

◀ RHYMES WITH VAJEN ▶

Volume 2, Issue 1

The One & Only VajenZine

Winter, 2000

Birthdays and

It's time once again to celebrate those Birthdays and Anniversaries! Please refer to the enclosed calendar for more birthdays and anniversaries. If anyone is missing or something is incorrect, please let me know.

Some milestone birthdays to note are:

- **Andrew Lee Smet** - a decade old on February 22.
- **Jason Robert Vajen** - two decades old on February 23.
- **Lauri Lynn Stannard** - celebrates three decades on March 14.
- **Margaret Vajen** - celebrates 75 sensational years on March 27.
- And, can it be? **Tony Pichotta** will be 21 on March 29!
- **Heidi Renee Huber** - celebrating two decades on May 15.

And there is one milestone anniversary:

- ♦ **Jan Vajen and Susan Nosal-Vajen** - married 5 fantastic years on February 5.

Aunt Micky and Grandma Vajen Are Connected!

Did you know that Aunt Micky and Grandma Vajen are connected!? They both now have internet connections. Here's their email addresses:

Margaret: mavaj@bright.net
Micky: Milvtom@aol.com

Michael Vajen Lee has been Searching for Vajens

Mike Lee has been a busy guy, he's been conversing via email, with Hermann Vajen, who lives in Germany. And, for your reading pleasure, the emails are reprinted here.

11/15/99 Mike wrote:

Hello Herr Vajen:
 Mein Deutsch vonschule ist am meisten vergessen...aber...
 Meine name ist Michael Vajen Lee. Mein mutter war Rosella Vajen, und habe ich viele Tante und Onkel mit der name Vajen.

Haben Sie etwas informazion auf unsere Familie? Meist der Amerikanische Vajen sind von Ohio, eine kleine stadt Napoleon, Ohio in Henry County.

Wir wissen dass viele Vajen sind in Deutschland, aber meine

Familie kam von nahe Bremen auf 1890-1895.

Danke...und bitte enshuldigen Sie mein schlecht Deutsche! Wenn Sie sprechen Englisch....es ist besser!

11/15/99 Hermann replied:

I was really surprised when I read your email. May be that we have the same roots.

The name VAJEN is indeed also in Germany not so often as Müller, Meyer or Schulze (only 2 - 3 sheets in the German Telephone Book, look at

www.teleauskunft.de).

My family came also from Nethern Saxonia but in 1936 my grandfather went to Mecklenburg. Before 1989 in East Germany all Vajen were our relatives.

My aunt told me that for a long time ago one Vajen went to America and became a physician. Maybe it was your relative?

To me: I'm 44 years old, married, 3 children (22,17,16) and live in a small village near the city Neustrelitz in Mecklenburg- Vorpommern.

I'm working in the German

Here's something fun - use the internet to find Vajen's in the German Telephone Book!
www.teleauskunft.de

Aerospace Center (DLR). Best wishes Hans - Hermann Vajen

PS: Your German is not so bad. I believe, better then my English. I have too less practice. Sorry.

I attach a photo of my grandfather. [See Page 2 for the photo.]

11/15/99 Michael replied:

Hans:

Thanks for your reply, and your English is just fine.

I will check with my mom but I think that the physician you refer to was someone who was a cousin of my great

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Searching for Vajens - continued from page 1

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grandfather...and lived in Indiana.

I am sure this is all part of the same family, because we can make some connection with almost all of the Vajens...but it seems to me that perhaps there were two branches that split very early in America, one in Indiana and one in Ohio. There is a building in Indianapolis, the capitol of Indiana with the name Vajen, which was built in the early part of this century. But as I said, most still live in northwestern Ohio. The remaining are scattered around.

Also, the way to pronounce the name has always been disputed and different....our family says VOYN....how do you say it? Also, do you think it is really a German name? There is a town in Denmark called Vojens, also Vejen. But I don't know if this at all related. Sometimes when people came to America, the customs authorities used their hometown instead of their last name....as their last name.

I am going to forward your reply to a cousin who is collecting information about the family....we also have reunions every 5 years...

Thanks, and your grandfather and I have the same nose!

Michael Vajen Lee

Hermann replied on

11/23/99 :

Hi Michael,

Last weekend I ask my father for any relatives which went to America. He said as little boy he heard something about this. But he has no more information.

Next possibility I will ask my aunt. She is a little bit older than my father. It seems, there is a connection between our families but not so strong.

Your question: How we speak the name? It is very difficult to describe it.

V like Vogel
a like Anna
j like Jesus
e like Elke (the name of my twin)
n like Nora (the name of my great daughter)l

It's really difficult!! May be, it's better for this purpose the telephone.

Best wishes
Hermann

On 11/25/99 Hermann wrote:

Dear Michael,
Thanks for your reply. I wish
You, Your brothers and sisters



This is a photo of Hermann Vajen's grandfather. What do

all the best for Thanksgiving Day. As far as I know it is in America a very important event. Greetings also for all American Vajen.

The sign "j" in our name should be spoken in German like "y" in yes, yellow, yacht, yen. (We do it so.)

Like You I'm preparing a family tree (with photos) as a HTML document. May be we exchange our products. When you will see a photo of me, try "<http://home.t-online.de/home/A.Blohm/tuer.htm>". This page was produced by a friend after a fishing trip to Norway.

Btw, I have had four sisters (three a still alive) and also my father. Sometimes the life was not so simple!!

So long and best wishes for you,

Hermann

Michael wrote on 11/28/99 Hermann:

I am here with my mother and she is telling me that it was her great grandfather who came here from Rotenburg. I have looked on the map and it is between Bremen and Hamburg. She thinks his name was Henry Vajen, and was either born in or came here in 1840s.

When you do a search for the other Vajens in Germany... many seem to come from this area....I cannot remember now where you live, but maybe it is also in this area.

I don't know if this helps us make the connection any clearer, but in any case, greetings from the Vajens!

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Searching for Vajens - continued from page 2

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Michael Vajen Lee

Hermann replied on

11/29/99

Dear Michael,
I know the city Rotenburg. As far as I know, there

is living a cousin of my father. In the telephone book I found the name Vajen 6 times.

You're right, most (I believe nearly all) of the Vajens came from this area. Our branch came before World War II to Mecklenburg. Before this, my grandfather live near Rotenburg and near the city Soltau in a small village. The name is Hiddingen. Now we live 120 km north of Berlin, near the city Neustrelitz (26 thousand inhabitants).

At this weekend my father will come to diner and I hope to get more information then.

Best wishes for all
Hermann

On 12/3/99 Herman wrote:

Dear Michael,

On Wednesday I spent on evening a long time in the office and looked for any traces of "Vajen" in the internet. It was very interesting since I found a lot of information on both sides of the Atlantic.

I found e.g. one item about TIPPKE VAJEN, who was born in the 17th century. In the same source was shown that within three generation the name changed from VAJEN about

FAJEN to FAYEN. On the American side I found connections to the families LINDHORST and CAVERN.

The most interesting thing was the the invention of smoke protection device by Willis C. Vajen which is shown in the fire museum in Indianapolis.

Unfortunately I didn't found any trace from your person. But - thank you very much for the first contact. Without this I would never had the idea, that there are any Vajens in America and I'm sure I didn't look for them. Thank you!
So Long,

You can see a picture of Hermann at <http://home.t-online.de/home/A.Blohm/tuer.htm>

Aunt Rose Relocates

Speaking of **Aunt Rose** - all the Vajen's living in Ohio would like to welcome Aunt Rose to Ohio! She relocated in January and the Ohio Vajens we are very glad to have her here!

Here's her new address:

**Rose Lee
5831 Monroe Street
Apartment 603
Sylvania, OH
43560-2255**

This Issue is Brought to you by...

The day that I put the Fall 1999 issue of RwV in the mail, I received a generous donation in the mail from **Aunt Micky!** So, this issue of Rhymes With Vajen is brought to you by Aunt Micky. **Thanks very much for the contribution.**

And, a big THANKS to **Michael Vajen Lee** for locating Hermann Vajen and forwarding the emails to me. THANKS also to **Hermann**, for taking the time to reply to Michael.

I also want to thank the **Trudels** and the **Leros** for their contributions. I really appreciate people sending information, recipes and other info to me. I've received so much for this issue, that I'll have to save some of the recipes for future issues.

Also, thanks to everyone that sent Christmas Traditions. Since this edition is later than I had planned, I'll save the Christmas traditions for a later publication this year. And, anyone who hasn't sent a Christmas tradition - it's not too late, You can send it anytime this year!

And please don't stop submitting things! I always need new information to print each quarter. If you send me something, I'll work it in somehow, sometime!

Take care all, Denise

News from the Trudels Jim, Robin, Collin and Grant

The Trudels had a family vacation September 16-21, only we weren't sure if we were going to take the trip. Disney World was the destination, and on September 14th, Hurricane Floyd was high and mighty, closing the theme park for the first time since it opened in '72.

We watched the weather closely, called the airport on Wednesday and again Thursday to make sure we had a light, and headed down.

We spent three days there--going to all four parks, and needless to say, had some tired 'puppies', but it was well worth it.

Jim's brother Jeff and his family came over Saturday evening (they live in Tampa), and our nephew Jimmy joined us on for the final day at Disney World. We went back and spent Sunday evening and Monday with them.

On Monday, we were hearing about this Tropical Storm Harvey coming in off the Gulf, and it was scheduled to get to Tampa Tuesday at 10:00am (while we were to catch a flight out at 11:00am) so, we were wondering if our vacation was going to be extended. Luckily, it stayed south, and broke up, so we had an uneventful departure from Tampa.

Collin is in the 8th grade this

year. He is in band-sax, and was a starter for football this fall. He played offensive guard, defensive end/tackle, long snapper, and sometimes center and noseguard, so he saw a lot of playing time. He is playing basketball this year also, but he likes football better--he said you don't get to 'hit' anybody in

basketball -or not supposed to anyway. Grant is in 6th grade, and also in band. He plays the trumpet.

He is not

involved with sports in school, but I know he is looking forward to it next fall. He does like to play golf, and does a good job when out on the course.

Jim is still working for Sauder Mfg., and I am still at 1st Fed. I did change departments, and am working in mortgage underwriting. I now have Monday-Friday job, with NO SATURDAYS. Funny though, it

Collin, an 8th grader, is a busy guy - he's in band, a starter for the football team, and playing basketball!

Grant is equally as busy - playing trumpet in band and doing a good job out on the course playing golf! Grant is in 6th grade.

Jim is still working for Sauder Mfg.

And, **Robin** has a new position at First Federal, where she doesn't have to work Saturdays! You go girl!

Got a favorite recipe you'd like to share? Send it in and I'll publish it in a future issue!!!

News on Stacie and Tricia Leroll!

Stacie is in her final year of college at Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio. She is majoring in Public Relations and started her final semester in January. On November 18, 1999 she had her senior recital, which was a vocal performance. (And the editor of RwV has heard that the performance was fabulous! Way to go Stacie!)

Tricia, who is in Perrysburg, Ohio, is working at Riverside Hospital as a Respiratory Therapist. (Which the Editor thinks, must be very

Do you have an idea for a regular column? Or, do you want to write a regular column? Submit your ideas or your column, and it will appear in the next Newsletter!

You can send your news to me at:

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