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Karlsdorf original settler families

By Anton Krämer and Dave Dreyer

The search for a „consignation,“ a list of the first settlers in Karlsdorf, was unsuccessful in the War Archive in Vienna, as well as in the archives of Pantschowa and Temeswar. Therefore, I prepared the following list with the help of the publications of Emil Maenner and Felix Millecker and supplemented it with various other sources; Dr. Dave Dreyer also helped with this. The data from Maenner's work were taken from the church books of Karlsdorf. Millecker's „Geschichte der Gemeinde Banatski Karlovac (Karlsdorf), 1803-1934“ contains an index of the first 137 settler families which he copied on 01.08.1902 in Temeswar from a

„Consignation about the following families from the Reich who are to settle in Carlsdorf “

of 05.09.1802 in Pantschowa. Unfortunately, in this „Consignation“ only the surnames and names of the male settler are given: family members, their age and origin, as they appear in the consignations of all other border communities, are missing here totally. The alphabetical index of the settlers on p. 53-54 – „Herkunftsorte der Karlovacer“ – is of little use: it contains only the surnames of the heads of the families; furthermore, the named places of origin are not exact. In the following, the family surnames from Millecker's book are indicated in italics, bold und underlined.

Emil Maenner (* 26.09.1888 + 09.04.1964), geography teacher at the Gymnasium Weinheim/Bergstraße, between 1924 and 1939 made several study tours into the German settlement areas of southern Europe, in order to research the settlement of former emigrants from Baden. He is known particularly for his publications on Guttenbrunn and Saderlach. In an undated manuscript he also describes the border settlement of Karlsdorf, whose church books he researched thoroughly. They begin in the year 1803, that is, immediately after the founding of the community. Up into the 1830s, the priests often indicated the home community of the deceased in the death registers, often without knowledge of how

the community name is actually written or with knowledge about the territorial conditions. For Maenner, who was well acquainted with the areas of origin, it was easy to correct the errors. But not all of the indicated community names could be definitively identified, some could not be determined at all, as Maenner discovered. Several place names were distorted beyond recognition, and from 1830 on they disappear almost entirely and give way to general terms like „ex Imperio“, „ex Germania“ etc., until finally after 1835 the parish books contain no more references to the old homeland.

Emil Maenner was able in the shortest amount of time to identify the origin of many Karlsdorf settlers and assign them correctly. Here they are listed according to their present municipality, the current district and state. Thanks to Prof. Werner Hacker's exact sources in the corresponding emigrant registers, further research is made much easier. Candidates from Deutsch-Banater Regiments in other border communities were referred, one to two years before the arrival of settlers scheduled for Karlsdorf; after their name follows the respective border community from which they came to Karlsdorf in 1803.

Karlsdorf was the last border community in the area of the 12th Deutsch-Banater Grenzer-Regiment, to be settled with „Reichskolonisten“. With the following settler index we close our series of contributions on this theme.

Translation of terms used: aus-from; ausgewandert-emigrated; Bauer-farmer; Ehefr(au)-wife; Ehem(ann)- husband; Ki(nder)-children; ledig-single; Lehrer-teacher; Pfarrer-Rev.; Quelle-source; Schneider-tailor; Seifensieder-soapmaker; Stiefkinder-stepchildren; S.v.-son of; Tz-(marriage)witnesses; Weber-weaver; Wwe-widow