



# Vahsholtz Cousins

November, 2012

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

## Cousins Reunion **Goes Up in Smoke ...**



**... and Comes Down United as Never Before—One for the Record Books** *By Geri Tate*

*The sight we saw as we came down off the mountain, between us and our hotel*

**This year's Vahsholtz Cousins** Reunion was held in Colorado Springs on the weekend of June 22-24, 2012 at the Academy Hotel. Every morning was started with a delicious complimentary hot breakfast. We all enjoyed staying at the hotel. And we stayed there more than expected because we'd picked our reunion location within sight of Waldo Canyon—the heart of the worst wildfire in Colorado history.

The good news is, no family members were injured or suffered property damage.

Friday evening was check in time, spent visiting and enjoying delicious homemade cookies and a big fruit platter prepared by hostess Mary Dillon.

After our Saturday breakfast, Bob and Marge Vahsholtz led a short business meeting in a conference room. See page three.

Leonard and Barbara Vahsholtz organized a barbeque at their house in the mountains for Sunday afternoon. A

donation basket was set up to collect funds to reimburse their expenses. Those generous people asked instead that all such donations go to replenish the Vahsholtz reunion treasury. Wow!

That was before the Waldo fire broke out. The barbeque had to be cancelled because of smoke and Leonard and Barbara being on evacuation notice. What about all that food? "No problem," our gracious cousins said, "We'll feed all that and more to the race crews."

*(Continued on page 2)*



Many people donated to the Vahsholtz barbeque and many more donated their Flying W deposit to the treasury. In addition there were other donations. The reunion treasury is now in good shape!

Four vehicles loaded with relatives drove up Pikes Peak. Two were driven by those winning race drivers, Leonard and Clint Vahsholtz. The stories they told held all the passengers' attention. It was just as we began our ascent the first smoke of the Waldo fire was noted. Clint saw it and said, "That's going to be big trouble." Shortly after our arrival at the top we were told to go back down. On the way, the fire itself became visible. There was concern the road back to the Academy might be closed, but we made the trip safely.



*Clint checks the fire—does not drive off the road—races at five times this speed, and knows his stuff*

Arrangements had been made well in advance for Saturday's dinner and entertainment at the Flying W Ranch, followed by Cowboy Church on Sunday morning. All the dinners had been paid for in advance. Carole called the Flying W and found the fire had shut them down and our deposits would be refunded. They were. The Flying W, a longstanding Colorado attraction, burned to the ground.

This reunion was well attended. Two beautiful points are clear; the Vahsholtz Cousins Reunions are gaining momentum, and we like Colorado! It was particularly gratifying to see so many newcomers and young people making the effort to attend as well as volunteering!

There were 74 family relatives,

seven guests, and four additional relatives who were visited in nearby Hospitals. *(continued Page 3)*



*The host family, Theresa Clark, Ruth Klement, Elizabeth & Mary Dillon*



*Les, Carole, Tim, & Sophie Vahsholtz and Kristy Sanchez*



*Jim & Geri Tate; Carole & Les Vahsholtz*



*Tony & Greg Vahsholtz; Janine Korsen*



*David & Brandi Niemeyer; KJ Habig, Tristan & Bryce Niemeyer*



*Jessica & Austin Elder, Sierra Barber; Randy & Diane Vahsholtz*



*Alberta & Duane Coash, Sandy & Vic Hartman*



*David Conroy, Linda & Jeremy Shaffer*



*Kalynne, Duane, Ashlee & Alyssa Paradis*



*Sharon, Lloyd & Alex Powless*





*Dan Werner, Jenny, Michael, Katie, Ben & Taylor Reynolds*



*Teresa & George Vahsholtz, Amber, Dustin (w/Jacinda), Jake, & Adrienne Fleming; Lynne & Roger Vahsholtz*



*Bob & Marita Gabler*



*Gabe, April & Eva Achord; Steve & Seth Vahsholtz with Carrie Loech; Stan Vahsholtz*



*Bob & Marge Vahsholtz, Ruth & Ron Richter*

*Quite a few others did not get in the photo sessions because of the general disruption of the proceedings!*

We had relatives attending from Anchorage, Alaska; Allyn, Washington; Garden Valley, Nampa, and Boise, Idaho; Richmond, Utah; Green Bay, Wisconsin; Las Vegas, Nevada; Little Rock, Arkansas and many from Kansas and Colorado. Not to mention Bob and Marge from California!

Nearly the entire program was disrupted by the Waldo Canyon fire. No one's spirits were dampened. We were able to spend a lot of time visiting with relatives in the giant lobby of the Academy Hotel. It's a wonderful hotel and a great place to have a family reunion. ■



## Pikes PS

*Following is a note Barb and Leonard sent after things settled down and before Clint won his class once more:*

### Hey Les and Carole,

The Peak has been rescheduled to August 12. We start our "hell week" on the 4th. We call it that because the days start at 3 am and end who knows when; just depends on how much work there is to be done. It's quite a process around here. I get three timing teams at the kitchen table to sync clocks, which sometimes is a feat at 3 am. The guys dash in for their coffee and rolls, jump in the support vehicles and truck up the mountain.

Timing teams go to their locations and wait for the first car. After the runs are done at about 9:30 we all meet for a real breakfast at the Crystola or somewhere. Come home, double check times, the boys clean cars and double check everything and prepare for the next day. Hopefully they don't need a lot of repairs, but just the normal stuff takes 2-3 hours for each vehicle. Then there are tires to mount for the next day,

etc.

This year, like last, Codie ran bikes and Clint in cars, so teams amount to about 10 people, plus 12 timing people. Most of the timing people go on to their regular jobs.

I fix dinner and everyone comes here to regroup for the next day. If we set fast time, then Friday night is a mandatory appearance at fan fest downtown Colorado Springs. Includes crew and vehicles from 5 pm to 9 pm, lots of people and lots of beer. Clint and Codie sign handouts.

We get Saturday off and race on Sunday. There is a prayer service on the mountain at 7 am at the start line. Timing teams are already at their locations, watching the sun come up over the mountain. Racing starts at 9. Depending on the day we can get off as soon as 4 pm but could be 8 or 9. This year we have 108 cars and 112 motorcycles.

We always have an After the Peak party; some of us fall asleep in the swing (namely Barb). Next day, prepare cars for the next race or storage. Finally life back to normal.

Hope I didn't bore you with this info, but thought you might like it.

Congrats on your 21st anniversary. You are very special people.

Hope all goes well.

*Barb and Leonard* ■



## The Meeting

**Bob and Marge opened the meeting** with a show of hands suggesting that about three-fourths of the family present had come for their first time. A strong endorsement of Les' strategy of attracting new members to the reunions.

Les addressed the group through his computer "Paul" and got a standing ovation. People applauded his courage

in the face of ALS and his many years of service to the Vahsholtz family. He had prepared a PowerPoint presentation showing the approximate ancestry of nearly all of the cousins attending.

Update Number Five for the Zwilipp book had been distributed at the time of Registration. Highlights were presented, along with greetings from some of the old-timers who were unable to attend.

A discussion of updates led to general agreement that the current process was both cumbersome and marginally satisfactory. Few family members have all the updates, many have none and few can get much use from them. We agreed that a better short term solution would be for anyone wanting specific genealogical data to simply contact Marge. That's what we already do, for the most part. She has it all in her computer and will send it in whatever form is requested, no charge. New general information that arises will simply be reported in this newsletter.

Looking down the road, it was agreed that the Zwilipp book remains current and useful, though much more genealogical data is now available. So we'll investigate the possibility of printing an update of the begats only, complete to the current time, to be used in conjunction with the Zwilipp book, and having that available at minimal cost. We'll encourage people to download their own copies of the book from the Vahsholtz website, rather than ordering hard copies. At some time perhaps we'll get a new edition printed that emphasizes more stories with only the basic genealogical data, as in the edition currently on the web.

Tim Vahsholtz was introduced as the new Webmaster and Photographer. He'll fill one big opening left by Les' illness.

Another challenge has been created by the retirement, after many years of service, of Allan Brockmeier as Treasurer. We thanked Alan and Martha for a great job, illustrated by the tidy Treasurer's report they had prepared. The treasury is small but growing because costs are tightly controlled and donors



have been generous.

Their retirement and Les', both due to health issues, led to a further discussion of the topic introduced by Les in his talk. The need for more, younger, and able volunteers. Positions are hard to fill because so few people are able to attend most reunions, making continuity a challenge.

Special thanks to Madeline Brockmeier for her many years of working with Marge on finding, building and maintaining the genealogy files. She's also had to drop out due to health issues.

A list of all the positions available had been made and rather than seek candidates for each, we simply asked for those willing to pitch in to raise their hands. A pleasing number of hands went up, and we talked to most of them, as time was available, after the meeting. It appears we're well on our way toward an expanded structure that covers the bases for the time being. (See list, on page 5.)

We thanked Les and Carole for their years of service and presented a small token of appreciation. We also thanked Geri for her continuing service in preparing badges and keeping track of our comings and goings, both at the reunions and address changes as the years go by.

Everyone strongly endorsed the idea of returning to Colorado Springs in 2014 with Mary Dillon and Ruth Kle-

ment hosting once more.

We thanked Mary and Ruth for their work, and for being willing to take on the task again in 2014. Mary addressed the group, invited us back and talked about possible changes to the next program—perhaps a melodrama instead of the Flying W? They'll investigate.

What about 2016? It's been quite a while since we've had a reunion in our "home" state of Kansas. Little enthusiasm. People like Colorado. Greg Vahsholtz and Ruth Richter stumped for a Northwest reunion in 2016 and Lloyd and Sharon Powless once more offered to host in Wisconsin. Perhaps we'll do another survey. It was noted that popularity of location is a huge factor, but consideration should always be given to making it possible for more family members from more locations to attend.

As the meeting was drawing to a close, special thanks was given to Leonard and Barbara Vahsholtz for hosting all of us to a family picnic at their place in Woodland Hills to be held the next day. They offered to donate everything and suggested the collection be taken for the family treasury instead. Now that's generosity! As a result, of that and other donations, the meager family treasury has more than doubled!

The Hulda book was introduced and orders accepted. After that, housekeeping details on planning for the ride up Pikes Peak were dealt with and we adjourned on schedule. ■



**Here's a list** of the volunteers and positions they've been assigned.

Job Title	Formerly
Master of Ceremonies <b>New</b>	Les Vahsholtz <i>Greg Vahsholtz</i>
Reunion Coordinators <b>New</b>	Les & Carole <i>Bob &amp; Marge Vahsholtz</i>
Reunion Program <b>New</b>	Les & Carole <i>Reunion Hosts</i>
Secretary <b>New</b>	Alan & Martha <i>Janine Korsen</i>
Treasurer <b>New</b>	Alan & Martha <i>Tony Vahsholtz</i>
Webmaster <b>New</b>	Les Vahsholtz <i>Tim Vahsholtz</i>
Photographer <b>New</b>	Les Vahsholtz <i>Tim Vahsholtz</i>
Reunion Name Tags	Geri Tate <i>Geri Tate</i>
Reunion Guestbook <b>New</b>	Carole Vahsholtz <i>Jenny Reynolds</i>
Genealogist	Marge Vahsholtz <i>Marge Vahsholtz</i>
Backup Genealogist <b>New</b>	Madeline Brockmeier <i>Kalynne Paradis</i>
Newsletter Editors <b>New</b>	Bob & Marge <i>Bob &amp; Marge</i>
Assistant Editor <b>New</b>	Les Vahsholtz <i>Ruth Richter</i>
Printing and Mailing	Bob & Marge <i>Bob &amp; Marge</i>
Mailing List Coordinator	Marge <i>Marge</i>

Special thanks to those who offered to help but for whom no immediate position was available. Generally, the problem is lack of potential continuity of attendance. We're eager for your help and participation, especially with family stories and history. ■

## Viewpoint of a Wisconsin Teenager

*By Alex Powless*

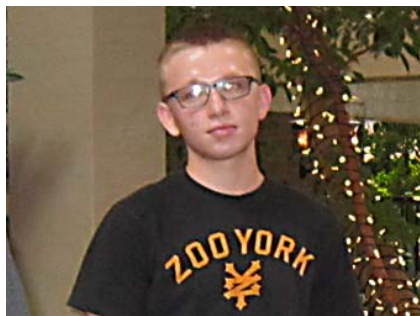
The whole Vahsholtz reunion was equivalent to visiting the movie theater and watching an action flick. Except I was a star of the film. With all of the raging hungry fires and insane family members milling around, it had to be a five star film! But don't get me wrong, it was a good kind of insane. The kind of insanity that you have to possess just to survive in this world now-a-days. Not to mention, our insanely good

looks!

The worst part of the reunion was the endless hours in the car. Frankly, I would take the trip again just to see the family. They are worth it. The best part was some of the conversations I had with the family that captivated me in a special way. It is enlightening to know that I am related to these people. Now, I can come home and brag.

Other than the wonderful people here, the things we saw were spectacular. Those mountains are capable of changing a man. And you could never capture their beauty in a picture. I suggest for everyone to see them at least once. Scaling the highest mountain in Colorado was pretty glorious too! I am kind of bummed about the two year wait to be able to see them again.

Maybe our vacation won't be cut short next time! I don't think I can take not being able to laugh at Bob's humor, or bask in Marge's benevolent personality. I wish I could, but it would take several thousand pages of paper, to list every single family member's astounding characteristics.



And even though I can barely spell the name, I am proud to be a Vahsholtz. ■

## Meet Your Cousin; Les Vahsholtz

*By Bob Vahsholtz*

Hundreds of you Vahsholtz cousins read this newsletter. Many of you—perhaps most—have met Les, and even if you haven't, you're surely familiar with his impact on the family.

You've probably read his story as he told it himself on pages 94 to 96 of *The Road from Zwilipp*. And know that he played a major part in getting that book

into print. That he created the Vahsholtz website and was webmaster from the beginning. It was his leadership that got more young people and far flung family members involved through Facebook contacts and his championing of new reunion locations. You know he has a wonderful wife, Carole, and they have hosted Cousin Reunions and played key roles in every reunion for more than two decades. Les has been the MC at these events, the driving force in these newsletters; the go-to guy for all things Vahsholtz.



*Les and Carole with a small token of our appreciation at the reunion*

Les, to sum it up, has been our leader.

How did this farm boy from White City, Kansas accomplish all this while being a leader in his career and his church, as well as other activities to numerous to mention? The man is dedicated.

Born on a rented farm as World War II was getting under way, there were no silver spoons around to tuck into Les' hungry little mouth. His education commenced in one of those one-room country schools that used to dot the Prairies, and sometimes he was the only student in his class. With all of today's attention on class size, maybe that explains how Les got so smart?

The White City grade school was small, but Les attended high school in Council Grove, graduating with 41 classmates. Big time!

Though farm born and raised, Les aspired to—not greater things—a different path. There was, of course, no money for university. Neither cash nor loans. In those days, aspiring and crea-

tive people just rolled up their sleeves and worked their way through. Army Reserves, part time and full time jobs, and hard work. Les was used to hard work and thrived on it. After six years, he graduated from Washburn in Topeka with a degree in Fine Arts and a minor in Business.

That launched his career in graphic design that became his life's work. Let me restate that, Les' career was *people*. He used his education and his creativity to handle the challenges set before him at WDAF-TV and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He used those same talents in his church, his community and our little Vahsholtz cousins tribe.

Nobody's life is a bed of roses. Les had a failed marriage and the usual challenges of raising his kids. Through it all, he kept his faith and his sense of purpose. His second wife, Carole, also had a failed marriage and plenty of challenges. In the last 21 years together, Les and Carole have become a formidable team, providing marriage counseling and a whole lot more through their church life. Nobody looked forward to retirement more than these two good people. No couple got their retirement off to a better start.

Then came ALS. Right at the end of the wonderful European trip that launched what was to be their golden years, Les noticed he was slurring his words just a bit—and he'd not overindulged in his favorite drink; good German beer.

One year. Just one year later, Les is fighting the toughest battle of his life, with Carole at his side. No longer able to speak, he communicates by one finger typing and is preparing for the day when that will no longer be possible. You can follow his progress on the blog he established for the purpose; <http://www.lesvahsholtz.org>

Last January when the ALS was just beginning, Les sat down to write about it. Just a few extracts:

*I do have daily "Joy" regardless of what is happening. That Joy is not necessarily "happiness," no ... a "feeling" of happiness ... depends on what is "happening" in this mortal life. That*



*Les working the room at the 2012 Cousin Reunion—below using "Paul"*



*can be rather tragic at times and Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble." Christian Joy is given by God the Holy Spirit to those who choose to believe and accept God at His word that "All things work for good to those who love him."*

*... may our life together and how Carole and I accept and deal with my ALS be to Your glory as a witness to others, especially to our children and grandchildren ...*

*... Lord, use what is left of my life on earth to be a blessing to those around me...*

*... I dare not complain. Lord thank you for today and the blessings it will bring. Amen.*

Over the past six months, Les has done just what he set out to do—use his faith to set an example for his family and friends.

Once more, Les Vahsholtz has been our leader. Let's hope and pray we can live up to the precedent he has established. ■

## Meet Your Cousin; Brian Brumsickle

*By Ruth Vahsholtz Richter*

**Back in the late 1980s**, I remember looking across the basketball court with a fierce game going on between the two arch-rivals in Seoul, South Korea and noticing the handsome young man from Seoul International School who was the coach of the team, and thinking to myself, "Gosh, he looks like he'd be a great addition to our faculty at Seoul Foreign School!" and wondering if we could get him away from the other school.

And then shortly after that, he appeared at our International Lutheran Church and started attending services there on a regular basis. For one reason or another, I never got to know him while he spent three years across town teaching East Asian Studies, English Literature, Economics and AP History as well as serving as Head Basketball Coach. He must have been way too busy with that teaching and coaching load! And at some point during those years, he met and married his wife, Young Soo.

As it turns out, Brian did come and teach at Seoul Foreign School but it was ten years later and I was already gone from there and returned to the U.S. Meanwhile he'd been at Hong Kong International School (the only international Lutheran school in the world at that time, I believe), and then he was at the Hawaii Preparatory Academy as well. In 1997 he returned to Seoul and began teaching English Literature, History and was an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher too.

He and I remained blissfully unaware of the fact that we might have anything in common, even as I continued to return to Seoul each year staying connected with the school as their Alumni Coordinator.

In the fall of 2000 I met Duane and Joanne Vahsholtz from Vancouver, Washington for the first time. (That was while I was still tending my parents' home in Abilene, Kansas following our mother's death the preceding winter.) We had a great connection and spent





*Brian and his little sister Julie Ann*

the evening and the next morning talking endlessly about anything and everything. Whether or not Brian's name specifically came up, I don't recall. Likely not, because I think it was later than that before we realized we were connected by family.

Likely it was on my next trip to Seoul, sometime during 2001 in the faculty lounge at Seoul Foreign, that I was talking to Clydene (Jantz) Gingerich. She's my longtime friend from the days when our family lived in Canton, Kansas. She knew lots of our Vahsholtz relatives, too. She said she had mentioned to Brian that her best friend, from childhood, Ruth "Vahsholtz," was coming that day. I gather that Brian did a double take at the mention of Vahsholtz in the context of that setting. From there on, it's all been kisses and hugs whenever I've seen Brian!

I have no idea what prompted Brian to choose living overseas for all of these years—of his entire working career. He, like my husband and I, must feel some strong connection with that kind of lifestyle and the opportunity to teach in wonderful international schools where the kids are most receptive to learning. They're usually well-mannered and well-behaved, and the parents are pushy about their demands for their kids and the kind of education they're getting. They also take a genuine and involved interest in making sure it all comes together for their children. Brian and his family have had the opportunity to see the world with the many different places they've lived.

Poland and Germany, where the

*Much have I travell'd in the realms of gold, and many goodly states and kingdoms seen ...*

*John Keats*

Vahsholtz heritage begins, has been one of their favorite visits.

After the second time in Seoul, in 2002 they moved to the Sekolah Pelita Harapan International School in Indonesia where Brian served as the Headmaster of a pre-K12 school. He led that school in many changes to the International Baccalaureate program, accreditation, and construction of new facilities. In 2004 he moved his growing family to the American International School in Dhaka, Bangladesh where he served as high school principal supervising a large faculty and staff. Again he was actively involved in some innovative changes to improve the school. In 2006 the family moved again to the American School of Warsaw, Poland (getting close to those Vahsholtz roots!). There he was the high school principal again using his years of experience to improve and add new programs to that school as well.

In-between and during all these various experiences, he gained a masters degree in teaching, obtained his principal and later superintendent certifications, and attended a Dissertation seminar in 2010. Brian is currently the Assistant Director of the Nansha Col-



*Brian and Young Soo with daughter Kaili, son Kaihi (hidden) and son Kona*

lege Preparatory Academy in Guangzhou, China. I believe his family is living in Hong Kong and he commutes back and forth for the weekends.

The fact that he lives overseas makes visits in the U.S. somewhat more complicated especially in regard to timing. I'm hopeful that despite his busy schedule, Brian and his family will be able to join us in Colorado Springs for the family reunion in 2014.

Brian is the modern day version of our forefathers who opted to make the journey out of Germany to the United States seeking a better life for their families, and he's well worth getting to know. Brian's always got a big smile on his face, is a great communicator, and his hugs and kisses are definitely worth receiving! Marge's computer program worked out that Brian and I are third cousins once removed. He's well worth claiming as one of our own, and I hope all of you get to meet him and know him in the near future. ■

**When my brothers, Richard and Robert (Dick and Bob), sit down and reminisce, we're always amazed with how differently we each remember incidents from our childhood. Sometimes two of us remember it the same way, but more often than not, we come up with three different versions or one of us doesn't remember it at all! So it is with Brian and I in remembering how we discovered our Vahsholtz connection. Brian writes:**

"We all went out for dinner together with other teachers at the school, and it was mentioned that Ruth, too, was from Kansas as were the other two couples joining us. I commented that my roots were originally from Kansas as well ... Woodbine to be exact. Ruth's eyes lighted up and she asked what my mother's maiden name was ... since she, too, had relatives in that area (and Woodbine isn't what one would call a major city!). I said "Vahsholtz" and I thought Ruth would giggle herself silly from disbelief. Unbelievable yet a remarkable story."

Brian goes on to say, "we both went back to our respective Vahsholtz camps and indeed found out that we were related."

## Milton Vahsholtz; 1925–2012

We note with sadness the passing on October 14 of Milton. A World War II hero, Milton has been featured in these pages many times. He will be missed. ■

## A Christmas Gift to Remember

It gets kind of discouraging at this time of year in this materialistic society, trying to find Christmas gifts appropriate to the season. Here's a suggestion for a gift that will remain in your family's memory for generations to come. **MEMORIES—Growing up in Kansas—1880s** is the recently published book of Hulda Vahsholtz Friedrich's journal. She wrote it in 1937, at age 63. We discovered it a couple of years ago and have had it printed in its entirety, along with appropriate illustrations, some of them by Hulda herself.

No matter your branch, Hulda writes of a heritage common to us all. Her words ring true. She brings each of us a better understanding of our Vahsholtz ancestry, the good and the not so great. Reading this book will make you and your family proud to be a Vahsholtz—just like Alex Powless! (see page 5) Order quickly to get your copies in time for Christmas. They're \$13 each plus \$5 shipping, and we'll allow that shipping budget to cover as many copies as you want. Send your check to the editors, at the address below, right. ■

## How Vahsholtz Cousins Reunions Began

By Geri Tate

In *The Road from Zwillipp* (p 66) one branch listed is the Children of Ed & Ida Weber Vahsholtz; Meta Ida (Vahsholtz) Veerhusen, Velora (Vahsholtz) Drosselmeyer, Norwood Vahsholtz, Millie Louise (Vahsholtz) Colvin, Merle Vahsholtz and Rose Marie (Vahsholtz) Womochil.

I believe they started the reunions

long before I was involved. I contacted Dennis Vahsholtz and his mother, Lillie, whose husband was Merle. Dennis sent this information:

*"This is what my Mom and I can remember. Aunt Meta Veerhusen thought it would be a good idea to get the nearby relatives together for a type of reunion every fall just to stay in touch. These were the sons and daughters of Ida and Ed Vahsholtz, their first and second cousins and Aunts and Uncles who were still living. This was started in the early 70's and reunions were usually held at local restaurants in Herington or Abilene. After a few years went by they started to invite and let more cousins know about it as contact information got shared. A couple of times pot luck dinners were held after a church service but not very many. Lloyd and Ella Vahsholtz from Washington State started coming and also the Americus, Emporia and Council Grove relatives, and it just kept expanding. As more people got involved there started to be a little program or slide show involved with each year's meetings."*

One I particularly remember was held at Saint Paul's Lutheran Parish Hall in Herington, Kansas on Sunday October 27, 2002. At that time Bob & Marge Vahsholtz first presented *The Road from Zwillipp*.

I first became involved after my parents, Martin and Eleanora Vahsholtz, couldn't drive to the reunions. My husband and I took them to a restaurant hosted by Fred and Merle Vahsholtz in Abilene, Kansas.

A highlight of one of the reunions was October 4, 1992 at Rock Springs Ranch, out in the hills of Eastern Kansas. Thru the efforts of Duane and Joanne Vahsholtz and his Uncle Lloyd and Ella Vahsholtz, a connection was made with Martin and Hannchen Vahsholtz from Remegan, Germany. Martin & Hannchen came to Kansas to that year's Vahsholtz Cousins reunion.

They first visited "Old" Saint John's Lutheran church number two cemetery west of Bern, Kansas. My brother, Les Vahsholtz and I met them and Lloyd and Ella at Seneca, and we all traveled



Carole and Les, at a 1994 reunion

to the cemetery where Christian Vahsholtz is buried. It was a very emotional experience for Martin. He and Hannchen placed a banner on the tombstone of his ancestors.

At that reunion a dinner was served at 12:00 noon, followed by business and introduction of Martin and Hannchen. Les was Master of Ceremonies. Meta Veerhusen and Lloyd and Ella were hosts that year.

Several reunions were at Rock Springs. As the family grew and scattered across the country, it was decided to try some other locations.

Recent reunions have been in Branson, Missouri and most recently this year in Colorado Springs, Colorado. ■

This newsletter is published twice yearly, spring and fall, and sent free to all known Vahsholtz relatives, unless otherwise requested. We use email and send color copies to those for whom we have an email address. Others get a hard copy, in black and white.

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