



Bürger- und Heimatverein Scharmede e.V.

gegründet 1976

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Rose and Tony Hoenig from Iowa (USA) visit the home of their ancestors, including Scharmede, Thüle and Espeln

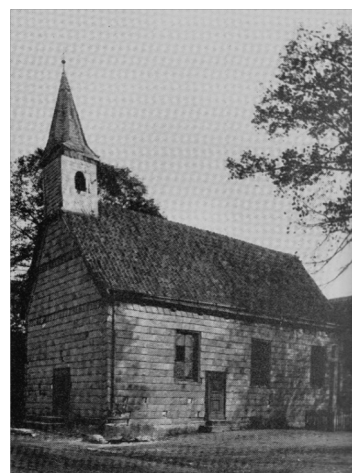
On Thursday, May 11, 2023, the working group on local history within the citizens' association of Scharmede welcomed the couple Rose and Tony Hoenig from Davenport / Iowa (USA) in our village. The visit was arranged by Matthias Uthoff, a well-connected family researcher from Kirchlengern. Mr. Uthoff is in charge of a group of American guests who are tracing the footsteps of their ancestors in Hesse, Lower Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia, the guests were based at Bad Salzuflen. The working group on local history undertook the opportunity with great pleasure fostering research of the Scharmede emigrants to America in the 19th century (55 singular persons are now known so far) and preparing a program for the Hoenigs visiting our village.



Accompanied by Heike Baruschke and Bernhard Meier, distant relatives from Hanover, the guests arrived at the Schultenhof around 10 o'clock in the morning and were warmly welcomed there in the lovingly decorated Historic Storehouse from 1589, the oldest surviving building in Scharmede. Among those present were the farm owners Huberta and Karl-Josef Schulte-Alpmann as well as members of the Brinkmann family (Sylvia

Kellner, Jonas Kellner, Norbert Brinkmann, Vera Lohren), whose farmstead had formerly borne the name of their common ancestors Heidemeier / Heydemeyer (in old low german language: Haelui). Also present from Scharmede was Theo Wulfmeier, who is related to the guests through his family tree, too. The guests introduced themselves very friendly: "I am Rose, I am Tony" and a cordial and trusting atmosphere developed. On behalf of the working group, Heinrich Bergmann welcomed the guests with a short speech in English. Over champagne and a small snack, the guests quickly got into conversation with the hosts from Scharmede, who eagerly tried to reactivate their long-buried English language skills.

After getting to know each other, they went on a tour of the village to places where the Hoenigs' ancestors had lived before emigrating to the USA. Heinz Josef Claus had researched this and summarized his findings in a compact form. The drizzle did not dampen the lively interest. The first stop was the site of the former St. Catherine's Chapel, demolished in 1907 due to dilapidation, whose bell, cast in 1467, is still preserved today. The chapel stood right next to the present church, where the stable of the former Stelte farm is located.



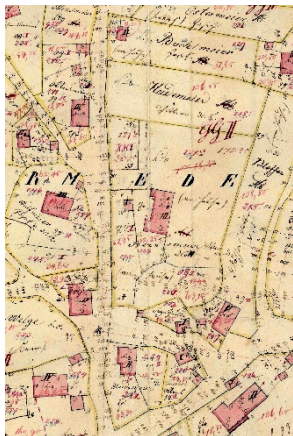


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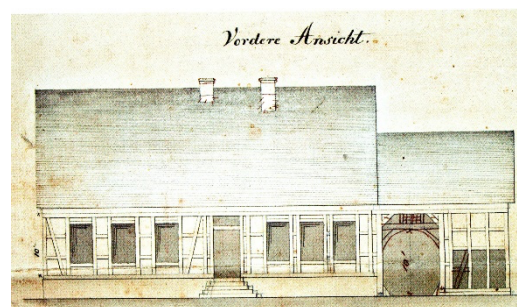
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Afterwards, a look was taken at the church of St. Peter and Paul, which, however, was built only after the emigration of the ancestors and was consecrated in 1906. In the church, Tony Hoenig asked how the people had experienced the end of the war. Impressions and pictures of this era could be conveyed with Scharmede publications (Kohlenberg from 1979, Heimatbuch from 2015). After that, a look was taken at the house Kröger / Sallen, now BKM Forum. Particular attention was paid to the inscription, carvings and decorations on the portal.



The next stop was the former Brinkmann farm (in the 18th / 19th century still called Heidemeier / Heydemeyer / Haelui) at the corner of Trift-Street / Scharmeder Street, whose masonry partly dates back to the 17th century. The owner Hildegard Brinkmann had kindly opened the house, which is no longer inhabited today, for a tour. The floor plan impressively shows a typical Westphalian farmstead with stables for the livestock around the central hall, grain and straw floors above, and living quarters on the rear ground and upper floors, which are reached via a wooden staircase with a gallery in the hall. From this house came Anna Maria Katharina Heidemeier (d. August 1, 1844), the mother of Joan Jodocus Casper Hönig(hoff) who emigrated to America in 1847. This ancestor of Tony Hoenig was born May 9, 1811 in Scharmede and died October 30, 1887 in Lee County, Iowa. Vera Lohren, née Brinkmann, gave a vivid account of life and farming on the farm to the interested guests.

After that a look was taken at the war memorial, where previously first school building was located. Here also Joan Jodocus Casper Hönig(hoff) will have received elementary education. In 1892 a new school building was constructed on the opposite side of the street, behind the Brinkmann farm and in direct line of sight to the present war memorial. Theo Wulfmeier then showed photos of the old farm site at the location of his childhood home behind the war memorial. The Wulfmeier family's connections to the Hönig family came through Anna Maria Theresia Wulfmeyer (born Nov. 7, 1822 in Scharmede, died 1889 in Lee County, Iowa). She had married the American emigrant Joan Jodocus Casper Hönig(hoff) on May 23, 1844 in Thüle and had left for the new world together with him three years later.



After a short stop with the tasting of an egg liqueur at Kirchhoffs (thanks to Ulla Kirchhoff!), the tour led through the Küfer-Way, offered a glimpse on the interesting half-timbered house Wasserkort (the farmstead was formerly called Engelmeier, Trift-Street) and then led back towards the Historic Storehouse. On the way, the Cerisy



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Square (church forecourt) decorated with flags, including the star-spangled banner, offered a suitable opportunity for a group picture. Special thanks to Werner Gees, who documented the visit photographically and captured the cheerful mood well in the pictures. (see <https://www.scharmede.de/fotoalben/11-05-2023-besuch-aus-amerika-fotos-w-gees/>).

Back in the Historic Storehouse, it was time for refreshments. A typical Westphalian buffet was served: bread, sausage specialties and pea stew, supplied by the Timmer butcher shop. Those who liked could taste a beer to go with it. Then the program continued. First Marion Neesen of the Westfalen-Blatt interviewed the American guests (see article from May 13, 2023, picture 3 in the photo album on the homepage), before at 2 p.m. mayor Ulrich Berger arrived, decorated with his chain of office, and welcomed the guests in English. As a souvenir of their visit, he presented the Hoenig couple with breakfast boards engraved with significant buildings from Salzkotten. Around 3 p.m., the tour of the church of Thuele followed, including an ascent to the bell tower. Here the church guide Reinhard Syring even let the visitors strike the bells. The visit to the church of Thuele took the guests to the place where the births, marriages and deaths of the Scharmede ancestors of the Hoenig family were celebrated and documented. As is well known, Scharmede did not become an independent church parish until 1906. The beautiful acoustics of the church of Thuele could be experienced with the spontaneously intoned Irish hymn "May the road bring us together ...". Afterwards, a look at the cemetery was possible and time for a family photo "Hoenig / Brinkmann" in front of the 1000 year old church tower.

Finally, the farm of the Höddinghaus family in Hoevelhof-Espeln was visited, another link to Tony Hoenig's ancestors. The father of Joan Jodocus Casper Hönig(hoff), who emigrated to America in 1847, came from the farm („Vollmeierhof“) in Espeln. This Johann Ferdinand Höddinghaus (= Joes Ferdinandus Hönig(hoff)) had probably come to Scharmede in 1808 as a day laborer and had married Anna Maria Katharina Heidemeier (the farm later called Brinkmann / Haelui) in the same year in the church of Thuele. The American guests were welcomed in Espeln by three generations of the Höddinghaus family with open arms at the big family table. In addition to Grandma Gertrud Höddinghaus, her son Uli and daughter-in-law Kathrin Höddinghaus were present with their children Merle, Luisa and Bastian, as well as Uli's sister Birgit Pachur, née Höddinghaus, and her daughter Eva Pachur. Grandma Gertrud had specially baked a delicious sheet cake, which was enjoyed and highly praised, while the family connections were extensively and animatedly discussed. (Recipe and preparation of the sheet cake were also exchanged).

Around 5:30 p.m., the visit ended with a warm farewell. Despite drizzle, guests and hosts had experienced an impressive day steeped in history, gained lasting impressions and made new friends. Contact across the big pond has now been firmly re-established after 175 years.

Scharmede, May 14, 2023



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The members of the working group on local history would like to thank all those involved for their active participation!

Illustrations in the preceding text:

- 1) Historical aerial view: the Schulte farm before 1945 (on the rear right side the Historical Storehouse) (Foto: Family Archive K.-J. Alpmann)
- 2) Former St. Catherine's Chapel (1907 demolished) (Author unknown; from Kohlenberg, Scharmede. Ein Heimatbuch, page 204)
- 3) Front view of the former house Kröger (last named Sallen), built 1610 (Detail of the front door leading into the great hall), nowadays: BKM Forum (Foto: Heribert Knapp)
- 4) Earliest register of real estate from 1829, Flur 9, Abt. 3 (enlarged section), house number 8: Heidemeier / house number 12: Wulfmeier (Paderborn district, Office for Geoinformation, Register of real estate and survey)
- 5) First school in Scharmede, previously located at the site of the war memorial: Construction plan of the first Scharmede School (drawing from 1850) (Archive of the city of Salzkotten, B 404)