



Hans Rilling

Hans Rilling was born in Friedrichshafen on the Bodensee (eight meter away from the water, he says) on 19 May 1922. Schooled there, he also benefited from organ lessons, which later were to be so essential as choir director in Geradstetten. He was apprenticed to a surveyor, then served as a soldier in Russia in the Second World War, was taken prisoner, and then returned after the war to his studies as a surveyor. He served forty years he in the traffic bureau in Stuttgart, planning and constructing roads, bridges, and tunnels.

Herr Rilling came to live in Geradstetten, and through his wife's choral interests, he got involved with choir director Julius Seibold when he played cello at one of Herr Seibold's Christmas concerts. Soon he joined the choir to help out the bass section, and before he knew it, not knowing this was to be a thirty-year commitment, he agreed to succeed Herr Seibold as choir director, a post he filled from 1960-1994.

His interests in local history proved to be a happy obsession for us all. He poured over local documents, became a fixture at the archives in Stuttgart, and then wrote prolifically, bringing life to these musty old papers. All of us everywhere, Geradstettener especially, must be grateful that this son of the Bodensee wandered north, settled in the Remstal, and produced such a rich oeuvre of lively, detailed, and scholarly works on the history, mores, and foibles of the folk of Geradstetten.

Here are his works as we know them:

The Series: *Rund um die Konradskirche Geradsetten*  
Around the Konrad Church in Geradstett

*Geschichten aus alter Zeit: "Geradstetter Leut' – Sotte und sotte!"*  
Stories from the Old Days: "Geradstetten Folks: It takes all kinds!"

*Ereignisse aus Geradstettens Geschichte: "We haett au des denkt?!"*  
Events from Geradstetten History: Who Woulda' Thought?!

*"Der Bauesberger Hof": Seine Geschichte, Bewohner und Weinbau*  
Bauersberger Hof: Its History, People, and Wine Cultivation

*Geschichte der Gebaeude in Geradstett: Nach Aufschreibungun von Julius Seibold*  
History of the Houses in Geradstetten: Based on the Works of Julius Seibold

*Cantate Domino: Eine Festschrift zum hundertjaehrigen Bestehen des Kirchenchors der evang. Gemeinde Geradstetten*  
A Commemorative on the 100<sup>th</sup> Year Jubilee of the Geradstetten Lutheran Church Choir

*O Geradstetten! Reimgeschichten*  
Geradstetten Stories in Rhyme

*Socialgeschichtliche Quellen zur Geschichte der Gemeinde Geradstetten aus den Kirchenkoventsprotokollen 1707-1847.*  
Social History sources of Geradstetten History from the Proceedings of the Church Council, 1707-1847

*Remshalden im Spiegel alter Karten*  
Remshalden Viewed Through the Mirror of Old Maps