
Die Deutsche Gefe

The German Corner: #10

Cranberry Prairie

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As some of you may know, my main area of interest is the emigrants from Oldenburger Münsterland, and I have been working on my Oldenburg "project" for several years. I have identified over 2000 Oldenburgers who came to west-central Ohio. At the time of immigration these people came from the *Grossherzogtum Oldenburg* - the **Grandduchy of Oldenburg**. In particular they came from the southern two counties of the Grandduchy, *Amt Vechta* and *Amt Cloppenburg*. These two counties are known as the *Oldenburger Münsterland*. Like all the states and counties of Germany, these too have a complicated yet unique history. At the time of Carl the Great this area comprised the *Lerigau*, *Hasegau*, and *Dersigau*, and had been under the Saxon Chieftain Widukind. The conversion of this area's Saxons began in 800 with the founding of a monastery at Visbek. In 855 this mission territory was transferred to Kloster Corvey. By 980 the secular government of the area had passed to the Counts of Werl-Westphalia, and it was then divided in 1113 between the Counts of Tecklenburg and the Counts of Ravensberg. In 1252 the County of Vechta was sold by Countess Jutta of Ravensberg to the Bishop of Münster. In 1400 the County of Cloppenburg passed from the Count of Tecklenburg to the Bishop of Münster. The Bishop of Münster was the secular ruler of what became known as the *Niederstift Münster*, while its spiritual jurisdiction remained with the Bishop of Osnabrück. After the Reformation and the Thirty Years War, in 1668, the spiritual jurisdiction was given to the Bishop of Münster. The Prince-Bishop of Münster now had both the civil and the ecclesial authority. The Niederstift remained part of the Bishop's jurisdiction until the secularization of church lands in 1803 under the Congress of Vienna. The two counties were given to the Duchy of Oldenburg, just to the north, and they became known as the *Oldenburger Münsterland*. In 1811 the Duchy was taken into the French Empire by Napoleon. After his defeat, it was raised to a Grandduchy in 1814. The *Oldenburger Münsterland* became part of the *Free State of Oldenburg* at the end of World War I and which lasted until 1939. The *Oldenburger Münsterländer* were known during World War II for their strong anti-Hiltler, anti-Nazi sentiments. The former Grandduchy of Oldenburg and its *Oldenburger Münsterland* are part of the present *State of Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony)*.

<i>A German - Latin Lexicon:</i>	LATIN	GERMAN	ENGLISH
	<i>Matrimonium</i>	Trauung Heirat	marriage
	<i>Conjunctus in matrimonium</i>		was joined in marriage
	<i>Copulatus in matrimonium</i>		
		Heiraten	was married
	<i>Conjunxi</i>		I joined
	<i>Copulati</i>		
	<i>solitis tribus denuntiationibus</i>		after the three [banns] were announced

<i>From whence they came...</i>	KINGDOM OF HANNOVER
Schwagstorf:	Pleimann / Plejermann, Trentmann, von der Haar
Timmern:	Varwig
Uchte:	Kammann, Nieter
Venne:	Knostmann
Verliehausen:	Lüdeke
Voltlage:	Denning, Heitbrink, Hermann, Kaiser, Schnippel, Steinlage, Winkeljohann
