoy their retirement.

For the time being the board has to continue with the three of us. Berto [423] who has managed the secretariat for several years, Adrie [185] who has already helped us with the organization of the reunion and of course undersigned. Of course with the support of Stephen [2459], our financial man for the United States.



*Adrie [185], Berto [423] and Stephen Somsen [2459]*

We have to find out how to divide the tasks. How to keep the finances and supporters data. A very important task. Because without communication with our base of loyal family members the Foundation can no longer exist. An important part in this process is, of course, the publication of Somsen Horizon and the Somsen Newsletter. This is our main lifeline. This was done by Harry with a lot of support from Johan (among other things the translations). After their retirement someone will have to take over. In addition, there are tasks such as keeping our website up-to-date.



*Community Centre IJzerlo*

What are our plans? That will have to become clear. It is very nice that last summer the first prudent steps have already been taken for a new reunion on the other side of the ocean in about four-and-a-half years. Furthermore we have to maintain contacts in IJzerlo and surroundings. The Somsenuis and the Japikshuis, where our 'tree' is. In any case we hope to

keep a small gathering there once a year thus reviving our tradition. In 2018 this will be on Saturday September 1. We invite everyone to gather at the Community Center in IJzerlo at 4 p.m. It is the location of the reunion of last year where we can meet each other and for those who want to join us: we are going to pay a visit to our tree from there.

### **Call for new Board Members. Without you we cannot make it!**

In recent years we have had the relative luxury of a Foundation Board of six members. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case. In the meantime four members have resigned after many years of loyal service. We are very happy that Adrie van Dijk [185] has become our new Board member but three Board members is not sufficient for all tasks. And it makes us very vulnerable. Essential tasks are keeping the finances and the supporters files. And more importantly, making Somsen Horizon and the Somsen Newsletter. There are other issues such as keeping the website up-to-date and organising meetings.



*The parting chairman and the new one*

Are you well-disposed towards the Foundation please contact us and sign up to join the rest of the Board. With a group this is an easy job. We come together once or twice a year. So it does not take too much of your time. We are really looking forward to reinforcement. Then it will remain possible to organise meetings such as the beautiful reunion of last year.

Mail to [info@somsen.org](mailto:info@somsen.org) or visit the website ([www.somsen.org](http://www.somsen.org)) for contact information.

### **Reunion group is leaving the service**

*By Ben Somsen [438]*

About one and a half years ago we as a group started seriously with the plans and preparations for the Fifth

Worldwide Somsen Reunion. And now we can look back with satisfaction. We are glad the job is done and that we have seen a lot of happy faces. It is time to say goodbye and we hope that a following group is going to organise a beautiful reunion in the future. We have already heard that there are plans for the United States five years from now. We just wait and see.



*Logo reünion 2017*

We were allowed to organize a beautiful reunion. With 115 participants 45 of whom came from the other side of the ocean. There were not only participants from the USA and NL, but also from Germany, Switzerland and Canada. And 17 participants from under 12. That promises something for the future? There were books and material of Harry [146] and Theo [327] and of course the information of our genealogist Dick [130]. Games for adults and children. The guided walk through IJzerlo proved to be very popular. Of course we visited 'our tree' and the unveiling of the new nameplate of the 'Somsenhuus'. But much more important than all of these were the many encounters between new family members and between veterans.



*Reunion committee*

Eventually we could start preparing in mid-2016 when Ben [438] picked up the glove and started the project together with Oscar [2040] and Yeng [2042]. He brought in his sister Gesina [443] and sister-in-law Greet [441] and with Hedda [2848] as the youngest addition we could really start work. Yes, we are quite proud that this job was largely done by the 'Ede branch'. Of course it did not work without the help of the board and in the last months with the help of Nellie [66] and her daughter Adrie [185] with the photos and

more.

We will gladly take part with a personal word of the members of our group.



*Violaar workshop*

more involved during the reunion than at previous times With great pleasure Wim Somsen (440) and I organized a violaar-workshop in which 'Pinocchio' was the central theme. The Somsen family remains special, warm-hearted and headstrong! *Greet van Erp [441].*

Unfortunately, I have not been able to do very much which I regret. Driving there and bringing my daughter Adrie was a good move. When I tell others about our Somsen family I always notice that it is very special. All those descendants from Aalten who come together to get to know each other a bit better and who want to keep in touch. Kind regards to everyone. *Nellie van Dijk [66] and Adrie [185]*



*Students at the violaar workshop*



*Ben and Geziena*

I would like to pay homage to the other participants of the jubilee committee. It was a great event and fortunately the weather gods also cooperated. It was a challenge to add something.

In the end I succeeded with the help of my son Albert [2852] who made a nice presentation of the quiz. I thought it was an honor to be able to contribute. My hope is that the



*Quiz*



Foundation can still have a long life

*Gesina van Roekel [443].*



*Hedda Somsen*

It was an honor to be part of the Worldwide Somsen reunion committee. I think we have managed to create a wonderful day for young and old and I hope everyone enjoyed it. Hopefully until 5

years from now. *Hedda Somsen [2848]*

A few lines about my experience with the 5th Somsen reunion: As a pater familias of the Ede branch I look back on the 5th Somsen Reunion with pride. For me it was the second time that I have contributed to the organization of the Somsen Reunions. Given my age it will also have been the last time. Let us honor this tradition; it is more than worthwhile for our family. I wish our American namesakes lots of good luck with the organization of the 6th Somsen Reunion and then again there will be a Dutch continuation. *Ben Somsen [438]*



*Ben Somsen*

## 5th Somsen Reunion Saturday July 8, 2017

*By Ben Somsen [438]*

On a beautiful sunny summer day the participants of the 5th Somsen Reunion to IJzerlo came from all over the world to renew their acquaintance and to celebrate that the Somsen Foundation had been around for 25 years.



*The Community Centre before the beginning of the reunion*



*Upon entry, name plates*

*Market stalls in the hall*



*The presentation is about to start*

*Everybody trying to find a seat*



*Oscar Somsen opening...*

The morning program was opened by the chairman of the reunion committee, Oscar Somsen [2040].

He welcomed everyone after which our chairman Johan Somsen [1089] gave an overview of the past 5 years in his well-known humorous way.

*Johan Somsen gave a survey of the past five years*



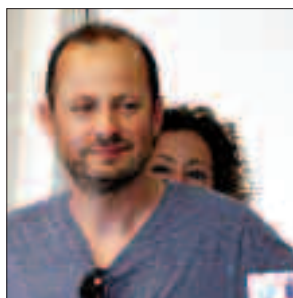
He also thanked the reunion committee and distributed a present to them.

Our American guests had taken care of a souvenir with which they proudly posed.



*Johan  
thanking the  
reunion  
committee*

*Handing  
out presents  
by chairman  
Johan  
Somsen*



*Albert van Roekel [2852]*

The alderman of Aalten happily used a melody of the Beatles from the song "Sargeant peppers lonely hearts club band" to welcome us in this beautiful region.



*Presentation*



*Souvenirs*

Then Oscar and his wife Yeng [2042] took the floor again to explain the day program. While enjoying coffee, tea and lemonade there was plenty of opportunity to get to know each other.



*Yeng Somsen[ 2042]*



*Presentation Oscar Somsen*

Even the birthday of the day, the one of Albert van Roekel [2852], was not forgotten. To treat him his wife Lissa [5074] had baked a large quantity of cupcakes that were eagerly eaten.



*Henk ten Kulver*



After lunch there were the following options:

\* A lecture by Henk Ten Kulver about: "250 years border area".



*Lecture: connecting borders*

\* Workshop making violaar music and a skating clinic by Wim Somsen [440] and Greet v. Erp [441]. (Of which there is a separate report)



*Students at the Violaar workshop*



*Children's games*

\* The children could participate in various games set up among others by Thirza Baumont [2042]



*Historical walk around IJzerlo*

*Historical walk around IJzerlo*



\* A historic walk in the surroundings of IJzerlo.



*At the Somsen tree*

*Johan is telling about the tree*



*Basket of flowers for the proper care of the tree*





*The story at the Somsen tree*



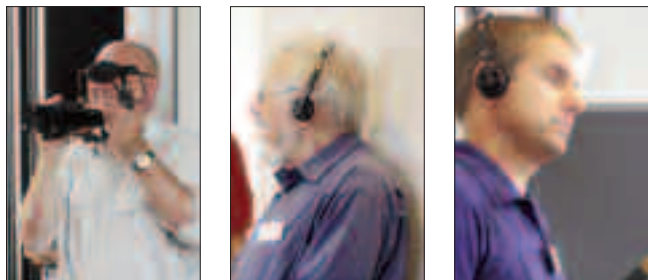
*Unveiling the nameplate of the Somsenhouse*

At the end of the afternoon there was a visit to the Lime Tree and a visit to the "Somsen House" with the unveiling of the new plaque.

### The video registration of the 5th Somsen Reunion

Video recordings have been made of the Saturday program. In total there is roughly 4 hours of rough film. A summary of up to half an hour has been made of this recorded film material.

For interested people DVDs are available that can be ordered for a small fee at: Ben Somsen [438], De Gortpeller 40 1502 BT Zaandam, tel. 0031 75 6168523 or email: [ben.somsen@upcmail.nl](mailto:ben.somsen@upcmail.nl).



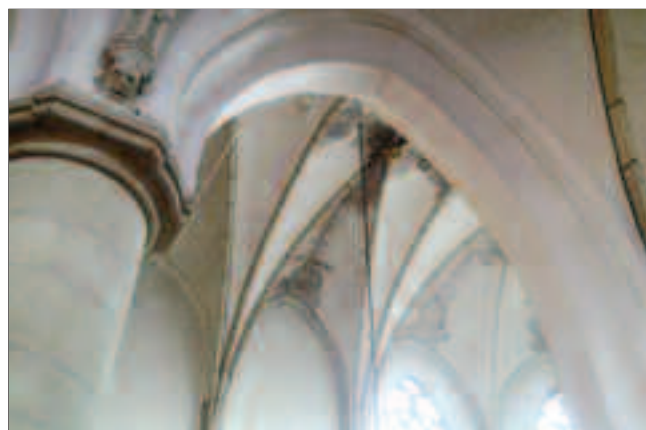
*The three cameramen are:  
Dirk [136], Ben [438] and Arnold Somsen [2041]*

## Somsen Reunion Sunday July 9, 2017

*by Ben Somsen [438]*

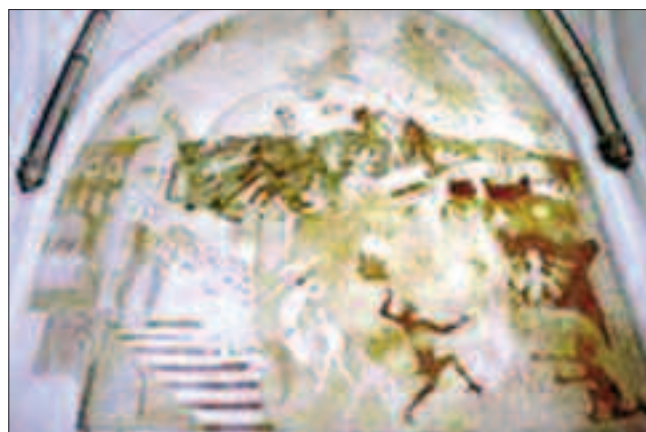
The program for Sunday had the following activities:

- \* 10.00 a visit to the old Saint Helena Church of Aalten for a guided tour.
- \* 11.00 a communal lunch.
- \* 12.00 departure to Eibergen for the Achterhoek Regional Festival or to the Airborne Museum in Oosterbeek.
- \* Closing dinner in restaurant Stegers in Aalten.



*Vaults in the Church*

We were awaited by the sexton of the Old Saint Helena Church on this beautiful Sunday morning at 10.00 am. The tour guide told that this church was originally dedicated to Saint Helena. The building is built entirely of tuff. The tower was built in the 12th century, the rest of the building in phases between 1475 and 1550.



*Wall painting: The Last Judgement*

In the church there are late 15th and early 16th century wall and vault paintings. These murals were covered with a layer of whitewash during the Reformation. When the plaster was to be washed again in 1973 it turned out that special murals were hidden under the six to seven layers of whitewash.

The paintings are representations of the Last Judgment and a rare image in Western Europe of the Emperor Constantine the Great together with his mother, Saint Helena, to whom the church was originally dedicated.



*Old Saint Helena's Church*

Hereafter Johan and Theo took the floor to explain once again how the first Somsens emigrated from this church to the US.

In front of the church there is a resistance monument with the names of victims from the 2nd World War who had died in organized resistance.

Here we find the name of F.H. Somsen [47]. See his life story in our family book on page 97 and following.

In the restaurant Stegers next to the Church we had lunch together and then our roads separated. A group was led to the Airbone Museum in Oosterbeek by Bente and Hedda Somsen and Koen van Putten. Another group went to Eibergen for the Achterhoek Regional Festival and was welcomed there by Dick and Rita Somsen.



*Resistance Memorial bearing the names of F.H. Somsen and H. Huining*

This festival mainly concentrated around the open-air theater in Eibergen. On three stages there was live music, street theater, demonstrations of old crafts, local produce and lots of food.



*Eibergen Achterhoek festival*



*A Berkelship*

There was a lot of interest in a short cruise on the Berkel with a traditional Berkel boat. For centuries skippers loaded these vessels with their merchandise and sailed the Berkel between Zutphen and German Vreden. Around 1850 there was plenty of activity of about 70 Berkel skippers with their vessels. But when the railways were built Berkel navigation went down. Now these vessels sail on the Berkel at various places as historical vessels and show tourists the river and the beautiful landscape.

When we returned to Aalten a nice dinner in restaurant Stegers awaited us to conclude a successful 5th Somsen Reunion.



*Layne Coe Edwards [7936] Taryn Coe Edwards [5562] Duane Edwards [4876] Marieke Edwards Jager Gerlings [725] Mike Edwards [3159] Megin Edwards [4957] Logan Edwards [6530] Jake Edwards [5440] Derek Edwards [4875] Kyra Coe Edwards [696] Ty Edwards [3872]*





*Ty Edwards [3872], Mike Edwards [3159], Duane Edwards, [4876] Derek Edwards [4875], Anneke Jensen [726], Marieke Edwards Jager Gerlings [725], Jake Edwards [5440], Logan Edwards [6530], Maria Terekhina, Taryn Coe Edwards [5562], Kyra Coe Edwards [6969], Layne Coe Edwards [7936]*



*Brigitte Kerr [3900], Shannon Proietti [3901], Becky Errigo [3899], John Errigo [5731], Ryan Errigo [7536]*

## Connect-to-our-Roots-Trip to England and The Netherlands

*by Jeanie Jacobson [773]*



*Jeanie Jacobson [773] at the Somsen tree*



*Church in Mundon, UK.*

We enjoy regular travels at home and to Europe, but our visits to the Somsen Reunion are always special. This time Ken [5866] and I began our journey in Essex, England, where my great grandmother, Emily Gentry [756] left in 1865 at the age of eight for her new home in Utah. She later married Henry John [755], the first Somsen to be born in America.

The old church in her birthplace, Mundon, UK is now abandoned but kept up by "The Friends of Friendless Churches.". We also paid a visit to Gloucester Cathedral where John Stafford Smith, who later wrote the music for American National Anthem, was baptised in 1750.

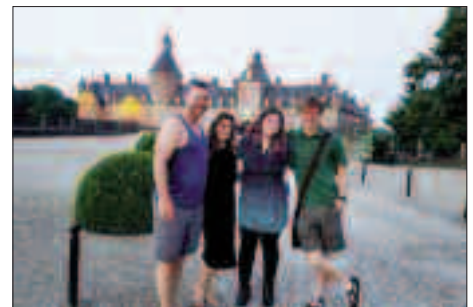
After arriving in The Netherlands we were happy to be met by my son Micah [2383], his fiancée Kristen and children Tenaya [4049] and Aidan [4767].



*Jeanie in Anholt*

Our residence was the beautiful Anholt Castle which dates from the Middle Ages and which played an important part in the history of the region. Since 1966 it doubles as a museum with Dutch masters such as Rembrandt, Jan van Goyen and Gerard Terborch.

*Anholt Castle with Micah and family*



The reunion was once again a great opportunity to meet with our dear family but also with the well-known places such as the Achterhoek Riding Stable and our family tree.



*Sign of the riding-hall in IJzerlo*

We enjoyed very much the regional festival in Eibergen. With handicraft demonstrations, artists and music and nice food.



*Regional festival in Eibergen*

And as always it was wonderful to enjoy the gorgeous Dutch landscape and sky. We were met in Eibergen by our Dutch friends, Nancy and Joep Van Loon, who drove up for the day from Roosendaal and joined us for dinner in Aalten on our last day in the Achterhoek.



*The Dutch landscape in IJzerlo*

## Somsen Reunion 2017, IJzerlo Netherlands

*by Greg [3856] & Kathy [3911] Berkseth*

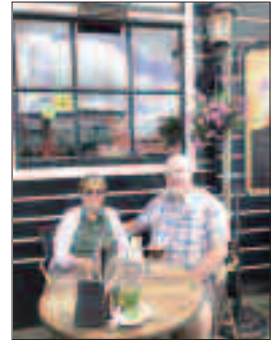
The Somsen Reunion was the reason for our trip to Europe, but we wanted to include some sightseeing as well. We traveled to the Netherlands about a week before the reunion to allow time to tour Amsterdam and cruise the Rhine River. We stayed at Morgan & Mees at a nice location in West Amsterdam and were immediately impressed by the welcoming and extremely helpful staff.

Oscar and Yeng Somsen-Nacion graciously agreed to show us around Amsterdam. They picked us up from our hotel and we traveled through the city and countryside to their home in the province of North-Holland. We visited the beautiful little village of Marken (a former island) for lunch and had the chance to sample her-ring. We accompanied Yeng to her concert, had dinner on their patio and traveled to Zaanse Schans to see the historic windmills. We enjoyed a picturesque and fun filled day.



*Morgan and Mees in Amsterdam*

The next day, we had tickets to the Anne Frank House at 10:30 AM and a Leemstar Canal Cruise at 7:00 PM. In between, we traveled to downtown Amsterdam to explore Central Station and do some sightseeing. The Anne Frank House tour was sobering. The Leemstar Cruise was intimate and informative. We only scratched the surface of what Amsterdam has to offer, we'll be back.



*Greg [3856] and Kathy [3911] Berkseth*

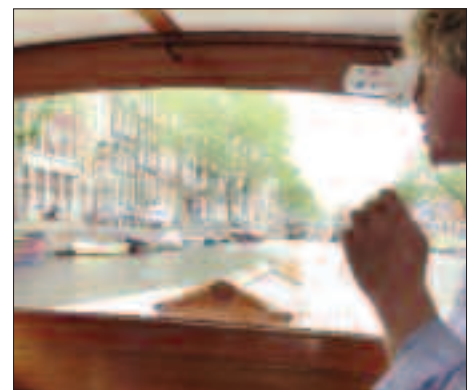
We traveled by train from Amsterdam to Koblenz, Germany for a cruise on the Rhine River. The day and the scenery were beautiful; castles, vineyards, and small communities dot the river banks. You can disembark, explore a community, and then continue the journey on another ship.



*Zaanse Schans*

The train took us back from Koblenz to Arnhem where we picked up a rental car for the trip to Nijhof B&B Huize in Aalten. We had an eventful drive which included a car ferry ride – an experience few have on a trip from Arnhem to Aalten.

*Cruise in the Amsterdam canals*



*Castles on the Rhine*



Nijhof B&B Huize was our favorite place to stay. Annette and Willem are wonderful hosts and the room is comfortable and spacious with a lovely outside patio (there is a very nice fireplace for winter).



*Cruise ship  
on the Rhine*

We thought the reunion was well done and we appreciate the hard work that went into making it successful – Thank You! We enjoyed renewing acquaintances and making new ones, an informative and interesting program in the morning and workshops in the afternoon.

*B&B Nijhof  
in Aalten*



The trips to the home of our ancestors, including the unveiling of a new Somsenhuis sign, were highlights. Outstanding!



*At the reunion on the terrace*



*The Somsens from the other side of the ocean*



*The trip to  
the Somsen  
house*

On Sunday, we attended the Eibergen Achterhoek Festival in the afternoon. The festival was an enjoyable mix of flea market, food, and entertainment. That evening, we joined many family members for a meal at an Aalten restaurant.

*Unveiling  
Somsen  
name plate*



We had a great experience. The reunion was wonderful! Seeing the farm from which we originate provided a sense of place, a sense of grounding. The trip to the Netherlands and Germany was memorable for the scenery, the history, and especially the people. We'll see you in Michigan.



*The  
Achterhoek  
festival in  
Eibergen on  
Sunday*

## The Meekel family from Canada

*In this article you will find the impressions of the Meekel family from Canada of their visit to the Netherlands and the Somsen Reunion.*

*Renee Meekel, the writer of this article, came over from Canada with her large family (eight people in total) including her father Gerry Huinink [7538], her husband Murray and her children Marissa, Liam, Priya, Kalan and Jaden. Gerry's grandmother was Leida Berendina Somsen [1231].*

Our visit to The Netherlands and the Somsen Reunion were awesome! Our family and Grandpa, Gerry Huinink, had a wonderful and safe vacation. The weather was beautiful. If we had to do it over again we most certainly would!



*Map IJzerlo area*

Our children enjoyed touring the central and northern provinces of The Netherlands. We visited many relatives and friends. And we visited many amazing attractions.

Our children also enjoyed playing the games at the Somsen Reunion and relating to their Dutch and American cousins.



*Children playing at the reunion*

They learnt some Dutch words from their Dutch cousins. The various seminars and the tour of the IJzerlo area were inspiring.

It was so touching learning about our roots. In addition to learning about the Somsen family, we picked up that there was a Huinink family in the area also. That helps

explain that Leida Berendina Somsen and Bernardus Hendrikus Huinink met and married. (We have seen pictures of our great grandparents in a photo album my mother made.)

Observing that H Huinink was on the memorial stone at the Oude Helena Church was also interesting for our family.

We liked the Somsen tree and the Somsen house. The meal was delicious.

The Somsen cousins in The Netherlands did an amazing job of creating an enjoyable agenda of things to do at the reunion. The Somsen family is a very friendly bunch.



*In St Helena's Church*



*Memorial stone at St Helena's Church*

Our first time to a Somsen Reunion was in New Ulm, Minnesota hosted by our American Somsen cousins in 2012. Our father, Gerry Huinink wanted to go with us as we were heading to Regina, Saskatchewan to help Murray's mother pack and move to Vancouver Island. We enjoyed the Somsen Reunion there so much!



*At the Somsen tree*

*At the Somsenhouse and the unveiling of the name plate*





We made sure we were going to attend the next one in IJzerlo, Gelderland, The Netherlands.

We are not being critical, and please to not see this in a negative sense at all. Reflecting on this, we kind of wish we had known about these reunions in the past... we would have attended them. We, the Meekel family, did not realize that our great-grandmother, Leida, was a Somsen and that there were reunions. Inquiring with our father, Gerry Huinink, Leida Somsen passed away in 1965, before we were even born. However, we know now that we are part of the Somsen family, and we know that there are reunions. We feel very welcome. With new and modern methods of communication such as email it is much easier to stay in contact and keep up to date with family. We will make an effort to invite and encourage the Huinink family in Canada to attend the reunion hosted by our American cousins in Michigan in 2022.



*Airborne monument*

Thanks you again for the amazing experience! May God bless you and keep you until we meet again at the next reunion!

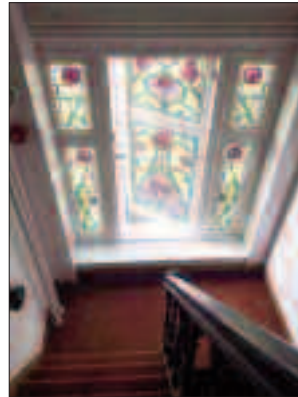
### Reunion Memories by Scott and Corinne Berkseth Baker [3903]

Scott and I arrived in the Netherlands just a couple of days before the reunion. We had a lovely accommodation in Estate Vriezenhuis in Winterswijk Woold, a 1904 estate still owned by the original family. The owner's wife ran hotels in Amsterdam for more than 40 years before converting the property into



*Estate Vriezenhuis*

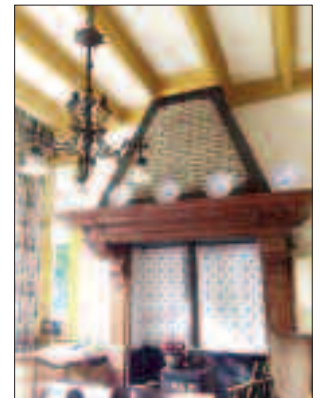
an Airbnb. The interior is as impressive as the exterior, with a lovely view from our 3rd floor bedroom, gorgeous stain glass in the stairway, a dining room with a tile backdrop.



*Staircase with stained glass window*

It is fascinating to look at a striking sky at 10:30 p.m. Dusk comes late in the Netherlands. The weekend was altogether a big festivity. Thanks to the organizers for the fantastic gathering.

The reunion started with an informal gathering in 't Dorpshuus, with beer, which seems to be the choice in IJzerlo and getting to meet the Dutch relatives.



*breakfast room with chimney*



The walking tour of IJzerlo brought us to see brick houses, pastoral landscape, fields and farms, gorgeous horses, corn taller than Scott and lots of hollyhocks.

*Outdoor lamp with Grolsch logo*



*Community Centre IJzerlo upon arrival*

We enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Somsen tree and the Somsenhouse.



*The walk  
to the  
Somsenhouse*

*Shed  
Somsenhouse*



*The  
Somsen  
tree*

Not the 1609 homestead. The new house was built in the 1950s after the previous structure was destroyed by fire. We also visited the Somsen family tree.

The reunion was over and we took lovely memories with us. I was so happy to share the reunion with Scott. After leaving IJzerlo we spent a few nice days in the city of Amsterdam. Such a big difference with our reunion location. But also a place we enjoyed very much.

*Corinne Berkseth  
Baker [3903]*



*American Grown with  
Dutch Roots*

**Somsen Day IJzerlo. Saturday,  
September 1, 2018. Put it in your diary!**



*Terrace Community Centre*

The big reunion of last year was an opportunity for many people to meet again. For some perhaps as a rounding off. For others for the first time. It seems very long to have to wait for five or even ten years for a next meeting. That is why we have made an appointment to see each other again in 2018 on Saturday September 1, 2018. At 4 pm you are all welcome at 't Dorpshuis in IJzerlo, the location of the reunion last year. There is an opportunity to have a drink together, talk to each other and of course to reminisce about the reunion (bring pictures!) and more. For those who want to we will visit our tree from the village hall. There is an



*Somsens on the terrace*

opportunity to stay for dinner. For those who come from further away this is of course a great opportunity to spend a day (or weekend) looking around in the Achterhoek where we all originate from. Of course we hope to see you all.

If you expect to come please send an email to [info@somsen.org](mailto:info@somsen.org). Then we know what to expect. Put it in your diary in any case.

## **Is Somsen Horizon 32 the last Horizon?**

*by Harry Somsen [146]*

Of course in this Horizon there is still a lot to enjoy about the reunion.

Fortunately a number of family members have sent us their reviews of the reunion for publication.





*Somsen Horizon Stall*

But then the continued existence of our publications will depend heavily on people who want to help in the board. The administrative work is not so hard but we do need a few hands. You can consider a task yourself or perhaps you know a Somsen in your area who might be eligible. Do not hesitate to work on it because we do not have much time anymore.

The first new board member has already signed up but we need more.

Making Somsen Horizon and the Somsen Newsletters takes more time and no new editor has reported to the board so far.



*Editor Somsen Horizon*

### Goodbye

I myself am also one of the board members who now retire and that means that I will no longer be the editor of Somsen Horizon and the Somsen Newsletters. With the creation of this Horizon my work has come to an end. After making 11 Somsen Horizons and 14 Somsen Newsletters that show a lot of family history I would also like to transfer this work to a younger generation as I have done in the past myself.

I have always been able to write reports about the family barbecues and visits to the family tree and I have met many Somsens from the various family bran-

ches and I have added them to my own relations and acquaintances. It has enhanced the sense of belonging. On the Saturday of the reunion I was in the lobby of the Village House with a stand with Somsen Horizons, Somsen Newsletters and a film about a previous reunion. That was the last time I met you as a board member.

Who knows we might see each other again at a meeting of the Somsens.

### Donations easily made at [www.somsen.org](http://www.somsen.org)

Handling Bankaffairs USA for the Somsen Foundation, I have handled donations from 24 different American cousins since 2012.

While I will continue to gladly handle the donations by mail, I wanted to share what I learned myself about making a donation to the Somsen Foundation. It turns out you don't need to have a PayPal account yourself.

From [www.somsen.org](http://www.somsen.org) you simply click on "Donations" on the home-page and then the "Donate" button. Then, simply enter your credit card information, the amount you wish to donate and the purpose of the donation such as "Donation 2018".

Please include your P-number. You can find it on the address sticker of the newsletter.



Your American Cousin,

Stephen Somsen  
[P-2459]

[ssomsen@aol.com](mailto:ssomsen@aol.com)

*Stephen Somsen*

### In memoriam Christina Geertruida Lammers-Prinzen

Source: Church life in East-Gelderland Edition  
Dinxperlo Nr. 16.





*Truida  
Lammers-  
Prinzen 2007*

On Monday, August 21, 2017, Christina Geertruida Lammers-Prinzen, Honorary Member of the Somsen Foundation, died at the age of 92.

Truida Prinzen was born in 1924 at the Westendorpweg in IJzerlo as the oldest daughter of the family. She experienced exciting war years there because people in hiding were taken care of and Germans were billeted in her home. She met Hendrik Lammers and in 1946 they married. Because the parents, brothers and sisters of Truida left for Canada in 1948, Hendrik and she moved into her parents' house. Hendrik was seriously ill not long after. He eventually recovered but could no longer exercise the profession of a farmer and became a cattle dealer. Hendrik and she had eight children; their second son died at a very young age. In Somsenhuus everyone was always welcome and if there was something to celebrate it was a party. With Hendrik and Truida, faith was of paramount importance. They were loyal churchgoers and insisted on daily Bible reading and prayer. It formed the basis of their marriage, their family and their daily lives. Truida loved cooking and baking and loved flowers. She was a spirited, independent woman, who did not hesitate to honestly say what she thought of something. In 2011 Hendrik's health deteriorated. They could no longer live at Somsenhuus and moved to the Dr. Jenny home in Dinxperlo. There he died in August 2012. This was a heavy blow for Truida and she missed him badly. Yet she tried to pick up her life again as good and as bad as it was, helped by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and the many other people around her. She became ill in April 2017. She scrambled up again, but later it went worse with her and she did not recover again. On Monday, August 21, 2017, Truida passed away, surrounded by those who were dear to her. On Saturday 26 August Truida was buried in private on the New Cemetery in Dinxperlo. Her life was commemorated in a service in the Reformed Village Church, in which love stood central, the love of God for people and people for each other. And so also the love of Truida for the people around her.

## Memories of the Lammers family of the Somsenhuus

*by Johan Somsen [1089]*

After the Somsenhuus was abandoned by descendants of our common ancestor Roelof, presumably somewhere in the 19th century, the Prinzen family

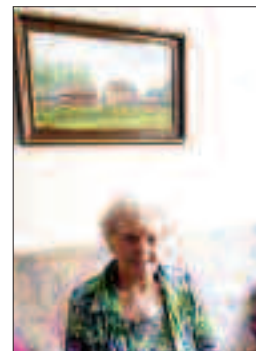
lived there until after the Second World War. When the Prinzen family emigrated to Canada after the war their daughter Truida Prinzen stayed behind in The Netherlands. Truida married Hendrik-Jan Lammers and they lived at the Somsenhuus until they moved to the care home Dr. Jenny in Dinxperlo in 2011 at very advanced ages.

Hendrik-Jan died in 2012 at the age of 89. He was always strongly involved in the Somsen family. At the Worldwide Somsen reunion in 2007 he dedicated a wonderful poem to the Somsen family.

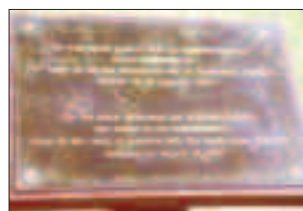
In August 2017 Truida Lammers-Prinzen died at the age of 92. Elsewhere in this magazine you will find an "in memoriam" for her. Until a very advanced age she was still very vital. Truida was also always very interested in the fortunes of our family.

When they had moved from the Somsenhuus and when it was put up for sale Truida contacted me because she wanted to try to persuade a Somsen-descendant to buy the Somsenhuus. They would have loved it so much if Somsens had come back to the place of their roots. A potential Somsen buyer was held out the prospect of a substantial discount on the purchase price. We posted this call in Somsen Horizon at the time but that has not led to any results.

However, there are still some features on the site that remind us of our family. At the beginning of the driveway there is a plaque which shows us that this is the place of origin of all of us. And there is a nameplate on the Somsenhuus with the name of the house. The new residents have also cooperated so that both these characteristics will be kept. During the reunion in 2017 we replaced the old nameplate on the house by a new one.



*Truida Lammers with  
painting Somsenhouse*



*Plaque Somsenhouse*

From our first big Somsen Reunion there has always been a very pleasant contact with the Lammers family. I really loved it to pay them a visit at the Somsenhuus. That was always an integral part of the program during the many Somsen camping week-



*New Board Somsenhouse*



ends in IJzerlo, but also throughout the year. Many times I sat at the kitchen table in the Somsenhuus to listen to memories of the history of our families. When there was a special Somsen event in IJzerlo, Hendrik-Jan and Truida always sympathized with us warmly.



*The Lammers Family*

My last visit to Truida was in the spring of 2017. Together with Oscar I was in the Achterhoek making preparations for the reunion of 2017 and we spent a pleasant hour with Truida. And as always I wanted so badly to hear stories of the past from her mouth. She knew everything so well and also with so many details.

So again the war came up. Truida was a young woman, she was 16 when the war broke out in 1940, and it was her the task to take care of the many people in hiding in the Somsenhuus, mainly a lot of English pilots of crashed planes. But at the same time there were also Germans billeted in the Somsenhuus and they also wanted to have coffee. And it was Truida again who had to do this. It was incredibly courageous what this family and especially



*Lammers Somsenhouse  
certificate*

Truida did and it is therefore not surprising that Truida received a special distinction from the Confederation Europeenne Des Ancients Combattants (European Confederation of ex-combatants).

She maintained the contacts with many allied pilots for years and that has often meant that they met each other regularly.

During that last visit I took a nice picture of Truida with a painting of the Somsenhuus in the background. A painting that had been presented her by grateful people in hiding.

Hendrik-Jan and Truida have conquered an important place in our hearts and there we will continue to cherish the memory of them.

### In memoriam Mimi Zwarts-Somsen [445]

*by Ben Somsen [438]*



*Mimi Zwarts-  
Somsen [ 445 ]*

The Ede branch of our Somsen family was shaken on November 14, 2017 by the unexpected death of Mimi Zwarts-Somsen, 73. She was our youngest sister with enormous creative skills such as knitting sweaters and, together with her husband Marien, making rugs. She worked with wool directly from the sheep, washed it, spun it herself with the final result beautiful rugs sometimes of a huge size. Marien and Mimi

often visited the Somsen family days in IJzerlo.

Her death has shocked us deeply and we wish Marien Zwarts [446] a lot of strength.

### Somsen Genealogy Family File

We thank all family members who for years have taken the trouble to inform us about the births, marriages, divorces and deaths of their family members, parents, uncles, aunts, nieces and cousins. This enables our advisor, Dick Somsen from Zwolle, to keep our genealogical file up-to-date and to report on this in the Somsen Horizon and on the Somsen Website. We really appreciate it very much that you send in your family announcements (together with pictures please!) to [somsengenealogie@kpnplanet.nl](mailto:somsengenealogie@kpnplanet.nl) or by mail: Monteverdilaan 175, 8031 DL Zwolle.

Please visit our website and check whether the mention of your family is correct and whether the passport photo of yourself, your parents and/or your children needs renewal. Please send me your response and I will gladly help you with your update work.

**Born:**

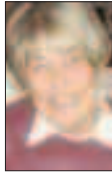
- 22-09-2015:** Theodore Lee [7998], s.o. Patrick Albert Somsen [2744] and Heidi Marie Hoffman [7997]  
**04-05-2017:** Teun [7989], s.o. Michel Somsen [1875] and Wendy Klooster [7900]  
**11-05-2017:** Theabelle Felicity [7999], d.o. Patrick Albert Somsen [2744] and Heidi Marie Hoffman [7997]  
**08-07-2017:** Bronson David [7987], s.o. David Baxter Stoppleworth [7735] and Jenna Rae Somsen [3635]  
**21-07-2017:** Hope Sandra [7988], d.o. Dustin Michael McGregor [7736] and Sara Jo Schuchard [3637]  
**24-08-2017:** Sherry Ann [7992], d.o. Glenn Taylor Allred [7871] and Mindy Sue Adamson [3628]

*Teun**Hope Sandra***Married:**

- 15-10-2011:** Patrick Albert Somsen [2744] and Heidi Marie Hoffman [7997], Wausau, WI. USA

**Deceased:**

- 01-01-2016:** Theodore Lee [7998], 3 months, s.o. Patrick Albert Somsen [2744] and Heidi Marie Hoffman [7997]  
**29-02-2016:** Aleida Wilhelmina (Ineke) Triplett-Somsen [723], 84, Wichita Falls, TX. USA  
**30-05-2016:** Lee Roy Miller [757] 81, Houston, TX. USA  
**18-04-2017:** Bernardus Johannes Benedictus Maria (Ben) Prins, [3129], 69, Amersfoort  
**11-05-2017:** Barbara Jacoba (Barja) Somsen-Veldhuis, [1194], 68, Zevenhuizen Gr.  
**12-07-2017:** Joan Pauline Somsen-Soderman [899], 86, Soda Springs, ID. USA  
**26-07-2017:** Hendrikus Gerardus (Henny) Bakker [1011], 88, Amsterdam  
**06-08-2017:** Hilda Irene Schroeder-Wolf [7986], 94, Alexandria, SD. USA  
**21-08-2017:** Christina Geertruida Lammers-Prinzen, 92, Honorary Member Somsen-Foundation, Dinxperlo  
**08-09-2017:** Otto Hendrik van Winkelhof [119], 70, Tilburg  
**13-11-2017:** Geertjen Catharina Somsen-Lenderink [1881], 91, Eibergen  
**14-11-2017:** Willemina Hendrika (Mimi) Zwarts-Somsen [445], 73, Kollumerpomp  
**13-12-2017:** Sylvia Lucille Henricks-Somsen [766], 71, Salt Lake City, UT. USA  
**04-01-2018:** Hendrika Everdina Somsen-Kemink [65], 88, Hengelo (O)

*Ineke**Lee Roy**Ben**Barja**Joan  
Pauline**Hilda  
Irene**Otto  
Hendrik**Sylvia  
Lucille**Hendrika  
Everdina**Somsen family in front of the Community Centre in IJzerlo*