

Bielefeld Research Journal

By Pat Schulze

22 Jan 2008 - So, after a 2 hour drive in pouring rain, we met up with Erika Grothaus in the foyer of the town hall and went from there to the archive center. Erika had a family tree scroll with her which I unfortunately was unable to read as it was all very rush-rush. Erika had an appointment, so we had just under an hour to do things. We got into the Westfalia Church Archives center and met up with Herr Melzer whose name rang a bell with me and I found his email in my case where he had said he had found no one by the name of Grothus or Grothaus for 1670. We finally got hold of some microfiche but were unable to decipher the writing. Even my friend Christa, who has done this before, couldn't read it. We asked Herr Melzer for help and he did give us the original books, which was better but also no help. I did find the following Grothauses in the Westfailia Church Archives.

Grothus, Herman	1674	(I'm not sure if this is birth date or not)
Grothaus, Johan	1679	
Grothaus, Johan	1709	
Grothaus, Hinrich	1712	
Grothaus, Lülff	1712	
Grothaus, Johan	1729	

Under baptism records we found nothing and if we had the names of the parents were not recorded...only the godparents. Christa suggested we check the city archives as maybe they weren't in the churches. Also Bielefeld at that time was a small village and most of the people were farmers. I believe I had read that Herman was a yeoman which is a free farmer having his own farm without a patron. There is a farmer with a large farm just outside of Bielefeld by the name of Grothaus which I will try and connect with. I believe his son is a mathematics professor at the University of Bielefeld. We still want to meet up again and I would like to see her scroll. She doubts that we are of the same line but maybe cousins!!!

I read part of the book *Rhinelanders Conquer America* and noticed the bibliography at the end lists many book about emigration to Pennsylvania. We will be going down to Cologne the end of May and will be just a short way from the museum in Kommern. You also have the book, why not check out some of the info at the end, too.