



# CHRONICLES OF THE VILLAGE OF NIEDER-GEMUNDEN



*Of Families and Names of our Village  
Book of Families of the Community of Nieder-Gemunden*

Sources: Church Books and Records of Church Coffers of the  
Office of Evangelical Pastor of Nieder-Gemunden  
Census Book of 1582  
Recruitment Lists of Phillips the Generous  
Hessian Family Records  
Registry Office of Nieder-Gemunden from 1875  
Notices of the Historical and Antiquarian Society  
of Alsfeld

## Preface

What would the chronological history of a village mean, if the succession of all of its families and names could not also be mentioned, who fashioned, experienced, and suffered the history of their village? To these long settled families can also be counted those who came and went over the ages, who were transiently established and who, even during a short stay, had a notable effect on the history of the village and its development, as for example the families which served here as teachers and pastors.

A genealogical review gives us a picture that, despite the stability of rural customs and culture - there are also families who succumb to the law of emigration, immigration and misbehavior. It is surprising, however, that treasures about historical homeland and family are kept alive over the centuries by word of mouth.

There has already been every much presented and written about the structural change of our villages. It is an undeniable fact. It would be too much to explain in detail the results of these structural changes. Unfortunately these explanations are made very much in a negative sense. One no longer has an opportunity to listen to the stories of the elders and pass them on. One piece of living, meaningful history after another about our village crumbles away, trickles into the abyss of the forgotten and disappears forever from the tradition-bound life of the village, so that this tradition itself and village culture are destroyed under the name of structural change.

One further phenomenon may be observed with serious apprehension: the break-up of the intimate connections among the large families, as evidenced by increasing lack of recognition of kinship among relatives and the affectionate care it requires. The so-called "Family Reunion Day", on which all members of the same kin came together each year, is disappearing, in fact already has disappeared. So the ties loosen - the people grow isolated. The effect already extends to the most intimate household.

The review of family history should help to reestablish contact among the people of our village, to generate points of contact of common interest, to convey the recognition of how fundamentally poor we have become in spite of progress and what treasures a common experience and accomplishment can make, if we consider that we have a neighbor, who can even be related to us.

The living thoughts of the homeland and the attachment to the land are an inheritance from our ancestors. The church books tell us of the residency and standing of old families, who lived in the village for centuries, and with full right and authority can be counted among the local aristocracy. These books, which have been maintained in Nieder-Gemunden since 1618, tell also of coming and going, of birth and death, of marriage and special events in the families and the village. A living blood stream pulses through the generations. Very frequently some families do not know that for many generations they are related by blood. Before the church books, the records of the church coffers tell us about village names and families. Yet a number of other sources offer themselves: the recruitment lists of Phillips the Generous from the years of 1540 and 1546. Even if there is no connection to birth, baptism, and death records, names are presented which once existed. We can restore connections from them to later families. A further important source are the census books. Of particular interest to us is the census book of 1582, which was drawn up by the landgraf's treasurer, Hermann Rudiger, for the district of Burggemunden. These census books set forth an inventory of people, cattle, houses, and assets, which the landgraf had in his individual districts. Besides this it gives a valuable indication about the development of local names. With respect to the origin of the census books it may be briefly said that after the death of Phillips the Generous, Hesse was divided into four parts. Our village came under the authority of Landgraf Ludwig IV of Marburg.

This lord was very precise in the exercise of his authoritative responsibilities and ordered his stewards to prepare journals, i.e., inventory catalogues, of all districts of his area. The attachment to Hessen-Marburg had yet another particular significance for our village: the alignment of official and commercial relations to the area Kirchhain-Marburg. Tradesmen of Nieder-Gemunden - so reported by the ancestor of the Erbenhausen line of the Becker family - travelled for purchases to Marburg. These activities show results yet today. An imperceptible, though certainly detectable, obstruction wall stands behind Burg-Gemunden against Nieder-Ohmen. The street connection has not yet been established although attempts by the opposing sides already ensued in this direction. The delineation especially affected those who resided in the area on either side of this line. On the other hand this peculiarity is still talked about.

Among the sources for this book of families should also be named the records and budgetary plans of the community, old legal documents, cemetery records, and records of the local registry office. With that - except for the few remaining sources of oral history - the sources have been named on which I have relied in the formulation of this work.

Now may the families and the events of days past be presented to us.

Nieder-Gemunden , 1963

Karl Erb

List of Names - Census Book of 1582

- B. Bach, Hanns; Bach, Paulus; Bach Petter; Bach, Heintzens widow; Bapst, Cuntz; Becker, Donges; Boss, Michell; Boss, Henchen; Bonnerts, Anna; Buecking, Hans widow; Brendell, Johann; Brendell, Johannes; Bucking, Hans widow; Bruell, Peter; Bender, Steffan; Bickers, Ludwig
- C. Closen, Peter
- D. Dreyss, Hans; Dreyss, Donges: Deiss-Schmit
- E. Erbhausen, Ludwig von; called Bickes widow
- F. Fryderich, Werner; Feldtmann, Wolf
- G. Geysen, Jecell; Geisen, Michell; Geisen, Leutz; Gross, Adam
- H. Hielen, Hans; Hartmann, Claus; Heden, Henches widow
- J. Joisten, Curt; the "Hunter"
- K. Kremer, Henn; Ketteren, Carolen; Krein, Thomas
- L. Luehr, Johanness; Lir, Creina widow; Lutz, Michell; Leusser, widow; Lir, Johannes Gutgen
- M. Mullen, Anna; Milchers, Henn; Mutzer, Wilhelm
- N. Nispel, Cuntz
- P. Peter, Hanns widow; Pfaff, Joist
- R. Raw, Johann; Russers, Steffan
- S. Scheffer, Henchen Claus; Scheffer, Heinrich; Schepffen, Peter; Scheuern, Hanss; Schneider, Hans be heir to; Schebb, Cuntz be heir to; Schoepff, Peter; Schneider, Weigand be heir to; Schultheiss, Antonius; Stand, Curt; Schlecht, Hanss; Schmid, Hanss; Schreiner, Hen widow; Schmidt, Hanss; Schultheiss, Hans; Schneider, Niclas; Schultheiss, Niclas
- T. Tobias, Adam; Treshcer, Johannes
- V. Voss, Heintz
- W. Weys, Weigand; Wolff, Heinrichs widow; Wolff, Jorg; Wagner, Lutz; Werner, Hanssens widow

## Observations on the List of Names - Census Book of 1582

He who has ever paid a visit to the "Hunter's House" (Forester's house Ruthartshausen) on the Laubach-Schotten road resting splendidly in the midst of the Laubach forest, should not neglect to devote some minutes for a visit to the church foundation of the town of Ruthartshausen which disappeared in the German Peasants' Confederation (Peasants' War, c. 1525). We find in the thick high woods, overgrown by mighty trees the ruins of the small church on the top of the hill. On an iron memorial plaque the reflective visitor finds the following verse (N. Lenau):

"Where are they, whose hymn for your bosom,  
oh little church, to God once flew,  
forgetting all their gloomy mortality?  
Where are they? They followed their hymn."

Also we ask ourselves when examining the 400-year old list: Where are they? Can we detect their existence in our time?

Two families have endured over the centuries in their male line:

Feldman and Pabst

These names lead in a straight line to their present day bearers, while the blood of the ancestors still flows in many families of Nieder-Gemunden.

Two names of fields call to memory the names Wagner and Trescher: The "Waverfield and the meadow on Drescher's hill." That is not much. Yet we can be thankful and happy to establish links over centuries from the past to the living present. We ask ourselves about the reasons that could prove decisive in determining the family lines:

1. The dying out of the male line.
2. The Thirty Years' War and the Plague which struck severely three times during this period.

### The "Black Death"

In the year 1349 a peculiar procession moved through the streets of the wealthy city of Augsburg. Stripped to the waist and clutching in their hands bloody lashes embedded with nails, people marched along their way crying and singing. The town folk watched in horror, as they whipped their bare backs so that the blood spurted out. The terrible procession of the flagellants stopped at the market place. Their leader called shrilly over the mass of people paralyzed by terror: "Repent! The Death Angel of God is coming here from Italy! The "black death" comes with the plague!" What kind of a horrible sickness was it, which was announced in such a way as to appear to be God's punishment of man? One learned quickly. Even healthy people were overcome by a sudden nausea. Black boils broke out over the entire body, discharging matter and spreading an unbearable odor. In a few days, or even in a few hours, the people were dead. There was no escape as the disaster made its way. Soon the "Black Death" snatched hundreds of men away. There was no one left in many families. Frequently the dead were left lying about, because no one was there who could bury them. Some houses were full of corpses. In the cities entire streets died out. One quickly buried the dead in mass graves. Often there was no pastor present who could say a short prayer at the gravesite.

In 1954 the old cemetery by the church in Nieder-Gemunden was dismantled. During this, it could be determined, that the bones were lying in layers, perpendicular, and all over each other; an indication that the plague had also ravaged our village.

The pestilence let up slowly. Yet in the following century it always resurfaced. The totally inadequate hygienic and sanitary conditions and the lack of medical knowledge and procedures may have contributed to the situation whereby the pestilence coming in from Asia could always find and thrive in recurringly good conditions. The periods of war were particularly suited for the outbreak and proliferation of the disease and through the roaming soldiers could be spread even further.

### The Thirty Years' War and the Plague in Our Village

One described the year 1618. In Nieder-Gemunden Pastor Nikolaus Stroh moved into the straw covered parsonage with small round windows. Stroh came from Homberg and as was customary at the time, went by the Latin name of Nicolaus Stramen. The young pastor took great interest in bringing order to his congregation. So he began with the institution of the church books, which, divided according to births, marriages, and deaths, are the most valuable legacy of the past and which not only gives us information about the people, their coming and going, but also portrays a valuable picture of economic, social, and legal conditions. The church books were maintained by Stroh's successors with more or less the same care. Irreparable, because it was irretrievably lost, is that part of the church books which dealt with the Jews of the community. It must have been removed and disappeared during the confusion of war. The Registry Office can only give exact information from 1875 on. Besides that one can still find in community records references to the Jewish part of the population.

The initiation of keeping church books fell at the same time as the beginning of that disastrous war, which devastated our people and country over three decades and resulted in unending grief. Far to the east, the "Winter King", Friederich von der Pfalz, lost the battle on the White Mountains. His soldiers fled with him to the West. In their tracks followed the apocalyptic rider - with them the awfulness and silence of the Black Death. In its path also laid our church community, which was only slightly touched. In the death register of 1624 we find isolated cases of the plague. The resistance of the people was still strong. Between the 9th and 29th of December 1624 seven people died of the plague. In the confirmation register of January 25, 1625, we read that the children of Elpenrod "propter pestum" (because of the plague) were not confirmed as usual in the mother church in Nieder-Gemunden, but rather in Elpenrod itself. It was worse in 1626: from September to December 29 people in Nieder-Gemunden alone died of the plague. In the beginning of 1627 seven cases of the plague were cited as the cause of death. In April 1627 the "Black Death" vanished. The people were relieved. In Elpenrod though another seven children died in 1629 from the horrible disease according to Georg Fischer. Two entries in the church records of 1626 and 1628 are interesting:

"10 white poplars for incense in the church for times  
of the plague"

For nearly 10 years our village was allowed to rest from the dreadful disease. In the meantime the war had become universal murder and burning. Unspeakingly desolate circumstances reigned. These conditions are too much to describe here. The "Black Death" reappeared in 1635 and ravaged the entire church community in a truly horrible manner. 1635 was the great year of death, the Year of the Plague! In the middle of the harvest, in August, the great dying began. In the church community of Nieder-Gemunden 284 people died, 62 in Nieder-Gemunden alone! The Death did not distinguish between young or old. Daily the epidemic took people away. In spite of it births and betrothals still took place. The marriages were typically between widows and widowers. It happened that one widow, who had been spared by the plague, married five times. The sister village of Elpenrod was hit the hardest, 10 people dying daily. The gravediggers had an enormous task to overcome. By the dismantling of the old cemetery (1951 sic) the remains of bones and teeth showed that it was not only the older people who fell victim to the plague, but that the Black Death reaped its harvest among all ages.

In the death register all of the names appear, as existed at that time in the village. In 1636 there were another 14 deaths, in 1637 another five, in 1638 three, and 1639 another one. In 1640 the number of deaths climbed again to 10 and in 1641 to 20 for the whole community. Then the numbers sank again to one death. The old people of the community nearly all fell as victims of the plague. Then came a respite. A distinct surge in deaths to 16, brought about by the plague, was again indicated in 1646/47. In the peace of 1648, the Peace of Westphalia, an end was prepared to the murder and burning of the dreadful war. Also the "Black Death" disappeared. An examination of the deaths reveals the remarkable fact that only in the most seldom cases were incidents of war a cause of death. In relation to the victims of the plague they are not even significant. Much greater was the bloodshed which was brought to our community in both World Wars, 1914/18 and 1939/45.

In 1635 we find the following entry:

"Peter Bunding was buried May 8th in Burg Gemunden, shot by Weimar soldiers who wanted to plunder the Castle Burg-Gemunden."

The following families were entirely exterminated by the plague: Junger; Muller; Geiss, Gross. All other families mentioned in the Census Book had their victims of the pest. For individual fortunes we must go a little further into the area of the family lineages.

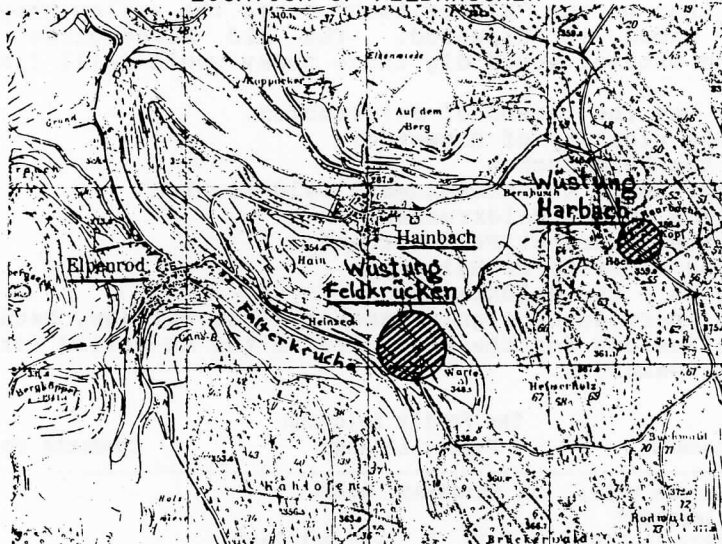
### The "Black Death" in the Fables

In the middle Ages, besides the community today belonging to the district of Nieder-Gemunden, there were six villages which were designated abandoned areas. These were the localities: Frauenrod, Bechtenrod, Feldkrucken Oertenrod, Harbach, and Bilsdorf. Interesting for us is the abandoned area, Feldkrucken, whose name still survives in the fields of the communities Elpenrod and Hainbach. The location of this extinguished settlement can be assumed between Ermenrod and Elpenrod, bordering on the border of Hainbach. As late as 1350 the village was occupied, even two estates belonging to a citizen and assessor of Marburg, Konrad von

Grunberg, who sold them to the cloister of Arnburg. One hundred years later the village was known as ruins. Very often one hears the current opinion, that these abandoned areas in general stood through the events of the Thirty Years' Wars. This is a mistake, since most of these settlements which died out were known as abandoned in documentary sources long before the dreadful religious war.

According to legend the plague was made responsible for the abandonment of Feldkrucken. This may in fact be so, that in our close community the "Black Death" took its victims long before 1618. The tale of Feldkrucken may therefore find its place here.

#### LOCATION OF FELDKRUCKEN



#### The Woodpecker of Feldkrucken

Between Elpenrod and Ermenrod once lay the village of Feldkrucken. Its people were industrious and each of its farmers called a fine herd of cattle his own. Then came the "Black Death", the plague. Soon most of the residents were dead or near death. The misery and want of the farmers grew from day to day. It grew to such an extent that no one knew how to help anymore, no one attended to anyone else out of fear of becoming sick oneself. The corpses remained unburied, and the air was filled with the odor and moaning of the dying. Then came the deliverance. A spotted woodpecker flew over the village; it carried a mandrake root in its beak, landed on the village linden and sang:

"Drink bimberrnell and Baldrich  
then do not die and recover."

The people did this and were healthy from that very hour. Not one of them, however, wanted to remain in the infested village. The survivors moved higher on the Vogelsberg and found a new village near Ulrichstein, which they named in memory of their old home of Feldkrucken.

Three men with their wives and children nevertheless stayed back. Around midnight on the summer solstice they once heard the elves singing in the base of the valley in front of the village hill. So the people went down to the valley and watched the elves' roundelay. The elves were friendly to the farmers and showed them a place in the valley where the earth was fertile. But when the dawn began to break and the first rooster-crow came from the village, the elves disappeared. A few wild geese flew along the brook. The farmers believed that the elves had turned into geese and named the meadow from then on the "Elbetritsch". In the valley they established a village and named it Elpenrod. The old Feldkrucken nevertheless disappeared, and whoever would dig there today would still find traces of the settlement.

Such was the legend of Feldkrucken.

Local names in the vicinity of Elpenrod:

"In the Feldkrucken

"Clearing in the abandonment Feldkrucken"

"Fields in the Feldkrucken"

"In the uppermost Feldkrucken"

Local names in the vicinity of Hainbach:

"Fields - the Feldkrecken"

Feldkrucken is of particular significance for our village, because its name has definite allusions for the existence of the so-called first or "old" village of Nieder-Gemunden.

Comments on Husband	The Family Feldmann Family Lineage	Comments on Wife
"House on the church wall, rented from Bellershem" (Census Book 1582). In 1601 mentioned by Rev. E. Kaufmann as the church collector. Buried in Bavarian field camp in Burg-Gemunden.	1. Feldmann, Wolff  15 ? -29 Oct 1640  Wife Unknown	
	2. Feldmann, Peter  28 Jul 1622-illegible  10 Oct 1650  Rau, Elisabeth  7 Jun 1625- Jul 1684	Daughter of Johann Rau who appears in 1582 census. The family Rau vanished 1669.



### The Family Feldmann

Comments on Husband	Family Lineage	Comments on Wife
<p>Was designated in the documents as "vir honestus" (man of honor)</p>	<p>3. Feldmann, Johannes 25 Jan 1663-16 Nov 1693 3 Mar 1685 Stumpf, Anna Dorothea 7 Mar 1667- 7 Apr 1707</p>	<p>Anna Dorothea married a second time to Johannes Schlosser (Main Line-Schlosser) A.D. Stumpf came from Lehrbach.</p>
<p>Through children from this marriage were established relations to the family Berg (Main Line) and Hedrich (1854 moved to Wettssaasen). Daughter A. Kath. Feldmann married Andreas Berg</p>	<p>4. Feldmann, Joh. Georg 15 Jul 1689-18 Jan 1756 10 Mar 1711 Becker, Maria Katharina 24 Aug 1687-26 Feb 1761</p>	<p>Daughter of Balthasar Becker from Erbenhausen, the founder of the Erbenhausen Becker line, which exists yet today in the family Karl Becker, merchant; Otto Becker, named "Hainbacher"; Karl Becker, named Kalinches"; Karl Becker IV, named Oarems.</p>
<p>Through this marriage the so-called Trayser estate transferred to possession of family Feldmann. Today-"Feldmanns-Beckers" House</p>	<p>5. Feldmann, Joh. Heinrich 6 Aug 1716-25 Nov 1762 7 Aug 1757 Lotz, Anna Katharina widow Threiss 18 Dec 1730- 8 Jan 1794</p>	<p>The Threiss Line vanished with Johann Threiss 1755.</p>
<p>His son, Karl Ludwig F. (1830-1874), married in Merlau. Further connections: Grunberg-Lauter, his God-child was the teacher and poet, Karl Ludwig F.</p>	<p>6. Feldmann, Johannes 23 Sep 1760-23 Feb 1817 9 Oct 1788 Diegel, Anna Margaretha 18 Aug 1768- 6 May 1846</p>	<p>Originally from Oberndorf</p>
<p>His son, Karl Ludwig F. (1830-1874), married in Merlau. Further connections: Grunberg-Lauter, his God-child was the teacher and poet, Karl Ludwig F.</p>	<p>7. Feldmann, Joh. Heinrich 23 May 1797-15 Jan 1869 8 May 1817 Blosser, Anna Maria 27 Sep 1797-18 Oct 1857</p>	<p>from family, which went out of existence in 1837, of Wilh. Blosser and his wife, Anna Elisabeth Schott</p>

## History of the Traiser Estate

Before continuing the lineage of the Feldmann family, it seems appropriate to say something about the "Traiser Estate".

Entry in Census Book of 1582:

"The Count has the following men there(in Nieder-Gemunden); The Count's estate: Dreyss, Hans; Dreys, Donges"

Further entry:

"Dreis, Hans and Dreis, Donges received from the Count an entire estate through a rental note: house, barn, shed."

The following plots of land belonged to the Count's estate: "along the bridge; to the pastor's yard; in the Wolffskelen; in the marsh on the pastor's field; to Orterodt; to the common; to the common fields; up to Wolffell; on the sides and back of the ravine; to the willows; to the common path; to Irtenrodt; up to Fronacker; up on "Beineborn on the pastor's field".

Besides this Hans Dreiss worked still another small estate, which was also rented from the Count and included the property: "between the brook and pastor's fields; in the Awe on Homberger Road; in the long fields; in the cross fields; on the goat pasture; on Sichenhauss; onto the Beun; to the Schlossel field on the Kirtorfer Street". The rent for this property was paid to the "coffers at Burckemunden (Burg Gemunden) and next to Kirtorff". Besides this Hans Dreiss had yet an orchard, for which he paid rent to the University of Marburg. While Hans Dreiss lived in the estate, the house of his brother, Donges, stood next to the "Smith". Donges paid rent for his house to "Bellershem". The church books, which carried the name in the form-Threiss, contained no information about Donges Dreiss. On the other hand we find Hans Threiss in the coffer records before 1500 and later his son, Peter Threiss, in the church books. Peter Threiss was married twice. His son Peter Hans (1616-1665), whose godfather was his grandfather, married in his first marriage Katharina Berg, daughter of the tax collector, Johannes Berg. The son, Peter Threiss (1650-1714), was married to Anna Elisabeth Berg. Then followed yet another Johannes Threiss (1688-1758), a judge, who was married three times. His son, Johann (1726-1755), from the second marriage with Anna Dorothea Kratz, married Anna Katharina Lotz. As Johann Threiss died at the age of 30, the widow then married Johann Heinrich Feldmann. A secondary line existed until 1856. Since there were no more male descendants, the family Threiss expired after a 300-year existence. Threiss blood flows in any case in the families of Berg, Bunding, Becker (Erbenhausen Line) and Pabst.

After the transfer of the estate to the Feldmann name (1757) it remained only a little over 50 years as a rental property of the Count. On March 5, 1810, it was recorded on the part of the Grand Duke of Hesse in the Treasury of Darmstadt, that "We (Ludwig, by the Grace of God Grand Duke of Hesse, Duke in Westphalia, etc.) have sold and ceded as taxable inheritance and property, which down payment has been paid in cash and properly when due on payment dates in our refectory in Burggemunden, to the community of Nieder-Gemunden, by our office Burggemunden, our so-called Traiser Estate, including the 59 1/4 acres, two rods, 14 feet of pasture, fields and gardens, according to the new survey, with all of the pertinent rights and on the other hand all of the remaining encumbrances, for the

The Family Feldmann

Comments on Husband	Family Lineage	Comments on Wife
Sister, Katharina, married in Otterbach (Johs.Naumann) Brother Johs.,-U.S.A. Brother Karl Ludwig, married in Merlau	8. Feldmann, Wilhelm 14 Feb 1818-21 Oct 1885 29 Apr 1847 Pabst, Anna Katharina 7 Apr 1829-19 Jan 1902	Connections to the families, Martin and Weikker. Daughter of Joh. Georg Pabst I and his wife, Anna Maria Bernhard from Angenrod.
Sister, Marie, married to Karl Friedrich Fisseler. Sister, Katharina, married to Friedrich Ochler and moved to Bermutshain. Connections to England; Brother, Karl Ludwig, teacher and poet.	9. Feldmann, Johannes 28 Nov 1857- 1 Sep 1920 24 Dec 1885 Diegel, Katharina 12 Jan 1861-21 Jun 1917	Connections to the families: Dietz, Riess, Weicker.
	10.Feldmann, Karl 24 May 1886- 8 Dec 1955 30 Mar 1913 Kircher, Elisabeth 28 May 1888-30 May 1948	from Ober-Gleen
Sister,Hedwig,was married with Frdr.Wilh.Schafer. Sister,Emmi,with Helmut Schlondrop.	11.Feldmann, Richard 5 Dec 1923- 9 Nov 1952 Kirschner, Hedwig 28 Jan 1928-	
	12.Feldmann, Burkhart 19 Apr 1955	

payment publicly received on this fifth of March this year in Niedergemunden and further payable on the four succeeding months, an amount of 7,200 fl., in writing, Seven Thousand Two Hundred Guilders.

The community parcelled the estate and sold the property. With the proceeds, the old schoolhouse was built in 1814/15. The older schoolhouse in the schoolyard was torn down.

Karl Ludwig Feldman  
Teacher, Poet and Singer

On September 26, 1909 in Frankfurt am Main the teacher, Karl Ludwig Feldmann, highly respected by everyone who had worked or dealt with him and loved by his students as a role model and teacher, passed away. He made, with his own name and works, the name of his village home well known beyond its borders.

The very old log frame house of the Traiser Estate is the birthplace of the poet, who saw the light of the world on August 19, 1852. Karl Ludwig went to school under the proficient teacher, Nikolaus Rucker, who taught in Nieder-Gemunden 53 years (1838-1891) and received upon his retirement the Letter of Honor of the community. The model of his teacher made such a lasting impression on the alert and aware young Karl Ludwig, that he resolved to give up the paternal estate and to place his entire ability and will in the service of developing youth. After his graduation from school he went for teaching apprenticeship to Homberg to a teacher Klaus. From here he visited the teacher seminar in Friedberg. After the examination he worked in Metzlos and Lauterbach, but then in 1880 received a position in Frankfurt, where his poetic talents unfolded in brisk activity. It is an honor not only to the old deserving teacher Rucker, but also in the same manner to the poet, as Feldmann put to poetry an honorable, everlasting memorial.

"A good shepherd never leaves the flock!  
No weather frightens him: he never complains,  
He stands true, true even in the evening gleam.  
Looking down on him the glimmer of the stars,  
He easily forgets, what troubles he carries.  
The thousand eyes of heaven say to him:  
The most faithful shepherd is the dearest one to us  
always.  
Thus one saw you in faith, yet wavering  
Led us constantly to yours on the right track,  
Whether stars of hope for you sank, too  
We are thankful, my dear teacher, to you for your work  
And preserve your devotion as our ideal."  
(From "Leaves and Blossoms", Collection of Poems)

The poetic work of Feldmann is distilled in two volumes, of which one appeared under the title "For Good Hours" from the publishing house Knauer Brothers, Frankfurt/Main, and was dedicated to the Choir of the Frankfurt Teachers Society. More extensive is the second volume, "Blossoms and Fruits" with over 200 pages, dedicated to his mother, appearing in 1895 from E. Piersens Publisher, Leipzig. Feldmann characterized his poetry collection in modest ways as poetic attempts, as he expressively stated in

the Foreword. He has never been called a poet, because he felt clearly everytime not to be able to do the same thing as the great masters. The table of contents of "Blossoms and Fruits" shows four parts of songs, impressionistic pictures, various poems and symbolic poems. The deeply religious nature, which permeates his works, and the sense of nature, that can only be explained from the inner ties with his homeland, touches us. To the simple farmer's son, nature was an open book, in which he allowed his delight and reverence to bestow his feelings in words of persuasive expression. The impressionistic pictures are a summary of his thoughts on his journeys through Germany. As a member of the teachers' choir, Feldmann was an enthusiastic singer. So it is no surprise to us, that an honor would one day come to him, in which he rightfully could and deserved to take pride. In 1891 a "Hymn" which he composed was sung in the "German Exhibition" in London and was recognized by presentation of the laurel wreath. The poet stayed on in the city of millions on the Thames and came back deeply impressed by the trip and the honors which it brought him. Above all of these successes, though, his home and its dialect remained unforgotten. In particular, Feldmann made successful attempts in poems in dialect. When his grandfather, Joh. Georg Pabst, celebrated his 80th birthday in 1885, he sent him a poem, which portrayed an experience of his childhood with the good-humored grandfather:

On my own childhood must I think,  
I think still of the old barn.  
I saw the bucket deeply sink  
in that dark well.

I: "Grandpa, isn't it so, the well is deep?  
The water is not to be seen in it!"

Grandpa: "I think so too, the well is deep,  
jump into it sometime, if you will.  
The hole goes through to Australia,  
going through the entire earth!  
So go and lean over it, little Karl,  
yell into it and listen!  
Now, do you not hear screaming down there?"

I: "I think it's you sharpening the scythe."

Grandpa: "Since when can a scythe scream?  
That's the geese of the inner world!"

Often I lay on the wagon  
my curious little ears;  
in clean air and clear weather  
come to me as the cackling of geese.

In many further dialect poems Karl Ludwig Feldmann, similar to Peter Fuchs (also from the Vogelsberg region by birth) made the Vogelsberg dialect socially acceptable. Experiences and images of the deeds of the beloved original villager appeared more often in the columns of the local newspaper and formed the bridge from the local community to those from Niedergemunden spread throughout Germany, joyfully received by them as a greeting from their beloved homeland, its village and people. The humorous poem of the expulsion of the Hosse (gypsies) with the help of "water cannons" (fire hoses), a song of praise on the "Local Dialect", the story of "Smart Otter" in humorous verses are noted here and brought the poet enthusiastic reviews far from the home of the Vogelsberg region. Many of his dialect poems have

been preserved in circles of friends and deserved a compilation.

Feldmann died a few years before the outbreak of World War I. His death saved him, who loved his fatherland so intensely and intimately, as is apparent from his sonnets, from having to experience the collapse of his outlook on the world. His poems may show the youth of his village, that one cannot forget, the love of one's homeland, its village, that these ties can be maintained if a determined effort is present, that the homeland can still offer something to them in this day and age and that one is capable to drink new powers from the homeland's spring, as long as one is not ashamed of his homeland and its people and thinks truthfully of it elsewhere.

*The Family Pabst*  
Family Lineage

Comments on Husband	<i>The Family Pabst</i> Family Lineage	Comments on Wife
<p>Father was Cuntz P., both mentioned in Census Book. Marriage date unknown, before 1618.</p>	<p>1. Pabst, Hans 15 ? -23 May 1621 ? , Barbara 15 ? - 4 May 1635</p>	<p>Family name cannot be established.</p>
<p>Known as "Brush Maker". Daughter, Anna Elisabeth, was buried 1642 in Burg-Gemunden.</p>	<p>2. Pabst, Johannes 16 ? - 3 Feb 1667 21 Sep 1629  Hedrich, Katharina 16 ? -20 Apr 1654</p>	<p>Wife came from Bleidenrod</p>
<p>Known as "Tax Collector". Brother, Esaias married Anna Rau. Lineage goes further than "Brush Maker" line. Esaias' daughter, Anna Katharina, married Balth. Becker from Erbenhausen. Esaias Pabst remained in parents' house (Weicker line).</p>	<p>3. Pabst, Hans 23 Aug 1635- 7 Jan 1669 14 Apr 1658 Schneider, Veronika 3 Feb 1632-30 May 1707</p>	<p>Wife came from Altenburg. Daughter, Anna Elisabeth, married Lorenz Weber in Ermenrod.</p>
<p>Son, Johannes, moved to Seeheim. Son, Joh.Deitrich, to Elpenrod.</p>	<p>4. Pabst, Johann Heinrich 5 Mar 1658- 4 Aug 1734 30 Oct 1683  Schott, Anna Katharina ? 1665-24 Mar 1721</p>	<p>Daughter of Mathaeus Schott. Daughter, Anna Elisabeth, married to Joh. Val. Carl in Elpenrod. Daughter, Anna Katharina, married to Michael Bunding. Anna Barbara to Matthaueus Nagel. Anna Maria to Michael Schmitt.</p>
<p>Kept the name of his grandfather, Matthaueus Schott (godfather). Son, Michael, married Anna Maria Becker from Oberndorf, whose grandson emigrated to the U.S.A. in 1836 (with Munch).</p>	<p>5. Pabst, Matthaueus 14 Dec 1688- 6 Mar 1761 11 Jun 1714  Schultheiss, Katharina 4 Mar 1692-20 Oct 1753</p>	<p>Wife came from Bleidenrod. Daughter, Anna M., married Johs. Threiss Jr. Daughter, Anna Barbara, to Johs. Stumpf in Heimertshausen.</p>

Comments on Husband	Family Lineage	Comments on Wife
Son, Johs. Hch. Pabst married 6 May 1800 Anna Elisabeth Schultheiss. Their grandson, Joh. Georg Pabst I was father-in-law of Wlh. Feldmann, Georg Martin and Hch. Weicker. This line disappeared with that as a name.	6. Pabst, Joh. Justus 5 Sep 1726-18 May 1803 11 Mar 1751 Martin, Anna Gertraud 8 May 1727-13 Dec 1796	Daughter of Joh. Gg. Martin.
	7. Pabst, Joh. Heinrich 7 Aug 1754-18 May 1803 8 Jul 1784 Threiss, Maria Elisabeth 16 Nov 1754-27 Feb 1831	Daughter of Johs. Threiss
Local name "Foahrtjuste" Sister, Albertine, married Wilhelm Becker from the Erbenhauser Becker line. The only son from this marriage emigrated to the U.S.A. (Munch).	8. Pabst, Joh. Justus 20 Oct 1790- 7 May 1868 5 Nov 1818 Georg, Anna Maria 20 Nov 1795- 6 Feb 1860	Wife came from Erbenhausen.
The daughters, Maria and Elisabeth, married one after the other, Karl Fischer from Hainbach and remained in his parents' house. Continuation in the families Altvater and Otto Otterbein. The brother of No. 9, Joh. Wilh. Caspar Stroh emigrated to the U.S.A.	9. Pabst, Joh. Georg II 3 Dec 1824-16 May 1912 3 May 1860 Stroh, Margarete 25 May 1837-29 May 1879	Daughter of Joh. Konrad Stroh, called Anna Maria. She came from the "Stroh Wellems" line.
Brother-in-law of K. Fischer Residence: Hohlgasse 4 Local name: "Stievers"	10. Pabst, Karl 22 Dec 1866-17 Dec 1936 24 Dec 1887 Stieber, Margarete 16 Apr 1866-29 Aug 1933	Daughter of master cabinet maker, Hch. Stieber and Kath. Pfeil



Comments on Husband	Family Lineage	Comments on Wife
<p>Through brothers and sisters- Friedrich, Paula, and Auguste,relations have gone to Butzbach, Ober-Ohmen, and Hungen            Daughter, Irmtraut, married Wilhelm Rohrich from Burg-Gemunden.</p>	<p>11.Pabst, Karl II            9 Mar 1888 -            16 Oct 1921            Kaemmer, Auguste            6 Dec 1896 -</p>	<p>Wife came from Merlau</p>
<p>Residence:            Alsfelder Strasse</p>	<p>12.Pabst, Ernst            6 Jan 1922 -            14 Feb 1953            Decher, Otilie            25 Sep 1925 -</p>	<p>Daughter of sheepmaster,            Konrad Decher</p>
	<p>13.Pabst, Gerhard            17 May 1955 -</p>	

### Observations on the Family Pabst

The brother of Joh. Georg Pabst II (No. 9), Andreas Pabst, married in 1861 (4 May) to Anna Margarte Steiber. Their son, Heinrich Pabst (1878-1949) married Elisabeth Fischer from Elpenrod. In their son, Dr. (chemistry) Heinrich Pabst and his sons, the Pabst line continues.

The sister of the chemist, Maria, married Karl Schepp (died 1941) from Homberg. Their son, Horst Schepp, is a teacher and lives in Nieder-Gemunden.

In the Census Book of 1582 Cuntz Pabst, the father of Hans Pabst (No. 1) was mentioned.

Entry: "Niddergemunden" The Landgraf has the following men there, under which there are 3 estates, which are supervised by the following persons: 2. Tobias Adam; Cuntz Pabst, house, barn, stables belonging to the Martoffer Estate. Both rent "that from the Nuhn to Martorff". Cuntz Pabst rents by himself in the "Nieder-Gemundener Bete". According to stories passed down by word of mouth, the landgraf's estate stood where today the Oppertshauer Inn stands. Through purchase the estate was taken over in the former Property of Karl (Family Karl of Elpenrod), now Weicker. By marriage the Property was divided into Kirchgasse 3 and Holgasse 4. The following property belonged to the estate in 1582: along the marsh along the pastor's yard, along the long field and the common path, along the Wolfskehl, by the old mill down to the Homberger path, in the Frohn field, Sauer field, in the Born field, along the meadow, along the commons, along Wolferling, up to Hans Hermann on the pastor's plot, along the Beuneborn, along the street, Frauenfield, by the new mill along the pastor's fields along the Weitersloh by the old mill up to the Bernhard at the pastor's plot.

### The Family Stroh

The family Stroh, represented today by four families, may in any case claim the right to be recognized as one of the oldest families of the village. The ancestor of all Stroh families is the Pastor Nicolaus Stroh from Homburg, who called himself Stramen as was customary then. From 1618-1644 he was the pastor in Nieder-Gemunden. The Hessian Pastor and Schoolmaster Book (Hassica Sacra Vol. I), published by Prelate Diehl, Darmstadt, presents Stroh as the fifth pastor after the Reformation, while in the Pastors' Chronicles of Nieder-Gemunden he is enumerated as the fourth. These Chronicles possess some information about him. Stroh was initially the pastor of Burg-Gemunden. Nevertheless, he also administered the position of Pastor Eucharius Kaufmann, who was ill, in Nieder-Gemunden. In 1618 Stroh moved to Nieder-Gemunden and performed then from here the pastoral position of Burg Gemunden. He initiated the Church Books of Nieder-Gemunden in 1618, while those of Burg-Gemunden started in 1622. Besides this, we also find in the birth records for 1620, that a daughter of his was baptized.

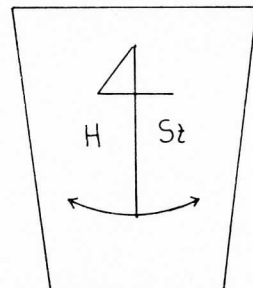
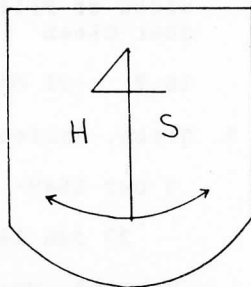
Stroh had a very large family. In the Confirmation Register we find: 1621 Daughter Elisabeth; 1622 Son Ludwig; 1626 Son Johannes, who later was a teacher in Ermenrod; 1627 Daughter Anna Katharina; 1629 Daughter Christina;

1633 Son Johannes; 1635 Son Johannes junior. Both sons died in 1635 of the plague!

On 29 October 1629 his daughter Elisabeth married a Johs. Pabst. The pair were wedded by Pastor Justus Renger of Ehringshausen. On 22 June 1636 Anna Katharina celebrated her marriage to the widower and townsman of Homburg, Peter Heydrich. The second oldest son, Johannes, born 1612, was married on 25 November 1639 to Anna Elisabeth Weyss, a daughter of Juror and Host Konrad Weyss, and granddaughter of Weigand Weyss, mentioned in the Census Book of 1582. Johannes went to Ermenrod as a teacher. And in 1644, after Pastor Stroh died, his son, Henrich, married the widow of Friedrich Lapp, Maria, from Ober-Gleen. Henrich moved into the small schoolhouse as schoolmaster of Nieder-Gemunden, with thatched roof and round windows. At the age of 72 Schoolmaster Henrich Stroh died, after having been active as a teacher in Nieder-Gemunden for 47 years since 1649. His wife died earlier, being placed in eternal rest in the old cemetery on 21 March 1674.

Nicolaus Stroh must have had a long, happy marriage. His wife, Agathe-unfortunately we do not know her maiden name- was called by him, "uxor mea dilectissima" (my ultimate beloved wife), as he had to make the entry of her burial, February 1, 1641. With respect to the day Stroh died we find no details. He died in 1644. It was the time when Swedish and Kasseler soldiers dwelled here and a Bavarian field encampment stood in Burg-Gemunden. It is possible that Stroh was buried in Burg-Gemunden; in any event an entry in the Church Book was forgotten. Stroh conducted his last baptism on 19 March 1644 and entered personally the last death on 25 March 1644.

The Coat of Arms  
of the Stroh Family



Regarding Stroh's descendants, until 1750 we find no personal details except references in the Collector's Records. Births and deaths, marriages and descendants are mentioned in the Church Books. A family blessed with such broad relations and descendants naturally spread far beyond the borders of its close-knit homeland with its kindred ties and relationships. As much as possible are these mentioned for the present individual families:

Line of Community Treasurer August Stroh

Local Name: "Kratze"

Preliminary remark: For all presented Stroh family lines, the common beginning is with the grandson of the Pastor Nicolaus Stroh and

son of the teacher Henrich Stroh; Esai-  
as Stroh. Accordingly it is sufficient  
for the beginning of these family lines  
to enumerate these three individuals  
once.

Entry in the "Hassia sacra" 1. Stroh, Nicolas  
Vol. I, page 428: "5. Niko- Pastor for Nieder-Gemunden  
laus Strohe, (Stramen), from 1618-1644  
Homberg on the Ohm, Grad. 15 ? -1644  
Marburg (P)1596,1600-1622 Date of marriage unknown  
Schoolmaster in Burg-Gemunden, ? , Agathe  
1622-1644 Pastor in Nieder-  
Gemunden. 15 ? - 1 Feb 1641 (Burial)

Brother of No. 2: Johs. Stroh, 2. Stroh, Henrich  
1612-1696. Teacher in Ermen- Teacher for Nieder-Gemunden  
rod, married to Anna Elisa- 29 Aug 1624-29 Jul 1696  
beth Weiss (1619-1678)

1644

Lapp, Maria  
widow of Friedr. Lapp of  
Ober-Gleen

16 ? -21 Mar 1674

3. Stroh, Esaias  
9 Dec 1649- 7 May 1725  
27 Jun 1673

Schmitt, Maria  
Daughter of Free Thinker  
(Freienseener)  
Johs. Schmitt and  
Christine Bruehl

29 Apr 1650-14 Oct 1703

The brother of No. 3: Johann Konrad Stroh (1642-4 Dec 1676) was married to  
Anna Maria Carl of Elpenrod. The five children of this marriage died  
young, so that this line was ended with the death of Joh. Konrad Stroh.

The local name, still used today, for the line of the Community Treasurer  
August Stroh goes back to the extinct family Kratz. The "Kratze" moved  
from Ruppertenrod to Elpenrod, and then to Nieder-Gemunden, only to be  
ended so far from their origin around 1860.

The (extinct) Family Kratze

1. Johannes Kratz from Ruppertenrod  
His son:
2. Peter Kratz married in Elpenrod and died there  
1671.
3. Hans Kratz, born 1623 in Elpenrod.  
His son Heinrich married in Nieder-Gemunden.
4. Kratz, Heinrich

25 May 1672-13 Jan 1743

8 May 1695

Blosser, Maria Elisabeth  
Daughter of Joh. Konrad Blosser

3 May 1672- 5 Dec 1734

5. Kratz, Johann Reinhard      Acquisition of the  
10 Apr 1707-26 Oct 1744      present day Stroh  
property

16 Nov 1734

Becker, Anna Elisabeth  
Daughter of Joh. Caspar Becker and  
his wife Maria Rau  
(Erbenhauser line - Becker)

6. Kratz, Georg Philpp  
Mayor of Nieder-Gemunden

1 Feb 1739-21 Jun 1789

25 Sep 1764

Horst, Anna Kunigunde  
Daughter of the teacher Johs. Horst and  
his wife Maria Katharina Becker  
(Daughter of the miller Johs. Becker from  
the stone mill)

24 Sep 1743-19 Apr 1812

7. Kratz, Johannes

4 May 1773-14 Apr 1853

10 Jul 1800

Groh, Johannette Gertraud  
Daughter of the teacher Groh of Flensungen

26 Oct 1778-28 Feb 1834

8. Kratz, Johann Heinrich

7 Sep 1805-11 Jan 1859 died in Wimpfen

10 Feb 1856

Jung, Elisabeth

Daughter of Johs. Jung of Windhain near  
Nieder-Ohmen

1830 - ?

The Family Stroh

Line: Community Collector August Stroh

Local Name: "Kratze"

On the basis of stories passed down by word of mouth the family lived in the "courtyard", in a smaller house inside the "Thrayser Estate." One Joh. Jost Stroh has the additional remark in the church books "im hof" ("in the courtyard"). The local name "Hofejuste" (Jost of the courtyard?) was used for this line before 1840. The present day Stroh property in the Alsfelder Strasse was purchased around 1850 by Joh. Jost Stroh IV from Johann Heinrich Kratz (No. 8, above). The local name "Kratze" was then carried over to the family Stroh.

## Comments on Husband

## Family Lineage

## Comments on Wife

Comments on Husband	Family Lineage	Comments on Wife
Son of Esaias Stroh. Brother 4. Johs. Stroh became beginning of the lines: "Kastenmeister, Struhwellems and Grittschneider", also for the family Otto Nathes.	4. Stroh, Johann Heinrich 29 Jun 1679- 5 Sep 1745 5 Nov 1705 Schott, Veronika 12 May 1685- 7 Feb 1754	Daughter of Dietrich Schott and Anna Margarete Bloesser
Brother Joh. Georg married 1745 to Anna Dorothea Hedrich of Burg-Gemunden, line continued to Johs. Semmler, Dietrich Semmler's son.	5. Stroh, Johann Dietrich 9 Aug 1706-12 Nov 1757 25 Nov 1734 Brendel, Elisabeth 22 Mar 1718-24 Feb 1791	Daughter of Michael Brendel and Anna Christine Fuch of Selnrod
	6. Stroh, Joh. Heinrich, Jr. 29 Aug 1747-10 Nov 1814 1779 Schmitt, Susanne 6 May 1747-10 Nov 1814	Daughter of Joh. Jost Schmitt and Anna Elisabeth Wolf of Otterbach
Related Name: "im Hof" Local name: Hofjuste	7. Stroh, Joh. Jost 3 Apr 1780-12 Apr 1836 13 Apr 1802 Stroh, Maria Katharina 3 May 1778-19 Mar 1836	Daughter of Konrad Stroh and Anna Maria Berg. Their great-grandfathers Stroh were the brothers, Johann Heinrich (No. 4) and Johs. Stroh.

## On The Family History of the Becker-Ratwirts (Town Inn) Line

Two families, whose original roots can be traced back over more than 400 years, are joined in this line. Around 1680 Balthasar Becker moved from Erbenhausen to Nieder-Gemunden. The source of this Becker Line goes back through Erbenhausen to the town of Kirtorf, where two Beckers are named in the register of inhabitants of 1520: Begker, Henn and Begker, Peter. Balthasar Becker married Anna Katharina Pabst, a great-granddaughter of Cuntz Pabst, who was mentioned in the Census Book of 1582. The Becker family history is very interesting. This family displays on average a continuous upward development and also endured difficult periods of crises (1842-1921, when August Becker lost seven brothers and sisters) and throughout the Second World War. A brother of August Becker, Karl Becker, emigrated to America and married there. Nothing is known about his descendants at this time. Two more Beckers emigrated to America, sons of the brother of August Becker's father, Johann Caspar Becker and Ernst Becker.

According to property relationships and on the basis of word of mouth stories the following can be established as most probable: Balthasar took over the Pabst estate and also lived at first in the house of his parents-in-law. As he married into the so-called "Burstehannese" line of the Pabsts, the original property could have stood where today stands the barn of August Oppperthausen. Balthasar, though, either bought or took over a house a short time later, which stands where today stands the so-called brewery house of the "Christoffels" line, which also became a Becker line. Both houses were torn down (1865 and 1948).

Soon we find the name Becker in connection with their practised professions: innkeeper and husbandman. Accordingly a Becker took over the community inn:

Entry in the Census Book of 1582: "The court in the office Burggemunden excluding the Ermenrod residents, has judged for Niddergemunden an open lodge and tavern. Lodge in the Gemeinen Strasse (Dorfstrasse) rented to Bellershem, with stables. It is granted by the Landgraf with the legal boundary marker."

By the "Gemeinen Strasse" is not meant the "Gemundener Strasse", which is the main thoroughfare from the Wetterau to Fulda and Kassel. This street was called "Kirtorffer Strasse" in the Census Book. As a "Gemeinen" way one would expect a way which could be used by all and would have to be kept clear. A Becker would have at first taken the community inn on lease. It stood where today stands the town inn (present proprietor-Georg Dickel). The present building is built on the foundations of two old houses. The cellar of the house can be easily approximated as 500 years old. Besides the community inn was a second private inn in Nieder-Gemunden: On the occasion of the consecration of the new church on October 30, 1756, the congregation gathered together for the start of the parade "in and around the last house right on the Kirtorfer Strasse behind the pastor's barn, the only proper tavern in the community." Accordingly, it must not have been so entirely proper in the town inn. But back to the old town inn. As the community and court inn even convenings of the court of the Burg-Gemunden office were held in the old building, because the seat of the court itself



was the old community of Nieder-Gemunden, originally just Gemunden, later known as well as Dorfgemunden, to differentiate from the fortification (Burg) on the Ohm river, at which a settlement was noted and mentioned for the first time only very late. As time passed the old inn became too small; it could no longer meet the demands. As such, Johann Caspar Becker (1762-1831) decided to make a large scale reconstruction. In Burg-Gemunden stood the old Burg Gemunden brewery house on the fortified hill. In the Census Book (1582), among other things in the description of the buildings near the fort, was: "Item a brewery at the first door and a community jail behind it before the former castle and its accessories." This "brew house" was bought by Johann Caspar Becker in 1795, torn down and on the foundation of both old buildings reconstructed. On the main beam facing the street (now covered over) was the following inscription: "Look at me and read, I have been an old brewery; one took justly into view and made me again just like new." The names of the roommaker and builder with his wife, as well as the year, followed. Around this time Johann Caspar Becker is believed to have purchased the old community inn as well. Probably this took place before the reconstruction, in order for a free hand in the planning (1792). The brewery license was included with the purchase of the community inn. The new building became in practice the "Town Hall" due to the sessions of the court of the Burg-Gemunden office. Johann Caspar Becker became the council innkeeper. His name was entered in the church books with the notation "in the Town Hall." The old iron pillory, which has unfortunately disappeared, was relocated at the new town hall. A room to the right on the second floor is still called "the decision room", i.e. the room in which decisions were made and announced. Johann Caspar Becker was a man important for the community. Also, his death was of interest in so far as he was the first citizen to be buried in the new cemetery on May 2, 1831. Pastor Muench wrote of it: "The new cemetery for Nieder-Gemunden lying before the town on the footpath to Homberg was consecrated on the second of May 1831 by the burial of Caspar Becker from the current Inn or Town Hall."

The beer brewery was originally located in the cellar of the Town Hall. A stream of water is still evident, as well as an old brew kettle. Two meters of earth lay over the old cellar. In 1865 Georg Caspar Becker (with the notation "Innkeeper and Beerbrewer" built the really new brewery, that still bears this name today. Next to it was already standing a shop for coffee, sugar, and the like. The father of the present person bearing the same name, the old Mayor Carl Becker sold the entire brewery apparatus in the 1890s and let his grocery and associated hardware store be operated fully as a commercial enterprise in 1899. With the construction of the new brewery, the row-house attached to that of Lorenz Becker, which was occupied by a family by the name of Eiertanzer, was torn down. The groceries had to be obtained by means of horse and wagon from Marburg.

(see also the newspaper article: "Development of an old Nieder-Gemunden Family" [Rector Erb])