

## Genealogy in Hostau (Hostouň)

Since Stefan Stippler, in the meantime town-leader (Ortsbetreuer) of Hostau ([www.hostau.org](http://www.hostau.org)), attended the 4<sup>th</sup> grade of high school in 1985 in his hometown Nördlingen ([www.noerdlingen.de](http://www.noerdlingen.de)), he started dealing with genealogy. At the beginning “collecting” and “reporting” of records were only the main activities. Luckily there were many old records left, but unfortunately spread out particularly over all relatives. According to this context his grandmother’s (mother of his father) ancestors were also investigated. His grandmother’s name was Sofie Stippler-Dietrich (1913-1992). Family names such as Dietrich, Tauer, Prokosch, Schlanetz, Dietz, Günter, Egerer, Gröbner, Lang and Engelmann were also part of the picture. Sadly most records could only give information to ancestors living up to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1985 Czechoslovakia was still communistic. It was impossible to do genealogical research on Czech territory by a genealogist from a Western country so gridlock was reached very soon.

The family history of Stefan’s ancestors on his mother side was almost completely documented by his grandfather, Rudolf Kretschmer (1926-2000). He was one of the leading people in the homeland society of his hometown Saubsdorf ([www.supikovice.cz](http://www.supikovice.cz)). In his book The Ancestors’ Pyramid, he published all his genealogical results regarding the last names of Kretschmer and Schroth. Remarkably all ancestors originate from the same former district of Freiwaldau ([www.info-jesenik.cz](http://www.info-jesenik.cz)) in the Eastern Sudetenland. The family Schroth (Schrodt) can even be traced back to the year 1540. The family Kretschmer (Krädschmer) can be retraced to the year 1760. The ancestral house at Geißlersfeld-street number 25 was a family property from 1760 till the expulsion in 1946.

In the following years Stefan was only dealing with the last name “Stippler”. He was able to trace the Bavarian-Swabian Stipplers back to the year 1586. At six Stippler Reunions new results in genealogy could be presented to a large crowd of Stipplers. A worldwide Stippler network could be installed over the years from Germany, Austria, Italy and Switzerland and over to Canada, the U.S. and Australia. On the internet under [www.stippler.net](http://www.stippler.net) further information can be found about the previous Stippler Reunions and general Stippler research.

On the occasion of Stefan’s first trip to Hostau ([www.hostoun.cz](http://www.hostoun.cz)), he was fascinated by the culture and nature of his grandmother’s homeland. Inevitably this had positive effects on genealogy in Hostau. Since that time new extensive genealogical research was done at the archives in Pilsen ([www.soaplzen.cz](http://www.soaplzen.cz)). Richard Hellmesen, archivist at the archives of the Diocese of Limburg, who had already done research there for the Stippler Family of Indiana, agreed to work at the archives in Pilsen as well. So far he worked in the archives for 38 hours and many more ancestors could be added to the family tree. Helpful additions could be made by Alfred Piwonka, the vice-president of the society for the home-district Bischofteinitz ([www.bischofteinitz.de](http://www.bischofteinitz.de)). Unfortunately no records are available in Pilsen for research between the years 1900 to 1945. The archives exclude them from the public.

Due to available documents, the family Dietrich (Stefan’s grandmother’s family on his father’s side) came from Tannawa over Schüttwa, St. Georgen, Wilkenau and finally Horouschen to Hostau. Johann Dittrich (Dietrich) was born in 1654, and died in Tannawa in 1728. Descendants of the Dietrich family in Hostau, who still bear the last name, are Edgar Dietrich (\*1944) and his children, Jochen (\* 1972) and Simone (\*1976), who are living in Bruchmühlbach (Rhineland-Palatinate).

The first Dietrich born in Hostau was Johann Dietrich. He was born in street number 115 in 1881. His father Wenzel was still born in Horouschen. Johann Dietrich married in 1910 Marie Dietz. She was born in 1888 in Hostau (street number 20). During the first walk at the cemetery in Hostau during the summer of 2002, Stefan discovered three existing Dietz graves as genealogical sources of stone. These graves got a fundamental restoration and were merged together to one single sepulcher, at the same place where Stefan’s great-great-grandparents Johann and Barbara Dietz were buried. Johann, who was born in 1824 in Weißensulz (street number 161), married in 1842 in Hostau Barbara Egerer. She was born in 1820 in Hostau (street number 122). The Dietz-family of Weißensulz can be traced back to Leonhard Dietz. His son Wolfgang was born in 1716 in Weißensulz (Bělá nad Radbuzou).

In addition, there are some results now, which could also be gained by the research in Pilsen. The family Tauer could be traced back to Johann Tauer. His son was born in 1775 in Taschlowitz. The Günter clan has its origin in Weißensulz. Johannes Günter is the oldest known ancestor so far. His son married in 1743 in Weißensulz. Johann Gröbner's son Mathias married in 1744 in Hostau. The family Lang could be retraced to Johann Lang. His son was born in 1799 in Neustadl. Johann Engelmann was born in 1782 in Hostau. This listing could be continued about more people and families additionally.

Genealogy can bring about someone's passion more than many other hobbies. It is because you never want to stop. The quantity of genealogical data is, however, in every respect, endless. Even the one who has completely recorded all ancestors up to ten generations (i.e. great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandparents), can continue. Even the oldest recorded ancestor has a family, parents, grandparents, and great grandparents, etc.

The interest in history and tradition increased, and the so-called wave of nostalgia is only the stylish decorative tip of the iceberg, under which a lot of serious efforts are covered toward historical understanding. And as history is not only the history of emperors, kings and their empires, but also of small territories, towns and villages, of professional groups and finally of families, genealogy has been very popular for many years. Man cannot be blessed being isolated and incapable of having any personal relationships in the long run. He needs a positive connection to a certain place, a group and to his past. Therefore this offers something very important to him: identity.