

the Heimatbrie

A Newsletter Magazine of the German-Bohemian Heritage Society

Celebrating the GBHS' 17th Year

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Johann Philipp (1849-1911), the brother who remained in Hüttenhof in South Bohemia, and family. Both he and his wife Priska (Stut) were born and lived in Hüttenhof. The grandfather of Emil Hable, Leopold Philipp, stands behind Johann in the photo

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Coming Events

September 21, 2002
GBHS Board of Directors Meeting
GBHS Research Center

December 31, 2002
GBHS Membership Dues Are Due

The Thirty Years' War

The following is based on an article by I. Plaschka which was published in German in the book Westböhmsche Heimat edited by A. Felbinger (1928). Translated by Karen Hobbs.

Luther's doctrine had taken a firm foothold in western Bohemia. There were many forced to convert while others freely chose to do so. The majority of those who embraced the new faith were called upon to do so by count Schlick from Plan. They were young miners (Bergknappen) from the Erzgebirge mountains and the vicinity of Plan. Only those who lived on monastic estates (Tepl, Chotieschau, Kaldräu) and the always-loyal city of Pilzen remained faithful Catholics.

Nationalism was a significant part of the religious discord that followed. After the Landtag shut down in the year 1615 the efforts to eliminate German as the official language of Bohemia intensified. On May 23, 1618, the Bohemian protestant lords overthrew the emperor's catholic governor, Matthias, and pushed him from a window of the Prague castle. They then installed their own government of Bohemian nobility who immediately procured the services of count Ernst von Mansfeld, an audacious military leader. Mansfeld had formerly fought for the cause of the emperor and empire but had lately renounced the catholic faith. He remained an adversary of Catholics until the day he died.

" Wherever he trod, flames flared up and the swords of

his cohorts dripped with the blood of the defenseless, and the cries of agony rose to the heavens until brought to an end by merciful death. Slowly but surely, the mercenary units he led crept ever onward like the pale sisters of hunger and pestilence to devour whatever remained."

The Provost of Chotieschau fled to Pilzen before this protestant military might, along with all the residents of his monastery. Pilzen also had 90 cavalymen from Tepl and 68 riders from Chotieschau as reinforcements. Two of the city gates were blocked while the other was occupied by a strong detachment of guards. Powder was ordered from Nurnberg but when the transport wagons reached Mies the shipment was confiscated by the enemy. On September 19, 1618, Mansfeld and his forces appeared in front of Pilzen. They bivouacked between Skurnian and Bory.

On October 2, 1618, cannon began to thunder but they did not cause much damage and Mansfeld decided to interrupt his efforts. He left soldiers from Rokycan, a city that had always envied Pilzen and was a confirmed enemy of that city, to continue the siege. The soldiers and Burgers of Pilzen sustained losses but nevertheless they dedicated their priests and their children to God's protection while the women mixed powder and the men poured lead balls for ammunition. The Pilsners resisted constant calls to come out and join the insurgents and remained faithful to the catholic church and the emperor.

Deprivation and suffering increased inside Pilzen's walls. The enemy had destroyed the city's source of water so that the besieged population had to resort to collecting rainwater. Mansfeld now had brought in heavy cannon which fired on the city constantly. On November 21, 1618, Mansfeld's mercenaries were able to enter the city through breaks in the walls. Street fighting went on for hours but Mansfeld's forces were finally victorious. Mansfeld demanded that Pilzen pay 120,000 Gulden in war reparations and also provide food for his cohorts. Pilzen complied but Mansfeld soon demanded an additional "fire tax" (ransom paid so the city would not be burned) of 47,000 florins. When the protestant forces encountered imperial soldiers at Netolitz and barely escaped with their lives, Mansfeld was in Prague and ordered Pilzen to pay another 19,000 Gulden in "war reparations."

Eventually the imperial army with its Bavarian allies occupied Pilzen and fanned out over the countryside toward Tuschkau and Littitz. The man chosen by the Bohemian nobility to be king of Bohemia, Froedrich von der Pfalz, stood with his army at Rokycan. He hoped to attack and destroy each catholic army separately before they had an opportunity to join up but his troops lost their way in the forest between Rokycan and Pilzen and they had to retreat to Prague without being able to execute his plan. The catholic armies pursued Froedrich's force and destroyed the protestant army in the battle of White

Mountain on November 8, 1620. The protestant cause was lost at White Mountain but Mansfeld still gathered the surviving protestant Bohemians, English and Palatine soldiers and cut a path of devastation through western Bohemia and the Bavarian borderlands as he fled to Holland. Once in Holland he disbanded his army.

Four of his seven Pilzen militia attached themselves to the Bavarian General Tilly whose hordes behaved even worse than the Protestants in our Heimat.

After the battle of White Mountain Bohemia became a hereditary kingdom belonging to the house of Habsburg. Protestantism was cruelly suppressed and the German language was again given equality with Czech. Many protestant workers, burghers and nobles who would not renounce their beliefs had to emigrate including the Bergknappen (miners) of the west Bohemian Heimat. So many left that only one of the 52 mines in the vicinity of Plan could remain in production.

Some of the rebellious nobles along with their military leaders, 27 in all, lost all their possessions and were ultimately executed in Prague. New nobility who were the emperor's trusted proteges took over their lands. They were mostly Spanish, Italian and Walloons. The new owner of Tachau and its vicinity was named Hussmann while the Kaiser gave Mies to his General Ilow.

The war between the Kaiser and the Protestants was far from over. In 1625 the people of west Bohemia heard the beat of Wallenstein's recruiting drums more than once.

Mansfeld returned to Germany during the next year with 12,000 soldiers from England. He was defeated at Dessau leaving the Danish King and his Swedish allies as the only remaining enemies of the Kaiser.

During 1630, advisors to the Kaiser who were jealous of Wallenstein's success began to subvert the Kaiser's trust in his top general. Wallenstein's enemies urged the Kaiser to name Duke Maximilian of Bavaria as the supreme commander of the imperial forces. Embittered by such ingratitude, Wallenstein gave up military service and withdrew to his huge estate in Bohemia. Within a year the Swedish king Gustavus Adolphus had laid siege to Nurnberg and the emperor had to implore Wallenstein to come once again to his aid. In November, 1632, at the battle of Lutzen, Wallenstein's forces were victorious and the Swedish king met his death.

In December, 1633, Wallenstein once again took winter quarters in Pilzen while his army lay spread out in the nearby villages and towns of west Bohemia. In the meantime Wallenstein's enemies at court were again telling the emperor that an ambitious Wallenstein was consorting with the Swedes and Saxons in order to advance his own power in Bohemia. As a result the emperor

relieved Wallenstein of his command and advised his army not to obey his orders. There were only three junior officers who remained faithful to Wallenstein.

The former supreme commander along with these three faithful officers and 1000 soldiers slipped out of Pilzen on February 21, 1634, and marched toward Eger. At Mies, Colonel Buttler and his dragoons who had been at nearby Kladrau joined up with Wallenstein. They spent the night in Mies and continued their journey on the next day. Some units of soldiers deserted when they neared Kuttentplan.

On February 24 they reached Eger where Wallenstein believed he would be safe because there were Swedish forces nearby. But on February 25 he and his officers were murdered by imperial loyalists. Their bodies were placed on two wagons and taken to Mies where they were entombed in the church of the Minority monastery. Captain Neumann was buried on the Galgenberg near Mies "because of his outspoken words against the ruling house."

Wallenstein's body remained in Mies for two years and four months after which it was moved to for final burial in the Karthaus monastery near Jicin (Wallenstein's hereditary estate is in that area but as late as 1866 there was still some mystery surrounding Wallenstein's final resting place).

The dreadful war went on. Imperial and Swedish soldiers constantly fought throughout western Bohemia and the fearful inhabitants fled to the cities or hid deep within the thick forests. Destroyed buildings were hardly half rebuilt when they again fell victim to the soldier's torches.

In 1640 the Swedish Fieldmarschal Baner took over Pilzen and shortly the imperial army appeared to force the Swedes out of the country once again. The imperial regiments treated the local population badly and the people also suffered when the Swedes swept through Bohemia again and again during the next several years. In 1647 the Swedes emerged once more in Eger.

The army of Kaiser Ferdinand III had tried to help Eger but was forced to retreat to Pilzen. The Swedish commander, Wrangel, pursued the imperial army and had a courageous cadet and 20 men occupy Triebel Castle near Tschernoschin while his army stood on the other side of the Amselbache (a stream) between Hohenzdlich and Ottenreuth. The imperial soldiers were bivouacked at Tuschkau and held a line from Tschernoschin to Wolfersdorf. After a hard-fought battle the imperial forces stormed Triebel Castle. Both armies dug themselves in while cannons thundered.

While the Swedes were occupied with a meal, imperial soldiers stole their way in the castle when the wife of the

Our Readers Write

written by Harvey Stadick

This story was told down through our family over the years. My grandmother Hoffmann, Mrs. Conrad Hoffmann, (Margaret Dauer) came over in 1892. At the time she was only 12 years old. She was a typical chain immigrant. Her uncle came over first and later she came with her family. They being poor had all they could do to come up with enough money to buy tickets for all of them, 2 parents and 5 children. The problem was that her mother was expecting.

In those days, with sailing ships depending on the wind for punctuality, was not very precise. The departure date got to be a little later than what was anticipated. This is the reason they actually had 6 kids upon leaving but only the money for 5 kids. What they did was mix some wine with the babies milk and make sure it was tired when they went aboard the ship. Now most steamer trunks had a little screen near the bottom to get some air circulation in the clothing to protect the clothing from mildew, moths and what have you. Anyway they put their little son near the bottom close to the screen in an inebriated sleeping way, went aboard the ship and were not discovered until they were several days at sea. Obviously it was too late to turn back and you can't throw him overboard and you can't get more money out of destitute people. This was the story that has been passed down through the years in our family.

This chain of events happened to me on Christmas Day of 2000. In the fall of 2000 we had our usual guest from Germany because he likes to hunt squirrels and deer. During that fall was also the election with the Florida debacle. He enjoyed making sport of it and would point out jokes in the Germany newspapers. They would tell of the Russians wanting to come to the USA to study how to cheat in an election. This was all in good sport. He went home and wrote an article in two newspapers in Germany actually defending the debacle. This was in late November. He received several phone calls from people saying they agreed with him and he said he received favorable comments from his neighbors.

On Christmas Day after mass he was stopped by his parish priest. The priest also commented on it and told him that a young 18 year old German man was invited by a black American soldier in 1945 for a fancy Christmas dinner with all the trimmings at his mess hall. This young 18 year old man was now 73 and was his pastor talking to him. After mass Wilhelm went home to have dinner with his family and after that he called me to wish me a Merry Christmas. Now you must remember that there is a 7 hour time difference. So when he called it was

Richter (judge) of Triebel showed them a narrow path through the woods and across the stream and up and over the rear wall. They then attacked the Swedes from two sides and those who managed to escape the bloody encounter fled towards Neumarkt.

That same year Sweden pressed on to Staab where they hoped to capture and carry off the imperial general Traudisch.

The war ended in 1648. Our Heimat was a dreadful state of ruin and decay. Most of the log farmhouses with thatched roofs had burned down to the floor of the main living room. The stables and stalls were empty. There were no tools nor seed available to begin working the desolate fields. The men who were heads of households had been tortured, crippled and killed by renegade soldiers. In order to avoid such depredations some men had simply replaced their brown farmer's clothing with the colorful warrior's coats and had gone off carousing as merry musketeers or cavalymen.

In spite of everything the greatest majority of residents had remained faithful to the Heimat. Their love for the soil of their homeland brought them to rebuild the burned out farmsteads once again, to fill them with life and to struggle to clear and replant their abandoned fields. They did not always succeed. "Has left his Hof with wife and child" is often found in the land registers of this period.

The same books record that other willing hands were soon found to work an abandoned farm. Many families came from the neighboring areas of Germany attracted by resettlement incentives from monasteries and noble manors. Slow and tedious and continuous hard work eventually brought new buildings and signs of progress everywhere.

The Swedish Cross was long since overgrown by grass but the Bohemian mothers still threatened their little boys with an evening song:

Bet, Kinna(r)l, bet!

Bet, sunst kummt da Schwed!

Kummt da wülda Orenstierna,

Wia(r)d an Kinn(r)n's Bet'n lerna!

Translation by Paul Kretsch:

Pray, child, pray!

Pray, otherwise the Swede will come!

When the wild monster comes,

He will be teaching the childrens prayers!

about 6:30AM our time. After this I ate breakfast and went to Christmas mass here in Searles, MN. Fr. George gave his homily and in it related about a child that asked, "What language does God speak". In the end the answer was that God speaks the international language of love. For me that was so poignant because it was less than hours before that I heard the story of the 18 year old German man and Christmas dinner.

Harvey Stadick

In Memory of

Janette Goblirsch
from Mariann A. Trembl

Carolyn Marti
from Don & Myrtle Brand

Raymond Hoffmann
from Frank H. Hoffmann

Edward Schmitz
from Neoma Schmid

Lloyd Dallmann
from Randy & Monica Wenninger

Curtis Brand
from Randy & Monica Wenninger

David Suess
from Mr. & Mrs. Roland Dauer,
Joleen Keckstein, Pat & Nicole Eckstein,
Louis & LuAnn Lindmeyer, Mr. & Mrs. Dale Krueger,
Don & Myrtle Brand, Angie Portner

History For Sale

German-Bohemians - The Quiet

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A "must have" book for researchers. Over ten years in the making. Fully researched. Nine chapters describing our German-Bohemian ancestors life in the homeland, the journey to America and life in their new-found homes. Customs, traditions, music, heritage and more. Over 150 photographs. Hard cover, 279 pages **\$25.90**

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by LaVern J. Rippley. **\$6.00**

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A souvenir booklet of the monument dedication by the GBHS with early history of the organization. . . **\$5.00**

Music

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All prices (U.S. Funds Only Please) include sales tax and postage . If you wish to order any of these items, send a check payable to GBHS and mail it with your request to: GBHS, P.O. Box 822, New Ulm, MN, 56073-0822

Queries

I am searching for information regarding the Schiel family from (Orlici - Adlersdorf) Sudetenland, Czech Republic prior to 1945. My maternal grandparents lived there prior to 1945. Gr. grandfather **Johann Schiel** married **Viktoria Czernohorsky**. They had a son **Hubert Schiel** who married **Augustina Katzer**. They had a daughter **Franceska Schiel** born April 20, 1875 and married **Jan Baderiu**. They had a son **Franz Karl Schiel** born October 10, 1894 who was born out of wedlock in Vienna. He was my father. **Hubert Schiel** had a second marriage to **Josepha Gritzbauch**. **Hubert Schiel** had brothers also living in **Orlici**. I would like to contact with anyone having the **Schiel** name. I do not have dates on these people.

Elsa Schiel Hill
937 Old Mail Lane
Sanford, FL, 32773-8154

A Message From Our King

In the LITTLE HISTORY OF BOHEMIA that I had printed on the handout for use at the coronation, there exists a typo, an incorrect date, that I would truly like to correct. I inadvertently transposed the date, 1682, to 1862. The paragraph points out one of the important events of history in which the King of Bohemia, who also was the Holy Roman Emperor, changed the history of Europe and the world. The correct date is 1682, and the corrected paragraph is as follows:

"In 1682, Moslem armies of Mohammed IV suddenly overran Hungary, and in the following year, 1683, these same Moslem Turk invaded Austria and laid siege to Vienna. Leopold, the Austrian Hapsburg King, with the title Holy Roman Emperor, succeeded in receiving the aid of the Polish warrior king, Jan Sobieski, and together, they valiantly repulsed the Turks. Had the Turks captured Vienna, the history of Europe might be Islamic instead of Christian."

Denis Warta
GBHS Bohemian King

LOOKING FOR OUR LOST RELATIVES

*by Emil Hable (born in Mayerbach/Böhmerwald)
translated by Markus Hable
submitted by Linda Therkelsen*

Part One

In November 2001 I read an article in "Hoam!", the monthly Böhmerwald magazine, by Ingrid Egginger. The article's title was "Emigrated - A Letter from Minneapolis".

This letter had been written by Linda Therkelsen who, in the course of her genealogy research, had found out that she shared a common ancestor with Mrs. Egginger's husband Walter Josef Egginger, whose daughter Maria Anna married Martin Philipp from Hüttenhof in Böhmerwald. Now I've been doing some genealogy research myself over the last few years, and when I read the name Philipp from Hüttenhof, it caught my attention immediately. My late mother's name was Philipp, and her father had been born in Hüttenhof.

Josef Philipp

My mother had told me once that her grandfather's brothers and sister had emigrated to America and that nobody knew what had become of them or their descendants. Suddenly I saw the chance to find out more

about my lost relatives, and when I told Mrs. Egginger how thrilled I was to read her story, she gave my address to Linda Therkelsen. Soon, another letter from Minneapolis arrived and this time it was for me.

Mrs. Therkelsen, a genius when it comes to genealogy research, was extremely kind and helpful. Her methods of finding data about people long gone proved to be more successful than I ever thought possible. She used the Trebon Archives in the Czech Republic as well as church registers, passenger lists, obituaries and gravestones in order to help me find out more about the Philipp family.

Unfortunately, I don't speak English, so I came to rely on my son Markus who is also more familiar with the Internet than I am. He translated the e-mails that went to and fro and suddenly realized that he had found a new hobby. He became fascinated by genealogy research, too.

Linda Therkelsen and I decided on two aims that we wanted to reach:

Our first aim was to find out what had become of my emigrated relatives and if there were any descendants alive today. Two of my mother's cousins who live in Austria were able to give us the names of those who emigrated: Josef, Ludwig and Kreszenzia Philipp.

Thanks to Mrs. Therkelsen's persistence and sophistication, we were able to reach our first aim. We contacted Rita Waters and William Sullivan from Minnesota with whom I share a common great-great-grandfather. Both Rita and William were quite surprised that somebody in Germany considered them "lost". We have only just begun to get to know each other and exchange e-mails and photos. It's wonderful to know that our lost relatives in the USA are as interested in bridging the gap between the present and the past as Markus and I.

As for Mrs. Therkelsen and me, we must not forget our second aim: If we could find data that her ancestor Josef Philipp (born in 1776) and my ancestor Franz Philipp were related (maybe they were brothers), we would prove that the two of us are related as well and that would make our new friendship all the more special. For me, it would really be the icing on the cake.

So far we have concentrated on my mother's family (Philipp). Old letters and documents suggest, however, that members of my father's family (Hable) emigrated to America as well and kept in touch with their relatives in Germany until after World War II when they sent parcels and letters. The only name I could find out, though, is Hatty or Hattie Hable from Minnesota.

Maybe some of you who read these lines have information that could lead us to other "lost relatives". Any help will be appreciated.

Emil Hable
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D-89537 Giengen
Germany
Markus.Hable@t-online.de

Part Two

.. but I didn't know we were lost!

Photo: The brother Josef Philipp (1845-1917) immigrated with his new bride Maria (Springer), both from Hüttenhof, Bohemia, to St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1881. Their children in the photo, from left to right are Anne, Joseph, and Mary. Anne was the grandmother of Bill Sullivan and Rita Waters. Photo from Bill Sullivan.

By Bill Sullivan (billcathie@attbi.com)
with contributions by Rita Waters

I had just arrived home after a rather hectic day when my wife told me that my cousin Rita Waters was on the phone. As our conversation began Rita told me she had

received a call from Linda Therkelsen, a person neither of us knew, saying that we “may” be related. Rita related some of the basic information that Linda had mentioned but said that Linda had a more detailed account and would like to meet and go over it with her. Rita, knowing that I had “dabbled” in our family tree a little, asked me if I would like to go along with her. The meeting was for the coming Sunday afternoon. Being caught off guard and not yet knowing if I could make the meeting I declined but asked Rita to let me know what happened.

Rita e-mailed me the preliminary information she had so I knew it related to the Phillip side of my family. This really got my curiosity as I knew very little about this branch of my family. The situation worked on me as I completed the spring chores I had planned for the weekend and the more that I thought about it the more I wished I had told Rita I would go along. I told my wife, Cathie, I was going to follow up on this as it had for some reason sparked a special pull on me. That evening I called Rita and asked if the offer to accompany her to meet Linda was still good and she said it sure was and the arrangements were made.

As mentioned earlier, I had “dabbled” in my family tree. This might give the wrong impression as it might imply more intensity than it deserves. I had collected a lot of notes some of which had been organized but most not. I would get interested on occasion (usually a funeral), put some things together and then put it aside until the next funeral. The result was a large brown envelope loaded with scraps of unsorted information. The hand drawn tree was on the back of two large auction advertisements. I mention this only to establish that I had only the rudiments and they certainly pale when I saw the work and information that Linda had for us when we arrived.

We were warmly welcomed as we arrived at Linda’s home and after brief introductions Linda presented the information she had regarding our common ancestry. At this point she could not say for sure if we were related directly but she had a connection we might be interested in about our living relatives in Germany who had been seeking their “lost” relatives in America. This phrase caught me in my self-centered approach to genealogy as I had always wondered how others fit in “my” family tree forgetting that I was a part of “their” family tree as well. I never thought of myself as “lost”. They were the lost ones.

As Linda’s story unfolded, she had written a letter to a relative who incorporated her genealogy information in an article for a German publication for German-Bohemians from the Böhmerwald. As part of the article the name Phillip showed up. A reader, Emil Hable, who was working on his family tree, wondered if this Phillip reference from America could be connected to his relatives who had emigrated to America after which their

whereabouts had been lost. Through the publisher, Emil was put in contact with Linda and she then set to work researching the Phillip connection. Her research led to the call Rita received. Here is a good place to compare my “dabble” to Linda’s “research”.

Linda had all sorts of documentation she had gathered in her research, census records, death certificates, newspaper articles, birth certificates etc. All of which put meat on the nebulous names on my scraps of paper. Most important of all was the connection they all made between my great grandfather Josef Filip (Phillip) and the brother Johann Phillip left behind in Germany. In this connection Emil Hable, Rita, all our families and myself have been reconnected. After 120+ years we are no longer lost! We have been found.

Photo: Ludwig Philipp (1851-1931), another brother, immigrated to St. Paul in 1882. He did not marry. A sister, Anna Philipp (1852-1941), had already immigrated in 1881, and married Ignatz Brandl. The Brandls lived in St. Paul and St. Bonifacius, Minnesota, but had no children surviving. Another sister, Kreszenzia (Philipp) immigrated with her husband Josef Auer to St. Paul in 1887, and later to Tacoma, Washington. Photo from Bill Sullivan.

The family members who came to America in the 1880's were Ludwig, Anna, Kreszenzia, and Josef (my great-grandpa) Phillip. Probably due to a phonetic error, Josef's last name became Filip. Ludwig remained single, lived in St. Paul and St. Bonifacius, Minnesota. Anna married Ignatius Brandl and lived in St. Bonifacius as well and had no living children. Kreszenzia married Joseph Auer and moved to Tacoma, Washington. Their descendants are still being researched, but we know they had four children, Wenzel, Joseph, Frank, and Mary, and a number of grandchildren.

Josef arrived with his wife Mary in 1881 and they built the house I grew up in at 463 Fuller in St. Paul. They had three children: Anna (my grandma), Joseph and Mary (Mamie). Joseph Phillip never married and lived his entire life at the above address. Mary married Bill McIlrath and moved to Racine, Wisconsin, and had one child, Bill. Anna married Matt Unger and had three kids: Martin (single at young death), Rosemary and Genevieve.

Rosemary married Henry Breimhurst and had five kids: Rita, Larry, Louis, Rosemarie, and MaryAnn. Genevieve married Clarence Sullivan and had six kids: Ken, Jerry, Joan, Ron, Bill and Mike and that is where I fit in. There are many grandchildren of Rosemary and Genevieve as well.

Since the Sunday meeting we have used the Internet to get reacquainted via e-mail and sharing of pictures. Emil's son Markus has been the main contact because of his shared interest and bilingual ability as translator.

The purpose of this article is to share the experience and possibly give others encouragement in the pursuit. One never knows what turns things will take. A chance reference pursued can lead to unforeseen ends. Our thanks to Linda for all the effort she made and her willingness to share her findings with us. Because of her work and research ability, a family "lost" has been reconnected and the genealogical information extended much farther back in time than we would have thought possible.

End note from Linda Therkelsen (lindather@prodigy.net): All of our Philipp ancestors are currently traced back to the 1700s, and we await further records from the Archive in Trebon in the Czech Republic to "join" our families with a common ancestor. Since the Hable, Sullivan, and Waters ancestor was from Hüttenhof #12, and mine from #11 in this tiny village in Kreis Krummau in South Bohemia, it seems likely they will be joined. Like these immigrant Philipps, many related people "chain" immigrated from certain groups of villages in South Bohemia, especially in Kreis Krummau and nearby Prachatitz, to St. Paul, Minnesota, in the 1870s and 1880s. People from these villages also immigrated to Oshkosh and Manitowoc, Wisconsin, as well as other Upper Midwest areas. An ocean, time, wars, and expulsion

separate us from our relatives in Europe, yet we can sometimes reconnect.

Our ancestral villages of Hüttenhof and Mayerbach were both destroyed.

Home in the Böhmerwald The Former German District Center, Market Eisenstein

Translated by Karen Hobbs

The former district center called Eisenstein lies only 1 or 2 kilometers from the Bavarian Border. It occupies one of the most beautiful corners of the northern Bohemian Forest. Its development from the time the the first Germans settled there up to 1945-46 is not at all similar to the development of other towns of the same size located in the Bohemian Forest. The city's extremely favorable situation at an ancient border-crossing and the particular beauty of it's surroundings are cited as explanation for much of the history of its evolution.

The site of market town Eisenstein was already known as a pass through the mountains along the merchant's road from Zwiesel into Bohemia during the 13th century. The place was not actually settled until after iron ore was found nearby in the 16th century -- giving Eisenstein its name.

Mining for iron and development of glassworks had a big influence on the early settlement. Eventually the glassworks grew into the primary business of Eisenstein, employing a large number of the inhabitants. The town enjoyed constant growth until about 1860 when it had 81 houses and 1590 residents. In 1877 the railroad line from Pilzen extended to Klattau and the Bavarian frontier, leading to further development in Eisenstein and its vicinity. By 1939 there were 200 house numbers and approximately 3300 residents. The surrounding farmland totaled 2670 hectares and the villages of Elisenthal, "Amerika", Pampferhütte, Hüttenberg, Derrernick and Ferdinandsthal belonged to the market town. Schloss Deffernik was the seat of the princes Honenzollern's administration of the forests in the entire Eisenstein region. For a small town Eisenstein was very significant in the field of education. It held a 3-class Burgher School, a boys' elementary school, a girls' elementary school, a 2-class advanced vocational (industrial training) school, a 2-class Czech Burgher school, and a Czech elementary school until 1938 when the Bohemian Forest became a part of the German Reich's "Ostmark". At that time Eisenstein became the administrative center for the new rural district of Market Eisenstein. That district organization was dissolved in 1945 when the Bohemian

Forest once again became a part of Czechoslovakia.

Eisenstein's parish church of Maria Hilfe, with its two onion domed towers, has been a noted landmark of the town ever since the beginning of the 18th century. The plan of the church forms a six-pointed star and that is as noteworthy as the beautiful shingle-covered onion domes. A (painting of) the holy tomb is particularly famous for its optical effect, giving the impression of a site extending into infinity.

Market Eisenstein changed drastically after the Germans were expelled in 1946. Czechs took over most of the abandoned houses in the town but many of them in the town and its vicinity suffered from neglect and even destruction. The new name, Zelezná Ruda, sounds somewhat strange to visitors although the Eisenstein area has become an important center of tourism. The splendors of nature and the expansive forests are very inviting to foreigners. They find a relaxing quiet as they hike in the forests in the ideal conditions that exist there. The Spitzberg, Panzerberg and Brückelberg -- all of them 1200 meters in altitude -- offer the clear, refreshing mountain air and glistening-clean brooks that help to revitalize the spirit. Many come to gather the prolific blueberries and mushrooms in the season and winter sports also find many patrons in and around Market Eisenstein. Hotels like the Belvedere at the base of the Hüttenberg and the Hotel Gradl -- formerly very well-known -- are once again establishing a reputation for hospitality. Special attractions in the area of Market Eisenstein is the Spitzberg tunnel, the Schwarze See (Black lake) and the Teufels-See (Devil's lake).

Market Eisenstein enjoys many benefits derived from the open borders with Germany since 1989 as do the former German inhabitants who can once again visit their Heimat. They come in great numbers. The old border railway station that was closed during the war once again shuttles visitors from all over. Many of them are people who have returned in order to recall the wonderful years of their childhood.

Josef Bohmann

Die ehemals deutsche Kreisstadt Markt Eisenstein
Glaube und Heimat, Jahrgang 45, Heft 8, August 1993
Translated by Karen Hobbs

From Rootsweb . . .

www.rootsweb.com

Hamburg Immigration Link

Below is an Internet link to the Archive of the Hamburg Emigration Lists. This may be a valuable tool for many of you.

www.hamburg.de/fhh/behoerden/staatsarchiv/link_to_your_roots/english/index.htm

Jürgen Mittelhammer

Here are several useful sites for those of you looking for information about genealogical research in the Czech Republic.

Czech Embassy: Official Site

e-mail: washington@embassy.mzv.cz

<http://www.mzv.cz/washington/>

Information on Genealogical Research in the Czech Republic

<http://www.mzv.cz/washington/cons/archivex.htm>

Welcome To Czech Republic Genealogy!

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

Czech Info Center

<http://www.muselik.com/czech/frame.html>

Czech Republic: Bohemia and Moravia Genealogical Research

<http://www.iarelated.com/czech/index.html>

Ronald V. Mlejnek <rvmlejnek@navix.net>

Researching MLEJNEK and SAGANEK worldwide.

Previously published by RootsWeb Genealogical Data Cooperative, RootsWeb Review: RootsWeb's Genealogy News.

Means of Payment in

Means of Payment in the Bohemian Forest

Those who use old books and archives in their research find many mentions of Schock, Prague Groschen, Talents and Denare as means of payment in former centuries. It is difficult to find very much information about these old monetary concepts, even among specialists in old books. Lexicons help a little but they don't provide any concept of the relative value and buying power of these coins when they were in use. Money tended to lose its buying power because of inflation all through recorded history.

Several months genealogical research by this writer yielded quite a variety of old Bohemian means of payment, very few of which converted into the next larger unit the way 100 pfennigs equals one Deutschmark today (1993). In most cases a few small coins added up to the next larger unit of the old money. During some periods seven denares, at other times twelve denares yielded the value of the next larger coin -- a Groschen. At that same time sixty Groschen always equaled one Schock. Some of these coins remained widely used for centuries while others were quite rare.

The earlier Grossi Pragenses (Prague Groschen) had a diameter of 28 mm. It bore two lines of writing about the crown of Wenzel and all the titles that accompanied it on its face while the reverse side showed a double-tailed Bohemian lion and the words, grossi pragenses. The Prague Groschen had a very high silver content in the range of 950 / 1000. It weighed about 3.9 grams. The Groschen served as regular means of payment in Austria, Hungary, in Germany (with a special mark), in Westphalia, Lower Saxony and Swabia.

The Prager mark was fifteen Lötigs (1 lötig = half an ounce) and corresponded to the weight of 64 Groschens. The concept of Schock as a term for the value of a coin came from the same word used in agriculture. It means "60 pieces" or "units". The "Schock Groschen" was a popular means of payment through several centuries. It took 60 of the first Prager and Meianers Groschen to equal a fine mark.

The list of coinages below applies only to the times stated. Unfortunately the list can include only the best-known coins from among the large variety available in Bohemia between 1525 and 1800.

1500-1600: In the Jahre 1530, the "fl" (guilder, florin) is frequently mentioned. There is some written proof that around 1534 the "Gulden" (guilder) was connected with Groschen and Denare with one Groschen being calculated at 24 Denare. On the other hand, in 1528 the "Schock" appears to be the most widely circulated money. Citations include the "Schock Groschen Meianisch"

(Schock of Meissen Groschen) in 1547-1668, a "Schock Meissnisch" in 1550, and a simple "Schock Groschen" 1567-1617.

There is also a rare coin, the GuldenGroschens that corresponds to a Schock or a Taler. The Taler appears in 1556, while the silver "Mark" is cited between 1547-1601 and the Denare is mentioned in 1585. In 1851 Wilhelm von Rosenberg commuted a death sentence of 21 homeowners from Stuben in exchange for two days of hand Robot (or 3 Kreuzers per day) and two days of Zugrobot (or six kreuzers per day with draft animals) from each of them per week.

There are also citations using the Schock-Währung meianisch, 1600-1668, as well as the "Meissner schock". The sale of the Krummau Herrschaft to the Kaiser in 1602 required a full listing from Peter Wok, the last of the Rosenbergs, of all of the assets of that domain. This list credits Krummau Herrschaft with the following: The Schlosses Krummau and, Khurzwell and its Tiergarten (wild animal pens, zoo), three cities, 3 towns, 218 villages, 2981 resident home owners, 272 gardeners (Chaluppner, very small farmers) 13 Meierhofe (large farms owned by the nobleman) 6 mills, 8 charcoaleries, etc, etc. Interest income was 3529 schocks, 59 Groschen, 6 Denares. Income from produce was 609 Zuber grain for fodder, 1882 Zuber, 2 1/2 Sumer (Massl) wheat, 1372 Sumer barley, 350 Zuber 1 Sumer oats, 35 Zuber peas, 8 Zuber 31 1/2 Sumer poppyseeds; also 3231 hens, 74 shocks plus 22 eggs, (= 74x60+22=4462 eggs). Cash assets included 1624 Schock Groschen, and 1616 Schock Meianer Groschen.

The abbot Valentine received 200 Meissner Groschen from interest on Goldkroner to pay his annual living expenses (1616). At that time seven Denare equaled one Groschen and 60 Groschen equaled one Schock.

Use of the Reichstaler appears during the years 1600-1633, in 1611 the Gulden (guilder), kreuzers and pfennig are cited, in 1630 kreuzer and Denare, and finally in 1648-1678 the preferred coin is the florin fl (= guilder). At that time after the Thirty Years War a farm in the Bohemian Forest had a value from 100 to 300 SS (schock).

1700-1800: All during the next century (1700-1800) the florin "fls" (Guilder) and the Ducat are in use. As in the prior century the "Schock Meissenisch", Schock Groschen, Denare and pfennig are also cited. The "Pfund pfennigs" (pound of pennies; calculated as 240 pennies to one pound) appears with five Pfund representing the value of a cow.

The Kreuzer becomes a common means of payment during the second half of the century. In 1796 the "Guldens Rhineland" (Rhenish guilder or florin) is the standard Conventional Money (C.M.) versus the Florin W.W., (Wiener Wharung = Viennese currency), the Florin ".W., (Österreich Wharung = Austrian currency) or the Florin

bayr. (Bavarian currency). By 1796 the concept of the Mark reappears and in the same year paper money comes into use for the first time.

In 1742 a sow was valued at 2 florins ("fl" = guilder), a cow at 7 guilders, a pair of oxen at 22 guilders, two milk cows at 12 guilders, six sheep at four guilders, two pigs at two guilders, a cock and five chickens at 36 kreuzers, two Strich barley (approximately 140 kg) at four guilders, 15 strich oats, (about 750 kg) at 15 guilders, a strich of linseed (approximately 94 liters) at two guilders, a strich of grain at one guilder, 30 kreuzers (1789). Around 1771 a pound of beef cost 2 kreuzers, a Seidl of lard cost 7 kreuzers, and five eggs cost one kreuzer (1741).

The priest received three guilders for funeral expenses with requiem, the school-master received 15 florin 15 kreuzer, the acolytes and cross bearers received one kreuzer, the grave digger got 8 kreuzers, about 30 kreuzers went for the coffin, the Richter and official witnesses got one florin, and the court scribe received 30 kreuzers.

According to an old Stola-Ordnung (official decree) in Oberplan the "business" of a baptism cost about 30 kreuzers in 1773. Blessing the bedridden newborn's mother cost 6 kreuzers and a wedding cost 2 guilders.

A farmhand earned a yearly salary of 10-12 silver guilders along with room and board (1780). In 1780 a strich of grain cost 1 guilder, 30 kreuzers. In 1794 kreuzers and Denare are both mentioned.

Space does not permit citation of sources for the above information.

Historische Zahlungsmittel im Böhmerwald
Walter F. Bernkopf
Glaube und Heimat, Heft 8, August 1993

WHERE WERE YOUR GERMAN ANCESTORS BORN?

THE GERMAN STATES PRIOR TO 1871

By Dr. Terry L. Smart

If your immigrant ancestors were born before 1871, they may have said they were Germans, but they were not born in Germany. There was no Germany on the map of Europe prior to 1871. Until then "Germany" (*Deutschland*) was nothing more than a geographic term for a collection of about three dozen German-speaking states located in

Central Europe. These states are shown by the map on the following page.* (In the early 1800s "Germany" did not include Austria or Switzerland. Moreover, neither the Austrians nor Swiss called themselves Germans.)

The modern nation of Germany was established in January of 1871. It was the creation of Otto von Bismarck, a famous Prussian statesman who in only a decade ruthlessly united all the German-speaking states (except Switzerland and Austria) to the Kingdom of Prussia and proclaimed the new nation to be the Second German Empire (*Deutsches Reich*).

Immigration to Texas from "Germany" was underway long before Bismarck began his work of uniting the German states. The immigrants who arrived here called themselves Germans and shared the bond of a common language. But the original German-Texans never gave up their identities as natives of the many German states shown by the map.

At the time German immigration to Texas got underway, Prussia (*Preussen*) was the largest of the three dozen German states and, as census records show, the greatest number of German-Texans were natives of Prussia. It was a kingdom (*Königreich*). The other four German kingdoms were Bavaria (*Bayern*), Hanover (*Hannover*), Saxony (*Sachsen*) and Wurttemberg, each ruled, of course, by a king (*König*). A state smaller in size than a kingdom might be a grand duchy (*Grossherzogtum*) ruled by a grand duke (*Grossherzog*) or a duchy (*Herzogtum*) ruled by a duke (*Herzog*). Each of the remaining, small German states was known as a principality (*Fürstentum*) whose ruler generally was a prince (*Prinz or Fürst*). There were some exceptions to this. Palatinate (*Pfalz*) and Hesse were historically known as "electorates." This title indicated their medieval rulers once had elected the emperors of the Holy Roman Empire. And four of the principalities were "free cities." These city-states were Bremen, Frankfort (*Frankfurt am Main*), Hamburg, and Lubeck. Each was an independent political entity and governed the countryside immediately surrounding the city.

In the 1830s and 1940s, Prussia annexed some of the smallest German principalities including Lichtenberg and Hohenzollern. In the 1860s, Bismarck destroyed the independence of the Kingdom of Hanover and several duchies and principalities. Finally in 1871, what independent states remained became part of the new German Empire.

* The map on the following page was drawn based on geographic information from F.W.Putzger's *Historischer Schul-Atlas* (Lipzig 1904) and Georges Duby's *Atlas Historique* (Paris 1987).

The Tale of the Prelate's Fountain

A Tale from the 30 Years War

Translated by Karen Hobbs

During the summer of 1618, a period of riot and disorder in Bohemia, the unbridled Protestant hordes led by Mansfeld surged into the parts of western Bohemia that had remained largely Catholic. Mansfeld's soldiers spread like wildfire over the countryside and wherever they went fear and anxiety followed. Whoever could do so fled to the security of the firm walls of the cities and castles. The nuns of Chotieschau fled to Pilzen where they owned a large and beautiful convent. They believed they would be safer there since Pilzen had remained loyal Catholics and faithful to the emperor.

During their flight to Pilzen the nuns came to the village called Asseraujezd and while they were there a young nun uncovered a spring of sweet fresh water while she was gathering wild flowers. Chotieschau and its environs did not have a good source of healthful water which was one of the reasons the sisters and their Prelate had been forced to flee. When they were able to return to their monastery the Prelate had a stone structure built over the spring which resembled a bishop's hat. After that the spring provided enough water for drinking and cooking at the monastery every day.

The fountain with the dome of stone on the county highway Chotieschau-Dobrany is still there today and is known as the Pralatenbrunnen -- the prelate's fountain.

Research Center

The research library committee members have been busy recently cataloging new book and family history arrivals. The research center has over 250 books, more than 50 family histories, and scores of pamphlets and maps. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to visit our research center plan to stop in soon.

The GBHS Research Center is open the first Saturday of the month from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the second Tuesday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Other hours may be available by calling Don Brand at 507-354-5688.

Newsletter Deadline

The next issue of the "Heimatbrief" will be mailed in December. Because of the Christmas Holidays the deadline for articles and other submissions is October 18, 2002.

Anyone who has an article or query to submit is encouraged to do so. You can send them to: Louis Lindmeyer, GBHS, P.O. Box 822, New Ulm, MN, 56073. Or email to lal@newulmtel.net.

Dues Reminder

Just a reminder that your German-Bohemian Heritage Society dues are due by December 31. Pay them early before the hustle and bustle of the holidays takes over. Yearly family membership dues are \$15.00 which includes four issues of the "Heimatbrief" newsletter and a wonderful feeling that you are helping to preserve your German-Bohemian heritage. You can send your dues to: GBHS, P.O. Box 822, New Ulm, MN, 56073.

Thanks to all our members for supporting our organization and helping to preserve the culture and heritage of our German-Bohemian ancestors. You are all very much appreciated!

Join Us

**Membership Form For The German-Bohemian Heritage Society
Family Membership \$15.00 per Year in the U.S. or Foreign Countries
(Family membership includes those living in the same household)**

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