

On July 3 and 4th... From the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Shore and many points in between about 130 descendants of John Fredrick Tiedgen met at the Wendt's Lake Cabin of Bob and Mary Tiedgen. Bob is 4th generation. The event was organized by Karen Tiedgen Reed (5th generation) of Battle Creek and Jannell Beech (4th generation) of Riverside, California.

Descendents from William (Bill) Tiedgen, Rudy Tiedgen and Dora Tiedgen Brechler were represented. Balloons were put out to decorate graves of the descendents of the Tiedgen's, Gunkle's and Harding's at the Lutheran and Union Cemeteries.

The oldest member at our gathering was Ida Tiedgen, age 95, wife of Everette Tiedgen.

The youngest member was Mya Zohner, age 4 months, daughter of Kevin and Joleen (Tiedgen) Zohner. Other arrivals this year were Ashlynn Rath, daughter of John and Carrie Rath; Sierra Sonnenfelt, daughter of Brandon and Kristy Sonnenfelt.

One baby girl decided to be born on the day of the reunion, Campbell Elizabeth, daughter of Chris and Amy (Melcher) Caskey of Omaha. We've had 30 births since the last reunion in 2000.

We were led in prayer by Dick Tiedgen (son of Everette and Ida Tiedgen) Dick is 4th generation. We enjoyed a fabulous buffet luncheon and it would also be our buffet supper.

After our luncheon we gathered in the nearby field to have pictures taken. (Much appreciation goes to Rob Tiedgen for doing "shovel" duty in the field). Three poses were done, one of the whole clan, one of just "the" 3rd and 4th generation cousins and one of children age 12 and under. These pictures were taken by Camera Concepts of Norfolk. Not to say that there were not many other cameras clicking all day.

Karen Tiedgen Reed has industriously been working on the family history and had on display four bulletin boards with the information she has gathered. Quite an undertaking. Much appreciation to Karen for all her efforts on the history and the reunion.

Since we have auctioneers in the family we have a tradition of having an auction as a way to raise funds for the next reunion, to be held in 2010. Auctioneering was done by Bob

Tiedgen, Layne Flanagan and Rob Tiedgen. Auctioned items were donated by various family members. Auctioned items included copies of old family photos: two, 10# bags of California oranges; small craft items; two fabulous wall hangings; one with old family photos and one with spaces to put photos in made by Kathy Tiedgen Whitmore. Lots of pot scrubbers made by Shannon Reed, Kasi, Samantha and Patty Siebrandt. A great Levi lap robe, made by Mary Tiedgen; Christmas cactus, from an original plant belonging to Florence Messick Tiedgen propagated by James Beech (son of Janet Tiedgen Beech), Jas being unable to attend shipped the plants from California where he lives. The item saved for last was a handmade quilt made by Janet Tiedgen Beech. Gary Tiedgen (son of Dick and Joann Tiedgen) was the high bidder on that item and was overheard telling Aunt Janet that she could have saved the effort of bringing the quilt all the way to Nebraska. They live about two hours apart in California. Much appreciation goes to Heidi Beech White for all the secretarial work and help with the reunion.

A 1908 Oak Morris chair belonging to John F. Tiedgen, then William Tiedgen, then to Faye Tiedgen Werner, was brought to the reunion by Eileen and Tim Terry. Eileen is a daughter of Faye Werner. Donations for sitting in it were taken as another fundraiser.

Tee shirts and koozie for the reunion were made available for sale. Karen Tiedgen Reed made all the arrangements for the design, printing and sale of these. The design was a family tree of the first generation of John F. Tiedgen, his wives and children. The design was done by Mike Froding of Illinois (son of Doreen Tiedgen Froding). Much appreciation to Mike for his design work.

For those that could return on the 4th of July we got together for "left-overs" and barbecued hot dogs and hamburgers. This was also a day filled with reminiscing and fireworks in the evening. The fireworks were bought by Bev Tiedgen Rath and Fred Tiedgen. There was a box for donations for the fireworks, much appreciation to those of you who contributed. And much appreciation to the California couple who did so much "kp" duty! (Yvonne and Orvis Thornton).