



LITTLE BURGENDLAND IN AMERICA

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How many Burgenländer immigrated to America?

- About 80.000 Burgenländer went to America
- Most of them between 1920 and 1938
- Some people left but came back years later to visit their families in Austria/Hungary.



The reasons

Most of the Burgenländer came to America because of the war or because they didn't get payed well.



About the journey

After the decision to go to America was made, Burgenländers had to travel a difficult and long journey.

Most of them first had to raise enough money.

Once they had enough money they had to buy the ticket.

They drove to Germany to board a steamer and started their journey to the New World.



Where they lived

- After their arrival the Burgenländer began to disperse between Chicago, Pennsylvania and New York City.
- Most of them chose Chicago making it the “biggest Burgenländer city”.
- More than 30.000 people from the Burgenland lived there





What they worked

- Since most of the immigrants were males they worked in the industry.
- Many of them also found a job as domestic servants or governesses.
- Even children already had to earn their money.

How they lived

- Since not all of them could speak English fluently, they first had troubles with communicating.
- Within the years they slowly learned English.
- In 1956 their association „The Burgenländische Gemeinschaft“ was founded. Its task is to cultivate the ties to the homeland of the Burgenländers.



Connections home

In the city Kittsee there is a district called “Chikago”.

It was named after a Kittseer who returned from America and was amazed by the rapid construction of buildings that next go as quickly as in Chicago – he found.

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

