

The Clouthe Cross



Another memorial to the historic Rheinbreitbach mining is the Clouthe-Kreuz on the Breiten Heide. As the name implies, the Kreuz is reminiscent of the Clouth family, who came to Rheinbreitbach at the end of the 17th century, was one of the most respected families in our town in the 18th and 19th centuries, and the Rheinbreitbach revived the copper mine at the beginning of the 18th century Century.



Anton Clouth, bridge-master in Cologne, was awarded the copper mine on July 21, 1694. In the same year, the land survey was also started. In 1890, members of the Clouth family erected a cross of reddish sandstone on a mighty quartz quarry to commemorate their ancestors. A reminder on the front of the cross called for prayer, similar to the above-described wooden cross at Westerwaldstrasse. Hikers, whoever you may be, Pray for the deceased Remember your last, Lest you sin. On the back the cross bore the dedication.

This cross was erected to the glory of God and to the memory of the ancestors of the Clouth family, who had begun investing 200,000 years ago and commissioned the Virneberg from the last of the tribes born here.

Karl Wilhelm and Mina Clouth MDCCCXC

In addition to mining, the Clouths operated an inn, today's Rheinbreitbacher Hof, a popular meeting place for poets and artists. Karl Simrock, the brothers Grimm and the poet Freiligrath were among the regular guests. Today, the Clouth family in Rheinbreitbach no longer exists. Descendants of the family live in the Rhineland, eg in Remscheid, in Swabia and Wurttemberg.

In the Second World War, the cross, whose original location on the Breitenheide was completely opposite the confluence of Drachenfelsstraße in the Breite-Heide-Strasse, was completely destroyed. On the initiative of the St. Josephs Bürgervereins, the new Clouth Cross was established in 1981, not far from its first location. It stands today at the corner of Breite-Heide-Straße / Rheinblickstraße, somewhat into the forest.

The Bürgerverein did not only participate in the redesign with a lot of free use of its members, Franz Bornheim almost sacrificed his entire annual vacation. The association also took a considerable part of the costs, for example, for the bronze tablet on the front of the cross with the memory of the Clouth family: Cross to commemorate the ancestors of the Clouth family who put the Virneberg back into operation 200 years ago. Reconstructed from the St. Joseph-Bürgerverein

Rheinbreitbacher Hof (Germany/NRW), the Clouth'sche Hof

The Clouthsche Hof, later Rheinbreitbacher Hof, is probably the oldest (around 1518, in the oldest parts around 1348?) And even today still visible former inn in Rheinbreitbach - and also because of its visitors also the most famous. It was used at least since the beginning of the 19th century as an inn and existed until 1976. It had a large hall, where the carnival was celebrated in the 1970s and a large shaded garden and a bowling alley. Today the farm serves residential and business purposes.

Former owners:

- Cologne Monastery of Saint Lucia in the Filzengraben (up to secularization)
- Duchy of Hesse-Nassau (1803)
- Family Clouth (before 1815 to at least 1897, Wilhelmine and Maximilian Clouth around 1850)
- Wilhelm Friessem
- Family Wenslawiak (about 1900 to 1915)
- Family Weyerstraß (Fritz W. from 1915 to at least 1937, family to at least 1959)
- Gerd Linxweiler (around 1961)
- Heinz Theolinderer (until at least 2012)

Clouthscher Hof 1805 and Rommerslandes Porte

Show map Clouthscher Hof
1805Quelle: Hen. Karst: Map of
formerspiritual Corporations ...,
1805, 55, Heimatmuseum
Rheinbreitbach



After secularization, the later Clouth court, like the rest of the country, was given to the Prince of Nassau-Usingen. 1805 by Hen. Karst a mapping of all affected properties in Rheinbreitbach. Houses, gardens, vineyards, farms, meadows, cream hedges and heyden peaks are distinguished. On the map we see the still existing main house (1) as well as the stables (3, 6) demolished in the meantime and a semi-apartment (5). Where today the hall and the business units are located, there is a part of the still stately garden, which the Grimms have also come to know.

In the main street at the height of today's footpath Am Rückersgraben is still the Rommerslandts Porte.

Rheinbreitbacher Hof in the 1900s



Clouthscher Hof before 1900 Source: Heimatmuseum Rheinbreitbach



Clouthscher Hof and garden of the Northwest, before 1900 Source: Heimatmuseum Rheinbreitbach



Clouthscher Hof from the east, before 1900 Source: Heimatmuseum Rheinbreitbach



Rheinbreitbacher Hof before 1909 Photo: Elsa Stephan



Portrait of Heinrich Reifferscheid in the Heimatmuseum Rheinbreitbach Photo: Dankward Heinrich

On 27 December 1903 Paula Josephine Hedwig Wenslawiak was born in the Rheinbreitbacher Hof. In 1909, six years later, she painted Heinrich Reifferscheid in oil on wood. Her parents, Julian Nicolaus Conrad Wenslawiak from Danzig and Hedwig Catharina Friessen from Rheinbreitbach, distrusted by pastor Katterbach, operated the Clouths' court after the Clouths and Wilhelm Friessem and before the Fritz Weyerstraß family, between 1900 and 1915.

Heinrich Reifferscheid pointed out that the girl was from the café where Karl Simrock and the brothers Grimm met. At the time there was the Café Latz in the main street. The Latz family had called a girl, Nettchen. That is why the portrait is also known as "Nettchenlatz".

Rheinbreitbacher Hof in the 1910s



The Rheinbreitbacher Hof, 1915 Source: Heimatmuseum Rheinbreitbach

Rheinbreitbacher Hof in the 1920s

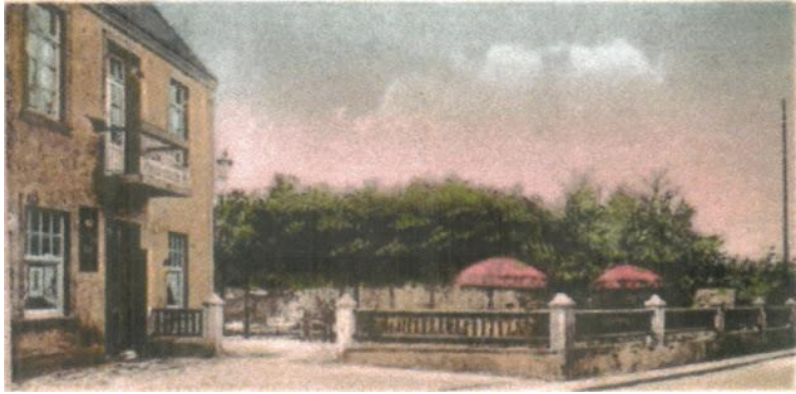
The war and post-war years have left their mark. The young trees are no longer there. Only the left gate post remains alone from the fencing wall. For this a hedge was planted. The framework of the gable was plastered.



Rheinbreitbacher Hof around 1920



Rheinbreitbacher Hof, hall and bowling alley, circa 1920



Rheinbreitbacher Hof, garden, around 1920

Rheinbreitbacher Hof around 1960

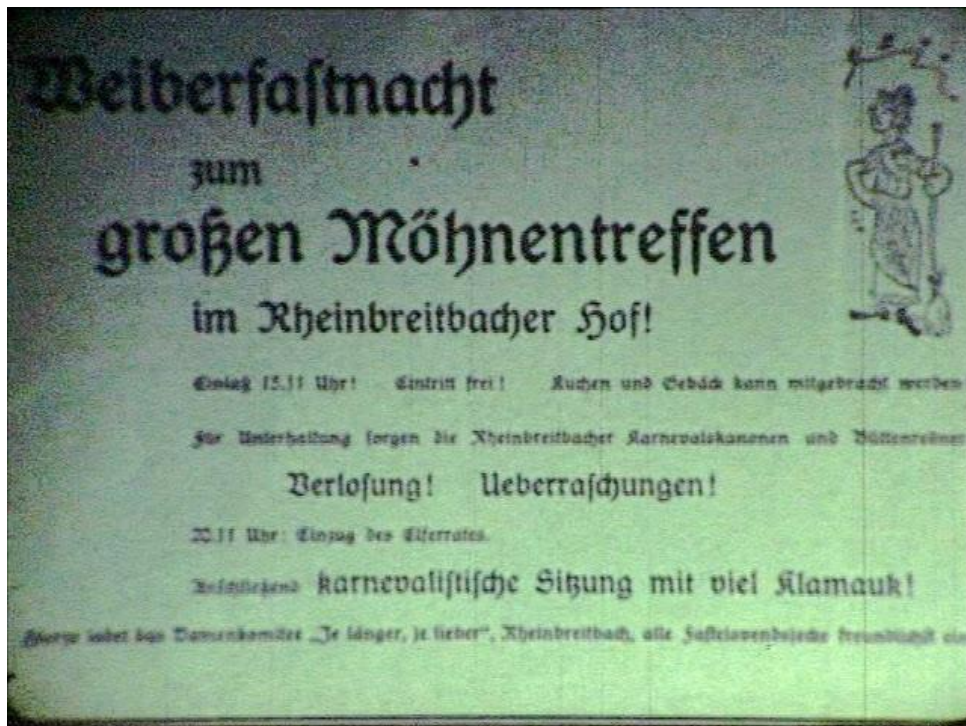


Rheinbreitbacher Hof around 1960 before demolition of the stables (half-timbered building on the left) and replacement by a massive new buildingSource: Heimatmuseum Rheinbreitbach

Rheinbreitbacher Hof 2011



Clouthscher Hof, 2011 Foto: Dankward Heinrich



Weiberfastnacht (Carnival) in the Rheinbreitbacher Hof 1975
Source: From the film "Rheinbreitbach 1975", Heimatverein Rheinbreitbach, 2007

Visiting Rheinbreitbach - The Clouthsche Hof and some of its guests



In Memoria Simrock, Freiligrath, Brothers Grimm relocation 1000 years Rheinbreitbach 1976
Source: From the film "1000-Year Celebration Rheinbreitbach 1976", Heimatverein Rheinbreitbach, 2007

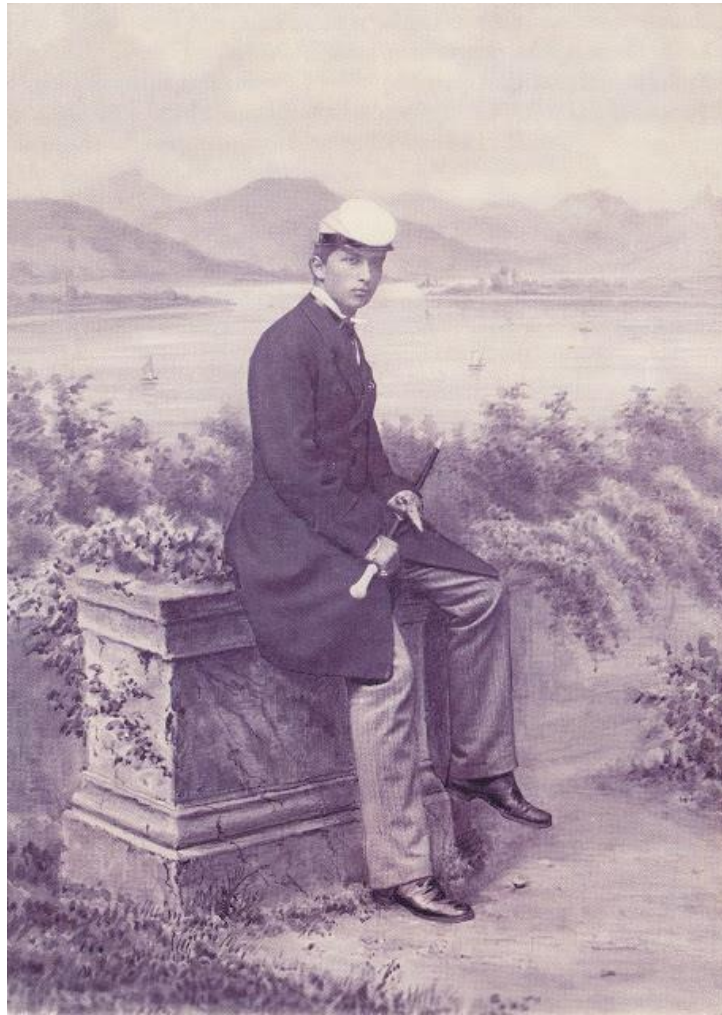
Former guests in the Clouthschen Hof:

- Ferdinand Freiligrath (1839-1841)
- Karl Simrock (1838-1841)

- Wilhelm Grimm with Mrs. Dorothea, daughter Auguste (Gustel), sons Herman and Rudolf (1848, 1853)
 - Ernst Moritz Arndt
 - Friedrich Christoph Dahlmann• Gottfried Kinkel
 - Wolfgang Müller (of Königswinter)
 - Other Bonn professors
- Corps Borussia Bonn of the Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-University (usually Prussian and North German Hochadel = "Bonner Prussia")



Wilhelm II in the Couleur des Corps Borussia Bonn Oil painting by Ludwig Noster (1859-1910) from 1897



Wilhelm II in the Couleur des Corps Borussia Bonn before the Siebengebirge (Old photo)

Karl Simrock und Ferdinand Freiligrath
- Between Unkel and Menzenberg 1839-1841



Ferdinand Freiligrath (1810-1876)

Summary of Hermann Ottendorf, 1911:

"Frequently the friends met at this time, either in Rolandseck, where lunch was already at eleven o'clock, so that Simrock could be at home before nightfall, or Simrock invited the friend with the painter Schlickum from Menzenberg to Honnef for dinner, to which one or other of his friends joined, such as the grandson of Goethe, who had been cut off from the eyes of the old gentleman.

Even the old Clouth house in Rheinbreitbach was often the meeting place for such gatherings, and was baptized by Simrock "To the Irritable", since one of the daughters of the house had led the friends into the upper storey, and with the perfectly serious words: „Is that not one Irritable area? The magnificent view of the Siebengebirge and the Rhine. At times Simrock also appeared in Unkel, where the return trip to Bonn was too far, a "Strolchenfelser Nacht," in the friendships of wine and song, with cheerful and deepest conversations. Freiligrath also made a few steps to the Menzenberg, where Simrock, as master of his vineyard, combined his mental work with the care of house and court with great pleasure and profound joy. [„The Irritable“ was Miss Wilhelmine Clouth (1821-1897), who later took over the management of the inn from her parents.]

Spring 1853 - Karl Simrock recommends the Grimms Rheinbreitbach

On May 31, 1853 Karl Simrock wrote to Herman Grimm, the eldest son of Wilhelm and Dorothea Grimm (1795-1867). In this letter, we will consider where the Grimms summer quarters should relate. Godesberg, Königswinter, Honnef are described with all the advantages and disadvantages of the location and the district, but then Rheinbreitbach is recommended as a favorable location:

"At Alt-Tillmann in the Gasthaus Zum Siebengebirge [Honnef, Hauptstraße 42] one can find cheap and good food, Logis certainly no longer ... But now let me go on for another half hour, until Rheinbreitbach, where Rudolf himself I remember, of course, the first house: at Clouth, or at the irritable point, but I do not quite mind the idea that this place should be proposed because of the proximity of Menzenberg, but Honnef is hardly further to us, and our predilection for Breitbach is based on privileges, which would also recognize yours. It is much more secret and dull, the idyll is not disturbed

by fine staff, no toilet is necessary, Gustelchen runs in the morning skirt on the paddock or on the horn and beckons The mother, who just looks out to sleep, and what a center is Breitbach, how close to Rolandseck, by Honnef, by Unkel, ... we would be very much interested in you nowhere else than at Clouths in Breitbach "To be known to the irritable [...] and the irritable and their mother must be told that they live not in the inn, but as if they were at home."

Mrs. Gertrud Ottendorf reports how the Grimms at Clouthschen Hof at that time:

On the plateau of the Zickelburg stood a half-timbered house belonging to the host Wilhelm Clouth. He sold it to the daughter of Wilhelm Grimm, Auguste Grimm. She never moved the house, because before it was habitually made it was destroyed by fire. That was why Auguste Grimm lived in the summer at the inn of the siblings Clouth, whose entrance was from Rheinbreitbach. There we visited the Aunt Gustel - only half an hour from the house "Parzival" to the aunt. We called the Clouthian Inn "To the Irritable", because he praised Karoline Clouth in this way: "Oh, my dear gentlemen, what do you say to this beautiful thing?" She said the beautiful view of the Siebengebirge. "Is not that an irritable area?"

In the inn, Wilhelm used to dine with his guests at the head of the table, while the two dachshunds, Tell and Waldau, were allowed to sit on his knees and eat small treats. Frl. Min'chen Clouth was in the kitchen. She was already quite stooped; On her head she wore a white bonnet, framing her face. Helpful was Johanna, her niece; They were always seen with cheeks reddened by the fire. They prepared the guests of the house delicious and plentiful meals. Here, too, the gray-haired Fritz, who himself opened the door from the yard, came to receive his piece of sugar.

A true paradise for children was the garden of Uncle Clouth. He was the gardener of the house from whom we were given plenty of fruit. Behind the inn was a quiet rippling fountain surrounded by a thousand colorful flowers. There was a small aviary, inhabited by dwarf chickens and chickens, and next to her the enclosure of a little fox. The most beautiful of all was the pergola, which was surrounded by the most beautiful flowers and grapes.



Rheinbreitbacher Hof 1903 Garden

A sensation - how modest one was then - was a telescope with which we could observe the guests on the Drachenfels. On the other side of the street stood the house that Uncle Karl lived proudly called "Villa Karoline". The garden smelled of flowers and wonderful fruit. Then we were able to have a heartbreak. Uncle Karl Clouth watched us, with a pleasant smile behind his white beard and bushy white brows and the still funny eyes under his velvet cap. From him we heard the popular song: "Fruits at which the wasps gnaw ..." In this rural area the Grimms felt at home. Hermann Grimm, the famous art historian and professor at the University of Berlin, lived on the main street of the village in a house with two corner towers, which still stands today.

Source: Gertrud Ottendorf, Heimatkalender des Kreises Neuwied, 1957

Unfortunately, the house is no longer in use today (2012), the former house of Hubertus, also known as the house with the two towers, Hauptstraße 45. It was one of the outstanding buildings of Rheinbreitbach that characterized the village scene. In the second half of the twentieth century, it was sacrificed to the then dominating Zeitgeist and Mammon, and today the Volksbank Rheinbreitbach stands in its stead.

Autumn 1853, Wilhelm und Dorothea Grimm, Cloudtscher Hof

In the autumn of 1853, Wilhelm Grimm and his wife Dorothea, at the invitation of Karl Simrock, lived for some weeks in the Rheinbreitbach, not far from the Simrock family estate of Menzenberg. Jakob Grimm, who was working in Berlin, wrote to his sister-in-law on 13 September 1853: "Dear village, I am glad that you are recovering more and more, and the splendid autumn weather today and yesterday, where you can go for leisurely walks. The views of the Rhine are a different thing to your Freienwalde, Harzburg and Friedrichsrode. "

In the words of Jakob Grimm, something of the enthusiasm which had sparked the rhinestone experience in his heart many years ago still sounds. "The Rhine is something wonderful, which can not be described, but is so entirely a part of the German nature that it is true that every man beats his heart when he sees it for the first time then descends on its emerald water.

"Dorothea Grimm, on 19 September 1853, told Reagen about the Ferientage on the banks of the Rhine, in which she mentions Remagen and the Apollinariskirche:" This morning at 9 o'clock, "writes Dorothea Grimm Simrocks, Professor Worner and his wife, and a Catholic clergyman, a very pleasant man, to Unkel, took us a boat, and drove to Remagen, saw the very beautiful church, went around and ate something, and went with the boat to Rheinbreitbach, where we would not have a quarter of an hour to go. At half past eight we were back. It was splendid, the Rhine so calm and glittering, the sun was almost too hot, the view of the mountain where the church stands is indescribably beautiful.

"Wilhelm Grimm also mentions this excursion in a letter to the brother:" Yesterday we were at the most wonderful weather at Remagen and on the Apollinarisberg, and at 9 o'clock we went out with a boat and were back at 3 o'clock Mrs. Simrock was in a thousand fears when the tails swayed a little. "



Jakob (1785-1863) and Wilhelm (1786-1859) Grimm

Oktober 1853 - Vintage in Rheinbreitbach

October 20: Today, here, vintage. In the morning because of the unfavorable weather did not go out. At table Dr. Menz and wife from Bonn. Walk through the vineyards. The yellow leaves and the dark almost black grapes in between. Dortchen and Frau Schäfer went to Clouth's Weinland am Rhein. We went into the vineyard in Clouth's house where the grapes were weighed and then pounded. We were also weighing, I was 149 pounds heavier, Dortchen 110 and Gustchen 129.

Source: Bernhard Lauer: Wilhelm Grimm 's Rheinreise in the Summer of 1853, Rheinische Hefte für Kulturgeschichte, 1st issue, Kassel and Bonn, 2004, 40

December 1854 - Letter from Gustl Grimm to Agnes Simrock on Breitbacher wine

"At the end of April we received a barrel of red wine from Breitbach just as much as the Moselle wine, it was very warm at the time, maybe I did not leave it long enough, he had not tasted alright, but after about sixteen, the doctor forbade Wilhelm to drink wine; he was only allowed to drink Bordeaux because of his stomach, so he remained lying when we went to Kösen, we tried him, He did not taste good-he is not bitter, but has a tinge like beer, the red has sat down on the bottle and the wine looks bright-I think we have to bathe in it. "In the year 1855, the letter also mentions wine. He was so good that he wanted to order it.

Source: Franz-Josef Federhen: Gebrüder-Grimm-Schule zur Eröffnung, Hrsg. Ortsgemeinde Rheinbreitbach, 2000



The old weather of the Cloudschen Hof's

Source: donated to the Heimatmuseum Rheinbreitbach by Theo Lindener, Photo: Jürgen Fuchs

