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# Die Deutsche Gefe

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The German Corner: #16

Cranberry Prairie

David A. Hoying

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## Convent of MARY, MOTHER OF MERCY ~ HEAVENGARDEN ~ Saint Henry ~ 1852

### *Maria, Mutter der Barmherzigkeit Kloster ~ Himmelgarten*

Herman Heinrich Hemmelgarn, in November 1851, was among several who sold land to Father Brunner that was to make up the property at *Heavengarden*. Undoubtedly, Father Brunner chose the name *Heavengarden* or *Himmelgarten*, because of the surname Hemmelgarn which is Plattdeutsch for the same. Two sisters came there on 29 April 1852, after two previously built blockhouses were readied and joined together by an addition that would serve as their chapel. A disastrous fire leveled the convent and its barn in 1854. A new brick convent was built in part from the personal funds of Father Joseph Maria Albrecht. For a time the Precious Blood seminary was located there, just prior to the establishment of Saint Charles in 1861. The convent was sold in January 1901 and the last sister left in April. The title of the convent, *Mary, Mother of Mercy*, along with the painting of Mary, Mother of Mercy, once supposedly used by Saint Gaspar on his missions, were transferred to the recently purchased Kneipp Springs at Rome City, Indiana. Part of the convent's large barn yet exists. The land at Himmelgarten was rather extensive. In 1880 the acreage of land totaled 616 acres. In 1880 the sisters who resided there numbered 36, and the numbers remained about the same in 1900 with 35.

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## Convent of the SORROWFUL MOTHER ~ MARY'S HOME ~ Trinity ~ 1854

### *Schmerzhaften Mutter Kloster ~ Mariensheim*

Known mostly by its place name, *Mary's Home*, the title of the convent and its chapel was that of the *Sorrowful Mother*. The poor and primitive beginnings of this foundation called to mind the poverty of Mary's home in Nazareth, so thought its first chaplain, the saintly but sickly, Father Willibald Willi. Thus it was named by him for Mary's lowly earthly home. Father Brunner had purchased 240 acres of land in Jay County, Indiana, in 1852. Father Willi and his company, which included four sisters, arrived at *Mary's Home* on 22 August 1854. Several brothers, who had gone on ahead, had hastily set up several blockhouses, near a pre-existing cabin, to serve as chapel and residences. Several years later a brick convent was completed. The sister withdrew from *Mary's Home* in 1916. The work of the sisters, besides their adoration and prayer, included that of farming and gardening, spinning and weaving, sewing and needlework, and instruction of the local children. In 1880, 36 sisters were working the farm of 280 acres. In 1900 there were 43 sisters.

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

<b>Levern:</b>	Drakenpöhler, Kettler, Röttger, Wittenbrink
<b>Liesborn:</b>	Nordhoff, Senger
<b>Lüdinghausen:</b>	Falke
<b>Meteln:</b>	Heilmann, Rengers
<b>Mettingen:</b>	Beckmann, Brune, Kuhlmann, Overbeck, Rüttschilling, Weiskittel
<b>Minden:</b>	Laut
<b>Münster:</b>	Heckmann, Schölling, Schürhoff, Westbrock
<b>Nienberge:</b>	Frerichsmann, Lammers, Voskuhl
<b>Nienborg:</b>	Wolters
<b>Nordwalde:</b>	Forsthoff, König
<b>Northrup:</b>	Mohlmann
<b>Ochtrup:</b>	Dirksen, Duesmann, Hinker, Niehoff, Tumbusch
<b>Olpe:</b>	Sondermann

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