TRAIL SHEET · PDF · VOLUME 01

In the footsteps of Carl Stülpner

Places, historical traces and prompts for further research around Volume 01.

FROM THE BOOK INTO THE LANDSCAPE
Carl Stülpner's early world can still be read surprisingly well in the landscape. The castle hill, Gänsewinkel, Zschopau and neighbouring villages lie close together. This sheet is not a fixed walking route, but a historical trail.

1 · Stülpnergasse / Gänsewinkel, Scharfenstein

This is where the family's small property stood. Pietzonka describes the house in the Gänsewinkel directly beside the steep castle hill; behind it lay a piece of the family's own spruce forest, with the River Zschopau in front. The original birthplace no longer survives. A memorial stone in Stülpnergasse marks the site.

Look for: the narrow space between river, slope and castle. It explains more about Carl's immediate world than many abstract descriptions.

2 · Scharfenstein Castle

The castle literally stands above Carl's birthplace. Built around 1250, it served for centuries as a seat of lordship and administration. Today the castle museum presents the history of the castle and Karl Stülpner; historical weapons, clothing, documents and film material make the period tangible.

Look for: the view from the castle hill down to the village - and the reverse view from the Gänsewinkel up to the castle.

3 · Zschopau

Zschopau was an important reference point for the surrounding area. Pietzonka records Prussian quarters here as early as 4 September 1756. In the traditional hussar episode, Carl's mother is said to have been forced to guide a troop of Black Hussars towards Zschopau.

Look for: distance and terrain. The tradition becomes more tangible when the route is understood as landscape, not merely as place names.

4 · Großolbersdorf

Pietzonka records excesses by hussars in Großolbersdorf in 1761. This provides a regional connection with hussars before Carl's birth. The place therefore belongs to the historical setting of Volume 01, although it does not by itself prove the specific Stilpner episode.

5 · Schönbrunn

The pastor of Schönbrunn left a near-contemporary account of the burdens imposed by enemy troops. Pietzonka cites him in connection with Belling's black hussar corps shortly before the peace settlement of 1763. Schönbrunn is especially important for source criticism: here we encounter not only later Stülpner tradition, but a voice from the wartime period itself.

© Carl & Strups / intersaxonia gmbh · carlstuelpner.de · Nutzung gemäß Kennzeichnung dieses Dokuments. Private Nutzung: Download und Ausdruck für den eigenen Gebrauch; keine Veröffentlichung oder kommerzielle Weitergabe.

6 · The Ore Mountains as a trace

Not every historical trace is a monument. Forest, steep valleys, old settlement patterns, mining towns and the dense sequence of small villages are part of the story too. Anyone wanting to understand Carl's world should also ask: Where could crops be grown? Where did routes run? Where was the forest? What roles did river, mill and castle play?

Five questions for exploring on site

- How close are the birthplace site and the castle in reality?
- Which routes would have been plausible in 1762 without modern roads?
- Where can the narrowness of the Zschopau valley still be seen today?
- Which places tell the story of authority – and which tell the story of work and everyday life?
- What is documented at the site, and what was added only by later Stülpner storytelling?

BEFORE VISITING

Opening hours, access and paths may change. Please check current visitor information directly with the relevant sites. Historical locations may be on private property; respect signs and property boundaries.

Sources & evidence

Selection of evidence used for this sheet. Status: September 2026.

• Johannes Pietzonka: Karl Stülpner – Legende und Wirklichkeit, 2nd ed., Sachsenbuch 2006, especially the sections on origins/childhood and the wartime setting.

• ISGV Image Archive: “Gedenkstein an das Geburtshaus von Karl Stülpner”, Scharfenstein, photograph 1994; evidence for Stülpnergasse and the site of the former birthplace.

• Scharfenstein Castle: castle museum and Karl Stülpner exhibition; current presentation of the castle's history and the Stülpner exhibition.

• Friends of Scharfenstein Castle: castle history – construction around 1250 and later ownership/use.

© Carl & Strups / intersaxonia gmbh · carlstuelpner.de · Nutzung gemäß Kennzeichnung dieses Dokuments. Private Nutzung: Download und Ausdruck für den eigenen Gebrauch; keine Veröffentlichung oder kommerzielle Weitergabe.