



THE GOTTSCHEE TREE

Newsletter of the History and Genealogy of Gottscheers
and Their Descendants

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THE GOTTSCHEE TREE

The purpose of the newsletter, The Gottschee Tree, is to: (1) exchange family history and genealogical data; (2) provide information about individuals from Gottschee and their descendants; (3) inform readers of Gottschee history; and (4) promote interest in current Gottschee events. Articles written by subscribers and the exchange of family data make this newsletter a valuable resource.

POLITICAL DISTRICTS

In 1854 the linguistic island of Gottschee was composed of three districts: Gottschee, Rudolfswerth, and Tschernembl. Most of the villages were within the political district of Gottschee. However, villages located near the eastern boundary line were part of political districts in the Slovenian province. Some of the northeastern villages were within the jurisdiction of Rudolfswerth (Novo mesto) and southeastern villages in Tschernembl (Črnomelj).

Passports and other documents usually contain the name of the political district. Following is a list of villages (mentioned in this issue) within the three districts.

	<u>German</u>	<u>Slovenian</u>
P. District:	Gottschee	Kočevje
Villages:	Altlag Hohenegg Otterbach Riegel Schlechtbüchel Unterlag	Stari log Onek Kačji potok Rigle Slaba gorica Spodnji log
P. District:	Rudolfswerth	Novo mesto
Villages:	Langenton Rotenstein	Smuka Rdec kamen
P. District:	Tschernembl	Črnomelj
Villages:	Maierle Rossbüchel Skrill Stockendorf	Maverle Konjski hrib Škrilj Planina

(Source: "Das Jahrhundertbuch": Gottschee and its People Through the Centuries by Erich Petschauer)

GOTTSCHEEER TREFFEN OF NORTH AMERICA was held in Kitchener, Ontario, Sept. 5-7. This annual get-together of Gottscheers rotates among the cities of Canada and the U.S. Next year it will be in New York.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

MARIA (LOBE) STERBENZ

Maria Lobe, born June 24, 1866 in Rossbüchel, Stockendorf, Austria, was barely in her twenties when she immigrated to America in 1886-1887. While in Brooklyn, Maria met Franz Sterbenz, a carpenter. They were married on June 23, 1889. A year later, their first child, John, was born on September 24.

In 1891, Maria and her infant son returned to Gottschee. (Her husband most likely stayed in Brooklyn as two of his brothers, Joseph and Matthew, had immigrated in 1885.) In Rossbüchel, Maria gave birth to a daughter on February 10, 1892. About 1893, Maria left her infant daughter Mary in the care of her grandparents and taking her son John, returned to Brooklyn. A year later, Maria's daughter was brought to New York by Maria's older sister, Magdalena of Zmuk, Langenton.

The reunited family moved to Kansas City MO. The 1896 city directory placed them in an area known as "Strawberry Patch". There a third child, Frances, (my mother) was born on September 21, 1897.

There were two great ladies in New York in 1886-1887, the Statue of Liberty, 151 feet high, and my dear Gottscheer Grossmama, not quite five feet tall. (Written by Dorothy Smythe, 1706 N. 77th Terr., Kansas City, Kansas 66112).

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FROM THE EDITOR

Library research can be exhausting and yet very rewarding. A month ago I found maps of Yugoslavia that contained the names of small towns and villages. I was looking for the exact location of the village Ceglje. I did find it, as I knew it was south of the city of Gottschee, near the Kulpa river, but not in the settlement of Gottschee. I also knew German descendants lived in Ceglje and immigrated to the United States.

The next step was to find a German translation of Ceglje. A map found in a book by Otterstadt (1962) included the village of Tscheplach located less than two miles from Gottschee's southern boundary. I believe Tscheplach is the German translation of Ceglje. Research continues.

CORRECTION

In the last two issues, page 4, column 2, the last name of Herma Moscher should contain the letter "n". The correct spelling is Moschner. The editor regrets the error.

REQUEST FOR ARTICLES

People who lived in Gottschee have a wealth of knowledge concerning their homeland and family life. Those of us who are descendants of Gottscheers would appreciate learning about and understanding life as lived in Gottschee. Suggested topics: Christmas celebrations, food preparation, family names and house numbers, names of houses, description of one's home, and description of occupations (e.g. housewife, dressmaker, winemaking, hunter, peddler, tile maker, and/or farmer).

Share your knowledge. Write an article and submit it to this newsletter for publication. All articles will be edited and returned to you for your approval prior to publication.

Mail your article to Elizabeth Nick, Liz Information Service, P.O. Box 725, Louisville, Colorado 80027-0725. For your article to be published in the December issue, submit it by November 10.

HOUSE #17 IN ROTENSTEIN

The Hoge (pronounced Ho gay) family lived in house #17 in the village of Rotenstein (Rdeci kamen). Josef (b:1857) born in house #17, lived there after his marriage to Gertrude Schneider (b:1867).

Josef and Gertrude had ten children. The first child, a girl, was born in 1884, followed by five more girls before the first of three boys were born. Emigration of the children began with the eldest child, Helen, in 1904. She saved her money, sent it back to her parents, and the next sister would emigrate. This pattern continued until the sixth sister, Pauline, used the money for (see HOUSE #17, page 4, column 1)

ARMY/AIR MAPS OF SLOVENIA

In locating the villages in the settlement of Gottschee (Kocevje) in the province of Slovenia, Yugoslavia, an excellent source is the Army/Air maps published in 1945. Local libraries with extensive holdings may have copies of the set. (I found them in the Denver City Library.) As the maps were published in the 1940s, village names are in the Slovenian language.

The maps also contain a list of topographical terms in both German, Serbian, and Croatian languages with an English translation. The terms are an aid in translating village names from Slovenian to German. An example is the village of Altenmarkt. This village is south of the boundary line of Gottschee and near the Kulpa river. German descendants also lived in Altenmarkt, as well as in other villages south of the boundary line of the settlement of Gottschee. In the Slovenian language Altenmarkt is Stari Trg. "Old" in German is "alt" and in Slovenian it is "star-i,a,o". "Market" in German is "markt" and in Slovenian it is "trg". (Source: First Edition Army/Air Maps, 1945)

TOPOGRAPHICAL TERMS

German	English	Slovenian
alt	old	star-i,a,o
dorf	village	selo
ebene	plain	ravan
markt	market town	
	market place	trg
ober	upper	zgornj-i,a,e,
mittel	middle, central	srednj-i,a,e,
unter	below, under,	spodnj-i,a,e,
	lower	donj-i,a,e,
tal (thal)	valley	dol

(Source: First Edition Army/Air Maps, M506, The Balkans, 1945)

DATA EXCHANGE

(1) Bisbee, Arizona, located only six miles from the Mexican border in southeastern Arizona, was famous for its mines. Miners extracted copper, gold, silver, and zinc. Today, Arizona's highway tourist maps indicate Bisbee as a "point of interest". One attraction is the Lavender Pit Mine which measures 213 acres at its rim. A copyright story in the Los Angeles Times in 1986 reports European emigrants worked in the mines under the Mule Mountains. For a short time, Joseph Kobetitsch (1881-1961) from Schlechtbüchel (Slaba gorica) worked in the copper mines of Bisbee. (Source: Julia Kobetitsch)

(2) Ely, Nevada is another area where Gottscheers made their homes. As of this date, no written documentation has been obtained.

(3) An article in the Kansas City Times, dated May 6, 1947 describes the reunion of Mrs. Josephine Stimpfl with her eldest son Joseph Stimpfl (1885-1970) and her daughter Marie (Stimpfl) Nick (1892-1966). Josephine (Josepha nee Lackner, 1867-1959) had hoped to be buried next to her husband, Joseph Stimpfl (1867-1923) who was buried in Hohenegg, but she had no choice but to leave her village in the early 1940s. Prior to her arrival in Kansas City, she visited with her son Richard (1905-1978) and three of her other children in Brooklyn. (The newspaper article reported that she had twelve children.) Josepha lived the rest of her life on a small farm in Basehor, Kansas, with her daughter Marie and Marie's husband, John.

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DEADLINE for Data Exchange and Queries for the next issue is December 1.

QUERIES

(1) I am researching the family tree of Anton Fink and his family from #4 Riegel near Altlag. I have considerable information already and I would like to find more if possible. I am also interested in a family of Hutter from Otterbach and later from Unterlag. Most of the members of these two families left about 1890 to 1900. I have information on both of these families in case I could be of help. Submitted by James R. Hennessy, M.D., Department of Pediatrics (Cardiology), C.S. 10008, Toledo, Ohio 43699.

(2) I am trying to locate information on Joseph and Mary Loschke, and John and Mary Flak (birthplace, parents, etc.). I would like to find living descendants of the Flaks who have any information.

Joseph Loschke and Maria Rom had six children: Joseph (sp. Luskey, 1853-1939) m: Anna Jermen, John (sp. Loske?, 1861-??) m: Barbara, Mathew (1861-1912) m: Christina Haas, Louis George (1865-1931) m: Maria Flak, Antone (1868-1902) m: Lena Meider, Frances (1874-1963) m: William Lohrey, and Mary (1876- 19??) m: John Flak. All the children emigrated in the 1880s. Louis settled in KCK. Louis's sister Mary married his wife's brother.

John Flak and Maria Kumpf's children were: Mary (??) m: Louis Loschke, Margaretha (1867- 19??) m: John Tscherne, John (1870-??) m: Mary Loschke, Joseph (1875-??), Karl (??), Mathias (??). All the children except Mathias emigrated and most settled in Ohio. Submitted by Kate Prunte, 91 Madera Court, Danville, California 94526.

KANSAS CITY GOTTSCHERS

Additional names to be added to the list of Gottscheers who settled in the Kansas City area are Flak, Haas(?), Loschke, Mausser, Rom, and Tramosch. Submitted by Kate Prunte, Danville, California. The Lobe and Sterbenz families also resided in Kansas City. Submitted by Dorothy Smythe, Kansas City, Kansas.

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HOUSE #17 (continued from page 2)
her marriage and stayed in Gottschee. Four of the five sisters settled in Kansas City. Sophia lived in Ohio.

The other children did not leave until they were forced to do so in the 1940s. Frank and Pauline lived the rest of their lives in Austria. Gotfried, who inherited the family farm, was killed in Rann. Albina emigrated in 1955 and settled in Ohio. Rudolph eventually went to live in California. As of this date, efforts to locate him or his family have failed. Of the ten children born to Josef and Gertrude, Mary (Hoge) Kramer is still living in Missouri.

The children of

Josef Hoge and Gertrude Schneider:

Helen (1884-1937)	m:Joseph Kobetitsch
Sophia (1886-1971)	m:Joseph Koenig
Dora (1887-1980)	m:Joseph Hallouer
Mary (1890-living)	m:Karl Kramer
Louise (1894-1969)	m:Joseph Geier
Pauline (????-1983)	m:???
Frank (1902-1985)	m:Anna ??
Gotfried (1904-1945)	m:Helene Koenig
Albina (1906-1982)	m:Alois Hoge
Rudolph(????-????)	m:???

Sources: Documents and correspondence with the descendants of the children of Josef and Gertrude (Schneider) Hoge.

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The books by Kren and Petschauer may be purchased from the Gottscheer Relief Association, 657 Fairview Avenue, Ridgewood, New York 11385.

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