

where the German participant describing the battle says "I had many prayers." For **Pirmasens**, zero hour was the 15<sup>th</sup> March 1945 when the bombs fell and destroyed more than half of the city. The end of the war was celebrated amid rubble and ashes.

### **Books about the end of WWII:**

"Das Kriegsende in der Pfalz. Rheinpfalz-Leser erinnern sich"

By Michael Garthe and Annette Weber. 200 pp., many photos.

"Nach der Diktatur-Die Pfalz in der Nachkriegzeit (1945-1954)" ISBN 3-927754-52-8

Currently available from the Institut für Geschichte und Volkskunde, Benzoring 6, 67657 Kaiserslautern is a 2-volume history of the Pfalz. ISBN 3-927754-43-9.

The first volume covers the time from earliest history through Napoleon, and the second the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Palatines to America members will appreciate the donor of all the foregoing information. Karl Heinz Danner has recently retired from teaching. He appears in Hübners *Who's Who*. He is a highly educated philanthropist who has received many honorary degrees. He has traveled widely, and tries to learn where people from his beloved Pfalz have gone when they sought a better life. His generosity to the Palatines to America Library began many years ago and his donations have enriched our collection.

### **BÜRGERMEISTEREI-RECHNUNGEN UND EINWOHNERLISTEN DER STADT HORN BACH VON 1663 BIS 1700**

By Dr. Maria Besse, Thomas Besse, Dr. Bernd Gölzer.

2002. 249 pp. Index. Illus. Hardbound.

ISSN 0171-1512. Schriften zur

Bevölkerungsgeschichte der pfälzischen

Lande, Folge 23. Order from Pfälzisch-

Rheinische Familienkunde e.V., Rotstrasse

17 (Stadtarchiv), D-67061 Ludwigshafen/

Rhein, Germany. 20 Euro + postage. Email:

[Werner.Esser.Kandel@t-online.de](mailto:Werner.Esser.Kandel@t-online.de).

Donated by the author.

These records from the 17<sup>th</sup> century are some of the few available for the town of Hornbach. All the archives stored in Hornbach were destroyed during World War II. Prior to 1663 there were few records. The town had been a victim of the Thirty-Years-War when by 1635, all residents had died from war, plague or famine. It was a dreadful time when the abandoned houses were destroyed by rain, snow, wind and weather as thatched roofs fell in. For three long years there were no residents in the town of Hornbach. Gradually a few returned and by 1647, a pastor was in residence. The population increased very slowly and by 1656 the number of people in the village would fit on a single street in today's Hornbach.

The historical background continues with a brief description of the various wars during the last half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. One reason that Hornach survived and grew was the acceptance of Lutheran, Reformed and Catholic confessions in the community.

The present compilation reproduces the account book of the mayor of Hornbach, transcribing the records and formatting them into beautifully legible accounts. Reading these pages tells the story of receipts and expenditures. Residents paid rent for their houses, pastures and fields. From this income the mayor, schoolmaster and various artisans were paid. There is a summation of the income and outgo, followed by detailed lists of the names of the payors or payees.

Since the area was claimed by the French as the "Saarprovinz" from 1680-1697, the extant lists for that period are in French. The lists were compiled to assess taxes, with the net worth of the resident along with the tax due. By 1698 the tax lists and names were in German. Other lists were prepared by pastors, some of which give numbers of communicants and others give names.

This book deserves study by those with ancestors in the area for the historical background included. For those who have found relatives in Hornbach, the information will be especially valuable.