

Workers and Day Laborers **by Sofia Gruber née Merle**

That Glogowatz lies only six kilometers¹ from the City of Arad was always of great advantage. The farmers sold their farm crops there at the weekly market. The farmwives brought what surplus of their vegetables and poultry they had, or could otherwise spare, to sell. Their proceeds they called house Kreuzer,² with which they purchased items for the house and clothing for all the members of the family. The income of the farmer was invested in the household and the taxes were paid with it.

Glogowatz certainly was settled as a farming community, like all the other villages in the Banat. Things might have remained that way far more than a hundred years, but then they changed. There could have been several reasons: the abundant children in almost every family, then the way the property was distributed to the descendants—many children, many shares. That led to such a state that too little land was available for one's own farmstead.

Many people were forced to occupy themselves otherwise. Others emigrated to North or South America. On the other hand a while later, people looked for work in the City of Arad without having to leave their homeland, most especially when the big textile factory was founded. The industriousness and skill of the Glogowatzers soon became well-known, so that one employed many of us there. In the beginning, they went on foot to the factory daily; then the owner engaged the electric train for them. Most of them acquired their own houses. Some also worked in construction or in smaller concerns.

There were tradesmen from every field in the village. At the time of the settlement, they could have been blacksmiths, cart-wrights, bricklayers, carpenters, as well as joiners, tailors and shoemakers. Millers, weavers, rope-makers, tinsmiths, clockmakers and locksmiths probably followed. The more the community expanded, the more specialists found work in their field in the village and surroundings. Room-painters, housepainters, mechanics and many others only came on the scene later.

Teachers came from outside our community for quite some time. Aside from the compulsory subjects, they taught the pupils a lot that was very important for village life. The boys learned to make brushes from horsehair, to built birdhouses, to make things with their own hands from veneer, also to graft fruit trees. The girls learned to hoe, to sew, to knit and to embroider, in addition things which they were able to use later as housewife and mother.

There were also people who found work with the farmer in the village. Everyone was hard-working and endeavored to acquire their bread³ on their own.

Translated by George Bretträger
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¹ 3 ¾ miles

² 1/100th of a Guilder, an old monetary unit in Austria

³ Earn a living