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# **DAS BANAT UND DIE BANATER SCHWABEN**

**BAND 5**

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## **STADTE UND DORFER**

**BEITRÄGE ZUR SIEDLUNGSGESCHICHTE  
DER DEUTSCHEN IMBANAT**

Redaktion  
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*Für den Inhalt der Beiträge ist der jeweilige Verfasser verantwortlich.*

**HERAUSGEGEBEN VON DER  
LANDSMANNSCHAFT DER BANATER SCHWABEN**

**THE BANAT AND THE SWABIANS OF THE BANAT**

**Volume 5**

**CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES**

**Contributions to the Settlement History  
of the Germans in the Banat**

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## Lenauheim

The community of Lenauheim is located in the western portion of the Temesvár District, 45 kilometres from the city of Temesvár in the Banat lowlands and covers an area of 123 square kilometres. The locality is 138 metres above sea level, 20 degrees 45' 58 longitude in the east and 45 degrees 52' 19 latitude to the north. The lay out of the village of Lenauheim is regulated and quite orderly. The streets are broad and straight and the community is rectangular in shape and extends from east to west. The communities of Grabatz and Bogarosch are satellite villages of Lenauheim that is central in terms of civic administration. The community is connected to the district capital by the Lenauheim-Hatzfeld-Temesvár highway and a railway line.

A small village, whose inhabitants were herdsmen, was said to have existed at the south eastern edge of today's community in 1111 and it had 7,000 Katastral Joch of pasturage around it. It all belonged to Count Lázslò Csatády. The community was totally destroyed during the Tatar invasion. The name of the community during the Middle Ages was Csatád and is derived from the personal family name Csata (plus the Hungarian suffix) who was the owner of the Domain and founder of the community. This name first appears in some documents in 1415 when Mathias *Chatad* was the owner. At that time the community belonged to Temes County.

The Hungarian king, Johann Hunyadi, awarded *Chatad* to the influential Dolaz (Docs) family in an agreement of May 12, 1470. On March 8, 1520 Franz de Docz leased a portion of his Domain to Nikolaus de Maczedonia. As a result of ongoing Turkish raids and incursions the community was once again destroyed and was referred to as a *Puszta* (an open unpopulated prairie) in 1482. There was however, a single inhabitant, Sárávczi, who owned a water driven mill along the bank of the White River that today is a dried up creek bed. At the time of the later resettlement, Sárávczi, was given the right to a full session of land in the Urbarial agreement.

Blasius de Sat owned the Domain prior to 1470. The Csatádys found refuge in Micske in Bihar County in 1493 where they had fled from the Turks. The last mention of the Domain on March 8, 1520 indicates that it had been leased and was now an open prairie. There is no further mention of Csatád during the Turkish occupation (1552-1716).

After the end of Turkish rule the Banat became an Imperial possession and an Austrian province administered by the State from Temesvár from 1716-1779. The prairie of Csatád reappeared in documents and in 1750 it was leased as pasture land to the Banat Prairie Development Society. A way station on the postal road from Csoka to Temesvár was established here in 1759. It is identified with the symbol of postal horn on a map of the Banat in 1761 along with the name Celatie. This name (Romanian for fortress) that the Romanians in the area gave to it is inaccurate because the community had never been fortified at any time in its history. The surrounding villagers named the community *Tschadat* and the inhabitants themselves called it *Schadat*. During the period of the

Theresian colonization (1763-1767) the prairie of Csatád was slated for settlement primarily because it was on the major highway and had a postal station.

In the spring of 1767 the leaser of the prairie returned it to the State and in the same year the State Land Administrator, Hildebrand, had a rectory, schoolhouse and 202 houses built for the German colonists and their families who were on their way to the Banat.

According to the information contained in the church records the settlers came from Luxembourg, Lorraine, Trier, Nassau and Birkenfeld in western Franconia. The new community belonged to the Csanad District. In the same year the community obtained both a priest and teacher.

Picture  
Community Centre  
&  
Lenau Memorial

Picture  
The Catholic Church in Lenauheim  
Built in 1778  
Before Its Renovation in 1992

By the end of 1767 the community had 870 inhabitants. The Urbarial Session consisted of 30 Katastral Joch of arable land, 3/4 Joch for a house lot (1,200 Klafter) 1 Joch of meadow and clover, 1/4 Joch garden = 32 Joch.

The first settlers reached the outskirts of the community of Csatád on April 15, 1767 and were quartered in the southern end of today's community. On April 16th a worship service was held without a priest being present, following which, the village *Richter* (mayor) dug the first spade full of earth and all of the families dug themselves bunker like huts. While they lived out on the meadow the construction of the future village was still underway.

Every inhabitant had to provide a certificate of discharge and character reference. Good for nothings and lazybones would not have been able to stand it in Csatád at that time because everyone had to engage in the hard work of clearing the swampy, overgrown and uncultivated lowlands. The provisions and rations were rather poor at first but little by little things got better. The housing situation was primitive at first and there was no medical care available. The death toll among the children was very high. In the first ten years out of a total population of 1,000 inhabitants, 121 children died. In 1770 alone there were 38 deaths among the children. Some families had no surviving children and their family name later died out. In contrast there were other families in which most of their children grew to adulthood. The population of the community increased despite the high death rate. At the time of the settlement there was a population of 870, in 1775 there were already 1,000 inhabitants and five years later there were 1,256. There were also additional settlers who moved in from other villages in the area. In the year 1828 the

community reached a population of 2,244. There were 35 persons who were non-Catholics and were probably Romanians or Gypsies.

In 1775 Baron Josef Brigido who was the president of the State Administration Office proposed and carried out the division of the Province into four Districts and Csátád was raised to the status of capital of the District. For that reason a new public building was erected to accommodate the District Headquarters and provide living quarters for the officials and their families. The building still stands to this day. In 1776 the Csátád District was as large as a County and was fully organized administratively. The Director of the District was Count Christian Löwenwolde. On December 18, 1777 Emperor Joseph II ordered that a full fledged post office be erected in Csátád because the distance from Kleinbetscherek and Komlosch was far too great.

Initially the new settlement was an affiliate of the Hatzfeld parish for a few weeks. In June, the Bishop of Csanad, Count Anton Engl von Wagram, entrusted the care of the community to the Chaplain, Anton Fabik. That same summer (1767) a modest chapel without a tower was built and St. Johann von Nepomuk was designated as its patron saint although it would never be consecrated. A free standing wooden bell tower with a two hundred weight bell was consecrated by Bishop Engl in 1769. The Empress Maria Theresia was the patroness of the parish and sent a chalice, monstrance, ciborium (made of copper) and vestments. They had all originated in a Jesuit monastery in Upper Austria that had been closed resulting from the Papal banning of the Order.

The chapel was soon structurally unsound so that beginning in 1771 worship had to take place in the school. In 1778, at the prompting of the priest, Alexander Tomanovich, and the influence of the Bishop, Emmerich Christovich, the Empress Maria Theresia who was the patroness of the parish was persuaded to have a new church built in the Baroque style, that still stands to this day, and all of the costs were assumed by the State Treasury. On June 24th the bishop gave permission for the brick work to begin and in that same year on October 11th the new church was consecrated by the District Dean, Anton Spissich de Japra. The patron saint of the parish now became St. Theresia. The altar painting was done by an artist in Vienna. In 1784 the brick dome was replaced with a wooden one and three new side altars were installed (also from another Jesuit monastery in Austria).

The church lived through several changes such as: In 1827 the tower had a clock added; in 1839 the wooden floor was replaced with marble slabs and an oratorium was built above the sacristy. In 1968 the Roman Catholic church was renovated by the LPG. The roof and the exterior of the church were renovated in 1992 at the initiative of the chairman of the parish council, August Griebel, and several benevolent countrymen from Lenauheim and in Germany and the financial support of the Diocese of Cologne. The parish of Lenauheim became an affiliate of Lovrin as a result of the small number of Catholic believers left in the community after the emigration of vast numbers of Germans in the Banat. Services are held in four to six week intervals.

Shortly afterwards the dead who had been buried around the church were reburied in the cemetery that had been established during the reign of Joseph II (1780-1790) located at the southern end of the village.

Nikolaus Lenau was born on August 12, 1802 on the first floor of the two storey government building and lived the first five unforgettable years of his life in Csatád. The memory of his birth here was first honoured in 1875 with the placing of a red marble memorial plaque prominently on the house of his birth that was built in 1775. It was prepared by Mathias Gehl the master wagon builder. On August 13, 1902 the cornerstone of the Lenau memorial was laid and a year later, on August 13, 1903 the memorial in front of the town hall was unveiled.

In 1767 a schoolhouse was built for the 160 school age children. The Neubeschenow District Dean, Anton de Spissich de Japra expressed praise for the good condition of the building but bemoaned the fact that the classroom could only accommodate 60 pupils although there were 160 school age children. In all likelihood the teacher taught the children in shifts or they took turns coming to school.

In 1804 a new school was built with two classrooms and living quarters for two teachers. In 1812 Nikolaus Tzerbecz from Freidorf was installed as a teacher and in 1815 Johann Albetz from Guttenbrunn succeeded him. In 1836, Johann Albetz taught the lower class that had 136 pupils and Mathias Heber had the upper class and 261 pupils! In 1843 a third class was established. At that time several youth from Csatád graduated from their pedagogical studies in Temesvár: in 1801 Adam Heich and Jakob Hubertus; in 1805 Mathias Heich; in 1820 Adam Schipfer and in 1844 Johann Schell.

In addition to the best known son of our community, the poet and author, Nikolaus Lenau, we wish to acknowledge several others: Desiderius Jarosy (1882-1932) professor of theology; Anni Schmidt-Endres (1903-1977) author; Hans Wolfram Hockl (1912-1998) publisher and editor; Hans Bräuner (1910-2005) University teacher and author of the Homeland Book from Lenauheim/Csatád.

The school had its highest enrolment of 557 pupils in 1865. In 1870 the Roman Catholic Confessional (Denominational) school was converted into a Community Public School and upgraded to four classes in 1875.

In 1880 of the 3,155 inhabitants only 1,820 (that is 58%) could both read and write. In 1918 *Tschataad* became part of Romania. After 1918 instruction in all of the major subjects was in the German language. In July 1922, Anton Hicke, who was one of the teachers at that time took 48 pupils on a very enriching study tour in Transylvania. In the years from 1921-1923 there was a student exchange between youth from Lenauheim and Vienna and Württemberg in the summer holidays. About 100 children participated annually. It was in the 1925/1926 school term when the Romanian language was first introduced as the language of instruction in the public schools. In 1921 the Headmaster, Anton Hicke, hindered the establishment of a German denominational school in

*Tschatad*, along with his liberal minded assistant to ensure that the local school remain a state supported public school.

From 1942/1943 the German Folk Group in Romania took over the schools and the spirit of the times infiltrated the school. The Headmaster was Georg Kern.

A major school reform took place in 1948. A German school consisting of seven classes and a Romanian school with four classes was established and later the Romanian school was expanded to seven classes as well. The state paid the costs and expenses and met all of the material needs of the school. The use of the pupil's mother tongue in terms of instruction was guaranteed.

Picture

The Former Treasury Building  
Nikolaus Lenau's Birthplace  
The Lenau Museum of Today

Picture

Reproduction of a Post Card  
Lenau Memorial Celebration  
August 16, 1931

The subject matter that had to be taught in Romanian included history and geography, the Constitution of Romania and all other subjects that the German teachers were not qualified to teach. In the 1964/1965 school term compulsory education up to Grade eight was introduced. In January 1970 the new school building was situated on *Hauptstrasse* (Main Street). Today the school has eight grades and the Kindergarten also falls under the jurisdiction of the rector of the school. At this time there are 78 children and 3 teachers. In the school itself there are 210 pupils that are taught by 13 teachers.

On March 5, 1819 the former village of Csatád was raised to the status of a market town and received permission to hold a weekly market and three annual markets and fairs that were all well attended. In 1828 the community had a population of 2,244 inhabitants of whom 35 were non-Catholics. Agriculture and horse breeding flourished. During the numerous cholera and dysentery epidemics between 1831 and 1873 there were 224 victims.

The community at the time had one pharmacist. In 1833 the community was given a new Hungarian seal. In 1856 the cemetery was expanded for the second time and the merchant, Philipp Mumper, donated the chapel that still exists to this day. On June 23, 1873 the "Csadát Memorial Society" was founded. The purpose of the organization was that every member by paying a fee was assured of a proper burial. This society exists to this day and is led by August Griebel who serves as the president.

In 1865 there were two large landowners and 251 small landowners within the boundaries of the community. The land associated with the community consisted of 5,833 Joch of arable land, 88 Joch of meadows, 572 Joch of pastureland, 20 Joch of vineyards and 303 Joch of unproductive soil, totalling 6,811 Joch. The net value was estimated at 66,099 Florins, 39 Kreuzer. On March 6, 1867 the right to have markets was renewed. In 1856 the railway line from Szegedin to Temesvár opened. Csatád was no longer on the main thoroughfare and its markets lost their importance.

On June 18, 1867 the community celebrated the 100th anniversary of its founding. By the end of 1868 the population numbered 3,122 and in 1880 there were 3,115. As a result of emigration and the One-Child-System the population went into decline. A "German Day" took place in Csatád in November where the aspirations of the Germans in the Banat were discussed. At the end of 1871 the community became part of the Tschene Court District and was recognized as a town in 1876.

On May 5, 1874 the first organization was formed. It was the Tradesmen's Association. A local branch of the Red Cross followed in 1880. Later the local Defence Force was founded in 1886 along with an Officer's Mess and the Agricultural Association.

In the last decade of the 19th Century several financial institutions were founded. The "The Csatád Savings and Loan" was established first and was liquidated later. On January 10, 1890 the "Csatád Peoples' Bank" was founded and was officially registered as a company on June 24th and was later converted into a joint stock company (AG). There were 500 shares valued at 50 Florins each = 25,000 Florin. On March 11, 1888 the "First Csatád Savings Bank AG" was founded and incorporated on April 3rd. Its Charter was renewed in 1897.

In 1867 there were only five merchants, 44 tradesmen and 5 horse powered and wind powered mill operators but in 1890 there were eleven merchants and 86 tradesmen which rose to 27 merchants in 1907 as well as 88 tradesmen and three horse powered mills and two wind powered ones.

In 1895 there were 7,118 Joch within the community boundaries. Of which 268 Joch were unproductive. The rest consisted of 6,300 Joch of arable land, 41 Joch of gardens, 81 Joch were in vineyards, 16 Joch lay fallow, 412 Joch of pasture and 492 Joch that were outside of the boundaries of the town. The largest landowners were Johann Gerber with 258 Joch, Peter Wilhelm with 120 Joch, Johann Schmidt with 110 Joch, and Jakob Vogel with 100 Joch. There were 5,400 fruit trees within the community boundaries as well as 1,618 mulberry trees. Livestock included: 1,473 cattle, 1,044 horses, 2,472 swine, 823 sheep, 13,659 fowl and 275 beehives.

In 1907 a Choral Society was formed with forty members under the leadership of the teacher Nikolaus Riegler who was the choir director. This was followed by the founding of the Fire Brigade in 1923. The Girl's Circle and the Gymnastics and Sports Society followed in 1926 and the Women's Association in 1927.



By the end of the First World War, Lenauheim suffered the loss of 64 victims to the war. At the end of 1918 the Serbs occupied the community and the Romanians took it over at the end of July 1919. At the end of 1918 the Germans first named the community Strehlenau and later sometimes called it Lenaudorf. In 1920 the community was named after its most famous son, Nikolaus Lenau, and called Lenauheim as it is still called to this day. Lenauheim at this point had 2,588 inhabitants, of whom 2,510 were German, 21 were Romanian, 17 were Hungarian, and 40 others from various nationalities.

A festival to honour the poet and author Nikolaus Lenau was held in 1926. On August 16, 1931 the birthplace of Nikolaus Lenau was renovated and became the Lenau Museum for the preservation of the history, customs, heritage and culture of its inhabitants. On August 27, 1937 the dedication of the flag of the Lenau Men's Choral Society who were led by the teacher Karl Mathias took place. There were prominent guests from Austria and Germany. The opening of the newly refurbished Lenau Museum was publicized by letter, photographs and newspaper articles.

In 1943 the men born in the years 1908 to 1926 (283) were recruited into the German Army. By the end of the war, 93 were killed in action or were missing. In 1944 there were 2,586 inhabitants of whom 2,422 were German, 72 Romanian, 60 Hungarian and 24 Gypsies. Lenauheim had 3,654 Hectares of arable land and there were 62 tractors, 655 horses, 665 cows, 9,050 swine and 1,588 sheep. The major source of agricultural income was from corn, wheat and sugar beets.

In September 1944, there were 884 people from Lenauheim who fled before the advancing Russian Army and 182 of them would remain in foreign parts after the war. In January 1945 there were 141 inhabitants of Lenauheim (82 men and 59 women) who were dragged off to slave labour in the Soviet Union. Ten men and one woman lie there buried in foreign soil. In June of 1951 large numbers of Germans in the Banat were deported to the Baragan Steppes. In Lenauheim that was the case for 496 persons, 394 adults and 102 children up to the age of 15 years. When their return home was permitted in 1956, 477 of them were able to do so. But 36 of our countrymen found their final resting place out on the Steppes.

Picture  
Lenauheim in the Autumn of 1995  
Ploughing in the old Homeland

The Collective Farm GAC "Victoria" was established on July 31, 1949 with 63 families and 284 Hectares of arable land. Its founding was based on the public Ministerial Ordinance Nr. 893/1949 in the official government Gazette Nr. 54/1949. In the census of 1977 there were 2,164 inhabitants: 1,260 Germans, 867 Romanians and 37 others of other nationalities. The population of Lenauheim in 1998 reached 5,462. Of those inhabitants 68 in Lenauheim proper and 184 others in the vicinity were of German origin. After 1989, 2,280 of our countrymen emigrated. In Germany the emigrants settled heavily in the Federal States of Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria. According to the statistics gathered by the HOG of Lenauheim (1999) there were 2,346 of them living in

264 communities in Germany and in six other countries (74 in the USA, 6 in Canada, 24 in Austria, 3 in France, 132 in Romania, and 2,107 in Germany) of whom only 152 are members of the Association.

The fact of the matter is that the original settlers in Lenauheim were overwhelmingly from Lorraine, Trier and Luxembourg and the present dialect in so far as it still spoken has been greatly impacted because of it. Broadly speaking it is a Palatinate dialect. This is probably as a result of the fact that of the many dialects spoken the Palatinate is the easiest to understand and during the passing of time it gradually took over and settled in.

In 2001 Werner Griebel was elected president of the HOG of Lenauheim. The HOG developed an Internet website and a homeland newsletter that came out in two year intervals. Jürgen Griebel is responsible for both of these media efforts and he is a member of the HOG executive.

The care of the cemetery in Lenauheim is underwritten by the HOG and it maintains regular contact with the local community administration, the priest and the office of the mayor.

In 2002 the 200th anniversary of the birth of Nikolaus Lenau was held in the community jointly sponsored by the HOG and the mayor's office. This successful event was the beginning of a series of festivals every two years known as "Festivals of the Children of the Village" they continue to this day and are well beloved by the community and the HOG and its membership.

In 2005 the HOG of Lenauheim published the Family Book of Lenauheim/Csatád in two volumes. This project involved years of extensive research for those who worked on it. The Family Book addresses the interests of our countrymen, provides comfort and consolation and appreciation for our heritage and ancestors.

A new phase in the life of the HOG of Lenauheim begins on 23.02.2006 with the support of the Finance Department of Mannheim-Neckarstadt in assisting the HOG to develop a compact with the Countrymen's Association of the Banat Swabians with statutes to ensure our tax free exemption to enable us to fulfill our purpose in the furtherance of our folk identity, heritage, culture and care for our former home.

Through generous contributions our HOG was able to design and have made an association flag that will be flown and carried next to the Marian flag of our former home on all festive occasions involving the HOG and the Countrymen's Association of the Banat Swabians.

Werner Griebel, Jürgen Griebel