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**The colonies of Lorrainers & Alsations in Banat** by Dr. L. Hecht  
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The translation is not finished yet; please come back in the future!

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Few countries in Europe, so much so as Austria and especially Hungary, present such a mixture of peoples of such dissimilar ethnic groups which differ in the 3 points of race, language, and religion. To the 3 major groups of modern Europe, the Germans, the Slavs, and the Latin's, one finds added in Hungary since the Middle Ages a turaniane race (Finno-Ugric), the Magyars. Arriving in Europe along with the invasion of the Huns¹, they converted to Christianity, winning at least a place in western civilization and definitely established themselves in the lands they had conquered.

Very often groups of Christian families, Serbs and Croats, would seek refuge

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from Turkish domination on Hungarian soil. After the repeated incursions of the Turks, who had left entire districts without habitations and inhabitants², the Austrian sovereigns were forced to make an appeal to all provinces and countries for settlers to repopulate their devastated possessions. That is the way in which **les** Romanians from Moldavia-Walachia³, **les** Serbs, Bulgarians, Ruthenians and even **les** Albanians⁴ arrived in the lands of the Crown of St. Etienne [i.e. Saint Stephen or Hungary⁵]. **On the other hand, les** Germans, Saxons and notably **les** Badeners and Wurtenburgers (or Schwabians as they are known even today in Hungary) and then **les** Luxembourgers and Lorrainers began to supply their contingent in the settlement of Hungary⁽¹⁾.

It is this last element that interests us directly and to which I would like to call your attention.

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1] false! Between these two historical events are more than 450 years apart and no link!

2] in the case of Banat this is just a false thesis.

3] Hecht wrote his study in 1879 when Moldavia-Walachia where already one county [the two countries merged in 1859] but during the XVIII century some Romanians [not many because their immigration was not welcomed by the Imperial authorities] came to Banat only from Walachia / Țara Românească [mainly from Oltenia known also as Little Walachia] and from Transylvania. Prior to 1716, Banat was inhabited mainly by Romanians and Serbs. There were also several Croat villages in the Banat's Mountains.

4] In fact, not Albanians but **Aromanians**. The Aromanians [also called Vlachs or Macedo-Romanians; in Aromanian language they call themselves arumâni, armâni or aromâni] are a Romance population living as a minority in Northern Greece, Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania and Bulgaria; their number is estimated to about one or two million. They speak a Romance language which is very similar to Romanian language.

5] Banat was merged with Hungary only in 1778. So, when the Lorrainers immigrated to Banat - between 1770-'71 - Banat was still a Habsburg House possession.

After 1778, when Banat was incorporated to Hungary, the region was split in 4 parts: the counties of Torontal, Temes and Krassó-Szörény, which were set-up by the Hungarian's and the South region organized as a border military region under direct imperial administration up to 8.06.1871.

with roman numerals are the original notes.

with arabic numerals are our comments; L. Hecht was a doctor in medicine and not an historian. His knowledge about the historical facts more than a century old are poor and some of his thesis are just wrong. With these notes we want only to clarify some facts.

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To research the past, however faint it may be, as to the invitation to settle in Hungary, to determine the causes which led the Lorrainers to emigrate, their point of origin, to describe the actual condition of the Lorraine settlements, what their inhabitants were able to preserve and what characterized some neighboring populations is the goal which I have set myself.

The interesting documents which I had been given to consult are in the Aulic Chamber in Vienna and a visit, which I made recently to the Lorraine settlements in Hungary, permitted me to view them.

When one looks at a map of Hungary one is immediately struck by the disproportionate manner in which the population is distributed. In the center of Hungary one finds a quadrangular area⁶ measuring approximately 60 Leagues⁷ from north

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to south (from Kersch⁸ to Neusatz /i.e. Novi Sad) and a little more than 40 Leagues from the east to west (from Arad to Baja). These are the vast plains of Hungary on which the gaze extends as far as the eye can see and which for a long time amazed travelers. Bounded on the west and the south by the Danube, on the east and north by a line of hills, these plains are crossed by the Theiss /i.e. Tisa and the Maros /i.e. Mureş; these 2 important rivers join at a right angle at Szegedin /i.e. Szeged (capital of the Koumanie⁹) which is close to the center of the region. It is dotted with unusual villages, their varied names forming a strange multi-colored pattern. One can always conclude with certainty from the name of the village the nationality of its inhabitants. In the middle of the Hungarian, Serbian and Romanian names there appears a tiny island¹⁰ of villages with names that are German and French. These villages situated in the Hungarian^(I) Banat to the north-west[sic] of Temesvar/i.e. Timișoara (the city of the Temes /i.e. Timiș) its capital, to the east-south-east[sic] of Szegedin, in a region bounded on the north by the Maros river and on the south by the Vienna-Basiaz /i.e. Baziaș, România rail line, there are the Lorrainer and Alsatian settlements of Saint Hubert, Charleville, Seultour, Trübswetter,

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6] Hecht's geographical vision is strange. He describe a region much larger then the regions of Banat, Batschka/Backa/Bácska and Syrmia/Syrmien/Srem/Szerém where existed an organized colonization under the Imperial authorities.

7] **league[s]** is a traditional unit of distance. Derived from an ancient Celtic unit and adopted by the Romans as the *leuga*, the league became a common unit of measurement throughout Western Europe. It was intended to represent, roughly, the distance a person could walk in an hour. The Celtic unit seems to have been rather short [about 1,5 Roman miles, which is roughly 1,4 statute miles or 2275 meters], but the unit grew longer over time. In many cases it was equal to 3 miles, using whatever version of the mile was current. At sea, the league was most often equal to 3 nautical miles, which is 1/20 degree, 3,45 statute miles, or exactly 5556 meters. In the U.S.A. and Great Britain, standard practice is to define the league to be 3 statute miles [about 4828,03 meters] on land or 3 nautical miles at sea. However, many occurrences of the "league" in English-language works are actually references to the Spanish *legua*, the Portuguese *legoa* or the **French lieue**. A variety of *lieue* units were used for land measurement in France, but generally these units were around 2,4-2,5 statute miles in length. In the XVIII century, the legal unit was the **lieue de poste**, defined to equal 2000 toises or 2 *milles* [2,4221 miles or 3898 meters]. In metric France the **lieue** is now considered to equal exactly 4 kilometers [2,4855 miles]. At sea, the **lieue** was often taken to equal 1/25 degree or 2,4 nautical miles [4445 meters or 2,7619 miles]; this unit was gradually replaced by the internationally recognized 3 nautical miles [5556 meters or 3,452 miles].

8] there is no place with this name - **Kersch** - in pre-WWI Hungary!

9] **Koumanie** is just a hypothetical county of the **cumans** which were a late - XII Century - migratory tribe.

10] there were 800 villages in the historical Banat and among them 200 were German villages.

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Ostern, and Gottlob^(I) founded by the Empress Maria-Theresia.

The names of the first 3 remain as a historical witness to the immigration of settlers from the French Lorraine to Hungary.

It was between 1762 and 1773 that were founded these settlements which where almost solely populated by people who had left the land of their birth in the Lorraine. The migratory movement of that period which manifest itself among the population of the Lorraine appears to us to be possible in small part to be explained by the situation in the country in the second half of the reign of Stanislas¹¹. We would do well to recognize that while King Stanislas¹¹ had transformed his capital by decorating it with numerous monuments of which it is quite rightly proud and which should have endowed Nancy with institutions that ought to have developed and nourished a taste for literature and the sciences, the rural populations were dying under the weight of a very heavy load: the repeated call-ups of military contingents to fill up the losses

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11] **Stanislas I Leszczyński** [*20.10.1677, Lwów, Poland (today Lviv, Ukraine);

+23.02.1766, Lunéville, France], king of Poland [1704-1709; 1733-1736] and the last Duke of Lorraine [starting 1738]. Stanislas's daughter Marie [*1703, Breslau; +1768, Versailles] married Louis XV in 1725.

On 30.09.1736, by Meudon's secret agreement, Stanislas **devient Duc nominal et viager de Lorraine & Barrois**. He had abandoned the financial administration of his estates [i.e. the two duchies of Lorraine and Bar] to Louis XV for a yearly subsidy **pension annuelle de deux millions de livres du trésor français**. The intendant, **Antoine-Martin de Chaumont, Marquis de la Galaizière**¹³ was instructed to apply the French system of taxation in Lorraine; and in spite of the severity of the administration, Lorraine preserved a grateful memory of the good king Stanislas, who held his brilliant little court at Lunéville, and founded an academy and several libraries and hospitals. After his death, the two duchies of Lorraine and Bar became definitively incorporated in the kingdom of France.

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of the sorely **tried** regiments and militias of the Lorraine during the Seven Years War^(I) [MC: from 1756-'63], requisitions for provisions by the German army, requests for grants from Louis XV to his father-in-law¹¹. The consequence of which forced a rapid progression of taxes^(II).

Of all the **various claims** which had been placed upon the products of the soil, Stanislas had to add new ones^(II) in 1756 and 1757. Moved by the plight of the people, the Supreme Council of the Lorraine and the Barrois, in its submission to the orders of the king, **refused to ratify the edict**. By letters de cachet, the exile of magistrates, of which the highest rank was M. /i.e. Marquis, Marquise of Chateaufort¹², their dispersal

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12] **François d'Aristay de Chateaufort** [*4.05.1704, Troussey, Meuse; +15.03.1765, Saint Eustache, Paris; ool.10.1736, Anne Cécile Senturier], **avocat, conseiller a la cour souveraine de Lorraine/Nancy depuis 1743, Chevalier, seigneur de Delouze [canton de Gondrecourt] et de Vaudrecourt en partie. Il consacra sa vie à lutter pour la défense des intérêts de la Lorraine. A la fin de sa vie il représenta l'Empereur à la cour de Versailles pour terminer le règlement des affaires de Lorraine suite à la cession des duchés à la France dans 1766.**

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throughout the Lorraine was the response to that courageous resistance. During these times, the Chancellor of the Lorraine, M. /i.e. Marquis, Marquise de la Galaizière¹³ whose vicious and oppressive administration finished of exhausting the country, continued his ruinous extravagances: the inhabitants of more than 200 parishes were forced working at his chateau at Neuviller-sur-Moselle, on the parks, the gardens, and the roadway that leads to Nancy.

Always being solicited by the ministers from Versailles to face up to the expenses of the war, Stanislas had been forced, since 1759, to establish new taxes^(I). The Supreme Council and the Chamber of Counts protested. In addition to the reprimands that it presented, the Supreme Council ordered an investigation into the state of the duchies: which one, among other heartbreaking results, learned that 23590 farmers were being reduced by poverty to the level of the simple expedient of fleeing their native land^(II). To emigrate a great distance to improve their lot, such was the decision made by these people of the Lorraine who during the years had endured misfortune which alone pushed them to quit once and for all the land of their birth.

It is in the balliwick of the German Lorraine that the emigration appears to have made its first

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13] [?] **Antoine-Martin de Chaumont, Marquis de la Galaizière et de Bayon, comte de Neuviller, comte de Mareil** [*1697; +1783], between 18.01.1737-1758 **Chancelier, Garde des Sceaux, Intendant de Justice Police et Finances assurait le pouvoir politique générale de la Duchés de Lorraine & Barrois.**

OR

[?] **Antoine de Chaumont de la Galaizière**, between 1758-23.02.1766 **Chancelier, Garde des Sceaux, Intendant de Justice Police et Finances dans la Duchés de Lorraine & Barrois.**

These two were probably father and son but to clarify the relation between them check "*Héraldique & Généalogie*", revue nationale de généalogie, no. 138, janvier / mars 1996, pg. 35, Généalogie Chaumont de La Galaiziere. Unfortunately, we did not had access to this review.

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recruits. Small in number at the beginning but becoming more frequent in the Lorraine by the contagiousness of example and the continuation of the causes which had provoked it. A decree of the Supreme Council of the Lorraine and Barrois of 1.06.1769^(I), dealt with emigration and recognized "*that it is proclaimed throughout the province of the Lorraine that these emigration movements which appeared to merit the very attention of the government*". But instead of pointing out the real causes, the decree attributed the emigration "*to the example of the colonists that Spain draws from foreign lands and who have free passage out of the States of the Lorraine with the idea of liberty which grips them to the abrogation of mutual reciprocity for the rights of a godsend, to the case with which the emigrants either considers the sale of their belongings, or with the negligence of the justice officials*". To bring a stop to the abuse of this principle the ordinance recommended "*to present to the people the prospect of the punishments attached to the transgressions of the obligations of the subject and citizen, in order to restrain those who without a bit [in their mouth] would try to break the bonds of their natural commitment and render themselves guilty of the crime of infidelity to the King and the State*".

These measure had little effect, for since 5.12.1769^(II) a new, more severe

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decree stipulated "arresting of the emigrants, the seizing of their furniture and to have to give notice to the deputy of the procurator-general in their balliwick of their intention so he would be able to be certain of individual immigrants".

A few months later (17.05.1770) the Supreme Council of the Lorraine and the Barrois rendered a decree which authorized those who have emigrated to come home without charge on their property^(I).

At the same time a similar current was running through the **province of Alsace**; its growing importance did not allow it to preoccupy the authorities. The Supreme Council of the Alsace rendered on 28.09.1769 a decree "condemning a Jew from Biesheim for having helped several private individuals from Alcolsheim near Neuf-Brisach to **emigrate, to be severely reprimanded and fined^(II) 100 livres**"; -in 1769 and 1770 three decrees, from which one **prevazut ca** "notice should be given to all subjects of the King leaving the kingdom and who go to establish themselves in a foreign country without the express written permission of His Majesty" and by which another a **ordonat** watch over the appointments and "to take care in giving passports to those who might be suspected of emigrating and to declare void all sales made 3 months before then emigration of the vendors and the assets confiscated^(III)".

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One is then allowed to think about that era in the Lorraine as in the Alsace that the countryside had been in those times already going through the appointments which were exploiting the dissatisfaction and the unhappy situation of the people, the excitement to move to foreign lands and their selling at a cheap price their land. Among the agents some years were foreigners and it was toward Hungary that they directed the families who were deciding to quit their homeland.

At the beginning it was some isolated families who left secretly and took on at their risk and peril the long and difficult voyage toward those distant lands. The first who arrived in Hungary prospering there¹³ urged some very important groups to join them.

At that time¹⁴ Maria-Theresia occupied the imperial throne of Austria¹⁵. Since 1763¹⁶ she had harbored the intention to populate the vast stretches which had been turned into wasteland by the prolonged war between the Hungarians¹⁷ and the Turks. Her efforts to bring this about in the Hungarian Banat and above all¹⁸ in the area

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13] this is just "poetry"; nobody prospered in such a short time to be able to give advices to others to come in a land where the rivers had milk instead of water. On contrary, due hard times and diseases, a lot of settlers tried to escape from Banat and wanted to return back in Western Europe.

14] **Maria Theresia** [*13.05.1717] was empress between 20.10.1740-29.11.1780.

15] **Austria** is just a generic name at this time because we can talk about a country named this way only after 1804 when the emperor **Francisc/Franz II/I** [*12.02.1768; Holy Roman Emperor starting 1792; abdicated as Holy Roman Emperor in 1806; +2.03.1835] took [11.08./7.12.1804] the new title of "Emperor of Austria".

16] the early thersian colonization started already in 1748!

17] in fact, between the Imperial Habsburg army and the Turks. Some of the Hungarian nobles fight on the side of the Turks.

18] this is a false statement; the colonization of Banat in the **late thersian colonization** period of time [i.e. 1763-1772] was not focused only/mainly on the "area around Werschetz".

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around Werschetz /i.e. today Vršac, Serbia; was an arduous project, the greatest difficulty¹⁹ lay in the complete lack of wood for building and heating. This was obvious to Maria-Theresia who thought of transforming the sand hills into forests where the south-east of the Banat emerged from the midst of the plains. The first settlers sent to this depopulated area were farmer-soldiers who had completed their military service and some prisoners of the Prussian War²⁰; all had to be of Roman Catholic religion.

Filled with the importance of her task of settling the agricultural components who had arrived and advised of the discomfort of certain populations in occidental Europe, Maria-Theresia resolved to direct this current of emigration which had been established toward her states. Some instructions were sent to Austrians resident in several cities in Germany²¹ to entice this wave of emigrants toward the Austrian States.

In 1766 Maria-Theresia established in Cologne/i.e. Köln, Germany, Frankfurt-am-Main, Schweinfurt, Ratisbonne, and Ulm commissioners who would have the mission of luring the settlers to them and to print and to spread about literature making known the advantages

granted to all who would settle in the Hungarian Banat. To encourage the activity of these commissioners a monetary bonus of one florin, 30 kreutzers [MC: currency of the time] was granted to them for each family of emigrants which they had recruited. A very large bonus was

19] this is just a supposition; from the start the house building materials were the mud bricks [at first not burned] and the reed for the roof. So, the houses were warm in the cold winter and cool in the hot summers.

20] which one? Is Hecht talking about the Prussian-Imperial clash from the Seven Years War?

21] to talk about "Germany" in the second half of the XVIII century is a nonsense; Hecht should refer to the *Holy Roman Empire of German Nation* /i.e. *German Heiliges Römisches Reich deutscher Nation*.

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granted them in the towns where it would be possible for the emigrants to also be attracted by the offers of a foreign power.

It was under these conditions that an emigration service was organized at the exit points of France. At the small fortified town of Kehl [MC: today Kehl am Rhein, Germany], which at that time was a part of the Austrian possessions, on the right bank of the Rhine, there resided a notary charged with receiving the settlers and giving them instructions on the passage and route to follow, of the assistance provided on route, passports, etc. ^(I).

The emigration began about 1764²² and lasted until about 1772. In April 1764 a major-general who was commander of the fortress of Philippsbourg²⁵ informed the Austrian government that the people enrolled for the colony of Guyanna²⁶ lacked the money and the resources and were investigating several alternatives. They had requested the necessary passports to reach and to be admitted to the settlements in Hungary. A month later another letter announced a convoy of 300 emigrants from the German Lorraine. "These people he wrote quit their homeland and requested the authorization to establish themselves in Hungary". This was granted to them ^(II). From 1763 to 1769 ^(III) many

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24] the late thersian colonization started in 1763.

25] Philippsbourg or Philippsburg [i.e. "the Castle of Philipp"] is located in Bitche County, Moselle, Lorraine, France, in the Mosellan part of the "Parc Naturel Régional des Vosges du Nord" being located at 15 km of Bitche, 130 km of Metz, and 60 km of Strasbourg. In 1566, Count Philipp the IV of Hanau-Lichtenberg, decided to build a shooting lodge on an islet, which could be located today at the Town Hall's place. Year after year, the lodge used to grow up and became a more important house. In 1617 [1604, 1606?], as it became a castle, the shooting lodge was bought by Jean-Reinhardt of Hanau-Lichtenberg. It burned down a few years later, then destroyed by the imperial troops in 1633, during the 30 Years' War. The castle is under siege again in the summer of 1676 and 1734.

26] Guyanna was a French colony in South America.

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families from the Lorraine emigrating (see [Table 2](#)) to Hungary would set out for localities in the district/county of Bacs²⁶. Thus it was in the little village of Apathin/today Apatin and in the villages of Gajdobra, Neopalanka/today Nova Palanka, Karavukova/today Karavukovo there are the names Rizar, Mersch, Hardi, Pekar, Molnar²⁷, etc., under which it is not difficult to recognize those of Richard, Marchal, Picard, Meunier²⁷ testifying to the immigration of francophone settlers. In 1769 of the numerous families coming from the German Lorraine and especially from the county of Drabo, from the French Lorraine in the neighborhood of Foug, of the Alsacian families originating from Strasbourg, from Hoffen, Schoenau, Marckolsheim, Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines and from Saint-Hippolyte, small villages which, even if were well situated in the Alsace, at the foot of the Vosges, were belonging to the Duchy of Lorraine, were signaled of happenings in the settlements in Hungary.

It is in 1770 that the emigration attained its maximum intensity. In February and March 127 families from the German Lorraine and in April 1770 930 families, of which 3/4 were from the francophone Lorraine, had become established in the settlements of Hungary. From August to December 1770 some Lorraine families

26] correctly Bács-Bodrog varmegye/county.

27] the old Hungarian family name **Molnar** [meaning "miller"] is not identical with the French family name **Meunier**. Between the two names is no link.

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originating in Commercy, Pompey, Blâmont, Avricourt, Thionville^(I) passed through Kehl on their way to join their compatriots who had preceded them. As in all emigrations²⁸ it was particularly the younger segment of the population who, confident of their strength, left to search in an unknown land for their best chance. For the most part they were 25 to 30

years old, most were young husbands or some lonely bachelors; among them could be found a few adolescents.

We have had before our eyes a nominal state of which the results from 25.08. to 31.12.1770 there are 203 Alsatian families from 80 different localities passing through Kehl to proceed to Hungary (see **Table 1**). With some exceptions nearly all these locations are situated in the Lower Alsace; the people of the Upper Alsace preferred a passage of very short and brief duration by way of Bâle.

On 24.04.1771 the Austrian authorities from Friburg in Brisgau (*Vorderoesterrichische Regierung*) informed the Imperial Chancery "that a great number of poor families, by reason of the misery which reigned in France were fleeing that country and were requesting passports so that they could proceed to Hungary. Their distress is without bounds, but their industry and their

(I) not translated yet

28] this is just a false thesis. In fact, mainly entire families emigrated [together or one after the other].

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religious zeal is known. They had preferred to continue their life full of cares rather than allow themselves to be enlisted as Prussian settlers by the Prince of Wurtemberg who was ruling at Montbéliard, and to thus pass under the rule of a prince who was not Catholic. Passports were granted to these people who were accustomed to work and who would be an asset of very great service unlike very many of the others who did not go to Hungary to find fertile soil out of abhorrence of work". (Chancery Archives: *Protocoll der Oesterr. Hofkanzler*, 18.05.1771)

On 6.05.1771, M. /i.e. Marquis, Marquise de Nagel, an Austrian resident at Bâle informed Prince Kaunitz²⁹, Chancellor at the Austrian Court that: "every day families coming from the Lorraine pass by Bâle and its environs to reach the Danube and Hungary. In addition to the farmers there are some artisans, some workers in wool, and some vine growers. They quit their country he writes, in spite of an interdiction which caused them to emigrate in secret, convinced that they will constitute some villages and some villages will be completely inhabited by persons from their country; they were assured that the emigration would not stop soon and those who have stayed behind were informed of the warm welcome which the first settlers^(I) received". Those communications received favorable responses.

The emigrants traveled in groups made up of several families from the same

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29] **Wenzel Anton, Fürst [Prince] von Kaunitz-Rietberg** [*2.02.1711, Vienna; +27.06.1794, Vienna], state chancellor during the Seven Years' War [1756-'63] to the beginning of the coalition wars against revolutionary France [1792]. Kaunitz was responsible for the foreign policy of the Habsburg monarchy, and he served as principal adviser on foreign affairs to the empress Maria Theresa and to her successors.

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locality; each of these groups had to be accompanied by a guide whose duties, among other things throughout the journey, was to prevent the settlers from running off in the countries they passed through, having been engaged for that account [i.e. to settle in Hungary] and for no other power. (At that time Prussia, Saxony and Russia were seeking (M.C. also) to recruit settlers from Western Europe.) Some financial help was granted to them. Besides the bonus which affected the families who presented themselves spontaneously, without the intervention of a commissioner, there was allocated at the beginning of the voyage a per diem: to the fathers and mothers of families, 6 Kreutzers^(I); for each child, big or small, 3 Kreutzers; this figure was reduced to 2 Kreutzers for children below 18 years when later in 1769 the number of immigrants would become very large, it became unnecessary for that attraction to be offered to them. These amounts were paid at fixed stops which had been set up along the routes which were used continuously by the settlers. Each stop was possibly as far away from the next as 4 traveling days. At the time of their passing through Vienna, capital of their new homeland, each immigrant received the sum of 3 florins^(II). Later, in 1772, the

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immigration ceased to be done by the government and the settlers made the journey to the Banat at their own expense.

As for the routes to their assigned settlements the emigrants from the Alsace and the Lorraine were directed to Kehl above Ulm, in Wurtemberg /MC: correctly Württemberg; in this village they would embark upon the Danube by which they would descend its course by way of Passau, Vienna, Presburg and Pesth /i.e. today Budapest as far as the Banat. They

would disembark on the left bank of the Danube at the point closest to the land which would be designated as centers of settlement.

At the same time as the settlers from the Alsace and the Lorraine were flocking to Hungary, peoples coming from many countries in Western Europe, Luxembourg, the Rhineland, notably from around Trier and Mainz, the Grand Duchy of Baden⁽¹⁾, Wurtemberg, and last of all the different states of Austria, furnished the largest contingents. To unite these diverse ethnic groups, to create these settlements and to make them prosper a strong organization was necessary.

Maria-Theresia, assisted by her son Joseph, who

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first was co-regent and much later succeed her as Joseph II, focused all their attention here. One section of the [MC: Imperial] Aulic Chamber (*Kaiserliche Hofkammer*) was charged with a special task of managing the affairs of the Banat of Temesvar, of its settlement and of that which in a general manner was designated under the name: *in Banaticis*. It was presided over by Count Khevenmüller[sic]-Metsch³⁰, an intimate advisor [to the Empress].

In 1766 Maria-Theresia created in Vienna an *Impopulations-Commission* under the chairmanship of Count Lamberg³¹. Count Festeticz³² and later Count d'Urbna³¹ [MC: Vrbna?] were the most important members. The city of Temesvar was the administrative seat of the area [MC: only of Banat]. Count Perlas³³ was the chairman until 1768. Charles Count de Clary³⁴ succeeded him in 1769 and continued in that position until 1774⁽¹⁾.

Under their administration there came into effect a hierarchy of civil servants and clerks, inspectors, secretaries, paymasters, supervisors, representatives of the department administrating the settlements and the management of the considerable sums that by necessity were expended.

The situation of the settlers who arrived in the Banat varied in many respects. During the first period of immigration from 1762 to 1776, the settlers were distributed among places already

(I) "*Geschichte des Temeser Banats*", L.[eonhard] Böhm, Leipzig, 1861, vol. I, page 266

30] Johann Joseph, Graf von Khevenhüller-Aichelberg, Fürst von Khevenhüller-Metsch

[*3.07.1706, Wien; +18.04.1776, Wien], statesman, starting 1728 member of the Imperial Council, between 1734-'37 envoy to Holland and Denmark, 1740 to Dresden, 1742 Lord Steward and First Chamberlain to Maria Theresia, state and conference minister, music count. For 33 years he kept a diary, which serves as an important source about court life in the years 1742-1775. Know as **Khevenhüller-Metsch** because of his marriage to the daughter of the last Count of Metsch /i.e. Karolina Maria Augustina, Gräfin von Metsch [*26.01.1706; +16.04.1784, Wien].

31] [??]

32] [?] Paul [Pál] Festetics de Tolna the IV [*11.11.1725; +10.09.1782] was made

Count on 5.11.1766 [or in 1770 or 1772?] by Empress Maria Theresia, Queen of Hungary. A m. kir. kincstár alelnöke, és 1777-ben Baranya megye főispánja volt. Egy ideig az osztrák kormányzónél szolgált és mint a gazdaság terén elsőrendű tekintély, alelnöke lett a m. kir. kamarának. E hivatalában teljesen megnyerte Mária Terézia kegyét, ki ot legbizalmasabb tanácsosai közé számította. Különösen az 1764-'65 évi országgyűlés alatt folytatott vele igen sürü, az országgyűlés kérdéseit érdeklő levelezést, melyet a keszthelyi levéltár oriz.

33] Don Francesco de Paula Ramon, count Vilana Perlas, Marquise of Perlas [*1704; +1773],

between 29.12.1753 and 1768 chairman of Banat's Administration and of Banat's Mining Direction [between 1760-'68]. Between 1753-'57 and 1763-'68 he lived more at Vienna than in Banat.

34] Karl Ignaz, Reichsgraf of Clary and Aldringen [*1729; +1791], son of Jan Sebastian Clary-

Aldringen [*1698; ool726; +1748] & Maria Karolina Künigl [*1706; +1775], married to Countess Maria Antonia von Fuenfkirchen. Between 1769-'74 chairman of Banat's Administration and Banat's Mining Direction.

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in existence, in which new homes could be constructed for them and some land on which they could bid was put at their disposal. 28 villages situated in the districts of Temesvar, Lipppa/today, Lipova, and Csanad/today, Cenad thus grew rapidly in population and in importance. Later the number of new immigrants increased daily, it became necessary to create new villages⁽¹⁾: 31 settlements were thus founded from 1766 to 1772; 7 received Hungarian names³⁵, 21 German names and 3 French names (see the map³⁶).

The first new settlements were founded on land belonging to the crown (*Hungarische Cameral-Herrschaften*) depending directly to the Aulic Chamber. It was the most prosperous. But, from 1770, "the number of settlers arriving in the Banat was so large that it was feared that those who followed them would no longer be able to be accommodated"⁽¹¹⁾. An appeal was issued to the nobility³⁷ calling on those whose estates were large enough to offer shelter to 500 persons to receive some settlers on their estates. The advantage for the settlers admitted to these estates (*Particular-Herrschaften*) which

(I) not translated yet

(II) Maria-Theresia's letter to Count Esterhazy from 12.09.1770

35] no village received Hungarian name originally; the Hungarian administration started to re-name the villages in the XIX Century, and mainly after 1868 up to the moment when all the villages should have Hungarian names; in 1897 the Hungarian Parliament vote the Law on the Villages Name [known as the Banffy law]; according to this law, all the official names of the villages in the Hungarian Kingdom will be only in Hungarian language after 1897. So, all the Banat villages receive new Hungarian names.

36] unfortunately, the map is not available to us.

37] there were no nobility in Banat owning estates up to 1.08.1781 when was published the auction for all the estates in Banat [Timiș and Torontal Counties]. In the first stage of the public auction, which took place in Vienna and Timișoara, 73 estates were sold. The second stage was started in 1797. Totally, 127 estates were sold.

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was to find a refuge immediately was more than outweighed by the situation that was imposed on them; it was a smaller allotment in general than that which had been granted on crown land^(I).

What was the fate of our compatriots from the Alsace and the Lorrainee? Maria-Theresia who had seen come to her States these former subjects of her consort, who had formerly been Frances III, Duke of the Lorraine, must have had a heart to receive them well. By a decision taken in a session of the Aulic Chamber^(II), which she often took pleasure in presiding over herself, the empress commanded the taking of all suitable measures to promote the industry of these settlers and to provide them with all that would be needed by them. The settlers from the Lorraine would by and large be re-united in 5 villages close to one another. The vast stretches of fertile land that would be assigned to them would by a peculiar accident have the same properties in the soil as that of certain villages from which some of the immigrants would have probably originated^(III). The exemption

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from all taxes for a period of 10 years³⁸ was assured all settlers. By virtue of a resolution taken on 31.08.1772 by Joseph, who was co-regent at that time, those of the settlers who would be workers preferring to settle down in the towns so they could carry on their trade, would be exempted from discharging the duties of the towns people and of mastery[e].

In each village there was constructed at the expense of the crown or the landlord³⁹ a church, a rectory, schools, windmills to grind flour, an inn, a butcher shop and a store.

Each family was put in possession of a house, livestock, farm equipment, seed, household furniture and even some pots and pans were given to the settlers. Some of the families would collect part of the allocation in cash which they would have to repay over 3 years. Each family received in freehold (*als unumschränktes Eigenthum*) a portion of land in one piece designated by the name of assignment [cession] which is still in use today and the importance of which is not inconsiderable.

The size of these assignments varied slightly in the different settlements. At **Grabatz** /today Grabaț, România a full assignment was made up of the following:

- 12 hectares^(I) of fields [champs]
- 3 hectares of meadows [prairies]
- 1 hectare of pasture [pâturages].

(I) not translated yet

38] the period is too big. Usually the exception period was 3 or 6 years.

39] usually on the expense of the inhabitants.

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A smaller number were distributed as half-assignments [*demi-cessions*] made up as follows:

- 6 hectares of fields
- 2 hectares of meadows
- 1 hectare of pasture.

In some settlements only quarter-assignments [*quarts de cessions*] were allocated and were composed of:

- 3 hectares of fields
- 1 hectare and a half of meadows
- 1 hectare of pasture.

Over and above this, around each house was a garden of half a hectare.

In certain settlements established on the land of the nobility such as at Mastort and at Heufeld, the empress added to each assignment as an imperial gift (*Kaiserliches Geschenk*) of one and a half hectares of land.

Within the territory of each village the possession of particular meadows was set aside for the parish priest and the school teacher (*Pfarr- und Lehrerwiese*). Likewise those [villages] which at a reduced annual rent^(I), [left] holding to the landlord [Seigneur] of each village the sole right to the sale of meat and to the keeping of the inn

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(*Herrschafts-Wirthshaus*) [and he] acquired by the same token possession of the attached meadows (*Fleischbank-u.-Wirthswiese*). Outside of some pastures which belonged to each family there existed in each settlement a common pasture the size of which was sometimes considerable (300 hectares at Grabatz). The landlord of each village leased [affermaid] to the settlers the lands which had not been granted to them (*Ueberland*).

The assignments originally granted to the settlers had not been relatively free of divided parcels; they endeavored in the settlement of their inheritances to maintain the entirety of the estates.

Furthermore to this day in the Lorrain settlements the value of the real-estate of the assignments is appraised by the number of parcels of which they are made up.

All the settlers were provided with an assignment which would be considered as established (*angesiedelt*); some among them who had not been able [to be established] would have been temporarily billeted (*einquartirt*). The settlers would be free moreover to choose according to their agreement the village where they desired to settle down. In return for so many advantages, the authorities reserved to themselves certain rights: to transfer, in certain cases, the settlers of a village in another; the settlers were not able to leave their villages without special leave, and even not to leave for some time

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without a special permit. The settlers who would take flight would give up their residence and that arriving sometimes would be reported as deserters; finally the families who would leave the country to return to their homeland could not do this without reimbursing the money they received in advance.

It is in these circumstances and under this system that were founded in 1771 in the district of Csanad the villages of:

St. Hubert /today Banatsko Veliko Selo in Serbia for 75 families with 69 assignments [cessions], 4 half-assignments;

Charleville /today Banatsko Veliko Selo in Serbia for 62 families with 50 assignments;

Seultour /today Banatsko Veliko Selo in Serbia for 62 families with 60 assignments; in 1772 the villages of:

Trübswetter /today Tomnatic in România for 200 families with 104 assignments, 96 half-assignments;

Gottlob /today Gotlob in România for 200 families;

Ostern^(I) /today Comloşul Mic in România for 250 families.

Separated by a distance of barely one kilometer the 3 villages of Saint Hubert, Charleville and Seultour were populated almost exclusively by francophones from the Lorraine as is proven by the names they bear to this day (see [Table 3](#)). The first settlers, almost all farmers immediately having arrived looking bravely at the work did not delay in acquiring a degree of prosperity which excited the

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jealousy of some of the Hungarian⁴⁰ and Romanian inhabitants of neighboring villages. Their fields were laid waste, their livestock was carried off. To put an end to the depredation the settlers from the Lorraine kept careful watch, shooting without mercy and burying on the spot whomsoever they came across on their land at night wearing a *bunda*^(I). These energetic measures proved effective. Some assistance of all kinds moreover continued to be provided with concern by the authorities to the needy settlers. They replaced the destroyed equipment, the livestock which had perished, the lost horses, etc.

The people from the Lorraine made themselves noticeable before long by their eagerness to work. In 1772, a report on the *State of the Settlements* [noted] the conspicuousness in the way that the "*farmers [were] hardworking and shrewd*". The population increased rapidly: in the parish of Saint Hubert out of which originated the 2 neighboring villages of Heufeld and Mastort^(II) had been affiliated, likewise populated by people from the Alsace and the Lorraine, there were 31 births from 23.03. to 31.12.1771, 92 in 1772 and 129 births in 1773^(III).

(I) not translated yet **bunda** in Hungarian/Serbian/Romanian languages; this is a sort of long coat made

from sheep skin and is carried with the long hair/cotton outside. It's mainly the shepard's coat for bad weather.

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40] at that time in Banat did not exist yet Hungarian villages. It's about the Serbs.

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The people from the Lorraine in these villages who were by and large francophones were still provided with French priests. Among the clergy⁽¹⁾ attached to the church of Saint Hubert we have turned up the following names: in 1772, Roka, a priest who originated in Bohemia, but who spoke the language of his flock; in 1797, Eustache, parish priest; in 1798, Breton, chaplain; in 1801, Porée, chaplain; in 1806, Petitjean, chaplain. The first parish priest of Seultour (or *Soltour*) was in 1773 by the name of Pierre-François Leclère, who was a Luxembourger; in 1793 it was Joseph-François-Silvestre Maillot.

The church at Seultour, under construction since 1771, was consecrated on 24.09.1774. If it is necessary to supplement the faith in a tradition, the village of **Seultour derives its name** (*propter solam turrim*) to the existence of a tower erected in the past during the wars with the Turks, a short distance from the village. At the time of the building of the village, this tower had already been razed and the bricks were used to build the rectory and the schools.

Although the villages of Trübswetter, Ostern, and Gottlob bear German names, the people were mostly from the Alsace and the Lorraine.

The settlement of **Trübswetter** (or **Triebsvetter**) was almost

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exclusively made up of francophones from the Lorraine: of the [families] who originally installed 192 were from the Lorraine, the exception being 8 [families] who had come from Pilsen, near the Bavarian border. The German settlers grouped themselves together on one street which still today carries the name "*Deutsche Gasse*" (German Street). They gave the name of "*Wolfsgasse*" (Wolf Street) to a street on which a number of French families who manifest in their opinion some tendencies to a shortage of benevolence. From the ecclesiastical point of view, Trübswetter was connected originally to a Hungarian market town, Szent-Miklos (Saint Nicholas /today, Sânnicolau Mare, România) situated 8 kilometers away, but was set up as a parish in 1773. The first church was built of unfired bricks⁽²⁾. The present church was built in 1846. Among the priests who had ministered there we found the names of: François Leclère (1773-1777), Germain (1777-1778), Blaise Collignon (1787-1789), Forstner (1787-1798), Louis Breton (1798-1802), a priest emigrated from France, who had studied at Besançon, finally there is Antoine Bonnaz, who originated from near Gex, studied at the seminary of Annecy, who had been chaplain and administrator of the parish and was installed as parish priest of Trübswetter in 1804 and remained there until his death in 1837.

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The settlement of **Gottlob** was mostly populated by Alsatians who were joined by German speaking people from the Lorraine and some Luxembourgers. As a result of the constant contact which existed between the settlements of the Alsacians and the people from the Lorraine, there settled in Gottlob a certain number of families with names which remain to this day and which disclose their French origins (see **Table 2**). The first parish priest there was Fr.[ère /i.e. brother] Baumgartner⁴¹, he arrived with the first settlers. The church was built in 1773.

The settlement at **Ostern** (or **Osztern** after the Hungarian pronunciation⁴²) was populated by Alsatians, Lorraines, and Wurtenburgers. The parish registers date from 1773 although the village was not set up as a parish until 1785.

In the churches of Saint Hubert, Charleville, Seultour, Trübswetter, the church melodies of the Lorraine were still in use in 1802. Up to 1830 the gospel was read in the churches first in German then in French; on 3 Sundays of the month the sermon was given in French. During the first years of the settlement, teaching in the school was done conjointly in French and German. Today by virtue of a law passed 8.06.1868 teaching in Hungarian is obligatory in all the schools in the Kingdom of Hungary, for all the children, despite their nationality.

41] priest Josef Baumgartner [*~1741, Rechnitz; +26.05.1775, Gottlob].

42] in Hungarian language SZ = S.

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If by a consequence of the force of these matters, the use of French in the settlements gradually wasted away, our former compatriots were no less pious in preserving the memory [of their former language], and it is not without pride that the very old amongst those whom we had met had succeeded to express themselves with us in the language of their ancestors.

When one visits the Lorraine settlements in Hungary (see [Table 4](#)) the similarity which prevails throughout them, the geometric regularity of the streets, the symmetry, the uniformity of construction is enough to indicate that they had all been set up at one time and from the same plan, so much so that the same description might almost apply to all.

The villages were in the shape of a vast, long rectangle crossed by 4 to 6 wide streets planted with locust trees on the edges, which were intersected at right angles. At the center of the village was the church with the rectory and school; not far away is found one or two inns, the butcher shop; the store in which is to be found gathered together the customary things: [not translated: *l'alignement des villes, la difficulté de s'y rendre, le rendaient indispensable*]. Several settlements have preserved, at the intersection of the two central streets, a timber frame structure under which one could have found in former times the bell which regulated with military precision the life and affairs of the settlers. At the entrance to the village the main street was flanked by the 2 windmills used for grinding grain into flour moved by horses, in which each inhabitant has the right,

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to grind his grain at a price fixed in advance.

Perpendicular to the street the roofs of tiles or thatch of the dwellings raise themselves from rough plastered [*recrepis e la chaux*] walls made of adobe [*pisé*] (the name was preserved) or of unfired brick. They do not in general have a ground floor. Fronted by a covered gallery giving onto the courtyard there are only 2 or 3 rooms for living in. All this is clean and well kept indicating a very great comfort⁽¹⁾. Under the same roof are located the cattle sheds; sometimes at the back of the courtyard a barn to shut up the harvest. The courtyard would be enclosed by a fence scarcely higher than the support formed by a row of bundled branches [*une rangee de fagots*] covered with adobe. This primitive manner of fencing should not amaze one: over the vast plains of Hungary wood and bricks cost one dearly. Save for those fruit trees which the inhabitants showed to us with pride in the orchards which surrounded their houses we came across hardly any, other than some Locusts which acquire in a little time a handsome growth. The scarcity of wood; used very often for heating was replaced with corn stalks, tobacco stems, or

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straw; the practice had been in the past to utilize manure as fuel. The premature decline of the trees is owing to the imperviousness the clayey⁽¹⁾ subsoil and its lack of nutrients on which rests a shallow layer of humus, the thickness of the rest is quite variable.

As for rocks, they are almost unknown. It may be true that at the time of the building of the railroad from Pesth⁴³ to Temesvar, that the ballast used at the front of the diggers in the preparations for the tracks, the largest of the rocks were carried away in the night and set up in the villages as curiosities.

Around each village often stretching as far as the eye can see are fields of grain whose fruitfulness is well known to have more than once saved Western Europe from want. These alternate with vast stretches covered with corn (*Kukurutz*⁴⁴) which often grows more than two meters high and in the midst of which at night it is not difficult to get lost, we almost had such an experience. In the community pasture grazing at liberty

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43] today part of Budapest, the capital of Hungary.

44] Indian corn; *kukuruz* in Serbian language; *cucuruz* in the Romanian dialect from Banat.

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are numerous herds of horses, a valued breed all with the same chestnut coat; some villages possessed more than one thousand head of them. As well there is the large Hungarian breed of cattle with a strong frame, gray coat and long gracefully arched horns. Finally the great long reverberating outcry which betrays the presence of flocks of geese who thrive in spite of the absence of water where they would have been able to take their revels.

In our pursuit of families with names of French origin we have been able to meet them fairly often in some Hungarian or German⁽¹⁾ villages situated around the cluster of Lorrainer settlements,

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that is in the villages of Saint-Hubert, Charleville, Seulteur and Trübswetter where they had predominated. It is in these locations thanks to their superior numbers and to their [accumulation in that] area that the formerly Lorrainer populations were able to preserve some of their original characteristics.

The inhabitants of Saint-Hubert, Charleville and Seulteur like to designate their villages under the name of *Wälsche Dörfer* (Welches villages); their neighbors call them still to this day *die Franzosen*. They know that they had come from the Lorraine and from the Alsace, and a good number know the localities from which their ancestors had originated; among those which were indicated we quote: Arracourt (designated by its name in dialect as *Rako*)^(I), Francheville^(II), Moyenvic, Rhodes, Torcheville, Leining, Altroff^(III), Oberstinzeln, Niederstinzeln^(IV), etc. (see **Table 2**).

The family names are of French origin, many are very well known in the Lorraine and they are found still to this day in our towns and villages. The changes [alterations] they have undergone for the most part are explained easily by the fact that those who would have been

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employed by the Austrians, sometimes of Bohemian origin, who took the names of the settlers from the Lorraine on their arrival; who for the most part were not able to read, as is well evidenced by the numerous crosses in place of a signature which we have found at the bottom of their contracts of engagement as settlers. Do not forget moreover that in the Slavic, German, and Hungarian languages the letters [of the alphabet] do not have the same phonetic value which they have in French.

If, at the beginning, some relations had continued to be maintained between the settlers and their parents remaining in the land of their birth, they do not appear to have been frequent nor to have been of long duration. The isolation, the difficulty of communications, the mutual forgetfulness accounts for that very easily. Nevertheless an inhabitant of **Trübswetter** has related to us that by way of part of an inheritance which 15 years prior, had fallen payable to him in Rhodes he had been warmly encouraged by the members of his family who had been living there to go to see again the land of his forefathers.

In the settlements of the Lorrainers, French is not much understood or spoken except by some old folks who had learned it from their parents, the first settlers. Nevertheless here as elsewhere, in Canada, in New Orleans, as in the settlements of the French Protestant refugees in Germany, they have revealed, as opposed to other peoples the attachment of the French to their maternal language. Although being lost in the middle of foreign populations, separated and without

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contact with their former homeland, the Lorrainers had for a long time preserved their language. In 1872 there succumbed in Charleville at the age of 92 years a Lorrainer woman who had not been able to fulfill her religious duties except by expressing herself in French. In the same village 3 gallant old souls had the honour of conversing with us in a French which in spite of its archaisms and words borrowed from the Lorrainer dialect with which it was sprinkled was nevertheless understandable. An old woman was happy to be able to say for me the prayer which she had recited every night in French. It is not without emotion that far from France, we gathered some tokens of the loyalty of the Lorrainers to their maternal language.

In addition to the German, which is a dialect spoken in the Alsace and in Wurtemberg, the young generation has begun to speak Hungarian which is learned as much in the village schools as in those of Szegedin: in that important town there existed some good schools in which the teaching was done throughout by the religious. The spread of the Hungarian language is ever promoted by a fruitful custom of happy results, in former times was used in the Lorraine and the Alsace and again today very widespread between francophone and German speaking Swiss, the exchange of children (*Kindertausch*). Two families of different languages mutually entrusting their children for learning a new language.

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After more than a century without contact our former compatriots still distinguish themselves by more than one of the rudimentary characteristic which makes them well known for their industry, their vivacity, and their jovial character. We have found in them an honest and open attitude, polite without being servile, they are eminently sociable. A

little obstinate in their ideas, they engage easily in legal action, they love to discuss b doing so with logic and animation without being quarrelsome or vindictive. They are courageous in war, a large number among them have distinguished themselves; the majority serving in the Hussars, the national army of the Hungarians⁽¹⁾. Proper, but somewhat exclusive few leave their villages to which they are very attached. The inhabitants of the Lorraine settlements feel a particular liking for the Hungarians, all had good relations with the adjacent villages. (In the schools, the children display a ready and very quick understanding of their fellow students of the other extraction).

The Lorrainers are hard working and thrifty; also there is not among them any poor; they all enjoy everything of comfort, a few of them are wealthy.

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The families of French origin live and ally themselves most often amongst themselves. As among all farming populations associations are formed in good time; not many months after their having returned from military service the young men get married. Following an old custom borrowed from the Saxons, the new husbands are obliged to live for one year under the roof of the parents of the young woman, they are obliged to serve as farmhands. The produce of one *joch* of land (57 ares) is allocated for their support.

The moral and religious sentiments are preserved by them with all their strength; the great Christian feasts, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost are celebrated with brilliance. In **Trübswetter** the feast of Saint Sylvestre [New Year's Eve] and that day of the year is celebrated as in France and is an occasion for the exchange of gifts. Leading a quiet and monotonous life like the plains in the midst of which they are lost, the Lorrainers of Hungary seized with eagerness family events to make the occasion of a protracted and boisterous event. In the processions which travel through the village (which on their passing reverberate with gun shots) at the time of a marriage, they liked to have a body of musicians to precede them. These musicians are moreover somewhat gifted. At baptisms as on feast days sugared almonds were distributed or handed out to the children on the way out of church. This practice in some of the districts [was carried out] only at meetings of Lorrainer settlers.

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They are enthusiastic dancers and enjoy games of skill such billiards and also games of chance. Among those games which have be played for a long time the most common was a card game called *préférence*, well known in earlier times in France. Of an honest and practical sense, of a cautious nature which touches on distrust, they are little disposed to welcome either new ideas or inventions, the Lorrainer settlers like farming populations living in isolation, have hardly any concern but to work for themselves and those near to them and to increase their wealth.

When parents die leaving children who are minors, all their property is sold. The proceeds were divided up in as many portions as there were children, was entrusted to a special board charged in each parish [commune] with administering the property of the orphans; the interest providing support until the age of twelve years, at which time they are compelled to work as farm hands or servants. Their inheritance [leur fortune] is restored to them when they reach their majority⁽¹⁾.

In the Lorrainer villages the people are strong and hardy. The conditions are favorably healthy and the abundance in which the inhabitants live, working exclusively as farmers to which they give themselves willingly enables them to provide for their good health. The average life span is above normal, with many people living to a very advanced age.

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Sickness is relatively rare. Endemic diseases do not exist in the region. Always after wet years there would often occur fevers and malarial infections which is accounted for by the ease with which pools of stagnating very long⁽¹⁾ water form in a soil very rich in humus.

The Lorrainer settlers excelled at cultivating the soil. In their villages the land is worth four times more than in surrounding areas. It is with pride that they show off the fruit tree nurseries which by the solicitude they have built up. Beside agriculture they have given themselves over with success to the raising of cattle and of horses; their results, generally **demi-sand** horses which they have bred are esteemed in the markets of Temesvar.

Such today are the Lorrainer settlements in Hungary. In their [former] villages in the Lorraine has there been preserved any memory of those who more than a century ago left their birth place to go and settle far away.

The names of the families that we have found in Saint-Hubert, Charleville,

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Seultour, Trübswetter, etc. are they extant yet in our Lorraine villages? So many questions which it was interesting and natural to elucidate.

Some research was done by us on the old parish registers and some information was gathered close at hand from the town councils and from the clergy who granted us a reply.

The name Charleville which is borne by one of the Lorrainer settlements one may suppose that it had been given by the settlers in memory of a village of that name situated in the former department of Moselle, in the canton of Vigy, about 40 kilometers to the north-east of Metz. It has even been found that amongst the very old of the inhabitants of Charleville a tradition exists relating to the emigration of families to Hungary from there in the past one hundred years. A large farm in the vicinity of Metz carries today the name of Saint-Hubert. Was it a memory of it that some settlers originating in the area of Metz would have given its name to their new home in Hungary?

On some other points, our pursuits were very fruitful. In the department of Meurthe-et-Moselle, at Moncel (a village which had belonged to a former bailiwick of the bishopric of Metz) some individuals know that there were some members of their families who had emigrated to Hungary^(I) a century ago. At

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Arracourt (in the past Auralcourt, a village which was situated in the former balliwick of Lunéville, near the current border) people know that a man named Lacouture on leaving for Hungary left in property to the parish a piece of land which since 1780 has been the cemetery of that village^(I). In the villages of Bezange-la-Grande, Moncel, Arracourt and to a lesser degree in those of Sornéville, Valhey, Bathlémont, Parroy, Pettoncourt, all situated in the department of Meurthe-et-Moselle in the Lorraine annexed to Moyon-Vic, Château-Salins, Chambrey, Aulnoy-sur-Seille, had existed from 1751 to 1770 and exists again in part today, a large number of families from which we have found the names from the francophone Lorraine settlements in Hungary (compare [Tables 3](#) & [Tables 5](#)). The results of which have led our investigations, bringing together the relationship of pieces of information from Hungary, we are allowed to think that it is from the area made up of Nancy & Metz that a great number of these settlers had originated.

Some analogous research to determine the exact places from where the German speaking Lorrainer settlers emigrated and the Alsacians have presented some difficulties too large for us to have been able to undertake.

However it remains demonstrated that there exists

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in the south-east of Hungary, 400 leagues from the motherland, an extensive cluster of settlements of Lorrainers and Alsacians. Although their founding goes back more than a century, some of the ones who lived between then and those who live today have preserved in their memory their origins and some particular characteristics which had appeared to me worthy to call one's attention.
