"Burgenländers" in the United States

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The reasons for immigration

- About 66.000 Burgenländers immigrated to the United States.
- They have been starting to leave their homes after the
 First World War because they had no opportunities in Austria.



The journey to the New World

- After the decision to leave was made they took the train to one of the great harbors of Northern Germany.
- They boarded a steamer to New york
- The passage across the Atlantic took about 11 days.
- They arrived at Ellis Island, the biggest immigration station of the United States.

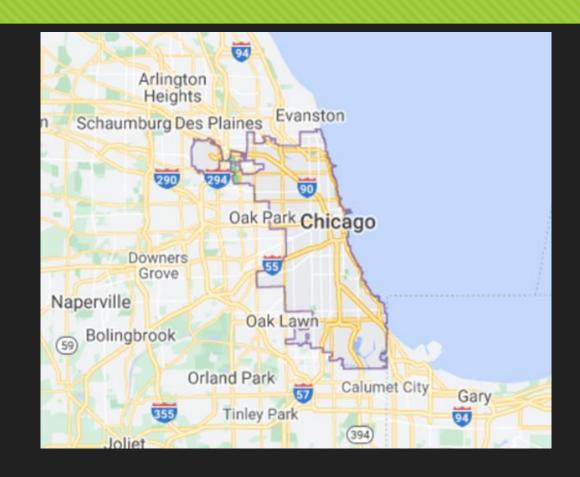




The destination

• Many Burgenländers spread across the area between Chicago and New York.

O Most of them settled down in Chicago.



Life in Chicago

Economic Life

- O Most men worked the jobs they had already been familiar with
- Women worked as charwomen, kitchen help, household help or stayed at home.





Life in Chicago

- The 30,000 Burgenländers who lived in Chicago settled together in communities so called "Little Burgenland in Chicago"
- O They build their own community life, complete with their own newspapers, traditional "Tanzlokale", taverns and churches.
- That helped them preserving their own ethnic identity.



Roots to their homeland

Many of the Burgenländers return to the Burgenland regularly to visit their relatives.



Die Auslandsburgenländer im Landtag Foto: Büro Landtagspräsidentin Dunst/Viktoria Waldhäusl

Thanks for watching