

VON TRAPP FAMILY

Life in America: Family Rivalry

“We’d sell the business and the land,” he said. “It would become Marriott’s Trapp Family Lodge.”

Von Trapp said his nephew, George, was once his “right-hand man.” Now he is a leading member of the dissident camp. While he listened in on the court arguments Thursday, George von Trapp declined to comment on the dispute.

“It’s a family thing,” he said. “I’d just as soon stay where I am, in the background.”

The von Trapp family fled Austria in 1938, on the eve of World War II, eventually settling in the hills above Stowe and building an Austrian-style lodge. The lodge burned down in 1980 and was rebuilt as a 73-room hotel with separate cottages and time share units. The development also includes about 45 miles of mountaintop trails for walking and cross-country skiing.

About 150,000 people visit the lodge each year.

The New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/1998/02/22/us/factions-of-von-trapp-family-are-fighting-in-court-over-money.html>

Factions of Von Trapp Family Are Fighting in Court Over Money

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The von Trapps, a family known around the world, asked the Vermont Supreme Court this week to resolve a bitter financial dispute between two factions of the family.

In a hearing on Thursday, lawyers asked the justices to decide whether minority stockholders in the family corporation were paid enough money when they were bought out by another family group in 1995. The minority group argued that they were underpaid by nearly \$3 million, and a trial court upheld that view in a decision last May.

The family, whose flight from Austria and Nazism was immortalized in "The Sound of Music" on Broadway and in film, settled in Vermont more than 50 years ago. In 1962, the members founded the corporation Trapp Family Lodge, which owns a 93-room inn, a ski-