

The Coronation Jubilee 1841

From the 1841 Yearbook of Pastor Gottlob H. Wittich

As in other towns a commemorative oak tree was planted by the county forester in the State forest by Rohrbronn, and by the town authorities at the entrance to the Town Forest beside the Rems River. At the same time a stone monument was erected near a scenic spot with various unusual trees near Goldboden in the Engelberger district.

This short remark of Pastor Wittich from the year 1841 refers to the 25 Year Jubilee celebration of the reign of King Wilhelm I of Württemberg. He ascended to the throne at Stuttgart in October of 1816. Historians' judgments of him vary widely, from "a practical, sensible nature" to a "dilettantish project maker." But these strongly colored statements cannot alter the fact that he was much beloved throughout the land.

A visible expression of this esteem of his subjects is the Jubilee Pillar in the palace courtyard in Stuttgart. A bronze relief shows the monarch receiving homage of both houses of parliament. That he especially advocated the interests of the state forests and forestry management was expressed throughout the state in many improvements and tree plantings. So it was at *Goldboden* by the crossroads.

Observant strollers in Geradstetten, moreover, know the monument stone set by Mayor David Friedrich Lederer* and forestry personnel by the entrance to the old vineyard path in the town forest of Gerstenholz. A few meters left of the path, barely visible and almost overgrown by shrubs, stands the monument commemorating the Jubilee.

A small wooden bench next to the monument with a broken back support is hardly inviting to sit on, as a view is no longer to be had. One wishes that the town would do something here a bit more friendly.

The monument, of local sandstone, with dimensions 35x27 cm is about 50 cm high, shaped on top like a pitched roof. The four sides carry the following inscriptions:

Westside: In memory of the 25 Year Jubilee of the reign of King Wilhelm

Northside: Dedicated by Mayor Lederer Seibold Palmer

Southside: Presiding forestry officials Head Forester v. Kahlden and R. F. Zaiser

Eastside: 31 October 1841
(Under that the coat of arms of an M with a cross on top.)

(Mayor David Friedrich Lederer*, Johann Seibold* and Tobias Palmer were the community trustees.)