

The spelling of the name Gesthuysen and its variants.

The original name of the hamlet is "Gesthuysen" (Alders 1983), and this name is still to be found on German maps, less than 4 miles east-south-east of the town of Kalkar. Up until a few years ago there was still a "Gesthuysen" road sign. The people in the main farmhouse were known as "van Geisthuysen", but nowadays this spelling is no longer to be found.

The occupants of the farms Wardtshof and Maashof are all called "Gesthuysen". During our investigations we have come across all sorts of variations, principally in Germany, inter alia "Gesthausen", "Geesthuysen" and "Geesthuisen". The branch that moved to Millingen aan de Rijn and Zevenaar in the Netherlands is sometimes called "Gesthuisen" or "Gesthuijsen" but is usually Dutchified into "Gesthuizen". In the German telephone directory for 2001 the following can be found: "Gesthuisen", "Gesthuisten", "Gesthuizen", "Gesthusen", "Gesthüsen", "Gesthuysen" and "Gesthüysen". In former times, both in Germany and in the Netherlands, names were often written down phonetically, and little attention was paid to the precise spelling.