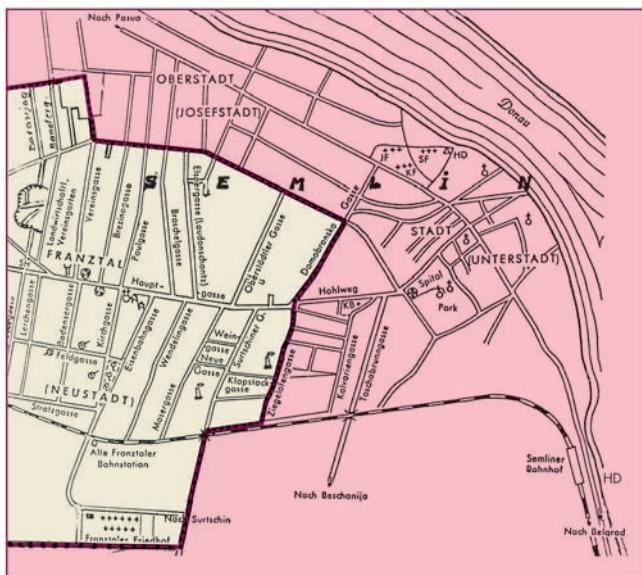


## Danube-Swabian settlement areas



Franztaal-Semlin

## Franztaal - Township three of Semlin



Association of the Franztaler Community  
Hugbertstr. 12 · A-5020 Salzburg

## Basic data of the history of the Danube Swabians

- 1526 Under King Ludwig II the Turks beat the Hungarians at Mohács; with his death Hungary and Bohemia fall to the House of Habsburg.
- 1526-1918 The Habsburgs are the legitimate rulers of Hungary and Bohemia.
- 1683 Victory over the Turks during the second siege of Vienna; reconquest of the major parts of Hungary by 1699.
- 1689 First Colonization Charter under Emperor Leopold I.
- 1716-1718 Austrian victories under Prince Eugene. 1718 peace treaty of Passarowitz: Batschka, Banat and Belgrade fall to Austria.
- 1722-1726 Colonization: First "Great Swabian Trek" under Karl VI.
- 1746-1780 Empress Maria Theresia settles 50.000 Germans for colonization.
- 1763-1773 Second "Large Swabian Trek".
- 1782-1787 Third "Large Swabian Trek" under Joseph II.
- 1867 Double Monarchy Austria-Hungary. Danube Swabians who until then were Austrian subjects become Hungarian citizens.
- 1907-1920 With his literary works, author Adam Müller-Guttenbrunn (1852-1923) becomes the revivalist of the Danube Swabians.
- 1918 1.400.000 Danube Swabians are split among the "succession states" Hungary, Romania and Yugoslavia.
- 1941 April: Yugoslavian war. With the war against the Soviet Union, the partisans begin their raids against Danube Swabians.
- 1944 October: Evacuation of about 100.000 Danube Swabians from Syria and Slavonia to Austria; flight of 10.000 Danube Swabians from Western Banat and about 80.000 from the Batschka and Baranja to Western Europe.
- 1944 195.000 Danube Swabians, who did not flee, fall under the Yugoslavian Communist Tito-Partisan regime.
- 1944 "Bloody Autumn" in the Vojvodina, October - November: about 7.000 Danube Swabian civilians are brutally murdered by the Communist partisans and buried in pits dug by the victims.
- 1944 November 21: AVNOJ Proclamation, Belgrade: Danube Swabians are declared public enemies. Loss of their civil rights and expropriation of their property without compensation.
- 1944-1949 Starting at Christmas 1944, 70.000 to 80.000 Danube Swabians, from Yugoslavia, Romania and Hungary are deported to the USSR for forced labor.
- 1944-1945 From December 1944 until autumn of 1945: 167.000 Danube-Swabian civilians are forced from their homes and interred in eight concentration and many forced labor camps.
- 1946-1947 Autumn: Under pressure from the Western powers, flights from the concentration camps are tolerated. 30.000 to 40.000 Danube Swabians escape from Yugoslavia to Hungary and Romania.
- 1945 December 22: The Hungarian government issues a decree for the deportation of the Hungarian Danube Swabians.
- 1947-1949 Release of most of the women and men deported to the USSR.
- 1948 Disbandment of the concentration and labor camps in Yugoslavia in exchange for three years of obligatory forced labor.
- 1949 Foundation of the umbrella organization "Donauschwäbische Arbeitsgemeinschaft" (DAG - Danube Swabian Working Group) in Austria.
- 1950 Proclamation of the "Charta der Heimatvertriebenen" (Charter of the German Expellees) in Stuttgart.
- 1952 Establishment of state chapters in Austria.
- 1951-1958 Gradual equalization in social and judicial justice in Austria.
- 1954 The "Verband der Volksdeutschen Landsmannschaften Österreichs" (VLÖ - Association of Ethnic German Societies of Austria) is founded in Linz.
- 1956 Book of Dead Danube Swabians is written.
- 1996 "House of the Homeland" is opened by the VLÖ in Vienna, Steingasse 25.
- 2004 Erection of memorials at former death camps Valpovo, Gakovo,
- till now Rudolfsnad, etc.



The Church of St. Wendelin

# The Franztalers

A Danube-Swabian Community



www.franztal.at

## History of Franztal as part of the history of the Danube Swabians

The designation "Donauschwaben" (Danube Swabian) has only been around since 1922 and includes all German minorities in the former kingdom of Hungary.

Because of the invasion of Europe by the Osmanian Turks of Asia Minor, the political order changed radically. After the first massive defeat of the Turks at the second siege of Vienna and the battle of Kahlenberg, there followed other victories by the imperial armies and the Austrians under Prince Eugene. Following the Peace of Passarowitz (1718) Eastern Syrmia and Northern Serbia came under Austrian rule. By the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century the Habsburgs (since the battle of Mohacs 1526 also kings of Hungary and Bohemia) already began new settlement. The solicitors of the Austrian emperors continually traveled throughout German and Austrian lands, resulting in the three great "Swabian Treks" of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. However, the settlement still went on in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Swabian Treks started out mostly from Ulm with the so-called "Ulmer Schachtel" (Ulmer Box) down the Danube to Vienna and then on to Hungary. In the target areas it usually wasn't the promised and dreamed-of land that awaited the settlers, but various hardships and difficulties instead, mostly due to the unaccustomed climate, diseases and epidemics. Frequently marshlands had to be drained first and wastelands cultivated. Later the situation was appropriately expressed in the saying, "The first found the death, the second hardships and only the third found the bread".

At that time our future homeland Syrmia was almost deserted and there were many unoccupied regions which the Austrian administration of the Military border region strived to settle. Thus the city council of Semlin had also considered settlement of its surrounding area with a farming community.

The imperial war council in Vienna stuck strictly to the laws and regulations when it came to questions pertaining to colonization within the Military border region.

**1815** A group of Swabians from the Banat dominion of Lazarfeld came to Semlin in their search for land. Their first petition was rejected because agriculture was not planned along the Military border. Only their second attempt, with the energetic advocacy of FML Baron Brezina von Siegenthal and the efforts of the Military Committee of Semlin was successful.

**1816** The founding of a farming community as a suburb of Semlin with 72 families from Lazarfeld. The first houses are stomped and covered with reeds. An eager sponsor of the Franzenthal settlement, as well as advisor and helper to the new settlers was Kovacevic, the Police Commissioner and provisional secretary of the city council of Semlin.

**1816** November 3: Emperor Franz I grants the request of the "Alleruntertaehngsten Vortrag" (the most subservient petition) the right to call the new township of the K. and K. (imperial) Military center Semlin after himself Franzenthal.

**1817** Because of poor harvests and bad economic conditions, some families leave Franzenthal; however, new settlers arrive constantly from existing German settlements in Hungary and from Austria and Germany.

**1820** Begin of a provisional school.

**1834** The first school is being built.

**1848** Emperor Franz Josef I assumes power.

**1869** After the establishment of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, the nationalist storm gradually dies down. Franztal, township three of Semlin, develops slowly at first, but then grows fast. The village expands. As a result of high birth-rate the population increases rapidly. Being near to the city makes economic growth booming. Living alongside other nationalities is trouble-free, except for minor instances.

**1886** Founding of the "Landwirtschaftliche Verein" (agricultural association).

**1888-1892** Erection of the Franztaler church in neogothic style, consecrated to Saint Wendelin. In 1955 the church is being torn down. The cemetery was destroyed in 1950 - 1951 and partially moved to Bezanija.

**1900** Founding of the "Spar- und Hilfsvereins" (Savings and Benevolent Society), in 1912 it became the Franztaler "Sparkasse" (Savings bank).

**1901** The second elementary school is being built.

**1905** Founding of the "Feuerwehrverein" (fire brigade) and of the "Männergesangsverein" (men's singing society).

**1907** Founding of the "Turnverein" (gymnastic society). Establishment of other societies.

**1918** After the First World War the imperial Monarchy collapses. Hungary loses 2/3 of its territory. This brings about the partitioning of the Danube Swabian settlement area into three parts, with roughly 550.000 Danube Swabians in Hungary, 350.000 in Romania, and 510.000 in Yugoslavia.

**1932** The third school in Franztal is being built. Semlin is annexed as a district of Belgrade. Franztal can maintain the characteristics of an old austrian settlement. At the time of the flight in 1944 Franztal embraced an area ten times that at its founding and has about 7000 inhabitants. But Germans also live in townships I and II of Semlin.



*The main street in Franztal around 1942*

**1941** The Second World War also engulfs the settlement areas in South-Eastern Europe. The state of Croatia is created and several partisan groups emerge. Initial attacks on Danube Swabians.

**1944** In autumn the Franztalers have to flee by rail, on the Danube or with horse-drawn wagons and return to the homelands of their ancestors - Germany and Austria.

**1944** November 5: a part of the Franztalers arrive in a large wagon trek (167 wagons) in Mondsee after a 4-week, 1000 km journey. They are housed in camps, in farms and in private homes throughout the rural Mondsee communities. Many emigrated during the following years, and thus Franztalers live on three continents in 17 states. But many also found a new home in Austria and Germany.



*From October 5 through November 5, the Franztaler wagon trek covered more than 1000 km to Mondsee.*

**1975** November 15: The "Association of the Franztaler Community" is founded in Salzburg. Families are still being registered and approximately 1200 home letters are sent out to distribute information and to further interconnection.

**1984** Publication of the "Franztaler Heimatbuch".

**1986** September 13: Unveiling and dedication of the Franztaler Memorial in the Karlsgarten in Mondsee.

**1989** Release of the "Franztaler Bildband" (Franztaler Photo Volume) containing over 1000 pictures.

**1989** The municipality of Mondsee assumes sponsorship of the "Franztaler Community".



**1994** September 17: The 50-year Commemorative Meeting is held in Mondsee.

**1999** October 9: The opening and blessing of the "Franztaler Heimatstube" in Mondsee, Dr. Franz Mueller Strasse 3/1.

**2001** Expansion of the "Franztaler Home Room".

**2004** May 29: 60-year Commemorative Meeting in Mondsee.

### Chairmen of the Franztaler Community

**1975 - 1984** Josef Mayer; **1984 - 1993** Franz Zöller

Since **1993** Ing. Johann Schwarz