

*Giddings Deutsches Volksblatt*, 19 November 1925. Image 011600346.

Pictures from Silesia

Gnadenberg

By Mrs. Marie Witschel

When we walk to the cemetery we again find the Lord's peace. On every mound you find a plain monument with the name of the deceased. Everybody whoever had been buried here still rests in this place. We find monuments with dates of the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century which means the time in which this colony was created. The congregation has bought more land to extend the cemetery. The monuments are decorated with wreaths and flowers. The very old trees spread their branches across all of the cemetery.

The founder of Gnadenberg was the owner of the grounds at Gross-Krausche and Loosewitz, Calvary Captain Hans Friedrich von Falkenhyn, a friend of Earl von Zinsendorf who in 1743 had donated land to this settlement. Among the settlers were artisans. It did not take a long time for the master mechanics of Bunzlau to complain to the authorities that their business had been cut back. In 1771 an order was publicized that of 16 trades one representative of each could settle in Gnadenberg who could only work for their settlement and the nearby villages of Gross Krausche and Looswitz. Only the clockmaker and goldsmith could do work for whomever they pleased to. If the new rules were not adhered to punishment was the consequence.

The Bunzener tradesmen kept a close eye on the artisans of Gnadenberg and their work as they would receive half the monetary reward if they had reason to report the Gnadenberg artisan who cheated. It was not until 1810 when this law was lifted by the royal government for all of the kingdom.

Translated by Margot Hendricks