

NOTGELD COUNTRY...REVISITED

Thuringen (Part V)

By Hermann Krause

(Continued from August 1990)

Kalbsrieth

I am unable to explain why the name Kalbsrieth was so strangely fascinating to me. There are hundreds of Notgeld localities which I have never seen, but none was so alluring as that of Kalbsrieth. Maybe it was the fact that I had been unable to locate the place on any map.

All I knew was it had to be somewhere in the northern part of Thuringia, but there was no pin for it on that imaginary map I suggested at the beginning of this feature. Frustration turned into challenge. Several large scale maps I studied back in the United States and later in West Germany were of no help. But the first map I acquired in an East German bookstore revealed the site of Kalsbrieth.

It is near the valley of the Unstrut river just southeast of Artern. Fortunately for me, a detour to Kalbsrieth could easily be combined with a visit to some relatives near Eisleben.

Kalbsrieth was once the seat of the von Kalb family. The Lady Charlotte von Kalb knew Goethe well and was a friend of the poet Friedreich Schiller. She is pictured on the Kalbsrieth Notgeld (653) and so is the modest castle, or rather, manor house.

As we approached the village we enjoyed the same overall view, with the unusual square church tower dominating the pastoral skyline, as I know it from one of the notes. And the small bridge leading across the Helme river to the manor house was also familiar as recalled from one of the notes.

The house is identical to the image on the Notgeld, though a canopy has been added over the main entrance. Obviously, the building is now used as a home for retarded persons. The large park behind the house has been neglected and the ground in front of it have been treated unkindly, but otherwise I am well satisfied with what I found. I finally got Kalbsrieth out of my system.

Allstedt

As we drove on in a northwesterly direction we passed the town of Allstedt. This is Thomas Muenzer country, and 1989 was "Thomas Muenzer Year," observing the 500th birthday of the religious fanatic. Muenzer preached in Allstedt in 1523 and 1524.

In 1525 he lead his bands of revolting peasants against their oppressors, the princes. After initial success the peasants were defeated in a battle at nearby Frankenhausen. Muenzer was captured, tried and beheaded.

The Notgeld set of Allstedt (15) dedicates several notes to Muenzer's memory. His portrait appears on the 10- and 25-Pfennig values. One of the 50-Pfennig notes shows Allstedt castle as it still appears today. A cobblestoned road leads up to the huge and well-preserved castle above the town. Only a few visitors were present the sunny spring day we toured the grounds.

Only a few workmen were busy in the spacious courtyards mixing cement and whitewashing walls. Allstedt castle was getting a face lift before the expected rush of summer visitors.

The story of Thomas Muenzer and the Peasants' War, incidentally, is more circumstantially told in several Notgeld sets, especially those of Oldisleben (994), Frankenhäusen (359b) and Muehlhausen (881b).

Kyffhäuser

Kyffhäuser is the name of a small mountain range, rising steeply from the plains. Where it peaks is the towering Kyffhäuser Monument. It was erected in 1890-1896 by the Kyffhäuser Bund, an organization of veterans, to honor Kaiser Wilhelm I. Bruno Schmitz, from Berlin, designed the monument; in 1902 he completed the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument at Monument Circle in Indianapolis.

According to legend, enchanted Emperor Barbarossa, Friedrich I, sleeps inside Kyffhäuser Mountain. He will rise again when the ravens stop flying around the mountain top to lead his nation to grandeur and glory.

Kaiser Wilhelm personified for the Germans the fulfillment of this dream. Consequently, the monument features the titanic statues of both emperors: The sleeping Barbarossa at the base of the monument and high above him, Wilhelm on horseback. The top of the tower-like monument is shaped like an imperial crown.

And speaking of crowns, we decided that a visit to the Kyffhäuser would be the crowning conclusion of our East German travels. Coming from Eisleben we passed through the "City of Roses," Sangerhausen. There was no time for a stop but I remember that even the Notgeld of Sangerhausen (1133) celebrates the town's flower culture and features roses.

The Notgeld-issuing towns of Rossla (1106) and Kelbra (667) are next on our itinerary. The last stretch of the road, leading to a parking area just below the monument, is some engineering marvel, negotiating the steep incline with 38 curves.

Were I required to describe the monument with a single word, I could only say "colossal." And for the view from above, looking over the fertile countryside, over villages and towns to seemingly endless distances, I would use "unforgettable."

Most people are satisfied to enjoy the vista from one of several platforms but I am one of the ambitious ones who had to climb the narrow spiral steps inside the monument to the very top, nearly all 260 feet of it.

You will not find any Notgeld in the catalogs under the
(Please turn to Page 6)

Schleswig-Holstein Plebiscite

(Continued)

There were complaints that the area immediately north of Flensburg should be German and not Danish; both sides charged that there had been unfair pressures exerted in the vote, but when it was all over, the lines persevered and the basic majorities prevailed.

On May 5, Danish military forces occupied Zone 1; official transfer of power was effected on June 15, 1920.

It would be no mystery to learn where the sympathy of Dr. Arnold Keller lay. In a feature on the plebiscite in "Das Notgeld," he explained "It seemed that little by little all cities and villages, even the smallest ones, of Northern Schleswig took a fancy to the issue of emergency notes but naturally not because of necessity but only to make good business.



Following a tug of war, victorious Germans welcome Danes on a 25-Pfennig note of Flensburg, dated Jan 10, 1920.

"They have many artistic valuable notes but also many which hurt the feeling of one part of the population (mostly German). Therefore, they really welcomed the interallied commission, through a decree of May 18, 1920, which forbade all further issues of emergency money. All communities and communal units were forbidden to issue new funds of any kind. A decree came into operation at once which would punish anyone who issued funds, with a fine up to double the amount of the money issued."

We will comment on some of Dr. Keller's description of the propaganda: "Moegeltondern, community, 1920, 50-Pfennig, Reverse: Man holding scales which a packet of Danish voting papers try to pull down while the German eagle with plucked feathers resists against it in vain. This is a very malicious representation.

"Uk. Community, 1920, 50-Pfennig, obverse: 'Friede ernaehrt, Unfriede verzehrt' (Peace supports, Discord consumes). Lion plucking the feathers of the fleeing German eagle."

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COMMUNES	NUMBER OF VOTERS		TOTAL
	For Denmark	For Germany	
Flensburg.....	8,944	27,081	36,025
Bardrup.....	13	119	132
Bau.....	2	21	23
Bockholm.....	24	140	164
Ellund.....	34	97	131
Froslee.....	8	12	20
Frörup.....	11	199	210
Glücksburg.....	95	800	895
Glücksburg Schloss.....	0	13	13
Glücksburg Forstgutsbezirk.....	0	7	7
Gotttrupel.....	14	36	50
Grossen Wiehe.....	26	211	237
Handewitt.....	70	309	379
Harrislee.....	395	557	952

Wambaugh summarizes, "Whatever may be said as to the final frontier, the vote may be taken as a faithful reflection of the popular wish. There were few irregularities either during the campaign or at the polls. There was no violence at any time. The plebiscite police worked admirably, two German and two Danish policemen always being sent out on every errand.

"The troops were not too few, as in other cases, but too many: a smaller number would have been an advantage rather than a weakness. There can be no question that the plebiscite reflects the greatest credit not only on the International Commission but on the two opposed nationalities.

"There is and has been since the plebiscite ended, absolute peace on the new frontier. Neither side was, however, immediately content with the plebiscite. Denmark regards the matter closed. Apparently Germany does also. For the rest of the world the plebiscite was so fair and so excellently administered that the Schleswig Question, which caused three wars in the 19th century and rent the councils of Europe for some 70 years, has ceased to exist," Professor Wambaugh concluded.

Schleswig Bibliography

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THE FRAKTUR PRICELIST

October 1990

Strasburg/Uckermark 1921 25, 50 Pf; 1 Mark L-1249 \$1.75*
 Straubing Oct. 1, 1918 10 Pf \$.75*
 Straubing Jan. 1919 50 Pf P-S 2445i \$1.25*
 Straubing Aug. 15, 1923 K-4904 1 Million Mark BB \$2.25
 Strausberg Sept. 1, 1921 1/2 (4), 1, 2 Mark L-1250 \$3.50*
 Strelitz/M Feb. 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf P-S 2448 \$1.75*
 Striegau Oct. 1, 1920 50 Pf P-S 2450 \$.60
 Striegau/Strzegom/Schlesien Sept. 1921 25 (2), 50 (2), 75 (2)
 Pf Set \$3.75*
 Stroebeck to Dec. 31, 1921 25, 50 Pf chess L-1254aI \$2.50*
 Stroebeck Oct. 1, 1921 1/2 Mark (6) chess set \$7.25*
 Stuetzerbach 1921 10, 20, 25 Pf L-1255 \$3.75*
 Stuetzerbach June 1921 10, 20, 25, 50 Pf Set L-1256b \$2.50*
 Stuetzerbach Weihnachten 1921 10, 20, 25 (2), 50 (2) Pf set
 \$4
 Stuhm/West Preussen Nov. 20, 1920 10 Pf P-S 2455 III Ausg \$3*
 Stuttgart ND 50 Pf \$.45
 Stuttgart April 21, 1921 50 Pf L-1258 \$.60*
 Stuttgart to July 31, 1921 50 Pf P-S 2456d \$1.25*
 Stuttgart yp Frv/ 31. 1921 50 (2) Pf, 1 Mark (3) L-1259I \$6*
 Suchsdorf to Aug. 31, 1921 25 (4), 50 (4) L-1260 Plebiscite
 \$5*
 Suderode/Harz May 13, 1921 75 Pf L-1261 \$.60*
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 Suhl ND 25 (4), 30 (4), 50 (4) Pf Set L-1271 \$7.50*
 Sulza, Bad Feb. 25, 1920 10, 50 Pf L-1272 \$1*
 Sulza, Bad July 19, 1921 10, 25, 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf \$3.75*
 Swinemuende June 1, 1920 25 Pf \$.75*
 Swinemuende ND 25, 50, 75 Pf 1 Mark L-1274 \$2.50*
 Tanna/Reuss Jan. 1, 1920 5 Pf \$.75*
 Tannroda July 15, 1921 50 Pf L-1278 \$.50*
 Tarnowitz/OS ND 10, 15, 25 Pf Alfred Adolph Buchhandlung
 L-1279 \$3*
 Tarnowitz ND 75 Pf L-1280 \$1.25*
 Tegernsee June 1, 1921 10, 20, 30, 40 Pf L-1281*
 Tettnang Dec. 1, 1918 50 Pf \$1*
 Teuchern March 1921 25, 50 L-1285 \$1.25*
 Thale 1918 10, 25 Pf \$1.25*
 Thale to Dec. 31, 1921 25 Pf \$.75*
 Thale Jan. 1, 1921 10 Pf L-1288a wildman, hexen \$.60*
 Thale Walpurgis 1921 5, 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1288c \$2.25*
 Thale 1921 3 Mark L-1288gI \$1.25*
 Thale Johanni 1921 5, 10, 25, 50, 75, 100 Pf L-1288h \$3.75*
 Thale 1921 50 Pf L-1288 L (a,h) \$2*
 Thale 1921 50 Pf L-1288 M I \$.60*
 Thannhausen ND 10, 25, 50 Pf P-S 2488a I \$2.25
 Thesdorf ND 25, 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf \$13*
 Tiefurt Aug. 1, 1921 25, 50 (2), 75 Pf L-1291 \$2.25*
 Tilsit Nov. 12, 1921 3 Mark L-1292 \$2*

Tonndorf-Lohe Mar. 30, 1921 50 Pf, 1, 2 Mark L-1297 \$1.75*
 Torgau/Elbe March 31, 1920 10 Pf \$.50
 Torgau Feb. 10, 1921 5 (2), 10 (2), 25 (2), 50 (2) Pf L-1298
 \$4.50
 Torgau Oct. 13, 1922 100, 500 Mark \$6
 Tostedt 1921 50 Pf \$1*
 Trebnitz/Schl Nov. 5, 1920 25 Pf \$.75
 Trebsen (1914) 50 Pf K-2505b \$2.50
 Treffurt/Werra June 15, 1920 10, 50 Pf P-S 2506dI \$1.50*
 Treffurt/Werra Dec. 1, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1305b \$4.25*
 Treuenbrietzen July 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1360 I \$4.75*
 Triberg/Schwarzwald July 25, 1918 50 Pf K-2512b \$3.25*
 Triberg/Schwarzwald Oct. 9, 1918 5 Mark \$4*
 Triebes RjL Feb. 1, 1919 50 Pf \$.75*
 Triebes RjL March 1, 1920 5 Pf K-2516G \$.75*
 Triebes RjL March 7, 1921 10 Pf \$.75*
 Triebes RjL Oct. 1, 1921 10, 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1308 \$2.50
 Trier June 1, 1920 10, 50 Pf folds \$.75
 Trier Jan. 1921 50 Pf Porta Nigra \$.75*
 Trier July 1921 50 Pf Stadt Trier \$.75*
 Triptis June 1, 1920 10, 50 Pf \$1.25*
 Triptis Jan. 1, 1921 5, 25, 50 Pf \$1.75*
 Triptis July 29, 1921 50 (3) Pf L-1313 \$1.75*
 Trittau ND 50 Pf K-1122a \$2*
 Tuttlingen ND 50 Pf \$1*

Austria-(now Czechoslovakia)

Turnau (Turnov) April 15, 1849 10 kronen Josef Schubert \$5*

A new supply of Reutergeld has been received. These were discussed in THE FRAKTUR, May 1989; please list requests.

* Uncirculated

K-Keller catalogs; L-Lindman catalog; P-S Pick-Siemsen

Since the March 1990 Pricelist catalog numbers and values have been based on the second edition of the Kai Lindman book, "Serienscheine," 2nd edition, \$42.50 postpaid.

THE FRAKTUR, P.O. Box 334, Iola, Wis. 54945

KRAUSE

(Continued from Page 2)

entry "Kyffhaeuser." Yet, many notes exist featuring either the Barbarossa saga or the monument. Most of the towns in the vicinity decorated their Notgeld with Kyffhaeuser themes. Among them are Allstedt (15); Artern (44); Frankenhausen (359a); Kelbra (667); and Rossla (1106). There are even Notgeld sets of Berlin (86) and Luebeck (803) which show the monument.

I submitted a more detailed account of "The Saga of Kyffhauser Mountain" to "World Coins" Magazine, October 1975.

Just when I was completing this feature I saw a brief notice in one of the papers about East Germany issuing a new set of definitive postage stamps. The stamp designs depict famous landmarks, among others Wartburg castle, Berlin's Brandenburg Gate and Kyffhaeuser Monument.

Concluded