

**From:** [The Vasbys](#)  
**To:** [Bill & Shirley \(Black\) Hartley](#)  
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Responses to previous topics:

Roger Fritz - [fritzcat11@yahoo.com](mailto:fritzcat11@yahoo.com)

Thanks for the Russ Beimler obit. Russ was an early playmate of mine. We and the other local boys would play in the woods behind his house, including building tree houses and "forts" from old cardboard and wood we got from the RR crews cleaning out the boxcars. I lived at 1830 Russell Street, named for Russ. One of many old acquaintances I wish I had talked to before he passed away and/or my dementia takes over. It's ironic that he lived a few miles away from me (Roanoke, Va) and I never knew it.

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This week's topics:

1. Ever experience job burnout? When?
2. When and where did your ancestors come from?
3. Favorite fast food is?
4. Were you ever rendered speechless? When?

- 5 Ever ride in a sleigh or horse & buggy? When?
6. Halloween stories.
7. Still making popcorn from scratch? Or?
8. Playing board games? Which?
9. Watch "American Veterans" on PBS Tuesday night? Bring back memories? What?
10. Whatever else you'd care to write about.

and responses:

June Stuhr - [jstuhr@me.com](mailto:jstuhr@me.com)

2. When and where did your ancestors come from? - They came from Germany in the 1870's and 1880's to escape military service. They were our family's original draft dodgers. They settled in southern Nebraska and built and developed farms, and prospered.

5 Ever ride in a sleigh or horse & buggy? When? - My sister's black and white horse Captain pulled a small sleigh, which we called a 'cutter'. She attached bells to his harness so we'd jingle. One day Cappy decided he was tired of the gig, took the bit in his mouth and took off running and the cutter flipped over. That was the end of our sleigh rides! Sure was lots of fun while it lasted!

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Norm Arendt - [normarendt@gmail.com](mailto:normarendt@gmail.com)

Ancestors came from Prussia via Norway and way back from Central America with Inca Mayan blood in us. Some ancestors moved from Norway during the Black Plague years in the 1400s to both Prussia and areas in Gall or close to Gall. Americans changed name of Gall to Gaul way back. Contacted CRI Genetics for ancestry profile since our family tree only went back to 1610 with reference to Scandinavian peninsula. Spent many hours going through records at state historical society and microfiche from Mormon collection.

Recently visited Shipshewana, Indiana and took an Amish buggy ride. Very interesting. Driver went around town and then through some of the countryside.

Before that we took a hansom cab ride in Chicago. That is alot faster than the cars can drive downtown.

Still make popcorn from scratch. And also when at Capital Brewery make from scratch as well. Tastes better.

Favorite fast food is KFC - probably not the best for us.

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Kathy Gotter - [gotterkd@yahoo.com](mailto:gotterkd@yahoo.com)

2. When and where did your ancestors come from? - My Grandpa Emil Willems came through Ellis Island in 1914 from Madegem, Belgium. He settled in Geneseo, Illinois. Grandma Emma Willems came through Ellis Island less than a year later with 5 children. My father, Ernest Willems was the youngest of their 15 children. Unlike today, they did it legally. I'm all for immigration but done the proper way.

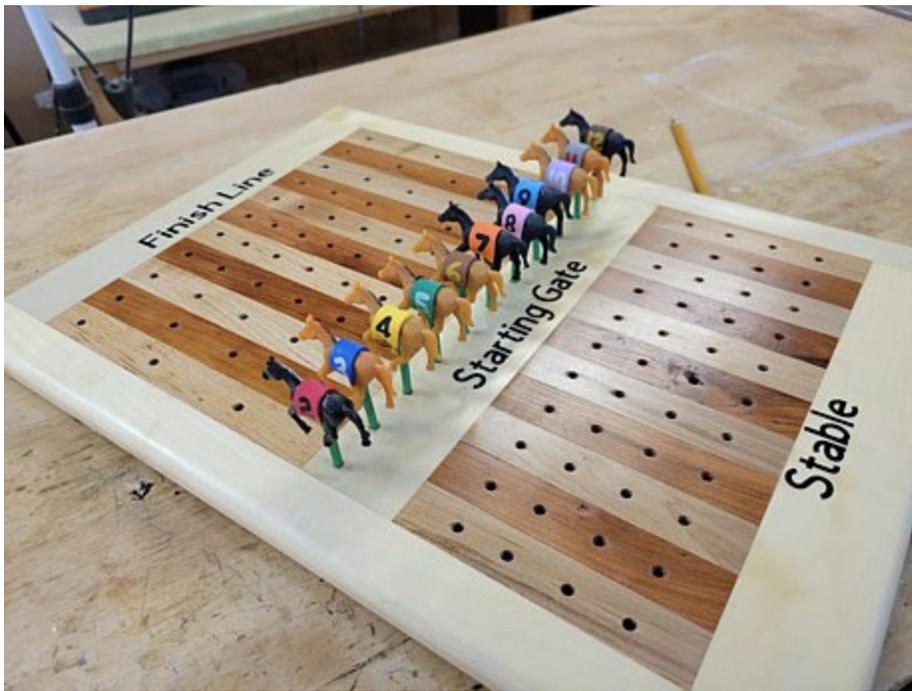
My mother's family migrated from Ireland during the potato famine of the mid 1800's. My great great grandmother, Katherine Floyd was fortunate that there was family in the states so she was not an indentured servant which was another term for slave.

3. Favorite fast food is? - Polo Tropical is healthy fast food in SW Florida. Altho I've been known to enjoy the taco salad and Mexican pizza from Taco Bell. Neither of which is available so no more visits there. In fact, I left the drive thru when I was told that those items were no longer available. I'm very opinionated in my senior years! Don't mess with Kathy Lou. Ha, Ha, Ha!!!

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Rich Anderson (64) - [dianeandrich@charter.net](mailto:dianeandrich@charter.net)

Board games - I have a wood work shop and make many different things. This is my latest project. Horse racing game.



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Gene Hafermann - [genehafermann@charter.net](mailto:genehafermann@charter.net)

1. While I got tired when working long hours on support for survey folks at WisDOT, I wouldn't call it burnout. I enjoyed the detective work to solve user problems.
2. My ancestors were from Germany and I have started digging into my heritage more, but need to work on that more this winter.
3. Favorite fast food is Subway Tuna on Italian Herb bread with pepper jack cheese, spinach, and green peppers.
4. While I have forgotten lyrics several times when singing without sheet music, the audience usually didn't notice me mumbling "watermelon" until the right words reentered my brain. One song I remember stumbling through a bit was "Surrey with the Fringe on Top" from Oklahoma and I saw the director in the back of the audience rolling his eyes.
- 5 My wife and I have enjoyed several horse driven carriage rides over the years including one in Central Park in NYC and one in Charleston, SC.
6. This year I activated my security camera to capture clips of the trick or treaters coming and going. It was fun to listen to the various comments related to our

fountains and front porch. Now I have downloaded the clips and am compiling into a composite video for my wife (she loves to revel in comments on her creative displays).

7. I have a recipe for a really good caramel corn, and I use Orville Red... with an air popper for the popping part. But it takes 2 hours to make the batch which involves baking the concoction for an hour with 4 pauses to stir. But my wife also likes some microwave popcorn for a fast fix.

8. My favorite group game (not really a board game) is Wise and Otherwise.

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Lenore Haferman - [lenorehaferman@yahoo.com](mailto:lenorehaferman@yahoo.com)

The group that is planning to get together once a month only had several there, because Rapids is now in flu and cold season. We decided to have the next get together on Dec. 1st, and we will meet at the Stevens Point Country Club since we were not able to meet because of sickness in Nov. We meet between 11:15 and 11:30 A.M. No calls necessary, just come and join us. (do not need to be a member)

2. My ancestors came from Bohemia, it then became other countries.

3. I will take a taco with hot sauce.

4. Not speechless, but I probably should be. I TALK TOO MUCH

5. We did the horse and buggy in New Orleans, it was fun - I had never done it before.

8. Our family is big on board games and cards.

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Karen King - [yayaec@ymail.com](mailto:yayaec@ymail.com)

Hello two weeks in row!

Ancestors came from Norway and Germany like so many of us.

Favorite fast food and probably only fast food is Potato Oles from Taco Johns. We

don't shun but also don't frequent fast food places.

Of course popcorn from scratch! Sometimes plain for health value. Sometimes with butter and siracha. Sometimes with nutritional yeast and no, I don't remember why I even tried it since it sounded awful, but actually is not. The best is still in the movie theater with too much artificial butter and a price that's more than the movie. It helps if it's a movie that makes us laugh.

We play board games with the grands, Monopoly and Life and Checkers, but we always lose. And not intentionally.

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Dick Trudeau LHS '64 - [dickmerry77@hotmail.com](mailto:dickmerry77@hotmail.com)

WHEN AND WHERE DID YOUR ANCESTORS COME FROM -- Etienne Trudeau immigrated from France to Canada in the mid 1600's. He had 13 sons and a daughter. I understand all the Trudeau's in North America are branches of the tree planted by that horny Frenchman.

FAVORITE FAST FOOD - Chick-fil-A

WERE YOU EVER RENDERED SPEECHLESS? -- Unfortunately not. I'm still working on it though.

POPCORN FROM SCRATCH? -- Still the best way to make popcorn. Orville Redenbacher of course. We use spray butter now instead of the good stuff.

PLAYING BOARD GAMES -- Our family has been playing the board game of "SORRY" for at least 60 years.

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Toni Olsen - [tonicrafty@gmail.com](mailto:tonicrafty@gmail.com)

6 - Halloween - As a kid, I remember Halloween as a fun night to go around the neighborhood and get candy.

Now it seems to be a bigger deal. My grandkids who are 9 and 11 spend weeks thinking about what costumes they'll wear. Stores seem to stock lots more Halloween stuff, and more neighbors decorate their yards. My son in Houston likes to carve a pumpkin every Halloween, and he did a cool one this year.

