



Vahsholtz Cousins

November 2016

www.vahsholtz.com

Fun in IDAHO!



Dining; always the main event!



2016 Vahsholtz Cousins Reunion *By Geri Tate*

THIS YEAR'S REUNION was small, but a roaring success. It was hosted by Ruth & Ron Richter and held at the River Canyon Retreat Center in Garden Valley, Idaho, on the weekend of July 14-17, 2016, in perfect weather.

Those who arrived early on Thursday dined on the deck of Two Rivers Grill in the village of Crouch. Thursday evening was devoted to check-in, settling in, visiting and getting acquainted.

Each morning a delicious Continental breakfast was enjoyed in the Dining Hall, with family members pitching in on preparation and cleanup.

Friday was a free day. Some went white water rafting. Others spent the time exploring the Valley or just visiting. In the evening, many enjoyed the dinner and play, "The Scarlet Pimpernel" at the outdoor Starlight Theater.

On Saturday morning, we had a short business meeting (see page 3).

After the meeting, most went to the village of Crouch, shopping, browsing, Saturday market, flea market and Granny's Closet (Ruth Richter's project). Some went to the radio station where Jay Fields and Janine Korsen were on the air as *Jay Bird and Country Girl*.

Lunch was on the deck of Two Rivers Grill. And then more shopping and browsing. Or having ice cream for an afternoon snack.

In the Evening was a Barbecue Dinner served at the Retreat Center followed by the "No-Talent Show" featuring Granny's traffic story, Bob's accordion story, Carole's sentimental journey reading, Tony's family gospel songs, Kim's Genius Genealogist, Royce & Kathy's clarinet duet and Tony and the hats.

Sunday Morning Family Worship Service at 9:00 a.m. was led by Lloyd Powless with a message centered around family. Lloyd, who is native American, compared our family with Indian tribes. We sang "Shall We Gather at the River" and Amazing Grace".

The reunion's 39 relatives and families included 26 descendants of Franz Leonard Vahsholtz (1847-1934) 11 descendants of Karl August Julius "Charles" Fahsholtz (1850-1923) and two descendants of Karl "Charles" Ludwig Vahsholtz (1841-1924). They came to Idaho from Alta Loma & Arroyo Grande, California; Green Bay, Wisconsin; Zillah, Washington; Ponca City, Oklahoma; Sparta, Georgia; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Lenexa & Topeka, Kansas; as well as Lewiston, Boise, Rupert & Garden Valley, Idaho.

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It's the "non-bloods" who do the work, but



... it's all about family. ■



2016 Vahsholtz Reunion Meeting Minutes

THE MEETING BEGAN Saturday, July 16, 2016, 9:30 A.M. with a total of 22 attending.

Master of Ceremonies Greg Vahsholtz made welcoming comments and asked everyone to introduce themselves with name, ancestor and hometown. Next the schedule for the rest of the reunion was summarized and Ruth Richter noted some House Rules for the facility.

Marge Vahsholtz told of the death of three well-known family members since the last reunion in 2014.

Rubie (Hale) Vahsholtz (Alfred's wife), January 13, 2015 in Kansas, age 83.

Gary Henry Vahsholtz, March 17, 2015 in Colorado, age 72.

Victor Hartman, who just passed away. His funeral was July 16, 2016 in Council Grove, Kansas.

Greg asked, "How many here visit the Vahsholtz web site?" The answer was thirteen; a majority.

Treasurer Tony Vahsholtz said the 7/17/16 cash balance was \$642.63. A donation bucket was available (and the treasury was replenished).

Sharon Powless announced the 2018 Reunion will be held in Wisconsin, probably in the Milwaukee area where relatives can help her and Lloyd organize the event.

Greg asked if anyone had questions about the Wisconsin reunion and suggested thinking about the 2020 location. One possibility is going back to Kansas where Roger & Lynne Vahsholtz of Geneseo, Kansas have discussed hosting. It was noted the time of the year for these reunions remains open, and we have planning guidelines to help hosts.

What can we do to get more family to attending these reunions?

Previous reunion attendance:

2004 one-day Rock Springs Ranch, Kansas	88
2006 one-day Rock Springs Ranch, Kansas	50
2008 Branson, Missouri	27
2010 Branson, Missouri	45
2012 Colorado Springs, Colorado	74 (fires cut it short)
2014 Colorado Springs, Colorado	72
2016 Garden Valley, Idaho	39

Social media was discussed as a way to find more Vahsholtz's and keep in touch with each other. Possibly create a Vahsholtz Cousins Facebook account? Carole will contact Jennifer (Vahsholtz) Werner about what may already be available and how to better utilize that tool. Perhaps a plan can be detailed in the newsletter? (See pages 7 & 8)

Bob Vahsholtz promoted Hulda's book, available for purchase and also *The Road from Zwilipp* which is free at our website (with no living relatives mentioned). That's the preferred source for our main book of Vahsholtz ancestry.

The newsletter always needs interesting family stories. Is twice a year publication too often? Do you read it? Enjoy it? No changes were suggested.

Greg asked for any other discussion, thanked the hosts and the meeting was adjourned.

See you in 2018 in Wisconsin!!!!

Geri (Vahsholtz) Tate for Secretary Janine Korsen (who was on the air with her Saturday radio program). ■

On to Wisconsin!

YES, LLOYD AND SHARON POWLESS have been considering hosting for some time, have rounded up cousins to assist and they're planning to host in the Milwaukee area in 2018. Exact time and location have not been set, so if you have suggestions or preferences for time of year, location or things to do, please contact Sharon at sharon_powless@yahoo.com. Watch this newsletter for updates!



A recent meeting of Wisconsin relatives where reunion planning was discussed. ■

Thelma, Louise and Kisha

By Martha Bird Harris

I'M NOT SURE which one of us is named Kisha, but certainly the names have been changed to protect the innocent as the three of us set out for a "westward ho" adventure to Idaho, where many of my mom's (Juanita Elizabeth Fasholtz Harris) family members now reside. After landing in Boise, we planned an eight day driving excursion with our family reunion on the tail end of our trip.

After months of conversations with the gurus of "genealogy and hospitality" we were eager to venture forth and make all/any kind of family connections with this side of our family we knew very little about.



Martha, Jacqui and Marilyn

My sister, Marilyn Coley had been to a previous reunion back in the 80's so it was good for

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her to reconnect after many years. My daughter Jacquelyn Elizabeth Hughes and I were delighted at the prospect of gaining new cousins.

My daughter and I come from Sparta, Georgia and Southbury, Connecticut. My sister Marilyn has lived in Missouri and now Augusta, Georgia. She and I grew up on the family farm, Hancock County, Georgia where Juanita, our mother, made a life with the man she met in the navy back in the 1940's. They were both in the U.S. Navy. Before joining the navy, Mother was making casings for mortar shells at a nearby ammunitions factory in Idaho. Daddy worked for Southern Bell telephone in Rome, Georgia, where he grew up. They were married while enlisted and then proceeded to have a child in each town they moved to before deciding to stay put in Sparta, the family home plantation since the late 1700's. They lived in Rome, Decatur, Macon then Sparta. Daddy was a Southern Bell employee, then a farmer /rural mail carrier then he found religion in a big way...through golf. Not literally. He loved the outdoors and Mother made the home her haven.

She grew up helping her aunt run a boarding house in Boise on 9th and State Street which we visited while on this trip. Mother never really enjoyed the outdoors down south. After visiting Boise I realized what a vast change this may have been for her. The weather here is so nice and cool and dry as opposed to our oppressive heat and humidity combination. Anyway, they made a life together; she was an avid bridge player, loved to sew and bake, do needlepoint and Daddy loved to hunt, fish and play golf. They were very involved in the Presbyterian Church here as well. Mother did come to two reunions over the years, in the fifties and in the mid eighties with my sister Marilyn and her son Rick.

I moved to Southbury, Connecticut after graduating from Georgia College with a liberal arts degree in Sociology and then went to work for Sikorsky Aircraft in Shelton, Connecticut and decided to stay there after my husband's death and the birth of my daughter, Jacquelyn. We traveled a good bit locally to the cape, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, New Mexico, Hawaii, Alaska, surrounding New England states, Canada, California and later Italy and Nicaragua.

We have been back on the farm since 2004, where we would come twice a year to visit my parents each year. After Jacquelyn graduated from high school, we decided maybe it was time to relocate to the farm where we would have space to spread out a little and enjoy the outdoors. Six years later, after my parents had both passed and the estate was finally settled, we decided on agritourism as a means to share the beauty of the land we enjoy. The pastures, hardwood bottoms, creeks and wildlife make it a special place. We added a few chickens, goats and cows and a lot of fencing and now we call ourselves farmer "wannabes". We advocate sustainability in all facets of living as much as possible.

We are part of Airbnb and VRBO, sell a few eggs and veggies and an occasional goat, and live on bread and water.

Science and technology revolutionize our lives, but memory, tradition and myth frame our response.

Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr.

We enjoy it though. I mow the grass for fun, and Jaci has moved back to the farm and commutes to a nearby town and practices public health. I am not retired from working seven days a week but instead go to "work" setting my own schedule and enjoying every minute. We run our local volunteer animal rescue group, are in our fifth year and have made great strides in educating the public and offering assistance. We have a high poverty/unemployment rate with very backward thinking toward domesticated animals. It is an uphill battle.

The best for last—the reunion was a blast!!!! Every minute we spent getting to know different family members, making connections and listening to stories of others was an immeasurably positive experience. Marge, Bob and Ruth made us feel so welcomed. Carole and Mary and Ruth made us feel like part of the family we knew very little about. Mary Dillon and Ruth Klement "bunked" with us so we were able to talk a bit more before and after group activities.

Group activities, dinners at an open air restaurant in Crouch, the dinner theater in Garden Valley and shopping in that great little mountain village, the talent show.... It was all a lot of fun..... After the talent show Saturday night, I was thoroughly exhausted; it was just that good, that warming, that endearing to watch, listen to and appreciate. So much talent and so well coordinated and orchestrated. The entire weekend was not a minute "under enjoyed" (newly coined redneck phrase). I didn't mention the food, it was healthy, light, filling and tasty, all of the above. We appreciate good food, coming from the farm and being foodies.

What more can I say? We enjoyed every minute. The accommodations were great, the food was good, the nearby towns and countryside was really really great to see. OOPS, forgot, we rafted down the Payette River, lots of fun. So yes, bring your family to the next reunion in Wisconsin; I hope to see you there.

One more thing ... It was all a great value, for those looking for a great meaningful vacation or getaway, what better way than to do it visiting relatives in a great location!

www.mockingbirdhill.farm marthaharris55@gmail.com ■

What I Should Have Said

at My Grandparents' Memorial Service



BY TRAVIS GIBSON
tgibson@thetribunenews.com
March 2, 2016 quoted by
permission

I SAT IN THE FRONT of the room, but I may as well have been invisible. And I was fine with that.

The night wasn't about me, after all, it was about honoring my grandparents, Bob and Cynthia Gibson. They had been married for more

than 60 years before they died last year, less than two weeks apart. I traveled from California to my home state of Florida last weekend to be at their "Celebration of Life" ceremony. More than 100 people sat in the banquet hall at the Sanibel Harbor Marriott with large windows that overlooked the setting sun as a slideshow featuring images of their life shot out of a projector.

Family and friends were there, and because of my grandfather's history of coaching college and professional football - most notably his connection to Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where he coached for 11 years - the room was filled with former players and coaches, as well.

My father, Doug, did most of the talking followed by my uncle, Dave. A number of friends, former players and coaches shared funny and heartwarming stories about them. Coaches who coached with Bob at BGSU, told a great story about the time he visited my grandfather a few years ago with a bunch of old coaches and they ended up running plays in the front yard.

I didn't plan on speaking, but as the stories began to flow, I found myself wanting to share. But I didn't. I just sat there. So I would like to share some now.

Once my grandparents retired, they set up shop on Sanibel Island in Southwest Florida. Every morning, Cynthia would walk her dog on the beach to pick up trash and collect shells. When we visited during my childhood, she would wake my brother and me while it was still dark and drag us along. Walking along those white-sand beaches, she would point out turtle nests and we would hunt for flipper tracks. She would ask a million questions about my life, eager to know. Rarely did I ask about hers.

Some of my best memories of my grandfather involved sports. I would sit next to him on the couch on Saturdays and Sundays and listen as he talked about a

young coaching assistant he had while working with the Detroit Lions named Bill Belichick and how the football players these days just don't know how to block like they used to.

I wanted to share these stories, but I didn't. Even my 7-year-old sister wrote a few sweet words about them. I wanted to tell the people in the room that I knew all of their names because my grandparents had been talking about them my whole life. I wanted to say that Bob was so competitive and funny that he talked about the time he beat me in golf 10 years ago, as he lay in his hospital bed during my last visit. Or how every time I spoke to my grandmother on the phone, she mentioned the brome-liad I bought for her birthday like it was the greatest gift she had ever received. I was a little nervous about speaking in front of a crowd so I decided to stay hidden in plain sight, but I should have said something.

It was a continuation of our entire relationship. We never said enough to each other. Sure, our family would visit them a couple of times a year and have brief conversations on holidays, but only because my dad pushed the connection. Now I'm more curious than ever about their lives and — after not having much to be proud of — I finally have things I want to share with them about my life.

Now they are gone, the memorial has passed, and there is still so much left unsaid.

Writing this will never make up for that, but it's worth a try. ■

Hey Gen X and Millennials! Reunions are not JUST for the GREATER Generations!

By Jennifer(Kerner) Vahsholtz

MY HUSBAND AND I went to the Vahsholtz Cousins Reunion this summer. Our two teenage boys and twelve-year-old daughter went with us also.



Bailey, Jenn, Mattingly, Tony & Briston

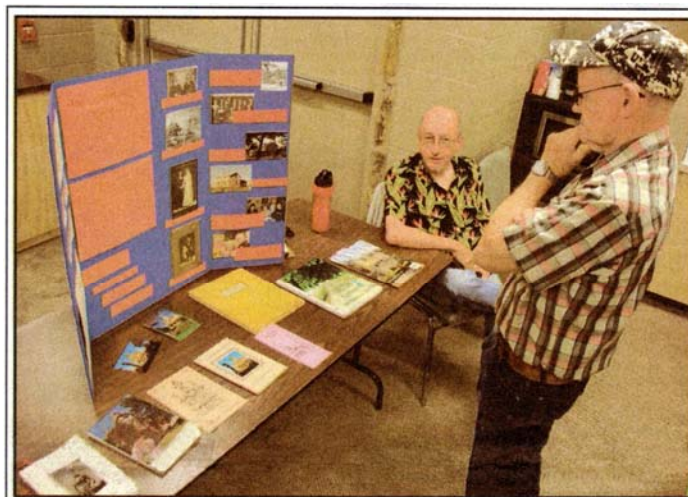
We noticed right away there weren't very many Generation X or Millennials! In fact, my kids were the youngest ones there. Now you would think this situation, desperately horrifying to some teenagers, would mean we will never go again. However, Tony and I have a renewed sense of family and we are so thrilled that our kids caught this spirit as well. How did this happen? Well, fade to back story . . .

In 2015 our family set out to become foster parents. The training and experiences with foster kids helped all five of us to understand the importance of family. We took in six different kids over the course of a few months. The applicable lesson learned in the classes

as well as with the foster children is that knowing family is how you know who you are and where you belong. In the classes they explained that it is best for kids to be placed with family; really any family members. Our family stories, experiences and heritage help us to see who we are and where we come from. Family is also where kids begin to feel a sense of belonging.

So how does this seem-

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ROYCE GENE CALDRON, seated, shares over 300 years of his Vahsholtz family history with an interested visitor to the Ancestor Fair sponsored by the local chapter of the Pioneer Genealogical Society. (News Photo by Rolf Clements)

ingly irrelevant back story apply to the family reunion? Well my kids got to hear stories, listen to jokes, and even sit in on the family business meeting. Yes, I am the meanest mom in the world to make them sit in on the business meeting, but that is a title I am very comfortable with!

Anyway, through these experiences my kids got to really experience what it means to be a Vahsholtz. Vahsholtz family members love retelling the same story over and over. That was comforting to my kids who have instinctively asked us to retell things over and over since they were little. It is in their blood.

It was also helpful for me to see where my husband and kids come from. You see I am a non-blood, happily married into this Vahsholtz Clan, but often I don't understand why my husband and kids make jokes constantly, never let anything die, and are fueled by games and laughter. Well after watching the very funny 1st Annual Vahsholtz Reunion Talent Show (or should I say non-talent show) I have a new appreciation for why my hubby and kids are the way they are.

So why am I writing this? Well two reasons.



First, Bailey, my oldest, had a great and long conversation with a distant cousin he had never met. Amy, Bob and Marge's granddaughter, had a lot in common with Bailey and they talked for over an hour.

Now you might think no big deal. But my shy introvert doesn't have conversations like that with just anyone. It was such a blessing to see him connect with a cousin. I hope that at future reunions he will get to connect with more like minded cousins!

It was also a treat to see Briston and Mattingly, my younger two, laugh with gusto during the talent show; and then bring Papa and Lotte (grandma and grandpa) to tears as they played a duet for everyone. They enjoyed the camaraderie! I hope more young families will come to the reunions to increase the camaraderie!

It comes down to two things. No one loves you more than family! No one is more like you than family! Come enjoy the next reunion and see for yourself. ■

Top: When Papa Greg is in charge, business meetings are fun!

Center: The whole family belts out choruses of "Elvira" at KSGV.

Bottom: Janine (Country Girl) supervises as Mattingly makes her radio debut.

Vahsholtz Cousins is published spring and fall, going to some 260 Vahsholtz families. It is supported entirely by donations. Those who supply email addresses (most of us) get full color PDF copies which can be read on screen or printed. A black and white edition is mailed to about 60 families. Our biggest expense is printing and stamps. **Donations are appreciated, as are additions or corrections to our email list. Each mailing we get several email bounces or returned mail from those who have moved, passed on, or changed their address. Please let Marge know! mvahsholtz@gmail.com**

And if you want to make a donation, contact Treasurer Tony Vahsholtz avahsholtz@gmail.com or his home address: 12419 S. Downing Way, Nampa, Idaho 83686.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE; February 15, 2017 ■

Note: As mentioned in the minutes on page 3, Jenny Werner was asked to help those who want to get up to speed and join the Facebook Generation. As we were preparing to go to press, she sent the requested information, so we expanded this edition to make room! Thanks, Jenny.

How to Join the Official Vahsholtz Cousins Facebook Group!

Want to keep in touch with your Vahsholtz Cousins on Facebook?... maybe meet some new cousins you haven't met?... get an update on the latest reunion, family news or Newsletter?... or SHARE some family news and updates of your own??

LOOK NO FURTHER: Join the OFFICIAL VAHSHOLTZ COUSINS FACEBOOK GROUP!

It's easy. Just click the link below or copy/paste into your favorite browser...

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/vahsholtzcousins/>



login to your Facebook account...



Then select "Join Group"...



It's as easy as that!

Keep in mind that, in order to eliminate hackers and spammers from joining our group, we do have to approve your membership, but once you've been approved, you may invite and approve other Vahsholtz cousins, as well as post and share in the group... much like these posts below...

