
Die Deutsche Ecke

The German Corner: #13

Cranberry Prairie

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PLATTDÜÜTSK KLENNER ©

PALM SUNDAY - PALMSUNNDAG

Brought to Church were long poles decorated with ribbons and frills, and with sprigs of boxwood attached to the top. In some parishes, apples, recalling the forbidden fruit eaten by Adam and Eve and by which sin entered the world, were also affixed to the top. The **Palmstock** spoke boldly of the victory over sin that Jesus rendered through the true Tree of Life, the Tree of the Cross, and the fruit of redemption borne by that Tree. At home, the family carried the blessed **Palmstocks** around the house asking for the Lord's protection and blessing, especially from sickness, storm, and evil spirits. The **Palmstock** was then placed inside the house. During storms a piece of the boxwood were burned. Palm Sunday was the first time for the wearing of summerhats and of no overcoats.

SCHUMMELDAG - ("SCOURING DAY")

What else would be more appropriate in the spring, than spring house cleaning! For our ancestors it was custom with religious connections. On Tuesday of Holy Week, everything was doused with water in a baptism of sorts and scrubbed; every room of the house, every corner of the barn, inside and out was cleaned. The dirt and dust of winter was washed away, preparing it all to celebrate the new life of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Normally, every Saturday was the day to tidy up the house, barn, and yard for Sunday. Everything out of place was put away. Sunday was the Lord's day, and all was to be presentable for Him. In some places the women made intricate designs with sand on the floors of the house and in the yard.

HOLY THURSDAY - GRÖÖNDÖNNERSDAG - ("GREEN THURSDAY")

A soup of greens, among them dandelion leaves, was made and eaten. This was to recall the plants that were at the feet of Christ when He was betrayed by Judas, and as well, the plants at the foot of the cross which received the drops of Christ's Precious Blood. No meat was eaten at meals this day. Nor, could any hammer or ax be used, out of reverence for the cross to which Christ was nailed.

GOOD FRIDAY - STILLENFRÊYDAG - ("SILENT FRIDAY")

Truly it was a silent day. Bells were forbidden to be rung, and prohibited was any work that made noise. The **Black Fast** was observed as well. This meant nothing from living creatures could be eaten; therefore not only meat, but fish, butter, eggs, cheese, and milk, as well. Fare for the day was usually white bean soup, blackbread without butter, and stewed prunes. Gold jewelry was put away as a reminder of the 30 peices of silver which Judas received for betraying the Lord. In a number of villages, families decorated their crucifixes with holly wreaths, the thorns of which being reminders of Jesus' suffering. One task was permitted this day, that of planting potatoes after the 3:00 hour. Everyone participated in the Stations of the Cross, and particularly well attended were those held outside or with a cast of costumed characters.

HOLY SATURDAY - SCHROENSAOTERDAG - ("BARREN SATURDAY")

The household was blessed by the head of the house with the newly blessed **Easter Water**. Fasting and abstinence were continued from Good Friday, but with eggs and herring being permitted. No cooking was done for the evening meal. The night was kept as a vigil of prayer in the cemetery, being a nightwatch for the Resurrection.

From whence they came... PROVINCE OF WESTPHALIA, KINGDOM OF PRUSSIA

Beuken:	Tekamp
Billerbeck:	Garmann, Muhlenkamp, Wehrkamp
Bockholt:	Eiting
Borghorst:	Gudorf
Capelle:	Dabbelt
