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Gossner-Missionare in Darjeeling (Nordindien)

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4 Kopien aus "The Concise History of the Darjeeling District since 1835" von E. C. Dozey, 1922 betr. Missionare Wernecke, Stoelke, Brandin und Treutler, auch C. G. Niebel

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**E.C. DOZEY.** A concise history of the Darjeeling district, since 1835, with a complete itinerary of tours in Sikkim and the district / Calcutta 1922, xxvi, 346 S.

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FROM "A CONCISE HISTORY OF THE DARJEELING DISTRICT  
SINCE 1835 WITH A COMPLETE  
ITINERARY OF TOURS IN SIKKIM AND THE DISTRICT

E.C.DOZEY

*published 1922*

STOELKE left an only daughter whose two sons (Sinclairs) are now the managing-proprietors of the Steinthal and Rishi Hat gardens.

WERNICKE was succeeded by his sons Andrew and Frederic. The former started as an assistant at Takvar, while the latter joined Capt. Jerdon at Soom: the two subsequently combined and laid out Lingia, Toomsong, Marybong and Gumba tea gardens, the last two being purchased by the late Sir Robert Laidlaw. So profitable was the culture of tea in those days that they quickly acquired Salt Hill (which subsequently was bought by N.C. Bose, the solicitor) and the following properties:-

A. - Houses - (1) Glover Cot, Fox Row, Holmdene, Midwood, Orchid Lee, Willowdale, and Pekoetip, Stepside and the 5 Mall Villas (the last seven of which in 1916 passed in to the possession of an Indian Syndicate)

(2) Armadale, Carlton Villa, Castleton Cottage, Gloven, Mand's Cot, Muriel Cot and Perleberg

the cottage of Lloyd the banker, which was used as the Mess *Admiral* until suitable accommodation was assigned to it in the general scheme. Further down hill was the home of the great Mandelli, who converted a large bungalow in his grounds into a museum which in a short time attracted universal recognition.

### Biography.

As missionaries invariably accompany, or follow the flag we find them installed, with a few other settlers, as the first pioneers; and also their descendants not only the oldest residents but also in the ranks of the fortunate ones who came in for the major portion of the loaves and fishes in the shape of land which a benign Government was granting with a lavish hand to attract squatters. It would, therefore, be well to give here a short account of these families lest the following in the march of events be as - 'Ships that pass in the night.'

There landed at Bankipore in 1838, when the voyage to India was round by the Cape, and occupied fully six months, the following Prussians of the Gosner Mission: - Wernicke and his bride; Stoelke, Truetler and Brundine, who in 1841 were invited to Darjeeling by the Rev. Mr. Start to join in his efforts to convert the people as also to establish industries, the lot being worked on the Moravian system of self-support. The journey from Karagola Ghat to Takvar covered a period of two months, as the impedimenta included tents which were pitched and struck daily; while that from Pankabarie, which is only some 7 miles below Kurseong, to the Lepcha hut, in which they were lodged on arrival, took 3 days as they were carried on chairs to which

two bamboo poles were attached. Withal these hardships and inconveniences the party held together until the retirement of Start, when each one struck out for himself. Truetler started a farm on a site just a little below the St. Joseph's College where he did so well that he also shortly after returned to his native land; Stoelke laid out the Steinthal (Peace Valley) tea garden, while Wernicke built 'Volkrow' on the site on which the Jail now stands. In exchange for the piece of land the Government gave him an extensive plot (little dreaming at the time of the potentialities of the district) bounded by the following - The Cart Road on the west, the Tongs Road on the north, and the Auckland Road on the east - and on which he built 'Gloven' in which his widow <sup>LIVED</sup> (loved) without a break for 70 years. As there were no builders and contractors in those days he struck out in this direction, built the old market-place and throve, for within a short space of time many buildings were rushed up on this estate.

Start, Truetler, Schultz, and Gumley (also John White) have passed away without giving hostages to fortune; while Judge, Kenay, Keane, Mandelli, O'Donoghue, Power, Rosamond, Stoelke and Wernicks are still well-represented in the district.

Judge, Gustavus, Septimus - died at the age of 73 after having spent more than 50 years in Darjeeling. He was one of the pioneers in the tea industry, and founder of the Judge Property which was bounded as follows:- The Auckland Road on the east, the Lloyd and Ferndale Roads on the north, and by Banstead and Brynguine Roads on the south, and a second plot which was enclosed by a vertical line extending from Annandale, on the Cart Road to the south of the station, right down to the valley on the one hand, and the ravine, which is the boundary of the Burdwan Raj at Kakjhora further south, on the other.

The first strip covered a very large area, indeed, including the Upper and Lower Beechwood, the Cart Road being the dividing line. The former, which contained but one house - Beechwood - buried to dense forest, was purchased for a lakg and thirty thousand rupees by Carl Forstmann, who built all the houses along the Auckland and the Mackenzie Roads, which now form the Beechwood Estate, Ltd.

Admir

tain Hathorn \*:—"The Darjeeling mission was commenced, and has been, and is entirely supported by the Rev. William Start. This gentleman, a man of education and some substance, has devoted the whole of a long life and the greater part of his wealth to the cause of Indian missions. He is now (1862) in England, compelled by old age and ill-health to relinquish those personal labours in which his earlier years have been passed. Mr. Start came to Darjeeling for the first time in 1841, and then at once, with the view of forming a mission, commenced making a limited collection of Lepcha words. His original intention was to establish a mission at Darjeeling, on the Moravian, or self-supporting industrial system, and with this object he located several German missionaries at Tukvor (a spur to the west of Darjeeling station) in 1842. Mr. Treutler, Mr. Stoelke, the late Mr. Wernicke, and the Rev. C. G. Niebel, were amongst the number, but the experiment did not succeed, and the latter is the only one who continued to labour in connection with Mr. Start, which he has done, we believe, uninterruptedly from that time to the present. It has been remarked by a writer in the "Calcutta Review" with reference to the Darjeeling mission, that the Moravian system of missions is not suited to any part of India, because "Europeans cannot gain a livelihood as tradesmen in competition with natives." That this is a mistake so far as Darjeeling is concerned, is proved by the fact that the three Germans who left the mission work have without exception gained a livelihood as tradesmen, and one of them at least is now in comfortable if not affluent circumstances. We

\* "Handbook of Darjeeling," published by La Page and Co., Calcutta.

\* While these sheets are passing through the press, I have, with much regret, heard of the Reverend Mr. Niebel's death: which took place at Darjeeling on the 9th of October 1865: its cause being dysentery, a disease when once developed, as formidable in the Himalayas, as it is in the plains of Bengal.