

The Rise and Fall of Catholic Liebenthal:

*A Look at Religious Significance in Rush County, Kansas
1874-Present*

by Chad Miller



HIST 533: Lost Kansas Communities

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Part I

Liebenthal: A History

Introduction

The term “Great American Desert” seems pretty fitting out here. Even in late November, with a sharp chill on the air, you can almost see heat rising up off the road. Smoky, little ripples floating off the asphalt, accenting the desolate prairie, which seemed to span endlessly in all directions. The land itself appearing like an elderly man, taking his last few breaths. Breaths taken not in sorrow or remorse, but with a coy smile, reminiscing silently about all of the vitality, life and change he once held in his hands. This man’s name was *Liebenthal*, a German word meaning the lovely valley.¹ The rich Volga-German culture of his prime and the broad, beautiful ocean that cloaked him in his youth, both seem so distant now. Maybe even a bit incomprehensible that this land once held large, majestic sharks. Although aged and quiet now, Liebenthal still shares a few old memories. Like the beautiful Catholic Church, or the old mercantile, still full of assorted products. Here in Rush County, Kansas, if you look close enough after a rain, the little hills in the pastures will reveal a few of those prehistoric shark’s teeth, as if Old Mr. Liebenthal, finally so consumed in pride and nostalgia, can no longer keep that smile

¹ Adam Herrman, *The Herrman Family Tree and Genealogy*, September 1, 1996. N.P.

to himself. This area of Kansas was selected by settlers in the 1870s to be the ideally fertile environment for winter wheat, and this area of Kansas is still in the top ten wheat producing counties.² The village of Liebenthal was once a strong, proud community and the following will show that its history and success were deeply integrated with the strong Catholic faith of its residents.

The History

Those who are familiar with the village's history are all in agreement that it was the Volga-German stonemason, Jacob Herrman, who founded the land in Rush County, Kansas that came to be known as Liebenthal.³ Jacob Herrman can be seen in **Figure 1** below. Those who know the Herrman family might argue that the story of Liebenthal goes back farther, to Herman the German.⁴ The Herrman family claims there is a direct bloodline between Jacob Herrman and Herman the German.⁵ This great leader, also known as Arminius, is believed to have united the Germanic Tribes to secure a victory over the Roman Army around 9 AD and potentially found what is now known as

² Socolofsky Homer E. *Historical Atlas of Kansas, 2nd Edition*, (University of Oklahoma Press: 1988), 61.

³ Henry Herrman, *A History of Liebenthal, Kansas, and of St. Joseph's Parish at Liebenthal*, personal collection of Fr. Keith Webber of Manhattan, Kansas. N.D., 3.

⁴ Adam Herrman, *The Herrman Family Tree and Genealogy*, N.P.

⁵ It is important for the reader to note the name variation. Due to reasons unknown, the lineage was known by at least: Herman, Hermann, Herrman, and Herrmann.

Germany.⁶ The name Herrman even translates to mean “King of Men.”⁷ ⁸ It would seem likely that such strong character traits would have been passed down to Jacob Herrman, giving him the necessary tools to start the first Volga German community in Kansas.⁹

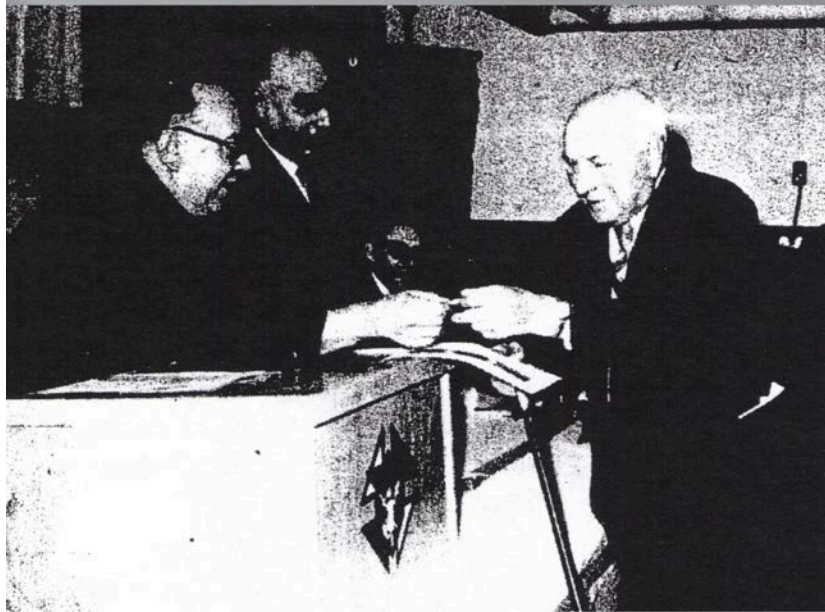


Figure 1: A photograph of Liebenthal founder, Jacob Herrman. The Knights of Columbus honored Jacob in the early 1900s for his contributions to the village.

Source: Emerald Dechant, *Die Liebenthaler und Ihre Kirche*.

The Herrman family is known to have resided in the area of Germany until 1765, when they were extended an invitation from Catherine the Great to form German colonies in Russia, in the Volga River Valley. The area the Germans were given was

⁶ Wikipedia, “Arminius,” accessed Fall 2010, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arminius>.

The history of German nationalism is still disputed by many. The history credited to Herrman the German is one commonly accepted belief.

⁷ Adam Herrman, *The Herrman Family Tree and Genealogy*, “Origin of the Name Herrman.” N.P.

⁸ Hyde Flippo, “*The Top 50 German Names and Their English Meanings*,” About.com. Accessed November 2010. <http://german.about.com/od/germanicgenealogy/a/50surnames.htm>
About.com notes the alternate spelling “Herrmann” translates to mean “warrior.”

⁹ Emerald Dechant, *Die Liebenthaler Und Ihre Kirche*, N.D., 11.

desolate. Family accounts note it as a “semi-arid wasteland, infested with wolves, bears and lynx” and it had “little timber to build dwellings.” The Germans set up a small village known as Liebenthal near the unbroken steppes of the Ural Mountains.¹⁰ Due to failed crops, and invasions from the Kirghiz¹¹, the Germans were soon looking to return to Germany. When Queen Catherine passed away in 1796, her son, Paul I, took the throne and many of the agreements between the colonies and the Crown were broken.¹² It was at this time the Volga-German morale had completely deteriorated, and change was inevitable.

In the spring of 1874, the Volga Germans were given the opportunity to leave Russia and set up new colonies in the western world. President Lincoln’s Homestead Act of 1862 offered a chance of freedom and 160 acres of free land to any pioneer.¹³ This, in conjunction with the rise of the American railroad industry, made for a perfect opportunity to start anew. It was in April 1874 then the settlers set out to explore new places of colonization, and pushed forth the first wave of Volga German settlers to the new world on October 22, 1875. Two days later the second wave began their voyage west upon the Baltimore Line of the North German Lloyd Steamship Co. of Bremen with

¹⁰ Adam Herrman, *The Herrman Family Tree and Genealogy*, N.P.

¹¹ The Kirghiz are a tribe of Mongolian Huns. This tribe led many raids against immigrants. Accounts of killing, burning, raping and capturing women and children were common. The Russian Army eventually defeated the Kirghiz on August 15, 1774, ending these attacks.

¹² Henry Herrman, *A History of Liebenthal, Kansas, and St. Joseph’s Parish at Liebenthal*, 1.

¹³ Potter, Lee and Wynell Schamel. “The Homestead Act of 1862.” *Social Education* 61: 6 (October 1997): 359-364. Information accessed at <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/homestead-act/>.

Jacob Herrman and five of his family members. Their receipt of payment for transportation can be seen below in **Figure 2**.¹⁴

BALTIMORE LINE
OF THE
North German Lloyd Steamship Co.
OF BREMEN.

No. G 1323 November 21st 1887

Received from *Jacob Herrman* utter
the sum of *Three Hundred and fifty one* Dollars,
for the Ocean passage of *six* per *son* in the Steerage of
one of the Steamers of the North German Lloyd, from **BREMEN to BALTIMORE**; also for
passage from *Cyd Kuhn* to Bremen, and from Baltimore to *Victoria B.C.*
subject to the rules, regulations and conditions of the North German Lloyd Steamship Com-
pany, Bremen, and connections in Europe and America.

Whole number of persons *six*
or,
6 Adults.
* Children *B. Bruns*
BETWEEN 1 & 12 YEARS
* Children.
UNDER ONE YEAR.

Keep this receipt, as unless it is returned, there can be no refund of the money. In the event of a refund the customary deduction will be made.
Göltig für ein Jahr.

Figure 2: A photocopy of the receipt of payment for passage of six adults to America on November 21 1887, paid for by Mr. Jacob Herrman.

Source: Private collection of Adam Herrman

The Rise

The immigrants arrived in Topeka, Kansas on November 28, 1874. The prosperous railroad companies in Kansas were more than willing to act as friendly hosts, as the newly arrived settlers were looking to set up farms, which would generate further profit for them. It was Mr. C. B. Schmidt of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad that reached out to Jacob and the other immigrants.¹⁵ He helped the Volga Germans find

¹⁴ Adam Herrman, personal collection in Salina, Kansas. Baltimore Line of the Northern German Lloyd Steamship Co. of Bremen receipt of payment for passage for Mr. Jacob Herrman and five other adults from Bremen to Baltimore and Baltimore to Victoria, Kansas. None of the passengers were below the age of twelve.

¹⁵ Adam Herrman, *The Herrman Family Tree and Genealogy*, N.P.

temporary employment with the railroad and farms in Topeka, while also helping them choose suitable land to settle in western Kansas. The first area considered was the Cheyenne Bottoms area near Great Bend. The land was going for nearly \$5.00 an acre, which was too high for the new settlers.¹⁶ Land near Hutchinson, Fort Hays, and Ellis was also considered, but suitable land still had not been found, and the people began considering a return to Russia. It was then that they met a Mr. Adam Rodelheimer of the Kansas Pacific Railroad that took them to an area of Rush County where the land was priced between \$2.00 and \$2.50.¹⁷ This area had a good water source and soil that proved to be exceptional for growing the winter wheat that had brought over from Russia. It was Jacob Herrman who chose the valley south of the Smokey Hill River, near Big Timber Creek to be the home of the new village, Liebenthal.¹⁸

An old Herrman family legend states that Jacob Herrman chose to settle this land based on intelligence he had obtained from local Native Americans.¹⁹ The belief was that this area, due to its unique geography, is protected against tornadoes. While meteorological data of this area shows there have been none on record, it cannot be

¹⁶ Saul, Norman E. Saul, "The Migration of Russian Germans to Kansas," *The Kansas Historical Quarterly* 40:1 (Spring 1974), accessed online in Fall 2010 at http://www.kancoll.org/khq/1974/74_1_saul.htm.

¹⁷ Adam Herrman, *The Herrman Family Tree and Genealogy*, N.P.

¹⁸ Henry Herrman, *History of Liebenthal, Kansas, and St. Joseph's Parish at Liebenthal*, 1.

¹⁹ Adam Herrman, *The Herrman Family Tree and Genealogy*, N.P.

proved true or false.²⁰ This area, to be known as Liebenthal, was purchased by Jacob Herrman, at 40 acres, Peter Herrman, at 80 acres, and Johannes Scheffer, at 320 acres.²¹

The first structures of any town can tell us much about the people who built them. It was decided that the very first structure in Liebenthal was to be a Catholic Church. The families of the immigrants were residing in Hays during the initial days of their settlement, and found the values of the community to be much below their standards. At this time, Hays was a wild town filled with drinking, gambling and prostitution. The Volga Germans felt that the town was this way because its first structure was a saloon. Thus, after the village site was sold to Jacob Herrman, and each person received a deed to a piece of land in town, a wooden cross was erected at the first intersection in town to act as a temporary church.²² Then, the men went to work building sod houses. One account tells that the men were such hard workers that, despite the harsh Kansas winter, three of them were able to build an entire sod house of measurements 12'x16' and had it ready for lodging in just one day.²³ Due to these simple structures, the townspeople paralleled the birth of Liebenthal to that of the birth of their Lord, in "a simple hole in the ground, with tree branches and sod for a roof."²⁴

²⁰ Meril Teller, Donna Tucker and Mary Knapp are meteorologists of KWCH Storm Team 12, the University of Kansas and Kansas State University (respectively). The author emailed with these meteorologists in October of 2010. Tucker and Knapp agree that some areas are geographically better than others to generate tornado activity, but the possibility strictly pure chance. All three agree that this legend cannot be proved true or false, but plausible, due to lacking information of tornado presence before specific dates and what is recorded as an actual tornado. Ms. Tucker believes this story was told to Mr. Jacob Herrman and others as a means of advertising the land, and little more.

²¹ Adam Herrman, *The Herrman Family Tree and Genealogy*, N.P.

²² Henry Herrman, *History of Liebenthal, Kansas, and St. Joseph's Parish at Liebenthal*, 3.

²³ Stollenwerk Fr. Rudolph, personal account of history, in personal collection of Adam Herrman of Salina, Kansas. N.P. N.D.

²⁴ Adam Herrman, *The Herrman Family Tree and Genealogy*, N.P.

Despite not having a proper church, the Germans would gather at the cross every Sunday, any Holy Day of Obligation, and each First Friday for prayer. If the weather did not permit, they would meet in a sod house belonging to Mr. Peter Schaefer. There was such a gathering that, in time, Father Wibbert, a local priest, began traveling to Liebenthal to celebrate mass the fourth Monday of every month. On December 8, 1876, a Church Committee was organized to build a proper church. Mr. John Schaefer donated four acres of his land to build the church upon, and it was completed October 1878, and was accomplished for only \$200.²⁵

The village of Liebenthal was relatively homogeneous with regard to the 1895 U.S. Census data. Data shows that all peoples in the Big Timber Township were white, and the majority of them being Kansas natives or Russian immigrants. Some residents are from Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, and Pennsylvania.²⁶ These residents were most likely part of the westward movement in search of better soils after the Civil War.

On August 15, 1899 Father Rudolph Stollenwerk, who can be seen in **Figure 3**, had been appointed to Liebenthal and took charge. The appointment of Fr. Stollenwerk marked the beginning of the most prosperous days in Liebenthal, and the town began to see much growth. This growth was exhibited chiefly through the growth of the church structures. With the initial church just barely complete, Fr. Stollenwerk called for a larger church to be built. The new church was to be made of limestone and was constructed between October 1902 and May 1905. The new church was nearly paid for at the time of

²⁵ Adam Herrman, *The Herrman Family Tree and Genealogy*, N.P.

²⁶ Kansas State Historical Society. "1895 Kansas State Census." Data on Big Timber Creek, Kansas.

its completion when it was dedicated as St. Joseph's Kirche, which can be seen in **Figure 4**. At this time Father Stollenwerk asked for a new parish house, and upon its completion, he called for a schoolhouse to be built.²⁷

It was in this time of prosperity that Liebenthal was proud to have some of the village's own sons called to serve the faith. One of these sons was Reverend George Herrman, who in December 1916, became the first priest from Liebenthal to be ordained.²⁸ In the years to come Father George would become a monsignor, and four other Liebenthal natives would be ordained: Rev. John M. Moeder, Rev. Gilbert Herrman, Rev. Jacob Dreher, and Msgr. George Schmidt. Just before this, the town had been considering using some of its prosperity in building a mill. At this time Liebenthal had a developed system of administration with a city council, mayor and sheriff. Despite this, it is known that the church was still the center of the entire community.²⁹ When an offer arrived from Mr. O. P. Byers, the president of the Antony and Northern Railroad Company, showing an interest to extend rail to Liebenthal if the mill was built, it was not sent to the mayor or city council, but to Father Stollenwerk.³⁰ Residents of Liebenthal very rarely made a community decision without the input of the church and Father Stollenwerk's guidance. It was said that there was very little separation between church

²⁷ Herrman Stephen. Personal account of history. Personal collection of Adam Herrman of Salina, Kansas. N.P. N.D.

²⁸ Emerland Dechant, *Die Liebenthaler un Ihre Kirche*.

²⁹ Adam Herrman, "Liebenthal Research [1]," e-mail to Chad Miller. October 27, 2010.

³⁰ Emerald Dechant, *Die Liebenthaler und Ihre Kirche*.

and state and a motto in the town was "Pray before you vote, and no drinking on Election Day!"³¹



Figure 3: A photograph of Father Rudolph Stolenwerk, the Godfather of Liebenthal. His work in Liebenthal during the early 1900's significantly shaped the community for years to come.

Source: Emerald Dechant, *Die Liebenthaler und Ihre Kirche*.

³¹ Adam Herrman, "Liebenthal Research [2]," e-mail to Chad Miller, October 27, 2010.

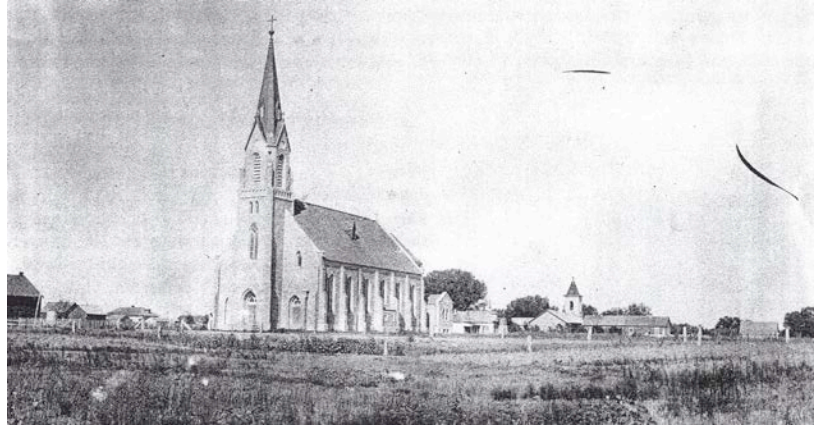


Figure 4: A photograph of St. Joseph's Kirche just after its completion in 1905.

Source: Emerald Dechant, *Die Liebenthaler Und Kirche*.

The Fall

It would seem that in a society this devout, with their religion both literally and figuratively carved into the stones that the town is comprised of, this village could survive as long as the faith the people hold so special exists. It was in 1917, at the peak of Liebenthal's prosperity that the faith of the town was shaken. August 12, just as the new schoolhouse had been completed, fire broke out in the church rectory. The wooden shingles of the rectory helped the fire spread to the wooden shingles of the church, the home of one townsman, and onto the Herrman General Merchandise Store. The mercantile was saved, but the home was lost, and the rectory and church gutted.³² Due to the resilient properties of limestone, the outer walls of the church and rectory were left mostly untouched.

³² Emerald Dechant, *Die Liebenthaler und Ihre Kirche*.

The church assembled again to rebuild the strong, stony symbols of their faith. The state of the church during the rebuild can be seen in **Figure 5**. Losses were said to exceed \$100,000 with an insurance payout of \$32,000.³³ It took three years to rebuild the church and rectory (this time with clay shingles), and another seven after that to pay off the debt. The economy of Liebenthal was weakened from this, and a year later, the great stock market crash of 1929 hit. To finally deplete the strength of this pious community, Fr. Stolenwerk, the Godfather of the town, lost his battle with pneumonia at St. Anthony's Hospital in Hays on July 12, 1931. He had served the village for 31 years 11 months, the greatest days of Liebenthal. A monument statue of "Christ the King" was built in the south corner of the parish yard, and was dedicated to his memory in appreciation of his service to the town.³⁴ This monument, and many other significant Church structures can be found in **Part II** of this document.



Figure 5: A photograph of St. Joseph's Kirche during the rebuild after the 1917 fire.

Source: Emerald Dechant, *Die Liebenthaler und Ihre Kirche*/

³³ Adam Herrman, *The Herrman Family Tree and Genealogy*, N.P.

³⁴ *Ibid.*

The town set out to rebuild both spiritually and financially over the coming years. A new priest was appointed and a large celebration was held to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the town.³⁵ The day began with a church service, followed by a dinner to honor founding members of the community who were still living, games, and a dance. The celebration was covered by the local newspapers, and included a few paragraphs on the town's rich history.³⁶ Despite all the good publicity for the area, drought, economic downturn, dust storms and the Second World War continued to pull people away from Liebenthal. Members of some of the village's founding families were leaving in search of better jobs.

By 1941 the church schoolhouse had lost its nuns. The schoolhouse continued as a public school, until 1968 when it was finally closed. Since then, it has been used as a parish hall. Soon after, priests began being assigned to the parish for shorter periods of time. In 1959 the church caught fire yet again, as a result of bad wiring on some Christmas lights. The interior was gutted again, and this time at the cost of many ornate German statues and decorations. Only the outer stonewalls survived, and the blaze melted glass windows and twisted steel girders. The church was rebuilt at a cost of \$200,000 and remains in this form today. Due to declined population and problems involving the Catholic Church, the diocese began gracing Liebenthal with only a traveling priest.

³⁵ "Leibenthal Plans Big Celebration," *The Hays Daily News*, August 31, 1936, accessed in the Kansas State Historical Society Collection.

³⁶ "Celebrate [Liebenthal's] 60th Anniversary." *The Lacrosse Chieftan*. September 3, 1936. Accessed in Kansas State Historical Society Collection.

The Legacy

The village of Liebenthal still stands today as the proud religious community it has always been, but it has gotten considerably smaller. It is most likely that the town has remained because its main street is U.S. Highway 183. This road is one of the more frequently traveled U.S. Highways, as it runs from Canada to Mexico. Today, there are 57 total homes in Liebenthal, 32 of which were built before 1939.³⁷ Three homes were built in the 1990s, but since there has been no new construction. A few of the existing structures have recently been sold to new owners and are being renovated. One example of this is an older home along the main street that is being converted into a hunting lodge.

There are very few business left in town; an upholstery shop, a small tavern, a beef jerky shop, and a small welding company. The most unique business here is Pat's Beef Jerky, which is located in the former bank. Despite being secluded in this small community, this business has been very successful due to walk-in traffic along U.S. 183 and mail-order sales. Pat Carver, the owner, boasts that in addition to deer preparation, lunch meats, and sausages, the company processes and sales over 12 tons of beef jerky a year. Mr. Carver also mentioned that he would never relocate his shop, as he is very happy with its success, and keeps busy enough to be running more production shifts than currently in place.³⁸

³⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, 2000. Data on Liebenthal, Kansas. Accessed November 2010. <http://www.Census.gov>. http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/GCTTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=04000US20&-_box_head_nbr=GCT-PH1&-ds_name=DEC_2000_SF1_U&-redoLog=true&-format=ST-7&-mt_name=DEC_2000_SF1_U_GCTPH1_ST7.

³⁸ Pat Carver, interview by Chad Miller. Liebenthal, Kansas, November 22, 2010.

The church, despite offering only one mass a week via traveling priest, is still a very integral part of the community. There are about sixty-five active parish members, but only one-third of them provide a significant donation. Finances are the biggest problem for the people of St. Joseph's Kirche. The church has needed much upkeep, and the roof has needed to be replaced three times since the fire of 1957. The leaks in the roof have caused a great need for painting in the church's interior. The church's financial problems are not completely dependent upon the state of the town. As scandal and lack of interest in vocations have taken a toll on the Catholic Church as a whole, smaller churches are carrying most of the financial burden. Despite this, the members of the church are continuing to move forward, and current funds are being used in the basement of the schoolhouse for the installation of new restrooms.³⁹

Today's Liebenthal is faced with two chief problems: water and change in community values. The low water supply in Western Kansas has been a growing concern for years. In addition to this, the decaying limestone rocks in the underground water supply are causing high levels of fluoride in the town's water. The town has aged in such a way that many of the new residents have no previous ties or family affiliations to the village. These new residents do not adopt many of the values the town was founded upon. Mrs. Lucille Dechant, long-time resident and caretaker of the church grounds feel that "Germans are very proud, clean people"⁴⁰ and new locals do not embrace these values.

³⁹ Lucille Dechant, interview by Chad Miller. Liebenthal, Kansas, November 22, 2010.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

In Conclusion

Through observation of the town history, one can see this town was a unique religious settlement. The rise and fall of Liebenthal can be directly correlated to the prosperity and downfall of the village church and church properties. The story of Liebenthal, from its humble beginnings to its prosperous times with Father Stolenwerk, is one that will never truly die. Those with ties to Liebenthal will tell you this is because they built their village on the same beliefs that they trust to keep their soul everlasting. Most likely, it is because they have carved their history deep into stone, like that of St. Joseph's Kirche, surviving two devastating fires with the outer stone untouched. A deep history, first carved by stonemason Jacob Herrman, and continued by his hundreds of descendants, as they pass it down through the generations. This can still be seen every year on the Sunday before Labor day, as the large family gathers in the basement of the old school house to celebrate their history as Herrmans, the Kings of Men.

Part II

Liebenthal: In Pictures

The following 18 photographs were taken on November 22, 2010 by the author. These photographs are included to illustrate the narrative of the town history and to document the beauty of this town's most prominent structures in the event that they are lost due to natural disaster or otherwise.



Figure 6: This photograph shows the cemetery in Liebenthal. It is easily recognizable as a Catholic cemetery, with the large number of crosses on the grave markers. Many of the town's most significant figures are buried here or represented with a monument in their honor.

Source: Image by Author, 22 Nov. 2010

Figure 7: This photograph shows the memorial to Fr. Rudolph Stollenwerk, the Godfather of Liebenthal. This memorial is one of six representing important religious figures in Liebenthal.

Source: Image by author, 22 Nov. 2010



Figure 8: This photograph shows the grave marker for Mr. Jacob Herrman, the founder of Liebenthal.

Source: Image by author, 22 Nov. 2010



Figure 9: This photograph shows Pat's Beef Jerky, the most successful business in Liebenthal. Located along U.S. Highway 185, this meat shop pushes out over twelve tons of jerky per year, along with other assorted meat products.

Source: Image by author, 22 Nov. 2010



Figure 10: This photograph shows Mr. Pat Carver, owner of Pat's Beef Jerky, in front of one of his merchandise cases.

Source: Image by author, 22 Nov. 2010



Figure 11: This photograph shows Sonny's Tavern, one of the last remaining businesses in Liebenthal.

Source: Image by author, 22 Nov. 2010



Figure 11: This photograph shows the Dechant and Sons Antiques and Collectibles. This building was formerly Dechant Grocery, and Herrman's General Merchandise Store. This building was saved in the fire of 1917.

Source: Image by author, 22 Nov. 2010



Figure 12: This photograph shows the beautiful limestone church, St. Joseph's Kirche. This church has miraculously survived 2 fires since its completion in 1905.

Source: Photo by author, 22 Nov 2010



Figure 13: This photograph shows two of the statues of St. Joseph used in the façade of St. Joseph's Kirche.

Source: Image by author, 22 Nov. 2010



Figure 14: This photograph shows St. Joseph's Kirche from its southeast view. This photo shows the traditional cruciform style of the church has a Romanesque influence.

Source: Image by author, 22 Nov. 2010



Figure 15: This photograph shows the interior of St. Joseph's Kirche. The interior has remained in this form since the fire of 1957.

Source: Image by author, 22 Nov. 2010



Figure 16: This photograph shows Mrs. Lucille Dechant, the caretaker of the church ground in Liebenthal, and a priest from a neighboring community. The two spent time discussing the rich history of the church.

Source: Image by author, 22 Nov. 2010



Figure 17: This photograph shows the exterior of the church rectory's east facing entrance.

Source: Image by author, 22 Nov. 2010



Figure 18: This photograph shows the painting above doorway at the south entrance to the rectory. The message (in German) reads: "Where love and mercy prevail."

Source: Image by author, 22 Nov. 2010



Figure 19: This photograph shows the south entrance to the church schoolhouse. Since it's closing in 1968, the school has been used as a church hall.

Source: Image by author, 22 Nov. 2010



Figure 20: This photograph shows one of the unused classrooms in the church schoolhouse.

Source: Image by author, 22 Nov. 2010

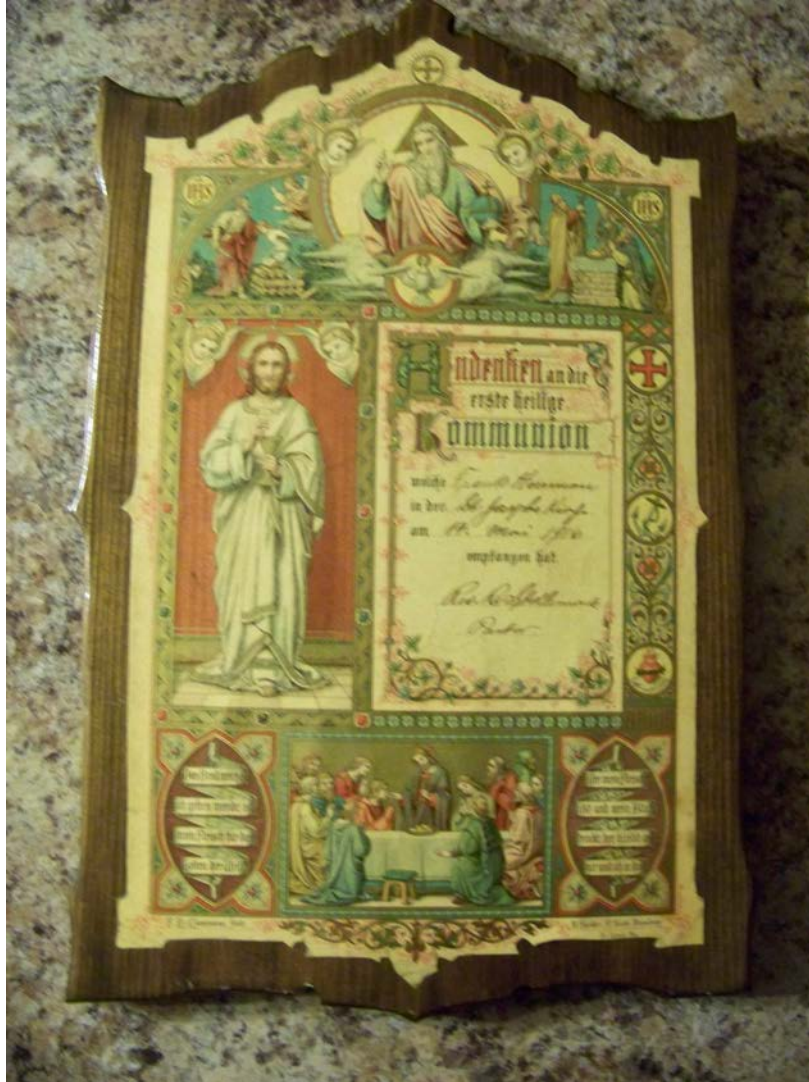


Figure 22: This photograph shows a document commemorating the Sacrament of First Holy Communion at St. Joseph's Kirche. It was presented to Mr. Frank Herrman, grandson of Mr. Jacob Herrman, by Father Stollenwerk at the time of Mr. Herrman's First Communion.

Source: Image by author, 22 Nov. 2010. This document is from the personal collection of Mrs. Linda (Herrman) Miller, Mr. Herrman's daughter.

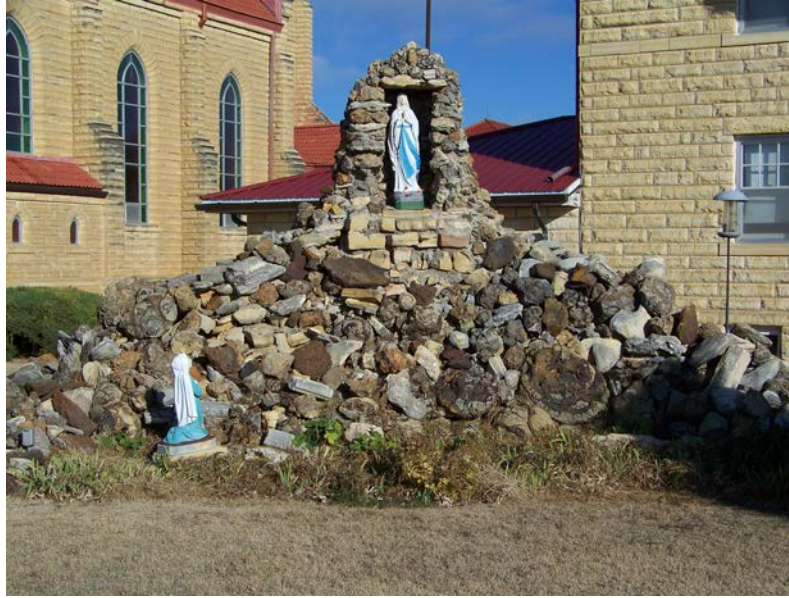


Figure 23: This figure show The Lourdes Grotto. It is located between the church and rectory, and was constructed in 1933.

Source: Image by author, 22 Nov. 2010



Figure 24: This photograph shows the monument of Christ the King, located in the southwest corner of the churchyard. The monument was erected in 1932 as a memorial to the late Father Stolenwerk, the Godfather of Liebenthal.

Source: Image by author, 22 Nov. 2010

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