PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

Most of this book has been rewritten for the second edition, with numerous minor corrections and revisions, as well as some reorganization of the material.

The most significant substantive difference between the two editions, however, is the fact that the second edition includes information about the contents of each individual archive which was listed in the *Guide to the Archives of Hungary*, edited by Dr. Péter Balázs (Budapest: Archival Board of the Ministry of Culture, 1976), instead of only the general descriptions for the national and regional archives. This is particularly significant with respect to the regional and the religious archives.

Obviously, I have selected only a small amount of information from the description of holdings contained in the 1976 book. I do not claim consistency in the presentation, partly because the information on the various archives was not of a fully parallel nature in the original source, but mostly because it would have taken a great deal more time to develop a checklist of items and scan the data on each archive for matching information. Nevertheless, I have used certain general criteria for choosing the items mentioned in this book.

First of all, this started out as being a source of information intended particularly for genealogists. Hence, I have sought to maximize the inclusion of information which would be of genealogical benefit.

Of course, in many cases it is uncertain whether certain kinds of records actually contain names or only statistical data, accounts or descriptive material. Moreover, a lot of the information which has been included will be of genealogical value to only a relatively small number of people (e.g., court and orphans' records).

I have paid particular attention to any information which might indicate that Hungarian archives contain information on areas formerly, but no longer, a part of Hungary, as well as the reverse: records on Hungary to be found in other countries. I have also picked up information relating to minority groups, wherever possible. Thus this book is meant to be of as much value as possible, given the sources of information, to everyone who is researching ancestors from what is now, or once was, Hungary.

Second, I have included some historical material, particularly as it might relate to religious institutions (which were the principal source of genealogical information until 1895, even though the post-1828 data is also in public archives now) or to the socio-economic history of the populace. I have minimized references to the kind of political history which tends to dominate most textbooks.

Instead of simply reproducing the descriptive material on the general archives and regional archives, I have rewritten most of it, deleting or abbreviating material unlikely to be of interest to North American researchers and adding clarifying information where I could. Of course, if there are any errors in these "clarifications," I alone am responsible. The terms used in the 1976 *Guide* are not always clear in their meaning, but it would have taken a tremendous amount of time to make sure that my interpretation of archaic terms, technical archival language, and general terms with broad or varied meanings was always precise and accurate. In some cases, I have chosen to use the original words or phrases because of uncertainty as to exactly what they were meant to convey.

I hope that the book will be of value to researchers who are not necessarily interested in genealogy or those aspects of history which I have stressed, because the relatively detailed descriptions in Part I are more or less comparable to the *Guide* in terms of comprehensiveness, even though the descriptions of the holdings of individual archives are not.

A second major change is the addition of a new appendix which lists the Hungarian, German and current names of a selected number of localities which were in Hungary before World War I, with emphasis on those where there were German settlements.

Any corrections, amplifications and suggestions regarding the contents of this book will be gratefully received.

I should alert readers to the fact that the letter "B" is not a "b," but what is called an "es-zet" in German. In earlier days it was written "sz"; today "ss" is considered the correct rendering. It should be noted that "sz" was in use longer in the German settlements in Eastern Europe than in Germany itself. Thus one may well find a descendant of a German immigrant from Eastern Europe still spelling his or her name in English as "Grosz," for example, whereas this is less likely for those whose ancestors came from the Germanic heartland in Central Europe. The "B" was used at the end of many words, or at the end of roots of compound words.

As a postcript, I might mention that I generally use my mother's maiden name as my middle name, as was customary in the community where I grew up, in writing for publication, even though my birth certificate records me only as "Edward R. Brandt." The equal, though not identical, contribution of the two sexes to the history of humankind is obvious to any genealogist. I fully appreciate and honor that simple but basic fact.

Edward Reimer Brandt

How This Book Came to Be:

First of all, my ancestors, my mother-in-law's ancestors and my father-in-law's ancestors all followed different patterns of migration from Western Europe to Eastern Europe, from where they came to North America, mostly Canada. They had remained German in language and culture throughout the several generations they had lived in the Slavic East, before crossing the Atlantic between 1874 and 1907.

Secondly, I became involved with genealogy, at first as a dabbler, despite having learned very little about my European ancestors before adulthood. The incidental identification of my mother-in-law's ancestors who emigrated to Galicia in the 1780s instantly turned me into a serious genealogist. The reason I say "incidental" is that on a visit to Vienna in 1966 I arrived early at the destination where all the family members were supposed to meet, turned around to see the Austrian National Library behind me and went in to browse through the card index. What I found was a gold mine!

Thirdly, I have learned a great deal from the many genealogical and historical organizations (most of them concerned with the history and genealogy of German-speaking ancestors, but not necessarily from Germany) which I have joined since the late 1970s.

The German Interest Group, a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, whose Research Committee I chaired for several years after my return from my third period of work in Europe in 1987, has been an especially important influence. It has now changed its name to the Germanic Genealogy Society, partly because of my insistence that what our ancestors had in common was the German language and, to some extent, a shared culture, not a common point of origin or identification with a single country.

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, to whose Journal I have contributed on several occasions, provided me with my first opportunity to address a national convention on my genealogical research in Germany. The North Star Chapter newsletter printed my first article on Germans in Eastern Europe.

Two editions of the guide to genealogical research on Germans in the East, put out by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft ostdeutscher Familienforscher (popularly referred to by its acronym, AGoFF) served as a most valuable resource. The second edition has been translated and was published in English in 1984 under the title, Genealogical Guide to German Ancestors from East Germany and Eastern Europe. The third edition of what is popularly known as the AGoFF-Wegweiser (1991) is available only in German.

In 1989 I attended a seminar on Advanced German Genealogy offered by Larry O. Jensen at Brigham Young University and subsequently passed the Family History Library examination to become an accredited genealogist specializing in German research.

Fourthly, I became aware that there is an almost total public unawareness of the enormous number of double (and triple) German migrants who came to North America from Eastern Europe, whose descendants now number well over a million.

Many "German-Americans" identify with Germany as their ancestral homeland, even though there was no Germany, in the political sense, when their immigrant ancestors arrived and large numbers of emigrants arrived from areas which were never a part of Germany, before or after that period, most of them from the Russian Empire, but several hundred thousand also from the Austro-Hungarian Empire (apparently mostly from outside Austria proper, as it exists today).

Even the Ellis Island Centennial Commission, whose members and staffers are presumably experts on immigration, has no provisions for properly honoring immigrants with a dual identity.

But more particularly, as a result of the extensive research I did as a co-author of the German Interest Group's Research Guide to German-American Genealogy (which covers Germans in practically every European country), I realized that there was no comprehensive English-language book on the market providing an overview of this distinctive group, even though there are some scholarly articles on specialized topics and the publications of organizations like the American Historical Society from Russia, the Germans from Russia Heritage Society and more recently established groups and publications, such as the Bukovina Society of the Americas, the East European Branch of the Manitoba Genealogical Society and Wandering Volhynians: A Magazine for the Descendants of Germans from Volhynia and Poland, have multiplied the amount of published material on this subject available in English.

I should add that Adam Giesinger has written an authoritative and comprehensive book, From Catherine to Khrushchev: The Story of Russia's Germans. G. C. Paikert's The Danube Swabians: German Populations in Hungary, Rumania and Yugoslavia and Hitler's Impact on Their Patterns (The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1967) is excellent with respect to the history of these settlements. There are several books which deal with German settlements in particular areas of Romania in a genealogically valuable manner. For the area which used to be part of Hungary, the most detailed and comprehensive one is Jacob Steigerwald's Tracing Romania's Heterogeneous German Minority from Its Origins to the Diaspora (Winona, MN: privately published, 1985). Heinz Lehmann's book, The German Canadians, 1750-1937 (translated by Gerhard Bassler and published in English by Jesperson Press, St. John's, Newfoundland, in 1986) has a very helpful section on Austria-Hungary and Romania, but it is only 10 pages long. Despite all of these books, there is still a shortage of Englishlanguage historical material on the German settlements in East Central and Southeastern Europe.

Guides written for the specific purpose of helping genealogical researchers are even less adequate, despite the AGOFF-Wegweiser, the Research Guide to German-American Genealogy and the Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research by Clifford Neal Smith and Anna Piszczan-Czaja Smith, which is out of print and a hard-to-get reference book.

Finally, when I got what I thought was an affordable opportunity to tour Poland, where my ancestors lived two homelands ago (with Ukraine as an intermediate homeland), I jumped at the chance and decided to add three weeks of scholarly research, chiefly at German archives and libraries specializing in Eastern European affairs, to see what scholarship is available in German.

Ill health and other commitments have delayed my intention to write a broad survey of the Germans in the East, whose immigrant descendants represented a goodly majority of the German-speakers in North Dakota and the Canadian Prairie Provinces, and a sizeable minority in the other Great Plains states, including Eastern Colorado. Thus I am writing shorter articles and books as foundation stones for my ultimate goal.

I had used whatever limited free time was available on our Eastern European group tour (focusing on, but not limited to, Poland) to visit archives, libraries and antique bookshops, wherever possible.

I had great luck at the Hungarian National Archives, where Dr. Imre Rešs provided me with a good briefing, even though I arrived unannounced. He also gave me a personal copy of the English-language Guide to the Archives of Hungary, which is now out of print.

I immediately thought about how this information could be made available to North American genealogists. My first reaction was to xerox the sections on the Hungarian national archives (often referred to in Europe as state archives and, especially during the Communist era, central archives) and the regional (generally meaning county) archives. I also added the scattered addresses of the archives as a cut-and-paste job. But after I received permission from the Hungarian Ministry of Culture and Public Instruction to disseminate this information, my ideas as to what could usefully be added grew and grew, especially as a result of my discovery of Prof. Wilhelm Winkler's 1927 statistical book on Germans in all countries while I was browsing through Wilson Library at the University of Minnesota. This book is the end result of these ideas. (It is, however, by no means as comprehensive a work as could result from lengthy scholarly research, so there are obviously a lot more items which could be added to it.)

The one English-language Hungarian-American genealogical guide, Jared Suess's Handy Guide to Hungarian Genealogical Research (Logan, UT: Everton Publishers, 1980), is quite different from this book, so the two are essentially complementary. His book lists several Hungarian-language gazetteers which show the various localities in Hungary, both in its present boundaries and in its pre-1919 boundaries; word lists in Hungarian, German and Latin; the Gothic, Cyrillic and Latin alphabets, with variations occurring in different languages; material on the history and language of Hungary; Hungarian personal names; administrative subdivisions of Hungarian counties; and sample documents and LDS catalog entries. Suess's Central European Genealogical Terminology (Logan, UT: Everton Publishers, 1978) is a useful dictionary, with numerous maps.

Moreover, people of all ethnic groups, including Germans, who are researching ancestors from Slovakia and the Carpatho-Ukraine (Ruthenia), are advised to look at A Handbook of Czechoslovak Genealogical Research by Daniel M. Schlyter. Duncan Gardiner's German Towns in Slovakia & Upper Hungary (Lakewood, OH: The Family Historian, 3rd ed., 1991) is the most valuable book on the history and location of German settlements in that area, with detailed maps, as well as useful historical and geographic information.

I am not aware of any genealogical guides or gazetteers for Romania, Serbia-Vojvodina, Croatia or Slovenia which are comparable to these books, although the AGoFF-Wegweiser, published in Germany, with the second edition translated into English, provides a great many addresses, maps and bibliographic entries. However, a number of very useful books dealing with the origins of German settlements are listed in Appendix 2.

Sources and Acknowledgments:

This project would, of course, never have gotten off the ground, were it not for the assistance and cooperation of the Hungarian National Archives and the permission given by the Hungarian Ministry of Culture and Public Instruction for me to reproduce the material which constituted Part I A of the first edition of this book and is the chief basis for the material in Parts I A and B in this second edition. For that, I express my grateful appreciation.

Part II consists of an updated list of addresses of archives provided by the responsible Hungarian Ministry. I should mention that I also included the branches of the various county archives, which were printed in the 1976 *Guide*, but were not on the list I received from Budapest in early 1992. They are thus correct as of 1976, but not necessarily in 1992. A description of selected materials in each archive has been added in the second edition, as explained in the preface.

The information I received from Budapest included material written in Hungarian, German and French. I had no problem with the German.

However, I would like to thank my son, Bruce Brandt, for assistance in translating the French material and in typing the list of addressses, which required the creation of Hungarian diacritical marks which were not on the fonts we had for our word processor.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Paul Rupprecht, whose knowledge of Hungarian came to my attention through the newsletter of the Friends of the Immigration History Research Center, to which we both belong. The center, which focuses on immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe, is located in St. Paul and affiliated with the University of Minnesota. Mr. Rupprecht proofread the addresses of the archives and corrected both spelling and translations. He also provided me with books which were helpful in preparing the maps and the dateline of historical events.

Since the Hungarian Guide dealt with the contents of the archives as a whole, without any particular focus on genealogically relevant material, I added, as Part I C in this edition, a summary of key information included in the LDS (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) 1979 Research Paper on "Records of Genealogical Value for Hungary." Part I D represents specific genealogical information which I received from the Hungarian National Archives in January 1991, most of which was included in the Research Guide to German-American Genealogy.

Parts I and II of the book are equally relevant for all genealogists, regardless of ethnicity, interested in obtaining information from Hungarian archives. In fact, most of this material is useful for all archival researchers, regardless of what they are researching. This is even more true of the second than of the first edition.

Since my particular interest, however, concerned the Germans in Hungary, I added the information at the end (appendices, tables and maps) specifically for those who are researching German ancestors or German settlements more generally.

The dateline of historical events was drawn from many sources, but I relied most heavily on the books by G. C. Paikert and Jacob Steigerwald. Suess's handbook on Hungary has a quite different dateline of historic events, with more emphasis on political and military history, but less emphasis on the German settlements in Hungary. The statistical tables are based very largely on Prof. Wilhelm Winkler's substantial tome. The maps were adapted from those in books I borrowed from Paul Rupprecht, with another map which I received from Martha Remer Connor added in the second edition.

Duplication:

Part I A of the first edition was reprinted by permission of the Hungarian Ministry of Culture and Public Instruction. The second edition contains only a short portion of the text of the Guide to the Archives of Hungary, but this book remains the basis for most of the material in Parts I and II of this edition. Authorization should be sought from the Hungarian Ministry for any further reproduction of material from its Guide. The rest of the book may not be reproduced without permission from the publisher, although anyone is, of course, free to consult the original sources for such use as may be desired. However, since the sharing of information is the essence of genealogy, permission to make copies of limited amounts of material for educational, rather than commercial, purposes is hereby granted. I want to help, not hinder, other authors, speakers and researchers in the community of genealogists.

Coverage of Hungary Before and After World War I:

Much of the material in this book deals only with contemporary Hungary, but other parts deal with historic Hungary (i.e., Greater Hungary within its pre-Trianon borders).

While the various Hungarian archives obviously have more information about persons and events in what is now Hungary, at least some of the archives also include information on territories ceded to other countries after World War I. If it is these other areas you are researching, I would advise you to contact the Hungarian National Archives as a first step.

Notes on Ethnicity and Inter-Ethnic Relations:

The Germans were by no means the only ethnic group which settled in areas where they were a minority. For example, there are also large numbers of Magyars (the term for ethnic Hungarians, as contrasted with citizens of Hungary) in Southern Slovakia, Northern and Western Romania, the Vojvodina and Eastern Croatia. In fact, nearly every ethnic group had such settlers in foreign-speaking territory, although some had only a few and some a great many.

These national minorities were of two kinds:

- those along border areas, where there was sometimes a rather checkered pattern of local majorities vs.
- (2) those who settled in ethnic islands far from their linguistic homeland

The first kind of minority was common in Europe, especially Eastern Europe, and made the application of President Wilson's principle of national self-determination far more complex in practice than in theory. Since other parts of Wilson's Fourteen Points at times conflicted with the idea of selfdetermination and since the goals of the European Allies were by no means always Wilsonian, this created additional

However, as far as the "islanders" were concerned ("colonists" was a term used widely and officially to describe foreignlanguage, especially German, settlers), the Germans differed from other nationalities in that:

- (1) They had a vastly larger number of such emigrants than any other European ethnic group (except, of course, for the unique status of the Jews, who were minorities, but numbering in the millions in Eastern Europe, wherever they went).
- (2) These "islands" were often hundreds, even thousands, of miles from any territory where German was spoken by the majority, so these "colonists" maintained the German language and customs as of the date of emigration and to the extent that these changed (as they inevitably did, though often to a surprisingly small degree), the changes were quite different from the way the German language and customs developed in the Germanic core of Central Europe.

I might also add a postscript concerning the somewhat ambiguous connection between "Germans" and "Jews." The Yiddish language spoken by the Jews was a derivative of Old High German. Many Jews went to Eastern Europe from Germany or Austria (though sometimes this was an intermediate stop for Jews from farther west) and later many returned to Germany and especially Austria from the East. Members of the two groups were often the co-developers of East European cities and industries, either simultaneously or sequentially. At various times and in various places (especially those under German or Austrian rule, even where the Germans were a minority), the Jews also used the German language.

For many non-mainstream religious groups, which included dissident Christians like my Mennonite ancestors as well as Jews, religion, not nationality or ethnicity, was the key factor in the group's own self-identification (as well as how others identified it).

The relevance of this for ethnic statistics is that in some censuses or statistical reports, the Jews in Eastern Europe were counted as Germans; in others they were not.

In view of the fact that the Jews had been forced to take up trades in the towns during the Middle Ages, when they were forbidden to own land, and this tradition continued in most areas, the inclusion or exclusion of Jews as Germans would have made very little difference in rural Hungary, where the vast majority of people lived until the second half of the eighteenth century, because there were virtually no Jewish farmers and only a few Jews in the small or medium-sized towns.

Only in Budapest (as far as Hungary is concerned) would this have been a major factor in determining the number of "Germans." In fact, in 1906 some 23% of the people of Budapest were Jews by religion, while only 9.3% were Germans by ethnicity, so the vast majority of Jews obviously were not identified as ethnic Germans. But in 1848, when Budapest had a predominantly German population, the situation could have been quite different.

I should also note that what applied to Greater Hungary in this respect did not apply to the areas to the northeast of Hungary, ruled by Austria or Russia, where there were far more Jews in relatively small towns.

Since the first edition of this book was published, I have helped in founding the Federation of East European Family History Societies, headed by Charles Hall of Salt Lake City. This federation has, among its goals, (1) facilitating the dissemination of information about the rapid changes in the ex-Communist countries with respect to the availability of genealogical resources and researchers, and (2) promoting harmony within and among the various ethnic and religious groups, particularly genealogical societies devoted to researching ancestors from Eastern Europe.

The first Hungarian Genealogical Society in the U.S., serving members of all ethnic groups whose ancestors came from Hungary, has also been formed since the publication of the first edition of this book. Assimilation vs. Maintenance of a Separate Identity by Minorities:

Those who moved to foreign lands during the Middle Ages usually became assimilated over time. Among Germans, there were two major exceptions: (1) the Transylvanian Saxons and (2) the Baltic Germans.

The first group consisted of free men, who owned their own land and never experienced the feudal servitude which was almost universal in Europe, so they obviously had a great stake in the maintenance of their status.

The second group came as a ruling group, and remained an elite even after these countries came under the domination of other rulers, particularly the Russian Czars, whom they served in top-level military and civilian positions in disproportionate numbers.

For the most part, the Germans who moved eastward after the Reformation retained their own identity. This was slightly less true of Catholics, who were often co-religionists of the ethnic majority.

However, this was never much of an issue between the Germans and the host majority until the French Revolution unloosed the explosive forces of nationalism. In fact, prior to that, the Germans were usually welcomed as people who brought more advanced techniques from the West.

This began to change in 1789, although at first only among the elites. The average person (at least outside France), and especially in Eastern Europe, did not develop a strong sense of nationalism until later. (This does not mean that rulers were unaware of the potential significance of ethnic factors before 1789.)

However, the Revolutions of 1830 certainly had a nationalistic feature in some cities and those of 1848 were often highly nationalistic, although their principal goal was freedom. But for the most part, these revolutionary elements came from the middle class and intellectual circles. They were not really uprisings of the common people.

Still, it was the attitudes of the authorities which counted for much more than the attitudes of the people, in terms of how minorities were treated, at least until the last third of the nineteenth century.

Basically, there were two approaches to the assimilation of national minorities:

(1) Hungary, like Prussia and later Russia, sought to force assimilation, in good measure by control over education.

(There was forced assimilation of religious minorities in Spain and other countries before 1789, but rarely did this affect ethnic groups as such.)

(2) The Austrian government, on the other hand, was determinedly anti-assimilationist in its policies, because Germans constituted only a minority in the polyglot empire; thus attempts to force assimilation were likely to cause resentment and, therefore, a threat to the unity of the empire. This pattern was similar, though for different reasons, to the predominant policies of the prenationalist era, perhaps exemplified best by Poland-Lithuania.

We might compare these with the two somewhat different assimilationist developments in North America.

(1) The American "melting pot" was largely a matter of

- voluntary choice by the immigrants, because they perceived this as the route to betterment. Not until 1917, when the United States entered World War I, did government policies force assimilation, particularly for Germans, when many states forbade the teaching of German in a wave of anti-German hysteria.
- (2) Canada, on the other hand, prides itself in being a "mosaic," where, for example, cohesive French, German and Ukrainian communities exist peacefully next to each other.

In reality, of course, the American "melting pot" never did away with ethnic communities to the extent theorized. On the other hand, considerably more assimilation has taken place in Canada than the "mosaic" implies. Nevertheless, the difference between the two countries is real, even if the models are not pure reality.

This very problem of assimilation vs. continued ethnic distinctiveness, with equal rights, lies at the heart of most of the conflicts in Eastern Europe (and in the rest of the world, for that matter) today. History leaves no doubt in my mind as to which kind of government policy is most conducive to peace and harmony.

German by Speech vs. German by Origin:

The data in the Winkler book come from censuses which show how many people spoke German at home as their mother tongue. (Many other statistical records use a similar definition of ethnicity.)

The pressure for Magyarization in Hungary and the opportunities for government positions offered by assimilation undoubtedly led a significant number of former German-speakers to adopt Hungarian as their mother tongue, although this would

be most true of Budapest and less true of medium-sized cities and towns, while it would hardly have applied to the rural areas at all, at least until the twentieth century. (This policy was, however, clearly one of the reasons why a significantly higher percentage of members of minority groups than of ethnic Magyars emigrated from Hungary to North America.)

Because of this policy, the number of people of German origin is certainly understated by the definition of ethnicity used for the census.

Interestingly enough, we have our own unique version of such discrepancies in North America. For example, North Dakota is not a very German state if the definition of a German is someone whose ancestors immigrated from Germany, even if we mean the territory of the former German Empire by that. On the other hand, it is one of our most German states if we used early twentieth-century data on the language spoken at home as the criterion.

The explanation is that the vast majority of German-speaking immigrants to North Dakota came from Eastern Europe, especially the Russian Empire, but also Hungary.

Village Lineage Books (Ortssippenbücher):

Interest in genealogy has grown in Germany, just as it has in North America. The Germans who left Eastern Europe voluntarily or involuntarily have certainly been a leading force in this movement, because the history and genealogy of their hometowns in the East would have been lost rather guickly if they did not assemble what information they could. At least, this was true during the Communist era. The continuing uncertainty as to how many parish registers were destroyed and the rapid assimilation of the Easterners into the German mainstream will continue to be a motivating factor in this regard, even though the doors to the archives in Eastern Europe are now readily accessible in most cases.

There is a 1991 edition of a book by Franz Heinzmann, Die Ortssippenbücher in Deutschland (published by the Franz Heinzmann Verlag in Düsseldorf) which lists the village lineage books which have been published. Unfortunately, I don't know how much coverage of German settlements in the East is included in this book. However, guite a few such books for former German villages in Eastern Europe have been published or are available in manuscript form.

Recommendations for Future Editions or Publications:

The Hungarian Ministry of Culture and Public Instruction indicated that a new edition of the Guide to the Archives of Hungary was planned and it welcomed my recommendations for making the book more helpful to American users.

I likewise welcome any recommendations (as well as corrections) for this book, which I plan to make available until the new edition of the Hungarian *Guide* appears. I might add that I have not gone to great effort to ensure consistency in place names, which may be listed in German, Hungarian, or any other language if currently applicable, or two or more of these, although I have attempted to give both the Hungarian and the German names of key localities in the text. But hopefully Appendix 1 will clarify any possible confusion on this point.

Edward Reimer Brandt

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