

## Migration in Slovenia Based on German Family Names Brought to the Gottschee Region From the Former Territory

by Erik Krisch

*Erik Krisch, president of the Peter Kosler Gottscheer Verein in Ljubljana, Slovenia, gave the following presentation at the first International Slovenian Genealogy Conference in Ljubljana, September 2001.*

The territory of today's Slovenia had been a part of the Habsburg monarchy for centuries. As history tells us, Slovenes had settled this territory from the 6th to the 9th century A.D. In the 14th century, the country witnessed a colonization of Austrians and Germans in today's regions of Gorenjska (Selška valley, Škofja Loka, and its surroundings) and the Kočevska [Gottschee] region. As an example I have taken on a random family named Begusch/Beguš, originally from the Tyrolean region. I found 90 addresses in the 2001 Slovenian telephone directory, distributed as follows: 20-02, 2-02, 30-04, 37-05, 1-07 [phone extensions: 01=Ljubljana, 02=Maribor, 03=Celje, 04=Kranj, 05=Koper, 07=Novo Mesto].

In addition, as a better example of migration of Gottscheers in Slovenia, I would like to use today's distribution of the family names of Kočevar and Hočevar. Those family names were given to the people migrating into the other regions of Slovenia from the Gottscheer region.

Surname	Total	Phone Extensions					
		01	02	03	04	05	07
Kočevar	260	122	38	53	21	40	86
Hočevar	946	551	20	47	64	58	206
Total	1,306	673	58	100	85	98	292

I have identified the Gottscheer region as a cradle of family names of German origin appearing today in Slovenia.

The colonists in the Gottscheer region originated from the territory of east Tyrol, west Carinthia, Bavaria, and some from Lorraine, Franken, and Turingia. The Gottscheer German, Senior Master Josef Pertz, compiled a list of 316 German family names used in the Gottscheer region in the year 1935, calling them "names brought from origin" (*altergebrachten Gottscheer Famliennamen*).

From this historical listing I have selected only those family names confirmed by Ivan Simončič (*Les migration au raon de Kočevje dans la lumiere des noms de famille—Migration in the Gottscheer Region in Light of Family Names*, Etnolog VII, Etnografski muzej v Ljubljani 1934) as being of German origin. In his work, Mr. Simončič also identified which territories those names were brought to the Gottschee region. There remained some names that were not confirmed by Simončič in his writings, but they were on the list of Mr. Pertz. I have discussed these with Mr. Janez Keber of Ljubljana, researcher at the Institute for the Slovenian Language.

I have followed the names in today's Slovenia simply with the help of the 2001 telephone directory. The results are listed in Table 1, pages 2-4, and Table 2, page 5. A surprisingly high number of family names shows migration through a decades-long period, and is also evidence of assimilation into the Slovenian majority.

Analysis of the distribution of the names shows the history of that migration. Interpretation of the results will require in-depth research, which is not the purpose of this Conference. I hope that reading and or hearing about my contribution, several Slovenians with German family names will start digging for their past roots and become a fan of our genealogy association.



Map of Slovenia according to the phone extensions.

## Migration in Slovenia Based on German Family Names (*continued*)

**Table 1: Family Names in Slovenia by Phone Extension**

Family Name	-01	-02	-03	-04	-05	-07	Kočevsko	Total
Epih(Eppich)	3						1	4
Erker	9	30	5					44
Fink	85	14	36	8	13	91	2	249
Flack	1	1						2
Fuchs	8	12	1	2		2		25
Grabner	9	48	35	2	1			95
Gril	43	76	50	19	20	26	2	236
Grilj	58		7		26			91
Grill					2	6		8
Hass	1	3	1					5
Heferle	2		1				1	4
Hefferle	2					1		3
Hegler	19	2		3	1	1	4	30
Henigman	28	1		3	4	14	19	69
Herbst	9		2	1	3	1		16
Höferle			1					1
Höfflerle	3				1	2		6
Hoge	1							1
Högler	2						1	3
Höningmann			1					1
Huter		1						1
Hutter	6	8		1				15
Kofler	5	1	1	11				18
Kolman	31	35	32	41	13	30		182
Kosler	4							4
Köstner	1							1
Kramer	22	38	73	1	3	11	1	149
Kren	22	15	1		8	33		79
Kropf	4	16	3					23
Kump	33	10	3	7	4	32	1	90

## Migration in Slovenia Based on German Family Names (*continued*)

**Table 1: Family Names in Slovenia by Phone Extension**

Family Name	-01	-02	-03	-04	-05	-07	Kočevsko	Total
Lackner	1							1
Lakner	27	5	19	13	3	26	2	95
Lobe	19		1	4		4		28
Mantel	3		1			1		5
Matzele	2		1					3
Mauser	10	3		4	5			22
Mausser			5	2		3		10
Nadler	4			1			1	6
Osterman	36	8	4	44	1	8	6	107
Ostermann		1	1					2
Oswald	1	8			1			10
Paar		4						4
Pečauer	2	1						3
Peer	4	2	9		1			16
Peitler		3		1				4
Pfeifer	18	18	31	9	3	10		89
Pöschl	4							4
Putre	3							3
Rankel	5			1		1	1	8
Rankl		2	1					3
Rauch	2	2		3	1	1		9
Retel						1		1
Retelj	16		1	4		28		49
Rupe	2		21					23
Satler	13	83	54	9	4	1		164
Sattler	5	1			2	1		9
Schauer	2			2		2		6
Schmuck	1					2		3
Schneider		1	4	1				6
Schneller	1							1
Schober		1						1

## Migration in Slovenia Based on German Family Names (*continued*)

**Table 1: Family Names in Slovenia by Phone Extension**

Family Name	-01	-02	-03	-04	-05	-07	Kočevsko	Total
Schuster	4		1	1				6
Schweiger	7	2	2		1	19		31
Spreitzer	12	2	2	1				17
Springer		3						3
Stampfl		1						1
Stangl					1			1
Staudacher	2					1		3
Sturm	1							1
Šercer (Scherzer)	38	4		1		1	5	49
Šlajmar (Schleim)	1			3				4
Šmid (Schmied)	57	51	62	160	5	8		343
Šober	5	84	1	12	1	9		112
Štangl	2	3				1		6
Šuster	15	18	55		2	10		100
Šuštar	189	7	17	31	23	20		287
Troje						1		1
Veber	59	69	100	31	8	9	1	277
Verderber	8		1		1	6	8	24
Weber	23	14	9	7	4	2		59
Weiss	26	26	13	3	3	20		91
Wetz	1							1
Wolf	17	22	3	8	2	8		60
TOTAL	1059	760	672	455	171	454	56	3627

## Migration in Slovenia Based on German Family Names (*continued*)

**Table 2: Family Names in Slovenia by Phone Extension**

Family Name	-01	-02	-03	-04	-05	-07	Kočevsko	Total
Bauer	37	20	5	6	3	4	5	80
Brinskele	1							1
Hofman	5	6	3		2			16
Hofmann	1							1
Jaklič	97	3	17	19	4	77	1	218
Jaklitsch						1		1
Jonke	7	2	4	4	3	1	2	23
Kapsch	1							1
Kapš	18	3	1	4		32		58
Kikel		12		2	1	1		16
Kikl	11		2					13
Kinkopf				1	1			2
Knaus	10	27	5			1		43
König	2	2	4	1	6			15
Mallner	1							1
Malner		1						1
Maurin	3	2						5
Mavrin	23	11	7			5	11	57
Mayer	14	4	1	2	2	2		25
Oberman	1				1	3		5
Oberster	1							1
Rom	12		14		1	11		38
Skender	11	4	5	4	2	2	12	40
Šterbenc	20	6	2	1		7		36
Štine	3					8		11
Zimmermann	1		1					2
TOTALS	280	103	71	44	27	155	31	711

## The School of Lichtenbach

by Hermann Petschauer, translated by Fred Muschler

*This article is from three separate articles by Mr. Petschauer about his hometown, Lichtenbach (Svetli Potok), titled Lichtenbach, My Home Town, first published in the Gottscheer Zeitung, May 1972, April 1972, May 1972, and June 1972.*

The school board of Lichtenbach consisted of the President, Mr. Mathias Stalzer, Kummerdorf, number 1, Mathias Jonke, Lichtenbach, number 12, and Mathias Kump, Lichtenbach, number 15. Soon after Mr. Kump's election, he decided to emigrate to America. Mr. Josef Mille was chosen to take his place.

In the year 1885, the school building was only partially completed, and, therefore, there was no accommodation for the teacher. For this reason he was put up in a tiny room at house number 4. It was largely due to the mild winter of 1885-1886 that the poor fellow didn't freeze to death due to the poor condition that his room was in. The house was owned by Mr. Franz Ranzinger. In the spring of 1886, the teacher had to move, this time to house number 10, where he also had a very small room. Since this house was also not to his liking, he moved to house number 15.

On August 24, 1885, the county school board of Gottschee placed an ad for a teacher to take charge of the school in Lichtenbach at a yearly salary of 400 gulden and an apartment. The ad was answered by three candidates: Johann Jaklitsch, who at the time was teaching at the school in Altlag [Stari Log]; and two recent teacher college graduates: Josef Perz, who graduated from the college of Maribor, and Johann Roethel, from the college in Klagenfurt. Johann Jaklitsch, who taught at the school in Altlag, soon withdrew his application, and then the school board had only two candidates.

At the school board meeting of September 24, the position was awarded to 19 year old Josef Perz, as is recorded in the school chronicle. On November 10, he took the oath of office. On the 11th, he started out for Lichtenbach; and on the 13th, he started his new job. On his arrival, the first thing he had to do was look for a place to live, since the people in charge of the school forgot to take care of it. With this, Josef Perz became the first permanent teacher of the newly established school.

Josef Perz was born on July 5, 1886, in Mitterdorf [Stara Cerkev] by Gottschee, and attended the two-class grammar school there. After attending high school in Gottschee, from which he graduated with honors, he enrolled at the teacher's college in Klagenfurt. Because the official language at the teacher's college in Ljubljana was Slovenian, and given he did not speak the language, he could not attend that college. After the first year at Klagenfurt, he transferred to the teacher's college in Maribor where he finished the four-year course and received a teaching certificate for teaching in German.

The 1885-86 school year began on November 13 without the customary mass. The number of children obligated to attend school at that time was 52: 28 boys and 24 girls. Of the 48 children who attended, 37 attended regularly and 11 were repeating.

In December of 1885, the German School Union donated 50 gulden for the acquisition of school supplies. With this money, school supplies were acquired from the factory school in the city of Gottschee [Kočevje]. A vacation schedule for the entire school year was set up as follows: Christmas vacation, December 24-January 2; Mardi Gras break, March 9-10; Easter vacation, April 20-25; and Pentecost vacation, June 12-15.

A donation of 200 gulden for the expansion of the school was received from a bank in Ljubljana. On July 1, Mr. Johann Kraker, (Lichtenbach, number 10), was promoted by the county school board to the position of superintendent. On the morning of July 31, county inspector of schools, Mr. J. Kompljanec, paid the school a visit. From the end of July to the beginning of August, there was an outbreak of measles. On August 9 and 10, only 18 of the 34 children attended school. The 1885-86 school year ended on August 14.

Up to this point, I personally quoted from the school chronicles because this was the only way I could stress the point that the people showed ideals, that individual people risked much, and that the efforts were supported by other people from Berlin to Budapest. In fact, even the royal house was involved in this effort. To avoid repeating myself in the future, I will comment only on very exceptional things per-

## The School of Lichtenbach (*continued*)

taining to the village or to the teacher. The school chronicle itself is almost the size of a small book.

### 1886-1887

In the year 1886, one room of the teacher's apartment was completed. The second was almost completed, except for the floor. On November 3 of the same year, the teacher moved in. On account of its recent completion, the apartment remained damp and was very unhealthy to the occupant. From the ninth to the 12th of February, and from the 13th to the 18th of March, there was heavy snowfall. By the 17th of March, there was about 125 centimeters (about four feet) on the ground, which prevented the children from the neighboring villages from attending school.

For further work on the school building in the year 1887, the local school board—with the approval of the provincial school board of Krain (Slovenia)—allocated 1000 gulden from money donated by the Savings Bank of Krain. For the same purpose, Mr. Andreas Rom of Kummerdorf [Kumrova vas] donated 10 gulden.

On the afternoon of June 7, the school was visited by district school inspector, Mr. Komljanec. He was very impressed with the good attendance at the school. He also said that this was the first time he witnessed a perfect attendance. The following men were selected for the school board of the current year: Mr. Mathias Jonke and Mr. Andreas Rom, both from Kummerdorf; and as substitutes Josef Mille, (Lichtenbach, number 2), and Mr. Andreas Schneller, (Lichtenbach, number 9).

### 1887-1888

The school year got underway on October 1. On October 16th and 17th, there was a heavy snowfall. The snow did considerable damage to the orchards and the woodlands. Teacher Josef Perz completed another test at the teacher's college in Maribor and was promoted to full-fledged teacher. The school year ended on August 11.

### 1888-1889

The new school year started on January 4, 1889, due to the fact that teacher Josef Perz had to substitute at the four-class boys school in the city of Gottschee for the teacher Josef Goederer, who was sick. This was the same teacher, who after returning from his sick

leave, became the principal of the grammar school in Altlag [Stari Log]. At the same time, Perz covered the post of teacher Franz Schescharek, who was also sick. At the meeting of the school board of Lichtenbach on March 14, the following men were elected to the school board. Chair was Mr. Mathias Stalzer of Kummerdorf, house number 1; as his alternate was teacher Josef Perz. As inspector of the school was Mr. Johann Kraker of Lichtenbach, number 10.

In the month of February, the township board of Nesstetal [Koprivnik] selected the following men to the advisory board of this school: Mathias Stalzer of Kummerdorf, number 1; Andreas Rom of Kummerdorf, number 17; Mathias Jonke of Kummerdorf, number 12. As substitutes, Mr. Johann Kump of Kummerdorf, number 3; Josef Mille of Lichtenbach, number 2. The local school inspector, Johann Kraker, visited the school on June 1 during the afternoon and observed the proceedings for two hours. On June 5, during the morning session, the county school inspector, Mr. Kompljanmec, paid the school a visit. The school year ended on August 10.

### 1889-1890

Beginning the school year on October 1, the number of students was 48. From January 19 through 26, there were no classes due to the large number of flu cases. On March 1, five children of the school district of Unterlag [Spodnji Log] entered this school because their school had been damaged by fire.

### 1890-1891

At the beginning of the school year on October 1, the number of students was 56: 28 boys and 28 girls. Mr. Ernst Bormann donated a preferred stock certificate of the Duz Bodenbacher Railroad Company—at an estimated value of 100 gulden—for the expansion of the school building. The stock certificate was later sold by the Ljubljana banker, J. C. Mayer, for 276 gulden. With this substantial amount of money, the construction of the school building was finally completed. The annual visit by the county school inspector did not take place. The stucco application and other minor jobs to complete the school building were done by the master mason, Johann Löschitz of Grafenfeld [Dolga vas].

## The School of Lichtenbach (*continued*)

1891-1892

The start of the school year was October 2. The number of school children was 44. County school inspector, Mr. Peter Wolsegger, paid the school a visit on the afternoon of April 29. Mr. Ernst Bornmann, the most generous contributor to this school so far, contributed another 20 gulden for the acquisition of school supplies for disadvantaged children. The school year ended August 8 because of the teacher Josef Perz was called up for maneuvers in Ljubljana [Laibach].

1892-1893

The teacher Josef Perz applied for the recently vacated school position of principal at the school in Mösel [Mozelj], but he was not accepted. The job went to Mr. Mathias Krauland, teacher at the grammar school in Langenton [Smuka], in the school district of Novo Mesto [Rudolfswert]. The teacher Josef Perz married Miss Maria Hutter, the daughter of the telegraph supervisor at Nagy Karoly (Hungary). The county district school inspector, Professor Peter Wolsegger, inspected the local school on July 24th.

1893-1894

The school year began on September 16. Mrs. Maria Perz, wife of teacher Josef Perz, was chosen for the position of handicraft teacher at the local school. Also, about this time, Doctor Adolf Hauffen, lecturer at the University of Prague, came to visit Mr. Josef Perz to discuss with him his collection of Gottscheer songs. On May 28, the county school inspector, Peter Wolsegger, visited the school.

1894-1895

The teacher Josef Perz received, for his assistance with Dr. Adolf Hauffen's work, *Die deutsche Sprachinsel Gottschee* (The German Linguistic Island of Gottschee), received 50 gulden from the publisher. School attendance during the months of January, February, and part of March, was very irregular due to heavy snow, which made traveling very difficult. The county school inspector Peter Wolsegger inspected the school on July 5th.

1895-1896

The school year began on September 2 with 43 students. From the neighboring school district of Unterlag [Spodnji Log], 16 school children attended

this school, nine boys and seven girls. This was the final entry by the teacher Josef Perz, while still in charge of this school. He was promoted to principal of the three-class school in Nesselstal [Koprivnik]. The children of Lichtenbach were without a teacher until April 13, 1896. The provincial school advisory board assigned the teacher Mathias Petschauer, at the time a teacher in Göttenitz [Gotenica], as a full-time teacher to the school in Lichtenbach, with the stipulation that he take over the new post at the end of this school year. In the meantime, the teacher Johann Schober, from the school of Nesselstal, instructed the children at the school in Lichtenbach twice a week, Monday and Thursday. Religious instruction was given by the chaplain Josef Porupski from the parish of Nesselstal on Wednesdays from 9:00 to 11:00, starting on April 15. The district school inspector inspected the school on July 9.

1896-1897

On September 13, the teacher Mathias Petschauer married Miss Marie Rogale, the daughter of a local businessman in Rieg [Kočevska Reka]. On March 8, the school received from the provincial school treasury the following school supplies: 200 workbooks, 200 arithmetic books, 50 drawing books, one gross of pens, one gross of pencils, and one gross of carbon pegs. Due to the mild weather, school attendance was quite regular. Local school inspector, Mr. Johann Kraker, visited the school on May 18. Because of an outbreak of whooping cough, classes were suspended between May 28 and June 15. On June 28, the school was inspected by the county school inspector, Peter Wolsegger. This year's teachers' conference was held on July 7.

1897-1898

At its meeting on January 20, 1898, the school board decided to add a school yard, plus a tree nursery to the school. To pay for this extra expenditure, they decided to send out an appeal for the money required for this project. The appeal was successful. The savings bank of Ljubljana donated 50 gulden, the provincial governing board 50 gulden, and the club Südmark 20 gulden. The contributors received their deserved thanks.

On April 8, a new school board was established. The men on the board were the chairman, Mr. Johann Kraker of Lichtenbach, number 10, and his



## **The School of Lichtenbach (*continued*)**

substitute, Mr. Mathias Meditz; board members Mr. Mathias Jonke, manufacturer of loden, Vincent Meditz and Mathias Tschinkel, also a manufacturer of loden, all from Lichtenbach. Work on the school yard began on April 12. On July 4, the county school inspector, Peter Wolsegger, inspected the school. This year's teachers' conference (the imperial jubilee conference) was held in the city of Gottschee.

### *1898-1899*

The school year began on September 2nd with a holy mass celebrated by the chaplain Ferdinand Jonke of Lichtenbach. The number of school children was 40, plus three children from the school district of Unterdeutschau [Nemška Loka], three from the village of Preriegel [Prerigelj], and five from the village of Römergrund [Remergrund]. On the 10th of August, the whole world was shocked by the assassination of the empress of Austria by an Italian anarchist named Luigi Lucheni in Geneva. As a result, a requiem mass was held at the church in Nesseltal, at which all the school children participated. On December 1, 1898, the entire student body participated in the celebration of the golden jubilee of the reign of the Emperor Franz Joseph. The principal Josef Perz addressed the children at the school after the mass. On June 23, the district school inspector, Peter Wolsegger, inspected the school.

### *1899-1900*

The teacher Mathias Petschauer, by his own request, was transferred to the school in Rieg. The teacher Andreas Eppich took over this post.

### *1900-1901*

On June 2nd, Mrs. Maria Eppich, the wife of the teacher Andreas Eppich, died of peritonitis. Towards the end of the month, the chaplain Josef Gliebe, from the parish of Nesseltal, was transferred to the parish of Altlag. In the month of January, a new school board was selected. Mr. Mathias Jonke, the loden manufacturer, was chosen as president. Mr. Mathias Tschinkel, loden manufacturer and wine dealer, was chosen as his substitute. The board members were Mr. Johann Wittine, Mr. Johann Mantel, and Mr. Johann Kraker, blacksmith, all of Lichtenbach. Mr. Franz Maurin, teacher at the school in Stockendorf [Planina], out of regard of his

present position, was given the same position at the school in Lichtenbach. He took over this new position on August 20. The teacher Andreas Eppich was transferred to the school in Mösel [Mozelj], which he had requested.

### *1901-1902*

The number of students is 40, inclusive of the three girls from the village of Büchel (Hrib).

### *1902-1903*

At the beginning of this school year, the number of children was 51, including four boys and three girls from the village of Römergrund (school district of Unterlag), one girl from the village of Büchel (school district of Nesseltal), and one girl from the village of Otterbach [Kačji Potok], the school district of Obermösel [Mozelj]. On June 6th, the school was inspected by the county school inspector, Peter Wolsegger. On June 18, our school received the old flag of the school of Nesseltal, which had acquired a new one. For this reason, the new priest at the parish of Nesseltal, Rev. Franz Skulj, celebrated holy mass at our local church.

### *1903-1904*

The school year started September 1 with 43 students reporting. Among them were some from other school districts: from the village of Römergrund, three boys and two girls; from Büchel one boy and two girls; from Strassburg by Maierle [Maverlen] one boy. On October 20th, the school was inspected by the director Peter Wolsegger.

### *1904-1905*

This year the school was attended by one boy from Graflinden [Dolga vas], and one boy from Unterlag. A big problem for our school is obtaining drinking water for both the teacher and the students, because it has to be fetched from a spring at a distance from the school. The distance itself is not the main problem, but that during long dry spells the spring dries up. The necessary water has to be fetched from a supply that is one hour's walking distance away. Most of the farmers, knowing about this problem, build their cisterns in which to store rain water diverted from the roofs. But, in spite of this, the water still runs out at times. Even though everybody knew about the problem, nobody thought about the school. For this reason, the very responsible teacher,

## The School of Lichtenbach (*continued*)

Franz Maurin, turned directly to some benevolent agencies for help—to have a cistern built for the school. For this purpose, he received the following amounts:

The Krainische Savings Bank, Ljubljana	175 Kronen**
The General German School Society, Berlin	117 Kronen, 52 H*
The German School Society, Vienna	30 Kronen
The Alternative Fire Insurance, Graz	20 Kronen
Josef Skibar, real estate owner, Kummerdorf	10 Kronen
** (Kronen (2 kr=1 gulden) *H equals Hellers (100 h=1 kr)	

Sincerest thanks to our benefactors. The cistern was built in 1905 by the builder Andreas Maurin of Mitterbuchberg [Srednja Bukova Gora]. With this, the water problem came to an end. The cost of the construction of the cistern came to 352 kronen. The money left over was used to purchase garden tools like a sprinkling can, a shovel, a hoe, a pruning saw, and a steel rake. Unused money was turned over to the school board for additional tools in the future. On top of the original donation, the German School Society also donated 58 kronen for the purchase of school supplies. With this money, the man in charge of the school bought a blackboard, a map of Palestine, a map of Europe, and one of Austria-Hungary. The remaining 15 kronen, the superintendent handed over to the school board president for the purchase of additional school supplies.

### 1905-1906

On May 26, 1906, the county school inspector, Rudolf Peerz, inspected the local school.

### 1906-1907

Franz Maurin, superintendent of our school, retired on February 28 and moved to Nesseltal. His position was taken over by the assistant teacher Miss Johanna Gregorka of Ljubljana. This year's teacher's conference was held July 6 in Obermösel.

### 1907-1908

By royal decree of July 17, 1907, the teacher in charge of the school in Pöllandl [Kočevske Poljane], Mathias Petschauer, upon his request, was transferred to the school in Lichtenbach. He took over his new position on September 1. He previously held this position from 1896-1899. Since the chaplain position in Nesseltal was filled by a new chaplain by the name of Alois Perz, our children are receiving religious instruction again. The organization, Südmark,

donated 600 kronen to the local school. With this money, a cement floor was installed in the kitchen, the cooking stove was fixed, a heating stove was put in the living room and an attic room was added. This fall a steep rise in food prices took place. For instance, flour rose from 26 to 38 kronen per 100 kilograms, and meat from 80 hellers to 1 kronen, 28 hellers.

Due to the mild weather this year, school attendance was quite regular. Johann Hutter, who was the inspector of our school, moved to Niedermösel on April 2. On May 10, our local teacher was chosen as captain of the local fire company without any dissent. On June 25, the county school inspector, R. E. Peerz, inspected the school. On June 21 and 22, the annual teachers' conference was held in Lienfeld [Livold]. At about the same time, there was also the celebration of the Emperor's 60th ruling jubilee, at which time a royal oak was planted in the garden of the school. On August 1, the local fire department celebrated its 25th anniversary. Due to the big drought this summer, there was a very poor hay crop, and the price of cattle dropped considerably.

### 1908-1909

On December 2, the student body celebrated the 60th governing jubilee of the Emperor. On the morning of the 10th, the school children of the entire parish of Nesseltal attended a solemn mass at the parish church. At two o'clock in the afternoon, the children assembled in the school, where the superintendent addressed them. This was followed by several patriotic songs, two poems presented by Johann Kosar of Kummerdorf and Maria Petschauer. After the festive part of this assembly, the booklets of the Emperor were distributed, which brought in the amount of 4 kronen, 20 heller. After the festivities at the school, the children were treated to a meal at the local inn where many a patriotic song was heard. By a royal decree on February 27, 1909, the loden manufacturer Mathias Stalzer of Kummerdorf, was declared overseer of the school. This man was always known as a friend of education and made considerable contributions towards the establishment of the school. This year's teacher conference was held on July 3, at which superintendent Petschauer was chosen as a permanent member of the board. On July 31, the teacher's union of Gottschee celebrated its 25th anniversary.

## The School of Lichtenbach (*continued*)

### 1909-1910

At the beginning of the new school year, new and more practical school benches were installed, at a cost of 289 kronen. They were manufactured by cabinet maker Josef Meditz of Nesselstal. A new school board was elected, this time for a period of three years. It consisted of the following men: Johann Wittine of Lichtenbach, George Mill of Lichtenbach, Ferdinand Stalzer of Kummerdorf, school superintendent Petschauer of Lichtenbach, school inspector Mathias Stalzer of Kummerdorf, and Pastor August Schauer of Nesselstal. Ferdinand Stalzer was elected as chairman, and his substitute was Johann Wittine of Lichtenbach, number 5. In the current year, a touring teacher by the name of Marie Cosnek of Grafenfeld [Dolga vas] was hired to teach handicrafts to the girls. The German School Society donated 230 kronen to the school.

This year, 1910, our school celebrated its 25th anniversary. To mark the occasion, the students and their parents went on an outing to the Kummerdorf mountain. There were actually three reasons for the outing: (1) the 25th anniversary of the school, (2) the 30th anniversary of the German School Society, and (3) the 80th birthday of the Emperor. On this outing, the children entertained themselves by doing gymnastics and singing a variety of songs. The school superintendent, in his address to the children, reminded them of the meaning of this occasion, and asked them to always be loyal to their homeland. The children were served cheese, eggs, bread, and pastries. This day should be a lasting memory for the children. This year's teacher conference was held on May 11 in Nesselstal. The reception of the teachers was hearty as never before.

### 1910-1911

For the new course in Agriculture, the superintendent received 50 kronen. On January 11, a general census was taken, in which the school superintendent acted as a commissioner for the township of Nesselstal. The county school inspector, R. E. Peerz, was relieved of his position and was replaced by Professor Karl Schranzer who took over the position on February 23, 1911. The traveling allowance for the participants was set at 55.6 hellers per kilometer for the whole trip. This year's teacher conference was held on June 6 in Altlag. The chaplain in charge of religious instruction, Alois Perz, was elevated to pastor and

sent to the parish of Morobitz [Borovec] and moved there on July 5, 1911.

### 1911-1912

The religious instruction at our school was taken over by the new chaplain, Franz Novak of Nesselstal. The new county school inspector is now Mathias Primosch [great uncle of the translator's wife], formerly principal of the all-girl school in the city of Gottschee. Johanna Demsar was appointed as teacher for the girls' handicraft class. The students of this school picked 130 liters of May beetles this year. One liter was worth four hellers. [This is not unique to Gottschee. By gathering the beetles every four years, Europeans were trying to lessen the damage these critters caused.]

To mark the celebration of the anniversary of the German School Society, there was a gathering at the school, at which the children recited poems and sang songs. Also speeches were given. Afterwards, they were treated to a dinner, for which the German School Society had donated 10 kronen. On June 13, the school inspector, Mathias Primosch, inspected the school. On June 22, the annual teacher conference took place in Gottschee.

In Reifnitz (Ribnica), teacher representatives to the royal advisory board were chosen. From the German teachers were Hans Loser of Morobitz, and from the Slovenian teachers were Franz Stefancic, principal of Grosslaschitz (Velike Lasce). Their substitutes were Friedrich Kautzky of Gottschee and Franz Wigele. ■

**Note:** The translations of the final article by Hermann Petschauer in the series, *Lichtenbach, My Hometown*, plus the final three articles on the school of Lichtenbach (1913-1921), will appear in the June 2002 issue of the journal.

*Gottschee 1406-1627: Feudal Domain on the Frontier of Empire* by George Widmer. Reviewed by Reverend August Schauer, pastor in Nesselstal. The review was published in September 1932 in the *Gottscheer Kalender* for the year 1933. The Gottscheer Heritage and Genealogy Association has translated and republished Widmer's book under the title: *Gottschee 1406-1627: Feudal Domain on the Frontier of Empire*. The 264 page book in English can be purchased from GHGA for \$20.00, plus \$3.00 postage and handling.

“Our countryman Georg Widmer, director of the technical college in Vienna, Austria, has published a book about our little country, which is titled: *Urkundliche Beiträge zur Geschichte des Gottscheer Ländchens 1406-1627* (Documentary Excerpts from the History of Gottschee 1406-1627). It has been published by the Society of Gottscheer Germans in Vienna in honor of the Society's 40th anniversary. The book is the product of laborious research by the author in the archives of Vienna and Graz, and relates to the history of Gottschee during the period 1406-1627. It presents something entirely new in the history of our *Ländchen*.

“A multitude of historical events from the lives, struggles, and difficulties of our hard-pressed ancestors is now right before our eyes. The many happenings in those difficult years is shown and explained, and this is something we have not heard about before.

“The book is not common reading; however, one finds a good arrangement, a rich selection of organized material, beautiful language, a warm and comfortable tone, and the bold voice of the people.

“Help yourself to this reading; enjoy it and recover from the often tasteless and boring rumblings in so many of the current books and magazines. You will enjoy reading and knowing about the resistance and struggles of our ancestors and the very hard times our forefathers endured.

“We thank the author for this rich and heartwarming book about our homeland, and we hope it will be purchased and read by our countrymen many times over.”

*Marriages: The Parish of Morobitz 1792-1941*, compiled by Kate Loschke Prunte. Published by Gottscheer Heritage and Genealogy Association, 2002, ISBN 1-931509-30-1. Book price is \$12.00 which includes postage; Excel version, \$5.00. To order, send your check made payable to the GHGA treasurer, Kate Prunte, 21534 American River Drive, Sonora CA 95370-9112.

More than 500 marriages are recorded in the Catholic parish of Morobitz (Borovec) that contains the villages of Eben (Ravne), Inlauf (Inlauf), Morobitz (Borovec), Niedertiefenbach (Dolnja Briga), Ober-tiefenbach (Gorenje Briga), Plösch (Ples), Präsulín (Prezulje), and Präse (Preza). Following is a list of bride surnames from the parish; surnames that appear five or more times in the records are in parenthesis.

### *List of Bride Surnames*

Agnitsch, Anderkuhl, Arch, Belan, Bertus, Bohatta, Brischke, Bukovec (5), Cimpric, Dietz, Erzen, Fehl, Fitz, Gasparitsch, Gladitsch (5), Goestl, Grabner, Grajs, Herbist, Hoferle, Honigmann, Hudolin (15), Hutter (15), Janesch, Janezic, Jeselnik, Jonke, Jurkovitsch, Kamme, Kapella (5), Kenda, Kinder, Klaric, Knaus, Kokoschineg, Kosel (7), Kosir, Krisch (14), Kristonitsch, Kump, Kusele, Lackner, Lisac, Loser (18), Loy, Lukan, Macher, Majetic, Mallner (14), Maloic, Marintsch, Martin, Maurin, Meditz, Merle, Michitsch (21), Muchwitsch, Muhic, Naglitsch, Oberman, Ofak, Ostermann (13), Oswald, Ozanic, Paintitsch, Pajnic, Panter, Peilter (12), Persche, Perz, Petrinovic, Petsche (6), Pirsic, Pirstitz, Plesche (12), Poje (10), Putre, Racki (5), Radosevic, Rauch, Reischel, Roethl (5), Russez, Safar, Sanger, Schager (8), Schneider, Schaffer, Schuster (5), Schweiger, Sider, Simonitsch (6), Skanderlic, Skender, Skvarc, Slivniker, Spiletic, Stampfel (83), Stefandl, Steimac, Sterbenz, Stimec (8), Stonitsch, Svab, Tisav, Tomec, Troha (6), Tscherne (26), Tschinkel, Turk, Tusek, Ule, Urbiha, Vavtar, Verderber (6), Vogrin, Warzer, Weber (6), Wittine (5), Wittreich, Wolf, Zagar (8), Zdravic, Zekoll, Zupancic, Zurl. ■

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I liked very much the article, *The Resettlement of 1941, a Journey of No Return*, by Edeltraud Krauland Kneier, in the December 2001 issue of *The Gottschee Tree*. Those events are described very factually, as they were and as I recall them. I was then 17 plus years old and I was, in a sense, a witness from Ljubljana (Laibach).

One day, in November 1941, the usual foggy day in Ljubljana at that time of the year, I went with my mother and my brother to look at the Gottscheers leaving. We were outside of the South Railstation of Ljubljana, on a small elevation with a good look on the tracks. There was a train of freight cars, closed and open ones. These people, being mostly farmers, tried to take with them their farm implements, as also some farm animals. It was a sad sight seeing these people leaving the land that was theirs for 600 years. They had come in the 14th century, prospered in the rather remote, but beautiful area of Gottschee in the Unterkrain. My mother was from one of these people.

As I remember, one of the reasons for this resettlement (as the writer rightfully states: "when a few held in their hands the fate of the masses, the people, the farmers had not much to say...") was that this part of the country, Gottscheeland, became occupied by Italy, as all of the Unterkrain part of Slovenia. We all became Italian citizens, without being asked about it.

In retrospect, looking back, there was some good in all of this, leaving their old homeland. During the terrible civil war there, in the years 1943-45, most of that country was destroyed and many, very many inhabitants were killed.

In the city of Gottschee itself, there was a big fight between the communist partisans and Landswehr (Vask straze). At that time, this Landswehr was saved by the German offensive, the last one in that part. Later some German troops remained in the larger cities and along the railroads, but in the countryside there were only troops of the nationalists fighting the communists. I also was there, eventually with the nationalists. Much fighting was exactly in this area where previously had lived the Gottscheers.

All their beautiful homes were abandoned, destroyed, and left in ruins. None lived there, also no Slovenians. There was this continuous warfare, of a particularly vicious type, as is known in any civil war. No one was saved. Of this it is hard to talk and write about, one has to have lived through it to know what it really was all about.

If some of the Gottscheers had survived there through the war, they would probably have been expelled during the communist regime of Tito, as was done with the German minorities in Slavonia and Banat [formerly in Hungary].

Thanks for the nice article in *The Gottschee Tree* and best regards.

Joseph H. Kovacic, 108 Swift Creek Lane  
Colonial Heights, Virginia 238834 ■

Dear Editor,

In the June 2001 issue, page 9, a few photographs appeared that belonged to the late Karl Stalzer. One was of a woman wearing a kerchief, standing in the foreground of the house. She was nobody I knew. However, in the September issue of *The Gottscheer Tree*, this nameless woman now had an identity.

Marie Osterman wrote on page 12 that this woman is her grandmother, Maria Tramposch of Zwischlern [Cvišlerji], number 12. Maria Tramposch was also known as the *Bürtsach's*. Well, one can only image how interesting this find was to me, because the *Bürtsach's* was the sister of my grandfather, Alois Melz of Zwischlern, number 28. And, through the years the name *Bürtsach* came up in conversation many a time when my mother would tell stories that reflected on her life and childhood in Gottschee. Maria Tramposch, the *Bürtsach*, was her aunt.

I quickly pulled out a photo of my grandparents, to compare my grandfather to his sister. I found the family resemblance very strong. Then, a few days later, my husband Ewald and I planned a trip to Long Island, New York, to visit my Uncle Frank Melz. He is one of two Melz children still alive of 12 children, and my mother, Theresia, was one of them.

Uncle Frank is in his mid-eighties, and although he has been living in the United States for half a century, his memories of Gottschee are very vivid still. Thus, in the course of the afternoon, I mentioned the name *Bürtsach*. Well, uncle's face lit up as he said: "She, the *Bürtsach*, was the sister of my father. Her name was Maria Tramosch. They lived in the upper part of Zwischlern, house number 12."

Then, with a reminiscing smile on his face, uncle Frank told the story of the *Bürtsach*'s needing a new floor in one of their rooms in the house. The *Bürtsach*'s bought the lumber and uncle put the new floor down. A few days later, she, the *Bürtsach*, came down to the Melz house and gave the young boy 40 dinars. Uncle Frank took much delight in remembering and telling that story when he was young in Gottschee, some 70 years ago.

Edeltraud M. Kneier. ■

### CORRECTIONS

These corrections are for the December 2001 issue. The editor regrets the following errors.

- (1) In the article by Kate Prunte, page 9, the correct author's surname is Thode, not Thaddeus. The sentence should read: "A tool which I have found to be exceptionally helpful is Ernest Thode's German-English Genealogical Dictionary, which provides definitions of old occupations, titles, diseases, abbreviations, and church dates."
- (2) The date of the Meditz family photograph on page 3 is 1937, not 1927.
- (3) On page 3, the Brooklyn bridge was completed in 1883.

### PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

The photograph to the right is the Rieg (Breg) church choir of 1937, which first appeared in *The Gottschee Tree* in December 1999, page 16, submitted by Frank Juran. This same photograph was printed in the last issue, page 13, titled *Gottscheers from Morobitz*, submitted by Emil Stefandl. In the March 2000 issue, page 16, Anna Bischoff identified most of the individuals in the photograph. With the identification of individuals by Anna Bischoff, Emil Stefandl, and Frank Juran, all of the individuals are now identified.



From left to right, top row: Willie Stampfel, Anna Jonke, Peter Wittine, Erna Michitsch, John Knöspler, Klara Krisch, Richard Meditz, Olga Gruber, Peter Schneider. Middle row: Sefa Schneider, Hilda Braune, Anni Schneider, Otto Jonke, Millie Haas, Peter Wittine, Frieda Lackner, John Gerbitz, Helen Wittine. Front row: Frank Juran's father, Friedich Krisch, and Albert Knöschpler.

## Announcements

### GHGA ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 2002

The Board of Directors meeting is June 28, and the membership meeting is June 29, followed by presentations and program. Both meetings will be held at Lukan's Farm Resort in Hawley, Pennsylvania.

### DISCOVER GOTTSCHEEER TOUR 2002

The tour of Gottschee will be June 12 through June 26, 2002. For tour information contact Kollander World Travel at 1-8000-800-5981 or Sophia Stalzer Wyant, GHGA Director at 1-218-845-2394.

### 40TH GOTTSCHEEER TREFFEN

The Alpine Club of Kitchener-Waterloo, Inc. invites you to the 40th Gottscheer Treffen of North America August 31-September 1, 2002. For information and costs, contact The Alpine Club by phone: 519-744-1520 or by e-mail: heimartinc@aol.com.

### INTERNATIONAL ROUNDABLE 2002

The Gottscheer-Kocevska Community has invited designated members of Gottscheer organizations to attend the Roundtable in June to discuss potential preservation, restoration, material and social development efforts in Gottschee. The event is hosted by the honorable Janko Veber, mayor of the city of Kocevje (Gottschee) and The Peter Kosler Gottscheer Verein of Ljubljana (Laibach).

*Photograph of Josef Samide, brother of Mathias Samide (photo on front cover), and his family, dated probably about 1899, somewhere in Gottschee. Standing, back row: Josef Samide (b. 1862 in Hasenfeld, number 11) and Johann Gasparitsch (b. 1881 in Lienfeld, number 6). Johann is the brother of Maria. Seated is Maria Gasparitsch (b. 1872 in Lienfeld, number 6), wife of Josef Samide, with her daughter Francisca (b. 1898) on her lap. The children, from left to right, are Josef (b. 1892), Maria (b. 1893), and Josefa (b. 1896). There were three more children born to Josef and Maria that are not in the photograph: Johann (b. 1900), Sophia (b. 1903), and Alois (b. 1905). The older woman to the right is most likely Maria Röthel, mother of Mathias and Josef Samide. Photograph courtesy of Mary Mazzoni.*