



Vahsholtz Cousins



April 2010

<http://www.vahsholtz-cousins.org/>



Join a group of reunion-goers to see Noah the Musical Saturday, June 26.



A blacksmith creates his art at Silver Dollar City, which combines amusement park rides with old-time crafts. A group outing is planned Sunday, June 27

Together again

Vahsholtz Cousins Reunion to be held June 25-27 in Branson

Mark the calendar, schedule the vacation time and make plans to join your cousins for a weekend of family fun in Branson, Mo.

Every two years, Vahsholtz (or any spelling variation) cousins gather for a big family reunion. For decades the gathering was held in Kansas. Two years ago, reunion organizers decided

Make reservations at Savannah House Hotel
1-800-335-2555
www.savannahhousebranson.com



Those who are interested can board the Showboat Branson Belle for a noon cruise Saturday, June 26.

to take the cousins on the road. The first Branson-based Cousins Reunion was such a hit, those who attended agreed that we should do it again in 2010.

The Savannah House Hotel again serves as base camp for our adventure, and a block of rooms has been reserved at a special reunion rate, which is available through May 15.

The hotel is at 165 Expressway Lane, Branson. To make hotel reservations, call 1-800-335-2555 or 417-336-3132 or visit the hotel's website at www.savannahhousebranson.com.

Your cousins have planned group outings to the Showboat Branson Belle, Branson's Noah the Musical and to Silver Dollar City. Details about pre-ordering tickets are on Page 4.

Branson also offers world-class shopping, fishing, boating and country music shows you won't want to miss.

So, don't delay. Make plans to join us this June in Branson to share a little family history and a lot of family fun.

Details about this year's activities are on Page 4.

These clowns are your relatives



The Vasholz Comedian Band lines up in front of the Vasholz Meat Market in Fremont, Neb., with their “band wagon.” The names of the players are not known, and there’s no kid dressed in a barrel, but you can pick out the Keystone cop.

By Bob Vasholz

My dad, Frank, and his brothers, were butchers. They learned their trade in Germany where they also fell in love with oompah bands that would often come to their small town. When they began a butcher shop in Fremont, Neb., nearly 100 years ago, they bought band instruments, uniforms and outfits. They then recruited boys in the neighborhood, trained many and began to appear throughout the county.

One of the bands they particularly enjoyed was their clown band. They would have the boys dress up in all kinds of clown outfits. One outfit was that of a Keystone cop. My dad’s oldest brother, Uncle Paul,



Here’s Paul Vasholz in a more formal band uniform.

had a little performance that went along with the music. The Keystone cop would look for one of the clowns who he suspected was a chicken thief. One of the outfits was not much

more than a boy wearing a barrel, held up by straps. The cop took a long look down that barrel but there was no chicken to be seen. Finally, the cop removed a large top hat from one of the boys. With that a chicken flew out and the lad scampered away. The cop went after him with a gun filled with blanks and the chase and merriment went on.

My dad moved to Kansas City, Mo., in the 1930s, but Uncle Paul continued to run the business until he died when he was about 84. His age made him give up the band but not his love for band music. I remember he would often turn on the radio, tune in on a good marching band, get out his director’s baton and direct.

Facebook Connection

‘How Do You Pronounce That?’ (or the Facebook Vahsholtz Cousins Group)

Facebook is connecting Vahsholtz-cousins around the world.

First there was the Family website <http://www.vahsholtz-cousins.org> then the family Blog <http://www.vahsholtz-cousins.org/blog> and now there is FACEBOOK! Everybody's on Facebook! Well, not really. But Vahsholtz-cousins age 14-50 are flocking to it in droves!

Facebook users have the option to search the Facebook database by last names and invite persons found to join their Facebook as a friend.

To date our webmaster (Les Vahsholtz) has 61 Vahsholtz-Relatives as Facebook Friends. Jennifer Vahsholtz started a facebook group called “How do You Pronounce That?” (or the Vahsholtz Cousins Group) which currently has 53 members and growing.



To date we have connected with two Vassholz cousins in Germany through Facebook but that may increase.

The great thing about the web is that everything can be linked to each other.

Facebook can easily promote and link to the family website, the website links to the family blog and all can

link back to Facebook. And best of all, IT'S FREE! You can't say that for the US Mail!

So join the Facebook fun! Become another member of the Vahsholtz Cousins Group! Once you become a Facebook member, just type “vahsholtz cousins group” into the Facebook search engine and you will go to the “How Do You Pronounce That?” (or the Vahsholtz Cousins Group).

So visit the Family website, write on the family blog and help connect our Vahsholtz Cousins worldwide.

Here's the links to follow: visit the family website at <http://www.vahsholtz-cousins.org>, the family blog at <http://www.vahsholtz-cousins.org/blog>, or e-mail the webmaster: webmaster@vahsholtz-cousins.org

A loss for all of us

It was a great day for the American Vahsholtz cousins when contact was made with Martin Vahsholz of Remagen, Germany. We had largely lost touch with our German roots, and Martin was unaware that so many of us thrived in this new country. He thought his line was dying out. Martin and his wife, Hannchen, visited many of us here and attended the Cousins Reunion in 1993. The photograph above was taken at that time at the gravestone of Christian and Sophie in Nemaha County, Kansas.

Hannchen died in 2000 and Martin missed her terribly. So much so that he found a new “life partner” in Brigitte, a nurse who attended Hannchen's last days. Now Martin himself has passed, on February 18,

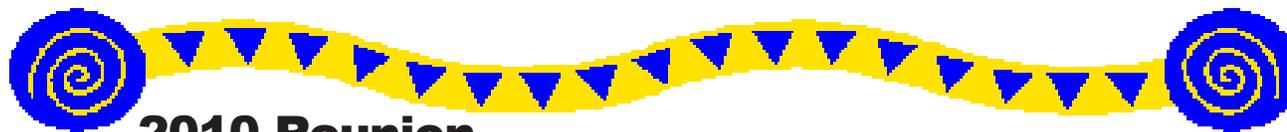


In 1993, Martin Vahsholz of Remagen, Germany, visited the gravestone of Christian and Sophie in Nemaha County, Kansas.

2010, a victim of a heart attack during what was apparently rather routine surgery.

Partly as a result of the contact with Martin, several of us have visited him and his family in Germany, where he introduced us to Zwillipp and many stories of our ancestors. Some

are recounted in *The Road from Zwillipp*. We will miss Martin, but treasure the contacts he helped us establish. Now his son Wolfgang and daughter Barbara will carry forward the Vahsholz traditions in Germany, along with other members of our family over there.



2010 Reunion Agenda

Detailed agenda at www.vahsholtz-cousins.org

Play together

Prepayment for Branson Belle and Noah the Musical required by May 15
Send exact amount to Allan Brockmeier, 11764 Kingston Drive, Festus, MO 63028-3901. Make checks payable to Allan. Call (314) 954-0105



Branson Belle Cruise

Saturday - June 26 - noon
(includes lunch and stage show)
Adult (age 12 +) \$46.21
Child (age 4 - 11) \$22.03
Children ages 1-3 are free and will have a seat and receive a free macaroni-and-cheese meal.



Noah the Musical

Saturday - June 26 - 7:30 p.m.
Adult (age 19 +) \$49.83
Teen (age 13-18) \$25.67
Child (age 3-12) \$17.86
Children ages 1-2 are free but must sit on lap



Silver Dollar City

Sunday - June 27
General admission for one day
Adult (age 12 -61) \$56.96
Child (age 4-11) \$46.21
Senior (age 62 +) \$54.81
We are not pre-purchasing Silver Dollar City tickets. You can buy them at the gate.

Stay together

FRIDAY, June 25

3-9 p.m. - Check in with our reunion leaders at the Savannah House Hotel lobby for family snapshots and visiting.

9-11 p.m. - Complimentary fresh baked cookies, cobbler and ice cream at the Savannah House.

SATURDAY, June 26

6-9 a.m. - Complimentary breakfast at the Savannah House breakfast room.

8:45-10:30 a.m. - **Family Meeting** in Savannah House Meeting Room.

10:30 a.m. - Those choosing the Showboat Branson Belle noon cruise depart.

6:30 p.m. - Those choosing the theatre production "Noah" depart for the Sight & Sound Theatre.

9-11 p.m. - More fellowship with free cookies, cobbler & ice cream at the Savannah House Lobby.

SUNDAY, June 27

6-9 a.m. - Complimentary breakfast in Savannah House breakfast room.

8 a.m. - Those choosing to go to Silver Dollar City assemble and depart for the park.

Your financial support is greatly appreciated

Mail all donations to

Allan Brockmeier-treasurer
11764 Kingston Drive
Festus MO 63028-3901

Your current Vahsholtz-Cousins Reunion volunteers are doing an awesome job producing professional full color newsletters and maintaining a family Web site. Although it is a labor of love, it is not without cost. All volunteers are donating time and materials.

If you enjoy receiving these newsletters and our bi-yearly reunions, please lend your support with a donation. (If the donation is by personal check, please make the check payable to Allan.)