



THE GOTTSCHEE TREE

Newsletter of the History and Genealogy of Gottscheers
and Their Descendants

Volume 2, Number 1

March 1988

The purpose of this newsletter 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.

EARLY EMIGRATION FROM GOTTSCHEE

by WK

The largest waves of Gottscheer emigration occurred in the 1880s, 1890s, and after the two world wars. Destinations were mainly American cities, especially New York and Cleveland, where friends and family members were already living and where the familiar Gottschee culture could be preserved at least up to a point. Earlier emigres, however, had no such cultural refuge, and they were rapidly assimilated into the much larger German and, eventually, American societies. Many Americans today are descendants of those early emigrants, who are not even aware of their Gottscheer roots.

The earliest emigration from the Gottschee district began soon after the 1848 revolution and continued on a small scale through the 1850s and 1860s. Some emigrants were fleeing their military obligation, but most were fleeing poverty. A rapid rise in population in the nineteenth century with the limited quantity of land meant that the surplus people had to leave their villages. Some eked out a living as traveling peddlers and some moved to Austrian cities, but many of these landless farmers looked to America where good land was cheap and plentiful.

Since no friends or relatives were in America at that time to invite or guide them, it is an interesting fact that Austrian clergy, serving as missionaries in the new territories, were an important force in exhorting the landless Gottscheers to the fertile lands of the American midwest. A notable example is Father Francis X. Pierz.

Born in Krain (Carniola) of Slovene

parents, Fr. Pierz spelled his name in the German manner and published his many articles and letters in the German language. He was a man of many accomplishments in the American mission field from 1835 to 1873. Fr. Pierz is of special interest here because of his activities at recruitment in the old country, especially among German Catholics. Weekly his articles and letters from America appeared in the Catholic publications of Krain, extolling the beauty and richness of the midwest farmland and the opportunity awaiting those prepared to make sacrifices and willing to endure the hardships of pioneer life. He published a widely-circulated brochure, "Eine kurze Beschreibung des Minnesota-Territoriums" (A Brief Description of the Minnesota Territory) in 1855.

In 1863 he returned to Krain for a short time, traveling from parish to parish (continued on page 2, column 2)

SPOTLIGHT ON...

JOSEPH KOENIG (1886-1949)

Joseph Koenig was born in Altlag (Stari log), House #94 in 1886. On September 13, 1904, Joseph arrived in New York. Four years later in Brooklyn he married Sophia Hoge (b:1886 in Rotenstein).

After a few years of living in Brooklyn, Joseph and Sophia moved to Ohio. They had six children: Mary (b:1909), Helen (b:1910), Joseph (b:1912 - d:1984), Frank (b:1914), Josephine (b:1917), and Edward (b:1921). Today, there are 25 direct descendants of Joseph and Sophia Koenig. (Source: Mary Kirschensteiner, Euclid, OH)

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NEED HELP IN OBTAINING RECORDS FROM GOTTSCHEE? You may want to contact Maria Grill in Austria. Maria is willing to help anyone obtain information from the old church registers. Maria can obtain an "original document" (separate baptismal certificates) for each person or excerpts from the register, copied and notarized by the priest who has access to diocesan records, which includes data for four people. Your request should include the person's full name, place of birth (village), and year of birth. As usual with record requests, include a generous donation (an exact amount will appear in the next issue). Maria's response will be in German. (Information from Martha Hutter)

Frau Maria Grill
Mitterstrasse 146
8055 Neu-Seiersberg
Steiermark, Austria
Europe

RECORDS FROM SLOVENIA, YUGOSLAVIA (Krain, Austria) and for villages located in Gottschee, write to:

Nadskofijski Ordinariat Arhiv
Ciril-Matodov trg 4
61001 Ljubljana, pp 121/111
Slovenia, Yugoslavia.

According to Harriett Ayres, this is the address of the Bishop's house where records of all parishes are kept. Requests may be written in English, however the reply will be in Slovenian. Requests should include dates of birth, death, marriage, spouse's name (if married in Slovenia), and parents' names. Do not abbreviate words. Do not send money until you receive a reply. Then, if no fees are requested, send a generous donation. Use an international bank check or money order. Do not send cash or personal checks.

Enclose three international postal reply coupons (obtained at the post office) to cover postage for their reply. Send your letter airmail and ask for their reply to be sent airmail. (Information obtained from Harriett Ayres and Helen Petsche.)

EARLY EMIGRATION FROM GOTTSCHEE

(continued from page 1, column 2)

parish, describing the American midwest and appealing for volunteers. It is Father Pierz and others like him who enticed that first trickle of Gottscheer immigrants to America.

References

- Berend, Ivan T. & Ranki, Gyorgy
Economic Development in East-Central Europe in the 19th and 20th Centuries.
New York: Columbia University Press, 1974.
- Furlan, William P.
In Charity Unfeigned, The life of Father Francis X. Pierz. Paterson, New Jersey: St. Anthony Guild Press, 1952.

ROTENSTEIN IN 1987

On a recent visit to Gottschee, my Viennese friend and I took a taxi from Smarjeske Toplice to Smuka (old Langenton), and then on to Rotenstein. I knew the village of Rotenstein no longer existed, but I wanted to take photos for a friend and we were so near. Near? The drive up was 10 kilometers and very desolate. Along the road there was a long line of fencing. Jože Skufca said here the government killed 500 wild boars each year and kept another 500 to mate. Of course, I knew bears were in the Gottscheer forests.

The taxi driver stopped, and we walked up another old road to the village. There we found remnants of five or six houses. The trees were huge, and with the weeds, had grown inside and around the remains of the houses. To take photos and to look inside, we had to climb upon the huge rocks (a foot in length or larger) that had fallen from the walls. These houses no longer had the outer covering of cement. At one time, the village of Rotenstein consisted of more than 17 houses.

Jože walked towards one of the plum trees. We picked and ate the small, sweet, delicious plums. Our guide showed us a tree that had been ravaged by bears. We continued to walk on, but left when we heard animal noises. The large meadow was full of orchid fall-blooming crocus. They were so lovely that I picked three of them. We also noticed that the soil and the rocks on the old roads were red. This is the reason this village was called Rotenstein: "rote" means "red" and "stein" means "stone."

(Written by Helen Petsche)

DATA EXCHANGE

Information on the Houses of Ort exists in the genealogy library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS). The microfiche number is 6000736 entitled Village of Ort in Gottschee, Austria by Wm. Krauland. The microfiche contains information on the Houses of Ort and includes their names and a few generations of their inhabitants. Submitted by Robert R. Schleimer, Grafton, Ohio.

To find the specific records of birth, death, and marriages of Gottschee at the LDS library, look under Austria, Krain, Gottschee. The records are indexed and quite a few are on microfilm.

Index	Microfilm No.
Marriage/Death 1800-1941	1346995
Baptismal Index 1800-1897	1346993
Marriages 1863-1902	1346979

There is a Familienbuch (1865) that covers some of the villages in different areas. The film number is 1346992. The same records can be found for Reiffnitz and other surrounding areas. Information submitted by Robert R. Schleimer, 441 Eaton Blvd., Grafton, Ohio 44044.

In the June 1987 issue of The Gottschee Tree, data about Matthias Kobetitsch (born 1847 in Tzanbuchel) was obtained from LDS records. The original data was submitted to LDS by one of Matthias Kobetitsch's descendants, John Bertalan, 795 County Road 94, Palm Harbor, Florida 33563.

AN AID TO RESEARCH IN ORT

If you have any ancestors from the village of Ort, Austria (now Konca, Yugoslavia) there is a microfiche available from the Mormon library that you will want to read.

Microfiche #6000736, entitled "Village of Ort in Gottschee, Austria", was compiled by Dr. Wilhelm Krauland and originally appeared in the Gottscheer Zeitung from October, 1978 to April, 1980. The series of articles were translated into English by Helen Petsche. The microfiche may be ordered at any LDS branch genealogical library.

The work begins with a short history of Gottschee, a table of contents, and then genealogical tables of the approximately 25 houses in Ort, Obrern, and Oberloschin. (The villages were in Mitterdorf parish.) The genealogical tables have numerous notes such as: grandparents, marriage

QUERIES

(1) Jakob Skala, born 18 May 1869, Semic: last known to be in Pueblo, Colorado circa 1915. Submitted by Mrs. Sheila Kapella, 666 N. Hickory St., Joliet, Illinois 60435.

(2) Anyone with any connection to or any information about Josef F. Hutter (born March 4, 1860) in #12 Schalkendorf, his brother Paul (b:1857), sister Josefa (b:1855) or parents Paul Hutter (b:1834) and Magdalena Sturm (b:1829).

Also the parents of Magdalena Sturm: Andreas Sturm (b:1796) and Maria Koestner (b:1800), or their other children; Andreas (1824), Maria (1826), Johann (1832), Mathias (1839), and Elisabeth (1843 or 1845) Please contact me. Submitted by Robert R. Schleimer, 441 Eaton Blvd., Grafton, Ohio 44044-9552.

DEADLINES for the next issue are May 1 for articles, and June 1, 1988 for queries.

A SLOVENIAN LETTER WRITING GUIDE is available from the Slovenian Genealogical Society. The ten page guide consists of form letters in English with Slovenian translations, plus a list of genealogical sentences and words. The cost of the guide is \$3.00. The Slovenian Genealogical Society has been in existence since 1986. Membership dues are \$5.00. For information write to: Albert Peterlin, Slovenian Genealogical Society, 609 Gale Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011. Include a #10 stamped, self-addressed, envelope for all requests.

dates, subsequent marriages, clergy, moves both in Europe and to America, parents, siblings, relationships, children, assumptions, and house names.

The following family names are represented in major groupings:

Bartelme	Herbst	Kump	Schleimer
Dulzer	Hönigmann	Michelitsch	Schusteritsch
Eppich	Jaklitsch	Nadler	Steurer
Erker	Knaus	Osbold	Tscherne
Fitz	Köstner	Ostermann	Verderber
Fritz	Kren	Perz	Vrba
Haberle	Kresse	Petsche	Ziegelfest

Other family names are represented in the intermarriages. The earliest dates go back to the 1620s and some notes carry to the date of compilation.

(Submitted by Dr. John J. Bertalan, Professor Hillsborough Community College, FL)

GOTTSCHER FOLK FESTIVAL

The annual Gottscheer Folk Festival (Volksfest) will take place on Sunday, June 5, 1988, at Plattdeutsche Volksfest Park, 1132 Hempstead Turnpike, Franklin Square, Long Island, NY. Sponsored by the Gottscheer Relief Association of New York, the festival is a popular social event for Gottscheers and their descendants.

The chairman for the 1988 festival is Richard Eisenzopf. Visitors from afar will be greeted at the ceremony if they notify the chairman. For further information write to: Gottscheer Volksfest
Gottscheer Hall,
657 Fairview Avenue
Ridgewood, New York 11385

EASTER IN MOOS

After Fasching or Shrovetide comes Lent, which was observed in the old homeland. Holy Week began after Palm Sunday and preparation for the Easter time.

When carrying palms the elders called, "Don't carry the palms high and don't walk fast, lest the cows (in the pasture) run away." Mother looked for the solemn festive basket, it must be a lovely thing, to be covered with a lovely cloth. In the basket there would be a smoked shoulder or ham, sausage, speck, dyed eggs, two or three types of filled bread (raisins, nuts, and carob); horseradish was an absolute requisite, so hot that it could be used for a snake bite. On Holy Saturday, the mother or grown daughter carried the basket to the church, where the priest blessed the food. The villagers from Moos and Handlern had to carry their baskets for blessing to Kotschen, while others in Unter- and Oberwetzenbach had to go to the parish church in Rieg. After the blessing the single women, who carried the food baskets, hurried home--then "Those who returned home first from church would be brides that year."

Already on Maundy Thursday the bells were silent--earlier they were braided/ (or twisted?). On Easter Sunday they were unbraided/untwisted and rung. The Easter rites were observed at this time. On

Maundy Thursday the Easter holy water was fetched, and on Saturday each householder carried a piece of tinder to be used in the blessing of the Easter fire for Heaven's blessing, but also as repayment to God. These were the men's duties. And on Good Friday throughout the house there was silence.

There was a big breakfast on Easter Sunday, all tasted good. Easter Monday was a Tschelltokh (?--maybe a vacation day); in the afternoon the adults went to the inn, the small children gathered on the barn floor. This was also special for the young adults to gather because they were allowed to dance again--for it was out of the question to do so during Lent.

This was the way it was at one time at our houses, as well as all the villages in Rieg. I often remember, probably other older people too. I wish all a holy Easter vacation day.

(Written by Maschlaisch Hanshe from Moos, now in Bedburg, Germany. This article appeared in the Gottscheer Zeitung in 1980. The article was translated by Helen Petsche in 1988.)

CORRECTION

In the December 1987 issue, pages 4 and 6, the name of "Benson" should be spelled "Bencin". The editor regrets the error.

DICTIONARY OF SOME SLOVENIAN GENEALOGY WORDS

April	April	din	dinar	hci	daughter
bauer (German)	farmer		Yugoslavian dollar	ime	first name
bauern (German)	farmer	dne	day, date	in	and
birma	confirmation	dobar	good	itd.	etc.
bivališča	residence,	drugič	secondly	iz	from, out of
	domicile	državljanstv	citizenship	izpisek	copy, extract
botroy	godmother	duhovnije	priest	jabuka	apple
četrtič	fourthly	edini	only	Jakob	Jacob, James
civilno	civil	enotna	unit	je	the
dan	day	en̄ten	uniform,	kada	when
dana	days		unitary	katoliska	Catholic
datum	date	gde	where is	ki	who, which
	(day, month, year)	gorenji	upper, higher	(continued in next issue)	

Submitted by Jeff Strutzel, P. O. Box 3014, Redondo Beach, California 90277
Any additions, corrections, and comments are appreciated.