From the History of Geradstetten

by

Oberlehrer Julius Seibold

First published on the occasion of the festival:

"Hometown Days, Geradstetten, 1960"

Translated by William and Frauke Palmer

Translators' Preface to "Aus der Geschichte des Dorfes Geradstetten" [From the History of Geradstetten] by Oberlehrer Julius Seibold from the booklet "Heimattage Geradstetten 1960" [Hometown Days Geradstetten 1960]

On the occasion of a four-day festival, Hometown Days 1960, the town of Geradstetten published a handsome 100 page booklet which includes a charming article by its school Headmaster Julius Seibold. For the sake of family members, other descendants of immigrants from Geradstetten, and any interested parties, we have translated this article into English. We have tried as best we can to remain true to the original text (and hope that those better versed in German can give us their advice for changes and improvements).

First, a short biography of Julius Seibold, adopted from "*Cantate Domino, a Celebration of the Centenary of the Church Choir of the Geradstetten Lutheran Community, 1899-1999*," by Hans Rilling:

Julius Seibold

Julius Seibold was born im Geradstetten on 21 Dec. 1901. Educated as a teacher in Michelbach/Bilz, his first job was at a school with eight class levels in Schäftersheim. He was the only teacher! He returned to Geradstetten in 1948, and served there as Headmaster of the local school.

With great industry he applied himself to the study of local history. Herr Seibold wrote down the results of his research in many manuscript pages, but unfortunately published little of it. What survives is his *History of the Town of Geradstetten Since the Middle Ages* [printed in *Heimattagen 1960*, and translated here intoEnglish], a history of the school, and a survey of the historical houses in Geradstetten. With the county archivist Rummel, he looked through all the civil and church proceedings, and preserved for posterity the most interesting documents. He was extremely active in retirement, working tirelessly on these activities. He died on 20 Dec. 1983 in Schorndorf, and is buried in Geradstetten.

He was choir director in Geradstetten from 1954 to 1960, succeeded by Hans Rilling. The choir profited from Herr Seibold's history hobby. No festival was complete without a talk from him on

the early town history. He knew how to relate this in a light and lively way for all to enjoy. He spiced all these talks with anecdotes from his experience as a teacher and choir director. He took his choir director responsibilities very seriously, carried them out in a scholarly way, and always joined in with the singing with his powerful tenor voice.

Translators' Notes

Translating his history has not been an easy one because Herr Seibold wrote for a knowledgeable hometown audience, taking for granted familiarity with local geography and word usage. Concerning geography, it is helpful to know that the town lies in the valley of the Rems River, which runs in westerly direction toward Stuttgart some 15 miles away. Parallel to the Rems on the north and south side the land slopes steeply upward to ridges about 600 feet above the river bed. Before the advent of a smattering of light industry after the 1900s, the town itself consisted of closely clustered houses surrounded by a patchwork of cultivated fields, meadows, orchards, vegetable gardens, vineyards and forests reaching high up the ridges. Each land feature (creek, slope, trail, ridge) has a historical name that Herr Seibold uses to indicate your location as he takes you on his walking tour through the history of the town.

Because of all these references, his article is best read with a map of Geradstetten handy. There is one on the web page, http://www.remshalden.de, but a hard copy is even handier. It is helpful to know that the names of the land features have suffixes that describe the current or historical land use:

German Suffix	English Meaning
--äcker	field
--bach	creek
--gasse	side street
--halde	slope
--hof	courtyard, farm, homestead (Geradsetten has several small satellite towns, which Herr Seibold calls Weiler [Hamlets] which usually have the suffix hof.)
--rain	ridge
--steg	path, climb
--steig	path
--strasse	road, street
--weg	path or trail
--weide	pasture
--wiese	meadow

Additionally it is useful to understand the metric land measure units; 1 a (Ar) = 100 square meters. 1 ha (Hektar) = 100 a = 2.47 acres. A Morgan is another term for a Hektar.

Germany did not emerge from the feudal system until 1600s, with some vestiges remaining for many more years. Thus one encounters in Herr Seibold's history some terms of the times that we translate as follows. (Where a translators note seemed helpful, we have place it in square brackets: [Translator's note].) For titles we use the correspondences *Herzog* [Duke]*, Graf*

[Count], *Freiherr* [Baron], *Ritte*r [Knight].   *Bauer* can mean farmer or peasant. *Schultheiss* we have translated as mayor. *Wingerter* is a dialect of *Weingaertner*, the main traditional occupation of Geradstetten, a person who cultivates grapes for wine production, from tending the vineyards to producing the wine. For want if a better term we use vineyardman.

Palmer, Lederer, Seibold are among the most common names in Geradstetten, especially in the olden days. If you trace my family line as far back as it goes, to the 1500s, their listed occupation is inevitably *Wingerter* though several were also Schultheiss [Mayor] on the side. Those of us who wish to find noble blood in our lines will perhaps be disappointed. Among the string of major and minor nobility that are mentioned in this history, there no Palmers, Lederers, or Seibolds. *Bauers*, yes. *Wingerters*, yes. *Schultheiss*, yes. *Graf, Herzog, Freiherr, Ritter*, definitely no.

It is helpful to understand, as you read this history, that the Geradstetten agricultural economy (for many centuries its only economy) was long dominated by the wine production from the vineyards on the south-facing slopes.   At the same time, milk cows and stock for meat and draft were maintained, and swine and poultry were also raised. Orchards and gardens produced other table fare. Originally there was much land in pasture, but in 1800 the switch was made to feed the animals from hay and grain.

At the beginning of Herr Seibold's article we have placed a Chronology which in the original booklet appears (unsigned) after the article, but seems based on its contents, with some other materials of a 1950s flavor tacked on to its end. These last display the spirit of pride and optimism that the towns people felt in the year 1960, as Germany emerged from a 15-year period of recovery from the devastation of WW II.

Finally, a personal note about what Herr Seibold has done for one of us (wfp). Immigrants live in two worlds and move mentally between them quite successfully. This is sometimes confusing for their children. And so in New York when my parents came together with others from Geradstetten, they entered easily into that other world, and talked around the table with a glass of (California) wine at hand about old times and old places. As a young boy, therefore, even as the Allied Armies marched across France and bombers made their runs on Stuttgart, I heard (endlessly, I thought) about Herbsthalde, Wolfäker, Grabenwiesen, and other places with magical names so very far away. In later years I came to see these places, and even walk about them, but they all were part of a blur of family visits, a jumbled confusion of impressions, somehow incomplete. Now, with map in hand, and guided by Herr Seibold's 40-year old words, I have achieved a kind of completion of perspective: the magic is still there, but the blur is gone as the places are explored again, enriched by his historical ramblings. For these I am grateful.

William and Frauke Palmer
January 2001

"Blick in die Chronik von Geradstetten" (A Look at a Geradstetten Chronology, from the booklet *Heimattage Geradstetten 1960*)

1238   First historical mention of the town's name "Gerhartstetin" (*Hofstaette* [Manor] of Gerhart). At this time Winterbach was its parent town (*Mutterort*), but since 1415 Geradstetten was an independent community.

1291   In a history of Duke Eberhard of Wuerttemberg, "Rufo von Gerhartstettin" was noted as a vineyardman ("*der Wingarter*" [spelling variant of *Wingerter*]). Thus already in these times the vineyards on the south-facing hills of the town must have played an important role. This is also verified by a document of 1371 in which Melchior von Ebersbach sold "all of my wine presses" to Seifried von Zülnhard.

1374   First mention of Geradstetten's small outlying settlement now known as Bauersberg-Hof, then called Stullhardtshof.

1497   The Bishop of Constance approved the establishment of a Geradstetten parish. Formerly Geradstetten belonged to the Winterbach parish [but maintained a chapel in town.] The oldest chapel in town was said to be built in 1309.

1514   Geradstetten was involved in the peasant revolt "*Armen Konrad*" [Poor Konrad]. Ten men had to flee to escape punishment. At this time the town had about 100 households with an estimated population of 500.

1534   Duke Ulrich von Wuerttemberg brings the Reformation to Geradstetten.

1600   Jakob von Gültingen stabs his friend Konrad von Degenfeld by mistake after a drinking party in Geradstetten. [The event has historical and cultural significance, and is the subject of a ballade treated in the famous folk song collection Das Knabenwunderhorn. Jakob came from Schorndorf to Geradstetten in his capacity as overseer [Vogt] to transact some business. After a drinking party with his friend Konrad at the mayor's house, with whom they were staying, they retired. In the middle of the night, a figure wrapped in a sheet entered Jacob's room. Frightened, Jacob stabbed the man to death. It turned out to be his friend Konrad. It all appeared to be a mistake, but Jacob, heart-broken was taken to Waiblingen and thrown into jail, waiting for trial. The townspeople expected him to be exonerated, but to their horror he was beheaded. Later it appeared that the Duke who sentenced him was under the influence of an evil minister, who himself was beheaded by the Duke's son many years later when his treachery was exposed.]

1618/48 The Thirty Years' War wrecks severe damage on the town. Over a third of the buildings are destroyed, and many townspeople are killed or die from epidemics. The population declines from about 700 to 183 people. The population did not reach 700 again until 1726.

1687   By property transactions with the last landlords [outside of Württemberg jurisdiction],

Geradstetten became fully a part of Wuerttemberg. In the previous centuries families of the Knights of Seldneck, Zülnhard, Lichtenstein, Ebersberg or Ebersbach and Urbach had property in town outside the domain of Württemberg.

1760   The so called "Upper Wine Press" and the "New Wine Press" (built in 1577) were dismantled to make room for a new installation.

1786   Pasturing was given up in favor of stall-feeding. The number of steers multiplied quickly. In this time the "Obstbau" [fruit orchards] also developed very strongly.

1850   The town has 1900 inhabitants. In the following famine years the town loses about 500 inhabitants, partially to emigration [some to the US].

1861   Geradstetten gets rail service along the newly built Remstal line, but with no station, using Grunbach's instead.

1905   The first industry, the Robert Kempf textile mill, appears.

1912   The schoolhouse is built on Bahnhofstrasse.

1917   The second industry arrives, the powder mill of the textile concern Robert Kempf.

1936   Acquisition of the Robert Kempf factory by the Badisch-Württembergische Wellpapierfabrik [corrugated paper factory] Klingele und Holfelder

1950   Mayor Wilhelm Gayer assumes office, and is voted in again in 1956. In these years the town boomed through planned development of industry with its own rail spur and its own service road along the other side of the Rems River; construction of a settlement for refugees [German-speaking people fleeing from the east after WW II. The population of the town almost doubled]; and by forward-looking financing of sewer appropriations.

1951   50th year celebration of the Sport Club of Geradstetten. Celebration of the new citizens [These are the refugees referred to above] of the county of Waiblingen. Connection of the industry park and the refugee settlement to the new water system.

1953   Celebration of the first "*Heimattage*" [The 1960 Heimattage Celebration brought forth this Chronology in its brochure.] Creation of a model layout design for the "Obstanlage" [orchards] on the high hills above the town.

1953/54 Construction of the swimming pool with accompanying buildings and playing fields. Construction of the new bridge over the Rems River to replace the old bridge which was severely damaged in WW II.

1954/56 Construction of a new by-pass road for Grossheppach, Grunbach, Geradstetten, and Hebsack.

1956   Major flooding causes wide destruction. Construction of a war memorial. Etched in the
        stone are the names of 61 dead in WW I, and 109 dead and 26 missing in WW II.

1957   For the first time the town's annual maintenance budget passed one million DM.
        Nothing better illustrates the strong boom of the town than the fact that this budget was
        185,000 DM in 1949, and had climbed already to 863,000 DM in 1954. Founding of the
        Business and Commerce Club. The Music Club "Harmonie" celebrates its 50th
        anniversary.

1958/59 Construction of the new school and the beginning of the expansion of the sports
        complex. The number of employed climbs to 1300. In 1950 it was only 630.

1960   Renovation of the old school as the new Rathaus and breaking ground for construction of
        the new Catholic church.

Oberlehrer Julius Seibold: Aus der Geschichte des Dorfes Geradstetten [From the History of the Town of Geradstetten]

The Stuttgart State Archive contains a purchase record from 1291, in which Count Eberhard der Rauschebart sold a farm in Schorndorf [town four miles east of Geradstetten]. Among the buyers was a Rufo de Gerhartstetin also known as "Wingerter" [vineyarder]. From the Swabian historian Crusius we also know the contents of a purchase record from1290, among the witnesses to which is named the same Rufo. In his history of the settlement of Württemberg, Weller in fact gives 1238 as the oldest record of Geradstetten, but he does not give his source.

In the latter work it is argued that Geradstetten was in fact founded in 800 in the "*karolingischen*" times [Times of the Carolingians, a seventh and eight century dynasty whose line includes Charlemagne, *Karl der Grosse*] . This date seems somewhat late because we know from *alemannischen Gräberfunden* [old Germanic tribe grave remains] that settlements existed in Schorndorf and Beutelsbach in pre-Christian times. In a Grunbach [neighboring] town historical play [Heimatspiel] the founding of Grunbach is set by G. Seibold using poetic license as 558.

Concerning the question of where the town center is, that is the homestead of Gerhart, first note that new settlements need roads and water, and if they are not there they must be created. Next one must notice that in early times the main traffic moved in the east-west direction in this region. Thus the Hochstrasse [High Road] runs on the northern boundary of our town border; it still serves today as a path from Buoch [neighboring town to the north] to Schorndorf, and is considered a prehistoric and Roman passage. Parallel to this, the Hauptstrasse [Main Street] also goes east-west, through the town center, and was probably also used by the Romans. The post route on the north side of the Rems River, a horse and cart road, was another road connection, with a similar road on the south side of the Rems, indicated in the 1797 survey [Marktordnung] of Beutelsbach as "Schorndorfer Weg." This route ran by the Fehrenbacher Feldhauslein [small houses used for shelter in the fields] on the current Alfred-Klingele Strasse.

The Kaiserstrasse runs only a few meters from our border. It was so named because it carried deliveries from the Hohenstaufen Castle to the Kaiserpfalz [palace] in Waiblingen. [The Hohenstaufen are a dynasty that ruled Germany from 1138 to 1208. They were based in Swabia.] In the Beutelsbacher survery of 1797 this road was called "Ulmer Strasse." For a long time it served as the wine route from Heilbronn to Ulm. We call it a *fränkische Heerstrasse*, which ran through Uhlingen to the region of the current autobahn.

Compared to these east-west roads, the north-south roads were secondary. They went across the Rems River, which in early times impeded traffic, and indeed was frequently flooded. In 1816 the Rems was said to have over flowed its banks 15-18 times. River fords were very limited. In 1854 there were 15 fords between Ramsbach by Schorndorf and Zehntenbach by Grunbach. The important fords for Geradstetten were: 1. "Steinfurt" below the mouth of Grunbach. 2. The ford by the hamlet Fehrenbach, which one can recognize in the Gewand Lissin property map of 1832. 3. The ford below Lochbach by present day Steg. It was called Wolfsgässlein. 4. The most important ford was by the present day gymnasium and was called Wolfgasse, Viehgasse, or

Ziegelhütten ford.

Now more about the north-south roads. Below the town we have Mühlenweg, so called because a mill was built there 100 years ago. Earlier it was called Bildstochweg and it originally connected the castle on Kindlesbrunnen with the valley roads. The most important north-south road, however, was the Mühlgasse, now [1960] called Bahnhofstrasse [Rathausstrasse today]. Its continuation to the south is the Weinweg which starts from Kaiserstrasse. Its north extension runs over Staig, an old cart path, to the Hochstrasse. Since 1866 it has not been traveled as the townspeople that year got permission to use the Ruofenbergweg.

Now let us talk about water resources. There is the Dorfbach [town creek], which today only school children hear about, that runs under Seegasse and Schmaltzgasse. The creek was diverted in the middle ages around the town to the Rems ford around where the old bridge stood. If you can reach this marshy area, we conjecture you will find an early stone age settlement. In 1936 Hermann Palmer found a stone plowshare made of hornblende slate there.

For every settlement, the establishment of fountains [*Brunnen*] was very important. In 1576 there were three fountains. After the Thirty Years War, only two remained, a less important one having been given up. Because the Burgbrunnen [Castle Spring] originally served the high stables, the town center used only the Gaigelerbrunnen which stood across from street from the inn "Lamm." It was given up in 1901. From the present day construction of the drainage system, we know how wet the ground is in this region. However, with the increased growth of the town, this water was still insufficient. In 1953 a Middle Ages water line was discovered made of clay pipes that brought additional water from the Märzensteige. As far as we know, the water from the current spring there was led to the fountain in wooden chutes.

From these considerations of water sources and roadways, we can see that the original town center is found somewhere between the inns "Krone" and "Lamm." In the oldest property books the current Raitengasse is called "im Hof." [in the central square or yard] . Whether the name Raitengasse is related by sound to Roite=Hofraum is not established in our study.

The second root of our settlement died away. The Burgstall was last called that in 1495, but the term lives on in property descriptions. It lay a few meters south of the present day children's fountain, which is fed by the Burgbrunnen [Castle Spring]. By Burgstall is meant the castle or residence of a minor nobleman. Apparently the family of Ruef von Gerhartstetin, to whom we found a 1290 reference in Schorndorf, resided here. In the official records, the owner of Burgstall was given as Herren von Seldeneck. We know however that they [the Seldenecks] held this property for only a short time prior to this. They acquired this property from Ritter von Ursbach, through marriage, and then gave the ownership back to him soon after.

We must say a bit also about the other smaller settlements around Geradstetten. Across the Rems by the railroad station in Alfred Klingele Strasse stood the Weiler [Hamlet] Fehrenbach which in property maps is known as Ferbach and Fehrenbacher Rain. According to various sources between 1369 and 1416 it was called Verherbach. This changed later to Vehrenbach or Fehrenbach. In the Thirty Years War the hamlet disappeared. The hamlet border was maintained until 1833, but land within it was divided between Grunbach and Geradstetten, For

this reason I can still find some border markers with the letter F. There were two related hamlets, divided by the Postweg into Ober- und Unterfehrenbach [Upper and Lower Fehrnbach.] The fountain [for the hamlet] stood near the Rems.

Several hamlets lay high in the hills above Geradstetten. At the forest edge was Bauersberg, also known as Oberer Hof. In 1374 it was called Stullhardtshof, in 1525 Mayerhof, and later Schieferlinshof. The names are those of the earlier owners. The name Bauersberg only emerged in the last century. The original house was taken down in 1800. It stood about where the present Mayerle house is.

At the end of the Thirty Years' War, Kernershof, another hamlet, stood abandoned. The owner had fled into town for safety. Soon Kernershof found a new settler called Bäder from Grunbach. The original house is the Haus Schäfer, which stood already in 1529, when Hans Vaihingen lived there. The settlement has the further name "auf dem Osterberg" because of which there is confusion in the old records concerning which settlement is meant. In the records after the Thirty Years War various names can be found. G. Seibold made the connection between Osterberg and the Germanic god Ostara, whose altar could well have stood on the heights of this hamlet. Today the Osterbach is the boundary between Grunbach and Geradstetten. We suspect that Kernershof was founded after the boundary was drawn since otherwise it would have been given to Grunbach.

In contrast to these homesteads that grew into hamlets, Rollhof is today still an individual homestead. In 1588 two farm houses were already mentioned. In 1500 it was called Zillhardtshof because it was a Zillhardt fief. In 1646/47 the remains of the abandoned homestead, then called Büchelersberg were sold for salvage. In 1680 it was built up again by the son of the Kernershof farmers. This farm seems to be a more recent settlement, perhaps later than Bauersberg, because Hofäcker and Lichterberg are counted among the latest. It was a wonderful setting, but water had to be carried up from the Rollbrunnen. Farm stock had to be driven for water to a small pond that lay behind the Segeln over which the Eisbronnklinge lay.

Geradstetten at the End of the Middle Ages

In general the Middle Ages are regarded as the period up to 1500. Here I would like to include the Thirty Years War. Originally I wanted to title this section "Geradstetten in the Age of Chivalry [Rittertum]." It appeared, however, that the nobility did not give up its privileges until 1687. The last private possessions were not given up until 1800, and the duties and obligations that stemmed from the age of chivalry were not removed for several more decades.

Since the rise of the Counts of Württemberg, Geradstetten was partly in their territorial possession. It probably was a part of the inheritance that the mother of this family received from her father, the last Count of Beutelsbach. His castle once stood on the Kappelberg, the last spur of the Schönbühl [a hill] above Beutelsbach. However, only a part of our land was in direct possession of the Wuerttembergs. The main part was in fief or tenancy to lesser noblemen. These in turn put the land in tenancy to the peasants. In later years one can find properties encompassing as many 20 tenants. The remaining lands that were more loosely held were encumbered with various assignments and obligations.

One cannot in this short treatment completely cover the history of the times and the state of property divisions. It is sufficient to say a bit about the noble families. In 1344 we hear of Walter von Ebersberg. His family originally came from Ebersbach an der Fils [ten miles southeast of Geradstetten] and later had their castle in Burgholz by Unterberken. In 1374 Seifried von Zillhart took over these lands. This noble family was originally from Schlat (County Göppingen) [15 miles southeast] but then bought property in Dürnau. In 1356 Schweniger vom Lichtenstein by Honau sold his portion to Württemberg. In 1369 we learn of Johann vom Seldenegg, a family from the Rothenburg region, related to Herr von Urbach, whose castle ruled over Oberurbach. [It is clear from this section the town was held by a shifting collection of mostly absentee owners, based a day or more ride away by horse.]

Increasingly the Württembergers came into possession of the town. Our oldest sources in the town archives are concerned with property transaction of 1506/07 between Zillhart and Duke Ulrich von Württemberg. Henceforth Württemberg possessed two-thirds of the town and Zillhart the rest. At that time, Geradstetten had two mayors and two budgets. The Zillharts still possessed the house at Schmalzgasse 14/16. In 1600 this was the location of the tragedy that is the subject of our *Heimatspiel* [town historical play, described earlier.] In 1623 the house came into private hands because the Dürnau branch of the family died out. Their rights in Geradstetten fell to the branch in Ettlingen (Baden). In 1687 Württemberg took over the remaining one-third of the town, including 40 ½ houses, four barns, 109 acres of growing fields, 121 acres of pasture, 210 acres of vineyards, 22 acres of vegetable gardens, 40 acres of land, and one winepress. The private holdings went in 1623 to the Barons von Degenfeld, whose castle stood high over the town of Eybach by Geislingen. In 1560 a Zillhart acquired title to the house at Weinbergweg 11/13. Henceforth 12 acres bordering the vineyard came into Zillhart possession. In 1623 these vineyards passed by inheritance to the Barons von Degenfeld, and remained in future years in the possession of various nobility. For a time they belonged to the Kurfuersten [Prince-Electors] von Bayern [Bavaria], by which the property name Bayerle is explained.

The history of the various forested properties remained to be discussed. In 1497 the old Hau (by the Weinweg) was bought by Jörg von Zillhart. In 1515 the Zillharts sold two-thirds of the combined forest to the community woods in Oberholz between the Rohrbronn and Gemeinde forests. In 1665 the town bought 134 acres of forest, now called Zillhart, from a Degenfelder who inherited it from his uncle Wolf Niklas von Degenfeld in 1623.

How was this land used in the Middle Ages?

Although we have no formal history of agriculture in the middle ages, we are not quite unenlightened. Before the vineyards were built up, the land in the valley was worked. In the high water zone there were only pastures, and higher mostly fields. Along the Rems on both sides there were pastures which belonged to the town for all to use. [Herr Seibold now refers to various pieces of pasture land with which his audience is familiar.] Names like Stegwiese, Sandwiese, Hutwiese and Grabenweise do not need explanation. [Steg=incline, Sand-sand, Hut=hat, protection, and Graben=grave.] Altach means old water. The Aucht was the Nachtweide [night pasture] for the neighboring hamlet of Fehrenbach. Wörth is the expression for an island or peninsula. The Pilgerwiesen were originally called Au which refers to water.

The present day name Bilderwieser is explained as named after a Bildstock [signpost] at the crossing of Muehlenweg and Postweg. The property name Lissen is related to the word Los [=chance. See below].

The land was tilled in three ways in the middle ages. We know these divisions for the Fehrenbach land. For the smaller plots it is not so easy to understand the divisions because they were soon abandoned because of the high use density.

South of the Rems the fields must originally have extended to the cattle drive trail that ran over from Weinberg down to the region of the powder factory and there met with another trail from the Hamlet of Fehrenbach to the Beutelsbacher Forest. Where the upper Bruehlaecker bends around a corner, there was the border of this farmland. As old fields of this type you should include the Bossinger, Brühl, Lind, and Ferbach parcels.

Later the land at the foot of the hills was widened by clearing forest. The names Meisenhau and Reutin (roden) still refer to the original forests. The name Gabäker refers to the annual firewood give-away of the town to the townspeople. After the town code revision of 1576, rights to firewood were apportioned by lottery. The people were given a short time in the area to fell and cart away firewood. Because cash money was scarce, the wood was paid for by Gabwein [wine as barter]. The expression Los [chance or lottery] sticks with us today.   We may include the Gewand Schweinbach with this second zone of land use. Later there followed a third land use zone. The 1694 Kellereilagerbuch [the celler storage record] of Schorndorf, based on records of 1605 and 1610, states: constant uncollected storage fees 'vom Forst herkommend' [from the following forests]: Gaisstelle, Salgäu, Hörnle, Wolfäcker, Sommerberg or Forstmeister, Unrechtshalde und Lohweinberg. Loh or Lock meant forest. Later the Neuenberg was cleared. Between 1700 and 1800 this was followed by Schoenbuehlstueckle, the hill with Sommerrain and smaller pieces on Lochbach in the section near the new firing range.

In the opposite direction, many of these Waldwiesen [pasture from cleared forest] were reforested because in 1800 the practice of sending stock to pasture was given up. Among reforested pieces are the Hummelswiese or the old Weilerwiese. Where the Schweinbach ends, Viktor Maier showed me an old Weidstein (W St) [meadow marking stone] which belonged to the Birch "wasen"; he also showed me a stone with the inscription "Stalin." The solution to this puzzle: about 50 m behind the dredged Forest party house once stood the "Stelle," that is the hut for the Weidvieh [pasture animals] of the Hebsacker [a neighboring villager.] It is placed in the Weidbuch [pasture book] of 1715 in reference to the six "Bild" oakes. A bildstock [sign post] apparently once stood there.

From early times the south-facing slopes of the Rems were worked intensively for wine production. In 1374 a mention of the vineyards of Bauersberg already appears. The area of the creeks however remained forested for a long time. The property names Klingert or Klink-hardt mean forest in the Klinge [sword or swath of forest along the creek]. On the Heilingenbach we find the property names Haag, on the Dorfbach the name Reutin. Nearby are the Brändlin (cleared by burning). The Eulengreut speaks of burning. It was earlier called Neugereut, And sometimes Zillhartsgreut. The Knabenhalde might once have been brought into cultivation by the pages [Knappen] or squires [Junkern] of Zillhardt. Later the Bücheler [small beech wood]

between Bauershof and Rollhof was cleared. The forest behind Kernershof was cut down at the request of the Grunbachers because they wanted to clear this border of woods.

How did the town develop during the Middle Ages? Where Bahnhofstrasse branches off from Main Street there were three lanes. The upper Main Street had the name Obenausgasse, lower Main Street had the name Gaisgasse, and the Bahnhofstrasse was called Mühlgasse. The Vaihengasse is today called Kochgasse. Without doubt the old name meant Viehgasse [stock lane]. It lead up to the Hummelberg, where again we have the property name Stelle [hut]. The Vaihengasse was once fenced in, isolated, and therefore the enclosed land even in our times is called Bainden [corral?]. From this area the town reached north to the current Schmaltzgasse and in later times to behind the originally isolated church, overlooking the houses below. Those living in the shadow of the church were in the Klause [=cell or jail] So I take this name to be an expression of folk humor.

In 1500 the town had around 100 families or perhaps 500 inhabitants. The houses at this time extended to Vaihengasse. On the hills stood only a few barns. The position of the current cemetery, laid out in 1560, is still today the east end of the town. The west end of town was the Mack house, Untere Hauptstrasse 26. In the Bahnhofstrasse the houses reached down to the current [1960] teacher housing. The town border on the Weinbergweg was already mentioned. The oldest houses in the Kirchgasse were built between 1500 and 1600. The oldest parsonage by the church was built in 1568. In 1588 three houses stood on Hirschgasse between Seegasse and the Klause. There were four houses on the back connecting lane between the Klause and the Seegasse.

Geradstetteners were also involved in the peasant revolt *Armen Konrad*, which in 1514 further worsened the plight of the peasants. The taxes of the landlords were already oppressively high. In the storage records one can read about four and five part vineyards [1/4 to 1/5 of yield to the landlord]. Of one field it was said that every third sheaf must be left standing [for the landlord]. Because of several bad harvest years, this was very oppressive. The dissatisfaction rose further because of a new tax. It is therefore no surprise that Geradstetten joined the uprising against Duke Ulrich. I don't want to lecture here about the history of the uprising, rather I want only to make a few remarks. Hans Geissberg, the governor of Stuttgart met the rebels on their march from Schorndorf to the Kappelberg by Geradstetten, but could not mollify them. Geradstetten insisted on getting a different bailiff [official, tax collector]. (The first mention that Geradstettn had its own bailiff was in 1431.) We see from this that Geradstetten was already an independent town. Duke Ulrich had ten Geradstetteners sentenced to death. Among them were a father and son.

Landuse in Geradstetten Over the Course of Time

According to 1949 data there were 6.5 square kilometers in Geradstetten apportioned as follows:

Ackerland	Fields	141.63 ha [1 ha = 2.47 acres]
Haus und Nutzgärtin	House and Garden	16.23
Obstanlagen	Fruit Orchards	0.15
Wiesen mit 1. Schnitt	Pasture with one cut	194.88
Wiesen mit 2. Schnitt	Pasture with two cuts	74.43
Rebland	Vineyards	25.81

Agricultural Uses	453.13 ha

Wald	Forest	136.58 ha
Öde	Unusable Land	11.99
Gewässer	Water	6.98
Gebäude	Buildings	40.61

Total	649.20 ha =1604 acres

To the east the border runs almost exactly north-south. To the north the Hochstrasse is the border. In the west the border follows Zehntenbach and a short stretch of the Rems River and then crosses the railroad just above the firm "Holder." In the south the Beutelbacher Forest penetrates the border from the Schurwaldhöhe reaching close to the Geradstetten houses.

In walking along the border you will find on the boundary stones the marking symbols of our neighbors. The oat sheaf tells of the original farming of the Hösslingswarters, a pipe [Rohr] indicates the name Rohrbronn, Hebsack shows a Z and Winterbach a W. When the State Forest is the border you will find a Staghorn [Württemberg coat of arms]. Beutelsbach has a money purse in its coats of arms, Grunbach the post and hunting horn. On the side indicating our land is an M with the cross on top. Rarely one finds an F [from the former Hamlet of Fehrenbach.]

It is probably no longer possible to definitively explain the origin of our boundary stone symbol. In the last Heimattag, August Lämmle tried to explain the M as standing for our mother town Winterbach's St. Michael church. After the Swabian tribes took over our land, it was called the Hundertschaft Winterbach, which after Christianity came in was a parish of about 200 square kilometer. Included was the Remstal bounded by Wieslauf, Grunbach, Berglen, and the north portion of the Schurwald.

By the same rights one can find the origin of the M as the patron saint, Holy Mary, of the cathedral in Speyer. In 1080 Kaiser Heinrich IV gave this region around Winterbach to the cannon [Domherr] of Speyer, who soon lost the region by around 1100. If one accepts this hypothesis, then it follows that the markers for Grunbach, Geradstetten, and Fehrenbach, which were a threesome, originated then. Perhaps Grunbach early on became independent of the mother town [Winterbach] because in 1275 it already had its own pastor, who in fact acted as a

Dekan [Dean]. Geradstetten which lay nearer the mother town naturally separated later. This is also indicated by the fact that the Winterbach road tolls originally reached to Zehntenbach. When in 1496 the mayor and town council of Geradstetten went through with the separation of the parish from Winterbach, the civil community had certainly been independent for a long time.

The town tradition has it that Geradstetten sold the Beutelbacher forest mentioned earlier for several loaves of bread. This is certainly wrong as Geradstetten belonged to the holdings of the Wüttembergers which acquired the township of Beutelsbach through marriage in 1130. In 1321 title to it was granted to Stuttgart. The proximity of Beutelsbach indicates therefore that especially the southern area of Geradstetten had strong connection with Beutelsbach. Not until 100 years ago did Beutelsbach give up its last rights there.

A source at hand in Geradstetten indicates that on 12 July 1619 Duke Johann Friedrich von Wuerttemberg sold a piece of land for 675 Gulden to the towns of Beutelsbach, Geradstetten, Grunbach and Schnait "*unsere bishero aigenthuemlich Innegehabten Föhrenbacher Rhein, samt der Ehegartten uf der Höhe, so sich uf 200 Morgan Feldts in Mess befunden.*" [until now our own Föhrenbach ridge, together with the old garden on the heights, thus 200 hektar in all.] This region lay between the highway, by which was meant Kaiserstrasse and the Fehrenbacher parcels (later Schnait gave its part to Beutelsbach). Geradstetten's border grew in the Thirty Years War by around 123 acres, the current Schönbühlsstückle. In 1685 more growth followed. The hamlet Fehrenbach disappeared in the aftermath of the war. Its area was about 667 acres. Geradstetten got 370 acres of these and the rest went to Grunbach. As both towns maintained the Fehrenbach borders separate from their own, old borders stayed on the field maps of 1832. Only in later years were these borders given up. The dividing line began from the valley upward to Lochbach. Geradstetten got the east part where the houses of Grunbach reach today. Before the Thirty Years War Grunbach had no land on the other side of the Rems.

In 1814 a border resolution between Geradstetten and Hösslinswart was achieved. The border is Hochstrasse. The marker stones were set on both sides of the road so that each town had to maintain half the road. In 1920 a large agreement was carried through. At this time Geradstetten acquired 245 acres and had to give Winterbach 119 acres. The land resolution of 1922 whereby Geradstetten gave valuable industrial land to Grunbach is most significant. Let us briefly relate this history.

The railroad station for Grunbach was built mostly on Geradstetten land. After 1900 Geradstetten tried to settle industry there and dealt with the manufacturer Kempf who wanted land for a spinning weaving mill. The Sandwiesen was however mostly in the hands of private holders from Grunbach. Schultheiss Deyle saw his chance and quickly acquired these parcels for Grunbach. Thus the factory could not be built there. For this reason the factory today does not sit directly on the rail station. As early as 1906, then repeated in 1909 and 1918, Grunbach made a proposal. In 1922 it was agreed: Grunbach keeps the area where currently the Family Holder factory and the Heinkel factory stand. Geradstetten gets the bought-out Sandwiesen, and thus has the possibility to settle industry there. As a result of this killing, Grunbach is grateful to Geradstetten for the main source of its taxes. [Clever, those Grunbachers! We think this is Swabian high humor.]

A cute story is told in Grunbach. A young workman was caught by nightfall and sought accommodation in the waiting room of the railroad station. – and died there. Early in the morning a railroad worker arrived – he was naturally a Geradstettener, because Grunbachers don't like that line of work – and he determined that the body lay on Geradstetten property. Quickly he dragged the dead man to the other side of the line. Thus the town of Grunbach had to bury the homeless man and pay the associated costs. [This is certainly (high) Swabian humor.]