

"Zimmer" wayside chapel dating from 1682

The parson of Piesport St. Martin called Johannes Adamus Lonvieg had the wayside chapel built in the year 1682. He selected the site in full knowledge of what he was doing. The wayside chapel was to be the successor in the Christian era to the former shrine that had stood on the site in the Celt and Roman eras. The shrine dating from antiquity had been known from the 17th century and confirmed with several archaeological finds. It was dedicated to the Celtic goddess Rosmerta and subsequently to the Roman god of trade, Mercury. Altogether there are five dedication inscriptions attributed to this site. The remains of walls have also been uncovered at various times. Consequently this gives rise to the assumption that small buildings once stood here on the Zimmethöhe, or Zimmet heights, which can be interpreted as a temple serving as a place of pilgrimage with accommodation for the pilgrims, including stalls for the horses and barns.

Wayside chapel "Auf der Kaub" - from Kopfkreuz to Kauperkapellchen" -

This wayside chapel stands on the Dorfstraße road with the name "Auf der Kaub". In the year 1870 it was mentioned as Kopfkreuzerweg. There is also a tract of land known as "Kopfkreuz" The name Kopf became Kopp and finally "Auf der Kaub". The two former names and the present name indicate that there was a road sited higher up within the village. The "Kopfkreuz" was here in the 17th and 18th centuries, donated by Johann Heinrich Ludewig and his wife. The year of donation is unknown. Perhaps the base of the cross was in such a state of disrepair that the decision was taken to build a chapel. The broach roof was constructed in the 19th century. Inside there is a small communion table and above it a fragment of a crucifixion shrine. This may be the upper section of the former "Kopfkreuzes", which was restored in 1985. It shows clearly the motif of a "dove" as the symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Roman milestone

Piesport was located on the antique Trier-Mainz arterial road which later also became known as the *Ausoniusstraße*. The Roman troops used it to march on and also for sending supplies. There were milestones or league stones along the sides of these roads to mark the distance to the next most important settlement or town. At this time this was *Augusta Treverorum* (today the town of Trier) which was the capital of the west Roman empire in its heyday. Since the time of Caesar Augustus, these stones and their inscriptions have also been used to record what the respective leaders have achieved. The roads can be dated based on the names of the reigning leaders.

One of these league stones was found to the north of Piesport in 1921 alongside the Roman road. The stone was erected in 213 AD during the reign of Caesar Caracalla and stands 18 Gallic leagues from Trier. A Gallic league corresponds to approx. 2.222 km, therefore 18 Gallic leagues are around 40 km. Caracalla was the byname of the Roman Emperor Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antonius (211-217 AD).

Translation of the inscription:

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antonius, the pious, happy and exalted One, the mighty victor of Parthia and Britannia, pontifex, plebeian tribune for the 2nd time, consulate for the 3rd time, brave and great prince, pacifier of the globe, rebuilt the bridges and roads that had been destroyed by age, 18 leagues to Trier

You can see a replica in front of you - the original stone is on display in the Rhine State Museum in Trier.

The Lobüscher House

There are three grand buildings with stair towers in front that stand out in the former town of Niederremmel (today part of the district of Piesport). One of these is the Lobüscher house (Am Kirchplatz 2) which has an inner courtyard and is surrounded by a high wall. There is a sundial on the stair tower dated 1622. The courtyard is probably older. Two coats-of-arms, which were visible on an earlier fountain at the back of the building, show two symbols which indicate that the Hunolsteiner earls ruled here.

Later the estate was transferred to the archbishopric of Trier. The farm building belonged to the Elector right up to the Napoleonic period. Around 1803 it was auctioned off to an unknown person. In the 19th century the building came into the possession of the Arens family. Sadly all the couple's children died so they bequeathed the building to the sisters of the Ursulinen monastery in Düsseldorf in 1902 who appointed a trustee. The town bought the property in the second half of the 20th century. Today the building is owned by a couple called Lobüscher. In 2001 the building was destroyed in a fire. However everything was restored true to detail.

The bulberry tree behind the courtyard wall survived the fire. The Prussians originally planted large numbers of this tree, which is normally found in the Mediterranean region, in a number of towns along the river Mosella as a raw material for the silk weaving industry.

Catholic parish church of St. Martin Piesport (Niederemmel)

Based on the archaeological finds that were made, it is safe to assume that the flood-protected settlement area around the Emmel parish church was probably used in Celtic times, but most definitely in Roman times. A Roman tambour and a capital with a base of a Roman column made of shell limestone bear witness to this. In 1376 the Karthuse in Trier were granted the patronage rights to the church with the Martins-Patrocinium that was originally a branch in Piesport.

The current parish church was erected in 1723 as a cross-vaulted hall building with a western tower. Apart from two bells dating back to 1421 and 1477 and the Gothic baptism font (in front of the building at Kettergasse 3), the only surviving part of the previous church is the upper part of a Gothic sacrament building. The population grew steadily in the 19th century and as a result the 150 year old altar room was demolished in 1930 and a broad transept and large chancel was added to the east side of the church. In 1967/68 the church was redesigned to meet the modified liturgy; the unsound nave was stabilised with tie rods and renovated in a first construction phase that was completed in the middle of the 1990s.

In 2003/2004 the transept was renovated and the altar room was redesigned.

The design and actual colouring of the altar room, which also included the Medieval wooden body of the crucified figure on a red glass base and the cancel windows, came from Eberhard Münch, a church painter from Wiesbaden. He incorporated the six human plagues (disease, hunger, war, uncertainty, captivity and death) in a continuous surrounding colour band below the altar windows – in between this is a cross as a sign of salvation. Also, he gave the town a 12 m² Lenten veil that he had painted on canvas that covers the crucified figure and the whole glass construction during the period between Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The large staircase window with the Easter motifs in the vicarage building (facing the cemetery) is also one of his works.

The bronze apostle lights, the baptism font placed in the middle of the paradisiacal tree of knowledge in the centre of the church, the pillar of fire that shows the eternal light and the presence of God, the lectern that shows key scenes of Christian charity from the life of the church patron, and the vine tabernacle with the heart-shaped intertwining vines typical for our wine region were created by Hermann-Josef Runggaldier from St. Ulrich in southern Tyrol. The same artist also produced the bronze Virgin of Mercy that stands outside on the north side of the parish church.

The abbot's seat and the choir benches were designed and produced by the wrought iron artist Hans-Jörg Bender from Schweich; the lead windows in the porch doors were designed by Heidemarie Leder from Kanzem.

In 2010 a replica of the relief "Christ in the Wine Cellar" was placed in the tower. It was part of the estate of the Piesport building entrepreneur Ludwig Wanninger.

Until the administrative reform of 1969, the current town of Piesport comprised the two independent villages of Piesport and Niederemmel. The communities of Müstert, Reinsport and Niederemmel were probably merged at the start of the 20th century.

One special aspect of the history of the St. Martin's parish is a division of the community that goes way back to 1790 during the French Revolution when a civil constitution for the clergy became binding. The then vicar of Emmel, Karl Anton Feyen, refused to take an oath to this constitution and was therefore banned from the country in 1801. But before this happened, he took it upon himself to appoint a parish administrator. Many in the population welcomed this and consequently they refused to recognise the new vicar who had been appointed by the bishop. A written warning from Trier was unsuccessful and a division was created between the families and citizens of the village that continued until the year 1866. It was during this period that the citizens of Niederemmel received their nickname "Emmeler Knupperten"

The Roman fountain

In 1959 supply lines to the fountain were discovered. The people living in the former town of Niederremmel (now called Piesport) had used this fountain for centuries for their daily water needs and also as a drinking trough for their cattle. One of the supply lines near the foundation was coated in a 14 cm thick layer of screed, a lime-gravel mix dating back to Roman times. The 55 cm thick walls of the drainage tunnel were made of a light-coloured firm lime mortar. The walls were slightly curved at the top and still standing up to a height of 1.2 metres. This means that the fountain was also a source of water even during Roman times. Later the Earls of Hunolstein built their farmyards and estates close to the "Roman fountain".

Legend

Roman experts had just completed the underground tunnel for the water line in the former Roman settlement of "Aemiliacum" (Niederremmel) when the soldiers received orders to march to Muguntiacum (Mainz). Their general Servandus ordered the soldiers to gather round the Roman fountain and prepare to depart. After they had prayed to their local god "Mercurius Bigontius" for protection, the horses and riders set off with all their armoury along the nearby "Via Romana" (Roman road) - and that is when it happened. Servandus suffered sudden cardiac death, in exactly the same place where Caesar Caracalla had erected a milestone in the year 213 AD. Because they were in a rush, the soldiers buried their general close to the military road. They shovelled earth with their helmets and created a huge mound over his body; this mound is still known today as the "Roman grave" .

The history of the synagogues in Müstert and Niederremmel

There was a Jewish prayer room in Niederremmel as early as 1828. Jews from the neighbouring Müstert also came to services in Niederremmel. These former villages are now part of the Piesport district.

As the number of Jews in both villages grew, it was decided to build a synagogue in Müstert because more Jews lived there than in Niederremmel. The synagogue was built in 1854/55. Jewish families held their services there until October 1930 after which the building was sold on for use as a forging shop. The forging shop no longer exists. The building was rebuilt and enlarged and is now a residential building.

Once Karl Endries senior had built his inn "Goldtröpfchen", he sold the old inn including all the real estate, buildings and the yard to the brothers Karl and Josef Levy who then donated the skittles lane in the middle of the group of buildings and the hall, which lay a few steps higher, to the Jewish community. On 30th March 1930 their committee decided to convert the room into a synagogue. It was ideal for church services thanks to its size and the three large arched windows.

The synagogue was opened on 10th October 1930 and many of the citizens of the town and the various clubs joined in the celebrations. The Torah scrolls and rituals from the previous synagogue in Müstert were carried in a procession to their new home in Niederremmel.

During the November pogrom in 1938 not only the synagogue in Niederremmel was desecrated but also the former synagogue building in Müstert.

After 1945 the buildings were sold on after reparation for private persons had been clarified.

***Restitution:** Return of confiscated property, reparation after a breach of law

Haus Hoffmann (Karthäuserstraße 24)

The building at Kettergasse 24 was built in about the year 1600. The upper part of the projecting spiral staircase tower is half-timbered and topped with a hipped¹ roof. The building is similar to the Haus Lobüscher (Am Kirchplatz 2) and probably belonged to the Hunolsteiner reeves. In the Middle Ages the reeves were great property owners here. It is assumed that the stewards of the bailiwick lived here in this building.

In times gone by the households had to pay tithes to their lords in kind. The wine tithe was taken to the nearby Weinplatz on the Römerstraße, to be reloaded for onward carriage to the wine cellars in Burg Hunolstein.

The grange passed over from the Hunolsteiner reeves into the possession of the archbishopric of Trier.

Nikolauskapelle Reinsport

Reinsport is mentioned in an inspection report dating from the year 1569 as a daughter chapel of the Emmel parish was built in 1616 consecrated in 1679. The building has suffered from flooding on various occasions.

Inside there is a high altar made of wood with a figure of Nicolas carved between turned pillars adorned with flowers and leaves and decorative flourishes bordering the crowning open gable containing a Pietà.

A Pietà (Mid 17th century) shows the 14 auxiliary saints with an image of Mary in the centre and the inscription NOS CUM PROLE PIA BENEDICAT VIRGO MARIA (Mary with the blessed child bestow upon us all your blessings). This wooden altar displaying the auxiliary saints was acquired by the parson Schuhbach in an auction of artifacts from the former Nothgottes minster in Rheingau.

In collaboration with the former " Fischerort Reinsport" the Piesport fishing club is thankfully taking care of the maintenance of this chapel.

Mosellorey

The "Mosellorey" – a natural monument - rises almost vertically from the banks of the river Mosella. Between 1852 and 1872 and between 1937 and 1939 copper glance ore and potter's ore was mined in the rock formation.

Description of the mine from the year 1938:

"There are two tunnels driven into the rock at different levels. A small access road has been built in front of the higher tunnel and there is a shack here built as a visible half-timber construction. The broken stones containing the ore are sent to the lower working level via a slide. There is a small building with a pitch roof at both the top and bottom end ... The local workers and those from further afield were brought to work via a boat and the stones containing the ore were sent about 2.5 km down the river to the processing plant on the river Rondelbach where it was prepared for smelting. The delivered material had to be washed and probably crushed here with hammers ..."

In World War II the local population used the tunnels as shelters during air raids; today they are inhabited by bats, in particular the upper tunnel. Of the original buildings, only parts of the smelting shop are still visible.

Despite the difficult and steep landscape, the Mosellorey area is still used for growing wine. During the wine harvest, the grapes are transported by boat to the "Reinsporter Ufer" on the opposite bank of the river. These boat trips attract crowds of onlookers.

Building entrance dating from the year 1767

The imposing building is one of the most beautiful secular buildings dating from the 18th century in Piesport. Its builder inscribed his initials I and L in the entrance, together with the year of construction, 1767, and the symbol of his trade, a "Circle and barrel", meaning that he was a cooper. The door leaf shows carving in the imperial style. This means that the style, which came from France, was known here too.

It is highly probable that the two stylised angel's heads symbolise the good spirits of the house and the lion's head with the chain is there to protect them

The Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments describes the building as a "former building with a wide frontage housing both the farmer's home and his barn with an mansard roof covering the entire structure".

This is a style of building which comes from Lorraine in which is divided into two parts laterally from front to back and up to the ridge; to the left is the residential accommodation and to the right the barn and farm building. Consequently this type of building is known as a laterally divided house.

The Stadtfeld House

This town house (St. Martinstraße 67), which dates back to 1785, probably bears a reference to the builder Quirinius Didrich on the portal. Sceptre-like rods and the wheel on the arch brick of the skylight lead to the assumption that the owner was an administrator of the neighbouring Karthäuser estate.

The Stadtfeld family owns a porcelain goblet that supposedly originates from the "Knuppertszeit" in the middle of the 19th century. At this time there was a separatist community in the St. Martin parish whose members were called "Knupperte".

Allerheiligen (All Saints) chapel Müstert

The name "Müstert" comes from the Latin word "monasterium" and is probably a reference to the fact that there was a church centre here as early as the 6th/7th century. This centre probably grew in importance during the first missionary and Christianity phase in the region and was later responsible for the pastoral care in the Piesport – Emmel – Müstert district (not so much a monastery but more a clerical community). There is a similar example of this in the region on the left of the lower Mosella. In the first half of the 7th century a "monasterium" was established as a church centre on the Maifeld (Münstermaifeld).

It is highly likely that the Monasterium – Müstert parish was destroyed during the Norman invasion at the beginning of the year 882 and that its functions were assumed by the local churches in Emmel and Piesport during the rebuilding period.

In documents of the day, Müstert is called Munster in 1055, Munstre in 1098, Monasterium in 1179 and Münster at the beginning of the 19th century.

Since the start of the 12th century, documents state that the Mettlach/Saar monastery is the owner of the seignior and holder of the patronage and tithe rights with an estate in Piesport. In 1102 the clergyman *Ernest* bequeathed everything he owned in Münster = Müstert to the monastery. There are several records relating to the legal status of this estate since 1488.

In Napoleonic times the serfdom came to an end when the estate, which was occasionally called Marienhof, was auctioned off with all its goods for 2566 thaler.

The current building was erected in 1553 and consecrated in 1680.

Inside the chapel are two side altars and a high wooden altar with 2 paintings on wood; above the coronation of Mary, and below an Allhallows illustration in a round arch field between two pairs of Corinthian columns and wings with carved acanthus leaves; there are round arches on both sides of the altar above which angels holding lamps are attached.

Former Karthäuserhof, Haus Breit, Haus Ertz,

Former Karthäuserhof (Karthäuserplatz 8)

The community of monks of the Trierer Kart(h)ause was mentioned long ago early in the town's history as a landowner in Piesport. Through donations it accumulated considerable possessions. The monastery acquired a grange called Karthäuserhof. The property consisted of both land and buildings. The main building dates from the year 1742. The coat of arms shows the motto of the Karthäuser religious order. The letters O C stand for Ordo Cartusienensis. The grange owned by the monastery included vineyards, fields, a wine grower's house with a press and wine cellar (St. Martinstraße 87) as well as a building with the tithe barn and a granary (In der Dur 15). The grange was managed by stewards. In addition to this, the Karthause collected the fruit and wine tithes from the inhabitants of the village. The influence of the religious order peaked in the 14th century when the parish of St. Martin took over the Trier Karthause. It acquired the right of patronage. In the Late Middle Ages the Karthäuserhof acquired greater influence than the much older Mettlacher Hof. The Allerheiligen-Kapelle (Chapel of All Holies) remained the link between the two.

Haus Breit (In der Dur 15)

The Karthäuserhof had its field barn on this site. The cereals were thrashed and the fruit was stored in the granary. The grange actually received 2/3 of the fruit tithe. Consequently the building was also known as the tithe barn.

Haus Ertz (St. Martinstraße 87)

The grand residential dwelling (St. Martinstraße 87) served as the Karthäuserhof from 1794 to 1801. It has the features typical of an old wine grower's house. The cellar, ground and upper storey are finished with a solid construction consisting of rough stone. A simple half-timbered wall can be seen on the older gable end. The large mansard roof and the half-hipped roof on the gable end are the conspicuous features. The graceful oriel has a decorative function. Another feature of a wine grower's house is having the cellar entrance accessed from the yard. The cellar of the former vineyard belonging to the monastery is well preserved.

Catholic parish church of St. Michael Piesport

According to a church register dating back to around 1350, the first parish church in Piesport had the status of a mother church "matrix ecclesia" and was located on the side of the hill above the town on the left of the river Mosella where it had taken over the Mercurius Bigontius heathen cult site. Today a small chapel ("Michelskirch") in the vineyards is the only reminder of how much the land has changed since the major land consolidation work was completed in the 1990s. This church had the Michaels-Patrocinium, which had been transferred to the parish church when it was newly erected in 1776. For practical reasons the old Berg church, which was first mentioned in 1295, lost its status over the following centuries to the "12 apostles" church located in the village next to the churchyard. Its patrocinium was later replaced by that of the Plague Patron (today the Sebastianus chapel next to the vicarage). It was called the main church in a visitation record dated 1569. In 1609 baptisms were still practiced in the church and church services were held on important holidays. Apparently the church became ramshackle around the middle of the 18th century. The current building located on the banks of the river Mosella was erected in 1776/77: the parish community financed the tower and the sacristy, whilst the Mettlach monastery financed the nave and the Trier cathedral chapter the chancel.

The church is dominated by its 52.5 m high tower; a new Gothic open hall with a cap roof was annexed to the right side of the tower around 1850. The portal posts at the entrance came from Klausen (around 1780); the angel carvings represent *Faith* and *Love*.

The inside of the church is dominated by 3 monumental ceiling paintings ("Piesport Heaven") that were painted by Johann Peter Weber from Trier in 1778. The painting over the altar depicts the ascension with an open sarcophagus and the 12 apostles; in the middle is the fall of the angels by the archangel Michael, and the painting above the entrance shows the mission sermon of St Franz Xaver (at the bottom right of the picture there is a self-portrait of the painter with his wife at his feet in a blue dress; she is holding a sign in her left hand which says: *J. P. Weber invenit et pinxit ("conceived and painted by J.P. Weber") Paulus Miller Architectus 1778*).

Above the high altar is a large 18th century oil painting set into the wall which was also painted by J. P. Weber. It shows a child with his guardian angel; at the top of the picture the mother of God blessing the group and at the bottom left is the devil who has removed his mask and is trying to use to set the world on fire with a torch he is holding.

The three wooden altars, the chancel date and the beautifully carved communion table all date back to when the church was built. The organ loft with its three rococo-style arches was built later around the middle of the 19th century.

The church has a five bell system that was inaugurated on 25th January 2004 in a vesper service by the canon Nikolaus Föhr and dean Werner Mathieu. The smallest bell was cast on 30th August 2003 in Piesport by Hermann-Josef Schmitt from Brockscheid. The previous four steel bells dating back to 1950 still chime today in the pilgrimage church in Servanitza/Ukraine.

The two-tonne St. Michael bell depicts a bunch of carrots as a reference to the nickname given to the people of Piesport - "Mortepänz".

Amongst other artefacts, the "Piesport Treasury" also displays relics that, in the Middle Ages, were claimed to have belonged to the Mother of God: an ivory comb and two parts of a linen cloth - Marya's veil. They were stored in the former Benedictine monastery St. Maximin in Trier until secularisation.

For a long time Piesport maintained its century-old primacy as the head of the pastoral care structure of the old archbishopric Trier (later the seat of the dean); it only had 7 parishes in 1075 but this has grown to 44 parishes in the Mosel-Eifel-Hunsrück region by the year 1794.

Parson Johannes-Hau spring

This spring with a relief depicting scenes from the winegrower's work throughout the different seasons of the year and the small figure crowning him is in memoriam to the builder of the present day St. Michaelskirche, Johannes Hau, who worked here as a pastor from 1765 to 1803. The people of Piesporter have good reason to be very thankful to him. Not only did he make this baroque jewel possible, but he is also generally considered to be the pioneer of the cultivation of the Riesling grape in the Moselle region.

A good two decades before (!) the last Elector of Trier, Clemens Wenzelslaus, issued instructions that the entire Moselle region be given over to cultivation the Riesling grape, parson Hau convinced the people of Piesport to only plant Riesling grapes in their slate-rich soil, which is

Former cathedral courtyard

In the Middle Ages the "Hohe Domkirche (cathedral)" in Trier owned a lot of property. Of particular importance was the Benedictine abbey in Mettlach with its farmyard near the "Allerheiligen Chapel" in the former village of Müstert. In 1219 it transferred the patronage rights in Piesport St. Michael with a third of the "tithing taxes" to the Trier cathedral chapter. Thanks to bequests and the purchase of vineyards and land, it increased its wealth. The result was a grand "cathedral estate". In 1721 the estate reached an impressive size and was named the "Domhofs-Gehäus" (cathedral complex) in a site plan. It is an example of large-scale baroque architecture.

The Piesport vineyards "Domherr" and "Dompichter" and the road name "Am Domhof" bear witness today of the estates of the Trier cathedral chapter. During the secularisation process under Napoleon's reign, all church property was confiscated by the state and the "Domhof" including the main building, the wine press and the vineyards, were auctioned off in 1805 for 222 thaler. In later years, the building was owned by the Counts of Kesselstatt. Their coats-of-arms decorate the front side of the building.

The Child from Krames

In addition to other villages, the hamlet Krames near Klausen belonged to the parish of St. Michael in Piesport some centuries ago. The parishioners from outside Piesport had to come to the parish church to get married or christen their children. At this time the church was located in the middle of the vineyards. A small chapel called "Michels Kirche" marks the original site today. The parishioners from further afield enjoyed celebrating in Piesport on these occasions as they often had friends and family here. But what was particularly important was that they were able to enjoy the Mosella wine. And some of the best stories originate from these celebrations:

"The family of a rich farmer was blessed with the birth of a son and heir. A few days later the proud father left his wife to recover at home and went with the godparents, the midwife and a few friends to the parish village to christen the child. After the holy ceremony the family went to the house of a wine-grower friend to celebrate the child's christening. The happy father did not want to be miserly, as this was something his pride as a farmer would not allow, so he wine, dined and laughed loudly with his friends in the wine-grower's best room.

The child had been placed carefully in the metal frame where normally the firewood was kept behind the stove. And almost as if the child knew that things were loud enough without it also screaming, it remained quiet despite being in unknown surroundings without its worried mother. The celebrations continued for many an hour and as dusk drew near the celebrations reached their peak. Lots of bottles had been emptied, and all the guests were singing loudly. Late that evening they decided to set off home, although it took a long time before they finally set off walking very loudly through the village toward Krames.

What a shock they had when they finally arrived home in their inebriated state and the mother asked for her child. No one had it. The horror-stricken father rushed out into the dark night. The Piesport wine-grower family were a bit taken aback when the abashed father from Krames knocked on their door in the early hours of the morning. Without saying a word, he rushed passed the sleepy wine-grower into the best room where the child still lay happily in the metal frame. The child looked at its father with alert eyes and the father thought he saw a smile pass its lips. He picked up his child and went straight home to hand over the precious bundle to the mother.

An early riser in Piesport saw the man from Krames hurry out of the village with a bundle in his arm."

The story of the child from Krames that remained so quiet despite the noise was soon the talk of the village. And even today, anyone who is very quiet at a social gathering is said to be as "quiet as the child from Krames".

(Apparently these events happened in the building "Klausener Pfad 7")

The child from Krames

This is the building (Klausener Pfad 7) in which the legend of the "Child from Krames" happened (see also the info board on the fountain in the Bachstraße): After the christening of a child from the hamlet Krames in the Piesport parish church and the subsequent loud celebrations, the christened child was left behind in its relative's house because it "did not

make a sound" and was only collected the next day. The small Madonna figure on the outer façade is a reminder of this legend.

Former Klausenhof

In the Trier Electorate, which came to an end after the French revolution, it was the clergy that determined the economic development and architecture. In Piesport this important influence is also reflected in many wineries and farms. They characterised the village during this period.

The largest building complex was the former farm of the Augustine Monastery in Klausen which was called the "Klausener Gehäus". It dates back to the year 1613. There is a curved gable façade on the oldest part of the building. Above the round-arch gate there are rectangular windows that are symmetrically divided by columns. The building complex must have been very impressive in its heyday. The historical wine cellars are an indication that the wine was probably the monastery's main source of income. The earnings that were generated went to the monastery community, the tenants and the administrator and helped the monastery remain self-sufficient.

At the end of the 18th century, a front building with a high mansard roof was used as the residential quarters. In the portal construction there is a stone pieta dating back to 1530. During the Napoleonic period, Josef Hein from Trier bought the Klausenhof at auction for 30,000 Francs. The front residential building with the initials *JH* and the year date 1806 on the portal was transferred to the town in 1830. It was used as the village school until 1970. Today the building is used as a community centre with a festive hall.

The press house and the cellars came into the possession of the Count of Kesselstatt in the middle of the 19th century and were then transferred to the town of Piesport in 1985.

Ferreser Chapel

According to the legend a wooden cross was washed up here in Ferres. By wonderful means it circled in the same place in the river during high water. This inexplicable occurrence is interpreted as God pointing his finger to build a place of worship on the bank of the river. The oldest mention of a chapel comes from the 17th century. The wooden cross with the virtually life-sized figure of Christ was initially laid up in the old chapel and subsequently hung on the east-facing external wall of the new church completed in 1929. To save it from being exposed to the elements any longer it was mounted in the tower of the St. Michael parish church in 1960. In compensation for this, a sculptor from Morbach made a cross from sandstone which can be seen outside next to the entrance to the church.

Inside the chapel there is a stone sculpture of "Christ in the winepress", a successful replica of the well-known painting in the cruciform chapel at Ediger on the Lower Moselle.

The residents of Ferres maintain "their chapel" with great commitment and consequently it is also mischievously, but benevolently, designated as the "Ferreser Cathedral".

Ferres and its village well

Ferres is the smallest district of the Piesport parish, attested as "Bovaries" in the year 1168. In fact it has been the site of human habitation since much earlier times. It owes its name to the Roman "bovarii". These were cowherds who drove their cattle across the River Moselle over to the far bank where there is a rich plain, used from the pre-Roman era as pasture and arable land. In those days, that is, long before the construction of the barrages, the River Moselle was not as deep nor as wide as it is now. There was a ford here, or a "Fahrt", as they say in Ferres. The village well (Known as Boor) was the source of water for the residents of Ferres up until 1958. This means that it was an important mainstay of life and as such a meeting point for the people. Other particular features of the village are the chapel (see information board) and the house where Eberhard Taub, who has gone down in history as the founder of the place of pilgrimage nearby in Klausen, was born. He was in the service of the counts of Esch. "Nikolaus Novillanuis, a chronicler of the Trier Benedictine abbey St. Maximin, reports that Eberhard Taub from Ferres built a chapel in honour of the Mother of God."(Source: Piesport, Rheinische Kunststätten Heft 1/1974 P. 8). That was the beginning of the place of pilgrimage which became known on account of miraculous healing. A plaque has been mounted on the wall of the birthplace of the pious Eberhard and the road is called the Burder-Eberhard-Straße.

The Spoarbildchen (Barrier memorial)

The three-part wayside shrine was constructed in the shape of a window and in the upper section there is a cross. Below it to the left there is a motif of the suffering Mother of God and seven swords. To the right there is a relief showing St. Michael in full armour.

The sculpture bears the inscription ANO 1506 to 1508 BLIEBEN DA HIE ZUR P: VON BUE ...UIBRICH...STARBEN MIT DEM L: P: KRANK

In current German this means:

From 1506 to 1508 only 16 out of 98 citizens were left alive here in Piesport. They died of the pneumonic plague.

The word "Spoar" means barrier. The sculpture stands at a site where in former times access to Piesport was restricted. The Spoarbildchen (Barrier memorial) and the Spoarkapelle (barrier chapel) opposite are memorials to a terrible time. But they are also reminders of the love of neighbouring villages. The people from the Moselle heights brought down food to this point and the people from Piesport who were still able to walk came up at an agreed hour to collect it. The barrier once erected on the hillside to keep people apart became a holy shrine to Christian neighbourly love.

ideally suited for growing Riesling grapes. Not least for this reason the designation "Piesporter" as place of origin was synonymous with high quality Riesling wine.

Hau personally sold selected cuttings from his vicarage vineyard to many villages along the Moselle and thereby made a really significant contribution to the spread of the Riesling grape.

Michelskirch (St Michael's church)

According to church records dating from circa 1350, the first church in Piesport*, which enjoyed the status of a "matrix ecclesia" (mother church for the surrounding settlements), was sited here, above the village, halfway up the hillside running down to the left hand bank of the River Moselle. In the Roman era there was a shrine here to the local god Mercurius Bigontius, dedicated to the ford across the River Moselle.

During the Christian era it was replaced with a place of worship with Michael as its patron saint, a patronage transferred over to the parish church built on the banks of the River Moselle in 1776.

For practical reasons the old hillside church, mentioned for the first time in 1295, lost more and more influence in the following centuries to the centrally located church dedicated to the 12 Apostles, which was subsequently also named as the main church in the inspection report dating from 1569. Its dedication was subsequently replaced by the patron saint of the plague, St. Sebastian (Hence the church is known as the Sebastian Chapel today). In spite of this, christenings were still being held and church services were still being held on holy days in the old church on the hillside in 1609. Unfortunately the area immediately surrounding this ancient place of worship was changed so much in the course of land consolidation measures of the 1990s, so that the remains of this chapel are in the middle of a vineyard and today there is nothing left of the old cemetery formerly surrounding the chapel.

*Piesport boasts a total of three churches located at different sites down the centuries:

- Michelskirch halfway up the hillside
- Church of the 12 Apostles (Known today as the Sebastian Chapel at the vicarage)
- and the present-day parish church of St. Michael sited on the banks of the River Moselle (Rebuilt in 1776)