



# The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Dr. Sophie A. Welisch  
e-mail: sawelisch@juno.com

Web Site: [www.bukovinasociety.org](http://www.bukovinasociety.org)



## BUKOVINA PEOPLE AND EVENTS

- The annual business meeting of The Bukovina Society of the Americas, a non-profit Kansas corporation will be held on Monday, July 12, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. at the headquarters in Ellis, Kansas. At this time we will conduct the normal business of the corporation, review financial reports, and elect members to replace those whose terms have expired.
- The Bukovina Society was represented at the annual German Heritage Days sponsored by the Ellis County Historical Society. Oren Windholz gave a presentation on the Bukovina Germans who settled in the Ellis area. Joe Erbert and Ralph Honas participated in one of the Roundtable Discussion groups.
- A misprint occurred in the last Newsletter for new life member Andrea Kozan Phan. The middle name was originally printed as Kosah.
- The Society received a notice of the death of Dr. Rudolf Geimer (Mainz/Rhein, Germany) on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Dr. Geimer attended the Fourth Annual Bukovinafest, July 16-19, 1992 as a special guest and gave a presentation. He also spent time with distant cousins in the area, particularly the Schoenthaler family. He was a lifetime member of the Society and stayed in contact with Society members.
- The Society was saddened to learn of the passing on January 14, 2004 of Dr. Claudius von Teutul, an internationally recognized specialist in Bukovina genealogy and heraldry. Born on August 26, 1930 in Neu-Itzkany the scion of one of the oldest Moldavian Bukovinian noble families, he participated in the 1940 resettlement of the Bukovina Germans to Germany. After the war he pursued his academic studies at the University of Marburg/Lahn and in 1958 earned a doctorate in financial economics at the (West)Berlin University. Beginning in the 1960s Dr. von Teutul turned to genealogy and heraldry as hobbies, honing his skills through course work at the University of Saarbrücken and eventually establishing a database over 30,000 names. A frequent contributor to Bukovinian publications (*Kaindl Hefte*, *Der Südostdeutsche*), Dr. von Teutul generously assisted other researchers and sometimes provided entire genealogical charts for individuals free of charge. After the fall of the Ceau<sup>o</sup>escu regime in Romania, he became the most significant foreign financial supporter of the Genealogy and Heraldry Commission for Moldavia in Jassy, to which he donated modern technology and computer programs. To Dr. von Teutul's widow, sons and grandchildren, the Society extends its heartfelt sympathy.

## The Odyssey of Phillip Putz (c. 1832-1914)

by Fay Schmahl Jordaens (Netcong, NJ)

I read with great pleasure and delight the article "Bukovina German Immigration to Canada" by Laura Hanowski [March 2004] where she notes that Phillip Putz, born in Fratautz, was an early Bukovinian settler in Edenwold, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Phillip Putz had married Theresia Mang of Deutsch-Satulmare and settled in her village. Her younger brothers Franz and Philipp were as interested in relocating abroad as was Phillip Putz. In fact, in the early 1880's Phillip Putz led a group of Bukovinians to explore [and reject] land in Palestine in an effort to leave Satulmare.

Several of the young men in the Mang and Putz families had been conscripted into the Imperial Austrian Army. According to the Mang written history [1975] their reasons for relocation were threefold: they wanted "political, religious and personal freedom." This was especially important to them since Phillip Mang had been wounded during the Austrian military occupation of Bosnia-Herzegovina (1878), and he was now an invalid at home in Satulmare.

When in 1885, Philipp Putz forayed into Canada, he carried more than family members, seeds and a little money. He brought with him the hopes and dreams of many Bukovinian families that there would be a safe new homeland for them where they could all make a new beginning. His letter back home describing Canada as a safe refuge started a flow of relatives and neighbors from the old country.

In Canada these hardy people became pioneers, where they cleared the land, fought off staggeringly freezing winters, planted their crops and finally put down roots. Some were not so lucky. The severity of the winters took the life of Theresia Mang Putz in 1888, while her sister-in-law, Ludwiga Gartel Mang, died the following year, one month after her arrival in Canada.

A severe drought brought poor crops to the settlers in Edenwold and in 1896 Philipp Putz, after eleven years in Canada, thought his family would be better off in Martin, North Dakota. He moved his family there, where he prospered, grew old and very happy and where in 1914 he died and was buried. Philipp Putz was my great grandfather.

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## UPDATE ON OUR WEBSITE

[www.bukovinasociety.org](http://www.bukovinasociety.org)  
by Werner Zoglauer (Naperville, IL)

On May 1, 2002, the new website for the Bukovina Society, with its own domain name, [www.bukovinasociety.org](http://www.bukovinasociety.org) went live after four months of developmental work by several volunteers of the Bukovina Society. May 1, 2004 marked the second anniversary of our very active new website, which by all accounts has far exceeded our expectations. Given that Bukovina-Germans are found all over the world, the website has in many ways become a focal point for the Bukovina Society. The Bukovina Society of the Americas, founded in Ellis/Hays, Kansas in 1988 when many local Bukovina-Germans wanted to learn more about their heritage, has developed into an organization, which enjoys a growing international membership and recognition.

For those of us who are very active in the Society, the website has become the focus of many projects with the goal of documenting and sharing the information about our heritage with our many "cousins" worldwide. For our numerous visitors, the website has become a learning and resource center, a place to seek information about lost family members and ancestors and to meet others who share their same interests in heritage.

For those of you who have not had a chance to visit the website, key items from our main menu will give you a flavor of what you will find:

**[What's New]** This page keeps frequent visitors informed about changes made to the site. If you check this page first, you will be sure not to miss any important new content added to the website since your last visit.

**[Site Map]** Provides the best overview of the site, with links to over 220 separate articles, pictures and documents.

**[About Us]** Contains a brief description/history of the Bukovina Society, its founding and purpose as well as membership information, location of the Society's headquarters and museum, calendar and website contributors.

**[Genealogy and Contacts]** This page is of special interest to anyone searching for his/her Bukovina roots. It contains contact information about Bukovina genealogy researchers along with their ancestral names and locations. It is also the gateway to the "Members Only" genealogy section, where you will find several genealogy databases with over 100,000 names of Bukovina ancestors and their descendants.

**[Families/Villages]** This page contains links to articles about Bukovina families and villages. At the present time, over twelve villages have been included, with more to come. The majority of articles are in English with a growing number in German.

**[Library]** The Library is well stocked with articles about Bukovina and related topics.

**[Newsletters]** The Bukovina Society has issued four *Newsletters* annually starting in 1991. Here you will find all but the last 4 issues.

**[Map Room]** Features several nice maps of Bukovina, some with detailed location of villages and towns.

**[Web Museum]** This section has just recently been added. Here you will find a collection of pictures of everyday items, which were part of the life experiences of our Bukovina ancestors. Family documents, coins, stamps, tools, religious customs are just a start of these contents.

**[Store]** At our online store, you are able to order books related to the history and genealogy of the Bukovina-Germans as well as pins, T-shirts, polo shirts and hats imprinted with the logo of the Bukovina Society plus a full color 12" x 16" Bukovina map, suitable for framing. We have recently added secure credit card processing for the convenience of members and visitors who may wish to buy items, pay their membership fees, or make a donation to the Bukovina Society on line.

**[Other Organizations]** Numerous links to other websites with rich information about Bukovina history can be found on this page.

**[Search]** This page contains our powerful search function, which will enable you to find topics of interest, e.g., specific documents, ancestral family names and villages.

**[Guest Book]** Since May 1, 2002, over 160 visitors have left messages in our guest book, some of which are printed below.

### Our Visitors

Over 14,000 visits have been counted at our homepage during the first two years of its existence. Other popular pages include the **[Search]** function with 12,300 visits, **[Families/Villages]** with 9,500, **[Genealogy & Contacts]** with over 6,700, the **[Map Room]** with 5,600, and the **[Guest Book]** with 4,300. The **[Auf Deutsch]** page, which contains the links to the German articles on our site, reports 3,990 visits, reflecting the large number of German speakers accessing our site. We also have a Portuguese language page for our sister organization in Brazil, the *Associação Alemã-Bucovina de Cultura*, in Rio Negro/Mafra, Brazil.

We are currently averaging more than 290 visits per day with over 70 per cent from the United States, 6 per cent from Germany/Austria, and 4 percent from Canada. The remainder is from numerous countries all over the world.

Visitors to our guestbook have left some very interesting messages. Many of them express gratitude for the contents of our website. Often they will leave information about their own Bukovina family searches, hoping to link up with a future visitor to the guestbook. This is easily made possible because all comments left in our guestbook become part of our website and are thus searchable by Google, the popular search engine.

**Gertrud Siewi** (Germany) noted: "During the course of the last year I wrote our Rankel family history, referenced my father's genealogy chart, and bought it up to date. From this time on the search for my forebears has left me no peace.

"In June 2003 I turned to the Internet. My first attempt, the 'Genealogical Search' via the Google search engine, led me to the website of the Bukovina Society. My heart began to beat more rapidly. On August 12, 2003 I dared make an entry in the Guest Book. On October 14, 2003 Doug Reckmann responded. He wrote that he had (Rankl) Rankel in his database and assuredly had something for me. Thus the data transfer began. All of a sudden I had a tremendously large family. Our 'elusive' Uncle Franz Rankel, born September 19, 1899 in Lichtenberg, Bukovina had immigrated to America. We never heard from him again. This was the reason for my research. On January 25,

2004 Richard Wolff of California (his grandmother was Pauline Rankel who married Hugo Wolff) wrote that he found Franz Rankel on a passenger list. He arrived at the harbor of Quebec on the ship *Aurania* on July 22, 1928.

“The information provided by the Bukovina Society is so comprehensive and abundant that one can hardly stop searching. As I wrote to President Oren Windholz, ‘This page is my home.’

My newest contact, Werner Zoglauer, especially pleases me. I hope that I will be able to get more information about former Bukovinian compatriots.”

**Nik Koneczny** (Germany) noted: “Dear Bukovina Society members: I’ve been researching your fabulous website for about one year and am still finding new surprises. I’ve even printed some pictures and documents for those members of my family who are not able to use the Internet. Some copies even went to Radauti.”

**Shelley Culbert** (Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada) recently wrote: “Hello. What an awesome site....I am looking to follow my roots and I am not getting too far. I am looking for the family Scheinost in Canada. We spell it Scheinous. My grandfather’s name was Jacob Scheinost from Solka and his father’s name was Wenzel. Jacob was married to Karolina Hubich...”

**Shel Weishaupt-Mack** (British Columbia, Canada) writes: “...Every time I come back I find more and more. The time and effort you all have been putting into the Bukovina site is incredible!! What would the rest of us do had it not been for all of your efforts? Once again...THANK YOU so much!”

**Wayne Lowenberg** (Saskatchewan, Canada) said: “Hi, I am impressed with this web site. I am a descendent of Johann Christian Sauer who immigrated to Bukovina in the 1780’s. I have found a lot of information on the site to help me get a picture of what life was like for our ancestors who lived there. Keep up the good work. “

**Edith Hoffmann** (Los Angeles, CA) observes: “A great place to reminisce. My mother, Amalie Kuebeck and father, Wenzel Hoffmann, were both Bucovinians from Schwartzthal and Stulpicany. They immigrated to Germany in 1939. Unfortunately, they are no longer with us, but they would have been thrilled with this site. I remember hearing several of the names mentioned above in their conversations. Some of those names also appear in the Bucovina genealogy site in Brazil. I just came back from Rio Negro and Lapa, Parana, Brazil, tracing my family genealogy from my father’s side. It was a wonderful experience. I hope to attend the Fest in Kansas next year, if at all possible. Keep up the good work.”

**Dorit Brandauer** (Germany) writes: “...I am very excited and hope that someone can help me or my grandfather. Congratulation on this site! I am going to write in English because I hope that more people can read it, sorry if it’s not that perfect... I am Dorit Brandauer, 26 years old and I am living in the eastern part of Germany. My grandfather **Bruno Franz Brandauer**, now 89, lived in Eisenau (Prisaca Dornei) from 1913 until December 1940. Right now he is sitting beside me and reading the texts of this web page about Eisenau. And all the time he is saying ‘this is unbelievable, I know this person or that person.’ I am trying to complete my family tree. My family tree starts in the early 1800s with Johann Brandauer, who lived in Eisenau. Does have someone have information or documents about Brandauers who lived in Eisenau? My e-mail address is [dbrandauer@hotmail.com](mailto:dbrandauer@hotmail.com)>”

#### Genealogy Databases

This private section of our website is accessible to our members and to those individuals who have provided us with some of the data for these databases.

The genealogy databases contain over 108,000 names. About 85,000 of these are unique names, primarily of German and Bohemian-German settlers who migrated to Bukovina between 1785-1845 and then resettled to Germany, Austria, United States, Canada and Brazil between 1880-1960.

In addition to these databases, we are also adding the lists of names obtained from published works including those of Bukovina-Germans transferred to Germany in 1940.

If you are a Bukovina Society member and would like to obtain access to our Genealogy Section please email \t “\_self” [webmaster@bukovinasociety.org](mailto:webmaster@bukovinasociety.org)>

#### Future Additions

We are considering adding a section called Origins & Destinations, which will contain information about the origins of the German colonists to Bukovina. They came from three distinct areas: Swabians and Palatines from what is now Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate in southwestern Germany; German-Bohemians from the Bohemian Forest (*Böhmerwald*), now in the Czech Republic; and Zipsers from the Tatra Mountains in the Zips, now Spis county in Slovakia.

This new section will also contain information about the emigration and departure of the Germans from Bukovina, which began in the 1880’s. Most of these emigrants settled in communities among their *Landsleute*. Destinations of preference included Ellis, Kansas; Yuma County, Colorado; Naperville, Illinois; Lewis County, Washington; Saskatchewan, Canada; and Rio Negro, Brazil. A second wave of immigration to the Americas took place in the years preceding and following World War I. The third wave took place at the onset of World War II, when most of the Bukovina-Germans were resettled to Germany and Austria. After the war, some of these people immigrated to North and South America and even to Australia.

#### The Website Team

Creating, managing and supplying the Society’s website with quality and meaningful content would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of several active members of the Society. We are fortunate that we have such a group of enthusiastic collaborators. If you would like to meet our web team, please visit <http://www.bukovinasociety.org/Contributors.html>>

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## THE BUKOVINA INSTITUTE REVISITED

by Dr. Ortfried Kotzian (Munich/Augsburg, Germany)

This item is intended to clarify the financial sponsorship of the Bukovina Institut (Augsburg), inaccurately described in the September 2003 Newsletter (p. 1).

The financial carrier of the Bukovina Institute is a “registered organization” consisting of three contributors to its “sponsorship.” The most significant sponsors at its founding were the District of Swabia; the Free State of Bavaria with the Bavarian State Ministry for Work and Social Order, Family and Women; and the Federal Republic of Germany with the Federal Ministry of the Interior. The financial basis of the Bukovina Institute is legally based on paragraph 96 of the Federal Expellee and Refugee Law, created for furthering of the culture of the expellees, refugees and transferees, i.e., for the culture of the Germans from Bukovina or the Buchenland Germans. Supporting the Bukovina Institute’s projects have been the Robert Bosch Foundation of Stuttgart (since 1995) and the City of Augsburg (since 1998).

Dr. Ortfried Kotzian’s successor as Director of the Institute is Dr. Linus Förster, who was elected as a representative in the Bavarian regional parliament and resigned as business manager of the Bukovina Institute. Since January 15, 2004 Otto-Friedrich Hallabrin, an earlier collaborator of Dr. Kotzian, has been serving as acting business manager.

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## BUKOVINIANS IN VENEZUELA

by Sophie A. Welisch (Congers, NY)

Thanks to the internet and the Society’s website, we have made contact with Leonel Canelon, a chronicler in Turén, Venezuela, who is writing a history of the Bukovinian immigrants who in 1951 departed war-ravaged Germany for

settlement in Venezuela. In *Bukowina: Heimat von Gestern* (1956) Josef Talsky notes that this emigration of about 150 people had been organized by Reverend Bensch, formerly from Pojana Mikuli, and Prelate Büttner from the Study Group for Settlement Abroad (*Studiengesellschaft für Siedlung im Ausland*). At that time this exodus “evoked quite a stir.” Despite the climate, living conditions for the Europeans living at an altitude of 2- 3000 meters above sea level proved favorable and the “*Bukovinos*,” as the Bukovina Germans were called, succeeded in establishing a model farming community in Turén (pp. 315-16).

Among these families we find: Altenhoff, Blechinger, Blumenhagen, Ehresmann, Haas, Hanny, Hilbert, Kornett, Lewitzki, Lipinsky, Mirwald, Mürköster, Mural, Neumayer, Kitsahke, Rangosch, Regetz, Rebbenn, Stojanowitsch, Wagner and Weber. To historians and researchers in the United States and Germany these people seemed to have fallen off the charts. Time and circumstances had led to the disruption of communication between the émigrés and their compatriots in the Old World. Nonetheless, they were not forgotten. In 1996 the *Raimund-Friedrich-Käindl-Gesellschaft* awarded a stipend to Denise Da Rin, a linguist from Switzerland, to travel to Turén and conduct interviews with the Bukovinians. Her article, “*Ich sprech zwar spanisch, aber denken tu ich immer noch deutsch: Deutsche Siedler in der Kolonie Turén (Venezuela)*” [I speak Spanish but still think German: German Settlers in the Colony of Turén (Venezuela)], describing conditions of settlement, adjustments and acculturation, appeared in *Käindl Heft 28* (1996): 231-243.

We look forward to expanding our contacts with the Venezuelan Bukovina community and will keep our readers informed of any progress in this regard.

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## THE EMIL AND ROSA MASSIER FAMILY OF ALT-FRATAUTZ

In this excerpt from “*Genealogy of the Massier Families*,” the editor, Paul F. Massier (*Las Vegas, NV*), recounts Emil and Rosa Massier’s odyssey during World War II and its immediate aftermath.

This is the story of Emil and Rosa Massier’s experiences during this time period as told by them to family members and relatives. These events, recorded by their daughter Annemarie Thompson, have been condensed by Paul Massier and included herein with the permission of Helga Gross, also a daughter. The time frame is of particular significance because it was in 1940 that populations of Germans and their descendants residing in Bukovina, Romania were being relocated to Germany and to German-occupied areas (the *Umsiedlung*) as a result of negotiations between the Third Reich and the Romanian Government. The Emil Massier family was caught up in this movement, since they resided in the agrarian community of Alt-Fratautz, in southern Bukovina. These people had no specific destinations, only the numerous and generous promises of the Third Reich that all farmers (like Emil) were to be assigned farms in Germany. All families in this entire German village of 364 households underwent property assessment, packed up a few belongings, and left their homeland to be relocated. On December 10, 1940 Emil’s family left Fratautz in the last of the transport vehicles together with Emil’s parents and other people including teachers, pastors, the mayor and various local Fratautz government civil servants.

In Radautz they boarded the train, and after two and a half days they arrived in Waldsassen, Bavaria, located near the Czechoslovakian border. There they were assigned to live in a convent and gymnasium complex which had been made suitable for mass accommodations while they waited to be directed to the East for settlement. Life in Waldsassen was tolerable with free health care, adequate accommodations, and food served in a large dining room. All men were expected to work, and Emil was assigned clerical duties due to his excellent knowledge of German and his clerical skills.

The Fratauzers had to wait until October 1941 until they were cleared to continue “to the East” in the resettlement process. They had lived in the camp for almost a year and were getting restless; everyone was happy to

move on. All were transported by train to the next resettlement camp, which was Kalisch in German-occupied Poland. This locality consisted of several camps housed in the large buildings of a military school. There was a community kitchen in which meals were cooked for all the émigrés. They had to stand in long lines for meager rations and watery soups. It was here that hunger and want became companions for many. Activities included daily roll calls, flag raising ceremonies, singing of the national anthem, etc., all outdoors in sometimes very cold weather. It was in Kalisch that Annemarie was born and Rosa had to endure the hardships of camp life in addition to attending to her infant daughter in the nursery, which was on the third floor in a separate building! This required her to go up and down three flights of stairs five or six times daily. The family was confined in a large room together with five and even more families of several generations each. A guard, who noted those leaving and returning, was posted at the entrance to the building.

The mood and times in Kalisch were depressing and resettlement did not seem imminent. It was eventually learned that there was no more available room for resettlement of the entire Alt-Fratautz group but that in Lorraine (German-occupied France) managers were needed for the farms and so now attention was focused on moving across the country to the West.

On January 6, 1943 the Fratauzers were happy to leave the Kalisch inferno on a special train directly to the West. Upon arrival in the province of Lorraine, France, they had first to spend time in Camp Elsing. This was a temporary holding camp where they remained until March. Then families were assigned individually to work the estates and farms in this area. Emil and Rosa were assigned as tenants to a farm in Fameck near Diedenhofen, which is about seven miles south of the Luxembourg border. At Fameck they lived in a large house, which at some time must have been part of an estate, but the property did not have much farmland. The farm was in poor condition when they arrived, but after having spent about one year there Emil and Rosa developed it into a productive tract.

In February of 1944 they were moved to Remlingen, where there was a larger farm. This was only about two and a half miles from Fameck, still in German-occupied France. They were reassigned here because the former tenant had not worked out well, was drafted, and the farm was unattended. The stay here was short, but it was at Remlingen that Helga was born. On the first of September 1944 they and the rest of the German farmers were abruptly ordered to leave Remlingen because of advancing Allied armies. At that point everyone was on his own and had to travel as best he could, making stops at specific locations along the way to check in with officials, present identification and travel authorization papers, etc. Emil and Rosa left with their children and their possessions on a horse-drawn flatbed pulling a smaller wagon on which Emil’s parents rode. With Allied bombers overhead and artillery shelling around them they arrived at the village of Honzrat, where they were assigned to a house owned by two sisters. They were to occupy two small bedrooms upstairs and were also given the use of a small kitchen; however, the roof sustained bombing damage and part of it was actually blown away, making the upstairs uninhabitable. The two ladies who lived there stayed on the floor below and in the basement to avoid adverse conditions. Because of this situation and also for protection from American artillery shelling, Emil moved his family into a bunker-like shelter, which had been excavated out of a nearby mountainside. There they had a small white stove purchased by Emil, which served for warmth and also for cooking. The bunker was only about 8’ by 12’ and was apparently one of a series of excavations carved out of mountainsides dating back to construction along the Maginot Line.

In the waning days of 1944 when the tide was turning against Germany a call went out that all men regardless of age were to report for induction into the military by December 23, 1944 for a final all-out effort to defend Germany against the Allied invaders. This organization was known as the *Volksturm*. For Emil this was a moral crisis. Just as he had hoped and prayed for a solution other than leaving Alt-Fratautz in 1940, so he now sought God’s direction to avoid leaving his family to certain doom. The answer came swiftly and decisively and Emil always knew and told of God’s intervention on December 23, 1944. Early that morning he had

gone to the barn, which was some distance from the bunker to tend to the animals one more time. While there he knelt in anguished prayer, pleading with God and begging for guidance. As he exited the barn and headed back to the bunker a shell exploded near him. Pieces of shrapnel penetrated his body, severely injuring him. Instantly he recognized that the hit was a direct intervention of God and nothing less than an answer to his aching prayer only moments earlier!

Some men in the area picked up Emil and took him to a nearby shelter, where he was given an injection to prevent shock. While the shelling continued and with precise timing between rounds someone was able to go to Rosa in the bunker and guide her to where Emil lay. She then ran back and quickly returned with a blanket because Emil had said he was cold. Rosa comforted him and said goodbye as he, along with the other wounded, was taken by military medics for treatment to a hospital in Meiningen, Germany. Meiningen is located in Thuringia, which was later to become an integral part of the German Democratic Republic, a long distance from where Rosa and the three young children were holed up in the bunker. There he remained for several weeks and Rosa knew nothing about him or his whereabouts during that time. Likewise, Emil had not received any news about his family either. Finally after the fifth week since he had been wounded and taken away, Rosa received a post card from him and only then did she know that Emil was still alive.

Toward the end of January 1945 news reports that the Russians were rapidly approaching closer and closer to Meiningen convinced Emil that unless he returned to his family immediately he might never see them again. The doctor advised him that the wound had not yet healed sufficiently for him to travel. He did not release Emil because of his weakness and the probability that gangrene could set in, particularly during the cold winter conditions. Nevertheless, despite his physical condition, Emil decided to leave the hospital and find his way back to his family. He began traveling back to the West mostly on foot, hitching occasional rides. He moved largely under cover of darkness because he had been ordered to report to the *Volksturm* before he was injured and did not want to arouse any suspicion. Along the way he made numerous inquiries of other resettled families to try to establish the whereabouts of his family.

Rosa could not sleep soundly during this whole time period while her husband was gone, wondering when or if she might ever see him again. She lay in bed half-awake and half-asleep most of the time. She was alone with three small children, since Emil's parents had previously left to live with Emil's sister, Mariechen, in Posen (Poznan), in German-occupied Poland. At last, during the night of February 5, Rosa heard quiet footsteps approaching the shelter and immediately recognized them as Emil's. Within a minute he was at the door, softly calling the words now deeply etched in her memory: "Rosa, are you still here?"

The Allied armies were rapidly advancing from the West and so just one week after Emil's return, on February 12, 1945 the family once again packed their belongings onto the one remaining wagon and with their horses began to move north into Germany toward the Palatinate. It was a constant uphill trek, and by the second day on the road the horses were so tired that they had to stop. Hence, Emil pulled into a large yard not far from the town of Sankt Wendel, which is located just a few miles south of the District of Birkenfeld in Germany and asked if they could spend the night there. The place was called Harschberg and turned out to be a *Musterfarm* (model farm) managed by the railroad. The overseer, Herr Ehrlich, agreed to let them stay and was very glad that they had horses and even more appreciative that Emil was so knowledgeable about farming, particularly since most of the Polish and Russian workers who had been assigned there had fled. Emil assisted in the management of the estate and early during their stay endeared and indebted himself to the overseer when the main barn was hit by an artillery shell and caught fire. Emil demonstrated great courage and sharp wit as he repeatedly reentered the barn to lead the animals to safety (thirty cows and six or seven horses). Thereafter Emil and his family were encouraged to remain on the estate for as long as they desired.

It was in this place, Harschberg near Sankt Wendel, that Emil and Rosa restored some sort of normalcy to their lives. Rosa had her own kitchen facilities, there was no want of nourishing food, and Emil had the opportunity to work the land. It was also here in the month of May 1945 that the Allied armies overtook them. They were located in the American Zone as opposed to other Alt-Fratautz families who came under harsh Communist rule in the Soviet Zone. The war ended on May 8, 1945, and the family remained on this farm until 1947. It was there that Elly was born on March 20, 1947. By that time Rosa's oldest brother, Wilhelm, had gathered together his siblings' families and other relatives and arranged for them at least temporarily to live in Zuffenhausen near Stuttgart, Germany. So six weeks after Elly was born, in April 1947, they undertook their final trek to Zuffenhausen, which became a type of rendezvous for their extended family and other displaced persons from Romania. They lived in barracks-like housing, which had only recently served as a German prisoner-of-war camp called Sedam. Emil adjusted well in Zuffenhausen, working as a laborer in a glass manufacturing enterprise. It was in Zuffenhausen that Horst was born on March 19, 1949.

In 1951 Frank Brosseit (husband of Emil's cousin Johanna) offered to sponsor the family to immigrate to the United States. With encouragement from Emil's father, they accepted. After an involved clearing process they traveled by train to Bremen on December 10, 1951, the exact day on which they had left Bukovina eleven years earlier. On December 17, Rosa's birthday, they boarded an American army transport ship, the *USS Eltingen*, for their ocean voyage. It was a difficult crossing in extremely stormy weather. Many passengers, including Rosa and Horst, were seriously seasick. They landed at Ellis Island on December 29, 1951, Emil and Rosa's wedding anniversary! From there they traveled by train to Chicago, were met by Frank Brosseit, and then continued to Crystal Lake, IL, where they lived for the next thirty-nine years. After a decade of turmoil and chaos, Emil and Rosa finally found peace and tranquility.

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## THE REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE GERMANS IN BUKOVINA

by Josef Talsky\*

It is well known that forebears of the Bukovina-Germans, who today have found a new homeland in Germany on this and on the other side of the "iron curtain," in Austria, and to a lesser extent overseas, were brought to Bukovina after its annexation by Austria. State and private programs, which extended over several decades, resulted in the founding of the following German settlements:

1. **State – Swabian farming communities:** Deutsch-Badeutz, Deutsch-Satulmare, Deutsch-Tereblesti, Illischestie, Neu-Itzkany and the lesser populated villages of Arbora, Dragomirna, Mitoka, Molodia, St. Onufry, and Zuczka.
2. **State – German-Bohemian farming settlements:** Bori, Buchenhain (Pojana Mikuli), Lichtenberg, Schwarzatal and a small colony in Glitt.
3. **Private farming settlements:** Alexanderdorf, Augustendorf, Katharinendorf, Neuzadowa, and Nikolausdorf.
4. **Lumbering and glass production settlements:** Althütte, Fürstenthal, Karlsberg, Neuhütte and the lesser-populated villages of Frassin and Paltinossa.
5. **Mining settlements:** Eisenau, Freudental, Jakobeny, Luisental and in the villages of Bukschoja Kirlibaba, Pozoritta, and Stulpikany, which contained no large German minorities.

In time numerous daughter colonies sprang up from these so-called core settlements. In all, there existed about 100 villages in which the Germans were in the majority or consisted of a substantial minority; in

addition, there were nine urban municipalities as well as the region's capital, Czernowitz. In the urban centers the Germans were always in the minority.

Sources on the numerical representation of the Germans in Bukovina during the early years of their settlement remain sketchy. The first Austrian census, which yields relevant information, dates from the year 1869. Out of a total population of over 500,000 souls, approximately 40,000 were German. The Romanian census of 1930 recorded 80,000 Germans out of almost 900,000 people. With the population transfer of 1940, 85,000 Bukovina-Germans departed for Germany. The tasks of the Bukovinian colonists were threefold: first, they were to cultivate the land and thereby set an example of agricultural skills to the indigenous population. This task naturally fell to the agrarian settlers and was fulfilled by the Swabians in an exemplary way. The Austrian government identified its second task as the utilization and cultivation of the virgin forests of the region, which at that time were still uncharted. In this field the German-Bohemian lumberers showed themselves to be masters. Skilled workers were needed for the mining industry. Here Zipsers stepped in to fill this gap.

Bukovina's topography showed a great contrast, characterized by rolling hills and mountains. The rolling hills include:

- a. **The district between the Dniester and the Prut rivers as well as the Czeremosz region.** This fertile area, however, did not witness the establishment of one single Swabian settlement. The strong Ruthenian [Ukrainian] immigration from Galicia precluded colonization of Germans in this region.
- b. **The plains between the Prut and Siret rivers.** Here the indigenous population was sparser. In addition, these lands lay where transportation facilities could readily be developed, and the Austrian government could therefore coordinate its transportation plans with its colonization program. In actuality the Swabian villages, as for example Tereblestie, Illischestie and Neu-Itzkany, significantly influenced the development of new transportation facilities.
- c. **The plains on the Suczawa and northern Moldova rivers.** The Swabian villages of Deutsch-Satulmare, Deutsch-Fratautz and Deutsch-Badeutz are prominently represented here. They lay in the Radautz plains, while the rolling hills' settlements in the first instance were dependent upon a transportation system. Thus, for example, glass production communities could not be established far from available transportation, since the cost of shipping the products would be too expensive.

The second period of German immigration centered almost exclusively on the lands of the large private landowners in Bukovina's western region. Here the farming communities of Alexanderdorf, Augustendorf, Katherinendorf, Neu-Zadowa and Nikolausdorf were established. It took these colonists many years before they were able to transform the swampy regions into fruitful fields.

In time Germans could be found throughout all Bukovina. There were not many villages or towns with absolutely no Germans. Often only craftsmen or individual official families lived among Romanian or Ukrainian villagers. Dispersion of individual settlements characterized the German linguistic enclaves. This proved especially detrimental in elections, since a German candidate for office had no chance of success.

A review of the regional distribution of the Germans yields the following approximate results: of the over 100 settlements in Bukovina which showed a German minority or a significant minority, about thirty-five lay in the mountains, including four cities. Among the thirty-five rural communities, fourteen were core villages. Some seventy settlements could be found in the rolling hills, including six cities. Of the rural communities twenty-three were core colonies and

the balance were daughter colonies.

If we consider the distribution of the Germans in the individual river basins, we note the following: in the Dniester river basin there were no German settlements, while 21,000 Germans lived in fourteen settlements in Prut river basin, i.e. 24.7 per cent. In contrast to these figures, 14,000 Germans lived in twenty-four settlements in the Siret area, i.e., 16.5 per cent of the Bukovina-Germans. Along the Suczawa River there were thirty-three settlements, including by far the greatest number of Germans, namely 27,000, i.e., 31.8 percent; and in the Moldova river basin we find twenty-eight settlements with about 16,000 Germans, i.e., 18.8 percent. In the Bistritsa river basin 7,000 Germans (8.2 percent) resided in six communities.

Of agrarian background, the majority of the Swabian colonists were brought into the province not only to cultivate virgin lands but also to demonstrate better work methods to the indigenous population. For this reason they were often settled in Romanian or Ruthenian villages, which bore non-German names. In addition to the purely German community of Neu-Itzkany, there existed communities with ethnically mixed populations. But the latter did not hold true for the agricultural villages established on private property. As with the purely German villages on private lands, the German-Bohemian settlements [on state lands] bore German names, since they were founded in areas where no other inhabitants could be found far and wide.

In conclusion something should be said about Bukovina's municipalities. Although the Germans remained in the minority in the cities, they had contributed to their establishment, which has also been pointed out in histories dealing with colonization. At the time of its annexation by Austria, it is recorded that there were only two cities in Bukovina: Suczawa and Siret. At that time Czernowitz was simply a market place, but after it became the seat of the administration, it rapidly emerged as Bukovina's largest city. The second largest city of the province, later overshadowing the others, was Radautz. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century it was justifiably called the most German city of Bukovina. Under Romanian administration (after 1919) its population grew considerably but in favor of the Jews and Romanians. Nonetheless, 6,000 Germans lived in Radautz [until their transfer to Germany in 1940].

Bukovina's other cities also contained a significant German population. In Suczawa there lived about 4,000, in Siret 1,600, in Gurahumora about 2,700, in Kimpolung 1,700, in Dorna-Watra 1,600, and in Storozynetz about 600. Only in Wiznitz and Kotzmann were the Germans a dwindling minority, in contrast to an overwhelming majority of Jews.

Bukovina's German linguistic enclave, surrounded by non-German administrative districts, was a significant legacy from its Austrian period. For the economy of Germany this enclave facilitated access to the markets of the East. Through their historic past and their occupational structure the Bukovina-Germans offered the best conditions for this fulfillment of this task.

\*"Die Landschaftliche Verteilung der Deutschen im Buchenland," in *Bukowina: Heimat von Gestern*, eds. Erwin Massier, Josef Talsky, and B. C. Grigorowicz, trans. Sophie A. Welisch (Karlsruhe: Selbstverlag "Arbeitskreis Bukowina Heimatbuch," 1956), pp.97-100.