

Extract from "Sword and Pen" by Rudolf Stratz

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Note: The symbol [] indicates a comment by the translator.

[Begin Translation]

From Lydia Wick, born Wagner, Klagenfurt,
Jergitschstr. 16 (22 April, 1939)

From "Sword and Pen" by Rudolf Stratz

My grandfather Sebastian Stratz belonged to the first settlers of Odessa, when at the end of the 18th century it was the desire of Katharina the Great to restore the site of the Turkish Fort Handschi Bey in the old Greek Odessa area of the barren Steppes snatched from the Tartar hordes. Herzog von Richelius, later to become a Russian statesman, guided a long train of refugees, a mix of dislodged French persons of nobility, due to the Revolution, and Black Forest Swabian emigrants from Freiburg in Breisgau, by open wagons (*Planwagen*) to Vienna, floating down the Danube through Turkish territory, and , after transferring, on the long-boat of a Greek pirate through to the Black Sea.

With this pioneering into the wild east, so I understand, Sebastian Stratz went along from Wildgutach Valley of the Black Forest. He was one of those who felt that gold was lying on the streets of Odessa. When he died at the age of 70, he owned a whole street full of houses, where, in my youth, camels still walked and the wild yellow hounds of a Turkish city tramped around. He was a hereditary citizen of nobility in Odessa and a merchant of the First Guild. My father and his brother were also hereditary citizens of nobility and merchants of the First Guild.

At that time, the road to Europe was primarily the water of the Danube River which led up-stream from the Black Sea to Vienna. On one of his trips as a young man, my father almost came to his grave on it when he came to house #323 in Innenstadt, where my mother was born and grew up, courted her for a few days and got married 08 September, 1857. She was about 20 years old. Then, after a misconceived honeymoon trip around the world via Switzerland, Italy, France and Germany, she went to her new home in Odessa by way of Vienna and Turkey....

...01 January, 1874 universal liability for military service in Russia. Up until now, the sons of the hereditary citizens of nobility in Russia had the privilege of nobility to be exempt from military service.

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