

## Gesprächsrunde bei Tassius beim Besuch der ehemaligen Vöhler

Juden September 2000

**Carol Davidson Baird:** This is quite very difficult because I don't speak German well enough to tell any kind of the story. So I try to speak slowly. My name is Carol Davidson-Baird. My Father was the son of Ida Frankenthal. She was the daughter of Bernhard Frankenthal and Johanna Bachrach-Frankenthal. Bernhard was born in Vöhl, my Grandmother and her sister were born in Vöhl. And my connection to this gathering is that the Frankenthals married the Mildenegs. And so I seem to be related to half of the town in one time. When I was young my Father was unlike a lot of Holocaust survivors in that he would speak about it, every time I asked him. And I was always interested in family history. So I received oral history of my family including every document that my family had. My father was an only child, so he received all of the documents of his family and since I was an only child, I received all those documents, and the one that interested me the most was a letter, it was the last letter from Johanna Bachrach Frankenthal that she wrote to my family, when they were already in Stuttgart, before they left for the United States. In about 1941. This letter was very difficult to read. She said she had to get the letter out in the last mail, in the last post. And I will never see you again, perhaps we will see each other again in heaven. And that made me even more interested to learn what happened. I had been to Vöhl already, my father and mother brought me here when I was 15 years old. So 1960 that was my first time in Vöhl. I thought that was so important that my husband and I brought our two sons back here to visit the town where their aunt sisters had lived. So in the early 1980s we brought our children, they were eight and ten years old. I didn't think that any age was too early to teach them about their inheritance and what had happened to their family. And why they didn't have that set of grandparents.

In 1989 I did something that I wish a lot of people would do. We didn't wait until it was too long, too late and say we will do it some day. We did it. I brought my parents, my husband and my children with me on a family journey to the ? homelands of both my mother and my father. Which admit that we will visit Vöhl again. Only this time my father did the walking tour of Vöhl with my sons and showed them all the places that he had gone when he visited the Mildenegs at the summer vacation. And showed us all the buildings, unfortunately we couldn't go into the home where my grandparents lived. We couldn't go into the synagogue, because there was some man that was living in there and we were not allowed to go in there. So I only saw the outside of everything.

And this is actually my fourth time in this small town and I'm hoping that all of the papers that I have collected, all of the oral history that I have been handed from my father and all of the absolutely magnificent genealogical information that Karl-Heinz has been giving me. I would put that all together and a very large picture will emerge and to this picture I would write my family history. And hopefully this picture will be a large part of the history of Vöhl.

And it was very wonderful from you to invite us and we all appreciated. I have also done again the genealogical imperative; my son is here with us. Only one son, the other one can't come. But again a new generation is here again.

**Steven Baird:** I am Steven, the husband. (Gelächter) Carol und ich haben uns im Kindergarten-ten kennengelernt. Sie war 12 und ich 13 (er meint wahrscheinlich die spätere

Schulzeit

H.H.). Und geheiratet haben wir, als sie 25 war und ich 26 war. Am 11. September ist unser 30. Hochzeitstag.

Carol Baird: I forgot about that. My birthday is the 11th of September, which is their anniversary. Our anniversary is the 12th of September and it will be 80 years that my grandparents married in the synagogue where we want to go into on our 30th anniversary.

Ich bin Professor der Pathologie at University of California, San Diego.