

1420 Grand
Duncan, Oklahoma
December, 1964

Dear Relatives (Von Pein Clan)

For years I have had in my possession a typewritten German script that my mother, Ricka Von Pein Fienning gave to me. It is one of those things that is easily put back on the shelf with other family mementos, saying perhaps that I will get this translated someday. About two years ago while visiting with my Aunt Edna Von Pein Harris, she showed me some of the things that she had collected. I discussed this document with Edna and promised to send photostats of the German and English.

Special thanks is due Dr. and Mrs. Wade Baskins. He is Chairman of the Department of Modern Languages, Southeastern State College, Durant, Oklahoma. Both of them worked on the translation of this document.

Also in my possession was a 1914 personal log book of Matthew J. Von Pein, 703 South J Street, Richmond, Indiana. This was written when he and his wife, Emma, made a trip to Germany. At Pinneberg, a village northwest of Hamburg, he drew a sketch of the Von Pein Wappen or family crest. Perhaps some artist in the family can redraw this crest. While on that journey he visited the Bracht family. Mathilda Bracht was a Von Pein and several of the Richmond relatives heard from her after W. W. II. She sent me a copy of the family tree which I have had photostated and made part of this document. Since I am the son of Frances Von Pein Fienning and the grandson of Fred Von Pein, I gave this log book to my youngest brother, Rudolph, Muncie, Indiana, who is the son of Ricka and grandson of Matthew. I had two photostats made of the log book. One I sent to Edna Harris and the other is loaned to my brother Edward. I thought he or his son, Charles, might be in Hamburg and might get a photo of the Von Pein Wappen.

John Von Pein, son of Matthew J., told me that when his grandfather died at the turn of the century, that a brother who resided in Houston, Texas, came to the funeral. The grandfather was a ship's carpenter. The brother was a very distinguished man who had changed his name to Bein after the Civil War. As we know, the Chicago Von Peins changed their name to Pine during W. W. I because of German prejudice at that time.

Since many of these family facts are soon forgotten and lost, I felt compelled to put them down and pass them along to you to enjoy. We will realize that this part of our family tree has been proud, colorful, with many devoted public servants. It is small wonder that many of you have taken many unpaid public responsibilities.

From the Robert L. Fiennings, a very Merry Christmas and peace and prosperity in the New Year.

Sincerely

Robert L. Fienning