

The Westhues Family

Compiled
by
Sr. Mary Westhues
and numerous volunteers
1979 - 1988

Printed by Harold Westhues
and presented to the families on the occasion of
the 40th Anniversary of Ordination of
Msgr. Jack Westhues at Joplin, Mo., July 3, 1988

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BEGINNINGS

The History of the William Westhues family coming to America begins with a brave woman . . Mrs. Theresa Peters. Her husband, Johann Herman, died in an accident at the age of 50. She remained in Germany another 12 years, but because of the good word received from the Fortman family relatives and other friends who had come to America, she and her five sons came to Missouri and purchased a farm at Aholt, about eight miles North of Glasgow. Her oldest son, George, was 25 at the time. The next son, Joseph, who was 23 when the family left, decided to remain in Germany where he had an excellent job with a railroad.

According to the Peters family of Glennonville, Mrs. Peters had a sister, Diana Bernadine who married Heinrich Potthoff on October 30, 1849. They remained in Germany. Their 4 children were: Wilhelm Heinrich, Anna Gertrude, Maria Franziska and Maria Elizabeth.



Mrs. Peters and her four sons who came to America. Back row, John, ^{Fritz,} Henry and Herman. Front row, Mrs. Peters, George and Fritz. ^{Henry.}

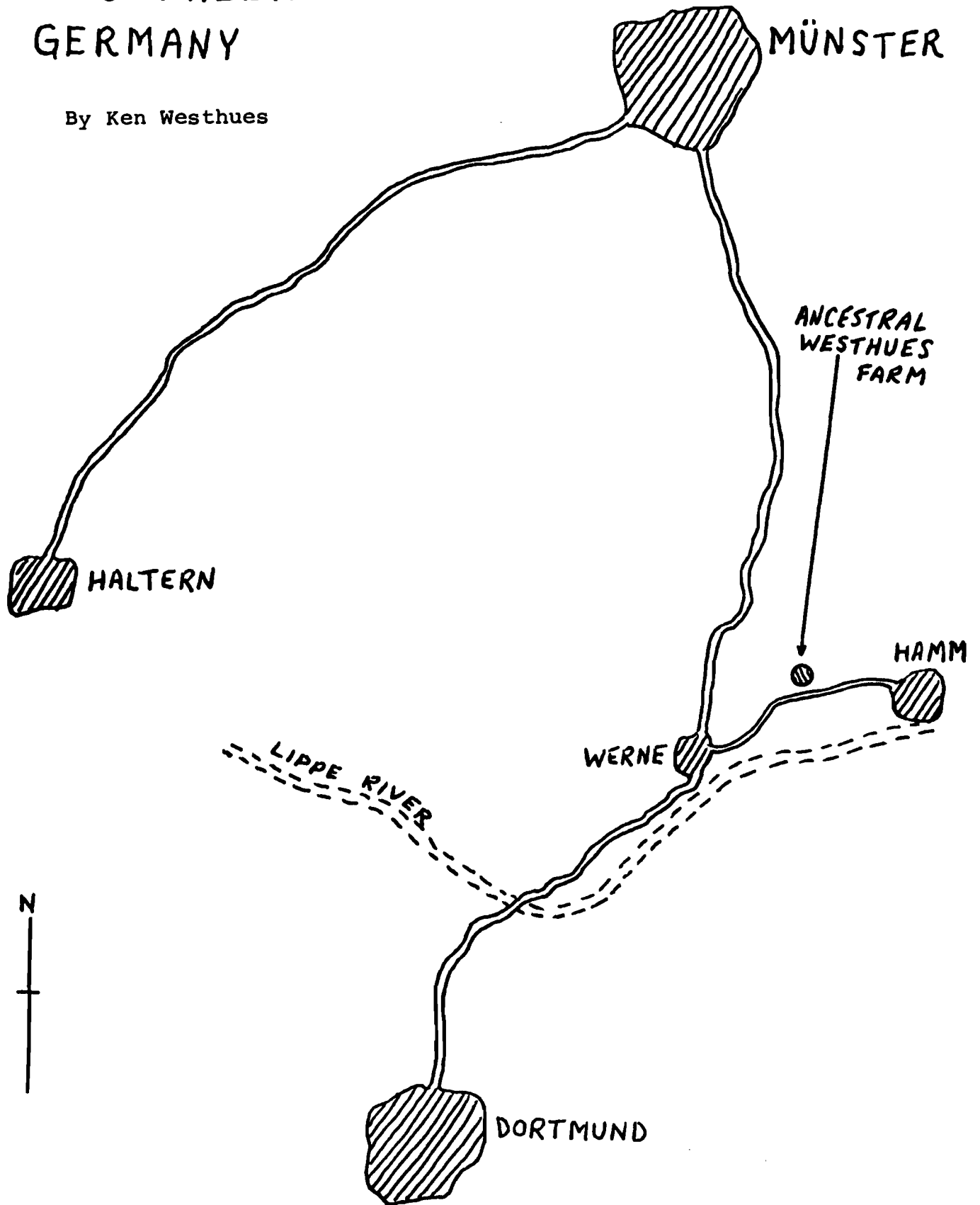


Map of a section of Westphalia in Germany where the Westhues-Peters family lived before coming to America. "Werne" on the Lippe River is between Munster and Dortmund. William Westhues was born on the family farm at Horst, near Werne. The Peters family came from a small area called Sythen which is near Haltern, West of Werne. The William Westhues family rented a farm near Greven before coming to America. Greven is North of Munster.



MÜNSTERLAND WESTFALEN GERMANY

By Ken Westhues



The Fuemmeler family came to the Glasgow area from Sythen in Westphalia, Germany. Mrs. Peters and her sons had a farm in the same area and were influenced by these friends as well as the Fortmann family (relatives of the Peters family) who had preceded them to Missouri.

THE GLASGOW MISSOURIAN

IT'S Like Coming Home

By Mrs. Pauline Fuemmeler

Many people know that their family originally came from another country like England, Ireland, Germany etc. but not too many get the chance to return to the old world and trace down the family tree. Recently Fr. James Fuemmeler, accompanied by his mother, Pauline Fuemmeler got that chance.

Thanks to the help given by Mrs. Albert Stockman by way of information and a map drawn by her, the Fuemmelers were able to find the little village of Sythen in Westphalia, Germany; the place which Joseph Fuemmeler left in 1853 to come to America and settle in the Glasgow, Missouri area. The records at "City Hall" in Haltern, (the County Seat more or less) show that in the follow-

ing year, 1884, Joseph Fuemmeler sent for his father, mother and brother to join him here in America. No present day Fuemmelers were found in the village of Sythen or the town of Haltern but when the officials were informed of the way the family, transplanted to the new soil of America had grown, they became interested in helping trace the family tree.

Joseph Anton Fuemmeler, born 1855, was the son of John Henry Fuemmeler born 1812, who in turn was the son of John Bernard Fuemmeler born 1783, who was the son of Joseph Henry Fuemmeler born 1760. The books at City Hall do not go back any further than 1780 but the Baptismal records at St. Sixtus Church in Haltern from which these records were also verified, go back to about 1440. One of the Baptismal record books is missing due to the 100 years war in Europe. Fr. Fuemmeler spent a day paging through the records in the church the early ones being in Latin, were sometimes easier to read than the later ones in German. The script was very faded but he thinks that he found the fam-

ily name as Caterina, daughter of Joseph and Anna Fuemmeler born July 11, 1663. Since the name might have been Fimpeler instead of Fuemmeler, he cannot be sure it is the same family name. The spelling of the family name in German is FÜMMELER with an "Umlaut" over the "U." The extra "E" was probably added to give the English pronunciation. On one of the records the name is spelled "FIMMELER" which is either a mistake or a variant spelling, since the wife's name on both records is the same.

The old Fuemmeler house is still standing and still used for a home, though the floor level is now a restaurant with the family living upstairs. The family always lived upstairs, the lower level was the barn at one time. The present owner is the granddaughter of the man who bought the house from the Fuemmeler family. She said the house is the oldest now standing in Sythen and was built about 1620. Four generations of Fuemmelers lived in this house but we don't know if they built it or not.

Another interesting record given Fr. Fuemmeler by Mr. Will

Pfeiffer, who runs the Pfeiffer Guest House where the Fuemmelers stayed while in Sythen, shows a Fuemmeler drafted for a work detail during the Franco-Prussian war under Napoleon in 1808.

"While perusing the Church records," says Fr. Fuemmeler, "Certain names familiar in Glasgow kept cropping up, for instance there was a Henry Thies born 1763, a Herman Thies born 1684, and others much later than this," "The oldest records show a Bernard Hagedorn born 1667, and a John Wösthuis, son of Henry Wösthuis, born 1758." The English pronunciation of that last name would be about the same as "Westhues."

"With all the familiar family names it was almost like 'Coming home' for a visit, and that is the way the people there treated us," say the Fuemmelers.

The village of Sythen is quite old, Herr Wilhelm Pfeiffer, mentioned above, wrote a small book on the history of Sythen in which he traces it back to the seventh century. According to the Annals of the Frankish kingdom, Sythen, or Sitina as it was called

in Latin must have an outpost of the kingdom of Charlemagne (Charles the Great). Mention is made that in the year 758 under Pippin, King of the Franks, that a yearly tribute of 300 horses came from the Saxons near "Sitina". It is called "Sitimi" in 889 by Bishop Wolfhelm of Munster and "Situnne" in 1017. In 1331 it was called "Siethen," and remains "Sythen" to this day.

He traces the origin of the name to "the place where Siu or Ziu, a war god of the Saxons, was worshipped.

← NOTE:

We have learned of no connection of this Westhues family with the Glasgow family.