

Note on MKS's great-grandparents

## **David & Therese Kuffler**

and their family of 10 children.

**Identification in 2021 of their graves on the slopes of Beckov Castle.**

MKS made three trips to **Beckov Castle**, about 20km north of Piešťany, to try and find the grave of his grandmother Johanna Kuffler and her parents (whose names he did not know, nor did he know their birth or death dates). The first trip was in Spring 1997 with JPS and LAS, which proved unsuccessful. The second trip in spring 2005, with JPS and LAS and family, located the graves of David & Therese Kuffler, which MKS believed were his great-grandparents. These were found again on 23-4-2011 on the third trip with WPS and YIES. However, the grave of Johanna Kuffler (their daughter, MKS's grandmother) was not found, which meant there was no connection, and so no way of knowing for sure whether these graves were his great-grandparents. The pictures below are from the 2011 trip.

### **1. Beckov Castle and part of the area of Jewish graves on the castle slopes**





## 2. The graves of David and Therese Kuffler at Beckov Castle





### 3. Resting after locating the graves





#### 4. Detail of the grave of Therese Kuffler



Hier ruhet Frau Theresie Kuffler gestorben am 21 Jänner (=Austrian for January) 1901 in ihrem 81 lebensjahre. Friede ihrer Asche!

Here lies Frau Theresie Kuffler died 21st January 1901 in her 81st year of life. Peace on her ashes!



## 5. Detail of the grave of David Kuffler



Hier ruhet Herr David Kuffler gestorben am 3 Feber (=Austrian for February) 1880 in seinem 61 lebensjahre. Friede ihrer Asche.

Here lies Herr David Kuffler died 3rd February 1880 in his 61st year of life. Peace on his ashes.



6. The graves of David & Therese Kuffler at Beckov showing the other side of one of them





## 7. Making the Connection

In March 2021 WPS found entries on geni.com for David & Therese Kuffler and for David Kuffler's parents.

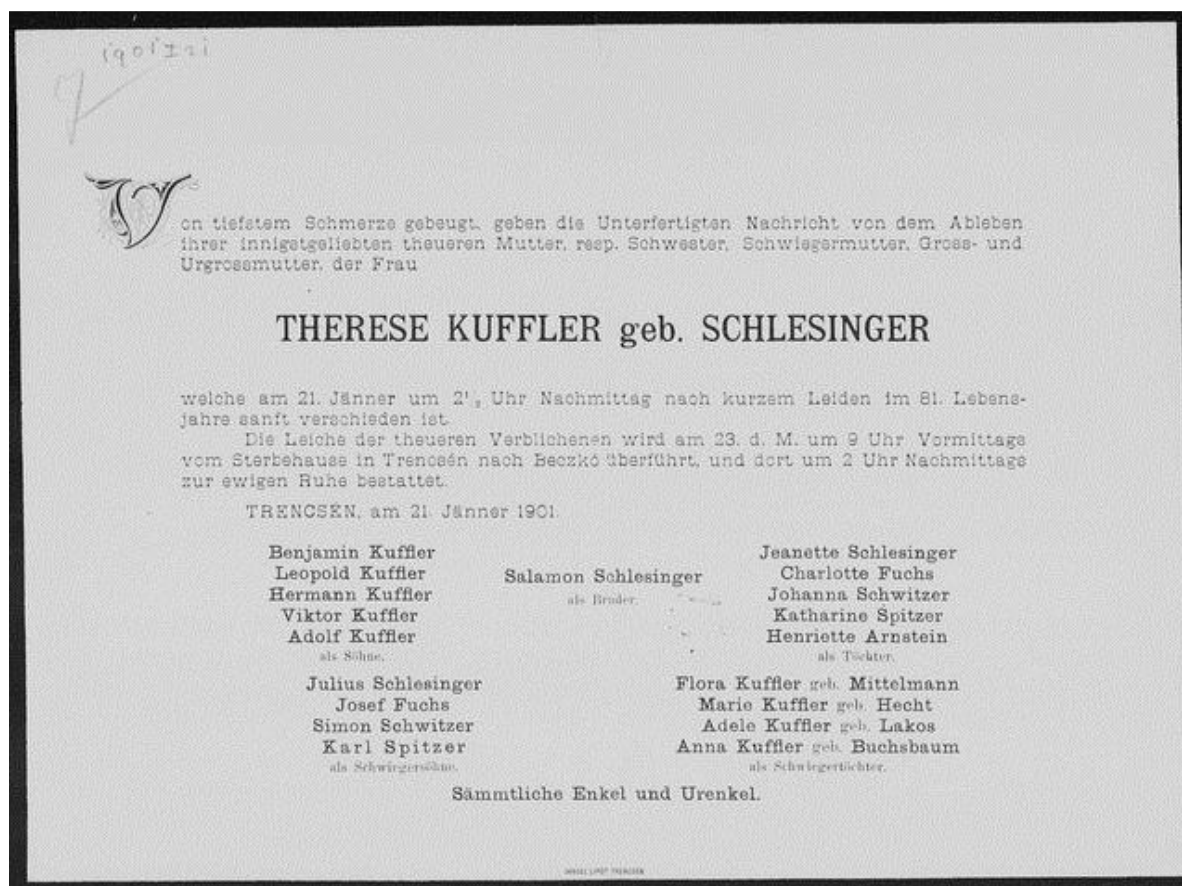
<https://www.geni.com/people/Therese-Roza-Schlesinger/6000000025348930230>

<https://www.geni.com/people/David-Kuffler/6000000025348859697>

<https://www.geni.com/people/Wilhelm-Wolf-Kuffler/6000000017698371576>

<https://www.geni.com/people/Franziska-Fani-Frumat-Kuffler-Katscher-Kacser/6000000017698108723>

**The entry for Therese includes the following death notice, which provides the crucial connection!** As can be seen, the date of death, 21-1-1901 matches the gravestone. Furthermore, MKS's grandparents are listed, making the connection unequivocal. This death notice provides a great deal of information, including the names of all 10 children and 8 of their spouses.



Translation follows.

Von tiefstem Schmerze gebeugt, geben die Unterfertigten nachricht von dem Ableben ihrer innigetgeliebten theuren Mutter, resp. Schwester, Schwiegermutter, Gross- und Urgossmutter, der Frau

Bent in deepest pain, the undersigned give news of the death of their dearly beloved mother, resp. sister, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother, the Frau

## THERESE KUFFLER née SCHLESINGER

welche am 21 Jänner um 2½ Uhr Nachmittag nach kurzem Leiden im 81 Lebensjahre sanft verschieden ist.

who on January 21st at 2.30 p.m. in the afternoon after a short suffering and at the age of 81 is gently different [peacefully passed away].

Die Leiche der theuren Verblichenen wird am 23 d. M. um 9 Uhr vormittage vom Sterbeause in Trencsen nach Beczko überführt, und dort um 2 Uhr Nachmittage zur ewigen Ruhe bestattet.

The body of the dear deceased will on 23 d. M. [day of the month?] at 9 o'clock in the morning be transferred from the house where she died [or from the mortuary?] in Trencsen to Beczko, and buried there at 2 o'clock in the afternoon to rest in eternal peace.

TRENCSEN, am 21 Jänner 1901.

TRENČIN, 21st January 1901.

Benjamin Kuffler  
Leopold Kuffler  
Hermann Kuffler  
Viktor Kuffler  
Adolf Kuffler  
als Söhne / as sons

Salamon Schlesinger  
als Bruder / as brother

Jeanette Schlesinger  
Charlotte Fuchs †  
Johanna Schwitzer \*  
Katharine Spitzer †  
Henrietta Arnstein †  
als Töchter / as daughters

Julius Schlesinger †  
Josef Fuchs  
Simon Schwitzer \*  
Karl Spitzer  
als Schwiegersöhne / as sons-in-law

Flora Kuffler née Mittelmann  
Marie Kuffler née Hecht  
Adele Kuffler née Lakos  
Anna Kuffler née Buchsbaum  
als Schwiegertöchter / as daughters-in-law

Sämmtliche Enkel und Urenkel / all grandchildren and great-grandchildren



## 8. Notes on the Death Notice & Observations

\* **Simon & Johanna Schwitzer** were MKS's paternal grandparents

‡ MKS remembered **Filip Schlesinger**, **Kati Spitzer**, **Jetti Arnstein**, and **Leona Fuchs**, and included them on his paternal family tree. Kati and Jetti are clearly nicknames. Filip and Leona are either nicknames, or mis-remembered by MKS (see more below on Filip).

**Therese / Theresie**. I'm unsure which is correct. It may be that these correspond to the form in different languages, or that one is a more informal usage, so that both are correct. As I am not fluent in any of the languages, I cannot tell what the different usages were. You would think the name on the tomb would be correct (and the more formal form), and that it was possible (less improbable!) for the death notice (more hurriedly produced) to have an error (or to be a slightly informal form). It would be a pretty big error to have the name of the deceased incorrect on their death notice! Therefore, I am inclined to take the view that both were correct. For the time being I have used **Therese** in my text.

**Jänner** is not regular German (which would be **Januar**), but was used in Austria and elsewhere. Similarly **Feber** is Austrian for February (**Februar** in regular German). See for example:

<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/J%C3%A4nner>

<https://hinative.com/en-US/questions/15101070>

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%96sterreichisches\\_Deutsch](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%96sterreichisches_Deutsch)

scroll down to heading "Monatsnamen: Jänner, Feber und Februar"

**Schlesinger**. Note Theresa Kuffler was born Schlesinger, which confirms note (4) on MKS's family tree that "Simon's wives were cousins". *If* they were *first* cousins, then Theresa Schlesinger was the aunt of Amalia Schlesinger. Note one Kuffler daughter (Jeanette) married a Schlesinger too! Complicated!

MKS shows (on his handwritten family tree) the Kuffler marriage to a **Filip Schlesinger**, and shows his brother as **Julius Schlesinger** (the name of the death notice above). It seems to me possible, therefore, that MKS remembered the brothers Julius and Filip incorrectly, and that their positions should be exchanged on his family tree.

William Schwitzer, March 2021