

Die Gemarkung (Der Hattert) = Survey and plan of the geographic area, Flurplan.

The floor plan (der Hattert) of the community begins about two kilometers north of the village where it borders on the county of the village Waldhütten (*huts-in-the-forest*) in the same valley. It is closed off by the mountains Alzeln and Rothstein. In the west the county borders the area of BIRTHÄLM, where the border meanders along on a mountain ridge which separates the valleys of the two settlements. Their points of orientation are formed by the Gieretberg (height 548 m), the Hillenberg (502 m), the Thomaskoppe (549 m) and the Erdbeerberg (523 m). From the Grosstalhill of BIRTHÄLM the border then turns south-east to the Hattertstein, which is located on the Gross-Kopisch property, and then the border turns southward along the creek, ascends to the so-called Knödel on the Brallerücken where to the south it reaches the Pettenkofer mountains in 637 m of height which is the watershed between the Kokel- and Harbach-valley. From there the border takes a new turn toward the east to the Dreihatterthaufen, the border point which determines the boundary between BIRTHÄLM, Gross-Kopisch, and Neudorf. There begins the eastern border of the district of Gross-Kopisch. It then runs along the Lapesch Brook as it was laid down in 1366.

The western slopes of the elongated valley are steep and dry. From the Alzeln to the Hattertstein there is not one productive spring, while the eastern slopes are rich with water. Everywhere at the foot of the mountain lively springs bubble feeding smaller or larger brooklets, and which then pour into the Kopischer Brook or the Hageltbach. The smaller eastern side valleys give the district a multiform appearance and offered ample opportunities to farmers to cultivate wine on the steep southern slopes fully exposed to sunlight, or, on the less steep slopes away from the sun, to plow and grow grain.

Such a side valley is the Grosstal which merges at the border to Waldhütten with Haupttal (Main Valley) and which has its origin at about three kilometers distance on the Breite, which is a gently sloping high plateau between Rotseln, Läpesch, and Greveln.

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In the middle of the village the Greveln merges into the Haupttal and at the end of the village Munzeln into the Haupttal, while at a distance of 1.5 kilometers south of there the valley of the Hageltbach begins, which drags on for four kilometers below the Fettendorfer Hagen, to the Weiten Kaule located south below the Fettendorfer Hagen. On the east side of the Hageltbach valley are the small side valleys Remeln, Letschendalchen, and the three Bremesauen, all of them with steep south slopes, which used to be planted with vines, and finally, the Warme Kehre. On the west side of the valley lays the Haunhalf, the Shelled Oaks and the Gerütter. Both valleys are separated by the wedge-shaped Brallerücken mountain. It is located precisely south of the village. On its west side there are also little side valleys, the Winzentel, the Little, and the Big Lau. Here also were vineyards. To the west from here are the swampy meadows of the Marhelt, which gave its name to the entire upper portion of the valley. Where the two brooks unite they enclose the richest farmland of the district the so-called Herrenwiese. Dark, rich with humus, alluvial soil always has rewarded the farmer's labor with rich earnings. Today the Collective Economy drives home the most beautiful potatoes and sugar beets, the largest corncocks, and the heaviest sheaves. Equally fruitful are the acres which lay opposite in front of the Erdbeerberg and the former herb gardens below the village. The entire slope of the mountain from Schieret to the Erdbeerberg (Strawberry Mountain) used to be planted with vines. They brought the necessary income to the farmers until the year 1884.

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Abbreviations (which are used in this text)

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| s. | = sächsisch | Saxon |
| r. | = rumänisch | romanisch |
| lat. | = lateinisch | Latin |
| mhd. | = mittelhochdeutsch | Middle High German |
| md. | = mittelniederdeutsch | Middle Low German |

| | | |
|----------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| ndl. | = niederländisch | Dutch |
| rhd. | = rheinischdeutsch | Rhenish German |
| moselfr. | = moselfrankisch | Mosel Frankisch |
| westf. | = westfälisch | Westphalian |
| nd. | = norddeutsch | North German |
| ns. | = niedersächsisch | Low Saxon |
| as. | = angelsächsisch | Anglo-Saxon |
| ndd. | = niederdeutsch | Low German |
| ma. | = mundartlich | dialect, idiomatic, Redewendung |

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Phonetic writing way (for idiomatic texts)

| | |
|------|---|
| Ä, ä | = dull a, as in eu without the i. |
| e, E | = silent e, as in Vater (Father), Bruder (Brother) ,Es (it) |
| Z, z | = voiced s, as in see, say, Hase(hare) |
| sz | = voiceless s, as in es(it), was |
| x | = voiced ch, as in ach, Dach (roof), Sache (object) |
| X | = voiceless ch, as in ich (I), dich (you) |
| Y | = voiced Kehl-ch, as in wueyan, biyuan |
| 0 | = u, spoken with abroad mouth (r.î, as in mîna, russisch...) |
| z | = voiced sch, as in garage, Jurnal) |
| : | = lengthened and separation of vowels, as in kui:ar, or Mä:untseln) |

(this list has to revised by a person with more linguistic skills than I have)

Chapter 12 (German pages 115-135)

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Die Flurnamen = Description and names of the individual locations.

When our ancestors came to Siebenbürgen they strove to feel at home here. They compared their new home with their old homestead, searched for similarities in fields and meadows (*Feld und Flur*), in mountain and valleys.

They found much that reminded them of their previous environment, because it had the same appearance of the grounds or the same composition of the soil. This prompted them to give names to individual locations, mountains, valleys, creeks, or meadows, which had been familiar to them in the old homeland. Old names, inherited of the German, Romanesque, or Keltic past, were used again along with German denominations which were of great help for many immigrants to find their way around and familiarize themselves with the new surroundings.

This also happened in Grosskopisch. Every little place in the surveyed area (*Gemarkung*) received a name, often even before it had been designated for a specific use, a field name (*a Flur-name*), which thus gave the place life, and on which

the heart of the peasant hung with love the longer he led the plow, the scythe or the ax to wring out of the land the daily bread. The floor plan (*Gemarkung*) s. der Hattert, was partitioned into six (*Riede*) within which each characteristic portion had its special name. I will now line these up, like as if one would take a walk around there across the fields and attempt to explain their origin and significance.

The central theme of this essay is the community is at the center and the focus of this essay. It is the first partition (*Ried*) in the general field plan (*Gemarkung*) and therefore will be discussed first.

I. Der Ortsried = The place and specific locations in this Ried. It has the following streets and alleys:

1. Grosse Gasse = Great Alley, s. gruisz gâsz, r. ulita mare. It is located on the right shore of the creek, has a length slightly above two kilometers and includes in its lower portion, also called Saxon Alley, the domain of the first settlement. The church and the rectory, as well as the school, the community center, and the preachers courtyard are located here, and, directly opposite, the chancery, which had been built in 1913 under the Notary Gustav Lang.

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Image: View from the West of the Rectory, School, and House of Luther



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The southern portion is inhabited by Romanians also called **Romanian Lane**, s. bleis gâsz. In 1901 the Orthodox Church was built here, in 1934 the rectory and in 1928 the State School was built. The name was given to this lane as the village developed.

2. Kleine Gasse = Little Alley, s. klu gâsz, r. ulita mica. This alley proceeds on the left shore of the creek, a about parallel to the Great Alley.
3. Auf dem Hügel = On top of the hill, s. âf'm 'häfal, r. pe dilma d. l. This place is at the beginning of the little alley located on the end of the village, towards Waldhütten. A small climb of the terrain gave rise to its name. It was also called in Saxon "sparjaltsäpan", most likely because poorer people lived there.

4. In der Hill, s. an der hil, r. In hula. On both sides of the trail with steep walls, which leads over the mountain from Berg to BIRTHÄLM, seven cottages for day workers, which are now. The immediate surroundings of this position received the designation of: An der Hill, s. un dar hil, and Vor der Hill, s. vulr dar hil.r. la hula.
5. Neugasse = New alley, s. noagász, r. As the name indicates, this alley was constructed only recently. It joins the two main alleys.
6. Im Weiher = On the pond, s. am voar, r. In tau. At another place more details will be reported about this location. Above this portion of the village the Ziganie is found,
7. Die Ziganie = Gypsy Elevation, s. tsigunaraix, r. dealul tiganiei, situated in part along the creek, partly along the steep slope beneath the Thomas Mountain hilltop on a ledge of the mountain also called the Zigeuner Berg = gypsie mountain, s. tsigani, r. tigania. On the bank of the creek a well-ordered row of houses stands, above the street leading to the Marheit, and single cottages are irregularly assembled on the steep slope of the mountain.
8. Im Pfaffeln = In the Pfaffeln, s. am fafaln, r. In fâfan. This is the name given to the portion of the village, which was founded after 1771, and extends the Great Alley at the northern end of the village, located on a meadow belonging to the church. The Pfaffeln was inhabited only by Saxons (Germans). Today all houses have been razed because they fell into disrepair. The expropriated farm places were leased by the Community Council as gardens.

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9. Der Markt = The Marketplace, s. muart, r. piata is an extension of the Great Alley which starts at the Rectory and proceeds to the Greveln Creek, s. graivaleflausz. The weekly market took place here Roman previously and the Market for Merchandice was held here the day after the Bartholomew Day.
 10. Das mittlere Gässchen = The Little Alley in the Middle, s. dat maralst gaiszkan, r. hudita moril, is an impassable fire alley which connects the two alleys between the church and the mill.
 11. Das obere Gässchen = The Little Alley on Top, s. dat uivarst gaiszkan, r. hudita de sus, connects the two main alleys to the right of the Greveln Creek through a footpath, while on the left there is a path for vehicles leading through a shallow portion of the creek.
 12. Die Rumänische Gasse = T Romanian Alley, s. blais gasz, r. ulita romineasca, starts at the upper bridge on which a trail leads from the Great Alley to the pond extending to the end of the village.
 13. Vor dem Munzeln = In front of the Munzeln, s. fuir'm mauntsaln, r. in neamtu, is the portion of the land located between the Western slope of the Gockel Berg (Gockel Mountain and the Munzeln Creek.
- II. Ried: Kölwein, s. kelva;(da)n, r. chelval.

Here some general remarks are helpful. To ease the pronunciation of the names in all of the names of the area (Flurnamen) which end with the two midlevel sounds "In", a "da" is inserted. Therefore one often hears besides kelvaln, altsaln, graivaln etc. kelvaldan, altsaldan, graivaldaln.

(Map on page 119, see following page in this text.)

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1. Beim Falltor + at the Drop Gate, s. baim faualduir, r. in capo satului

The Drop Gate is the exit at the northern end of the village, if you then drive downhill via Waldhütten into the valley of the Kunkel, or if you turn at the last house to the left to follow the trail via Die Hill to BIRTHÄLM. In the past there must have been a gate here which closed by itself and thus denied entrance and exit, particularly at night, but also during the day in restless war times. Such drop gates in the village area, also called valletor in mhd, are commonly attested to in the Middle Ages. Later they would be used in every castle. The Church Castle of Grosskopisch also had such a gate to make use of locking the entrance.

2. Die Krautgärten = the herb gardens, s.kampesztgarten, r. delnite.

This name is clear without a doubt. It relates to the small partitions of fertile soil, which were located between the house gardens of the New Alley, the street and the creek and which were used to cultivate the so very important

winter cabbage, essential for the Saxon cuisine. In the Romanian name still resonates the sound of the Saxon word “duilank”, which indicated a parcel of ground which was put up new from time to time by the inhabitants of the village. This method of division the inhabitants of other communities kept in use with the name of “Los”.

3. Das Kölweln, s. kelval (da)n, r. chelval

This place was named after its wide, troughlike nature. In Saxon language a deepening of the ground is call a pit = Grube, or a Kuhle (norddt.) : kel.

4. Gieret, s. guirat, r. ghirat.

This term could have been devised by Ger d.h. von Speer. In the Rhineland names of fields (Flurnamen) such as Geren, Gieren, Gierden are widely distributed. They identify parcels of land that have a pointed sharp angle at one end, wedge shaped corner pieces of an acre of farmland.

But the name could have also have derived from nnddt. gjar, that is Geier = vulture, considering that the Gieretberg = Gieret mountain, s. guiratraix, with its 548 meters the highest peak between Alzeln and the Hill, always circled by vultures. For this assumption speaks also the field name “Geierstel” which is found in a neighboring community.

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5. Die Schmiede = the smithy, s. smat, r. as in s.

It has to be assumed that here at one time the village forge stood where the necessary charcoal could be produced on right on the spot. Of even greater importance was the consideration of distance away from the village to prevent a possible danger from a fire. At that time roofs were covered with reeds and straw and therefore presented a fire hazard.

6. Hagental = Hagen valley, s. hojandal, r. goghidal.

This name must be derived from Hage, s. huax, which describes a fence braided with canes. Therefore in this case it meant an acre = parcel of land fenced in by a “huax”, or, even better, a fenced in vineyard.

7. Schieret = swamp area, s. sjarat, r. same as s.

The root of this word is common in Northern Germany, were it occurs in names of fields and other locations, such as “das Schier, die Schiere, der Schieren” and which can be attributed to the Latin word “scir” which means swamp water. Here the wet meadows at both sides of the street gave justified cause for the name of this area.

8. Alzeln, s. altsal(da)n, r. altal

The root syllable “al” is found in the words “Alen, Ahlen, and Allen” and originally signified a narrow space between two houses. From there it was transferred to a narrow field or a valley of a deep lengthy form. It also refers to an elongated trough-like deepening. In this case it identifies a narrow side valley between steep slopes of mountains.

III. Ried: Das Schreweln, s. sra:ival(da)n, R. srevel

1. Das Pfaffeln, s. fa:ufal(da)n, r. foafan

This ground in Catholic times had once belonged to the parsons, to the monastery, which, according to tradition, supposedly had been located on the Zultner’s farmstead opposite to the church. After that it became property of the church which was entrusted to the pastor for his use. At the “Kommassation” in the year 1902only the swampy meadow in the plain of the valley was kept as property of the parish.

2. Die Pfarrwiese = meadow of the parish, s. feraswisz, r. lunca popit.

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3. Das Klingeln, s. klanjal (da)n, r. gaura juratului.

This term likely was based on the on the word Klinge, that is a small water way between two ponds. As a matter of fact even today a meager spring arises from a pond beneath the Zekeschhill and which flows into the valley and empties into the creek.

4. Das Schreweln, s. sra:val(da)n, r. srevel.

“Schrewe” describes a meager ground. In Westfalian language the word “schref” is still used meaning lean. This rightly applies to all of the Ried since it consists to a large degree of steep slopes which yield few harvests.

5. Die Zekeschhill, s. tsakas, r. techishill.

This is a canyon-like driveway, which leads from the low ground of Pfaffeln to the high plateau of the Zekesch.

6. Der Zekesch, s. tsakas, r. techis.

This name refers to a plain, gently slanted to the North, with steep drop-offs in all directions. Of interest is the fact that the old city center of Mediasch is located on a similar high plateau which is still called today “on the Zekesch”

7. Das Grosstal – the Great Valley, s. gruiszal(da)n, or gruisztal. R. gruisala.

This place is a broad valley opposite of the Rotseln, with farmland, meadows on the bare crest of the mountain, and vineyards on the steep slopes toward the South and East which are called in Saxon language um tulmarix.

8. Hinter dem Berg = behind the mountain, s. hanjdar'm raix, r. dupa deal

This location is east of the mountain ridge, which begins at the woods of the church and ends at the crest of the mountain.

IV. Ried: Die Breite = The width, s. bruit, r. godel.

1. Das Rotseln, s. dat rautsaln, r. rautala

The syllable “rod, rot, rit” always refers to a clearing. Therefore here too a piece of forest was cleared to increase the size of cultivable land.

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2. Bei den Birnbäumen = at the pear trees, s. ba:l da birabui, r. coasta perilor

3. Vor dem Fuchsberg = in front of the Fox Mountain, s. fuir'am fyszbrich, r. lunca satului.

4. Am Fuchsberg = at the Fox Mountain, s. um fusz brix, r. la fusbrichi.

5. Die Breite = The Width, s. da bruit, r. podel.

This is a wide plateau slightly bent to the North with a cool climate. Because of it mostly grain is cultivated.

6. Der obere Lapesch = the upper Lapesch, s. dar uijvarst lapas, r. lapsa de sus.

This part extends from the single farm of the family Koch, which is located at the way from Grosskopisch to Neudorf, to the Pettenkofer Hagen.

7. Der untere Lapesch, s. dar anjdarst lapas, r. lapsa de jos.

This field name contains the syllable “pesch”, which has some meaning in the Rhineland: small, isolated piece of woods. In our dialect it is used in the form of “bäsch” for woods in general. It is a word borrowed from Latin-Roman, derived from “pascuum” that is pasture in the woods. It is also found in the name of the village “Peschendorf”. The first syllable “lap” can be derived from “Lappen”, here with the meaning of “a small piece of woods”.

The lower Lapesch extends to the markings of Rauthal. In the upper Lapesch are also the locations of:

8. Bei den Fuchslöchern = at the foxholes, s. ba:l da fuszlaixarn,

9. Unter dem kalten Rain = Below the cold wayside, s. anjdar'm ka:ul da ruin.

10. Hinter der Bremesau, s. hanjar dar bremasz:a, r. dupa bremeszwaus.

These field names do not need an explanation since their location or other characteristic are already contained in the name.

11. In der Kohling, s. an der kuilank

Here charcoal was produced in the past.

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12. Beim Rosler Weiher, s. ba:im ruizlar woar, r. la taul Ruji.

Along the way to Roseln a small pond develops during very rainy years in the Lapesch valley to this day. There is no reason to assume that this pond has ever belonged to the community of Roseln because their survey markings did not extend to here. Therefore the pond received the name of the way that led to it.

13. Bei den drei Hatterthaufer = At the three mounds of Hatterert, s. ba:l dan droa haterthuifan.

The border points of the survey markings were indicated by mounds of earth in the past in which a wooden stake was placed. In this place the three Hatterert mounds were set up because in this location the marks (Hatterte) of Grosskopisch, Neudorf, and Birthälm coincided.

V. Ried Bremesau, s. bremas:a, r. bremezeaus

1. Greveln, s. graival (da)n, r. grevela

After Grosskopisch had an Earl by inheritance until 1477 this location refers to a little side valley which had been the property of the family of the Earl before.

2. Burg, s. bury, r. burichi

This is the name given to the 514 meter high mountain east of the Protestant church. It once was the point of observation (Wartberg) of the community.

3. Burgkuppe = top of the mountain, s. burxkuupan, r. burichi

This is the highest elevation of the mountain. Because from this point all roads approaching Grosskopisch can be seen, the Szeklers built an observation station here. When they departed to the east of Siebenbürgen, the Saxon settlers took it over.

4. An der Burg, s. un dar burx, r. la burichi

5. Beim Kirchenweingarten = at the vineyards of the church, s. ba:l'm kirxawanjart

6. Grevelnreg (berg), s. graival (da)raix,

Is the name of the mountain ridge, separating Greveln and Munzeln. On the northern slope is the village

p. 125 Picture: View from Gockel mountain (photo at end of chapter).

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7. Drommeln, s. am dromal(da)n, r. in dremeni

This naming can be derived from rhd. Dremel, Tremel, mhd. tram, dram, ,Saxon traum, which means beam. In the contract about the new construction of the Rectory in the year 1825 it is ascertained that "oak beams" are to be placed within the walls so that the house would be codified in this manner.

The field name Dremel therefore refers to a part of the forest from where one fetched beautiful, oaken beams. Because of a shifting of sound it changed to dromeln. It is possible that this happened only after the immigration of Romanians so that they kept in their naming 'dremeni'.

1. Gockelberg = Rooster Mountain, s. gokalbary, r. dealui cucului.

This names the elevated promontory of the Greveln Mountain east of the village, between Greveln and Munzeln, from where at the beginning of the settlement the songs of wild turkey courtship sounded down into the village. When the Romanians migrated to the village in 1675, only the cuckoo called down into the settlement. The turkey had become extinct. Therefore the village people called the mountain “Cuckoo Mountain”

2. Munzeln, s. ma:untsal(da)n, r. neamtu

This name contains the root syllable “munt”, in mhd.of equal meaning as protection. The syllable is also present in “Vormund” = guardian and “Siegmond = boy’s name meaning protector. In this context it means a protected valley. The name is justified because it is protected from the cold winds from North-West, so that in the four vineyards on the slopes of the mountains the sweetest grapes of the region grow. The slopes will be described under 10, 11, 12, and 13 in detail.

3. Vordere Halde = Frontal slope, s. fedarst haialt,

4. Sappes Halde, s. sapsaz haialt

The s. “sappen, sappern” means leaking of a liquid. Thus if serum and blood leak from a wound it is called a wound “sappert”. In this case the grapes leak sweetness. In mhd. “sappen” also means acquire, gathering up. If one refers one meaning of the word to the quality of the harvest and the other to the quantity, both meanings could have been considered when naming this slope.

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12. Niedere Halde = Lower slope, s. nedarst haialt

13. Hinterste Halde = the slope farthest in the back, s. janjdarst haialt

14. Im alten Weiher, = in the old pond, s. am aualda woar.

15. Die Reitschule = the riding school, s. da retjsuil, r. raiciu.

Once there had been pond in this place, the water of which drove a water mill. It also served as a fish hatchery. When the water drained away from the pond it left a flat surface. At the edge of it several old willows were left which had lined the pond. After 1691 the riding squad stationed in G Grosskopisch held their riding exercises here. In this place the cattle market was once held also. The Collective Economy (Kollektivwirtschaft) built two large stables for cattle here.

16. Remeln, s. remal(da)n, r. remeni

The root of this name “rem, ram, rim” occurs frequently in German names of fields and towns, for example in Fems, Remstal, Ramtel, Rimstig, Rehm, and others. It is derived from Latin “rim” meaning swamp. Cause for this naming are the were the swampy meadows which are still found in Remeln today.

17. Letschendalchen, s. letsendalcyan, r. lecen.

In Saxon language the leaves that surround a cornstalk are called Leschen.. The word “liesch, lesch, Letsch, Lötsch” describe reed, cane, marsh grass. Since a lot of reed grows in this location the reason for giving the area this name are clear without a doubt.

18. Lower Bremesau, s. anjdarst bremes:a, r. bremezeaua de jos.

19. Middle Bremesau, s. maraltst bremes:a, r. bremezeaua de mijloc.

20. Upper Bremesau, s. livarst bremes:a, r. bremezseaua de sus.

Bremesau can be derived from “Bram, Brem” synonymous with “edge of the woods, fringe, and border”. In this case it means that small acres and meadows lie on the steep slopes of the mountains in the narrow side valleys of the Hagelt creek. The mountain ridges that separate them are trimmed with small stripes of wood. Maybe their appearance has given them the name?

Or the name refers to the very narrow flood plain along the creek? Or all of these possibilities were involved in the name given to this area.

21. Rosler Loch = Hole of Rosler, s. ruizlar laux, r. gaura Rujii.

This is the name of a small nook in the Upper Bremesau through which a way leads along the pond to this community.

22. Gekels Loch = Hole of Gekels, s. gaikals laux.

The name of this area points to a former owner named Jacob with the nick name Jäkel, s. Gaikal.

23. Hagelt, s. huayalt, r. hoagala.

This term can be derived from ahd. "hag, hac" ags. "haga" with which an enclosure was denoted. The nhd. "hoge", s. "hoy, huey" stands for "living fence". With "haginloh" a fenced portion of the woods was called where grazing took place between single trees. The Hagelt Mountain to this day is a good demonstration for this naming because it is lined by a small strip of woods and covered by separated groups of trees with grassy flat areas in between.

24. Der Hageltbach = the Hagelt Creek, s. huayalbau, r. valea hoagalii.

25. Hünengraben = mounds of giants, s. henjagruavan.

This name refers to three mounds of earth which are located in a widened streambed in front of the Hagelt. According to folklore these were heaped there by giants.

26. Hageltschiess, s. huavaltsasz

This is a precipitous incline of the mountain on which a vertical way leads from the floor of the valley to the ridge of the mountain via was preserved in the name the "Warme Kehre".

27. Warme Kehre = warm turn, s. wuaram kuiar, r. vorumchir

The way which leads up the valley along the Hagelt Creek splits at the so-called "furk = fork. One branch leads straightforward into the "Weite Kuhle = wide hollow, the other turns left into a valley basin which, protected from wind and forests, felt especially warm. The mhd. "ker", s. "kir, kuiar" meaning "Kehre = turning point" was kept here in the name and "warm" was added. In this basin was the ox pasture where the animals grazed the whole summer, sleeping at night beneath the old oak trees, brought home in the fall or being sold directly.

28. Pettendorfer Hagen, s. fetandiarfarhuyan, r. dealul fetii.

Here the marked up area (Gemarkung) was defined by a hedge towards Pettendorf which belonged to the property of the community Birthälm so that the herds of cattle would not go over the border. Against human transgressions the border was secured along the whole length by a border guard. It began at the turning point of the border to the south on the Bralle ridge, and then continued on the ridge of the Sharp Ridge (Scharfer Rücken) to the Pettenkofer Hagen. From there along the Pettenkofer Hagen to the east to the three Hattert mounds where the three border markings of Birthälm, Grosskopisch, and Neudorf met.

29. Scharfer Rücken = sharp back, s. dar sarf rak.

Its appearance gave this mountain its name.

30. Weite Kuhle, s. wetj kel, r. groapa larga.

A spacious gently inclined hollow, whose shape justified its name, was a meadow with a fresh water source within it.

31. Die Furk, s. an dar furk, r. la furca

This is the bifurcation in the Warme Kehre, where one way turns to the left. The name borrows from lat. "Force", nnd. "Forke" = fork.

32. Beim Räuberzipfel = At the robbers tip, s. ba:l'm ruiwartsäpen.

This name perhaps keeps the memory of a robbery long past.

33. Die Furt = the ford, s. da furt, r. trecatoarea.

Here the way leads through the Warme Kehre to the:

34. Geschälte Eichen = Peeled Oaks, s. gasjalt uixan, r. in pari.

Here oaks were peeled in the past and the bark sold to tanners, which suggests that this had a private beneficiary.

35. Vor dem Graben = In front of the trench, s. vuir'am gruawan

36. Beim Seivesland = A the Seives country, s. bati'm zaivaszaund.

This name relates to the mhd. "sife", mndl. "sipen" which means trickle. Therefore it indicates an area where water seeps from the ground.

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37. Im Haunhalf, s. am hanhalf, r. in pari

Here too, the name is a reminder of an old forest economy. The forests woods were partitioned into spaces for cutting lumber from which each year one of these spaces was cut clear. The syllable "half" goes back to the Middle Ages. It designates a piece of land on which only a half of it was worked on. It is therefore easy to conclude that from this part of the woods only half was cut for the benefit of the creditor who had once lent money to the community

38. Die Gerütter, s. da garuitar, r. lazul taurului.

This name holds on to that this slope of the Bralle Ridge ountain leaning towards the east once was cleared to enable cattle grazing.

VI. Ried: Marhelt, s. marhaialt, r. valea lacului.

1. Die Herrenwiese = The Meadow of the Nobleman, s. härawisz, r. lunca domesca.

The name of this portion of the district memorizes the hard times when the community was so heavily indebted that in the year of 1675 they had to borrow a large sum of money from the Hungarian Noble Pater Janos. This meadow too was used as a security by him.

2. Beim Hatterstein = A the Hatter Stone, s. ba:l'm hattertstuin, r. la piatra.

As we already heard borders were marked usually with a mound of earth into which a wooden stake was inserted. At contested points, however, a border stone was set which could not be moved so easily. This point here was such a stone border mark. It probably was the cause of the Hatter Process with the community of Birthälm from 1640 which was already mentioned earlier.

3. Depnerwiese = Potters' Meadow or Depner's Meadow, s. dapnarswszkan, r. groapa bardasului.

This is a location where to find good soil for pottery, or a meadow which had been given to a potter by the community so that he could settle in the village, Thirdly, it could have been the name of the owner of this place.

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4. Der Brallerücken = enclosure for pigs or dear on top of a mountain, s. und, r. bralarak

Brühl (brohl, broil,bral, 893 broil)is the name for an enclosure in which pigs and deer were cared for and hunted. The original meaning is the fenced-in, enclosed space. In Old Gallic 'brogolis' meant fenced-in grove which then was then adopted via Latin 'broilus', ahd. 'broil', mhd, 'bruel' by Saxon as 'bral'. The ridge of the mountain is still used today mostly as grazing pasture which is studded with groups of trees.

5. Winzentel = valley of vineyards, s. wintsanddua

Vineyards gave this valley its name.

6. Kleine Lau = Small Lau, s. kluin loa, r. la huma.

This name traces back to mhd. 'la', mnd. 'lo'. as. 'lagu, that is: swamp, swampy meadow, meadow at a stream. Because in Saxon blue clay is called 'loa' the name erroneously was translated into Romanian as 'huma' meaning 'blue clay'. In Saxon the original meaning of the name is no longer known.

7. Unter der Lau = below the Lau, s. anjdar dar loa, r. la huma.

8. Grosse Lau = Large Lau, s. gruisz loa, r. la huma.

9. Marhelt, s. Marhaialt, r. valea lacului.

"Maar" denotes generally a larger collection of water in a flat plain. This can also be a moor thinly overgrown with a layer of grass, or, standing water that became swampy. All of these features apply to this marshy meadow in the valley along the creek. 'Helt (e)' s. haialt is the name of a gently rising mountain slope overgrown with shrubs which in this case applies to the adjacent mountain inclines. Otherwise the mountain slopes growing vines are predominantly called 'haialt'.

All of the Ried got this name.

The Romanian name 'valea lacului', that is 'Valley of the Lake' recalls the 'woaral', that is 'small pond' which is located further above in the valley. Both names allow the conclusion that once there was there a small lake (r. lac = Lake) which gave reason to the Romanian designation.

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10. Weiherberg = Mountain of the Pond, s. woarraix.

This mountain lies opposite of the 'Alter Weiher = Old Pond'. About the word 'Weiher' the following shall be said here. The word stems from the Latin 'vivarium' which denoted a container for living animals, particularly fish. The name is not only widely known here, but also in our old homestead along the Middle Rhine.

11. Erdbeerberg = Mountain of Strawberries, s. iarpalabiarix, r. viisoara

12. Vor dem Erdbeerberg = In front of the Strawberry Mountain, s. fuir dam iarpalabiarix

13. At the Erdbeerberg, s. um iarpalabiarix.

Apparently very many strawberries grew here, therefore this name was given to this mountain.

14. Der Bangert, s. dar bangart, r. bangota

Bangart always names a ground close to the village where fruit trees are grown. Often these grounds are fenced in.

15. Auf den Gärten = Above the gardens, s. af da gartan, r. dupa gradini.

This is the name of the vineyard located above the steep gardens of the Little Valley.

16. Die Thomaskuppe = Thomas' hilltop, s. dar Tghumaszkappan.

The highest point in the territory of the village, it is located above the Bangert.

17. Der hohe Rain, s. dar huin ruoin..

This name is carried by a high mountain cliff within the vineyard slope above the gardens. In this location once was a vineyard of the parish which could be easily observed from the rectory on the opposite side.

18. Rätsch, s. da rats.

Rätsch is the name of a steep slope where in a landslide all soil disappeared so that there is only the bare rock left. Here the horizontal strata of the underground are exposed. The word is derived from the Gallo-Roman "rocca, roccia", sounding the same with r. roca, roci and it means "Fels" = rock. The word also means a chute for timber. This meaning could apply here also since the Rätsch connects the village to the nearby woods.

Pages 133 and 134 is a map of Grosskopich which appears at the end of this chapter.

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19. Hill, s. da hil, r. hula.

Hill is used here in its meaning of a jagged, rocky terrain. In this case it is the name of a steep, narrow passage = defile across the mountain. In mhd. it was called: 'helle,höll'.

20. Hillenwald, s. hilabas, r. hillbes'

This is the name for the woods between top of Thomas Mountain and Hill.

21. Auf der Hill = On top of the Hill, s. af dar hil, r. pe hula.

This is an area, gently sloped towards the Hill on the ridge of the mountain above the steep slope, planted with vines.

22. An der Hill, s. un dar hil, r. la hula.

This is the name of the vineyard on the southern slope above the drive way.

23. Der Hillenberg, s. hilaraix.

This is the name of the mountain north of the Hill.

24. Lehmkuhle = clay basin, s. lauimkel.

This name is based on the nature of its soil.

25. Das Wuomeln, s. dat wuamaln.

This name is derived from "wu" which names a fertile, swampy, wet place. Since it is located on a dry mountain slope only the attribute applies here.



Blick vom Gockelberg

This map of Grosskopisch is in 2 parts, see next page. The legend is as follows:

Grenze = Border

Wald = Forest

Grenzschanz = Border

Weide = Pasture

Wege = Paths

Bach = Stream

Weingärten = Grape cultivation



