

# Dismantling Regina Schoomer's Banat Brick Wall

Katherine MJ Swanson

Magdaline Kapp died 8 May 1960 at age 91 in the St. Paul, Minnesota, home of her daughter, Elizabeth Hinterholz. Her death certificate (Exhibit 1) provides several clues to Magdaline's ancestry, including her 23 February 1869 birth date in Austria and her parents' names: Christ Zopf and Regina Schoomer.

Ägidius came to Saint Paul in 1906 with the Kapp's oldest daughter, Katherine, and stayed with Magdaline's twin brother, Tony.<sup>1</sup> He later returned to Deutsch-Stamora for the rest of the family. World War I broke out and Ägidius died in Deutsch-Stamora in 1917 before he could return to Minnesota.<sup>2</sup> Katherine remained in Saint Paul. Her mother

a. CITY, VILLAGE OR TOWNSHIP <b>St. Paul</b>		c. LENGTH OF STAY in U.S. <b>38 Years</b>		b. COUNTY <b>Ramsey</b>		c. CITY, VILLAGE OR TOWNSHIP <b>St. Paul</b>		d. STREET ADDRESS <b>1614 Maywood Street</b>		e. IS RESIDENCE INSIDE CORPORATE LIMITS? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		f. IS RESIDENCE ON A FARM? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
d. NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION <b>1614 Maywood Street</b>				e. IS PLACE OF DEATH INSIDE CORPORATE LIMITS? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO				4. DATE OF DEATH Month: <b>May</b> Day: <b>8</b> Year: <b>1960</b>					
3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or Print) <b>Magdaline Kapp</b>				5. SEX <b>F</b>				6. COLOR OR RACE <b>White</b>		7. MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> NEVER MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> <b>WIDOWED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/></b>		8. DATE OF BIRTH <b>Feb 23 1869</b>	
10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) <b>housewife</b>				10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY				9. AGE (In years last birthday) <b>91</b>				11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) <b>Austria-</b>	
12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? <b>U S</b>				13a. FATHER'S NAME <b>Christ Zopf</b>				13b. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME <b>Regina Schoomer</b>				14. SPOUSE'S NAME	
15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN				16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. <b>(If yes, give war or dates of service)</b>				17. INFORMANT'S OWN SIGNATURE <b>Elizabeth Hinterholz</b>				ADDRESS	

Exhibit 1

Her death certificate does not name a specific place in Austria, but the family understands that Magdaline's children, including Elizabeth, were born in the village of Deutsch-Stamora to Magdaline Zopf and Ägidius Kapp. Deutsch Stamora was a small village in the Banat region of the Austro-Hungarian Empire; it is now Stamora Germană, Romania.

and siblings remained in Deutsch Stamora until 1922, when they immigrated to the United States.<sup>3</sup>

Magdalene Zopf's paternal ancestry was known to the early 1700s from published references and church records, but the ancestry of Magdalena's mother, Regina Schoomer, presented a brick wall.

1 "New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957," database with images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com: accessed 28 December 2020), image 110 of 214, entry for Egyed and Katherine Kapp, arrived 6 June 1906 on the Carpathia from Fiume, Croatia.

2 Roman Catholic Bishopric Timisoara, Timis, Romania, Certificate No. 1446/2019. Egidius Kapp death (obtained 12 Sep 2019 by KMJ Swanson), Katherine MJ Swanson Genealogy Records.

3 "New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957," database with images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com: accessed 28 December 2020), image 88 of 144, entry for Michael Hinterholz and Magdalena Kapp families, arrived 6 August 1922 on the Cedric from Liverpool.

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Matricula Baptisatorum

Numerus currens	Annus, mensis, dies		Baptisati			Paren-	
	Nativitatis	Collati s. Baptismi.	Nomen	sexus mascul. foemin.	legitim. vel illegitim.	Nomen, cognomen, conditio	
46.	1869. 23. febr.	1869. 23. febr.	Georgius.	mascul.	legitim.	Mathias Hüpfel. agricola, et Elisabetha Spiesz.	
47.	1869. 23. febr.	1869. 24. febr.	Antonius	mascul.	legitim.	Christianus Zopf agricola, et Regina Schuber.	
48.	1869. 23. febr.	1869. 24. febr.	Magdalena.	foemin.	legitim.	Christianus Zopf agricola, et Regina Schuber.	

Ecclesiae Zichyházensis.

Religio	tum		Patrinorum nomen, cognomen, conditio	Baptisantis nomen, cognomen, officium
	Locus domicilii numeri domalis			
Rno-Cath.	Zichyháza Nro. 46.	Georgius Lengler agricola, et Elisabetha Fecasz.	Steph. Cap. paroch.	
Rno-Cath.	Zichyháza Nro. 62.	Michael Vingert agricola, et Margaretha Dutto.	Steph. Cap. parochus.	
Rno-Cath.	Zichyháza Nro. 62.	Michael Vingert agricola, et Margaretha Dutto.	Steph. Cap. paroch.	

Exhibit 2

## Clues from Familienbuch

A *Familienbuch* (family book) for Deutsch-Stamora identifies Magdaline's parents as Christian Zopf and Regina "Schieber, Schüber."<sup>4</sup> These alternate spellings are at least loosely similar to "Schoomer" on Magdaline's death certificate. A notation "\*23.02.1869 Zdf" signifies that Magdalena was born 23 February 1869 in Zichydorf, a market village 15 miles west of Deutsch-Stamora. Zichydorf is now known as Plandište and lies on the Serbia side of the Romanian-Serbian border.<sup>5</sup>

The *Familienbuch* for Zichydorf lists Christian Zopf as a farmer who married twice – to Anna-Maria Flesch in 1843, and after her death, to Regina "Schüber (Schiver)" in 1862<sup>6</sup> – yet another spelling for Regina's family name. Genealogists commonly

encounter name variants like these. Should a researcher search for Schoomer, Schüber, Schiver or Schieber? The spelling of Regina's family name could have been influenced by who occupied the territory, the language used in the record (German, Latin, Hungarian, Serbian), or the clerk's preference.

## Zichydorf Church Record Information

Church records provided more clues. Zichydorf birth records (Exhibit 2) include the birth of twins Magdalena and Antonius Zopf in Zichyhaza.<sup>7</sup> Zichyhaza is Hungarian for Zichydorf. The twins were born on 23 February 1869 to Christianus Zopf agricola [farmer] and Regina "Schuber." The birth date of twins is consistent with family knowledge and Magdalana's death record, so a match is confirmed.

4 Helmut Kaiser, *Familienbuch der katholischen Gemeinde Deutsch-Stamora im Banat, 1806 - \*1907/oo/+ - 1894*, (Otterberg, AVBF, 2008), Entry 1734 Agidius Kapp family, page 299.

5 "Zichydorf – History of the Village Name," Zichydorf Online, <https://www.zichydorfonline.org/genealogy/112-history/98-name-sp-1567602363>, accessed 1 February 2021.

6 Helmut Kaiser, *Familienbuch der katholischen Gemeinde Zichydorf im Banat 1789-1945* (2002) (Otterberg, AKdFF, 2008), Entry 8951 Christian Zopf family, page 1,547.

7 Queen of the Rosary Catholic Church (Plandište [Zichydorf], Serbia), "4\_ Baptisms 1865-1886", Zichydorf Church Book DVD, image 103, page 99, Anton and Magdalena ZOPF twin birth 23 Feb 1869; Zichydorf Village Association, <http://zichydorfonline.org>.



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g. Mariafky, János	Punkert János	20	karb. növel	Isakurum Zichydorf	Pazmansche káptalan
Idem: János, János	Schuber Regina	19	karb. hajadon	Malenitz Malenitz	Mikály káptalan
				falva falva	Isakurum

Exhibit 3

Anno, mensis, dies copulationis		Nomen, Cognomen, Conditio.		Locus		Religio	Anni aetatis	Status	Testium Nomen, Cognomen, Conditio		Copulantis Nomen, Cognomen, Officium.	Nun promulgati? aut in bannis, et aliquo impedimento dispensati?	Observationes.
				Originis	Domicilii, us domus			viduus					
1842		Christianus Zopf	gdr.	Nadins Anna	Elbsch. Zichyd.	Zichyd.	Prof. 35.	Vir.	Mikaly Zopf	agrus	Antonius Zopf		
1862	Mar.	Regina Schuber	vidua	Malenitz	Malenitz	Malenitz	Prof. 39	Vir.	Antonius Zopf	agrus	Antonius Zopf		
1862		Joannis Bunge	gdr.	Malenitz	Malenitz	Malenitz	Prof. 39	Vir.	Antonius Zopf	agrus	Antonius Zopf		

Exhibit 4

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Matricula Defunctorum Ecclesiae

Nomen, Cognomen, Conditio	Sexus mascul. femin.	Parentum, vel Cognomen	DEFUNCTI				Religio	Aetatis	
			Nomen, Cognomen, Conditio	Sexus mascul. femin.	Parentum, vel Cognomen	Locus			
						Originis	Domicilii num. dom.		

1876.	Regina		uxor					53.
9.	Zopf		agricolae					an.
May.	nata		Christiani					
	Schiver.		Zopf.					

Paroch. Rom. Cath. Zichifalva

Morb. vel genus mortis	Sacramentis fuitne prius?	Sepulture Locus, Dies	Sepelientis Nomen, Cognomen, Officium

cholera	fuit.		

Exhibit 5

The parish register records two marriages for Regina. Regina “Schüber,” 19, married Janos Punkert in Zichydorf on 1 Feb 1842.<sup>8</sup> (see Exhibit 3). Regina “Schuber” married Christian Zopf in 1862.<sup>9</sup> (see Exhibit 4). Her death record (Exhibit 5) adds another spelling variation – “Regina Zopf neta [born] Schiver.”<sup>10</sup>

Attention to the variations in Regina’s family name may seem unnecessary (or even obsessive), but it is essential for identifying her parents. The church records give an additional useful clue: her death and marriage records state that she was born in Malenitzfalva.

8 Queen of the Rosary Catholic Church (Plandište [Zichydorf], Serbia), “7\_Marriages 1828-1852,” Zichydorf Church Book DVD, image 18, page 32, János Punkert and Regina Schuber marriage 1 Feb 1842; Zichydorf Village Association, <http://zichydorfonline.org>.

9 Queen of the Rosary Catholic Church (Plandište [Zichydorf], Serbia), “8\_Marriages 1852-1895,” Zichydorf Church Book DVD, image 42, page 42,

Christianus Zopf and Regina Schuber marriage 1 Feb 1842; Zichydorf Village Association, <http://zichydorfonline.org>.

10 Queen of the Rosary Catholic Church (Plandište [Zichydorf], Serbia), “10a\_Deaths 1872-1900,” Zichydorf Church Book DVD, image 101, page 97, Regina Zopf death 9 May 1876; Zichydorf Village Association, <http://zichydorfonline.org>.

## Malenitzfalva Birth Records

Malenitzfalva was a small village when Regina was born. It merged with the Serbian village Nagy Gaj in 1888. Catholic church records were maintained in Deutsch Stamora at the time of Regina's birth – about 1823 – and might include a record of Regina's birth. However, the only Regina born about this time was a Regina born to "Anton Csiber" and his wife, "A Maria," with godparents Joseph Wrion (spelling uncertain) and Regina Steibel.<sup>11</sup> (See Exhibit 6). Deutsch Stamora church records also listed "Antonius Süber" and "Anna Maria" as parents of Joannes

baptized on 19 February 1820, with the same godmother, Regina Hubei Steibl.<sup>12</sup> (See Exhibit 7). This suggests that Regina and Joannes were born to the same family.

The *Familienbuch* for Groß Gaj/Malenitzfalva included no Csiber, Siber or Süber families, but did include an Anton Schieber and his wife Anna Maria Hönig.<sup>13</sup> This agrees with the spelling used in the Deutsch-Stamora *Familienbuch*. The Malenitzfalva Anton Schieber family includes a son Johann, with an identical date of birth to that of Joannes Süber listed in Deutsch-Stamora church records. Additionally, daughters

8023	Dies	Mensis	Infans	Parentes	Patrini	Minister
				1823		
Male	21	Febru	Margareth	Johann Schieber et Margareth	Johann Tabar Margareth Anton	Bede Papp
Male	22	2	Regina	Anton Csiber et A. Maria uxor	Joseph Wrion Regina Steibel	V.

Exhibit 6

Locy	Dies	Mensis	Baptizatus	Parentes	Levantes	Baptizavit
19	19	Feb	Joannes	Antonius Süber Anna Maria ux.	Joannes Dischler Regina Hubei Steibl	Idem

Exhibit 7

11 Deutsch Stamora [Nemetsztamora] Catholic Church (Stamora Germana, Romania), Anyakönyvek 1806-1847, Regina Csiber birth 1823; FamilySearch microfilm 7,994,539, Image 46.

12 Deutsch Stamora [Nemetsztamora] Catholic Church (Stamora Germana, Romania), Anyakönyvek 1806-1847, Joannes Süber birth 19 Feb 1820; database with images, FamilySearch microfilm 7,994,539, Image 129.

13 Helmut Kaiser, Familienzusammenstellung aus den Kirchenbüchern der Pfarrgemeinde Groß Gaj/Malenitzfalva \*1892-1944, oo 1832-1917, +1832-1945, Entry 4514 Anton SCHIEBER family. (Otterberg, Arbeitskreis Donauschwabischer Familienforscher e.V., 2011), Homepage von Helmut Kaiser – Zichydorf, <http://zichydorf.ferienwohnung-otterberg.de/index.htm>, entry <http://zichydorf.ferienwohnung-otterberg.de/Grossgaj/Familiendaten/SIBU23.HTM#fam4514> accessed 30 Sep 2020.



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"Catharina Schiber," born 31 October 1815 in Deutsch Zerne (Exhibit 8), and "Anna Söber," born 8 December 1817 in Malenitzfalva (Exhibit 9), are included in the Malenitzfalva *Familienbuch*.

## Conclusion

The search for the parents of Regina illustrates the challenges of genealogical research in areas where political boundaries and language have shifted over time. Both family names and place names change depending on who was in control and what language they used. (See Table 1). At the time, the Kingdom of Hungary ruled this area. More than 10 names

for this community are known, including Malenitzfalva (Hungarian), Groß Gaj (German), and now Veliki Gaj, Serbia.<sup>14</sup>

Regina was the fourth child of Anton Schieber and Anna Maria Honig. Regina's birth was recorded with the surname "Csiber," but her godmother, Regina Steibel, was the same as that for the third child, Johann.<sup>15</sup> Regina was born three years after Johann, and seven months before her father's second marriage to Barbara Anna Lehn.

Variant spellings of surnames are common in this region of multiple languages. A common witness/godparent for two successive children's births supports a conclusion that they were siblings.

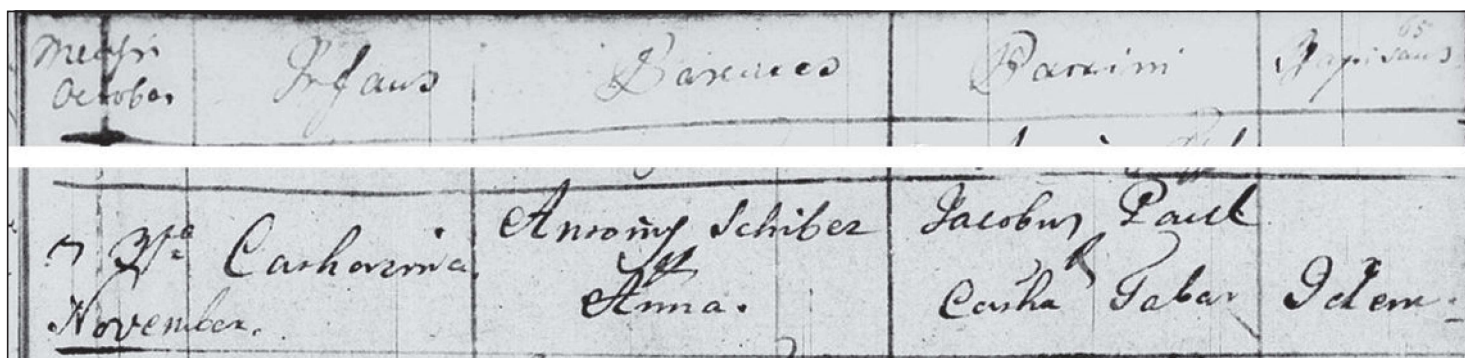


Exhibit 8

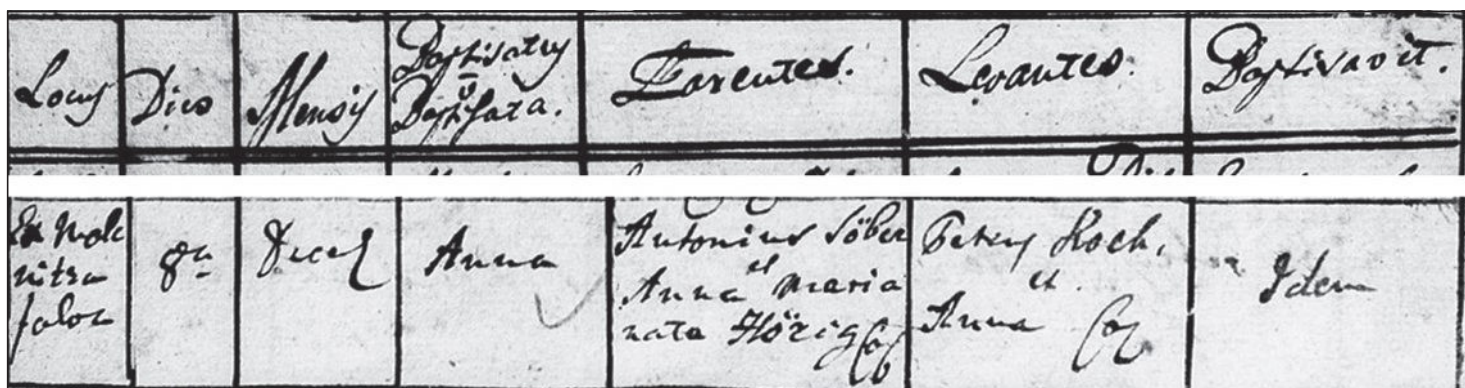


Exhibit 9

14 Donauschwaben Villages Helping Hands, The Banat Villages, Villages & Name Variants; Gross Gaj, [https://www.dvhh.org/banat\\_villages/village-list.htm#G](https://www.dvhh.org/banat_villages/village-list.htm#G) accessed 28 Dec 2020.

15 Helmut Kaiser, Familienzusammenstellung aus den Kirchenbücher der Pfarrgemeinde Groß Gaj/Malenitzfalva \*1892-1944, oo 1832-1917,

+1832-1945, Entry 4514 Anton SCHIEBER family. (Otterberg, Arbeitskreis Donauschwabischer Familienforscher e.V., 2011), Homepage von Helmut Kaiser - Zichyendorf, <http://zichyendorf.ferienwohnung-otterberg.de/index.htm>, entry <http://zichyendorf.ferienwohnung-otterberg.de/Grossgaj/Famliendaten/SIBU23.HTM#fam4514> accessed 30 Sep 2020.

**Table 1. Regina's Family Name Variations in Records and References**

Source	Regina (and Siblings)	Father	Mother
Daughter's death certificate	Regina Schoomer	–	–
D-Stamora <i>Familienbuch</i>	Regina Schieber/Schüber	–	–
Zichydorf <i>Familienbuch</i>	Regina Schüber/Schiver	–	–
Zichydorf birth of children	Regina Schuber	–	–
Zichydorf marriages	Regina Schüber/Schuber	–	–
Zichydorf death	Regina Schiver	–	–
Malenitzfalva births Regina*	Regina Csiber	Anton Csiber	A Maria
	(Joannes)*	Antonius Süber	Anna Maria
	(Anna)	Anton Söber	Anna Maria nata Hönig
Malenitzfalva <i>Familienbuch</i>	–	Anton Schieber	Anna Maria Hönig

\* Same godmother for Regina and Joannes

**Katherine MJ Swanson** retired from a corporate, national, and international food safety career during which she contributed to numerous papers, committee reports, and books through original research, writing and editing. The daughter of a US Army officer, she learned to appreciate cultural differences,

living in six states, Germany, and Japan. Kate now applies her skills to genealogy, discovering ancestral homelands and culture in the Banat region of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and in Germany/Denmark borderlands.

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