

## **Hypothesis on the Origin & Meaning of the Rudy Surname**

(May 2024, Updated May 2025)

The following research pertains to a Rudy ancestor that resided in northeast Slovakia in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The investigation relied on numerous historical records, documented movement of peoples through Europe, old language dictionaries and Y-DNA testing to develop a hypothesis on the origin and meaning of the subject Root Ancestor's surname.

### **Root Ancestor:**

The ancestor associated with the research is John (Janos/Jan) Rudy, who was born in Papin, Czechoslovakia<sup>1</sup> on November 6, 1891<sup>2</sup> and his parents were Mike (Michael/Mihály) Rudy and Mary (Mária) Svab as reported on his Social Security Application (Attachment 1). According to the Berengaria passenger ship record from November 2, 1923, John indicated he had previously arrived in the United States in 1907 and resided in Bridgeport, Connecticut for 14 years. John filed for his U.S. Citizenship on November 13, 1923, in Fairfield County, Connecticut and according to the 1930 U.S. Census, and he was naturalized in 1923. John's departure from Slovakia seems to coincide with the First Wave of Immigration from Slovakia to the United States (1873-1917) – which was attributed to a lack of employment in formerly thriving occupations in Slovakia such as mining, tradesman and farming (Ref. 1). John's religious affiliation was Roman Catholic, and his native language was Slovak.

### **Rudi Surname Change:**

The Roman Catholic Church records available on FamilySearch.org take the Root Ancestor's family line well into the 1700s in Papin, Slovakia (Attachment 2). The Roman Catholic church records also make a clear transition in the spelling of this Rudy line. Beginning with the birth record of the Root Ancestor's father (Michael) on February 20, 1865 – all prior church records indicate the spelling of this surname as Rudi.

While a specific reason for the change in the surname spelling was not investigated<sup>3</sup>, the continuity of Rudi in its spelling pre-1865 is considered the most relevant finding from this part of the study. Therefore, the remainder of this research was focused on Rudi as the root spelling of the surname.

### **Evaluation of Rudy/Rudi Relative to Slovak Common Surnames:**

While the Root Ancestor resided in Slovakia, the surname does not seem to fall into traditional Slovak naming patterns. For example, a search of the <https://forebears.io/slovakia/surnames> website will produce a list of over 1,000 surnames that are reportedly the most common in Slovakia. The Rudy (or Rudi) surname is not present on the aforementioned list. Moreover, the previously noted list contains less than 20 Slovakian surnames ending with -y (none ending in -dy and most

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<sup>1</sup> Which was part of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire from 1814-1918.

<sup>2</sup> John Rudy's Roman Catholic baptism record indicates his date of birth as November 6, 1890.

<sup>3</sup> Although a potential reason for the change in spelling could be attributed to Magyarization (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magyarization>).

ending with -sky). Out of the entire list only three surnames show up ending with “i” (i.e., Forrai, Szalai, and Hegyi). The Rudi surname also largely appears to be an outlier when viewed against the surnames noted within the Roman Catholic records in Papin.

### **18<sup>th</sup> Century European Rudi Surname Prevalence:**

The FamilySearch.org website contains a substantial amount of indexed church records throughout Europe (which generally extends back into the 1700s). A search of the currently indexed records from 18<sup>th</sup> Century Europe maintained by FamilySearch.org was completed to determine the prevalence of the Rudi surname within and around Slovakia. This effort was conducted to gauge for a potential geographical epicenter of the surname. Enclosed are the findings of a Rudi search during the period of 1700-1799 in areas within and proximate to Slovakia:

- **Latvia:** 0 Rudi records;
- **Lithuania:** 0 Rudi records;
- **Czech Republic:** 1 Rudi record;
- **Romania:** 1 Rudi record;
- **Belgium:** 2 Rudi records;
- **Denmark:** 10 Rudi records;
- **Italy:** 16 Rudi records;
- **Austria:** 45 Rudi records;
- **Netherlands:** 83 Rudi records;
- **Ukraine:** 165 Rudi records (all of them in the Cyrillic alphabet, руди)
- **Poland:** 195 Rudi records (192 of those in the Cyrillic alphabet, руди)
- **France:** 420 Rudi records;
- **Estonia:** 727 Rudi records
- **Slovakia:** 1,165 Rudi records;
- **Germany:** 1,677 Rudi records;
- **Hungary:** 2,320 Rudi records
- **Switzerland:** 4,900 Rudi records;

The results of the analysis support that there was a significant dispersion of the Rudi surname outside of Slovakia in Europe during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Moreover, the results appear to support a trend toward a Germanic affiliation with the Rudi surname. This is of interest since there was a large migration of Germans eastward into Europe (which included Upper Hungary/Slovakia) during the High Middle and Late Middle Ages of the Medieval period and was explored further as part of this investigation.

### **Ostsiedlung - Germanic Medieval Migration in Europe:**

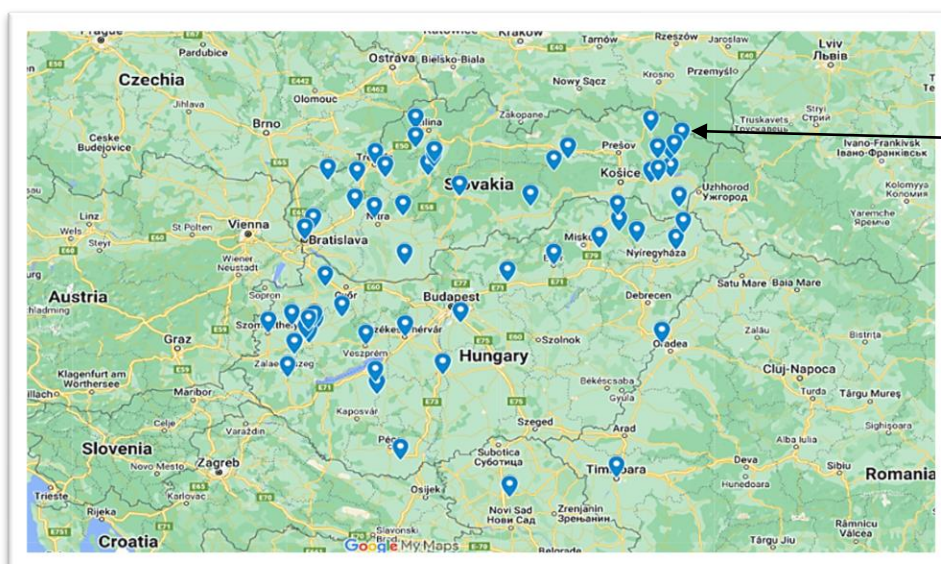
The Ostsiedlung (East Settlement) was initiated during the Medieval period and is a well-documented movement of Germanic peoples into eastern Europe. The areas where the Germanic people migrated to as part of the Ostsiedlung include: Germany east of the Saale and Elbe rivers (roughly comprising much of modern eastern Germany), the states of Lower Austria and Styria in Austria (southeast and northeast Austria), Livonia (Lithuania), Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary,

and Transylvania in Romania (Ref. 2). Review of 1890 and 1910 Austrian-Hungarian ethnicity maps (Attachments 5 & 6) help demonstrate the legacy and extent of Germanic populations that migrated into eastern Europe due to the Ostsiedlung.

With regard to the migration of Germans into Upper Hungary/Slovakia, the start appears to be triggered in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The Mongols made incursions into Slovakia in the 1240s – and laid waste to much of the infrastructure and native people (which were predominately Slavs). At this point in time, Slovakia was part of the Kingdom of Hungary (which was referred to as Upper Hungary) and was under the control of the King of Hungary (i.e., Bela IV). Realizing that there was a dearth of people in the area after the Mongol raids, the King of Hungary had “invited” Germanic people to come to Upper Hungary/Slovakia to bring specialized trades (e.g., mining, lumbermen, tradesperson, farmers) and provide security from further foreign incursions (Ref. 3). The Germanic people that emigrated to Slovakia originated from the lower Rhine River valley region (including present day Luxembourg), Flanders (Belgium), Saxony and Silesia (a territory located in modern southwest Poland along the Oder River that was previously under control by the Holy Roman Empire and German Empire) (Refs. 3, 5). Germanic migrations into Slovakia were particularly intense from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries and continued to a lesser amount in the 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (Ref. 4, pg. 128).

### **Distribution of Rudi's in 1700-1799 in Slovakia and Hungary:**

The currently indexed church records available on FamilySearch.org for the Slovakia and Hungary contained substantial church records for Rudi's during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century in Slovakia and Hungary. The locations only reflect the presence of a Rudi event (e.g., baptism, marriage, death) and are not representing the frequency of events at a particular location (which substantially varied). The locations related to Rudi church record events, as identified on FamilySearch.org for the time period of 1700-1799, are as follows:



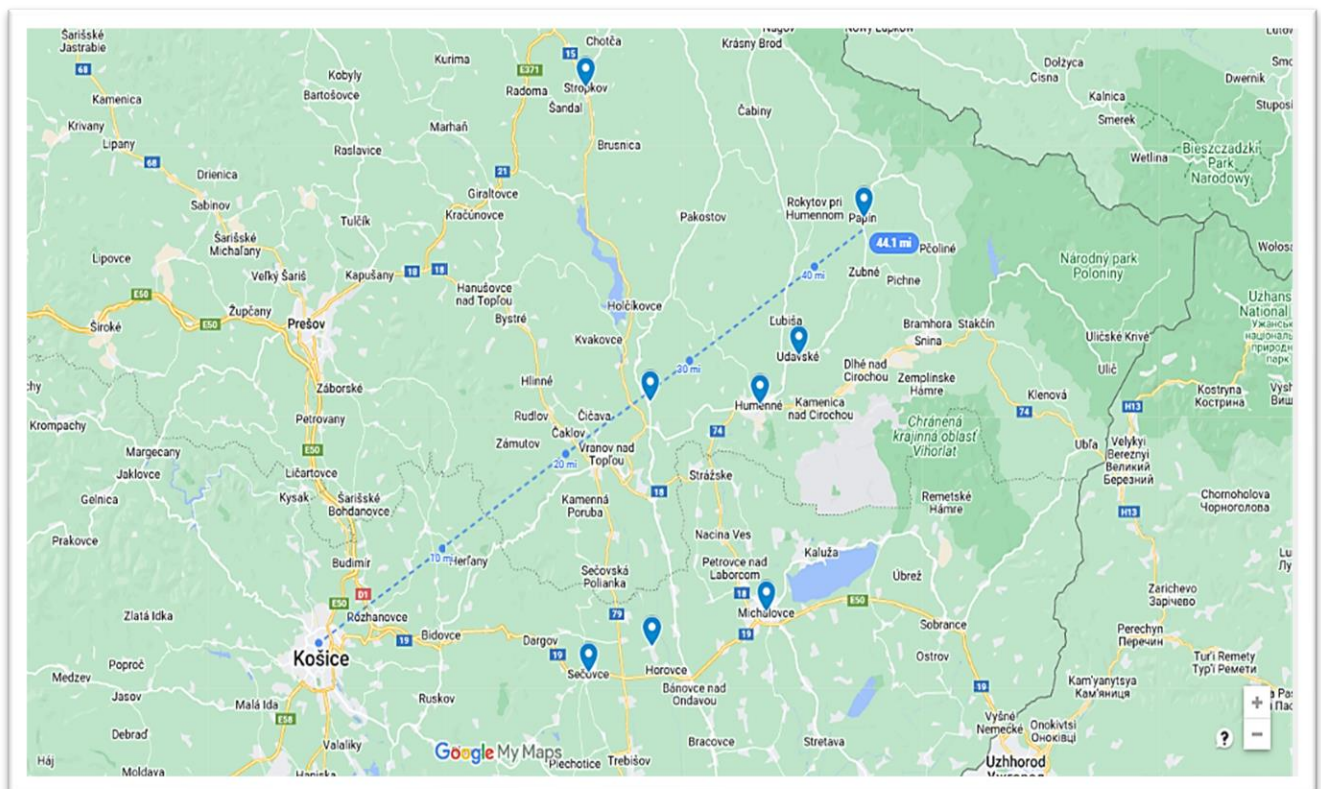
Papin

**Map of Recorded Rudi Presence in Slovakia and Hungary 1700-1799**



The geographic distribution depicted on the map strongly supports that the Rudi surname is not limited to areas principally in proximity to northeast Slovakia. In fact, the Rudi records located in Papin appears to be more reflective of a limit from a potential source point.

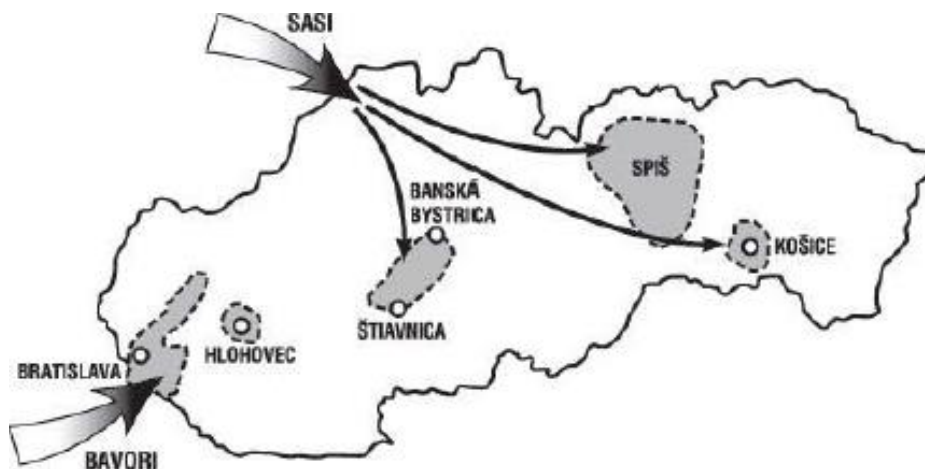
A zoom in of the above noted distribution map was completed to inspect for a potential origin associated with the Rudi surname from Papin. Specifically, from some origin point that could be backed through historical records as being a destination for Medieval German immigrants. As depicted below, there does appear to be a relatively defined line of Rudi families from Papin toward the city of Košice in southeast Slovakia and seemed to be a reasonable target for further investigation.



**Map of Recorded Rudi Presence in Eastern Slovakia 1700-1799**

### **Medieval Germanic Settlements in Slovakia and Germanic Movements to Papin:**

As noted on the map below, the Medieval Germans that migrated into Slovakia settled in several predominate locations: Bratislava/Pressburg in the west; Hauerland in the central portion of the country, Zips/Spis/Szepes in the east and Košice in the southeast. Therefore, the historical data supports that Košice could have served as an origin point for a Germanic Rudi immigrant in Slovakia/Upper Hungary during the Medieval Period.



### Direction and Arrival of German Settlers in Slovakia the 13<sup>th</sup> Century

(From Lukačka, 2006, Figure 12; Reference 8)

Note: Sasi refers to “Saxons” and Bavori the “Bavarians”.

The Official Website of Košice, Short History of Kosice provides some additional history regarding the Medieval Germanic immigrants:

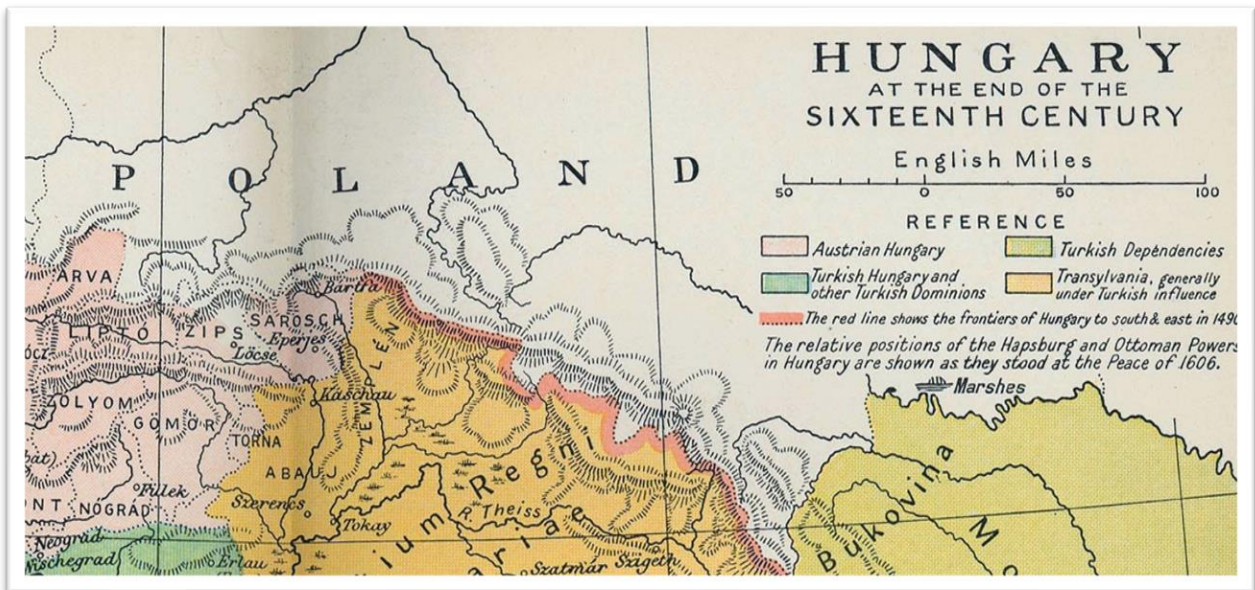
“Košice – one of the oldest towns in Slovakia – lies at the place where the River Hornád emerges from its picturesque wooded valley and flows onto an extensive plain. This is a city with a rich and glorious past. It starts with the first mention of a community here in a document from the year 1230, when Kosice is referred to as “Villa Cassa”. The town itself was founded by German colonists from Lower Saxony together with the original local Slav settlers after the year 1243.”  
[\(https://www.kosice.sk/city/\)](https://www.kosice.sk/city/)

The movement of Germanic people from Košice to points in northeastern Slovakia is supported by the 1910 census data for the Austria-Hungary ([https://library.hungaricana.hu/hu/collection/ksh\\_neda\\_nepszamlalasok\\_1910/](https://library.hungaricana.hu/hu/collection/ksh_neda_nepszamlalasok_1910/)). In particular, the 1910 Zemplén County census (which includes Papin) indicates the distribution of Germans in the following districts (see Zemplén County District Map, Attachment 7):

<u>Zemplén County Districts</u>	<u>Germans</u>
Bodrogkozi	66
Galszlecsi	591
Homonnai	1,453
Mezölaborzi	1,857
Nagymihályi	1,382
Sárospataki	71
Sátoraljaujhelyi	98
Szerenesi	96
<b>Szinnia</b>	<b>1,228</b>

Stropkoi	1,438
Tokaji	106
Varannoi	1,090

The Zemplen County census data demonstrates a steady increase in reported German population from the southern to northern municipalities and an inverse relationship with the Hungarian population (which this may reflect Germans displaced from Košice/Kaschau by Hungarians moving in from the south due to Ottoman/Turkish Empire incursions into Hungary during the 1500s):



### Hungary at the End of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century

(Note: Košice is reported in Hungarian as Kaschau within limits of Transylvania under Turkish influence)  
(From: [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/ward\\_1912/hungary\\_16\\_century.jpg](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/ward_1912/hungary_16_century.jpg))

Another global observation provided by the 1910 census data pertained to the substantial distribution of the Germans within the Kingdom of Hungary: 2,047,035 Germans, that were present in all 72 counties ranging from 0.03% to 55% percent of the county population<sup>4</sup>. The 1910 census data also indicated the total population of Kassa/Košice/Kaschau, Slovakia to be 44,211, which was primarily comprised of Hungarians (33,350 or 75.4%), but still maintained a German population of 3,189 (7.2%).

However, the most noteworthy observation from the census data is that it contained nationality breakdowns for towns within the municipalities – which included Papin. Papin is located within the municipality of Szinnia, and the 1910 census data indicated

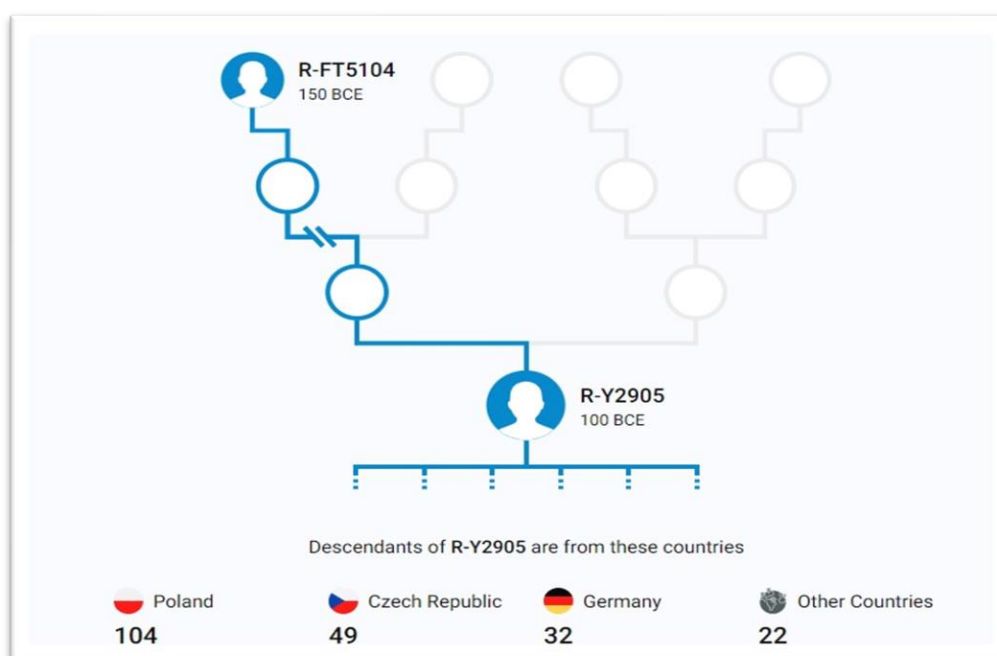
<sup>4</sup> (From: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics\\_of\\_the\\_Kingdom\\_of\\_Hungary\\_by\\_county#Bjelovar-Kri%C5%BEevci](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_the_Kingdom_of_Hungary_by_county#Bjelovar-Kri%C5%BEevci))

the following: Papin Population Total: 821; German Population in Papin: 38 (4.6% of the population in Papin in 1910 which reported German as their native language).

The 1910 census data strongly support that a Germanic population did in fact permeate much of northeast Slovakia – and included the presence of a Germanic population in Papin extending into the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. In light of the above, it can be reasonably argued that a Germanic Rudi immigrant arriving in Košice, Slovakia in the High Middle to Late Middle Ages could have had descendants that migrated over time with other Germans<sup>5</sup> into northern/northeastern Slovakia.

### **Y-DNA Testing:**

A male descendant of the Root Ancestor completed a Y-DNA test (which included both Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) and Short Tandem Repeats (STR) testing) through Family Tree DNA. The SNP test results are used to develop haplogroups to provide information pertaining to the movement patterns over time of paternal ancestry from their origin in Africa. The Root Ancestor's descendant SNP test resulting was completed through near the start of the Common Era and was determined to be Haplogroup R-Y2905. Family Tree DNA's database indicates the following distribution of the earliest known geographic origin for the test takers that were confirmed in the R-Y2905 haplogroup:



### **Excerpt from the R-Y2905 Story by Family Tree DNA**

(from <https://discover.familytreedna.com/y-dna/R-Y2905/story>)

Note: Refer to Attachments 3 & 4 for a generalized depiction of the migration path and Haplogroup Timescale Summary for R-Y2905.

<sup>5</sup> This could include the Root Ancestor's mother's (Mary Svab) family, which her surname could be of Germanic ancestry (i.e., Svab likely originally Schwaben, referring to someone from Swabia, Germany).



The descendant summary of R-Y2905 helps depict a picture of the dispersion of this line of people. Specifically, it is certain that this lineage migrated from Asia into Central Europe around 3000 BCE (as indicated by the upstream Haplogroup R-PF6162). The earliest known ancestor location results from the test takers appear to support that a large percentage of people belonging to R-Y2905 continued to reside in Central Europe (i.e., modern day Poland). However, the results of the earliest known ancestor locations for R-Y2905 also appear to strongly support that a large population of the descendants continued to spread westward into territory adjacent to Central Europe/Poland – i.e., Czech Republic and interestingly Germany.

Family Tree DNA maintains a database of over two million records and allows comparison of the test subject's Y-DNA to use STR to help determine matches in paternal genealogical research. The Family Tree DNA STR analysis indicated 41 matches (17 exact and 24 at one-step at the 12-marker level) with the male descendant of the Root Ancestor, none of which had reported the Rudi/Rudy surname. The earliest reported geographic location distribution of the 41 matches from the 12-marker level test was as follows:

- Poland: 29.3% (reported haplogroups: 4, R-M198, 2, R-M512<sup>6</sup>, 6 downstream of R-Y2905);
- Germany: 29.3% (reported haplogroups: 5, R-M198, 3, R-M512, 2, R-L260, 1-R-Y2905, 1 downstream of R-Y2905);
- Unknown/Not Reported: 26.7% (reported haplogroups: 6, R-M198, 1, R-M512, 4 downstream of R-Y2905);
- Others<sup>7</sup>: 14.7% (reported haplogroup: 1, R-M512; 1, R-M198; 4, downstream of R-Y2905).

Note: Other than the Rudy/Rudi descendant's test result – there was only one match noting their reported earliest paternal origins from Slovakia.

Since none of the Y-DNA 12-marker matches had a Rudy/Rudi surname, the STR matches with the 41 individuals are not recent – and are likely connected prior to the surname convention process (i.e., > 1,000 years). Because there was a substantial number of Y-2905 test takers indicating Poland as their origin of oldest known ancestor, it is not surprising for the presence of a large pool of distant Polish cousins.

What is of interest in the 12-marker data is that there appears to be a significant western dispersion trend into Germany associated with the matches related to the male descendant of the Common Ancestor. This is consistent with the broader observation reported on the Family Tree DNA R-Y2905 Story. Further, there are three German matches (that are either exact with the R-Y2905 or close, R-L260 is only four mutations upstream from R-Y2905 haplogroups) that had the following surnames and reported their earliest known ancestor's geographic location and time:

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<sup>6</sup> R-M512 is a predicted haplogroup that is upstream of R-M198 (which R-M198 is verified through SNP testing).

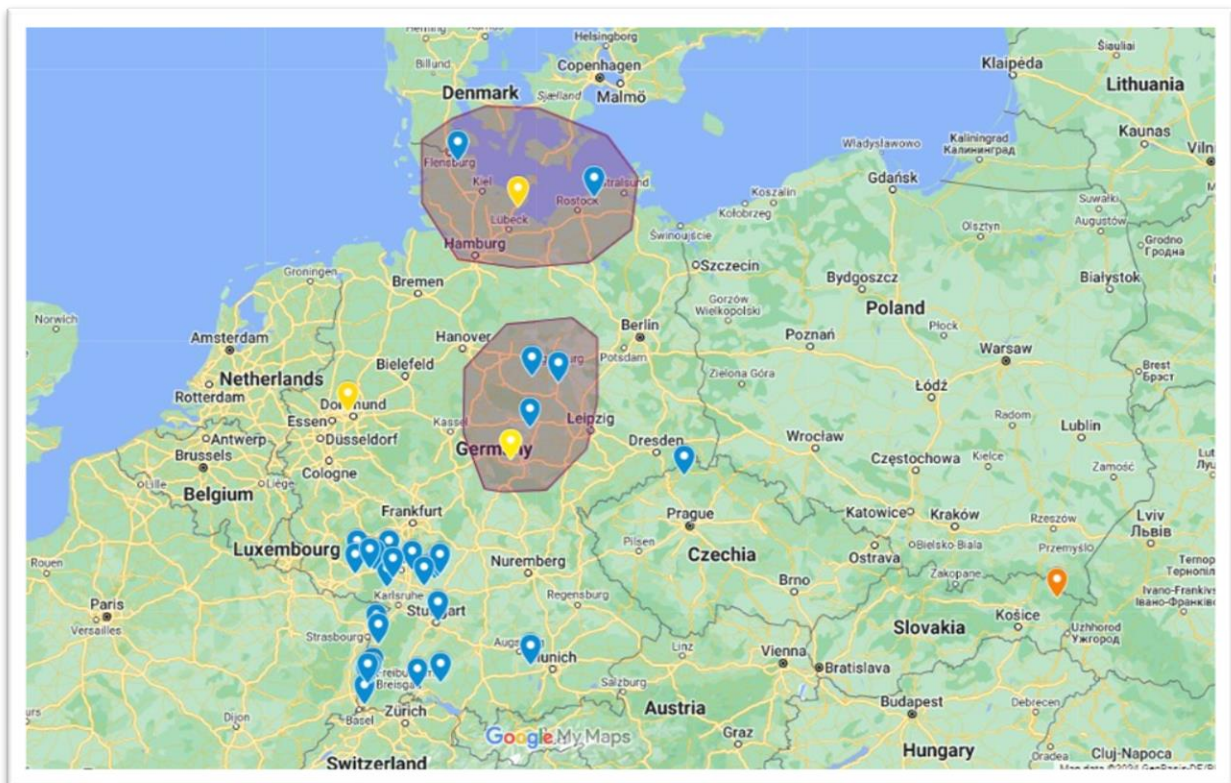
<sup>7</sup> Czech Republic (1); Hungary (1); Sweden (1); Belarus (1); Slovakia (1); Russia (1).



- Görlach (R-L260); Gotha, Germany 1812
- Kluvetasch (R-Y2905); Logeberg, Germany 1749
- Zimmerman (R-L260); Castrop, Germany 1891

Not surprisingly, a review of forebears.io for each of the above noted surnames were reported as Germanic in origin – which means that their ancestors were likely present in Germany for at least 1,000 years (coinciding with the surname convention process).

A review of the currently indexed church records available on FamilySearch.org for Germany was completed for the Rudi surname during the period of 1600-1699 and the results are depicted below.



**Map of Recorded Rudi Presence in Germany 1600-1699**

Note: Blue pins note presence of a Rudi record (map also includes a Rudi that resided in the Czech Republic in the early 1700s). Gold pins note the oldest known geographic location of 12-DNA match with the descendant of the Root Ancestor for Gotha, Logeberg and Castrop, Germany. The orange pin is the location of earliest verified location of Root Ancestor's lineage.

The church records indicate a large concentration of Rudi's present in southwestern Germany (which doesn't appear to be connected to this investigation through Y-DNA testing). However, the Rudi's that are present in east central and northeast Germany

are of particular interest – especially when compared to the oldest known geographic location of the individuals associated with the Y-DNA match of Haplogroups R-L260 and R-Y2905 with the descendant of the Root Ancestor. This observation seems to support that commonly related ancestor(s) of these hereditary lines departed Central Europe – and their descendants populated eastern Germany.

The movement of the Rudi's Haplogroup R-Y2905 peoples into eastern Germany before 1000 CE may be explained with recorded cultures in proximity at the end of the period by the Y-DNA testing. One interesting candidate is the Lusatian Culture, which existed from 1,300 to 500 BCE and included areas of Central Europe along with modern day eastern Germany (<https://www.indo-european-connection.com/science/lusatian-culture>)<sup>8</sup>. Advancing the timeline another 400 years, results in a proliferation of tribes, which are generally categorized as Baltic and Polabian Slavs and Lusatian Sorbs (or collectively Wends), that resided between the Elbe and Oder Rivers (that broadly include most of modern eastern Germany) as depicted below:



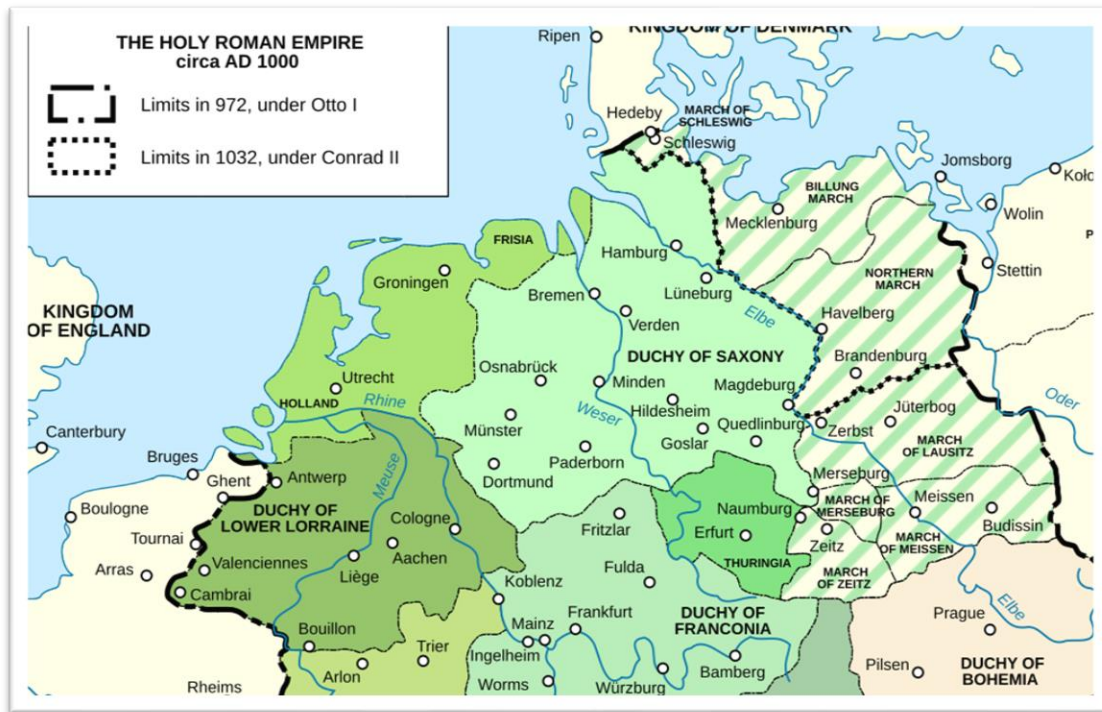
**Wends Map 800-950 CE**  
(From Matus Motlo, 2020)

The Polabians and Lusatian Sorbians were comprised of numerous tribes with limited union between them (unlike the Germanics, Czechs/Bohemians and Poles) (Ref. 9). As

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<sup>8</sup> The Lusatian Sorbs have maintained their presence in eastern Germany (roughly included in the modern Free State of Saxony) since 600-700 CE. The most common Y-DNA haplogroup among the Sorbs (i.e., 65%) is R-M458 (which is upstream of R-Y2905) (from Wikipedia, Sorbs).

a result, the Polabians and Lusatian Sorbs territory was subsequently conquered by Germanic peoples in the late 900s CE through eastern expansion of the Duchy of Saxony/Holy Roman Empire (via Marches) under King Otto the I. The Saxon Eastern Marches that occurred in the 900s included: Billung March, Northern March, March of Lusatia, March of Meissen, March of Merseburg and March Zeitz) and resulted in the territories being subsequently conquered/indoctrinated as part of the Holy Roman Empire. A depiction of the March areas conquered by King Otto I are in shaded with green stripes as noted below:



### Holy Roman Empire 11<sup>th</sup> Century Map

(From [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/21/Holy\\_Roman\\_Empire\\_11th\\_century\\_map-en.svg/1280px-Holy\\_Roman\\_Empire\\_11th\\_century\\_map-en.svg.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/21/Holy_Roman_Empire_11th_century_map-en.svg/1280px-Holy_Roman_Empire_11th_century_map-en.svg.png))

In summary, the Y-DNA test data appears to support the hypothesis that a Rudi ancestor migrated from Central Europe (present day Poland) westward perhaps around the time of the Great Migration in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century to areas in the vicinity of present-day eastern Germany before 900 CE and was subsequently assimilated by Germanic peoples through their Eastern Marches. As the database of Y-DNA begins to grow over time, this method may result in additional confirmations (i.e., in the event another Rudi/Rudy with earliest known origin from Germany matches with the Rudy descendant that completed the Y-DNA test as part of this investigation).

### Middle Ages Germanic Vocabulary Record Search:

Based on the surname selection process employed in Germanic areas of Europe during the Middle Ages, the potential exists that the Root Ancestor's surname origination was based on local vocabulary around the subject period. In particular, the surname could have represented an occupation, familial relationship, location, or physical feature. The



findings noted above support that a Rudi ancestor responsible for coining the surname resided in Germanic territories or settlements during the Middle Ages. The West Germanic Language map (below) summarizes the languages that would likely have been available to the Rudi ancestor involved in the surname selection process (i.e., Old Saxon, Old Frisian, Old Dutch and Old High German).

### West Germanic Language Map – Early 10th Century

(From wikipedia.org/wiki/Old Dutch, Map based on: Meineke, Eckhard & Schwerdt, Judith, Einführung in das Althochdeutsche, Paderborn/Zürich 2001, pp. 209)



A summary of the most relevant findings for this part of the investigation includes the following:

Old Saxon dictionaries were not readily available, and the one located (i.e., “A Concise Old Saxon Dictionary” by Henrich Tiefenbach) provided no useful data to assist in the research. However, an Anglo-Saxon<sup>9</sup> dictionary by Bosworth and Toller (Ref. 6) provided the following:

**rúde**; (?) roughness of the skin, scab: Seó rúde or se rúda (se rude, MS,) on dam men scamma in homine, Wrt., Voc. i. 45, 30, [O.L Ger. rútha scabies: O.H. Ger. Rudam rudo scabies, impetigo: Ger. raude. Cf.. This form seems to point to

<sup>9</sup> Which was a language derived in part from Saxons, along with Jutes and Angles.



hrüde<sup>10</sup> as the earlier form in English.] (*Note: the pronunciation of rúde in modern English would be roo-deh. The “u” would be long and the “e” would be short*).

**rudig**; *adj. Rudd*:-- Rudi *purpureus, rubicundus*, Hpt. Gl. 475, 8. [Rudi *scheome*, A. R. 330, 20. *bi rudi neb schal as gres grenen*, H. M. 35, 22.]. (*Note: the pronunciation of rudig would be ruh-dee; in Anglo-Saxon. The “u” would be short like in “rudder”; and the suffix “ig” was pronounced “ee” in modern English*).

The Bosworth & Toller dictionary is based on vocabulary taken from manuscripts from the period which are referenced within the definition. The H.M. (Hali Methhad Glossary) reference for the “rudig” definition included the following notation:

“Thi rudie neb schal leanin ant ase gres grenin”, which translates in modern English to, “Your rosy face will grow lean and become green as grass.”

An Old Frisian entomological dictionary was located (i.e., Old Frisian Entomological Dictionary by Dirk Boutkan & Sjoerd Michiel Siebinga, Brill, Leiden – Boston, 2005), but provided no data useful to this research.

There does not exist a wealth of data in support of an Old Dutch lexicon. However, a relatively old Dutch dictionary (Dutch to Latin) was located (i.e., Etymologicum Teutonicæ Linguae, Cornelis Kilianus, Antwerp, 1599) and provided the following:

**roode**; Rubere (translation to modern English from Latin: to be red or flush), rubescere (translation to modern English from Latin: to grow red again) & Rubefacere (translation to modern English from Latin: to make red or blush). (*Note: there does appear to be alternate ways to pronounce – “road-e” or “rood-e”*).

A review of an Old High German dictionary (Ref. 7), provided the most interesting results:

**rūdi**, f, G. II, 490; scabiosus, (impetigo), Räude. II, 633, 13. (*Note: the pronunciation would likely be roo-di*);

**rūdig**, *adj.* G. II, 490; scabiosus, (impetigo), räudig, schorfig. I, 345, 1. III, 428, 34. 439, 72. Mayer, 96, 7 (*Note: the pronunciation would likely be roo-dich*).

The vocabulary research also located a text pertaining to Zipser German (i.e., “The German Dialects of the Hungarian” by Karl Julis Schroer, Ref. 10). Schroer completed a review and comparison of German dialects in eastern territories generally associated with the Ostsiedlung in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century. His introductory statement provided a relevant conclusion associated with this research:

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<sup>10</sup> Likely derived from Reudh (pronounced Roodth) Proto Indo-European word for red, ruddy.

*“What the comparison of the dialects primarily makes probable is that the first settlements in the mountain towns, the Zips, and Transylvania, happened simultaneously and can be attributed to a **stream of emigrants who spread from the Rhine area into Slavic territories (in Upper Saxony, Lusatia, Silesia, Poland, the Hungarian highlands, and Transylvania).** **This stream perhaps received its initial impetus from the Flemish and Dutch but also spread to the Rhine areas up to Cologne and Aachen, the Siebengebirge, and the Hundsrück....**”*

Schoer is indicating that Dutch, Flemish and Germanic peoples (along the Rhine River as far south as the Hundsrück mountains, which is located in Baden-Wittenburg, south of Stuttgart), moved into eastern Germany territory (among others) which were occupied by the Wends<sup>11</sup>. A depiction of the described movements pertaining to eastern Germany is noted below:



### **Dutch & Rhine River Valley German Migration Patterns Into Eastern Germany/Wend Territory**

<sup>11</sup> The approximate limit of the Free State of Saxony (Saxony) is depicted on the above map for reference. It is noted that the geographic boundaries of Saxony have changed dramatically over the course of time, but the location depicted is relatively consistent back to the Holy Roman Empire. Moreover, the Free State of Saxony is within the limit of former Lusatia/Wend territory and adjacent to Silesia; which all of these territories are supportive of the Root Ancestor descendant's Y-DNA results.

Another noteworthy item on the map is the presence of a large Rudi population located in the southwestern portion of Germany (noted earlier in the Y-DNA discussion), which is another origin location of the Germanic people that migrated into eastern Germany. Therefore, it seems likely that Germanic people migrating from the Rhine River valley would have taken their native lexicon (Old High German), which would appear to include rudi, and was adopted by the Wends through their Germanic assimilation. Finally, the green line on the above map approximates the Benrath Line, a line which separates Low and High German Languages, which may be used to help define the territorial usage of rudi (and not rudig/ruddy from the Old Saxon).

Based on the above, it appears that forms of the word “rudi” were prevalent in old West Germanic languages and was brought to territory occupied by Rudi ancestors from Dutch (Old Dutch) and Rhine River Valley Germans (Old High German). From the definitions located – it would be a safe assumption that the Rudi surname was attributed to a physical characteristic – likely some reddish appearance in complexion. In particular, the origin for use of “rudi” was to describe some skin condition (e.g., scabies, impetigo, etc. that would produce red rashes accompanied by scabby conditions), but over time its meaning was focused on a general description of one’s complexion (i.e., a bloody red color such as rosy, rubicund, ruddy, etc.).

#### **Alternate Migration Path:**

The aforementioned data is postulating the Root Ancestor forebearers at some point in time were Germanic. However, to develop a balanced approach to the formation of a hypothesis – this effort considered another migration alternative – which is the Root Ancestor forerunners migrated from Central Europe (Poland) directly into Slovakia. In support of this alternate migration path the Polish dictionary indicates that “rudy” is an adjective for red-hair or ginger color – and may have been employed during the surname selection process. Based on the enclosed reasons, it seems unlikely for migration of the subject Rudi/Rudy ancestors to have arrived directly from Poland:

- **Family Tree Y-DNA STR Matching:** There was only one other match to the Common Ancestor’s descendant currently in the Family Tree DNA’s database that reported their oldest known ancestor from Slovakia (which would have originated from a common ancestor in Central Europe/Poland);
- **Low Rudi Surname Concentration in Poland:** Relative to the other surrounding European countries noted in the above summary (i.e., 18<sup>th</sup> Century European Rudi Surname Prevalence) – it seems unlikely that Poland served as an epicenter for the Rudi surname;
- **Old Polish Dictionary:** Rudy (and rudi) is not included in the 3,400 definitions contained in the Old Polish Dictionary on-line reference (<http://www.staropolska.pl/slownik/index.php>) reported on the University of Toronto Libraries, Research Guides, Slavic and East European Resources. Old Polish was used between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries;
- **Ruthenians Territory:** Northeastern Slovakia was sparsely populated until the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. A coherent territory with an intensive and relatively compact Ruthenian (Rusyn) settlement was created along Slovakia’s borders with Poland

and Ukraine from the fourteenth to the seventeenth centuries. (Ref. 4, pg. 181). Papin, Slovakia (which was founded in 1330s) bordered Ruthenian territory and would generally support Slovak and other minority population migration in the area likely occurred from the west and south rather than from the north and east;

- 1910 Census Data for Zemplen County, Papin: Contains a breakdown of the predominant ethnic populations (as determined by the spoken language, e.g., Hungarian, German, Slovak, Ruthenian, etc.), but does not include Polish as a principal population in Papin. Since the Rudy Root Ancestor did not belong to the Ruthenians (which largely buffered the region between Poland and Slovakia) it remains likely that the Rudy/Rudi ancestors migrated from the west or south into northeast Slovakia (and not from the north/Poland);
- Historical Migration: There does not appear to be a significant record of Polish migration into Slovakia. As noted in “An Ethnic History of Slovakia, Multi-ethnicity, Minorities and Migrations” Botik, Jan, Stimul, Bratislava, Slovakia, 2021, it includes movements of Slovaks, Hungarians, Germans, Jews, Rusyns/Ukrainians, Croats, Serbs, Bulgarians and Czechs into Slovakia, but did not include any substantial discussion regarding the migration of Poles into Slovakia.

### **Alternate Surname Origin:**

The findings appear to support that the Rudi surname meaning of the Root Ancestor is of Germanic origin. However, as with the above approach, this research examined whether the surname could have been related to a non-Germanic source. Specifically, that “rudi” was of Slovak origin and had a meaning reddish/reddish brown – as noted in “Lexicon Slavicum” by Antonio Bernalok published in 1825. While interesting, it was dismissed for several reasons:

- If a surname selection process occurred inside Slovakia, and within a community of Slovak speaking persons, it would be expected that they would have used their native lexicon. As previously reported, rudi (and its derivations in the German and Slovak form) – appear to convey a meaning of a reddish-brown color – likely related to skin complexion. The Slavic languages have a distinctive word for red – červená (Czech & Slovak), czerwony (Polish) and it has documented usage as a Slavic surname. Review of the Dictionary of American Family Names 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, 2022, indicated the following for the meaning of the Cerveny surname: “Czech and Slovak (Červený): from červený ‘red ruddy’ hence a nickname for someone with red hair or a ruddy complexion.” Separate web searches indicated similar surnames for Cerveny: Cherveny, Cervenka and Chervenak. Considering the above, it would seem likely that a Slovak population would choose a surname (related to a rubicund complexion) using a Slavic name for a primary color;
- According to “Slovak Surnames What They Can Tell a Family Historian” by Milan Sismis, “In the 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries, large groups of Germans settled in several regions of Slovakia, and they brought their own surnames to their new homeland...” (Ref. 11);



- The usage of “rudi” was present in the Germanic lexicon well before the 19<sup>th</sup> Century – and the Zipser dialects support that Old High German likely moved from western Germany to eastern Germany into areas occupied by the Wends. This is further demonstrated by the presence of a substantial population of Rudi(s) in southwestern Germany. Specifically, it would seem unlikely that the Rudis in southwest Germany naming selection process was influenced by contact with Slavic languages. It does seem more likely that the lexicon in eastern German areas (containing the Wends) was influenced by southwestern/western Germans (speaking Old High German) through known migration patterns;
- In light of the above, the presence of “rudi” within the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Slovak dictionary may be the result of a “loan word” or “Germanism” from the Germanic language ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germanism\\_\(linguistics\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germanism_(linguistics))).

### **Hypothesis:**

A Rudi ancestor migrated west from Central Europe to territory that was proximate to present day eastern Germany (perhaps within or around the current confines of the Free State of Saxony, Germany), and likely belonged to the Wends culture (i.e., Polabian Tribe) through 800-900s CE. In the late 900s CE, the Germans, under King Otto I, subsequently conquered and assimilated the Wends. Rudi ancestors remained in eastern German territory through sometime within the 1200-1500s CE, and thereafter a descendant embarked to Upper Hungary/Slovakia and settled in the Košice/Kaschau/Kassa (Košice) region. In the 1500s CE, the Rudi’s descendants may have departed the Košice region due to incursions by the Ottoman Empire into Hungary (which resulted in a movement of Hungarians into southern Slovakia displacing southern tier Germanic populations). The Rudi descendants followed other Germanic populations into northern Slovakia and eventually settled in Papin sometime between 1500 - 1700 CE. Over time, the Germanic Rudi descendants in Papin began to intermix with local Slovak population and took on their language.

In this line, the Rudi surname appears to be of Germanic origin, referring to someone with rubicund complexion, and could very well have been selected by a Rudi ancestor prior to leaving eastern Germany for Slovakia. Alternatively, it could have been selected by a Rudi ancestor in Slovakia while they were living in areas comprised of predominately Germanic peoples speaking Zipser German.

### **Attachments:**

1. Social Security Administration Application for John (Jan) Rudy;
2. Rudy/Rudi Family Tree – Papin, Slovakia
3. Y DNA Migration Map Noting Path of Haplogroup R-Y2905
4. Y-2905 Haplogroup Timescale
5. Ethnographic Map of Austria-Hungary (1890 Census)
6. The Ethnic Groups of Austria-Hungary in 1910
7. Zemplén County Map of Austro-Hungarian (1910 Census)

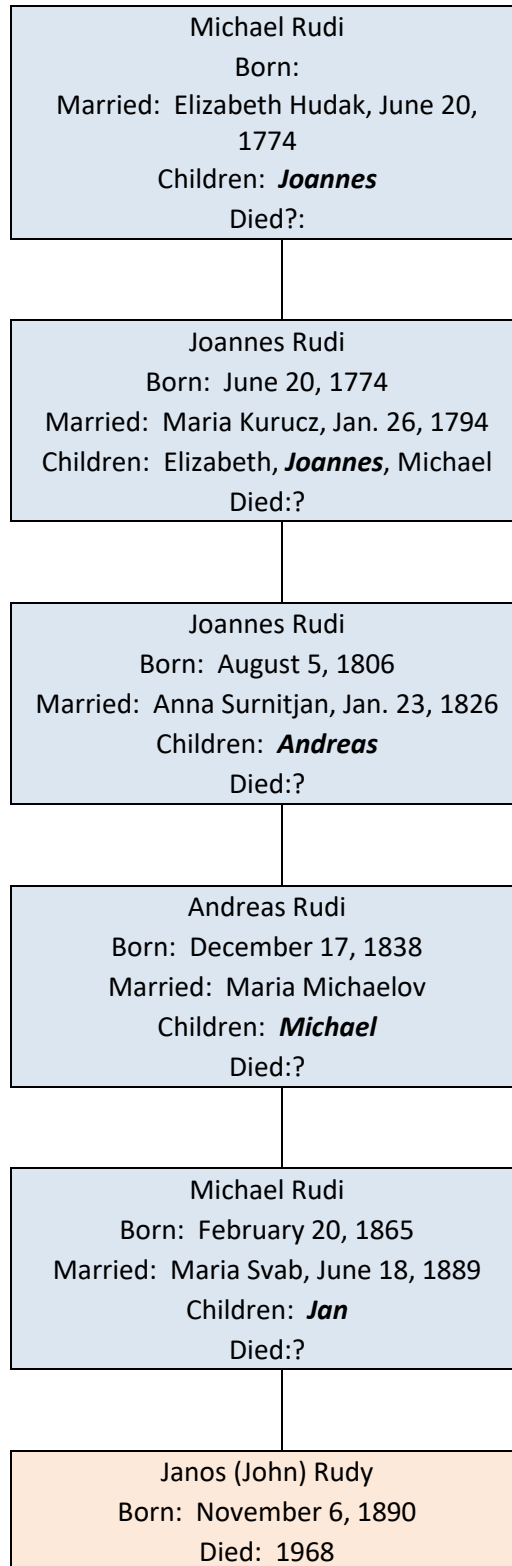
## **References:**

1. Slovak Americans and Their Communities of Cleveland, The Four Waves of Immigration, <https://pressbooks.ulib.csuohio.edu/slovak-americans-and-their-communities-of-cleveland/chapter/the-four-waves-of-immigration>
2. Wikipedia, Ostsiedlung, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ostsiedlung>;
3. Wikipedia, Zipser Germans, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zipser\\_Germans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zipser_Germans);
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6. The University of Texas at Austin, Linguistics Research Center, "An Anglo Saxon Dictionary", by Bosworth and Toller, <https://lrc.la.utexas.edu/books/asd/dict-R#B25883>;
7. "Althochdeutsches Glossenwörterbuch", Starck, Taylor & Wells, John, Carl Winter Universitätsverlag, Heidelberg, 1990;
8. "Ethnic Geography of the Hungarian Minorities in the Carpathian Basin", Kocsis, Károly & Kocsis-Hodosi, Eszter, Geographical Research Institute Research Centre for Earth Sciences and Minority Studies Programme Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, 1998;
9. "The World of Ancient Slavs", Váňa, Zdeněk, Translated by Till Gottheiner, Orbis Publishing, London, 1983;
10. "The German Dialects of the Hungarian Highlands", Schroer, Karl Julis, Vienna, 1864;
11. "Slovak Surnames What They Can Tell a Family Historian", Milan Sismis, 1996 FEEHS Convention, Minneapolis, MN.

Form 884-S TREASURY DEPARTMENT INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE		U. S. SOCIAL SECURITY ACT APPLICATION FOR ACCOUNT NUMBER	
1. FIRST NAME <b>JOHN</b>		2. (MIDDLE NAME) <b>RUDY</b>	
3. (LAST NAME) <b>BOO</b>			
4. (MARRIED WOMEN: GIVE MAIDEN FIRST NAME, MAIDEN LAST NAME, AND HUSBAND'S LAST NAME) <b>420 EAST 73<sup>RD</sup> STREET</b>		5. (STREET AND NUMBER) <b>NEW YORK CITY</b>	
6. (POST OFFICE) <b>N.Y.</b>		7. (STATE) <b>N.Y.</b>	
8. (BUSINESS NAME OF PRESENT EMPLOYER) <b>SOCOXY-VACUUM OIL CO. INC.</b>		9. (BUSINESS ADDRESS OF PRESENT EMPLOYER) <b>26 BROADWAY NEW YORK CITY N.Y.</b>	
10. (DATE AT LAST BIRTHDAY) <b>45</b>		11. (DATE OF BIRTH: (MONTH) (DAY) (YEAR) (SUBJECT TO LATER VERIFICATION)) <b>NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> 1891</b>	
12. (FATHER'S FULL NAME) <b>MIKE RUDY</b>		13. (MOTHER'S FULL MAIDEN NAME) <b>MARY SYAB</b>	
14. SEX: MALE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/> (CHECK (X) WHICH)		15. COLOR: WHITE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEGRO <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> (CHECK (X) WHICH) (SPECIFY)	
16. IF REGISTERED WITH THE U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, GIVE NUMBER OF REGISTRATION CARD			
17. IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY FILLED OUT A CARD LIKE THIS, STATE			
18. (DATE SIGNED) <b>NOVEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> 1936</b>		19. (EMPLOYER'S SIGNATURE, AS USUALLY WRITTEN) <b>John Rudy</b>	
20. (DATE) <b>1-1</b>			

### Attachment 1

Social Security Administration Application for John (Janos) Rudy



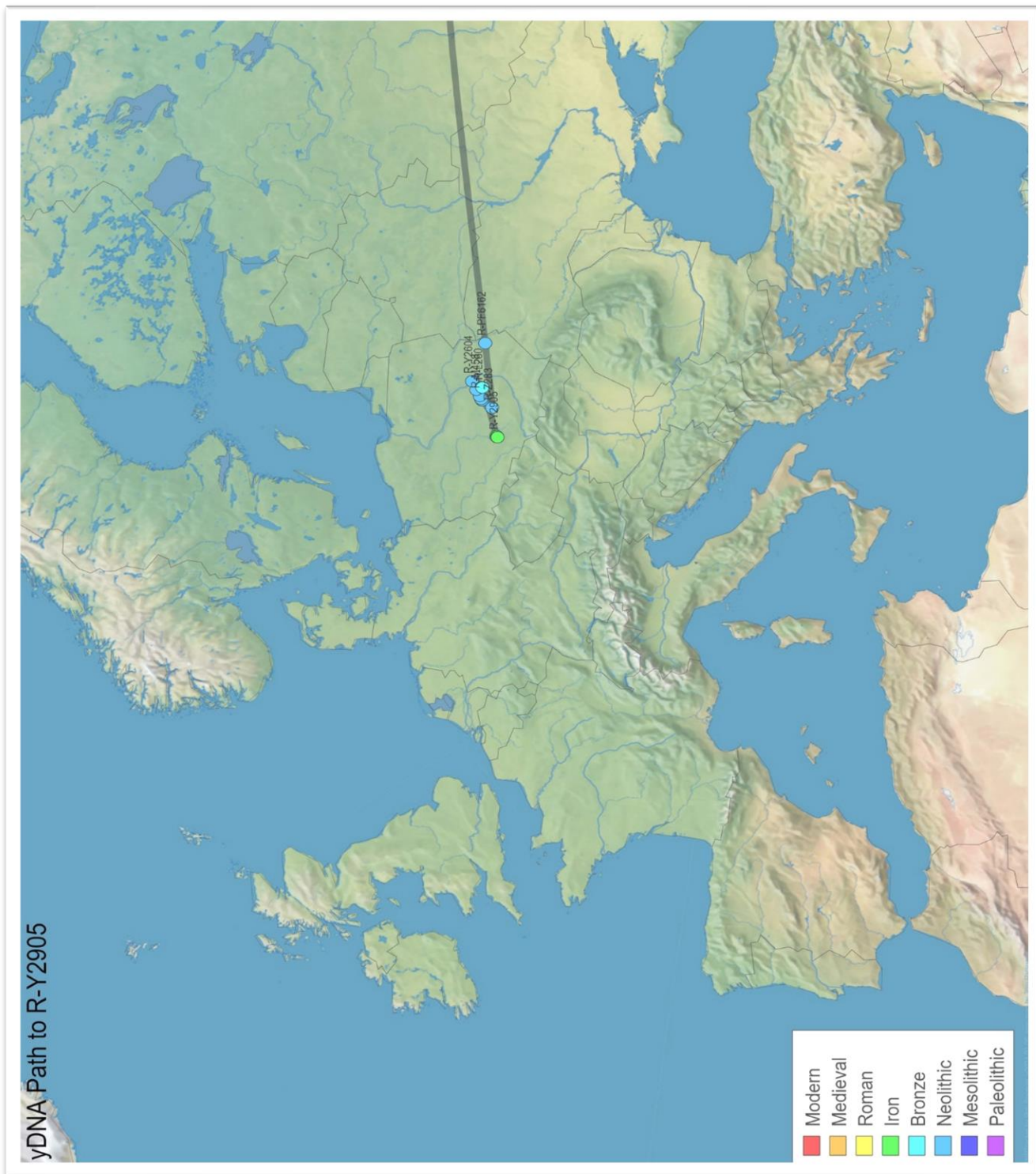
## Attachment 2

Rudy/Rudi Family Tree – Papin, Slovakia

(Note: Records exist further back to Michael Rudi born 1736 and Georges Rudi)







### Attachment 3B

Y DNA Migration Map Noting Path of Haplogroup R-Y2905 – Europe Zoom In  
(From SNP Tracker - <http://scaledinnovation.com>)

# Attachment 4

## Y-2905 Haplogroup Timescale

Steps	Haplogroup	Age Estimate	Archaeology Era	Time Passed	Immediate Descendants
1	<i>R-Y2905</i>	100 BCE	Imperial	<100 years	6
2	<i>R-FT5104</i>	150 BCE	Imperial	150 years	2
3	<i>R-YP254</i>	300 BCE	Imperial	<100 years	3
4	<i>R-YP256</i>	350 BCE	Metal Ages/Imperial	450 years	2
5	<i>R-L260</i>	800 BCE	Metal Ages	1,200 years	2
6	<i>R-Y2604</i>	2000 BCE	Metal Ages	150 years	2
7	<i>R-PF7521</i>	2150 BCE	Metal Ages	100 years	3
8	<i>R-M458</i>	2250 BCE	Metal Ages	300 years	2
9	<i>R-PF6155</i>	2550 BCE	Stone Age/Metal Ages	200 years	2
10	<i>R-Z282</i>	2750 BCE	Stone Age/Metal	100 years	4

Ages					
11	<i>R-Z283</i>	2850 BCE	Stone Age/Metal Ages	200 years	4
12	<i>R-PF6162</i>	3050 BCE	Stone Age/Metal Ages	350 years	2
13	<i>R-M417</i>	3400 BCE	Stone Age/Metal Ages	3,050 years	2
14	<i>R-M198</i>	6450 BCE	Stone Age	4,550 years	2
15	<i>R-M459</i>	11,000 BCE	Stone Age	4,000 years	2
16	<i>R-M420 (R1a)</i>	15,000 BCE	Stone Age	5,000 years	2
17	<i>R-M173 (R1)</i>	20,000 BCE	Stone Age	6,000 years	2
18	<i>R-M207</i>	26,000 BCE	Stone Age	4,000 years	2
19	<i>P-P226</i>	30,000 BCE	Stone Age	4,000 years	2
20	<i>P-P284</i>	34,000 BCE	Stone Age	<1,000 years	2
21	<i>P-M45</i>	34,000 BCE	Stone Age	8,000 years	2

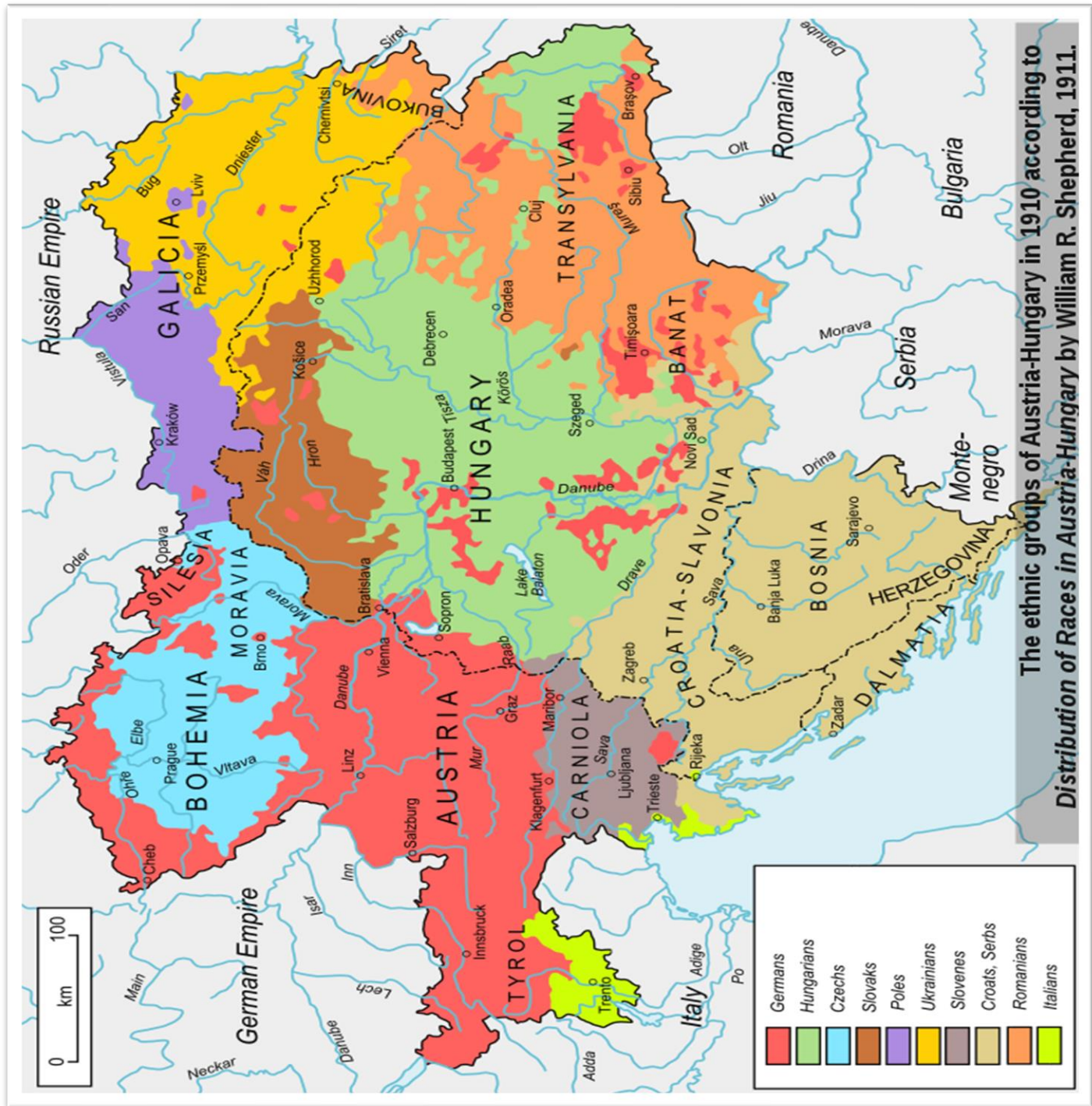


22	<i>P-P295</i>	42,000 BCE	Stone Age	<1,000 years	3
23	<i>P-PF5850</i>	42,000 BCE	Stone Age	<1,000 years	2
24	<i>K- YSC0000186 (K2b)</i>	42,000 BCE	Stone Age	1,000 years	2
25	<i>K-M526 (K2)</i>	43,000 BCE	Stone Age	<1,000 years	2
26	<i>K-M9</i>	43,000 BCE	Stone Age	1,000 years	2
27	<i>IJK-L15</i>	44,000 BCE	Stone Age	1,000 years	2
28	<i>HIJK-PF3494</i>	45,000 BCE	Stone Age	1,000 years	2
29	<i>GHIJK-F1329</i>	46,000 BCE	Stone Age	<1,000 years	2
30	<i>F-M89</i>	46,000 BCE	Stone Age	16,000 years	2
31	<i>CF-P143</i>	62,000 BCE	Stone Age	1,000 years	2
32	<i>CT-M168</i>	63,000 BCE	Stone Age	22,000 years	2
33	<i>BT-M42</i>	85,000 BCE	Stone Age	35,000 years	2
34	<i>A-V221 (A1b)</i>	120,000 BCE	Stone Age	5,000 years	2

35	<i>A-V168</i> (A1)	125,000 BCE	Stone Age	25,000 years	2
36	<i>A-L1090</i> (A0-T)	150,000 BCE	Stone Age	82,000 years	2
37	<i>A-PR2921</i> (Y-Adam)	232,000 BCE	Early Homo Sapiens/ Stone Age	136,000 years	2
38	<i>A000-T</i> (Neanderthal divergence)	368,000 BCE	Before Homo Sapiens/ Early Homo Sapiens	337,000 years	2
39	<i>A0000</i> (Denisovan divergence)	705,000 BCE	Before Homo Sapiens		2







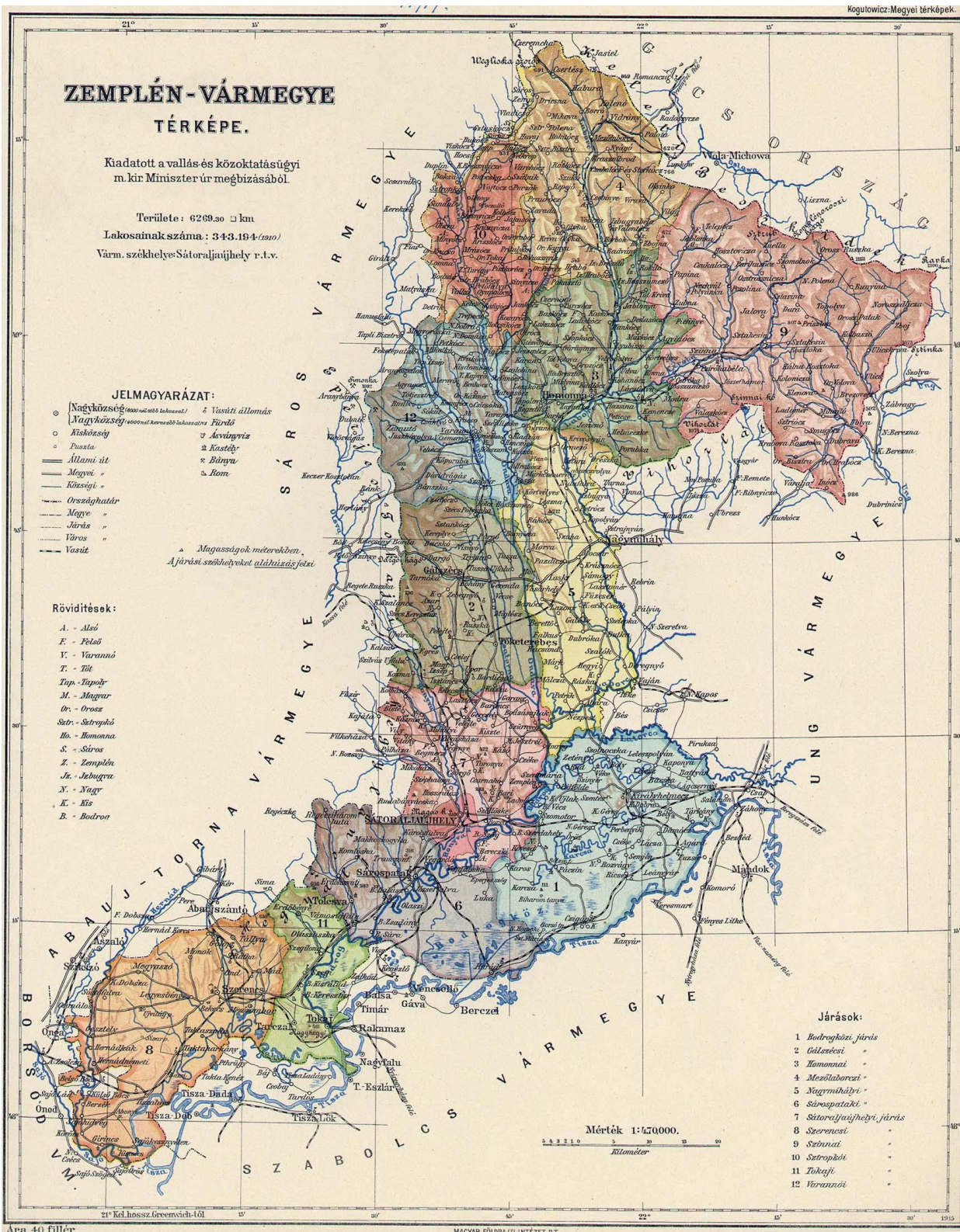
The ethnic groups of Austria-Hungary in 1910 according to  
Distribution of Races in Austria-Hungary by William R. Shepherd, 1911.

## Attachment 6

### The Ethnic Groups of Austria-Hungary in 1910

Based on "Distribution of Races in Austria-Hungary" from the Historical Atlas by William R. Shepherd, 1911, File:Austria\_hungary\_1911.jpg. The city names were changed to those in use since 1945. From Wikipedia, Republic of German Austria, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic\\_of\\_German-Austria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_German-Austria).





## Attachment 7

### Zemplen County Map of Austro-Hungarian (1910 Census)

(From: <https://web.archive.org/web/20041009200210/http://lazarus.elte.hu/hun/maps/1910/vmlista.htm>)