

Community Heeslingen

The coat of arms



The member community consists of the districts Heeslingen Boitze, Frey Bergersen, Heeslingen, Meinstedt, Sasse Wood Steddorf, Weertzen, Wense and Wiersdorf.

Population. 4,687 (Status: 30/12/2006)

Area: 8.230 ha

The crest is:

In blue with silver *schräglinks* [buttressed?] church and tower, lying over a golden oak leaf with two acorns.

Town History Heeslingen



The community Heeslingen with its districts Boitzen, Freyersen, Meinstedt, Sassenholz, Steddorf, Weertzen, Wense and Wiersdorf has approx. 4800 inhabitants in an area of 8230 hectare and is situated within a landscape dominated by the Ostetal.

The territory of the municipality Heeslingen has been inhabited for millennia. The oldest traces date back to the Middle Stone Age (7000 - 4000 BC). Numerous artifacts can only be detected in the area of Heeslingen court settlements. Megalithic tombs from the Neolithic era (4000 - 1700 BC) are no longer maintained. The last was destroyed 1827.

A nunnery was founded in 961 in Heeslingen. At that time, a count Hed donated his belongings to the archbishop of Bremen Adaldag based on the condition that there would be a monastic community of pious women, which he would be governor and his two twin daughters (they were jointly named Wendilgard) should preside as abbess. The *Kanonissinnenstift* [convent?] was dedicated to St. Veit (Vitus), one of the most important martyr and one of the "14 helpers". After the two sisters had died, there was a 12-year-old abbess. The influential nobility opposed church rules (and the archbishop of Bremen). Hathui [Hedwig] the daughter of Henry I of Harsefeld was, after all, the goddaughter of Emperor Otto I. This Hathui was the one who had them build St. Vitus Church, the oldest preserved pre-Romanesque church in the Weser-Ems region. The monastery was now the darling of the Stade Count of Udon. The richly endowed monastery Heeslingen now had greater influence and wealth - but probably not necessarily the piety of its ladies.

The Heeslingen of the early Middle Ages was an important place, as indicated by the fact that the people of Heeslingen in 1038 were granted the privilege of the market, the authority to annually hold a market on 15 June (St. Vitus' Day) that offered trade and commerce. Heeslingen generated a lot of customs revenue for the monastery. Growing wealth and lack of discipline ("irreligiositas" stated in the historical documents) led the provost Liutmund to move the diocese of Heeslingen in 1141 five kilometers distant to the secluded "Kivinan à", today Zeven, to restore "order and discipline". Heeslingen lost its importance. Of the former monastery, according to current knowledge, only the church survived.

After the Thirty Years War, the area belonged to the Kingdom of Sweden for over 50 years (17th century). The economic conditions were extremely bad in the second half of the 17th century in the area of Heeslingen. This is due in part to effects of the long war, the other on the nature of the soils that were not very productive.

At the beginning of the 18th century, the overall duchies of Bremen - Verden were in the possession of the Electorate of Hanover. The so-called "French period" came at the beginning of the 19th century. In 1803, the French first took possession of the Electorate. In 1805 Hanover temporarily part of Prussia; but, in 1806, Prussia again lost all *linkselbischen* areas (Battle of Jena). In 1810, the area was part of the Kingdom of Westphalia under King Jerome, the brother of Napoleon. The Duchies of Bremen and Verden, the Hanseatic cities of Hamburg, Bremen and Lubeck were Elbmündung [mouth of the Elbe] Department [District?] in 1811 as a part of the French Empire. The town of Heeslingen belonged to the Canton Zeven, which lay in the district of Stade. 1812 was the end of the Napoleonic glory. In Nov. 1813 the area was again administered by the electorate of Hanover. Due to the decisions of the Congress of Vienna (1814-1815) the

electorate was elevated to the Kingdom of Hanover. The people lived simply and modestly in these times. The population increased only gradually.

But in 1866 war returned; this time between Prussia and Austria, where the Kingdom of Hanover stood at the side of Austria. After the victory of Prussia, the Kingdom of Hanover was annexed by Prussia. The Franco-German War (1870-71) left deep impressions in the area of Heeslingen. In the ensuing period of peace there came a slow upward trend in the community. The savings and loan bank and the hail-damage support association were founded in 1881. In 1906, the dairy Heeslingen was founded as a cooperative. There was a railway connection in Zeven since 1906, available on its own rail link, but Heeslingen had to wait until the First World War.

In 1974 the town of Heeslingen incorporated as part of the reformed district of Zeven.

Today's community Heeslingen



Worth seeing is the stone church built in the early Romanesque style. She is the oldest of its kind in the Elbe-Weser region. Massive, from boulders of former military tower built buttresses justify its rustic charm. But a visit of Heeslingen Heritage House is also rewarding. Here, more than 800 exhibits of rural culture and rural crafts and special exhibitions are shown. There is a Lower Saxony cottage with entrance hall, *Flett* (parking?), and *Dönz Webdönz* (dining?).

Below the church is in the cut Ostetal Holle reason to the charming, which crosses the river is connected to several hiking trails. (???)

Moreover, it provides a charming landscape, in which anyone in the village of Heeslingen can take long walks and bicycle tours. In addition, the Oste is a paradise for canoeists.

The village life is largely shaped by the sports club. There are many departments with a wide range of sporting activities for citizens of the community and people from the area. The fire department supports the village youth and the home and community of

Heeslingen also adding impetus, as they participate in many activities in the village community.

Other facilities in the community of Heeslingen give you additional information.