



## GBHS Officers for 2007

**President** - Pat Kretsch  
**Vice-President** – Jerry Gulden  
**Treasurer** – Jenny Eckstein  
**Secretary** – Molly Schweinfurter

## Board Members

Jenny Eckstein, Pat Eckstein, Jerry Gulden, Joleen Keckstein, Janice Kretsch, Pat Kretsch, Louie Lindmeyer, Jim Mack, Ruth Mowan, Molly Schweinfurter, Angie Portner, George Portner, Gary Wiltscheck

## Committee Assignments

### **Social Activities Committee**

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### **Program Committee**

Open

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### **Budget/Finance Committee**

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### **Outreach Committee**

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### **Sales Committee**

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### **Library/Research Center Committee**

All board members

### **Research Committee**

Louie Lindmeyer, Molly Schweinfurter

### **Board Members Emeritus**

LaVern Rippley, Adeline Wilfahrt, Bob Paulson(founder)

## Addresses

### **German-Bohemian Heritage Society**

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Robert Paulson rpaulgb@comcast.net

## Research Center Hours

1st Saturday of each month 1:30 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

2nd Tuesday of each month 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Call Angie Portner @ 359-2121 for additional times.

## Other Society Information

### **GBHS Home Page**

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~gbhs/>

### **To Become a Member**

Membership application, dues info, and address change info are located on the back cover.

GBHS financial statements are available upon request.

## Newsletter information

### **Publishing times:**

Quarterly in March, June, September, December.

### **Notice & disclaimer**

Articles contained in this newsletter may not be copied, published, or distributed for commercial purposes without the written consent of the GBHS. The editor reserves the right to edit contributions for length, substance, and grammar. The GBHS is not responsible for accuracy, errors, or omissions in articles submitted by others.

### **We encourage contributions**

Contributions to the "Heimatbrief" can be in the form of articles, letters, or notices. Preferred formats for articles are PC/Mac word processing files with disc, hard copy, emailed, or typed pages. Short letters or queries may be neatly handwritten. Advertising is not accepted.

### **Send newsletter contributions to:**

Please mail/e-mail to Gary Wiltscheck at referenced address. **Deadline for articles for the September newsletter is July 15th.** This newsletter was created using an IBM pc with Microsoft Word.

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# Paul Kretsch Day

## August 18, 2007

Saturday, August 18, 2007 has been chosen to honor our past president Paul Kretsch who passed away on August 23, 2006. The GBHS board directors have been working hard on preparing a program including the dedication and unveiling of a granite plaque at the German-Bohemian Immigrant Monument site in German Park, New Ulm. The day's events will also include a dinner and program. Members will be notified when plans have been finalized.

## Berg Captivates Members at GBHS Spring Meeting

John Leonard Berg, a New Ulm area native, and Coordinator of Public Services for the Karrmann Library at the University of Wisconsin – Platteville, enthralled and captivated a large crowd of over 100 at the GBHS' annual spring meeting. John's presentation titled "*Causes and Patterns of 19<sup>th</sup>-Century German Emigration from Bremerhaven*" was a perfect fit for his audience.



l to r: Patrick Kretsch, GBHS President, John Leonard Berg, Denis Warta, GBHS honorary Bohemian King.

John chronicled his great grandfather John Berg's voyage from his homeland village of Rot, Germany by railroad to Bremen, then by ship to Bremerhaven. There in Bremerhaven he boarded a ship bound for New Orleans, then up the Mississippi river on a riverboat to Illinois and

eventually to Siegel Township near New Ulm, MN. Seven million souls past through Bremerhaven on the way to U.S. ports. After unloading the passengers the ships were loaded with cargo such as sugar, cotton, and tobacco for the return trip.

Immigrants needed permission to leave their country. Some of the requirements needed to obtain proper papers included having all debts paid including any unpaid taxes, military service completed, and proof that you were not abandoning your parents.

Why did our ancestors immigrate? The answer is not an easy one and it varies from family to family and is dependent on the time period. Here are some of the reasons pointed out.

- Religious freedom (1700's and again in the 1870's)
- Military service
- Industrialization
- Taxation
- Economic stagnation
- Population growth
- Inheritance laws
- American letters urging others to come
- Solicitation by ship owners and American companies

The GBHS wishes to thank John Leonard Berg for a wonderful program. We would also like to thank Turner Hall for the use of their facility and the delicious German buffet meal and all the GBHS members and non-members who supported us by being present. And last but not least to the board members and others who helped make the evening possible.

# GBHS Travels to SGAS Symposium

April 26, 2007 found ten members of the GBHS packed into a van traveling to the campus of the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas for the annual Society of German American Studies (SGAS) symposium. The ten members attending the event were GBHS President Patrick Kretsch and wife Colleen, board members Molly Schweinfurter and Jenny Eckstein and board members and their wives Patrick and Nicole Eckstein, Jim and Irene Mack, and Louis & LuAnn Lindmeyer. Also in attendance was the GBHS' honorary Bohemian King Denis Warta who gave a presentation titled "*Herman, the Man, the Battle, his Monuments!*"

The two-day symposium featured speakers covering topics on German culture, literature, language, and history of the German element in North America. Some of the more compelling topics for the GBHS group were the topics on language and dialects and also presentations on the Bukovina Germans whose culture and heritage seem to closely mirror that of the German-Bohemians. The GBHS members met socially with members of the Bukovina Society and discussed the many similarities to the GBHS. Bukovina members present were Steve Parks, Rebecca Hageman, and Irmgard Hein Ellingson.

Also presenting was GBHS member and educator from the University of Wisconsin – Platteville John Leonard Berg. Mr. Berg's topics were "*Causes and Patterns of 19<sup>th</sup> Century German Emigration from Bremerhaven*" and "*Windstarke 8*". LaVern Rippley, GBHS Board Director Emeritus, presented "*Eugene V. Smalley, Minnesota German Immigration Publicist*".

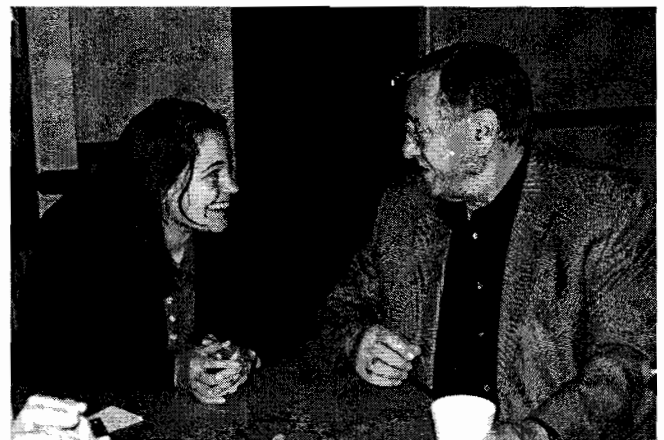
The SGAS symposium will travel to New Ulm in 2009

# Patrick Kretsch Interviewed & Recorded by German Linguists

GBHS President Patrick Kretsch was interviewed and digitally recorded by three linguists from Germany and Austria during his attendance at the SGAS symposium in Lawrence, Kansas. Astrid Christl, University of Vienna, Nicole Eller, University of Passau, and Alfred Wildfeuer, University of Regensburg were attending the symposium and presenting their research on dialects of the German language titled "*Dialekte der deutschen Auswanderer aus dem Bayerischen Wald und dem Bohmerwald*". Also on hand was Gabi Lunte, Dept. of Modern Languages, Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas.

It was a perfect fit. Three linguists researching language dialects of the Bayerischen Wald and the Bohmerwald and how these dialects survived after leaving their homeland and Pat Kretsch, a German-Bohemian dialect speaker, all meeting by chance at the same conference in the heartland of America.

It was an unplanned chance encounter that brought them together during a reception the evening before the symposium began. The linguists became aware that Patrick could speak the German-Bohemian dialect and asked if they could record and document him speaking in the dialect.



Astrid Christl and Patrick Kretsch

On Saturday evening, after a wonderful dinner, the group sat down to record an almost lost dialect. For nearly two hours Pat spoke and even sang to them in the German-Bohemian dialect.

They were very surprised and delighted that the German-Bohemian dialect had survived in such a pure form in America after 150 years. They were also very impressed with a draft copy of Patrick's brother Paul Kretsch's dialect translation and dictionary that the GBHS plans to publish later this year or early next year.

After returning to Germany the linguists plan to begin the process of securing a grant to return to the SGAS symposium that will be held in New Ulm in April 2009 to record and document more German-Bohemian dialect speakers in the New Ulm area.

## 11th Bi-annual CGSI Conference

At first glance this may look strictly like a Czechoslovak ethnic event but many of the topics will be of great benefit to German-Bohemians. GBHS members Karen Hobbs, Edward Langer, John Leonard Berg, and Robert Paulson will be giving talks at the conference. Other topics of interest scheduled are researching in the Czech Republic, organizing and caring for family photographs, online research, our ancestors in the Austrian army, life in the villages, music, and much more. Many of the topics relate directly to German-Bohemians.

The 11th Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) bi-annual Genealogical/Cultural Conference will be held from October 18-20, 2007 at the Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall in Madison, Wisconsin. Included, as part of the conference will be Workshops, Tours, Networking, Products, and Entertainment.

### Schedule of Events

#### Thursday, October 18

- All-day tour to Milwaukee

- A hands-on workshop at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library
- Beginning Genealogy class by Lisa Alzo
- Madison city tours
- 7:00 P.M. - Czech Genealogy Exhibition Opening – This is a reproduction of the Czech Genealogy Exhibition created by the Czech National Archives. It traces the process from the beginnings of genealogy, uses of lesser-known archival material, through emigration from the Czech lands to the USA.
- A mixer for all attendees will start immediately follow the exhibition opening – meet other attendees, socialize and network!

#### Friday, October 19 and Saturday, October 20

##### Topics & Speakers:

- Czech Archives, Historical Sources for Bohemia in the 17th & 18th Centuries - Dr. Lenka Matušiková
- Beginning Slovak Genealogy - Lisa Alzo
- Context of Czech & Slovak Immigration to the U.S. - Dr. Thomas Archdeacon
- Documenting Czech Immigrant Arrivals, Genetics & Genealogy - Leo Baca
- It's All Online – Or is it? - Lori Bessler
- Organizing & Caring for Family and Personal Photographs – David Benjamin
- Rhythm of Life in Villages in the 19th Century – Helene Cincebeaux
- Using the Online Catalogs at the Wisconsin Historical Society in Your Research – Dee Anna Grimsrud
- How to Trace Your Ancestors Effectively When No One Knew How to Spell Anything – James Hansen
- Identifying Grandpa's Regiment in the Austrian Imperial Army, Using Austrian Imperial Military Records at the LDS – Karen Hobbs
- History of Slovak Immigration to Wisconsin – Dr. John Hosmanek
- Advanced Computer Genealogy – John Kracha
- Emigration From Northeast Bohemia to the American Midwest – Edward Langer
- Finding Family in Slovakia, Uncovering Roots – Mark Lencho

- Czech & Slovak Cinema – A Reflection of History & Culture – Susan Marcinkus
- Practical Czech for Genealogists – Ludmila Mikulašová
- German – Bohemians – The Border People – Robert Paulson
- Doing Genealogy Over There – Misa Pličková, Jiří Kamínek, John-Leonard Berg
- Putting Your Ancestors on the Map – Resources of the American Geographical Society – Javanka Ristic
- “If You Wish to Know a Culture, Go to Its Music – Anita Smisek, OP, Joel Blahnik
- The Wisconsin Office of Emigration and its Impact on Immigration – William Thiel

**Friday Evening Entertainment:** A Czech dudy bagpipe performance by Michael Cwach followed by dancing to music by the Clete Bellin’s Polka Band.

**Saturday Evening Entertainment:** Parade of Kroje, MC’d by Helene Cincebeaux, followed by the Tatra Slovak Dance Group.

#### Conference Program and Registration

The program committee is assembling a program that features 12 speakers and topics not previously heard at a CGSI conference in the U.S. Speakers include Dr. Lenka Matušiková of the Czech National Archives, archivists from the renowned Wisconsin Historical Society and professors from the University of Wisconsin system.

Registration brochures will be available May 1 and will be mailed only by request. You can request a brochure by an email to [CGSI2007@aol.com](mailto:CGSI2007@aol.com), or a writing to: CGSI, PO Box 46153, Plymouth, MN 55446.

We encourage conference attendees to register early, as attendance will be limited. Please complete your registration form and send it to: CGSI, PO Box 46153, Plymouth, MN 55446.

As part of the GBHS Outreach program we will be planning a group attendance at the conference. If you are interested in joining us please contact Molly Schweinfurter, 30442 County Rd 2, Redwood Falls, MN, 56283 ([rockerk@redred.com](mailto:rockerk@redred.com)) or Patrick Eckstein, 6213 Shamrock Dr., Madison Lake, MN, 56063 ([pateckst@prairie.lakes.com](mailto:pateckst@prairie.lakes.com)). Tentative plans are to rent vans or a bus for the members in the New

Ulm area for the trip to Madison. More information can be found at the CGSI web site at [www.cgisi.org](http://www.cgisi.org).

## The Klement Ahnenbüch

By Margaret Dahms

*I am responding to your request for articles on our Bohemian heritage. I have an Ahnenbüch that was written by my 1st cousin, Wenzel Klement in 1940. In this Ahnenbüch he writes a detailed account of the life of his grandfather, Wenzel Adalbert Klement, a teacher (my 3rd great grandfather).*

*Also attached is an account of an incident of the Prussian-Austrian War. Since the Ahnenbüch was written in German, Aida Kraus, a schoolmate of my mother, was kind enough to translate the Ahnenbüch for me.*

Margaret Dahms

#### WENZEL ADALBERT KLEMENT

Head (resident) teacher and cantor in Jechnitz

Birth: 28 Apr 1804 at Jechnitz No.24

Died: 19 Apr 1882 in Jechnitz of old age.

Married BARBARA THERESIA HEIM

Birth: 24 Mar 1801 in Podersanka No.34

Died: 11 Oct 1880 in Jechnitz of old age

Parents: JAKOB HEIM Teacher in

Podersanka, district of Podersam

MARIA ANNA TSCHISCHKA (Czech=Ciska)

Marriage date: 25 Dec 1827

After completing his education in the teaching field, my grandfather went through the certification process required of all teaching candidates and was employed first as a teachers aide at the school in Juck in the district of Lenditz and was transferred to Scheles and then to Jechnitz in the year 1832.

About my grandfather Wenzel Klement, the Mayor of Jechnitz, farmer Fassl, wrote an article, in installments, published in the newspaper entitled “Jechnitz-Podersamer-Anzieger”. The articles headline was “100 years of Duty in Youth Education” (a commemorative reminiscence about 100 years duty at the Grade School of Jechnitz by the teaching family Klement). (Comment by the author: The dates are taken from the original documents in my possession made available to me by Mr. Fassl.)

“The wages for a teacher or cantor at the School of Jechnitz were very sparse then. As per protocol by the Petersburg Upper Office dated December 18, 1832, the teacher’s income at Jechnitz was derived as follows:

Monetary remuneration from the church collection from baptismal fees, etc. was 44 Florin 30 Kreutzer; from endowments 14 Florin 4 Kreutzer, ev 4.fl; as sacristan\* from endowments 8 Florin 50 1/4 Kreutzer; and as payment (salary) 6 Florin 45 Kreutzer, or a total of 74 Florin 32 1/2 Kreutzer. In addition he received from the church collection box 19 Florin 4 Kreutzer for lighting candles, 12 Florin 30 Kreutzer for baking communion wafers, a total of 31 Florin 39 Kreutzer. New Years pay to the teacher came from the community of Jechnitz in the amount of 5 Florin and from the outlying villages 2 Florin 42 Kreutzer. The sum of natural products he received: from Jechnitz and all outlying villages a total of 4 grain, 1/4 corn. For duty as emergency bell ringer to alert bad weather, fire or individual death the teacher received 14 mandls (grain bound into sheaves?) and 13 bundles of wheat which all of this is becoming due at Gally (like Thanksgiving) and then the teacher would pick up these products himself from the farmers on the Saturday after Gally by driving his horse cart from house to house.

From these incomes and the produce from the field belonging to the school (mostly school children were employed to help him and often they had small husbandry as well) plus the monies from endowments and payments to him, he had to provide room and board and petty cash to the Teachers Aide. The monetary situation Kanto Klement found himself in was not rosy, especially as his family grew. It became necessary to supplement his income by playing in a band at most festivities, dances or local pubs.

His income for functions related to graveside services were according to an agreement with the Magistrate dated February 1797 and was paid as follows:

- For conducting services 15 Kreutzer
- For two horn players @15 - 30 Kreutzer
- For two clarinet players @15 - 30 Kreutzer
- For trombone player 15 Kreutzer
- For the soloist (Libera) 15 Kreutzer
- For the slave Regina 15 Kreutzer
- For the Requiem 15 Kreutzer
- For the bell ringing 7 Kreutzer

Total 1 Florin 57 Kreutzer

How reliable and diligent our teacher/cantor Klement administered his duties is listed in the following commendation following an audit."

"It is herewith stated that Wenzel Klement, teacher at Jechnitz, fulfills all requirements as proven during an

audit at his school with ability, diligence, and personal projection in a most satisfactory way, and we see promise and hope that he holds himself to the prescribed teaching procedures in all subjects according to the rulings, giving proper attention and willing subordination towards his superiors and in becoming a model for his Christian classroom attendees and his entire community by presenting himself as leading an impeccable and honorable way of life."

Prague, October 21, 1833

Willmann mp

Leitzer mp

\*The main duty of the sacristan is the handling and layout of the vestments of the priest

Monetary Values:

8 Heller= Pfennig

60 Kreutzer =1 Florin (or Gulden)

2 Florin= 1 Thaler (base name for our dollar)

The work description of a schoolteacher and cantor on Sundays was as follows:

At 8 am he was on duty at the sacristy and then he (or his teaching aide) had organ-playing duties. After the morning mass from 9-10 am, he was again sacristan at high mass from 10-12 where he functioned either as choirmaster or organist, a duty, which he shared with his teaching aide. In the afternoon from 2-2:45 pm he had choir duty and was again sacristan for afternoon service. This was paid for accordingly:

"Paid to Mr. Wenzel Klement, teacher at Jechnitz:

The K & K (Kaiser and Koeniglich=royalty)

Commission has decreed according to Rule 1 J.Z.5519 dated September 20<sup>th</sup> to award Wenzel Klement, teacher at Jechnitz with an award of 12 Florin as remuneration for the additional teaching services to be paid out from the school fund. This is to notify him that per Rule I.I.G.Z.59.835 dated October 8, the amount will be paid to him against receipt at the Bank (Kreissparkasse).

Written by the Jechnitz Vicar's Office

(Bishop) November 9. 1845, signed Mathias Chwoika mp Vicar".

The situations at these schools were not very attractive at the time when my grandfather taught. The school was under the auspices of the Church. The teacher was the servant of the local priest who also prescribed the curriculum, which the teacher had to follow to a tee. As Sacristan he had to clean the church, sweep

the floor, refill the holy water fonts, and prepare the sacrificial wine. He had to help the priest dress before services in his robes, had to light and douse the candles at the altar before and after services, had to play the organ during services, had to ring the church bells morning, noon and evenings and at all processions and festivities, and ring the death bell at the neighboring villages and after the end of the Church service, he had to teach school.

Here is something about heating the schoolroom. There was no coal as yet in 1830 and 1840. The local priest (Dechant) was allowed to cut 28 cords soft wood. The dry wood and other odd cuts were given to the teacher at Jechnitz so that he was able to heat the classroom. He had to cut the wood to fit the stove himself or pay someone to do it for him. After 1845 the community provided the teacher with 2 cords softwood for burning but out of this he also had to heat his home and that of his Teaching Aide. So much of the report from Mr. Fassl.

At the end of 1840 and beginning of 1850 grandfather's first son, Anton, functioned as the Teaching Aide at the school in Jechnitz. In 1894 grandfather turned over the duties at the school and that of the church choir to his son Josef. He himself became the Teaching Aide until 1872 and moved into his own home (Jechnitz No. 162).

Grandfather went into retirement in the year 1872. His monthly pension was 21 Gulden. Grandmother was a very energetic person. It was her responsibility to raise 6 children, take care of the house, garden and fields. It was very hard work for her until her aging years. When they could no longer work their farm by themselves with their help, he moved into my parent's house at Jechnitz No. 69.

My grandfather told us that he was 24 years of age when he had his first beer, but enjoyed a glass of beer up to his old age. The last years they could not let him walk around the village by himself because he would just visit somewhere and was hard to find! As oldest grandchild it was my job to go for walks with him, but nobody could prevent it if he took me along to the pub!

The last years, grandfather failed physically and psychologically. Known as the old "Waberl" in our lifetime, known all over as "Kanterwaberl", spent 40 years with us, at first with my grandparents and then with us...and she helped my mother caring for him to his dying day. He died April 19, 1882 at the age of 78.

## OTTOMAR KLEMENT

Birth: 16 Nov 1831 in Scheles by Jechnitz

Died: 17 Nov 1894 in Trautenau

Married: MARIA SCHUBERT from Trautenau

Birth: 2 Jun 1836 in Trautenau

Died: 22 Feb 1904 in Trautenau

Marriage date: unknown

Ottomar graduated from the Teachers College in Leitmeritz and had his first teaching assignment at the primary school in Teplitz. He was promoted to high school teacher in Trautenau October 15, 1852. We found a letter from him (to his mother) where he describes his departure from Teplitz, a place that he learned to love. He writes: "I will never forget my stay in Teplitz". He was active in the A Capella Choir and became an honorary member of this group.

At Trautenau he was again active in the choir. The Prussian-Austrian War was in full force at the time and they fought a battle at Trautenau on June 27, 1866, whereupon the City Fathers of Trautenau were demoted, supposedly for treason; but there was more to this story. Anyway, Ottomar Klement was ordered to take over the City's Representation.

(Wenzel Klement, author of this Ahnentafel) writes: During my residence at Trautenau I met often with uncle Ottomar and his family and this is what he told me about the battle at Trautenau.

"In the morning on the day of the battle, a troop of Austrian Dragoners rode through our city. They came from Parschnitz by Liebau and were on a reconnaissance. After they rode through town and left on the other side, a Prussian Calvary Patrol arrived with drawn pistols at the market square and ordered the mayor to present himself. They asked the mayor if an Austrian Dragoon detail had passed through town. The mayor explained that early in the morning a troop of Austrian Dragoners rode across town, but there was no other Austrian Military in the city. Shortly thereafter a larger concentration of Prussian Military arrived at the market square and bivouacked there.

In the meantime the Austrian Army with the name of "Gablonz" was already on the march to Trautenau. They were close and some of the scouts had already penetrated the outskirts of the town. After their respite, the Prussians marched out of town with their marching band playing. As they passed the city gate, two shots were fired from the direction of the Austrian reconnaissance and the Prussian commander and his

adjutant fell from their horses. Immediately the Prussians turned back to the city crying "treason, treason!" and a battle started in town. The worst fighting was around the Kapellenberg and the Prussians had no other choice than to flee from the overpowering Austrians towards the border. On the next day, the Prussians were reinforced with more troops and pushed the Austrians back to Koeniginhof in the vicinity of Koeniggraetz where the decisive and famous battle was fought, which the Prussians won.

The Prussians occupied Trautenau and they incarcerated the mayor and all the City Elders because they surmised that they had known that the Austrian army was waiting at the city gates to lure the Prussians into a trap. Also the citizens were accused of having shot from their windows and pouring hot water over the fighting Prussian soldiers. However, it was explained that the Austrian army arriving from Gablonzerberg fired the shots, and that the shots ricocheted from the houses towards the Prussian soldiers from the heights of the Kappellenberg. The story about the boiling water was explained this way: In the evening of the battle they used the arcades around the market square as first aid stations for the wounded. Dr. Kluge (who later became the mayor of Trautenau) inspected all the first aid stations for scalded Prussian soldiers. He found only one and that person told him that he had entered a civilian kitchen and "got a bit friendly" towards the lady cook who whisked a kettle with boiling water from the stove and poured it over him.

During the battle, all residents were in a precarious situation. They could not look out the windows because they would be shot at. They could not go about the "necessities of life". So uncle Ottomar explains they had no food for their little daughter Anna who was only a few months old. Uncle Ottomar usually took a butterhorn to school with him and as was his habit, he would put whatever he didn't finish in the back pocket of his coat. They retrieved the old bread crusts and were able to make a mush for the baby.

The mayor and the Elders were incarcerated and then transported to the prison in Glogau. On their march from Trautenau to Glogau they had to pass many villages and the villagers threw flowerpots and garbage at them. They were to be shot for treason.

Only intervention by the Cardinal at Prague, who was also the Bishop for the Dukedom of Glatz, brought about that they were set free.

The Prussians patrolled and thoroughly searched every house in town from top to bottom for weapons, forcing a representative of the City of Trautenau to walk before them while they walked behind him with drawn weapons.

They were in fear of their life the entire time because even if accidentally a rifle could have discharged killing the person who walked in front of them. They picked different representatives and even Uncle Ottomar had to take his turn.

For duty to his city, Uncle Ottomar was recognized with the Golden Service Cross at the end of the war. He was an honored and esteemed citizen of Trautenau.

## Another Great Recipe From Aida

### Eat like your ancestors

Today, my husband is walking on cloud nine after this Egerlander Soul Food. These are Bohemian Dumplings which are made from a light yeast dough with croutons worked in, to put more "air" into the dough and making it feather light. The formed loaf type dumpling has to rise and is steamed for about 15 minutes; it is then cut with twine into slices to retain the fluffiness. It will absorb the delicate Sauerbraten Sauce to perfection!

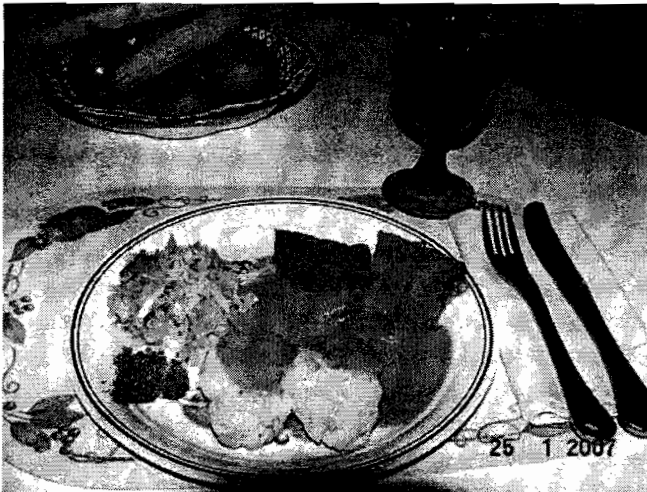
I usually buy a melon cut or round of beef, or in this case I bought top sirloin, which is very lean and put it in red wine marinade for no longer than 48 hours. I put the meat into a deep bowl (no longer larding it with smoked pork as we did at home!) filling the bowl with a mixture of chopped vegetables like celeriac (celery root), carrots, white onions, peppercorns, bay leaf, thyme and the green leaves of a bunch of celery. Then I pour a mixture of 2/3 red wine and 1/3 water over it so the meat is half covered and you turn it from time to time so all the meat surface is marinated. I do not add salt up to this point. The drained meat is roasted with the vegetables, adding a little salty broth or soy sauce thinned with red wine, and you can add salt and pepper to taste during the last roasting process. When the meat is done you remove it and the bay leaf. Then you put the entire content of the

roasting pan into the blender to liquefy. You will notice that you get a sauce that is already thickened by the vegetable pulp and for all practical purposes it can be served as is, but reheating it to the boiling point with a little crème fraiche and Wondra flour (while whisking it to the boiling point, so it will not curdle) will make it especially smooth. Cut the cooled meat and pour the hot sauce over it. It is either ready to eat or it can stay in the refrigerator for at least 4 days in this state. Actually it improves the flavor and is best on the 3rd day! Adjust taste with a little soy sauce, pepper and salt. It will probably be peppery enough from the blended peppercorns.

Our ancestors did not have a blender, so they worked the vegetable and sauce from the roasting pan through a wire sieve. (Lots of work!!!)

The cabbage is a 7-minute affair. Cut onions, sauté, cut cabbage mix with caraway seeds and salt, sauté cabbage in onions and after 5 minutes add 1/2 cup of white wine. Steam for 2 minutes. Put in container and let sit overnight. Warm up the next day.

And here it is:



## GBHS Annual Picnic September 8, 2007

The GBHS picnic date has been set for Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, at Herman Heights Park shelter No. 2 in New Ulm. Social begins at 11a.m. with potluck dinner at 12 noon. Please bring a potluck dish, your own eating utensils and lawn chairs. Coffee and juice will be provided for the meal and beer and pop will also be available. There will be entertainment in the afternoon. Members may bring guests. Any questions call 507-359-2121.

## 2008 Membership Dues Increased

by Jenny Eckstein, GBHS Treasurer

At the January meeting, the Board of Directors held a brief discussion about membership dues. Further discussion was tabled until the March meeting giving the board members time to consider an increase. There were many pros and cons to mull over in increasing the annual dues from \$15 to \$20. We looked at what other organizations collected for annual dues and felt that at \$20 for a family, we are still offering something of value for everyone -- whether the newsletter is of greatest importance, using the research library or our website, or attending any of our annual events. We also hope to continue being able to bring in speakers for the spring and fall membership events. Keep in mind, the last dues increase was in 2001 when it went from \$10 to \$15. In the end, the fact that postage has gone up, and the cost of printing the newsletter increased as well as the costs of operating the research library, the board voted to increase the dues effective January 1, 2008.

# THE BÖHMISCH EISENSTEINERS

## *Part I*

### *An Introduction to the German-Bohemian Eisensteiners*

#### PROLOGUE

*They celebrated in the leased yard of their father in the village of Dorf Eisenstein House #51 in a section of the earlier "Hofgebaeus", where the owners of rule of the barons von Hafendraedl operated their farms and where the Hilgarts maintained a sheep breed. The whole night was filled with praying, crying and feasting, and, with intense and mixed emotions, they sat by one another. Early in the morning the journey went on. To Zwiesel the emigrants were accompanied and at the Zwiesel railroad station there was the most difficult and last parting. With saw and axe they were equipped; these were woodcutters and forest workers. To fare on their far journey they carried dry bread to guard against seasickness.*

Such was the activity in the small hamlet of Dorf Eisenstein on a day in the year of 1881 when a group of Eisensteiners made ready to depart their homeland in the Böhmerwald and embark on the long journey to America. They were to make their home in a faraway land, knowing they will never again see many of their families, their friends and their homeland. In the eye of one's mind can be seen a group of Eisensteiners singing together for the last time one of their most beloved homeland songs, one to be passed down by "der Altes" to their yet unborn descendants in the new homeland, yet to be named, Eisenstein of Wisconsin. Their song; Tief Im Böhmerwald.

*Dort Tief im Böhmerwald; wo meine wiegestand  
Es ist schon lange heir; Das ich von dort bin furt  
In meine renerung; Es stet mir statsgewies  
Das ich dem Böhmerwald; Nicht vergiess.*

*Es war im Böhmerwald; wo meine wiegestand  
Es war in schönen, grönen, Böhmerwald*

This is the first of a series of articles about the German-Bohemians who, in the early 1880s, departed their homeland in the Böhmisches Eisenstein of the Böhmerwald to establish a new home in America, in northern Price County of Wisconsin. There they would have the opportunity to resume their occupations and trades as woodsmen and farmers on land they would finally now own and in a place where they could continue to be called "Der Eisensteiners."

Böhmen, or Bohemia was a major province of the Austro-Hungarian Empire up until the end of World War I when, in 1918, the major victorious powers dissolved the Empire and carved out a number of smaller nations, one being the country of Czechoslovakia of which Bohemia then became part. Most of Bohemia's western border adjoined Bayern, or Bavaria. Within western Bohemia lay the Böhmisches Eisenstein, an area entirely within the Böhmerwald (Bohemian Forest) and included principally the village of Markt Eisenstein (today Zelezná Ruda) surrounded by the smaller communities of Panzer (now Pancir), Dorf Eisenstein (now Spicak) and Deffernik (now Debrinik). Seewiesen (now Javorna) is sometimes considered by some to be within the greater Böhmisches Eisenstein area. Markt Eisenstein lies only three kilometers east of the Bavarian border and the village of the Bayerische Eisenstein.

In the late 1600s, a number of families residing in or near the Bayernwald communities of Zwiesel, Lam and Scheiben migrated to the Markt Eisenstein area to take advantage of the work offered there by Count Van Nothaft in support of his small, fledgling glass factories (glashütten). Most worked in or near the Buchewald where the beech tree was the staple wood used to make potash, the fuel used to fire the glass furnaces. The Buchewald lies to the northwest of Dorf Eisenstein and west of Panzer on the slopes of the mountains serving today as a winter sports and a summer hiking area. The decisive factor, which provided the final impetus for these migrants to move to the Böhmisches Eisenstein, was when the Bishop of Regensburg finally acceded to Count Von Nothaft's request to establish a Catholic Parish in Markt Eisenstein. This he did in 1694.

One hundred and fifty years or so passed and the economic conditions of the Eisensteiners began deteriorating. They had no land of their own, economic conditions were worsening when, for various reasons, the glass factories began failing and closing and the Austro-Hungarian Army began calling them to serve for long periods of time away from their families, for pittance pay and without support for their families.

They struggled under these stifling economic conditions for a number of years and, although hesitant to leave their homeland, many were starting to think of such things. Coincidental with their hopes and dreams of a better way of life, offers of land ownership and employment in the far off land of America began to be heard. Representatives from various industries in America, including the Wisconsin Central Railroad (WCR), began by posting notices and holding meetings here and there describing the great opportunities for those who would leave their homeland and travel to America.

Mostly by word of mouth these offers began to circulate among the Eisensteiners. The offers from the WCR seemed to be the most attractive as they were offering opportunities for land ownership for farming and were also searching for workers in wood-cutting and logging, just the type of work to which these Eisensteiners were accustomed. Finally, some decided to take the WCR up on their offer.

Hans-Joachim Häupler, a noted historian and author, in a letter to Ray Hilgart, a descendant of Ignatz Hilgart, one of these Böhmisches Eisensteiners, tells of a written document of the time. This document describes the departure of some of the members of the Hilgart family and other Eisensteiners from their homeland, the Böhmerland, to America. This written record of the departure from their homeland has been passed down to a descendant of Josef Hilgart, brother of immigrants Ignatz, Benedict, and Johann. The translation of what was written, in German of course, is contained in the Prologue at the beginning of this article.

There were a number of German-Bohemian families who lived in the Böhmisches Eisenstein area who immigrated to Price County of Wisconsin in the early to mid 1880s. Most, however, were those who settled homesteads and farms in the Township of Fifield, later, in 1903, that part of which they settled to be named the Town of Eisenstein. The Town of Eisenstein in Wisconsin has its western half of its northern boundary bordering the Town of Agenda in Ashland County and the eastern half bordering the Town of Sherman in Iron County. Its southern and eastern boundaries border the Town of Fifield and its western boundary the City of Park Falls and the Town of Lake.

The most important year was 1881 when the first of the Eisensteiners arrived in Price County, Wisconsin from Europe. The Esterl, Schmidt, Hilgart, Wudi, Kundinger, Stauber, Bradle, Gschwendtner and Dums families were able to find federal government land they could claim under the terms of the Homestead Act. With the help of the settlers, Jake Schmidt built the first school on his land in 1892, a one-room school, and hired a teacher who spoke German and who boarded with the Jake Schmidt family.

Joseph "Joe" Boyer, whose parents were Johann and Theresia (Denk) Boyer from Seewiesen, was always considered the unofficial historian of the Town of Eisenstein. In the old country, the Boyer surname was spelled originally as "Pojar" or "Bojar." But, as often the case, immigration and county clerks would spell out the names on paper as it sounded to them resulting in a variation of name spellings, often far different from that of the original spelling. Joe was a storyteller. He would sit at the bar in one of the local watering holes and talk for hours on end of the events and circumstances surrounding the Town of Eisenstein and stories and legends of the original Eisensteiner immigrants. Joe could also nurse a beer for hours on end. But he could finish it up in a hurry if an offer was made to buy him one. If only we would have had hand-held tape recorders in those days. Joe writes in a letter to the Park Falls Herald detailing the story on how the Town of Eisenstein came to be named. Here is how it went.

*In 1888, a large section was split away from the Town of Fifield and named the Town of Lake. The German-Bohemian immigrant families who settled land east of the north fork of the Flambeau River thus became residents of the Town of Lake. Because most of their political representatives lived in the western part of the Town of Lake (west of the river), the immigrant families who had homesteaded land in the eastern part (east of the river) felt they were being placed at a disadvantage. They applied for a new town under the tutelage of James Esterl (son of Ignatz) and Anton Schmidt (son of Jakob, Sr) who were both members of the German-Bohemian immigrant families. The new town was to be carved out of the eastern section of the Town of Lake east of the river.*

*The application for a new town was approved in 1902. But what was to be the name of the new Town? The state determined that the residents of the new town should decide. On a Sunday morning after approval, the families of the new town gathered at the log home of the Johann Wudi homestead for the purpose of deciding upon a name for their new town.*

*Anton Schmidt was better known as "Bier Tony" as he was the distributor for Hamm's beer and he delivered beer to all the taverns within the local area. Hamms beer was \$3.00 for a half-barrel and \$2.00 for a case of thirty-six 12 -ounce bottles or twenty-four quart bottles. He also provided ice, which was cut from the Flambeau River and stored in sawdust icehouse by Oliver Besaw. There were no taverns out in the homestead lands before the days of the automobile and, with horses and wagon, Jake Lobermeier delivered Menasha beer to the folks living way out. Jake also had a special name and he was known as the "Bier Yogel".*

*All the German-Bohemian homesteaders arrived at the home of Johann Wudi to name their new town. The first order of business was to tap a half-barrel of beer and draw it in gallon pails to pass around. They did not fool around with small glasses. Then, a motion was made to call the new town "Town of Schmidt". A vote was taken and the motion failed. Then they stopped for a break, discussion and had a good drink out of the pails. Then the "Town of Herbst" was voted on and it also lost. They drew some more beer to fill the pails to partake of a good helping. Someone remarked, in their native German of course, "If we don't find a name pretty soon we'll run out of beer." But Bier Tony provided for that. He said, "I have another half a barrel out on the wagon with a chunk of ice on it, just in case,,,"*

*Then Joseph Hilgart, The Shtewal Sepp, sitting in a high-back rocking chair, with a gallon pail of beer in his hands, got up and said (in German, of course), "We all come from Eisenstein, let's call it Eisenstein." Everybody cheered. It was voted on and won. Eisenstein was re-born in their new homeland. This Joseph Hilgart was always known as the "Shtewal Sepp" - Sepp for Joe in German. He brought that name over from the Böhmisches Eisenstein when he immigrated in 1882.*

Below are the immigrant German-Bohemian families who had their roots in the Böhmisches Eisenstein and settled land in the Town of Eisenstein in Price County of Wisconsin during the period from 1881 to 1885. The ones who arrived later than 1881 were those who came at the urging of those who were already here. Among them were six Hilgart families, three being brothers, Ignatz, Benedict and Johann and one being their nephew, Joseph. In later articles we will describe the genealogical links between all of these families.

Ignatz Hilgart  
Josef Hilgart  
Josef Wudi  
Josef Bradle  
Michael Bertl  
Georg Schmidt

Benedict Hilgart  
Joseph Hilgart  
Johann Wudi  
Johann Boyer  
Ignatz Esterl  
Ludwig Dums

Johann Hilgart  
Michael Hilgart  
Anton Kundinger  
Michael Gschwendtner  
Jakob Schmidt

And so we have talked about how the German-Bohemian Eisensteiners came to be, where they originally came from and where they settled in the old country and the original immigrant families and where and when they settled here in America. Most of the original homestead farms remain in the hands of their descendants; a few have been sold and broken up into two or three smaller tracts. But for the most part, the Eisenstein farmsteads yet remain today with Eisensteiners.

In the next part, Part II of the Böhmisches Eisensteiners, the story of the Hilgart Family will be told.

## Advice for Researchers, from the Roots Web Emailing List

**Subject:** Random acts of kindness website

**From:** Karen (2/26/07):

There is a very good website for volunteers who do lookups around the US.

See: <http://www.raogk.org/faq-requesters.htm>

**From:** Aida (12/16/06):

Paste this somewhere to listen to, when you have time.... here are a few songs from your ancestors' homeland, mainly from the time when your ancestors left Bohemia. They are still in use today. Next I will look for old Christmas songs. Aida

Song of the Riesengebirge and Ruebezah!,

<http://www.liedertafel.business.t-online.de/Riesengebirgslied.htm> click on mp3Pro

Hoch und Deutschmeister - Parade-Marsch (Austria Hungary)

<http://www.liedertafel.business.t-online.de/HuDRM.htm> click on mp3Pro

Student Song

[http://www.liedertafel.business.t-online.de/O\\_alte\\_Burschenherrlichkeit.htm](http://www.liedertafel.business.t-online.de/O_alte_Burschenherrlichkeit.htm) click on mp3Pro

Church Hymn at Communion (Choir)

[http://www.liedertafel.business.t-online.de/Grosser\\_Gott.htm](http://www.liedertafel.business.t-online.de/Grosser_Gott.htm) click on mp3Pro

This song is a "send off" and was most likely sung at the departure of our ancestors going to America.

Time frame is 1809 - 1830 and is a very old song - still used at departures - Choir

[http://www.liedertafel.business.t-online.de/Wohlauf\\_noch\\_getrunken.htm](http://www.liedertafel.business.t-online.de/Wohlauf_noch_getrunken.htm)

School song ... "ich weiss nicht was soll es bedeuten" Choir

[http://www.liedertafel.business.t-online.de/Ich\\_weiss\\_nicht.htm](http://www.liedertafel.business.t-online.de/Ich_weiss_nicht.htm) click on mp3Pro

A parody on Fredericus Rex and the Prussians, Text is about the Silesian conflict and rather funny! Actually it's a mockery by the Austrian Hungarians against the Prussians

[http://www.liedertafel.business.t-online.de/Fridericus\\_Rex.htm](http://www.liedertafel.business.t-online.de/Fridericus_Rex.htm) click mp3Pro

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By Margit Payne 7" x 8 1/2" 208 pg, soft cover. The story about the expulsion from her Sudetenland home and her subsequent travels. .... **Price \$20.00 P.P.**

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[Note: For overseas orders, please inquire first, before sending payment. Thank you]

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German-Bohemian Heritage Society Membership Application Form  
Family membership costs \$15 per year  
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Please mail to: GBHS, P.O. Box 822, New Ulm, MN. 56073

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