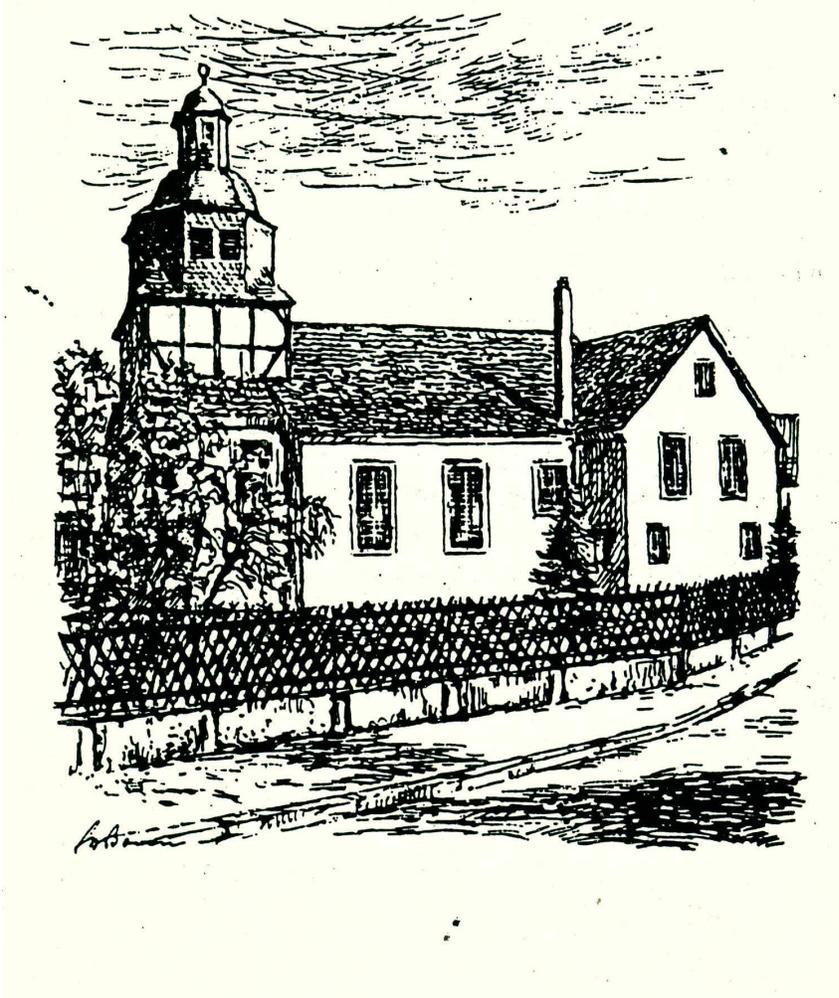


The History of our Town



FOREWORD

I have tried here to write a little chronology of our small town. Certain records were not available to me. Because of this, it cannot be a complete history of Lisenhausen; it is only meant for our family chronology anyway. The material was collected for 30 years from newspapers, magazines, church-books, as well as the "Edle Kleinod" (local journal).

Langendiebbach.
7/28/41.

Hans Knothe

Translation/Interpretation
Sabine C. Craig
2-10-86

The Church

The church is not very old and was erected in the last part of the 13th century following instructions of the "canonicorum" in Rotenburg, which, at that time, also was a branch of the monastery. The building of the house of God is not large, but according to the congregation spacious and, from the outside, surrounded by a narrow, ramshackle wall. Inside one can read an epigraph engraved in-stone, whose letters are quite worn out. Nevertheless, it still can be read:

Phillip Adam Trotte, lived 33 years
Anno 16--, March 30.
(The above was also copied from the "Edle Kleinod")

Of the Barthelds family the following members were buried at the Lispenhausen churchyard:

Johann Christian von Bartheld
born about 1670, died 10/23/1714, buried 10/26/1714

his second wife Homburgian zu Vach, died 7/16, 1719
buried the evening 7/19/1718

Anton Christian van Bartheld, Hauptmann
baptised 11/23/1701, died 10/17/1747, buried 11/20/1747

his wife born van Litritz, born 1702, died 5/18/1778
buried 5/20/1778

Carl Phillip von Bartheld
born 1720, buried 5/24/1767

Georg Friedrich van Bartheld, Captain
born 1739, buried 9/10/1763

Lispenhausen was first documented in the year 786. The following can be reported about the older history of the town:

The river Fulda changes its north-east direction approximately 12 kilometers downstream of the old "Lullustown Hersfeld" and flows almost in a right angle downstream in north-west direction. Here is where wide fertile plains formed, in which a part of the great railway properties of the Bebraian railway junction are located, which extends about 3-4 kilometers downstream.

Approximately 4 kilometers beneath this turn of the Fulda at the estuary of the river Hasel into the Fulda, there lies the town of Lispenhausen, which in turn was already present before our era apart from Bebra, Schwarzenhasel, Breitung, Braach, Baumbach, and Heinebach.

The History of our Town

Already in the earliest time there was heavy traffic here; an old caravan-route (the "Salzweg" salt road) led from Soden at the river Warra over the heights and reached the plains between Lispenhausen and Bebra, and so it also reaches the big commercial street to Frankfurt and the Main valley. Just so the Nurnberger Street coming from Kassel let through to town.

The old Lispenhausen was actually built as a so-called "rowtown" in order to save space, which means that a road with houses built on each side of it led through town. Earlier the old road had led through the lower part of the town. Also, this was the place where the old church was built, which was surrounded by a wall. Inside this wall the old graveyard of the town was located. Around the church led a street which was developed on the upper side. Also the upper street, which led across to the lower street, was developed on both sides. At its end, the new street was led past. Near the church the old "Watercastle" is located which received its water for the ditches out of the river Hasel. Today the ditches are dried up, except a small pond, calling to mind the earlier surroundings of the castle. Part of the castle itself was the large estate owned by the "Gentlemen von Trott zu Solz" at times partly and at times whole as Hessian knight-fief.

Around 1340 Ludwig von Baumbach owned the Hessian tribunal Lispenhausen of the family Tannenberg as a mortgage.

Some time ago, the gentlemen Jobst and Sigismund von Boyne owned a farm or allodium, which in 1514 was sold hereditarily to the monastery of Rotenburg. Today, the monastery still owns the allodium and enjoys the old privilege although a payment is necessary.

In 1252 a document (Wenk's Documentsbook II) mentions a Helficus as Castleanus of Rotenburg. He bequeathed his allodium in addition to others in Lispenhausen to the monastery of Blankenheim for the blessedness of his wife's soul (Domina Elisabeth).

The first feudal lord, known to us from the large farm, was Hermann von Trott, founder of the Lispenhausian ancestry von Trott. In 1252 he owned this farm together with his brother Berthold.

The Trotts owned half of the estate from 1448 to 1774; from 1485 they also owned the other half again as Hessian feudal tenure.

In 1502 Lispenhausen was part of the court region Rothenburg. In 1504 Lispenhausen had to place two guns, three crossbows, and five pikes at the army's disposal.

Due to contracts of 1511 and 1521 another Hermann von Trott zu Solz received an estate in Lispenhausen; however, his ancestry ceased to exist in 1705. The estates were then transferred to "Schultheissen Stuckrath." In the year of 1535 the town amounted to 19 dwelling-houses, in 1585 there were 36 households. On November 5, 1585, the abbot and sovereign Joachim to Hersfeld personally baptized a son of Baron Adam von Trott.

The History of our Town

Approximately on April 8, 1906, Adam von Trott laid out the scenic garden of Lispenhausen. At the time, a terrible accident happened, when their hunter was stabbed to death. On August 13 of the same year, von Trott built a tower to ornament his house. When Adam von Trott visited his brother-in-law in Thuringen on December 17, 1607, he died the same day.

A further part of the estate was a small wooded area named Lubenthal, which bordered on the landmark of Hasel and Heygenbach. It used to belong to the feudal lord of Baumbach. The town Lubenthal, now perished, was also located in the district of Lubenthal.

The monastery Blankenheim had tenants (Zinsleute) in Lispenhausen. Those were Henn Lingelbach, the old and the young. They were given new rates by the Rothenburgian administration. Hence the Abbot of Hersfeld wrote to the landgrave in the year 1854: "We have a meadow in Lispenhausen, the so-called Visher's meadow, which belongs to the monastery of Blankenheim. We were peaceful owners for 30 years. Now the administration of Rothenburg had caused the people of Rothenburg to take their cattle to this meadow, too. Several times those members of the administration also cut down willow trees on purpose".

A second letter read: "The monastery to Blankenheim owns a large farm in Lispenhausen for which they have to pay taxes. The workers and bondmen have to send half a cart of wood and ten quarters of oats to His Highness (the landgrave) in the Rothenburgian castle. They also have to give to the community a cart and a boar, to the minister ten quarters corn and eight quarters oat and, finally pay their neighborhood yearly 48 Mark (currency) to add to their cost for deliveries. This was shown in their old, slated letters. Now the administrators want to raise taxes and impound our courtiers; as they already have, with the use of the law, put two of our courtiers in jail".

In 1586 this matter was still not settled. When due to high water of the river Fulda the mill owned by His Highness in Rothenburg was unable to grind, the farmers of the surrounding towns had to take the grains from the Rothenburgian castle to the mill to Lispenhausen and Bebra and then take the flour back to the castle.

In 1634 Werner von Trott zu Imshausen sold the estate "Gunkelrode" for half of Lispenhausen. In 1640 he traded Lispenhausen for the farm "Iba" with Peter Bartheld. He and his descendants then owned the manor Lispenhausen for 200 years. In 1641 he received a lien on the estate of Lispenhausen from the landlady Amalie Elisabeth of Cassel.

He was hessian-casselian "Ohrst" and commander of the castle in Marburg. He died August 12, 1679 and was buried in the "Todten Hoffes" church in Marburg. On December 12, 1712, his youngest son Johann Christian was ennobled by Emperor Karl VI in Vienna. More about the Bartheld family later.

In the years 1644 and 1652 Johann Peter Stuckrath (died in 1678) further receives the fourth part of the free ennobled estate of Lispenhausen, due to two Hersfeldian feudal documents.

The History of our Town

In 1590 the following inhabitants of Lispenhausen were mentioned in the book of the office of the city accountant of Rothenburg.

Dopfer Hans Leineweber	Friedrich Henner
Friedrich Anna,	Mehlhaus,
Homann Henn,	Moller Tilo,
Moller Fritz,	Schade Curt,
Reymann Friedrich,	Schrack Hanssen.
Schmidt Jost,	

In 1638 it is learned through the new organized church book of Pastor Caspar Krug (Kruguis) in Rothenburg for the community of Lispenhausen that the following persons or households were true to their nature soil during these hard times of the 30-year war.

Hans Chamb, the miller
Hans Kanngisser, Hanns Sangmeister
Hanss Fuchs, Jacob
Cuntz Kleinschmidt, Jacob Apell
Claus Spengler, Adam Hofmann,
Curd Clauss, Hanss Fuchs, Hanss Korrs,
Johs Bartholomay, Hanss Trimann,
Hanss Kimpler, Hanss Scholle,
Christian Cham, (probably Chamb.)

In 1638 the new churchbook further writes about Chamb:

About 1642, Christine, the daughter of the miller, Hanss Champs, was buried September 11. She had slayed the "LeimenKauthe" (name).
On October 7, the miller, Hanss Champs'wife, was buried.
Hanss Champs, the miller, was buried March 26, 1647.

The Introductory of this church book reads:

Church book Lispenhausen
1638---1769
Listing of the children having been baptized in the name of our Lord,
who became members of the church of Lispenhausen.
Started in the year of the Lord 1638
Pastor Caspare Krugio

In the student's listing of the Hersfeldian high school of Spring 1662 the name of Johann Apelius (Apel) from Lispenhausen is mentioned under No. 371, who in 1666 became pastor in Fambach, then in Brotterode, and later was dean of the reformatory school in

The History of our Town

Schmalkalden. He was a son of Jacob Apel, who in turn was perpetuated on one of the two bells of the church of Lispenhausen.

The "Edle Kleinod" (magazine) informs about our church:

The church is not very old and was erected in the last part of the 13th century following instructions of the canonicorum in Rothenburg, which, at that time, also was a branch of the monastery. The building of the house of God is not large, but according to the congregation, spacious and, from the outside, surrounded by a narrow, ramshackle wall. Inside one can read an in-stone engraved epigraph, whose letters are quite worn out. Nevertheless, it still can be read:

Philip, Adam Trotte, lived 33 years
About 1600, March 30

Both bells were made to order of the then monastery pastor Caspar Krug of Rothenburg by Andreas Kohler in Cassel, wh was the bell-founder.

On one of the bells the names Jacob Apel, Adam Hofmann Kastenmeister, and Johannes Sate are engraved.

The following entries of 1646 in the churchbook show that Lispenhausen was also suffering of troops passing through during the 30-year war:

12/16/46 The child of Johann Flemmings was buried.
(Flemming had been a soldier under General Konigsmark and Colonel Wetzel)

12/24 Johann Flemmings was also buried in Lispenhausen.

One entry in the church book made in 1685 shows us the ripe old age of one of the inhabitants:

4/12 Christoph Fuss was buried at the age of 104.

In 1909 the church was renovated and, at the same time, enlarged, since it could not hold the doubled number of inhabitants.

During the 7-year war in 1762, when the French general Steinvile conquered Friederwald, there was a meeting near Lispenhausen, between the Hannoverian and Hessian troops on one side and French troops on the other. Hereat, a Hessian Hussar supposedly fell in the "Kathchens-ditch" during a patrol-ride in the dark, where he was found dead several days later. The "Katchen's-ditch" is still called "Hussar-ditch". When the French passed through, both towns on each side of the road were pillaged. Also, during the French time of 1806-1813, the town was suffering badly under the garrison and passage, and was often pillaged.

The History of our Town

In 1836, Lispenhausen belonged postally to Bebra. The addressees personally had to pick up their mail from the then postmaster Rehwald in Bebra. Only in 1847 Lispenhausen became part of the postal district of Rothenburg, due to an arrangement of the General Postal Office in Cassel 2/17/1847. Lispenhausen is now a postal agency supervised by the postal agent Kobberich.

In the beginning of the 20th century the saloon Dietz owned a small, convertible table from old times, the so-called executioner's table. The executioner and "Wasenmeister" (?) used to have to sit there, whenever he entered the saloon, if none of the people present had any objections. He received his drinks in a cup attached to the wall by a chain. He was not allowed to sit at another table or drink out of another cup. Maybe the table still exists. But, as mentioned earlier, Lispenhausen was suffering pillage and affliction during different war times and passages. And that was not enough, even young people, if they were somehow capable for military service were forced to join. This happened mostly during the French domain. Even one of our ancestors, the 16-year old Jacob Rader, had to join Napoleon on his way to Russia 11/26/1796.

Later he was in the Hessian Army and was still a soldier In 1824. He had received a medal for his participation in the expedition to Russia. This medal was worn for a long time by a brother of my mother, the conductor Nikolaus Koberich in Hanau, who lost it several years ago.

Soldiers of Lispenhausen also had to participate in the fight against France in 1870/71 and died in the field of honor.

During World War I, several soldiers of Lispenhausen took the field; eight of them gave their life for their fatherland. Also, two are missing, so we mourn ten victims, seven widows, and 15 children. Meanwhile, the number of inhabitants had grown to over 1,000. In 1538 there had been only 19 houses, though in 1585 36 households were counted. The result of a census in 1747 shows 55 households. In 1810 there were 55 houses with 404 inhabitants, in 1821 70 houses with 497 inhabitants, and in 1841 92 houses and 658 inhabitants.

1852	96 houses with 673 inhabitants
1864	84 houses with 617 inhabitants
1880 596 inhabitants
1885	88 houses, 121 households with 579 inhabitants
1890576 inhabitants
1892	89 houses with 636 inhabitants
1895637 inhabitants
1905	111 houses with 738 inhabitants

From then on the number of inhabitants is rising rapidly, in 1925 there were 1300 and in 1939 1332 inhabitants.