



John Adam Heydinger ca.1876

SINCE 1916

HEYDINGER

# Newsletter

Vol. XCIX, No. 1



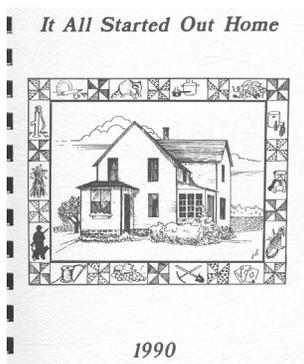
Peter, Bernard (Ben), August (Gus), Charles Heydinger at 1953 reunion, the last four boys.

## Reunion Plans Continue: The “Big One” Is Coming

Planning has been going on for about a year now to prepare for the new Heydinger Reunion, the BIG ONE, to be celebrated in 2016.

You will receive frequent communications from the committee as work progresses, but for the most part it will be by electronic media only. Regular postage is too expensive and labor intensive - translation - Heydingers are CHEAP!!!

So the first order of business is to refresh our email contact list. We have hundreds of emails from the 2010 reunion, but as you know, today these things change as frequently as the Kardashians change husbands. So if you look at the names on the email list by which you were contacted, inspect it for names you recognize and let us know if you spot email addresses that have changed. Each branch of the family is being contacted with a separate email list, so, for example, if you are descended from the Peter Heydinger branch and do not see someone listed from the August Heydinger branch, don't panic. Also, if you do NOT see email addresses of siblings or other family members for which you know an email address exists, PLEASE see that we are notified, as we want to expand the contacts and make sure no Heydinger is left behind!



## Planning Tidbits

Plans are afoot for the Centennial edition of the Heydinger Family Reunion the Big One, coming up in 2016. Why then instead of the usual five-year schedule? It just makes more sense to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first Heydinger reunion in 1916 in 2016 rather than to stick to the usual schedule. Besides, it's the only time in your lifetime that this will ever happen, so let's do it right!

The celebration is slated to occur over a three day time period over the last weekend in July, 2016. Details are still being worked out, and when all is finalized, the word will go out in plenty of time for all to make individual plans to attend. For right now, what we need first and foremost is for you to MARK YOUR CALENDARS and reserve that weekend. Have Santa send a 2016 calendar if you don't already have one.

Several projects are being discussed to make this a more memorable occasion. However, two projects that will need your help and a great deal of lead time are compiling a family cook book and a taking a family trip to the old country.

## The Heydinger Cookbook

Hey, all you Heydinger masters of the culinary arts! We need you to tease our palates.

For the centennial Heydinger Reunion to be held in 2016, we would like to publish a family cook-book. Now we can hear you already - "We already did that!" Perhaps YOU did, for YOUR branch of the larger family, and that's great. Some of us have those books and use them. But a family cookbook

has NEVER been done for the entire Hedyinger clan, all 2,128 of them and growing!

At every reunion, one hears conversations that begin with “Mom/Grandma used to make the best . . .” or again “If Grandpa was here, he sure would know how to make . . . wine/ corn cider.” You fill in the blanks. And over the decades, tastes have evolved. At the Heydinger reunions held up in Kibler’s Grove back in the 40’s and 50’s, the dinner fare was generally the same. Pa took his axe and carved up a few roosters, ma baked up her favorite pie recipes with whatever was in season, the city folk lugged in heaps of bean casseroles and salad stuffs, and everyone loaded up and declared the reunion a success. That’s when everyone still lived on the farms or had just started moving out and marrying folks whose last names ended in a vowel. Slowly reunion spreads changed with the complexion of the family, until today chicken is rare, rice is abundant, veggies abound, though some dishes are unrecognizable until one dares take a chance. In short, we are not the same family as we were back in the day, even as recently as some of the other cookbooks have been produced.

So here is what we are proposing. Rustle up within your family a list of the favorite recipes for whatever dishes the family would kill for. Then narrow it down to a couple and carefully write out the recipes with detailed instructions, but use some modern measures. Not instructions such as “Add baking soda in the amount of a small quail’s egg,” or “Stir in a thimbleful of salt.” And if you have a history of the recipe as it was used in the family over the years, send that information along, too. We may not be able to ring up Great-Aunt Flossie any more to ask about the recipe, but it’s always nice to stay connected to one’s roots and appreciate how one’s own present food preparation fits into the long legacy of the family’s culinary arts. And even better, if you have a picture of Great-Aunt Flossie that you could send along, wouldn’t that make the recipe even more personal and pleasantly poignant! We are really trying to humanize this tome!

Over the next year, we will then collate, compile, edit and then print up the results. After that but before a printing takes place, we will then have an estimate of a final cost per copy and offer the book to the family on a presale basis. Proceeds will be used

to help defray the cost of putting on the reunion. So help us out and start scouring out the cupboards, card files, and rolodexes or wherever you hide the recipes these days. And if you do it all by rote like Grandma used to do, then by all means, write it down. Julia Childs or Chef Jacques Pepin or Gordon Ramsey we may not be, but then neither was Grandma and we all ate pretty good in those days. Just check out our belt sizes today.

Thanks in advance for whatever you can do for the cause. With a family our size, Betty Crocker watch out.

Right now just hold on to what you find, and in the next issue we will tell you where to send them.

Bon appetit!

---

## Heydinger Family Alsace-Lorraine Trip

The second project involves organizing a family trip back to the Alsace-Lorraine region from which our ancestors hailed, touring many of the sites that helped make us who we are as family. We have been working with a person with many years of experience putting together these types of tours, first for his students when he taught French for decades, and now for families and Elder College groups. We have researched the original family sites in the Alsace-Lorraine and French areas and included other historical sights, then turned the list over to the Passports company, a group tour outfit from Massachusetts. They have laid out a beautiful nine day tour for early May of 2016. The weather then is perfect, and the prices and crowds still low because their high-season vacations have not yet begun.



Colmar, in the Alsace

You are invited to go up on line to [www.Passports.com/login](http://www.Passports.com/login) and look at what they are proposing. If you run into any part that wants a username and password, use this: Username : **HMICHAEL** and password is **gu93**.



St. Maurice Church in Merlebach where John Adam and Catherine Heydinger were married in 1826. We are scheduled for a Saturday evening Mass there.

To get into the details, when you enter the site, you will first see a general outline of the proposed trip. Near the top, find a link to a slideshow of some of the sites and the travel coach. Down the left side are links to a detailed description of each day. The field trip part tab has only one listed at this time. The pricing tab explains how costs gradually decrease as the number of the group rises. Keep in mind that the pricing includes everything except the one optional field trip, even the gratuities that are usually given the guides and drivers at the end of such tours. Meals are listed, but individuals are responsible for their noon luncheons and usually enjoy local fare at the mom and pop type places.

Travel is computed from Cleveland airport and is include in that group price. Sometimes, however, folks like to go over and extend their trip. That is also possible with this

suggests over to a kind of for the then ex- to the tensions, would be w o u l d own ar- lodging t h e y p o r t s only if advance,



tour, but the guide that we all go France as a group, bonding exercise whole tour, and tensions be added end. For the ex- of course, that add-on's and folks have to make their rangements for and travel to what want to see. Pass- can assist, but they know well in of course.

As far as rooming, prices are predicated upon doubles, but if there are singles, it may be possible, if we know far

enough in advance, to make satisfactory pairings for you to keep the costs down. We ARE family after all!

So take a peak. T h e c o m - p l e t e tour is outlined a l o n g



with pricing which will vary depending upon size of the group. The cement has not yet set up on the trip. If enough folks think that we should spend more time in any place, such as Paris or somewhere else, changes can be made yet. But first we need to know who is even interested before we go any further in the planning. Concerning the pricing, the company requires a small initial deposit and then has a plan worked out that allows for gradual payments spread over the course of the year. So the earlier you begin the payments, the lower the monthly payments required.

Please contact us at this email if you think you may be interested even a little bit. This is NOT a commitment to go for sure, but it's just to gauge interest and maybe for you to request more information or even give input as to the design of the tour. If indeed you ARE prepared to sign up, you can do this and take advantage of their payment plans. Information is also in the website on that.

I would need to know of your interest by mid-January, 2015, so we know whether to even continue planning. Please let me know as early as possible. Any questions or comments are welcome. Talk it up with siblings and other family members. While the trip is planned for Heydinger relatives, friends who could put up with us Alsatians are welcome! If you know of family members who do not have access to the internet and email and you think may be interested, can you put them in touch with us and we can do a materials mailing. For right now, this message is going out by email only. To do otherwise at this time would be too expensive, when you look at the size of the mail list! Just remember, we Heydingers are pretty tight with the bucks!

## Miscellanies

### Genealogy updates

Work is continuing on the family genealogy. At present we have catalogued eight generations of the family, stretching from John Adam Heydinger, who brought his family to America in 1850, to a few children born already this year. Going back before John Adam, we have also traced the ancestry another four more generations, back all the way to the 1660's.

It is now time to update the genealogy, and for that we need your assistance. When you have time, go up on line and look at your family's section of the record. Review what we have there, and if there are errors, additions, or other changes, please let us know. You can access the genealogy as it exists so far by visiting [www.JohnHeydingerFamily.com](http://www.JohnHeydingerFamily.com). When you get there, and if you want to skip all the other stuff and go right to the genealogy, scroll down to the bottom right hand side and click on This Family Tree. A PDF of the genealogy will come up, which, as you know, cannot be altered by readers themselves. It is 42 pages long, but the John Heydinger line fills only 25 pages; his sister Margaret Miller monopolizes the remainder of the listing. The database is completely searchable just by doing a Find command and then typing in the name for which you are searching. Notice also that we have recently begun including marriage dates. Include those as well if you wish.

If you have any new information or changes to be made, please notify me as soon as possible. My email is [mheydinger@huronhs.com](mailto:mheydinger@huronhs.com).

### Genealogy Presentation

For the Big One, we would like to display this genealogy so that all can gauge a sense of how huge the family has become and gain a sense of exactly where they fit in. So how can that be done? We will be meeting for dinner during the reunion inside a gymnasium at St Bernard's Church in New Washington. The walls there are fairly high, and if we blew up the type of the genealogy and then hung all the names and families up on the wall by individual branches of the family, the ceiling would still be too low. If we made a tree and hung all the names on it on the proper branches all the way out to the newest twigs, the room would still be too small and the print too small to read.

So how do we do it? The rules are simple: legibility counts, compactness is of the essence, and people need to find themselves without aid of a step ladder. We have many octo- and nonagenarians, you know!

So how do we do it? Turn on your thinking caps and help us out. Come up with an idea that can be accomplished and win the admiration of the family for the next 100 years! Maybe sketch out the idea, or draw us a stick figure plan, or even come up with a new paradigm. After all, for centuries people have been referring to this exercise as creating a Family Tree. So maybe it's time for a change to something like the Family Vine (maybe Kudzu would work!) or something equally evocative of life, and plenty of it, spreading out all over the world. If the family were not so tight, we could make this into a contest and offer a huge monetary prize - for a cut of the royalties if the idea takes off.

Work with us on this and have your name go down for the next century in the annals of Heydinger Family lore - perhaps with an epitaph to read:

If "only God can make a tree,"  
Explain this thing made by me.

## **Need for Volunteers**

To make this a successful reunion, many volunteers will be needed, especially from the ranks of those living closest to the reunion sites, North Auburn and New Washington.

Right now we are looking for folks to step up if they have any interest in the following areas:

1. **Cook Book Committee**  
Someone with time who could collect the recipes as they come in, collate them into a manageable form and then set them up for printing.  
We have already arranged for a printer, so that would lessen the work.
2. **Entertainment Committee**  
Will need a band to play at the school hall for the Saturday evening dance and get together at North Auburn School, perhaps even one for the Friday night hog roast  
Will need a group to put together a fun time of games for the kids on Sunday during the family meeting.  
If we go through with plans for a Friday evening hog roast, we will need volunteers to watch kids at the lake as they swim, fish, or ride paddle boats.  
On Friday night, shortly after dusk, we would like to have a fireworks display to really punctuate the weekend for us and create something that no one will forget, especially those who live to see the bicentennial reunion someday. Someone with experience is needed.
3. **Social Media Committee**  
Someone with adeptness in setting up Facebook accounts, Twitter Accounts, working with all sorts of social media to help get the word out on this reunion. They would not have to create the content for the pages, just set up and post up what is sent to them for publicizing.
4. **Family Poster Display Committees**  
Someone in each major branch of the family to coordinate the gatehring of data and pictures that would then be prominently displayed on poster board at the actual reunion. Dis-

## **Auction Crafters**

The past several reunions have seen family members bring in all sorts of their creations to be auctioned off after the Sunday family meeting. This auction funds the majority of the expenses involved with the reunion.

We ask you to begin thinking already of what you could create using whatever crafting skills you have. Or you could bring anything that would have some sentimental relevance to the Heydinger family. The sky is usually the limit, and the auction has always been well received. Do your best to help make this centenary reunion the best ever.