



# Somsen horizon

Volume 20 – number 31 – April 2017

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**Colophon**

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**Objective of the Foundation***The aim of the foundation is:*

To preserve and promote the solidarity between people bearing the family name of Somsen, those who are/were related to them or those who are interested in them

*The foundation will try to achieve this object for example by:*

- ◆ doing historical research into the family history and the history of the region
- ◆ collecting documentation and genealogical data
- ◆ keeping and taking charge of a family archive and data bases
- ◆ publishing a periodical
- ◆ providing information to persons, institutions and official authorities
- ◆ organising activities so as to realise the object of the foundation



On the cover

**Photo reunion 2012**

## Preface



*Johan Somsen*

At the moment of writing this edition of Somsen Horizon is in all probability the penultimate edition composed by the old Board. You were already informed of the changes that will take place this year. Four of the veterans within the Board will resign after the summer and the young people, Berto Somsen and Oscar Somsen, will stay on.

Therefore it is urgently required that they receive support because our Family Foundation cannot be run by two people. Elsewhere in this edition you will find more information about a Board position.

In July we will have our fifth Worldwide Somsen Reunion which I will dwell upon later on. After this reunion we will publish Somsen Horizon 32. Of course there will be a lot in it that will enable us to recall to the reunion. There will no doubt be various pictures and articles about the reunion.

But after that the survival of our publications will heavily rely on people who wish to help the Board. It is not a great deal of work but we do need a few helping hands. You can consider going for a task yourself but maybe you know a Somsen in your environment that might qualify. Please do not hesitate to do something about it because we do not have much time left.

Thanks to the energy Oscar Somsen has put in the reunion things start getting in shape. Oscar has mobilized his own branch of our family, the Ede branch, and through the efforts of this club, about which you can read more elsewhere in this magazine, the reunion is bound to become a success. I am very grateful that this group started on this job and I wish them strength and success in the further preparations.

This reunion will be the fifth one in the two decades that lie behind us.

In 1997 we had our first Somsen reunion in IJzerlo, Aalten and In Erve Kots in Lievelede. That was an event never to forget. At tropical temperatures over 400 Somsens gathered together many of whom met for the first time. Our surname may be a rare name yet our family is so extensive that

there are too many to know them all. In addition they have also settled in various countries (including The United States, Canada, Germany, England, France, Switzerland, Portugal, Norway).

At that first major reunion a pleasant tension was palpable and there was great curiosity. For the numerous Somsens from abroad, especially a large group from the United States, it was not less impressive than for Somsens from The Netherlands.

From this first family-happening the reunion in the US arose: Baldwin WS, 2002. More than 100 Somsens, including a group from The Netherlands, had a great time. Because of the huge domestic distances it occurred that some American Somsens had to fly almost as long as the Dutch. It was another impressive event.

The tradition had been established by then so we had another reunion in The Netherlands in 2007. In the new riding school of The Equestrian Center The Achterhoek in IJzerlo a few hundred Somsens gathered together and again there were also very many Americans. Again a beautiful and memorable event.

Traditionally, our distant cousins from America organized our fourth Worldwide Somsen Reunion in New Ulm, MN in 2012. And again it was a great party. Also now there were over one hundred participants including a group of Dutch Somsens.

All our reunions had a character of their own: the first one could never be equalled for understandable reasons. The American reunions were very cosy even more so because the number of participants was more limited because of the large distances. The one in IJzerlo in 2007, with more than 200 people, was also very special.

And now we are going to celebrate our 5th reunion on 8 and 9 July 2017. Twenty years after the first one. We cannot yet say what it will be like but what is clear in any case is the beautiful ambience where we will be accommodated: the attractive and pleasantly renewed Community Center in IJzerlo, the place of our roots.

The Ede Somsens have put together a great program and I am convinced that all the Somsens from The Netherlands and abroad (there will be quite a few Americans again) will have a wonderful time.



I would like to conclude with two calls: sign up for the reunion and please give the Board a hand!

Johan Somsen [1089]

### The preparation group of the 5th Worldwide Somsen Reunion 2017 presents itself!



Part of the preparation group

**From left to right: Hedda Somsen, Ben Somsen, Greet van Erp, Gesina van Roekel-Somsen, Yeng Somsen-Nacion and Oscar Somsen (penningmeester). Not in the picture: Theo Somsen.**

In the summer of 2016 we started enthusiastically with the preparations for the 5th Worldwide Somsen Reunion 2017. We viewed locations in the Achterhoek and we came together three times to make plans. It's getting more and more fun now the registrations begin to arrive. It is really fun to do this together as the Ede branch, all children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Johan Gerhard Somsen [363] together with their in-laws. Who are we?

Ben Somsen [438]: I am retired and live in Zaandam. After the call of Oscar I have asked the Ede Somsens to participate in the organization of the reunion in 2017. That turned out to be successful and we have been able to build a nice program with possibilities for excursions for all guests.

Oscar Somsen [2040]: I am married to Yeng. Besides being treasurer of the Somsen Foundation I have taken on me to prepare the reunion for 2017. Now we can offer a nice program and we hope for a nice weekend with all people interested.

Yeng Somsen-Nacion [2042]: I am married to Oscar and live in Koog a/d Zaan. Together with

Oscar I got involved in the Foundation when we were asked to present a quiz for the reunion of 2007. I support Oscar as much as possible with all the preparations such as renting the location and sorting out the program for both days.

Hedda Somsen [2848]: I am the daughter of Yeng and Oscar. I'm studying molecular biology at the University of Groningen. I made some time to help make the reunion of 2017 a success. I have taken care of the minutes and I have helped to think about the ideas that were proposed and have helped to develop executable plans.

Greet van Erp [441]: I live in Wageningen and am married to Wim Somsen (440). I like singing. My job is thinking along with all the initiatives and contribute my bit to the next reunion.

Gesina van Roekel-Somsen [443]: I am retired and live in Castricum. Also I like to work with the other members of the group and to think about plans for the reunion and I do all kind of odd jobs where possible. I liked writing this article.



Some time ago Theo Somsen [227] volunteered for the preparation group. He will help us with the publicity.

### Join us for the 5th World Wide Somsen Reunion! IJzerlo, July 7-9, 2017

The preparation committee is proud to announce that we are making good progress with the organization of the 5th World Wide Somsen Reunion. After considering many plans, meeting several times, exchanging ideas with the board, visiting several locations we now have a clear picture of the main activities and the time table. Of course, much remains to be prepared. We will continue our work and hope to welcome you for a wonderful weekend this summer.

The main program of the reunion will be on Saturday July 8 and will take place at 't Dorpshuus in the municipality of IJzerlo. An informal get-together will be organized on Friday eve-

ning. On Saturday morning, we will meet with coffee and have a chance to welcome each other. Lunch will be provided, followed by two rounds of activities. An enthusiastic historian will tell us about three centuries of the border with Germany and its effects on the local population. Learn more about your roots from our family Genealogist. You can see film, hear about music or about the Dutch sport of ice skating. Also, you may join traditional Dutch games or take a guided walk. Of course there is plenty of time to meet and talk.



*Reunion Aalten 2007*

At the end of the afternoon the inhabitants of the Joapikshuus welcome us to visit once again our family tree that we planted twenty years ago, during our very first reunion. Also, the new inhabitants of the Somsenhuus are happy for us to visit the location where our first ancestor Roelof used the name Somsen in the year 1609. After that we head back to 't Dorpshuus for a dinner and a festive evening program that will remain a surprise for now.



*'t Dorpshuus in IJzerlo*

For the Sunday afternoon, we are planning a few excursions. It will be possible to visit the town of Eibergen where a festival is taking place with cultural activities from The Achterhoek that include music and other art, history, food and games. It will also be possible to cruise the local Berkel river and visit the water mill.



*Somsen commemoration plate at the Somsenhouse*

A second excursion will enable you to enjoy the city of Arnhem and to visit the Oosterbeek Airborne museum that commemorates operation Market Garden, the attempt to liberate the Northern half of The Netherlands in the fall of 1944.

A more playful excursion will take you to a farm to experience fun, games and wagon rides. There is no need to pre-register for these activities so you can decide on Saturday which you want to join.

During the Saturday reunion, there will be displays of family and historical information. Other



*Berkelzomp*





*Airborne museum*

activities may still be added to the program. Please contact us if you have any ideas for this or attributes that you might wish to display.

Please join us for this wonderful occasion. The cost for the Saturday program will be \$ 28 per person. Children under 12 pay half price and children under 3 are free of charge.



*Reunion 2012 New Ulm*



*'t Dorpshuus, Kruisdijk / corner Thijsweg 19 IJzerlo*

## **Programme**

Friday Evening, July 7

- Informal Get Together

Saturday, July 8. 't Dorpshuus, IJzerlo

- 10.00: Registration, Coffee, Welcome
- 12.00: Lunch with all Participants
- 13.30 & 15.30:
- History Lecture and Film
- Traditional Dutch Games
- Guided Walks
- Workshops and Music
- 17.00: Visit Somsen Family Tree
- 18.30: Family Diner
- 20.00: Festive Evening Program

Sunday Afternoon, July 9

- 13.00-17.00: Excursions to one or more destinations in or around The Achterhoek

***Plenty of time to meet our Cousins from both sides of the Ocean.***



*We wish you a warm welcome!*

**Mourning or fame, the national flags will be flown at Hans Geerts [3017] from Nieuwleusen**

*Dit artikel is overgenomen uit de Stentor van donderdag 24 maart 2016 met dank aan en goedkeuring van Henriëtte Willemsen, Stafmedewerker Auteursrecht de Persgroep Nederland.*

The Surinam flag at the celebration of independence, the Frisian flag at an "Elfstedentocht (eleven-city-skating-tour)". "And when Italy is World Champion, the Tricolore."

Original article by Arjan Bosch. Editors provided Somsen data.

There was still an American and a Canadian flag because of an overseas visit, but my wife's (Dinie Geerts-Bovenhoff [1370]) sister Gerri [1369] lives in Trondheim, Norway, and it was her birthday. A dilemma, but I really wanted to hoist the Norwegian flag. But then Belgium came, the terrorist attack in Zaventem... "

Gerri, Dinie and Willy Bovenhoff are the children of Berendina Somsen [1340] from Aalten and Gosen Bovenhoff [1341] from Nieuwleusen.

Hans Geerts [3017] (69) knew on Tuesday morning, March 22, 2016 around nine o'clock (when he saw the news), that he had to put up the tricolor flag of our southern neighbors. He flew it at half-mast in front of his home at Oosterhulst 37 in Nieuwleusen. "I always do, when there is something going on in the world. To express my condolences. Because what happened there was really terrible."



*Hans Geerts with Belgian flag. He follows the news to decide which flag should be flown.*

*Photo: FFU Press Agency*

## Flagpoles

The line of passing vehicles that drive past the house of Geerts and his wife Dinie every day - the couple lives right on the busy N377 - stop several times a year for two flagpoles. "And then they ask

why I put up a specific flag. I simply follow the news and there's almost always a suitable flag to be put up. When Suriname celebrated forty years of independence it flew there, the Surinam flag. And when Italy will become World Champion soccer we will fly the Tricolore."

The hobby of Hans Geerts that has got out of hand started, as it should, with a joke. Sister-in-law Gerri lives in Norway and when she came to visit us the flag with a blue Scandinavian cross and the red-colored corners and white interspace was put up. "She loved this; it was as if she came home." And then Hans Geerts - a former marine and therefore well acquainted with flag ceremonies - went one step further as he says "an empty flagpole is not a flagpole'. Not much later the Norwegian flag was put up again, but now at half-mast when Anders Breivik brought death and destruction on Utoya

## Frisian flag

In this way Geerts switches between flags, in mourning, problems and moments of glory he is always looking for a suitable flag. "Once a Bulgarian soldier from the Netherlands had to serve in Kosovo. I put up the Bulgarian flag for him. I also have the Frisian flag. "For a possible Elfstedentocht (eleven-city-skating-tour)." Cameroon? No, in total I have around fifty, sixty flags. I still miss the Finnish flag but I can get it within a day or two. "The reactions are mostly positive. Hans Geerts does not have any prejudice against any country and will put up the German flag when necessary. In spite of the fact that there are still some feelings of resentment left towards the eastern neighbors. "Lately I put up the Ukrainian and the Russian flag next to each other." Geerts has the Israeli flag as well and when that country has something to celebrate the flag will be put up. "Sometimes I do get criticism on that from people who do not understand it. I do not have the Palestinian flag, but I would definitely put it up if I had it. Really, that's my liberty."

## Obama in Argentina: Flags!

Now that Belgium is in mourning, Geerts supports that country by flying their national flag at half-mast. However, the situation may differ day by day. Otherwise he would probably be flying the light blue Argentinean flag. "Obama is there on a state visit, after all. Also a great moment." Excuse me, the US president writes history in Cuba at the moment. "No," Geerts is definite: "Argentina." And indeed, whether it is due to hectic



'Zaventem' or not, the Internet is always right: "Obama landed in Buenos Aires on Wednesday'.



*The house at Oosterhulst 37 in Nieuwleusen.  
Foto: Google*



*The Belgian flag at half-mast after  
terrorist attack in Brussels  
Photo: FFU Press Agency*

### Call New Board Members

**Our Foundation is on the eve of great change.**

Of course first there is the Big Reunion this year to celebrate that we started 20 years ago. But after that most of the Board will resign. A number of board members consider themselves a little too old and would therefore like to hand over their

jobs. This is partly a group that has already been active from the very beginning and later it was supplemented with a few new members but over the past more than ten years they have tried to manage the activities without any changes.

After these changes only two of the 'younger' Board members remain. That is unfortunately insufficient for all the work that has to be done. Important tasks are keeping the supporters files and the finances. A labour-intensive task is compiling Somsen Horizon and the Somsen Newsletters and their translation. In addition there is the Secretariat, organizing website activities and maintaining contacts with among other things the residents of the Jaopiks-and Somsenhuus. A big task is keeping the genealogical database but that is not currently being done by the Board itself.

We therefore hope that new members will sign in to strengthen the Board and to give our Foundation a new impetus. To assist in the above tasks or other tasks that may appeal to you such as maintaining contacts with other foundations, setting up and maintaining an archive, creating and organizing new activities. There are perhaps many opportunities that interest you with which we can keep the Foundation active.

We call on you to come and help us. Membership of the Board does not need to cost a lot of time. We gather twice a year. Also those who want to help with a small task are most welcome. If there are no new Board members it will unfortunately no longer be possible to do all the work for the Foundation. But with new members we can perhaps develop new activities. The departure of the veterans in the Board is of course a pity but also offers new opportunities for the younger ones to give the Foundation a new impetus.

**SO LET US HEAR FROM YOU!**

### Reunion in The Lebanon

Previously published in the magazine Dubbel Vier (double four) of Dutch UNIFIL association. Year 17 issue number 4-2016

*by Roderick J. Brandse*

On November 26 there was a meeting on the Military Base in Doorn for veterans who returned to The Lebanon in recent years. Bart Hall, spiritu-





al counsellor and traveling companion, performed the role of host. Chris Laarhoven, an enthusiastic and dedicated advocate of the revisiting trips, was also involved in the organisation of this day. He told those present about his experiences in The Lebanon. When he visited the country once again a few years ago he decided that more veterans had to get this opportunity. He immediately took the initiative to organise the trip in cooperation with a travel agency. Chris plays the role of 'our man in The Lebanon'. He is involved in making the local appointments, organizes daily business and prepares the program. These trips are not possible without his commitment. Chris announced that the trips will be resumed in the spring of 2017.



Colonel Ludy de Vos, Director of the Veterans Institute, announced that he will join the next trip. The battalion Adjutant, Jan Haans, explained briefly the importance of going back. Why do you do it? Haans was one of the first who went to Afghanistan. In a period of 4 months he worked intensively with his mates to build the camp. It is a drastic experience that will stay with him. Returning gives him the 'we' feeling.

### The Dutch Ambassador in The Lebanon

Mrs Hester Somsen [395] was one of the special guests. Mrs Somsen was appointed as His Majesty's Ambassador in Beirut in 2013.

Fred Lardenoye had a fascinating interview with her. The conversation touched on various topics such as the security situation in The Lebanon, the tensions between the ethnic groups in the population and the refugee crisis as a result of the ongoing conflict in Syria.

Regularly there are attacks with car bombs resulting in uncertainty for different groups of the population. After the bomb attack in 2005 in which for-

mer Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was killed there were massive demonstrations with a stronger call for the departure of the Syrian troops in The



*Chris Laarhoven in The Lebanon*

Lebanon, which, for many years, had been a power factor on which the Government had no influence. This led to the Cedar Revolution. This ended Syria's influence in The Lebanon.

At the moment many refugees from Syria are taken care of in The Lebanon. This requires a lot of capacity of the country. The Government has chosen not to organize large-scale shelter. The



*Ambassador Hester Somsen [395]  
talking with Fred Lardenoye*

experiences in this with Palestinian refugees have led to this point of view. The refugees are now taken care of and supported in many places.

For the Lebanese providing shelter to refugees is not an exceptional phenomenon. During earlier conflicts in this region the Lebanese were also

often taken care of in Syria. They regard this more as a neighbour duty. But the balance seems to slowly disappear. In a village of 40,000 inhabitants the number of refugees is sometimes twice as much. It leads to pressure on all kinds of facilities. Schools run double shifts to provide education to as many children as possible. Hospitals are often overcrowded. There is also the question how the refugees manage their day-to-day needs.



*Wreath and flowers were laid at the memorial site in The Base in Doorn on behalf of the WML, the veterans and RI JWF 44 PAINFBAT.*

There have always been many workers from other countries to work in The Lebanon but also here the balance is lost. Gradually more structural programs are being set up.



Someone asked Mrs. Somsen whether she notices her being a woman affects her role. Fortunately there's not much difference at all. In addition, she says, I am the Ambassador and that's a fact.

The official partners know that she is the representative of The Netherlands. In The Lebanon the patronage system is very common. You are loyal to your clan or family and as a civil servant you have to provide services and the like to your supporters.

Recently Mrs Somsen was portrayed in the documentary Post Beirut. This documentary can be seen at NPO2.nl. Mrs Somsen holds a new position at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2017



*Reunion of veterans*

The reunion was not only a reunion with The Lebanon but also a reunion of UNIFIL veterans and their families. For various reasons they chose to join the revisiting trip. Special for this occasion was the Lebanese beer, Almaza.



*Unifil Cap and Almaza beer*

## Workshops Wim Somsen [440]

On Saturday, 7 July, there will be some workshops. They have not yet all been planned but there are two in any case and they will be given by Wim Somsen [440]. He sends us a description.

### Violaar 30 years

Singing and playing on the 2-string violaar (violin-guitar) that I have designed and built in the sizes soprano, alto, tenor and bass. Anyone can play on it. There are simple guidance tones for songs and as much as 25 exciting other sounds to support story fragments. Young and old can join in playing or singing. Those who want to participate in playing will get some instructions prior to the presentation of the story with chorus songs.





*Violaar workshop*

### Skating simulator'

Important for ice skating is well fitting material (racing skates) and the first contact with the ice, both for tour and speed skating. After many years of skating experience at (alternative) eleven-city-tours it no longer went without saying. Therefore I started practicing at home on the skateboard with specially protected skates. Thus the skating simulator arose. With a thin camping mattress it becomes a slightly wobbling sort of ice floor. It works great!

**Do you want to try on your own racing skates then, please, bring them?**

The slide protectors that I made are for irons of 1 mm thickness. Register: [info@somsen.org](mailto:info@somsen.org)

Op de foto die Jasper Somsen [2050] gemaakt heeft zijn vader Wim Somsen [440] die de workshop zal geven.



*Skating simulator*

### Meet your family! Receive them at home!

Of course the reunion is a wonderful opportunity to meet family members from both sides of the ocean. But you may want to do more. Therefore we would like to offer you the opportunity to visit your Dutch relatives either before or after the reunion. They might show you some interesting sights and perhaps there is a possibility to stay with them. You never know. We are also looking for Dutch Somsens who are willing to meet you. Are you interested? Please send us a message. [info@somsen.org](mailto:info@somsen.org) We will bring you into contact with Dutch hosts.



### "The Violaar": a lifelong passion

*by Wim Somsen [440]*

**Wim Somsen (440) invented an instrument and anyone who thinks he cannot make music is mistaken.**

Wim Somsen lives in Wageningen and stems from the Ede branch of our family. The Somsen genealogy lot was kindly disposed to him: he was given number 440 which is equal to the number of vibrations of the tuning fork that is known everywhere. That was a nice coincidence for him as a musician.

### History

For forty years he tuned in to 4 to 12-year-old kids and they tuned in to him. They sang songs and

they played percussion instruments that were developed for school music around 1950 by the German composer Carl Orff (who does not know his Carmina Burana?). In the year 1985, during a music project week, Wim Somsen invented an instrument with two strings which could both be played as a guitar and as a violin: the Violaar.



*Wim Somsen plays the Violaar*

The original instrument had a can that served as a resonance box. In a very presumptuous mood they called this the Can-Violaar: "Conservarius" with a hint at the famous Stradivarius violin.

A whole school class playing this instrument produced a sound that reminded you of a huge swarm of bees. Over the years pupils made and played about 800 Can-Violaars.

All the songs they sang were accompanied by either playing the Violaar with the bow or by plucking the strings. He also developed a method to play melodies from sheet.

After having developed a much better sounding model, completely made of wood, Wim received international patents for it under the name of Violaar. The students gave hundreds of concerts at school and outside.

One of the nicest surprises of playing the Violaar is that you can learn really fast how to play the soprano-Violaar (with the bow), the tenor-Violaar (like a guitar) and the bass-Violaar (plucking the strings).

You will also find out that you can play what you have practiced in combination with a well-known piece of classical or popular music. Perfection is

not necessary when you start playing the Violaar. At the moment Wim is busy demonstrating in music schools and he also gives workshops for young and old.

**So do not hesitate to join us during the activities at the 5th Somsen Reunion in IJzerlo in 2017.**

Instruments will be available. At a first acquaintance with the Violaar perfection is not needed.

### Workshop at Klimaatstraat party, 20 August 2016

*by Greet van Erp [441]*

Our Street, Honeysuckle Avenue in Wageningen, became second last year at the national Climate Street Contest by living as sustainably as possible. You can save energy in many ways (house insulation, solar panels, led lighting, car-pooling).

In this way by working together you can achieve a reduction of CO2 emissions. This cooperation has also yielded better social contacts. Neighbours have got to know each other better. The prize was celebrated with a street party with a Violaar-workshop around the theme with 20 participants.

There are a lot of sounds you can think of at draughty windows, devices that use a lot of energy etc. A happy story for young and old with a recurring chorus sung to the tune of The Yellow Submarine.



*Violaar-workshop 2006. Gesina van Roekel-Somsen in the foreground*

From a report of a Violaar-workshop in Castricum, organized by Gesina van Roekel-Somsen [443]: Creative afternoon 31 March 2006: Forty women had volunteered for the annual creative day of the Red Cross without even knowing what they were



expected to do. This remained a surprise for practically everybody until the very last moment. We were going to make music on stringed instruments (Violaars). There was a starter's course. For most people it was a totally new experience. When entering the hall it was like entering a concert hall full with instruments, which somehow scared many people off. Everybody was thinking: "Can we do that?".



*Practise first...*

But thanks to Wim Somsen's skillful direction we very soon knew how to play. Therefore we had to even work much harder after tea break and fortunately we finished the day like professional musicians. We played "Que si, que no" in a swinging way!

## 2012 Worldwide Somsen Reunion

*by Coby Lynn Somsen [2699]*



*Photo with Welcome flag*

It's hard to believe that nearly 5 years have pas-

sed since we gathered in New Ulm, Minnesota for the 4th World Wide Somsen Reunion. The reunion committee put many months of hard work planning the get together, and it showed! Over 100 people (including 10 from the Netherlands) gathered to explore the community and get to know one another better.



*Sunday morning at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, the Somsen family church.*

Friday evening held an informal gathering in a park; my immediate family did not make it until late in the evening, but we heard that those who did made loads of fun. We then gathered Saturday morning in Turner Hall for a welcome and recap of past reunions from Johan Somsen, followed by a very entertaining scavenger hunt style game of trivia. I really enjoyed this opportunity to "work the room", reuniting with those I had



*Pastor Phil Somsen [2685]*

seen at past reunions, as well as meeting new folks. Once we were all acquainted we enjoyed lunch, followed by a nice stroll around New Ulm. It was a new experience for me to see the Somsen name in so many

places around town! Dinner that evening was followed by a rousing evening of square dancing. I had no idea that so many Somsens were so light on their feet!





Sunday morning we had a church service in both Dutch and English, including some songs and a nice message.

We then had a bus tour of the surrounding area, visiting Somsen Slough, as well as a tour of Schell Brewery.

The weekend was capped off by a banquet dinner at the country club. Woven throughout the weekend were many chances to catch up with those we don't see often, as well as new family members we had never met.



*Hanna [392] Theo [227] and Coby [2699] Somsen*

As you can see, the reunion weekend had a little something for everyone, young and old. It was a great weekend in so many ways! We were so impressed by the number of folks that came from so far

for the reunion. My dad (Philip Somsen) said he especially enjoyed planning for the Sunday service. As he put it, the service was in a "quaint but stately church not too far from campus, that was so worshipful. Blending a variety of worship elements of traditional but also more contemporary elements seemed to wrap us together in a great sense of family." I really enjoyed exploring New Ulm; I had been near there a number of times but never had the occasion to visit the quaint town.



*Coby [2699] and Johan Somsen [1089]*

I feel that it is a great gift to be part of such a large family, spread across all corners of the globe. I would encourage anyone who can make it to attend the 5th World Wide Somsen Reunion this summer!

## Collecting Stamps

*by Riet van Zanten*

As a result of a request by me to the Somsen Foundation for a special stamp they asked me to write a few words about collecting (special) stamps. And I will be glad to do so.

I have saved stamps from the time that a son of mine was about 6 years old when he got a postage stamp from his grandfather with a clear year stamp: 1931. He found it so special that he wanted to collect more than one. In doing so I helped him. But as it often goes: after a year he got other interests and stopped with it. But I went on.

I joined the philatelist society in Lichtenvoorde and soon I became the assistant of the head of the stamp-circulating-group who could no longer use his hands due to rheumatism. After his death I took this post for the entire Achterhoek.

This means that I get boxes with booklets of our society. These booklets are filled with stamps by the members themselves.

They have to indicate the catalogue number and the price they want to have. I make lists for the members with their addresses and send the boxes with 12 booklets to the members. When a list with the box is finished it will be returned to me again. I have to check them and receive payments. At the end I have to administer and return everything after which I get the bill of the society, and then, in turn, I can pay the members.



*Stamp children*

In this way an annual average of € 4000- € 5000 goes from receivers to senders (all quarters and dimes!).

This means that I see a lot of stamps in. But at the moment I am only saving (old) stamps from Turkey and Eastern European countries. And city post stamps and personal stamps.



The latter ones have only existed for the past decade. At the request of people who like it or find it valuable to promote their business.



There are stamps that people make because of a personal event, but they are also made for advertising purposes. Or they draw the attention to a Foundation.

I like to collect these stamps both is unused and used condition. I find them on the internet and have direct insight into the working method of the relevant organisations by reading their websites. In this way I have received quite a few enthusiastic responses.

That is why I am very happy with the stamped and new Somsen stamps I received from your Foundation.



*Somsen stamp*

## Somsen genealogical family database

We would like to thank all the family members who took the trouble to inform us about births, marriages, divorces and death of their family members, parents, uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews. This allows us to draw up an up-to-date survey of our Somsen genealogical family database. Please do visit our website and verify if the mention of your family is up-to-date and whether the published photograph of yourself, your parents and/or your children needs renewal. Send me your comment and I will be happy to help you with your "update work".

**In this column we would like to draw your attention to the family announcements that have reached us. This also enables our advisor Dick Somsen from Zwolle to keep our genealogical files up-to-date, so that we, in turn, can inform you in Somsen Horizon. We really appreciate it very much that you send in your family announcements (together with pictures please!) to: [Somseneologie@kpnplanet.nl](mailto:Somseneologie@kpnplanet.nl) or Mr. D. Somsen Monteverdilaan 175, 8031 DL Zwolle –Nederland.**

### Born:

**09-11-2016:** Oscar Maurits Jakob [7954], s.o. Martijn Henderk Rietdijk [1533] and Margot Verhagen [7953]

**06-12-2016:** Collyns Christine [7956], d.o. Layne Ronald Somsen [2639] and Katherine Christine Newhouse [7943]

**Married:** no entries

### Deceased:

**14-11-2016:** Hendrikus Cornelis (Henk) Reijnen [2897], 74, Möriken, Switzerland

**20-11-2016:** Maria Manuela de Figueiredo Cerqueira [6460], 83, Oerias, Portugal

**12-12-2016:** Hinderktje (Hennie) Somsen - Schetsberg [1348], 90, Slagharen, NL

**15-12-2016:** Ida Heinen - Somsen [455], 68, Winterswijk, NL

**24-12-2016:** Gerhardus Arnoldus (Gerard) van der Vinne [233], 80, Meerkerk, NL

**11-01-2017:** James Douglas (Jim) Lee [3208], 72, Sioux Falls, SD. USA

**24-02-2017:** Danny Lee Salyer [3961], 69, Wanette, OK. USA

**28-02-2017:** Johanna Berendina Willemina (Hanna) Houwers-Hoftiezer [2892], 94, Aalten. NL

**05-03-2017:** William Ray (Bill) Quayle [2955], 79, Port Clinton, OH. USA

**04-04-2017:** Johanna Margaretha (Joke) Wijngaard-Somsen [132], 80, Lelystad/Harderwijk, NL



*Oscar  
Maurits  
Jakob*



*Henk*



*Maria  
Manuela*



*Hennie*



*Ida*



*Gerard*



*James  
Douglas*



*Danny  
Lee*



*Bill*



*Joke*



