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**Roland Schütt:**

**The lists of the new settlers in the villages of the Landowner  
Family Eszterházy**

**Agostyan, Vertestonia, Vertessomlo, Alsogalla, Felsogalla, Szar and  
Dunaszentmiklos**

When searching for leads to the roots of my ancestors I also searched in the state archives in Hungary. In the Family Eszterházy's records I discovered right away a few leads. For instance I discovered seven lists in which the names of the aforementioned villages were named. Even though at times the lists were very difficult to decipher, it is evident that the Landowner, besides the name, age and occupation, also noted the size of the property, the number of children, when the settlement was established and when the tax-tree time expired. Therefore the reason of those lists was to establish a record of their prospective future taxpayers by the Eszterházy family.

Looking from this point of view I trust the correctness of this source of information more than the correctness of the well-known county tax lists. Even at those times it happened that the Landowner did not always give the correct information to his County office (Komitat) as it would have been expected. Most important discovery was the information of the place of origin and the age of the new settler. In most cases this information was added to the individual's name.

In order to study this information in depth I have asked the archive's personnel to copy and mail me those records. Comparing them to the listed marriage witnesses and/or Godparents with named roots I hoped to be able to connect one or the other loose ends and find clues for future research.

One clue that I recently stumbled upon is hopefully going to lead me to the discovery of both **Laschillingers** in Verestolna (No. 136 and No. 137). This also was the reason that I decided to publish those researched lists. Hopefully on hand of them one or the other researcher can also find leads for his/her own genealogical research.

As for the spelling of family and place names, each family researcher is already very well familiar that the scribes of those times wrote the names as they heard them in more or less readable lettering. Therefore the quality of those lists is also different.

Example: The Szár list is quite readable. But it seems that the scribe was not from the Germanic speaking areas and therefore the names of the people and places are not quite accurate. The place names especially are not as well spelled as in the other lists.

As far as it was possible I tried to find the names in the Hungarian church books and in the published Family books (for instance Szár, Kecsked). Occasionally I was successful at it. To those settlers I have added the marriage dates and the first christenings. In the cases where the church books were started after the arrival of the first settlers, this was difficult to do (Verestolna and Felsogalla, 1742). Perhaps the missing church entries might be able to be found in other towns, which I have not (yet) researched. Therefore there are sometimes more or less large gaps to be found. Some of the families seemed to have relocated soon after their arrival to other places, as those names popped up there.

It was also noticeable that some names were double entries in the lists (for instance No. 157 and No 158). As many names cannot be further followed in the individual town, in my opinion it indicates that the families were still mobile in the early stages (and even later). It is also possible that those lists were not written in the years they occurred but years later.

I thought first that the two names Johannes Michael **Kaidis** (No. 100 and No. 101) was a double entry. But I found in the church books on hand of the baptisms that those were two people with the same name. This is quite a challenge to the family researcher. Another difficulty turned out to be the way the place of origins was shortened. Some of the places of origin were also very all encompassing, (like 'ex Imperio, ex Bavaria, etc.) so that it does not give any leads. I had the impression that one or the other of the settlers did not even want his exact place of the origin to be known. At least not in any official documentation. One of the reasons might be that they left their hometowns without the official permission (Manumission or exit taxes) from their previous landowner. There could have been other grounds as well.

For the new landowner it might not have been important from where his new taxpayers were coming from. His reasons would have been more to establish a good basis that his 'flock' was able to build up a good basis for living condition. Finally he was eager to assure that his future taxpayers had a lasting security.

As the following example shows the place of origin was not always the place of birth.

By the families **Mayer/Maier** and **Hill** the place of origin was noted as “Otterstatt” and it looked like it was a no brainer. Since the films of the church books were available through the Mormons I was too curious and ordered the films to look for those names. My experience was as follows:

\* The family name **Mayer/Maier** is also in *Otterstadt* (next to Speyer) to be found. This was no surprise as the name is very common.

\* However I could not find the baptism for Josef **Mayer** (List no. 157 and no. 158) around 1704 (+/- five years). I also looked for the marriages, going back from their year of the arrival in 1733 in Hungary. I found a marriage on 11<sup>th</sup> of February 1727 when a Josef **Mayer** from *Pillippsburg* (this explains the missing birth entry in *Otterstadt*) married Anna Margaretha **Pörzel** (witnesses Ludwig **Hemmel** and Josef **Mayer**).

\* The couple **Mayer/Pörzel** had on 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1731 and 17<sup>th</sup> of February 1733 two sons baptized; the later-born died two months thereafter. The godfather to the second son was one Johannes Kaspar **Horn**. After 1733 there were no other entries for this couple to be found, no baptisms or deaths. This would mean that they had no other children or moved away.

\* One Johannes Kaspar **Horn** married on 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1732 in *Otterstadt* Anna Elisabeth **Jahn** (witnesses Ludwig **Hemmel** and Georg Christof **Waas**). The observant reader would have noticed that one Ludwig **Hemmel** was also a marriage witness to the aforementioned Josef **Mayer** (just a coincidence or is there a connection?).

\* The church book in *Vertestolna* starts in 1744 with an “inventory” of the village’s families, including the wives and children. I have so far never found in any other church book such a helpful overview. One Johannes **Horn** and his wife Elisabeth are mentioned, which were married in “1732 in Teutschland”. As per the “inventory” this couple had two children, the older having been baptized in 1742 in *Banhida*, and the younger one in 1743 in *Tardos*.

\* One Johannes Kaspar **Horn** is noted in *Vertestolna* at the christening of the children of Ludwig and Margarete **Mayer**, whose children were baptized on 24<sup>th</sup> of December 1741 and on 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1744 in *Vertestolna*.

\* One Johannes Kaspar **Horn** was also on the list of *Vertestolna* (No. 92).

\* Further, one Johannes Kaspar **Horn** was twice a Godparent to the couple Christian and Magdalena **Mayer**, who had their children baptized on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1742 and 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1744 in *Vertestolna*.

It is almost positive that the above-mentioned Godparent is the same Johannes Kaspar **Horn** who emigrated to Hungary and shows up in the Eszterházy list as no. 92. Of course it could also be just a coincidence (which in this case I do not believe).

The name **Hill** – in many spelling variations – is also to be found in the church book of *Otterstadt*. His baptism or his marriage I was not able to find. He could have been a child of the couple Johannes Paul and Susanne **Hill**, who had children in *Otterstadt* baptized on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1705, 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. 1708, 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct. 1710 and 31<sup>st</sup> Sept. 1712. The Friedrich **Hill** off the Eszterházy list could well fit in there (his birth is calculated to 1707). As per the church books Johannes Paul **Hill** was a cow shepherd and that could explain the gap. It is also possible that the baptism was in one of the surrounding villages. This search – with a positive or negative confirmation – I leave it to the researcher, who has a personal interest in the **Hill** family.

I have not found the **Laininger** name in the church books of *Otterstadt*. Perhaps this family lived just for a short time in *Otterstadt*, and met there only with other families so they could travel together to Hungary.

In a handful of other names I tried to verify the contents of those lists. Especially if the place of origin seemed to be clear. In the archives of the diocese of Würzburg I found the following:

- \*     Johannes Jakob **Böhm** – 29 July 1687 in *Rödelsee* (eventual no. 19). Parents: Jacobus **Behm** and Margaretha; Godparent: Hans **Bäuml**, incola (resident) in *Altenschönbach*. One Johannes Jakob **Böhm** married on 29 May 1713 in *Rödelsee* Maria Barbara **Saar**. On 8 Oct. 1730 this couple baptized a son on the name Johannes, Godparent was Johannes **Wieder**.
- \*     Johannes Konrad **Franz**, - 7 June 1689 in *Zeil am Main* (eventual no. 51). Parents: Wolfgang **Frantz** and Cordula; Godparent: Johannes Conrad **Weidner**.
- \*     Johannes Michael **Kaidl**, – 14 July 1697 in *Prölsdorf* (eventual no. 100 or no. 101). Parents: Michael **Kaidl** and Barbara; Godparent: Georg **übell**.
- \*     Johannes **Melber** – 11 Sep. 1687 in *Reutersbrunn* (eventual no 160). Parents: Anton **Melber** and Kundegunde; Godparent: Johannes **Weltsch**.
- \*     Johannes Martin **Rödel** – 18 Sep. 1678 in *Rödelsee* (eventual no. 219). Parents: Martin **Rödels**, civis (citizen) et pistores (baker) in *Rödelsee*; Godparent: honestus juvenis Martin **Manel de Marchsenberg**. A Johannes **Martin** married on 4 March 1726 in *Rödelsee* Kunegunde **Leuberth**. Witnesses: Frederico **Leuberth** ex *Grosengesen* and Johannes **Sommer**. On 15 Aug. 1729 this couple had baptized a daughter in *Rödelsee* with the name Anna Maria. Godmother: Anna Maria **Gropp**.

Most of the places of origin I have not double-checked. But on the basis of the confirmed data those lists are surprisingly accurate. Some of the emigrant names I could not confirm with the viewed church books (Andreas **Baumann** [no. 12 and no. 13], Johannes **Hajapol** [no. 71]. Peter **Ising** [no. 100], Johannes **Melber** [no. 164] and Michael **Pajer** [no. 184]). Sometimes the names in question did not show up in those places at all. Most likely my interpretation of the place names was not correct. It is also likely that the

emigrant did live in that place, but there were no relevant church happenings (baptism, marriage, death).

I am not claiming that I have correctly interpreted all the place names, the birth dates and the places of origin. By some of the place names I was not able to recognize its meaning immediately. Some others sounded similar to those in the area in question. That is the reason that I wrote the place names in the original spelling (see the list under “origin”). That gives the interested reader the possibility to double check and hopefully to correct it. The copies of those lists are deposited at AkdFF in Sindelfingen where they can be viewed.

That I correctly interpreted the other place names hopefully other researchers could confirm it or correct it. Once again I am inviting and encouraging the reader to participate.

Many names have been already published that are found in the above-mentioned lists. That data apparently comes from secondary sources. As well the ages and the children of the settlers are missing in the published works, which are most important to the family genealogist (because of shortage of space I have skipped the descriptions of the family assets). That is the reason that I did not take into account the already published materials but depended only on the originals. In my experience this is the correct way of proceeding. This way one can compare different sources and can with confidence achieve the result.

A few years ago I published already my complete research on GedBas (genealogy Data; <http://gedbas.genealogy.net/>). The very good ‘introduction’ will be helpful with the conversion. At the same time I would like to encourage each family researcher who digitized his data to contribute to it.

My own experience of how to proceed is very positive. As the databank is open to the public and easy to use, I have been already contacted with requests. I was also able to get some leads for my own research. Three ancestry research groups evolved out of that. A very productive data exchange developed with one of the researchers.

Any questions or contributions to the persons named in the list I will be most delighted. It would give me the opportunity to fully respond to the inquiries of other family researchers.

Ansiedlung = place of settlement

Kind, Kinder = Child, children

Herkunft = place of origin

Witwe = widow

Witwer = widower

Taufpaten (or Pate) = Godparents

Beruf = occupation

Trauzeugen = marriage witnesses