

Sexton-Teacher Weiss & District Secretary Holzwarth

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[Translator's Note: A tribute for the services rendered to the Glückstal community by sexton-teacher Christian Weiss and district secretary Johannes Holzwarth. Comments in square brackets are those of the translator.]

[Begin Translation]

Sexton-Teacher Weiss and District Secretary Holzwarth

There are two other men that I must remember here who have dedicated themselves in service for the welfare of the Glückstal community. They are: Christian Weiss, sexton-teacher (*Küsterlehrer*) and district secretary (*Gebietsschreiber*) Holzwarth. Both men worked over 20 years in Glückstal and gave their entire strength of their youth to the service of the community and the district.

Weiss was himself born in Glückstal, his grandfather, who was still living when we came to Glückstal (1880), emigrated in his youth from Wangen near Stuttgart to Russia and still maintained into his old age his great love for his German homeland. Every conversation which one carried on with this venerable old man turned to his favorite topic: How it was with us back in Germany. He also implanted this enthusiasm into his grandson; therefore, he should and would also become a German teacher. Christian Weiss received his education through Pastor Becker of Hoffnungstal, who founded a sexton seminary in Schischkin (6-7 *verst* [1 *verst*=0.67mi/1.07km] from Hoffnungstal) which was headed by a teacher from out of Germany, but later, unfortunately, by order of the Russian authorities, was shut down (closed in 1880, the school being able to finish only one entire course of instruction. There were 2-3 years of difficulty as a result of the Russification).

Teacher Weiss was a capable teacher and of incorruptible character. He could be very blunt when he had the occasion to speak with someone, and he also had special teaching ways to influence the youth. Because Glückstal was his home, he enjoyed the great appreciation and love of the old and the young and everyone lamented his departure.

Johannes Holzwarth served as district secretary and officially took care of three communities: Glückstal, Neudorf and Bergdorf. He was born in Hoffnungstal and came to Glückstal as a young man after finishing his education in Tiraspol. This was a few months before our father came here. At first, Holzwarth was the assistant to the very capable district secretary Leib, who had himself emigrated from Germany, but, due to his advanced age, gave up his office and returned again to his German homeland. Now Holzwarth had the full burden of office on his shoulders, which was not all that easy in Glückstal since the mayors (*Oberschulzen*) were just

simple farmers and their mental abilities were often quite limited. But Holzwarth was a man of vision and understood it, to properly influence these men. For that reason he was extremely punctual in carrying out his official duties and of tactful character, so much so that he gained a great reputation among the Russian officials who had much to do with him.

He was a loyal supporter of our father when it came to where the community had to work something out in matters pertaining to the church, for example, the building of a new school house. He worked in full consensus with the pastor just like sexton Weiss did, which was a blessing to the community, which is why we in our house always keep in grateful memory these loyal friends.

(A report from Miss Anna Schrenk, Korntal)

26 August, 1939

[End of Translation]