**GOTTSCHEE GENEALOGICAL TIDBITS**

The original four families arrive - 10 Aug 1330

Gottscheer *Ansiedlung* (Settlement) begins - 1330

General history begins – 1331

Settlers from Brixen, Salzburg, Tyrol, Austria, and Freising, Germany, arrive - ??

Establishment of a settlement in Mooswald -1339

Settlers from Thuringia, Germany (300 families) arrive – 1350

Turkish invasions of Gottschee – 1469 to 1584

Gottschee becomes a market city - 1471

Gottscheers allowed to sell goods door-to-door “Hausierian” in the realm - 1492

Land records and taxes first recorded – 1494

Additional land records were done in – 1498, 1528, 1538, 1564, 1568, 1570 and 1574

The best land record genealogical source – 1574 Ubarium (my opinion)

House names (oeconyms) begin – I don’t have a clue

Mandate to keep vital statistics by the Catholic church – 1563

Most Catholic church records do not start until much later – 1600s

Documents in the mid-1600s contain only village names and no house numbers

Marriage records in the mid-1600s contain only the groom name, father of groom and bride name, father of bride and no ages for the bride or groom

Maria Theresa mandated military registration for all males and numbering of houses in 1770

French military occupy Gottschee – 1805 to 1806 and 1809 to 1814 (Does your DNA show a French connection?)

Gottscheers and Austrian army defeat the French army – 1814

The Gottschee city church St. Fabian and Sebastian built – 1900 to 1903 (still stands)

Gottscheer Bote newspaper published – 1904 to 1919

World War I – 1914 to 1918

Gottscheer Zeitung newspaper published – 1919 to 1941 (originals all available in the US Library of Congress)

World War II – 1939 to 1945

Nazi and Italian military forces occupy Gottschee – 6 April 1941 to 1945. (Does your DNA show an Italian connection?)

Gottscheer “Umsiedlung” (Relocation) begins - Nov 1941 to Feb 1942

Italian forces begin to destroy houses and villages to deny Yugoslav partisans sanctuary buildings -1942 to 1943

Italy surrenders to the Allies - 8 Sep 1943

Allies commence bombing of Gottschee and Slovenia – 1943 to 1944

Benito Mussolini is killed – 23 April 1945

Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun commit suicide – 30 April 1945

World War II ends - 07/08 May 1945 depending if you were the real Allies or the USSR

Gottscheer “Auf der Flucht” (On the Run) begins to Austria and the world – 07 May 1945 to?

Gottscheers (men, women, children and complete families) are interned in Sterntal POW camp – May 1945 to Oct 1945

Gottscheers and other ethnic Germans abducted by USSR soldiers were sent to Siberia slave labor camps where hundreds, maybe thousands, died, and few were released – May 1945 to 1955/1956?

Gottscheers decide to remain in Europe (Austria, Germany, Slovenia, ??) or immigrate to the USA, Canada, or other countries -1945 until??

Gottscheer Zeitung newspaper published again – 1955 to Present

GHGA Established - 1992

**MARRIAGES**

Marriages were recorded by the church, not a government entity.

Generally recorded in the bride’s parish. (A total of 18 parishes)

Sometimes recorded in the groom’s parish.

Some marriages took place outside of Gottschee. Popular locations included Vienna, Graz, Prague, etc. May or may not have it recorded in Gottschee when and if they returned.

They were usually married in about the 20th year of life. However, some married as early as 13 or 14 years old or much older. I have found some remarriages as late 70 years.

Subsequent marriages (2, 3, or occasionally 4 were not unusual). Remarriages frequently occurred within months of the former spouse’s death.

Not unusual for remarriages to be to the brother or sister of the deceased.

Subsequent marriage took place early on (at 19-20 years of age or even in the late 50s).

It was not unusual for the bride and groom to have the same last surname. Not incest, but hundreds of years of family branches existing. Parent's names and villages are different.

**BIRTHS/BAPTISMS/DEATHS**

All were recorded by the church, not a government entity.

Recorded within the parish, they occurred.

Usually associated with the village and the house name or number.

**SOME INSIGHTS TO BIRTHS/BAPTISMS IN GOTTSCHEE**

1. If the church record has NONE as the father's surname, the child was illegitimate, i.e., born out of wedlock.
2. The child, in this case, takes the mother's maiden name.
3. If the mother married subsequently, the child was legitimized in the church records.
4. In some cases, the mother has the child outside of Gottschee. Such as Vienna, Graz, or across the border from Gottschee. The birth was not celebrated within this Catholic community.
5. The birth may or may not have been recorded in a Gottschee parish after the fact.
6. The age of mothers may be as young as 13 or 14 years old.
7. If the record says NN, it means the child was stillborn; however, the child is customarily annotated as male/female.
8. Baptisms usually were conducted on the day of birth or 1 to 2 days after delivery.
9. Natural births were the norm. These occurred in the mother's home, the parent's house, or a neighbors home. Usually, the mothers were assisted by “midwives.”
10. Births/baptisms had witnesses that were recorded in the church records.

**DEATHS**

Like other Gottscheer records, deaths are recorded apart form other life events such as birth, marriage, etc. To depict an ancestor's history, you need to put together many separate documents to see their total picture.

**Other Points to Ponder (Just for fun)**

In 1574 one quarter of the Gottschee residents only went by first names and did not have last names. This most likely is why you will never figure out who the first four families were (Peter, Johann, Ulrich, or ???).

Vital records in Gottschee were never maintained by a “government entity” only by the Roman Catholic church. Unlike the US.

Church records were first written in Latin, then in German, and lastly in Slovenian.

Vital records eventually became as detailed as recording house numbers for the event. Try to find that kind of detail in the marriage, birth or baptism records for people born in New York or any other town or city in the US.