

Großliebental District Odessa Newsletter

A publication for those who have a genealogical interest in the
Großliebental District of Odessa, South Russia.

Volume 1 Issue 3

July 2002

Großliebental District Villages

(Those in bold are first villages.)

Alexanderfeld (E), **Alexanderhilf** (E),
Annental (E), Berg, Berlin, Blumenfeld (C),
Bohensky (E), Buhojewka (E), Burkunowa (E),
Businova (E), Chabolat (E), Eigenfeld (E),
Franzfeld (C& E), Freidorf, **Freudental** (E),
Gnadenfeld (E), **Großliebental** (E),
Güldendorf (E), Guss, **Helenental** (E),
Johannesfeld (E), **Josefstal** (C), Kamyshovo,
Karlstal (E), **Klein Liebental** (C),
Krassna (C), Lamsaki. Lichtenfeld (E),
Lustdorf (E), **Mariental** (C), Martsianovka,
Neuburg (E), Neu Freudental (E),
Neu Liebental (C), Neu Lustdorf (E),
Neu Petersthal (E), Neusatz (E),
Neu Schampoly, Odessa (E), Paulsthal (E),
Peterstal (E), Renski, Rosenfeld (E),
Scharova, Shedevri, Schönfeld (E),
Schuttowa (E), Sokolovo, Sophiental (E),
Wilhelmstahl (E), Wygoda (E).

(This list in not all inclusive. If you have
additions, please provide to the lead editor.)

(E)=Evangelical

(C)=Catholic

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Tracing Ancestors from Hungary to the Village of Peterstal

By Gayla Ohlhauser Gray

In the March 2002 issue of the GDO, I began the *Tracing Ancestors from Hungary to Russia* series. The first article discussed the three phases of German migration to Hungary. The article provided information on how to find additional information on many of the villages in Hungary that were settled by our German ancestors. It also focused on our German ancestors who settled in the village of Neuburg in the Grossliebental District of Odessa, Russia. This article will focus on our German ancestors in Hungary who settled in the village of Peterstal in the Grossliebental District of Odessa, Russia. The surnames include:

ANGELMANN—Gottfried; **BALLY**—Johann Georg;
BALLIET—Franz, Johann, Christian, Jacob; **BAUER**—Nikolaus, Jakob;
BECKER—Ludwig, Adam, Gerhard, Philipp Peter, and Johann Mathais;
BENZ—Johannes; **BENDER**—Wilhelm; **BIEBELHEIMER**—Adam;
BIGENHEIMER—Johann Joseph; **BRANDNER**—Georg;
BRENNEMANN—Christian; **BREITENSTEIN**—Heinrich;
BRETTNER—Georg Heinrich, Johannes; **BROCKEL**—Johann;
BROECKEL—Heinrich, Kaspar, Lucas; **BURKHARD**—Franz;
CHRISTMANN—Michael, Johann Michael; **DAFFE(E)**—Adam, Jakob,
Johann; **ENZ**—Johann; **FRUH**—Adam, Christian, Franz, Johann Jakob;
FUCHS—Jakob, Peter; **GEISLER**—Heinrich; **GLABE**—Johann;
GROSS—Peter, Lorenz, Karl; **HEGER**—Georg; **HEIN(T)Z**—Johann
Adolf, Johann Christian Philipp, Jakob, Johann Melchior, Michael,
Melchior; **HIRSCH**—Johann, Philipp, Georg;
HUM(M)ANN—Johann Adam, Nikolaus, Heinrich, Paul;
HUSSONG (HIESONG, HILONG)—Philipp, Georg, Nikolaus;
HUTH—Paul; **HUTHER (HUTER)**—Johann Ludwig Jakob;
HUTTER—Peter; **INGENHEIMER**—Johann; **JAKWART**—Peter;
JENTZER—Peter; **JENZER**—Johann Nikolaus; **JETCHNER**—

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**Wouldn't you like to be a village
coordinator too?**

The Arrogance of Youth

By James E. Helfenstein

I was lucky enough to have been raised in the same household with my fraternal grandparents, however, I didn't realize just how lucky I was until much later. These grandparents had come from Grossliebental, Russia and had many stories to tell. When I was very young, I must have listened with the attention span typical of my age, and as I transitioned to my teen years, I was certain that I was too busy to pay any attention. Even when the stories stimulated some interest I was too proud to respond to it. Consequently, due to my arrogance, I learned very little about my heritage from the best source that I could have been blessed with.

A few tidbits still remain however, such as "your grandfather had two brothers...", and "we had a castle in Germany..." And after a few decades these small seeds finally germinated into that which encouraged me to explore my genealogy.

My early research revealed a coat of arms for Helfenstein that bore an elephant upon it. Two books on Heraldry by Ottfried Neubecker used this as an example of canting arms. I also discovered that a book had been written by Dr. H. F. Kerler in 1840 titled "Geschichte der Grafen von Helfenstein" or "History of the Counts of Helfenstein." It covers the family history from about 250 AD to 1552 AD.

After some preliminary research, my daughter and I visited Germany and began our exploration at Geislingen, the village where the castle was reported to be. Geislingen is located about 40 km south east of Stuttgart. Taking my daughter, Kim, along was a stroke of genius, as she would politely mention that my name is Helfenstein whenever she thought it advantageous. We seemed to have gotten special treatment wherever we went. In one instance, while staying at a hotel in Geislingen, we were dining one evening when the owner stopped by our table to ask if we were enjoying our dinner. Kim accidentally dropped my name and when he showed interest we asked him to join us. He began telling us about the role that the Helfensteins played in the area and in doing so returned to his library several times to retrieve books that revealed Helfenstein history. As he scanned the books he would translate the interesting information keeping us transfixed. At one point he mentioned that there were five or six castles related to the Helfensteins. He also said that for a short period of time in the 1400's the Helfensteins actually controlled more territory than did the Kaiser. We spent the rest of the evening absorbing as much information as we could while I tried to take notes. Needless to say, my notes proved nearly worthless but we were well entertained.

The following day we visited the castle. Most of the upper construction

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The History of Temvik, North Dakota

By Bertha Larvick written October 1, 1930

Submitted by Dr. Ralph E. Wiseman and edited by Gayla Ohlhauser Gray

During the month of October of the fall of 1901, three brothers by the name of Larvick stepped from the train at Steel. They spent the night in Braddock after persuading a man to take them there in a buggy drawn by two horses. The next morning they left early to continue their journey to Linton where they filed on the land and registered it in the auditor's books, then returned to Braddock. The third day they made it back to Steel and took the train back home to Mankato, Minnesota.

The spring of 1902 found the three young husky men ready to make their way back to the Promised Land. They arrived in Eureka, South Dakota by train and purchased stock, machinery and goods to transport to their destination near Temvik. The journey took three days. Arriving on the twenty-second day of April, they pitched their tent where what is now the Peter Nelson farm. But, oh to their horror and terror, one of those unwelcomed North Dakota blizzards made its appearance without even an apology for its daunting visit. My, but it had felt like winter, even in April.

The Larvick boys abandoned that place of refuge and proceeded on their way until they came to what is now the Temvik locality. Their closest neighbor was Ed Haws. Here they found evidence of trees along the creeks and stumps and chips in meadows and gulches. Two of the Larvick brothers drove to Braddock and bought lumber for a shack, which was built on Ed Larvick's homestead about where his garden is now. It took possibly two days to build.

That spring they broke thirty acres of land with a rude breaking plow to plant flax. In the fall of 1902 they cut the flax with an old time wooden header leaving bunches over the field. One Sunday the wind blew so hard the flax blew all the way over to Frank Foell's farm, many miles away. They raked what they could and sold it for \$164.

The eldest brother batched it here in his shack the first winter and took care of the horses in an old sod barn. One of his ways of spending his leisure time was hauling wood from the Missouri River once or twice a week all winter.

Some days were bitter and it felt to him like the North Pole. Two weeks during the winter it was impossible to get to Braddock to buy groceries so he had to be satisfied feasting on nothing but potatoes and salt. Many months later groceries were delivered from Braddock to Linton making it a little more convenient for the pioneers of this vicinity.

The following spring the brothers sowed the already broken thirty acres to wheat and then added more acres to the breaking, which was planted to flax. By the year 1903, the oldest brother's shack was an important thoroughfare for the stagecoach that ran from Braddock to Linton. The shack was one of hospitality and it had no respecter of persons. Travelers must have found his shack a pleasant place to sleep and he a provider of nourishing meals because there was hardly a day when someone wasn't there to keep him company. In fact, J.E. Davis and Ed Davis, not being relatives at all, came and stayed with him until they filed on their respective places.

The first summer he and his brother Oscar helped lay the Soo Railroad between Braddock and Bismarck. The next year he worked and helped put the Northern Pacific Railroad between Bismarck and Linton. The year, 1903, it went as far as Hazelton and the train went that far all winter. By the fall of 1903 Linton was benefiting from Jim Hill's service. The workers received \$1.75 a day and board was 75 cents which left \$1.00 per day to apply on their saving's account. Many Indians also helped in the laying of the railroad. Several hundred cattle were herded and pastured on and around Danbury Butte each year.

On the 6th of January 1903, a prairie fire broke out west of Temvik resulting from an ash pile. The northwest winds carried it along towards Linton and it burned three hundred tons of hay and Horton's Ranch, which was situated north of Linton. Then it burned Tuft's house and buildings and the Will Johnson's farm in the Omio Township.

Many people were beginning to migrate into this land

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of "milk and honey". Among them were the families of Clark Burlingame, Fred Surring, Charles Baker, Louis Foell, Warren Chapman, Mr. Kebler and Frank Hastings.

The first Northern Pacific depot was only a boxcar, which stood west of the track opposite the Occident Elevator. At first the N.P. Company did not employ an agent but each man who shipped any products on the train or was a passenger, did their own checking. The first agent was Mr. Donly. Somehow the "majestic" depot caught fire and was burned. The N.P. then built the present depot.

In 1905, Mr. Brofy, who was the first storekeeper, erected the first business building, a store. He shipped in a carload of lumber that had been used in the Lewis and Clark Exposition, which was held at St. Louis in 1904. In 1906, Mr. Brofy sold the store to Larvick and Foell. They took care of the telephone office, post office, cream station, and store under the same roof. The school and hall was on the second floor, and a dwelling house in the rear of the store. The second building to be built was the abominable Blind-pig, which was west of Hendrix's store; but later moved to what is now the deplorable pool-hall. Mr. Messner was the "honorable" barkeeper. One night in this building a drinking party had been indulged in. The men got into a hot argument and as the liquor soaked brains could not function it became worse. Finally, a fine young man, the grandson of Mr. Messner had to sacrifice his life for someone shot him! By the time the cultured people had arrived after hearing the shot they found blood all over where the body was laying. No one knew who did it, only that it was done. Oh yes, they all pleaded innocent but somebody had done the deed! No one was accused and no trial was held.

In 1902 the name of the town was Godkin. It received its precious name from a railroad worker saying to another "Who can make a town in this place?" and the other employee answered, "Well, God can." They then called it Godkin until Mr. Brofy became Postmaster and took it into his own hands to rename it Brofy. After Mr. Brofy left the name of the village was changed to Larvick. When the Tempels became prominent businessmen, they wanted it named in their honor. It was never legally Tempel or

Tempelton. They disputed over the name until they had to have a name to put down in the books. The Secretary of Interior suggested it be named "Temvik" from the name of Tempel and Larvick, respectively.

When the Tempels came here, they bought all the land east of the track from the Larvick brothers. The lots west of the track are still held by the Larvick brothers. The Tempels began building houses, the bank, and a lumberyard, hotel and pool hall the spring of 1908 and the year 1909. They also built and operated the store, which is now owned by the Hendrix and Company. Soon after the Tempels came here, a newspaper was published. It was a proud town to have a printing house. It was run such a short time that no one knew the name of the paper and how often it was printed.

A great reception and banquet was held in the old town one day. It was a rare occasion for it was the first of its kind. One of the bachelors, Dave Calquhoun, and a fair maid, Miss Anna Anderson, were united in marriage in the fall of 1907. The other bachelors congratulated them and thanked them for being the first couple in this community to enter the road of matrimony and break the road for them.

The first child to be born in this vicinity was Quinton Foell, born the first day of May 1907.

School was taught in the upstairs of the store building. The first teacher was Miss Kirkpatrick. Among her pupils were Ruth Stedman (now Mrs. Chilton), Ethan Burlingame, Verna Stedman, Donavan Chambers, Frank Fell, and Fern Chambers. This was the winter of 1908 and 1909. The real schoolhouse was built in 1910 in the eastern part of town. Years later it was found to be too small so they had to build the present schoolhouse. It was completed in the fall of 1919. They only hired two teachers the first year and now they have five teachers.

The German Reform Church was built in 1910 on Roosevelt Street. The first residence to be erected was Emil Nelson's, which Mrs. Pauline Reich now occupies. The Carpenter Lumber Company first owned the lumberyard. It was situated north of the Occident Elevator on the east side of the track. This company quit and it was

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Odessa Archives
Fond 6 – Inventory 1 – File 20877
Translated by Roland Wagner

Fond 6, Inventory 1, File 20877 is a collection of documents recording the elections in 1862 for officials in the local mayor's offices ("Schulzenamt") for Waterloo, Karlsruhe, Helenental, Neufreudenthal, Johannestal, Sulz, Landau, Rohrbach, Rastadt, Muenchen and Katharinental. The officials included the "Dorfschulz" (village mayor, also known as the "Dorfältester," or the "Starosta" in Russian) and his two assistants ("Beisitzer," literally, "by-sitters"). These elections were held at village assemblies ("Gemeinde Versammlung") of the household heads, who were the legal electorate in the Black Sea colonies. The village secretary ("Dorfschreiber") recorded the names of the eligible voters and the candidates they voted for, along with their signatures. The results were confirmed by the mayor and his assistants, their signatures and the crown seal of office were affixed to the document, and it was forwarded to the Beresan district mayor's office ("Gebietsamt") in Landau. The district mayor ("Oberschulz," also referred to as the "Gebietsvorsteher"), and his two Beisitzer affixed their signatures and crown seal to the document, and it was then passed on for final approval to the Welfare Committee ("Fürsorgekomitee") for the Foreign Colonies in Odessa.

There are interesting clues about family relationships in the documents. Several of the first and last names are identical (e.g., Johannes Wetzel in Waterloo, which occurs twice in a row). Such cases were usually clarified by the secretary with the addition of "elder" or "younger" after the name ("alt" or "jung," often reduced to "j," or in some cases the variant form "1sten" and "2ten"). In modern English this usually denotes a father-son relationship, but that was not necessarily the case in German records during previous centuries. The child was commonly given the first name of the baptismal sponsor, who may or may not have been a relative (this custom varied by religious denomination, but it was generally the rule in the Catholic colonies). The occurrence of two identical names distinguished by "alt" and "jung" indicated that the

younger person shared the same name as an older person who usually was a paternal relative (the father, a paternal uncle, an older cousin). However, in some cases there were unrelated families with the same surname in a village, so the "alt" and "jung" distinction did not always indicate a biological relationship. Similarly, the presence of a person designated as "jung" may not always indicate that the "alt" was still alive, if the latter had died within recent memory.

The first column in the voter lists shows the names of the legal voters in the village, and the third column supposedly shows the actual signatures of the voters (the column heading states "eigenhändige Unterschriften der Wähler"). However, it should be noted that in many cases the signatures look suspiciously identical to the secretary's handwriting, which likely indicates that some voters preferred to have him sign their names for them. The original spellings of the names by the secretary and in the signatures was preserved in the translations. In some cases there were slight differences. Occasionally the first name recorded by the clerk differs from that shown in the signatures (e.g., Michael Schenkenberger in Neufreudenthal is listed as Johannes Schenkenberger in the signature column). This may reflect differences in preference for use of the first name versus the middle name, which changed for some people at various points in their lives. Another possibility is that a different family member signed on behalf of the voter, which may account for the different first name. In some cases the convention was to add a postscript explaining this (e.g., in Helenthal Adam Kast's vote was signed by Jacob Kast with the notation, "in Vertretung des Sohnes," in representation of the son). Readers should also be alerted to the fact that sometimes people signed their names in the wrong row, so the name shown in the secretary's column may not match that in the signature column. In those cases the missing signature usually appears in the next row below. The signatures are obviously missing for those who are marked as absent. Another feature noticeable on the election lists is that family members are often grouped together, one after the other, and their votes are almost always for the

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Evangelical - Lutheran Parish of the Church of Saint Paul in the city of Odessa
ALPHABETICAL REGISTER OF FOREIGNERS AND NON-COLONISTS

State Archive of the Odessa Oblast, Fond 630, op. 1, file 353

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same candidate. This indicates that they attended the elections together and usually voted as a block.

Concerning the election of a new Schulz of the Neufreudenthal Mayor's Office to replace the released Jakob Stolz which took place at a village assembly in the presence of the District Beisitzer Christian Müller on the 29th of Janaury 1862. Below are the names of the voting members:

1. Martin **Springer**
2. Michael **Pfaff**
3. Leonhard **Deibert**
4. Jakob **Leonhardt**
5. Christian **Benz**
6. Gottlieb **Osswald**
7. Peter **Widmeier**
8. Johannes **Hetterle**
9. Johannes **Beck**
10. Michael **Schenkenberger**
11. Jakob **Will**
12. Adam **Esslinger**
13. Jakob **Redinger**
14. Reinhardt **Geier**
15. Reinhardt **Koschel**
16. Jakob **Frank**
17. Peter **Weber**
18. Solomon **Burghardt**
19. Jakob **Phillippi**
20. Konrad **Ohlhäuser**
21. Adam **Enzi**
22. Phillipp **Pfaff**
23. Jakob **Haag**
24. Jakob **Schweinforth**
25. Georg **Schweinforth**
26. Adam **Ohlhäuser**
27. Johannes **Riedlinger**
28. Martin **Enzi**
29. Jakob **Steiger**
30. Georg **Renschler**
31. Heinrich **Hoffer**
32. Jakob **Kern**
33. Widow **Braun**
34. Christian **Wacker**
35. Peter **Schock**
36. Jakob **Engelmann**
37. Karl **Neubauer**
38. Johann **Weber**
39. Karl **Pfaff**
40. Andreas **Kiemele**
41. Johannes **Lang**

42. Johannes **Schatz**
43. Lorenz **Luckenberger**
44. Jakob **Benz**
45. Georg **Kiemele**
46. Johannes **Theurer**
47. Friedrich **Kronmüller**
48. Jakob **Lang**
49. Johann **Kiemele**
50. Michael **Renschler**
51. Johannes **Lang**
52. Wilhelm **Mehl**
53. Felix **Haag**
54. Jakob **Stutz**
55. Martin **Schatz**
56. Michael **Koschel**

To purchase this Fond contact:

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To receive a copy of your ancestors signature for the village of Neufreudenthal from this Fond, contact Gayla Gray at gaylagray@msn.com and tell her the number and name of the person you would like a signature for. The file will be sent electronically only via a JPG (300 dpi) file for you to print out.

There are many other records available for the Grossliebental District Odessa area but funds are needed to retrieve these records. At the present time, there is not a GDO Archives and Acquisition Team in place but if you are interested in becoming a part of this new team, please contact Dale Wahl at dwahl@kendaco.telebyte.com or send donations to:

**Germans from Russia Heritage Society
Attention: Rachel Schmidt
1125 West Turnpike Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501-8115**

Make sure you mark your check or let Rachel know that your donation is specially for GDO Archives and Acquisitions. And remember, your donations are tax deductible.

**DON'T MISS THE
32nd Annual GRHS Convention
August 8 — 11, 2002
Radisson Inn, Bismarck, North Dakota**

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Magdalena; **JUNG**—Johann; **JUNKER**—Friedrich, Peter; **KANTER**—Johann; **KAPPEL (KABEL)**—Elisabetha; **KLEIN**—Jakob, Peter, Michael Georg, Johann, Nikolaus, Peter Johann Philipp; **KLEMMER**—Johann; **KOHLER**—Nikolaus, Matthias; **KRAUS**—Andreas, Heinrich, Georg; **KREMER**—Adam; **LAUTENSCHLAGER**—Nikolaus, Jakob, Johann; **LEBERT**—Nikolaus, Kaspar, Jakob, Peter; **MAIER**—Friedrich; **MARTIN**—Jakob, Johann, Melchior, Heinrich, Peter, Jakob Friedrich; **METZGER**—Jakob, Peter; **NESSEL**—Leonhard, Balsamina; **NEUBAUER**—Karl; **OBERLAENDER**—Peter, Johann Nikolaus, Johann Ludwig, Johann, Nikolaus; **PFLUG**—Leonhard, Heinrich; **REDINGER**—Peter; **RELING**—Nikolaus; **REIGER**—Gottfried; **ROGLER**—Michael; **ROTH**—Adam, Karl; **SCHATZ**—Catharina; **SCHMIDT**—Karl, Georg, Pwter, Heinrich; **SCHMITT**—Peter, Adam; **SCHNEIDER**—Philipp; **SCHOCK**—Peter; **SCHOEPP**—Georg; **SCHOPP**—Michael, Philipp, Georg Ferdinand; **SCHWEIKERT**—Anna; **SCHWEINFURTH**—Johann Georg, Konrad Gottfried, Jakob, Georg; **SPERRLE**—Ludwig; **STILLING**—Johann; **TESCHNER**—Magdalena; **TEUFEL**—Georg, Johann, Johannes, Heinrich; **WEBER**—Anna Marie; **WEISSENBACH**—Katherina; **WOLF**—Johannes; **WUNDER**—Anton; **ZECHMEISTER**—Paul, Rosina; **ZIEGLER**—Adam; and **ZIMMER**—Christina.

The URL <http://www.ieway.com/richa883/gdo/newsletters/newsletters.htm> contains more details on these families. Select **Hungary to Peterstal**. The November 2002 issue of the GDO newsletters will focus on the families from Hungary who settled in Freudental. Happy Hunting.

(Continued from page 4)

out in the hands of Mr. Tempel. Later the Thomson Lumber Company became owners and employed Mr. Grooten. It was moved to the vacant lot west of Hendrix's store. At one time there were two lumberyards in this town. A carpenter of Linton completed the Occident Elevator in 1906. Mr. Art Chambers was the first manager. The building west of the bank was built for a bowling alley. Years later it was converted into a store and Fred Snyder was the first owner and manager.

From a small beginning to a large flourishing town, Temvik has progressed. It has been an asset to this community. Many of its progressive enterprises have enlarged. The mill operated by John Leno, has a day and night shift. They turn out many hundred pounds of high-grade flour daily. Three elevators, with one idle, have been taking care of the grain, and the Farmer's added four more bins, enlarging its capacity. Temvik has three stores, of which one deals with meat and groceries, one an I.G.A. store owned by the Hendrix Company and the other owned by Christ Albrecht. There are two cream stations, shipping many gallons of cream annually. The bank is a financial success. We also have an oil distributing station which is a worthy industry and worth advertising. A new lumberyard has been installed. It is home owned by Charles Enders, a prosperous businessman. There are two garages and one blacksmith shop, which give valuable service and guaranteed work. The farmers of the surrounding community have organized a shipping association and telephone service. There is a United State Port Office, which has two rural free delivery routes. The United States National Highway, which is graveled and well maintained, passes through Temvik. A bus going from Minot, N.D. to Aberdeen, SD is an ideal vehicle, which passes through here. The patrons of the Temvik School, which has been improved each year through the efforts of the school board and teachers, are proud of their school. The main street has also been graveled. There are many up-to-date farms in this vicinity. All the above enterprises and improvements have been brought about through the cooperation and efforts of every citizen of this town. It has been found a place to be

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had been removed by order of the Pope because the castle had been abandoned and mischievous young knights intent on causing trouble in the neighboring villages were using it as haven. Most of the outer walls were still in tact and the grounds had been converted into a beer garden. About a quarter mile away standing on a point of rock was a lookout tower. The top floor of the tower was converted into a display room offering many art objects depicting the history of the castle, including a large pedigree. Later as the sun was setting, we returned to the beer garden and enjoyed the view with local brew in hand. We struck up conversations with several of the local people who were all very gracious and made us feel very welcome.

I later learned that the castle was built in about 1100 and was finally conquered in 1552 by the free city of Ulm. Apparently this Helfenstein line had maxed out their credit cards and the creditors came collecting. And this is why the castle was abandoned.

Next we moved on to Wiesensteig, a village about 20 km south west of Geislingen. There was supposed to be a much newer castle there and we were obviously curious about it. It looked more like a governmental administrative building than a castle. It was a three-story building that covered one city block with a courtyard and fountain in the center. About 60 % of the original structure had been destroyed during WWII but the remaining portion that faced the main street had been restored. It wasn't as interesting because it didn't have all of the obligatory walls and parapets that fill our romantic illusions.

In the area of these two villages there was much evidence of the Helfenstein influence including coats of arms on official buildings, stylized elephants on letterheads, nameplates and even manhole covers. Geislingen even has a 5ft high bronze statue of an elephant in an open mall for children to climb upon.

While exploring we made a point of looking for a book store, hoping to find the book "Geschichte der Grafen von Helfenstein." In one store in the city of



Helfenstein Coat of Arms

Ulm, when asking about the book, a young lady took us up into a private office where she checked her inventory by computer. She found an extra copy of an engraving that was inserted into the book but didn't have a copy of the book. I inquired about a search engine used by bookstores. They did have one and she was gracious enough to give me the address. After returning home I was able to locate a copy and am now in the process of translating it.



Helfenstein Castle

I never throw anything away, and a few years ago while looking through some old papers that I had stored away, I discovered a Christmas card dated 1951. It was sent to my grandmother from a Helfenstein family living in a small village near the Austrian border. After WWII was over, I remember watching my grandmother collect old clothes and other useful items from the neighbors and then send packages to a family in Germany. I assumed that this was that family. A couple of months before leaving on our vacation I sent a letter to the address on the card. To my surprise I received a response with their new address. Apparently they had moved many years earlier but the village was small enough that the post office knew everyone.

While enjoying their hospitality I tried to learn more about my lineage but it was very painful for them to talk about. They were also from Grossliebental but the patriarch Waldemar Helfenstein, the name on the Christmas card, had died just two years earlier and his wife Else wasn't very knowledgeable about Waldemars lineage. She had a photo album of many of the family members that died at the hands of the soviets but when I asked questions she could only break into tears. I decided not to pursue it any further.

As our vacation came to a close I think we were both surprised at how much we had learned about our heritage but there is still a large Black Sea gap that I need to close. This brings us full circle. How many threads of volatile information might I have retained if it weren't for the arrogance of youth?

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proud of, and an honor to have your address **Temvik**.

Many of our ancestors from the GDO area settled in Temvik and surrounding towns in the Emmons County area. Those who settled in the area are:

- BEITELSPACHER**, Ludwig; **BENTZ**, Christian;
BRECKEL (BROECKEL), Jacob & Peter;
BURKHART (BURGHARDT), Jacob Sr. & Jacob Jr.;
EISENBARTH, Friedrich; **FRIED**, Wilhelm;
GIMBEL, Heinrich; **GEIER**, Christian;
GERGENTZ (JERGENTZ), Gustav;
GRENZ, Gottlieb & Johann Samuel;
HETTERLE, Philipp;
HUBER, Georg; **KIEMELE**, Jacob Sr. & Jacob Jr.;
NATHAN, Andreas; **OHLHAUSER**, Adam & Martin ;
OSTER, Peter; **PFAFF**, Friedrich, **PFEIFER**, Philipp;
RIEDLINGER, Christian; **SCHATZ**, Gottlieb;
SCHENKENBERGER, Philipp; **SCHLECHT**, John;
SCHMIDT, Martin;
WACKER, Christian; and
WOHL, Friedrich & Johannes..

Großliebental District Odessa Newsletter

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**Großliebental District
Odessa Newsletter**

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