

Frank - 1900
 Louise - 1903
 Joseph Frank - 1906
 Michael E. - 1907
 Marion - 1912
 Anton W.

1. Frank Leisz

b. - 1874
 p.b. - ? - most likely Schonau, Austria
 now called - Sanov, Czech Republic
 m. - 1900
 d. - 1949
 bur. - St. Anne Cemetery,
 Turtle Lake Wisconsin
Occupation/Notes - Arrived in the
 US on May 16th 1893 on the Ship named
 "Darmstadt" with his mother and siblings
2. - Barbara Donaker
 b. - 04/15/1877
 p.b. - Budapest, Capital Dist., Hun.
 d. - 1950
 bur. - St. Anne Cemetery,
 Turtle Lake Wisconsin
Occupation/Notes -

Schonau, Austria = Now called - Sanov, Czech Republic
 Nemitpereg Hungary = Now called Peregu Mare Romania

#1

3. Leopold Leisz

b.
 p.b. - Schonau, Austria
 d. - 1893
 bur. - Nemitpereg Hungary
 m. - 1860

4. Maria Schmied

b. - 06/18/1840
 p.b. - Schonau, Austria
 d. 1919
 bur. - St. Anne Cemetery, Turtle Lake Wis.
Notes - Leopold
 Died in a tragic fire just before coming to the US.
 See other documentation on the story of the fire.

#2

5. Frank Jacob Donaker

b.
 p.b.
 d.
 bur.
 m.

6. Magdalena Heilinger

b. - 1852
 p.b. - Budapest Hungary
 d. - 1905
 bur. - St. Anne Cemetery,
 Notes:

This generation is estimated
 to be born in the early 1800s

#3

7. Leopold Leisz

b.
 p.b. - Schonau, Austria
 d.
 bur.
 m.

8. Katharina Geppart

b.
 p.b. - Schonau, Austria
 d.
 bur.
 Notes:

#4

9. Simon Schmied

b.
 p.b. - Schonau, Austria
 d.
 bur.
 m.

10. Theresia Werner

b.
 p.b. - Schonau, Austria
 d.
 bur.
 Notes: Simon was a cottager.

11

#5

b.
 p.b.
 d.
 bur.
 m.

12

#6

b.
 p.b.
 d.
 bur.
 Notes:

13

b.
 p.b.
 d.
 bur.
 m.

14

b.
 p.b.
 d.
 bur.
 Notes:

This generation is estimated
 to be born in the late 1700s

#7

b.
 p.b.
 d.
 bur.
 m.

b.
 p.b.
 d.
 bur.
 Notes:

Maximilian Geppart

b.
 p.b. - Schonau, Austria(?)
 d.
 bur.
 m.

#8

b.
 p.b.
 d.
 bur.
 Notes:

#9

b.
 p.b.
 d.
 bur.
 m.

b.
 p.b.
 d.
 bur.
 Notes:

Mathias Werner

b.
 p.b. - Schonau, Austria (?)
 d.
 bur.
 m.

#10

b.
 p.b.
 d.
 bur.
 Notes:

#11

b.
 p.b.
 d.
 bur.
 m.

b.
 p.b.
 d.
 bur.
 Notes:

History of the “Leisz” family, and possible explanation as to why we were told we are from German ancestry, but cannot locate any German ancestors.

Timeline is based off of notes and handouts from the 2002 “Leisz” family reunion in Turtle Lake Wisconsin, personal family records and stories, as well as research on the known areas of where our ancestors lived in Europe.

Mid 1500’s to late 1600”s - Turkish rule throughout central Europe.

Late 1600’s - Austria took control of central Europe and the ruling government was now based in Vienna. Today on maps the Empire would be Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Poland and a few other countries. Many of the cities were devastated through war and were left with little to no population.

1711-1789 – Austria offered free land to southern Germans to help repopulate the region. The time percentage of Germans moving to Austria happened around 1730. That would be the best estimate for when our family moved from Germany to Austria.

By the 1740’s – Most of the Austrian cities were heavily populated by Germans

1740’s to mid 1800’s – Cities in the Austrian Empire spoke German and practiced German traditions. There was growing concern about the German influence for over the past 100 plus years in Austria and how to make people more “Austrian”. During this whole period Hungarians were being ruled by Austria and many uprising happened to gain more independence.

1844 – “Hungarian” was made the official new language in certain areas of the Austrian Empire and all teachings in German would be stopped. Our ancestors would have lived in an area which had to start speaking Hungarian.

1861 – Birth of John Leisz (Parents - Leopold & Maria (Schmied, birth April 16, 1840) Leisz) (Grandparents – Leopold & Katharina (Geppert) Leisz) in the city of Schonau. Records show all

3 generations lived in this city, which is about 30 miles North of Vienna. Today city is called Sanov in the region of Grafendorf & Erdberg in the Czech Republic.

1862 – Birth of Mary Leisz – Same information. Have a copy of her birth certificate. Told birth documents for John & Leopold are exactly the same.

1863 - Birth of Leopold – Same information.

1867 – Hungarians wanted more power over their region and in 1867 the Austrian-Hungarian Empire was formed. At this time a border line was created N. of Vienna and those on the North side were considered Hungarian. The city our ancestors lived in (Schonau, but now Sanov) was just north of the new border, so they now live in Hungary. Over the past 20 years names of people and cities were changed to sound more Hungarian, and “z” were added to many names. This is probably when the “z” was added to our last name. Free land was offered in eastern areas of the empire to help populate cities in that region.

1868 – Birth of Joseph – No Records

1874, April 30th – Birth of Frank (our family line) – No Records (spelled Franc on Ellis Island records) Stuart Leisz has it written that he was born in Deutchburg Hungary, but have not been able to find any records of that city.

1880 – Birth of Anton – No Records

1882 – Birth of Michael – No Records

November 4th 1885 – The birth certificates of John, Mary, & Leopold were purchased on this date for 50 Kronen a piece in the city of Schonau (Sanov) Austria. This date is important because they probably purchased the certificates to take with them when they moved the Nemitpereg (Peregu Mare). These 3 documents were actually located in a church called St. Theresa of Avila in Nemitpereg (Peregu Mare, Romania). During this time period churches kept documents like these. Best guess why the documents were in Nemitpereg (Peregu Mare) is that the family purchased the documents in Schonau (Sanov) Austria, the town they were moving from, and gave them to their new church in Nemitpereg (Peregu Mare).

1886 – Estimated year family moved to Nemitpereg (Peregu Mare, Romania). Probably moved for the offer of free land, but no records of this.

February 13 1893 – A Mardi Gras celebration was being held in town of Nemitpereg (Peregu Mare). Fire facts come from a book written about the fire. A young man dropped a

coin and lit a match to help find it. He tossed the match on the floor of the Hall. A fire started, which soon exploded a barrel of petroleum. 17 were killed including the Hall owner and his 3 year old grandson. Leopold Leisz was one of the 17 killed. He had just sold his land to move to the United States and the money from the sale was on him when the fire broke out. The story goes that the mother had the tickets for the ship and the family had planned to leave the following day to travel to the city of Bremen in Northern Germany to board a ship and move to the United States. She had to choose whether to stay in Nemitpereg (Peregu Mare) to bury her husband or leave as planned. She packed up the family and left for Bremen Germany.

All bodies were buried in a mass grave. In 2001 a Leisz family descendant visited the grave site and noticed there was no grave marker. She had one made and it reads "In memory of Leopold Leisz & other victims of the tragic Feb. 13, 1893 fire."

Historical Facts of the Region: The fact that they owed land to sell would have made them part of the middle class, and not the poor. One reason people immigrated to the US was heavy taxation. Another is agents from US factories/companies would travel to towns and recruit people to work for them in the US. This may have been the reason since the family had many boys of working age and it seems they went straight to Chicago after landing in the US. Lastly, all boys were required to serve 3 years in the military at the age of 21. In 1893 the 3 oldest would have finished their 3 years and the next group would be starting soon, so this would have been a perfect time for everyone to go.

Spring of 1893 – Travelled to the United States of America. Arrived May 16th on a ship named the Darmstadt

Mother – (Maria Leisz) made the journey with her children (John?), Joseph, Frank, Anton, & Michael. Leopold & Mary (maybe John) would join up with them sometime over the next ten years with their families. Note that other people with the last name of "Leisz" were on the ship. Do not know the relationship, but records show they were from same city in Hungary.

Ship = Darmstadt

Departure City = Bremen Germany (Northern Germany). Departure date could not be found.

Arrival to the United States = May 16th 1893 on Ellis Island

Note = Ship records state Menech Terez, Hungary as the city where the family was moving from. Could not find any information on this city. It might be a place outside of Nemitberg (Peregu Mare) where they lived, and the family went to church in Nemitberg (Peregu Mare).

Found on a map of the region from 1900, which was written in Hungarian, with a city called Mezohegys. This city is in the exact location as Peregu Mare is today. It is known that as immigrants passed through Ellis Island the record keepers wrote what they heard, and because of the language barriers, many names were recorded wrong. I looked up the ship records for the older brother when he arrived in 1902, and his records stated N. Pereg as city of origin. That would be Nemitpereg (Peregu Mare).

1893—After arriving in the United States they moved to Chicago and the boys took jobs as dock works. The family saw an ad in the paper for free land in Wisconsin. They moved in 1893 to Turtle Lake. Turtle Lake started proceedings to become a city in 1895. Each boy had his own piece of farm property. Not sure if their land was all part of the free land offer.

Timeline information from this point is only on our direct descendant Frank Leisz. Followed by links to the ships information the “Leisz” ancestors travelled on.

Feb. 6th 1899 - Frank Leisz married Barbara Donaker (born April 15th, 1877 in Budapest Hungary) in Turtle Lake, Wisconsin. They had 5 Kids. Frank died Oct. 22nd, 1949 & Barbara died Sept. 27th, 1950. They are buried at St. Anne’s cemetery in Turtle Lake Wisconsin. The “Leisz” family farms were off of 2nd St. between 10th & 11 ³/₄ Avenue. Frank & Barbara’s farm was on the corner 11 ³/₄ Ave. & 2 ³/₄ St., and has since burned down. Their children would have gone to school at Schoolhouse District 4 on 11th Ave. between ¹/₂ St. & 1st St. When Frank retired he became the caretaker of St. Anne’s Church and lived on the property.

1900 – Birth of Frank

1903 – Birth of Louise

1906 - May 17th – Birth of Joseph Frank

1907 – Birth of Michael

1912 – Birth of Marion

1925, Nov. 7th – Joseph Leisz Married Gladys Agnes Cardinal (born Feb. 21st, 1907, in Range/Amery Wisconsin) in Range Wisconsin. They had 2 kids. Joe died Aug. 12th, 1962 &

Gladys died Nov. 16th 1988. They are buried in Gethsemane Cemetery in New Hope Minnesota.

1926 – Joe and Gladys moved to Minneapolis Minnesota and rented their first home on Buchanan St. in the 1400/1500 block. Joe & Gladys rented a few more homes with Stuart being born in the attic apartment of a house on 18th and Johnson, by a horse Dr. in Minneapolis. Jean was born in University Hospital in Minneapolis. They purchased their 2nd home on 2519 McKinley St. in Minneapolis around 1944, which is where they spent most of their life. Joe worked for a company called Land of Nod, and worked his way up to being a purchasing agent.

1928, May 23rd – Birth of Barbara Jean in Minneapolis

1931, Aug. 5th – Birth of Stuart Joseph in Minneapolis

1952, April 19th – Stuart Leisz married Mary Kathleen Dougherty (born Feb. 22nd, 1931 in Minneapolis Minnesota) in Minneapolis Minnesota. They were married at St. Anne's Church in N. Minneapolis, with the reception following at Midland Hills Country Club. They honeymooned in Duluth Minnesota. Stuart started his career off in the military as a pilot, but in the mid to late 1950's took a job with Cargill Salt. He worked his way up to Vice President of Cargill. In 1984 they moved, with the 2 youngest children, to Houston where he was the President of United Salt. For a period he was also the chairman for the governing committee over the salt companies in the US. Kathleen raised the children as well as spent most of her life involved with different volunteer organizations. For many years she volunteered once week in the emergency rooms of hospitals in Minneapolis/Houston to assist those in need before seeing the medical staff. They had 6 children. Stuart & Kathleen plan to be buried in Gethsemane Cemetery in New Hope MN.

1953, Feb. 26th – Birth of Dennis Joseph in Minneapolis Minnesota

1954, May 18th – Birth of Mary Jo in Minneapolis Minnesota

1960, Nov. 10th – Birth of John Leisz in Davenport Iowa

1962, Aug. 22nd – Birth of Barbara Jo in Baton Rouge Louisiana

1965, Sept. 30th – Birth of Steven Douglas in New Orleans Louisiana

1966, Nov. 2nd – Birth of Robert Charles in New Orleans Louisiana

Links to Ship Records

Ships records of passengers – page with our family

http://www.ellisland.org/search/ship_passengers.asp?letter=d&half=1&sname=Darmstadt&year=1893&sdate=05%2F16%2F1893&port=Bremen&page=21

Ships Record for Franc (k) Leisz

<http://www.ellisland.org/search/passrecord.asp?PID=104096030065&fromShip=y&letter=d&half=1&sname=Darmstadt&year=1893&sdate=05/16/1893&port=Bremen&page=&MID=08172856990910029504&>

Ships Manifest

<http://www.ellisland.org/search/shipmanifest.asp?PID=104096030065&fromShip=y&letter=d&half=1&sname=Darmstadt&year=1893&sdate=05/16/1893&port=Bremen&page=>

View of Ship

<http://www.ellisland.org/search/shipimage.asp?PID=104096030065&fromShip=y&letter=d&half=1&sname=Darmstadt&year=1893&sdate=05/16/1893&port=Bremen&page=>