

### **Barntrup is located on important routes**

More than 2,800 years ago, important long-distance routes converged in the Barntrup area. Jewelry, clay pots, and tools were traded along these routes. Today, two federal highways run through the area, leading far beyond Lippe. Many Barntrup residents use them daily to commute to work to Blomberg, Bad Pyrmont, or to other cities.

### **The invisible castle**

A medieval castle once stood on Barntrup's market square. Today, nothing remains of it. Count Heinrich V von Sternberg began construction even before the town was founded. The castle was a tower-like stone building with additional half-timbered houses as outbuildings. It was surrounded by walls, moats, and hedges to protect it from enemies. The farmers from the surrounding area also sought refuge there. The castle was a mighty structure, but 150 years ago it burned down in the great fire in Barntrup. Since then no visible traces remain. However it can still be seen in old paintings.

### **Mural paintings tell biblical stories**

At first glance, the church in Sonneborn appears quite unremarkable. However, it harbours a treasure that was unknown for a long time. It was only when the church was renovated in 1954 and the galleries were removed that a unique painting was discovered on the ceiling and walls. Around 1570, an unknown painter had created the ceiling paintings depicting about 50 biblical scenes. In 1606, however, Simon VI banned such images in churches, and the walls had to be whitewashed. As a result, not much of the murals is left to be seen today, but parts of the wall paintings are still in excellent condition. Twelve paintings depict the Passion of Jesus. In between are images of the Ten Commandments. Depictions of the Lord's Prayer, the celebration of the Last Supper, and baptism also adorn the walls. In 1972, two murals with scenes from the Old Testament were uncovered in the steeple. Today, the church is open to visitors. It's well worth a visit!

### **The construction of Barntrup Palace**

#### **The return of Knight Franz**

At the end of the summer of 1564, Knight Franz von Kerßenbrock returned home to Lippe. He was accompanied by his squires, his brave horses, and many carts laden with weapons, provisions, and clothing. He had long fought in battles in France and Spain, earning fame and honor and receiving gifts of money from princes. Now he was eager to see his homeland again, especially since he had survived numerous sword blows and his body was covered with barely healed wounds.

#### **The death of Knight Franz**

Soon afterwards, he married Anna von Canstein. The couple lived in a magnificent house in Lemgo. They had four sons. Mrs. Anna wanted a summer house in the countryside. The couple decided to build it in Barntrup. Franz hired craftsmen, architects, carters, and stonemasons. Construction began. One day, when Franz was inspecting the work, he took a bad fall and an old wound reopened. He was laid on a stretcher, a doctor came, then the pastor, his wife, and his sons. No one could help him, and he died at the age of 60.

### **The widow as builder of the castle**

His widow was now left alone with her young sons. After a period of mourning, she took charge, negotiated with the craftsmen, sorted invoices, consulted with the stonemasons, and thus became the builder of Barntrop Palace. No one thought it possible, but construction progressed rapidly. After only four years of construction, the mighty roof truss was placed on the walls. In memory of her husband, Anna had a bust made showing Franz above the door to the wine cellar, a cup in his hand and a cheerful expression on his face. She also erected a monument to herself. As a petite noblewoman, she stands with her arms crossed above the richly decorated tower door above the coats of arms of the Kerßenbrocks and Cansteins. The knight and his brave, clever wife can still be admired today.

### **Anton von Haxthausen**

#### **The boy from abroad**

Over 200 years ago, a little boy lived with his aunt in Barntrop. His name was Anton von Haxthausen. No one knew where he came from, and as soon as he was old enough, he left again. His path first took him to England. There he worked as a manager on royal estates. This earned him a good pension.

#### **A strange man**

After long journeys through France, Italy, America, and India, he returned home to Barntrop. Here he worked as an estate manager, too. Anton Freiherr von Haxthausen was different from the other Barntrop residents. They watched with suspicion as he let female donkeys graze on the village commons and drank their milk.

#### **The great gift**

One day, Baron von Haxthausen fell seriously ill. The illness led to his death. Before he died, he gave most of his fortune to the people of Barntrop. This came as a surprise, as he had always remained quite aloof from them. He stipulated that the money should be used to build an orphanage with a school. His fortune was so great that a few decades ago there was still some money left over. This was used to build the Von Haxthausen Primary School in Barntrop.

### **The Children's Village in Barntrop**

Over 200 years ago, Lord von Haxthausen dedicated himself to helping children. Today, this work is continued in Barntrop by the Westfälisches Kinderdorf association, among others. The Westfälisches Kinderdorf Lipperland is located on the outskirts of Barntrop. It is a small village in its own right, with a playground, village square, small farm, workshops, and much more. Many children cannot be cared for, nurtured, and educated by their families of origin. These children therefore find a new home in another family. Over 200 children, teenagers, and young adults now live in the children's village. The children's village also opens its doors to children and young people from the town and surrounding area for many learning and leisure activities.

### **A town is founded in Lippe**

When the rulers of the age of chivalry planned a new town, they did not simply let the inhabitants start building. A town was carefully planned. A typical Lippe town plan is the three-street scheme. A long street runs through the center of the town. To the right and left of it are two more streets that lead into the main street. This template was the basis for the founding of Lemgo, Detmold, Blomberg, Horn, Lügde, Rischenau, Barntrup, Bösingfeld, and Alverdissen. The Alverdissen Local History Museum has a model showing what the town looked like 300 years ago. Below you can see the Alverdissen layout without houses. You can draw your dream town there. Which buildings and squares would definitely have to be included? Let your imagination run wild!

Take some coloured pencils and get started!

Translation: Torsten Buncher