

GOTTLOB

Local Council Office: Gottlob no. 275, telephone/fax 0256/383104;

Coordinates:

45°56'09" N lat.;

20°42'33" E long.;

Historical landmarks:

-1745-1748 - **Visescheda - Vizejdia** "pre-diu" (which is a disserted village land area) is leased by **Iosif Malenița**, three times mayor of Timișoara;

- the leaseholder colonizes catholic Bulgarian families;

- 1770 - the village **Gottlob** is founded by the counsellor Hildebrand, a village of 203 houses, inhabited by settlers from Alsace and Lorraine;

- legend says that the first colonists arrived during a downpour, which surprisingly stopped at their arrival in the center of the future village;

- the happy Swabian settlers raised their hands towards the sky and shouted: "**Gottlob!**", meaning "**May God be blessed!**";

-1786 - the village Vizejdia is donated to count **Nicolae Markovics** by the royal court from Vienna;

-XIXth century - Vizejdia is owned by countess of San Marco from Comloșu Mare;

-1880 - the village streets were illuminated by petroleum lamps;

-1895 - the Gottlob domain of countess of San Marco hides Roman coins and medals dating to the age of emperor **Antonius Pius**, bearing the effigy of the Rome's founders, Romulus and Remus, and the inscription "**Urbs Roma**";

-1912 - the streets of Gottlob have electric lighting;

-1924 - Vizejdia was called Gălățeni;

-1936 - Gottlob has a primary school, male choir, mixed choir, three brass bands, tile factory, mill, safekeeping house, agricultural union, sports club, firemen association, hero memorial, 626 houses and 1,969 inhabitants;

-1943 - 18 Romanian house owners are recorded;

-1949 - opening of the Community Center;



-2002 - Gottlob (and Vizejdia) has a population of 1,896;

-2004 the commune Gottlob is separated from Lovrin and gets independent status;

- 2007 - the study entitled "The Story of Gottlob - Another Type of Monograph" was published by author Corina Cranciova;

- 2009 - the first "Water melon festival", takes place, a fruit which brought nationwide fame to the village;

Total population on 1 January 2010: 2,288 persons, of which:

- male = 1,165 persons

- female = 1,123 persons

Total number of households on 1 January 2010: 863

Member villages: Gottlob and Vizejdia (1424, Visesgyan);

Educational institutions: Primary and elementary schools: Gottlob; Primary school: Vizejdia; Kindergartens with normal hours: Gottlob and Vizejdia;

Health facilities: Medical practice: Gottlob and Vizejdia; Dental practice: Gottlob;

Cultural institutions: Community Center: Vizejdia; Library (2005) and Mini-museum: Gottlob;

Fitness and sports facilities: Football field: Gottlob; Minifootball, handball and tennis ground; "Spartac" Football Team Gottlob;

Churches: Romanian orthodox church: Gottlob (1962); Roman-Catholic churches: Gottlob (1822) and Vizejdia (1893); Baptist churches: Gottlob (1946) and Vizejdia (2001); Pentecostal churches (prayer houses): Gottlob (2002) and Vizejdia (2008);

Annual Church Festival and other cultural and religious events: The village- celebration from Gottlob (on Pentecost); Gottlob Village Days (15-16 August);

Citizens of Honor: Constantin Ostaficiuc.

CITY HALL AND LOCAL COUNCIL OF GOTTLOB

Nastor Gheorghe	Mayor	Iancu Mihai, LC Member	DLP
Cerba Cristian	Vice Mayor	Jitiu Ioan, LC Member	SDP
Boroș Erwin Daniel, LC Member	DLP	Marila Emilia, LC Member	DLP
Brata Ioan, LC Member	DLP	Oana Ioan, LC Member	DLP
Crețu Beanin, LC Member	IND	Stîna Valentin, LC Member	SDP
Groza Brîncovean, LC Member	DLP	Usvad Florian, LC Member	DLP

GOTTLÖB

WORK AND KIRCHWEIH

The most important celebration of the Swabian communities from Banat is Kirchweih, the feast of the local Roman-Catholic church. The Swabians made thorough preparation for that event. **Corina Cranciova**, in **"The Story of Gottlob"** (**"Povestea Gottlobului"** - monograph published on the 235th year after the first attestation), pays a special attention to the history of the local German community. In this context, Mrs. Cranciova quotes **Georg Nenadov**, **"ethnic German from Gottlober parents"**, who relates: **"In Gottlob, the kirchweih is held each year, in the first Sunday after 1 November. At first, it was held on the first Sunday after October 6th but it was moved after 1 November because the "paori" (farmers) had a lot of work to do and we were working for them."**



The story of the kirchweih tree is also described: **"Each Kirchweih had its tree, prepared by a carpenter. The tree trunk is painted in white, red or blue, coloured ribbons are attached (a kerchief and a hat are tied to the tree top N/A) and is laid in the middle of the commune. It is transferred in front of the community center on Saturday night, when the girls give flower garnished and pastel ribboned hats to the boys. "**

According to the tradition, during the Saturday night ball, the boys must print raffle tickets for the kerchief and the hat on the tree top. On Sunday morning the tree is taken to the kirchweih organizer's home (the counterpart of the godfather of the Village celebration in Banat). The tree is auctioned and the buyer has the honour to open the Sunday night ball, with a polka or a waltz. The Swabians from Gottlob used to celebrate kirchweih from Friday evening until Tuesday. There was also a small kirchweih, taking place after a week, when the celebration was held only on Saturday and Sunday...

THE WATERMELON ON THE COAT OF ARMS

One of the main activities of the inhabitants of Gottlob was growing watermelons and melons, likewise the commune Belinț, which became famous for potatoes and cabbage. Due to the drought in summer 2007 the markets of Timișoara and Lugoj sold only imported fruits and vegetables. The only thing that broke the rule was the Gottlob watermelon. After years and years during which the markets of Banat had been invaded by watermelons grown in the south, in the sandy area of Dăbuleni, Olt county, the Gottlob watermelon (as well as the Periam-Pesac watermelon) defeated the competition. As a result, the farmers from Dăbuleni and Corabia were forced to redirect their products and exported hundreds of tones per season to Poland, Czech Republic or even Bulgaria. The residents from Gottlob adapted to the harsh climate of the past few years. So, since warm weather was not enough for the early ripening of the watermelons, the people from Gottlob took adequate measures and grewed the seedlings in the greenhouse. Considering that growing watermelons had such a big impact on the economic activity of the new commune the mayor of Gottlob, **Gheorghe Nastor**, suggested the local counsellors to include the fruit with sweet, red pulp on the village coat of arms.

