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Ofener Bergland Immigrants

by

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Translated by Rosina T. Schmidt

Perhaps you were wondering why you have not found any articles from me in some time, but everything has its own time and sometimes a special occurrence nudged one to continue with the difficulty of family research. Let me explain.

At the invitation of Erzsébet **Elisch**, the AKuFF member and the local organizer of AKuFF conference, I was in *Solymár* in November of 2008. After more than 14 years I was again in my father's hometown. Much has changed during that time. The town is a very desirable place to live because of its great location and the closeness to *Budapest*. I was very touched by the wonderful hospitality of Erzsébet and János Elisch and the perfect organization of the conference. I also was able at last to meet Agota Feketene **Ziegler**, also a member of the AKuFF, without whose help the OFB Pilisvörösvár would have never become such a

great success.

My presentation was about the settlement of *Solymár*, not an easy subject, as I was aware that the church books of the first 100 years were missing. Erzsi had all of her family participating; both sons gave a hand specifically with all kind of gadgets and helped with the flow of the program. On the first evening in the presence of a large group of *Solymár*'s and in front of the regional TV I was able to talk about the families who established this town. There was much new for the listeners, specifically when I mentioned, that many settlers came from Franconia, and there were not many from the Black Forest, as it was assumed. One older lady asked me how long would it take me to finish the OFB *Solymár*? She would give me 10 years so it would be still during her lifetime.

The next day I met the president of the AKuFF Dr. Kormél **Pencz** and his wife Ilona **Amrein** as well as the little daughter named like myself Franziska. Here also I gave a shortened presentation, which was both times translated into Hungarian. Additional program of a tour of the church and the local museum as well as a good meal in the neighboring town of *Pilisszentiván* rounded lovely that day. Erzsi **Eisch** and Magdolana **Czervenyi-Marlok**, the teacher in *Solymár* and the translator of my presentations, contributed with their folkloric costumes (Tracht) a great overall impression.

Once again at home I started to connect more and more the loose ends between *Solymár* and Pilisvörösvár with the available data of *Nagykovácsi*. Because of the internal migration this place is much of interest; also the family of Dr. Kormél **Pencz** settled originally there. There is another connection between *Solymár* and *Nagykovácsi* as both of them belonged to the Calvinist Landowner, Count **Vattay** going back to the time of the Turks.

As so often happens with the second look one sees more and the next time so many things look different again. I found Janos **Elisch**'s family in *Nagykovácsi*'s birth registries of 1741 to 1746. At least until 1747, as

per the *Seelenlisten* they resided there and after 1769 in *Solymár*. I also discovered another name familiar to me, Andreas **Mahler**; he was listed in 1745 in the *Seelenliste* of *Solymár* with his wife Ursula and children Johanna and Katharina. I noticed him twice in *Pilliscsaba* as marriage witness as well as in *Nagykovácsi*. While searching in Werner **Hacker's** "Auswanderungen aus dem Suedoestliche Schwarzlad im 17. und 18. Jahrhunder" (HaSöS) I discovered one Andreas **Mahler** from *Untermettingen* 1741 went to Hungary. That town is today part of *Uehlingen-Birkendorf* and is located im Steintal about 500 to 700 meters above the sea.

There are almost no known places of origin in *Solymár's* church books listed, except the one of Johann **Lieber** and Katharina **Albicker** from *Löhningen* Valley part of town of *Endermettingen*. For quite some time I wondered about the reason. The main reason in my opinion is the Calvinist Landlord himself. As Count **Vattay** belonged in 1704 on the side of the Hungarian rebels, he most likely did not dare to officially advertise for settlers, as the Austrian ruling house was unbending in their religious politics. It looks like he found a practical solution for his villages. He gave land and settlement opportunity to the fleeing Serbs and Croatians who were following the Austrian army after the battle of *Belgrade* in 1690. I found a reference for *Solymár* that it had an army base even prior to the German settler's arrival. Even the move from the other villages made me think. What was behind the mentioning that *Nagykovácsi* was settled by oversupply of settlers of *Pilisvörösvár*? Surely it was because of some of the people not being contended there and the reasons must have been as different as the people themselves. To my way of thinking a Calvinist Landlord had to make sure that he is not only settling his land with Serbs and Croats, who were herders, but also with farmers, who would farm the land. The competition was huge. Many monasteries, which also had settlements in the Empire, large Hungarian nobility houses and –lets be open about it- people with Emperor's preference advertised for the settlers.

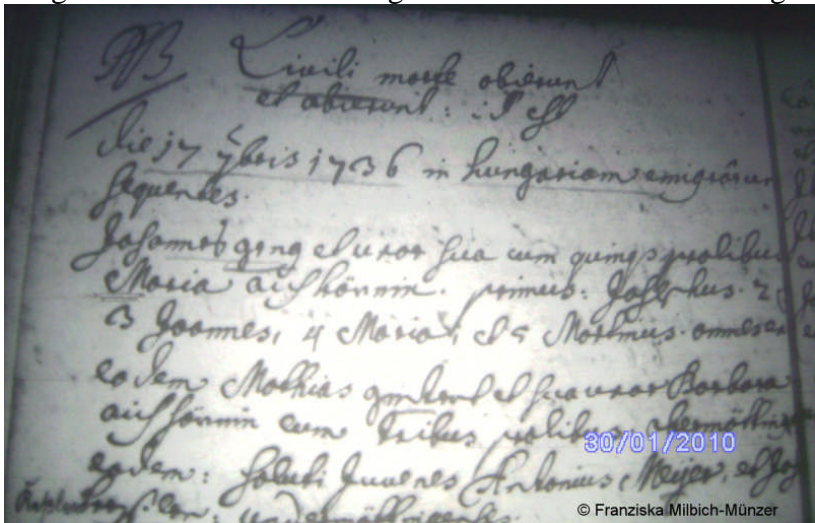
There is an archive of the family **Vattay** in the Hungarian states archives. It would be a good idea to research those documentations, but

this might be a better task for an historian. I believe that Pal **Vattay** did it wisely. If it took some murky dealings, I am not able to judge. But he had a trophy in his hand: the most desirable location for the villages in the Ofener Bergland. Perhaps it was that what impressed our Black Foresters. The gently rolling hills close to the Danube, it would not have looked so foreign to them. One reason for the emigration of people of the Black Forest we find in the sentence von Dr. Rüdiger **Krüger**'s essay "VOM LEBEN UND UEBERLEBEN IM SCHWARZWALD" ("Programheft zu 'Schwarzwaldmädel', Stadttheater Bremerhaven 20/1993-94, page 2-10): The mobility is not the way of people of Black Forest, but in dire circumstances they follow the rule: the foreign lands are for centuries the only way out from an existence, which is too rich for dying and too poor for living.

Even though the documentation was meager I now had two families of *Solymár* going back to the same church community. I was specifically intrigued, as already in 1693 the well-branched family **Hasenfratz** from *Untermettingen* settled first in Pilisvörösvár and later in *Szar*. Now I decided to check the church books in *Untermettingen* so I could compare the data. Even though both families died out in *Solymár* I wanted to discover something about the Black Foresters. I was not able to find any birth or marriage records for the **Hasenfratz** family, as the church books started in 1688 but the birth entries only as of 1689. Another loophole was the missing marriage and death records after 1701 to June of 1729. After I read through the birth and marriage records a great surprise was waiting for me in the death records book. I could hardly believe it, as the pastor registered three emigrant groups from his parish starting with 1736. Such large groups to Hungary I have not stumbled upon before.

The *Untermettingen* church registry covered the villages and hamlets: *Untermettingen*, *Obermettingen*, *Endermettingen* identical with *Hofwies*, *Löhningen/Löhlingen*, *Muhren*, *Rassbach*, *Scheuern*, *Vallis/Tal* –transcribed here as in the church book. However the true 'aha' popped up only after I found some of those emigrants in my own research. Bellow are the names of the entries in the church book and the

descendants, which I have collected in my own notes with the help of other research colleagues. The pastor wrote at the end about 66 people who emigrated. Here are those emigrants as noted in the death registry:



17. September 1736 „in hungariam emigraeres sequentes“ (see photo above):

- Johann **Geng** with wife Maria **Aichkorn** and children Josef, NN (because of the fault in the book the name is unreadable) Johann, Maria and Martin.
- Mathias **Gintert** with wife Barbara **Aichkorn** from *Obermettingen*.
- Unmarried youth Anton **Meyer** and Josef **Kessler** from *Raßbach*.
- Widow Ursula **Reiser** with daughter Magdalena **Jäger** from *Hofwies*.

4. März 1737

- Thomas **Kessler** with wife Magdalena **Alletag** and the children Anna, Maria and Katharina.
- Johann **Gißi** with wife Johanna **Erni** and the children Maria, Anna, Johann, Esther, Anton, and NN (evtl. Katharina, because of the fault in the book the name is unreadable).
- Josef **Meyer** with wife Katharina **Flüger** and the children Maria, Martin, Magdalena, and NN (the name unreadable because of the fault in the book).
- Basilius **Mahler** with wife Maria **Schwarz** an the child Veronica.
- Barbara **Schwarz**.
- Konrad **Gißi** with wife Eva **Schmidler** and the children Mathias and Josef.
- Magdalena **Kessler** with son Michael.
- Georg **Gißi** with wife Anna **Hermann**.
- Georg **Ginter** with wife Maria **Binkert** and the childrend Jakob, Mechthild, Katharina, Anna and Agatha, as well as the jungster („juvenis“, unmarried) Johann **Gintert**, all from *Obermettingen*.
- Bernhard **Albicker** with wife Maria **Ofterdinger** and the children Salome, Johann, Mathias, Bernhard, Johann, Josef, Anton, Ambrosius, Maria and Magdalena from *Muhren*.

Quibus modo obierunt seu in
 longam obierunt saepentes
 Die 6^{ta} Martij fuit dies Landtag & cum
 Dominum quadraginta homines reit. ¹⁷⁶⁰
 Moller cum sua coniuge uxore ^{et filio} ~~et filio~~ ^{et filio} ~~et filio~~
 Mathias Mejer ac sua uxore Catharina ^{et filio} ~~et filio~~
 vixerent. Item Martij fuit de Frank cum
 sua uxore Salomea ^{et filio} ~~et filio~~ ^{et filio} ~~et filio~~
 per Dicus juvenis Joh. huius Moller omnes huius
 nec non uxore ^{et filio} ~~et filio~~ ^{et filio} ~~et filio~~
 quos Angelus ^{et filio} ~~et filio~~ ^{et filio} ~~et filio~~
 in locum ^{et filio} ~~et filio~~ ^{et filio} ~~et filio~~

„Civili mortua abierunt in hungariam abierunt sequentes“ (see photo above)

6. März 1740

- Andreas **Mahler** with wife Ursula **Alletag**.
- Mathias **Meyer** with fiancée Katharina **Köhlin** from *Weizen*.
- Johann Martin **Süß** from *Eschbach* (today part of *Waldshut-Tiengen*) with his fiancée Salome **Gißi**.
- „Item solutes et pudicus juvenis“ Josef **Mahler** “et nec non virgo” Ursula **Albicker** from *Hofwies*.

Johann **Geng**, son of the emigrant Johann **Geng** and Maria **Aichkorn**, ♂ 15.04.1723 in *Muhren* (Godparents: Josef **Kromer** and Maria **Ofterdinger**), emigrated with his parents on 17.09.1736. □I prior to 1746 Magdalena NN, ♂ ca.. 29.01.1730, ♀ 29.01.1763 in *Etyek* (source: Günter **Nuss**). □II 29.08.1763 in *Etyek* Anna Maria NN (**Tutika**).

Johann Martin **Süß**, ♂ ca. 1712, ♀ 09.12.1745 in *Nagykovácsi*, from *Eschbach* (today part of *Waldshut-Tiengen*). □I after 1740 Salome **Gisi**, ♂ 30.12.1715 in *Untermettingen*, ♀ 05.04.1767 in *Pilisszentiván*, daughter of Adam **Gisi** and Maria **Weiler** from *Untermettingen*. Children: Nikolaus (♂ 28.04.1743) and Martin (♂ 02.03.1746), both born in *Nagykovácsi*. □II 19.08.1749 same place Adam **Lichert**. □III 27.01.1760 in *Pilisszentiván* (source: OFB Pvr) Adam **Ostheimer**.

Andreas **Mahler**, ♂ 03.05.1708 in *Endermettingen*, ♀ 12.11.1759 *Leanyvár* (source: Martin **Schuster**), □I 17.02.1737 in *Endermettingen* virgin („virgo“) Ursula **Geng** (at birth entries Ursula **Alletag**). Children: Demetrius (♂ 28.05.1738 in *Endermettingen*), Johanna (♂ 10.05.1740 same place), Katharina (♂ ca. 1743 most likely in *Solymár*). □II Katharina NN. Children: Anna Maria (♂ ca. 1747), Katharina (♂ ca. 1749) and Michael (♂ ca. 1753).

Josef **Mahler** (Maller), ♂ 08.06.1720 in *Endermettingen*, son of Johann **Mahler** and Ursula **Erni**, □ 24.01.1747 in *Nagykovácsi* Susanna **Mersch**, ♂ 1727. Marriage witnesses: Josef **Geiselhard** and Andreas **Mahler**. Children: Maria Magdalena (♂ 16.06.1762) and Michael (♂ 28.09.1767), both born in *Nagykovácsi*.

Johann **Liber**, ♂ 15.11.1714, most likely son of Georg **Liber** and Anna **Beringer**, □ 16.01.1746 in *Endermettingen* Katharina **Albicker**, daughter of Hans Georg **Albicker**. Children: Christina (♂ 01.06.1744 in *Löhningen*, out of wedlock), Ignaz (♂ ca.1746) and Johann (♂ ca. 1751).

Johann Georg **Albicker**, ♂ 12.03.1712 in *Endermettingen*, ➤ 13.08.1759 in *Nagy-kovácsi*, son of Johann **Albicker** and Maria **Bernauer**. ♣I 27.01.1737 in *Ender-mettingen* Mechthild **Hasenfratz**, ♂ 07.09.1712 in *Raßbach*, Daughter of Johann **Hasenfratz** and Ursula NN. Kinder: Elisabeth (♂ 03.09.1738 in *Nagykovácsi*), Maria (♂ 09.12.1740 same place), Johann Georg (♂ 10.09.1742 same place) and Elisabeth (♂ ca. 1745). ♣II 27.11.1759 in *Nagykovácsi* Johanna **Oxenmayer**.

Josef **Mayer**, ♂ ca. 1683, ♣I prior to 1720 Fides **Albicker**. Childdren: Martin (♂ 10.11.1720 in *Untermettingen*, ♣ 27.01.1752 in *Nagykovácsi* Barbara **Hiller**) and Magdalena (♂ 15.04.1723 in *Untermettingen*). ♣II 14.06.1733 in *Untermettingen* Katharina **Flüger**, ♂ ca. 1697, from *Birkendorf*, ➤ 09.05.1762 in *Nagykovácsi*. Children: Johann (♂ 13.12.1734 in *Untermettingen*) and Anna (♂ 23.02.1739 in *Nagykovácsi*).

Bernhard **Albicker**, ♂ 18.09.1695 in *Endermettingen*, son of Thebus **Albicker** and Ursula **Malzacker**, ♣ prior to 1717 Maria **Ofterdinger**. Children: Nikolaus Melchior (♂ 20.06.1717 in *Scheuren*), Salome (♂ 09.10.1718 in *Untermettingen*, ♣ 04.02.1740 in *Nagykovácsi* Ignaz **Weber**, ♂ ca. 1719), Johann (♂ 16.11.1719 in *Muhren*, ♣ Theresia NN, residence 1748 in *Budajenö*), Maria (♂ 02.10.1720 in *Muhren*), Maria (♂ 01.06.1723 in *Untermettingen*), Mathias (♂ 07.04.1724 same place), Josef (♂ 22.06.1725 same place), Magdalena (♂ 15.02.1726 same place), Bernhard (♂ 20.05.1728 same place, 1747 stableboy (Knecht) in *Torbagy*, ♣ 02.03.1767 in *Etyek* Brigitta **Gruk**; source: Günter **Nuss**, Martin (♂ 24.06.1730 in *Untermettingen*, 1747 stableboy in *Torbagy*), Anton Eremita (♂ 27.01.1733 in *Untermettingen-Scheuren*) and Ambrosius (♂ 09.04.1735 in *Unter-mettingen*, KB-Eintrag: emigrated in 1738).

Katharina **Geng**, ♀ 18.11.1719 in *Löfling*, ♀ before May 1752, daughter of Johann **Geng** and Anna **Lieber**. Went on 07.01.1743 with Andreas **Mahler** to Hungary. ♀I 06.07.1744 in *Nagykovácsi* Georg **Prettner**, ♀ 31.03.1746 in *Nagykovácsi*. Marriage witnesses: Simon **Rieger** and Adam **Koch**. ♀II 07.08.1746 in *Nagykovácsi* Johann Michael **Schuck**. Marriage witnesses: Simon **Rieger** and Josef **Frank**.

Those emigrants are also to be found in Werner **Hackers** »HaSöS«, as it looked that *St. Blasien* approved all emigrations. The emigration fees that were mentioned were not exorbitant. There was one inconsistency that I noticed with Andreas **Mahler**: At the entry from 17. 02. 1741, the sale of one half of the house for 210 fl. With wife Ursula **Geng** and child Johann'. When I looked through the church books I found only one Andreas **Mahler**, who married the virgin (,virgo') Ursula **Geng**. At the births of the children (Johanna, not Johann) she is always Ursula **Alletag**. There are many explanations for this inconsistency. The family researcher stumbles upon quite a few of them. The mentioned youth is the nephew of Andreas **Mahler**, the son of his brother Johann.

The second surprising entry at **Hacker** was the return trip to *Untermettingen* of Andreas **Mahler** on 31. 12. 1742 in order to receive the inheritance after the death of his brother Johann. I assume that he was picking up the inheritance of his nephew and on the return trip took Katharina **Geng** with him, who married in *Nagykovácsi* the widower Georg **Prettner** and who two years later as a widow married Johann Michael **Schuck**.

That is why Johann **Lieber**, who was able to marry Katharina **Albicker** only a year and a half after the birth of their first child, knew exactly where in Hungary he was traveling to and could give this information in his emigration request.

Specifically in the OFB Zsámbék, in Budaörs and in Törökbalint one finds years later emigrants from *Untermettingen/Endermettingen* area. There are the **Albicker**, who became **Albeker** in Hungary, and also

Hasenfratz who are mentioned often. Agatha **Weisenberger**, but many more, perhaps even those in Ofener Bergland.

In the church book of Untermettingen next to the list of the emigrants in 1740 the death of Andreas **Mahler** „☛ 1760 in Hungary“ was noted. He died on 12. 11. 1759 in *Leanyvár*. The contact between the emigrants and their relatives who stayed in the homeland was active for decades. Those trully small communities in southern Black Forest did send for a long stretch of time settlers to Hungary. As we can see here it was an extended family or neighbourhood emigration, so it can be assumed that also the other so far not identified settlers could be found in close surroundings in Ofener Bergland. I assume that some settled in *Torbagy* but if they settled in *Solymár* and were victims of the pest epidemic, we might never find them.

I do have some more of the Black Foresters to offer and I hope you are looking forwards to the next edition and the continuation of the story of the Immigrants in Ofener Bergland.

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Seelenlisten = Index of Parishioners

Note from A. Villnow:

Mrs Milbich-Münzer is no longer a member of our club.