

Christmas, 1969

Dear Family

With the recent passing of our mother, Fredaricka, I thought you would welcome a recorded history from some of the things I have saved over the years--certain letters, documents that pertained to our parents and ancestors. The documents contain signatures that I had never seen before. These came from Dad's iron box that Martha and Rudy had me look over.

The map of Germany contains underlined cities or villages that had to do with our history. The Von Peins leave the best recorded history with two villages named for them:

Pinneberg, now a suburb of northwest Hamburg
Peine, between Hanover and Brunswick
Emden, on the Holland border, a seaport

The Fiennings come from near Osnabruck. Grandfather John Fiennig worked as a peasant farmer for a Herr Sudhoff. The Strombergs were from south of Osnabruck, Bielefeld.

Letters from friends of the family at the time of the death of our mother, Frances, were indeed interesting and make us grateful, not only for the determination of our father to keep us together as a family, but also the love and sacrifice given us by our God provided mother, Fredaricka.

Our mother, Frances, must have loved "The Building of the Ship" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow as I found it in their treasured items with side markings and notations.

The Stromberg items were collected from old clippings and items given me by the Harnest sisters in Fort Smith.

The letter of December 8, 1953, is from a distant Emden, Germany, cousin of the Von Peins, Mathilda Bracht, which I thought interesting.

The Von Pein, Fiennig, Stromberg history is copied from work done by Aunt Edna Harris.

At this Yuletide season, I hope this will bring you a message of joy, while reflecting a bit on our past. As a family, we have been blessed beyond all measure. We are grateful for these strong ties that bind us in Christian love.

Merry Christmas to each of you and may the New Year bring peace because of our many small efforts.

Lovingly

Bob