

## The Wendish names of villages of Lower Lusatia according to origin and importance

Wendish settlements can be grouped according to their origin and thus their names into three groups, i.e.

- A) Genealogical Basis (Kinship villages)
- B) Manors (Owners' villages)
- C) Extraction Areas (New settlements)

As far as origin is concerned, genealogical bases are the oldest and extraction areas the youngest settlements.

Characteristically, the names of genealogical bases end in –ojce (ancient Wendish = -owice, German = itz), the endings of the owned villages usually are –ow (German –au) as well as –in/-yn, -z, -c, -s and –ji (ancient Slav form, Wendish softening of the last consonant) and the names of the extraction areas often bear original names of land parcels and have thus numerous endings<sup>1</sup>.

Niemaschkleba, with the lower Wendish form Njamaskhleba, ancient Sorbian form Nemaschleba, literally meaning “you have / one has no bread”, Nickname for a poor village being “havenothingvillage” (transl. for “Habenichtsdorf”<sup>2</sup>)

Near Niemaschkleba runs a creek with the name “Hammernize”<sup>3</sup> (very similar to “havenothing...”)

### Names of the village

Niemaschkleba	or Polish Niemaszchleba
Lindhain	as of 1935
Chlebowo	as of 1945

Until 1945 county Guben, administrative district Frankfurt/Oder.

Other spellings: 1353 **Nymatschclebe**, 1387 **Nimaschklibe**<sup>4</sup>, 1393 **Nemisclebe**<sup>5</sup>, 1441 **Nemaschklebe**, after 1449 **Nemaschgleba** (also see Miscellaneous/Clerical/oldest city books of Guben, page 46), 1452 **Nymaszcleba**, 1499 **Nymaschclebe**<sup>6</sup>, **Niemaßkleba** (see Miscellaneous, No 1, page 46), 1575 **Nimischkleba** (documented in old Guben council calendars, page 47), 1603 **Nemaßkleba** (ditto), 1615 **Nemesklaba** (ditto), 1828 **Neymaschileba** (Niemaschkleba<sup>7</sup>)

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<sup>1</sup> Lower Lusatia Messages (NM), Volume XVII, first half, 1925, page 61

<sup>2</sup> ditto, page 67

<sup>3</sup> History of the City of Guben by Karl Gander, 1925, page 10

<sup>4</sup> New Lusatian Magazine, Volume 26 (1938), page 97

<sup>5</sup> The settlements along the middle Oder, doctoral thesis of Willy Baldow, Halle 1886

<sup>6</sup> Documents of Guben's City Archive, Source: NM Volume XVIII, 1927, page 1 et seq.

<sup>7</sup> Contribution to the understanding of the history of the German Reich by Karl Christian von Leutsch, Leipzig, Serig's Bookshop 1828

The Wendish name Niemaschkleba (original form = namaschkleb) can still be found twice in Lusatia, in the counties Guben and Sorau. The name consists of three distinct elements: 1) the preposition "na" meaning at/near, 2) the verb "masach" meaning to knead and 3) the noun "kleb" for breadloaf. Therefore, the essential characteristic of the village must have been a bakehouse, baking oven or bakery<sup>8</sup>.

### Geographic Position

Before the destruction by the Hussites in 1429, the geographic position was according to a map the city forest of Guben (source Gerda Türke, Heideschäferei) as well as according to oral tradition through her grandmother, southwest of Niemaschkleba at Plötzenberg, Jagen 182, the city forest of Guben.

After the destruction in 1429, the new geographic position of the reconstruction site was somewhat closer to the river Oder, longitude 14°52' E, latitude 52° 2' N.

### Description of the Village

Niemaschkleba was a so-called "**Angerdorf**" (= a village built around a village green).

An "Angerdorf" is a village planned and built around a place/a village green (formed like an eye) which is in the possession of the community. The farmsteads are encircling this place in the middle, usually a community pasture and a pond surrounded by central institutions such as the village church and the blacksmith (fire hazard!)<sup>9</sup>

The village of Niemaschkleba had no street names. In the 1815 list of ratepayers with their so-called "Torsaulen" (see there), there were 96 house numbers. Numbers 1 – 3 were missing, these were the church, the school building and the home of the pastor. These 96 houses were arranged around the Anger/village square. In the middle of the village square were the church, the village pond and the blacksmith. The houses belonged to the judge/feudal mayor (house no. 4), the legacy blacksmith Ludewig (house no. 40), the legacy tavern Dammaschke (house no. 95) and on the outskirts of the village, situated on the small milling river Mühlenfließ the legacy miller Dammaschke (house no. 18)

Further houses were built after 1815 alongside the streets going from the village center to either Guben or Lahmo. Those were small premises, Kossäthen or Häusler, bought by the farmers.

The new premises were numbered according to chronological order of construction. This can be verified in the land register.

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<sup>8</sup> German village names in the Mittelmark and Lower Lusatia by Prof. Al. Buttmann, Berlin 1856, Ferd. Dümmler's Publishing house

<sup>9</sup> Wikipedia

## Finance Department of the city of Guben, 1854<sup>10</sup>

**Niemaschkleba**, a pastoral village situated along/partially within the slope of the Oder valley, therefore high waters or the bursting of dams often led to flooding of the northern half of the gardens, stables and barns. The meadow landscape – fields and grassland - with its artificially built dams (about 1/3 of the Feldmark) and the small river, the Strieming, consisted mainly of silted clay soil. The hills compose of cold light sandy soil, veined by a few moory stripes – feeding to the east with the Hammer springs and the chilly fountains a tumbling mill near **Friedrichswalde** and to the west cold water wells splutter a grinding/cutting mill at the eastern end of the village. In 1853, the separation was still ongoing, therefore the size of the Feldmark not yet finalized. The village itself has a comber's outwork as well as a subsidiary outwork in the city forest called **Heideschäferei** and its nearby sheep farm Panike. The surface area of the comber's outwork together with Heideschäferei and **Panicke** add up to 1351 M. 27 O.-R., consisting of (564) 161 fields, (3) 153 gardens (144) 80 grasslands and (599) 166 huts.

In 1800 **Niemaschkleba** consisted of 92, whereas nowadays 116 hearths.

Belonging to the community of the village were:

- the "**Heidekrug**", home of the head forester of Guben's city forest, together with a tavern and 4 dwellings right in the middle of the forest, along the street from Guben to Krossen
- the "**Heideschäferei**", being the subsidiary outwork of Niemaschkleba with 2 hearths. This **Heideschäferei** can be called the new one as opposed to
- the "**Heideschäferei at Tiefensee**", which originally had been the main sheep farm of the comber's outwork of **Niemaschkleba**. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, this Heideschäferei had been replaced by a colony, with already 2 settlements in 1800. In 1816, already 9 new settlements existed, 3 of them further to the north at the Langensee. The colony is situated in Guben's city heath and thus being enclosed from the north, south and east. The western border, however, is the royal forest of the endowment Neuzelle, where also lies the office of one of the lower foresters of the city forest. The 11 colonists possess 14 M. 140 O.-R.

## Jurisdiction in the Finance Departments<sup>11</sup>

As early as the 12<sup>th</sup> century, noblemen disposed of a varying number of Kammerdörfer/ villages in which lived the farming population who were liable to interest. The farmers at that time had no intermediary between themselves and the nobleman – eg. in the form of a lower nobleman (Subvasall), therefore were directly subordinated to the nobleman and thus his jurisdiction. As far as the 3 grand dominions with office operations were concerned, the highest administration of jurisdiction was done through the noblemen's offices, whereas in the smaller dominions a lordly judge or in-house counsel was dispensing justice in all farmbound matters. Also, in most of the villages of all dominions, there was a village judge, who – together with the lay jurors formed the village court and constituted village jurisdiction and village constabulary.

The village judges, legacy judges or so-called Schulzen (a kind of village mayors) had to tend to the village court where all disputes and controversies were dealt with – often even down to the very wounds resulting from these fights. Difficult cases, which did not lie within their authority to decide, had to be brought to the lordly court. Cases within their decision-making

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<sup>10</sup> Territorial history of the Lower Lusatia by Rudolf Lehmann, page 525

<sup>11</sup> Lower Lusatia Messages, Volume 12, 1912-13, page 41

authority and which were handled by the village judges, such as releases and abandonments, testaments, estate distribution etc.

Further to that, the village judge was also the nobleman's administrative officer and supervised and ensured the payment of the taxes, fees and duties. Remuneration for their administrative doings were the fiefs they were living on plus 1/3 of the court income, having to submit the other 2/3s to the nobleman.

### **Head officials, community officials, court officials**

19 April 1880, County Paper of Guben

Expiring county mandates, elected in 1874 and still being in office; Niemaschkleba

\*Village mayor Wilhelm Gromm, farmer

\*Court official Christian Krüger, farmer

\*Court official Gotthilf Türke, farmer

2 July 1880, County Paper of Guben

List of the newly elected resp. reelected head & court officials; Niemaschkleba

\*Village mayor Wilhelm Gromm, farmer

5 August 1880 County Paper of Guben

Head official and deputy; Niemaschkleba

\*Head official Gustav Titze, head forester at Heidekrug

\*Deputy Däumichen, forester at Niemaschkleba

1914, addressbook of Guben

List of counties and farming districts belonging to the county district of Guben,

District 9 / Niemaschkleba

\*Head official Redlich, forest council at Heidekrug, Wallwitz

\* Community official Ernst Kunze, master carpenter

\*Judge and registrar same Ernst Kunze

1925, Heimatcalendar of the county district of Guben

\*Head official Redlich, forest council at Heidekrug

\*Deputy Budach, master baker at Niemaschkleba

\*Community official Emil Gromm, mill owner at Niemaschkleba

\*Judge Emil Budach, master baker at Niemaschkleba

\*Deputy Richard Beitsch, post officer at Niemaschkleba

1926 to 1928 without changes

1929 and 1930

\*Head and community official Emil Gromm, mill owner at Niemaschkleba

\*Deputy head official Budach, master baker at Niemaschkleba

\*Judges same as 1925

1931 and 1932

\*Community official Bernhard Noack, Niemaschkleba

## Inhabitants and statistics

**1664:** On 26 October 1664 all inhabitants were questioned after the sermon in order to find out the following:

30 persons who were German and not at all able to speak/understand Wendish

19 persons who were born Wendish, however learnt to speak German, although understanding better Wendish, were able to confess and pray in German

19 persons who were able to speak and understand little German, being both unable to confess or to pray "Our Father" in German

125 persons who were both unable to speak or understand German

*(also see the detailed quotation under "Church, Priest", 1664 Fielitz, Caspar)*

**1670**<sup>12</sup>: 53 subjects divided into 32 farmers (7 deserted houses), 14 gardeners (1 deserted houses), 3 Büdner (1 deserted houses) and 4 couples of house owners

**1825**<sup>13</sup>: In 1825 there were 89 economic enterprises: 34 farmers, 13 Kossäten, 42 Büdner

**1844**<sup>14</sup>: Survey of the governing district of Frankfurt/Oder after census of 1840:

**Niemaschkleba** was a village with 1 outlying estate and 1 water mill to the city of Guben, including 97 residential buildings and 751 dwellers

**Augustwalde** as a colony belonging to Niemaschkleba with 9 residential buildings and 6 dwellers

**Heidekrug**: head forestry and tavern of Niemaschkleba, 4 residential buildings, 26 dwellers

**Heideschäferei**: outlying estate of Niemaschkleba, 2 residential buildings, 10 dwellers

**Heideschäferei at the Tiefensee**: colony and forester's house of Niemaschkleba, 12 residential buildings, 59 dwellers

**Panicke**: sheep farm of Niemaschkleba, 1 residential building, 12 dwellers

**1900:** Community register of Germany concerning

**Niemaschkleba**: 892 inhabitants

**Estate of Niemaschkleba**: 4 inhabitants

**Heideschäferei**: 112 inhabitants

**1939:** [www.genealogienetz.de](http://www.genealogienetz.de): 1011 inhabitants

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In the Heimatort register of the Federal Archive Bayreuth (detailed description see People Search) an undated index card can be found showing the following results:

(Please note: This is the result of a statistical survey on the population census from 1939 until after the displacement. However, it cannot be stated when and which authority issued this statistic)

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<sup>12</sup> Cultivation of the city of Guben in 1670, Lower Lusatian Messages, Volume 20/21, 1931, pp 35, Karl Gander

<sup>13</sup> Unsigned court files, duplicate of Erich Müller, source: archive of Guben's city administration

<sup>14</sup> Topographic/statistical survey of the governing district Frankfurt/Oder after the census of 1840

## Pos. Community Lindenhain

1	I	Population level according to census	955	
2	II	Total number of the HOK recorded persons including recent settlers (newcomers/migrants) minus		1000
3		Losses in the armed forces until end of war	29	
4		other decedents before the displacement	35	
7		new settlers before the displacement	<u>16</u>	
			<u>80</u>	
8		Total number of recorded community members before displacement		920
9	III	Of the total number of recorded persons before displacement (Pos.8)		
	A	enlisted living		636
10		in the Federal Republic of Germany and Berlin/West	207	
11		in the Soviet occupied zone and Soviet controlled Berlin	427	
12		in the old Heimatkreis	-	
13		or in the old province resp. the old Heimatort	1	
14		or in all other resettled areas	-	
15		in free foreign countries	-	
18		imprisoned or in other foreign custody	<u>1</u>	
			<u>636</u>	
20	B	Deceased during and following the displacement, of which		29
21		violent death	1	
22		suicide	3	
23		deceased during kidnapping	4	
24		died in camps in the expulsion territories	1	
25		died while fleeing	4	
26		died because of the aftermaths of displacement	4	
27		cause of death unknown	<u>12</u>	
			<u>29</u>	
29	C	Other decedents, of which		180
30		in captivity as a prisoner of war	2	
31		after the general displacement	<u>178</u>	
			<u>180</u>	
33	D	Unresolved issues, of which		75
34		evidence of kidnapping	7	
35		evidence of internee	-	
36		evidence of missing	26	
37		evidence of death	-	
38		without any evidence	<u>42</u>	
			<u>75</u>	
40		Total number (Pos. 9, 20, 29, 33)		<u>920</u>