



Jean Schinckel named Iowa Mother of Achievement

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An Eldridge homemaker, Georgine (Jean) Schinckel, was honored as an Iowa Mother of Achievement by the Iowa Mothers Association in a meeting of the statewide group on Saturday, April 6 at Ankeny.

She was previously recognized as an Iowa Merit Mother in 1999 and an Iowa Master Homemaker in 2007.

Jean and her husband, Jack, were married in 1962 and raised four daughters at their farm at rural Walcott. They recently retired to Eldridge. The daughters—Debra, Donna, Denise, and Dawn—are all

married and have children. The Schinckels have eleven grandchildren.

Jean was active with the Scott County Pork Producers, Scott County Cattlemen's Association, the Scott County Farm Bureau, and the Iowa Farm Bureau board. After retiring from the farm, she continued to be busy with the American Schleswig Holstein Heritage Society and has helped lead nine tours to Europe. She has gone on two more to visit relatives in Germany and Norway. The couple has hosted numerous foreign visitors.

She is involved with St. Paul Lutheran Church and the ladies' activities and sings in the church choir. Because of her musical ability, she has taught piano lessons for forty-eight years and taught 200 kids and adults.

Jean was nominated for the honor by Lois Schurr of LeClaire, who said, "Jean always has a smile on her face, and she is one of those people you go to if you need help."

Happy Mother's Day!

Think of your Mother

I want to ask you something!

Does your mother live yet?

Is she with you or is she farther away? Is she in her best years and healthy, or is she old and can't get around too good?

Why do I want to know, I want to know more yet. I want to also ask, have you today or yesterday made your mother happy? Have you given her your hand, or have you told her that you think a lot of her and always think of her fondly. Have you brought flowers lately?

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German Original on page 3



*Happy
Mother's Day*

Crosses of Distinction

New feature beginning on page 12: An ongoing historical fiction piece that focuses on the connections of history between today's United States Air Force Senior Airman Kylie Schaffer and her third great grandfather's service in the Franco-Prussian War and eventual immigration to Iowa.

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The **ASHHS Goal** is preserving and promoting the heritage of Schleswig-Holstein in the USA. We encourage cultural exchange, family research, study of the languages and dialects of Schleswig-Holstein, conferences and other programs pursuant to the above objectives.

The **ASHHS Newsletter** is published bimonthly for its members. Contributions are welcomed. Submitted material remains the property of the submitter until publication. Please cite sources and give others credit where due. Observation of copyright privileges is required. Responsibility for accuracy of printed information lies with the submitter, not with ASHHS, the ASHHS Newsletter, or the Newsletter committee. Corrections will be published if given in writing. The Newsletter committee reserves the right to edit material for space, form, spelling, and grammar.

Deadlines for Submissions

Dec 15 for Jan/Feb Issue
Feb 15 for Mar/Apr Issue
Apr 15 for May/June Issue
Jun 15 for Jul/Aug Issue
Aug 15 for Sep/Oct Issue
Oct 15 for Nov/Dec Issue

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ASHHS Policy on Publicizing Events and Activities of other Societies and Organizations: As a matter of mutual interest and courtesy, this Newsletter may publish articles and notices about German-American events and activities which are not sponsored or organized by ASHHS or its board of directors. The publishing of such material in the Newsletter shall not in any way imply any ASHHS responsibility for the content, results, success or failure of such activities and events.

The ASHHS Genealogical Research Policy: ASHHS provides research assistance for its members only. Members who desire this assistance should contact the genealogy director by regular mail or e-mail. The ASHHS genealogy director maintains and utilizes access to a variety of available genealogical resources to assist in all research activities. The genealogy staff will strive to locate information and assist members in their searches. However, if the desired information cannot be located, the genealogy director may provide the member with a list of alternative research sources. Members are expected to pay for any expenses (such as photocopies, printing and postage) associated with a search. The ASHHS genealogy staff will provide 3 hours free research to members, after which there is a minimal fee if further research is desired. The e-mail address of Karen Puck, the ASHHS genealogy director, is kpuck2015@gmail.com.

This newsletter is printed by
Images In Ink
821 5th Street
Durant, Iowa 52747
ISSN 1045-09960



Oink an dien Mudder!

Reprinted from "Bi uns an 'n Diek" by Rudolf Kinau

Dott ick di mol eben wat fragen?
Left dien Mudder noch? Is se bi di, oder is se wieder weg? Is se noch in de besten Joahrn un gesund? Oder is seal oolt un kann ne recht mihr mit?

Worum ick dat weten much?
Dach, ick wull giern noch mihr weten. Ick wull oak noch fragen: Hest du dien Mudder vandog oder gustern mol'n Freid mokt? Hest ehr mol eben de Hand geben? Oder hest ehr mol segt, dat du doch'n barg van ehr hooln deist, un jummer fein an ehr dinkst? Oder best ehr mol'n poar Blomen brocht?

Nu, wat-? Hest doar ne an dacht? Oder hest dat ne doon mucht-for de Annern? Ober dat steiht doch al fast bi di: Wenn dien Mudder mol starben schull,-den besten Kranz dat du kreigen kannst, mit de scheunsten Blomen, dat man geben deit,-den schall dien Mudder hebben. Oat all de Nabers un all de Lud, demit no'n Liek goht, dat seeht: Wu vel du van dien lutt geode Mudder hooln hest. Un'n scheunen Stf schall se ook hebben- up ehr Graff. Un doar schall ook'n luten, \

feinen Spruch up stohn. Jo dat

schall gewisst Hest di al een'n utdacht? Jo?

Oach, du, stopp mol eben! Kiek mi mol an! Magst du dussen Spruch ne al nu mol to dien Mudder seggen? Villicht mit annere Wort, un du brukst jo ook ne to seggen dat noheer mol an ehrn stohn schall.

Dao dat man mol, jo? Lot dien Lud un lot de Nabers man dinken un snacken, wat se wot. Bring du dien Mudder vandog man mol'n scheunen heurp'sh Bloomen! Un wenn du keen Bloomen hest, un ook so gau keen kreigen kannst, denn gef dien Mudder wat anners. Un wenn du goarnix

hest, denn gef ehr mol eben de Hand, un gef ehr'n geodes Wort. Schass man mol seehn, wat dien Mudder sick freit, oak: wenn ehr bloos de Oogen blank ward, -ook wenn. se goarne recht weet wat se seggen schall, ook wenn se sinnig afweehrt un segt: Dat harr nu wirklich ne neudig don

Ne, neudig don harr't ne. For dien Mudder ne. Ober for di deit dat groot neudig, dat du di doar af un an mol up besinnen deist: Wonem du eegentlich herkommen bust, un wer-

keen di dat · Loopen un dat Lachen lierht hett, un werkeen di toierst dien letten Hand foolt hett di dat

Bed en bibrocht. dat du jeeder Tied dien Recht kregen hest, mit Eten un Drinken, un mit Tug un Stebeln in mit allns, wat doar tohort !!

Un dat deit ook groot neudig for di dat doar mol ober nodinkst, wu weenig du van all dussen Krom, van all de Holp un de Freid, de dien Mudder di geben hett--bit nu, wedder an dien Mudder goodmokt hest. Un wu weenig Tied de villicht blooss noch bleiben deit, um dat noch beeten wedder in de Reeh to moken.

Muss mi ne dull wesen, dat ick di dat all so seggen doo, ick meen dat wirklich so. Un muss ook ne den Kupp wegdeihn un in de Eck kieke as wenn di een an de Buer stott harr. Rumsitten un grubein kannst noheer noch genoeg, wenn dien Mudder mol doot is. Ober ehr mol de Hand geben, un ehr mol'n lutte feine Freid moken, dat kannst du blooss noch vandog. Am besten is: Nu gliek!! Doo dat man, jo? Schass man mol seehn, wat dat for'n scheunen Dag ward! Oak for di!

~ Announcement ~

Do you enjoy genealogy, ancestry and research?

ASHHS is looking for a volunteer to assist Karen Puck with genealogy.

The volunteer must be computer and internet savvy and have experience with genealogy and ancestry.

Volunteer must be local to Eastern Iowa.

If anyone is interested, please contact me at danielwholst@gmail.com.

An ASHHS Membership Makes a Great Gift!

You will find the application on the back cover.



From the President

By Franz Neff



Moin moin!

We have an exciting year to celebrate this year. Our 30th year programs are shaping up. Please see the adjacent article for details. More details will arrive in the July/August newsletter.

Our editor, Dan, is beginning a exciting ongoing historical fiction story entitled *Crosses of Distinction* about a Schleswig-Holstein soldier in the Franco-Prussian War and his third great granddaughter serving in today's US Air Force.

May 19 is the quarterly meeting. Inga Stoermer will present a story about our *Heimat*. Please make plans from September 27 to 29 for the 30th anniversary conference in Bettendorf at the Cambria hotel. Registration available next newsletter. Register early! More instructions to follow online.

Yours truly
President
Franz Neff



30th Anniversary Annual Meeting

Please join us in celebrating the 30th anniversary of the American Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society. Thirty years ago, a group of people from Schleswig-Holstein descent decided it was time to start the society known today as ASHHS (the American Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society). Along with quarterly meetings, other social events, and genealogy, ASHHS holds an annual conference. Originally known as the Low German Conference, it became the Friendship Conference because of the many friendships that developed.

This year the conference will be held on September 27–29 at the new Cambria Hotel in Bettendorf. The hotel will be finished by early summer and is located right off Interstate 80. The Friday evening welcome event will be held at the German American Heritage Center. The theme of the evening will be “Immigration” as the Center was once the hotel where many immigrants spent their first night in the area. There is also an excellent immigration museum in the building.

The price for the weekend will be \$125. It will include Friday's evening meal and Saturday's lunch and dinner. There will be music and speakers at both events.

A block of ten rooms will be held at the Cambria for \$129 per night: five rooms with one king-sized bed and five rooms with two queen beds.

The July/August newsletter will have complete details and a registration form.

We look forward to seeing you in September. Any questions, contact: Franz Neff, phone 563-340-7480, email: fmneff@speedconnect.com Mary Burchett, phone 563-355-6274, email: burchettme@yahoo.com

Calendar

ASHHS Quarterly Meeting May 19, 2019

The American/Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society (ASHHS) quarterly meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m., on Sunday May 19, 2019, at the Walcott American Legion, 121 W. Bryant St., Walcott, Iowa

Our speaker will be Inga Stoermer. The theme of her presentation is “*Heimat* – forever and ever.” She will illustrate our own connections to Schleswig-Holstein through her own historical and personal connection to the *heimat*: Schleswig-Holstein.

Light refreshments will be provided. The program is free and open to the public. The American Legion Hall is handicap accessible. For more information, call Mary Ann Muller, 563-284-6640, or e-mail leemarmul@aol.com.

New Email Address

The ASHHS office now has a new email address. please make note of it. It is: ashhswalcott@gmail.com

Think About Your Mother!

~ Continued from page 1, Translated by Glenn Sievers

Now what! You have not thought of that? Perhaps you did not want to do this because of others! However, that is your decision. If your mother should pass away, then the best Wreath that you can get, with the best flowers that you can get, that your Mother shall have! That all the neighbors and all the people that go along shall see how much you thought of your good little Mother. And a nice Stone she shall also have on her grave. And upon there shall be a little nice Verse. Yes, that is for sure! Have you thought of one yet?

Also, you, stop once! Look at me. Perhaps you could tell this Verse to your Mother now. Perhaps another word here & there & you don't have- to tell that it shall go on her stone!

Do that right now! Yes? Let

the people and the neighbors think and talk what they want. Bring today your Mother some pretty flowers, and when you don't have flowers and can't get any then give your Mother something else. And if you have nothing, then give her your hand and a good word. You shall see how your mother is happy, and if her eyes go blank and she really don't know what to say, and then thoughtfully says that wasn't really necessary.

Not necessarily so! Not for your Mother, but for you it is very necessary, that you once in awhile reflect and give thanks. Where did you really come from, and who taught how to walk and laugh, and who first took you by the hand and taught you to Pray? Who taught you right from wrong, help you with eating and drinking, and with

clothes and boots and all what belongs to life!

And that is very necessary, that you think back about all these things, and all the help and happiness that your Mother has given you. And perhaps how little time she has left, and little time to get things in order.

Now you must realize what I have all said I really mean! And you must not turn your head and look in the corner as when you got one on your nose. Sitting around and growling you can do enough later after your Mother is gone. However, now give her your hand and tell her something to make her happy, that you can do yet today. Better yet now quickly do it now at once! You shall see what a fine day it is, and also for you!!!!!!

Davenport's German American Heritage Center

Current Exhibits

- * *The German Immigrant Experience*
- * *An Immigration Story: William and Anna Schweibert*
- * *Kaiserslautern: Davenport's Sister City Exhibit*

Upcoming Exhibits

- * May 19, 2019: *An Austrian Overture: Classical Composers*

The German American Heritage Center's latest exhibit explores the German composers that changed the world of music. Follow the evolution of music told through German classical music composers and how their influence helped shape the musical identity and culture of the German people. From Bach to Beethoven, Mozart to Mendelssohn, each expanded the music field and created lasting impressions that the world still enjoys today.

- * June 9, 2019: *Better Than Sliced Bread: German Scientists and Inventors*

Learn more about famous inventions and discoveries by Germans and German-Americans that changed life as we know it! From Guggenheim to Geiger, jeans to sliced bread, learn about the men and women that used their minds and created new and exciting ideas and products! This exhibit will be open from June 9th- October 27th in the first-floor gallery of the GAHC.

**See a listing of the items
ASHHS has for sale on
the inside of the back cover**

Fehmarn Belt Tunnel

By Hans-Werner Hamann

The state government of Schleswig-Holstein in Kiel announced on December 28, 2018 that the draft for the approval of the tunnel from the Danish island of Lolland and the German island of Fehmarn is ready.

The planned eleven-mile railway and road tunnel under the Baltic Sea will upon completion connect the Danish island of Lolland with the German island of Fehmarn. Construction is not expected to begin until at least 2020, and the construction period should be about eight years. After the completion of this unprecedented structure, the fixed link across the Fehmarn Belt could become the world's longest and deepest combined road and railway tunnel. While the current travel time for crossing the Fehmarn Belt across the Baltic Sea by ferry is forty-five minutes, according to the planners, travel through the weather-independent system will take approximately eight to ten minutes.

The Kingdom of Denmark, in particular, pushed ahead with planning through political decisions, notably



by assuming all the construction costs. The planning and the subsequent operation are therefore taken over by a state-owned Danish company (see links below) founded specifically for the project.

Since 1963, shortly after the opening of the Fehmarn Sound Bridge between mainland Schleswig-Holstein and the island of Fehmarn, the Baltic Sea

is crossed by ferries between the harbor of *Puttgarden* on Fehmarn and the *Rødbyhavn* port at Lolland. The later decision to build a tunnel at the site was preceded by decades of planning and discussion on whether and in what way the Fehmarn Belt should be given a fixed link. On February 1, 2011, the Danish Parliament approved plans to cross the Fehmarn Belt through an immersed tunnel, as proposed by the planning and operating company.

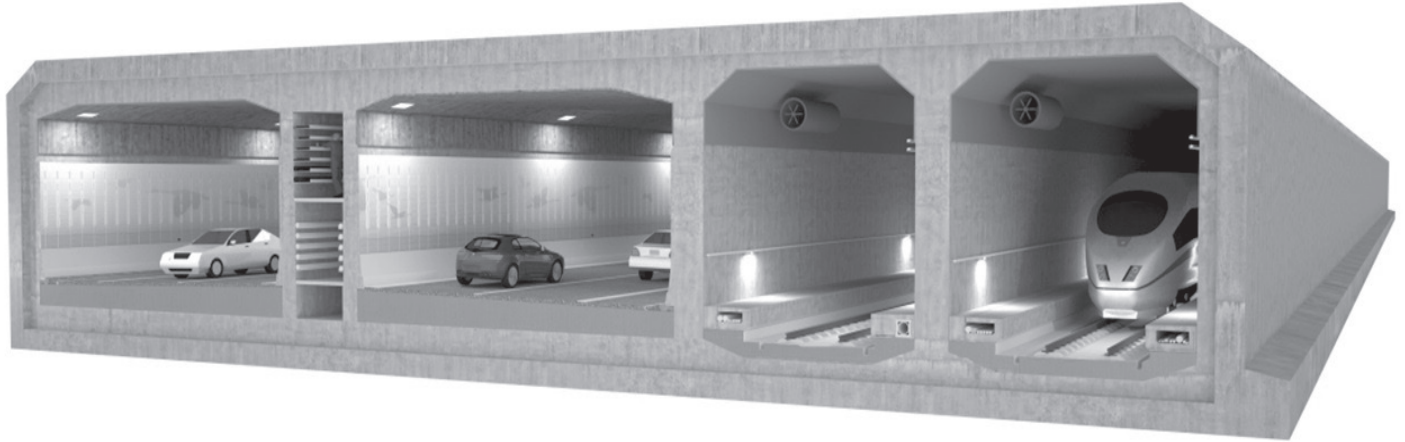
Each of the four tunnels will accommodate unidirectional travel for vehicles and trains. Designers believe that safer travel will be achieved by limiting each tunnel to one direction. Additional safety measures for vehicle drivers include the usual traffic control and monitoring but also a mobile network and fatigue-reducing full-spectrum lighting system.

Each vehicle tunnel will



Fehmarn Belt Tunnel

By Hans-Werner Hamann



incorporate two lanes plus a service lane. Maximum speed is expected to be set at 70 miles per hour. The tube tunnel for trains speeds up travel to 125 miles per hour. Additionally, the tunnel is to be electrified by the Danish traction current system with a voltage of 25 kilovolts and a frequency of 50 hertz. The system separation point between the German and the Danish traction current system will be in German territory, not far from the tunnel portal at *Puttgarden*.

<https://femern.com/en/Tunnel/Facts-on-the-tunnel>



<https://femern.com/en/Tunnel/Facts-on-the-tunnel/A-drive-through-the-tunnel>

Belt: From Old High German *Balz*. German Belt Facts

(1) The Belts aka The Danish Straits

The Danish Straits are all the straits that connect the Baltic Sea to the North Sea through the *Kattegat* and *Skagerrak*. The Fehmarn Belt territory is shared between the Sweden and Germany. But the Great Belt and the Little Belt remain territorially Danish. The Copenhagen Convention of 1857 designated the belts as international waters.

(2) The Asteroid Belt

Built upon the work of Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe, German scientist Johannes Kepler first predicted the existence of “something” between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. He published those findings in his 1596 publication *Mysterium Cosmographicum*. Italian astronomer Giuseppe Piazzi discovered, Ceres, the first known object in the asteroid belt, but it was the German Heinrich Olbers who discovered the second one called Pallas. Finally, German-born scientist William Herschel first used the term “asteroid” to describe them by “their asteroidal appearance, if I take my name, and call them Asteroids.”

(3) Orion’s Belt

Orion’s Belt is part of the constellation Orion. The belt is comprised of three star systems: Alnitak, Alnilam and Mintaka. Orion is mentioned three times in the Bible: Job 9:9, Job 38:31, and Amos 5:8. German mythology called Orion’s Belt *Frigga’s Distaff*. The first known depiction of Orion was discovered in a German cave in Ach Valley and inscribed on Mammoth Ivory. Scientists estimate it is between 32,000 to 38,000 years old.

23ANDME and Me: My Genetic Profile

By Daniel W. Holst

In sum, I am my mother's son. But a few surprises did arise from unlocking my genetic code.

A couple of years ago during graduate school, I enrolled in the class: *Issues in Disciplinary Studies: Literature, Medicine, & Biotechnology*. We discussed the challenges arising from genetic research in literature and how the narrative of our lives may or may not change with knowing or manipulating our own genetic code. And by the way, I would argue that knowing one's genetic code is itself a method of genetic manipulation. It was an incredible sixteen weeks of discussion and reading.

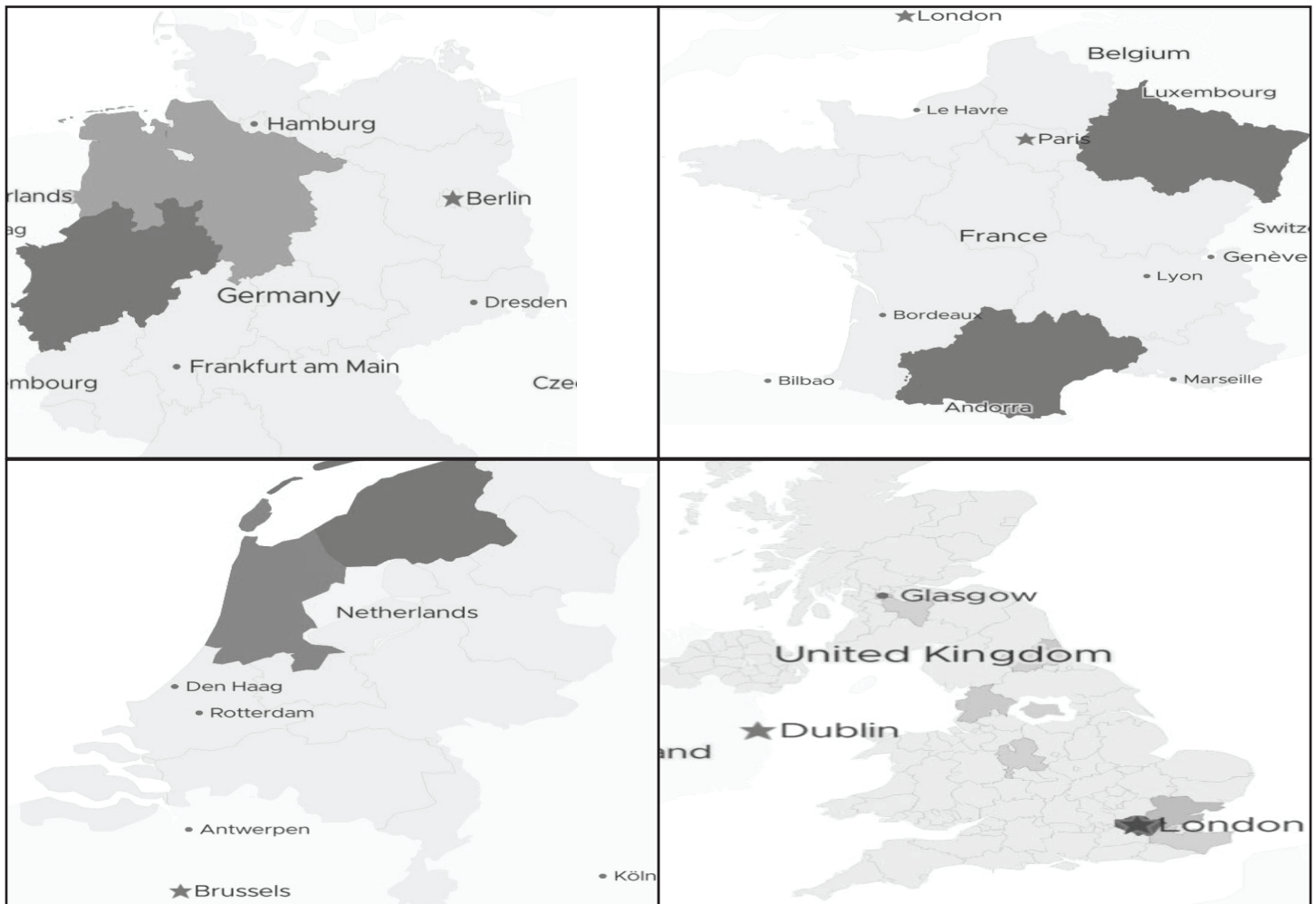
One of the issues, of course, is the privacy concerns of giving

away your genetic code. Those concerns are not unfounded. The companies that offer to unlock your DNA do offer stringent privacy guarantees, but ultimately there are some risks. I made the decision to do so because my DNA is already on file. During my Air Force career, we had to "donate" our blood so that if the ultimate sacrifice came to pass and our remains were unidentifiable, then the government could still identify us through our DNA. So why not see what makes me me.

Even so, I am my mother's son, but I am also my own. My DNA may have prompted me along certain paths, but my self and my being are beyond my ge-

netic code. This also is important to remember. We are not locked into predetermined paths, for we ultimately live life as we struggle and choose. As did my ancestors who were obviously quite mobile across Europe as this former 100 percent German discovered he is 40.4 percent French and German. That is highly likely German, likely Netherlands, and possibly likely French. I am also 28.5 percent Scandinavian/Denmark and 12.9 percent British.

The maps below detail the regions where I have the strongest genetic connections to across Germany, France, Netherlands, and England. The deeper the color, the stronger the connection.



German Immigrants and the US Medal of Honor

By Daniel W. Holst

In celebration of Father's Day, I wish to celebrate the contributions of our German forefathers in US History.

Apart from America's indigenous peoples, America is a nation of immigrants and the descendants of immigrants. From before and continually after Joseph Bucklin fired the first official shot of our Revolutionary War, immigrants built the fabric of America, defended her against all enemies foreign and domestic, and have received the nation's highest honors.

We continue their efforts to build a more perfect union. The highest honor for contributing to the love of our country is recognized by the US Medal of Honor for military personnel and the Presidential Medal of Freedom for civilian personnel.

The Medal of Honor was created during the Civil War, and since then over 700 immigrants have received America's highest military honor. To recognize their contribution and in remembrance of the Civil War's end on May 9, 1865, I would like to honor a few of the German immigrants who received the Medal of Honor during the Civil War. Most only list Germany as their birth place. They are listed by name, rank, place of action, and citation.

Johann Christoph Julius Langbein, Musician

Vicksburg, Mississippi

A drummer boy, 15 years of age, he voluntarily and under heavy fire went to the aid of a wounded officer, procured medical assistance for him, and aided in carrying him to a place of safety.

Richard Enderlin, Musician

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Voluntarily took a rifle and served as a soldier in the ranks during the first and second days of battle. Voluntarily and at his own imminent peril went into the enemy's lines [at] night and, (sic) under a sharp fire, rescued a wounded comrade.

Charles Bieger, Private

Ivy Farm, Mississippi

Voluntarily risked his life by taking a horse, under heavy fire, beyond the line of battle for the rescue of his captain, whose horse had been killed in a charge and who was surrounded by the enemy's skirmishers.

Abraham Cohn, Captain

Petersburg, Virginia

During Battle of the Wilderness rallied and formed, under heavy fire, disorganized and fleeing troops of different regiments. At Petersburg, Va., July 30, 1864, bravely and coolly carried orders to the advanced line under severe fire.

Conrad Schmidt, First Sergeant

Winchester, Virginia

First Sergeant Schmidt went to the assistance of his regimental commander, whose horse had been killed under him in a charge, mounted the officer behind him, under a heavy fire from the enemy, and returned him to his command.

William Wells, Quartermaster

Mobile Bay, Alabama

As landsman and lookout on board the U.S.S. Richmond during action against rebel forts and gunboats and with the ram Tennessee in Mobile Bay, 5 August 1864. Despite damage to his ship the loss of several men on board as enemy fire raked her decks, Wells performed his duties with skill and courage throughout a furious 2-hour battle which resulted in the surrender of the rebel ram Tennessee and in the damaging and destruction of batteries at Fort Morgan.

Andrew Miller, Sergeant

Mobile Bay, Alabama

As captain of a gun on board the U.S.S. Richmond during action against rebel forts and gunboats and with the ram Tennessee in Mobile Bay, 5 August 1864. Despite damage to his ship and the loss of several men on board as enemy fire raked her decks, Sgt. Miller fought his gun with skill and courage throughout the furious 2-hour battle which resulted in the surrender of the rebel ram Tennessee and in the damaging and destruction of batteries at Fort Morgan

The History of Probstei, Schleswig-Holstein

By Scharlott Blevins

As a Genealogist, I have traveled to Germany many times. Throughout my research, I have discovered the first place to go to is the book store. Here one may find printed village histories, maps of the area, and other relative publications. Many village histories have been obtained to assist in my family research such as *Chroniks* (village histories) throughout Schleswig-Holstein including the Probstei. These include the villages of *Schönberg*, *Laboe*, *Wisch*, *Stein*, and *Probsteierhagen*.

In many of these histories, information is found going back as far as the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Included are written documents from those early years and information on the settlement of the land. Here is found evidence of ancestors of the residents now living in the Probstei.

This translation is from *750 Jahre Stein: Dorfchronik von 1240 bis 1990, Sönksen Druckerei und Verlag, Plön, 1990*.

When translating we found them extremely interesting. We wish to share them because they shed light on the early settlement of the Probstei, and we were especially surprised to find evidence of Slavic migration and settlement of the Probstei.

Clara Mortiboy, Nick Pitz, and I translated sections of the *Chroniks* pertaining to that earliest history. The English translation is close to the literal German in our attempt to remain true to the original.

First mention of the place called Stein

In the first document, which in all likelihood is reporting about *Stein*, the name of our village does not appear directly. In this document from the Preetzer Archives, the discussion is about what was originally founded as a nunnery with a priest, "*Lutterbeke*" and the building of a pastoral church there. A whole number of villages were in the vicinity of this pastoral church.

- *domini Tymmonis villa que Warnow vocatur* (Latin description of Fahren)
- *Thetlevestorp* (Perhaps Passade)
- *Indago comitis* (Latin in German Hagan of the local count and later it was referred to as the "Manor of Hagen")
- *Indago domini Tymmonis* (Latin—the manor of the Lord Tymmo, perhaps Stein)
- *Riszereestorp* (Latin equivalent of Wentdorf)
- *Lubodne* (Latin equiv of Laboe)
- *Indago prepositi* (Latin equivalent of Hagen of the Probsten: Prasdorf)

Bishop Johann von Lübeck allowed the establishment of the Monastery of *Erpesvelde* near *Preetz* with the name *Lutterbek* in the year 1240-1241.

[Original document from the *Bockholtschen* Register (in Latin on top) then the German Transcription.]

We Want to Know More About You!

We would like to get to know all of our ASHHS members and newsletter readers. Our editor has written about his genetic profile on page 8, but we want to know more about our members. Would you be willing to write a similar profile about yourself and submit it to us, with a photograph of yourself, for publication in a future newsletter? It should, of course, contain your name and place of residence (city, state and country).

You could tell us about your position with ASHHS (member, board member etc.), education, career, family, hobbies and additional information (such as accomplishments).

The profile and photograph should be emailed to me, Daniel W. Holst, your newsletter editor, at danielwholst@gmail.com. Please write "ASHHS Profile" in the email's subject area. I look forward to hearing from you!

The History of Probstei, Schleswig-Holstein

By Scharlott Blevins

Three times the name “Hagen” appears in this document in the year 1240. What is a “Hagen”? This term can mean a fenced-in forest area, therefore also, a hunting area or wildlife area. Whoever visits the Dutch Capital (*den Haag - der Hagen*), will today discover in the middle of that city the remains of a wildlife area, which has been there since the founding of the city. *Hagen* can also, however, mean a protected place fenced in by a thick hedge or a palisade fence which is also next to a cleared forest area. The appearance of the name “*indigo/hagen*” three times points in any case to a rich forest area, it leads us into the early period of the Probstei in which this landscape was covered by a thick forest, which was in the following period cleared in order to accommodate villages and fields. For us now comes the key question: What makes it right for us to equate the term “*Hagen of the Lord Tymmo with Stein*?” One reason consists in the fact that *Stein* fits well into this list of the numbered places; *Fahren, Passade, Hagen, “Stein”, Wendtorf, Laboe, Prasdorf*. The main reason however is that in this same year or shortly thereafter “a Lord Tymmo of Porsvelde” undertook a land exchange with the monastery. The monastery obtains through trade and purchase some of the lands of *Tymmo of Porsvelde* (1240-1250).

[There follows a Latin entry in both Latin type and script from the *Bochholder* Register and the German translation of script.]

He traded four land areas which were situated in “*Rytseredorp et ad Lapidem*”. There were four land areas on the *Wilsau*. The *Rytseredorp* by that word the modern *Wendtorf* is meant; “*Ad Lapidem*” means word for word at the stone. “*Lapis*” is the Latin word for stone (*Lapidem* is the objective form). Is therefore the name *Hagen of the Lord Tymmo* the same as the areas of *Tymmo von Porsvelde “Ad Lapidem”*? Everything points to that.

The next mention of our village came in the year 1286. At that time, the Abbot undertook combining the entire monastery properties. Fifteen villages belonged to the monastery between the forest area *Dobersdorf* and *Schrevenborn* all the way to the Baltic and between the *Kieler Fjorde* and the *Mühlenau near Schwartbuk: Brodersdorf, Lybode, Sten, Rytseredorp, Lutterbeke, Provestesdorf, Vifbergen, Crocove, Sconenberge, Crumbeke, Osterwisch, Honendorp, Stakendorp, Godeverdesdorf, Kercenhagen (Probsteierhagen)*. Now our town is no longer called “*Indago domini Tymmonis*” or “*ad Lapidem*” but rather “*Sten*.” Naturally our ancestors spoke *Plattdeutsch* and their village was called “*Sten*” or “*tom Stene*” (1448), “*Steen*” (1460). The high German form of *Stein* appears for the first time in 1649.

The word “*Steen*” can be either singular or plural. It can be one single large stone or a block of stone, or it could also be smaller field stones which cover an entire area. The teacher Hans Gustav Martens from *Stein*, who put together in 1916 a chronicle of *Stein* writes this about the age of the name of *Stein*; “Our village *Stein* is one of the first settlements in the Probstei and derives its name from the many large stones which one found everywhere and in the fields of the surrounding area of this settlement. Also, the Baltic shore would have been rife with larger and smaller stones because one finds countless little stones on the shore and in the water especially along the stretch between *Stein* and *Laboe* (page 1) of Marten’s chronicle.

From the early period

Where did the “stone” come from which gave our village its name? Or where did the stones come from? They are a present of Scandinavia, because in the hard to imagine long period of time from 600,000 up to 10 million years before Christ’s birth, our land was gripped by four different ages, which were interrupted by three periods of warming. The ice moved from Scandinavia to Schleswig-Holstein and down to the German mid-range and covered everything with a thick layer of ice that was almost 1,000 meters thick (3,300 feet). The ice contained sand, gravel, and rubble (boulders) and large stone blocks. When it melted the hard material remained lying in our area and formed our land.

~ Continued on page 14

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Crosses of Distinction

~ by Daniel W. Holst

CHAPTER ONE

“Blood”

~Spangdahlem AB, Germany. June 2, 1400 hours~

Kylie Shaffer walked across the ramp and sure enough, it was blood. *Damn*, she thought. *We just had a nose bleed yesterday. Stupid old jets are falling apart.*

She approached the old F-15E Strike Eagle and saw the coagulation underneath the radome and the “blood” slowly dripping from where it met the fuselage. She and Noah exchanged glances; no words needed. They knew it was another radar antenna, this old hydraulic powered, colloquially called 031 had sprung a leak. Based on 1970 technology, these old antennas had yet to be upgraded to newer electronic phased-array antennas. For as long as they still operated, they would spring leaks, and the rotting-crayon smelling, deep-red hydraulic fluid would bleed from the aircraft’s nose.

Kylie belonged to the 494th Fighter Squadron from RAF Lakenheath in England currently deployed to Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany to support NATO’s Joint Defense Aggression Response Exercise or JDARE. Kylie loved Germany. She knew of her German heritage and loved seeing the land once graced by her ancestors. Decades ago, Germany was a stop along anyone’s military career. Outposts and bases from all four branches dotted the former West German landscapes like lampposts across a city. Such light, at one time, helped Germany recover from Nazism and resist Soviet aggression into reunification. But now deserted and re-assimilated bases such as Spangdahlem’s one-time sister at Bitburg were but shadows of those former wars. But war never ends, and Kylie did everything necessary to ensure a successful mission should aggressors again threaten old alliances.

Halfway through replacing the antenna, the expeditor drove up and shouted at them. “Hey, don’t forget Commander’s Call today. You need be there by 1630.” And then not forgetting his other job, he called out, “you guys doing all right, need anything?” Kylie and Noah shook their heads and waved a thumbs up. The expeditor drove away.

Having finished replacing the antenna and completing a full radar operational check, Kylie and Noah packed up their tools. It was 1620 and neither had time

to get cleaned up. Hydraulic fluid stained their uniforms and dirtied their hands. “Oh well,” smiled Kylie, “just another day in the bush.” Noah returned her smile. Kylie took pride in her hard work. Her sweaty blond hair and dirtied fair skin mirrored her own mid-western nature. Work hard and be who you are, and she was nothing if not fiercely her own. She never relented her duty, not even to the boys in technical school who sought her favor by doing her work. She shined her own boots back then, and she now carried her own tools in regular nylon/suede maintenance-free combat boots back to the hangar for Commander’s Call.

Regardless of her unwashed hands and disheveled appearance, her boss seemed relieved to see her take her place in the formation. She wondered why. It’s not like she would have been missed among the mass of both day and night shift personnel.

“Squadron, Ten Hut!” shouted their chief, and the formation all snapped in unison to attention. The Squadron Commander walked up, returned the chief’s salute, and took his place in front of the formation. “At Ease,” he ordered, and the formation softened its posture.

Speaking about their mission and what they have accomplished. The Commander expressed pride in their performance. He thanked everyone for their sacrifice away from friends and family and further outlined the expectations for the next phase of their mission into Eastern Europe. At the end his briefing, he started to call out certain names for recognition. After a few names, Kylie’s ears tickled: “Senior Airman Kylie Shaffer!”

Kylie stood for a moment shocked but quickly gathered her composure and stepped to the right of the formation and up to the front where she saw the Commander’s right hand extended towards her. She looked at his eyes that glanced down at her hydraulic stained hands and back up in a proud yet stoic recognition of her hard work. He extended his right hand into hers and she felt the small, hard, plastic square fall into her hand. She quickly transferred it into her left, snapped to attention, and saluted her Commander. Departing to the left, she reentered her spot in the formation.

After they were dismissed, Noah turned to her, “Can I see it?”

“Sure,” said Kylie.

Crosses of Distinction

~ by Daniel W. Holst

Noah admired the commander's coin still encased in its plastic sleeve. It displayed a superimposed American Flag onto a weird looking cross reminiscent of the those he saw on old German warcraft. He handed it back to Kylie, "I told you that identifying a physically damaged radome causing radar birds would get you recognized."

"It was an easy fix."

"To you, yes. But the senior technicians couldn't solve the problem. You did. They spent weeks trying to fix that bird."

Kylie smiled and said, "well, I was just doing my job." "And that you did Ke."

Kylie rolled her eyes at Noah. "The names Kai Lee." She then smirked, "see you tomorrow, No."

After work, Kylie got cleaned up, ate dinner, and then used her iPhone to FaceTime back home in Iowa. "Hi Mom!"

"Hi honey, how are you? Also look who is here." She turned the phone towards Kylie's grandmother.

"Mom, Grandma, I got an award today. Look at this," and she placed the coin in front of her face. "Is that the German Iron Cross?"

"It certainly looks like it; what do you think Mom?"

"Can you bring it in closer dear?" And Kylie brought the coin closer to the phone.

"What do you think Grandma?"

She looked at it closely, "That looks like an Iron Cross. But it's a little, I don't know, skinnier. You know, your third great grandfather received one for valor during the Franco-Prussian War."

Kylie asked, "Do you still have it? Do you know

why he won it?"

"We do have it. But we don't know why."

"Why, wasn't he proud of what he did?"

"We don't know dear, all I know is that my grandfather told me his dad, your third great grandfather, would only say it was for Minna."

"Was that his wife?"

"No sweetie, her name was Adelaide. We never knew who Minna was."

At this time Kylie's grandmother returned the phone to her daughter. "Hey, while you two were talking, I googled the cross, and what is on your coin is not the Iron Cross, but the new German Badge of Honor. It was designed after the old Prussian Military Merit Cross."

"And now, I have one." Kylie smiled feeling an intense connection to the past. "I love how our family history lives on."

"We are very proud of you dear."

The conversation turned to other matters. When Grandma questioned Kylie about boys, Kylie replied "Grandma, please. I'm here serving my country, not man hunting." After a few more minutes Kylie said goodbye, "please give my love to Dad and Granddad."

"We will. Goodnight dear."

Kylie decided to stay in that night. She laid in bed and fantasized about her history and its future. Maybe also a little about Noah. Soon the night came, and dreams carried her away.

~To be continued in 19th Century Germany~

~Kylie and Noah will return~



Original Iron Cross



Prussian Military Merit Cross



Bundeswehr Badge of Honor

The History of Probstei, Schleswig-Holstein

By Scharlott Blevins

Slowly human beings settled the area. Profit seeking hunters were the first humans to come to Schleswig-Holstein after the last ice age. They were followed by hunters, fishermen and gatherers. And a stone-age culture grew out of this. In the early stone-age, humans settled and farmed the land. The bronze and iron ages followed.

In the fourth and fifth centuries after Christ, a large portion of the people who lived along the southwestern Baltic coast joined the large European migration and moved to the south and west. Six hundred and eighty Slavish clans moved into the still sparsely settled lands. They are called in the oldest documents about the history of the area “*Slawen*” or “*Wenden*.” These names are derived from the Slavish and Slovenian also known as “*Venertern*,” which were described by the ancient Roman writers as inhabitants of the Balkan Peninsula.

For around 450 years the *Wenden* were in possession of eastern Holstein. Many place and river names still recall them today. In the Probstein there are among others *Passade*, *Fahren*, *Wendtorf*, and the old name for *Probsteierhagen* which is “*Karzenitz*” (*Rodung* [clearing]). *Wendtorf* where the word “*Wende*” is immediately seen was called “*Riszerestorp*” similar to “*Rysteresdorp*” in the years 1240 and 1286. In that name is perhaps the Slavic word “*Ricer*”- in German Knight (*Ritter*) (in Polish “*rycerz*”, in Russian “*rycar*”). Was it therefore a village of a knight? Or the village of the “*Ricer*?” Because the word *Ricer* is also a person’s name in Slavic. On the other side is the old name for eastern Holstein “*Wagriem*” supposedly of Germanic origin. It came out of the time before the arrival of the *Wenden*: “*Vagr*” means in old Nordic “Bay of the sea” or *Meersbucht*.

~ To be Continued Next Issue

Vatertag—Father’s Day in Germany

By Aalia Winter

Text posted on May 23, 2017 to <http://www.living-in-germany.net/german-fathers-day-2nd-of-june-2011/>

Father’s Day in Germany is celebrated differently from other parts of the world. It is always celebrated on Ascension Day (the Thursday forty days after Easter), which is a federal holiday. Originally, during the middle Ages, Father’s Day was a religious celebration to honor God the Father.

While in many countries the Father’s Day ritual involves little more than writing a card and giving the gift of a new pair of socks — with breakfast in bed if the father is especially lucky — the Germans have turned it into a true holiday for the country’s men. They are granted *carte blanche* to get riotously rip-roaring drunk.

Regionally, it is also called men’s day, *Männertag*, or gentlemen’s day, *Herrentag*. It is tradition to do a males-only hiking tour

with one or more smaller wagons, *Bollerwagen*, pulled by manpower. In the wagons are wine, beer or schnapps and traditional regional food, *Hausmannskost*.

But actually not all guys who enjoy *Männertag* get completely smashed, indeed for a country with a reputation for high alcohol consumption, Germans tend to be exceptionally good at controlling their drink intake. For most, the day is just a good excuse to get together with friends.

These traditions are probably rooted in Christian Ascension Day’s processions to the farmlands, some of which reportedly took on the character of drinking sprees as early as in the 17th century. In the streets of urban regions, especially Berlin, “gentlemen parties” take place since the

19th century, excluding women and going along with alcohol consumption.

Tell Dad, “*Alles Gute zum Vatertag*.” (Happy Father’s Day!)



Prince William and eldest son Prince Friedrich Wilhelm

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