

---

---

# Die Deutsche Gefe

---

---

The German Corner: # 20

Cranberry Prairie

David A. Hoying

Church of SAINT HENRY ~ 1839

SAINT HENRY ~ 1837

Sankt Heinrich Kirche ~ 1839

Sankt Heinrich / Sunŕ Hinirch ~ 1837

---

Platted on 13 July 1837, the feast of Saint Henry, by Bernard Heinrich Römer from Damme, Oldenburg, the village of Saint Henry was not settled until October 1838. The parish was begun in 1839, possibly on 3 December, and Father Franz Bartels celebrated a Mass monthly in the home of Gerhard Heinrich Beckmann. By 1840, a blockhouse church (25' x 50') was being constructed, and it was dedicated in 1842. By October 1842, the structure had a tower. Johann Anton DeCurtins received the task of building the next church (48' x 100', 55' tower), of brick and in the neo-Classical style. In 1854 the cornerstone was laid, and on 3 December 1855 its dedication was held. A third church, the present one, replaced the second church at the end of the Nineteenth Century. The architect, Adolph Druiding, was called upon to draft the plans for the neo-Gothic brick church (88' x 163') with its massive tower (200'). On 16 June 1895, the rites concerning the laying of the cornerstone were performed, and with a grand celebration the church was dedicated on 25 July 1897. In 1970 the church underwent a comprehensive modernization.

Daughter Parishes: **Saint Mary** – *Philothea* – 1851; **Saint Francis** – *Cranberry Prairie* – 1858; **Saint Bernard** – *Burkettsville* – 1874.

---

Church of SAINT JOSEPH, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary ~ 1839 SAINT JOSEPH ~ 1841/1861

Sankt Joseph, Bräutigam Mariae ~ 1839

Sankt Joseph / Victoria ~ 1841 / 1861

---

Father Heinrich Herzog celebrated the probable first Mass among the predominantly Swabian immigrants on 29 January 1839. Subsequent Masses were celebrated either in the home of Joseph Doll or that of Johann Weis. The twenty-five families erected a blockhouse church that same year, however it was not blessed until 20 May 1845 by Father Louis Navarron. Anton Doll donated to Bishop John Baptist Purcell 80 acres of land, and which was deeded to him on 6 January 1841. On a parcel of this land the village of Saint Joseph was platted by Archbishop Purcell on 15 January 1861. A brick church (45' x 85') in the neo-Classical style was begun in 1862, the same year its cornerstone was laid. The following year, in 1863, the church was dedicated. A new tower was built in 1903. In 1866, the pastor of Saint Joseph, Father Joseph Maria Albrecht, C.P.P.S., after wrangling with the Archbishop over an incident of correction, led a portion of the parish into schism and fled to the wilderness of Minnesota. For a time, the village of Saint Joseph was known as Victoria, the name designating the post office. It is said that this name was chosen to honor Saint Victoria who bones are enshrined in the Relic Chapel at Maria Stein.

Daughter Parishes: **Saint Anthony** – *Saint Anthony* – 1852; **Saint Wendelin** – *Saint Wendelin* – 1856; **Saint Peter** – *Saint Peter* – 1858; **Mary, Help of Christians** – *Fort Recovery* – 1880

---

*From whence they came...* GRANDDUCHY OF OLDENBURG – Großherzogtum Oldenburg

*Altenoythe:* Elsen, Fennen, Hahnenkamp, Küther, Niemeÿer, Nordenbrock, Oltmann, Prieth, Sprock, Wilken, zum Brink.

*Bakum:* Albers, Aumann, Diekmann, Dünhöft, Heckmann, Hesselfeld, Hölscher, Hülsmann, Kalkhoff, Kläne, Kathmann, Knese, von Lahre, Meinerding, Menke, Niemann, Nienaber, Ollendiek, Ording, Ortman, Rohenkohl, Stricker, Tabke, Taphorn, Vehorn, Wolke, zum Brink

---