Copy for Don Smeller

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Farmington CT 06032
Leap Day '92

Dearest Magdalene:

A note to express our hope that all is well with you and yours, to report that it is AOK here, and to report a recent small step forward in the geneology of Juszli (and Mokk).

You are very aware of the fact that geneology moves very slowly (some say that it moves only one generation each generation! Hah!)

I am fortunate that I began correspondence in 1985 with a chap in western Austria (near Lake Constance) whose name is Jussel, and who just happened to be preparing a report on the greater Jussel family that seems to have concentrated to the east and north of Lake Constance. In my correspondence I drew to his attention the fact that my parents, though German speaking, lived in a county called Szatmar which was a part of Austria-Hungary which is now in Romania, talked a brand of German called Schwabish, spoke of distant origins in the Black Forest, and may have arrived in Szatmar under a program called IMPOPULATIO. Ole Guntram Jussel turned out to be a whale of a student and researcher. He apparently went to Vienna and explored IMPOPULATIO, producing much of the information which accompanies.

You will note that I support the notion that both of our parents' ancestors were a part of the IMPOPULATIO movement, but I don't claim to know the name of the Szatmar immigrant or the precise date of immigration. I feel good about the fact that the Juszli and Mokk origins were almost certainly the Black Forest region of Southern Germany near Lake Constance and that Juszli is part of the greater Jussel family. This, of course, validates the Jussel coat of arms which pictures cattails, catfish, and a lake (certainly Lake Constance which Germans called Bodensee). You are asked to bear with the shifting changes of place names which was the result of shifts in governance, involving German (Austrian), Hungarian, and Romanian. cite the place called Karol, Karoly, Nogykaroly, and Carei. To think that we stayed in a hotel in Carei when we visited our kin in 1977, and, had we known then what we know now about the history of the place, our attentions could have been diverted and our discoveries magnified! Oh well, you can't win 'em all!

Please let me know how you agree of disagree with my conclusions.

Be assured that we are well and busy. The days seem to zip by with relentless speed. We thank God daily for good health and good family.

Best personal regards,

Love,

Frank & Jane

Frank & Jane

JUSZLI - MOKK BEFORE SZATMAR

A question naturally arises about the origins of Juszli and Mokk, especially when we consider that both were German-speaking families in a Hungarian province.

Some basic facts are considered. They were Roman Catholics; they spoke a brand of German called Swabian as their every-day language; their language of instruction in schools was Hungarian. They related certain facts about their distant past; first, they asserted that their families were from the Black Forest area, and, second, they asserted that "the Prince promised them free land, but he only gave them free use of the land".

How long were they in Szatmar? Both families have been partially traced back to grandparents of the United States immigrants, Anton Juszli (1886-1959) and his spouse, Rose Mokk Juszli (1889-1940). It has been comfirmed by church records that Anton's father, Martin, and Anton's grandfather, also Martin, were born in Szatmar. It has been confirmed by family legend that Rose's father and grandfather, both of whom were named John Mokk, were born in Szatmar. These facts, assuming about 25 years per generation, would place Juszli's and Mokk's in Szatmar in the 1830's. The history of Szatmar reveals the possibility that Juszli-Mokk might well have arrived in Szatmar decades earlier than the 1830's.

The history of German-speaking people in Szatmar involves Austria, wars with the Turks, religious strife, and deliberate efforts at colonization.

The Turks had overrun much of the Balkans and reached the gates of Vienna by the 1520's. It required a concerted effort of Christian nations to break the Seige of Vienna in 1529. After that, there was a general roll-back of the Turks from Hungary and Romania in the next 200 years. Austria's efforts against the Turks led to the Treaty of Karlowitz in 1699; this treaty gave Austria the "area between Hungary and Romania"; this area came to be known as Transylvania and a NW segment of the area was named Sathmar by German settlers (Szatmar by Hungarians).

Ten years before Karlowitz saw Austria already colonizing Szatmar. Count Alexander Karol found Szatmar to be underpopulated, with native populations having been decimated by cholera and prolonged war with the Turks. Karol wanted colonists, and, in particular, sympathetic colonists, so he obtained from the Austrian king a decree Aug 11, 1689, which created Szatmar as an Impopulationspatent and created a program named IMPOPULATIO under which Karol could recruit settlers from afar.

Karol, a part of Austria's Catholic royalty, desired Catholic immigrants as a counter-weight against the rising force of Calvinism in Hungary. His agents found many willing settlers amongst the Catholics of Swabia who were delighted with promises of good farm land and relief from a rising tide of Calvinism which was taking over Switzerland, just a few miles to the south.

Approximately 1400 Catholic Swabians responded to Karol's first call in 1712/1713. These Swabians were mainly from today's districts of Biberach and Ravensburg, just north of Lake Constance (Bodensee), which are in the eastern end of Schwarzwald (Black Forest), and are very near the headwaters of the Danube River (known as Donau in Germany). This first wave of settlers barely suvived in Szatmar. Nearly 1000 of them moved on or returned to Swabia, and , of the 450 who stayed in Szatmar, nearly 200 died in the first year.

Karol had planned the settlement of four towns. The first wave created one town which was named Karol (what else?). As Szatmar evolved through subsequent Hungarian and Romanian control, Karol's name became Karoly , Nagykaroly (which means Big Karol) and finally Carei. This was the town that was the "Saturday night big town" that both Anton and Rose would frequent as young adults.

More Swabian families went to Karol in 1720. In the period 1712-1838 about 2070 Swabian families settled in Szatmar.

In what year did the first Juszli or Mokk arrive? It is hard to tell. In the year 1742, a group of 38 Swabian families founded Petrofeld (Peter's Field), which later took on the names Mezopetri(Hungarian) , and Petresti (Romanian). Mezopetri was the town in which Anton Juszli was born in 1886, and two ascendant generations were also born there. It is noteworthy that Petresti is a southern suburb of Carei.

Swabians also settled Mezoterem (Tiream), where Rose Mokk Juszli was born in 1889 as were her father and grandfather. Tiream is an eastern suburb of Carei.

Tepfenhart and Mokk married in Szatmar in the 1880's. Juszli, Tepfenhart, and Mokk are interred in cemeteries in both Petresti and Tiream.

The cemetery at Petresti has gravemarkers spelling the name Juszli, Juszel, Jussel, where the "sz" provides a Hungarian spelling variation from the German Jussel. An Austrian named Guntram Jussel published a geneology of Jussel in 1991 in which he identifies hundreds of Jussels in the area to the immediate east and north of Lake Constance. Some variants of the name included in his text are: Josli, Jussels, Jossle, Josin, Joss, Juslins, Jussle, Jussell, Jussl, Jusseles, Jussly, (all o's with umlaut " above) and more.

Complicating the search for the date of first arrival of Juszli or Mokk into Szatmar is the enormity of the migration of Swabians into greater Transylvania. The first wave encompassed 13,000 persons, the second (1763-1773) about 34,000 persons, and the third (1782-1787) 22,000 more.

While the brief history of Szatmar and attendant facts about religion, language, and legend firmly support the origins before Szatmar of Juszli and Mokk as being from Swabia, and supports the German spelling Jussel, there is little or nothing to fix a date of arrival or the name of the first Jussel or Mokk in Szatmar. Perhaps some future researcher of Juszli or Mokk will opt to visit Vienna and study the records of IMPOPULATIO, seek out original church records of Szatmar, or find a way to the detailed town histories of Carei, Petresti, and Tiream.

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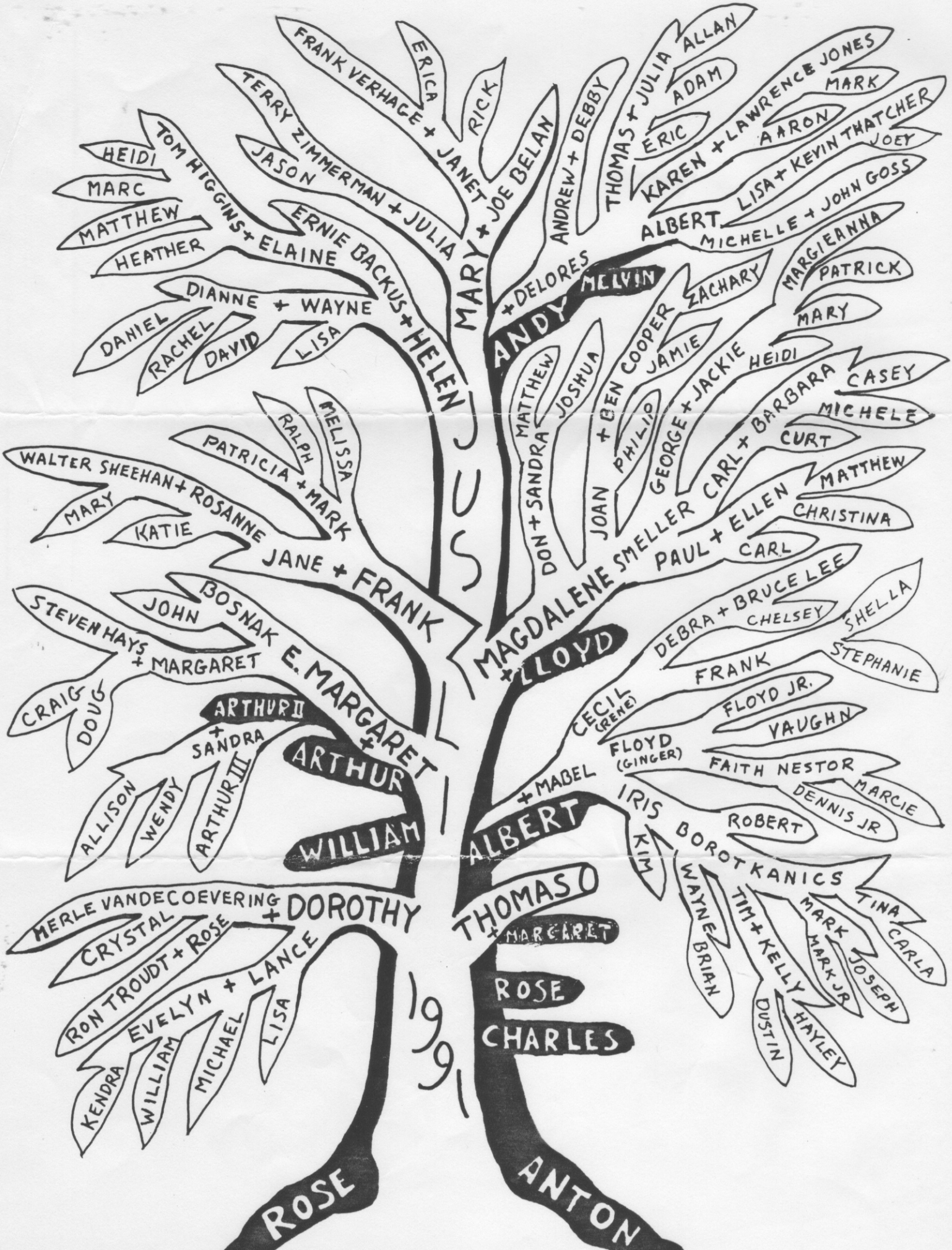
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+ SANDRA
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WENDY
E. MARGARET
+ MARGARET
STEVEN HAYS
CRAIG
DOUG
JOHN
BOSNAK
JANE + FRANK
WALTER SHEEHAN + ROSANNE
MARY
KATIE
PATRICIA + MARK
RALPH
MELISSA
TOM HIGGINS + ELAINE
HEIDI
MARC
MATTHEW
HEATHER
ERNIE BACKUS + HELEN
DIANNE + WAYNE
DANIEL
RACHEL
DAVID
LISA
TERRY ZIMMERMAN + JULIA
JASON
FRANK VERHAGE + JANET
ERICA
RICK
MARY + JOE BELAN
+ DELORES
ANDY
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ANDREW + DEBBY
THOMAS + JULIA
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KAREN + LAWRENCE JONES
MARK
AARON
LISA + KEVIN THATCHER
JOEY
ALBERT
MICHELLE + JOHN GOSS
MARGIEANNA
PATRICK
MARY
ZACHARY
MAGDALENE
+ LLOYD
DON + SANDRA
MATTHEW
JOSHUA
JOAN + BEN COOPER
PHILLIP
JAMIE
GEORGE + JACKIE
HEIDI
CARL + BARBARA
CASEY
MICHELE
CURT
SMELLER
PAUL + ELLEN
MATTHEW
CHRISTINA
CARL
DEBRA + BRUCE LEE
CHELSEY
SHELLA
STEPHANIE
CECIL (RENE)
FRANK
FLOYD JR.
VAUGHN
FLOYD (GINGER)
FAITH NESTOR
MARCIE
DENNIS JR
ROBERT
+ MABEL
IRIS
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BOROTKANICS
WAYNE
BRIAN
TIM + KELLY
MARK
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TINA
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