

J. H. Loehner

Johan Heinrich Loehner is the most important figure among all emigrants from Mastholte.

Johan Heinrich left his homeland as a 16 year old and probably quickly made a success in Missouri. He returned again in 1846 to Mastholte to tell of his success, he had acquired a farm there in his young years.

This must have electrified the Menhchen in 1846. As it happened, not less than 192 persons accompanied him back to America.

Not counted are the illegal and/or secret migrants (more than 20 percent). Whether they made it all with one ship the voyage to America requires still more exact investigation.

*In the spring of 2007 a Rotary Group Study Exchange Team from Germany came to our region. I had the pleasure of helping to organize their visit to Jefferson City and we were hosts to Peter Kuster (Kuester?) of that group. We spent a long and most enjoyable evening visiting and examining issues of our common ancestry. The paragraphs above are my notes from Peter's effort at translating the material on Henry Loehner in Bert Bertling's book, Mastholte-Die Geschichte zweier Gemeinden: Moese und Mastholte.*

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