

Esslinger Weinerlebnisweg

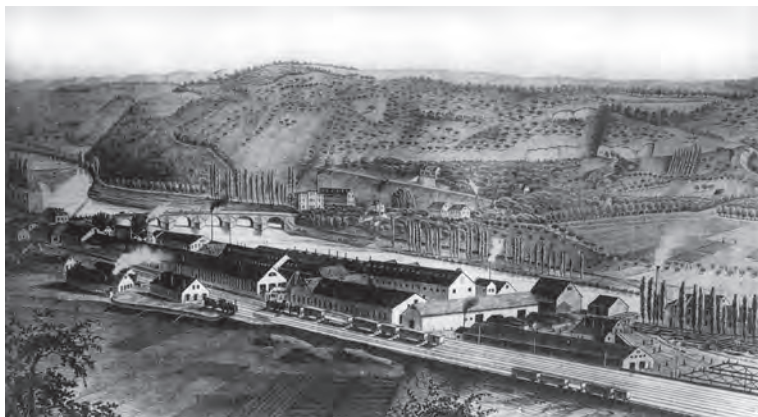
Station

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19th century - Industrialization



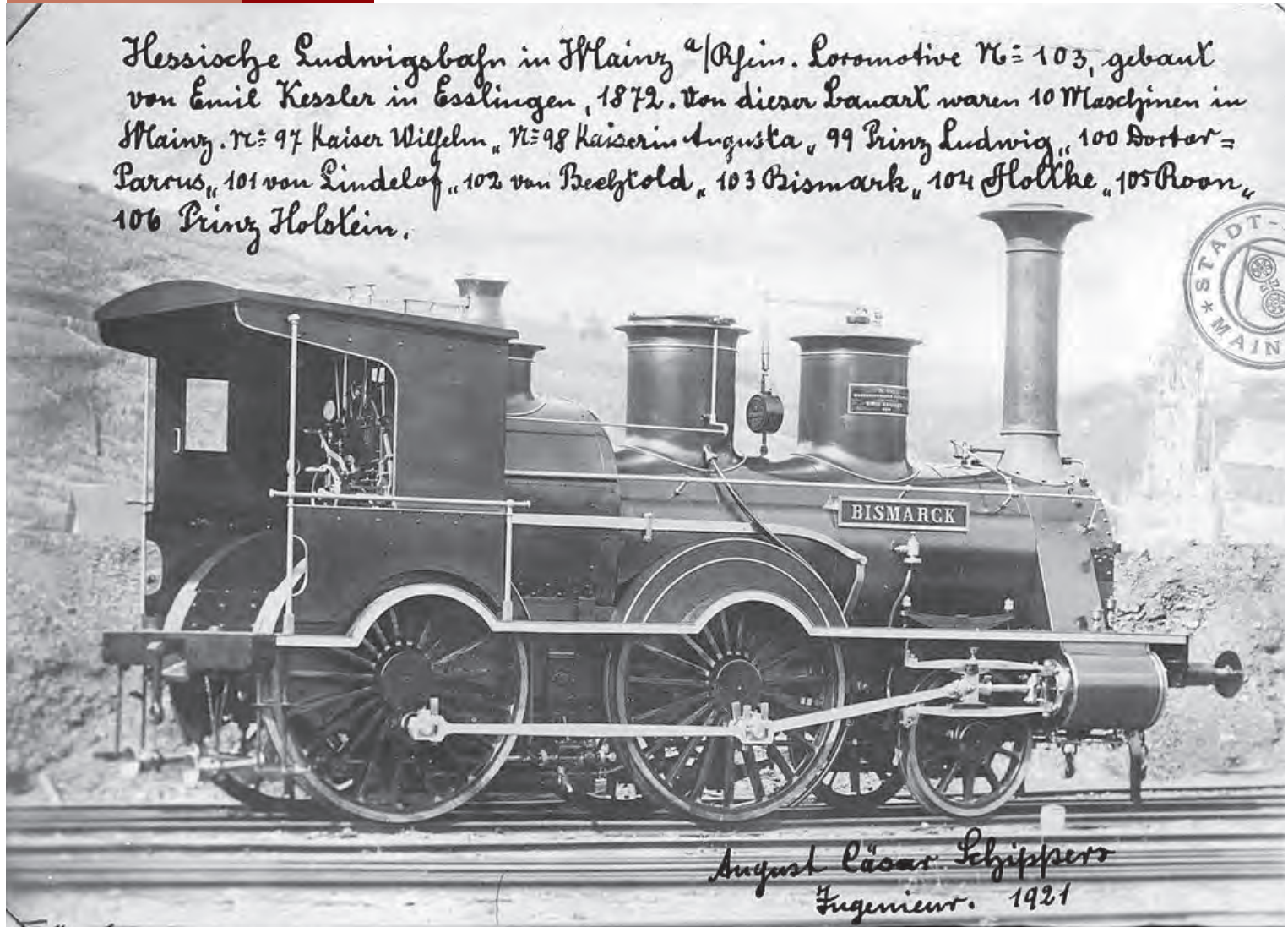
Factory halls of the Maschinfabrik Esslingen besides the station at the river Neckar in 1906. One can see the vineyards of the Neckarhalde in the background.



Machine factory, middle of the 19th century, view from the Neckarhalde

As industrial production of the 19th century worked with hydro power, the situation at the river Neckar favoured the industrialization of Esslingen. So it was not by chance that the first plants settled near the water channels. Among them the Metal Goods factory was founded by Heinrich Rudy in 1810 (later Carl Deffner) as well as some textile and leather goods factories like Bodmer gloves (also in 1810), the Cotton Spinning Factory Schöllkopf (since 1813), the cloth factory of the Hartmann brothers (1826) and the comb yarn spinning mill Merkel & Wolf (1830). Esslingen became an industrial city in 1845 when it was connected to the railway network and the machine factory was founded one year later. Within one year the factory halls were established, already beginning with 1847 locomotives were first produced for the Württemberg State Railway, then also for many other customers in Germany and abroad. In 1850 the factory had more than 1000 employees and it was the largest industrial company in Württemberg. In 1870 the thousandth locomotive was completed. The machine factory also supplied bridge and steel construction and, in the 1850s, it manufactured more than fifty inland vessels. Already in 1798 the file and knife factory Fr. Dick was founded as craft business. The factory building for industrial manufacture with its distinctive chimney was erected only in 1889.

Hessische Ludwigsbahn in Mainz a/Rhein. Lokomotive Nr. 103, gebaut von Emil Kessler in Esslingen, 1872. Von dieser Bauart waren 10 Maschinen in Mainz. Nr. 97 Kaiser Wilhelm, Nr. 98 Kaiserin Augusta, 99 Prinz Ludwig, 100 Doktor = Parous, 101 von Lindelof, 102 von Beehtold, 103 Bismarck, 104 Hottke, 105 Roos, 106 Prinz Holstein.



Bismarck, 1872

The locomotives of the machine factory Esslingen

Locomotives are the most modern machines of the 19th century. With awe and pride contemporaries look at these powerful steel monsters which are a product of industrialization but at the same time make industrialization possible. So also in Württemberg. The railway accelerates and increases transportation and travelling enormously. The historical photographs of the locomotives show this symbol of progress, power, speed and beauty of the machines. Emil von Kessler (1813–1867) was the founder and first director of the machine factory Esslingen (ME). In Esslingen beginning with 1846 this factory changed the commercial structure of the city enormously. As one of the largest and most modern industrial enterprises of the country it has a significant part in the fact that Esslingen has been the most important centre of the Kingdom of Württemberg for years. More than 5500 locomotives have been built here, of which the first 2000 until only 1884.

In the machine factory it was usual to take a picture of each locomotive after completion. These portraits of the individual machines were made with most modern technology – photography – with an enormous effort. For this purpose, photographers from Esslingen and Stuttgart were asked to come to the machine factory with their unshaped plate cameras. The just completed locomotives were placed in the open air area of the Esslingen railway site, where they were portrayed in front of or next to the enterprise. In many photographs you can see the church of our Lady (Frauenkirche) or the fortifications, but also the steep terraced vineyards of the Neckarhalde.

On basis of the text for the exhibition of the Municipal museum in the Yellow House which took place in 2013 „Locomotive – portraits of the machine factory Esslingen“



Kopernicus, 1864



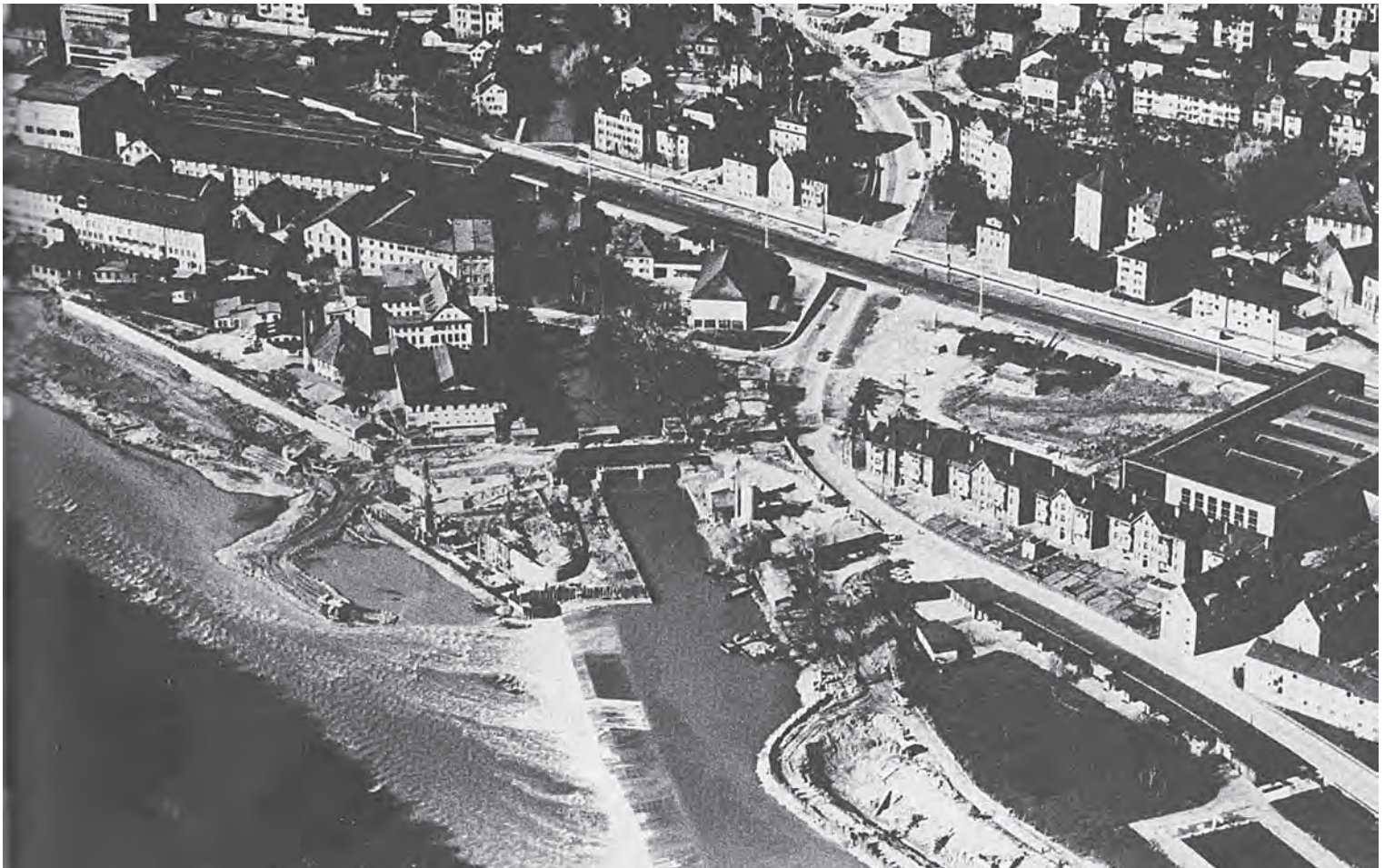
Starkenburger, 1865



Fried. Krupp N°IV, um 1900



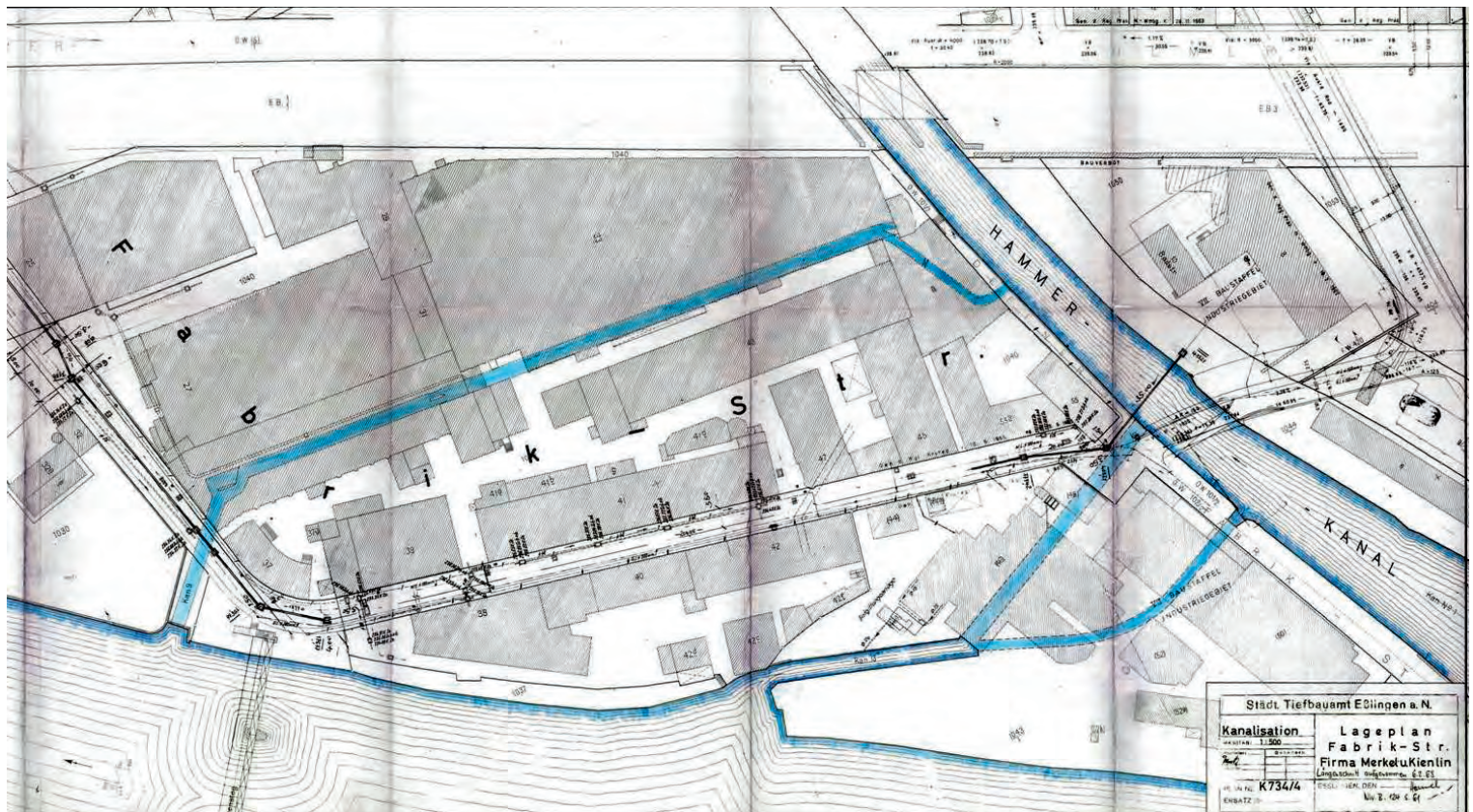
Metal Goods factory C. Deffner (1900)



During the time when the riverbed was built (1965), Left: Factory buildings C. Deffner



Merkel&Kienlin-Area, today the recreational centre Merkel-Park



Map of the Merkel-area – 1961



Misery of the winegrowers

(from the request of the winegrowers in the suburbs of Esslingen to be excepted from charge in 1793)

A man who has to live from his work or from agriculture is a farmer, a craftsman or a winegrower. Among the 3 groups to be a winegrower is the worst. The whole year he has to work in the vineyards, whereas the farmer has to invest less effort and trouble. It is so regrettable when there are hail or frost and other disasters. Sometimes only one night or one hour destroy the whole food or the winegrowers are disentitled. In return for the effort not only for only one but sometimes also for many years. The farmer sows the field immediately after the hail. The craftsman is inside his workshop – independent from the weather. Just the poor winegrower trembles when a dark cloud appears at the horizon. He cannot go to bed when danger is imminent for his vineyard on a cold morning night.

Taken from: Walter Bernhardt: Krummenacker, Sulzgries, Rüdern, Katalog zur Ausstellung des Stadtarchivs Esslingen im September 1980 (Catalogue for the exhibition of the city archive Esslingen in September 1980, Esslingen 1980, No. 28: 1793 January 16 (StAE, Bestand Reichsstadt F 158)

Quality and quantity

It is understandable that the winegrowers concentrated on cultivation of efficient, less qualitative grape varieties due to the difficulties (climate, competition and so on) already mentioned. But this was not in favor of the estimation and the succesful sales. Of course, the winegrowers of Esslingen were not the only one who set on quantity. Thats why in the first half of the 19th century a quality initiative was started.

Recommendations for improvement of the wine quality from the year 1835

In 1835 the Stuttgart pharmacist C.F. Berg published a document titled

„About viniculture and winemaking in Wuerttemberg, with proposals for perfection in accordance with experience in practice and chemical-physical principles“. In this writing he criticized the widespread cultivation of grape varieties, which in his view guaranteed quantity rather than quality of wine. In addition to Trollinger he named grapes like Haeusler, Mueller, Mosler, Gaisdutte (a kind of table grape with big grapes to be eaten), Gaensfuessler, Grosskoernigte, Heidler, Rotzopf, Weidenstock and Putzscheere.

In order to improve wine quality he recommended to grow more noble varieties with smaller grapes like Riesling, Traminer and Rulaender, Zottel- or Süßwellschen (synonym for Blue Urban), Black or Red Urban. Clevner and Burgundy, Affenthaler, Veltliner, red Malvasier, raisin grapes, Muskateller, Sylvaner, Gutedel and Ortlieber, adapted to the climate of the region and the individual location.

(Berg, C. F.: Über Weinbau und Weinbereitung in Württemberg, mit Vorschlägen zu deren Vervollkommnung nach Erfahrungen in der Praxis und nach chemisch-physikalischen Grundsätzen, (About viniculture and winemaking in Wuerttemberg, with proposals for perfection in accordance with experience in practice and chemical-physical principles, Stuttgart 1835)

From the description of the district authority of 1845

„By the way, the cultivation of grain is limited and far from sufficient for the local needs. The acreage costed 600–1000 fl (Florins). Recently the fields of the foundation care were let for rent for 60 fl per acre annually. The meadows are very good and wanted, their price is 600 to 800 fl. per acre. Most activity and care, however, are used for viticulture whose operation is quite appropriate to the utilization conditions. The 1055 acres of local vineyards are private property. The most cherished sites are the Ebershalde, the Neckarhalde between Esslingen and Mettingen and the southern slope of the oil mountain near Untertuerkheim. There are about 4000 grape sticks per acre; the most common varieties are Silvaner and Trollinger. Several owners are very careful about refinement and uniformity of the sticks. The estimate harvest is about 5–6 „buckets“ (1 bucket is 300 l) per acre. The local wine is the best in the district and is sold in the top areas of the country. For a vineyard of one acre you pay about 600–1600 fl. – another equally important branch of activity for Esslingen, the city and the branches is fruit cultivation, which is spread and fertile unrivalled. The sales of green (less dried) fruit (in 1840 only cherries for 20.000 fl., 1844 for 13.000 fl. mainly to Upper Swabia and Bavaria) even more for fruit most,[10] which is excellently made here (1840 for 43.000 fl.) and especially the extended trade with fruit trees are essential levers for the ascent of the hard-working and accurately working inhabitants. The climatic and soil conditions however seem to be particularly conducive to luxuriating all kinds of pome and stone fruit with plenty harvest.“