

Wenstrup – Wisendorphe (1400 – 1600AD)

Additional recordings of the Wenstrup name occurred during this time period. From the year 1490 come the oldest recordings about livestock being taxed on the Wenstrup farms. From the cattle treasury indexes out of Vorden of this year. The following listings were given:

Diedrich Wenstrup - 6 horses, 1 young horse, 4 oxen, 8 cows, 15 calfs, 13 pigs

Heinrich Jans-Wenstrup - 6 horses, 6 oxen, 9 cows, 11 calfs, 20 pigs

Johann Grunding - 4 horses, 4 oxen, 11 cows, 12 calfs, 12 pigs

Heinke Steynkampe - 5 horses, 1 young horse, 4 oxen, 12 cows, 6 calfs, 1 bull, 14 pigs

Wobbeke to Wenstrup. Because this yard has to pay no taxes, also is missing the cattle statement, this would likely be for a new settler known as a Erbkötter (or a farmer / settler of inherited land, possibly from "Johan Bultman" around the year 1512) as itemized in the head chat index. This newly developed farm, also seen in the index cards of 1789 evidently is - on the outskirts of the Jans-Wenstrup farm.

From the year 1512 is given a taxation record of those living on the Wenstrup farms during this period. The head male of each farm is noted by name as well as the number of persons living on the farm and the taxation amount. Children under 12 were not taxed. The taxation was 4 schilling per person during this time (12 Schilling = 1 Mark), thus it can be seen that in the year 1512 there were a total of 25 persons living in 6 households on the lands of the original Wenstrup farm.

Arent of Wenstrup	5 pers.	20 Schilling
Luebbe of Wenstrup	6 pers.	2 Mark
Herman Steinkamp	4 pers.	16 Schilling
Johan Grundyck	4 pers.	16 Schilling
Herman Mesche	3 pers.	1 Mark
Johan Bultman	3 pers.	1 Mark

Only 4 years later in the 1529 is another recorded taxation of the Wenstrup farms. Sultan Suleiman and the Turks had conquered the Balkan Peninsula, and turned their attention to Vienna in 1529. The western world stood now in danger of being overrun by fighters of the Muslim faith. The emperor of Vienna implored the neighboring country gentlemen for support in its battle against the Turks. The bishop of Osnabruck determined that his parish would contribute its part to the assembly of an army and subsequently arranged a Turk tax. It was calculated after the real value of the farm (this included number of cattle, and sowable acreage) and was fixed at 1/2%.

For Wenstrup, the tax imposed by the Osnabruck bishop for the Turk suppression looks as follows:

	<u>Real Value</u>	<u>Tax</u>
Arndt of Wenstrup	100 Guilder	10 schilling
Johan Bultman	30 Guilder	3 schilling
Johan of Wenstrup	65 Guilder	7 schilling
Heinrich Mussman	136 Guilder	13 schilling 10 pf.
Family Grundyck	80 Guilder	9 schilling 2 pf.
Heinrich Steynkamp	40 Guilder	4 schilling
Arndt Steynkamp	45 Guilder	5 schilling
Johan Steynkamp	86 Guilder	8 schilling 10 pf.
De moder uppe Lyfftucht	11 Guilder	16 schilling
Helmych Steynkamp	50 Guilder	5 schilling

Finally in the year 1550 came another cattle treasury index tax calculation. The following table from this index shows the number of livestock being supported on the Wenstrup farms:

	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Swine	Horses	Other
Arent Wenstrup	19	25	16	39	9	2
Johann Wenstrup	8	10	20	16	6	
Johann Grundynck	11	11	29	12	5	1
Johann Bultmann	9	1	30	4	4	1
Heinrich Messmann	5	4	0	4	3	
Hermann Messman	5	1	0	1	0	
Heinrich Steinkamp	14	10	10	30	7	
Heinrich Jr.	3	2	0	1	0	
Johann Steinkamp	5	4	0	5	4	
Heinrich Steinkamp	4	1	0	4	2	

13. *Table showing the livestock existing on the farms making up the original Wenstrup farm area in the year 1550.*

The number of cattle existing on these farms is astonishingly high for this time period. It also shows that the farmers of this time were primarily cattle farmers. To be sure one cannot compare the output of these animals to those of current time. The cows produced far less milk and the horses were not able to produce the current output of power.

In the use of these lands as a cattle field, all of the land between the farms was available to the farmers. It showed at that time there was a very sizable tree existence with meadows of large and small grasses between the more cultivated regions of the individual family farms. It is also seen that in this region of the Wenstrup and Kotter farms, all farmers possessed a sheep herd, it seems likely that there must have been already large moor areas. Unfortunately the size of the forest and the number of trees decreased significantly, and the

moor spread itself always further so that at the beginning of the 19th century the area around the farms had become a moor landscape with little use but a wasteland.