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# Die Deutsche Ecke

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The German Corner: #16

Cranberry Prairie

David A. Hoying

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## Convent of MARY, MOTHER OF GOD ~ MARY IN THE GREENWOOD ~ Cassella ~ 1850

*Maria, Mutter Gottes Kloster ~ Maria im Grünenwald / Grünenwald ~ Maria Capella / Marysville*

The place name of the convent, *Mary in the Greenwood*, derives from a shrine dedicated to *Mary, Mother God* at Grünenwald in Alsatia. For the same reason, the chapel and convent bore the title *Mary, Mother of God*. The first land for the convent was purchased in September 1849, and a brick convent was readied. The sisters arrived there on 2 November 1850 to begin their communal life of prayer and work. The Greenwood Convent served as the novitiate for the Precious Blood Sisters, and later it became the residence of the retired sisters. When the new motherhouse at Salem Heights was opened in 1923, this convent was closed and the land eventually sold. The priest and brothers' house still stands along the road. In 1880 the convent had 255 acres of land. That same year there were 36 sisters in the convent, but by 1900 the number had almost doubled to 61 sisters.

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## Convent of the VISITATION OF MARY ~ MARY'S HELP ~ Minster ~ 1852

*Maria Heimsuchung Kloster ~ Marienshilfe / Maria Hilf*

Father Brunner assigned three sisters in 1848 to teach the girls of Saint Augustine Parish, with the sisters residing in a house. The convent was not begun until 1851 and was ready for occupancy in the autumn of 1852. The title given to the chapel and the convent was that of the *Visitation of Mary*. The place name that Father Brunner seems to have given to the convent was that of *Mary's Help*. The village had suffered greatly from a cholera epidemic in 1849, with many children being left orphans. Within the convent Father Brunner established an orphanage to care for these children. It was as well, to be a boarding school, and an addition to the convent in 1855 provided the necessary room for it. The boarding school, *Saint Mary's Institute*, was well known throughout the country. In 1888 a separate building was erected for it. The school was phased out during the 1930's and the building razed in 1963. A new convent was built on the site of the old one and was dedicated on 22 December 1911. This three story building was razed in 1972. The convent had a large farm at the northwest corner of the village, and in 1908 it was decided to begin closing down their farm operation. The total acreage of the convent land at Minster was 225 acres, with 190 of that being farmland. For many years the sisters continued to teach in the local public school system. The numbers of sisters who lived at the convent in 1880 were 39, along with 23 students in the boarding school. In 1900 there were 43 sisters and 42 students.

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

<b>Greven:</b>	Rodweg / Rathweg, Untit, Wendker
<b>GrossReken:</b>	Alte
<b>Gutersloh:</b>	Albers
<b>Hagen:</b>	Feldhake
<b>Heek:</b>	Brüggemann, Farnbach, Sieftring
<b>Herbern:</b>	Bierstick, Griesdorn, Homann, Knapschäfer, Nerdermann, Otte, Schenking, Selhorst, Sudhoff, Walterbusch, Weingarten, Wellmann
<b>Herzebrock:</b>	Kaiser, Rolef, Wedeking, Weisjohann, Westermann
<b>Hiltrup:</b>	Holsen, Piepenbrock
<b>Hopsten:</b>	Brackmann, Deppen, Wermeling
<b>Horstel:</b>	Ungruhn / Ungruhe
<b>Ibbenburen:</b>	Hagedorn, Kampschmidt, Schmerge, Wessel
<b>Laer:</b>	Paul
<b>Ledgen:</b>	Lammert

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