Georg Leibbrandt Collection

Vol. 4: The Municipal Reports of 1848

Of the German settlements on the

Black Sea

## Collection Georg Leibbrandt

Volume 4

Sources for the Study of the German in Eastern Europe

Published on behalf of

E. Meynen



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# The Municipal Reports of 1848 of the German Settlements on the Black Sea

Edited by

M. Wollner
With 1 map

Machine translated and Edited by

Timothy H. Flaming

Cypress, California

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Letters concerning the series should be addressed to:
Lecturer Dr. E. Meynen, Berlin C 2, Burgstrasse 28



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Tim note: The 9 questions (page X in Preface) are not listed but would seem to have asked for the following information; date of settlement, description of terrain, location of rivers and lakes, description of soil composition, depth to water in wells, distance to other villages and towns, amount of land allocated, adverse and beneficial events or circumstances related to community development and population statistics.

#### This page blank in the original

Translator's notes:

- 1.) I've chosen to use Arial 11 point for the text and Arial 10 point for the footnotes. This gives a little more room on the page than in the original.
- 2.) In some cases, to save page space in the original, the printer put 2 footnotes on the same line. With my formatting, this is unnecessary.
- 3.) The printer has added 3 types of marginal data. The first are numbers that seem to provide guidance for assembly of the printed books. The second are designed to document a reference to the Odessaer Zeitung. It is as though someone wanted the reader to be able to quickly identify references to cite OZ articles. The author switches from a fuller citation to a more abbreviated form. Later these citations appear in different places, e.g. as marginal notes in the middle of a paragraph. I'm deleting them unless they are an integral part of the title of the article. See pages 119-159 for examples of where I deleted. Page 117 has the No. cited twice. I deleted the left and retained the right. Pgs. 163 & 164 have examples of marginal No. citations that I have omitted.
- 4.) Where words are hyphenated over a page break, I am reuniting them.
- 5.) The author cites Klaus more than 110 times..
- 6.) There are 3 items on page 88 (as marked in the document) that appear to be significant (2 of the 3 would seem to indicate footnotes of some sort) but aren't explained on the page.
- 7.) I translated the entire book before I began to compare my work to those previously translated into English. These were translated as part of a project by GRHS. Various translators work on the different villages. The results show much more editing of the translated material than is favored by Glenn Penner. The format of translation varies. Sometimes there are no footnotes but footnoted information is included in the text, other times there are footnotes. The village list of the project includes many more villages than are included in Woltner's book. Interestingly, some of the villages in the book are not included in the Village Project. And, some of them are very poorly translated. Woltner lists about 89 villages and districts while the Village Project lists 58. There are 11 villages which are described in both. The number of truly Mennonite villages is 62.
- 8.) There are the Molotschna Colonist Area and the Molotschna Mennonite Colony which are 2 distinct areas and might be confusing for the uninitiated.
- 9.) Pagination is as in the original for the most part.
- 10.) The term "Kolonien" (and its derivatives) is used where we would use the terms "village" as well as "Colony".
- 11.) It is clear from the various reports, that each village received its allotment of land and was obligated to parcel it out into as many 65 dess. parcels as possible.
- 12.) In some cases, I have added my own footnotes to clarify the text of the original as well as to add information that I think might be useful to the current reading audience. Page XII contains examples. It may not be necessary to keep all my footnotes in the final document.
- 13.) I have highlighted some text where the translation of the text raises questions in my mind about whether I've translated correctly.
- 14.) I have put almost no effort into editing the Subject Index. To do so would raise many questions about how to translate individual entries, to re-alphabetize entries and whether the end product would really be useful to the reader. I have wrestled with the idea of omitting it versus actually translating it.

#### Preface

Since the publications of Georg Leibbrandt <sup>1</sup>) and I. A. Malinowsky <sup>2</sup>) the history of the so-called "48er Berichte" [1848 Reports] is known, but some details still need to be clarified. The primary reason for writing these reports was the circular letter of the State Councilor Eugen von Hahn <sup>3</sup>) [1807-1874] of January 8, 1848 <sup>4</sup>) to all the school authorities and school teachers of the German colonies under his control as the chairman of the Guardianship Committee (Fürsorgekomitees) in Odessa <sup>5</sup>). It contained the request to compile "brief historical overviews of the foundation and existence" ("Kurz gefaßte geschichtliche Übersichten der Gründung und des Bestehens") of the individual villages within four months.

E. von Hahn entrusted this task "to the Mayor's Offices (Schulzenämter) in cooperation with the school teachers, who will certainly not refuse their cooperation in this so charitable enterprise". There is no doubt that E. von Hahn was entitled to call upon the Mayor's Offices for the preparation of such reports. Since the creation of these self-governing bodies in the villages, they were subordinate to the chairman of the colonial authorities and required his confirmation <sup>6</sup>). It was also the practice of the Guardianship Committee to maintain direct relations with the territorial and school authorities. In this circular, however, E. von Hahn also addressed the school teachers, although they had a different position vis-à-vis the colonial authorities, and it seems questionable whether they belonged at all to the sphere of competence of the Guardianship Committee in the Black Sea region.

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<sup>1)</sup> Georg Leibbrandt; The German Colonies in Kherson and Bessarabia. Berichte der Gemeindeämter über Entstehung und Entwicklung der lutherischen Kolonien in der ersten Hälfte des 19. Jh. Stuttgart 1926.

<sup>2)</sup> I. A. Malinowsky: The German Catholic Colonies on the Black Sea. Reports of the municipal offices on the origin and development of these colonies in the first half of the 19th century. Stuttgart 1927.

<sup>3)</sup> Eugen von Hahn (1807-1874), of German origin but of Greek Orthodox faith, after having distinguished himself in the ministries of foreign affairs, appanages and domains, was appointed "oldest" member in 1841 and Chairman of the Guardianship Committee (Fürsorgekomitees) in 1845. Cf. about him Russkij Biograticeskij Slovar' (Russian Biographical Dictionary). Moscow 1914, s. v.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. the wording in G. Leibbrandt op. cit. p. 7-9 and in I. A. Malinowsky op. cit. p. 85-86. A printed original of this circular call can be found in the manuscript section of the Prussian State Library under "Mon. Germ. 2", 1242.

<sup>5)</sup> The circular call was probably forwarded by the regional offices to the individual village offices, which is proven by the date (January 19) mentioned in the accompanying letter of the Zürichtal Gebietsamt (cf. below p. 44).

<sup>6)</sup> Cf. Polnoe Sobranie Zakonov Rossijskroj Imperii (Complete Collection of Laws of the Russian Empire) - PSZ, I. series, Vol. 26, No. 19873 and below p. 2, note 1.

#### Preface

We know that in the Volga region the German schools had become church schools on the occasion of the introduction of compulsory education by the law of March 5, 1840, which transferred the supervision of the school system to the clergy and made the teaching staff subject to the clergy 1). Insofar as this law dealt with the implementation of compulsory education, it was extended to the Black Sea area by the School Rules issued on December 7, 1841 by the Guardianship Committee 2). It is noticeable, however, that the term "church school" is avoided in this version, and that all paragraphs dealing with the duties of the clergy towards the school system in the sense of the church law of 1832 3) are omitted. Since most of the German teachers were also sextons, the Protestant and Catholic clergy were very interested in a legal recognition of the church school system everywhere, and it seems that they tacitly tried to extend the regulation made for the Volga region to all German settlements in Russia, for which the church law of 1832 offered them a certain hand 4). The resulting unclear or unclarified legal position of the German school, especially of the school teacher in the Black Sea colonies, may have been the reason why E. von Hahn, who particularly desired the cooperation of the teachers in the "Kurzgefasste Übersichten" ("Concise Overviews"), also turned to the Protestant clergymen, who at least claimed to be the superiors of the German village school teachers. He first communicated his intention to the individual Protestant pastors 5). In addition, on January 20, 1848, he asked Karl [Friedrich Wilhelm] Fletnitzer 6) [1800-1872], the provost of the First South Russian Provincial District 7) and spiritual advisor on the Guardianship Committee, to issue instructions in this regard on his part as well 8).

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<sup>1)</sup> Cf. M. Woltner: Das Wolgadeutsche Bildungswesen und die russische Schulpolitik. Leipzig 1937. p. 158-160 (- Publications of the Slavic Institute at the Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universitäk Berlin, Vol. 17).

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. the school rules of 1841 in C. Keller: Die deutschen Kolonien in Südrussland.

Vol. I. Odessa 1905, pp. 105-107.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. the wording of the church law in II. PSZ, Vol. 7, No. 5870.

<sup>4)</sup> The church law of 1832 made it the duty of the Protestant clergy to diligently seek out the village schools (they are expressly called village schools here, not church schools) and to watch over the religious training and education of the youth. They are supported in this by the church elders, who also have to supervise the village teachers. Cf. II. PSZ, Vol. 7, No. 5870.

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. p. IX, note.

<sup>6)</sup> About Fletnitzer see below p. 33, note I.

<sup>7)</sup> Since 1834 (cf. II, PSZ, Vol. 9, I, No. 7311 and below p. 67 note 2) the First South Russian Provincial District included the parishes: Freudental, Grossliebental, Glückstal, Rohrbach, Arzis, Tarutino, Sarata and Odessa, to the Second: Grunau, Josesstal, Prischip, Hochstädt, Neusatz, Zürichtal, Kherson (city).

<sup>8)</sup> The letter is addressed "To the Provost of the I Provincial District of the Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Southern Russia K. Fletnitzer" and has the following wording: From the following circular issued by me to all schoolmasters' offices, concerning the compilation of a short historical overview of the colonies, Your Reverence will be pleased to see what goal I have in mind when I enlist the cooperation of the local schoolmasters for this work.

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Provost Fletnitzer reacted to this letter relatively late, only on March 10, 1848. In contrast to E. von Hahn's circular request, he speaks in the draft letter to his clergy <sup>1</sup>) exclusively of church school teachers who are subject to the clergy and must receive instructions from them. This is good evidence that the regulation first made for the Volga region regarding the church schools had already been adopted by the clergy of the Black Sea region in 1848 <sup>2</sup>) while the Guardianship Committee still took an indecisive position on this question.

Whether E. von Hahn addressed a letter similar to the one to Fletnitzer to E. Kyber <sup>3</sup>), the head of the Second South Russian Provincial District, remains uncertain for the time being. In any case, there are no indications that the "overviews" of this area were reviewed by the clergy, as was done on Fletnitzer's instructions in the First Provincial District <sup>4</sup>). Probably on the basis of the general letter addressed directly to the Lutheran clergy by the Guardianship Committee, E. Kyber delivered a report on the village of Zürichtal, dated February 7, 1848, which was published in the March issue of the "Unterhaltungsblatt" <sup>5&6</sup>).

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As more educated people, the school teachers will hopefully know how to clothe the required notes in those forms which are to be given to them for their successful completion and for the honor of the colonies.

I have already informed the Lutheran clergy that they request the cooperation of their colonial teachers for this worthwhile undertaking, and it only remains for me to address Your Reverence with the most humble request that you will give your favorable order in this regard.

Chairman Real State Councilor E v. Hahn. (The original is in the manuscript department of the Prussian State Library under Mon. Germ. 2°, 1242.)

1) Cf. ibid. Mon. Germ. 2°, 1242:

To the Reverend Pastor N.

After the Guardianship Committee for the Care of Foreign Settlers in South Russia (Fürsorge Comite der ausländischen Ansiedler im südlichen Rußland) had already decided in January of this year to address Your Worshipfulness directly, with regard to a short, historical overview of the origin etc. of each village to be written by the church school teachers of your parish and the corresponding circular request already issued by the Guardianship Committee to the school boards and church school teachers. I find myself compelled to ask Your Worshipfulness to keep a careful eye on the essays written by your church school teachers in response to this request, to want to edit them carefully beforehand, and at the same time to order each of your church school teachers to make a faithful copy of the report he has written about the village in which he is employed, and which has been approved by Your Worshipfulness. At the same time, I would like to order that each of your church school teachers submit a true copy of the records he has made about the village in which he is employed, and which have been approved by Your Worship, to you for submission to the provost's archives, and you will then have them sent to you together with a report from each village in your parish. Odessa the 10, March 1848. W. Fletnitzer.

The versions of the 48 reports submitted to the provost archives in response to this letter were published by G. Leibbrandt, loc. cit.

- 2) Cf. also N. A. Korf in Zurnal Ministerstva, Narodnogo Prosvescenija (Journal of the Ministry of Public Enlightenment) Vol. 135, Petersburg 1867, p. 168.
  - 3) Cf. below p. 41, note 3.
  - 4) Cf. Leibbrandt op. cit. p. 9-12.
  - 5) Cf. below, p. XI.
- 6) This report was already published in the Mitteilungen und Nachrichten für die evangelische Geistlichkeit Russlands Bd. 3, Dorpat 1841, pp. 291-294, without censorship (cf. below p. XVI).

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For which purposes E. von Hahn needed the "Kurzgefasste Übersichten" ("Concise Overviews") is difficult to determine. Statistical surveys and computational reports always played an important role in the administration of the German villages. The keeping of civil status registers was the duty of the clergy and the mayors. The pastors had to submit copies of the registers to the colonial authorities every six months, and the mayors had to submit them annually 1). In addition, the mayors had to report on the economic situation 2) on January 1, on the livestock 3) on May 1 and November 1, and on the tree plantations 4) on October 1. Special questionnaires were also sent out on the occasion of the so-called Revision Lists, the census of the taxable population 5). Indeed, at the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century, the Russian government had an interest in being informed about the settlement dates of individual families and the economic status in the colonies, in order to regulate the settlement of debts accordingly. At the beginning of the 19th century, it also seems to have been concerned with the places of origin of the German settlers, because they are listed in the available revision lists of the year 1811 6).

The survey of E. von Hahn, however, takes a special position among these surveys. Its aim is not to determine the respective economic status of the villages, but to get an overview of the development history of the German settlements. For this reason, nine very specific groups of questions are presented to be answered <sup>7</sup>). It is also explicitly asked to which particularly favorable conditions the community owes its well-being.

It is unlikely that E. von Hahn turned to the past of the German village out of scientific interest. If, as the circular request suggests, he himself had initially intended to write a history of the German colonies, he would have provided important material to the commissions that had

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. I. PSZ, Vol. 26, No. 19373 (May 16, 1801) item 6.

<sup>2)</sup> Such Mayors Reports (Schulzenberichte) for the year 1825 were published by Hans Rempel: Deutsche Bauernleistung am Schwarzen Meer. Leipzig 1940 - Georg Leibbrandt Collection, Vol. 3. Some of them were also published in the "Unterhaltungsblatt" (see below p. XIV).

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. I, PSZ, Vol. 26, No. 19873 (May 16, 1801) item 26.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. I, PSZ, Vol. 27, No. 20841 (July 7, 1803).

<sup>5)</sup> In Johannes Brendel: Aus deutschen Kolonien im Kutfchurgancr Gebiet. Historical and Folklore. Stuttgart 1930, p. 107-108, two such questionnaires are mentioned and one is published.

<sup>6)</sup> Cf. the revision list for the colonies Baden, Selz, Kandel, Alsace, Mannheim in Brendel loc. cit, Complete name references, probably from the same source, for the colonies of Landau, Sulz, Karlsruhe, Speier, Rastadt, Munich, can be found in E. Keller: Die Beresaner katholischen deutschen Kolonien zum hundertjährigen Jubiläum ihres Bestehens 1809/1810-1909/1910. In: Deutscher Volkskalender für Stadt und Land auf das Jahr 1910. Odessa 1909, pp. 103-109, and for Heidelberg, Kostheim, Waldorf in the essay of the same author: Zum Andenken an das hundertjährige Jubiläum der deutschen katholischen Kolonien Heidelberg, Kostheim, Leitershausen und Waldorf an der Molotschna. In: Deutscher Volkskalender für Stadt und Land auf das Jahr 1911. Odessa 1910, pp. 71-86.

<sup>7)</sup> Cf. Leibbrandt, op. cit., p. 8. Curiously, E. von Hahn, who had contributed much to the improvement of education, did not inquire about the state of church and school in the villages.

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been working on the solution of the peasant question in Russia, especially since the beginning of the 19th century. It should be remembered that A. Klaus, also a civil servant in the colonial administration, published his book <sup>1</sup>) in order to use his experience with the German settlers in the service of the Russian peasantry.

In any case, the "Übersichten" could have provided E. von Hahn, a particularly energetic official, with enough ideas to be able to work out the reform proposals for the reorganization of the colonial administration that had been expected from the government since the founding of the Guardianship Committee <sup>2</sup>).

And yet it seems to us that E. von Hahn had guite different plans in requesting these Overviews (Übersichten). In 1846, he had founded the "Unterhaltungsblatt für deutsche Ansiedler im südlichen Russland" (Entertainment Bulletin for German Settlers in Southern Russia) out of the desire "to make the colonists aware of their present condition and to familiarize them with the means they already possess or can acquire, to show them how they can improve their agriculture and trades and increase their prosperity with consideration of the local conditions, to arouse in them a thirst for knowledge and laudable competition; to provide them with pleasant and instructive entertainment" 3). The procurement of suitable reading material must have been particularly difficult under the circumstances of the time. It is therefore striking that the questions that E. von Hahn submitted to the authors of the requested "Übersichten" for answering are absolutely in line with the program of the "Unterhaltungsblatt". If one also considers that in 1847 E. von Hahn entrusted the publication of the "Unterhaltungsblatt" to the colonist Joh. H. Sonderegger 4), because a magazine that was exclusively dedicated to the German settlers could not have more capable employees than colonists themselves <sup>5</sup>), then it is quite probable that the Overviews were requested for publication in the "Unterhaltungsblatt". This assumption would also be supported by the fact that already at the beginning of 1848 descriptions of the Liebental village region <sup>6</sup>), the village Zürichtal <sup>7</sup>), Grossliebental <sup>8</sup>) and the above-mentioned essay of Provost Kyber were published probably for the inspiration and imitation of the colonists.

Be that as it may, before the "Kurzgefaßten Übersichten" were submitted to the Welfare Committee, E. von Hahn was appointed director of the First Department of the

<sup>1)</sup> A. Klaus Nasi kolonii. Opyty i materialy po istorii i statistike inostrannoj kolonizacii v Rossii (Our Colonies. Attempts and materials on the history and statistics of foreign colonization in Russia). Lief. 1. Petersburg 1869.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. I, PSZ, Vol. 35, No. 27312.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 2, 1847, p. 1.

<sup>4)</sup> On Sondedegger, see Deutsche Post aus dem Osten. Jg. 9, Berlin 1937, No. 7, pp. 15-17.

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 2, 1847, p. 1.

<sup>6) &</sup>quot;Ortliche Beschreibung des liebentaler Kolonienbezirks und einige Worte über die hiesigen Ansiedlungen." In: "Unterhaltungsblatt," Jg. 3, 1848, p. 1f.

<sup>7) &</sup>quot;Unterhaltungsblatt," Jg. 3, 1848, p. 9f.

<sup>8) &</sup>quot;Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 3, 1848, p. 10f. Unfortunately, this number of the "Unterhaltungsblatt" is not available to us, which is especially regrettable since we know that Joh. H. Sonderegger had taken over the writing of the "Kurzgefasste Übersicht" for Grossliebental himself, cf. Leibbrandt, loc. cit.

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Imperial Domains on May 16, 1848 ¹). However, Joh. H. Sonderegger remained editor of the "Unterhaltungsblatt". In the spirit of E. von Hahn, he continued to try to influence the economic life of the German settlers by instructing and encouraging them in cleverly selected articles. The notes on local history were particularly stimulating and supportive, since one of the aims was to prove that the German colonies had worked their way up from the poorest conditions to flourishing communities. It is therefore understandable that Sonderegger, in addition to accountability and situation reports, also sought to publish historical accounts. In 1849 he published a description of the Molotschna colonist area²) b). The author of this essay was the colonist Ernst Walther from Kostheim, who had also written the "Concise Overviews" of these settlements on behalf of the District Office of the Molotschna colonists ³). On the basis of rich material Walther sketched a vivid picture of the history of development of these villages. He also listed the settlement regulations even with references to the Colonial Code ⁴). A poem at the beginning and at the end of each description gave it a framework that appealed to the colonists.

Sonderegger did not turn to the publication of the "48er Berichte" itself until 1851. First appeared the "Kurzgefaßten Übersichten" of the village Neuburg, Gouv. Cherson <sup>5</sup>) with the note: "That this history completely agrees with the statement of the still living settlers, testify with signature Mayer, Schulz, F. Eberhard, school teacher, Reister, District Clerk" <sup>6</sup>). The version of the provost archives <sup>7</sup>) shows only a few insignificant, mostly stylistic deviations from this report and bears only the signature of the schoolteacher F. Eberhard, who "alone had completed the work without the Mayor's Office there and had handed it over to the high welfare authority in his own hand, namely already a month ago <sup>8</sup>), as Pastor Hübner, to whose parish Neuburg belonged, informed Provost Fletnitzer on May 17, 1848 <sup>9</sup>).

Also, the report of the village Hoffnungstal of July 1, 1848 No. 123, under signed by Mayor Friedrich Metzger like the mayors <sup>9</sup>) Mich. Fiechtner and Christ. Schaffert <sup>10</sup>), Sonderegger printed it in the closest accordance to the

1) A copy of the circular letter with which E. von Hahn took leave of the German colonists on June 10, 1848, is in the possession of Georg Leibbrandt.

- 2) Cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 4, 1849, pp. 40-48, 50-55, 57-63, 65-67.
- 3) Cf. "Jahrbuch des Landwirt" for the year 1913. Eugenfeld 1912, p. 126.
- 4) The Colonial Code, published in 1842, includes all special laws and decrees applicable to the colonists, cf. Svod zakanov Rossijskoj Imperii (Law Codex of the Russian Empire). Petersburg 1842, Vol. XII.
  - 5) Cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 6, 1851, p. 28ff.
  - 6) The report was thus duly signed by the Mayor as well.
  - 7) Cf. the text of this version in Leibbrandt loc. cit. p. 47-52.
  - 8) Cf. Leibbrandt loc. cit. p. 52.
  - 9) Mayors were probably called assessors in this village.
- 10) The version preserved in the village archives, on the other hand, is signed by the "mayors: Schlichtenmayer, Zweigardt", cf. Leibbrandt I. c., p. 119.
  - a) There are 2 number 8 footnote markers in the original. I have changed the second to 9. THF
- b.) The Molotschna Colonist Area is distinct and separate from the Molotschna Mennonite Region. THF

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Guardianship Committee's received original <sup>1</sup>). The additions in the version of the provost archives probably go back to a clergyman.

Finally, in the same volume of the "Unterhaltungsblatt", a summary of the Chortitza area followed <sup>2</sup>), which we reproduce in this volume <sup>3</sup>).

In 1852 Sonderegger published the "Kurzgefaßten Übersichten" of the colonies Bergtal, Schönfeld, Schöntal and Heuboden <sup>4</sup>). Here he had himself "presented the overview given by each village office individually ... in context and reproduced these documents below as verbatim as possible" <sup>5</sup>).

A summarizing revision of the Mayors Reports of the villages of Sarata, Gnadental and Lichtental was published by the teacher of the Werner school in Sarata, Karl Baisch <sup>6</sup>).

"In 1853 the description of the Mariupol colonist district was published <sup>7</sup>), which was followed in the same year by a concise "Overview of the foundation and existence of the German villages of the districts Malojaroslawetz and Kljastitz" in Bessarabia <sup>8</sup>). It is particularly difficult to judge the original textual form of the so-called "48 Berichte" on which this summary is based. On the one hand, it is obvious that Sonderegger shortened them considerably, he devoted only three lines to the village of Paris, on the other hand, the reports of the villages of Klöstitz, Berezina, Borodino, and Hoffnungstal were published in a version "largely unedited" by Pastor Rique "because of their unsuitability ... largely reworked" version to the Provost's Archives <sup>9</sup>).

Sonderegger, however, also endeavored to have reports appear in the "Unterhaltungsblatt" from villages that did not belong to the area of responsibility of the Guardianship Committee. He included, for example, the villageof Kamenka on the Volga <sup>10</sup>) and the villages in the governorates of Saratov and Samara <sup>11</sup>). In a footnote, he also asked the German settlements in Tschernigow Governorate to provide more detailed "information about their immigration

1) Cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Vol. 6, 1851, p. 49sf.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Vol. 6, 1851, pp. 57-60, 66-70, 73-77.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. below pp. XV and pp. 1-26.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Vol. 7, 1852, p. 9-11.

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Vol. 7, 1852, pp. 10-11 and below pp. 191 f., 193 f.

<sup>6)</sup> Cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Vol. 7, 1852, pp. 57-60, 65-70. Printed under the title: Brief historical overview of the founding and existence of the villages of the Sarata district (Kurzgefasste geschichtliche Übersicht der Gründung und des Bestehens der Colonien des Sarataer Bezirks) also in: Magazine for the knowledge of the spiritual and moral life in Russia (Magazin für die Kunde des geistigen und sittlichen Lebens in Russland). Scientific communications from the supplements of the St. Petersburger Zeitung Edited by Dr. Clemens Friedrich Meyer. Petersburg 1854, pp. 101-116.

<sup>7)</sup> Cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Vol. 8, 1853, pp. 1-5 and the reports of the individual mayoral offices below, pp. 166-194.

<sup>8)</sup> Cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Vol. 8, 1853, pp. 73-77.

<sup>9)</sup> See Leibbrandt a. a. O., p. 10 and the text of the versions of the provost archive, ibid. pp. 133-196.

<sup>10)</sup> Cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Vol. 7, 1852, p. 29ff.

<sup>11)</sup> Cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Vol. 7, 1852, pp. 81-88, 90-92.

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and current conditions" <sup>1</sup>). Nevertheless, the publication of historical material in the "Unterhaltungsblatt" ceased in 1854; the descriptions of the formation and development have since been replaced by, Brief Overviews of the Agricultural Condition ("Kurze Übersichten des land wirtschaftlichen Zustande) of the various colony districts.

The "48er Berichte", only a small part of which appeared in the "Unterhaltungsblatt", represent a real treasure trove for our knowledge of Black Sea Germania during the first half of the 19th century. Parts of them were often used in local historical literature according to the transcripts found in the village archives. They entered the scientific literature through the books of Busch <sup>2</sup>) and Pingoud <sup>3</sup>), which were the result of inquiries to the pastors, without having the possibility to verify the reliability of the information on the basis of sources. The existence of the 48 Reports themselves seemed to be forgotten in the scientific literature, although they were mentioned in some books such as the one by Epp on Chortitza <sup>4</sup>).

The merit of having rediscovered the 48er Reports at the beginning of the 20th century in the former archives of the Guardianship Committee and of having used the material from them (though without references) in his works on the Catholic villages <sup>5</sup>) belongs to C. Keller. It was through this tireless researcher that J. Stach also received knowledge of these reports, and it was he who first published many of them in the newspapers and magazines of the Black Sea area.

While C. Keller and J. Stach knew only the material located in the former archives of the Guardianship Committee, Georg Leibbrandt introduced 42 "Übersichten" to research according to the transcripts submitted to the Provost's Archives and partly changed by the clergy. A valuable addition to this were the 16 reports published by Malinowsky <sup>6</sup>), about whose places of origin we unfortunately know nothing.

In the present volume, eight previously unknown "Kuzgefaßte Übersichten" (Friedental, Heilbrunn, Herzenberg, Kronsgarten, Neudanzig, Neusatz, Sudak, Zürichtal) are presented to the public for the first time, together with some informative accompanying letters from the regional and school authorities to the public. A further 106 reports are printed here from older newspapers and magazines that are hardly accessible today. This brings the number of "Übersichten" known so far to 172: if one takes into account that in 1848, 202 German villages were under the administration of the Guardianship Committee

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 8, 1853, p. 3, footnote.

<sup>2)</sup> E. H. Busch: Materialien zur Geschichte und Statistik des Kirchen- und Schulwesens der evangelisch-lutherischen Gemeinde in Russland. Petersburg 1862, and Supplements to the Materials on the History and Statistics of the Evangelical Lutheran Congregations in Russia. Leipzig 1867.

<sup>3)</sup> The Evangelical Lutheran Congregations in Russia. Edited by the Central Committee of the Support Fund for Evangelical Congregations in Russia. Vol. I. Petersburg 1909.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. below p. 1, note 1.

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. p. X, note and p. XV, note.

<sup>6)</sup> Malinowsky op. cit. published reports from 17 villages. We doubt, however, that the report of the Krasna village is reproduced verbatim.

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were founded <sup>1</sup>), Eugenfeld <sup>a</sup>) only in 1846 <sup>2</sup>), Hochheim in 1847 <sup>3</sup>), Hierschau <sup>4</sup>) and Neu-Jamburg <sup>5</sup>) in 1848 and therefore could not provide any reports, the number of "Übersichten" unknown for the time being is 26. The reports of the Catholic villages of the Liebentaler, Kutschurganer and Berezaner areas, which C. Keller used in his works but did not publish in their original wording <sup>6</sup>), are missing. Furthermore, the reports of the German villages on the Berda (Neuhoffnung, Rosenfeld, Neuhoffnungstal, Neu-Stuttgart) and those of the villages Huttertal and Jamburg, which did not belong to any district office, are missing. Whether the Stuttgart village was under the administration of the Guardianship Committee is questionable <sup>7</sup>). (Chabeau = Schabo is missing in Leibbrandt loc. cit. and about Neudorf see below p. 83).

The report of the Chortitza District Office <sup>8</sup>) printed here from the "Unterhaltungsblatt" exceeds by far all other "Kurzgefaßten Übersichten" in structure, content and exact answering of the questions posed by E. von Hahn. Whether on its own initiative or, as we think, by order of the Guardianship Committee, cannot be determined for the time being. The Chortitza District Office had sent a summary account of the foundation and development of this group of settlements to the colonial authorities on July 21, 1848 <sup>9</sup>). It is probable that the colonies of this district also provided "Kurzgefaßten Übersichten". Their existence is also confirmed by the report of the Kronsgarten village of May 6, 1848, published here for the first time <sup>10</sup>). Although the history of the Mennonites in Russia has been relatively well worked out, a number of important questions from the administrative history of these settlements have escaped research so far, which still await a final solution.

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The Kutschurgan colonies were treated by C. Keller in: Deutsche Erde. Zeitschrift für Deutsch kunde. Beiträge zur Kenntnis des deutschen Volkstums allerorten und allerzeiten. Vol. 7, Gotha 1908, p. 213 ff.

Cf. also C. Keller: Die Berechner katholischen deutschen Kolonien zum hundertjährigen Jubiläum ihres Bestehens 1809/10-1909/10. In: Deutscher Volkskalender für Stadt und Land auf das Jahr 1910. Odessa 1909, pp. 103-129; Ders, Die deutschen Kolonien in Südrussland. Vol. 2. Odessa 1914, in which population censuses for the colonies of Rastadt and Munich from the year 1811 and for Landau, Speier, Sulz, Karlsruhe from the years 1839 and 1840 are given.

<sup>1)</sup> The total number of German colonies in the Black Sea region was already larger at that time, but the settlements established on self-bought land occupied a special position.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. Klaus loc. cit., Supplement 2, p. 40.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. Klaus loc. cit., Supplement 2, p. 40.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. Klaus loc. cit., Supplement 2, p. 37.

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. Klaus loc. cit., supplement 2, p. 33.

<sup>6)</sup> On the Liebental district, see C. Keller: Die deutschen Kolonien in Südrussland. Important are, among other things, the lists of the first settlers, which Keller printed without giving sources (see Kleinliebental, pp. 160-162, Josefstal, pp. 215-217, Mariental pp. 242 to 245, Franzfeld pp. 255-256).

<sup>7)</sup> Cf. note 1 above.

<sup>8)</sup> Cf. below p. 1-26.

<sup>9)</sup> Cf. below p. 26.

<sup>10)</sup> Cf. below pp. 27-28.

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For the Neusatz colonial district, the reports of Neusatz and Friedental can be presented in this volume according from the copies in the Leibbrandt collection <sup>1</sup>). From the same collection comes the report of the village Kronental <sup>2</sup>), which shows some deviations compared to the text published by Malinowsky <sup>3</sup>). Thus, including the report of the Rosental village <sup>4</sup>), the Neusatz colonial district would be completely represented. Characteristic for all the German settlements of the Crimea is the lively interest in the school system that is evident in these reports, although this very question was not asked in the circular request.

The "Übersichten" from the Zürichtal colonial district are preceded by the above-mentioned essay by Provost E. Kyber from the "Unterhaltungsblatt" and in the notes those deviations from the manuscript originally submitted but already published in Dorpat, which J. Stach found in the former archives of the Guardianship Committee, are noted. It follows that Sonderegger, when publishing this contribution, took care to change or delete all passages in the manuscript that contained criticism of the colonial administration. At the time of printing, the sentences that the colonists initially had "inspectors who were casual, self-serving or who did not properly understand their situation" were deleted, and that the taxes increased annually.

With reference to the "Unterhaltungsblatt", the Zürichtal District Office provided the desired "Übersichten", which adhered more closely to the questions raised by E. von Hahn than could be the case with Provost Kyber. The printed accompanying letters give information about the fact that all reports of the local district were forwarded to the Guardianship Committee via the district office, i.e. in compliance with the prescribed official channels. They also tell us that there was no one in Herzenberg who was qualified to write an "Übersichten". It had to be written by the district office <sup>5</sup>). While for the areas mentioned so far all "Übersichten" are known, for the Molotschna Colonist Area <sup>6</sup>) one could miss the reports of the colonies Eugenfeld <sup>7</sup>) and Hochheim <sup>8</sup>). However, these two villages were founded shortly before 1848, and it can be assumed that they did not submit any "Übersichten" to the colonial authorities for this reason. How far J. Stach copied the reports of the Molotschna colonists verbatim and published them in the "Jahrbuch des Landwirt" <sup>9</sup>) is difficult to determine. In general, Stach used to make stylistic changes and improve the grammar of his texts, as they were supposed to be suitable reading material for the German settlers in Russia. However, since Ernst Walther from Kostheim <sup>10</sup>) is named as the author of these "Übersichten"

1) Cf. below pp. 29-37.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. below pp. 37-41.

<sup>2)</sup> Ci. below pp. 37-41.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. Malinowsky op. cit. p. 26-29.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. Malinowsky op. cit. p. 29-32.

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. below, p. 51.

<sup>6)</sup> The reports of the Catholic villages Kostheim, Leitershausen, Heidelberg, Blumental, Waldorf published Malinowsky loc. cit. p. 21-25.

<sup>7) 1857: 40</sup> farmsteads <sup>a</sup>) (154 men) on 2,400 Dess. and 3 landless families (50 men) cf. Klaus I. c., Supplement 2, p. 40.

<sup>8) 1857: 38</sup> farmstead (193 men) on 2,310 Dess. Cf. Klaus loc. cit., supplement 2, p. 40.

<sup>9)</sup> Cf. below pp. 56-87.

<sup>10)</sup> Cf. below p. 56, note I.

a) I have consistently translated the word "Wirtschaften" as "farmstead" rather than "farm".. Easy to find and replace if necessary. THF

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they were probably written in a fairly good literary style. Walther also based all reports on the same structure, avoiding repetition wherever possible and always providing statistical data at the end of the reports, relating both to the population level of the settlements in 1848 and to the population growth since their founding. Special attention is paid to the craftsmen. It is also noticeable that not a single one of these Overviews bears the name of the author or is dated. Of course, the author's name and date may have been omitted by J. Stach, as he sometimes did in the other reports. We assume, however, that Walther, in contrast to Heese <sup>1</sup>), did not receive "Übersichten" from the communities, but wrote them on the basis of the material he had collected himself, obtained the signatures of the mayors and assistant mayors, and then handed over all the reports, complete with a date, to the Guardianship Committee.

In 1848, the Molotschna Mennonite Region, excluding the Hierschau village founded in that year, comprised 44 colonies, whose "Übersichten" were published on May 15, 1848, were sent by the district office to the Guardianship Committee. 43 of these reports <sup>2</sup>) were printed by J. Stach in the Odessaer Zeitung. For incomprehensible reasons, Ohrloff's report was missing, which we, too, can only present according to the strongly abbreviated text published in Moscow in 1925 <sup>3</sup>). All "Übersichten" of this area are duly signed by the mayor and two assistant mayors; with the exception of Wernersdorf and Gnadenfeld they also bear the signatures of the teachers, from which it may be concluded that they were the authors of the reports <sup>4</sup>).

J. Stach published the "Übersichten" of the Swedish area in a most unsatisfactory way <sup>5</sup>). Not only stylistic changes, but also the omission of important details can be proven by the example of the village Klosterdorf <sup>6</sup>). An exact reprint of these reports would be particularly desirable, because they would at the same time illustrate the educational level of the teachers who wrote these descriptions.

With the exception of the report of the Neuhof village, the "Übersichten" from the Mariupol area are published partly here <sup>7</sup>), partly by Malinowsky <sup>8</sup>), even if only from copies, which are not very satisfactory. Thus, one may assume numerous abridgements on the basis of the repeatedly inserted derogatory sentences. Stylistic changes also seem to be present in larger numbers.

Finally, the "Übersichten" of the colonies Alt Danzig, Josefstal, Rybalsk and Neudanzig, which do not belong to any district office, could be published in this volume from the "Jahrbuch des .Landwirt" <sup>9</sup>).

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. below p. 1 and above p. XV. [Heese's (nor Stach's) name does not appear on page XV.]

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. below pp. 88-160.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. below p. 161-163. We would also like to thank Prof. Unruh, Karlsruhe for providing this report.

<sup>4)</sup> The signatures of Ohrloff's report were probably omitted during printing.

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. below pp. 163-166.

<sup>6)</sup> Cf. Malinowsky loc. cit., pp. 32-33 and below p. 163-164.

<sup>7)</sup> Cf. below pp. 166-194.

<sup>8)</sup> Cf. Kaiserdorf, Gotland, Eichwald, Tiegenort, Tiergart, Kleinwerder, Grosswerder, Bergtal in Malinowsky op. cit. p. 8-17. Due to some remarks, the report of the Bergtal village was also repeated here.

<sup>9)</sup> Cf. below p. 194-202.

XVIII Preface

The contents of the "48er Berichte" published here are extraordinarily varied.

In general, they adhere to the questions raised by Eugen von Hahn; however, they dwell appropriately thankful for the economic measures of the Russian government, and frequently enough bear witness to the prudent care of the welfare authority, which rightly bore its name in its behavior toward the German colonies. Even if the paternalism of this authority sometimes seemed annoying to the Germans, it contributed considerably to the fact that the German farms became model farms in the Black Sea area in accordance with the original plan of the government. Leaders as well have therefore equally shared in the economic achievements of these settlements. As a special merit of the men leading the German settlement it should be emphasized that they always encouraged the German colonists in the preservation of the German customs and wanted to keep them pure 1). Assimilation inclinations were alien to the Germans. Haxthausen could therefore rightly write in 1847: "We suddenly felt transported to West Prussia in the Vistula lowlands, so homelike in that everything around us was German! Not only the people, their character, their language, their costumes, the dwellings and their furnishings, every dish and vessel, even the domestic animals, the spitz and poodle, cow and goat were German. The colonists even knew how to give nature itself, namely the entire region had a German appearance. The painter who painted local landscapes could easily pass them off as German! One can see the German division and cultivation of the fields, the meadows and fields are fenced in with German fences. The layout of the villages and all the individual homesteads, the gardens, their arrangement, the plants, the vegetables, above all the potatoes, everything is German! This was not at all the case with the German Volga colony, there only the people remained German in their language, costumes and customs, everything around them had a much more Russian character, only with the admixture of German comforts 2). This judgment, first made for the Chortitza region, was then valid for all German colonies of the Black Sea area.

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<sup>1)</sup> On May 16, 1801, for example, it was ordered that the same arrangement be observed in the stone houses of the German colonists as in their homeland, cf. I. PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19873.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. A. von Haxthausen: Studies on the internal conditions, the life of the people and especially the rural institutions of Russia, Studien über die innern Zustände, das Volksleben und insbesonders die ländlichen Einrichtungen Russlands (Studies on the internal conditions, the life of the people and especially the rural institutions of Russia). Hannover 1847, Vol. 2, p. 171-172.

#### I. The Chortitza Mennonite District 1)

I. Brief historical overview of the founding and existence of the villages of the Chortitza Mennonite district.

A summary written by Heinrich Heese <sup>2</sup>) in 1848 on behalf of the Chortitza District. Reprinted from: Unterhaltungsblatt für deutsche Ansiedler südlichen Russland. 6. 1851, No. 8-10

#### Village Rememberance

No. 8.

This community is so poor in accurate documents about its settlement in Russia, that it already has trouble to present the content of its proceedings and events coherently in writing for the benefit of posterity. Even from all official correspondence during the administration of the directors here on the scene <sup>3</sup>), Major v. Essen <sup>4</sup>), Baron v. Brakkel and Herr

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- 1) On the history of Mennonites in Russia see, among others, A. Ehrt: Mennonism in Russia from its immigration to the present (Das Mennonitentum in Russland von seiner Einwanderung bis zur Gegenwart). Langensalza 1932; G. Pisarevskij: Iz istorii inostrannoj kolonizacii v Rossii v XVIII v. (From the history of foreign colonization in Russia in the 18th century). Moscow 1909; S. D. Bondar: Sekta mennonitov V Rossii (The Mennonite Sect in Russia). Petersburg 1916; P. M. Friesen: The Old Evangelical Mennonite Brotherhood in Russia (Die Alt-Evangelische Mennonitische Brüderschaft in Russland) (1789-1910) in the context of Mennonite history as a whole. Halbstadt/Taurien 1911; further: D. Epp: The Chortitza Mennonites. [Epp, David H., *Die Chortitzer Mennoniten: Versuch Einer Darstellung Des Entwickelungsganges Derselben*] An attempt to describe the course of their development. Odessa 1889
- 2) Heinrich Heese [#199356] (born in Prussia in 1787) came to the Black Sea area on his escape from the French recruiting and joined the Mennonites there. From 1818 to 1829 he worked as a District Clerk and teacher, first in Chortitza, then taught at the Ohrloft Vereinsschule [Central School] and from 1841 to 1846 was a teacher of Russian at the Chortitza Central School (founded in 1841), in whose development he took an active part. In 1848 he moved to Einlage, where he worked as a private school teacher until his death in 1868. Heese's services to the Mennonite school system are great. Besides this "Übersicht" written on behalf of the Chortitza District Office, he wrote the "Short History of our Mennonite Brethren", which is published only in excerpts. Cf. Mennonite Encyclopedia. Ed. Hege and Neff. Vol. 2, Frankfurt a. M. 1937, p. 269f.; P. M. Friesen loc. cit. p. 91 (with excerpts from Heese's "History" p. 94).
- 3) The "director and curator" or "commander" of the foreign villages in southern Russia was directly subordinate to the governorate authorities until 1800. Together with the church Aelteste, he exercised the lower jurisdiction in the colonies and, with the help of the deputies or mayors, carried out the orders of the government (cf. Epp loc. cit. pp. 114, 116, 121, 130, 137, 139). Omitted here is the mention of the first "director and curator of the Mennonite colonies", Georg von Trappe (Cf. p. 3), who had been appointed at the request of the Mennonites (cf. § 17 of their privilege petition in Epp loc. cit. p. 31), but who was busy with the continuation of his recruitment activities abroad and could not take over the local management of the settlement work.

On the administrative history of the Black Sea colonies in the first quarter of the 19th century, see Hans Rempel: Deutsche Bauernleistung am Schwarzen Meer. Leipzig 1940 (Georg Leibbrandt Collection No. 3).

4) It can hardly be assumed that D. von Essen was Italian, as Epp claims, op. cit. p. 116, although nothing more is known about him.

Brigonzi <sup>1</sup>), except for the establishment of the guardianship committee of the New Russian foreign settlers in Jekarerinoslaw in 1800 <sup>2</sup>), the archives of our district office are completely empty; therefore, only the recollection of the oral, traditions of credible, already immortalized men, and their simple notes (records) can serve as a guide to the following historical description.

Because of the fact that our community has only one <sup>3</sup>) ecclesiastical and civil constitution, only one common original fatherland, its origin and condition can be presented most easily only in a single coherent description. For the sake of a clearer understanding for our descendants, and taking into account the well-being of and benefit to our children, it inevitably leads to a small digression with the narration of our earlier descent and the most remarkable facts from the history of our forefathers, which precede the contents of this little work, which shall not make it tiring, but rather even more entertaining.

Our original congregation lived in the Netherlands, namely the provinces of Vlammland [This appears to be a reference to Flanders] and Friesland, as its fatherland, from which the name Flemish and Frisian Mennonites is derived <sup>4</sup>), which still exist separately in their devotional practices, both in Prussia and here, but which, under certain circumstances, can join one another with testimonies from the church elders. At the time of the Reformation in Germany, a Catholic priest by the name of Menno Simon took the side of the baptized brethren and placed them under a stronger bond of their previously existing community, after which our name "Mennonites" is derived. Our ancestors were constantly persecuted everywhere, which led them to take refuge in the federal cities, where civil rights were granted to them.

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<sup>1)</sup> Brigonzi, who had been "director of the New Russian colonies" since 1797 (Cf. p. 1 note 3), was appointed assistant to the chief judge at the "Guardianship" ("Fürsorge" or "tutel") Committee, the local administrative authority for the colonies in southern Russia, in 1800, cf. Polnoe Sobranie Zakonov (Complete Collection of Laws), First Series (still I PSZ) Vol. 26, No. 19372, p. 127.

<sup>2)</sup> The creation of the "Guardianship Office" (see I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19372, April 6, 1800) had been suggested by Contaenius (Cf. p. 9 note 2). Already during D. von Essen's term of office, the deputies Höppner and Bartsch (Cf. p. 4 note 2 and p. 19 note 1) had to deposit all documents entrusted to them in the Office in Chortitza, cf. Epp op. cit. p. 116.

<sup>3)</sup> i.e. common.

<sup>4)</sup> This is not true, the designation "Fläminger" and "Friesen" rather goes back to a community split which took place in 1566 among the Dutch Mennonites. Only in West Prussia did these congregations come closer together through the Aelteste' and teachers' meetings that had been held jointly since 1772. But at the time of the emigration to Russia there were still such strong contrasts that these congregations settled separately, although at the request of G. von Trappe (Cf. p. 3) Amsterdam had advised a unification in 1788 (cf. the letter of the Amsterdamers in Friesen, loc. cit. p. 54f.). The Flemingers were stricter with regard to the preservation of their ecclesiastical customs and traditions and were therefore also called in Russia the "fine", i.e. the "exact", in contrast to the "coarse", the less strict Frisians, see Mennonite Lexicon Vol. 2, p. 8; Frisians, op. cit. p. 46.

The first settlers emigrated from Danzig 60 years ago. Near Danzig, our forefathers made a living by drying out the swamps through building canals and dams, with the skills they brought from the Netherlands. After few years they were already busy with this work along the Vistula to Warsaw, also along the Pregel and the Memel in the former Duchy of Prussia. This circumstance attracted their coreligionists in large numbers from the Netherlands to Prussia, whose government not only tolerated them in their religious practice, but also granted them whole districts of such marshes along the above-mentioned river for inheritance, which they gradually cultivated and converted into fertile land.

They made lush cattle pastures by introducing Dutch clover, they raised Dutch cows on these rich pastures, which produced more than twice the yield of the native cows. Their pure Dutch cheese and butter always found a market, in a word, they became rich farmers. Their example spread blessings also among their native neighbors, who, however, could never do the same. Their houses were distinguished everywhere, not by just a coat of paint, but by cleanliness and comfort, their fields by growth of grain and grass, and their cattle by handsome growth and color.

During the Seven Years' War, the Russians found the farms of our forefathers in such excellent condition in the three Werder near Danzig, Marienburg and Elbing, which attracted the attention of the commanders, highly deserving men such as Count Rumanzow <sup>1</sup>) and others. This coincidence gave the first reason for the subsequent emigration of the Mennonites to Russia, for when the high government decided to invite foreigners to settle in the southern Russian steppes, His Serene Highness Count Rumanzow also proposed the Mennonites <sup>2</sup>), and with such praiseworthy testimony that the Blessed Empress Catherine II did not hesitate to appoint her authorized official for the business of inviting foreigners, Major von Trapp <sup>3</sup>), with

1) Count Peter Rumjancow-Zadunajstij (1725-1796), Russian field marshal since 1774, distinguished

War, later also tried to win Herrnhuter for his brother's estates. Cf. Herwig Hafa: Die Brüdergemeine

Sarepta. A Contribution to the History of Volga Germanism. Breslau 1936, p. 19ff.

himself in the battles of Gross-Jägersdorf and Kunersdorf. As governor-general of Lesser Russia, he took an active part in the improvement of agriculture and in 1770 granted permission to Hutterite brethren, referred to in Russian legislation as Mennonites, to settle on his estate of Vischenki, Gov. Tschernigow. In 1801, after the death of Rumyanrov, the Mennonites founded the Radichev village on Kronsland, 12 versts from Vishchenki, cf. Opyty i materialy po istorii i statistike inostrannoj kolonizacii v Rossii (Our Colonies. Attempts and Materials on the History and Statistics of Foreign Colonization in Russia). Lief. I, Petersburg 1869, pp. 24-55 (the German translation by J. Töws, Odessa 1887, is not complete). Count Zachar Tschernschew, who had come to know and appreciate German agriculture during the 7 Years

<sup>2)</sup> In agreement with this also Ap. Skal'kovskij: Chronogicesko obozrenis istorii Novorossijskogo kraja 1730-1825 (Chronological survey of the history of the New Russian region). Part I, Odessa 1836, p. 183.

<sup>3)</sup> On the activities of the College Assessor Georg von Trappe in Danzig and the surrounding area on behalf of the Governor General of New Russia, Prince Potemkin, see Pisarevsky op. cit.

a special High invitation to the Mennonites in Danzig. It was in August 1786 when the above official arrived in Danzig, and soon after his arrival communicated his offer regarding the Mennonites to the church Aeltester of the Mennonite congregation, Peter Epp ¹), who promoted it enthusiastically and for quick execution. As early as October of the same year, two Mennonite representatives, Jakob Höppner and Johann Bartsch ²), departed for Russia to seek out a convenient piece of land in the steppes of southern Russia for settlement, and to seek out the most gracious assurance of our religious freedom, along with other proposed favors, for which the costs were paid by the government, and as early as November 1787 they returned to Danzig, having successfully achieved their purpose. They had chosen the area near Berezlav ³), not far from Kherson, where the road to the Crimea passes, and where the two rivers, the Dnieper and the Konskaya, join, and where the two islands of Tawan and Karro ⁴), rich in grass and woods, were to be part of their territory, But for their immigration, at the express will of His Serene Highness Prince Potemkin ⁵), for the sake of the war movements of the time, they had to accept the area of Chortiza, and thus the preparation for emigration was now made.

#### **Emigration**

The whole number of emigrants, which made up our Chortitza community, came from the lowlands (Werdern) of Danzig, Elbing and Marienburg, among them about 30 families from the lowlands of the Pregel river at

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pp. 262-338, and Paul Karge: Die Auswanderung west- und ostpreussischer Mennoniten nach Südrussland (nach Chortitza und der Molotschna) 1787-1820 in: Elbinger Jahrbuch, H. 3, Elbing 1923, pp. 65-98.

<sup>1)</sup> Peter Epp (1725-1789) [#15887] was Aeltester of the Flemish Mennonite congregation at Danzig 1779-1789. More about him in H. G. Mannhardt: Die Danziger Mennonitengemeinde, ihre Entstehung und ihre Geschichte von 1569-1919. Danzig 1919, p.122 and 127ff.; Mennonitisches Lexikon Bd. 1 s. v.

<sup>2)</sup> Jakob Höppner [#174689] from Bohnsack and Johann Bartsch [#12624] from the Neugart community, cf. I. Quiring: Die Mundart von Chorkitz in Südrußland. Munich 1928, p. 9; Mennonitisches Lexikon Vol. 1, p. 128, Vol. 2, p. 346. Cf. also the letter written by Bartsch from Dubrowna in Epp, loc. cit. p. 17 s, p. 24 and p. 37.

<sup>3)</sup> Beristaw near the former Turkish fortress of Kyzykermen, which was an important base of the Russians in the struggle against the Crimea.

<sup>4)</sup> Cairo.

<sup>5)</sup> Appointed governor-general of New Russia in 1774, Prince Gregory Potemkin (1739-91), a favorite of Catherine II, developed an extraordinary and wide-ranging program for the settlement and development of this economically fallow region. He called foreign colonists, initiated the transfer of Russian peasants, founded cities, e.g. Kherson in 1778, Ekaterinoslav in 1778 and others, laid roads, created factories, ensured the planting of forests and vineyards. The outbreak of the war with Turkey (1787) prevented him from carrying out a large part of his visionary plans. But the acquisition of the Crimea (1783) was to his credit, about excellent colonization efforts see Th. Adamczyk: Prince G. A. Potemkin. Investigations into his fine life history. Emsdetten 1936, pp. 28-49.

Gumbinnen, in the Kingdom of Prussia, consisted of 228 families <sup>1</sup>), all poor people, who were looking for a better lot for themselves, and left their home already in March 1788. Travelling on the road, 2 to 3 families on a cart, under the leadership of their representatives Höppner and Bartsch, most of them by water via Riga to Dubrowna in White Russia, where they arrived that same summer, and where they had to stay until the coming spring because of the war with the Turks. Good rations were provided by the lieutenant colonel Herr v. Stael <sup>2</sup>). It was not until August 1789 that they arrived at the place of their settlement, in Chortitza, most of them now already on their own wagons, which a number of families had bought themselves from the savings of the support money at Dubrowna <sup>3</sup>), but the rest of them went down the Dnieper down from Mohilev to Ekatherinoslav on barges and from there on Russian boats. Now the hardships of the journey were over, but with the displeasure at the sight of the high mountains surrounding them, which they considered to be uncultivable, the hardships began at the same time.

#### Location, nature, and advantages of the land

The whole length of the district of Chortitza stretches eastward along the right bank of the Dnieper River, opposite the estate of Herr Mark <sup>4</sup>), the Crown village of Wosnesensk <sup>5</sup>), the district town of Aleksandrovsk <sup>6</sup>) and the village of Schönwiese belonging to our colony; its area forms a semicircle with its border from the bank in the south to the same in the north, adjoins the estates of the gentlemen Miklaschewski <sup>7</sup>), Strukow, Lukaschewitsch and Latschinow,

<sup>1)</sup> The same number of families is also given by Contaenius in his report, Cf. p. 8, and I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19372, 6 April 1800, p. 116; the Kameralhof, however, which had to disburse the support money, claimed that 226 Mennonite families had immigrated in 1789 and 1790, cf. Zapiski Odesskogo Obscestva Istorii Drevnostej (Writings of the Odessa Society for History and Antiquities). Vol. 2, Odessa 1848, pp. 662f.

<sup>2)</sup> In the printed appeal to emigrate, "Solicitation [Einnötigung] of the Mennonites into the Empire of Russia", which Georg von Trappe had distributed, it says about Baron von Stael: "This excellent man, of good German sense and good heart, is (as your deputies also know quite well) a good friend of the Mennonites and patron, and still knows you from the Seven Years' War. Oh, I give you my word that he, the noble, knowledgeable man, who knows very well how well the Mennonites will get along in Russia, will, in upcoming cases where it depends on him, take care of you and be useful to you, just as I will remember in telling and writing the truth to the illustrious governor-general for your benefit ", cf. Epp, op. cit. p. 45f.

<sup>3)</sup> On the quantity of rations paid by the Russian government, Cf. p. 8.

<sup>4)</sup> Marki, cf. I PSZ Vol. 38, p. 428 or Mari, cf. Eduard Doering: Aus den Memoiren meines Vaters Friedrich Doering, eines nach Russland gesiedelten Sachsen. Dresden 1903, p. 218 and others.

<sup>5)</sup> Woznesenskoje on the left bank of the Dnieper, see P. Semenov: Geograficesko-statisticeskij slovar Rossijskoj Imperii (Geographical-Statistical Dictionary of the Russian Empire). Vol. I, Petersburg 1863, p. 806.

<sup>6)</sup> Aleksandrovsk, founded as a fortress in 1770, became the district capital of the then Azov, since 1806 Ekaterinoslav, governorate in 1778, cf. Semenov op. cit. Vol. 1, p. 60.

<sup>7)</sup> Cf. p. 6 note 2 and p. 19 note I. In the 19th century there were large sheepfolds on the Miklashevsky and Strukov estates in Ekaterinoslav district. Cf. Semenov op. cit. Vol. 2, p 177.

and lies in the governorate and district of Ekaterinoslav <sup>1</sup>), at a distance of 70 versts from this city; only the land belonging to the Schönwiese village is located in the district of Alerandrovsk, bordered by the lands of the citizens of the same district town, the landowners, and in the west by the Dnieper River.

The location of this entire circular area, both the one originally intended for settlement and the one purchased by Herr Mikluschewski in 1802, is cut through by steep, deep valleys. 1802, consisting of 12,000 Dessiantine 2), mountainous, intersected everywhere by abrupt deep ravines and valleys, which make agriculture very difficult. Although the acreage on the hills can still be exploited in wet years, it is always inferior to that on the flat steppes, which have a continuous 4-6 Vershok of top soil (Dammerde), and where the dew and rainwater cannot run off; but the hayfields and pastures on them are far more meager. The five main valleys of our region, into which all the side valleys and ravines flow, and whose streams in some springs or after heavy rains pour a considerable amount of water into the Dnieper, but dry up completely in the summer, have the following names on the circular area from north to south: 1) Lower Chortitza, 2) Middle Chortitza, 3) Upper Chortitza, 4) Tomakovka and 5) Heidutschina 3) (Schlangentha); of the 14 villages almost all are located in or near these five valleys, and only three villages Einlage, Insel-Chortitza and Schönwiese are above the Dnieper. All mountain gorges along the bank of the Dnieper, and especially the largest part of the island, which constitutes its own colonial land, were covered with forests. There were magnificent high trunks of oaks, poplars, elms, willows, wild pear and apple trees, sometimes also linden and maple, besides a good number of shrubs of blackthorn and hawthorn, elder, etc., and the everywhere proliferating creepers, among them also a lot of hops, made the forests almost inaccessible; also wild grapevines still grow on the above island 4). These primeval forests are all gone, except for a few old trunks now and then; today's pretty little forests, which occupy a total area of 819 acres, have all grown up to this beauty only as a young beginning since 25 years, when order and supervision set in <sup>5</sup>); the old forest finally succumbed to the extreme needs and arbitrariness of the settlers. The Dnepr River does provide a benefit in fish catches, but only such a meager one that it yields the adjacent 4 village communities of Einlage, Rosenthal, Insel-Chortitza and Schönwiese an annual lease income of no more than 45 R. S. 6). At the village of Rosengart

<sup>1)</sup> According to Potemkin's plans, Ekaterinostav, built in 1786 on the site of insignificant settlements, was to become the center of the entire Black Sea region, cf. Semenov op. cit. Vol. 2, p. 176.

<sup>2)</sup> According to I PSZ Vol. 28, No. 21909, the land purchased by Miklashevsky, the former civil governor of New Russia, for 24,000 Rbl. was 11,755 Dess. in size: 150 families were originally to be settled here.

<sup>3) =</sup> Ukranian Hajdutschyna.

<sup>4)</sup> cf. below p. 11.

<sup>5)</sup> through the effectiveness of Isaac Toews [#164449] (see p. 16), the District Mayor from 1823-1826 of the Chortitza Colony, cf. Epp a. a. O. page 119.

<sup>6)</sup> i.e. Rubles of silver, see p. 106 Note 1.

a limestone deposit has been discovered only recently, because of this quarry, the construction of 2 lime kilns has already begun. Such is the natural state of our steppe, which, together with the Schönwiese property on the opposite bank of the Dnieper River, covers an area of 32,707½ square Dess. of suitable, and 5,134 square Dess. of unsuitable ¹), The latter contains sandy areas along the Dnieper River and clay filled-depressions along the mountain gorges, on which before our settlement only several families of crown peasants had lived on the site of the Chortitza village, leaving behind seven habitable huts.

History of our emigrants and dispositions about them until their settlement

A certain Major von Essen <sup>2</sup>), an old, good but weak man, had already taken charge of our emigrants on the journey to Krementschug, but did little for them, although he personally administered his office in Chortitza for several years. The deputies Höppner and Bartsch were the focus of all his actions, which would certainly have turned out better under more favorable circumstances and with better means; Höppner was determined and Bartsch thoughtful. Meanwhile, autumn approached and found our fathers still lying wearily under their tents. The timber had failed to arrive, the support money had also failed to arrive, the supplies had run out, and diseases, especially red dysentery [perhaps shigellosis caused by drinking water contaminated with human waste <sup>a</sup>)], ravaged many victims due to the lack of all medical assistance. In this approaching late season, the authorities took all possible measures to save the community from ruin. They were moved to winter quarters and even fed from the crown storehouses. Apart from the few families that found a place in the remaining huts <sup>3</sup>) at Chortitza, the rest were accommodated partly in the fortress near Aleksandrovsk <sup>4</sup>), where they found a sympathetic protector in the commander, Herr. v. Schwarz <sup>5</sup>), partly in the Kronsdorf Wolochski <sup>6</sup>), near Ekaterinoslav.

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<sup>1)</sup> The data on the land granted to the government vary within this report (Cf. p. 10). Also A. von Haxthausen: Studien über die inneren Zustände, das Volksleben und insbesondere die ländlichen Einrichtungen Russlands. Part 2, Hannover 1847, gives different amounts of land without explaining it, namely 32,663 Dess. (p. 177), 32,648 Dess. (p. 175, so also Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Mennoniten-Gemeinden in Europa und America, statistischen, historischen und religiöse Anhalts. Ed. by Reiswitz and Wadzeck. Berlin 1821, p. 382) and 32,684 9/40 Dess. The latter number is supported by the quite reliable Klaus a. a. O. Beilage 2, p. 32. E. von Hahn in: Unterhaltungsblatt für die deutschen Ansiedler im südlichen Russland. Jg. 2, 1847, p. 17 gives the figure of 33,682 Dess. (including the Schäfereiland).

<sup>2)</sup> Major D. von Essen was "director" of the settlement, Cf. p. 1.

<sup>3)</sup> Russian Ukrainian chata "farmhouse, hut".

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. p. 5 note 6.

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. p. 19 note I.

<sup>6)</sup> Woloskoye, 20 versts from Ekaterinoslav, situated on the Dnieper, cf. Semenov loc. cit. Vol. 1, p. 532.

a) During the American Civil War, 1861-1865, Shigellosis was treated with lead acetate pills. The lead killed the bacteria more efficiently that the host. Cf. https://glennfay.medium.com/the-horrors-of-the-endemic-bloody-flux-dysentery-in-the-1800s-9e9a772d343b.

In the spring of 1790, they were all recalled to their place of settlement, and the settlement was begun with very dismal success.

#### Submission from the Crown

According to the terms granted to the deputies Höppner and Bartsch, the following support ¹) was granted by the government: 1) for the establishment of the farms, 500 Rubles for each family; 2) food allowance from the arrival on the border until the end of the journey, for each soul over 15 years of age, daily at 25 Kop., 3) from the arrival on the place to the next harvest on the soul to 10 Kop., 4) the delivery of 120 pieces of 4-fathom timber (Balken) for each family, and the necessary timber for 2 mills and 6 millstones, 5) different kinds of grain for sowing, with restitution, 6) Transportation from the border to the place of settlement, and 7) 65 Dess. of suitable land for each family. These were the conditions approved by the Highest Deputies ²). On the occasion of a revision ³) made by the Ministry (Expedizion) of the Imperial Domains and Guardianship Committee for Foreigners through the Councilor Herr v. Contenius in the year 1799, it turned out that the Chamber of Annuities (Rentkammer) gave a generous support to the first emigration of 288 ⁴) families, 237,001 Rubles 60 Kop., and to the second, which will be discussed below, of 118 families, 121,235 Rubles 33 Kop., in total 358,236 Rubles

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. the draft agreement of the deputies of April 22, 1787, translated into Russian, with Potemkin's resolutions in Pisarevsky, op. cit. p. 299-304, and the "Extract" in Epp, op. cit. p. 24-32 and I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19372. However, the payment of the support promised to the settlers was made in installments because the Turkish War had weakened Russia financially and Potemkin, who was particularly committed to settling the Black Sea area, died in 1791, cf. Pisarevsky op. cit. p. 336. For these reasons, the Mennonites only received 117 387 Rbl. 68¾ Kop. instead of 172,123 Rbl. 68¾ Kop. by March 31, 1792, cf. Zapiski Odesskogo Obscestva Istorii i Drevnostej, Vol. 2, pp. 662f.

On Ruble banco assignments Cf. p. 106 note 1.

<sup>2)</sup> Originally, the Mennonites had asked, among other things, for 25 Kop. "food money" for both adults and children and for the payment of the 500 Rbl. at 100 Rbl. per month, calculated from their arrival in Riga, cf. Lissrovslrij op. cit. pp. 299-304.

<sup>3)</sup> The administration of the colonies in New Russia was initially entrusted to the directors of Household Economy (Ökonomiedirektoren) belonging to the Kameralhöfe (Kazennye palaty, here called Rentkammern). After the office of the directors of Economy was abolished on December 31, 1796, the Department of the State Economy, the Guardianship of Foreigners and Rural Domestic Affairs (ländlichen Hauswesens), among others, which was newly founded in 1797, was given the overall supervision (cf. I PSZ Vol. 24, No. 18021). To check the economic situation of the German colonists, it sent Samuel Kontaenius (Cf. p. 9 note 2) to New Russia and Karl Hablitzl to the Volga region in 1802. Contaenius' report of April 6, 1800 (cf. 1 PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19372) contains important information about the history of the colonies' development and well-considered proposals for remedying the grievances.

On the history of the development of the "expedition," see V. Vesnyakov: Ekspediciya Gosudarstvennogo Chozyastva. In: Russkaya Starina (The Russian Antiquity). Petersburg 1901, October, pp. 195-205, November, pp- 403-422.

<sup>4)</sup> should probably read: "228 families".

99 Kop. Banko <sup>a)</sup> <sup>1)</sup>. Moreover, through the mediation of the Chief Judge v. Contenius <sup>2)</sup>, who was appointed to the Guardianship Committee for the New Russian foreign settlers established in Ekaterinoslav in the following year 1800, the colonists were granted a grant for the construction of the colonies. Contenius, in consideration of the great poverty of the settlers and irregular support for the construction of their houses, at various times gave significant sums to the Aelteste of the time (Höppner and Bartsch had already been sanctioned) for the benefit of the community. Again, it was not possible without negligence and abuse to purchase grain for sowing and food, a brandy distillery, farming equipment, flax, looms and spinning wheels, breeding cattle, for the settlement of 66 families, in 1803, on the land purchased from Herr. Miklafchewski <sup>3</sup>), in the 2 villages Burwalde and Nieder-Chortitza, in general 42,686 R. 88½ K. B. Ass., about which no account was put down in the archives of the municipal administration, that however not according to the certain annual goals, but under Most Gracious (Allergnädigster) indulgence with constant consideration of the prosperity, from the year 1805 on, the remainder only in the year 1847 correctly paid off; the back payment of the travel money had been remitted to the municipality, however, upon their humble (unterthänigste) request <sup>4</sup>).

Our parents had on average nothing of their own, brought from Prussia, even their things in the boxes were spoiled for them [while transported] on the water, partly a little, partly completely.

<sup>1)</sup> In his report Contaenius states that the first 228 (sic!) families received 238,203 Rbl. 93 Kop. and the other 118 families 142,771 Rbl. 18 Kop. but they were waived the travel expenses in the amount of 1,202 Rbl. 27 Kop. and 21,535 Rbl. 85 Kop. respectively, cf. I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19372, p. 121. The number of persons of these 346 families is given as 1,696, cf. Čtenija Obscestva Istorii i Drevnostej Rossijskich (Lectures of the Society for Russian History and Antiquities) Vol. 231, Moscow 1909, Miscellany p. 41.

<sup>2)</sup> Samuel Contaenius, b. 1750 in Westphalia, d. 1830 in Ekaterinoslav, buried in the village Josefstal, entered the Russian civil service in 1785. As a councilor of the Geographical Department, he was entrusted in 1799 with the revision of the German colonies in New Russia (Cf. p. 8), and in 1800 was appointed collegiate councilor and chief magistrate of the Guardianship Committee in Ekaterinoslav, which had been founded at his suggestion, and of which he was a director until 1818. The German colonies of the Black Sea area owe their later prosperity to his far-sighted and tireless work. An appreciation of his services to the upliftment of agricultural culture in Russia will be given in one of the next volumes of this series. Cf. about him Conrad Keller: Die deutschen Kolonien in Südrussland. Vol. I, Odessa 1905, pp. 49-51: A. M. Fadeev [1789-1867]: Vospominaniya (Memories). In: Russkij Archiv (Russian Archive), Moscow 1891, p. 321 f.; Mennonitisches Lexikon Bd. 1, Frankfurt a. M. 1913 s. v. 3) Cf. p. 6 note 2.

<sup>4)</sup> The beginning of the repayment of the loan, initially granted for 10 years (cf. I PSZ vol.26, No. 19372) was postponed for another 5 years on September 6, 1800 for the Mennonites living in the Chortitza area (cf. I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19546) and on September 9, 1805 (cf. I PSZ Vol. 28, No. 21 909) the proposal was adopted that each family of the Chortitza area should pay 25 Rbl. (10 Rbl. 42½ Kop. as land tax, 14 Rbl. 57½ Kop. as debt redemption) after the expiration of the free years. The total debt is stated as 387,019 Rbl. and the sum of 24,000 Rbl. spent for the purchase of land at Miklashevstiy is waived, because otherwise those Mennonites would have a special position on land they bought themselves.

a) aka Assignation Rubles and Kopeks, aka paper Rubles and Kopeks, supposedly backed by silver or other state assets.

#### Settlement in 1790

On the originally determined district of Chortitza, consisting of 42,235 Dessiantinen <sup>1</sup>), the above 228 families <sup>2</sup>) settled in 8 adjacent villages, but there could be no question of building houses yet, because there was a lack of means for it. Earthen huts were their dwellings. The money given in small portions at various times, 34 Rubles per family, or even less <sup>3</sup>), was used up, many timbers of poor-quality wood were sold for the same reason, and the belief that the land was useless and that a better one had to be chosen inhibited almost all activity. It was not until 4 years later that the building of houses began, admittedly still irregularly and without urgency. The families were grouped into villages and the selection of the settlement sites was done by voluntary agreement.

The colonies that were established can be listed in the following order:

- 1) Chortitza, at the top of the "Upper Chortitza" valley, from which its name derives, has a fairly regular layout and a very pleasant appearance, surrounded by high mountains. The eradication of the dark oak forest by the first settlers, of which a small remnant with young growth still stands on the ridge of the valley, was later commendably made up for by them and their children by the planting of forests (Baumgärten) <sup>4</sup>). The distribution of the land into plots was not thought of at that time; everyone plowed and harvested hay where he wanted, but always only very close to the village; only a few years later the district was surveyed in village and neighboring boundaries <sup>5</sup>). Original settlers numbered 34 <sup>6</sup>).
- 2) Rosenthal <sup>7</sup>), residence of the deputy Bartsch, in the same valley "Lower Chortitza", where the same pleasantly widens, and by its exit against the Dnieper in 2 arms an island populated with a small group of young oaks, throughout consisting of a sandy soil, only sparsely producing grass growth, called "the pig's head" ("der Schweinskopf"). It got its name from the adjacent valley, in which later, by order of Herr. v. Contenius, the municipal plantation was established <sup>8</sup>), where many wild roses grew. Its appearance is greatly diminished by its scattered layout, despite its on average quite beautiful farms, because the village is located in a corner of land, the cultivation of their fields is very inconvenient. Planting in the valley, because of the saltpeter <sup>a</sup>) soil, is very difficult, whereas the gardens on the higher plots look quite pretty.

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 7 Note 1.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 9 Note 1.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p. 8 Note 1.

<sup>4)</sup> The afforestation of the land was made obligatory for the German settlers by the Russian government as early as July 7, 1803 (cf. I PSZ Vol. 27, No. 20841), and in the following period it was strictly supervised by the colonial authorities.

<sup>5)</sup> An equal distribution of the land among the individual economies must have taken place for the first time around 1806, or at least must have been intended, when the type of debt redemption was regulated. Cf. p. 9 Note 4.

<sup>6)</sup> i.e. settler families, Wirtschaftshöfe. Cf. p. 18 note 2.

<sup>7)</sup> Russian name: Kancerovka.

<sup>8)</sup> Founded in 1801, see p. 23.

a) The term "saltpeter" appears at least 26 times in reference to soil and water conditions. Saltpeter specifically refers to potassium nitrate and that the term is used to generally describe an alkaline content in water and soil. I will leaver these terms as in the original and the reader can interpret as appropriate. THF

In terms of special features, it also has quite a nice young growth on those places along the southern bank of the valley, where there used to be virgin forests, and it has a small fishery on the Dnieper River, which earns it 6 silver Rubles annually. The number of its first landowners was 20.

3) Insel-Chortitza <sup>1</sup>), place of residence of the deputy Höppner <sup>2</sup>), who immediately moved to this island of the same name, an area 7 versts long and 3 versts wide, with 11 more families, on which at that time 2 cottages stood for the keepers of the forest, and of the garden laid out by Prince Potemkin <sup>3</sup>). The village is situated on the bank of the left bank of the Dnieper River, with the steep edge of the high steppe like a castle in its back. It is not sufficiently protected from flooding when the water level of the Dnieper is exceptionally high, but its appearance is quite pleasant due to the lovely tree and vegetable gardens. The whole island contains a sandy soil, the cultivated fields of which yield quite a profit in wet years, but in dry and hot summers are not worth the work, effort, and expense. Also, the grass on the pastures is very thin, but quite suitable for cattle, with the beautiful drinking water in the Dnieper River. The community has special advantages in the young forest and fishery, which is only a side business and does not cost more than 12 silver Rub. per year in rent. The large forest on the lower tip of the island is not the property of this village, but belongs to the entire Chortitza community, which also maintains a keeper in it, only the grassy areas in the entire forest are used by this community exclusively for haymaking.

First number of settlers was 12.

4) Einlage <sup>4</sup>), because of its location, at a bend of the Dnieper, after a village of the same name, in similar location, at the Nogat in Prussia thus called, found at its settlement a single farmer's hut, not far from the crossing of Kitschkas, where the Tschumak Road <sup>5</sup>) <sup>a</sup>) from Poland to the Don passed through. It also found the shore and the side valley dotted with the most beautiful oaks, wild pear and apple trees, which suffered the same fate of extinction, and which are currently replaced by the care of young growth and planting of orchards. Here, too, fishing is only a secondary activity with an annual income from the lease of 18 silver Rub. <sup>b</sup>) This village is also located on the extreme end of its land, which has its best soil on the back part and a sandy one on the border part around the village, which however, especially in spring, when the grass comes out early and grows strongly with sufficient moisture, grazes pretty much, but disappears when the heat sets in. The village is 2 versts long and its location, due to the curvature of the valley and the cliffs,

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<sup>1)</sup> also called Kamp. See the description of this island and its strategic importance in D. I. Evarnickij: Ostov Chortica na reke Dnepre (The island Chortitza on the Dnepr River). In: Kievskaya Starina, (The Kiev Antiquity). Vol. 14, Kiev 1886, pp. 41-90.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 19 note 1.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p. 6.

<sup>4)</sup> Russian name: Kitschkas.

<sup>5)</sup> The "Tschumakenweg", the old salt road, ran from Kitschkas on the left bank of the Dnieper to Kachowka and then southeast to Perekop. Even in the 19th century this road was of great importance, see V. P. Semenov-Tjan-Šanskij: Rossija. Vol. 14, Petersburg 1910, p. 436 and p. 136 note 1.

a) aka Chumak Road, aka Salt Road

b) See note p. 14

It is not lacking in beautiful houses and prosperity, and a friend of nature will be surprised and attracted by the alternation of averagely beautiful houses with tree gardens, high rocks covered with young oaks. First settlers were 41.

- 5) Kronsweide, a name voluntarily adopted by the settlers, derived from nature, originally located on the bank of the Dnieper on a rocky area where neither tree nor vegetable thrived; where its view involuntarily reminded one of the desert of Arabia, which is why, but only in 1833, and for lack of a more convenient place to settle, it was moved to a deep, narrow ravine, an arm of the valley Heidutschina <sup>1</sup>), and only 6 hosts were left on their old places in a small, deep ravine settled by them. This village now seems to have disappeared from the earth, the valley is hardly noticeable to the eye even in its vicinity, its inner appearance is hidden until one looks down from the edge to the group of quite neatly arranged houses, the orchards on the slopes and the occasionally spared, darkly leafy wild pear trees. A poet would find great material for inspiration here, but the inhabitants find their village road, which is in places very rough, curved and in need of constant repair, very difficult to bring in the crops, yet they are not lacking in earning power, and have always been an obedient people, belonging to the Frisian party <sup>2</sup>). Original inhabitants were 35.
- 6) Neuenburg <sup>3</sup>), whose name comes from Prussia, is located at the summit of the Heidutschina valley, and is only visible to the eye when you are close to it and is the most unsightly, but also in terms of prosperity and also in terms of planting, especially on the large street that runs through its center after the Kitschkas Crossing <sup>4</sup>). Your property is one of the smoothest and most exquisite. Original settlers were 16.
- 7) Neuendorf <sup>5</sup>), Its name also originated from Prussia, lies at the top of the Tomakowka valley, along its curves, which greatly diminish its appearance, which it would have in a regular layout, with its quite good houses and tree gardens. It is also situated on the edge of its plot, which is of quite good quality and quite convenient and productive in its flat slope towards the village. Original farmsteads were 38.
- 8) Schönhorst <sup>6</sup>), its name also from the Werder in Prussia, also attached to the Tomakowka under Neuendorf, irregularly on the edge of its property, quite similar to the Neuendorf one in property and convenience. First settlers numbered 32.

Thus, our ancestral community was divided into the above 8 villages, and out of a total of 228 families, by the 2 deputies mentioned above, under the supervision of Major v. Esten, and was bound together in a common bond for the promotion of their welfare in natural and moral respects, because a staff of preachers was also elected,

<sup>1)</sup> Ukrainian Hajdutschyna.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 2 note 4.

<sup>3)</sup> Russian name: Malashevka.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. p. II note 5.

<sup>5)</sup> Russian name: Shirvkoye.6) Russian name: Wodjanaja.

which maintained the devotional services, and a church Aeltester was consecrated to it in 1795, by a chief shepherd (Oberhirten) who had come from Prussia for this purpose <sup>1</sup>). Soon after the settlement, Herr v. Essen was replaced in office by a certain Baron v. Brakkel, who by his firmness gained the respect of the settlers <sup>2</sup>), and also promoted the building of their houses more strictly <sup>3</sup>).

#### Settlement in 1797

In the years 1793-1796 there were still new groups of Mennonites from Prussia, in total 118 families, most of which were settled in the Chortitza villages, but the rest, because of lack of space in the few houses, in the small town of Alexandrovsk. These new arrivals are called the second emigration. Since some of these people had brought some money of their own, including cattle of German breed, and at times received <sup>4</sup>) support money, they already instilled a little life into the ossified members of the ancestral community, which was now at the same time very prosperous, 160 Rubles in cash from each family, which was very helpful for the construction, and at the same time they collected small contributions for the construction of the first wooden church, for more comfortable church services. Only in 1797, under the direction of Herr Brigonzi, the settlement of the last emigrants of 118 families took place, of which 86 settled in the old Chortitza villages, but the remaining 32 founded the following 2 new villages.

1) Schönwiese, its name derived from Prussia, separated from the district town Alexandrovsk only by the small river Mokraja flowing into the Dnieper, with 17 families, which already formed a complete community with its church Aeltester Heinrich

<sup>1)</sup> In 1760 the Chortitza community elected Berend Penner [#8755] as its Aeltester, who received his confirmation from Prussia by letter. The disputes that arose after his death were settled by the Aeltester Cornelius Regier [#19815] from Heubuden (died in Chortitza in 1794) and the preacher Cornelius Warkentin [#1204074?], who came to Chortitza in 1794, Johann Wiebe [#196813] was appointed Aeltester and David Epp [#12844] his assistant. However, a unification of the Flemish and Frisian congregations failed. Cf. Friesen op. cit. p. 74ff. and Joh. van der Smissen: On the History of the First Congregational Formation in the Mennonite Colonies of Southern Russia. In: Mennonitische Blätter zur Belehrung und christlichen Erbauung zunächst für Mennoniten. Jg.3, Danzig 1856, pp. 18-21, 34-37, 49-51.

<sup>2)</sup> Very indicative of the power granted to the "directors" is that the "Vereinigungsschrift, so in unserer Flämischen Mennoniten-Gemeine zu Chortitz geschlossen" (June 1794), by which internal disputes among the Mennonites were settled, bears the signatures of Corn. Regier, Cornelius Warkentin (Cf. p. 3 note 1) and by Baron Joh. von Brackel. The director was thus at the same time the legal representative of the settlers, cf. on this also Epp I. cit. p. 91-93. For the legal situation of the German settlers in Russia it is also significant that the "Instruction for the Internal Order and Administration of the Colonies in New Russia" (cf. I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19873) of May 16, 1801, prescribes that the District Mayors (District Mayoren) to see to it that no written obligations are entered into by the colonists without the knowledge of the authorities (§ 21). The accusation raised by the German settlers against Brackel of embezzlement of support funds by withholding 5 Kop. from the Ruble was probably unjustified, Cf. p. 106 note 1.

<sup>3)</sup> Nevertheless, 38 families still had no houses in 1799, cf. I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19372.

<sup>4)</sup> i.e. in time.

Janzen [#113794], who also immediately added the community of Kronsweide into his congregation <sup>1</sup>). They possessed a little personal property, an average of 350 Rub. for each the family. Their land contains 1,401 Dessiantine <sup>2</sup>) and makes a narrow strip, the third part of which lies on the other side of the river Mokraja, and therefore its cultivation is very difficult. On the other hand, its kitchen gardens along the river are very productive, the fruits of which the townspeople buy from them with good profit, and the hayfield, about a third of the entire parcel, consists of a very pretty lowland on the Dnieper River, with groves of oaks, poplars and willows. This community has built itself up quite nicely, and has now begun the construction of a spacious church.

2) Kronsgarten <sup>3</sup>), a name recalling the beauty of nature, cultivated by the remaining 15 families in the Novomoskovsk district, on the little river Kilschin <sup>4</sup>), which flows into the Dnieper, at 12 versts from its district town Novomoskovsk, and at 15 versts from the governorate town Ekatherinoslav. Belonging to the Frisian community, it was already quite nicely built, according to the beauty of its name, but too low, exposed to flooding at high water level, which is why it is currently rebuilt on a higher level, permanently made of baked bricks, both residential buildings, and church and school house. It has a fertile plot of land with a small forest and a small fishery on the Kilschin River, which annually yields 8 silver Rub. in rent <sup>a</sup>). This commune was transferred in 1848 to the administration of the Chortitza Regional Office.

Establishment of new villages by transferring old settlers, under the District Mayor Peter Siemens <sup>5</sup>), to new parcels, from 1803-1812.

During this time, the two deputies Höppner and Bartsch had been forced to resign <sup>6</sup>). Men who were outstanding in intellect and activity, and who were replaced only after a long time by a very hard-working man of the community [Peter Siemens #136330]. Ignorance and envy were solely to blame for their misfortune, and since they were not justified in their lives, history is obliged to do so after their deaths, for the knowledge of their descendants. Only with the transfer of 66 families from the old colonies to the land purchased by the Crown from Herr Miklaschewski in 1802, first into the following 2, and then into 3 colonies, a small change in the slumbering course of business was again brought to light.

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<sup>1)</sup> This is the first ecclesiastical union of the "Frisians" in the Black Sea area.

<sup>2)</sup> The same amount of land is also given by Klaus a. a. O. Supplement 2, p. 32 for the year 1854.

<sup>3)</sup> cf. the detailed report p. 27 f.

<sup>4) =</sup> Kiltschen.

<sup>5)</sup> In the lists of the District Mayors of the Chortitza area in Epp, op. cit. p. 19f. Peter Siemens [#136330] is missing. Until 1823, however, a Johann Siemens [#726379] is said to have been District Mayor for 18 years, which implies that he was newly elected every three years and confirmed by the colonial authorities.

<sup>6)</sup> Cf. p. 19 Note I.

<sup>7)</sup> Cf. p. 6, note 2.

a) Other villages report PAYING for the rights to operate a fishery. This seems like the literal translation but I wonder if I got it right or not. THF

- 1) Burwalde <sup>1</sup>), a name with mutilated prefix by the flat language (platte Sprache), named after a village in Prussia, Bärwalde <sup>2</sup>). In the year 1803 it was established at 1803 in the mouth of the Chortitza valley with 27 families drawn from the old villages, which received 1040 Rubles Banko and 10 free years <sup>3</sup>) from the Crown in support, and has a beautiful young growth of forest trees in the narrow ravines replacing the old original trees, but the land is in a very hilly location. The view of the village is not so pleasant because of the narrowing and curvature of the valley to the extent of its well-designed yards and forests, but has industrious, prosperous landowners.
- 2) Nieder-Chortitza, the name derived from the valley Lower Chortitza, in the mouth of which it is situated, was also founded in 1803 with 39 landowners, from the old settlers, with 1000 Rubles Banko support, and an allowance of 10 free years <sup>4</sup>). The wide flattening of the valley gives this village quite a beautiful appearance, although it is inferior to the other villages in terms of good farms. In the last few years, however, it has improved quite a bit, both in appearance and in activity, and it already has lovely little tree gardens. The soil of its plot is sandy on a large area towards the Dnieper, and in dry summers it does not yield well, just as the whole plot is not the most fertile because of its sloping position, where the water drains off.
- 3) Schöneberg <sup>5</sup>), established above the bank of the low Chortitza valley, whence therefore her name comes. In 1816, 14 landowners were drawn from the village of Nieder-Chortitza, which still did not want to come up, and with the help of transportation and labor, this village was established, which in the course of time has flourished quite properly. The value of its houses and gardens is equal to that of most villages. Its land is quite fertile and is being cultivated diligently.
- 4) Kronsthal <sup>6</sup>), which name is derived from the old 2 villages Kronsweide and Rosenthal, from which its first 12 hosts are descended. The village was founded in 1809 in the middle Chortitza valley, only with private payments of 51 Rub. Banko for each family and loads <sup>7</sup>), and has now almost the best reputation with its well-built houses and gardens, and with its straight road through the main part of it, also its land is one of the best, and is well cultivated.
- 5) Neuosterwik <sup>8</sup>), named after the village of Osterwik in the Danzig lowlands, was established in 1812 with 20 villagers drawn from the old <sup>9</sup>) villages

2) Linguistically this transformation of the name cannot be explained.

<sup>1)</sup> Russian name: Baburka.

<sup>3)</sup> on September 9, 1805, cf. I PSZ, Vol. 28 No. 21909.

<sup>4)</sup> cf. I PSZ Vol. 28, No. 21909 (September 9, 1805).

<sup>5)</sup> Russian name: Cmoljanaja.

<sup>6)</sup> Russian name: Dolinst.

<sup>7)</sup> Probably in the "rotational service" (Reihendienst), cf. also p. 24 note 2. [Reihendienst typically referred to a system in which individuals took turns or rotated in performing certain duties or services. The idea behind Reihendienst was to distribute the burden of work or duty fairly among the participants.]

<sup>8)</sup> Russian name: Pavlovka.

<sup>9)</sup> i.e. from the first founded 8 villages of the Chortitza Colony. In the second half of the 19th century all the villages of the Chortitza Colony were called the "old" ones, in contrast to the Molotschna ones.

at the top of the valley middle Chortitza, with a bare support, from fellow-Mennonites, of 50 Rub. B. for each family. Due to the curvature of the valley, its appearance is behind that of Kronsthal, but it also has good houses and gardens and cultivates its fields diligently.

Founding of 3 new colonies in 1824 on the land that had recently become superfluous.

Thus, from 1812 to 1824, on the land of the Chortitza Colony, Ekaterinoslav district (not counting Schönwiese in the Alexandrov district <sup>1</sup>)), there were 13 villages with 314 farms, complete, with an allowance of 100 Dessiantine for each farm. Now, however, in 1823, with the new District Mayor, Isaak Töws [#164449], a serious man in his actions, a new phase of the administration of the municipality began, which gave a boost to business life. The latter organized a new survey of the district, and in 1824 he settled the surplus land, after he had previously divided 2,943 Dess. for the communal shepherd, for the maintenance of the herd, with 114 families, the most qualified men from the number of small cottagers <sup>2</sup>); 65 of them were settled according to the measure of the surplus land to the old villages and 49 formed the following 3 new villages:

- 1) Rosengart <sup>3</sup>), with this name the District Mayor pointed to the beauty, which should come from the layout of this young municipality, in the valley middle Chortitza, above Burwalde, settled without support, because these young settlers were free from crown debts, on 22 farms, without restrictive conditions, but only the well-being of the settlers in mind, whereby from the originally small cottages, by diligent exploitation of the land, in time stately farms and respectable tree groves developed. The quality of the land is only mediocre because of the deep ravines that cross it, in which there is also some young wood along the bank of the Dnieper. Near this village, the previously mentioned limestone quarry has begun, which will certainly continue to yield quite a bit.
- 2) Blumengart <sup>4</sup>), so called from the flowers, with which the settlement was covered, lies in the valley lower Chortitza, between Schöneberg and Nieder-Chortitza, with 14 farmsteads, raised by diligence to quite a degree of prosperity on a steppe of only middle characteristics, because of the mountains.
- 3) Neuhorst <sup>5</sup>), a compound name of Neuendorf and Schönhorst, from which the 13 hosts are descended, lies above Neuendorf, in the summit of the same valley Tomakowka, is a comfortable piece of land, and by diligent cultivation has come to quite respectable farms, gardens and fortunes.

remained unnoticed in the literature.

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<sup>1)</sup> Not including Kronsgarten, which was subordinated to the Chortitza District Office only in 1843, see p. 14.

Until 1824 in the Chortitza region there had been only relocations of farms.
 Now, for the first time, land was given to families without a farm, a circumstance that has

<sup>3)</sup> Russian name: Novostobodka or Popova.

<sup>4)</sup> Russian name: Kapustyanka.

<sup>5)</sup> Russian name: Ternovataja.

After, according to the above individual description, all lands under the administration of the District Office of Chortitza have been settled with 65 Dessiantinen, for each family, except for a concession of the authority for the 2 villages Burwalde and Schönwiese, because of the inconvenient location of their land, which makes cultivation difficult, the former with an allowance of 325 Dess. of surplus land, and the latter Schönwiese, with an allowance of 4 families according to the Molotschna <sup>1</sup>), the total number currently consists of the following villages with their farms:

#### In the Ekatherinoslav district:

1) Chortitza	with	39	farmsteads
2) Rosenthal	with	35	farmsteads
3) Rosengart	with	22	farmsteads
4) Burwalde	with	27	farmsteads
5) Blumengart	with	15	farmsteads
6) Nieder-Chortitza	with	29	farmsteads
7) Insel-Chortitza	with	18	farmsteads
8) Einlage	with	36	farmsteads
9) Kronsweide	with	26	farmsteads
10) Neuenburg	with	18	farmsteads
11) Neuendorf	with	45	farmsteads
12) Neuhorst	with	13	farmsteads
13) Schönhorst	with	36	farmsteads
14) Kronsthal	with	18	farmsteads
15) Neuosterwik	with	30	farmsteads
16) Schöneberg	with	18	farmsteads

In Alexandrovian district:

17) Schönwiese with 14 farmsteads

In Novomoskov district:

18) Kronsgarten with 15 farmsteads

All together 460 farmsteads 2).

In addition to 460 farmers there are 673 landless families (small house owners (Kleinhäusler)) <sup>3</sup>), included in a population of 7217 souls <sup>4</sup>).

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 88 ff.

<sup>2)</sup> See table on p. 18.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p. 26.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. p. 25 Note I.

## Original causes of harmful consequences

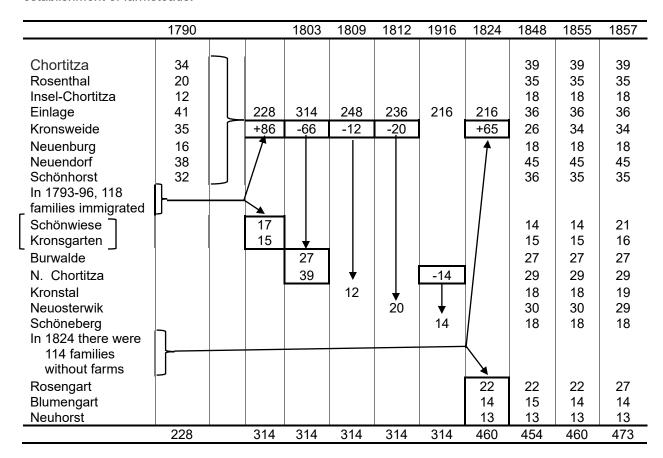
All beginnings are difficult. The truth of this saying has been especially true in the case of the settlement of our parent village, and the original cause of all persistent obstacles to the effort was ignorance.

Their poverty can basically be considered only a minor matter. The proof of this was given by some fathers of families, who immediately started the work peacefully and diligently, already living in houses and enjoying nutritious food of their own crops, when the dissatisfied masses were still sitting in their earthen huts sneering around their bowls with soup of half-rotted storehouse flour.

Out of this ignorance came displeasure, distrust, abuse and slackness, to which the two deputies Höppner and Bartsch, the most capable of all, were responsible

Note 2 from p. 17.

2) The total results in only 454 farms: the figures for Kronsweide, Schöneberg, Blumengart seem to be misprinted in the "Unterhaltungsblatt". The following table provides information on the relocations and establishment of farmsteads.



cf. above reports, Klause loc. cit. Beilage 2 p. 31 f. and Beilage 7, (Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 30. Between 1824-1855 (1848?) 21 farms were moved from the old colonies to the later ones and by 1839 119 families had been resettled. After 1855, land divisions occur to reduce the number of landless families.

men of their time, finally had to succumb to the accusations <sup>1</sup>). People from the service and labor class, with visions of finding comfort and prosperity, like their earlier brothers, in Russia, felt they had been deceived because the uncultivated mountains didn't match their exaggerated expectations. To this dissatisfaction with the mountainous terrain was soon added an unusual mortality, lack of food and clothing, which together increased the malady to such a degree that, like wasting, it could be cured only by the length of time, which lasted for thirty years.

#### Harmful events

In fact, only the year 1833 can be counted as a Misswachse <sup>a</sup>) of growth in the whole district but also the years 1823, 24, 42 and 45 gave only very meager harvests of grain and hay, so that large sums had to allocated to meet these needs. The poor harvests in the first years, where the small, always too late seed on the stalks either burned out by the heat or was consumed by the frequent ground squirrels (Zieselmäuse), cannot be considered here at all.

The frequent cattle deaths in the first 15 years, we want to ascribe also on average more correctly to the carelessness, whereby the cattle got little and spoiled fodder; later however, when better livestock management practices were in effect, the municipality several times lost the largest part of the horned cattle herds due to epidemics, particularly in the years 1804, 9, 10, 12, 13, 28, 33 and 1845 the village of Kronsweide alone over  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the herd. These diseases almost always broke out along the Tschumak Road  $^2$ ), undoubtedly infected by the foreign cattle, and later spread throughout the whole district.

In 1820, only 3 villages suffered from flooding when the Dnieper was high: Insel-Chortitza, Rosenthal and the lower part of Einlage, in 1829 and 41 Rosenthal alone suffered most from the devastation of their lower fields, but in 1845, when the Dnieper rose higher than it had in living memory. The 4 villages of

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<sup>1)</sup> The dissatisfaction with the lands granted by the government had assumed such proportions that the deputies, who tried to cultivate, were accused of embezzlement of common charges and, strangely enough, sued Schwarz, the commander of Alekfandrovsk. An investigation conducted jointly with the vice-governor proved their innocence (cf. Epp op. cit. p. 79). Bartsch, who had resigned himself to pleading, was again excluded from the ecclesiastical community and spent his twilight years in dull melancholy. However, the complaint brought against Höppner Contaenius [I don't understand how Contaenius' name fits into this sentence. PM Friesen doesn't mention Conteanius in his fairly detailed account of this episode. The sentence is clearly understandable without the word "Contenius" in it and adding it makes the meaning unclear. Could this be random typesetting errror where a random word was added in advertently? The event of this dispute occurred from 1794-1797 and pitted the deputies against the clergy. Contenius in 1799 received the commission to inspect the foreign settlers in South Russia. In 1800 he was appointed chief judge of the Neu-Russische Vormundschafts-Comptoir der Ausländer. think these events occurred before Contenius could have had a hand in them. THF] resulted in the Senate auctioning off Höppner's assets to cover his crown debts and throwing him into prison (cf. I PSZ Vol. 26, p. 121 f.). Pardoned in 1801, Höppner joined the Frisian community and found a livelihood with Miklashevsky (Cf. p. 6 note 2). The accusations made against Höppner can probably be explained by the fact that he was granted special rights and loans by the government (among other things, 20 Dess. land additionally on the island of Tawan, which he probably later received on the island of Chortitza), cf. the privilege document in Epp op. cit. p. 50f. The resulting better economic situation of Höppner will have been the reason for the suspicions against him.

- 2) The Russian term cumak for salt driver "salzfahrer", which can be traced back to the Turkotatarian language, is often linked folk-etymologically with the Russian cuma "plague", cf. also p. 136 note 1.
- a) The term "Misswachs, and derivatives, occurs at least 20 times and is a general term for an agricultural failure or disaster. I will leave it untranslated. THF

Einlage, Rosenthal, Insel-Chortitza and Nieder-Chortitza were severely damaged. The valley in which Einlage lies was completely flooded by the rupture of the dam and 20 houses destroyed with a damage of 8,922 R. 14 Kop. However, the houses above have already been replaced. partly by cash support, partly from a collection of voluntary contributions, to unaffected places, in better condition than before, and the dam has been raised much higher. The community distillery 1), which used to stand in Einlage, the buildings and equipment were damaged to a total of 2,409 R. 43 Kop. Rosenthal suffered damage of 2,491 R. 38 Kop., but only 4 landowners, lacking space, were able to move their farms to protected places. Most of the hayfields in the lowlands have been covered by the river with a sandy area, which is now partly covered by alluvial poplar and willow seeds, but the high places are completely overgrown with planted willow bushes, and which the community encloses with a 1,120 fathom long ditch toward the previously mentioned island, called the Schweinskopf, which serves for grazing, and with the help of all village communities, has built a dam on the lower end of the valley to prevent downstream flooding. On the Insel-Chortitza, the damage to the houses, several of which were almost up to their roofs in water, but remained standing because the current did not hit them, was assessed at 430 R. 59 Kop. in total; this community suffered greater damage, however, through the silting up of the largest and best part of its hayfields in the large forest. The houses all had to remain in their places due to lack of space, but the road along the shore has been greatly elevated. Nieder-Chortitza was also mostly under the water, and suffered damage of 1221 R. 67 Kop. but, because of the great trouble and expense, did not want to relocate, preferring to protect itself for the future with an earthen dam.

The damage caused by the last flood in 1845 amounts to 15,476 R. 21 Kop. silver.

The community has suffered significant damage from occasional, sometimes devastating hailstorms and fires. In 1811, 3 farms in Einlage burned down at once. In 1823, 6 farms in Schöneberg burned, sparing the schoolhouse. The consequences of the last accidents are, since the suffered losses are compensated with  $\frac{2}{3}$  from the fire insurance  $^2$ ), even more temporary, since in general such a close-knit community consisting of industrious, obedient members, in times of peace, always recovers soon from every blow, with the help even of nature, which in its order, lets follow mortality and Misswachs, again all the greater fertility.

In terms of natural events, the community has experienced 2 light, quite harmless earth tremors, one as early as 1799, and the last one on January 11, 1838, 9 o'clock in the evening, for a few minutes, in the direction from west to east, with an effect that frightened people and cattle, and caused the water sources to flow much more strongly.

<sup>1)</sup> The Mennonites were expressly permitted by the privilege charter granted to them by Paul I on September 6, 1800, to distill spirits for their own use and to sell it within the areas granted to them, cf. I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19546, § 4.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 24f.

#### Favorable conditions

Our community, as can be seen from the foregoing, was in a very disastrous situation, especially in 1793, when some new convoys of Mennonites, together 118 families, with a small fortune of their own, arrived from Prussia, who already brought some more money into circulation by acquiring their supplies and building houses. Where there is money, there is also endurance. The building of houses began in general, the cultivation of fields increased, and already people were eating their own bread, when new, more substantial emigrants from Prussia arrived, who first took up quarters in our villages, and then settled on the Molotschna 1). In 1803 179, the following year 146 families from Prussia immigrated <sup>2</sup>), they needed rooms, stables, bread and fodder, and paid cash. This fortunate occurrence gave impetus to the economy, which did not fade away. Not only did the presence of these wealthy guests bring fresh money into circulation, but also with their settlement many of our colonists still drew good wages from helping them by building houses, and morality increased to the same extent. Our community was in a much improved state in terms of houses, livestock, and equipment. They also had their own grain mills when the Spanish sheep breeding industry was still in its infancy <sup>3</sup>). This completed the work, and turned endurance into wealth <sup>4</sup>). This so gratifying industry began in 1803, with 30 breeding animals, 15 rams and 15 ewes, donated by the Crown through the mediation of the Chief Judge of the Guardianship Committee, Herr v. Contenius, and from the mating of these rams with Russian sheep, and the later purchase of jumping rams (Sprungbökken) from Herr Stieglitz in Tsarskoye-Selo 5) and from Saxony 6), finally a flock emerged, which was a gold mine for the community in

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<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 88f.

<sup>2)</sup> The Russian Minister of the Interior listed 162 families for 1804, cf. N. Varadnov: Istorija Ministerstva Vnutrennich Del (History of the Ministry of Interior). Vol. 1, Petersburg 1858, p. 125; Russia under Alexander the First. A Historical Journal. Ed. by Heinrich Storch. Vol. 3, Petersburg 1804, p. 140. (Further cited as Storch.)

<sup>3)</sup> Contanius, in his report on the condition of the villages of the Chortitza region, had pointed out that the dry climate there had an unfavorable effect on grain cultivation and that only sheep breeding could be carried on with some success, cf. I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19372, p. 117 (April 6, 1800).

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. p. 23 Anni. 4. In the following period, sheep breeding here took such an unexpectedly favorable development that the Ministry of the Interior did not want to believe the reports sent in about it and in 1827 sent two officials to check it on the spot, cf. op. cit. p. 414.

<sup>5)</sup> Ludwig Stieglitz, born in Arolsen in 1778, died in Petersburg in 1843, one of the greatest economic leaders of Russia at that time, maintained, among other things, a famous Merino sheep farm. One of his estates (about 100,000 Dess.) was also located in the Ekaterinoslav governorate, see Russkij Biograficeskij Slovar' (Russian Biographical Dictionary), Petersburg, s. v., and Das Ausland. Ein Tagblatt für Kunde des geistigen und sittlichen Lebens der Völker mit besonderer Rücksicht auf verwandte Erscheinungen in Deutschland. Jg. 19, Stuttgart 1846, p. 284.

<sup>6)</sup> All the major sheep breeders of southern Russia (Rouvier, Vassale, Müller, Vietzsch and others) used to obtain their breeding animals and shepherds from Saxony at the beginning of the 19th century. In 1808, the Russian government bought 4000 sheep from Baron von Müller's sheep farm at a price of 40 to 60 Rbl. per sheep to be used in the foreign colonies and crown settlements in

those years when the farmers were not yet rewarded for their cultivation due to low grain prices. It is true that the sheep breeding also had slack years, but it always rose again from its low. Thus, the circumstance that the surrounding landowners took a long time to deal with this branch, brought the community a significant advantage. It was not until 1822 and later, when prices were high, that they made purchases of entire herds of Spanish sheep in our colonies for significant sums. This branch of the economy now seems to be in decline, but the higher prices of grain in the last few years caused its decline, and the fact that the landowners have begun to place considerable annual orders for plows and wagons with us ¹), and that they are teaching young people, and especially that the custom of driving on German wagons has become general, brings the community a considerable advantage, and will secure it for a long time to come.

### Community properties

His Excellency, the blessed Herr v. Contenius, endowed a special communal fund out of our collective income; with it, he had in mind a faster and more secure promotion of model plants, such as silk production, viticulture, planting, etc., and although, due to constant opposition and abuse, he did not achieve the desired goal, he nevertheless laid the foundation for everything that exists, and even brought communal philanthropy to a certain degree of perfection.

The Crown crossing (Kronsüberfahrt) at Kichkas (old Russians interpret this name from the narrow squeezing of the Dnieper into its rocky banks above the crossing on Kazzensprung <sup>2</sup>)) existed already at the arrival of our first settlers, but only in a very precarious condition. Recognizing the certain advantage of this resource and at the same time considering their own comfort, our Germans built themselves in the first years, proper ferries from the profits from the sale of spirits <sup>3</sup>), on which everybody was pleased to be ferried <sup>4</sup>). In 1845 was established by

New Russia. The animals were selected by the well-known Stuttgart-born naturalist Friedrich Baron von Bieberstein, who was also in charge of silk breeding in southern Russia and actively promoted viticulture (see Russkij Biograficeskij Slovar' s. v.). Cf. also Skal'krovskij loc. cit. part 2, Odessa 1838, p. 132 f.; Doering loc. cit.

<sup>1)</sup> Unfortunately, I have no statistical data on this source of income from this early period.

<sup>2)</sup> According to M. Vasmer: Studies on the oldest residences of the Slavs (Untersuchungen über die ältesten Wohnsitze der Slaven). Vol. 1, Leipzig 1923, p. 67, the place name Kitschkas is based on Turko-Tatar (Turkotatarian) Kütfuk As "Little Ossetians". The folk etymological interpretation as "cat's jump" comes from Ukrainian kit "tomcat" and skakatyu "jump".

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p. 58 note 4.

<sup>4)</sup> About these German ferries Haxthausen a. a. O. reports. Vol. 2, p. 171: "We came ... to the Dnieper, and were ferried across on a German ferry, i.e., the wagon was no longer placed crosswise on the ferry with unspeakable effort, but drove leisurely in lengthwise. I do not understand why the Russians, who are so practical in the handling of all things, stick to this absurd custom.

His Excellency, the deputy chief commissioner, Herr v. Hahn <sup>1</sup>), granted our community the right of private crossing, according to the tax determined by the ukase of the directing senate of May 26, 1823, and already in 1847, our crossing yielded a lease sum of 1235 Rub. B. Ass., of which the municipality of Einlage receives the third part for the compensation for the cattle grazing.

The distillery was rebuilt more substantially of burnt bricks after the flood in 1845 on another place, and it brings in 6,282 Rubles annually. Formerly the brewery was also under lease, where it yielded 770 Rub. annually, but in order to stimulate a competition in the production of better quality of this beverage, the District Office has released this acquisition to the settlers, and with good success, so that at present there are four breweries in operation, which pay for their license up to 700 Rub. annually.

The deep valley next to the Rosenthal village, in which the blessed Herr v. Contenius, in the year 1801, had the community planting school set up, Prince Potemkin had already chosen it for a tree garden, planting mostly cherry trees, digging a ditch around it, and laying the foundations of a castle next to the garden on a very high plateau, where one has a picturesque view over the Chortitza Valley and the Dnieper River. Herr v. Contenius procured a gardener, had young fruit trees and grapevines brought from the Crimea, prescribed seedlings, had fruit and mulberry trees from the nurseries distributed to the settlers, did not lack rewards and admonitions on the scene, but slackness and prejudices inhibited his striving for years, only in old age did he have the pleasure of seeing a general more active life awaken and a better prosperity of his works emerge <sup>1</sup>).

At present, when the settlers already grow their own nurseries of fruit and mulberry trees, in this main plantation, by order of the authorities, mostly only nurseries of forest and mulberry trees are grown, and with the best success.

The community shepherding began in 1803 with the above-mentioned 30 animals donated by the crown <sup>2</sup>). In the last land survey <sup>3</sup>) it was allotted 2,943 acres of the surplus land and on it proper stables as well as residential buildings for the shepherds were constructed. Through purchases of breeding rams, and sales of brakkid [improved] sheep, the flock has reached such a degree of improvement that the wool still easily found its buyers, even in the last bad years. Their number currently consists of 5,033 head <sup>4</sup>) and the sheep farm gave a yield last year of 10,704 R.

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. also Reiswitz and Wadzeck, op. cit. p. 359: "In the village of Rosenthal, a nursery is maintained by the settlers (on the express order of Hahn) at joint expense and labor, from which each could supply himself with young stems and grafts; but due to negligence or lack of time, this opportunity is little used.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf, p, 21.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p, 16.

<sup>4)</sup> In 1846, 5,335 sheep, mutton and lambs were sold in the Chortitza area for 9,336 Rbl. 25 Kop. and wool was sold for 22,053 Rbl. 97½ Kop. cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt." Jg. 2, 1847, No. 3.

39 Kop. B. <sup>1</sup>). These facilities, accordingly, in the past year of 1847, have yielded a total revenue of 18,510 Rub. B.; from which the municipal buildings, gardeners and workers, shepherds and overseers, also the District Office are maintained.

## Fire and Orphans Office

The integrity of these 2 insurance companies guarantees the entire brotherhood, the statutes of which were brought over from Prussia. Each of them is administered by two Aelteste for life, as a matter of conscience, if no adverse event intervenes. Their rewards are exemption from rotational services (Reihendiensten) <sup>2</sup>) and 1 percent cash on registration of new capital.

Fire fund. Their capital consists not of cash, but of a register of the Hubenzahl shares [the amount of property owned by a farmer]. A Prussian Hube is equal to an area of about 15 Dessiantineen. A so-called Brandhube is equal to 200 R. B. cash. The participant of the fire company is therefore compensated for his burned house for 1 Hube with 200, for 2 Huben with 400 R., etc., however, that such loss amounts to only  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the loss, and that the owner loses  $\frac{1}{3}$ , therefore the fire office appraises the buildings beforehand, so that they are not registered too high in the number of Huben. In addition, the burned livestock and the farm equipment are compensated in cash, 1 horse at 31½ R., 1 cow at 24 R., 1 wagon at 60 R., 1 plow at 35 R., etc., so that the victim can immediately resume work, even if in a lower condition. Farmers and smallholders make no difference here. The Chortitza and the Molotschna Mennonites established this insurance company, with a registration of 27,409 Brandhuben [area under fire protection] (in the amount of 5,481,800 Rub. B.), if therefore the rate for a fire damage amounts to 1,000 Rub. the result is a dividend of 3\% Kop. on each Hube, i.e. each participant of the company pays a compensation for the injured person of 3\% Kop. for 1 Hube, for 2 Huben 7\% Kop. and so on, In the same way, the burnt grain and fodder is compensated in kind according to measure and weight 3).

Orphans' Fund. This institution currently has capital of 213,060 R. 50 K. B., which is mostly outstanding among the settlers on loan, and increases from year to year according to the increase in the number of souls and wealth. It has its source in the auctions of the estates of deceased parents and relatives, who leave underage heirs.

The highest bidder must immediately pay a 1 percent writing fee, and if he lacks cash, he must present 2 guarantors for the complete payment of his debt, without which the purchased property will not be attributed to him. The debtors will have to pay

<sup>1)</sup> On economic life in the Chortitza region, see also Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 7; Haxthausen loc. cit. Vol. 2, p. 177 f.; "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 2, 1847, p. 17 f. and Jg. 4, 1849, Beilage Mai, p. 3-4.

<sup>2)</sup> i.e., of the common public works, cf. also p. 191 note 8.

<sup>3)</sup> The Mennonite fire insurance [model] also found its way into the other colonies.

6 percent interest to pay off the 10th part of their debt annually, and from this income heirs at full age receive their capitals with interest. The orphans' Aelteste also affirm the guardians, with the obligation to watch over the education of the minors and the care of the widows, at the expense of the Orphans' Fund.

#### Conclusion

According to the above brief description, our community currently represents the faithful image of an adult man. It has gone through all the stages of life, from childhood, when it was carefully fed by the state, as if cared for by a mother; to boyhood, when it had to contribute to its maintenance, and to youth, when it was accustomed to its duty to itself and to the state. Now he stands in full strength to do what is right in the eyes of God, in recognition of the favor bestowed upon him by the state, as a public example for everyone and as a model for his offspring. Out of complete poverty, under the manifest assistance of God, he has risen with slow but sure steps to the highest level of the clouds. The misfortunes he has experienced have made him experienced and proven; from youthful naughtiness, he has come to the state of morality under lenient ecclesiastical and social guidance. These fortunate events together are a sure guarantee of his continuing good reputation, in which, under fatherly care on the part of the local authorities, he will rise from level to level in the course of time. The Mennonite does not have the character of guickness, but he is calculating, capable and persevering, religious according to the customs of his fathers, quiet, sober, and agreeable, he possesses in general the quality of coming to his goal through the careful guidance of his supervisor. His acquisitiveness drives him, for lack of sufficient land of his own, to cultivate the steppe of the neighboring landowners for himself in exchange for payment, to make far-flung purchases of crops on trade, and to seek his profit through foreign orders for woodwork and blacksmithing, but if one day the landowners will use all their land themselves, then our community, because of its strong increase 1), will come into a difficult relationship.

1) The Chortitza area comprised:

1802:	1681	Persons	cf. Storch loc. cit. Vol. 6, Petersburg 1806, table 5.
1810:	1972	u	cf. Severnaja Pocta (The Post of the North) 1810, nos. 23 and 25, after Bondar a. a. O. 32f.
1813:	2446	u	cf. Reiswitz and Wadzeck op. cit. p. 381.
1819:	2888	u	Ibid
1825:	3760	u	cf. Rempel a. a. O. 2.
1834:	4680	u	cf. Klaus a. a. O. Supplement 7.
1841:	6029	u	445 landowning, 363 landless, 250 artisan families, cf. Klaus a. a. O. Supplement 7.
1846:	7100	и	including 3267 capable of work between the ages of 16-60 (1960 arable farmer, 694 craftsmen and tradesmen, 613 day laborers), cf. E. v. Hahn in "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 2, 1847, p. 17.

The population movement in the Chortitza Colony can only be concluded to a limited extent from these data, since the statistical material on immigration and emigration is still missing, see Haxthausen loc. cit. Vol. 2, p. 176.

The small farmers, who now earn their bread outside our area, will then be reduced to common day laborers, and will be completely out of proportion to the farmer. In the years 1836-1839, the District Office, with the permission of the authorities, transferred 115 young families into 4 villages on a desolate piece of crown land near Mariupol ¹); however, this transfer has already been increased by three times the number, and a new transfer, even if there were still land available, would be difficult to arrange under the current difficult conditions, and is far from relatives. But man thinks and God directs; let us therefore dispense with unnecessary concern for our future, let us continue faithfully on the path of our duty, trusting in God, pleading for the throne, obeying the authorities, loving our neighbor, and Providence will continue to rule over us and bless us.

District Mayor Bartsch <sup>2</sup>), Assistant Mayors Dyk, Siemens, Heinrich Heese <sup>3</sup>).

Chortitza Colony, July 21, 1848.

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Remark. The district office of Chortitza has found it necessary to use the ability of an already old, deserving man, former District Secretary (Gebietsschreibers), Mennonite of the village of Einlage, Heinrich Heese, who in his young years convinced himself of the importance of the circumstances for the benefit of the community by interviewing the first immigrants and their deputies, by copying the notes of those still living, and by his own experience during his service, of the accuracy of the circumstances, and to have him prepare the history of the colonies of the Chortitza Mennonite Colony in a coherent account.

District Mayor Bartsch, District Clerk Nerau.

No. 1691, July 21, 1848.

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<sup>1)</sup> i.e. Bergtal, Schönfeld, Schöntal, Heubuden.

<sup>2)</sup> Jakob Bartsch [#187277], Rosental, son of the deputy Bartsch, was District Mayor of the Chortitza area in 1832-38 and 1841-52, cf. the list of District Mayors in Epp loc. cit. p. 119 f.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p. 1 note 2. Heinrich Heese also published a poem "Aufruf an meine Brüder" in "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 10, 1855, p. 33 f.

# 2. The Village of Kronsgarten <sup>1</sup>)

Report of the Kronsgarten village to the "Fursogekomitee" of May 6, 1848. Reprint of the copy of J. Stach from the former archives of the "Fursorgekomitee", which is in the collective possession of Georg Leibbrandt.

The 15 families originally settled in this colony arrived here in 1794 <sup>2</sup>) in a joint venture with the settlers of the Schönwiese colony without a leader from the administrative district of Marienwerder. Next to their settlement place they found two significant buildings belonging to the high crown, in which all 15 families were given shelter until the construction of their own houses. The houses were built in 1797; the crown had lent each family 120 pieces of timber <sup>3</sup>).

The village was built in the lowland of Kilshin <sup>4</sup>) in a fairly straight line between the governorate town of Ekaterinoslav <sup>5</sup>) and the district town of Novomoskovsk 15 versts from the former and 12 versts from the latter, close to the river Kilchin, which flows southeast through the lands of this village and flows into the Samara River, where in the past there was a crown garden <sup>6</sup>), but at that time only stunted cherry trees testified to it. These traces of a garden caused the settlers of this village to give it the name Kronsgarten.

The soil on the heights where the arable and pasture land is located is covered with black earth to a depth of 2 feet and contains a subsoil of yellowish clay. It is well suited to all cereal and fruit crops.

The lowland, which is bounded on the east by the Samara River and contains a natural forest of 578 wild pear trees, 2837 elms, 15,447 oaks, and 688 poplars, has sandy soil and provides productive hayfields in open places.

But since these lands did not contain more than 780 Dess, so there was only land for 12 families, calculated at 65 Dess. for each family. The missing 195 Dess, were therefore, in addition to the lands of the village Rybalskl from the opposite

2) The year of foundation of the village is always given as 1797 only, so also I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19372.

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. also p. 14.

<sup>3)</sup> According to § 9 of the draft treaty confirmed by the Most High, see Pisarevskiy, op. cit. p. 301.

<sup>4)</sup> Kiltschen.

<sup>5)</sup> Ekaterinoslav was elevated to the status of a governorate town only in 1802, see Semenov loc. cit. Vol. 2, p. 176.

<sup>6)</sup> should read "has existed", cf. also p. 6.

<sup>7)</sup> Rybalst and Josefütal, founded by 90 Lutheran families who had joined the Mennonites in emigration, were granted only half of the amount of land allotted to the Mennonites by the Russian government on June 2, 1792. They had to cede their surplus land to Kronsgarten (561 Dess. 270 Sashen) at the suggestion of Contaenius and others, cf. Zapiski Odesskogo Obscestve Istorii i Drevnostej Vol. 2, p. 6626:1 PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19372 (April 6, 1800) and below p. 196 ff. and p. 199 f.

side of the Samara River allotted in such a way that the northern end is bordered by the previously mentioned river. This piece of land is about 8 versts southeast of the Kronsgarten village and is unsuitable for cultivation because of its great distance and high mountainous location, which is why a communal sheep farm <sup>1</sup>) was established there in 1846.

Since the immigrants were destitute people and they had pretty much used up their money on the 14-week journey, their personal assets consisted primarily of their carts. However, they received from the high crown 500 Rub. Banko for each family and travel allowance of 75 Rub. Banko for each soul, and 800 Rub. Banko to build a common windmill <sup>2</sup>).

The village had to suffer more or less from the floods of the Dnieper River every spring. In 1820 in particular almost all the buildings were flooded and some of them were severely damaged; also all the garden crops were lost. In 1845 the flood was even more significant, many fields were submerged, the garden crops were all lost, the fruit trees withered that same year or later, so that the damage to crops, trees, fences and buildings amounted to 2,115 Rub. 25 Kop. silver. In 1847 and 1848 the settlers, with the permission of the high authorities, decided to move their buildings, which were already mostly dilapidated, one verst to the east to a higher place, not exposed to the floods.

Already nine landowners have settled at the new place in the past year 1847 and, except for one house constructed of wood, all dwellings have been built of burnt bricks, 55 feet long and 32 feet wide. The remaining 6 landowners are in full activity to accomplish a same. The prayer and school house built in 1835 of burnt tiles under a roof is to be transferred also still this year to the new building site.

The 2 Spanish breeding rams and 8 breeding ewes donated by the High Crown to the local community in 1809 have introduced the refined sheep breeding, which together with the wheat grown here at high prices in the last decade has established the prosperity of the community. The municipality of Kronsgarten was placed under the administration of the Chortitza District Office only in 1843.

Kronsgarten, May 6, 1848,

Village Mayor Plenerts.

Assistant Mayors Klaassen. Klaassen.

Village School Teacher Johann Wieler.

<sup>1)</sup> i.e. probably community shepherding.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 8, item 4 - In their draft privilege, the Mennonites had also requested oak wood for two mills with accessories, which was granted to them, cf. Epp a. a. O. S. 28.

I. Neusatz 29

# II. the Neusatz colonist area 1)

## 1. Neusatz<sup>2</sup>)

The first part of the book is a copy of the original copy made by J. Stach and in the possession of Georg Leibbrandt from the former archives of the "Fursorgekomittees".

In the summer of 1803, following a request by the Commissioner Ziegler <sup>3</sup>) to the inhabitants of Germany to emigrate to Russia, about 200 families from Württemberg, Lower Alsace, Rhenish-Bavaria and Baden, boarded the ship and sailed in different vessels down the Danube to Galatz, from there to Dubassary <sup>4</sup>), where they spent 6 days in quarantine <sup>5</sup>), and reached Odessa in the late spring of the same year, where they spent the winter in barracks <sup>6</sup>). These were the first eight groups, as the leaders of which Kompinis, Pasgal, Brittner and others are mentioned <sup>7</sup>).

The fourth group was attacked, robbed, and looted on its way through Turkey by local residents, and one person was killed.

Some of the emigrants, 60 families, who had already learned of the Crimea in their homeland and wished to settle there. Therefore, they chose three men from among them and sent them from Odessa to Crimea in the spring to see the proposed destination. They found the area wild, but appealing to them, because they saw in it a picture of the mountains and forests of their homeland. Their compatriots followed them in the same spring under the leadership of Inspector Hastver <sup>8</sup>), who had already been appointed to them in Odessa. Some traveled by

1) The report of the village Rosental (Russian: Tschabaniba Buruntscha), founded in 1805, which is missing here, was published by Malinowsky, Cf. p. 29 ff.

<sup>2)</sup> Russian name: Tikhukurtcha.

<sup>3)</sup> According to Skalovsky op. cit. Vol. 2, p. 57, Ziegler was first sent to Russia by emigrants to ask for protection for himself and his compatriots. In 1803, 2,990 colonists from Germany and Switzerland were accepted by the Russian government for settlement, cf. Varadinov op. cit. Vol. 1, p. 109.

<sup>4) =</sup>Dubossary, then border town of Russia.

<sup>5)</sup> Since May 18, 1802, all immigrants had to undergo quarantine, cf. I PSZ Vol. 27, No. 20268. However, Alexander I himself gave the instruction in 1803 not to oppress the immigrants during the quarantine period by too great severity, cf. I PSZ Vol. 27, No. 20988, p. 5.

<sup>6)</sup> cf. I PSZ Vol. 27, No. 20988, p. 5.

<sup>7)</sup> Since the journey of individual families to the border was associated with higher costs, the Russian Resident in Regensburg was ordered to dispatch only 20 to 30 families at a time on the account of the Crown. Apart from the travel expenses, the colonists abroad received no further monetary support, cf. Storch loc. cit. Vol. 7, Petersburg 1805, p. 237. About Kompinis (Gambini) cf. I PSZ Vol. 27, No. 20988. An architect Pasqual is mentioned in 1822, cf. I PSZ Vol. 38, p. 322. Franz Brittner became District Mayor of the Liebental area, cf. G. Leibbrandt: The German Colonies in Kherson and Bessarabia. Stuttgart 1926, p. 45 and 78, C. Keller: Die deutschen Kolonien in Südrussland. Vol. 2, Odessa 1914, p. 167 (where, however, the date of arrival is wrongly indicated).

<sup>8)</sup> cf. Malinowsky op. cit. p. 29 Hasper?

land, but the majority by water. The latter landed in Kasslow <sup>1</sup>) (Eupatoria) and moved from there to the estate <sup>2</sup>) purchased by General Rosenberg and designated for settlement by the Crown, which they reached on May 25, 1804. They all settled there, living in the huts of the former inhabitants until the spring of 1805, but then they dispersed to Rosental, Sudak <sup>3</sup>), Odus <sup>4</sup>), Herzenberg <sup>5</sup>) and other areas. Only 28 families remained for settlement. Among them were 23 from Württemberg, namely from the districts of Tübingen, Reutlingen and Baknang of the Lutheran denomination, and 5 from Unkerelsass and Rheinbaiern of the Reformed denomination. Afterwards, 4 families from Wuerttemberg and 2 from Baden were added. Finally, 6 sons of the formerly settled landowners were given their land, so that now the number of landowners amounts to 38 <sup>6</sup>).

In the spring of 1804, they started to build houses and gave the name Neusatz to the newly founded, first settlement in the Crimea.

Neusatz is located 3 miles east of the district and governorate city of Simferopol and just as far in the opposite direction from the Tartar city of Karasubazar on the northern slope of the Crimean Mountains, on the west side of a mountain, at the foot of which a stream runs northward. The creek irrigates the gardens, 2 fields and meadows and drives a mill, the income of which the community receives. Vineyards and orchards are planted on the mountain which keeps out the cold winds. Towards the north, a large part of the land is covered with woods and shrubs, which are gradually being cleared. The west side is fairly level, fertile farmland, while the south side is covered by a large forest of nicely grown trees. The land is productive, but fertilizing must not be neglected if a good harvest is to be expected otherwise; only in some places is it barren because of the many large rocks. The village is provided with two springs of healthy water; also, many landowners have their own wells in their courtyards. In addition to the crown land, the municipality owns, to its great benefit, an adjoining estate of 418 Dess. purchased from its own funds, of which about 11 Dess. came to each landowner <sup>7</sup>).

<sup>1)</sup> The name of the Turkish fortress Guezlevc was popularly mutilated by the Russians to Kozlov, see Semenov-Tjan-Šanskij loc. cit. Vol. 14, p. 683.

<sup>2)</sup> Andreas Rosenberg was war governor of Kherson in 1803-1805 and chairman of the Krimmer Inspectorate, cf. Ska'lkovskij op. cit. Vol. 2, pp. 60 and 88. In 1804, he was given superintendence over the colonies, cf. Varadinov op. cit. Vol. 1, p. 124f. and p. 38 note 4 below p. 38 note 2.

<sup>3)</sup> On Sudak, cf. below p. 51 f.

<sup>4)</sup> Ogus. Strangely enough, this German village founded in 1805 is not mentioned in the old directories. [The name, given twice, is spelled differently on this page.]

<sup>5)</sup> cf. below E. 54f.

<sup>6) 1857:15</sup> farmsteads (187 men) on 922 Dess. and 24 landless families (125 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 41.

<sup>7)</sup> The right of the free estates in Russia at that time to acquire land without peasants was also granted to the German colonists on December 12, 1801, but with the provision that in the case of a possible migration abroad, the self-acquired lands could only be sold to Russian subjects, see PSZ Vol. 28, No. 21191 and above p. 8 Note 1.

Upon their arrival in Neusatz, the immigrants found the area quite overgrown with hedges and bushes. Russians, Tartars and Nogai <sup>1</sup>) inhabited it and earned more from their herds than from agriculture. The huts of the natives were given to the German settlers as dwellings, and in the first year they had to harvest the Russian's crops, but they made little use of them, because they did not have the tools at their disposal, which they were used to using from their homeland, and they did not know how to handle the Tartar implements.

At that time, the settlers were in a sad state. The few resources they had brought from abroad were exhausted. Some had nothing at all. They had received 210 Rub. Banko for the construction of the houses, 105 Rub. Banko advance and 10 Kop. daily food money per person, but even that was soon consumed <sup>2</sup>). They were for the most part poor artisans, to whom agriculture was unknown, and who therefore attacked everything they undertook in the wrong way <sup>3</sup>). They were ignorant of the local language. They were always in danger of being mistreated by their neighbors, who robbed them of their horses from the stables, their cattle from the pastures, and their potatoes from the fields.

The morality of the village was equally sad. Neither teachers nor preachers were available who could have raised them up and encouraged them through God's Word, given them a firm foundation in their faith and counteracted the immorality that was gaining the upper hand <sup>4</sup>). However, accustomed to a better order from their youth, they gradually felt the need not to let their children grow up without any instruction like those of the natives around them. So they chose teachers <sup>5</sup>) from among the most capable landowners, to hold school and church, baptize and bury.

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<sup>1)</sup> German derivation from Russian nogajcy "Nogai".

<sup>2)</sup> The amount of the Crown support (Kronsvorschusses) for the establishment of the farms seems to have been determined by the Guardianship Committee at that time, cf. I PSZ Vol. 27, No. 20988 (October 17, 1803).

<sup>3)</sup> For this reason, the Russian colonization policy turned to quality immigration on February 20, 1804 (cf. I PSZ Vol. 28, No. 21163). All Russian missions abroad were instructed to stop their recruiting activities. Only families who came forward voluntarily, who could serve as role models in agriculture and handicrafts, and who had assets of at least 300 gulden, were to be allowed to immigrate, and no more than 200 families annually, cf. Varadinov loc. cit. Furthermore, this provision has often been violated, as the reports here show.

<sup>4)</sup> The maintenance of the Lutheran and Catholic clergy during the Free Years had been taken over by the Russian government on May 16, 1801, cf. I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19873, but it was extremely difficult to find suitable candidates for the villages. Until 1811, there were only two Protestant parishes in the Black Sea region: in Josefstal, founded in 1789 by Pastor Hiob Adolf Kirchmann, who had immigrated together with the colonists (cf. Zapiski Odesskogo Obscestva Istorii i Devnostej Bd. 2, Odessa 1848, p. 661) and in Odessa or Grossliebental, where Joh. Christian Heinrich Pfersdorf worked since 1803, cf. among others Fr. Bienemann: Werden und Wachsen einer deutschen Kolonie in Südrussland. History of the Evangelical-Lutheran congregation in Odessa. Odessa 1893.

<sup>5)</sup> The supervision of the school system in the colonies was one of the duties of the clergy (cf. I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19873, May 16, 1801). In 1801 it was also determined (cf. ibid.) that the teachers were to be maintained from the municipal treasury, but the Russian

From time to time the village was visited by pastors Zehlingk <sup>1</sup>) and Biller <sup>2</sup>), who administered Holy Communion, confirmed the children and married the bridal couples, until the pastor Hornburg <sup>3</sup>) settled here in 1812 and held the services in a private house. However, he moved away again after two years.

Neusatz was spared the plague that raged in the Crimea in 1812, but in the following spring there was a shortage of fodder, which significantly reduced the number of livestock. In the following years the prosperity of the village increased more and more. By learning the Tartar language, they were able to make better use of the help of the natives, whom they hired as farmhands and day laborers. Enriched by experience, they were able to cultivate the land more advantageously and focus on those products that brought them the greatest profit. Moreover, the times were fertile, in that sunshine and rain always arrived in time.

However, moral progress lagged far behind the development of external prosperity, for until 1822 the community was left to its own devices without a preacher. Then pastor Boerlin arrived, who eagerly and faithfully provided blessings in his ministry, but lost his life after only four years due to a fall from the wagon, to the great sorrow of the congregation <sup>4</sup>).

Even before the arrival of Pastor Boerlin, the schoolhouse was built, which then also had to serve for church services; only during his presence did the government grant a sum of 4,532 Rub. Banco for the construction of a pastorage, and in 1825 the construction of the church was begun, which was completed by the congregation from its own funds and was consecrated by Pastor Boerlin on November 15, 1825 <sup>5</sup>).

In 1828, two years after Boerlin's death, the pastor was hired,

government never made any effort to recruit suitable staff. Around 1828, the school teacher Steinbiecht in Neusatz also accepted non-resident children into his boarding school, which he led until 1830, see Doering loc. cit. p. 229 and 264.

- 1) Benjamin Zehlingk worked in the Molotschna colonies from 1816-1840, cf. Mitteilungen und Nachrichten für die evangelische Kirche in Russland. Vol. 63, 1910, p. 469.
- 2) Karl Biller succeeded Kirchmann 1800-4826 in Josefstal, cf. Mitteilungen und Nachrichten für die evangelische Kirche in Russland Vol. 63, 1910, p- 451.
- 3) Friedrich Hornborg, who was probably Swedish, served the few Protestant congregations existing in the Crimea at that time, including Simferopol. In 1814-1821 he was employed at the Finnish rural congregations near Petersburg and thereafter until 1840 at the Swedish-Finnish congregation in Narva, cf. Mitteilungen und Nachrichten für die evangelische Kirche in Russland Vol. 63, 1910, p. 456 and (G. Pingoud): The Evangelical Lutheran Congregations in Russia. Edited by the Central Committee of the Support Fund for Evangelical Congregations in Russia. Vol. 1, Part 1, Petersburg 1909, p. 327.
- 4) Ursus Boerlin (1799-1826) sent by the Basel Missions Institute (Cf. p. 36 note 3) also maintained a school boarding house in Neusatz, cf. Doering loc. cit. p. 229 and below p. 33 note 1.
- 5) The village communities were allowed to dispose of their funds only with the permission of the Welfare Office or Committee. Any grain and money collections required official approval, cf. I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19873, May 16, 1801.

2. Friedental 33

Fletnitzer <sup>1</sup>), but after a few years he moved away again, whereupon in 1831 Pastor Kylius <sup>2</sup>) was confirmed for the parish of Neusatz, who has now been working as a preacher in the parish for 17 years.

In the years 1819 to 1821 the village was afflicted by devastating locust swarms, also several times cattle epidemics occurred, from which the largest part of the community suffered. In the late 1847 the typhoid fever (Nervenfieber) came over the village, which spared only a few families, and in the following year the red-spots <sup>3</sup>) broke out among the children.

Potato growing is the main occupation of the local colonists <sup>4</sup>). This product can be sold well in the two neighboring towns and has contributed much to the prosperity of the village, which, however, is very much inhibited by the Misswachs of recent years. The year 1847 has surpassed all others in barrenness. At present, however, the fruits of the field are most beautiful, and there is good hope for a blessed harvest.

Neusatz, April 25, 1848.

Mayor: P. Bösshans.

Assistant Mayor: Friedrich Bub.

Deputies: Christian Gnom. Wendel Bösshans. (Author) School Teacher Johann Adam Fritz.

## 2. Friedental <sup>5</sup>)

The first part of the book is a copy of the original copy made by J. Stach and in the possession of Georg Leibbrandt from the former archives of the "Fursorgekomittees".

When the commissioner Ziegler offered emigration to Russia in the Kingdom of Würtemberg in 1804, a significant number of people from several of the upper districts decided to do so, set out on the journey and

<sup>1)</sup> Karl Friedrich Wilhelm Fletnitzer, born 1800 in Lausigk near Leipzig, studied 1821-1824 at the Basel Mission Institute. After his ordination in Stuttgart, he was appointed by the mission committee for the Caucasus, but was recruited by Boettiger (Cf. p. 66, note 4) as an adjunct for Odessa. Confirmed as pastor for Neusatz on Oct. 12, 1827, he soon after took over the direction of the badly depressed church school in Odessa and in 1830 also the spiritual care of the Odessa congregation. On January 27, 1834, he became an assessor in the Guardianship Committee, where he had to administer the church assets of the German colonies. His achievements for the school system in the villages, for which he tried to train a new generation of teachers in his small private seminary, are great. He retired to Neusatz in 1868, where he died in 1872, cf. Mitteilungen und Nachrichten für die evangelische Kirche in Russland Vol. 6, 1844, pp. 70f. and Vol. 63, 1910, pp. 468f. Bienemann op. cit.

<sup>2)</sup> Christian Friedrich Kylius from Baden was pastor in Zürichtal 1829-1831. He died in 1854 in Neusatz, cf. Mitteilungen und Nachrichten für die evangelische Kirche in Russland. Vol. 63, 1910, p. 467. 3) probably measles.

<sup>4)</sup> On the history of potato cultivation in Russia, see F. Istis: Istorija razvedenija kartoflja v Rossii (History of Potato Cultivation in Russia). In: Zurnal Ministerstva Vnutrennich Del (Journal of the Ministry of Internal Affairs) Part 21, Petersburg 1848, pp. 268-283. 5) Russian names: Kantekuz, Kantakuzowa.

gathered in Ulm in the month of June. Here they boarded the ship with the 11th, 14th and 16th transport groups and, accompanied by their leaders Ottmann, Bauer and Schöck, sailed down the Danube to Vienna, from where they traveled by land at their own expense to Radziwil 1) and continued at the expense of the high crown to Ovidiopol, where they were housed for the winter in two barracks 2).

This Ovidiopol (in the Vernacular "Widerpol") will remain a grim memory for the grandchildren and great-grandchildren through the stories of the fathers, because there almost all immigrants fell ill and during the winter over 600 souls died, destroying almost all families, tearing parents from their children and children from their parents

2) In 1804, 814 colonist families arrived in Russia, cf. Vol. 3, 1804, p. 140; the following letter provides information about their situation in Ovidiopol: "All of us colonists of Ovidiopol, who are willing to obediently serve, can no longer refrain from requesting help from the High Military and Civil Office of the Russian country, namely the Lord, Lord Commander of the Fortress, together with a High Military Head Office, in our embarrassment, because we can no longer be satisfied with our fate. We always hoped for improvement, but as time passes, the worse it gets. Because since we dared to risk our whole fortune on the invitation of the Imperial and Royal Russian Commissar Ziegler, and also life and limb because of such a long journey, we believed that we should also be paid what we had been promised, namely: the daily allowance of 40 Kop. from home and the wages by water and land should be paid to us, it has also been promised from Ulm from one station to the other, and we have received nothing. Until we reached the border of Radsiwiloff, we received our first daily allowance: the people over 15 years of age received 10 Kop. and the small ones 6 Kop., and we still had to lose the 4th part through exchange, so those who still had a little money had to help the others, because we came here with each other in the hope that we would be paid again. Instead, however, we have received nothing but our daily allowance, and that with great difficulty, since our agents must be in Odessa for 8 days every month until they receive it. This causes us expenses. And since we have not only received little wood and no light at all in the barracks during the winter, but also must lie on top of each other in such a way that we cannot possibly maintain our health because of fumes and hardships. Since, thank God, we have all come here in good health, many parents have already lost their children and many children, alas, God have mercy, their parents. And if we are not rescued, we will all die. If we complain to our councilor, he gives us nothing but scolding words, calling us dissolute people and riffraff. And if we want to show him our honest attestations, he tells us the same. And if a righteous man exchanges a few words with him, he threatens to cut off his hair and chase him out of the country. If we receive an order from the Councilor Briganez from Odessa, and we want to respect him, he scolds him to the utmost. So that we do not dare to repeat anything to him. We cannot answer to him in any way, because he does not accept anything from anyone. He recently hit our Mayor (Schultheiss) Götz on the heart and head with his stick without any reason.

We therefore ask the noble authorities not only to alleviate our distressed circumstances, but also to provide the money, otherwise we, one and all, will not be able to buy a dress.

We hope, therefore, not to be regarded more ungraciously than those who came before us. And that this is the pure truth, testify the following signatures: Jakob Göh Mayor, Jakob Mödinger, Johannes Kälberer, Matthäus Fr. Maile, Andreas Haar, Wilhelm Fr. Mohr, Jakob Gross, Johann Georg Wolf, Matthäus Hagstolz, Jakob Bauer, Jakob Ildinger, Andreas Klinger and Daniel Ekinger" (Ovidiopol in December 1804 or January 1805), cf. C. Keller op. cit. Vol. I, p. 33f.

<sup>1)</sup> Radziwittöw.

so that some children arrived without father and mother at the place of settlement.

In 1804, emigrants from Würtemberg had already settled in the Crimea, and the steppe regions near Odessa bore little resemblance to their native fields. With the permission of Duke Richelieu <sup>1</sup>) they departed from Odessa by water, went ashore in Kasslow (Eupatoria) <sup>2</sup>) and after a year-long journey with many hardships and tribulations, arrived happily at their new destination on June 24, 1805 of Kandagos near Neusatz. This land had been purchased by the High Crown from General Kandagos and assigned to the immigrants for settlement. There was only a single farm here, which served as accommodation for some of the settlers until their own dwellings were built in 1806.

Originally, 25 families from the upper offices of Vahingen, Baknang, Kannstadt, Waiblingen and Göppingen, all of Lutheran denomination, settled here, but in 1819 the village was enlarged by three sons of landowners, so that it now consists of 28 <sup>3</sup>) landowners.

Since the village was situated in a charming, peaceful valley, it was named Friedental by General Konteinus <sup>4</sup>).

Friedental is favored by nature in many ways. In the south the village is surrounded by beautiful forest and mountains; in the east the creek Burentscha <sup>5</sup>) forms the border, on which 2 water mills with 6 gears <sup>a</sup>) and the community garden are located, whose income goes to the community; in the north the large steppe, visible from here, stretches out, from which many have already found a second home because of growing population <sup>6</sup>). Nevertheless, there are still 2 to 3 families living in each farmstead <sup>7</sup>). Coming into the village from the west, after climbing the 2 verst long mountain, one sees a pretty village in a charming valley with its orchards and stone walls, whose lovely location has been enjoyed by many travelers.

<sup>1)</sup> Armand Emmanuel Duplessis, Duke of Richelieu (born in Paris in 1766, died there in 1822) came to Russia in 1789, became a lieutenant general in the Turkish War, in 1803 city captain of Odessa, in 1805 war governor of Kherson and governor general of New Russia. He was an excellent administrator and colonizer, who took the greatest interest in the German settlements (see I PSZ Vol. 27, No. 20989) and was especially concerned with strengthening and elevating the cultural life in New Russia. His return to France in 1815 was generally regretted in Russia. Cf. Sbornik Imp. Russkogo Istoriceskogo Obsčenstva (Anthology of the Imperial Russian Historical Society) Vol. 54, Petersburg 1886.

<sup>2) =</sup> Kozlov, Cf. p. 30 note I.

<sup>3) 1857: 11</sup> farmsteads (141 men) on 682 Dess. and 18 landless families (123 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supp. 2, p. 42.

<sup>4)</sup> Contaenius was not a general, Cf. p. 9 note 2.

<sup>5)</sup> This river name could not be found otherwise.

<sup>6)</sup> i.e. on self-purchased land.

<sup>7)</sup> It is noticeable that in these reports from the Crimea no distinction is made between land-owning and landless families.

a) Mills, water and wind, had sets of gears to allow the rotational energy to be transmitted to millstones, grain elevators, sifters, sawmills, etc.

Here the Swabians found their home again, where also healthy water and good building stones are to be had with little effort. In the center of the village at the crossroad are the prayer house, school and community center. Houses and stables of the landowners are built of stone and covered with tiles. Almost on every farm is a 40 to 50 foot deep stone-lined well with good spring water. The inhabitants of Friedental shared the same fate with Neusatz, located in the immediate vicinity, in the first years of settlement and also later.

In 1822 they built a prayer house from their own funds and bought a bell. Until that time, the teacher elected from the number of parishioners had held school and services in a private house. With the building of the prayer house, the kindness of God seemed to illuminate them, in that in the person of Pastor Boerlin 1) from Switzerland, a pastor came to them who abundantly refreshed their immortal souls with the bread of life. Since God deprived them of the bread of life five years in a row by swarms of locusts, the bread of life tasted all the sweeter amidst sorrow and tribulation. In 1826, after four years of work, God took away their dear pastor by a guick death at the age of 27, but the fruit of his work is still in blessed memory today. During another plague of locusts, the congregation gathered almost daily for earnest prayer in the house of prayer, whereupon God took away the plague and gave them favorable, blessed years. They also received a pastor from the mission house in Basel, Wilhelm Fletnitzer 2), whose humble love, effective activity, and lively zeal, especially in school improvement, did not remain without fruit. In the growing family there was a lively spiritual and economic life. After Fletnitzer's effectiveness lasted only until 1831, due to his transfer to Odessa, the gratitude among the young staff, who enjoyed the school under his leadership, is still alive today. At present, Pastor Kylius, a native of Baden and educated in the Basel mission house, holds the pastorate 3).

Like many other areas, the local village was afflicted by Misswachs and cattle pestilence in 1833 and 1834. Since the village is very populated and one farm, which has only 23 Dess., has 2 to 3 families, so the community recovered from these wounds slowly, but not only the farms have been well developed, but 5 landowners have also bought their own land and others have leased land.

The main occupation is potato growing. The local potato is characterized by its high quality and tastiness and is exported not only to Simferopol and Karasubazar,

<sup>1)</sup> Ursus Boerlin, Cf. p. 32 note 4.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 33, note 1.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p. 33, note 2. After the Russian government had tried in 1810 to win over clergymen for New Russia through the mediation of Anders from Sarepta, who was in Petersburg, in 1819 it accepted the proposal of the Basel Mission Institute, which had been made aware of southern Russia by Pinkerton, to call six Basel pupils to Russia on the condition that they take the oath of ordination, commit themselves for six years and not call themselves missionaries, cf. Bienemann op. cit. p. 95ff.

but also shipped to all other cities of the Crimea: Teodosia, Kerch, Armjansk, Eupatoria, Sevastopol and Yalta.

Since 1843, fruit-growing has made significant progress here by grafting the large, wild fruit trees. Since 1844, the progress of the village has been greatly hampered by unfavorable weather conditions; moreover, in the winter of 1845 to 1846, the cattle plague again appeared and robbed some landowners of almost all their livestock. Although potatoes in particular have not thrived for several years, the harvest has never been as bad as in 1847. In the best growth, they died suddenly, and many a piece of land with a sowing rate of 5 Tschetwert yielded barely one Tschetwert at harvest. The grain harvest was small, and the hay harvest almost completely failed, so that in winter there was an extraordinary shortage of fodder.

This year, the cornfields are already fully in the ears in April, and everything is in the most beautiful bloom, even the water sources, which have dried up for several years, have burst forth anew. Thus, the Lord God has revived the sunk hope.

Mayor Wilhelm Sailer. Assistant Mayors: Christian Weiss. Konrad Traxel. School Teacher and Village Clerk Johann Georg Birnbaum.

### 3. Kronental 1)

Reprint of the work by J. Stach and in the possession of Georg Leibbrandt from the former archives of the "Fursorgekomittees".

Because of the graciously granted travel money and land for settlement on the part of His Majesty the Blessed Emperor Alexander I, many families from Alsace, Baden, the Palatinate and Rhenish-Bavaria were found in 1809, who had passports issued to them by the Commissioner Betmann in Frankfurt am Main <sup>2</sup>) in order to settle in southern Russia. They departed from home at their own expense in several groups and at different times. Their next route would have been via Ulm, Regensburg, and Vienna, but the enemy troops in this area caused them to alter their route through Saxony, Prussia and Prussian Poland. In Biela, on the border of Galicia, many gathered, stayed a few days until they received the first food allowance granted by the Crown, and traveled, protected by military, to Ekaterinoslav, where they wintered. The consumption of the water frequently encountered on the journey, filled with red worms, and the unfamiliarity of the climate produced typhoid fever (hitzige Krankheit) there, to which a large number succumbed.

In April of 1810, they resumed their journey and happily arrived in the city of Simferopol on May 9. From there they were accompanied by the governor

<sup>1)</sup> Russian name: Bulganak. Cf. also Malinowsky op. cit. p. 26 ff.

<sup>2)</sup> i.e. from the Russian consul there. In 1809, 980 colonist families immigrated. cf. Varadinov op. cit. Vol. 1, p. 236, although already in 1805, the number of families admitted for immigration was limited to 200 per year, cf. I PSZ Vol. 28, No. 21837.

Borosdin <sup>1</sup>) to the estate he sold to the Crown on the Bulganak stream, 25 versts west of Simferopol and 12 versts eastward from the Black Sea. Here 48 families with 148 souls found neither shelter nor food. They built huts from their wagon covers until the then Inspector, Councilor Gsell <sup>2</sup>) made arrangements to build the houses. For this purpose, about the tenth part of the families, who together still had about 5,000 Rub. Banko of their own means, received 350 Rub. Banko each from the high crown <sup>3</sup>). The impoverished, who did not receive the money immediately, could not build their houses until 1811. During the winter some of them, who had to live in the huts, froze their limbs, others became ill towards spring and found their grave in only the second year.

The fathers of the families, who came from different states and places, could not agree on the name of the village. Then Herr Gsell said: Several villages are already called "-tal", and this should be called "Kronental". So, it remained.

At that time, the colonial administration was headed by the Duke of Richelieu <sup>4</sup>), the General of the Infantry of Inzow <sup>5</sup>), Fadeev <sup>6</sup>) and Kontenius, who showed the colonists no small favor, without which their poverty would have been very bad. Next to them were General Bashmakov <sup>7</sup>), Borozdin <sup>8</sup>) and Monsieur l'abbe N. <sup>9</sup>), who contributed no less to help these people out of their misery.

1) Andrei Mikhailovich Borozdin (1765-1828) was civil governor of Tauria from 1807-1816, cf. about him: Russkij Biograficeskij Slovar s. V. Borozdin spoke good German and employed German shepherds (e.g. Friedrich Doering and Matthäus Lehmann) on his estates, cf. Doering loc. cit. p. 252s.

2) The inspectors of the Crimea were directly subordinate to the Crimean Inspectorate, Cf. p. 55 note 1.

3) Cf. p. 31 note 2.

4) As war governor of Kherson (Cf. p. 30 note 2), Richelieu (Cf. p. 35 note I) simultaneously possessed superintendence over the villages. The area of responsibility between the Guardianship Committee on the one hand and the Cherson war governors on the other hand in matters of the German villages still needs to be clarified, despite I PSZ Vol. 27, No. 20988.

5) Cf. p. 108 note 3.

6) Andrei Mihajlovich Fadeyev, born 1789 in Jamburg, Gouv. Petersburg, died 1867 in Tiflis, served first as a member (1815-1818) and then as chairman (1818-1844) of the Welfare Office in Ekaterinoslav, as well as a member of the Guardianship Committee in Odessa (1834-1835) and as civil governor of Saratov (1841-1846) always worried about the welfare of the German colonists. A warm friendship connected him with Contaenius. In the years 1824 to 1825 he worked out an instruction for the villages, which unfortunately has remained unknown to us. In 1837 he proposed a new land order for the Volga region, according to which only agricultural families should receive land for hereditary possession. He demanded that resettlements be carried out in order to control the land shortage. About him: Russij Biograficeskij Slovar s.v. and his revealing memoirs in the Russkij Archiv (Russian Archive), Petersburg 1891.

- 7) No details about Bashmakov could be found.
- 8) See above note I.
- 9) Dominique Charles Nicolle, a friend of Richelieu, was Visitator of all Catholic churches in southern Russia in 1811-1820. In the history of Russian education, he occupies a prominent place, cf. Keller op. cit. Vol. 1, pp. 83-86.

7 years ago, the State Councilor von Hahn <sup>1</sup>) took the place of those gentlemen, His Excellency, by whom all good institutions, facilities and the general well-being of the colonists are powerfully promoted. Especially through the instructive circular orders and the announcements of the "Unterhaltungsblatt" <sup>2</sup>), which has been published for several years, and several other orders, a lot of blessings are bestowed.

The fact that the village has had one and the same pastor in the person of Herr Kylius <sup>3</sup>) for 17 years and Herr Hübner as inspector for 6 years, whose work and example bear no small fruit, is a blessing that is well received by the grateful. It would be desirable that the other officials of this village and the school teachers would hold their office longer; age and youth would live more in fear, love and trust.

Kronental lies in the 35 verst long Bulganak valley, hidden from the wanderer by half-bare, large hills from the north and south and completely separated from the other villages. The nearest village, Neusatz, is 50 versts away. In the middle between Neusatz and Kronental lies the governorate city of Simferopol, 25 versts towards the southern mountains lies the city of Bakhchisarai, 40 versts towards the southwest Sevastopol with its war port and just as far towards the northwest the port city of Kosslov <sup>4</sup>) or Eupatoria.

The Bulganak stream is not as beautiful as the water is good. In the absence of good well water, it is used in winter by most of the inhabitants of the upper village; in summer less, because in warm season it is very muddy and turbid. Since this stream is never completely absent even in the hottest season, it is of great importance for the village. Moreover, it drives 4 gears in two mills, from which, however, the community derives insignificant income.

On the south side of the village on the creek there are at present walled vineyards, orchards, and vegetable gardens, above and below the village vineyards and orchards. These and the beautiful acacia and Turkish willow trees (Eleagnus?) <sup>5</sup>) planted in front of the houses with their fragrant flowers delight the inhabitants of the village and every stranger. The street is narrow, the walled courtyards small; for several years new houses have been built in the village and outside it. The new houses and streets outside the village now form an angle with the old street. Approximately in the middle of the village stands the

<sup>1)</sup> Cf n I

<sup>2)</sup> When Kiselev took over the leadership of the Domain Ministry (Cf. p. 93, note 2), he saw one of his main tasks in raising the educational level of the Russian peasants by founding schools and creating suitable reading material. In 1846, the "Unterhaltungsblatt für deutsche Ansiedler im südlichen Russland" was founded for the German colonies, which had also been under the control of the Ministry of the Domain since 1837. Since 1847, Johann Heinrich Sonderegger was the editor and Cornies (Cf. p. 96 note 1) one of the most zealous contributors, cf. Deutsche Post aus dem Osten. Jg. 9, 1934, No. 7 p. 15-17.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p. 33 note 2.

<sup>4)</sup> Kozlow, Cf. p. 30 note I.

<sup>5)</sup> should be called Elaeagnus.

new Catholic prayer house; the Protestant one is to be built on the now empty space next to the same. The two school houses stand on either side of the church square. The Lutherans are still using the old prayer house at the bottom of the village until their funds are sufficient to build a new one.

For 6 years a community garden with 700 various summer and winter fruit trees has been planted on the south side of the village, which is not visible from the village due to the hill ending at the bottom of the village. This garden, together with the plantation of forest trees called "avenue", which has been laid out for five years and in which each landowner has a certain share, is a beautiful sight, but the unfavorable climate leaves little hope for trees.

It should be noted that this village does not yet have such a beautiful appearance as some others. What is the cause? It is the last of the colonies founded in its time in the Crimea; the first generation was ignorant of the Russian and Tatar languages, as well as of agriculture since they were craftsmen, and still hoped to be resettled somewhere else. However, because nothing was achieved and the hardship became greater and greater, Michael Weiss, who had come from Alsace and who is now deceased, tried to plant grapevines, patiently suffered all the hardships from his comrades and persevered in his diligence until he achieved his goal, which was obviously to make the following generations happier. His first successors in viticulture were Peter Schneider and others. When the others saw that those had rich vintages, they all followed their example.

For 25 years the vines have been increased every year, so that at present there are 280,000 of them <sup>1</sup>) and the best income from them. In summer, the fields and plantations often suffer from excessive heat and drought, which several astute settlers foresaw in the first years of the settlement and thus surrendered to inertia and the desire to relocate.

February is usually warm, sometimes January, which causes the early fruit trees to bloom too soon. Blossom and fruit set are then destroyed by the regular frosts of March. The late fruit is eaten by the ineradicable caterpillars. Many seedlings of the young forest have become a victim of the dry years, but the still healthy roots sprout anew.

The two denominations <sup>2</sup>) in this village cause double expenses for church and school, a circumstance which also hinders the progress of the village. Worse, however, have been the consequences of the Misswachses, the devastations, the floods, the hailstorms, the cattle plagues, the thefts and other misfortunes.

<sup>1)</sup> About 8300 in 1825, see Rempel, op. cit. p. 15.

<sup>2)</sup> i.e. actually three: Catholic, Lutheran and Reformed. The latter "hold strictly to the bread instead of the wafer, which must be broken and given to them in the hand, and touch the cup themselves and lift it three times; otherwise, they are not aware of any difference between the two denominations and live with each other, as with the Catholics in harmony," cf. Announcements and messages for the evangelical clergy in Russia (Mitteilungen und Nachrichten für die evangelische Geistlichkeit Russlands), Vol. 13, 1857, p. 96.

I. Zürichtal 41

Since its establishment, the village has received 8 families and at present it consists of 56 families, each of which has 56 Dess. in usufruct <sup>1</sup>). The number of Protestant and Catholic souls is 500 each. There are still a few twenty people living among the old immigrants who still remember their German fatherland.

Kronental May 24,1848

Mayor Fidelius Frisstl.

Chr. H. Stoerrle, School Teacher of the Lutheran School and Municipal Clerk.

- I. Assistant Mayor Friedrich Zeissler.
- II. Assistant Mayor Michael Wiedrich.

## III The Zürichtal Colonist Area

1. Zürichtal<sup>2</sup>)

a.

Essay by the Zurichtal pastor, Provost E. Kyber <sup>3</sup>), under the title "Die Kolonie Zürichthal," February 7, 1848. Reprinted from: Unterhaltungsblatt fur deutsche Ansiedler im südlichen Russland, 3. Jg., Nr. 3, März 1848, with addition of the most essential deviations, which a copy of the original version, prepared verbatim by J. Stach in the former archive of the "Fürsogekomitee" and in the collective possession of Georg Leibbrandt.

In the late year of 1803, about 40 Swiss families, about 200 souls, gathered in Constance on Lake Constance under Herr von Escher, who was in charge of them, and in a few hours they sailed across the same to Mörsburg, then reached Ulm and from there went down the Danube to Pressburg in Hungary, after having stayed in Vienna for 14 days. From Pressburg they went to Rosenberg in Upper Hungary, where they wintered. Here more than 30 found their grave through illness and deprivation. However, new arrivals joined them, and increased by them, the train set out again in 1804, arrived safely in the Crimea, and settled first in the vicinity of Feodosia on a camp belonging to the General of

<sup>1) 1857: 52</sup> farmsteads (210 men) on 3,185 Dess. and 5 landless families (95 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 42.

<sup>2)</sup> Russian name: Dshajlaw.

<sup>3)</sup> Emil Kyber, born July 12, 1804 in Riga, attended the Muraltsche Privatanstalt in Petersburg and then the Domschule in Reval. From 1824 to 1831 he studied theology and philology in Dorpat, where he also attended medical lectures. In 1831 he was ordained pastor of the Zürichtal parish in Petersburg, which he served until 1858, because the Crimea seemed especially tempting to him, the enthusiastic natural scientist. He died in 1873 as a corresponding member of various learned societies, cf. Mitteilungen und Nachrichten für die evangelische Kirche in Russland, Vol. 63, Riga 1910, pp. 470f.

Schüz (Karakoos) <sup>1</sup>). In the same year, the Crown acquired the Tartar village and region of Dzhailau, two miles away, to which the Swiss were resettled at Easter 1805, and which now, in memory of the native valleys, received the name Zürichthal, but was never seen by Escher himself and his son, who had already departed. Major von Escher died in 1830 in St. Petersburg.

Zürichthal is favored by nature in many ways. Situated on the northeastern promontory of the Taurian mountains and the Jendol stream 2) rising from it, it is 2 miles from the Armenian village of Alt-Krimm, 5 miles from the district town of Feodosia and in the opposite direction as far from Karassubasar 3) and the great Sudak wine valley. From the east, a long chain of hills enclosing the stream hides the village from the wanderer until he enters it directly on the slope surrounded by vineyards. It is exposed to the west and is already visible for hours with its red tiled roofs, which, like a small town, line up for a verst. With joyful surprise the eye of every German dwells on this native sight. Towards the north, a graceful grove of wild fruit trees, elm, white and silver poplars border it, and in the south, finally, the neighboring mountains unfold a truly lovely Swiss landscape. Gardens and meadows lie along the stream, which it waters to the great benefit of the owners, but where it also often causes significant damage through flooding, as recently on June 20, 1847. In addition, it operates a mill with two gears, whose income is used for the benefit of the community. The village itself is divided by the main buildings in the middle of it, the small church, the parish and school house and some others in the so-called upper and lower village, both of which are sufficiently provided with fresh and healthy water by their own springs. Each landowner has a spacious courtyard, which he can improve with stables, and which he guards against the street with a stone wall and has planted with young trees here and there.

This is a small picture of Zürichthal's situation in the hopeful light of the present! Only here, at the foot of the mountains, near the shady forest, by the trickling brook, by the welling springs, Züricher could find a second home. But how did the first inhabitants of Zurich fare 43 years ago? Oh, probably not as well as their descendants now! The crown had given them land and an advance for building, but this was soon used up, and few of them knew anything about agriculture, since they had earned their bread at home with cotton spinning and silk winding. Too poor to settle properly, some years they even lacked seeds, without houses and stables, they, ignorant of the local language, were on top of that cheated, and robbed

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<sup>1) =</sup> Karagoz, 18 versts from Feodostya, see Semenov-Tyan-Sansky, op. cit. Bd. 14, p. 800.

<sup>2) =</sup> Mokryj Endol (Indol).

<sup>3) =</sup> Karasubazar.

I. Zürichtal 43

in many ways <sup>1</sup>). The fathers could only look into the future with trepidation. Remorse and fear pressed on their hearts. Homesickness stirred in their chests! Parents had torn themselves from their children, children from their parents and brothers and sisters, and they did not even know how to send a letter to their fatherland! <sup>2</sup>) And there was no prospect of finding a righteous clergyman or school teacher. So it happened that in a few years half of the immigrants lay in God's arms (Gottesakker). In particular, in the spring of 1812, close to 40 adults died of a typhoid fever (hizzigen Fieber); and too poor to pay their last respects to the dead, they were consigned to the earth in rags, without a bier or funeral procession. Certainly, deep pity would have called all hearts in the distant Swiss country to a mild contribution, had they known the plight of the brothers in the Krimm, who, like the prodigal son, would have liked to become servants in their father's house, had they only been able to return <sup>3</sup>).

But praise be to God, it got better! A new generation of young people grew up. They learned the local language, became accustomed to the customs and idiosyncrasies of the country, as lack often forced them to hire themselves out to Russians or Tatars, and it is now not uncommon for a citizen of Zürich to communicate with them in their dialect as fluently as in his own native tongue. The poverty of the fathers brought the children the great benefit that they, having grown up under privation and discomfort, had learned contentment and simplicity. In 1810, the number of families that had already died out was supplemented by 25 heads of households called in from Molotschna, most of whom were Catholics <sup>4</sup>).

A new epoch of prosperity began for our village in 1822, when the first pastor of the village, Heinrich Dietrich, arrived from Switzerland. Everything took a different turn; order, activity and prosperity appeared everywhere. The construction of the small church was completed shortly before Dietrich's arrival. It was soon accompanied by a beautiful rectory and a spacious school <sup>5</sup>). Also, two smaller branch parishes also built chapels for use in worship services <sup>6</sup>). Dietrich himself set a good example everywhere and reprimanded with serious severity the abuses that had crept in <sup>7</sup>). He made a special contribution to the improvement of the church chant. Unfortunately, he was killed too early for his beneficial work, already in 1827 at the age of 33 years by

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<sup>1)</sup> Addition of the original version: "yes some even slain".

<sup>2)</sup> Addition of the original version: "because they were still so unfortunate to have lax self-serving inspectors or inspectors who did not properly understand their situation". This sentence, which contains a criticism of the administrators appointed by the Russian authorities, has probably been deleted by the editor of the "Unterhaltungsblatt".

<sup>3)</sup> On the lively relations between the Volga colonies and Switzerland, see M. Wolkner: Das Wolgadeutsche Bildungüwesen und die russische Schulpolitik. Part 1 Leipzig 1937.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. p. 47 note 2.

<sup>5)</sup> The village school was founded in 1812, even before there was a clergyman in Zürichtal. Until the 1840s it was attended by Lutheran and Catholic children alike, cf. Schulblatt für die deutschen Kolonien in Russland. Monatsschrift zur Förderung des Schulwesens und der Lehrerbildung. Ed. Matthias Schmidt. Jg. 1, Prischib 1912/13, p. 126f.

<sup>6)</sup> probably Heilbrun and Sudak.

<sup>7)</sup> This sentence is missing in the original version.

death recalled <sup>1</sup>); but the fruit of his work has remained a blessing to this day.

Without him, Zürichthal would never have become what it is today, the most excellent village in the Krimm. The huts of the first founders were replaced by beautiful and comfortable houses, and prosperity worked its way out of poverty. The main agricultural activity is wheat growing, which gives a rich profit. The livestock is respectable, also industrial diligence increases more and more <sup>2</sup>). Viticulture and fruit-growing are still in need of improvement. Although misfortunes, such as locusts in 1822 to 1825, and in 1833 and 1834 Misswachs, did not stay away <sup>3</sup>); nevertheless, the future of the village seems to be secure, since it is sufficiently supplied with good land and twice found the opportunity to purchase adjoining lands advantageously. Seventy-four landowners each have a fixed and equal share of about 40 Desiantina of this land. The village is teeming with young and old, and the number of Protestants alone is 400, among whom there are only a few people from the first immigrants.

After the death of the unforgettable Dietrich, Pastor Kylius from Baden held the pastorate for three and a half years until my arrival here in August 1831.

Zürichthal, February 7, 1848.

Provost E. Kyber, Pastor at Zürichthal.

b.

Accompanying letter from the Zürichthal Area Office dated 21 March 1848 regarding the following report from the Zürichthal community to the "Fürsofgekomitte". Reprint of the copy from the former archive of the "Fürsorgekomittes", prepared verbatim by J. Stach and in the collection of Georg Leibbrandt.

The Guardianship Committee for Foreign Settlers in Southern Russia. From the Zürichthal regional office.

#### Report

After the District Mayor's Office, which came by regulation from Guardianship Committee January 19th, of this year, No. 62 issued circular requests,

<sup>1)</sup> Dietrich, who was a missionary student in Basel, did not return to Basel, as Th. Meyer claims in Mitteilungen und Nachrichten für die evangelische Kirche in Russland, 63rd vol.

<sup>2)</sup> Data for the year 1825 in Rempel loc. cit. p. 24.

<sup>3)</sup> Original version: "Admittedly, the levies also increase annually and misfortunes, such as locusts in 1822 to 1825, and Misswachs in 1833 and 1834, are not absent." The mention of the increasing levies has again been suppressed.

<sup>4)</sup> Christian Friedrich Kylius went to Neusatz in 1831, where he died in 1854, cf. Mitteilungen und Nachrichten für die evangelische Kirche in Russland. Vol. 63, 1910, p. 467.

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Zürichthal has sent its essay to the district office, which will be submitted to the high Guardianship Committee.

District Mayor: Andreas Gross Assistant Mayor: Friedrich Lüziger <sup>1</sup>).

Zürichthal 21st March 1848.

C.

Report of the Municipality of Zurichtal of 20. 1848. Reprint of the copy in the collective possession of Georg Leibrandt from the former archive of the "Fursorgekomitee".

After the provost Kyber, according to the Unterhaltungsblatte No. 3 in February of this year has submitted a description of the emigration of the Swiss village, their journey, arrival in the Krimm, settlement on the Tartar village of Dzhailau <sup>2</sup>), its location, characteristics, initial and current holdings <sup>3</sup>), we see that it is necessary to fill some of the remaining gaps.

Not all of those who emigrated from Switzerland and those who joined on their travels settled in the place of settlement. Three families settled in the city of Feodosia, seven went over to the village of Friedenthal; several unmarried craftsmen whose trade was not yet in progress in the Krimm, went back partly to the interior of the empire, partly abroad, 49 entered this location.

The high crown graciously granted them a food allowance for more than a year, 10 Rubles a day for adults and 5 Rubles a day for minors, and 395 Rubles for the purchase of livestock, farming equipment and house construction. <sup>4</sup>)

These advances, as small as they may seem to some now, could have satisfied the needs for which they were intended in those times, if other obstacles had not intervened. In addition to the lack of knowledge of the local language, the character of the Mahomethan nation <sup>5</sup>), envious of the newly arrived inhabitants, was deeply felt in some incidents. The smaller part of the settlers had knowledge of agriculture,

<sup>1)</sup> On May 14, 1848, a Heinrich Lüziger signed as assistant mayor of the Zürichtal District Office, Cf. p. 51.

<sup>2)</sup> Russian: Dshajlaw.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. above pp. 41-44.

<sup>4)</sup> While in the 18th century the German colonists settling in New Russia received only half of the monetary allowances granted to the Mennonites (cf. Zapiski Odesskogo Obscestva Istorii i Drevnostej. Vol. 2, 1848, pp. 661-663), on February 20, 1804, they were granted support of 6 or 10 Kop. during the journey, 5 or 10 Kop. after arrival until the first harvest, and 300 Rbl. to establish the farmstead, cf. I PSZ Vol. 28 No. 21163, but higher amounts were also paid at that time.

<sup>5)</sup> Meant are the Mohammedan Tatars.

and what they brought with them could not be applied here as elsewhere 1). The colonial authorities were not able to give advice about everything in their regulations and no other resource was available. The 25 found Tartar houses of wattle and daub there, with the worst crowding, too few to accommodate the arrived families; therefore, some had to take lodging in barns, which protected only to some extent against wind and sunshine, because in the same year to build one's own houses was quite impossible. In healthy days and in warm seasons, this was tolerable, but the summer passed and health declined even more quickly; cold and other attacks took its place, putting many families into confinement and finally into the grave, without being able to care for one another. Standing on the edge of the grave, many a soul still pined for spiritual food and comfort for itself and its family, but even this they had to do without, for only once a year did the then pastor Biller from Josephsthal 2) visit. And how miserable it was when he arrived: every space that was free of sick people, no matter how miserable it looked, had to serve the function of a church. In the meantime, spiritual services, except for the Holy Communion, were performed by clergymen of other denominations, and often by laymen. In short, the Zürichthal village was more afflicted with diseases than the other Krimm colonies. Whether this was a consequence of the valley, in which not infrequently, more than elsewhere, a fog rests, and of the swamp that had taken place close to the village (now helped by ditches and transformed into gardens), cannot be determined with certainty.

Thus, the first 3 years of settlement passed and only a few, who were less afflicted with diseases, managed to build their houses and to cultivate the necessary crops for their own needs.

It cannot be denied that among the others there were also those who, not out of rebelliousness against their superiors, but because of their ignorance of agriculture, showed a lack of activity in spite of all admonitions from the higher colonial authorities, which is why the latter could not possibly leave it at admonitions, but had to resort to punishments, combined with leniency.

Everyone who can still remember those times must acknowledge with the most touched admiration and the warmest thanks the great long-suffering of our monarchist, who, informed of the hopeless condition of this village, partly from the reports of the lower superiors, partly from the information of several other high state persons visiting the colonies, nevertheless did not tire of bearing us with paternal patience.

In 1810, since most of the houses, however very simple and covered with reeds, had been built, the number of people, the livestock condition, and the agriculture, due to the above mentioned and the cattle epidemic that had already occurred for the second time by that year.

<sup>1)</sup> On February 20, 1804, the Russian government stated that Escher had recruited without selection, cf. I PSZ Vol. 28, No. 21163.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 27 note 7.

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The land was therefore superfluous, farmland, fodder and pastures could be rented to outsiders, each inhabitant was even more discouraged from farming as much as he could, to keep cattle and to gather fodder. Several colonists from other villages were given extinct fireplaces; 25 families of immigrants, mostly Catholics, who wintered in Ekaterinoslav and Molotschna in 1809, were accepted as fellow citizens, and the village increased to 74 landowners <sup>1</sup>).

With all the poor conditions in which the village was currently found, these newcomers still had many advantages; they had better supervision than the old ones, the latter were able to help them with the language of the country and many other things, although most of them did not remain free of diseases.

An irreparable error <sup>2</sup>) was made when in the later increase of this village in that it was not considered: two denominations will always be costly for each party with regard to the cost of maintaining the school systems. Providence especially watched over us in the case of the typhoid fever (hitzigen Krankheit,) that broke out in 1812, that it raged in spring and not in autumn or winter of the same year, because in the latter time the plague prevailed in this district, even in a Tartar village only 2 versts from Zürichthal; inevitably the village would have been closed in the opposite case, and the as it were smoldering disease would certainly have caused some relapses.

After this period, as it were, a new period began, the diseases disappeared, gradually youth came to the rescue, and other deficiencies that had taken place in the former period were eliminated, continuous livestock losses no longer disrupted the increasing condition of the same, agriculture became extinct and God granted us prosperity. The almost dormant sense for religion became more active in some hearts and before the end of the second decade the still existing church was built, which was consecrated by the then General Superintendent Böttiger in Odessa <sup>3</sup>) in the year 1820 even before our own clergyman was employed.

Even the 3rd decade, which brought significant disadvantages for the Krimm and especially for this district regarding the locusts, could not harm this village by far as much as the Tatar nation, many of whom have meanwhile had to give themselves as servants and other workers for the German one.

The lack of land was already being felt at this time. In order to provide pasture for the increased number of cattle in the vicinity, it was necessary to cultivate the land on foreign estates. Now, remembering the well-meaning and hopeful advice of H. Contenius, the then oldest judge of the Ekaterinoslav Tutil Comptoir, who had gone to his rest, "do not sell land and farms" <sup>4</sup>).

<sup>1) 1857: 31</sup> farmsteads (280 men) on 1,912 Dess. and 51 landless families (106 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 42.

<sup>2)</sup> The principle followed by the Russian government in the 18th century of settling the individual denominations separately from one another was observed at the beginning of the 19th century only in the Mennonite villages, which occupied a special position.

<sup>3)</sup> See p. 66, note 4.

<sup>4)</sup> Sale of the land granted by the Russian government was not allowed. Nevertheless, in the German villages of the Crimea, there were frequent economic transfers with permission.

The neighboring estate of a certain Katokowski <sup>1</sup>) 1,300 Desiantina was particularly well-suited for use. After a few years of lease, it was even offered for sale. It was noticeably weak to undertake this, but the urgent necessity and the conviction of the insight of this need of our high colonial authority, as well as not less their unmistakable and self-sacrificing willingness to do everything possible for the welfare of their subordinates, made us courageous to ask them for help also in this case, and we did not remain without hearing <sup>2</sup>). Their support was crowned in such a way that His Majesty our most gracious Lord and Emperor had the grace to concede and to borrow the necessary sum for the purchase of the desired land for 10 years with legal percentages.

This was the foundation of Zürichthal's present well-fortified condition, without which they would have remained too weak to purchase 1,500 Dessiantine from their own resources ten years later. To whom does the honor belong? Not to us, but to the Lord, His anointed and the authority directly placed over the settlers. Therefore, you fellow citizens of Zürichhal, who sooner or later hear or read all this, you too, by willing compliance and eager obedience, return the good which our fathers enjoyed from the gracious government of Russia, and which you yourselves have now become partakers of. Make yourselves worthy of your present fatherland, so that the resolutions which are always aimed at the welfare of the subjects of the state of the same may also descend upon you.

Village of Zürichthal 20 March 1848 Schoolteacher: B. Fried. Pfeiffer <sup>3</sup>)

Mayor: Anton Nuss Assistant Mayor: Rudolf Dubs <sup>4</sup>)

#### 2. Heilbrunn <sup>5</sup>)

a.

Accompanying letter from the Heilbrunn District Office dated 5 April 1848 to the following report to the chairman of the "Fürsorgekomitee". Reprint of the verbatim copy from the former archive of the "Fürsorgekomitee" in the possession of Georg Leibbrannt.

To His Excellency the State Councilor von Hahn of the Heilbrunn District Office

of the municipality and its superior authority on the condition that the new landowner also took over the crown debts burdening the farm. In this regard, the available reports are very informative.

- 1) = Kachowskoj?
- 2) Cf. p. 31 note 2.
- 3) Bernhard Friedrich Pfeifer, born on September 23, 1793 in Switzerland, died on December 1, 1875 in Zürichtal, came to Russia with his parents in 1805, from 1812 to 1849 he worked as a village school teacher and sexton teacher, and also as a municipal clerk in Zürichtal until June 4, 1871. Cf. Schulblatt für die deutschen Kolonien in Russland. Jg. I, Prischib I9I2/I3, p. 126 f.
  - 4) In the Mskr. still the addition: (Duebs?). ["Mskr." stands for Musterschreiben or template letter.]
  - 5) Russian name: Temesch-Eli.

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2. Heilbrunn 49

# Report

Enclosed the Heilbrunn District Mayor obediently and humbly sends under enclosed No. the brief historical overview of the foundation and the existence of the local village.

Village of Heilbrunn April 5, 1848

Mayor: Heinrich Stoll

Assistant Mayor: Jacob Weber

Jacob Stoll

b.

Report of the Heilbrunn Municipality of April 2, 1848. Reprint of the copy in the possession of Georg Lebbrandt from the former "Fursorgekomitee".

The village was founded in 1805 on July 5, the day on which the immigrants settled there. The construction of the houses, however, was not started until the following year and the construction was completed in 1807.

Due to inexperience and lack of the local language, the new immigrants were often cheated in the construction of the houses, because after a few years, they collapsed and from limited resources others had to be built in their city.

The land on which the village is located is originally called Uternisch-Eli <sup>1</sup>) and belonged to a Tatar Mursa <sup>2</sup>), named Addey <sup>3</sup>). It is situated on a small stream, the so-called dry Jeindol <sup>4</sup>). The distance from the governorate town of Simferopol is 80 versts, from the district town of Feodosia 30 versts, from the nearest town of Alt-Krim 10 versts.

The soil of the local land consists mostly of a mixture of gravel and loam, only a few places contain black earth. On the whole, two-thirds of the land allotted to the villagers is considered usable, while one-third is less usable because of its stony content <sup>5</sup>). On the evening side of the village, which has had a beautiful church since 1823 and an appealing schoolhouse since 1844, is a 25-acre communal garden, half planted with trees and half with vines, which provides an advantageous income for the busy farmer. This garden used to look like a wilderness when the Germans arrived.

<sup>1) =</sup> Temes-Eli?

<sup>2)</sup> i.e. a member of the lower Tatar nobility.

<sup>3)</sup> The name could not be determined.

<sup>4) =</sup> Mokryj ("Moist") Endol (Indol).

<sup>5)</sup> The distinction: "fit" and "unfit" land was also made in the tax collection, when the colonists were charged with a land tax after the expiration of the free years.

During the time of their settlement, due to the lack of good land, the landowners of the village constantly tried to acquire other nearby lands <sup>1</sup>). First, in 1839, God having given them strength, they bought an estate of 700 Dessiantine called Kijana <sup>2</sup>) from a Russian owner. Then in 1844 they bought again an estate Islamdermt <sup>3</sup>) from the state councilor Kajefsky <sup>4</sup>); 1,350 Dessiantinen in size. On which already some of the owners have moved and therefore received the name Neudorf. Finally in the current 1848 year they had the opportunity to acquire 344 Dessiantine bordering on Neudorf from the Neusatz resident Ballthasar Wiedemeyer. These three estates cost a total of 56,000 Rubles banco.

The origin of the name of the village was given on the occasion of the spring in the middle of it, which is why the settlers united to give their village the name Heilbrun, which was familiar to them from their homeland.

In the village 40 families settled, all of them emigrants from the kingdom of Würtenberg, mostly from the area around Stuttgart <sup>5</sup>).

The Heilbrunners emigrated in two batches; the first on June 4, 1804, had elected a man named Schopf as its leader. The second, which left on June 14, 1804, had a leader named Günthner. Both parties arrived in Odessa at about the same time, namely at the end of September, and spent the winter there.

Their journey from Germany went first to Ulm and Lauingen from where they continued to the Danube to near Vienna and from there by land through Austria to Brody. Not far from this place they entered the Russian border at Kisiwill <sup>6</sup>) and reached Odessa via Tulchin, Balta, Jampol and Tiraspol on the Dnister River. Right at the Russian border they received daily allowance from the crown, adult persons 10 Kop, children 5 Kop. Banko <sup>7</sup>).

From Odessa they traveled in 1805, the 25th of May, to Schisse to Kaslow <sup>8</sup>) at the Crimean coast and arrived after a very stormy and dangerous crossing in about twice four and twenty hours at the mentioned place.

Then they went to Simferopol, where they had to stay for quite some time, until they finally arrived at the place of their new settlement in 1805, July 4.

It is worth noting that from Odessa they rejoiced in the special care of the then War Governor Herr von Richelieu <sup>9</sup>).

1) cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 7.

- 2) The name could not be determined.
- 3) According to Keller loc. cit. Vol. I, p. 411 Islam Terek (Neudorf), 1,446 Dess.
- 4) = Kachowskoj?
- 5) 1857: 17 farmsteads (125 men) on 1,046 Dess. and 21 landless families (111 men) cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 42.
  - 6) = Radziwittöw.
  - 7) cf. I PSZ Vol. 28, No. 21163.
  - 8) Kozlow, Cf. p. 30 note 1.
  - 9) Cf. p. 35 note I.

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The steppe, on which the immigrants settled, was occupied by Tartars who had to cede their huts and stables to them.

From abroad there were only a few who had brought some money with them, because they had various expenses on the journey for most of the rest until their arrival at the designated place.

These expenses were reimbursed by the Crown, but also without deduction, the general advance sum, which amounted to 370 Rubles per family <sup>1</sup>).

There were no epidemic diseases. In 1807 typhoid fever took away many people! Even whole families died out.

The community members owe their well-being and favorable conditions only to the wise and kind providence of God.

For the promotion of agriculture and viticulture, they owe much to the cooperation of the authorities, who are always kind to them and guide everything for the best.

Heilbrun, the 5th of April 1848. School Teacher: Georg Müller

> Mayor: Heinrich Stoll Assistant Mayors: Jacob Weber. Jacob Stoll.

## 3. Sudak

a.

Accompanying letter from the Zürichtal District Office dated May 14, 1848, to the following reports. Reprint of the copy from the former archives of the "Fürsorgekomitee" in the possession of Georg Leibbrandt.

To the High Guardianship Committee for the colonists of Southern Russia from the Zürichthal District Office:

#### Report

After the Sudack village school office sent its essay about the founding of the same village to the local district office, the latter has the honor to submit it to the High Guardianship Committee.

About the Herzenberg village, which lacks the necessary men to write a historical description of the formation of its village, the regional office, to comply with the order of the High Guardianship Committee to some extent, has drafted as thorough an overview as possible, which also follows here.

Mayor: And. Graz (Groz?) <sup>2</sup>) Assistant Mayor: Heinrich Lüziger

# Zürichthal 14th May 1848

<sup>1)</sup> As the available reports show, the advance monies were not paid uniformly.

<sup>2)</sup> Probably Andreas Gross, Cf. p. 45. The letter of March 21, 1848 from the Zürichtal District Office was signed by a Friedrich Lüziger as Assistant Mayor, Cf. p. 45.

b.

Report of the Sudak Municipality of May 8, 1848. Reprint of the copy in the possession of Georg Lebbrandt from the former "Fursorgekomitee".

In 1803, in the month of August, about 15 Würtemberg families of 40 souls gathered under their superior Herr von Ziegler 1) from St. Petersburg, and traveled by land to Ulm, where they were joined by several new arrivals from various stations. Increased by them, they went by ship and sailed the Danube River through Bavaria, Hungary and Turkey to Galatz. From Galatz their journey went by land through the Moldau to Dubasar 2) on the Russian border where they had to guarantine for 8 days 3). From Dubasar the train left again and arrived safely in Odessa, where they spent the winter. In Odessa some families separated from this party. These were craftsmen looking for opportunity in different cities and a family from Odessa is again back to their fatherland. In the spring of 1804, the remaining families, how many in number, nobody knows, were shipped from near Odessa and arrived in 8 days at Kaslow 4). From there they went by land to the village of Neusatz in the area between the Gubernial city of Simferopol and Karasubazar, where they wintered again. It was published in Neusatz that anyone who would like to go to Sudack as a winegrower should get in touch; so 9 Würtemberg families, including one from beyond the Rhine, registered. In the spring of 1805, the procession went to Sudack, where they were given by his Excellency, the War Governor Richelieu, half a verst from the Black Sea at the fortress 5) for settlement and between the fortress and the valley lying crown land in the amount of 260 Dessiantine for viticulture, where no vine has ever stood. They did not find any houses to accommodate them, but earth huts, in which the invalids that the immigrants had brought with them lived, until the houses, for which the high crown graciously granted 215 Rubles Banko to each 6), were built. In the same way, for the purchase of the necessary cattle, each landowner was given an advance of 160 Rubles Banko. They did not have any cash resources which they had brought from abroad, only some movables. On this journey from abroad, they were given food money by the high crown in every city, 30 kreuzer daily in Würtemberg coin. These events

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<sup>1)</sup> See p. 29, note 3.

<sup>2)</sup> Dubossary.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p. 29 note 5.

<sup>4)</sup> Kozlow, Cf. p. 30 note I.

<sup>5)</sup> i. e. in Sudak. Greeks, who founded Sugdaia in the 3rd century, established here a viticultural culture. It reached a considerable height in the first half of the 15th century under the Genoese, but fell into decay during the Turkish period. After the annexation of the Crimea, the Russian government created a school for the promotion of viticulture in 1804 in Achiklyar near Sudak under the direction of Peter Pallas. In 1809, after Pallas' departure, this was placed directly under the authority of the governor of Tauria, cf. Semenov-Tyan-Sansky op. cit. Vol. 14, p. 788 f.

<sup>6)</sup> Cf. p. 106 note I.

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which influenced the fate, since the settlement, this municipality has suffered some years much damage by locusts; still also last in the year 1845 eight vineyards were damaged. The loss of wine was 830 buckets, valued at 592 Rubles 85 Kop. silver. This community owes the main branch of its well-being to viticulture. They have no arable land for fruit growing.

The Sudack village is named after the 2 versts away location Sudack, commonly called (at the fortress) and is favored by nature in many respects. Surrounded with high rocky cliffs, precipices and ravines and a great lack of water to irrigate the vineyards. The village is 2 versts away from the Sudack wine valley, which is owned by the landowners and Tatars. Eight versts from the Tartar village of Taraklash, 30 versts from the Armenian village of Alt-Krimm, 50 versts from the district town of Feodosia, and in the opposite direction 60 versts from Karasubazar and 101 versts from the governorate town of Simferopol. Eight versts from the village to the northeast, this community has for its use 557 Dessiantine of forest of wild fruit trees; oaks, hornbeams, ash trees, hawthorns, and junipers. In this forest every landowner also has some hayfield for his cattle. In the land survey of 1819 ¹) the crown land between the fortress and the valley was also assigned to the village. This land is not very suitable for cultivation, since it contains mostly rocky nitric soil and innumerable torn ravines and precipices, so that only about 10 Dessiantine can be used for vineyards without excessive costs. All the rest, as small as the value of it may be and as sparse a pasture as it provides during two months of the year in April and May, is indispensable for the village community for the cattle herd.

In 1830 this land was taken from the community and the border of the crown was drawn hard around the houses of the village so that they had to lease this land every year for cattle grazing. In 1847 it was divided for sale and put up for sale, on May 30 it was publicly auctioned in the Taurian Imperial Domain, from which this municipality also received a part of the land lying close to the village, but which is not yet measured <sup>2</sup>).

If they lose this land, the village will be very limited, since without it they will not be able to expand their farm, keep livestock, much less increase their vineyards. From east to west there is only one way to enter and leave this village between precipices and ravines, hiding the sight of the village from the visitor until he gets close and enters it directly. At the end of the village to the west on a hill stand the main buildings: a chapel

<sup>1)</sup> In 1818, Inzow (Cf. p. 108, note 3) reported to Petersburg that the colonists' land was not allotted according to families, which resulted in difficulties in tax collection, and requested the dispatch of six surveyors to carry out a land redistribution in the colonies. In confirming this memorandum, the Tsar expressed the wish that all surplus land be reserved for newly arriving colonists. At the same time, provision was made for the purchase of new lands for this purpose, see I Vol. 35, No. 27401, July 9, 1818

<sup>2)</sup> probably 225 Dess., cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 42.

for the purpose of worship and not far from it, a newly built schoolhouse, without the other buildings, which are built of field stones and covered with red roof tiles. Towards the street the yards are guarded with a stone wall and here and there planted with young trees. In the middle of the village a spring, which provides sufficient fresh and healthy water. This is a small picture of Sudack's situation in the hopeful light of the present. Only here at the Black Sea, at the old ruins of a Genoese fortress, a Würtemberger could find a second home.

The village of Sudack, which in 1805 consisted of ten farms, now counts 20 families, among which there are only a few people from the first immigrants <sup>1</sup>).

Sudack the 18th of May 1848

Mayor: Michael Gegelmann Assistant Mayor: Friedrich Gross School Teacher: Chr. Heine

### 4. Herzenberg<sup>2</sup>)

Report of the Zürichtal District Office regarding the village Herzenberg from May 14, 1848. Reprint of the copy in the possession of Georg Lebbrandt from the former "Fürsorgekomitee".

This village was founded around the same time as the village of Neusatz at the request of the then city governor in Feodosia, General v. Fensch <sup>3</sup>); it originally consisted of seven families coming from different parts of Germany, arriving from Odessa by water with those in Neusatz.

The village is located 2 versts from the seaside town of Feodosia, on an area halfway up the mountain surrounding this town, where from older times there were traces of dwellings and water pipes.

The purpose of the founder in establishing this village was: to provide the city of Feodosia, which at that time was beginning to rise as a commercial city, with <sup>4</sup>) kitchen vegetables.

3) Andreas Fenshaw (1757-1827) had such close ties to Germans that in 1801-1803, when he was war governor of Kiev, he served on the church council of the Protestant community there. He held the office of city captain, not governor, of Feodossja in the years 1804-1809, cf. N. Neese: Geschichte der evangelisch-lutherischen Gemeinde in Kiev, Kiev 1882, p. 74, and Russkij Biograficeskij Slovar s. v.

<sup>1) 1857: 5</sup> farms (13 men) on 300 (+225) Dess. and 11 landless families (65 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 42.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 51.

<sup>4)</sup> Feodosija, the old Kaffa, came to Russia in 1774 and was declared a free port for 30 years in 1798. Since 1802 it has been a district town, but despite serious efforts of the Russian government it did not have any major commercial importance before 1892, when it was connected to the railroad network. Vol. 5, p. 424f.

Because at that time the Krimm had few inhabitants of other nations than Tartars, who were content with simple agriculture. H. Feilsch ordered 100 Dessiantine from the city (Stadtlande) for the new village, which were also allocated to it, but unfortunately were not provided with proper boundaries and necessary documents, which is why the city people are increasingly encroaching on the still somewhat usable areas. This village has only a few Dessiantinen of hayfield or arable land. First, there are about 5 Dessiantinen for groves and trees; the rest is mostly stony ground, covered with a layer of earth, some of which is not thick, overgrown with bushes and suitable only for grazing cattle.

For the construction of houses and other facilities, this village, like others, was funded by crown awards.

The inhabitants of this village and the colonists who settled in the city of Feodosia formed a community, so to speak, and were under the supervision of their own inspector, who was directly under the inspection of all the Krimmer colonies <sup>1</sup>). However, after those who had been resident in the city had been counted as citizens of the city, the Herzenberg village was subordinated to the Zürichthal District Office in 1817. The reasons for the naming of this village are not discussed.

In the first 10-15 years the inhabitants of this village had a good living, with the mentioned trade. However, after the surrounding area was gradually occupied by more Christian peoples, who also sought their bread in various ways and Feodosia had reached its position, the income of the colonists diminished.

After this time, some of the farms were closed by the death of their childless owners, who had already grown old. Others, who were skilled professionals, gave up their farms, settled in cities, apprenticed their sons to professionals and other trades, foreseeing that their village would become a place for their prosperity. Through the frequent economic transfers, but no exclusion, the village has come to 10 families, of which at present only 4 are landowners on site <sup>2</sup>). Among the total number of 29 people of both sexes, there is only one man of 85 years and 2 children of a family from the time of settlement, all the rest are descendants of those who moved there from other colonies.

Since the cultivation of vegetables has multiplied everywhere, this village can only make better progress by planting vineyards, provided that the city of Feodosia does not take away the few suitable places and does not restrict the rest. Zürichthal d. 14 May 1848.

Aeltester, also through farmstead purchase, current resident Georg Bauer.

District Mayor: And. Groz <sup>3</sup>) Assistant Mayor: Heinrich Lüziger

Author District Clerk Frid. Pfeiffer.

<sup>1)</sup> About the Krimmer inspection we have no material available. On the inspectorates, cf. for the time being Keller, op. cit. p. 47 f.

<sup>2) 1857: 1</sup> farmstead (3 men) per 100 Dess. and 9 landless families (17 men), cf. Klaus a. l. cit. Supp. 2, p. 42.

<sup>3)</sup> Andreas Gross, Cf. p. 51 note 2.

# IV. The Molotschna Colonist Area 1)

What the old people tell. A brief historical overview of the foundation and existence of the Protestant congregations of the Molotschna Colonist District up to 1848. Edited from archival sources by J. Stach.

Reprinted from: Jahrbuch des "Landwirt" fur das Jahr 1913, 1. Jg., Eugenfeld (1912) p. 128-158

### 1. Molotschna

Formerly called Prishib <sup>2</sup>), located 45 versts from the district town of Melitopol, 320 versts from the governorate town of Simferopol and 150 yards from Ekaterinoslav, on the Molotschna River, this place was founded in 1804 by the landowner

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1) According to J. Stach: Jahrbuch des "Landwirt" für das Jahr 1913, p. 126, the following reports were sent to the "Fürsorkekomitee" on June 26, 1848, by the Molotschna Colonists' District Office (District Mayor Glöckler, Assistant Mayors: Zimmermann and Schäfer, District Clerk Jos. Robal). The author is Ernst Walther from the village of Kostheim, who also published a related report under the title "Beschreibung des Molotschnaer Kolonistenbezirks" in the "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 4, 1849, pp. 40-48, 50-55, 57-63, 65-67. Additions from it are mostly processed in the following footnotes.

About the reports of the communities missing here: Waldorf, Leitershausen, Kostheim, Heidelberg, Blumental, Eigenfeld and Hochheim, see the preface. In 1848 the Molotschna colonists had 173,387 Dess. 2,029 Faden (Sashen) at their disposal, namely at

54,360 Dess.	
2,587 Dess.	2,327 Fad.
8,864 Dess.	425 Fad.
1,426 Dess.	
4,498 Dess.	1429 Fad.
8,945 Dess.	248 Fad.
360 Dess.	
65,746 Dess.	
26,600 Dess.	
	2,587 Dess. 8,864 Dess. 1,426 Dess. 4,498 Dess. 8,945 Dess. 360 Dess. 65,746 Dess.

- Cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt," Vol. 4, 1849, p. 60.
  - 2) The renaming took place in 1810 (see below), but the new name did not catch on.
- 3) Catherine intended to found a city of Melitopol on Lake Molotschna, therefore the eastern half of Tauria on the mainland was united into a Melitopol district. Only in 1841 the settlement Novo-Aleksandrovka, founded at the beginning of the 19th century, received the name Melitopol: in the year later, it was elevated to the administrative center of this district, cf. Semenov loc. cit. Vol. 3, p. 216 and P. von Koeppen: On Some Land Relations between the Lower Dnieper and the Sea of Azov. Petersburg 1845, p. 25.

Dubinsky <sup>1</sup>) with about 6,500 Dessiantinen of land in exchange for compensation of an area of the same size located not far from the Tashchenak for settlement.

The settlers of 1805, divided into 8 villages <sup>2</sup>), under the leadership of District Mayor Ludwig Kircher <sup>3</sup>), with the permission of the authorities, chose Prishib, located in the center of the settlements, as the head office of their small district, and the then inspector, Baron Uerküll <sup>4</sup>), found for himself and his office in the former residential building of Dubinsky an accommodation meeting all the requirements of that time. A house for the district office was built near this building and only 4 families of Protestant denomination immigrated from Prussian Poland were given places to settle and farm land in the immediate vicinity, because His Excellency, Herr Kontenius, the then Chief Judge of the Ekaterinoslav Guardianship Office, had designated Prischib for the main communal sheep farm <sup>5</sup>) that was to be built. Craftsmen, who did not claim land, were allowed to settle here for the time being, but due to lack of work few could take advantage of it. A spacious prayer house for the entire district made of binding material [lath and plaster?] (Bindwerk) was also built on the site of today's pastorate building <sup>6</sup>).

After the second immigration in the year 1810 by cultivated council meeting of the Herr Kontenius with the Herr Inspector Sieber <sup>7</sup>), field surveyor Hausteck <sup>8</sup>) and District Mayor Walther decided to establish a communal sheep farm

<sup>1)</sup> On the land taken over by Dubinskij, among others, Weinau and Durlach were also founded, cf. pp. 77-80.

<sup>2)</sup> i.e. Montal, Neudorf, which was taken over in 1833 (see p. 81), Rosental, Molotschna, Hoffental, Nassau, Weinau, Wasserau with about 250 families, see "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 4, 1849, p. 46.

<sup>3)</sup> from the village of Altnassau, a retired Prussian cavalry captain, cf. ibid. p. 47.

<sup>4)</sup> cf.: in Prischib "lives the inspector of the colonies on the Molotschna, at that time a young Baron v. Uezküll, who had studied in Germany and still remembered with pleasure his stay in this country of culture and humanity", Reiswitz and Wadzeck, op. cit. p. 350.

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. Grüntal, p. 72 ff.

<sup>6)</sup> Because the Russian government had made it compulsory for all colonists to attend church on Sundays and public holidays, under threat of severe punishment (cf. I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19873, May 16, 1801), it also provided for the construction of churches and parsonages in the colonies. While the parsonage in Prischib was completed in 1811 (or 1813, cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 4, 1849, p. 58), the construction of the church, for which the government had initially allocated 25,000 Rbl. Banko, was interrupted because of the Napoleonic War. When another grant of 35,000 Rbl. B. was made, it was resumed in 1820 and fully finished in 1823. The material used seems to have been poor, because Contaenius (Cf. p. 9) bequeathed in his will 500 Rbl. B. for the repair of the church roof, cf. Pingoud loc. cit. Vol. 1, Part I, p. 316, and "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 4, 1849, p. 58.

<sup>7)</sup> Inspector Sieber, von Uexküll's successor, was a veterinarian, cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 4, 1849, p. 47.

<sup>8)</sup> August Hausteck, cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 4, 1849, p. 48. The first land survey of the Molotschna Colonist Area took place in 1810. At that time, each family received 60 Dess. and 200 Rbl. B. advance for the purchase of seed corn, furthermore of two horses, a cow and a wagon, cf. ibid. p. 52. During the second land survey in 1820-1823, the number of cattle that each farm was allowed to graze was also determined, cf. ibid. p. 62 and below p. 73 note 2.

at right angles to the western and northern borders of the district on the steppe river Popowaja Balka not far from the then newly founded village of Grüntal, to raise Prischib to a stronger village, to designate it in the future, because it was the most suitable location, as the main place and to give it the name Molotschna.

As a result of this decision, 11 Protestant and 30 Roman Catholic families settled in Prischib under the leadership of the Mayor Georg Fritz, some of them coming from the surroundings of the Württemberg Residence in Stuttgart and the Baden area near Karlsruh and Mannheim. Molotschna counted only 45 farms <sup>1</sup>) with 60 Dessiantinen each, in total 2,700 Dess. <sup>2</sup>). The settlers <sup>3</sup>) were paid an average of 200 Rubles Banko for each farm together with wood for the construction of a dwelling house and temporary stables by the crown from the settlement fund <sup>4</sup>). In addition, in 1813, some of the landowners who had returned, or rather had not advanced, were provided with four plows and four pairs of oxen from the same fund. Two of them, however, for whom the district authorities believed that this help would be in vain, were sent to Ekaterinoslav in the nursery there <sup>5</sup>) for two years of crown work and their farms were assigned to other reliable landowners.

In 1815 and 1816, several more craftsmen, who had settled in Ekaterinoslav after their immigration and had received there several thousand Rubles in advance for perfecting their trades, were added, without land, to this village. Since these craftsmen, despite the received advance, were impoverished partly by their own fault, their crown debt was distributed among the then existing farms. The immigrants of the first and second settlements' own resources consisted of a maximum of 1,000 thalers, for many of them only a horse and cart, and for four of them hope alone, although of different kinds, was the sustainer of their existence. The Molotschna River is formed by the confluence of the Tokmak and Tschingul Rivers at the northern end of the Molotschna village, from where, taking its course southward,

1) Also in 1857, 45 farmsteads, see Klaus loc, cit, Supplement 2, p. 39.

<sup>2)</sup> This amount of land was granted to the colonists by the crown. In addition, already in 1841 individual colonists of the Molotschna region owned self-acquired lands such as Fein (Cf. p. 61 note 3) 3,675 Dess., Dentzer 3,000 Dess., Lukowitsch 2,700 Dess., Schmidt 1,000 Dess., cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 7.

<sup>3)</sup> i.e. the settlers of the year 1810.

<sup>4)</sup> In addition to the sums granted by the government, which consisted in part of the taxes collected by the colonists and repayments of the crown debts, also the penalties from the villages and the income from the leasing of spirits flowed into the settlement fund under the administration of the Guardianship Committee, Cf. p. 31 note 2 and I PSZ Vol. 36, No. 27635.

<sup>5)</sup> The crown garden in Ekaterinoslav, it had already been laid out by the Zaporozhian Cossacks and expanded by Potemkin, had a nursery since 1806, from which young trees were given to the population free of charge. Especially when Contaenius managed this garden, he contributed a lot to the spread of garden agriculture in New Russia, cf. Skalkovskij op. cit. Vol. 2, p. 104f., op. cit. in Russkij Archiv, 1891, No. 2, p. 327.

it forms the natural boundary between the Molotschna Mennonite District on the left bank and the Molotschna Colonist District on the right bank <sup>1</sup>). The river does not dry up even in the most arid summer months, while the Tschingul and Tokmak have no water in arid years.

Crayfish, pike, perch and migratory birds in and around the Molotschna often offer the enthusiast a pleasant rest and food, but sometimes also an opportunity for the idler to kill time. The river meanders through a valley area of one to two versts in width, of which the right bank from the shallow riverbed to the high bank of the valley is 100 to 300 fathoms. At the foot of the valley bank, 4 to 5 arschin above the valley surface, the village is cultivated in the direction from the northeast to the southwest, whose orchards directly adjoin the yard areas and break up into village and back gardens. Behind the eastern side of the so-called Unterdorf in the valley area, where the river winds closely past the Mennonite village of Halbstadt and the cloth factory of the Mennonite Klassen<sup>2</sup>), a place for the establishment of an orchard and mulberry plantation was chosen in 1830 at the special request of the blessed Herr Kontenius in community with the then village Mayor Leopold Supper 3) and despite reluctance of the community members it was carried out to the greatest advantage of the present owners. This place, which was formerly used only for grazing pigs and as a result, apart from its desolate appearance, produced only useless undergrowth, where only the works of darkness dared to enter during the nightly silence, now resembles a paradise. In spring, one has to climb the high bank on which the church is built to feast on the view of a whole year in a region where the beauty of nature is less persistent than elsewhere. The view wanders far in the valley along the small river, where garden follows garden, and finally loses itself in the distant azure mist, from which the firs of the general plantation emerge not far from Old Nassau 4). Happy feels the man who, having grown up on the flat barren steppe, but being receptive to the charm of beautiful nature, visits the church on a quiet May morning to feast on the beautiful sight. Deeply shaken, he must agree with the exclamation of the Charkow pharmacist Karl Schmiedt <sup>5</sup>); "The wilderness has given way to diligence, look forebodingly into the future! I see in my mind a culture growing up from this valley, which will be able to surpass all expectations of the settlers in usefulness for their new fatherland!

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<sup>1)</sup> sic! should probably mean: "between the Molotschna Mennonite Area on the left bank and the Molotschna Colonist Area on the right bank". [Correction applied]

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 92 note 1.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p. 95 note 1.

<sup>4)</sup> The area plantation for the promotion of fruit and mulberry cultivation, founded in 1806 between Weinau and Altnassau, had employed a certain Wilke as a gardener in 1810, under whose direction each landowning family of the area was obliged to provide one person to work for two days each year. Certain misdemeanors (cf. I PSZ Vol. 27 No. 20841) were also punished with work in the plantation, cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt," Vol. 4, 1849, p. 58.

<sup>5)</sup> No further details could be found. A Karl Schmiedt is also mentioned in A. Döllen: Kurze Geschichte der evangelisch-lutherischen Kirche und Gemeinde zu Charkow, Charkow 1880.

In 1847, the present District Mayor Glöckler sold pears from a single tree for 43 Rbl. The side tree (Seitenbaum) <sup>a</sup>) also promises good income.

Although there were several trees in good growth on the Dubiusk homestead in 1804, and nature on the bank of the Tschmgul produced blackthorn and other shrubbery only in some places of the Molotschna valley area, two decades passed before the local inhabitants were encouraged to plant trees. The reason for this was poverty and lack of expertise.

The land for grain growing, meadow and pasture is mostly located above the valley bank on a plain and has the character of the steppe. Each landowner has 25 Dessiantinen of land under the plow and in the cultivation of the same is not behind the best arable farmers of the whole area.

The valley, which reaches a height of about 300 feet, consists mostly of sand and marl clay, on which there are clear traces, a hundred feet high, of a water table covering the entire valley. This was probably still the case at the time of Herodotus, who calls this area the Moeotian/mövtischen swamps <sup>1</sup>). The wells are 15 to 25 feet deep and contain the most excellent water in the entire district. The bottom of the village of Molotschna seems to be a river deposit. The uppermost layer of humus mixed with river sand is 1½ arschin deep, the subsoil is marl clay mixed with mixed earth of partly animal origin, and further down one encounters sandstone boulders. In the latter layer of earth, in various places, fossilized bones and important pieces of petrified oak wood were found, which were not appreciated and collected due to carelessness in those times <sup>2</sup>).

The cattle plague affected the Molotschna village seven times in the course of time, the last time in 1839. Each time it destroyed on average ¾ of the entire livestock, which loss was much slower and more difficult to replace at the then cheap prices for agricultural products than in the present.

Except for moderate scarlet fever and measles epidemics, no devastating diseases occurred, except that the inhabitants of the street located at the northern end of Tschmgul used to be afflicted by a persistent cold fever <sup>b</sup>), while the other inhabitants of Prishib were spared with it. At present the disease has disappeared, which Schreiber attributes to the influence of the orchards planted here.

In Prishib there are already 10 houses of burnt tiles, some with pantile roofing, and 12 under construction. In terms of public buildings, the municipality owns:

1) A Protestant schoolhouse in the center of the village, built of air bricks in ordinary style, high and spacious, with a section as a teacher's residence.

....

<sup>1)</sup> should mean: "maiotic". Archaic form of meiotic.

<sup>2)</sup> It is noticeable that in these reports from the Molotschna area the depth of the wells and the type of soils are always given. Probably these data are connected with the surveys, which P. von Koeppen made and used, see Koeppen, Landesverhältnisse, especially p. 51, where also the "number of strips, in which the arable land is divided" is given.

a) Possibly Mimosa; Silk Tree (Albizia julibrissin)

b) Probably malaria

- 2) A Catholic schoolhouse, also built and equipped with 2 bells, which remind the congregation to pray in the morning, at noon and in the evening, the youth to go to school and the residents to attend church services on Sundays. Also, the bells indicate by peculiar ringing, understandable to everyone, when a member has departed in death.
  - 3) Two wooden granaries for storing supplies for difficult times 1).
- 4) The inspection building (Inspektionsgebäude) in the center on the street with 8 fathoms front of fired bricks on fieldstone foundation, spacious, well durable, with roofing of iron sheet, rebuilt in 1840 in community with the Mennonites and Berdyansk colonists on account of the community sums provided with two farm buildings. At the same time one half Dess. garden land is planted with various fruit trees, which enjoy the special care and attention of Inspector Pelchmeier.
- 5) The office building (Amtshaus) adjoining the inspection area (Inspektionsplatze) with 8 fathoms of frontage on the street, in which the District Office places its records and conducts official negotiations, built in 1836 on old place of air bricks in the usual style, at present covered with roofing tiles by the former District Mayor Werner with funds from the community account.
- 6) The clerk's residence on the same street of the northern row with 10 fathoms of front in the usual style of air tiles with thatched roofing in two spacious partitions at the old place of the District Mayor Glöckler with extraordinary economic resources built in 1839, is inhabited by the clerks of the District Office.
- 7) The main school, built in 1844 on the northern row of the street in a diagonally opposite to the office building, with a roof tile roofing, high and spacious for 60 pupils <sup>2</sup>). This building is from the local colonist and landowner Friedrich Fein <sup>3</sup>), owner of several sheep farms of excellent Spanish breed, and

1) By the "Instruction of the internal order and administration of the colonies of New Russia" among other things also the establishment of storehouses, as they were usual in Russia since the 18th century, was ordered. Half of each revision soul had to deliver from each harvest Tschetwerik rye and ½ Garnitz

summer grain for times of need as grain stock, about which the village office had to report annually in November to the "Fürsorge-Kontor" or "Komitee", cf. I Vol. 26, No. 1987S, § 67, May 16, 1801.

2) The main or central school was to serve for the training of suitable village school teachers and clerks. According to the school statute confirmed by the Russian government on July 18, 1846, instruction was to cover religion, penmanship, German and Russian, arithmetic, geography, general history, statistics of New Russia, and civics, with special attention to the laws and regulations enacted for the colonies. Seven hours of instruction per day were planned, of which at least two hours per day had to be devoted to the study of Russian. Cf. p. Luppov: Nemeckie nacalnye skoly v Rossii. K voprosu o nemeckich kolonijach v russkoj zemle (The German Elementary Schools in Russia. On the question of German colonies in the Russian country). Petersburg 1916, p. 28.

3) Friedrich Fein, b. 1794, d. 1864, had immigrated in 1807 with his father Johann Fein, who was first a laborer in Ekaterinostaw and then settled on the Molotschna. Johann Fein established a sheep farm in 1814 on land he bought himself (3,500 Dess.), but it was not until his

extraordinary member of the Agricultural Association of the Molotschna Colonist District, as a gift for the more able youth. Since the opening of the school, eagerly awaited by many, has not yet taken place, so the building is currently occupied by the doctor.

- 8) The pharmacy was founded in 1840 by Provisor Podstowsky with the permission of the authorities, thus fulfilling a wish of the local settlers that had been desired for many years, who also gave him permission to purchase a house lot <sup>1</sup>). To all appearances, he did well, but for speculative reasons, he ceded the pharmacy to Herr Müller in 1846, who has put it in order and runs it to everyone's satisfaction.
- 9) Four stalls have been set up by local farmers, who, under the protection of a third guild, sell <sup>2</sup>) cut goods (Schnittwaren) [fabric] and other small items necessary for the farmer. Unfortunately, there is still a lack of an appropriate grocery store, although the means to build one would be available.
- 10) Public bridges belonging to the district: a) over the Tschingul for travel to Tokmak <sup>3</sup>) and the villages located above the Tschingul and Gurkulak <sup>4</sup>), b) over the Molotschna for travel to the Mennonite villages located on the left bank of the river, which also participate in the construction and maintenance of the same.
  - 11) A Lutheran pastorate and a church built by the Crown <sup>5</sup>).

son Friedrich Fein succeeded in breeding a Merino breed adapted to the steppe by crossbreeding, thus bringing new ways to Russian sheep breeding. He acquired, among other things, large estates on the lower Dnieper and in 1856 from the house of Anhalt-Dessau for 525,000 thalers Ascania Nova, 200 km west of the Molotschna settlement. His daughter Elisabeth (b. 1819) married the Saxon-born sheep breeder Joh. Gottlieb Pfalz (b. 1808) and, in recognition of her father's services to herself and her descendants, received permission from the Tsar to use the double name Falz-Fein. Before the World War this family had over a million Dess. land in use, cf. A. Pressures: Askania Nova. The History of a Village of Anhalt in Southern Russia. Diss. Halle 1906; W. von Falz-Fein: Ascania Nova. The Animal Paradise. Neudamm 1930 (not very reliable); M. Woltner: Askania Nova. In: Handwörterbuch des Grenz und Auslanddeutschtums. Vol. 1, Breslau 1934, p. 161.

- 1) cf. II PSZ Vol. 7. No. 5404.
- 2) In 1721, the city population (except for the nobility, clergy and foreigners) was first grouped into two guilds in Russia, and since 1775, membership in the Russian merchant community was considered proven by registration in one of the three guilds on the basis of registered property. In the 19th century the required property for the merchants of the first guild was 50,000 Rbl., second, 20,000 Rbl. and third, 8,000 Rbl. The right to join the existing guild organizations was expressly granted to immigrating foreigners on July 22, 1763 (cf. I PSZ Vol. 16 No. 11880 §4), cf. Brokgauz Efron: Novyj Enciklopediceskij Slovar' (New Encyclopedic Dictionary) Vol. 13, p. 682.
  - 3) Cf. p. 89 note 3.
- 4) = Kuru-Kulak, cf. Semenov op. cit. Vol. 3, p. 301, or Kurkulak, cf. Spisok naselennycb mest po svedenijam 1864 goda (List of inhabited localities based on the 1864 surveys), Vol. 41, Petersburg 1865, p. 32.
  - 5) Cf. p. 57 note 6.

2. Hoffental 63

A windmill <sup>1</sup>), an oil mill and a brickworks cannot satisfy the existing demand for a long time. Three blacksmiths, 2 wagner <sup>a</sup>), 6 carpenters, 10 shoemakers, 4 tailors, 1 locksmith, 2 turners and 1 potter are sufficiently employed and make a good living <sup>2</sup>).

At present the Molotschna village consists of 45 farms <sup>3</sup>), among which only 8 are occupied by Catholics, the remaining 22 have exchanged themselves in the course of time into villages of their denomination or sold their land, and of 37 free houses without land, inhabited by craftsmen, day laborers and tradesmen. The village counts 115 families with 959 souls, 519 more than at the time of the immigration in 1809. The land allotted to the village of Molotschna at the resettlement of Neudorf in 1833, consisting of 360 Dessiantinen, for the share of the tradesmen, is still used by the landlords of this village for a moderate rent.

Mayor Hein. Assistant Mayor Zöngler.

### 2. Hoffental <sup>4</sup>)

Immediately adjacent to the Molotschna village, where the Talnfer takes a west-south-west direction ¾ verst long, this village is laid out on the bank about 2 to 3 feet above the valley floor and 200 to 300 fathoms from the riverbed with a row of houses whose orchards and vegetable gardens slope gently down into the valley floor opposite the houses.

The village was founded by 17 families who immigrated from Prussian Poland in 1804, including some families who migrated from Baden and Württemberg in 1802 and 1803. In 1810, two more families from Württemberg were added to the village.

The blessed Herr Kontenius, together with the Mayor Michael Fisske, chose the place of settlement. While marking out the building sites, His Excellency, hearing the complaints of poverty, had occasion to exhort comfortingly to patience and diligence and, after his gaze had lingered a few minutes on the green valley surface, he addressed the assembly with the words: "Here are the hopes of your diligence!" Unanimously, the village was immediately named Hoffental. The settlers did not have their own means when they immigrated, but they received the usual advances from the government. The soil is the same as that of Molotschna, but the settlers stayed behind in farming for a few years in agriculture and only in recent times have they become more active. The planting of trees has also been very neglected in the early days, so that Herr Kontenius at the annual

<sup>1)</sup> Windmill and forge had been built at the time of the foundation at the expense of the settlement fund, see "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 4, 1849, p. 47.

<sup>2)</sup> In 1848, there was only one locksmith in the entire Molotschna Colonist Area, see p. 84 note I.

<sup>3)</sup> In 1857: 45 farmsteads (124 men) on 2,700 Dess. and 70 landless families (432 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 39.

<sup>4)</sup> Russian name: Tschajkino.

a) a wagner was a blacksmith or farrier who specialized in the making and repair of wagon wheels and horse-drawn vehicle components. These skilled craftsmen played a crucial role in maintaining and building the wheels and other metal parts needed for transportation during the time when horse-drawn vehicles were common. The term appears 12 times and is clearly distinguished from blacksmiths and other occupations. I will leave this term untranslated. THF

revision often made his dissatisfaction known, once with the words: "Your hopes are to some extent fulfilled, for I see that you are clothed and nourished; but mine, which I placed with confidence in you with regard to arboriculture, you have not fulfilled, and even to this day show little desire to do so."

Two years after the fruit and mulberry plantation ordered in 1830 in the village of Molotschna, Hoffental also followed the same request of Sr. Excellency. The plantation is in good growth except for the shares of some hosts.

The wells, 25 to 35 feet deep, contain very good water. The soil has the same characteristics as that of the Molotschna village.

The cattle plague has 6 times killed 3/4 of the livestock.

Except for measles and scarlet fever among children, there were no epidemics among people.

One house made of baked bricks and five others under construction show that people are beginning to build more solid houses.

The schoolhouse in the center of the village below the orchards is built of air bricks in common style.

The grain storehouse is built of wood. An landowner built a brickyard in 1846. He also bought and rebuilt the windmill, which was built from the settlement funds. Three blacksmiths, a wagner and a shoemaker are sufficiently occupied with profitable work <sup>1</sup>).

At present, the village consists of 20 landowners and 9 freeholders with 253 inhabitants, 188 more than at the time of settlement <sup>2</sup>). The village has thus quadrupled in 44 years; a telling proof of the extraordinarily good state of health.

On August 29, 1822, Johann Jakob Schmidt died here in the 116th year of his life. He was born as a Swedish subject in Stockholm on August 25, 1707. At the outbreak of the Silesian War of Succession he was captured by the Austrians during a reconnaissance as a commoner, but deserted to the troops of Frederick the Great and took part in all campaigns of the Seven Years' War as a commoner under Field Marshal Ziethen. Two stab wounds and three bullets had only slightly damaged him. After peace was concluded in his 60th year, he married on the knight's estate of Herr von Hahn not far from Berlin. V. Hahn granted him two hectares of land as unrestricted property for his services, which he owned for a long time. At the end of the last century, however, he sold his land and settled in Prussian Poland, where in 1804, in his 97th year, still healthy and spry, he and his two sons joined the emigration to southern Russia. Until he was 110 years old, he did all the heavy work on a farm, such as mowing, sheafing and forking, even threshing, without ever complaining of exhaustion and often putting his sons to shame in terms of stamina.

Mayor Schmidt.

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 84 note I.

<sup>2) 1857: 20</sup> farmsteads (85 men) on 1,200 Dess. and 4 landless families (93 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 39.

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## 3. Hochstädt <sup>1</sup>)

From the main town of Molotschna 12 versts west, 24 versts from the district town of Melitopol, 308 versts from the governorate town of Simferopol and 140 versts from Ekaterinoslav, this village was founded in 1810 on the small Jedekorin <sup>2</sup>), which here forms a shallow area of several hundred Dessiantine and has no outflow.

The settlers of this village had made friends with each other partly on the journey, but mainly in the winter quarters in 1809, and under their leader and Mayor Jakob Gugenheimer they chose this place for their settlement and named it Hochstädt out of courtesy to the latter after his birthplace Hochstätten on the Rhine. The 39 settler families came mostly from Baden-Durlach, some from the Stuttgart area, some from the Rhine Palatinate and were all of Protestant denomination. In addition to the usual support, the destitute received 3 plows and a few oxen each from the settlement treasury in 1813. Only a few had personal means with a total value of about 500 Thalers Rhenish;  $^3/_5$  had arrived without means  $^3$ ).

The staking out of the village was done by the surveyor August Haussteck. It lies in a straight line from east to west and has two rows of houses. The first dwellings were hastily made earth-covered cellars called Semljanken <sup>4</sup>). For some of them it took 2 or 3 years before they were able to leave their underground dwellings, because they were not in a hurry to build houses. Therefore, for this final purpose, police sometimes had to intervene severely.

Experience has shown that Hochstädt has chosen its village location badly, because in the case of rapid run-off of the snow and in the case of heavy thunderstorm, the water runs up against the village, which could never be completely prevented up to now by ditches and dams.

The land forms a long quadrangle to the west, which is about 3 versts from the village, intersected by the steppe river Gross-Jedekorin in a southerly direction coming from Friedrichsfeld. There is a cattle watering place here. Further to the west the land borders on that of the crown village Mikhailovka <sup>5</sup>).

The top layer of soil consists of 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  arschin of black garden soil, on which all kinds of cereals and garden plants thrive. In the first decade, Hochstädt lagged behind several colonies in the amount of grain sown, but it cultivated the land well, as far as the imperfect farming equipment at that time allowed. The subsoil is a yellow loam 12 feet deep, which takes on a white color after 6 feet of depth.

<sup>1)</sup> Russian name: Wysokoje.

<sup>2)</sup> The correct form of the name of this river could not be determined.

<sup>3)</sup> although in 1804 it was ordered that the immigration permit could be granted only to families with 300 guldens of property, Cf. p. 31 note 3.

<sup>4)</sup> Russian zemlyanka "earth hut".

<sup>5)</sup> Mikhailovka, on the Tschumak Road from Aleksandrovst to Perekop was settled only in 1809-1811, see Semenov op. cit. Vol. 3, p. 262 and "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 4, 1849, p. 51.

At the bottom there is a Latvian-like river camp. The water is averagely sweet and probably the best of all the so-called steppe villages.

Tree cultivation has been incomprehensibly neglected for more than two decades in spite of all admonitions and orders from the authorities. Towards the end of the decade, some landowners planted half a Dessiantine of fruit trees behind the farm buildings, probably as a hobby <sup>1</sup>). The success proved that Hochstädt has one of the most excellent locations for planting trees. The trees planted for 15-18 years reveal a health, which must be considered exceptional in this district and is surpassed only in the village of Molotschna. The forest plantation planted in 1845 at the eastern end of the village, directly adjacent to it, on both sides of the road leading to Mikhailovka, has so far only mulberry trees, but it is a hopeful sight, which makes the uninitiated hardly believe that the forest is a two-year-old child. Strangely enough, it was precisely the mulberry trees that the settlers had, so to speak, on the "Muck", and not only here, but generally claimed of the same that they were the most unrewarding (undankbarsten) in growth.

During the second survey of the lands of the Molotschna colonist district in the years 1820 to 1822, the municipality of Hochstädt in connection with Reichenfeld and Friedensfeld <sup>2</sup>) was anxious to request 120 Dessiantine of land from the chief colonial authority for a second parish to be established in the future <sup>3</sup>). The land was granted by the Ekaterinoslav Guardianship Office and divided in the center of the parish to be established, whereupon the parish soon approached the then Superintendent Böttiger <sup>4</sup>) with the request for a clergyman.

In 1825 the pastor Föll <sup>5</sup>) came to the place as a provisional preacher,

<sup>1)</sup> but Cf. p. 108.

<sup>2)</sup> should read: Friedrichsfeld, Cf. p. 82, because Friedensfeld wasn't founded until 1861, cf. Pingoud loc. cit. Vol. I, Part I, p. 321.

<sup>3)</sup> The Russian government had even granted 500 Dess. to the first pastor of the Black Sea colonists Hiob Adolf Kirchmann (cf. 2a, Zapiski Odesskogo Istorii i Drevnostej Vol. 2, 1848, p. 661), but later 120 Dess. were the usual norm for the parish land, cf. I PSZ Vol. 31 No. 24166.

<sup>4)</sup> Carl August Böttiger, born in 1779 in Oberwiesenkal/Erzgebirge, studied theology and law in Leipzig. In 1804-06 he was a consultant at the judicial collegium in Petersburg, in 1808-10 assistant to the director at the Petersburg Commercial Institute and then since 1811 (?) pastor in Odessa. Since the parish was impoverished as a result of the severe plague of 1812, B. had to earn his living as an educator from 1814-1818. Appointed superintendent of the newly formed Odessa consistory in 1818, he was removed from office in 1828. He died in Vologda in 1848. A detailed appreciation of Böttiger's immensely interesting plans for the creation of a school system for the German settlers in southern Russia and his work on a draft constitution for the Protestant Church of Russia is given by Bienemann, loc. cit.

<sup>5)</sup> Gottlieb Theophil Friedrich Föll from Marbach, who had received his education at the Basel Mission Institute, worked as pastor-adjunct in Hochstädt (Odessa) from May to November 1824. In 1826 the St. Petersburg College of Justice appointed him pastor of Grunau. In 1831 he accepted a call to Hochstädt, where he died in 1875 at an advanced age, cf. Mitteilungen und Nachrichten für die evangelische Kirche in Russland Vol. 63, 1910, p. 467 and Bienemann loc. cit. Index.

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but soon followed the call as pastor to the colonies of the Mariupol district, whereupon in 1826 preacher Steinmann <sup>1</sup>) took his place.

In 1827, the three villages decided to build a pastor's dwelling with 8½ fathoms front and 4 fathoms width at the western end of the Hochstädt village from their own funds and at the same time provisionally set up a larger hall in it for confirmation classes. When Pastor Steinmann followed the call as pastor to Josefstal in 1828, the young parish was vacant again until in 1831 Pastor Föll came here for the second time and now for 17 years without interruption in the capacity of a provost of the 2nd provost district in southern Russia, yes at present as a consistorial councilor a blessed effectiveness for the good of the church and the schools of his parishes unfolds ²). The effects of an office held for so long with equal zeal and perseverance can be seen in the moral character of the parishioners.

The growing arboretum near the pastorate and the church also owes its existence entirely to the care of Consistory Councilor (Konsistorialrat) Föll.

Although the division of the parishes had already been ordered in 1826 by Superintendent Böttiger and confirmed by the Minister of the Interior, it took until 1831, as a result of intrigues, until the division on the basis of the number of souls was finally carried out by a decision of the higher authorities and an end was put to all stubborn machinations. Thus, Molotschna became the first and Hochstädt the second Lutheran parish in the Molotschna Colonist Area.

Through the addition of 6 villages <sup>3</sup>) the parish was strengthened to the extent that in 1832 it was able to build a spacious prayer house of 11½ fathoms and 5 fathoms wide of field stones on the parish yard, 80 fathoms south of the pastor's dwelling.

Also, in more recent times, on the eastern side of the pastorate, a cantor's house of burnt tiles with pantile roofing 7 fathoms (Faden) long and 4¾ arschin ⁴) wide, as well as the farm outbuildings for the pastorate of the same material are purpose-built.

All this disproves the opinion, which was widespread in 1820, that the Lutheran Christians in Molotschna were in a pitiful condition, like paganism <sup>5</sup>).

The names of Adam Gräber, Michael May and Peter Schmidt from Reichenfeld, Michael Gugenheimer and Georg Hering from Hochstädt, Philipp Kammerloch and

<sup>1)</sup> Laurenz Steinmann, also educated in Basel, was, after leaving Hochstädt, pastor in Josefstal until 1863, see Mitteilungen und Nachrichten für die evangelische Kirche in Russland, Vol. 63, 1910, p. 467.

<sup>2)</sup> On July 31, 1834, the Lutheran congregations of southern Russia were united into two provost districts, cf. II PSZ Vol. 9, I, No. 7311.

<sup>3)</sup> i.e. of Rosental, Neu-Nassau, Wasscrau, Karlsruh, Grüntal, Kronsfeld, cf. Pingoud op. cit. Vol. I, Part I, p. 316.

<sup>4)</sup> Must read "Faden".

<sup>5)</sup> More details about this could not be determined.

Andreas Benke of Friedrichsfeld, who made a special effort for the establishment of this parish and proved to have a charitable influence on the settlers, deserve to be mentioned with gratitude.

In the course of time, and for the last time in 1845, the cattle plague took away four times by an average of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the total number. In 1824, the smallpox epidemic took half of the sheep as victims.

Scarlet fever and measles took away at the end of the year 1847  $^2/_5$  of the youth in the age from 1 to 7 years.

Public buildings include:

- 1) A spacious schoolhouse built of air bricks with a teacher's apartment. A bell reminds the inhabitants to pray in the morning, at noon and in the evening, to attend church on Sundays and holidays, invites the youth to school every day and indicates the death of a fellow pilgrim.
  - 2) A warehouse built of wood to store grain supplies for bad times.
- 3) A general store (Krambude) whose owner is an Armenian grocer from Nakhichevan/Nachitschewan 1).
  - 4) Two windmills.
- 3 Blacksmiths, 1 wagner, 2 carpenters, 3 shoemakers and 1 tailor find rewarding employment.

From fired bricks are listed to 4 private houses and 5 under construction.

The village currently consists of 39 farms and 11 free houses inhabited by craftsmen <sup>2</sup>). The community consists of 81 families with 433 souls; 234 more than at immigration <sup>3</sup>).

Mayor Schneider. Assistant Mayor Hoffmann.

#### 4. Reichenfeld <sup>4</sup>).

From the main place Molotschna 20 versts in west-southwest direction the village was founded in 1810 and 1811 on a shallow plain sloping down to the big Jedekorin <sup>5</sup>) 1½ versts east of the general border separating the Molotschna Colonist Area from the district place Mikhailovka. The area used to be covered annually by nomads with their numerous chuduk (Tschuduk) <sup>6</sup>) herds, but it was once inhabited, as evidenced by a child's grave found under a small mound several years ago, covered with stone slabs and bricked over with baked bricks, but its age could not be determined. Near this grave, at a depth of only 6 Vershok, a pistol and a shotgun were found.

<sup>1)</sup> In 1848 the entire district had 8 Krambuden, cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 4, 1849, p. 61 and p. 62

<sup>2) 1857: 39</sup> farmsteads (156 men) on 2,340 Dess. and 9 landless families (113 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 39.

<sup>3)</sup> i.e. 1810.

<sup>4)</sup> Russian names: Kosogorje or Andrijew.

<sup>5)</sup> Jedokorin?

<sup>6) =</sup> coarse-wooled sheep.

the latter weighing 7 pounds, still loaded with a bullet, appeared to be of Swedish work. In the month of May 1810, under the leadership of Mayor Adam Gräber, the site was chosen and given the name Reichenfeld by Inspector Sieber, with the approval of the elders (Aelteste), because of its lush vegetation.

Originally 30 Protestant families and 1 Roman Catholic family had settled here as landowners. They were mostly from the Baden areas of Mannheim and Heidelberg. During the quartering on the journey, they had been joined by some Württemberger from the Stuttgart area and some Alsatians from the Speier diocese.

In 1823, in late autumn, 10 more families, of which 6 were Protestant and 4 Catholic, had to be excluded by order of the authorities. These new arrivals had been dismissed from the St. Petersburg settlement because of dissatisfaction with the climate there <sup>1</sup>). They were from Prussian Pomerania and had migrated to St. Petersburg partly by obtained consensus, partly secretly from Prussia at the time of the Confederation in the years 1807 to 1809. Weaned from work, with exaggerated hopes, they, 37 families in number, wanted to form a special settlement, but the official Budenbrock, who was sent directly here, did not go for it, but ordered the then District Mayor Jakob Walther <sup>2</sup>) to distribute them in small numbers in such villages, where still Crown lands could be allocated.

The Reichenfeld colonists received from the crown 200 Rbl. Banko advance for each family and timber for a building 4 fathoms wide and 8 fathoms long worth 105 Rbl. Banko. In addition, in 1813 the poorest of them received extraordinary support and, depending on their needs, a total of three pairs of oxen and five plows from the account of the Settlement Fund. The funds raised consisted at most of a few hundred thalers, and for the more well-off, in addition to proper clothing, of a horse and wagon. But they were rich in hope and courage. Most of them survived the terribly cold spell from 1812 to 1813, traditionally called "French winter", in their earthen huts and shared this subterranean dwelling with their only domestic animals, cow and horse. Once their small stock of food was so snowbound that it could not be obtained, man consumed his bed of straw for their sustenance, whereas the animals warmed the communal dwelling for him by their exhalation. The next summer

<sup>1)</sup> These are presumably some of the families who were settled in 1810 near Carskoye Selo on the so-called Ytsvarsky Obrez. Since it soon became clear that the area was unsuitable for them, the Tsar authorized their relocation on September 12, 1811 (cf. I PSZ Vol. 31, No. 24766, p. 836). As a result, 46 families moved to the Ekaterinoslav governorate in the same year, see P. von Koeppen: Über die Deutschen im St. Petersburgischen Gouvernement. Petersburg 1850, p. 13ff. We do not have more detailed information on the settlement of the Wahres in 1823. See also p. 81 below.

<sup>2)</sup> Budenbrock was probably an inspector of the Petersburg colonists. Cf. I PSZ Vol. 30 No. 23 773.

<sup>3)</sup> Jakob Walther, the first Mayor of Waldorf, gave his name to this village and moved to Kostheim when he became District Mayor of the Molotschna Colonist Area, see Deutscher Volkskalender für Stadt und Land auf das Jahr 1911. Jg. 3, Odessa 1910, p. 86.

brought bread, for several of them for the first time their own, and soon made them forget the misery they had survived.

The soil consists of a half to a whole arschin deep, of an extraordinarily fertile, black, completely sand-free humus layer. The subsoil is yellow clay with about one percent sand. In the vicinity of the water-table, at a depth of 20 to 25 feet, the clay discolors and gradually changes to a calcareous substance having an upright bed <sup>a</sup>). The water in the center of the village is whitish in color and almost as soft as rainwater; at both ends of the village it is clear, but bitter and salty, useless for cooking, but very beneficial to domestic animals, which seek it out with avidity.

The soil, which is extremely favorable for cereal sowings, and is saturated with saltpeter, is less suitable for timber plantations, but the forest plantation on the south side of the village, begun in 1847, is in hopeful growth. Cattle plague has broken out here only twice as a result of contagions that were not fought in earlier years out of prejudice. Now the prejudice that the cattle plague was God's punishment against which one should not fight has been overcome.

Although Reichenfeld, especially in the first decade of its existence, was at the forefront of grain production, few new and massive buildings have been erected so far. Two new brickworks will supply the material for new buildings in the course of this year. Up to now there are only 2 houses made of fired bricks.

The schoolhouse has just been built of fired bricks, spacious and equipped with a bell. A storehouse of fired bricks is under construction.

Finally, Reichenfeld has 3 windmills, 2 oil mills, I grain mill (Grützmühle), 2 blacksmiths, 2 wagner, 2 carpenters and 4 shoemakers, all of whom are sufficiently employed and make a good living <sup>1</sup>).

The village currently consists of 41 farms and 6 freeholds <sup>2</sup>) with a total of 101 families. The number of souls amounts to 550 <sup>3</sup>); 360 more than at the time of settlement. Eight families with 33 souls profess the Catholic confession, the rest have transferred themselves to their coreligionists in the course of time by exchange and sale.

Mayor: Zeller. Assistant Mayors: Prieb, Lorenz.

### 5. Wasserau 4)

The settlers of this village consisted mostly of Württembergers from the Rottenburg area, who migrated to Prussian Poland at the beginning of this century and in 1804, united with some local inhabitants, came to southern Russia, where they settled in 1805 under the leadership of their Mayor Valentin Bügler.

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 84, note 1.

<sup>2) 1857: 41</sup> farmsteads (177 men) on 2,460 Dess. and 10 landless families (135 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 39.

<sup>3)</sup> Vgl. p. 69.

<sup>4)</sup> Russian name: Prochladnoje.

a.) "Upright bedding" or "vertical bedding" (mentioned at least 5 times in this document) refers to the orientation or arrangement of rock layers or sedimentary beds where they are nearly perpendicular to the horizontal plane.

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Thirty-eight families settled not far from Weinau on the river Molotschna. The name Wasserau was given to the place because its valley surface was under water for a long time in spring and then blossomed in lush vegetation.

In 1810, 4 more families from Baden-Durlach were admitted. The village did not receive any extraordinary support, nothing is known about personal funds brought from abroad.

Since the land of the village extended from the bank of the Molotschna for 12 versts at a small width and therefore it was inconvenient to work it, so in 1815 16 landowners together with 15 families from Weinau decided to move to a place 12 versts away from their homes. In 1823, after a long discussion, the decision was made to completely relocate Wasserau. Weinau took possession of the land on the Molotschna River and had to cede a corresponding quantum of land not far from Neunassau to Wasserau, whereupon the new Wasserau was founded under the schoolmaster Friedrich Bügler 10 versts west of the old residence on a perfect plain intended for the small Jedekorin, 10 versts far from the main town of Molotschna.

The village consists of two rows of houses and stretch from east to west. It is located in the middle of its lands forming a quadrangle. The surface is covered with  $4\frac{1}{2}$  arschin deep black earth and is most productive for all cereals. The subsoil down to the 15 to 22 foot deep water bottom contains yellow loam in upright bedload with faint saltpeter infiltration, which is why the well water is also tinged with bits of saltpeter in places. Agriculture is carried out according to the present rules and regulations. The trees, especially the elms, enjoy rapid growth. The beginning of forest planting was made only in 1847 on the northern and southern sides of the village, directly adjacent to the orchards. Tree cultivation has been practiced only because the authorities demanded it  $^{1}$ ).

The cattle plague has destroyed half of the livestock three times in 25 years. Except for insignificant children's diseases, there have been no epidemics among people.

As far as buildings are concerned, Wasserau is making good progress; there are already 8 buildings of baked bricks and just as many under construction.

Wasserau also has a schoolhouse of burnt tiles with a thatched roof, built in the usual style, and a storehouse of the same kind.

The 2 blacksmiths, 1 wagner, 3 carpenters and 2 shoemakers residing in Wasserau are very busy.

At present, the village has 26 farms and 1 free house <sup>2</sup>). It is inhabited by 61 families with 341 Protestant souls; 219 souls more than at the time of settlement.

Mayor: Schlägel Assistant Mayor: Glöckler. Kersch.

<sup>1)</sup> Strikingly, the present reports repeatedly express the aversion to the establishment of gardens and woodlands.

<sup>2) 1857: 26</sup> farmsteads (96 men) on 1,560 Dess. and 8 landless families (84 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 39.

# 6 Neunassau 1)

The village was founded in 1814 by 20 resettler families from the village Nassau under the leadership of the Mayor Georg Kuppert 9 versts away from the old residence and from the main village Molotschna in its shallow steppe valley without a name and forms 2 rows of houses in the direction from north to south. The resettlement took place on its own initiative and at its own expense. It was caused by the unfortunate circumstance that the large village of Nassau was 15 versts away from the outermost border of its land, which was only 4 versts wide. During the land distribution in 1823, the village of Neunassau was granted land for 8 farms, partly from those who had remained without land during the settlement, partly with the adolescent youth. During a more precise survey in 1844, one more landowner from Alt-Nassau had to be excluded. As far as soil conditions and water are concerned, the new Nassau does not differ from the old one. Tree cultivation here is very mediocre. Trees 15 to 20 years old have a crippled appearance, and the future will teach to what extent the saltpeter content of the soil is to blame. The forest planting on the east side of the village, which is more under the control of the agricultural association <sup>2</sup>), looks hopeful.

Rinderpest [viral cattle plague] has prevailed here twice, each time taking away the sixth part of the livestock. No epidemics have broken out among the people.

Two residential houses, a schoolhouse with a pantile roof and a storehouse were built of burnt tiles.

1 brickyard, 2 windmills, 1 blacksmith, 3 carpenters and 1 shoemaker's workshop are sufficiently employed.

The village currently consists of 29 farms and 4 freeholds and has 51 families with 301 souls of the Protestant denomination; 200 more than at settlement <sup>3</sup>).

Mayor: Ardes. Assistant Mayors: Hütenmeier. Roeder.

# 7. Grüntal <sup>4</sup>)

When in 1810 in the council meeting with His Excellency, the blessed Herr Kontenius, it was decided to establish the district sheep farm in the northwestern corner of the district. It was also decided to establish a small village near it, in order to be able to receive help from the settlers in case of emergencies, but mainly in order to have a protection against rustlers and wolves in the area. These two-legged and four-legged predators were all the more dangerous in the beginning because the flock of sheep, which numbered only a few hundred, employed very few people.

<sup>1)</sup> Russian name: Nesierewo.

<sup>2)</sup> i.e. 1814.

<sup>3) 1857: 28</sup> farmstrads (98 men) on 1,680 Dess. and 5 landless families (89 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2 p. 39.

<sup>4)</sup> Russian names: Wesely Gaj, Popova Balka.

Under the leadership of the Mayor Heinrich Möllmann, who had immigrated from Mecklenburg in 1805 and had ceded his farm in Molotschna to a new immigrant, 5 families who had immigrated from Prussian Poland in 1804 and 4 families who had immigrated from Baden in 1807 and 1810 gathered to found the village intended for 10 landowners according to the instructions of the district authorities directly on the eastern side of the shepherd's hut with a row of houses on the right user of the so-called Popowa Balka with a site width of 80 fathoms. Since the valley at that time was in striking contrast with the rest of the steppe due to its lush vegetation, the settlers applied from it to name the place Grüntal.

This village, consisting of only 10 landowners, 16 versts west-northwest of Molotschna, bordered on all sides by the shepherd's land, favored for three decades by advantages of all kinds, is more prosperous than all the others. The inhabitants of Grüntal were among the first to introduce the refined Spanish breed of sheep and to bring sheep breeding to extraordinary prosperity, when the majority of the other villages had little knowledge of it. Since Grüntal did not have to fear the rigors <sup>1</sup>) of its border neighbors, it became possible for the inhabitants to keep up to 1,000 Spanish sheep per landowner, while still in the beginning of the second decade in other colonies only at most 100 head could be maintained per landowner <sup>2</sup>).

Tree breeding was also practiced and successfully continued by Gottlieb Kriesse early and with emphasis, but probably more out of respect towards the person of the blessed Herr Kontenius than out of charitable intentions <sup>3</sup>). Likewise, already in 1821, Kriesse made attempts with forest plantations and even with viticulture, the latter of which had already been attempted in other places at that time, but had not enjoyed any encouraging success. A handwritten letter addressed by His Excellency to Kriesse is a telling proof of the special warm interest in garden culture and provides a vivid picture of the state it was in at that time. The letter reads:

"Dear Kriesse! For his first and well-turned-out harvest, I wish him good luck and thank him for the good grapes sent to me. Just look, dear Kriesse, for the men and women who think they are wise, who in their blind delusion, misguided by their carelessness, laziness and nonsense, in intoxication or even soberly,

<sup>1)</sup> i.e. over-crowding, which was frequent in the first period of settlement, Cf. p. 97.

<sup>2)</sup> P. von Koeppen: Über einige Landesverhältnisse p. 25f. reports that the number of large livestock was limited by the colonists themselves according to the common land. Among the Molotschna colonists, each landowner was allowed to keep 40 head (Weinau 35, Grüntal and Tiefenbrunn 45) or four times the number of sheep (cf. ibid. p. 51). Of the one-year-old horned cattle two and of young calves four were counted to one head of large cattle (cf. ibid.). In order to promote sheep breeding, Contaenius also united 7 particularly capable landowners in the Molotschna colonization area to form an association, which met once a month in the main sheep farm under the chairmanship of the District Mayors, cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 4, 1849, p. 53). In 1848, the district sheep farm owned 9,023 ewes or wethers and 3,897 breeding rams, cf. ibid. p. 60. However, Contaenius had already discouraged more intensive farming at the expense of sheep breeding at the end of the 1820s, cf. ibid. p. 54.

3) Cf. p. 58 note 5.

as if no tree nor vine could grow here in the country, by the successes achieved in fruit and wine growing as a result of his persistent diligence, and to convert them to the true understanding with regard to the cultivation of trees, fruit, vegetables and wine. For your information and as a pointer for the future, I hereby inform him that a cloth and wool merchant from Krementschug, named Görlitzer, last July bought the wool of the Jamburg village, which is no better than his own, in a washed-out condition, for 30 Rbl. and after he had it lightly washed and dried again in Krementschug, it was sold in Romna <sup>1</sup>) for 65 Rbl. Although the washing in Krementschug reduced the weight by 20 percent, Herr Görlitzer, after deducting the loss in weight, still gained 22 Rbl. cash on each pud in Romna, which shows that he, dear Kriesse, could also have sold his wool for 52 Rbl.

Since he and his good neighbors Lukowitsch and Frey have promised me that they will plant trees and make them grow well, I am sending him the following sealed parcel:

- 1) a small portion of juniper seed, a fruit very necessary for curing sheep diseases;
- 2) Acorns 3) Linden 4) Maple 5) Rhubarb 5 Seeds 6) Chinese millet 7) 10 pieces of horse chestnuts.

I charge him, dear Kriesse, to divide the few seedlings equally with his above-mentioned two neighbors, so that each of you may carefully put his own into the ground, take proper care of it, and seek to promote it in proper growth, so that in time each of you may prove to be a skilled and industrious tree planter.

After friendly greetings to his dear wife and children, I remain always grateful to him."

Ekaterinoslav, September 30, 1825,

Contaenius

Kriesse's son-in-law, Jakob Greulich, made a start with the silk production, but the prosperity of the village has taken up so much of the manpower for the existing branches of activity that it could not be started. As a result of the fact that the shepherding no longer requires the protection of the Grüntalers and has been limited to its own lands, the zeal for particularly excellent achievements has diminished, and the inhabitants of the other villages find themselves offended when the Grüntaler are presented to them as masters, still considering this village as one favored by the pastoral land.

<sup>1) =</sup> Romny, Cf. p. 95, note 2. In the same way as Contaenius advocated the expansion and refinement of sheep breeding in the early years of the German settlements, he later also endeavored to open up markets for the wool of the colonists. Thus, in 1828, after there had been no demand for the refined wool in Russia the year before, he had 30 pud each from the Chortitza and Molotschna Mennonite colonist districts sent via Petersburg to London, where the pud 22 Kop. B. was valued higher than the Spanish, but the wool cleaning was criticized, see "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 4, 1849, p. 53.

8. Altnassau 75

The water level in the valley is shallow, barely a fathom deep, but with admixture of saltpeter. At an arschin depth, human bones and rusty spurs were often found; however, no trace of a grave was discovered.

In terms of buildings Grüntal stands out. It has 5 stone houses and 4 houses made of burnt tiles, one with tin roofing. However, the school and the storehouse of the village council stand in stark contrast to each other, and the people of Grüntal are justifiably blamed for this in comparison with the other colonies.

One brick kiln, 2 windmills, 1 horse mill of excellent layout, 1 carpenter and 1 tailor are very busy.

At present the village Grüntal consists of 10 farms, to which two new ones are to be added by settling the superfluous 120 Dessiantinen located near Grüntal. 15 families of Protestant denomination with 132 souls make up the population, whose number is now 96 souls higher than it was at the time of settlement <sup>1</sup>).

Mayor: Schmidtgall. Assistant Mayor: Schweitzer.

### 8. Altnassau<sup>2</sup>)

From the main village of Prischib 3 versts south at the foot of the valley bank Molotschna this village was founded in 1805 with 60 families of immigrant colonists from Prussian Poland. These colonists had originally come from Nassau-Usingen in 1800-1802, which is why they named their village Nassau. Their leader in the immigration to Russia was the late Mayor Johann Röder.

Between the riverbed and the village, which is built in two rows of houses from north to south, occupies a valley area of about 150 Dessiantinen, which is often flooded by the river. Its arable land extended at a width of 4 versts to the small Jedekorin near Hochstädt and was at the outermost border 10 versts away from the village, which is why 20 landowners decided in 1814 to resettle at their own expense. They named their young settlement Neunassau (see there) <sup>3</sup>), and the older village they had left was renamed Altnassau.

The Altnassau people received the same support from the crown as the other colonists; they had no resources of their own, which is why they lagged behind in agriculture and got used to poverty. They lived from one day to the next and didn't think about the next. Since they were not allowed to have any brooding thoughts about the future, they were characterized by cheerfulness despite their poverty and carefree exuberance at public entertainments. There was absolute equality in the behavior of the young towards the old and of the subordinates towards their superiors.

The soil and goodness of the land is equal to that of the village of Molotschna, the well water being free of saltpeter at a depth of 18 to 30 feet. The proximity of the general plantation has encouraged the cultivation of trees in the village. The fruit and mulberry plantation

<sup>1) 1857: 10</sup> farmsteads (46 men) on 600 Dess. and 5 landless families (60 men), see Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 39.

<sup>2)</sup> Russian name: Strepetowka.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p. 72. the reference in brackets probably comes from the author himself.

was laid out in 1844 about 50 fathoms from the river on the highest point where blackthorn once grew wild, and promised ample reward for effort expended. A small beginning has been made with silk cultivation. The village has not suffered from contagious diseases, except for insignificant scarlet fever and measles epidemics. The cattle plague has 5 times killed a third part of the livestock.

There are 7 residential buildings made of burnt bricks and as many under construction. The spacious schoolhouse is also built of burnt bricks. Two windmills, 2 blacksmiths, 3 wagner, 1 carpenter, 3 shoemakers, 1 tailor are sufficiently employed and make a good living <sup>1</sup>).

The village consists at present of 29 landowners and 15 freemen with 86 families, which count altogether 487 souls; 299 more than at settlement <sup>2</sup>).

Mention should be made here of the Zutz couple. Georg Zutz, born in 1762 near Kompin in Prussia, entered the military in his 18th year 1780 still under Frederick the Great as a commoner and was discharged in his 26th year. In 1788 he married 25-year-old Rosine née Gröning and settled as a colonist in Prussian Poland, where he joined the emigration to southern Russia in 1804. Since then he has lived as a countryman in the village of Altnassau, knowing no other needs than food, work, and a pipe of tobacco that no youthful lung can tolerate. With his Rosina he lives quietly and contentedly in the 61st year of his marriage. The busy Rosina still often goes out to the farm, even in winter, in a light underdress and with her upper body stripped to the shirt, to get the necessary ingredients for the old German soup. She has always provided the services of a pastoral mother to the women of Nassau.

O, you ungrateful Nassauers! She accepted your first lamentation with patience and opened your mouths even more, with which you today so often know how to ridicule old age. And how many times did the dear wrinkled lady (Rosine) preach faith, love and hope until her last sigh!

Mayor: Mayer.

### 9. Tiefenbrunn <sup>3</sup>)

When in 1818 Her Most Serene Majesty the Empress Elisabeth Feodorowna <sup>4</sup>) honored her father's city of Karlsruhe with her visit, some Baden families from the Durlach district asked for special permission to immigrate to Southern Russia. Her Majesty deigned to speak for their permission to emigrate at the Baden court itself and, on her return to St. Petersburg, approved the granting of an advance of 600 Rbl. Banko for each family <sup>5</sup>).

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 84 Note I.

<sup>2) 1857:40</sup> farmsteads (164 men) on 2,400 Dess. and 7 landless families (162 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 39.

<sup>3)</sup> Russian name: Kolodeznove.

<sup>4) =</sup> Wife of Alexander I, born in 1779 as daughter (Luise Marie Auguste) of the hereditary margrave Karl Ludwig von Baden, died in 1826, cf. M. Lindemann: Die Heiraten der Romanovs und der German Princely Houses. Bonn 1935, p. 52f. Here Feodorovna instead of Alekseevna.

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. p. 106 note 1.

The arrival of these emigrants in 1819 was the reason for the foundation of Tiefenbrunn in 1820. The colonial authorities gave permission for families from the first settlement, who had remained without land, as well as young people from the already existing villages, to join them in founding a new village. Thus, 29 families came together, who, under the leadership of the mayor Karl Fuhrman, chose a place directly on the Kurkulak, 15 versts north of Molotschna, and founded the village, to which they gave the name Tiefenbrunn because of the unusual 50 to 60 foot deep wells.

Although, except for the families who came directly from Germany, all the others were limited in their own means, the majority worked their way out of the most oppressive poverty with diligence and zeal in the first 10 years. Although some of the good-for-nothings had to be deprived of their land, Tiefenbrunn soon enjoyed an average moderate prosperity, which some of them achieved more by secondary speculation than by cultivating their land.

Arable farming is practiced on the soil, which is not superior in quality to that of other villages, according to the new agricultural rules, but only 20 Dessiantinen can be plowed on each farm. No value is attached to horticulture, although some good trees growing in the village prove that the soil is suitable for it. Nothing can be said yet about the forest plantation started only in 1847 at the southern end of the village in the narrow valley area of the Kurkulak.

The black earth layer, which is up to one arschin deep, is deposited on yellow clay, under which there is excellent water-containing river sand, in which bones of unknown animal species are frequently found. Also, a dagger was retrieved from a 60-foot-deep well while digging.

The dwellings and farm buildings are in good condition and two new buildings are constructed of baked brick. The new spacious schoolhouse is of burnt brick, and the wooden storehouse will soon give way to a massive one. One windmill, 2 shoemakers, 1 tailor and 1 carpenter are sufficiently employed <sup>1</sup>).

Tiefenbrunn counts 57 families with 335 souls on 29 farms and 3 freeholds 2).

Mayor: Hecht.

Assistant Mayors: Noll. Gillung.

### 10. Weinau<sup>3</sup>)

Seven versts south of the main village Prischib, 50 to 250 fathoms from the riverbed of the Molotschna, 6 to 8 arschin above the valley surface, with 2 rows of houses stretching from north to south, the village was founded, under the leadership of Mayor Philipp

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 84 Note I.

<sup>2) 1857: 39</sup> farmsteads (94 men) on 1,200 Dess. and 8 landless families (121 men), see Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 39.

<sup>3)</sup> Russian name: Arbuzowka.

Bittner, in 1805. The immigrants were Württembergers coming from the area of Stuttgart, who had lived for some years in Prussian Poland.

Since the majority of them had been engaged in viticulture in Württemberg, they named their village Weinau. They received the usual support from the government and brought with them about 500 Thaler of their own property. At the time of settlement, their land belonged to that of the landowner Dubinsky <sup>1</sup>).

In 1810, 12 families from the Baden area near Karlsruhe were excluded from the 1809 immigrants, which significantly extended their land quota and made its use more difficult. This mistake was already recognized in 1815, and as a result 15 landowners moved to Wasserau. In 1840 three of them moved to Kronsfeld, after the rest of Wasserau had already moved in 1823. This brought Weinau back into a more advantageous position.

For a long time the inhabitants of Weinau cultivated the slovenliness, gross prejudices and quarrelsomeness at their own expense. The tree culture was in a bad way until deep into the second decade, although the orchard planted at the northern end of the village by the colonist Jakob Wacker near his dwelling in 1820 showed an extraordinary growth and yielded beautiful fruit after a few years.

In 1833, encouraged by Wacker and some of his kindred spirits, the majority agreed to plant a fruit and mulberry orchard in the valley area on the east side of the village, which is in good growth.

The water is impregnated with Epsom salt at a depth of 30 to 40 feet. The subsoil of the ¾ arschin thick black garden soil is reddish-yellow loam with some sand and limestone rubble mixed in upright bedding. The southern valley surface contains many salt patches on which grass growth is very poor without flooding.

The cattle epidemic has 5 times taken 3/4 of the total number of cattle as victims.

There have not been epidemics among the people.

From burnt bricks 6 houses are built and 2 are under construction. The schoolhouse is of burnt tiles with pantile roofing, the grain storehouse of wood.

Three brickworks, 2 windmills, 3 blacksmiths, 1 carpenter, 3 shoemakers, 1 tailor and 3 potters are sufficiently employed <sup>2</sup>).

At present Weinau consists of 33 farms and 9 freeholds with 36 families, consisting of 373 souls of Protestant confession; 242 inhabitants more than at the time of settlement <sup>3</sup>).

Mayor: Kempf. Assistant Mayors: Weber. Löhrer.

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 57, note 1.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 84 note I.

<sup>3) 1857: 36</sup> farmsteads (241 men) on 2,160 Dess. cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 39.

I. Durlach 79

#### II Durlach 1)

In 1810 this place was founded by 12 Lutheran families from Daden-Durlach on the southern general border separating Molotschna district from Duchoboren <sup>2</sup>), 11 versts from the main town of Molotschna, 34 versts from Melitopol, 311 from Simferopol and 176 versts from Ekakerinoslav, under the Mayor Michael Lutz, and it was given the name Durlach.

The very fertile flat land with its arschin-deep black garden soil was uninhabited at the time of settlement and belonged to the landowner Dubinsky (see the description of Molotschna) <sup>3</sup>). The village consists of two rows of houses, 20 fathoms wide, stretching from north to south; the width of the road is the same. It is situated on the valley floor of the Molotschna on an elevation of several arschin, which forms a gently rising plain on the road side of the village and is bordered by the extraordinarily high valley bank in the form of a bay.

In addition to the general crown support, in 1813 the poorest received a few oxen each; no one possessed their own means at the time of immigration <sup>4</sup>).

Since the village consists of only 12 landowners, the cost of communal levy for the individual is higher than in other villages, but the people of Durlach, satisfied with their lot, have never made serious complaints about this and have proved that even a small village is capable of sustaining itself.

The well water, 35 to 45 feet deep, is of exceptional quality <sup>5</sup>). The subsoil is marl clay mixed with sand. The tree plantations are thriving very well, only the appropriate services in this area are still lacking. The planting of the forest has been started in 1846.

The cattle epidemic has 5 times killed  $^4/_5$  of the cattle. 4 landowners are in the process of building houses of baked bricks. The schoolhouse and the village hall are made of air bricks.

<sup>1)</sup> Russian names Terny, Goncharsky.

<sup>2)</sup> The Duchobory or Duchoborey (the name is interpreted by themselves as "fighters for the spirit", by their opponents as "fighters against the spirit") form a mystical-rationalist sect of the Russian church. They derive their origin from Ananias, Azarias and Misael, in which, however, 0. Roviolrij stands the Breslau mystic Quirinus Kuhlmann, burned in Moscow in 1689, furthermore Bashkin and Tveritinov, two heretics who wavered in their faith under the influence of Protestantism in the 17th and 18th centuries and were persecuted by the Russian church. The first union of the Duchobory took place in the middle of the 18th century. Initially tolerated by the Russian government, persecutions against them began at the end of the 18th century. However, in 1802, under very favorable conditions (tax exemption for the year, interest-free loans, self-government), they received permission to settle on the Molotschna River, where they achieved a certain prosperity. Renewed persecutions under Nicholas I led to their resettlement in Transcaucasia (1841-1845) and finally to an emigration of 7,400 persons to Canada (1898-1899), see VI. Bonc Bruevic: Materialy po istorii i izuceniju russkogo sektantstva i raskola sektantstva i raskola (Materials for the Research of Russian Sectarianism and Schism). Vol. 2, Petersburg 1909 and Brokgauz Efron op. cit. Vol. 16, sp. 922-926; C. A. Dawson: Group Settlement. Ethnic communities in Western Canada, Toronto 1936, Part I, p. 1 68: The Doukhobers.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p. 75 note 3.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. p. 31 note 3.

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. p. 60 note 2.

One blacksmith, 1 carpenter, I shoemaker and 2 potters practice their profitable crafts <sup>1</sup>). The 12 farms of the village are inhabited by 21 families, which number 149 souls; 105 more than at immigration <sup>2</sup>).

Mayor: Lutz. Assistant Mayors: Lutz. Keller.

# 12. Karlsruh <sup>3</sup>)

The village was founded in 1815 by 15 families from Weinau and 16 families from Wasserau. Weinau and Wasserau, these two large villages situated near each other, whose land extended 10 to 15 versts in length and offered great difficulties in cultivation, chose under their Mayor Philipp Groh a new place for the settlement for a part of their landowners 12 versts southwest of Molotschna. Since the Mayor came from the Baden area around Karlsruh, the new village was named "Karlsruh" at his suggestion.

In 1821 still 5 new immigrant families were excluded. The weakest landowners received from the crown, in addition to the general support, 3 plows and 4 pairs of oxen from the settlement fund. Their personal means were small at the first settlement as well as at the resettlement and many had to earn a part of their seed and bread crop by threshing in other villages in the years 1815 and 1816.

The morality of these immigrants from Württemberg, Strasbourg, Baden from the area of Durlach and Eppingen and from the Polish area of Kalisch left much to be desired in the first years of the settlement, but an upward trend in economic terms soon became apparent.

The soil is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  arschin deep garden soil with yellow, nitrous clay (salpeterhaltiger) subsoil, the well water is 40 to 50 feet deep and nitrous. The arboriculture thrives well, but it is said to have been noticed here, as in other villages in this region, that the trees, with the exception of the elm and mulberries, have a short life, which is attributed to the influence of the saltpetre, which accumulates here, as in other places, in the form of a rime on the surface of the humus. The forest plantation, begun in 1846, consists mainly of elms and mulberries.

The cattle plague took away  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the livestock three times  $\frac{4}{3}$ ). Except scarlet fever and measles, no epidemics have broken out among people.

Five houses are built of burnt bricks and 3 are under construction. The spacious schoolhouse is built of air bricks, a brick warehouse is under construction.

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 84 Note I.

<sup>2) 1837: 12</sup> farmsteads (42 men) on 720 Dess. and 9 landless families (43 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 39.

<sup>3)</sup> Russian name: Kreschtschenka.

<sup>4)</sup> After the bad years at the beginning of the 40s of the 19th century, in Karlsruh "the poorest colonists were only allowed by their village comrades to give their lands to others in exchange for half of the offspring, in which way they then got cattle again", Cf. p. von Koeppen: Über einige Landesverhälknisse p. 25.

One windmill, 3 blacksmiths, 1 carpenter, 1 tailor are always sufficiently provided with work <sup>1</sup>). The village currently consists of 36 farms and 6 freeholds and is inhabited by 492 souls of Protestant denomination; 33 more than at immigration <sup>2</sup>).

Mayor: Ullmann. Assistant Mayors: Föll. Schelle.

### 13. Kronsfeld <sup>3</sup>)

Kronsfeld was founded in 1825 not far from Reichenfeld, 25 versts from the main village of Molotschna, on previously unoccupied crown land. It was named Kronsfeld on the suggestion of the then District Mayor Jakob Ricker, who was entrusted with the naming of the village.

The next impetus for the founding of Kronsfeld came from a number of families from the St. Petersburg settlement who had immigrated individually from the Heidelberg and Tübingen areas with their own means, who had sold the farms they had already set up there with the permission of the authorities and were to be enfeoffed (belehnt) <sup>a</sup>) here with 60 Dess. per family <sup>4</sup>). They were also joined by some families who had remained without land in 1809, as well as some offspring in the villages. Thus 19 families were gathered, which started to cultivate their land laid on a perfect plain under their Mayor Adam Schatz, who had come from the St.-Petersburg settlement. Land and water are similar to those of the Karlsruh village. The tree growth is weak here, but the beginning was made with the forest plantation in 1848 on the north and south side of the village.

However, in 1833, when the village of Neudorf <sup>5</sup>) located not far from Altmontal was dissolved by the colonial authorities, Kronsfeld had to accept 12 local landowners, because it had undeveloped land within its borders. The settlers of Neudorf were accepted here as in the other villages only very reluctantly, because they had a very bad reputation. Their laziness, connected with the belief in witches and ghosts, induced the authorities to place these settlers in the other villages in order to bring them under better influence. Time has fully justified this measure, as several of these settlers have now caught up with, if not surpassed, others who came up under better circumstances in economic terms. In 1839, by order of higher authorities, 3 landowners from Weinau had to be taken in, because after a precise land survey there were no farms left for them.

A cattle epidemic took \(^3\)4 of the cattle as victims.

In Kronsfeld there is 1 house made of burnt bricks, 4 are under construction. The schoolhouse built of burnt bricks in 1847 has a tiled roof. The

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 84, note I.

<sup>2) 1857: 36</sup> farmsteads (194 men) on 2,160 Dess. and 19 landless families (126 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. p. 39.

<sup>3)</sup> Russian names: Profjanoje, Nowyj Numer.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. p. 69 note 1.

<sup>5)</sup> Founded in 1805, cf. Skal'kovskij op. cit. part 2, p. 328.

a) to give (someone) freehold property or land in exchange for their pledged service

storage house is made of wood. A brickworks was built this year. 1 blacksmith, 3 carpenters, 2 shoemakers and 1 tailor are sufficiently employed <sup>1</sup>).

The village counts 34 landowners and 1 freehold with 69 families, who number 366 souls 2).

Mayor: Nelde. Assistant Mayors: Mayer. Schatz.

### 14 Friedrichsfeld<sup>3</sup>)

The village was founded in 1810 and 1811 by 49 families from the Baden areas of Mannheim and Heidelberg who had become friends in their winter quarters. They had been joined by some Württemberg families from the Stuttgart area. In 1811, several families who had immigrated from Prussian Poland in 1804 and who had remained without land in Neudorf, were added to the village, and after the second land reorganization in 1823, 10 more landowners from the younger generation were added to the village. The village is located 15 versts west-northwest from the main village Molotschna on the steppe river Jedekorin in a bend of the narrow valley, which gave it the name Kriwoi Nommer <sup>4</sup>) in the surrounding area. They themselves called it Friedrichsfeld, because their mayor was named Friedrich Lupp and the settler Schmidtgall, who dug the first well on the southern end of the village and discovered good water, also had the baptismal name Friedrich. The land and soil conditions are similar to those of the Kronsfeld village. The location of the land is very favorable.

Besides the usual means of support, some colonists received 2 plows and 3 pairs of oxen in 1813. About 300 Thaler of own means were available.

For too long, the Friedrichsfelders emphasized horse and cattle breeding at the expense of sheep breeding, which was the fault of the otherwise excellent landowner Friedrich Schmidtgall, who once pointed out to His Excellency Kontenius that sheep breeding would lead to the ruin of the settlers. The Friedrichsfelders also had many disputes among themselves, and it took a long time to find peaceful harmony.

Tree cultivation only got going to some extent in 1829 through the settler Andreas Benke, who planted an orchard behind his building site and initially found individual imitators. In 1846, the planting of the forest was vigorously started on the eastern and western sides.

The cattle disease murdered three times (last in 1839) \(^3\)4 of the total number of cattle.

The detention stage, which has been transferred to this village for 18 years, is not only connected with loss of time, annoyance and expenses, but also a circumstance endangering good manners.

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 84, note 1.

<sup>2) 1857: 31</sup> farmsteads (98 men) on 1,860 Dess. and 4 landless families (121 men), see Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 39.

<sup>3)</sup> Russian names: Shirokoye, Krivoy Numer.

<sup>4)</sup> i.e. "Crooked number", the colonies were initially given numbers instead of a name.

One house is built of field bricks, 10 of burnt tiles with pantile roofing and 12 are under construction.

The school house is of air bricks, a storehouse of fired bricks is under construction.

Friedensfeld has one brickwork, the second one is under construction. 4 windmills, 4 blacksmiths, 2 wagner, 2 carpenters, 4 shoemakers and 3 tailors are sufficiently employed and make a good living <sup>1</sup>).

The village consists of 63 farms and 8 freeholds with 116 families, which number 743 souls; 488 more than at the time of settlement <sup>2</sup>).

In the absence of the Mayor signed

Georg Schaad. Assistant Mayors: Walter. Dieter.

### 15. Rosental <sup>3</sup>)

The village was originally founded in 1805 by 12 families who immigrated from Prussian Poland in 1804 3 versts north of Molotschna on the bank of the Tschingul River in a beautiful location under the leadership of the Mayor Friedrich Märtins. In order to strengthen the weak village according to the wishes of these settlers, 3 new immigrant families from Prussian Poland and 3 from Baden were excluded in 1810. However, since their narrow land was of considerable length, in 1815 the settlers decided to move their village 10 versts further, not far from the steppe Yedekorin, near the shepherd's border, at their own expense, adding 3 landless families from Molotschna. This place is in 12 versts from the main village Molotschna, 48 versts from Melitopol, 313 versts from Simpferopol and 143 versts from Ekaterinoslav.

After the second land survey in 1823 another 2 landowners had to be accepted, and when in 1833 the village Neudorf was dissolved, a part of its lands, as most suitably situated, fell to this village, whereby from the latter still 8 owners came here (see Kronsfeld) <sup>4</sup>). From the roses growing on the place of the first settlement on the bank of Tschingul the village was called Rosental.

In support the Rosenfelders received the usual sums. Personal means were available only among the immigrants in 1809 in the amount of about 300 talers.

The surface and nature of the soil is like that of all so-called steppe villages. The water is good only at the southern part of the village, so it remains an uncorrectable mistake that the village was not moved more to the south.

As a result of the anthrax caused by lush pasture and negligent treatment, the sheep breeding, which was started late in the year, did not prosper well.

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 84, note 1.

<sup>2) 1867: 63</sup> farmsteads (260 men) on 3,780 Dess. and 28 landless families (214 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 39.

<sup>3)</sup> Russian name: Schkolnoje.

<sup>4)</sup> About Kronsfeld Cf. p. 81 f. The reference probably comes from the author.

Horse breeding is significant because of the cheap fodder.

Tree breeding is done moderately, although the trees in growth betray lasting health. The forest plantation was started only in the spring of 1848 on both sides of the village immediately behind the orchards.

Two cattle epidemics carried off 3/4 of the livestock each.

One dwelling house is built of burnt bricks and two are under construction.

The schoolhouse is made of air bricks, the storehouse of burnt bricks. 1 windmill, 1 oil mill, 2 blacksmiths, 2 wagner, 2 shoemakers are fully employed <sup>1</sup>).

At present, on 31 farms and 5 freeholds, there are 63 families with 407 Lutheran inhabitants in the village; 384 more than at the first settlement <sup>2</sup>).

Assistant Mayors: Ikert. Prieb.

#### 16. Neumontal <sup>3</sup>)

In 1816, when after the resettlement of Rosental the location of the lands from the Kurkulak was still not favorable enough for the appropriate cultivation, it was suggested that Neudorf would like to settle. When the latter refused, 21 landowners of the village Altmontal, situated 4 versts to the north, not far from Rosental, decided to resettle (see there) <sup>4</sup>). Under the leadership of the Mayor Michael Kübler, the place between the two valleys, not far from each other, which after their union, one verst to the south, form Jedekorin, 12 versts away from Molotschna, was chosen for the establishment of the village.

In 1823, after the second land survey, 7 landowners were added, some of them landless from the settlement, some of them young.

The resettlers liked the name Montal so much that they named their village Neumontal, which is why the older Montal received the addition "Alt".

The means of the colonists consisted more in cattle and farm implements than in cash.

The land compares in every respect to the most excellent of the whole district. The same can be said of the water. The orchards gradually planted immediately after the settlement yielded excellent fruit already in 1826. The forest plantation, begun in 1844, is surrounded by mulberry hedges and already provides a pleasing sight. Neumontal has the best old houses,

<sup>1)</sup> In 1848 there were 10 wagner, 38 blacksmiths, 43 carpenters and joiners, 2 turners, 46 shoemakers, 22 tailors, 7 potters and 1 locksmith employed in the entire Molotschna Colonist Area, see "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 4, 1849, p. 61. About the complete lack of bricklayers, it says ibid. p. 69: "It is strange enough that although so many, partly expensive buildings are being erected at the present time, still no one is willing to learn the bricklaying trade."

<sup>2) 1857: 31</sup> farmsteads (110 men) on 1,860 Dess. and 8 landless families (161 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 39.

<sup>3)</sup> Russian name: Ordynka.

<sup>4)</sup> Probably addition of the author.

because one had already some experience with the building of the same, however, 2 built from burnt bricks are already present and 2 are under construction.

The spacious schoolhouse, built of air bricks, is equipped with a bell.

The storehouse is of wood. 1 brickyard, 1 windmill, 3 blacksmiths, 2 tailors and 1 carpenter are fully employed <sup>1</sup>).

51 families with 304 souls live in the village on 28 farms and 4 vacant lots; 194 more than at the time of settlement <sup>2</sup>).

On behalf of the Mayor's Office: Assistant Mayor Schilke.

## 17. Altmontal <sup>3</sup>)

In 1805 this village was founded by 30 families immigrating from Prussian Poland, Brandenburg and Mecklenburg and named "Montal" by the blessed Herr Kontenius without any further reason, according to the number sequence as No 1.

It is situated on the shallow flattened bank of the river Tschingul, 5 versts north of Molotschna, 50 versts from Melitopol, 325 versts from Simferopol and 142 versts from Ekaterinoslav.

The inhabitants of Montal were foolish enough to add another 20 families from Baden and Alsace to their community, not considering at that time that in this way the two villages of Rosental and Neudorf were squeezed in between them and the main town of Molotschna, 5 versts away, and that due to the village Waldorf, situated hardly 5 versts to the north, the lands of all the settlements situated here, from the border rivers of the colonist district Kurkulak and Tschingul, were even more diminished, the further they had to extend over the valley bank of the Molotschna. It is to their credit and to the credit of the settlers of Rosental that as early as in 1815 they saw the consequence of such a land division and asked for resettlement of a part of their inhabitants towards the outer border. The colonial authorities approved their plan and the resettlement was carried out in 1816 at their own expense (see Neumontal and Rosental) <sup>4</sup>). As a result, those who remained behind were considerably impoverished as far as the convenience of cultivating their lands was concerned.

In addition to the usual means of support received from the settlement funds, some of the quite destitute were supported with 2 plows and 4 pairs of draft oxen. The personal means amounted to about 1,000 Thaler for those who immigrated in 1809.

When in 1831 the village of Neudorf was finally dissolved and transferred to Kronsfeld and Rosental, the land of Altmontal became even more advantageous. Also, 360 Dessiantinen of superfluous land fell to this village for temporary use in exchange for a moderate annual rent, which indisputably contributed a lot to the increased prosperity of Altmontal.

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 84, note 1.

<sup>2) 1857: 28</sup> farmsteads (87 men) on 1,860 Dess. and 5 landless families (85 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 39.

<sup>3)</sup> Russian name: Kurgany.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. p. 84 note 4.

From the land, which is completely equal in fertility to the other colonies, each landowner can use only 22 Dessiantinen for cultivation, which would be little, of course, if the cultivation had not been practiced according to the now introduced improved rules.

The subsoil of the 1 arschin thick garden soil is red clay, which in places changes to gray and has an upright bedding. The wells are 20 to 40 feet deep. The water collects in a bedrock similar to potter's clay, in which fossilized bones of unknown animal species are found.

A grave discovered on the hill of Talnfer with worked stone over it and a coffin of oak wood without an inscription and other features suggest that a wealthy person was once buried here, since neither stones nor oaks are found in this area.

The cultivation of trees in the valley of Altmont started late and not quite in line with its purpose, but in the course of the last 15 years more diligence and prudence have been shown in this respect.

The fruit and mulberry plantation, one verst south of the village, planted in the valley area left over from Neudorf in 1834, is in good growth. The location is excellent, but pear trees do not thrive well.

Silk growing was begun in 1846.

Rinderpest has killed ¾ of the livestock four times.

Of fired brick, Altmontal has only 1 residential building; but there are 6 such under construction. The schoolhouse is built of air bricks, the storehouse of wood. 1 windmill, 1 brickyard, 1 blacksmith, 1 wagner, 2 shoemakers, 2 tailors and 1 potter always have sufficient employment <sup>1</sup>).

In the colonies live on 31 farms and 4 vacancies 357 souls of Protestant denomination; 225 more than at the settlement <sup>2</sup>).

Mayor: Hecht. Assistant Mayors: Reschki. Krebs.

### 18. Kaisertal <sup>3</sup>) and Darmstadt <sup>4</sup>)

These colonies, although belonging to the Molotschna Colonist Area, are settled on land separated from this district, bordering on the steppe river Tashchenak to the east and on the steppe river Asis-Ustlyuk to the southeast,

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 84, note 1 and the statement about the craftsmen of the entire Molotschna Colonist Area from 1849: "We still lack capable craftsmen, only blacksmiths and wagner deserve honorable mention. These do not correspond in number, but in efficiency to the needs of the time", see "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 4, 1849, p. 59.

<sup>2) 1857: 31</sup> farmsteads (82 men) on 1,860 Dess. and 6 landless families (102 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 39.

<sup>3)</sup> Russian name: Utljuk, Staryj Numer.

<sup>4)</sup> Russian name: Tschabanowka.

<sup>5)</sup> According to M. Dasmer (oral): Azyz Ukljuk or Utljuk (from dschag. otluk) "Great Utljuk".

and 60 versts southeast of Molotschna, 18 versts from Melitopol, 250 versts from Simferopol and 210 versts from Ekaterinoslav.

Kaisertal was founded in 1838 with 44 families of Protestant denomination on the steppe river Klein-Ukljuk <sup>1</sup>). According to the authorities, it should have 50 farms, so for the missing 6, the village has been allocated the appropriate reserve land, which will soon be occupied by landless families. Kaisertal has a far more pleasant location than the village of Darmstadt, founded in 1840 with 46 Protestant families, about 3 versts to the east, on a perfect plain. Kaisertal also has a significant advantage over Darmstadt with respect to wells, which are 18 to 25 feet deep here and 75 to 100 feet deep in Darmstadt. On the other hand, the water in Darmstadt is on average of better quality than in Kaisertal. The settlers of both villages consist of young people from all the Lutheran villages of the Molotschna Colonist Area, who, after they had legitimized themselves as industrious and capable young beginners and had their own property, were added with the permission of the higher authorities.

The young steppe forms an elevated plain on which various valleys rise. Barely covered with 4 vershok of garden soil, it is extremely lean and covered with thin grass growth. Therefore, and especially due to the frequent lack of rain here, a bountiful harvest is something rare. Proportionally, there is still far too little land under the plow. It will be a great honor for the settlers if they can prove that even such land can be improved by diligence, thought and perseverance.

Kaisertal has achieved satisfactory results in a short time with regard to tree planting. In both colonies it is said that pears and mulberries grow best.

The houses are built on average of mud bricks on foundations of stone or burnt bricks. Only Darmstadt has a dwelling house of burnt brick, and a schoolhouse of the same material is under construction. Kaisertal has a spacious, well-preserved schoolhouse of air bricks. Each village has a diked cattle watering place.

One brickworks, owned by a Darmstadt landowner, 3 windmills, 1 horse mill, 3 blacksmiths, 3 wagner, 2 carpenters, 2 tailors and 2 shoemakers provide sufficient employment.

Both colonies together now have 90 farms and as many families with 665 souls 2).

Mayor: Martins. Assistant Mayor: Fust. Mayor: Schuhmacher. Assistant Mayor: Walker.

<sup>2)</sup> The Molotschna Colonist Area comprised:

1825:	852	families	3,072	men	2,813	women	Rempel loc. cit. p. 3	
1834:	1,040	families	3,847	men	3,939	women	Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 7.	
1841:			4,551	men	4,232	women	(Including 840 landowners,	
205 landless families, 281 craftsmen, cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 7.								
1848:	1,096	families	10,432 persons, 109 yeoman (Freesassen) cf. "Unterhaltungs blatt" Jg. 4,					
				18	49, p. 60.			

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<sup>1)</sup> Malyi Utlyuk, see Semenov-Tyan-Sansky, op. cit. Vol. 14. p. 670.

#### V. The Molotschna Mennonite Region <sup>1</sup>)

Historical Overviews of the foundation and existence of the Mennonite communities on the Molotschna River up to 1848. Edited from archival sources by J. Stach

Reprinted from: Odessaer Zeitung, 42nd, 1904, nos. 165-167, 169-172, 174-176, 178-179, 183, 185-186, 188-191, 193, 196-197, 199, 201-204, 206, 208-210, 212-213, 215-218, 220, 222, 225, 228, 231.

### 1. Halbstadt <sup>2</sup>)

According to the Supreme Declaration of 1801, the Mennonites in the Kingdom of Prussia were not permitted to expand their estates or to acquire other land apart from that already owned by Mennonites, because according to their principles of faith <sup>3</sup>) they could not submit to the cantonal obligation \*). Thus, causing an increasing

\*) Canton was the name of a conscription district in Prussia in former times. Cantonal obligation was thus the same as military conscription. Editor's note. [of the Odessa newspaper].

number of families in hard circumstances [landlessness]. Earlier, at the request of Her Majesty the Empress Catherine, Mennonites had immigrated to southern Russia. On the basis of this request and the Mennonites settled in the Chortitza district of Ekaterinoslav governorate, His Majesty Emperor Paul granted them the title of "Mennonites" on September 6, 1800. In 1803 and 1804 a significant number of families from the Kingdom of Prussia, the province of West Prussia and the administrative districts of Marienwerder and Danzig migrated to southern Russia, where they settled in the Taurian Governorate <sup>5</sup>).

These immigrants had no actual leaders, but two of their number, Klaas and Wiens <sup>6</sup>), later settlers in the village of Altona, and David Hübert <sup>7</sup>) [#266749], settled in the village of Lindenau, had the rudder in their hands to some extent.

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<sup>1)</sup> According to J. Stach in the Odessaer Zeitung Jg. 42, 1804, No. 165, p. 2, 44 reports were sent by the Molotschna Mennonite District Office (District Mayor Töws, Area Assistant Mayors: Braun and Neufeld, Area Clerk Reimer) to the "Guardianship Committee" on May 15, 1848, but J. Stach published only 43 of them. On the Ohrloff village report, see p. 161 note 1.

<sup>2)</sup> Halbstadt retained its German name much longer than the other colonies.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. the "Privilegia, Rescripte und Declarationen, zum Besten der Mennoniten" in Reiswitz and Wadzeck loc. cit. p. 33st., especially p. 38 (December 17, 1801).

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19546 and the contents in Friesen, op. cit. p. 98-100.

<sup>5)</sup> In 1802 150 Mennonite families from Chortitza were transferred to the "Nikolaev" governorate, in 1803 another 150 families (1,055 persons) immigrated, in 1804 162 families (942 persons), cf. Storch I. cit. Vol. 4, p. 115, Vol. 6, table 6 and Vol. 8, p. 140, Varadinow loc. cit. Vol. I, p. 124f.

<sup>6)</sup> should probably read "Klaas Wiens" [#47057], who was the first District Mayor of the Molotschna Mennonite Colony in 1804-1806, cf. H. Schroeder: Russlanddeutsche Friesen. Döllstädt-Langensalza 1936, p. 19 and below p. 90.

<sup>7)</sup> The name is also written "Hiebert".

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Already on the journey, in the border and governorate town of Grodno, these immigrants enjoyed a special favor and benefit from the Russian high crown, in that each family was given 50 Rbl. Banko. In addition, they received from there for 40 days for each soul over 12 years of age 20 Kop. and under 12 years 10 Kop. Banko allowance, as well as after their arrival until the first harvest a food allowance, namely 8 Kop. Banko for each soul <sup>1</sup>).

Among these immigrants were also the 21 families who founded the village of Halbstadt <sup>2</sup>). They arrived in the spring of 1804, after wintering for the most part in the Chortitza Mennonite Colony, on the steppe assigned to them for settlement by the War Governor Duke von Richelieu and the chairman of the Ekaterinoslav foreign settlers' office Herr Kontenius, which at that time was used partly by the crown peasants of the church village of Grosstokmak 10 versts away <sup>3</sup>) and partly by wandering Nogai <sup>4</sup>).

The village was founded in the not very noteworthy lowland on the left bank of the steppe river Molotschna, which rises 25 versts outside the border of the district on an important mountain and is called Tokmak up to 2 versts before this village, where the tributary Schönhull <sup>5</sup>) flows in, and from then on Molotschna. The distance from the former district town of Orekhov <sup>6</sup>) is 40, from the present district town of Berdyansk <sup>7</sup>) about 120, from the governorate town of Simferopol and 330 versts <sup>8</sup>).

There were no houses and dewllings of any kind on this steppe. The soil in the lowlands is a mixture of bog soil, clay and sand; the slightly higher steppe, except for the upper layer of 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep black earth, is only clay. The grass growth on the hay steppes was on average only medium, but the pasture for horses, cattle and sheep was vigorous and

1) Cf. p. 8 and p. 106, note 1.

<sup>2) 1855: 21</sup> farmsteads, 91 resident families (total 311 men, 278 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (the permanently absent colonists are included). 1857: 21 households (175 men) on 2,165 Dess. and 24 landless families (133 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 36.

<sup>3)</sup> Greater (Bolshoi) Tokmak, founded in 1784 in the migratory region of the Nogai, was the administrative center of the Mariupol district in 1797-1801, see Semenov-Tyan-Sansky loc. cit. Vol. 14, p. 665.

<sup>4)</sup> After the annexation of the Crimea, the Nogai were initially transferred to the Kuban, where they received the name of the Kuban Tatars, but in 1791 they were returned to their old pastures between the Berda and Molotschna, and the Russian government tried to settle them here, cf. Storch loc. cit. Vol. 5, p. 113.

<sup>5)</sup> Chujgul, see Smenov op. cit. Vol. 3, p. 301.

<sup>6)</sup> In 1796 the settlement of Orekhovoye or Orekhovaya Balka was founded in a completely deserted area, which was elevated to a town in 1801, was the administrative center of the Mariupol and until 1842 also of the Melitopol district, see Semenov loc. cit. Vol. 3, p. 710.

<sup>7)</sup> Berdyansk became a district town in 1842, cf. Vol. 1, p. 235 and above p. 91 note 2.

<sup>8)</sup> As early as 1785, Mikhail Kakhovskoy, who administered the Taurian region and was commissioned by Potemkin to determine suitable lands for the establishment of settlements, had primarily pointed out the advantages of the Molotschna region, cf. Skal'kovsky op. cit. Vol. 1, p. 174.

the soil, however, was especially suitable for agriculture, if well prepared and treated, and in fruitful years it bore 10 to 15 times as much fruit. To beautify the treeless steppe, a forest of 10½ Dess, was planted at the northern end of the village close to the Molotschna at the request of Sr. Majesty Emperor Alexander I during his highly esteemed visit to the local villages in 1825 ¹), for which seeds were obtained from abroad by Sr. Excellency the State Councillor Herr Kontenius and the local Agricultural Association ²). Also, under the direction of the Association, each farmer has planted 1 Dess. with various fruit trees on his fireplace as a garden.

The name Halbstadt was given to this village by the then District Mayor <sup>3</sup>) Klaas Wiens, without any particular reason, at the request of the settlers after the naming of a village in Prussia, in which some of them had lived.

Most of the houses were built in the first summer of half-timbered houses chinked with clay. In support, each settler received from the high crown the timber necessary for a house and 125 Rbl. Banko as an advance for the purchase of cattle and farming equipment <sup>4</sup>). This advance was to be repaid without interest in the ten following years after the graciously granted ten years of freedom, according to the Immigration Act <sup>5</sup>). Their personal means brought from abroad consisted mainly of horses, wagons, and some cattle. Most of them had hardly enough money to travel, and these meager circumstances made settlement very difficult. The income was extremely small for a few years in every respect. The products of the field could not be sold because there was no trade. Wheat was sold in Mariupol for at most 5 Rbl. Banko for each Tschetwert. At such prices the farmer did not see his work paid and grew grain only for domestic use.

With this meager income, the inhabitants could not buy furniture or agricultural equipment, but mostly made their own to meet the most urgent needs, which prevented the development of crafts and trades. Gradually, the sale of butter and cheese, which are well made by the Mennonites, provided a considerable income, which was somewhat increased by the rare sale of horses and cattle.

The basis of economic activity became sheep breeding, which we must thank for the tireless and fatherly care of Herr Kontenius. The prices of wool increased, and refinement and improvement of sheep breeding was now the main focus of the inhabitants. In 1835 and 1836, a pud of wool rose to 45 R.

<sup>1)</sup> i.e. ½ Dess. for each farmstead, cf. also p. 108 and p. 112 note 4.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 109 note 1.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p. 88 note 4.

<sup>4)</sup> When it became known in Russia in 1803 that 150 Mennonite families from the vicinity of Elbing and Marienburg wanted to emigrate to Russia, the civil governor of Grodno received instructions to receive them graciously and to grant monetary support to destitute families, without specifying the amount of money to be given, cf. I PSZ Vol. 27, No. 20691 (March 28, 1803). In 1803, 20,209 Rbl. 34¾ Kop. B. and 9,286 Rbl. 58 Kop. silver was spent on them, cf. Storch loc. cit. Vol. 6, Table VI.

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. I PSZ Vol. 28, No. 21909.

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Banko. Thus, sheep breeding became a source of significant income for a number of years <sup>1</sup>). Another extremely important event for this region is the establishment of the seaport city of Berdyansk, for which we feel indebted to the high government <sup>2</sup>). For a decade now, widespread trade has flourished in this city. The farmer could sell the products of his land there with good profit. This gave him new courage and new life. With pleasure and double diligence, he now practiced and improved agriculture, in which he was supported by the Agricultural Association. The black fallow, which was introduced in general, kept the fields in good condition. Also, by the improvement of the horse and cattle breeding the prosperity was lifted to some extent <sup>3</sup>).

On the other hand, this village and its sisters experienced times and circumstances that were completely contrary to the progress of prosperity.

In 1812, 1813 and 1821, the harvest was so poor that the inhabitants and their livestock had to struggle to survive. In 1833 there was a complete lack of growth, neither grain nor fodder for cattle was harvested, and there was a great shortage. Due to the lack of pasture on the steppe, which was almost black, and because of the epizootic disease, most of the cattle fell in late summer, and the harsh spring weather robbed some of the wintered cattle. Bread grain for the poor was purchased in Poland with money borrowed from wealthy residents. The pud of wheat flour was worth up to 5 R. Banko. In 1834 only sowing was harvested again.

In 1823 and 1824 large locust swarms destroyed the harvest, which in itself was small, and in 1827 a promising harvest.

In 1829 and 1833 the cattle plague destroyed most of the livestock, while in 1839 a part of the population was spared this loss.

3) In this area were:

	Horses	Horned cattle	
1825:	4,569	6,890	cf. Rempel loc. cit. p. 7.
1836:	5,029	7,719	cf. Neufeld I. c. p . I, Klaus loc. cit. Suppl 7.
1841:	8,688	8,688	cf. ibid.
1842:	9,021	9,021	cf. Harthausen a. a. O. Vol. 2, p. 187f.
1844:	10,086	13,611	cf. ibid.

<sup>4)</sup> In view of the locust plague of 1824, the start of repayment of crown debts was postponed to January 1, 1826, for those colonists whose free years expired at that time, cf. PSZ 40, No. 30281, March 9, 1825.

<sup>1)</sup> The total number of sheep among the Molotschna Mennonites was in 1825: 33,056 cf. Rempel loc. cit. p. 7; in 1836: 107,895, Cf. P. Ja. Neufeld: Materialy po istorii "kransnoj nemki" na r. Miločnoj v XIX veke (Materials on the history of the "Red Germans / should be called cow / on the Molotschna River in the 19th century). Molochansk 1927 pp. I, Klaus op. cit. Supplement 7; 1841: 104875, cf. ibid.; 1842: 97908, cf. Hapthausen op. cit. Vol. 2, p. I89f.; 1844: 103030, cf. ibid.

<sup>2)</sup> Established in 1827 on the site of the former Nogai settlement Kotur Ogu, Berdyansk, since 1837 a port city, offered the colonists the possibility to export grain abroad, which resulted in a strong improvement of their entire economy, cf. Semenov loc. cit. Vol. I, p. 235.

In the winter of 1824-1825 the community suffered from a terrible snow storm, but not to the same degree and as continuously as in the villages at the eastern end of the district. Although most of the livestock had already been sold in the fall for very cheap prices because of the bad harvest, the rest could not be saved because of the bad weather and the very little fodder was buried deep in the snow and the straw from the roofs was not sufficient and also foul. Therefore, the community lost almost all its livestock. In June 1845, a heavy hailstorm, among which some pieces weighed ¾ pounds, caused some damage to the fields; but in early July, a second hailstorm shattered the almost ripe barley and rye fields. The arbus [watermelon] fields, which were also damaged, recovered.

In 1821 many inhabitants died of a severe typhoid fever (Nervenfieber.).

1836 on January 11,  $\frac{1}{2}$  10 o'clock in the evening there was a strong earthquake here, but it did not cause any damage.

The useful facilities in the village includes a beer brewery since 1809, a distillery with a steam apparatus, 3 vinegar breweries, a water mill since 1810, 2 dye works, a cloth factory, which was built in 1815 and 1816, burned down in 1839 and was rebuilt in 1842 more beautifully and perfectly. This factory received 3,000 Dess. land from the high crown, which was located in the local district <sup>1</sup>). In 1816 the District Office was moved here <sup>2</sup>). Also, for many years there has been a significant trade of various cut goods, wood, iron and many other things and materials necessary for the inhabitants.

In 1837, the colonial community of Halbstadt was invited by the Mayor's Office by the Chairman of the Agricultural Association Johann Cornies <sup>3</sup>) and the District Mayor Johann Regier <sup>4</sup>) for permission to establish a craftsmen's village consisting of 200 craftsmen at the eastern end of Halbstadt, for which purpose 50 Dess. <sup>5</sup>), land for cultivation and pasture for 200 head of cattle was demanded by the municipality), which the municipality granted according to the municipal decree under the condition that it would receive 600 Dess. from the adjacent crown land as compensation at the southeastern border of its land, in order to be able to move 200 head of its cattle there and to be able to graze the cattle of the craftsmen together with their other cattle. This was confirmed by the Guardianship Committee in 1841 and in 1842 the craftsmen's village was established <sup>6</sup>).

<sup>1)</sup> The cloth factory founded by Johann Klaassen [#44101] had a dyeing and weaving plant for the production of cloth. In 1832 it produced 1,467 arschin, in 1833 already 11,918 arschin, the arschin at 2-16 Rbl. In 1843 it employed up to 48 workers, cf. Zurnal Ministerstva Vnuternnich Del (Journal of the Ministry of the Interior) 1843, Part I, p. 70.

<sup>2)</sup> From where? From Chortitza? The inspector over all German colonies on the Molotschna seems to have lived in Prischib at that time, cf. Reiswitz and Wadzeck loc. cit. p. 371.

<sup>3)</sup> Vgl. p. 96 note I.

<sup>4)</sup> Johann Regier [#18887], 1833-1842 District Mayor of the Molotschna Mennonite Colony, cf. Schroeder op. cit. p. 19.

<sup>5)</sup> Not 50, but 600 Dess. of which the families of 200 craftsmen were to receive 3 Dess. each, cf. II PSZ Vol. 16, I, No. 14703, July 2, 1841.

<sup>6)</sup> The establishment of the craftsmen's village had been advocated by Peter von Koeppen at the Domain Ministry (Cf. p. 93 note 2) because 269 families out of 539 craftsmen's families in Halbstadt did not own any land. The permission for their establishment was granted by the fulfillment

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The village has been honored with high visits:

1818 by His Majesty Emperor Alexander I, who deigned to stop for a few moments at the cloth factory and inspect it.

1837 by His Imperial Highness the heir to the throne Alexander Nikolaevich.

1841 by Her Imperial Highness the Grand Duchess Helena Pavlovna <sup>1</sup>) who deigned to spend the night at the local resident and present District Assistant Mayor Johann Neufeld.

1845 by Her Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Constantine Nikolaevich, who also visited the cloth factory.

1841 by His Serene Highness the Minister of Imperial Domains Adjutant General Grasen Kisselev <sup>2</sup>).

1828 and 1835 by His Serene Highness the War Governor Count Worontzow <sup>3</sup>), who also visited the cloth factory.

Mayor David Friesen.
Assistant Mayors Heinrich Nikkei, Johann Esau.
School Teacher Andreas Voth.

#### Halbstadt in April 1848.

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the following conditions: Construction of a prayer house, opening of a school, establishment of retail shops, creation of a craftsmen's office subordinate to the Molotschna District Office with a mayor and two councilmen at its head, employment of two paid [by the merchants] men to maintain police order, construction of houses according to the exact model of the rest of Molotschna from baked bricks, Establishment of house gardens according to the instructions of the Agricultural Association (the Commission for Horticulture), admission of only capable, Mennonite and married craftsmen by the Molotschna District Office as well as the Agricultural Association with permission to employ apprentices from other estates, allocation of three Dess. to each craftsman, unless his trade warranted a larger plot of land, erection and fencing of the buildings and preparation of the ground for planting trees within three years, registration in the fire insurance, prohibition of farming on the craftsmen's land parts, construction of a storage warehouse with grain as soon as the first 20 houses are erected, cf. II PSZ Vol. 16, I, No. 14703, July 2, 1841.

- 1) Friederike Charlotte Marie, Princess of Württemberg (1806-1873), wife of Grand Duke Mikhail Paylovich.
- 2) Pavel O. Kiselev (1788-1872), a staunch champion of peasant liberation in Russia, headed the Ministry of Domains 1837-1856, to which the supreme administration of the foreign colonies was also transferred in 1837 (see II PSZ Vol. 12, No. 10834, December 26, 1837), cf. A. P. Zablockiy-Desyatovsky: Count P. D. Kiselev i ego vremya (Count P. D. Kiselev and his time). Petersburg 1882.
- 3) When Mikhail Semenovich Woronzow (1782-1853) was appointed Governor General of New Russia (1823) and plenipotentiary governor of Bessarabia, he made efforts to raise economy and trade in the territories under his control. At his instigation, one of the oldest agricultural societies in Russia, the Obscestvo sel'skogo chozjajstva Juznoj Rossii (Agricultural Society of Southern Russia), was founded in Odessa in 1828, in which he took an active part. This society began its activity with a statistical survey of the area, collected material on the history of agriculture, promoted the education of good farmers, encouraged forestry, viticulture and horticulture, tried to improve sheep breeding and introduce better farming tools. It was particularly successful in the fight against epidemics. The zapiski (writings) published

# 2. Muntau <sup>1</sup>)

Reprinted from: Odesssaer. 42nd, 1904, No. 169.

The most suitable sites chosen for the establishment of villages on the land designated for the Molotschna Mennonite Colony were distributed by lot to the groups of settlers who had united to found the individual villages. The later village Muntau was chosen by lot on the left bank of the Molotschna River, which was situated between the villages Halbstadt and Schönau established in the same year, but between the latter and this village Tiegenhagen was settled a year later, about 47 versts from Orechow and 114 versts from Berdyansk, where the Nogai wandered with their herds on the free, treeless steppe. The settlement took place in 1804 under the leadership of Klaas Wiens, the District Mayor; however, due to various obstacles, the construction of the dwellings was completed only in 1805 and 1806. The steppe and river lowlands are well suited for grain cultivation, but the saltpeter areas in the lowlands are an obstacle to grass growth in dry weather, which rarely allows for a good hay harvest. The orchards in good growth on both sides of the village have suffered several years from the damage of the spindle caterpillar a) and have stood there without fruit and foliage as if withered. The forest complex with the high peaks of its groves and mulberry trees, established in 1803<sup>2</sup>), offers the traveler a graceful sight and provides the owners with timber and foliage for silk growing, which has yielded good income for several years, as it did in the last one in 1847.

According to the agreement of the 21 settlers <sup>3</sup>) of the village with the District Mayor Klaas Wiens, it was named after a village in the former fatherland.

Since the Nogai living here had no dwellings, but only beehive-like tent huts made of sticks and felt blankets, so-called Koschen <sup>4</sup>), the settlers found no shelter here. For the first winter, they made earth huts and used the houses they had started to build as cattle sheds. The advance received from the Crown for this village amounted to 12,640 R. 27 K. Banko.

Since each landowner initially owned only 2 horses, two landowners each had to till the seed together <sup>5</sup>). The envious Nogai, however, often stole their horses

contain a rich material also on the history of economy in the German settlements, see M. P. Borovskij: Istoriceskij obzor 50 lentnej dejatel'nosti Imp. Obscestva sel'skogo chozjajsta Juznoj Rossii (Historical overview of the 50-year activity of the Kais. Agricultural Society of Southern Russia). Odessa 1878.

- 1) Originally called "No. 2", Cf. p. 82 note 4.
- 2) Should read "1809".

3) 1855: 21 households, 58 resident families (total 213 men, 184 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). 1857: 21 households (164 men) on 1,365 Dess. and 14 landless families (109 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 36.

- 4) Russian koss "tent, camp" is a Turkic loanword.
- 5) For this reason, the Russian government in 1813 offered the poorer Molotschna colonists the opportunity to replenish their oxen, cf. e.g. p. 68.
- a) These may be *Yponomeuta cagnagella* which spin communal webs and defoliate bushes and trees.

2. Muntau 95

away, so that then 3 to 4 landowners were forced to plow together, which is why the seed was brought out too late and the harvest was small. Through the efforts of the authorities, theft was gradually abolished. The cattle plague occurred seven times, but the whole community was affected only three times, in 1828, 1833 and 1839. In 1822 to 1827 locusts caused more or less damage. In 1824, Misswachs and hailstorms were added, causing great hardship because a lot of livestock died of hunger. To prevent famine, the local authorities sent men to Poland to buy grain, but little of it arrived due to obstacles. Fortunately, other sources of help appeared, which helped to solve the greatest need. In 1827, the locusts, after causing great damage, flew away with a strong southeasterly wind and have not yet returned, thank God. In 1833 and 1834 the hardship exceeded everything that had gone before. Then the authorities appointed a main commission over all the colonies, which had to borrow money and buy grain in remote areas. The commissions appointed for the individual villages had to distribute the purchased grain among the needy, but in such a way that they were obliged to pay for it later. Horned cattle and sheep were often slaughtered to save bread and to have fewer cattle to feed. Horses were taken to distant pastures, where many perished because of the scarce pasture and had to be brought back at great cost 1). As a result of significant late rains, a lot of kurai [Russian thistle or tumbleweed] grew in the dried fields, which was used to bring the remaining cattle through.

In the spring of 1834, seed corn was loaned to the poor, but because the rains did not come, there was only a weak harvest and the minimum necessary fodder for the cattle.

In the month of July 1824, four merchants and a boy from other colonies were attacked by Jews on their way back from Romen <sup>2</sup>), where they had sold the wool taken on commission by the local and other colonies' landowners, robbed of the money they had earned and shamefully murdered.

On May 11, 1818, at 9 o'clock in the evening, a gentle earthquake was felt; the terrifying earthquake of January 11, 1838, which broke out here at 9:30 minutes, had the one pleasant consequence that the level in the wells has been higher since that time.

The refined sheep breeding, fruit-growing, silk-growing, and wheat-growing, which has blossomed since the foundation of Berdyansk, have made this and the other villages flourish. In addition to many superiors elected from among them, the State Councilor E. v. Kontenius, who died in 1830 at the age of 81, rendered outstanding services to the welfare of the communities. The unforgettable chairman

<sup>1)</sup> More detailed material on this subject can be found in Grunau's municipal chronicle, which will soon appear in this series.

<sup>2)</sup> Probably Romny, Poltava province, where one of the most important fairs of Ukraine took place until 1852, see Semenov loc. cit. Vol. 4, p. 31.

Johann Kornies <sup>1</sup>) set a good example everywhere and reprimanded with serious severity the creeping disorder and inactivity. He was especially meritorious in improving all economic institutions. Unfortunately, he was called away too early by death from his serious work. He died at the age of 59 years, March 13, 1848, but the fruit of his work is and shall remain a blessing in the future.

Without the cultivation of wheat, which became even more profitable than the production of wool, the colonies would never have become what they are. Now in Muntau the huts of the first founders have been supplanted by handsome, commodious, and hospitable houses of burnt brick, and these have given the village a far more beautiful appearance.

The high attendance mentioned in the description of Halbstadt also applies to the village of Muntau <sup>2</sup>).

Muntau, 30 Apr. 1848.

Mayor Johann Langermann Assistant Mayors Kornelius Lopp, Jak. Dück. School Teacher Gerh. Gossen, Author.

3. Schönau<sup>3</sup>)

Reprinted from: Odessaer Zeutung, 42nd Jg., 1904, No. 170.

The first settlement of the Molotschna Mennonite District consisted of 9 colonies <sup>4</sup>), among which was Schönau. Schoenau is from Orechow 52 and from

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- 1) Johann Cornies, born in West Prussia in 1789, died in Ohrloff in 1848, the most active and successful leader of the German settlers in the Black Sea region, immigrated with his parents to Chortitza in 1804, where he first worked under his father's supervision at the distillery. In 1806 he settled in the Molotschna region. In a short time he managed to make a small fortune by buying agricultural products and selling them in the Crimea, so that in 1812 he was able to establish a sheep farm, to which he added a horse stud in 1816. In 1812 he leased the still unoccupied Crown lands, which were intended for the settlement of Mennonites. After he, in 1817, was elected plenipotentiary in matters concerning the Mennonite community, and in 1824 was commissioned by the Guardianship Committee to buy Merino sheep for the community sheep farm. He took a strong part in the uplifting of the economic culture of his area, especially since 1830, when he was appointed Chairman of the Commission for the accelerated development of Forestry, Silk Cultivation and Viticulture (also known as the "Agricultural Association") and was endowed by the Guardianship Committee with almost unlimited powers. His Juschanlee estate, which he received as a gift from the Tsar in 1836, now developed into a model farm for the entire region. Cornies also tried to use his practical experience scientifically, so that in 1838 he was elected a corresponding member of the Scientific Committee of the Ministry of the Domain. Through Cornies' activities, education in the colonies also received a firmer foundation. A good biography of this outstanding personality is missing for the time being, cf. about him D. H. Epp: Johann Cornies. Traits from his life and work. Berdyansk 1909; Gavel: Johann Cornies. In: "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 3, 1848, supplement October; Mennonitisches Lexikon Vol. I, p. 374; Haxthausen loc. cit. Vol. 2, p. 181 f.; Friesen I. a. O. p. 155f. a. o.
  - 2) This paragraph was probably written by J. Stach.
  - 3) Originally called "No. 3".
- 4) The first nine, numbered colonies were: Halbstadt, Muntau, Schönau, Fischau, Lindenau, Lichtenau, Blumstein, Münsterberg, Altonau, cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 36.

3. Schönau 97

Berdyansk 110 versts away. The soil in the lowlands is covered with light black, somewhat sandy soil, in some places also with saltpeter, whereas on the steppe it is somewhat loamy. After arable farming has been greatly improved by the fallow introduced in 1826 and the four-field farming practiced from 1837 onward, the harvest is 10 to 20-fold <sup>1</sup>) with proper cultivation and favorable weather. The land is not so well suited for grass growth, but the hayfields have been greatly improved by the construction of several dams; the one built in 1833 on the Molotschna River is particularly advantageous, as it collects all the snow and rainwater coming down the river in the spring and drives it over the bank, thus irrigating part of the lowlands and greatly promoting grass growth. However, this dam has already caused damage in that after the heavy rains of June 21, 1840, the water destroyed much grass and mowed hay by flooding until the 4 foot wide and equally deep drainage ditch was widened to an 80 to 90 foot wide and 20 foot deep channel, through which the water then flows back into the riverbed.

The grove, which was growing well, was established in 1832 and planted with effort and expense by 1846. Before the trees could be planted, the soil had to be tilled ¾ of an arschin deep with a plough specially made for the purpose and harnessed with 40 to 60 oxen. Some of the young trees were brought 165 versts away ²).

The post road, which was built in 1837 through the villages on the river, was also planted with avenues of trees in 1838 <sup>3</sup>).

The name of the village originates from the old homeland and was given to it by the District Mayor Klaas Wiens without special reason. The village originally consisted of 21 families <sup>4</sup>), among which the founders of the fireplaces No. 1 and No. 21, Gerhard Hildebrand and Peter Wiebe, the former with 1,000 Rbl. and the latter with 1,125 Rbl. in personal property.

As for the favorable and unfavorable influences on the prosperity of the village, the same is reported from here as from Muntau; it also received the same high visitations <sup>5</sup>).

Violent acts and thefts were initially committed by the Nogai neighbors.

On April 23, 1811, the landowner of this village no. 44, Jakob Triesen was

<sup>4)</sup> Of List of assistance and because the ac-

<sup>1)</sup> Cf: List of sowing and harvesting in the years 1809-1848. The wheat harvest of a Molotschna and Chortitza Mennonite landowner. In: "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 6, 1850, p. 60 and: Exact calculation from the Wirtschaftsbuche of a landowner in the Molotschna village of Münsterberg, Mennonite Jakob Neumann [#45732], about his sowings and harvests of all types of grain on one and the same field 1806-1846. In: "Untechaltungsblatt" Jg. 1, 1846, pp. 57-58.

<sup>2)</sup> From the crown garden at Ekaterinostav, see p. 58, note 5.

<sup>3)</sup> An otherwise unusual phenomenon in Russia.

<sup>4) 1855: 21</sup> households, 28 resident families (total 154 men, 129 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). 1857: 21 households (153 men) on 1,365 Dess. and 12 landless families (64 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 36.

<sup>5)</sup> This paragraph was probably written by J. Stach.

attacked on the steppe and beaten almost to death with hammers. Rushing colonists saved him from certain death. Horses were stolen particularly frequently, and some colonists lost an entire fortune in one night. In April 1813, 10 of the best horses were taken by force in one night <sup>1</sup>).

Mayor Klaas Dick. Assistant Mayors Jakob Janzen, Peter Hildebrand. Johann Fast, School Teacher.

Schönau, Apr. 9, 1848.

# 4. Lichtenau<sup>2</sup>)

Reprinted from: Odessaer Zeitung. 42nd Jg, 1904, No. 170.

The village was founded in 1804 and the houses were laid out in the same and the following year. The Molotschna forms the border between the land of this village and that of the Crown villages Bogdanowka <sup>3</sup>) and Trottzkoje <sup>4</sup>), but it is so shallow that it often dries up completely in summer. It is overgrown with reeds and cane, which are used for building houses. Lichtenau is located 58 versts south of the former district town of Orechow and 34 versts north of the present Alexandrowka <sup>5</sup>). The soil contains salty earth in the lowlands, is suitable for grass growth, and yields 1 to 3 Fuder of hay from each Dess. annually. The steppe is loamy and has little black soil, but by diligent fallowing one obtains up to 8 Tscht. rye and wheat, and up to 16 Tscht. oats and barley from each Dess. The village was named after a village in the Marienburger Werder by the first District Mayor Klaas Wiens. The number of its settlers was 21 <sup>6</sup>). Their crown advance was about 10,400 Rbl. Banko.

The improvement and beautification of the village has been helped in particular by the fact that some landowners, because of age or too great a burden of debt, have handed over their farmsteads to wealthy and capable landowners.

The village, like the previous ones, has been graced and honored with high attendance 7).

Lichtenau, May 1, 1848.

Assistant Mayors: Peter Siemens, Peter Heide. School Principal Gerhard Korneisen. Mayor Kornelius Hildebrecht.

<sup>1)</sup> i.e. probably stolen by the Nogai.

<sup>2)</sup> Originally called "No. 6".

<sup>3)</sup> Bogdanovka on the Bolshaya Ternavka, 18 versts from Ekaterinoslav, had been laid out by Duchobory (Cf. p. 79 note 2), cf. Semenov loc. cit. Vol. 1, p. 275 and Skal'kovskij Vol. 2, p. 167.

<sup>4)</sup> Troitzkoje probably also a Duchoboren village.

<sup>5)</sup> Meant is Novo-Aleksandrovka (Tatar Kysyjar), Cf. p. 56 note 3.

<sup>6) 1855: 21</sup> households, 40 resident families (total 160 men, 158 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). 1857: 21 households (116 men) on 1365 Dess. and 12 landless families (74 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 36.

<sup>7)</sup> Probably addition by J. Stach.

# 5. Lindenau <sup>1</sup>)

Reprinted from: Odessaer Zeitung, 42, Jg., 1904, No. 171.

On July 15, 1804, the first settlers under the leadership of their District Mayor Klaas Wiens, who was still elected in Chortitza, arrived at the place of settlement assigned to them and founded the village 269 fathoms from the Molotschna in a lowland of about 2 square versts, which is intersected by a small river running in the same direction as the Molotschna from northeast to southwest. Between the two rivers the lowland is very suitable for grass growing, because it is very low and often flooded. During the hay harvest, however, these floods often cause damage. On the other side of the small river, the lowland is almost incapable of development because of its nitric soil (salpeterhaltigen). The black soil of the steppe, mixed with some clay and sand, is less suitable for grass growth than for grain cultivation, and trees grow better on it than in the lowlands. The forest plantation is established above the village and shows luxuriant growth, but suffered greatly last winter due to violent storms and snowdrifts. The first head of the area 2) named the village Lindenau after a village in the former fatherland. In its place there used to be a large village of Nogai. By the order of the authorities these Nogai moved away in 1805 and settled at a distance of 12 versts and further from here <sup>3</sup>). The names of the 21 family fathers originally settled here 4) were the following according to the order of their numbers: Peter Friesen [#43930], Peter Wiebe [#46942], Martin Born [#43925], Jakob Kämpf, Daniel Neufeld [#46124], Isaak Löwen [#265417], Isaak Wiens [#47006], Franz Enns [#44795], Heinrich Enns [#44819], Kornelius Töws [#5558], Jakob Wiens [#47024], Kornelius Penner [#46213], Klaas Friesen [#5453], Peter Kemsenning, David Hiebert [#266749], Jakob Klaassen [#44081], Kornelius Görzen [#45239], Johann Wiebe [#46924], Peter Neufeld [#46182], Klaas Fröse [#45186], Paul Klaassen [#117095]. These families numbered 47 male and 43 female souls. David Hiebert was the only one who had enough personal assets that he could do without the support of the crown and cultivate at his own expense. The whole village community possessed about 8,000 Rbl. silver. At the beginning, the cultivation was somewhat difficult: some had made earth huts for the winter, but some, who were better off or had more manpower, built a dwelling house for the winter for two or more families. For the protection of the few cattle, they also built huts. The timber had to be brought from a distance of 85 versts. The local Nogai people could not provide shelter because their dwellings were merely beehivelike tents covered with felt blankets, which they transported from place to place on their twowheeled carts.

<sup>1)</sup> Originally called "No. 5.

<sup>2)</sup> i.e. Klaas Wiens, Cf. p. 90.

<sup>3)</sup> For the resettlement of the Nogai see I PSZ Vol. 28, No. 21177 (February 23, 1804).

<sup>4) 1855: 21</sup> farmsteads, 45 resident families (total 166 men, 161 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). 1857: 21 farmsteads (140 men) on 1365 Dess. and 12 landless families (64 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 36.

The favorable and unfavorable influences on the welfare of the community are the same as in the previous villages.

In 1825 our traders Peter Bauer [Buhr] [#43890] of here, Jakob Dück [#65107] of Tiegenhagen, Johann Willms [#60960] of Blumstein and Johann Wiens [#47048] of Altona took Spanish wool on commission from the inhabitants of this district and brought it to Romer (probably Romni ¹) in Gouv. Poltava in June for sale at the annual fair and set out on their homeward journey with handsome proceeds [reports the editor of the Odessaer Zeitung]. But what happened? Seduced by known Jews into a forest, they were murdered by the same about 10 versts before the small town of Gadich (probably Gadjatsch) ²). Among the number of those killed was also the twelve-year-old son of Peter Bauer [Buhr], named Erdmann [#43892]. The perpetrators were soon caught, but most of the money for the wool was lost.

In the famine year 1833, 1421 R. 83¾ K. was spent from the personal property for the purchase of bread crops, except for the loan, which was still made by a few.

It was a beautiful day when His Majesty Emperor Alexander Pavlovich visited our village and the stopover was right here. He arrived at 10 o'clock in the morning at the home of the venerable church preacher David Hiebert, where breakfast was prepared. Upon entering, he walked up and down the parlor a few times and lovingly said, "Now, dear children, I have the German Reich in My country." At the breakfast table he asked if anyone had anything to complain about, whereupon Frau Hiebert said, "We have nothing to complain about, but rather to give thanks for the great grace and gracious welcome in your kingdom." Then he slapped (fa $\beta$ te) his chest twice and said, "You and your children and your children's children shall enjoy My grace." At parting, he presented Mrs. Hiebert with a diamond ring as a gift of grace. This day, on which we had the good fortune to see the Anointed One in our midst, which will never leave our and our children's memory  $^3$ ).

We also often remember October 16, 1837 and October 1, 1841. One day brought us the visits of His Imperial Highness the Tsarevich and heir to the throne Alexander Nikolaevich and the other the visit of Her Imperial Highness the wife of Grand Duke Mikhail Pavlovich Helene Pavlovna <sup>4</sup>).

On August 20, 1845, at 10 o'clock in the morning, His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Constantine Nikolaevich also visited our village, where he stopped at the landowner Gerhard Neufeld [#46147], had breakfast with several of his companions, and presented two diamond earrings to the wife of the said Neufeld in honor of his high and distinguished memory.

Mayor Abraham Riediger. Assistant Mayors Peter Quapp, Abraham Friesen. Anton Kornelsen, School Principal.

Lindenau, May 1, 1848

<sup>1)</sup> Romny, Cf. p. 95 note 2.

<sup>2)</sup> Probably an addition by J. Stach.

<sup>3)</sup> See Reiswitz and Wadzeck, op. cit. p. 398 and Friesen, op. cit. p. 143 (according to Kröker's family calendar 1900).

<sup>4)</sup> Friederike Charlotte Marie, Princess of Württemberg, see p. 93 note 1.

# 6. Fischau 1)

Reprinted from: Odessa newspaper. 42nd year, 1904. No. 172

The village was established in 1804, but in that year the houses were built crudely. It is located on the left bank of the Molotschna River in a lowland 38 versts from Melitopol. The somewhat salty (salzige) soil of the lowland is not very favorable for grass growth, especially in dry periods. The black earth of the steppe, mixed with some clay, is very fertile and yields abundant crops.

The village Fischau received its name from a place in Prussia by the District Mayor Klaus Wiens.

The 22 families <sup>2</sup>) settled here come from the Danzig, Elbingen and Tiegenhofen districts in the Kingdom of Prussia. Besides Klaus Wiens, Jakob Neumann and Jakob Wiens are named as the leaders of the immigration.

This steppe has been assigned to the immigrants by Councilor v. Scholkow 3).

Mayor Daniel Boschmann. Assistant Mayors Abraham Isaak, Abraham Görtzen School Teacher Peter Dörksen.

Fischau, May 4, 1848.

# 7. Blumstein 4)

Reprinted from: Odessaer Zeitung, 42nd Jg, 1904, No. 172.

The village was founded in 1804 on the left bank of the Molotschna River, 31 versts from Melitopol and 100 versts from Berdyansk. The land belonging to it has a length of 9 and a width of about 1½ versts. At the end of this plan the Jushanlee <sup>5</sup>) serves as a border and near the village the Kurishan <sup>6</sup>) flows through the same in an oblique direction. In the Kurishan, a pond has been made by means of an embankment, which serves as a watering place for cattle during the summer. The somewhat salty (salzige) soil of the Molotschna lowland is not conducive to tree plantations and grass, but the somewhat sandy farmland is quite fertile. Klaas Wiens named the village Blumstein after a place he knew in Prussia. Of the 21 families who immigrated from Prussia, 8 came from Marienburg, 7 from Elbing and 6 from Tiegenhof <sup>7</sup>). Most of the

<sup>1)</sup> Originally called "No. 4," see Haus loc. cit. Supplement 2 p. 36.

<sup>2)</sup> In 1855: 22 inns, 34 resident families (total 164 men, 162 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). 1857: 22 households (132 men) on 1430 Dess. and 11 landless families (58 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 36.

<sup>3)</sup> Scholkow or Tschalkow (Cf. p. 116) - the name could not be determined.

<sup>4)</sup> Originally called "No. 7", see Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 36 " Jushanly.

<sup>5)</sup> Kurundujuschanly, Cf. p. 122 note 6.

<sup>6) 1855: 21</sup> farmsteads, 71 resident families (total 261 men, 243 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). In 1857: 21 households (127 men) on 1,365 Dess. and 15 landless families (85 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 36.

the settlers immigrated under the leader Gerhard Hildebrand [#45711 or 45717], who, together with others of his party, found his settlement in the village of Schönau.

The steppe was assigned to the settlers by Councilor von Scholkow 1).

Besides the accidents and land plagues common with the other villages, two thirds of the houses of this village were burned on September 4, 1817.

During his visit on May 21, 1818, His Majesty Alexander Pavlovich stayed in one of the houses of this village.

Mayor Heinrich Teschgraeb.
Assistant Mayors: Johann Kröker, Johann Harder.
School Teacher Bernhard Barg.

Blumstein, May 2, 1848.

### 8. Tiege

Reprinted from: Odessaer Zeitung, 42nd Jg, 1904, No. 174.

This village was founded in 1805, but the founders of it immigrated to Russia in the previous year, 1804. They arrived after a twelve-week journey with other immigrants to their Chortitza co-religionists, where they spent a long hard winter and consumed part of the money supply by buying food for the people and the few cattle they brought with them.

Having arrived at the place designated for the settlement of the Mennonite brotherhood, namely on the Molotschna River, where 9 villages with 191 families had already been settled the year before, suitable settlement sites were selected and distributed by lot for 161 families divided into 8 villages ²). The village Tiege with three villages was located on the first tributary of the Molotschna, which is called Kurundujuschanlee ³), 55 versts away from the former district town Orechow. The land belonging to this village stretches from northwest to southeast; there the steppe river Jushanlee ⁴) is the border between the land of the Mennonites and that of the Tatars ⁵). The location of the land is as advantageous as its features; the village possesses two floodplains, which contain 4½ and 2½ Dess. Hay meadow which the landlord included. Artificial irrigation is caused by heaped up dams, which significantly increase the yield of the grass meadows. The surface of the steppe land is black earth mixed with clay, and on the slopes is unmixed clay in places. In the lowlands, the soil is black and, except for some saltpetre areas, good and fertile. Stones and shrubbery are not found in this area; the former must be fetched 24 versts from the little river Juschanlee. They are used only for the foundations of the buildings.

The planted trees grow very well in the lowlands as well as on the hills, but do not last as long as in some other areas.

<sup>1)</sup> The name could not be determined, cf. p 116.

<sup>2)</sup> In 1805, the following were founded here: Tiegenhagen, Petershagen, Schönsee, Ladekopp, Rosenort, Blumenort, Ohrloff and Tiege.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p 122 note 6.

<sup>4)</sup> Juschanly.

<sup>5)</sup> i.e. the Nogai

8. Tiege 103

The characteristics of the soil require good preparation by plowing deeply (rigolen[/riolen]) several times. The longer and more often this is done before planting, the safer and faster is the growth.

The founders were anxious when they saw the bare steppe here and did not know whether trees would grow there. All the information they received made this seem doubtful. Some of them thought of their old fatherland and the abandoned beautiful trees in the gardens. It did not take long, however, before the lush thickets and gardens in the middle of the steppe, cultivated with love and enthusiasm, replaced the painfully felt lack.

The name Tiege originates from a small river in West Prussia, where there is a village in the Marienburg district of the same name. From this village there was a settler named Kornelius Töws [#46688], an old man of about 70 years. Since the Kurudujuschanlee River was similar to the Tiege River, he wished to give that name to the village in memory of his place of residence in the old fatherland. The Tiege village was founded by the following settlers (according to the site number) coming from the Marienburg and Elbing area: Gerhard Kröker [#2595], Klaas Wiebe [#46872], Johann Klaassen [#13215], Peter Kröker [#45973], Klaas Wiens, Abraham Kröker [#660505], Martin Hamm [#44925], Kornelius Töws [#46688], Philipp Isaak [#2565], Peter Isaak [#2568], Widow Neufeld, Abraham Fast [#44978], Franz Isaak [#2569], Jakob Reimer [#69820], Abraham Kröker [#45905], Isaak Wall [#46726], Johann Wiens [#13440], David Harder [#45335], Abraham Töws [#46683], Michael Hamm [#45324] ¹). Some of them had owned their own farms in Prussia, but others did not. In addition, any prospect of obtaining such there was cut off from them ²).

These emigrants had no particular leaders and did not arrive here in one batch. The limited space and land in Prussia were the main reasons for their emigration. And when the news of the advantageous offer of the country and the assistance of the Russian crown connected with it, as well as the promised freedom of faith, spread more and more and aroused the hope that a happy future could blossom for them and their descendants in Russia, the decision to emigrate there became firm. One communicated this decision to the other, and the necessary preparations for the journey were discussed at meetings. The local authorities as well as the Russian consuls in the cities supported them with advice and help and facilitated in some respects the enterprise connected with troubles.

The 161 families <sup>3</sup>) who emigrated that year, gathered in various groups and, trusting in the guide of all human destinies, set out without any particular leaders, accompanied by blessings and farewell tears from relatives and neighbors, on the road that would take them from the border town of Grodno to the border town of the Czech Republic

<sup>1) 1855: 20</sup> households, 34 resident families (total 116 men, 124 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). 1857: 20 farmsteads (123 men) on 1300 Dess. and 13 landless families (48 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 36.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. Reiswitz and Wadzeck, op. cit. p. 38.

<sup>3)</sup> According to Varadinov op. cit. Vol. 1, p. 124f. and Storch a. a. O. Vol. 3, p. 140, 162 Mennonite families immigrated in 1804.

to the kindly care of their new Father and His orders <sup>1</sup>). Under such circumstances they all arrived happily and safely at the place of their settlement. In the distribution of the villages, however, they chose a leader from among themselves, the settler in the village of Altona, Klaas Wiens, who did what was necessary under the supervision of the Guardianship Office in Ekaterinoslav.

The steppe assigned to the settlers was occupied by nomadic Nogai Tatars. At that time, most of them still had upwardly pointed kibikts <sup>2</sup>) with a chimney as their dwellings, the framework of which was formed by sticks covered with felt blankets. On one side there was a hole for crawling through. These kibikts were so light that they could be loaded onto the two-wheeled wooden wagons on which there was not even the slightest trace of iron. And yet these huts offered space for a whole family.

In order to give the descendants an idea of the state of mind of their ancestors, in which they might have found themselves at the time of the founding of the villages, the difference between the old and the new place of residence shall be briefly established here. In Prussia, they left a beautiful, charming region; some had well-established farms. There were beautiful lush meadows, streets planted with trees, blooming gardens, which just at the time of their departure were resplendent with ripe fruit.

Here, on their arrival, they found nothing but a great empty space, a barren steppe, where not a shrub or tree was to be seen and no protective roof against the hot rays of the sun was to be found. An unknown race of men were their future neighbors, and their semi-wild appearance instilled fearful apprehension <sup>3</sup>). The many hardships, the uncertain future, everything was likely to make them gloomy and to rob them of their courage. But here there was no time for brooding and complaining: the building sites were measured and distributed by lot, huts were built in and above the ground and furnished as dwellings, the construction of the houses was begun and a bee's diligence was displayed such as the local area had probably never seen before.

The village community may have possessed about 8,500 Rbl. of silver, but not everyone had a share. In addition, horses and wagons, some horned cattle and sheep were present among individual landowners. Kornelius Töws [#46688] and Franz Isaak [#2569] were so wealthy that they could do without the support of the crown.

In the further course of its history the community does not differ from those already described <sup>4</sup>).

His Majesty, the Emperor Nikolai, on his journey through the Crimea, confirmed the privilege granted by the Most Gracious Emperor Paul, he gave the Guardianship Committee

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. I PSZ Vol. 27 No. 20691.

<sup>2)</sup> Russian kibitka, borrowed from Turkish "tent of the nomads that can be dismantled".

<sup>3)</sup> On the coexistence of Nogai and Mennonites see Daniel Schlatter: Fragments from some journeys to southern Russia in the years 1822 to 1828. With special regard to the Nogai Tatars on the Azov Sea. St. Gallen, Bern 1836.

<sup>4)</sup> The paragraph was probably written by J. Stach.

a man in the person of the Real State Councilor von Hahn <sup>1</sup>), who, through his repeated visits to the villages <sup>2</sup>), has observed for himself the actual situation of the villages and is now continuing to guide them with truly fatherly care to the goal of their destiny.

Assistant Mayors Aron Hübert <sup>3</sup>). Kornel. Baerkmann. Mayor Johann Töws. School Teacher Peter Sawatzkij <sup>4</sup>).

# 9. Tiegenhagen

Reprinted from: Odessaer Zeitung, 42. Jg., 1904, No. 175.

In 1804, when the settlers had gathered here, the first colonies were established under the leadership of Klaas Wiens, the District Mayor of the time.

In the following year the second settlement took place under the same leader. The settlers of Tiegenhagen, like the others of their co-religionists, came from the Marienburg and Tiegenhof districts in West Prussia and had been quartered in the Chortitza district for the winter. When the most suitable places were chosen by sight, a place on the left bank of the Molotschna River was chosen, situated between the colonies Muntau and Schönau, which had been established a year earlier, about 45 versts away from the then district town Orechow <sup>5</sup>) in an area free of trees and bushes. There was a Russian chutor <sup>6</sup>) here, whose owner moved away. On both sides of the village, the woods, planted with the greatest diligence since 1832, rise high. The soil is mixed with saltpeter towards the river and is not very suitable for growing grain and hay; the rest of the land is sandy and more favorable for growing grain than for hay.

This village was named Tiegenhagen after a village in Prussia on the river Tiege after agreement of the 21 farmers initially living in it in community with the District Mayor <sup>7</sup>).

Eighteen settlers <sup>8</sup>) of this village arrived here poor; their property consisted probably only of a cart, while the travel money had hardly reached the Russian border.

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. I.

<sup>2)</sup> Trips to the colonies were part of the duties of the chairmen of the "Fürsorgekomitee", cf. I PSZ Vol. 3S No. 27312. [There is no footnote designator for footnote #2 in the original text.]

<sup>3)</sup> The name is also written "Hiebert".

<sup>4)</sup> On the Slavic surnames among the Mennonites, cf. Quiring loc. cit. p. 106ff. and Schroeder loc. cit. p. 70ff.

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. p. 89 note 6.

<sup>6)</sup> Wirtschaftshof, cf. also p. 124 note 2.

<sup>7)</sup> Klaas Wiens, Cf. p. 88 note 6.

<sup>8) 1855: 21</sup> farmsteads, 33 resident families (total 159 men, 131 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). 1857: 21 households (127 men) on 1,365 Dess. and 11 landless families (43 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 36.

Therefore, in addition to an advance of R. 10,938, they received 60 K. Banko <sup>1</sup>) from the moment they crossed the border until the first harvest. Three of the settlers, whose property was 4,000 R., did not need this advance and refused it.

This difference in the level of wealth on the one hand and the events that have occurred since the settlement on the other hand also explains the difference in the progress of agriculture among the individual landowners. This progress has been hindered by the various land plagues and natural events that have come over the other colonies and have already been described, while it has been promoted by men like the superiors, Kontenius, State Councilor von Hahn and those elected from among themselves, among whom especially Johann Kornies stands out, by the establishment of the city of Berdyansk and by the High and Most High visits already described in other places.

Mayor Abraham Friesen. Assistant Mayors Martin Willms. Warkentin. Daniel Fast, School Teacher.

April 29, 1848.

# 10. Petershagen<sup>2</sup>)

Reprinted from: Odessaer Zeitung, 42nd Jg., 1904, No. 176.

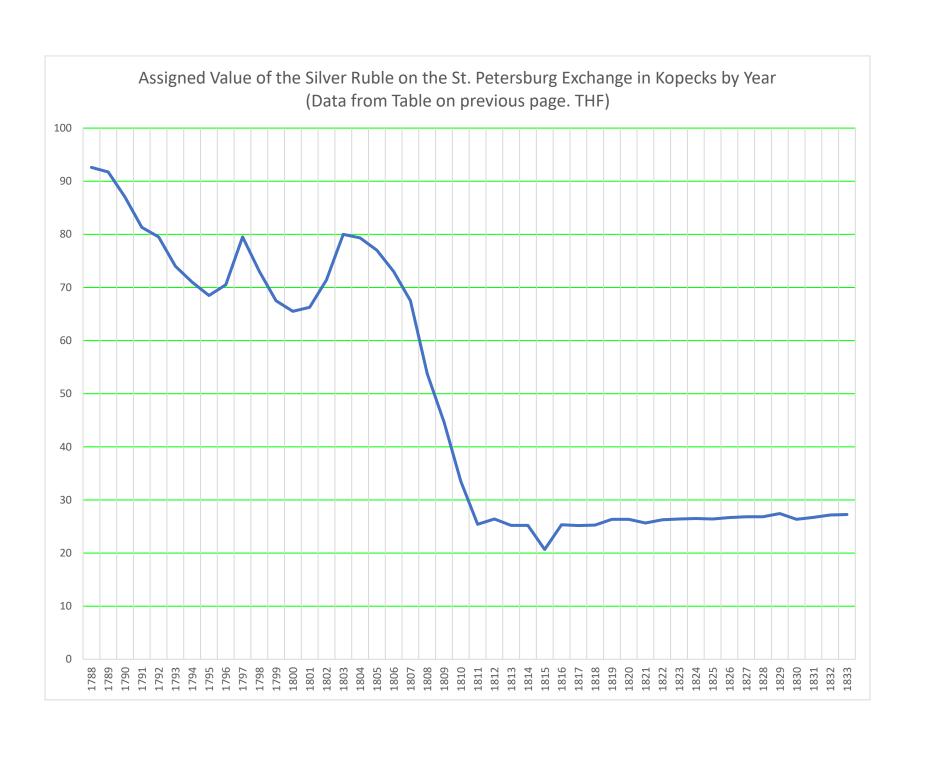
This village was founded in 1805 by settlers who had already immigrated in 1804. They had spent the winter in the Chortitza villages, where the well-off had supported some of the impoverished, for which they later helped them build houses and in turn found support from them.

1) According to the St. Petersburg exchange rate, the assigned value of one silver Ruble:

1/7 Good and to the ot. I etclobally exoliding tate, the assigned value of one silver rabbe										
1788:	92 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>5</sub>	Kop. S.	1804:	79 ½	Kop. S.	1819:	26 1/3	Kop. S.		
1789:	91 3/4	Kop. S.	1805:	77	Kop. S.	1820:	26 1/3	Kop. S.		
1790:	87	Kop. S.	1806:	73	Kop. S.	1821:	25 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub>	Kop. S.		
1791:	81 ⅓	Kop. S.	1807:	67 ½	Kop. S.	1822:	26 1/4	Kop. S.		
1792:	79 ½	Kop. S.	1808:	53 3/4	Kop. S.	1823:	26 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>5</sub>	Kop. S.		
1793:	74	Kop. S.	1809:	44 3/3	Kop. S.	1824:	26 ½	Kop. S.		
1794:	71	Kop. S.	1810:	33 ½	Kop. S.	1825:	26 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>5</sub>	Kop. S.		
1795:	68 ½	Kop. S.	1811:	25 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>5</sub>	Kop. S.	1826:	26 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub>	Kop. S.		
1796:	70 ½	Kop. S.	1812:	26 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>5</sub>	Kop. S.	1827:	26 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>6</sub>	Kop. S.		
1797:	79 ½	Kop. S.	1813:	25 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>5</sub>	Kop. S.	1828:	26 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>6</sub>	Kop. S.		
1798:	73	Kop. S.	1814:	25 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>5</sub>	Kop. S.	1829:	27 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>7</sub>	Kop. S.		
1799:	67 ½	Kop. S.	1815:	20 3/3	Kop. S.	1830:	26 ⅓	Kop. S.		
1800:	65 ½	Kop. S.	1816:	25 ⅓	Kop. S.	1831:	26 <sup>8</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	Kop. S.		
1801:	66 1/4	Kop. S.	1817:	25 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>6</sub>	Kop. S.	1832:	27 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>6</sub>	Kop. S.		
1802:	71 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>5</sub>	Kop. S.	1818:	25 1/4	Kop. S.	1833:	27 1/4	Kop. S.		
1803:	80	Kop. S.								

See the table compiled by Count Speranskij based on official data on movements and the value of assignates in Alfred Schmidt: The Russian monetary system during Count Cancrin's financial administration from 1823-1844. Petersburg 1875, p. 25f. All of these exchange rate fluctuations also partly explain the frequently recurring complaint of the German colonists that the Russian government officials did not pay them the full amount of support money, cf. e.g. B. p. 13 note 2.

2) Russian name: Sladkaja (or Solodkaja) Balka.



Thus, the people of the village were able to successfully establish and settle the village in the spring of 1805.

The location of the land and the colonists' desire to settle near a body of water led to the village being moved to the Tokmak River, 5 versts from the village of Tokmak <sup>1</sup>), at the outlet of a small Skeppen River, where it has a small lowland on one side and a fertile steppe land consisting of black earth on a bed of red clay on the other side. The steppe is ideal for growing cereals, while the lowland, exposed to the beneficial floods of the melting snow, is very favorable for grass growth with its significant layer of top soil.

The name Petershagen was given to the village in memory of a place in the former fatherland, where some settlers had lived, because the wish of the settler Abraham Janzen [#45808], was supported by all the others.

The settlers here were mostly young families, 12 of them were poor and 8 were not poor <sup>2</sup>). They had crossed the border at Grodno in 1804 from the districts of Danzig, Elbing and Marienburg through Russian Poland and had been directed to the Chortitza Colony for wintering. After prior consultation, the immigrants had appointed the most insightful men as leaders in as possible in such a small a group. Among the settlers was a man named Johann Janzen [#45854], brother of the previously mentioned Abraham Janzen <sup>3</sup>), who had also immigrated in 1804 as the leader of a group with considerable property and large family. In addition to his three married sons, during the winter spent in Chortitza he was joined by 16 families from different groups. A wise precaution of the Russian government during the immigration of the settlers consisted of the rule that each lot, after crossing the border, was accompanied from station to station by a soldier who knew the way and was responsible for the protection and security and for the quickest and cheapest possible procurement of the necessary food <sup>4</sup>).

The sight of the land used by the inhabitants of the Kronsdorf Tokmak for cattle grazing, covered only with a few sparse grasses, where neither house, nor tree, nor bush was to be seen, must have made a sad impression on the settlers when they first arrived it in the spring of 1805. However, there was no time to indulge in wistful reminiscences of the fatherland they had just left. The first harvest had to be tilled and the essential shelter had to be built. The eight impoverished families received, in addition to their daily allowances from the time they entered the border until the first harvest a crown advance of 4541 R. Banko.

<sup>1)</sup> Gross-Tokmak, Cf. p. 89 note 3.

<sup>2) 1855: 20</sup> farmsteads, 44 resident families (total 143 men, 143 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including the permanently absent). 1857: 20 households (111 men) on 1300 Dess. and 14 landless families (59 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 38.

<sup>3)</sup> See above.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. I PSZ Vol. 27, No. 20691.

However, all of them without distinction received a considerable gift from the authorities upon entering the Russian Empire. The twelve wealthy ones possessed in total a fortune of about 15,500 R. Banko.

The local immigrants had brought a considerable number of German cows and bulls from Prussia, which died, except for 3 of them, in the very first year due to the outbreak of cattle plague. The loss was heavy, but since only this one settlement was affected by the disease, it was possible to replace the cattle by buying them from the other villages. The loss was more severe in 1809, when over half of the cattle were lost to the disease. Since many villages were also affected by the epidemic of that year, German cattle were then expensive and despite the good harvests on the virgin soil, the lack of money became very evident due to low prices for all farm products. In 1823 the small genus of locusts and in 1827 the larger genus of locusts destroyed the harvest. In 1828, again 145 to 150 cattle fell to the cattle plague. However, the years 1833 to 1834 were more severe than all the others. More difficult than anything else, however, were the years 1833 to 1834, when the grain had to be brought in 300 to 500 versts due to the lack of growth and the Tscht. Rye here in the village cost 40 Rbl. Banko and for each Tschetwert of wheat, 50 Rubles Banko

Even though sheep breeding abroad was an extremely insignificant branch of the local immigrants' economy, they brought 20 and some sheep with them from Prussia and wanted to establish the local sheep breeding. In spite of the noble and charitable intentions of the Real State Councilor Kontenius, which were aimed at the increase and improvement of the sheep, the sheep breeding prospered only slowly, and only in the 1820s the settlers began to deal more with the improvement of the sheep. For this purpose, Merinos rams were taken from the communal sheep farm <sup>1</sup>), for which Merinos were bred in 1807 and later breeding rams were granted by the High Crown as a gift. Since then, sheep breeding has provided us with significant income.

Paying attention not only to these, but to all branches of agriculture, the blessed Lord Kontenius was still particularly in favor of tree plantations. By praising the industrious and exhorting the less active, efforts were made not only to beautify the village with orchards, but also to enrich it in its revenues. But even more important in this respect is the consequence of the Most Highly expressed wish of His Majesty the Most Blessed Emperor Alexander I, during his passage through the local villages in 1825, that each landowner plant ½ dessjatine with forest trees ²). As a result of this wish, the Guardianship Committee, whose chairman at that time was General of Infantry Insov ³), in the

<sup>1)</sup> It was the task of the communal shepherds to provide the settlers with rams. On Nov. 1, one ram was distributed annually to each of 25 sheep. After the insemination period, they were carefully examined in order to be able to eliminate sick animals in time, see Koeppen: Uber einige Landesverhältnisse p. 35.

<sup>2)</sup> See also Fadeev, op. cit. p. 405.

<sup>3)</sup> Ivan Nikitich Inzow (1768-1845) was the chairman of the "Guardianship Committee" from 1818 to 1845, cf. about him for the time being: Russkij Biograficeskij Slovar's. v. A detailed examination of his services to the German colonies will follow in one of the next volumes of this series.

year 1832 an Agricultural Association was formed and confirmed in the Molotschna Mennonite Colony <sup>1</sup>). Through insight, the Association sought to promote forest planting as quickly as possible. The planting would consist in the third part of mulberry trees, which already provided the settlers with significant income by introducing silkworm breeding. It was also the intention of the association, with the support of the colonial authorities, to introduce four-field farming on a regular basis, for which purpose in this village the previously very inexpediently laid out field plots were consolidated into larger ones that simplified cultivation.

Mayor Martens.
Assistant Mayors: Martens, Fast.
School Teacher Peter Neufeld.

#### 11. Schönsee

Reprinted from: Odessaer Zeitung, 42, Jg., 1904, No. 178.

Founded in the spring of 1805 under the District Mayor Klaas Wiens, the village was only plowed up three months later, after the first hay harvest, and its farms were distributed by lot. Because of the late arrival, no sowing was done that year. The dwellings for the winter were built temporarily partly in, partly above the ground, but for the regular building of houses for the future spring the wood lent by the high crown was brought. Until 1812, the settlement was located on the left bank of the Tokmak River between the Ladekopp and Petershagen colonies; however, since the village plan had neither been measured nor plowed, the three villages were too close to each other, so that it was considered more advantageous to relocate Schönsee to a more convenient place. This place is located 10 versts above the village of Tokmak on the river of the same name. The plan of this relocated village consists of a rectangle and borders on two sides on the lands, which the high crown lent to Johann Klaassen, a resident of the village Halbstadt, for the establishment of a cloth factory, in the north on the river Tokmak and in the east on the lands of the village Liebenau.

The soil is quite mild, but covered with only a little black earth not very suitable for grass growth. The plan is conveniently arranged for driving out the cattle, which are led to the river Tokmak for watering. The mountains near the village, which are used for cattle grazing, cause the farmland to be somewhat distant from the village. The land, if well prepared, is of medium fertility both for arable farming and for tree plantations.

At a meeting of the first settlers in the Altona village organized by the District Office to discuss the division and naming of the colonies, Jakob Regier [#46340], in memory of his birthplace Schönsee in West Prussia, suggested that the village be named the same, which was generally approved. The first settlers were 19

<sup>1)</sup> The history of the origins of the "Landwirtschaftlicher Verein" and the "Vereine" in the German colonies is still unclear. In my opinion, however, it is closely connected with the Odessa Agricultural Society (see p. 93, note 3).

families <sup>1</sup>) from the Marienburg district. The land intended for them was used by the inhabitants of Tokmak for cattle grazing and to a very small extent for agriculture. The lowland was overgrown with beautiful grass, whose luxuriant flora gave the promise of good progress for the new arrivals. Their entire fortune, including all the belongings they brought with them, consisted of about 5,000 R. Banko; in addition, they received from the high crown, including timber and food, an advance of 8,534 Rub. Banko.

In addition to the cheapness of all the products of the country, in the first years there were frequent cases of horse theft, which greatly hindered the development of the village.

Butter was 7 cents a pound; in 1808 it was 10 cents, and later the price rose to 20 cents a pound. In 1809 the cattle plague broke out and killed 92 head in the first week. On June 19, 1811, between 12 and 1 o'clock, a hailstorm destroyed the entire harvest; in the fall of the same year, an epidemic swept away almost all the young cattle.

In 1812, the village was relocated, with help from the other colonies. However, only 10 of the old landowners settled on the new plan; the rest had given up hope for a better future and had given their farms to other immigrants.

At the new settlement site, it was exposed to essentially the same hindering and encouraging influences as the other colonies.

After a sparse harvest and persistently good weather, a devastating snowstorm broke out on December 24, 1824, which lasted until the end of March 1825. Then the lack of fodder forced them to uncover the roofs <sup>2</sup>), and nevertheless some cattle fell as a result of hunger. The uncovered houses were exposed to all harmful effects of the weather until autumn. Even later, hurricane-force easterly winds swept the grain away from the fallow fields.

Schönau<sup>3</sup>), May 1, 1848.

Mayor Johann Gogen. Assistant Mayors Gerhard Enns, Jakob Dörksen. Jakob Wurms, School Teacher.

### 12. Ladekopp

Reprinted from: Odessaer Zeitung, 42, Jg., 1904, No. 179.

The boundaries of this village are: to the east the Kronsdorf Gross-Tokmak, to the south the village Halbstadt, to the west the village Petershagen and to the north the river Tokmak. It is 100 versts away from Berdyansk. The land area consists of steppe and lowland. The former is slightly elevated; intersected by a few steppe rivers, it acquires an undulating shape. Its surface is fertile black earth mixed with clay, resting on a base of yellow clay, for which

<sup>1) 1855: 20</sup> farmsteads, 42 resident families (total 154 men, 153 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). 1857: 20 households (123 men) on 1300 Dess. and 23 landless families (85 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 36.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. Fadeev, op. cit. p. 403.

<sup>3)</sup> Must mean "Schönsee".

the soil is well suited for arable farming, but can only be used for haymaking in particularly fertile years. Therefore, arable farming is expanding more and more. The settlement <sup>1</sup>) situated at the Tokmak river covers 120 Dessiantine. It is covered with a deep layer of fertile top soil, which, after the annual spring flooding, grows lush grass and is mostly used for haymaking.

The village was founded by 16 families 2) in 1805 and named Ladekopp after a village in Prussia. The settlers had arrived here in different groups after a winter stay in Chortitza. Their land was uncultivated and used by the inhabitants of Tokmak. The first dwellings were wooden huts, for which they had fetched wood from the city of Aleksandrovsk. Most of the settlers were destitute, and only 6 families could build their houses from their own resources. The rest received 4,975 Rub. 50 K. Banko, partly in cash, partly in wood, advanced by the high crown for 10 years. However, only the first 6 were able to complete the construction of their houses before the onset of winter; the others built earthen huts for their winter dwellings. Four of the wealthiest family fathers took two fireplaces for themselves and their children. The ancestral wealth of the settlers may have amounted to about 11,000 R. Banko. The houses built with the money from the crown could only be small and simply furnished, because many a Ruble had to be used for other necessities. The cultivation of the crops was initially very laborious, because each landowner had only 2 to 3 horses 3). When agriculture could be practiced on a larger scale, there was a lack of sales, which is why the surplus was used to feed the traditional German cattle to obtain a profit from butter and cheese. However, the pound of butter was paid only 10, 12 to 15 Kop. Banko. Horses were also fattened for sale: but a good horse only cost 100 Rub. Banko.

Then events occurred that hindered the flourishing of the village. In August 1809, within 4 weeks, 200 head of mostly German cattle died of an epidemic. Since this epidemic only affected a few villages, the cattle could be replaced at low prices, and some benefactors advanced the money to the poor for 1 to 2 years. The cattle epidemic that broke out again in December 1812, which claimed only 70 victims, was probably not more contagious because of the severe cold. In 1816 and 1817, the trade in Arnaut wheat <sup>4</sup>) began in the Crimea and in Odessa <sup>5</sup>) which resulted in the

<sup>1)</sup> should mean "lowland".

<sup>2) 1855: 20</sup> farmsteads, 34 resident families (total 135 men, 150 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent).

<sup>1857: 20</sup> farmsteads (125 men) on 1,300 Dess. and 15 landless families (50 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supp. 2, p. 38.

<sup>3)</sup> six horses, however, were required for plowing, Cf. p. 118.

<sup>4)</sup> Spring wheat with large, light yellow somewhat transparent grain, which was exported from Russia to Turkey and Italy already at the beginning of the 19th century, cf. Storch loc. cit. Vol. 5, p. 113.

<sup>5)</sup> Odessa was a free port from 1819 to 1845, see Semenov loc. cit. Vol. 3, p. 593 f.

the Mennonites paying more attention to the cultivation of the land by fertilizing and fallowing. Although the expensive freight brought down the low prices even more, the increased income of the settlers was clearly noticeable in the improvement of the farming implements. But there was again an interruption in the growth of prosperity. The locust devastations of the years 1822, 1823 and 1824 resulted especially in a shortage of fodder, which was further increased in 1824 by the terrible persistent snowstorm. The good harvest in 1825 healed many a wound. In 1827, 180 head of cattle succumbed to the epidemic. Then came the terrible famine year of 1833, and 1834 again brought a bad harvest. The terrible lack of fodder was helped by the so-called Kurrai <sup>1</sup>) which grew because of many downpours in late summer.

However, this misfortune was soon forgotten, because from now on fruitful times followed. The wheat trade in Berdyansk had begun, and not only Arnaut, but also Ghirka wheat <sup>2</sup>) was in demand. This or red wheat is much more productive, especially in fallow land, and is easier to thresh. The straw is significantly inferior to that of the Arnaut wheat, but it gives a lot of chaff, which is a very nutritious fodder and is gladly eaten by the cattle. Freight to Berdyansk was now significantly cheaper. As the price of wheat increased each year, so did the prosperity of the inhabitants. In 1839, 240 head of cattle died of the disease. But people were soon able to get cattle again, because the epidemic had not raged in all villages. The village has suffered two fires since its foundation: in 1817 two houses burned down due to the carelessness of a servant, and on August 1, 1842 lightning set a house on fire and killed the housewife at the same time; due to the terrible rain the fire could not spread further. The terrible blizzard of 1847-1848, which lasted for several weeks, almost covered several houses with snow.

The introduction of the Spanish sheep by the Real State Councilor von Kontenius has brought great benefit to the village. Due to the occurrence of disease in the sheep, there have been some significant losses. The High and Most High visits to the Mennonite colonies have not remained without impression. The planting of the forests was started. First of all the land was plowed with a deep plow and gradually  $\frac{2}{3}$  was planted with forest and  $\frac{1}{3}$  with mulberry trees, in total  $\frac{1}{2}$  Dessiantine for each landowner  $\frac{4}{3}$ ). The outer border of the whole forest was covered with a hedge of oil bush (Oelstrauch) and the share of each host surrounded by a mulberry hedge.

<sup>1)</sup> Salsola kali, [Russian thistle] cf. V. Dal: Tolkovyj slovar zivogo velikorusskogo jazyka (Corner Dictionary of the Living Great Russian Language). Vol. 2, Petersburg 1905, sp. 568.

<sup>2)</sup> *Triticum vulagare* [This name is a synonym of *Triticum aestivum* aka spelt wheat or bearded spring wheat] (with small reddish grain), cf. ibid. Vol. 1, sp. 865.

<sup>3)</sup> i.e. as after Mariupol, Cf. p. 89. [I can't find a footnote marker for #3.]

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. Haxthausen op. cit. Vol. 2, p. 194: "After isolated attempts had already been made from the beginning to establish small seedings and to plant all kinds of trees, regular forest plantings began in 1834. In 39 villages, the 857 landowners living in them set aside  $\frac{1}{2}$  Dess. each for forest planting,  $\frac{1}{3}$  of which was to be planted with mulberry trees, the rest with other types of trees. Of these  $\frac{428}{2}$  Dess. were 1842 already 163 Dess. (652 Prussian acres) were planted with 29 different species of trees. In total, there were over 2,300,000 planted trees in 1843, not including the private plants of Herr Kornies."

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This little forest not only delights with its beauty, but also brings significant, annually increasing income through silk cultivation <sup>1</sup>). In addition to the forest, each landowner had to plant an orchard of one Dess. By the effectiveness of the Agricultural Association the prosperity and with it at the same time the building industry, the handicraft and trade were raised considerably.

A spacious schoolhouse was also built by the landowners. On the largest steppe river, about 2 versts from the village, a well has been constructed for watering the cattle. Convinced of the benefits of silk cultivation, the landowners have also planted a mulberry garden, each half a Dessiantine in size, and have begun planting it.

Mayor Heinrich Kröker.

Assistant Mayors: Christian Schmidt, Jakob Bangmann. School Teacher David Klaassen.

April 30, 1848.

13. Altona<sup>2</sup>)

Reprinted from: Odessaer Zeitung, 42nd Jg, 1904, No. 183.

The establishment of the village and the building of houses were started in 1804. However, only 6 houses were completed in that year because of the excessive distance from which the timber had to be fetched. Most of the settlers stayed in earthen huts for the first winter.

The southwestern end of the Molotschna Mennonite villages forms almost a triangle, which is formed by the Molotschna and the Juschanlee <sup>3</sup>) flowing into it. About one verst above this mouth lies the village of Altona in a lowland formed by the Molotschna. Since the settlers were not aware of the river's characteristics, they followed the Prussian pattern of moving their straight village plan too close to the Molotschna, so that an unexpected flood in the future year forced them to move most of the fortunately still empty building sites further upstream, thus changing the straight direction of the village into a curved one.

The settlers were surprised to see that a steppe river could cause such significant flooding. During the winter months, when a rapid thaw occurs and the frozen earth cannot absorb the water, the ice masses in the riverbed are pushed together by the force of the current and sweep away everything in their path. It the current reaches the width of several hundred fathoms, the entire lowland under water and stops all traffic, including that of the

<sup>1)</sup> On the amount of income, see Haxthausen loc. cit. Vol. 2, p. 193, "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 2, 1847, p. 2f. and Jg. 3, 1848, March, supplement pp. 1-4.

<sup>2)</sup> Originally called "No. 9," cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supp. 2, p. 36.

<sup>3)</sup> Juschanly.

Post Office. The gardens on the northwestern side are protected against such flooding by dams, while the cellars of the low-lying houses are filled with water.

The heights between the valleys of the Molotschna and the Jushanlee are several hundred feet above the surface of the sea, sloping off to the west with a fertile layer of black earth resting on a red clay bed. The valleys contain a significant nitrous (salpeterhaltige) layer of top soil and are so shallow on the Juschanlee that they are irrigated by dams. The wells ¹) in the valleys contain mostly potable water. The filling of some earth dams has created ponds in both steppe rivers, which, since the water cannot be drained because of the nearby settlements, degenerate into unhealthy swamps that produce fever and other diseases.

Except for some remains of blackthorn bushes, no traces of natural forests have been found here. However, almost all species of trees thrive, only the fruit trees planted in the lowlands do not seem to be long-lived because of the saltpetre contained in the soil.

At the settlement, the steppe was covered with the most beautiful meadows, where the grass grew so luxuriously that it resembled fields of grain, and young cattle were hard to find here if they strayed into it. This grass growth prevented the earth from drying out and as a result caused more frequent rainfall, while now that the steppe has long since been deprived of its grassy ornamentation, the land is left unprotected to the dry winds, which often causes the rain to fail for long periods. Nevertheless, as a result of four-field farming and good cultivation, the harvests are more abundant than in the past <sup>2</sup>). In place of the grazed grass, various weeds grow all the more luxuriantly.

As soon as the village was settled, it received the name No. 9, as it was known until today among the adjacent Russian and Noga neighbors. After that, at the request of the authorities, the settlers gave it the name Altonau, whereupon the State Councillor von Kontenius wished to know the reason for this naming. Klaas Wiens, the District Mayor, and Aron Warkentin, the District Assistant Mayor, changed the name from Altonau to Altona and explained this name, which consisted of a Low German word and a High German word (alto - all too close), by the fact that the village was all too close to the Nogai, who were still feared at that time. The village was the last one on the southwestern side of the whole district.

The first families from the Marienburg district of West Prussia, who came to the Chortitza villages in 1803 with the party of the later District Mayor Klaas Wiens, were afraid to move to the Molotschna,

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<sup>1)</sup> About the depth of the wells in this area, see Koeppen: Uber einige Landesverhältnisse, supplement (p. 62).

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. Haxthausen loc. cit. Vol. 2, p. 190: "Since 1838, the already existing three-field rotation is regularly ordered and established. Of those 65 Dess. [i.e., those granted by the crown], 25 Dess. of each landowner are drawn to the arable field, of which three parts are used annually for grain cultivation, one part lies fallow, and only about ¼ is planted with potatoes."

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because the scouts sent out had returned with unfavorable reports <sup>1</sup>). The undeterred Wiens, however, set out in the spring of 1804 with his family to move to the place of settlement on the Molotschna ordered by the Crown. His example was followed by the first 13 families, of which this village originally consisted <sup>2</sup>). In the place of the present Altona village there used to be the tent dwellings of the Nogai, the traces of which can still be seen today in some raised earth and dung walls.

The poorer settlers of Altona received from the Crown an advance of 1,151 R. 28 K. Banko. Only three families needed this advance, while the other 22 families who gradually settled here brought 20,000 R. Banko in cash from their former homeland.

If one compares the former condition of this village with its present prosperity, to which it has risen in spite of many failures, plagues and difficulties, as they have already been described in the case of the other villages, then every unbiased person must admit that only a higher spiritual force could have been the driving force for this.

There are moments in human life that are too great for the heart and overwhelm us; delicious, great, blissful moments when the mouth falls silent before deep inner movement, when the hands fold of their own accord, the eyes seek heaven and prayer is the outlet for the overflowing heart. Such a great, blessed moment was in 1818, when the noble Emperor Alexander I, on his journey from the Crimea to St. Petersburg, honored our village with his high visit, and he honored us German settlers of the Altona village with the love of staying for a moment with the then venerable Aeltester Jakob Warkentin [#46779].

But in 1825 it was not a moment, but hours, which put the inhabitants of this village in great joy. For His Majesty, on a journey from St. Petersburg to the Crimea, again honored our village with a visit and rested in our village of Altona in the midst of its German settlers, in the dwelling of the then venerable Aeltester Jacob Warkentin <sup>3</sup>).

In deep reverence and pious emotion, we thank God for these delicious, unforgettable hours. There is nothing more beautiful and uplifting on earth than the joyful sight of such people to whom God has entrusted power and dominion, indeed the welfare of millions, and whom His gracious hand has adorned and crowned with the light of wisdom, the warmth of unadorned piety and the grace of gentle human love. Such an uplifting sight granted us those

<sup>1)</sup> As the available reports show, the Russian government in the Black Sea region insisted that the lands to be assigned were first inspected by deputies.

<sup>2) 1855: 22</sup> farmsteads, 58 resident families (total 203 men, 184 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). 1857: 22 households (148 men) on 1430 Dess. and 20 landless families (57 men), cf. Klaus a. a. O. Supplement 2, p. 36.

<sup>3)</sup> See also Fadeev, op. cit. p. 406.

hours and therefore, united with millions, we pray for the happiness and lasting welfare of the whole Imperial House <sup>1</sup>).

Mayor Johann Wiens [#47044]. Assistant Mayors Jakob Esan <sup>2</sup>), Jakob Klaassen. School Teacher Johann Wiebe.

### 14. Münsterberg<sup>3</sup>)

Reprinted from: Odessaer Zeitung, 42. Jg, 1904, No. 185.

The village was founded in 1804. It is located on the left bank of the Molotschna River, 28 versts from Melitopol. The somewhat salty soil of the lowland is not particularly conducive to trees and grass: the sandy arable land, on the other hand, produces good grain if the farmer is unceasingly diligent in tilling and fertilizing.

The name Münsterberg was given to the village by District Mayor Klaas Wiens because some villages in Prussia have the same name.

Of the 21 families originally settled here <sup>4</sup>) 5 are from Marienburg, 9 from Elbing and 7 from Tiegenhof district in West Prussia. Some of them immigrated with the group with Klaas Wiens who lived in Altona, others with that of Gerhard Wiens and still others with that of Hermann Neufeld. The bare steppe inhabited by Nogai herdsmen was assigned to them by Councilor Tscholkow <sup>5</sup>).

Already on the journey in the city of Grodno the immigrants received the first aid money from the crown, and for their settlement food and advance money, as well as food and timber in the total value of about 12,387 Rub. 5 Kop. Banko as an advance. Most of them had no means of their own except the necessary carts.

Cattle epidemics in 1805, 1829, 1833, 1844 and 1845, crop failures in 1833 and 1834, locusts especially in 1821 and 1823, as well as other adverse events

- 2) Must read "Esau".
- 3) Originally called "No. 8", cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 36.
- 4) 1865: 22 farmsteads, 46 resident families (total 159 men, 156 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). 1855: 22 farmsteads (138 men) on 1430 Dess. and 10 landless families (23 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 36.
  - 5) or Tscholkow, Cf. p. 101; the name could not be determined.

<sup>1)</sup> The legal status of the German colonists in Russia during the first half of the 19th century urgently needs clarification from the legal side. Here we can only point out that the comparison of colonists and Russian crown peasants is only conditionally valid, because the German colonists were to a certain extent Russian subjects on demand. II PSZ Vol. 12 No. 9861 (January 11, 1837) is particularly striking: "If a colonist is excluded from the community by municipal decree and this decree is confirmed by the competent authority, the person concerned is ordered to leave Russia forever." However, a Russian subject could not be deported abroad. The subject index to the Second Series of the Russian Collection of Laws (II PSZ) also distinguishes between "settlers who are Russian subjects" and "foreign settlers," which includes German colonists.

have at times greatly hindered the advancement of the village <sup>1</sup>); through the efforts of the superiors and the regional authorities, namely the Real State Councilor Kontenius, the Chief Curator of Insow and Prince Vorontsov, the founder of the trading city of Berdyansk, which is so highly significant for the Mennonite colonies, the prosperity has been significantly promoted through cultural advancements in all areas of agriculture.

Mayor Johann Dück <sup>2</sup>)
Assistant Mayors Kornelius Töws, Joh. Braun.
School Teacher Peter Isaak.

#### 15. Lichtfelde

Reprinted from: Odessaer Zeitung, 42. Jg, 1904, No. 186.

In 1818, on their own initiative, a significant number of Mennonite families again decided to emigrate to their co-religionists in southern Russia, because they no longer had any prospect of obtaining land for their descendants in Prussia.

The original settlers of this village are the following 20 landowners 3):

- 1) From Marienburg: Bernhard Friesen, Jakob Klaassen, David Görtzen, Kornelius Wall.
- 2) From the Elbing: Franz Wiens, Dietrich Dick, Isaak Klaassen, Peter Rempel, Johann Hildebrand, Heinrich Steingard, Heinrich Martens, Hermann Klaassen.
  - 3) From Tiegenhof: Kornelius Janzen, Hermann Fast.
  - 4) From Stuhm: Abraham Görtzen, Abraham Riediger.
  - 5) From Mürr: Franz Janzen.
  - 6) From the older Molotschna colonies: Peter Görtzen, Jakob Wiebe and Heinrich Dick.

Having arrived safely at the Molotschna and having been received in a friendly manner by their relatives and acquaintances in their homes, the foreign immigrants now turned to the High Crown <sup>4</sup>) with the request for land and for money advances for settlement. The land was granted, but the advances were not. Since they were poor and only the wealthy had about 100 to 200 Rbl. of silver in money and belongings, they appealed to the High Crown for intercession to the Real State Councilor Kontenius, who was in charge of the colonists, and through whom they received 2829 R. 14 K. of silver in advance without interest, which

<sup>1)</sup> An in several respects important material offers the "Exact calculation from the Wirtschaftsbuche of the landowner in the Molotschna village Münsterberg, Mennoniken Jakob Neumann about fine sowings and harvests of all grain work from one and the same field from 1806 to 1846" in the "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 1, 1846, p. 57f.

<sup>2)</sup> The family also calls itself Dick.

<sup>3) 1855: 20</sup> farmsteads, 38 resident families (total 165 men, 156 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). 1857: 20 households (135 men) on 1300 Dess. and 14 landless families (52 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Beilage 2, p. 37.

<sup>4)</sup> presumably by Count Langeron, who as war governor of Kherson until May 1818 also was responsible to promote the affairs of the colonists, cf. Skal'kovskij loc. cit. Vol. 2, p. 276.

money was to be paid back after 10 free years. Of this advance, the wealthiest received 98 Rbl. 28 Kop. and the least wealthy 188 R. 75 K. The three new settlers from Molotschna received no advance, because they did not have families, but were unmarried.

The settlement began in the spring of 1819. Since the settlers had formed 2 colonies, they divided themselves into two parts, each of which, according to the preserved regulations, elected a mayor. The above mentioned settlers elected Abraham Riediger.

After the chief magistrate from the Ekaterinoslav office for foreign settlers Fadeev <sup>1</sup>) arrived here for the purpose of allocating the land, the crown steppe to be settled was immediately inspected in the company of the then District Mayor Peter Töws [#46691] from Ladekopp and 2 parcels of land separated from each other by 10 versts were chosen for settlement. Nine versts from the estate of Johann Kornies at the Juschanlee upwards lay one plot and 25 versts from Ohrloff upwards, on the left side of the Kuruschan river, the other. The settlers of both parts were left to decide among themselves where each part should settle. The lottery decided that the above-mentioned settlers would get the first piece of land. It is 90 versts from Berdyansk and 65 versts from Orekhov. In 1845 <sup>2</sup>) Berdyansk became the district town in the place of Orekhov.

The land of this village, was 1,300 Dess. in size, 65 Dess. for each landowner, forms almost a square, and has south the Jushanlee river as a border, where opposite on the other side of the river still to be settled crown steppe is; the other three sides border on land settled by Mennonites.

The settlers derived the name Lichtfelde from a village of the same name in their old homeland.

The foundation of the village was started by 18 families in March 1819; the two remaining families joined them the next spring.

On the site chosen for the village, 34 Dess. for each owner were measured out for farms and garden plots, the residential plots were marked out by plow furrows and distributed to the settlers by lot. For the next months, each of them built a dwelling from timbers covered with boards.

The steppe had been leased by Johann Kornies from Ohrloff and given to Tatars and other people for monthly payment for cattle grazing.

Since the Tartars <sup>3</sup>) lived in so-called Koschen, the settlers did not find any dwellings.

At least some of the settlers were able to plow the rooted soil of the steppe on their own. This required 6 horses, which is why 2 or 3 neighbors often had to work together.

After the cultivation of the small sowing 2 settlers built themselves each a dwelling house and a stable, the others only each a dwelling house, some also only each a stable. Only in the following year the missing buildings were added.

<sup>1)</sup> Fadeev, op. cit., p. 392 reports that in 1819 he traveled a lot in the colonies in order to inspect settlement sites for colonists, who, however, did not come in larger numbers.

<sup>2)</sup> Rather 1842, cf. Semenov op. cit. Vol. 1, p. 236 and Vol. 3, p. 710.

<sup>3)</sup> Must read "Nogai".

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It was not until 1824 that the community built a schoolhouse; until then the school was hosted by landowners in available rooms. The storehouse was built in 1829.

The arable land, consisting in 438 Dessiantine, is very productive. In the beginning, the soil seemed to yield only a small amount, but since the good prices for wheat have made it possible to work the land properly, the situation has changed. The arable land is divided into 4 parts <sup>1</sup>), one part of which is brought black and in fertile years yields 15-fold fruit. Eastern storms often occurred, to which the land is particularly exposed by its location. In 1835 and 1838, for example, some grain was completely blown out and much was very badly damaged.

The hayfield is made up of 94 Dessiantine on the banks of the Juschanlee River with a three-foot deep layer of black top soil. Dams built by the river cause flooding, which has significantly increased the yield of the meadows. In years of moderate fertility, an owner can count on 600 pud of hay  $^2$ ).

The 755 Dess. pasture steppe produces only extensive grass growth, on which 270 head of cattle are poorly fed. For the sheep, grazing land is leased.

There are no quarries or forests. However, in 1834 a 12 Dess. forest was begun and completed in 1847.

Misswachs, locusts, cattle plagues, gale-force winds and driving snow have been the main obstacles to the rise of the village. The description of these land plagues, as well as of all those circumstances which have promoted and established the prosperity of the village, does not differ from that of the other colonies.

Lichtfelde, April 28, 1848.

Mayor David Görzen. Assistant Mayors Johann Wall. Heinrich Dick. School Teacher Aron Penner.

#### 16. Neukirch

Reprinted from: Odessaer Zeitung, 42. jg, 1904, No. 188.

In 1818, according to the circular regulation of the local District Office, 20 families registered for land acceptance <sup>3</sup>), of which some had immigrated from Prussia 3 years ago, others 2 years ago, some in the same year, but two already in 1804.

In 1820, the settlement plot for these families was measured and the building sites were plowed and raffled off by order of the District Mayor Peter Töws,

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 114 note 2.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. about the grass growth of the Taurian steppes the reports of Teetzmann in Koeppen: über einige Landesverhältnisse, p. 11 sf.

<sup>3) 1853: 20</sup> farmsteads, 59 resident families (total 201 men, 204 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent).

<sup>1857: 20</sup> farmsteads (124 men) on 1,300 Dess. and 4 landless families (20 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 37.

where the settlers settled in the same spring, partly in wooden huts, partly in earth huts, and after the end of the sowing season they began to build their homes. By the fall of 1821, 22 dwellings for 20 landowners and 2 families of craftsmen were completed. At present there are 48 houses built according to the plan in the village, 4 of which are made of burnt bricks. In addition, there is a spacious schoolhouse, a dyeing factory that provides excellent employment and a brickyard which was built in 1848.

The village is located on the right bank of the Juschanlee River <sup>1</sup>) at the first major lowland of the same, between the colonies of Lichtfelde and Prangenau. It has 540 Dess. arable land, 60 Dess. hayfield and 700 Dess. pasture land which is not sufficient to feed 500 head of cattle, which is why Crown pasture land must be leased every year. The soil is hard, has little black earth and rests on a subsoil of yellow clay. The meadows yield hay only when the weather is particularly favorable. An exception is the lowland, which is irrigated by means of a dam every spring and gives an abundant hay yield. The farmland is mostly flat, only a steppe river cuts through a quarter of it in a sloping direction, but it is usually dry and only fills with snow and rainwater. Satisfactory grain harvests are obtained by efficient preparation with reasonably favorable weather. However, it often happens, as it did this year, that soon after the sowing season a strong easterly wind rises, which then drives away the topsoil loosened by black fallow together with the seed. In winter this wind becomes dangerous for the buildings by piling up the snow and damages the trees.

Originally, the settlers wanted to give this village the name of the village Schoenenberg, which is found in their homeland, but the District Mayor Töws did not agree, because this name occurs in the Chortitza district. Johann Enns suggested the name Neukirch, known from Prussia, which was unanimously accepted.

The 22 <sup>2</sup>) families of this village came from the areas of Elbing (6 families), Marienburg, Marienwerder and Danzig. They had immigrated in small lots of 3 and 4 families.

The steppe assigned to them was leased by Johann Kornies from Ohrloff and the brothers Johann and Jakob Klaassen from Tiegerweide grazed their cattle on it.

The impoverished immigrants received a crown advance of 7,543 R. Banko; their own property amounted to about 4,000 R. Banko.

In the beginning, the draught horses were often stolen from the settlers, so that in the first five years 18 landowners lost mostly all, sometimes 2 to 3 of the best horses. Neukirch was not spared from other plagues and misfortunes that came upon the Molotschna Mennonite Colony.

The first circumstance promoting prosperity is the refined breeding of Spanish sheep introduced by the Real State Councilor [Samuel] Kontenius [also spelled Contenius, 1749-1830].

<sup>1)</sup> Juschanly.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 119 note 3.

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Another factor promoting the improvement of the village was the frequent transfer of the farms. Many poor, weak, sometimes not very thrifty and prudent family fathers handed over their share of the farm land to wealthy, capable farmers who already knew the land and had grown up mostly in Russia. Those who left the farms found a place next to the village, where they built a house and provided for themselves and their families with less effort.

Since 1830, wheat prices have risen from 4 or 5 to 14 to 18 R. Banko per Tschetwert, and a little later the trading town of Berdyansk flourished, which is 40 versts closer than the previous market town of Mariupol, where the authorities soon put a stop to the cheating of foreign buyers <sup>1</sup>). As a result, agriculture flourished.

The planting of gardens had been considered useless in the past and it had been claimed that the trees did not grow. However, the activities of the Ohrloff Agricultural Association and its unforgettable chairman Johann Kornies, who died on March 13, 1848, led to the planting of fruit, mulberries and forest trees, and to the promotion of silk production, flax production, handicrafts and trade, to which the industrial exhibition held on August 21, 1845, on the Juschanlee estate <sup>2</sup>) bore witness.

In 1845, the school system was improved; since then, education has been far more purposeful and uniform than in the past <sup>3</sup>).

Mayor Heinrich Siemens. Assistant Mayors Aron Warkentin, Kornelius Jantzen. Author Jakob Heidebrecht, School Teacher.

Neukirch, April 16, 1848.

1) No further details could be ascertained.

3) Cf. "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. I, 1846, p. 10: "In order to improve the village schools in their main components and to introduce school instruction everywhere in an equally useful manner, the Association has divided the 44 village school teachers into 6 districts and has had two of the most capable schoolmen selected from each of them, with whom the association is working to establish an appropriate school method for the rural school, calculated mainly for small children. Under the direction of the Association, schooling in the local colonies has been crowned with the best success for a few years. The school has been attended by 2,304 children". In addition, in 1845 there was a lending library in the Molotschna Mennonite district with 223 works in 355 volumes, cf. ibid. p. 10.

<sup>2)</sup> Juschanlee (Juschanly), founded in 1811 by Joh. Cornies (Cf. p. 96 note 1) on leased land, experienced a strong territorial expansion in 1812, when Cornies succeeded in leasing the free Crown lands intended for the establishment of Mennonite colonies. At first Cornies took special care of his sheep breeding, for which he bought breeding rams near Petersburg in 1826 and at Sachsen in 1827. In the 1830s, by purchasing good breeding bulls and dairy cows, he also contributed significantly to the development of a refined cattle breed among the Mennonites, the so-called "Red Cow", by crossing foreign and Russian horned cattle. Since 1830 Cornies had been trying to develop Juschanlee into a model farm for the entire region, and in recognition of his efforts he received 600 Dess. land from the Tsar. After Cornie's death, Juschanlee became the property of his son-in-law Philipp Wiebe, see D. Cornies and Johann Töws: Beschreibung des Vorwerks Juschanlee (with a plan). In: "Unterhaltungsblatt" Jg. 7, 1852, p. 33-36, further ibid. p. 60f.

# 17 Margenau <sup>1</sup>)

The village was founded in 1819 under the supervision of the District Mayor Peter Töws with the personal presence of the chief magistrate Fadeev on the small river Kuruschan <sup>2</sup>), about 50 yards from Orekhov and 90 yards from Berdyansk. The name Margenau is derived from a village of the same name in Prussia, which is also located, like the local Margenau, not far from Rückenau. The settlers had come from the Elbinger lowlands and the area of the Marienburg and Tiegenhof regions situated between the Vistula and Nogat rivers. They were welcomed in friendship by their brothers who had settled in Lichtfelde in the older Molotschna Mennonite villages and were kept in quarters over the winter of 1818 and 1819.

The steppe, consisting of many hills and lowlands, had been leased before their arrival and was used by Nogai for cattle grazing. It is only moderately suitable for grass growth, but quite good for grain growing. The surface is a soil mixed with yellow clay, in places pure clay and in the lowlands more or less black earth.

The village was founded by 24 families <sup>3</sup>) of which 16 families had come from Prussia so poor that they had nothing except a cart and some household utensils. They received a crown advance of 180 R. 40 K. Silver <sup>4</sup>) for each family. The other 8 families had immigrated at different times since 1803 and some of them had already owned farms in other colonies. They had an average of 120 R. cash money, 3 horses, a wagon, as well as house and farming equipment and did not receive any advance.

The village Margenau has been exposed to the same promoting and hindering influences as the other colonies of the district and has reached good prosperity through agriculture, sheep breeding, forest and gardening, as well as silk cultivation.

Mayor Johann Harms. Assistant Mayors Klaas Penner, Heinrich Dirksen. School Teacher Kornelius Isaak.

## 18. Rückenau <sup>5</sup>)

This village was founded in 1811 by the order of the then existing Ekaterinoslav office under the direction of the local district office. It is located in the middle of the whole Mennonite district and is intersected in the direction from east to west more on the northern side by the steppe river Kuruguschan <sup>6</sup>), in which at the place where the village is founded and the

I) Russian name: Marnawka.

<sup>2)</sup> Aurundzu-Jushanly, Cf. p. 122 note 6.

<sup>3) 1855: 24</sup> farmsteads, 68 resident families (total 272 men, 262 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). 1857: 24 households (168 men) on 1560 Dess. and 24 landless families (96 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 37.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. p. 106 note 1.

<sup>5)</sup> Originally also called Drannyi Numer.

<sup>6)</sup> At the beginning of the 19th century called Kurundzu-Yusanly, later Kurundu-Yuschanly, Kurujuschanly or Kuruschan, cf. Spisok naselennych mest Vol. 41, p. 33, Semenov loc. cit. Vol. 3, p. 301, Slal'kovskij op. cit.

steppe river Bömschekrak <sup>1</sup>), which comes from the northeast. The distance from the northern town of Orekhov is 54 and from the southeastern Berdyansk 90 versts.

Since the farms are built on a flat elevation, all 20 of them side by side along the Kurugushan, the gardens have been suitably laid out in the upper lowlands of this river, which cuts through all but two of them at unequal distances from the farms and irrigates them in the spring. The black top soil is perfectly suitable for the cultivation of all kinds of vegetables and fruit trees, which is fully confirmed by the gardens that are in the most luxuriant growth. Above the village, where the ground elevation remains equally uniform, is the forest plantation, 10 Dess. in size, laid out in the same length as the village, which has grown splendidly in the few years of its existence and protects the village from the southeast winds and snow storms. The village with its impressive facilities offers a beautiful and uplifting sight, especially from the southern and northern hill with the new schoolhouse built in 1844. Where 37 years ago there were only a few chutor huts 2) and where a few poor families, thanks to the gracious support of the immortalized Emperor Alexander I, had grown meagerly in a meager time, there now stands, in spite of some events that hindered its advancement, a proud settlement that testifies to the diligence and prosperity of its inhabitants. The black soil is excellently suited for agriculture, and only the steppe below the Bömschekrak, located on the northern side of the Kurugushan, has a predominantly red, loamy, light soil mixed with shells, from which, under the most favorable circumstances, at most a medium harvest can be obtained. In the lowlands of the two rivers grows abundant good hay. About half a verst downstream from the village the water of the Kurugushan is held back to such an extent that it can be used for watering the sufficient for watering the cattle. In this water there are leeches.

The village was named after the village Rückenau in Prussia.

The first settlement consisted of 11 families, 8 of which immigrated from the Elbing district in 1810 without a leader. One family, Daniel Schmidt [#46538], left the then French region of Zweibrücken in 1809 to avoid military duty ³), wintered on this side of the Rhine and in 1810 received permission to travel to Molotschna from the then Russian consul at Frankfurt am Main, Herrr Betmann ⁴). A widow with two adult sons also lived in the area near the town of Pirmasens; of the sons, one married there and the other here immediately after arrival. married. Their family name is Tracksel. Finally, 9 from Prussia

<sup>1)</sup> Begim-Tschokrak, see Semonov op. cit. Vol. 3, p. 301.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 124, note 2.

<sup>3)</sup> It often happened that Germans fled to Russia before the French recruitment, cf. e.g. E. 1 note 2.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. also I PSZ Vol. 31, No. 24131, February 25, 1810: it is decided to inform the missions and consulates abroad that the Russian government will not grant loans to settlers in the future. Those who wanted to settle at their own expense would find the protection of the government.

immigrant families settled here at different times, so that in 1819 the village consisted of 20 owners at present <sup>1</sup>).

The first settlers were guartered in the older Mennonite colonies on the Molotschna in the first winter. Since there was no shelter available at the settlement site to accommodate the settlers, they built themselves earthen huts. On the northern side of the Kurugushan, Great Tokmak crown farmers had a chutor <sup>2</sup>) with numerous residents and significant cattle herds, which was to become disastrous for the young German settlement. In the first year, little plowing was done and only the hay needed for the few cattle was harvested, and everything went smoothly. In the spring of 1812, however, the residents who had moved here from Tokmak prevented plowing by taking away the plows from the settlers and giving them back only in the fall <sup>3</sup>). The grass cutting was no better. Putting the rafters on the houses built in the following years was also forcibly prevented. This sad relationship lasted for 4 years, during which time the Russians plowed up and used all the lands up to close to the German houses. The reason for the late termination of this unfortunate situation on the part of the higher authorities was the war with the French that broke out in 1812. It was a sad time. The bread grain was given to the victims from the magazines of the Molotschna villages. Depressed by this circumstance, they asked for release from the place of settlement with the promise not to make any further claims to land. However, the State Councilor Kontenius wisely refused to do so and ordered the District Office to provide the unfortunates with everything they needed, but not to allow them to leave. They remained pretty much unchallenged in other respects, if only they did not try to be agriculturally active 4).

Finally, in the summer of 1814, Count Dimmensohn <sup>5</sup>) was authorized by the Duke of Richelieu <sup>6</sup>) in this matter. He caused that the Chutor inhabitants to gradually vacate the place and those who stayed behind curtailed their public hostilities. A preliminary plan was drawn up and in the spring of 1815, it was measured and marked by furrows by the surveyor Kasanov in the presence of Count Dimmensohn and the district judge from the lower district court <sup>7</sup>).

The first eight families were so poor that they did not have the necessary travel money to Russia, and from the border received food money from the crown; likewise, the two families Schmidt <sup>8</sup>) and Tracksei <sup>9</sup>). For equal distribution they received

<sup>1) 1855: 20</sup> farms, 40 resident families (total 160 men, 155 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). 1857: 20 households (127 men) on 1300 Dess. and 13 landless families (51 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supp. 2, p. 36.

<sup>2) &</sup>quot;Chutor, i.e. Vorwerke or Meierhöfe, as the Germans call them". Cf. p. Koeppen: Über einige Landesverhältnisse, p. 38.

<sup>3)</sup> The blame for these disputes between Germans and Russians was probably the insufficient and misunderstood demarcation of the land granted to the Germans.

<sup>4)</sup> Further details about this dispute could not be determined.

<sup>5)</sup> Probably as inspector of this area.

<sup>6)</sup> Cf. p. 35 Note 1.

<sup>7)</sup> A new survey of the land was made in 1818, cf. I PSZ Vol. 35, No. 27401.

<sup>8)</sup> Cf. p. 123.

<sup>9)</sup> Cf. p. 123.

4,589 R. 96 K. advance money. The 9 families who settled later had their own property, but also only for extreme necessity; they received no food money and no advance <sup>1</sup>). Due to the oppressions of the first years, the settlers were so economically backward that they recovered only slowly and had to enjoy only a very small share of the income from the later flourishing sheep breeding. Only with the upswing of agriculture did this village also reach its present prosperity.

Mayor Jakob Harder. Assistant Mayors Johann Löwen, Jakob Driedger. Jakob Unger, School Teacher.

### 19 Rosenort

The village was founded in 1805 at Kurudujuschanlee <sup>2</sup>). It is situated in the flood plain on a flat area. The village street runs parallel to the river, which flows into the Molotschna 11 versts to the west. A steppe river joins the Kurudujuschanlee to the north of the village and widens the lowland, which is flooded in winter during thaws or in summer during heavy downpours, as well as the main river pours over the adjacent land of the communal sheep farm. Four dams hold the water up to a depth of 6 arschin, and when it fills, the hayfields in the lowlands are transformed into a lake for a short time. On the right bank of the river, northwest of the village, there is a sand and gravel pit, which serves the inhabitants of this and all neighboring colonies well, especially for building houses. It is 40 versts away from the present district town of Neualexandrovka <sup>3</sup>), 100 versts away from Berdyansk, and 52 versts away from Orekhov.

In the first years of the fourth decade the grove plantation was established on each side of the village to half a Dessiantine for each owner. At present the trees are of the following size: poplars up to 27 arschin high and with 26 vershok circumference, ash trees with a height of 16 arschin and a circumference of 12 vershok.

The soil in the lowlands is moderately suitable for grass growth, the fields consist of loamy black earth on the small ridges; few places are unusable clay soil.

The founder of this settlement, the local Mennonite Johann Warkentin [#2640] from Blumenort in Elbinger Werder, where there is also a Rosenort, named this village Rosenort in memory of the former place of residence.

The 20 families <sup>4</sup>) settled here came from several places in the Werder, an island between the Vistula and Nogat rivers. The following list gives information about the origin and wealth of the settlers.

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 123, note 4.

<sup>2)</sup> About the names of this river, Cf. p. 122, note 6.

<sup>3)</sup> Novo-Aleksandrovka, Cf. p. 56, note 3.

<sup>4) 855. 20</sup> farmsteads, 40 families of residents (total 137 men, 142 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (the permanently absent are included).

<sup>1857: 20</sup> farmsteads (121 men) on 1,300 Dess. and 8 landless families (48 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 36.

a.) Note on Johann Warkentin and Peter Friesen related to this and the next few pages. They are listed as "landowners" who had a brickyard in Rosenort. This does not mean that they lived in Rosenort. The evidence points to Warkentin living and owning property in Blumenort and Friesen in Lindenau.

No.	Name of Settler	From which	Own As	vn Assets		nce	Year of
		Area	Rbl.	K.	Rbl.	K.	Settlement
1.	Peter Born	Danzig	-	-	521	8	1805 43943
2.	Klaas Dick	Marienburg	250	-	-	-	1805 333186
3.	Heinrich Wiebe	"	1500	-	-	-	1805 46866
4.	Franz Thiessen	"	-	-	677	86	1805 46619
5.	Gerhard Fast	Neuteich	700	-	-	-	1807 11068?
6.	Johann Neufeld	Marienburg	500	-	-	-	<b>1805</b> 46175
7.	Gerhard Rempel	Elbing	-	-	555	61	1805 46427
8.	Philipp Warkentin	"	-	-	424	99	1805 46801
9.	Jakob Janzen	"	-	-	538	19	1805 45829
10.	David Boschmann	Tiegenhof	-	-	513	4	1810 43964
11.	Heinrich Hamm	Elbing	-	-	591	47	1805 236754?
12.	Peter Thiessen	Tiegenhof	700	-	-	-	1805 18790
13.	Gerhard Zacharias	Elbing	-	-	497	2	<b>1807</b> 47115
14.	Isaak Enns	Marienburg	1500	-	-	-	1805 7681
15.	Klaas Siemens	Tiegenhof	1500	-	-	-	1805 46557
16.	Peter Born	Marienburg	-	-	538	83	1813 16451
17.	Jakob Wiens	Schönsee	200	-	-	-	1805 47023
18.	Johann Klaassen	Marienburg	9000	-	-	-	1805 44101
19.	Jakob Berg	"	2000	-	-	-	1805 43856
20.	Dirk Wiebe	"	5000	-	-	-	1805 46837
		TOTAL	23150	-	4858	9	GM #'s

The immigration happened in several parts and without special leaders. The nomadic Tatars, who used this steppe, had to leave the area by order of the authorities when the Germans arrived, but they remained dangerous neighbors <sup>1</sup>).

A particularly tragic event hit this village in 1811 in the night from April 19 to 20. The settler Jakob Berg [#43856], who was a Deputy District Mayor, drove with the son of Klaas Wiens Jakob and a friend, named Dirk Reimer [#?] on colonial affairs, to further the land survey, in the evening over the steppe. They were attacked and murdered by Tartars. The next day their bodies were found on the steppe of the Tiege village. The murderers were discovered by the stolen things.

In the village there is a brickyard, which belongs to the landowners Peter Friesen [#43930? Lindenau] and Johann Warkentin and promotes the building of houses.

In 1825, October 22, the village was honored by the visit of His Majesty Emperor Alexander I, and in 1825 <sup>2</sup>) by the visit of Grand Duke Constantine Nikolaevich. Because it requires a detour, the village has not been visited by other high persons.

The silk production has increased significantly in a few years and provides the active landowners with an income of 30 to 60 silver Rubles. Likewise, agriculture and horticulture are flourishing.

Mayor Wiens.
Assistant Mayors: Fast, Friesen.
School Teacher Bernhard Fast.

<sup>1)</sup> About the Nogai (not Tatars) see p. 89 note 4.

<sup>2)</sup> Or 1845? Cf. p. 93

# 20. Fürstenau 1)

Twelve families immigrated from Prussia in 1805, supported from Grodno with food money from the Crown and housed in the Chortitza district for the winter. A year later, under the guidance of the District Mayor Klaas Wiens, they founded this village on the left bank of the river Tokmak, 3 versts from the village Tokmak <sup>2</sup>), 35 versts from Orechow and 105 versts from Berdyansk, and gave it the name Fürstenau in memory of a village in Prussia. By 1810, 9 more families were added, so that the village became complete with 21 families <sup>3</sup>). Their own property may well have totaled no more than 2,000 Rubles; their crown advance was 10,234 R. 63 Kop. Banko. They came from the districts of Tiegenhof, Marienburg, Elbing and Danzig.

No special incidents are reported from the history of this village, which has kept pace with the other colonies in its development and has had to endure the same adversities of climate, etc.

With great emotion we remember the visit of His Majesty the Emperor Alexander I on May 21, 1818 <sup>4</sup>). He did not come to us with the sense of a ruler, but as a guest and kind father. He showed himself to be as kind and gracious as any father would be to his child. On the previously mentioned day he passed through our village in the afternoon with his entourage of several persons of high rank. In the middle of the village, he got out of his carriage and walked along half the village. He stopped at two farms, inspected the humble farmhouses, and asked the people about their well-being. Out of surprise, joy and useless fear, they almost did not answer him.

In the evening of August 19, 1845, His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Constantine Nikolaevich also passed through our village, which awakened much joy and courage in the loyal hearts of the settlers.

Mayor Hermann Neufeld. Assistant Mayors: Wilhelm Schröter, Aron Töws.

### 21. Blumenort

The village was founded in 1805 on the Kurudujuschan steppe river <sup>5</sup>), 53 versts from Orekhov and 100 versts from Berdyansk <sup>6</sup>). The arable land of this village is quite good, the pasture steppe is partly very mediocre due to heavy use.

The hayfields have been partially improved by building some dams in the Kurudujuschan and Jujchanlee in order to contain them. The local steppe soil is strongly mixed with clay; few places contain unmixed clay. Stones for the construction of houses are obtained at a distance of 23 versts from the river

<sup>1)</sup> Sometimes also called "Farschnaw" in Russian.

<sup>2)</sup> Gross-Tokmak Cf. p. 89, note 3.

<sup>3) 1855: 21</sup> farms, 30 resident families (total 147 men, 143 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). 1857: 21 households (125 men) on 1365 Dess. and 14 landless families (55 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 38.

<sup>4)</sup> This sentence has probably been changed by J. Stoch.

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. p. 122, note 6.

<sup>6)</sup> Cf. p. 91, note 2.

Juschanlee. Its name was given to the village by the settler Johann Warkentin [#2640] after the place name of his birth in the Prussian Elbing Werder.

The original settlement of the village Blumenort consisted of 20 families <sup>1</sup>) with 42 male and 53 female souls, who had come to the country in small groups without leaders. Klaas Wiens from Altona was their leader during the settlement and as a District Mayor he was under the supervision of the Guardianship office in Ekaterinoslav.

The land was occupied by Nogai cattle owners, who cleared the settlement site, but remained neighbors and as such had to deal mostly with their horses, buying the old useless ones for slaughter and stealing the best ones.

When the settlers arrived at the border of Russia in Grodno, they received from the crown on the soul 10 Rbl. Travel allowance and 50 Rbl. for each family on horseback and wagon, after the journey was completed 8 Kop. daily food allowance on the soul, 25 Rbl. for farming implements, 100 Rbl. for livestock and domestic furnishings, 15 Rbl. for spring sowing, 5 Rbl. for autumn sowing and a quantity of timber worth about 159 Rbl. 34 K. <sup>2</sup>). The assets they brought with them did not exceed 1,000 Thaler Prussian, but most of them had no share in it, so that they owe their present prosperity to the high crown alone. The following list gives information about the origin and the property of the immigrants:

No.	Name of Settler	From which District	Amount of Advance	
			Rbl.	K.
1.	Hein. Wiebe	Elbing	572	67
2.	Jul. Ens	ű	598	90
3.	Joh. Warkentin	íí	939	59
4.	Kor. Wölfe	Marienburg	572	67
5.	Jak. Rogalski	Elbing	298	-
6.	Jak. Driedger	"	598	-
7.	Joh. Driedger	ű	523	65
8.	Ger. Wiens	Marienwerder	398	44
9.	P. Wahl	Elbing	572	67
10.	Hein. Wiens	íí	523	69
11.	P. Brant	ű	399	36
12.	Jak. Bärg	"	399	36
13.	Hein. Penner	Marienwerder	556	87
14.	ls. Töws	Elbing	572	67
15.	Ger. Grossen	Marienburg	572	67
16.	P. Zacharias	Elbing	602	-
17.	Ab. Kornelsen	"	502	37½
18.	Joh. Warkentin	ű	250	-
19.	Bern. Friesen	Tiegenhof	781	-
20.	Hein. Rogalski	Elbing	639	5
		TOTAL	11,173	59

<sup>1) 1855: 20</sup> farmsteads, 48 resident families (total 135 men, 145 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent).

<sup>1857: 20</sup> farmsteads (124 men) on 1300 Dess. and 16 landless families (48 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 36.

<sup>2)</sup> i.e. probably Rbl. Banko, Cf. p. 106 note 1.

The favorable and unfavorable conditions of this village have been the same in the course of its history until 1848, as in the other colonies, as well as the high and highest visits.

On November 11, 1808, the home of Gerhard Grossen, who is still alive, was burned down, and at the end of February 1821, the schoolhouse fell victim to the flames.

We are especially grateful for the memory of the blessed Kontenius, who died in Ekaterinoslav on May 30, 1830, in the 81st year of his life, and was buried in the graveyard of the German village Josefstal <sup>1</sup>). There is also a monument to him.

Thanks to him and may his ashes rest in peace.

Blumenort, May 1, 1828 <sup>2</sup>).

Mayor, Reimer Assistant Mayors Dilleskij, Töws. Author, School, Teacher Heinrich Warkentin <sup>3</sup>).

#### 22. Fürstenwerder

When one has traveled 35 versts on the postal route from Orechow, one comes to a Russian market town called Tokmak 4) and southeast of the postal road through a river of the same name. If you take the road from here to the Tartar town of Matoshna 5) and travel 12 versts on this road over hills and valleys through lush meadows and fields, you will come to an elevation that rises gently on the northwest side, drops steeply on the southeast side, and, as the edge of a deep valley, slopes downward in both directions. To the left of the closest village Fürstenwerder, which takes its name from the West Prussian village Fürstenwerder in the Marienburg district, one sees the villages of Alexanderwohl, Gnadenheim, Friedensdorf, Landskrone, the villages Hierschau and Waldheim, which were newly settled in 1848; again to the right one sees the colonies Rückenau, Tiegerweide, the two communal sheep farms <sup>6</sup>), then Rosenort, Blumenort, Tiege and Ohrloff; again to the southeast over a small rise the village Margenau, further to the east Gnadenfeld, Konteniusfeld and Sparrau. With the naked eye one can see the German Mennonite settlements with their gardens and fields 19 versts to the right and 22 versts to the left. Turning to the west, it is possible to see with unaided eyes the Mennonite artisan village of Neuhalbstadt and the church of Molotschna (Prischib) village situated on the high edge of the steppe.

Descending from the hill one reaches the valley, in which the steppe river Boheneschekrak, almost always empty of water, <sup>7</sup>)

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 9 note 2 and p. 27 note 7.

<sup>2)</sup> Must read "1848".

<sup>3)</sup> However, the original report seems to have been stylistically changed.

<sup>4)</sup> Gross-Tokmak, Cf. p. 89 note 3.

<sup>5)</sup> Obitokschnaja or Oenisowka, on the postal route from "Melitopol" to "Mariupol", founded in 1800 by Count Orlov-Denisov on lands granted to him by Paul I, cf. Semenov loc. cit. Vol. 3 p. 578.

<sup>6)</sup> Cf. p. 108.

<sup>7)</sup> Begim-Tschokrak.

meanders along the village of Fürstenwerder, whose outlet flows into the Kurudujuschan in the middle of the village of Rückenau.. Because of this lack of water, the inhabitants of Fürstenwerder were able to plant a beautiful willow plantation in the empty riverbed. If one continues through the river on 130 fathoms on this side, one finds oneself between the house gardens, which consist of various types of fruit trees and measure 120 fathoms in length and 45 fathoms in width from the village street, from which a space of 60 fathoms in length and 10 to 12 fathoms in width for residential and farm buildings and for stacking grain and hay remains. Continuing forward, one passes the village school and comes to the straight village street, 20 fathoms wide, bordered by colored wooden fences, on both sides of which the houses are built 10 fathoms from the alley in a straight line. The boundaries between the neighbors are formed by mulberry hedges, and one fathom beyond the alley fence stretches a row of wild pear trees and poplars. If one goes across the street, one passes through the wooded area laid out in 1837, in which each landowner has his quarter 100 fathoms long and 23½ fathoms wide, one-third of which is planted with mulberry trees and two-thirds with various forest trees.

From here one has a 3 verst long path leading to the church village Margenau between beautiful arable fields. However, if one drives from Fürstenwerder to the right to the end, one has to make a 3 verst long path between arable fields, from both sides of which lovely trees from red-colored wooden fences smile at him; if one drives to the left out of the village, one has to the left a fertile meadow plain interrupted by little arable land, and to the right somewhat higher situated arable land. From this village to over the border to Alexanderwohl, open seedling beds promise that one day in the future one will be able to walk here under shady trees.

The Fürstenwerder village was settled in 1821 by immigrants from the Prussian districts of Danzig, Marienburg, Stuhm and Marienwerder. The people were poor and had made the long journey of 200 German miles miserably enough trusting in the mercy of the Emperor Alexander.

The village consisted of 26 families immigrated in the years 1816 to 1819 and 4 already grown up here <sup>1</sup>) with 175 male and 176 female souls.

Fürstenwerder received 19,919 R. Banko crown advance, of which 8,221 R. Banko are still to be paid. Of this advance, very poor families received 859 R., the somewhat more well-off 280 R. Banko, while those who had grown up here were settled using their own resources. Although they settled here recently, one would hardly recognize now by their farms the poverty that prevailed then, despite the many years of Misswachs and land plagues that have greatly hindered progress.

Where 27 years ago were desolate empty steppes, there is now a village of 30 landowners, 8 dwellings of baked bricks, 22 of air bricks, on every

<sup>1) 1855: 30</sup> farmsteads, 49 resident families (total 208 men, 202 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter lg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including the permanently absent).

<sup>1857: 30</sup> farmsteads (215 men) on 1950 Dess. and 4 landless families (25 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Beilage 2, p. 37. Despite the provision of 1810, cf. PSZ Vol. 31, No. 24131, crown loans were also granted in the following period.

residential buildings, cattle shed with a threshing floor, 11 cross-sheds, 5 residential buildings, 1 village school, 1 storehouse with 169 Tschetwerk of winter cereals and 28 Tschetwerk of summer cereals, a plantation with 9,988 fruit trees of various types, 123 groves and 189 mulberry trees ¹). In the forest plantation there are 20,759 different forest trees and 11,409 mulberry trees, in the willow plantation there are 3,756 willows. The livestock consists of: 254 horses, 330 horned cattle and 1,825 sheep. Besides all agricultural facilities there is 1 threshing machine, 3 chopping machines and a windmill.

Mayor Johann Reimer. Assistant Mayor Johann Jakob Görzen. School Teacher Johann Siemens.

### 23 Alexanderwohl

This village was established in 1821 under the administration of the chief magistrate in the office for foreign settlers in Ekakerinoslaw, Herr Fadejew and the leadership of the District Mayor Gerhard Ens <sup>2</sup>) from Altona. It is located on the left bank of the Behemchekrak <sup>3</sup>) riverbed, 47 versts from Orekhov and 90 versts from Berdyansk. The uneven soil consists of black topsoil in the lowlands and black soil mixed with clay on the hills, is quite suitable for agriculture, cattle grazing and tree cultivation, but yields only a little hay.

When the local congregation, which had existed as a parish in Prussia for more than 200 years, entered Russia under the leadership of its church Aeltester Peter Wedel [#32275], and had taken up quarters on the south side of the city of Warsaw for a two-day rest, Emperor Alexander I, now at rest in God, drove out of the city to have a detachment of soldiers on maneuvers in the field. We, however, having been alerted by some passing generals, stood in eager expectation as the Emperor passed by us, had the carriage stopped, and waved his right hand at us. Then three of our church leaders ran up and were asked where we were coming from and where we were going. To the answer that we wanted to go to the Molotschna in southern Russia, the emperor said: "I wish you luck on your journey, greet your brothers; I have been there." This happened on September 14, 1820.

When we arrived at the Molotschna, our church Aeltester Peter Wedel gave these greetings in the houses of prayer in front of the assembled congregations in the most accurate manner. Since the office in Ekaterinoslav had to be informed about this memorable event, Chief Justice Fadeyev immortalized it by naming the village Alexanderwohl, saying: "The Emperor Alexander wished you well (wohl)".

In 1821 there were 22 families, in 1823, 7 families and in 1824 one more family from the District Schwetz in the Prussian administrative district of Marienwerder

<sup>1)</sup> For the tree population of the entire Molotschna Mennonite area, cf. Reiswitz and Wadzeck, op. cit. p. 382, Rempel, op. cit. p. 8f.: Haxthausen, op. cit. p. 193 s: "Unkerhaltungsblatt" Jg. 2, 1847, p. 2ff. and Jg. 3, 1848, March supplement.

<sup>2)</sup> Gerhard Ens [#60608], 1821-1824 District Mayor of the Molotschna Mennonite Colony, cf. Schroeder loc. cit. p. 19.

<sup>3)</sup> Begim-Tschokrak.

settled <sup>1</sup>). The unsettled steppe had been held in lease by Johann Kornies before the arrival of the Germans and used by Nogai for cattle grazing and by Russians partly for agriculture.

Of the immigrants, 20 families received a crown advance of 4,104 R. 28<sup>4</sup>/<sub>7</sub> K. Silver; their own funds brought with them amounted to about 8,570 R. Silver <sup>2</sup>).

The settlement year 1821 was barren and yielded only enough for sowing. 1822 was fertile, but locusts came and caused great damage for 7 years. 1823 and 1824 were also years of Misswachs. The persistent storm in the first months of 1825 also caused this community great loss of livestock, because there was no fodder for the same. At that time, the straw was also fed from the roofs here. In 1828 there was a devastating cattle plague. The most difficult year, however, was the famine year of 1833. The introduction of improved cattle and sheep breeding and the four-field economy in the operation of agriculture through the efforts of the Privy Councilor Kontenius and the agricultural association under the leadership of the unforgettable Johann Kornies and have brought the community to prosperity.

Mayor Heinrich Voth.
Assistant Mayors Heinrich Görz, Jakob Schmidt.
School Teacher Heinrich Buller.

#### 24. Franztal

In April 1820, 15 families from the district of Schwez near Kulm in West Prussia arrived here to establish this village among others. It was deemed expedient by the authorities and a commission elected for the settlement to establish each village for 20 fireplaces, but to build on only 15 of them and to leave the rest empty for the descendants. However, when the plans were revised shortly after, it was found that the colonies would not get their proper land, so all the fireplaces had to be occupied immediately and one village had to be distributed among the others. Thus, on May 18 of the same year, 8 families immigrating from the same district were added to this village <sup>3</sup>).

The steppe, which was given to the immigrants by the high crown and assigned to the then District Mayor <sup>4</sup>) and tenant of the same, Johann Kornies, and

<sup>1) 1855: 30</sup> farmsteads, 37 resident families (total 190 men, 192 women, cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent).

<sup>1857: 30</sup> host families (159 men) from 1950 Dess. and 7 landless families (26 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 37.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 106 note 1.

<sup>3) 1855: 24</sup> farmsteads, 35 resident families (total 184 men, 160 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent).

<sup>1857: 24</sup> farmsteads (129 men) on 1560 Dess. and 9 landless families (45,men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 37.

<sup>4)</sup> Cornies (Cf. p. 96 note 1) has not been area head, i.e. District Mayor, cf. Schroeder op. cit. p. 19.

measured in their presence, was completely empty. Only a few nomads grazed their herds here in the summertime. In order to have the village to be founded in the center of the plan, the settlers chose a place, which lies in the same depression, where the village Grossweide is located. This depression, however, was very small and hardly noticeable here. Imagining themselves in a Prussian lowland, the settlers immediately dug a hole in the ground to find water. But they were very much mistaken. The deeper they dug, the harder and drier the earth became, until at a depth of 8½ fathoms they stopped the laborious digging and after only a sixweek stay, they moved their village to the river Juschanlee ¹). But even here it seemed impossible to get through the hard rock to the water, and the water had to be brought from the river. Since the village was laid out in two rows, this inconvenience was felt especially by the upper row and there was loud indignation until finally the chief magistrate Fadeev appeared to inspect the newly laid out village and had it laid out in one row along the river.

In the first year only one residential house was completed, the others spent the first winter in livable compartments in stables or in earthen huts, until under the active cooperation of the then village Mayor Peter Ratzlaff [#47815] the complete construction of the houses was completed according to time and circumstances.

The village is laid out in the direction from northeast to southwest. The Jushanlee forms the border between its land and the land of the Tatars; to the opposite border at the land of the village Tschernigow <sup>2</sup>) the distance is 7 versts. On the north-western side of the village along the lane there are orchards, each of which has an area of one Dessiantine and is already planted with a considerable number of excellent fruit trees. At the end of the orchards there is a forest plantation, which is a charming sight from the village with its green-leaved trees. Towards the evening the village borders on Grossweide, towards Mürgen on Pastwa and is 60 versts away from the district town of Berdyansk. The many old burial mounds (Mohilen) give the land a warty appearance, so to speak. The surface is almost black earth everywhere, in places somewhat nitrous, with a base of gravel and rubble stone, which lies over a fathom deep and appears in places. Although the land is not equal to that on the Molotschna, trees, grain and fodder herbs thrive here as well. Violent storms often destroy the grain fields in streaks.

Initially, this village was named Pschuchowka <sup>3</sup>) after the former place of residence of the settlers in Prussia. But since this name was not confirmed by the authorities as a Polish one, Ohm Benjamin Ratzlaff <sup>4</sup>) [#47884], at present Aeltester of the community at Rudnerweide <sup>5</sup>), who was also one of the founders of this village, suggested the name Franztal.

<sup>4 1 1 1</sup> 

<sup>1)</sup> Jushanly.

<sup>2)</sup> Tschernigowka, founded in 1795, see Zurn. Min. Vnutren. Del a. a. O. 1839, No. 2. p. 316.

<sup>3)</sup> In 1540, baptized people from Groningen had settled on the Przechöwka estate near Schuetz, cf. Quiring loc. cit. p. 19 f.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. p. 139 note 2. The spiritual leaders of the Mennonites were [often] addressed as "Ohm", cf. Friesen loc. cit. p. 144.

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. p. 138 note 2.

which he knew from Prussia, and everyone agreed to it.

The first 15 families of these colonies formed a group at the time of their immigration, but they did not have a leader. Some of the immigrants, however, came with the large group, whose leader was the now long immortalized Aeltester Ohm Franz Görz [#61901], and some also came to the country in small groups without a leader.

Eighteen impoverished families have received on their request a crown advance of 10,721 Rbl. Banko. The rest had their own resources, which may have totaled 15,260 Rbl. Banko.

Because of late sowing, only a little millet was harvested in the first year. The following two summers brought only 3 to 4-fold harvests with high prices for grain. One Tscht. Rye cost 20 and wheat 24 Rub. Banko. In the three following years, locusts destroyed precious crops. The harsh winter of 1825 and the year 1833 with its famine and cattle plague are still fresh in the memory of the settlers. As a result of the earthquake on January 11, 1838, at half past nine in the evening, the water in the wells rose by a significant amount. In 1838 four-field farming and fallow were introduced. In 1845 there was no hay and only sowing of grain. 1846 and 1847 were favorable harvests, but on June 17 of last year a hailstorm destroyed the entire crop. The storm of December 25, 1847, to January 16, 1848, brought down many houses, causing great hardship to the families concerned.

Franztal, April 26, 1848.

Mayor Johann Flemming <sup>a</sup>). Assistant Mayors: Heinrich Ediger, Andreas Becker. School Teacher Kornelius Siemens.

#### 25. Pastwa

The land of the Molotschna Mennonites forms two peaks on the east side, of which the more southerly one extends farthest to the east. At the very end of this peak, the village of Pastwa was founded in 1820. This name, derived from the Polish word for pasture, was given to it at the request of several of the most respected settlers of this village, who had lived in Prussia in a village of the same name, and is said to mean "good pasture" 1). The nearest border neighbors from the south side are Tartars and east and northeast Ruffen. The village is located in a small depression without a name, not far from the origin of the little river Jushanlee, is distant from Berdyansk 65 and from Simferopol 330 versts.

The village consists of two rows of houses and contains 18 farms and 5 residents' houses <sup>2</sup>), the latter adjoin the fireplaces at both ends of the village. After the settlement had already taken place on the assigned steppe, which Johann Kornies had in lease, and 4 dwellings had been erected,

<sup>1)</sup> Pastwa in the meaning "pasture" occurs only in Polish dialect.

<sup>2)</sup> In 1885: 18 farmsteads, 32 resident families (total 131 men, 135 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent).

a) This guy must be related to me but I can't find him. THF

the village had to be moved by one verst due to lack of water, where it has now also risen to some prosperity through several years of richly blessed harvests and under the gracious care of our highly esteemed authorities. It is not distinguished by outstanding buildings or by plantings in front as in other villages, but the simple and regularly built houses overhung by the tops of the trees, the well planted gardens and the protective weir planted on the south side of the village, as well as the grove plantation established 13 years ago on the southwest end of the village on a mountain slope make a favorable impression. The road, fenced according to the regulations, is divided into two main directions at the southwestern end, one leading to Grossweide and the other to Franztal. At the north-eastern end there is a road, which branches out in the direction of various Russian and Tartar villages. Across the village leads a middle road, along which one finds first the village storehouse and then a little further the churchyard. The soil, whose surface consists of black earth, although in some places a little nitrous, is quite productive, especially since the introduction of fallow. Cattle grazing is only very mediocre even in fertile years. Of the first 18 families that cultivated this village, only 6 are currently left on the farms 1). Most of them died and some moved to other villages. They came from the Prussian administrative district of Marienwerder in 1819. Their leader was the late church Aeltester Franz Görz" 169) a) [#61901]. Seven of them were able to build with their own means, the others received a crown advance of 6005 Rbl. Banko, of which 4,491 Rbl. have already been spent. Otherwise, the history of this village does not differ from that of its sister villages.

> Mayor Heinrich Wiebe. Assistant Mayors Jakob Löwen, Jakob Thiessen. School Teacher Andreas Boch.

Pastwa, April 27, 1848.

## 26. Grossweide <sup>2</sup>)

This village was founded in 1820, in the month of May, the settlers settled on the plan as instructed by the local authorities and built themselves board huts. By the fall, the cattle sheds were completed, in which the families set up their homes for the winter. More functional dwellings and barns were built only later, and in more recent times of burnt bricks. There are already 6 such houses in the village, 4 of which are covered with Dutch tiles. The 64-foot-long and 35-foot-wide village school and the 80-foot-long and 40-foot-wide dwelling house of the grocer Heinrich Janzen stand out especially.

The village is situated on the steppe river Sassikulak <sup>3</sup>) in the direction from east to west. 65 versts from Berdyansk and 350 versts from Simferopol. The borders

<sup>1)</sup> As the present reports prove, host transfers seem to have occurred much more frequently than was previously assumed in the literature.

<sup>2)</sup> Russian name: Sasikulak or Sosikulak.

<sup>3)</sup> For Sosikulak, see Spisok naselennych mest Vol. 4, p. 35.

a) This strange citation is as in the original and would seem to be extraneous. THF

are: in the north the Tschumak Road leading from the Crimea to Bachmut <sup>1</sup>), in the east the village Franzfeld, in the south the Nogai land of the village Kahach <sup>2</sup>), where the side river of the Molotschna Jushanlee forms the border, and finally in the west the village Rudnerweide. The Sassikulak River rises in the local steppe and meanders down to below the Rudnerweide village, where it joins the Jushanlee River. It contains many springs and gives good drinking water, which is very useful for watering cattle. Willow trees were also planted along it as early as 1645 [? a)]. Further up, where the springs stop, there are small hay meadows that yield a good annual yield.

The steppe is flat land with small slopes. The upper layer is fertile black earth, the subsoil is red clay. The lower stony layer appears only in very few places. The water level is 7 to 10½ arschin deep and since the earthquake of 1838 it is 3 arschin higher than it was before, but due to the earthquake the quality of the water has suffered; in several wells it has even become bitter. The strong storms often cause great damage to the fallow land by sweeping away the light topsoil. The grain thrives excellently and in good years yields 18 to 20 times as much fruit. An average of 520 pud of hay per year can be counted on for each landowner. There are 9,395 trees growing in the gardens, 26,904 in the groves, the third part of which are mulberry trees <sup>3</sup>). Plums and apricots freeze to death in persistent severe cold, which is attributed to the lower cold-ground stone location.

The name of the village was derived by the settlers from a village of their former fatherland. It means "big pasture".

The original 22 families <sup>4</sup>) settled here consisted of 28 male and 36 female able-bodied souls; the present population is in 53 families 72 male and 67 female able-bodied souls <sup>5</sup>). They come from Marienwerder, and to a lesser extent from the Danzig administrative district in West Prussia. Their leader in the immigration was the deceased church Aeltester Franz Görz, who at that time emigrated from Prussia with his whole church community. They arrived in Russia, 1 group in 1818, and a larger second group in 1819. Before their arrival the steppe had been leased by Johann Korines, who leased it to the nomadic Nogai as pasture land. It became difficult to get the Nogai out of the habit of grazing on the Germans land; it was somewhat lessened when the village established plow land along the border on the Jushanlee River in 1835, but their cattle are still often found in the grain fields.

<sup>1)</sup> The Tschumak Road, which initially led through the German colonies, was probably relocated around 1820 (?) to prevent the introduction of epidemics, cf. Reiswitz and Wadzeck loc. cit. p. 368.

<sup>2)</sup> Michalowka?

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. note 3.

<sup>4) 1855: 24</sup> farmsteads, 29 resident families (total 160 men, 155 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 74, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). 1857: 24 households (133 men) on 1560 Dess. and 8 landless families (49 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 37.

<sup>5)</sup> Able-bodied men and women aged 16 (or 14) to 60 were taxable, cf. I Vol. 26, No. 19873.

a.) 1845?

Crown advances were received by 15 impoverished families, and in total 10,244 R. 60 K. Banko. Seven settlers were so well off that they were able to build quite good houses and purchase the necessary livestock. It is estimated that their fortune brought here was 25,000 R. The further course of the fortunes of this village does not show any features differing from those of the other colonies.

Mayor Abraham Braun, Assistant Mayors Wilhelm Ewert, Martin Block. School Teacher Peter Isaak.

Grossweide, April 28, 1848.

#### 27. Mariental

In the spring of 1820, the village location was selected, the farmsteads were furrowed, and the building sites were raffled off with the assistance of the District Mayor, Peter Töws, and the village Mayor, Jakob Giesebrecht, who had just been elected by the settlers. For the time being, earth huts or wooden huts were built, but after the sowing season, most of the people started to build farm buildings. The village is situated on the steppe river Tschukrak ¹), which begins 1½ versts upstream on the Nogai land, and flows into the Jushanlee at the Steinbach estate ²), 9 versts from here. The plan of the country forms an oblong quadrangle and borders in the south and east on the lands of the Tartars ³), in the north on the Jushanlee. The flat soil has little black earth. The harvests are small. Grain grows well.

At a meeting of the new immigrants in the Ohrloff village, organized by the District Office, at which time the villages were to be divided, the settlers grouped and some villages given names, the question was finally raised as to what the local settlers wanted to call their village. When no one spoke up, the Aeltester Franz Görz, who was also an immigrant and had settled in Rudnerweide, proposed to name it after Her Majesty the Empress Mother Maria <sup>4</sup>) Mariental. This proposal was generally applauded.

In the year of settlement 1820, 17 families settled in this village and in the following year 4 more, of which one family settled as a free farmer <sup>5</sup>). Of these 21 families, 9 came from the Marienwerder, the

<sup>1)</sup> Tschokrak.

<sup>2)</sup> Klaas Wiens had received it as a gift from the Czar for the foundation of the first forest plantation in these colonies, cf. I. cit. p. 403.

<sup>3)</sup> Should read "Nogai".

<sup>4)</sup> Maria Fedorovna, 1759-1828 (Sophie Dorothea Auguste Luise Princess of Württemberg), wife of Paul I, occupies a prominent place in Russian cultural history as the founder of the educational institutes for female youth named after her, cf. E. Lichaceva: Materialy dlja istorii zenskogo obrazovanija v Rossii (Materials on the History of Female Education in Russia). Petersburg 1890-1901.

<sup>5) 1855: 20</sup> farmsteads, 56 resident families (total 190 men, 186 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). 1857: 20 households (124 men) on 1,300 Dess. and 15 landless families (67 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 37.

others from the Elbing and Marienburg districts. The land, rich in grass and flowers, which was allotted to them, was leased by Johann Kornies from Ohrloff; some Tartars who came from this steppe were his subtenants. Most of the settlers were without property and received 11,210 Rubles Banko as advance from the crown. The property they brought with them amounted to about 8,000 R. Banko. Due to the frequent horse theft in the first years, from which only about the fifth part of the settlers was completely spared, the village suffered a lot of damage. In 1823 locusts destroyed a promising crop. The poor harvest of 1824 was followed by a terrible winter of famine, to which most of the livestock fell victim. In 1825, a hailstorm destroyed the harvest. The terrible emergency year of 1833 was particularly severe. A great deal of damage has always been caused by violent easterly winds, which, for example, in 1842 blew away significant stretches of the cultivated grain along with the topsoil. The earthquake of January 11, 1838, caused several of the 35 to 45 foot deep wells to collapse, but since then the rising water level has made it possible to dig the wells 10 feet shallower 1). The village's development has been greatly promoted by the transfer of the farms from weak, indebted, and sometimes indolent landowners to young, industrious, and well-off families.

Mariental, April 21, 1848.

Peter Schroeder, Mayor Assistant Mayors: Kornelius Friesen, Peter Wieb. Peter Friesen, School Teacher.

### 28. Rudnerweide

If you climb the hill gradually rising on the northwestern side of the village, which is separated from the village by a small valley, you can easily overlook the two rows of houses of Rudnerweide. All of these houses are regularly laid out, purposefully furnished and of a pleasing appearance. What embellishes the exterior of these houses even more are the regularly laid out orchards, which are bordered with wild pear trees along the lane, with a mulberry hedge between neighbors, and with a hedge of wild olive trees at the rear end. Turning to the northeastern end of the village, one sees there a two-story building built of white stones and covered with white Dutch roof tiles, together with an excellently thriving newly planted small forest plantation. The building is the prayer house of the whole Rudnerweide congregation <sup>2</sup>), for the construction of which Emperor Alexander I donated 10,000 R. Banko. A little further to the southeast is the grove plantation of the village community with a third of mulberry trees, which already provide so much foliage that each host can grow a pud of silk annually. This plantation consists of 16½ Dess. of land.

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<sup>1)</sup> Cf. Koeppen: Über einige Landesverhältnisse p. 61f.

<sup>2)</sup> The Rudnerweide community belonged to the Frisian direction (Richtung), see Friesen I. c. p. 706.

Each landowner owns a quarter of ½ Dessiatine. Each quarter is surrounded with a mulberry hedge and the whole plantation with a wild olive hedge. To the west of this plantation is the recently constructed hedge, which extends from one end to the other on the south side of the village and is intended to protect the orchards behind it from storms and snowstorms. At the southwestern end of the village, the landless tenants live in houses that are also regularly built and surrounded by small orchards. Among the buildings, apart from the prayer house, there is a massive two-story vinegar brewery and a one-story residential building of white stones, and on the right side of the valley, which here takes a southern direction, there is a massive one-story beer brewery. All these buildings are covered with Dutch roof tiles.

The village was founded in 1820. The first dwellings were established in a section of the newly built cattle sheds, but at the same time the construction of houses continued. The village is situated not far from the steppe river Juschanlee along the valley Sassikulak. It is bordered to the south and southwest by the Jushanlee River, to the north by the Tschumak Road, and to the east by the Grossweide village. The steppe has no lowlands, the water level is 30 to 50 feet deep. The fertile soil consists of humus. From fallowing it becomes so loose and fine that the frequent storms tear it away terribly. The subsoil yields good clay for bricks, and the common fieldstone in the Sassikulak valley is used for foundations.

Most of the settlers of this village come from the village Rudnerweide in Prussia. The name of that village had the following origin: On the height dominating the eastern side of the Vistula valley lies the large village of Rueden. Years ago, the people of Rueden owned their pastures near the Vistula River. When a village was established on that pasture, it got the name Rudnerweide, which was also applied to this village.

Originally 24 families from the Prussian district of Stuhm settled in this village, but in 1826 new families from the districts of Marienburg and Marienwerder joined them <sup>1</sup>). Most of the first settlers belonged to the community of the church Aeltester Franz Görz [#61901], who died here already in 1835. He came in community of the teacher Heinrich Balzer as leader of an important group, by which not only this, but several neighboring colonies were populated, which can be regarded as daughter colonies of Rudnerweide and still belong to the community of Franz Görz, whose successor is Benjamin Ratzlaff <sup>2</sup>) [#47884].

The steppe here was used by Tatars as pasture for their herds and was leased from Johann Kornies.

<sup>1) 1855: 33</sup> farmsteads, 67 resident families (total 278 men, 256 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent).

<sup>1857: 33</sup> farmsteads (190 men) on 2,145 Dess. and 25 landless families (100 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 37.

<sup>2)</sup> Benjamin Ratzlaff, b. 1791, appointed Aeltester in 1835, was still in office in 1856, cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 32.

### V. The Molotschna Mennonite Colony

Since most of the settlers were poor, they received a crown advance of 12,524 R. 70 K. Banko. Some of the original and later settled families had enough some <sup>1</sup>) means, which amounted to about 30,000 R. Banko.

The further course of the history of this village does not show any features differing from those of the other colonies.

Mayor Peter Kliewer. Assistant Mayors: Andreas Nachtigal, Gerhard Fast. School Teacher Jakob Brauel.

April 25, 1848.

#### 29. Pordenau

The settlement began in 1820, where initially mostly only stables for cattle were built, in which the settlers also sought accommodation. Only a few wealthier people built houses of air bricks, which, although not as beautiful as the present ones, made the settlers miserable lives much easier. At that time, because of poverty, no thought was given to decorations; the present prosperity has developed only after several years.

The village is located on the south side of the little Tschokrak river, which comes from the east and cuts through Steinbach <sup>2</sup>) and flows into the Jushanlee. Otherwise, there are no lowlands here, which is why the yield of hay is also very insignificant. The cattle are mostly fed with straw in winter. Some chopping machines make the straw more palatable for the cattle. The nature of the soil is as follows: the upper layer is 3 feet deep fertile black earth, then follows 8 feet deep yellow clay, further comes stone, which is why the 25 to 35 feet deep water is reached only with much effort. Quarries are located only along the Juschanlee River, which forms the border of the country in the north; the southern end is bordered by the Nogai steppe. There are no forests here except for those planted at the request of Emperor Alexander I <sup>3</sup>).

The name Pordenau was transferred to this village by some settlers who came from a Prussian village of the same name.

Originally 14 families from the Marienburg district in West Prussia settled here, at the same time 2 families from the Molotschna Mennonite youth joined them, later 2 families from the residence of the former and 2 families from those of the latter were added <sup>4</sup>). The land at that time was leased by Johann Kornies, who then leased it to Tatar herd owners. The personal means brought from abroad were not sufficient for the settlers for a long time for the first establishment, which is why the crown granted them an advance of 6,268 R. 74 K. Banko.

<sup>1)</sup> Must probably mean: "own".

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 137 note 2.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p. 108 and p. 112, note 4.

<sup>4) 1855: 20</sup> households, 35 resident families (total 144 men, 131 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent).

<sup>1857: 20</sup> households (119 men) on 1300 Dess. and 5 landless families (22 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit.

During a thunderstorm, lightning ignited a house and the father of the house burned, probably struck by lightning.

The rest of the history of this village shows no features that differ from those of the other villages.

Mayor Johann Dück. Assistant Mayors: Jakob Epp, Isaak Barg. School Teacher Wilhelm Martins.

Pordenau, April 15, 1868 <sup>1</sup>).

#### 30. Schardau

In the late fall of 1819, the local settlers from the Prussian administrative district of Marienwerder arrived here and wintered in the villages already settled. In the month of May 1820, they were given their land, where they immediately started to build the buildings. From their arrival until the first harvest, they had to buy their food for cash, which made especially the destitute very weak. In the first summer, only cattle sheds were built, and even for these there was a lack of the necessary building material, especially wood, which is why they first had to feel the cold night frosts of autumn in their wooden huts before they could finally move into the apartments constructed in the cattle sheds. Since they first had to acquire the means to build actual dwellings, they remained in these stable dwellings for several years. It was not until 1824 that three landowners, who had brought some money from Prussia, built their dwellings. The last dwellings were built in 1828. All the houses were low and built of unbaked bricks.

The village of Schardau is situated on a narrow depression, called Tschukrak <sup>2</sup>), which has only very insignificant springs, which dry up completely in summer. On the Tschukrak 5 villages are settled close to each other. It begins eastward from these 5 villages on the Nogai steppe and stretches to the west, where it flows into the steppe river Juschanlee at the outpost Steinbach, 6 versts from here. At the western end of this village, it joins another narrow depression, which also comes from the Nogai steppe from the southeast and towards the center of the village and includes an insignificant hollow beginning southeast on the land of the Pordenau village, where there are also small stone fissures. The hilly land area of this village borders to the east and west on the nearby villages, to the south on the Nogai steppe, and to the north on the river Juschanlee, which contains springs and provides healthy running water for the cattle herds throughout the summer.

Schardau is located 70 versts from Orekhov and Berdyansk. The yellow clay soil is covered only with a 1 to 2 feet deep layer of black earth, actually good for arable farming. In spring the soil is fertilized and in summer it is plowed 2 to 3 times, whereupon it gives good yields. Sometimes, however, the loose land is blown away by the violent storms, causing great damage. Little hay is harvested.

<sup>1)</sup> Must read "1848".

<sup>2)</sup> Tschokrak.

The cattle have to eat straw, which is cut into small pieces by means of the recently introduced chopping machines. As a result of the straw feeding, the local wool never achieves a heavy weight; the cattle pasture is also not particularly productive. The third part of the trees, which are also abundantly planted here, are mulberries, which are used by the settlers for silk production.

Since most of the local landowners in West Prussia lived in the village of Schardau, they agreed to call the village the same. It consists of 20 landowners, of which 17 settled here in 1820 and 3 in 1821 <sup>1</sup>).

The former of the immigrants gathered with other confreres to form a small community and for this journey elected the Aeltester Franz Görzen [#61901] as their leader. The crown steppe assigned to them by General [d. Infanterie Ivan Niktich] von Insow [also spelled Insov, Iszov, 1768-1845], which Johann Korines leased to Tartars and Armenians as pasture land, was empty and waterless, so that the new arrivals had to fetch their water needs from Steinbach, 6 versts away, until they had dug a well together <sup>2</sup>). Depending on the amount of the small sums that each landowner had brought from abroad, which only for some amounted to 300 to 500 R. Banko, each was given a crown advance of 400, 500, 700, the poorest 859 R. Banko.

The other events reported from this village are the same as those already found in the descriptions of the other villages.

Mayor Lohrentz.
Assistant Mayors Kliewer, Wiebe.
School Teacher Daniel Penner.

### 31. Alexandertal <sup>3</sup>)

When after the French War of Liberation various emigrations from the Kingdom of Prussia took place, also in 1819 a number of families from the Mennonite congregations near Graudenz and Stuhm gathered under the leadership of the church Aeltester Franz Görz and the teacher Heinrich Balzer for emigration to Southern Russia. They arrived in Chortitza on October 4 of the same year. However, since there was still land available for new settlers at the Molotschna, where several Mennonite colonies had already been founded, the settlement of these free lands by new immigrants was pursued in 1820 with the cooperation of a specially appointed Commission of 6 members and the District Office under the advice of the Senior Guardianship Office for Foreign Settlers (Obervormundschaftskontors) <sup>4</sup>).

Sixteen families of the above mentioned immigrants joined the local community and chose the place for settlement. Although there were only 16 families,

<sup>1) 1855: 20</sup> farmsteads, 42 resident families (total 185 men, 166 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). 1857: 20 households (141 men) on 1300 Dess. and 17 landless families (71 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2 p. 37.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. Koeppen: über einige Landesverhältnisse, p. 62.

<sup>3)</sup> Russian name: Kasim-Schulgan-Tschukrak (Tschokrak), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 37.

<sup>4)</sup> The head of the Commission was Cornies, see p. 96.

building sites for 20 landowners, each with 65 Dess. land was decreed. The empty building sites were occupied by new immigrants from Prussia in 1821 and 1822 ¹). Since the assets brought by the settlers was not sufficient for cultivation and farmstead establishment, the Crown granted an advance of 11,320 Rbl. Banko. The personal property amounted to about 5,872 Rbl. Banko. Stephan Kerber [#60267], who is still alive, was elected the first Mayor. On the advice of Peter Töws, then an Aeltester of the area, who at that time lived in Ladekop and now in Tiege, this village was named Alexandertal in memory of the glorious reign of the Emperor Alexander I.

The first winter dwellings were established in the newly built stables of the young settlement; some also took shelter in earth huts. There was a lack of almost everything. Many felt a homesickness they had never felt before. Some would have liked to return to their former homes, if this could have happened easily. The above-mentioned men, Franz Görz and Heinrich Balzer, who had settled in other villages, well sensed the state of their brothers' hearts, often traveled around, strengthened and comforted the despondent spirits, and since there was no house of worship, services were held in the homes where it could be done conveniently. These men were the pillars of the community with advice and action, sparing no adversity and setting a good example for everyone. And it was necessary. In 1822 and 1823, the locusts came and, in a few hours, devastated the entire harvest that had taken a year of the farmer's sweat and toil. The terrible snowstorm of 1824-1825 robbed the people of half of their livestock, in addition to their meager supplies.

The terrible hardship year of 1833 was followed by a very blessed and fruitful summer, so that the hardship was soon forgotten.

In the direction from east to west the village Alexandertal is situated at the little river Tschukrak with its regularly built houses and the spacious, straight lane with its good fences. In the center of the village on the southern side stands the schoolhouse and nearby the storehouse. On the southern side of the small river, which has a water only in the rainy season, is a fairly good quarry, which supplies the stones for the foundations of the houses. Half a verst west of the village is the forest plantation with its beautiful trees growing.

At the east end of the village is the seed and tree nursery belonging to the resident Stephan Kerber with various fruit and forest trees.

To the south our plan borders on the neighboring Nogai steppe and stretches in a straight direction towards the north for 7 versts to the river Juschanee <sup>2</sup>), which forms the border here. Fertile black earth covers the ground, but the plantations of the hearths stand in yellow clay, which has the consequence that the trees unfortunately do not reach old age. The southern part of the plan is used for agriculture and as a

<sup>1) 1855: 21</sup> households, 35 resident families (167 men, 140 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including the permanently absent).

<sup>1857: 21</sup> households (114 men) on 1,365 Dess. and 10 landless families (44 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 37.

<sup>2)</sup> Juschanly.

hayfield, while the northern part up to the Juschanlee River, where there is a cattle watering place formed by a dam, is used as a cattle pasture.

When one compares the hardscrabble beginning of this village with the flourishing condition of the present, one must wonder how in so few years such a change could have come about. Most of the old houses have been replaced by spacious and solid new buildings, and everything points to prosperity and contentment. Here, too, one can see how the tireless work of wise authorities in the field of sheep breeding, agriculture, and tree cultivation, under God's protection and blessing, has yielded the most beautiful fruits.

Mayor Johann Kliewer. Assistant Mayors: Abraham Kasper. Heinr. Funk. School Teacher Johann Janzen.

Alexandertal, April 23, 1848.

#### 32. Gnadenheim

The village was founded in 1821 on the left bank of the steppe river Bogömtschukrak <sup>1</sup>), 47 versts from Orechov and 90 versts from Berdyansk. The land was uninhabited at that time and was grazed by the cattle herds of the neighboring Russians and Nogai. The original settlement consisted of 16 families, but in 1822 it was increased by 4 families. Only in 1844 another 2 families were added and finally in 1845 and 1846 one family each, so that it now consisted of 24 landowners <sup>2</sup>). Ten of the first settlers had immigrated from the districts of Danzig, Marienwerder and Marienburg with various others in groups without a designated leader and received an advance of 560 to 854 Rbl. Banko, but in total 7,620 Rbl. Banko. Their personal means brought from abroad consisted essentially of only 2 horses and wagons each. The other 6 of the first families had grown up in the older Molotschna colonies and had, apart from 2 horses and wagons, no more than 200 Rbl. property <sup>3</sup>).

The soil of the land consists mostly of light black earth, mixed with clay in places, and is mediocre for grass growing, but good for grain and horticulture.

The village received its name from the head of the settlement commission at that time, Johann Kornies, for the following reason: Since the neighboring village of Alexanderwohl was congratulated by Emperor Alexander I in Warsaw on its journey here, it was given the name Alexanderwohl. Kornies, however, said: "You have to enjoy the grace of the father of the country as well as those and therefore you should call your village Gnadenheim.

<sup>1)</sup> Begim-Tschokrak.

<sup>2) 1855: 24</sup> households, 34 resident families (total 187 men, 155 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including the permanently absent).

<sup>1857: 24</sup> households (127 men) on 1,560 Dess. and 7 landless families (24 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 37.

<sup>3)</sup> Unfortunately, we do not know whether these resettlers were supported from their home communities.

In 1825, a 30-foot long by 28-foot wide air brick schoolhouse was built. But when the number of pupils grew to 50 and the space proved too cramped, a new schoolhouse of baked brick and covered with Dutch roof tiles was built in 1844, 54 feet long, 32 feet wide and 10½ feet high under the direction of the Agricultural Association, which was very concerned with improving the school system. In 1829, at the request of the authorities, the village storehouse was built, and in 1836, under the direction of the Agricultural Association, the garden and forest plantations were begun. In 1828 on March 18 the buildings of fireplace No. 13 burned down, in 1832 on April 8 the dwelling house of fireplace No. 20, in 1842 March 28 late in the evening when all the inhabitants were at home for the night, in 1½ hours with a strong wind the buildings of fireplaces No. 9, No. 8 and No. 7 were consumed.

Plagues, locusts and Misswachs have also affected this village more or less.

But under the wise leadership of the authorities and other capable men, such as Johann Kornies, prosperity and prosperity have come here as soon as elsewhere.

Mayor Reimer.
Assistant Mayors: Schultz, Peters.
School Teacher Franz Isaak.

Gnadenheim, April 27, 1848.

# 33. Tiegerweide

This village was founded in the spring of 1822 by 24 farmers <sup>1</sup>), but since its settlement has received an increase of 22 freeholders, some of whom are craftsmen, others day laborers. It has 52 dwellings, 5 of which are solidly built of burnt bricks, 29 cattle sheds, 28 grain barns, including 7 cross barns (Querscheunen) <sup>a</sup>), 1 schoolhouse, 1 grain storehouse, 1 shepherd's house, 3 smithies, 1 grain windmill and 1 grain treadmill driven by horses.

The northern side of the village abuts the small Kuruschan River, the western end of it abuts the Tschumak Road. Along the south side of the village there is the forest plantation established in 1838, and at the eastern end there is a part of the arable land.

Its distance from Berdyansk is 98 versts.

The land belonging to this village, mostly steppe, provides good pasture for cattle. Part of the fairly flat arable land covered with black earth is mountainous and uneven, it is located north of the Kuruschan River, which cuts the whole land into two halves. The part south of the river is flat.

The Kuruschan River forms a small depression of 60 Dess., and at the southern end of the village meanders the Jushanlee River, which is the border there and also forms a depression in which the community owns 72 Dess. In these two lowlands, each landowner receives annually, with a mediocre harvest, about

<sup>1) 1855: 24</sup> farmsteads, 35 resident families (total 144 men, 142 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent).

<sup>1857: 24</sup> farmsteads (126 men) on 1,560 Dess. and 11 landless families (47 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 36.

a.) Apparently, a cross or transverse barn has doors on both gable ends rather than on the sides.

600 pud of hay; but if hay can also be cut on the steppe in fertile years, the hay harvest mounts to 1,200 to 1,800 puds for each active worker.

There are no quarries or forests.

Before the settlement this steppe was in lease for 5 years as pasture land for the sheep with the residents of the village Tiege, the brothers Johann [#13218], Abraham [#61154] and Jakob [#13219] Klaassen and Gerhard Wilms. They had built their sheepfold, stables, and dwellings on it and called it Tiegerweide, which name was also transferred to the later village.

Fourteen of the families originally settled here came mostly from the West Prussian districts of Danzig and Marienburg. Their names are: 1.) Johann Abrahams [#54034], 2.) Klaas Dick, 3.) Anton Harder [#45356], 4.) Heinrich Franz [#273755], 5.) Bernhard Matthies [#53905], 6.) Johann Harder [#54025], 7.) Heinrich Balzer [#14826], 8.) Jakob Pöttker [#53963], 9.) Klaas [Nicolaus] Märtens [#53945], 10.) Heinrich Görz, 11.) Jakob Schönke [#53978], 12.) Peter Janzen [#53983], 13.) Johann Dick [#53994], 14.) Diedrich Geddert [#54001]. These 14 families received an average of 859 R. Banko crown advance each; their own customary means amounted to an average of 300 Ruble Banko on the family.

The remaining 10 families are children of the earlier immigrants. Their names are: 1.) Jakob Kröker [#45925], 2.) Diedrich Hildebrand [#45728], 3.) Jakob Völk [Woelck, #21408], 4.) Jakob Rempel [#52668], 5.) Kornelius Völk [Woelck, #21405], 6.) Peter Klaassen [#44071], 7.) Gerhard Wilms, 8.) Jakob Klaassen [#13219], 9.) Isbrand Thiessen [#46657], 10.) Johann Klaassen [#13218]. The families had saved so much by diligence in handicraft or daily wages that they could cultivate with their own means.

For the rest, this village shared its lot with the others and did not lag behind in prosperity. It is memorable what is reported about the visit of His Majesty the Emperor Alexander I on October 22, 1825, "4 weeks before his sorrowful end":

Upon arrival in Steinbach, His Majesty deigned to stop at the dwelling of the Mennonite Peter Schmidt [#60249] and dined there at noon. Upon disembarking from the calash at the entrance of the farm, His Majesty was welcomed by the church Aelteste of the Mennonites and received from them with a kind smile a written letter of congratulations and welcome with the following content: "Most gracious monarch! Providence has bestowed upon us the good fortune of once again seeing Your Imperial Majesty, our most gracious monarch and father, in our midst. Under Your gentle care, under Your protection and shelter we live here happily and calmly. Accept from us, Most Serene Monarch, the outpouring of the feelings of our gratitude, devotion and love. Accept from us the assurance of our heartfelt and everlasting prayers to the Most High.

Yes, the Lord God crown you, all your Majestic House, and all your great and beneficent undertakings with his blessings." Signed by the spiritual and secular elders of the Mennonite congregation.

The monarch went into the room. A few minutes after lunch, the Mennonite Aelteste were called. The emperor asked if they were satisfied with everything and if they had any complaints. And after they answered that they were happy and satisfied in all respects, and that all that remained for them was to thank the monarch

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for all his charities and graces, he said: "I am also pleased with you for your quiet life and industriousness. But I wish you to plant groves, especially of American acacias, which grow rapidly in this region, at half a Dessiatine for each host 1)."

Thereupon he dismissed them, called the landowner and the landlady, thanked them, gave them a small present, and went out to depart.

Mayor Heinrich Günther. Assistant Mayors Johann Barg, Abr. Wiebe. School Teacher Reinhard Hiebert, Author.

#### 34 Liebenau

The village is located 35 versts from Orechow, 100 versts from Berdyansk, on the left bank of the Tokmak River, 12 versts east of the village of the same name.

Pressed by the limited availability of land and attracted by the great privileges given to the Mennonites, a society of 13 Mennonite families came in 1822 from the Marienwerder district in West Prussia under the leadership of their preacher (Lehrers) Peter Franz. Nine of these, including their leader, joined with 11 other families who had already immigrated from the same province at various times earlier and laid the foundation of this village in 1825 <sup>2</sup>). The name Liebenau was given to it by Gerhard Ens [#60608], then the District Mayor, because at the time when he gave the settlers their steppe, it was a lovely meadow. Liebenau means lovely meadow, which name it had at the time of the settlement with greater right than now, when the steppe produces only a very sparse grass growth.

The soil here is mostly clayey, covered with a layer of black top soil, but gravelly soil can also be found, especially near the Tokmak. All types of cereals thrive here. The trees need careful care to thrive, but they grow excellently. The wells have a depth of 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms and provide very good water.

What made the settlement in this wasteland much easier for the settlers was the fact that several villages had already been established in the vicinity of their settlement plan, whose inhabitants helped the inexperienced with words and deeds. Thirteen destitute families received a crown advance of 10,052 R. Banko. Their personal means amounted to about 18 to 24 thousand R. Banko.

Liebenau has a beautiful, one can say a charming view, if one, coming from the steppe, looks down into the valley. The white and Italian poplars planted by some landowners along the road contribute to this with their skyward reaching foliage, but most of all the beauty of this

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. also Fadeev op. cit. p. 402 and 405.

<sup>2) 1855: 20</sup> farmsteads, 30 resident families (total 144 men, 125 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent).

<sup>1857: 20</sup> farmsteads (122 men) on 1,300 Dess. and 12 landless families (62 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 38.

a) In the original, there is a footnote citation 2) in the Liebenau section but there are two #1 footnotes at the bottom of the page. I have corrected the second. THF.

is most emphasized by the Russian farmhouses located on the right bank of the Tokmak River hard by Liebenau.

Soon Liebenau has now existed for a quarter of a century, and this time has already sufficiently shown that, despite its beauty and charming view, it will never become an Eden. The Lord has made it apparent to the inhabitants of Liebenau through locusts, Misswachs and cattle plagues that they are not destined for an earthly Elysium, but for a heavenly fatherland.

Liebenau has these fates in common with the other Mennonite colonies of the district, and is even at a great disadvantage in comparison with them as far as the lack of low-lying hayfields is concerned; on the other hand, this village enjoys its healthy drinking water, its cattle watering places located in the Tokmak River, and its excellent tree growth, which makes the effort of planting immensely easier. Liebenau, in connection with its neighboring villages, is approaching more and more the great destiny of becoming a model for the surrounding peoples.

Mayor Heinrich Unrau. Assistant Mayors Schröder, Hübert <sup>1</sup>). School Teacher Isaak Fast.

#### 35. Elisabethtal.

This village was founded in 1823 under the District Mayor Gerhard Ens [#60608] from Altona and the village Mayor Peter Dick [#207821]. The location of the allotted land forms an oblong 8 verst long and 2 verst wide rectangle. The borders are: in the east the village Alexandertal, in the west the Steinbach estate, in the south the Nogai steppe and in the north the river Juschanlee. This river contains water in most years, and since the pasture steppe abuts it, it can be used for watering cattle. Three versts south of the Juschanlee is the almost always water containing steppe river Tschokrak, on the right side of which the village is located. This steppe river forms a small shallow depression, which is used by all settlers for vegetable gardens. At a short distance from the village, another dry steppe river cuts through the land in an east-westerly direction. The soil is productive for grain, but since yellow clay predominates where the gardens are planted, the trees grow only in the first five years, and in twenty years reach a trunk 6 to 7 inches in diameter, whereupon they quickly die. The thin layer of black earth becomes so loose due to tillage that the strong spring storms often sweep it away along with the sprouting seeds, which has often caused great damage. Building stones are available in abundance at Juschanlee three versts away.

The village was named Elisabethtal in honor of the immortalized Empress Elisabeth <sup>2</sup>).

<sup>1)</sup> The family is also called Hiebert.

<sup>2)</sup> Yelizaveta Alekseyevna 1779-1826 (Luise Marie Auguste von Baden Durchlach, daughter of Margrave Karl Ludwig), wife of Alexander I, see Grand Duke Nikolai Mikhailovich: L'imperatrice E., espouse d "Alexandere Ier. Petersburg 1908.

Originally 22 families settled here. However, since the superfluous land of the Juschanlee estate was allotted to this village, three landowners were added in later years <sup>1</sup>). All 25 settlers came here from the districts of Marienwerder and Marienburg partly before the settlement of the village. The land was leased by Klaas Wiens from Steinbach before the founding of Elisabethtal, who usually leased it to Nogai. The first shelter of the settlers were wooden huts and earthen huts. Fourteen families received a crown advance of 10,826 R. Banko. The remaining 8 families helped themselves with their own property brought from abroad, which amounted to a total of about 14,300 R. Banko.

The history of this village, as well as the events that promoted or hindered its prosperity, are common to the other settlements in the district.

Mayor Peter Lohrentz.
Assistant Mayors Klaas Dick, Heinrich Barg
School Teacher Heinrich Friesen

Elisabethtal, April 22, 1848.

#### 36. Wernersdorf

This village was founded in 1824 on the left bank of the Tokmak River, 35 versts from Orechow and 100 versts from Berdyansk under the instruction of the District Mayor Johann Klaassen <sup>2</sup>) from Ohrloff. At that time the uninhabited steppe was grazed only by some cattle herds of the neighboring Russians. The original settlement consisted of 20 families <sup>3</sup>) and formed a simple row of houses. Seven of the settler families migrated from the districts of Elbing, Marienburg and Tiegenhof in West Prussia in 1819. In the five years before the settlement, they had brought with them 2 horses and a wagon, some household and farming equipment and at the settlement they received a crown advance of 5,668 R. Banko. Two families came from the local and 11 families from the Chortitza Mennonite district and owned a total of about 3,900 R. Banko at the time of settlement.

They named the village Wernersdorf in memory of a village with the same name in their former homeland.

The soil consists of loose, black earth, mixed with clay in places, is moderately suitable for grass cultivation, and well suited for grain cultivation and tree plantations.

<sup>1) 1855: 25</sup> farmsteads, 29 resident families (total 177 men, 157 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent).

<sup>1857: 25</sup> farmsteads (110 men) on 1,622 Dess. and 12 landless families (42 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 37.

<sup>2)</sup> Johann Klaassen [#44101], 1824-1833 District Mayor of the Molotschna Mennonite area, cf. Schroeder I. cit. p. 19.

<sup>3) 1855: 30</sup> farmsteads, 51 families of residents (total 237 men, 232 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent).

<sup>1857: 30</sup> farmsteads (149 men) on 1,950 Dess. and 2 landless families (11 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 38.

The stony subsoil is in some places an almost insurmountable obstacle when digging the wells <sup>1</sup>). The forest plantation, begun in 1837 under the guidance of the Agricultural Association while not yet complete, is in flourishing condition.

Since its foundation, the village has been hit by the cattle plague five times, so much so that it has not been able to currently bring its cattle herds into good condition. Moreover, 58 horses have been stolen from the settlers in 24 years.

In 1825 the locusts devastated fields and gardens, in the following years they were less harmful and disappeared completely by 1829.

The year of settlement brought a bad harvest and a very stormy winter, so that many cattle died of hunger. The terrible disaster year of 1833 was followed by another poor harvest in 1834 with weak sowing.

Due to the prosperity-promoting events described in other sections, this village also prospered in spite of all misfortunes.

Mayor Bernhard Epp. Assistant Mayors Peter Görtz, Gerhard Dörksen.

Wernersdorf, April 29, 1848.

# 37. Friedensdorf <sup>2</sup>)

The village was founded in 1824 under the administration of Herr Fadejew, Collegiate Council and Chief Judge of the Guardianship Committee for foreign settlers in Ekaterinoslav, and the District Mayor Johann Klaassen of Ohrloff. It is located on the left bank of the Bogem-Tschukrak <sup>3</sup>), 47 versts from Orekhov and 90 versts from Berdyansk. The uneven soil consists of light, black topsoil mixed with clay in places; it is well suited for arable farming, but less so for hayfields.

Two settlers wanted the village to be called Friedberg in memory of the town they had first settled in Prussia. The District Mayor, however, found it more appropriate to call it Friedensdorf, since it is not located on a mountain.

In 1824 16 and subsequently 14 families settled <sup>4</sup>). Of the 30 settlers, 20 immigrated from Prussia in 1823, namely from the Schwez administrative district, 8 families, including Heinrich Pötker [#51472] and David Schmidt [#48292], from the Marienburg administrative district, and 7 families, including Franz Peters [#51421] and Kornelius Fast [#51433], from the city of Graudenz 1 Family, Georg Schulz [#51307], from the Friedberg district of Frankfurt a. O. 2 families: Kornelius Voth [#69954] and Peter Voth [#140252].

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. Koeppen: Über einige Landesverhältnisse, p. 62.

<sup>2)</sup> Russian name: Krivoy Numer.

<sup>3)</sup> Begim-Tschokrak.

<sup>4) 1856: 30</sup> farmsteads, 32 resident families (total 178 men, 163 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent).

<sup>1857: 30</sup> farmsteads (137 men) on 1,950 Dess. and 16 landless families (67 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 37.

Of the remaining families, 3 families were descendants from the Chortitza Colony and 2 families were descendants from the local Mennonite district.

The unsettled steppe belonged to the leased land of Johann Kornies and was used by the neighboring Russians and Nogai for cattle grazing.

Seventeen families received for settlement from the high crown 3,850 R. Silver advance and had about 980 R. Silver personal property. Thirteen families settled from their own resources with a presumed wealth of 3,000 R. Silver.

The year of settlement was extraordinarily barren. Although the settlers in those colonies, where they had lived before, also sowed their allotted land, they harvested nothing, and the locusts ate the fodder that had grown. The lack of food and bread was compounded by the harsh stormy winter, so that many cattle starved to death. However, the visit of the benevolent monarch Alexander I, whose truly philanthropic behavior made a deep impression on the settlers, sweetened their suffering.

In the following year, poverty prevented them from sowing the seeds properly, so they could not fully enjoy the rich harvest. Until 1828, the locusts caused a lot of damage.

In 1828 the cattle plague broke out. In 1830 the school and the storehouse were built. In 1831 the wool given to Peter Schmidt in Steinbach on commission burned, for which they received no compensation.

The year 1833 was particularly difficult, when the horses were driven to the Crimea region at high cost, most of them died of hunger and cold. The cattle were partly slaughtered, partly sold to the interior of Russia. The sheep were sold to the neighboring noblemen for half their value. The credit provided by the colonial administration alone made it possible for the colonists to be saved from starvation, although total impoverishment and loss of farmsteads could not always be prevented.

In spite of all this, this village has also gradually risen through the prosperity-promoting events described in other reports.

Mayor Franz Wiens.
Assistant Mayors: Peter Buller, Peter Wiens.
School Teacher Jakob Wieb.

Friedensdorf, April 23, 1848.

### 38. Prangenau

This village was founded in the spring of 1824, is located on the right bank of the Jushanlee River <sup>1</sup>) and is 77 versts from Berdyansk. The plan, which was measured out to the settlers, forms an elongated, non-rectangular area, the furthest extent of which stretches from south to north. The soil is hard, has little black earth and a subsoil of yellow clay. The meadows are, if

<sup>1)</sup> Juschanly.

particularly favorable weather does not arrive, incapable of producing hay. The arable land is mostly flat, only a dry steppe river cuts through it in a sloping direction. Good grain harvests are obtained by efficient cultivation of the land when the weather is reasonably favorable. The growth of the gardens is also satisfactory.

The first Mayor Gerhard Wall [#102387] proposed to name the village Prangenau after a village in Prussia, which was approved by the District Mayor Johann Klaassen from Ohrloff.

Initially, 23 families settled in this village, among which there were 3 freeholders <sup>1</sup>). Eight of these families came from Marienburg, 4 from Tilsit Kreis and 11 from Chortitza Colony.

The steppe was given to Johann Kornies in lease and was used by Tartars as cattle pasture.

The settlers received a crown advance of 6,515 Rbl. Banko. Their own resources brought from abroad, including livestock and farming equipment, amounted to about 2,155 R. Banko.

The favorable and unfavorable events in its development up to 1848 are common to this village.

Mayor Peter Epp. Assistant Mayors: Abraham Bühler, Gerhard Peters. The author of this Peter Epp.

Prangenau, April 27, 1848.

## 9. Sparrau

If one climbs the hill rising on the north side of this village, which is separated from the village by a small valley, one can overlook the two rows of farm buildings of the settlers. All of these houses are regularly laid out, functionally furnished on the inside, and of a pleasing appearance. What makes the exterior even more pleasing are the regularly laid out orchards, which are bordered by wild pear trees along the lane, by a mulberry hedge between the neighbors, and by a wild olive hedge at the back. Behind the orchards of the south side there is the grove plantation of the whole village community with its different kinds of forest trees, including one third of mulberries. This plantation contains 17 Dessiantine of land, of which ½ Dess. goes to each landowner, which is bordered all around by a mulberry hedge, the whole plantation with a wild olive hedge. On both ends of the village the landowners live in regularly built houses.

The village was founded in 1828 under the supervision of Johann Klaassen. The houses were built of air bricks; in them a section for the cattle was established for the first winter. Agriculture was practiced only on a small scale at that time due to the lack of livestock. Likewise, the sheep breeding despite the

<sup>1) 1855: 20</sup> farmsteads, 41 resident families (total 171 men, 171 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent).

<sup>1857: 20</sup> farmsteads (128 men) on 1,300 Dess. and 15 landless families (61 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 37.

high wool prices (10 to 30 Rbl. per pud). The farmsteads were surrounded by ditches.

The village is situated along the tributary valley of the Molotschna Kuruschan on its southern side. The water in the wells is 25 to 40 feet deep. Arable fields and hayfields are located on a hill and are quite fertile.

Since the local steppe forms a triangle, i.e. has a rafter-like (sparrenähnliche) plan, the village was named Sparrau after a well-known village in Prussia.

The first 28 settlers of this village mostly immigrated from the Elbing district in West Prussia. Two years later 8 more families were added from the other villages of this district <sup>1</sup>). The land belonged to the leased estate of Johann Kornies, who leased it to Tartars and Greeks for grazing. The settlers received a crown advance of 14,092 R. Banko. Only a few had their own property in the amount of about 500 R. and did not need the advance.

In 1832, on an autumn night, as a harbinger of the terrible catastrophic year of 1833, a northern light appeared. It looked like an unusual mass of fire in the starry night sky that opened up and you could apparently see deep into the opening. After the opening closed again, the phenomenon ended with the falling of an innumerable number of stars.

The further course of the history of this village does not show any features differing from those of other colonies.

Mayor Heinrich Ewert. Assistant Mayors: Gerhard Dück <sup>2</sup>), Jakob Ott. School Teacher Peter Friesen.

Sparrau, April 23, 1848.

#### 40. Konteniusfeld

There will hardly be a person who is so devoid of all curiosity that, when he gets hold of writings of earlier history, which refer especially to his origin, he would not read them with full attention and think about them with deep satisfaction <sup>3</sup>). So, as pleasant as such writings are for us, so they will also be for our descendants, if they find something written by us, their forefathers. In order to satisfy our descendants in this

<sup>1) 1855: 40</sup> farmsteads, 61 local families (a total of 295 men, 264 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Vol. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those who are constantly absent). 1857: 40 farmsteads (216 men) on 2600 people and 34 landless families (133 men), cf. Klaus a. a. O. Supplement 2, p. 37.

<sup>2)</sup> The family is also called Dieck.

<sup>3)</sup> The first paragraph of this report is written in close accordance with the "circular invitation to write municipal reports" from State Councilor E. von Hahn (see p. 1), which begins with the following words: "It will hardly be a person who is exposed to such a degree of curiosity that he does not even desire to know the time at which his birthplace was founded, the origin of the community of which he is a member, the main events which have a beneficial or unfavorable influence on the development and rise of this place," cf. Georg Leibbrandt a. a. O. p. 7-9.

to provide a brief historical overview of the founding and existence of our village.

In 1831, the first step towards the settlement of the Konteniusfeld village was taken; on March 24, the steppe was measured and the most suitable place for the establishment of the village was chosen, from it the fireplaces were arranged and marked out, distributed by lot and the spring sowing then proceeded. In the summer the construction of the houses was started. In the north the village borders on the steppe of the crown peasants of the Russian village Tschernigowka, where the small steppe river Behemtschukrak <sup>1</sup>) forms the actual border. In the west it borders on the two colonies Waldheim and Gnadenfeld, in the south on the Tschumak path leading from Bachmut to the Crimea. The shallow steppe river Kuruschan runs pretty much through the middle of the plan, on the southern side of which the village is built. On each side of the lane live 15 landowners <sup>2</sup>), each fireplace is 36 fathoms wide. This river Kuruschan, which is almost always dry, often causes damage to the vegetable gardens when downpours occur. Near Behamtschukrak there is a pit of white earth, which is used by the Russians and Germans living there for stuccoing the houses. This earth is also an excellent material for making air bricks, from which all residential buildings in Konteniusfeld are made.

The whole steppe is flat and covered with fertile black earth, somewhat rich in saltpetre, on a white and red clay subsoil. The groundwater is quite deep, so the land dries up quickly. In 1846 the village community made a start with the forest plantation <sup>3</sup>). On January 1, 1848 there were 2,121 forest and 1,575 mulberry trees in the plantation on sites.

Johann Klaassen, the District Mayor, named the village Konteniusfeld in memory of the late Chief Judge of the Office for Foreign Settlers in Ekaterinoslav, Real State Councillor of Kontenius, who was so dedicated to the colonies.

As descendants of earlier immigrants from the Molotschna Mennonite colonies, the settlers did not receive a crown advance, but had to settle with the property acquired in other villages since their marriage through day labor and other work <sup>4</sup>). The school, built in 1835 of air bricks, 8 fathoms long and 4 fathoms wide, is attended by 85 children in the winter. In 1843, instead of the former ditches, fences were built to mark the yards and gardens.

<sup>1)</sup> Begim-Tschokrak.

<sup>2) 1855: 30</sup> farmsteads, 47 resident families (total 229 men, 219 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). 1857: 30 host families (133 men) from 1950 Dess. and 11 landless families (47 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 37.

<sup>3)</sup> On the advice of the Landwirtschaftlicher Verein, Cf. p. 109.

<sup>4)</sup> Cornies reported to Harthausen that it was the custom among the Mennonites that everyone, even the son of the richest farmer, served as a servant for another for a few years; therefore, being a servant was not a [permanent] condition among the Mennonites, but a life passage. Servants and maids received a very high wage, 30 to 70 Rbl. of silver. Thus, even a poor man would have the opportunity to accumulate a small fortune and often become a farmer himself. Cf. Haxthausen op. cit. Vol. 2, p. 185.

In this year a grain storehouse made of burnt tiles with Dutch pantile roofing is to be built. The earth tremor on February 11, 1838, raised the water in the well to the layer of earth containing saltpeter, making it undrinkable for humans and unhealthy for livestock in warm summer days, especially for horses.

In 1844, a cattle epidemic swept away almost all the livestock, but there are already 292 head of cattle again.

In the orchards there are:

	Fruit trees on sites	6,657	Trees
	Wild pear trees	442	"
	Mulberry trees in hedges	22,923	"
In nurseries:			
	Grafted fruit trees	390	Trees
	Ungrafted	5,566	"
	Forest trees	2,720	"
	Mulberry trees	14,422	"
	Total	53,120	"

The village has been honored by the following visits of imperial government officials: 1831 by Herr Chief Justice Fadeev from Ekaterinoslav. 1837 by Herr General von Insow. In 1842, 1843 and 1845 by Herr Privy Councillor von Hahn from Odessa.

Due to the foundation of the city of Berdyansk and the upswing of the grain trade, agriculture in this village also rose significantly.

Mayor Andreas Voth.
Assistant Mayors Johann Thiessen, Abraham Dück.
School Teacher Isaak Penner.

Konteniusfeld, April 24, 1848.

## 41. Gnadenfeld 1)

In order to escape the terrible pressure of a Polish nobleman, in 1765 a number of Mennonite families moved from the area of Schwez in West Prussia, which was Polish at that time, to a marshy area overgrown with willow bushes on the right bank of the river Netze in the present province of Brandenburg and founded, endowed by King Frederick II with excellent privileges under the guidance of the Royal Privy Councillor Franz von Brinkenhof <sup>2</sup>) they founded the two colonies named after him Franztal and Brinkenhofswalde and a third one, called Neudessau. Initially struggling on this swampy ground with indescribable hardships, the

<sup>1)</sup> Russian names: Kankow, Tschetyrech rjadnyj Numer.

<sup>2)</sup> should read: "Brenkenhoff" and "Brenkenhoffswalde", cf. Mennonikisches Lexikon Vol. I, p. 263.

inhabitants through untiring diligence, crowned by God's blessing, finally attained some prosperity and a quite comfortable rural life. They would hardly have left their accustomed and cherished circumstances, if King Frederick William III had not felt compelled for reasons of state, as difficult as it was for him according to his own words, to partially revoke the privilege and to impose on them a protection fee and the restriction that they could not acquire any further property 1). Then the eyes of the community turned to southern Russia, where on the banks of the Molotschna thousands of their brothers in the faith had already found welcome, protection and benefits of innumerable kinds under the scepter of the emperor, and the decision was made to emigrate. In the opinion that nothing stood in the way of immigration, most of them sold their properties in 1833 and set out on their journey. However, there was quite a bit of shock when the Imperial Russian Consul General in Danzig, in response to an inquiry addressed to him, announced that immigration was prohibited 2). Then the ecclesiastical leaders, on behalf and in the name of the community, turned to His Majesty the Emperor with the request that he would graciously grant permission for 40 families to immigrate. Soon the permission was in their hands under the legal conditions 3).

The procession set out in two groups, one led by the church Aeltester Wilhelm Lange [#41914], the other by a church preacher. Even on the journey it was not forgotten as much as possible that a Christian community was traveling. A short morning blessing was held daily before departure and a devotional hour on Sunday. Without any particular accident, the travelers arrived at Molotschna at the beginning of autumn, and each family looked for suitable accommodation for the winter. This, however, cost a lot of money, since the foodstuffs were extremely expensive due to the total Misswachs in the previous year. Autumn and winter were spent in finding and establishing a place to settle. It was finally decided, high up on the steppe, where the first traces of the deepening of the Apanlee steppe river are noticeable, but where there are otherwise neither bushes nor quarries nor any other ground features present,

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 88 note 3.

<sup>2)</sup> Already on August 5, 1819, the Russian foreign minister had been instructed to stop the immigration of foreign settlers and to notify the foreign missions to this effect, cf. I PSZ Vol. 36, No. 27912 and Vol. 36, No. 27954 (October 25, 1819). A similar prohibition seems to have been repeated on June 2, 1831, cf. II PSZ Vol. 7, No. 5684.

<sup>3)</sup> The allotment of land to newly immigrating foreign settlers was no longer provided for by law at that time. In exceptional cases, the chairman of the Guardianship Committee was allowed to grant the settlement permit on the condition that no new land allotment would be necessary and that the village communities concerned would give their consent, cf. II PSZ Vol. 7, No. 5684, October 18, 1832.

On January 10, 1834, this community received notification that its immigration was permitted under the following conditions: 1. presentation of an immigration certificate from the Prussian government, 2. immigration of families consisting of at least 5 persons, 3. deposit of a sum of 800 Rbl. to be refunded at the place of arrival, cf. Mennonitisches Lexikon Vol. 1, p. 263.

Since the number of 40 families could not be reached in 1835, some Lutheran families ( [Wilhelm]Lange [#706327], [Hermann] Lenzmann [#706255], [Karl] Klatt [#669686]) were included by confessional baptism, cf. Friesen op. cit. p. 80.

To begin a village of 40 farmsteads <sup>1</sup>), 4 craftsmen and 30 residents. The settlement took place in 1835, apart from some building sites, which were settled in 1836, and three building sites, which were not settled until 1840.

The village forms a rectangle almost 2 versts long, with its long sides facing south and north and its ends facing east and west. Each of the two rows of houses contains 20 houses, opposite of which there are 40 houses for residents.

A wide road runs from both sides between the farms and the housing estates, which is very busy especially in autumn, because the grain transport to the district and port city of Berdyansk, which is 70 versts away, comes from many colonist and Mennonite villages here <sup>2</sup>).

The rather large gardens of the landowners would collide between the two rows of farmsteads, if they were not separated by a four-fathom wide grass footpath, called the "Kirchensteig" [Church Path], which is bordered on both sides by forest trees. The so-called church path runs right through the middle of the village Mittelgasse [Middle Road], on the sides of which, directly opposite and on the Kirchensteig", the school stands to the east and the church is to be built to the west. It would be already in full construction, if some quite unexpected obstacles had not been put in our way. The Mittelgasse, which leads in a straight line north to the churchyard, in connection with the Kirchensteige divides the village into completely equal quarters. The forest plantation runs behind the residential areas on both long sides, and one may boldly claim that only very few villages can compete with Gnadenfeld in terms of tree plantations. "Gnadenfeld!" This name was given to the settlement by the community leader for the following reasons. "Feld" was the name given to the village because it is not located in a valley, but high on the steppe, that is, in the field. It was called "Gnadenfeld" because it was intended to create a monument to the imperial grace which, despite the fact that immigration was forbidden at that time, so willingly granted the community the requested permission, and secondly because it was hoped that this new place of residence would become a place where the community could experience the revelation of divine grace in abundance. The authorities readily approved the naming.

The village had enjoyed divine blessings until then, because although we received no support from the crown and the means of some immigrants were very small, in that cattle, household utensils, farm tools, etc. had to be given away for ridiculous prices during the emigration, but the journey and especially the first winter, as well as the settlement itself, caused significant costs,

<sup>1) 1855: 40</sup> farmsteads, 76 resident families (total 310 men, 271 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent). In 1857: 40 households (201 men) on 2660 Dess. and 26 landless families (81 men), cf. Klaus op. cit. Supplement 2 p. 37

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 91 note 2.

it must be said that it blossoms more sweetly with every year and becomes more beautiful and prosperous. We have had mostly good and some abundant harvests from the fertile and, if God does not withhold the blessing, very productive soil, which is why the prosperity is increasing on the whole. The houses take on an increasingly attractive appearance and the farm buildings become more complete and functional. Many gardens are already fully planted, despite the young settlement, and even several farm shares in the forest plantation, which was started 2 years ago, are completely planted and surrounded with hedges.

God's grace has protected us from epidemics, fires and other special adversities up to this point, and so we hope to continue to lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and respectability under the protection and umbrella of our dear authorities.

Gnadenfeld, April 30, 1848.

Mayor Voth.

Assistant Mayors: Jantzen, Görz.

## 42. Waldheim 1)

This village was founded in 1836. There settled in the same year 8 landowners, in 1838, 12 and 1840, 20 landowners. The Mayor's Office was held by: Kornelius Wedel [#12540] for 10 years and Christian Schlabbach [#5874] in the second year [must mean second term].

The village is situated on the Behem-Tschukrak River <sup>2</sup>) and borders on the east on the land of the Kronsdorf Tschernigowka, on the south on the Gnadenfeld village, on the west on the newly founded Hierschau village, on the north on the Kronsland, which is leased by Heinrich Janzen, a Mennonite from the Schönsee village. The village is located 80 versts from Berdyansk and 350 versts from Simferopol. The soil, which is very diverse, black, granular, stony, and yellow-loamy, is very suitable for growing grain. Also, despite the high altitude, there is an abundance of hay.

The 68 families of this village <sup>3</sup>) came from the Volhynia Governorate, namely from the following places: 1) from the village Ostrowa in the Lutzkischm district <sup>4</sup>) on the estates of the nobleman Michael Bitschkowskij, where they had come to the district Rokonosch not far from the town Wissotzk from the manor of the nobleman Watzlaf Borainy <sup>5</sup>); 2) from the village Wolla on the

<sup>1)</sup> Russian name: Polsha.

<sup>2)</sup> Begim-Tschokrak.

<sup>3)</sup> In 1855: 40 farmsteads, 91 resident families (total 488 men, 473 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent).

<sup>1857: 43</sup> farmsteads (205 men) on 2,840 Dess. and 59 landless families (296 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 37.

<sup>4)</sup> The location of the villages mentioned below could not be determined. Obviously, the names were mutilated.

<sup>5)</sup> A larger resettlement of Mennonites in Kronsland was already planned in 1803, see I PSZ Vol. 27, No. 20843.

the first one was from the estate of the nobleman Jgnat Bitschkowskij, where they came from the manor of Count Olisarow near the small town Rawalowka in the Lutzkische district, and 3.) from the district Nowograd Wolhynsk from the estate of Prince Ljubomirskij <sup>1</sup>).

Their mostly deceased fathers, however, migrated from the province of Neumark near Driesen and from the village of Schwez in West Prussia to the above-mentioned places in the years 1806 to 1818. Kornelius Wedel [#12540] was their administrator during the implementation of the permission for resettlement on the part of the High Crown and their guide on the journey from Volhynia to the Molotschna Mennonite District in 1835.

The land allocated to the settlers with the permission of the High Crown through the mediation of the Chairman of the Agricultural Association Johann Kornies and the Molotschna Mennonite District Office had previously been leased by the previously mentioned Kornies and was completely empty. The settlers, some of whom were quite poor, did not receive any support from the Crown; the necessary assistance was provided by the old, previously settled landowners. The wealth they brought with them may have amounted to 400 Rubles of silver.

Since most of the settlers in Volhynia had lived in forests, Johann Kornies gave their village the name Waldheim.

Mayor Schlabbach. Assistant Mayors: David Kühn, Johann Fast. School Teacher Heinrich Dirks.

# 43. Landskrone<sup>2</sup>)

On the small, dry river Behemtschekrak <sup>3</sup>), 85 versts northwest of Berdyansk lies the village Landskrone, which consists of 40 farms <sup>4</sup>) each with 65 Dess. land. It was founded in 1839 with 26 families, who came from different colonies of the district according to the invitation of the Molotschna Mennonite District Office. Since the lowland in which the village was to be built was of small size, two roads running parallel from west to east were plowed at a distance of 220 fathoms, along which the houses of both rows were built in such a way that they stood with their back ends facing each other, whereby not only the location of the gardens became a much better one, but also the houses came to stand securely. Nineteen houses on the southern or main street were built in the very year of the foundation of burnt bricks according to rule and plan. Seven families built on the northern street of white bricks. In the following year 1840 again 11 families settled, likewise gathering from the other villages,

<sup>1)</sup> Lubomirski.

<sup>2)</sup> Russian name: Krasnyj Numer.

<sup>3)</sup> Begim-Tschokrak.

<sup>4) 1855: 40</sup> farmsteads, 47 resident families (total 258 men, 269 women), cf. Mennonitische Blätter Jg. 4, 1857, p. 31 (including those permanently absent).

<sup>1857: 49</sup> farmsteads (193 men) on 2,600 Dess. and 3 landless families (7 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 37.

added and built, except for one, on the northern side. At last, in 1842 the last three were added. This village attained a particularly beautiful appearance from the fact that all the settlers, apart from 7, built their residential buildings of burnt bricks according to the plan and regulations. The Russians still call this village the red village (krasnyj nomer) 1). The uneven land consists of a 1-foot-thick layer of black earth on a reddish-yellow clay-like base. In 1846 and 1847 the village had a 20-fold crop at a price of 25 R. Banko per Tscht. The significant debts are now not only paid, but the farms are improved. The 55 to 65 foot deep wells contain excellent water.

In the first years of the village's existence, the river caused considerable damage in the spring by snaking its way between the houses. To prevent this, in the spring of 1844, a channel 70 fathoms long and 10 fathoms wide was drawn in a dead straight line down the middle of the rows of houses, and the river was graded with earth in places to make the land more level and suitable for planting trees.

Landskrone will present a splendid sight in about 15 years, if the Lord continues to give prosperous times. The gardens between the rows of houses will be fully planted and in the best growth, while giant poplars will tower in the air on the banks of the canal. We may look forward to this time with even more joyful hope, as the present occupants of this village are energetic men, striving for improvement. The number of different fruit trees planted so far is 5,500.

Before the settlement, the steppe was leased by Heinrich Janzen, a member of the Schönsee village, but he was only a sublessee of Johann Kornies. The settlers did not receive a crown advance. Their property brought here may have amounted to 6,000 R. Silver.

The origin of the name of this village has not been made known to us.

The deceased chairman Johann Kornies told us the name without any special explanation.

Mayor: Kornelius Enns. Assistant Mayors: Gerhard Peters, Kornelius Penner. Author Johann Kröker.

Landskrone, May 4, 1848 <sup>2</sup>).

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<sup>1)</sup> Actually "Red Number", Cf. p. 82 note 4.

<sup>2)</sup> About the Mennonite colonies on the Molotschna, Haxthausen, op. cit. Vol. 2, p. 196: "In the whole of Russia there is no area where the culture of the soil and the population is as uniformly high as here. They can serve the government as a yardstick, of how far this land could be brought with the cultivation, but especially with the forestation of the steppe and the whole of South Russia, and that is the most important point for Russia's power and internal politics! If South Russia had the development and culture of this area, Moscow and Petersburg could not be the center of gravity and the pivot of the empire, but these functions would be transferred to Kharkov or Jekaterinostav and Odessa".

44. Ohrloff 161

## 44. Ohrloff <sup>1</sup>)

From yellowed papers. The first beginnings of the Ohrloff village (Melitopol district).

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In the years 1803 and 1804 a number of Mennonite farming families, who lived in Prussia in a very disadvantaged situation, emigrated from West Prussia, Danzig district, Elbing and Marienburg district, to establish a new home on the Molotschna River, in Tauria, South Russia. They moved in small groups, without special leaders.

In Chortitza <sup>2</sup>), Ekaterinoslav governorate, they lodged in 1789, and rested for the winter and prepared, as far as possible, for their own settlement.

In the spring of 1805, 12 families of these immigrants moved to the plan designated for them in the Orekhov district <sup>3</sup>), 56 verst south of the district town of Orekhov and 100 verst from Berdyansk, a lowland of the Kuruduyush River <sup>4</sup>). The land marked out for cultivation was about 6 versts long and 1½ to 3 versts wide. Here there was not only enough hayfield, but also the rest of the land was rich in forage herbs, and the black earth was very favorable for grain growing. No bushes, not a trace of woodland. There was also a lack of quarries (Steinbrüchen). However, clay was found on the Kurudujushan River, which provided good bricks and roofing tiles, as well as the necessary sand.

There were no dwellings, since the nomadic Nogai moved from place to place with their felt huts (called Kibitki <sup>5</sup>) in order to graze their herds on the best possible pasture.

Because of the lack of workers, few houses were finished the first summer, so that in the coming winter two or three families had to live together in one house. There was probably no lack of building funds, because these first 12 families brought with them a capital of about 29,700 Rbl. to which they received an advance of 3,755 Rbl. 75 Kop. from the government.

In 1806 another 8 families arrived <sup>6</sup>). Now the properties were demarcated by ditches, and arable land and hayfields were cut in. At the request of the two landowners Gerhard [#46380] and Claas [#2590] Reimer, the village received with the consent of the other settlers the name

<sup>1)</sup> Prof. Unruh, Karlsruhe had the kindness to provide us with this report, which was missing in J. Stach, for which we thank him here.

<sup>2)</sup> This refers to the Chortitza region, cf. pp. 1-26.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p. 89, note 6.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. p. 122, note 6.

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. p. 104, note 2.

<sup>6) 1857: 21</sup> farmsteads (129 men) on 1,365 Dess. and 23 landless families (61 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 36.

Ohrloff, which was also the name of the Prussian home village, was distinguished by its beautiful layout and good facilities.

Initially, the Nogai were very obstructive to the newcomers in their economic endeavors; they not only disturbed the work in the fields, but also stole the few horses that one had. But whatever else the bandits could get hold of disappeared from the herds. Most of the thefts usually occurred during the sowing season.

On May 1, 1808, a hailstorm knocked the winter grain completely onto the ground; the summer grain was also partly knocked off, but still grew back, but yielded only a small harvest. On the storm side, no window pane remained whole on this occasion.

In 1810 and 1829, cattle died: two-thirds of the herd fell. In 1822, in September, large swarms of locusts settled, and in 1823 the young brood consumed almost everything that was green, but not all fields were affected. In the coming 1824 year they were already less, but Misswachs in addition made the crop yield very small <sup>1</sup>). In the following two years, the locust plague resumed, but not quite as devastating as in the beginning. By 1827, however, they were so common that they consumed almost everything, whereupon they gradually disappeared in the following years. The majority of the settlers at that time still believed that the locusts as a God-sent plague that should not be resisted, which is why no real unity could be achieved in the fight against them.

The 1833 Misswachs: violent easterly storms whipped the very dry earth into the air; a harvest was not to be thought of, the necessary grain and fodder had to be bought at high prices from distant places and transported with difficulty.

In 1838, on January 11,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock in the evening, there was another earth tremor, but without any disadvantages for the village.

The gradual upswing of the Ohrloff village was favored by the reorganization of the colonial administration in general. The Guardianship Committee in Ekaterinoslav became the Guardianship Committee in Odessa, whose chairman, the State Councilor Eug. v. Hahn, became a zealous and insightful promoter of the colonial welfare. But even before him, the State Councillor S. von Contenius, as the head of the Guardianship Committee, had been very active in the same sense and with good success. He was particularly interested in the improvement of sheep breeding, and this at a time when little grain cultivation was possible and the sale of grain was quite impossible.

Contenius was also the one who started planting orchards and mulberry plantations in the colonies, introduced silk cultivation and thus significantly increased the general prosperity of the village. In addition, the well-known chairman of the Agricultural Association, Johann Cornies of Ohrloff, led the matter on site, and such with such energy and prudence, which is unique in the history of our people.

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<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 91 note 4.

The regular black fallow was the best and it improved the harvests from year to year, ever more country came under the plow. Thus, things progressed with rapid steps, to which also the circumstance contributed much that the inhabitants left their old prejudices and took new courses in the agricultural management. Thus, the newly built, neat, and durable houses were built, also some granaries were built, in addition to the mostly beautifully planted plots of land, the growing gardens and the forest that is greening on the southeastern side, all this offers the eye a splendid picture, if one looks down on the village from the higher steppe situated in the southeast <sup>1</sup>).

# VI. The Scheweden Area 2)

## 1. Klosterdorf<sup>3</sup>)

Reprint of the report published by J. Stach under the title "Kurtzgefasste Ubersicht der Grundung und des Bestehens der Kolonie Klosterdirf vom Jahre 1848": Yearbook of the "Landwirt" for the year 1915, 3 Jg. Eugenfeld (1914).

The village was founded in 1805, but the houses were built in two rows in 1806. It is located on the Dnieper, 82 versts from Kherson. The nature of the soil, conditions of the Dnieper islands, support from the Crown, settlement, visitations, and development of prosperity exactly the same as in Mühlhausendorf and Schlangendorf <sup>4</sup>).

Since the village was established not far from a monastery <sup>5</sup>), it was given the name Klosterdorf by General Kontenius <sup>6</sup>) and Councilor Schilkow <sup>7</sup>). Of the 30 original families <sup>8</sup>) 8 came from Bohemia, 7 from Mainz on the Rhine, 8 from Baden and 7 from the Electoral Palatinate. They were induced to emigrate by the commissioner Ziegler <sup>9</sup>). From Grodno to Ekaterinoslav they were transported by

<sup>1)</sup> With the words: "So reports the chronicler at the end of the first half of the 19th century" the unknown editor closes here his excerpt from the Gemeindebericht.

<sup>2)</sup> This area was originally intended for settlement with Swedes, who founded the village of Alt-Schwedendorf here in 1782. Cf. I PSZ Vol. 26 No. 19372, April 6, 1800 (where 1787 is erroneously given as the year of foundation), also the jubilee publication by Wilhelm Jsert: Statistisch-Historische Beschreibung der Kolonien im schwedischen Gebiet betreff ihres 100-jährigen Bestehens. Odessa 1904; Neuer Haus- und Landwirtschaftskalender für deutsche Ansiedler im südlichen Rußland. Odessa 1905, and the community report from 1848 in: Jahrbuch des "Landwirt" für das Jahr 1915, 3. Jg., Eugenfeld (1914), pp. 147-148.

<sup>3)</sup> Russian name: Kostyrka, see also p. 166.

<sup>4)</sup> This sentence was probably written by S. Stach.

<sup>5) 7</sup> versts from Klosterdorf is the Orthodox Grigorievsky-Bizyukov monastery, cf. Semenov-Tyan-Sansky op. cit. Vol. 14, p. 641.

<sup>6)</sup> Cf. p. 35 note 4.

<sup>7)</sup> The name could not be determined, but see Sholkov.

<sup>8) 1857: 35</sup> farmsteads (176 men) on 2,100 Dess. and 10 landless families (29 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 30

<sup>9)</sup> Cf. p. 29.

soldiers <sup>1</sup>), led from Ekaterinoslav to the place by General Kontenius and Councilor Schilkow. They were quartered in Alt-Schwedendorf until the earthen huts were built. Their property brought from abroad consisted of a number of horses, of which some families owned two, but most owned only one.

Mayor: Josef Hinkel. School Teacher: Nikolaus Luft.

#### 2. Mühlhausendorf<sup>2</sup>)

Reprint of the report published by J. Stach under the title "Concise Ubersicht der Grundung und des besttehens der Kolonie Muhlhausendorf aus dem Jahrbuch des "Landwirt" für das Jahr 1915, 3. Jg., Eugenfeld (1914).

The settlement of the colonists and their arrival on the spot took place in 1805, the construction of the houses in 1806. Until the houses were built, the colonists were accommodated partly in Alt-Schwedendorf, partly they had to build their own huts.

The village is located on the northern side of the Dnieper River, at the foot of the mountain, half a verst south of Alt-Swedendorf <sup>3</sup>), 80 versts from the district and governorate town of Kherson. To the southwest extends a lowland, through which the Dnieper flows and which has many small islands. On these islands, both on this side and on the other side of the Dnieper are poplars, willows, shrubbery, as well as cane and reeds. Hay also grows on the islands, but the hay crop from beyond the Dnieper can be brought in only when the Dnieper is frozen solid; in this way, during mild winters, much hay is lost due to the annual spring floods. The land allotted to the village extends 10 versts to the northeast and is one verst wide at the village and two versts wide further away. It is high, not too uneven and has a yellow-loamy, sandy, fertile soil, on which every kind of grain thrives in favorable weather and thin sowing. A dense sowing has no prospect of a good yield. At the foot of the mountain on the Dnieper side there are also limestones, which the colonists use for masonry. In 1847, by the order of the authorities, a forest plantation was established.

Before the establishment of the village there was a windmill with a small house. Both belonged to the Schwedendorf colonist Herrmann <sup>4</sup>), who had built it. The gentlemen, Kontenius and Councilor Schilkow <sup>5</sup>) gave the new village the name Mühlhausendorf, because not only the mill had stood here, but also the leader and mayor of the village came from Mühlhausen.

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. I PSZ Vol. 27 No. 20691.

<sup>2)</sup> Initially also called Mühldorf.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p. 163 note 2.

<sup>4)</sup> A Karl Herrmann is named in the 1805 directory of Alt-Schwedendorf landowners in Jsert, op. cit. p. 20.

<sup>6)</sup> Cf. p. 163 note 7.

The village was originally established by 16 families who, except for a single German-Bohemian family, came from Austria and Württemberg. They had received newspaper news in their homeland that the emperor was giving land in the south of his empire to German colonists under favorable privileges and, without forming a group, had set out at their own risk. Grodno was their rallying point. There they elected as their leader from among themselves the colonist Karl Waser <sup>1</sup>).

From Grodno the settlers received 25 Kop. Banko food money for each soul. For settlement they received 160 Rubles Banko advance from the crown after their arrival in Ekaterinoslav. On the spot they were allotted timber for construction. They had already consumed their own resources brought from the old homeland on the journey.

In the first years after the settlement <sup>2</sup>) the colonists were characterized by indolence, indifference, litigiousness, and drunkenness. The school system was in a bad state <sup>3</sup>). Since they did not understand the local language, they were often cheated, lied to and stolen from by the natives. The unaccustomed climate was a blow to many of them. However, despite many difficulties and obstacles, they achieved, if not prosperity, then incomparably better moral and economic conditions. In the years 1821 to 1824 locusts, 1825 the cattle plague, 1840 to 1843 field mice caused great damage.

School Principal: Johann Michael Weiß Mayor: Christian Rast.

## 3. Schlangendorf <sup>4</sup>)

Reprint of the report published by J. Stach under the title "Kurtzgefasste Ubersicht der Grundung und des Bestehens der Kolonie Klosterdirf vom Jahre 1848": Yearbook of the "Landwirt" for the year 1915, 3 Jg. Eugenfeld (1914).

The village was established and built in 1806, is located on the Dnieper, 9 versts from Berislav and 79 versts from Kherson. Its southern border is the Konka River. Schlangendorf is located in the same region as Mühlhausendorf and the land is exactly the same as that of Mühlhausendorf. The 19 families of this village built their houses not in two rows, as it was usual, but in one row. When Councilor Shilkov <sup>5</sup>) visited the new village, he rebuked this layout and said: "You have built your village like a snake, all side by side,

<sup>1)</sup> Karl Waser thus presumably comes from Mühlhausen, cf. above.

<sup>2) 1857: 35</sup> farmsteads (149 men) on 2,100 Dess. and 3 landless families (16 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 30.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p. 31 note 5.

<sup>4)</sup> Russian Name: Gadjucaja.

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. p. 163 note 7.

so let it be called Schlangendorf [Snake Village]!" Of the 19 families, most came from Prussia, three from Pomerania and one from Silesia <sup>1</sup>).

The cause and circumstances of the immigration here are quite the same as in Mühlhausendorf. In Ekaterinoslav the Guardianship Committee gave them as a guide the clerk Peter Schmidt <sup>2</sup>).

Finished houses were not found. The colonists received food and advance money as well as building materials from the crown. They were all poor. Those who had brought some wealth from their homeland lost it on the way near Zhitomir <sup>3</sup>), where fire broke out in an inn at night and consumed all belongings. Two old people sleeping in the wagon died in the flames. Poverty was joined in the new home by sickliness and mortality in the early years. Schlangendorf was also exposed to the same afflictions as Mühlhausendorf.

Mayor: Peter Tomm.
Assistant Mayors: Michael Oppenlander,
Karl Gretsthmann.
School Teacher: Johann Kowalsky.

VII The Mariupol Colonist and Mennonite Area 4)

Historical overview of the foundation and existence of the colonies of the Mariupol Colonist and Mennonite Area up to the year 1848. Edited from archival sources by J. Stach.

Reprinted from: Jahrbuch des "Landwirt" fur das Jahr 1914. 2. Jg. Eugenfeld (1913), pp. 143-171.

# 1. Kirschwald <sup>5</sup>)

The village was founded in 1823. It is located on the small river Kaltschik and borders east and south on the Greek village Klein-Janissol, west and

- 1) 1857: 35 farmsteads (121 men) on 2,100 Dess. and 3 landless families (13 men), see Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 30.
  - 2) Peter Schmidt does not seem to have settled in Schlangendorf, see Jsert loc. cit. p. 20.
  - Shitomir.
  - 4) About the reports missing here, cf. the preface.
  - 5) Russian name: Wischnewataja.

Some of the German villages in the Black Sea area received Russian names relatively late. The reason for this was a petition of all voting Mennonites of the Schoneberg village to the Russian government of March 3, 1893, with the request for the granting of a Russian village name, because they believed to see from the naming of Dorpat that the affiliation of all settlements in Russia to the Russian state should also become apparent purely by outward appearance through Russian names, see Mennonitische Blätter, Jg. 40, 1893, No. 9, pp. 70-71.

north of the German colonies Rosengart and Tiegenhof, from which it is only half a verst away. Its distance from the governorate city of Ekaterinoslav is 230, from the district city of Aleksandrovsk 150 versts. Its land, sandy and stony, full of deep valleys and steep hills, is less suitable for grain growing than that of the other neighboring colonies, but tree and vegetable growing is successful thanks to the low, wet location of the village.

The former District Mayor and local colonist Michael Reddig gave the village the name of his Prussian native village Kirschwald. In this village 26 families from the Elbing Kreis, Danzig administrative district, settled, which, with the exception of a few Roman Catholic souls, professed the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The men who were concerned about the welfare of the village, State Councillor Kontenius and Chief Justice Fadeyev, will be kept by the settlers in grateful memory. When the first settlers arrived, the steppe was uninhabited, but the immigrants built earth or board huts for protection against rain and storms. The now inhabited houses were constructed in 1823 and 1824.

The immigrants came to Russia in small groups without leaders in the years 1818 and 1819 and stayed until 1823 in the Mennonite villages of the Molotschna colony, where they supported themselves partly by the professions they had learned in their homeland and partly by working in the fields and as day laborers, until they were able to settle down in 1823 <sup>1</sup>). In order to enable the poor settlers to build their houses and buy cattle, the high crown advanced them 350 or 417 Rubles Banko for each family according to their need <sup>2</sup>). Some, however, managed without an advance. The colonists brought little or nothing with them from their former homeland.

Immediately after the settlement in the years 1823 to 1825 the still barely cultivated grain fields suffered large damage by the swarms of locusts obscuring the sun. In January and February 1825, much livestock perished in the great masses of snow and severe frost. In 1827, cattle recently purchased and brought with sacrifice and effort fell victim to a devastating epidemic. The sad year of 1833 ³) brought, in addition to a new total crop failure, another cattle epidemic, which killed almost all the cattle that had not been sold for a ridiculous price before. In order to feed the starving cattle, the thatched roofs were taken off. The terrifying earthquake on January 11, 1838 at 9 o'clock in the evening caused no damage. The years 1838, 1846 and 1847 were blessed with particularly abundant harvests. By order of the authorities a 13 Dessiantine

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<sup>1)</sup> In 18571, 26 farmsteads (79 men) on 1,560 Dess. and 12 landless families (40 men), see Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 32.

<sup>2)</sup> The usual crown advance in 1823 was 3-400 Rbl. Banko, according to available reports.

<sup>3)</sup> The bad harvest of 1833 resulted in some important agricultural reforms.

At that time, for example, Joh. Cornies ordered the black fallow, initially for the colonies on the Molotschna River, cf. Schroeder a. a. O. p. 39.

forest plantation <sup>1</sup>) was created, which not only beautified the village, but also made silk production possible.

Author: School Teacher Gras

Mayor: Reddig Assistant Mayors: Koschke, Eichholz

Kirschwald, March 30, 1848.

## 2 Tiegenhof<sup>2</sup>)

Tiegenhof was founded in 1824 on the right bank of the Kermentschik River by building houses, after a settlement begun in 1823 with earthen huts on their land in a wider valley was abandoned due to lack of and bad condition of the water. The village is 250 versts from Ekaterinoslav, 180 from Aleksandrovsk and 60 from Mariupol. The black soil, mixed with sand and in places with stones, is uneven. It is too light for winter cereals and moderately fertile for summer cereals in places protected from the wind. Within the boundaries of its territory, Tiegenhof has a good sand pit, a pit of white lime earth suitable for whitening the stables, and a pit of yellow earth to be used for painting the trees and wooden implements. When burned, this earth gives a red color.

The village got its name because the majority of the settlers came from the market town of the Danzig administrative district of Tiegenhof. Originally 27 farms were established by Prussians who immigrated from the Chortitza and Molotschna colonies in 1819, 3 farms that remained vacant were later occupied by young colonists <sup>3</sup>).

As this steppe had been used by the resident Greeks only for cattle grazing, the settlers found no dwellings and had to proceed immediately to the construction of earthen huts. For the purchase of cattle, seed corn and building materials 10,800 Rubles Banko were advanced to them by His Majesty the Emperor and Herr Alexander Pavlovich. The first grain fields planted in 1824, when they were at their most lush, were badly damaged by locusts. An even greater misfortune occurred at the beginning of 1825 due to a terrible snowstorm, as a result of which the some of the livestock, which could not been properly supplied with food and water, died of hunger and the people suffered severely from the terrible cold. In 1827, the settlers fell into great poverty due to an epidemic that ravaged the livestock. After they had recovered somewhat in the years 1828/32.

<sup>1)</sup> Peter von Koeppen had also repeatedly pointed out the necessity of establishing forest plantations to increase soil moisture, cf. his writing: Über einige Landesverhältnisse, passim (also Teetzmann: über die Südrusstsche Steppen, ibid).

<sup>2)</sup> Russian name: Jasinowka.

<sup>3) 1857: 29</sup> farmsteads (87 men) on 1,740 Dess. and 3 (sic) landless families (125 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 32.

The total crop failure of 1833 ¹) caused a terrible famine, to which most of the livestock fell victim and the people only escaped starvation thanks to the support of a high crown. During this time the morality in the village was raised, because Pastor Holtfreter ²) held church services on 2 weekdays in addition to the Sundays. These days of worship were called days of repentance and prayer. On January 11, 1838, at 8 o'clock in the evening, in quiet weather and grim cold, one feels a strong earth tremor with subterranean roar. Stoves, tables, chairs and cradles began to sway and caused a terrible fear. But the danger passed happily without devastating consequences.

The year 1838 was characterized by an extraordinary harvest blessing, which caused the prosperity of the village to blossom.

Since the colonists subsequently felt a strong inclination to return to the old settlement site, in order to be more in the center of their land area, the forest plantation established in 1844 by order of the authorities was neglected, until in 1846 the Real State Councilor von Hahn inspected the site and ordered the colonists to remain in their already cultivated and planted site, whereupon they continued their plantations more diligently and carefully.

The village's beauty has increased significantly due to the establishment of forest plantations and the fencing of the farms with wooden fences. The abundant harvests of the last few years, the expedient arrangements of a high Guardianship Committee, and not least the moral law drawn up by the inspector <sup>3</sup>) of this colonist district in conjunction with the pastor Holtfreter, which was read out every month in the beginning to the assembled community in the Mayor's Office, have brought the village into a rather flourishing condition.

Mayor: Klein. Assistant Mayors: Wittowsky, Brodd.

### 3. Rosengart

The village was founded in 1823. It is located on the right side of the small Kaltschik River, not far from its source. The river flows above the city of Mariupol into the larger Kalmius, which soon flows into the Sea of Azov.

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 95.

<sup>2)</sup> Christian Eduard Holtfretter, born in Riga in 1806, studied theology in Dorpat from 1826 to 1831 and was ordained in St. Peter's Church in Petersburg in March 1831. As pastor of the parish of Grunau, he did much to uplift the moral and spiritual life among the colonists, cf. the Chronicle of Grunau, soon to be published in this series, as well as Mitteilungen und Nachrichten für die evangelische Kirche in Rußland, Vol. 63, 1910, p. 472 (where it is falsely claimed that Holtfretter studied in Germany) and Album Academicum der Kais. University of Dorpat. Dorpat 1867, No. 2182.

<sup>3)</sup> Probably Staatsrittmeister von Stempel, Cf. p. 167.

How many inspectorate districts there were in the Black Sea region in the first half of the 19th century is still uncertain. However, cf. the Colonists' Code chap. 2, dept. I, p. 12 in Svod zakonov Rossijskoj Imperii (Law Code of the Russian Empire), edition 1857, Vol. 12, part 2, p. 6.

<sup>4)</sup> Russian name: Rajgorod.

The banks of the Kaltschik consist of a stony soil, gravel, and rocks. At the village are only large stones. By means of an embankment the colonists have built a watering place for cattle just at the place where the cattle are driven across when they are taken to pasture. The village is bent 2 times in its length. The nearest sea and commercial city, Mariupol, is 50 versts away, the district city Aleksandrovsk 180, the governorate city Ekaterinoslav 250 versts.

The hilly soil is quite productive in good weather and produces quite a lot of grass, among which there are a lot of sweet clover and blue vetches. Except for winter wheat, all cereals thrive here. Winter wheat freezes out here because the soil is covered with deep snow. Winter rye, which tolerates more frost, usually gives good harvests. The late village Mayor Heinrich Wegener gave the name to the village in memory of his dear homeland, where there is also a village "Rosengart".

In the beginning 28 families settled here as farmers and one family as residents <sup>1</sup>). All of them came from the Elbing and Marienburg districts in the Danzig administrative district. Of the founders only 3 complete families are still intact. The families from the Marienburg district are from the village of Augustwalde on the Sorge River, the other community members are from Robach, partly from Hackendorf, which villages are so close together that they are mistaken for one village by every traveler.

The local settlers arrived in groups of 2-5 families, partly on foot. 10 families arrived in 1818 and 19 families in 1819. They stayed in the Molotschna villages until the spring of 1823, where they supported themselves with all kinds of crafts. The colonists did not have a leader on their journey; therefore, it cannot be said otherwise than that the Lord God Himself was the commander. We also have him to thank for the entire settlement here, as he alone moved the King of Prussia to grant them the freedom to emigrate to Russia, and the highly blessed Emperor and Lord Alexander of Russia to accept Prussian subjects in his empire as colonists with special rights and freedoms, gave them land to settle on and provided them with paternal help.

The steppe designated by the High Crown for the settlers was assigned by them on the order of the Real State Council of Kontenius through the member of the Ekaterinoslav office, von Babiyevsky <sup>2</sup>). It was used by the local Greeks for cattle grazing, so the settlers did not find any furnished houses on their arrival, but had to build earth huts for their needs and temporary shelter. Soon after their arrival a heavy rain fell, lasting 14 days. The frequent rains of this year have caused many inconveniences to the colonists. For the construction of the houses, as well as for the purchase of livestock and for the economic establishment, 25 of the immigrant families each received 3-400 Rubles Banko as an

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<sup>1) 1857: 28</sup> farms (93 men) on 1,680 Dess. and one landless family (131 men!) cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 32.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 175, note 4.

advance from the Crown. Four families settled using their own resources, namely 3 as landowners and 1 family as residents. Of these 29 families, one built their homes in 1823, 24 families in 1824, and the last 4 families in 1825. Some immigrants have already had to borrow money from their traveling companions during the journey and have had to rely on the charity of the residents in the localities touched on the journey <sup>1</sup>).

In the first year after settlement, which was very fertile, only as much was harvested as was needed for food because of the low sowing rate. Moreover, until 1828 there was no trade at all. The wheat was worth only 4 Rubles Banko for each Tschetwert. In 1824 the small locusts flew in from across the Sea of Azov and almost completely destroyed the few but lush grain fields and the extensive grasslands. At the beginning of February 1825 there was a terrible snowstorm with extraordinary cold, which raged on until the middle of March. Since the settlers were still in a poor condition at that time, they had to suffer a lot in the terrible weather. There was a lack of fuel and good warm houses. Many diseases arose as a result of cold. The livestock, too, suffered unspeakably in the cold stables. The mountains of snow were so high, especially in the villages, that it was impossible to see from one house to another. In the following summer, the locusts came again; in the heavy afflictions, many a sigh went up to God the Father and many a tear was shed. The locusts remained also in 1826, but they did not cause such significant damage anymore. In 1827, one landowner lost all his cattle, while the others were saved from this misfortune. Then came better times. God gave more success and blessings in agriculture and cattle breeding, so that the earlier punishments were soon forgiven. But in 1833 new misfortunes came, namely a cattle plague in spring, which killed most of the livestock, and in summer a complete crop failure, which caused a terrible famine. The High Crown supported the community by enabling it to buy grain in the interior of Russia. Also, the parishes of the Grunau district <sup>2</sup>) enjoyed a rich support of almost 5,000 Rbl. Banko, which was offered by Christian benefactors 3) at the request of Pastor Holtfreter. Without this support many would have died of hunger. The few remaining livestock also lacked fodder in this difficult year of the Visitation, so the few horses had to be bought for a very cheap price, and many a head of cattle starved to death. In the spring of 1834, the

<sup>1)</sup> Since 1810, only in exceptional cases have the following been paid to those entering the Black Sea region cf. I PSZ Vol. 31, No. 24131.

<sup>2)</sup> In 1833 the following villages belonged to the Ksp. [Kirchspiel or parish] Grunau (founded in 1826): Kirschwald, Tiegenhof, Rosengart, Schönbaum, Kronsdorf, Grunau, Rosenberg, Wikerau, Reichenberg, Kampenau, Mirau, Ludwigstal, Elisabettal, Bellagwesch, Kaltschinowka and Rundewiese, including some parishioners living in Catholic villages 3,193 souls, cf. the above mentioned chronicle of Grunau.

<sup>3)</sup> More detailed information about this (names of the donors) is also contained in the chronicle of Grunau.

farmers were deprived of almost all their livestock. Such distress has not been repeated since. The earthquake of 11 January 1838 passed without damage, but many in those brief moments of fear expected a terrible future and looked with woeful eyes at the earth's fluctuations. The year 1838 brought an exceptionally good harvest, namely of wheat. In 1840, the harvest was again poor, and what little was left spoiled in the fields as a result of persistent rain. In 1842, the sudden appearance of steppe mice <sup>a</sup>) destroyed hopes of an exceptionally bountiful harvest.

The forest plantation started in 1844 by the order of the authorities has already been completed by several farmers. It will cover 14 Dessiantine and will contribute a lot to the beautification of the village. Also, the planted mulberry trees will enable silk growing.

In 1844 hoof and mouth disease appeared among the cattle and smallpox among the sheep. Two families lost all their cattle, the others a larger or smaller number. Some also had hardly any sheep left. In 1845 there was an epidemic among the horses throughout the summer, which hampered work and caused many animals to die.

On December 24, 1847, the first snow fell, and on the 25th a destructive storm arose, which lasted until January 18, 1848, piling mountains of snow and earth as high as houses into the gardens, damaging the buildings, breaking the wooden fences, tearing the branches from the trees, and breaking the tree trunks. It will be quite some time before the gardens will regain their former beauty and lushness.

Rosengart, April 20, 1848.

Mayor: Kutsch Assistant Mayors: Küsch, Ens School Teacher: Johann Jakob Döhring.

### 4. Schönbaum 1)

The village of Schoenbaum was founded in 1823, runs along the right bank of the Kaltschik River and is 165 versts from Aleksandrovsk and 235 versts from Ekaterinoslav. The land is a light black earth; 24-25 feet below the surface there are large rocks. Summer cereals thrive best, winter rye less so. There is a quarry on the southern side of the land near the Kaltschik. Natural forests are not present.

The still living Schönbaum colonist Georg Döhring gave the name Schönbaum to the village in memory of his native village located in the Danzig administrative district. The remaining 27 families <sup>2</sup>) who originally settled here in 1823 and 1824 also came from the Prussian district of Danzig. They came to the Molotschna villages as day laborers in groups of a few families in 1818 and 1819 without a leader.

<sup>1)</sup> Russian name: Listvyanka.

<sup>2) 1887: 28</sup> farms (105 men) on 1,680 Dess. and 3 landless families (82 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 32.

a) How can steppe mice cause so much damage? See fascinating article: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steppe mouse

The land allocated by the Committee for Foreign Settlers was used by Greeks for cattle grazing before their settlement, which is why they did not find any houses for their own use. For their settlement they received from the Russian crown 300 to 400 Rubles Banko advance for each family <sup>1</sup>). The assets they brought with them consisted of small sums of money, but 2 families settled at their own expense; the others paid back the advance they had received in installments.

The settlers have always been afflicted by heavy blows of fate. From 1823 to 1825 very little was harvested from the fields because of the locust devastation. During the snowstorm and the terrible cold in 1825, the little remaining fuel straw was so covered with snow that it could not be harvested, causing great hardship among people and livestock. In the famine year 1833, which was aggravated by a devastating cattle epidemic, the High Crown saved the people and the few head of cattle left to the families from starvation. The earthquake that occurred on January 11, 9 o'clock in the evening in 1838 lasted here only a few minutes and did not cause any damage. In 1842, the steppe mice destroyed a promising crop here as well.

The forest plantation of 14 Dessiantine, established in 1844, will not only beautify the village, but also make silk production possible. In September 1845, a 6-week-long epidemic of horned cattle broke out, killing 175 head of cattle. The stormy weather that lasted from December 24, 1847 to January 18, 1848 destroyed the gardens and fences and caused great damage to the houses. In recent years Almighty God gave blessings and prosperity in the fields and among the livestock, so that the village recovered greatly.

School Principal: Jakob Pahl. School Teacher: Nathanael Nielke.

### 5. Kronsdorf<sup>2</sup>)

The Kronsdorf village was established in 1823 on the Karatic River <sup>3</sup>) 160 versts from Aleksandrovsk, 230 versts from Ekaterinoslav and 50 versts from the Mariupol Sea town in the immediate vicinity of the district village of Grunau <sup>4</sup>) by 18 families. In addition, in 1824 there were 11 more families.

The land is uneven, light black soil, productive only for summer cereals and grass. Its name was given to the village by the then village Mayor Martin Döhring without any special reason.

Of the 29 families coming from the Elbing and Marienburg districts of the Danzig administrative district, 28 families originally settled here as landowners and 1 family as residents <sup>5</sup>). Two families had arrived in 1818 and 23 families in 1819 without leaders in the Chortitza and Molotschna colonies, where they stayed for 4 years until their settlement. On the

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 167 note 2.

<sup>2)</sup> Russian name: Kazenosel'sk

<sup>3)</sup> Karatysh.

<sup>4)</sup> A regional office for these colonies was organized as early as 1823, cf. the Chronicle of Grunau mentioned above.

<sup>5)</sup> In 1857: 28 farmsteads (86 men) on 1,680 Dess. and one landless family (160! men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 32.

land assigned to them by the Crown and previously used by Greeks <sup>1</sup>) for cattle grazing, the settlers did not find any houses, so they built themselves small huts for the time being. For settlement they received from the high crown 300 to 400 Rubles Banko advance on the family. Two families settled at their own expense: 1 on a farm and 1 as a resident. Most of them had brought only small means from abroad. Only one family had come to Russia very well-off, but their 7,000 Rubles Banko fortune was lost because the sheep purchased with this money fell victim to smallpox disease. Thus, at the time of settlement, this family was already as poor as the others.

The snowstorm and cold in the winter of 1825 affected this community as much as the others. In 1825 and 1826, the lush grain fields here were also destroyed by locusts that had come from the sea. The cattle plague of 1823 took away all the livestock, especially from the poorest colonists, and left the community in the greatest poverty. In the famine year of 1833, the high crown saved the community by providing money to buy grain from the storehouses. Even more tangible than the hunger was the lack of cattle fodder, which began in the summer and forced the people to sell half of their livestock for a ridiculous price.

The earthquake of January 11, 1838, began here at 8 o'clock in the evening and lasted only a few minutes. Deeply shaken, people looked into the terrible future with sorrowful eyes and lamentable look, but it passed, thank God, without danger.

The steppe mice destroyed the grain fields in 1843 and 1844.

The forest plantation of 14 Dessiantine, established in 1844, has already been completed by some landowners.

In September 1844 the cattle plague caused great damage, and in the harvest time of 1847 the work horses fell.

The snowstorm of 1848 destroyed, in addition to fruit trees, fences and buildings, a barn newly built in 1847, 70 feet long, 30 feet wide and 30 feet high.

The moral ordinance issued by Inspector Staatsrittmeister von Stempel and Pastor Holtfreter has controlled the rampant vice of drunkenness, as well as all revelry and nocturnal dancing, and it would be desirable if the same were further applied in all its severity. This would undoubtedly promote more and more the prosperity of the village through morality.

Author: School Teacher Peter Witt Mayor: North

Assistant Mayors: Freimann, Stobb

Kronsdorf Village, March 27, 1848.

### 6. Grunau<sup>2</sup>)

The village Grunau was founded in 1823 in the lowland Karatic and is 150 versts from the district town Alexandrovsk, 234 versts from the governorate-

<sup>1)</sup> The Greeks of this area were resettled from the Crimea in 1778-83, see Spiski naselennych mest Vol. 13, pp. XX-XXI.

<sup>2)</sup> Russian name: Aleksandronewst.

6. Grunau 175

city of Ekaterinoslav and 40 versts from the Sea of Azov and the maritime city of Mariupol. The land allocated to the village, which is a light, black dusty soil suitable for summer sowing and grass growth, was owned by the Greeks before the settlement. Originally, 29 families settled here: 27 as landowners and 2 families consisting of old people without able-bodied souls as residents ¹). They all came from the Elbing area of the Danzig district in West Prussia and had emigrated to Russia in 1819 as a result of the calls for emigration issued in the official gazettes ²). Especially particularly tempting for them was the support offered by the Russian government for their settlement. The emigrants gathered in batches in the Kingdom of Prussia and traveled to their new homeland using the travel instructions they had received from those already living in Russia. In the same year 1819 they arrived in the colonies of Chortitza and Molotschna and after delivery of their travel passports and consents from the regional offices, they were quartered with the colonists.

In the month of March 1820, the Office for Foreign Settlers issued an order that the Prussian immigrants should elect deputies from among themselves, who would have to work for the cause of the settlement. The later Grunau colonist Christian Claassen and the later Eichwald colonist Johann Majewski were elected and confirmed by the Kontor. Their efforts were successful <sup>3</sup>). In the autumn of 1822, they were given the land for settlement and the outer border was plowed by Greeks and Russians in the presence of the governor and the youngest Committee member Babiewsky <sup>4</sup>). The steppe, which was thus allotted to the immigrants 3 years after their arrival in Russia, had been completely deserted until then. The resident Greeks, who at that time had not yet measured their land, used it partly for cultivation and partly for cattle grazing.

The immigrants did not find any shelter or furnished houses on their land, each of them had to make his own shelter, they built themselves huts of boards or earth, as each of them could. The settlers of the Grunau village received from the high crown for settlement a grant of 9,875 Rubles 84 Kopecks Banko, which money was given proportionately according to the needs of individual families. 2 families, which had sufficient property of their own, received no support. The assets of the remaining families were so insignificant that some of them could barely pay the travel expenses from Prussia

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<sup>1) 1857: 27</sup> farmsteads (97 men) on 1,620 Dess. and 15 landless families (156 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 32.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. Leidig: The Prussian Emigration Policy. In: Schriften des Vereins für Social politik, Vol. 52, Leipzig 1892, pp. 436f.

<sup>3)</sup> Originally, the Russian government had given the new arrivals a tract of land, 24,000 Dess. in size, 30 versts from Altona. But it was rejected by the two deputies together with another 30 chosen men because of its unfavorable water conditions, cf. the above mentioned chronicle of Grunau.

<sup>4)</sup> The head (Russian: starsij clen - oldest member) of the welfare office in Ekaterinostaw had two assessors or assistants (Russian: mladsije cleny - youngest members), cf. Rempel op. cit. p. XII.

to here and had to run up debts with their traveling companions. Since some villages in the former home of the colonists had been called Grunau, this name was chosen for the new settlement and confirmed by the Committee

In the first years after the settlement, grain prices were so low that there was almost no income. Wheat had to be sold for 4-5 Rubles and oats for 20 Kopecks Banko per Tschetwert. In addition, there were many land plagues, such as locusts, cattle plagues, Mißwach, and so on.

The cattle plague occurred 3 times in Grunau and some landowners did not keep one head of livestock.

In the famine year 1832 ¹) many horses, horned cattle and sheep had to be sold for a very low price because of the lack of fodder, and yet many of the remaining cattle died. There were also 6 fires during the time of the settlement.

The first and best income in the first years was wool. Unfortunately, there were not many sheep at that time.

Thanks to the good design and equipment provided by the authorities, agriculture has increased significantly and yields far more than before. In the early years, His Excellency von Kontenius rendered special services to sheep breeding and the planting of trees in the gardens, and in recent years, Herr Real State Councilor von Hahn rendered special services to horticulture and the establishment of plantations.

Mayors: Koschke Assistant Mayors: Koch, Stach School Teacher: Reinhold Ohm

# 7. Rosenberg<sup>2</sup>)

The Rosenberg village was founded in 1823; the construction of permanent dwellings did not begin until 1824. The village is located on a flat steppe 3 versts from the district town of Grunau, 160 versts from Aleksandrovsk and 230 versts from Ekaterinoslav. The steppe consists of black soil, which is quite fertile in favorable weather conditions. There are no lowlands, quarries or natural forests.

The name Rosenberg was chosen by the settlers because in their homeland there was a village with this name in the area where they lived.

In this village 26 families from the Marienburg and Elbing districts of the Royal Prussian province of West Prussia settled as farmers <sup>3</sup>), after they had come to Russia in 1819 in small groups without leaders and had stayed for some years in the Molotschna villages.

<sup>1)</sup> Must read "1833".

<sup>2)</sup> Russian name: Rozowka.

<sup>3) 1857: 26</sup> farmsteads (91 men) on 1,560 Dess. and 6 landless families (170 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 32.

The settlers received 3-400 Rubles Banko for each family from the high crown, which money they had to pay off after 7 interest-free years in 16 years <sup>1</sup>). Most of them did not bring any cash assets from the homeland, except for the wagon and 1 or 2 horses necessary for the journey. The value of the brought property amounts to about 58 Rubles Silver for a single family.

In 1823-25 the locusts caused a lot of damage to the fields, and it was difficult and sad, because in these 3 years the farmers did not even harvest enough for bread. In 1833 nothing was harvested due to complete Misswachs, so that people and cattle almost had to suffer from hunger, but God preserved everything wonderfully; and since the village was spared from the cattle plague, the settlers knew how to help themselves with God's help without support. Only some cattle perished from hunger.

Since then, the village has flourished and is in good prosperity, since no misfortune has affected it. The earthquake on January 11, 1838, which was felt here at 8 o'clock in the evening, caused only terror, but no damage.

In 1842, the colonists established a forest plantation of 13 Dessiantine next to the village, which is gradually planted with forest and mulberry trees.

The colonists owe their present prosperity largely to the blessing of God, who has so wonderfully protected the village, especially from livestock epidemics. Also, the products have had a pretty good price so far in the city of Mariupol.

Next to God, we also owe our prosperity to the high crown and the Guardianship Committee, in that we have always been treated with fatherly leniency and kindness by our government.

Rosenberg, May 21, 1848.

Mayor: Pelz School Teacher: Jost Assistant Mayors: Kolbe, Köbke.

#### 8. Wickerau 2)

The village of Wickerau was founded in 1823, but the construction of houses was only started and completed in 1824 and 1825. The settlers emigrated in 1818 and 1819 from the Danzig administrative district in the Kingdom of Prussia because it was announced in the official gazettes published by the Royal Prussian Government that the Imperial Russian Crown wished to have immigrants, whom it would also support to settle if they were unable to do so. The village is located 150 versts from Aleksandrovsk, 234 versts from Ekaterinoslav and 60 versts from the Sea of Azov and the city of Mariupol on a small

<sup>1)</sup> The repayment periods seem to have been different for the individual villages.

<sup>2)</sup> Russian name: Kuznecovka.

river, which is called Steinritsche 1) because it rises near a stone hill visible from far away.

The name of the village was chosen by the settlers themselves, because in their former homeland a village also had this name.

Originally 26 families settled here as landowners <sup>2</sup>) and 10 families as residents. The latter consisted of old people who had no souls capable of work. They received from the high crown at their settlement a support of 6,650 Rubles Banko, which money was distributed according to the measure of need. Seven families had already saved enough money during their stay in the Molotschna and Chortitza colonies before the settlement, so that they could pay for their settlement themselves <sup>3</sup>).

In the first years, in addition to the extremely low prices that the colonists obtained for their products, there were also locust devastations (1824-26), 2 times cattle epidemics, where some did not keep a single head of cattle, and the total crop failure of 1833, where some of the unsold domestic animals starved to death. The first and best income they obtained from wool, but unfortunately only as long as they had few sheep. Later, the wool also became cheaper. The improvement of agriculture and the diligent planting of gardens and a forest plantation brought about by the authorities increased the prosperity of the colonists.

Wickerau, May 22, 1848.

Mayor: Richter Assistant Mayors: Koschke, Preiß. Village Clerk: Johann Ohm.

## 9. Reichenberg <sup>4</sup>)

The village of Reichenberg was founded in 1823 on the right side of a dry lowland. It is 150 versts from Alexandrovsk and 240 versts from Ekaterinoslav. The district secretary Georg Stickel gave the name to the village on his own initiative. At the beginning it consisted of 28 families <sup>5</sup>) coming from the districts of Elbing and Marienburg in the administrative district of Danzig. Twenty-four families received an advance of 3-400 Rubles Banko from the high crown for settlement. In the famine year of 1833, the local colonists were supported by the High Crown and by Pastor Holtfreter from the sums collected from Christian religious communities for the needy of his parish <sup>6</sup>). The earthquake on January 11, 1838 began here at 9 o'clock in the evening and lasted a quarter of an hour without causing any damage.

<sup>1) =</sup> Kamennaja recka "Steinflüßchen".

<sup>2) 1857: 26</sup> farmsteads (98 men) on 1560 Dess. and 10 landless families (120 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 33.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p. 154 note 4.

<sup>4)</sup> Russian name: Bogatowka.

<sup>5) 1857: 28</sup> farmsteads (108 men) on 1,680 Dess. and 7 landless families (88 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 33.

<sup>6)</sup> Cf. p. 171 note 3.

In 1839, a cattle epidemic swept away all the livestock of some landowners, causing the community to decline greatly.

The cold, stormy weather caused great hardship to the local colonists for three weeks, because some of the wells were blocked so that they could not water the cattle, others had their cattle feed deep under the snow, and still others had their houses threatened with collapse, which is why they had to shovel snow from the roof all day long in the terrible cold.

On January 18, the stormy weather subsided, and the almost completely despondent colonists enjoyed a beautiful mild spring weather.

Mayor: Birch Assistant Mayors: Schmitt, Jahn. School Teacher: Goerz.

#### 10. Kampenau 1)

The Kampenau village was established in 1823. It lies on both sides of a lowland, which is called "the little Kabila" <sup>2</sup>) and flattens out behind the village of Göttland, 1 verst from here, forming an ever larger valley. The village is 150 versts from Aleksandrovsk and 214 versts from Ekaterinoslav. Stony ground is located 25-30 feet below the surface.

Summer cereals thrive better than winter ones. On the northern side of the country, at the end of the village, near the lowland, there is a sand pit, where the settlers get sand, which is very suitable for plastering houses and painting air bricks. There are no quarries and forests.

The former, now still living village Mayor Johann Doelfs gave the name Kampenau to the village, because he had served and lived in a village of the same name in his homeland in the Marienburg government district. Originally, 29 families <sup>3</sup>) settled in this village when it was established in 1823 and 1824, all of them emigrants from the Danzig, Elbing and Marienburg districts in West Prussia. One fireplace remained uncultivated and was occupied only by a young family from the same village in 1840.

In the years 1818 and 1819 the local colonists moved to a few families each without leaders in the Molotschna colonist district and fed there for 4 years. Before the settlement the crown steppe assigned to the colonists which had been used for grazing by Greeks and Russians. For settlement each family received 350-400 Rubles Banko advanced. The locusts in 1823-1825, the snowstorm of 1825, the famine year of 1833, the steppe mice in 1842, the cattle plague in 1845 and the storm in 1847

<sup>1)</sup> Russian name: Kamenskoye.

<sup>2)</sup> also Kobylnaya cf. Spiski naselennych mest Vol. 13, p. 32, and Kobolnaya cf. Semonov loc. cit. Vol. 3, p. 178, mentioned.

<sup>3) 1857: 29</sup> farmsteads (98 men) on 1,740 Dess. and 6 landless families (136 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 33.

also brought great harm to this community and caused much hardship. In 1833, the High Crown provided 35,000 Rubles Banko to support the colonists of this district, and Pastor Holtfreter provided 4,500 Rubles Banko, which he had collected from fellow believers. Without these supports many would have succumbed to starvation.

In 1842, the village established a 15 Dessiantine forest land and in 1845 built a beautiful spacious schoolhouse west of the little Kabila of baked bricks, which adorns the village along with several colonist houses built of baked bricks.

Author: School Teacher Friedrich Schmidt Mayor: Salzsäuler.

#### 11. Mirau <sup>1</sup>)

The village of Mirau was founded in 1823. It is located on level steppe in a small depression, consists of 24 farmers <sup>2</sup>) and has a land area of 3-4 verst long and 2½ verst wide. In 1823 only 15 landowners settled here, who built earthen huts for temporary shelter and in 1824 started to build houses. The remaining 9 landowners, for whom there was still land left, settled here in 1836. Of the first 15 settlers, none is currently on his farm anymore and only one of them is still alive in the village, but has already handed over his farm to his son due to old age. The rest of them have left or died, and their farms have been transferred either to their heirs or to colonists from other colonies. The village is located 4 versts west of the Greek village of Dorduba<sup>3</sup>) and is 150 versts from Alexandrovsk and 220 versts from Ekaterinoslav. Its land is a black, loose clay soil, on which summer cereals and potatoes grow well. On the southern border, in a valley called dry Jala 4), the village has a cattle watering place fed by a spring. Except for the quarry near the watering place, from which excellent material for the production of bricks is extracted, the village has neither quarries nor forests, which is why in 1842, by order of the authorities, a forest plantation of 12 Dessiantine was established, which is now gradually being planted. The name of the village comes from the fact that most of the first 15 settlers came from the parish of Mirau in the Marienburg district of the Danzig administrative district. Some others came from the Elbing district. Of the last 9 settler families, 7 came from the Kingdom of Württemberg, namely 3 from the Neckar district and 4 from the Jaxt district and 2 also from the Marienburg district. At present, there are only 11 Prussian, 8 Württemberg and 5 Baden landowners in the village; in addition, there are 13 landless families 5).

<sup>1)</sup> Russian name: Mirskoye.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 180 note 5.

<sup>3)</sup> Dert-Oba or Neu-(Novy) Kermentschik.

<sup>4)</sup> Suchije Jaly.

<sup>5) 1857:24</sup> farmsteads (111 men) on 1,440 Dess. and 16 landless families (91 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 33.

The immigrants have come here family by family <sup>1</sup>) because they had heard that Emperor Nicholas I <sup>2</sup>) would grant the German immigrants the mercy shown to them by the previous rulers, and they have indeed found more mercy than they expected, which they acknowledge with touched thanks.

At the time of their arrival, the steppe of this village was used by Greeks and Tartars. For settlement they received from the Crown 400 Rubles Banko on the family, which money had to be paid off gradually after 10 free years in a period of 16 years. For the enjoyed benefits the colonists as well as their descendants are ready to please a high government by diligence, obedience and prayer days. One of the 15 first settled colonists possessed 600 Rubles Banko at the time of his settlement and the 9 landowners settled in 1836 brought a total sum of 5,000 Rubles Banko, therefore they did not need any support to settle.

The locusts in 1824-26, the cattle plague and famine in 1833, and the cattle plague in 1839 took a heavy toll on the village, but the support from the government and the gifts of 4,810 Rubles Banko offered by fellow believers through Pastor Holtfreter in 1833 helped even this community overcome the greatest hardship. The first pastor of the Grunau parish was Consistory Councilor Föll <sup>3</sup>), now working in Hochstädt. Pastor Holtfretter took his place. In 1832, trade with foreign countries was opened in Mariupol, which allowed the villages to sell their products at a higher price. It would be desirable to increase the number of craftsmen in the colonies.

Mirau, March 25, 1848.

Author: School Teacher Wied

Mayor: Fitz

Assistant Mayors: Buck, Pelz

### 12 Ludwigstal <sup>4</sup>)

The village of Ludwigstal was founded in 1828 on flat, treeless, and stoneless steppe 130 versts from Alexandrovsk, 230 versts from Ekaterinoslav and 80 versts from Mariupol. Grass and summer cereals grow well here.

The village was named Ludwigstal after its first village mayor, whose baptismal name was Ludwig.

The founders of this village were 19 German families who immigrated in 1823 and 1824. They had come to the country without leaders and had stayed in the Molotschna villages for 4 years before their settlement. Among them 14 families were from Hesse, 2 from Baden and 3 from Lower Alsace. In the year

<sup>1)</sup> This is true for most immigrants in this area.

<sup>2)</sup> Must be called "Alexander I."

<sup>3)</sup> Gottlieb Theophil Friedrich Föll, born in Marbach, came to Odessa in 1824 as a Basel missionary. From the Judicial College to Pastor of the Csp (Ksp.). Appointed to Grunau, he took office at the beginning of 1826, but moved to Hochstädt in 1831, where he died at an old age in 1875, see Notices and News for the Protestant Church in Russia, Vol. 63, 1910, p. 467.

<sup>4)</sup> Russian name: Romanovka.

1831 6 families from Württemberg immigrated under the leadership of the Berdyansk colonist Andreas Stauch, who stayed partly in the Berdyansk and partly in the Molotschna villages in the winter. In 1832, 9 families from Württemberg immigrated without a leader, who spent the winter partly here and partly again in the Berdyansk villages, until in the spring of 1833 they were ordered to settle in Ludwigstal, which had not yet been completely built up, where they built houses for themselves over the summer, which they were able to move into the next winter ¹).

The first settled 19 families did not bring any remarkable fortune from abroad, but they accumulated some during their stay in the Molotschna villages. In addition, they received from the Crown an advance of 400 Rubles Banko for each family for settlement. The 15 families of Württemberger deposited 400 guilders each with the Russian envoy for the settlement of an economy in their fatherland, which money they received from the authorities upon their arrival in Russia <sup>2</sup>).

In the famine year 1833 the local colonists were saved from starvation by the support of the government. Two families affected by fires were compensated for two thirds of their losses by the fire regulations introduced in the Grunau area. The cattle plague in 1833 and the steppe mice in 1843 caused great damage. In order to eradicate the mice, the government issued a decree that every landowner had to deliver 80 mice to the village office. They were driven out of their burrows by means of water and beaten to death, and many of the young mice were drowned.

In 1844 a forest plantation of Dessiantine was established. The storm wind in 1848 broke only fruit trees here.

Mayor: Neb Assistant Mayors: Baun, Hanauer Author: Georg Fidler, School Teacher

# 13. Elisabetdorf <sup>3</sup>)

The village Elisabetdorf was established in 1825 on the left bank of the river Jale 2 versts northwest of the Greek village Nowokratibe. It is 150 verst away from Alexandrovsk and 200 verst away from Ekaterinoslav. The river Jale <sup>4</sup>) forms the border of the land belonging to the village, which extends from the southern end of the village 5 versts along the river.

The nature of the soil varies greatly: in a few places it is black and firm, well suited for all types of grain cultivation; in others it is light and sandy, therefore best used for cattle grazing; again, in other places it is stony

<sup>1) 1857: 35</sup> farmsteads (99 men) on 2,100 Dess. and 3 landless families (114 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 33.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 156, note 3.

<sup>3)</sup> Russian name: Jelizawetowka.

<sup>4)</sup> Mokryje Jaly.

with stones deeper in the earth, in part strongly containing saltpeter, therefore usable neither for agriculture nor for pasture.

In the stony soil the colonists have very useful quarries, but there the stones have to be dug out of the earth 15 to 18 feet deep with great difficulty. The stones are petrified or fossilized (versteinerter) and of great strength and, when they have been exposed to the air for a while, are excellent for foundations. In the lowlands along the Jale River, the village has beautiful cabbage and vegetable gardens; the colonists living on the river side have them right behind their homes, those living on the mountain side behind the village.

The village was named Elisabetdorf on the recommendation of the State Councillor von Kontenius in honor of Her Imperial Majesty the Blessed Empress Elisabet, who came from the Grand Ducal House of Baden, the home of the founders of the village here <sup>1</sup>).

At first, only 12 families settled here, all of them coming from the Middle Rhine district of the Grand Duchy of Baden. In 1826, 11 families from the province of Rheinhessen joined them. Since the village was intended for 35 people, 5 families from the Middle Rhine region of Baden settled here in 1827, 3 families from Baden and 2 from Alsace in 1828, and finally two families from Baden in 1829 <sup>2</sup>).

The immigrants all came here from their homeland in small batches without leaders. The largest batch was the first 12 settlers from Baden, who arrived in the Molotschna colonist district in 1824. For them this land had already been designated for settlement in their fatherland, which is why each family had deposited 400 gulden Rhineland with the Imperial Russian envoy, which money they received back here for settlement <sup>3</sup>). Thus, they could settle already in 1825. The Hessians from Darmstadt, who immigrated in 1824, were granted their land only in 1826, in which year they settled immediately, building small houses as temporary shelters from their own funds. In 1827 and 1828, they built permanent houses and converted the old, small ones into stables.

The Badeners and Alsatians who settled here in 1827, 1828 and 1829 immediately built themselves functional houses from their own funds. One of these settlers had brought 4,000 guldens of Rhineland from his fatherland; the other had little or nothing in cash after building their houses and furnishing the farms.

The village, more than any other in the district, has been afflicted with misfortune, but has also been showered with God's blessings. As soon as it was settled in 1826, a cattle plague carried off half of the livestock. In this and the following year 1827 In this and the following year, 1827, an epidemic arose among the inhabitants of this village due to the harmful evaporation of the Jale River, from which only 2 men were spared, and which carried off many.

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 76, note 4.

<sup>2) 1857: 35</sup> farmsteads (126 men) on 2,100 Dess. and 6 landless families (86 men), see Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 33.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. p. 156, note 3.

It was a pitiful sight to see almost all the inhabitants, large and small, emaciated by the fever-like disease and many, 48 souls, died.

As a result, domestic and field work could not be carried out, so that the seed fields could be cultivated at great expense by hired workers and only partially harvested in the summer. Locusts occurred in 1827 and 1828, but only toward the end of the harvest season, so that little was destroyed. The village suffered more from the flooding that occurred in the spring of 1828, which completely destroyed 3 dwellings.

In 1833 only 2 farms were spared from the epidemic; the majority lost all their livestock. In that year, due to the lack of pasture, most of them had to be sold for a very cheap price. Also the grain had dried up in the fields. Since the community realized that if they did not take measures to provide food, most of them would die of hunger, several colonists joined forces, the wealthy ones lending money to the poor ones, and traveled with their own carts to the Kursk governorate, where they bought a quantity of grain and brought it here, which was also sufficient for subsistence. In this way this village of the high crown did not fall burdensome. Many colonists of the local community were supported by Christian friends in the distance through Pastor Holtfreter.

For the purchase of the summer sowing the whole community vouched one for the other and bought grain from a merchant nearby, which was paid partly immediately, partly later. However, little was sown for lack of seed grain and draft cattle.

Greater than the damage of this year was its blessing. The oppressive hardship caused the inhabitants of this village to assemble not only on Sundays but also on a special day during the week to implore the Almighty for help in this hardship and to avert further punitive judgments, which made a great impression on the minds, so that they all realized that they had deserved this hardship with their sins and made the resolution to amend their lives, which resolution became a fact with many. As a result, from 1833 to the present day, the majority of the inhabitants of the village have been well-mannered, moderate and hard-working. At that time, immoral life prevailed in the village, drunkenness was the order of the day, so that even baptisms and weddings had to be consecrated by brandy.

In 1834 there was a plentiful harvest, but since so little had been sown, the colonists were unable to take advantage of the high grain prices by selling it. The Tschetwert value of rye, for example, cost 24 Rubles Banko at that time. In 1835 and 1836 the harvests were mediocre, and the village had already risen a bit when in 1836 it bought two bells to be able to regularly start the church service conducted by the school teacher in the schoolhouse, which was held in Grunau because of the long distance from the parish prayer house.

In 1837, a hailstorm destroyed half of the beautiful standing grain.

The earthquake which struck at 9 o'clock in the evening and lasted a half a minute on January 11, 1838 passed without damage. In this year was an extraordinary harvest blessing. In 1839 a cattle epidemic robbed  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the livestock.

In 1840 a schoolhouse 56 feet long and 34 feet wide of unbaked brick was built at its own expense and dedicated by Rev. Holtfreter, for the old schoolhouse had proved too cramped for worship purposes. In the spring of that year another devastating flood took place, destroying a residential building. The same misfortune befell the village in 1842, with 3 dwellings so damaged that they collapsed in a short time.

In 1843, on the advice of the Inspector von Stempel, 13 colonists established a brickyard south of the village so that they could subsequently build more solid dwellings. This brickyard produced exceptionally durable bricks.

The hurricane of 1842 destroyed a windmill and the wooden bell tower near the school. The year 1844 again brought a cattle plague that carried off most of the livestock. The cattle epidemics, which occurred more frequently in this village than in the others, probably resulted from the fact that the cattle of the Greeks and Russians living nearby often ran over to the local herd. In 1846 and 1847 there were abundant harvests, and since most of the landowners are sober and industrious, the farms are doing well.

Due to the terrible snowstorm in 1848, many fruit trees were damaged.

For the last 4 years the village has grown in prosperity and has an oil mill and some new beautiful dwellings of baked bricks. In 1844 the forest plantation was established, which is now gradually planted with forest and mulberry trees. The prosperity has been promoted preferably by the fact that already in 1833, most of the colonists left their dissolute life and began to lead a civilized life, combined with sobriety and industriousness. Nightly music and dancing, as well as intemperate liquor and wine drinking, were abandoned, increasing the vital forces for work and saving money for times of need. Christian life has so far been maintained by regular attendance at church services and by a private devotional meeting sanctioned by the St. Petersburg Evangelical Lutheran Consistory. Due to the freedom of navigation on the Black and Azov Seas, which was affected by Emperor Nicholas I, the price of wheat and linseed has increased twofold and threefold <sup>1</sup>).

May God's mercy be upon our Most Gracious Lord and Emperor and upon His entire Imperial House, upon all the councils and officials of the Empire, upon us, the colonists enjoying reception and protection in this realm, and upon the rest of the inhabitants.

Author: School Teacher Valentin Seib Mayor: Georg Zimmer Assistant Mayors: Andreas Zowers, Adam Keller

<sup>1)</sup> In the Treaty of Adrianople in 1828, Turkey opened the Dardanelles to the merchant ships of the Russians and friendly nations, cf. Ausgewählte diplomatische Aktenstücke zur orientalischen Frage. Compiled and explained by K. Strupp, Gotha 1916, p. 51.

## 14. Bellagwesch <sup>1</sup>)

The Bellagwesch village was founded in 1832 near the Kaltschik River, 168 versts from Aleksandrovsk and 240 versts from Ekaterinoslav. The soil is not suitable for winter cereals due to the harsh climate, but is better suited for summer cereals. On the western side of this land on the Kaltschik River there is a small quarry; the colonists did not find any forests here.

Since many of the local colonists come from the village of Bellagwesch in the Tschernigow governorate, the former settler and current Mayor of the village, Georg Bechthold, also gave this village the name Bellagwesch <sup>2</sup>). 26 families from Boröna region in Tschernigow governorate originally settled here in 1832 and 1833 <sup>3</sup>). Since their ancestors coming from Germany had increased so much in a long period of time that they could no longer support themselves from their land, they asked the High Crown for land, whereupon the latter ordered them to settle on the lands then called the Jewish Steppe <sup>4</sup>). In the fall of 1831, these colonists arrived here with all the settlers from their governorate. During the winter they were accommodated by the Prussian colonists <sup>5</sup>), whereupon in the spring of 1832 and 1833 they built their dwellings at their destinations. The colonist of the Grunau village Christian Claassen <sup>6</sup>), member of the forest and garden association of the Mariupol colonist district, rendered essential services to the local colonists by measuring the plans and directing the settlement. The steppe used to be leased by the current chairman of the Forest and Garden Association of the Molotschna Mennonik District, Herr Johann Kornies, but no houses were built there. The colonists did not receive any support, each family brought 400 Rubles Banko for settlement.

The famine of 1833 and the cattle plague of 1834, caused by the lack of fodder, made the settlement difficult, but also brought great blessings, in that many

<sup>1)</sup> Russian name: Belyje Veshi.

<sup>2)</sup> For the history of resettlement from the colonies of Gov. Tschernigow founded in 1767-1768, see II PSZ Vol. 6, I, No. 4616 (June 2, 1831).

<sup>3)</sup> In 1857: 27 farmsteads (87 men) on 1,620 Dess. and 6 landless families (224 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 33.

<sup>4)</sup> After the "Association of Israelite Christians" had been confirmed on March 25, 1817 under the protectorate of the Czar, the Russian government planned to grant special rights to Jews who had converted to Orthodoxy. For their settlement, 26,000 Dess were initially allocated in the governorate of Ekaterinoslav. However, since settlement did not take place, this so-called Jewish steppe was given to other settlers, cf. Brokgauz Efron: Novyj Enciklopediceskij Slovar' Vol. 17, Sp. 228 f.

<sup>5)</sup> Probably in the Molotschna colonist district.

<sup>6)</sup> Cf. Cornies' appreciation of the merits of the colonist Christian Klaassen for the spread of forest and fruit tree cultivation in the Mariupol colonist district in Unterhaltungsblatt, 1847, pp. 65-66. It is noteworthy that the Russian government in the 19th century, when establishing new settlements, always brought in a proven farmer from among the colonists who had already been living in Russia for some time.

colonists devoted to drunkenness began to lead a sober and moral life with God's help. Without the assistance provided by the government in 1833, many would have inevitably died of hunger. The earthquake on January 11, 1838, began here at 8 p.m. and caused no damage.

In 1842, the steppe mice caused great damage. In this year the forest plantation was established. In December 1845, the cattle plague robbed some landowners of most of their livestock. The three-week hurricane (Orkan) [blizzard] of 1848 severely damaged the fruit orchards.

School Teacher: Johann Stamm Mayor: Bechthold

#### 15. Kaltschinowka

The village of Kaltschinowka was founded in 1832. In the spring of the same year the settlers arrived here and chose the most convenient place with good water on the land allotted to them. The village is located on a fairly flat area, on the so-called Jewish steppe, 240 versts from Ekaterinoslav and 170 versts from Aleksandrovsk.

At the top of the village a small river, called Kaltschik, begins, and a verst further downstream the settlers have dammed up this river in order to gain a watering place for their cattle. The steppe lying on both sides of the watering place is used as cattle pasture. The soil consists of light, black, fertile earth. There are no quarries, woods or sand pits, there is only a gravel pit.

The name Kaltschinowka was chosen by the settlers for this village because one of their native colonies in the Borsna district of the Tschernigow governorate has the same name <sup>1</sup>) and also because the river Kaltschik originates here.

Originally 26 families <sup>2</sup>) settled here, whose fathers had settled in Tschernigow Governorate from Germany 80 years ago. On their request for land for their numerous offspring, the authorities gave them permission to look for it anywhere they wished. They chose three reliable men, who went to the Ekaterinoslav Office for Foreign Settlers. At the suggestion of this office, the men chose the local land, because not only was the soil fertile, but also the maritime city of Mariupol was nearby, where they hoped to sell their products well. Provided with written certificates from the local authorities, they returned to their communities, which agreed with their proposals and now, in turn, came to the authorities with a request for permission to move. Their request was approved, and so the resettlers, provided with the most necessary farming equipment, draft cattle and some money, set out on their journey. Laboriously but happily, they did the first work here, but were immediately disappointed in 1833 by a

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 186, note 2.

<sup>2) 1857: 26</sup> farmsteads (73 men) on 1,560 Dess. and 3 landless families (144 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 33.

absolute crop failure. They were saved from starvation only by the support received from the Crown for the purchase of bread and seeds.

Livestock epidemics did not cause significant damage here. The hurricane of 1848 damaged trees and houses. Due to the abundant harvest blessings of the last 2 years, the village has become quite prosperous.

(Signatures missing).

### 16 Rundewiese <sup>1</sup>)

The village Rundewiese was founded in 1832 on the fertile, flat so-called Jewish steppe 163 versts from Alexandrovsk and 235 versts from Ekaterinoslav. On the southern side of the village begins a small valley, in which, fed by several springs, flows a small river, which is called Bisstash <sup>2</sup>) and about 8 versts to the south, near a large rock, flows into the Karatic <sup>3</sup>). The Bisstasch is dammed half a verst below the village for the purpose of a cattle watering place. The steppe lying on both sides of the watering place is used as cattle pasture. On the land there are neither quarries nor woods, nor sand or gravel pits. All building materials must be laboriously brought from other places.

The 26 original settlers <sup>4</sup>) of the village are mostly descended from the German colonists of the village Rundewiese, located in the governorate of Tschernigow, who immigrated about 65 years before this settlement, which is why they gave the same name to this village. The circumstances of the settlers were the same as in Kaltschinowka village, as well as their fate in 1833. In 1845 the cattle plague and bad harvest of 1833 were repeated, but the consequences were less sad and painful. Due to an abundant harvest blessing of the last 2 years, the village has reached prosperity.

Author: School Teacher Jakob Jungus Mayor: Allenborger Assistant Mayors: Meyer, Grobowsky

#### 17. Darmstadt <sup>5</sup>)

Darmstadt village was established in 1842 on flat steppe, 140 versts from Alexandrovsk, 230 versts from Ekaterinoslav and 20 versts from Mariupol.

The land consists of black, light soil, which is productive only for summer cereals and grass. There are no guarries and woods.

The village got its name from the capital of the fatherland of the first settlers. There were 26 families who settled on June 8, 1841

<sup>1)</sup> Russian name: Lugansk.

<sup>2) =</sup> Bestash.

<sup>3) =</sup> Karatysh.

<sup>4) 1857: 27</sup> farms (132 men) on 1,620 Dess. and 7 landless families (90 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 33.

<sup>5)</sup> Russian name: Novgorod.

From Hesse-Darmstadt and after 14 weeks of arduous travel without leaders arrived in Russia, where they were given winter quarters in the Ludwigstal village and settled on their barren steppe in the spring of 1842. In 1843, 5 more families from the government district of Koblenz, Grand Duchy of Lower Rhine, also immigrated without leaders and were quartered with the Molotschna colonists for the winter. In the spring of 1844, they were assigned the still vacant farms in Darmstadt, where they then built their homes. The 26 first settlers had deposited 800 Rubles Banko each with the Russian envoy before their emigration and, moreover, did not possess any considerable property. The 5 other families ¹) brought with them from their homeland about 5,000 Rubles Banko in addition to the same amount deposited with the Russian envoy. The deposited money was used for the construction of the dwellings and for the establishment of farmsteads.

There are no remarkable events to date, except that the steppe mice destroyed the whole harvest in 1843.

The 5 later immigrated families had the advantage over the first founders of this village that they enjoyed a ten-year tax exemption, while the latter were granted only 5 free years <sup>2</sup>).

Author: Schoolteacher Matthias Kappes Mayor: Konrad Vetter Assistant Mayors: Heinrich Nab, Jakob Luft

#### 18. Marienfeld <sup>3</sup>)

The village of Marienfeld was founded in 1842 and is located 90 versts from Mariupol and Molotschna colonies each, 105 versts from Aleksandrovsk and 170 versts from Ekaterinoslav.

The 1-2 feet deep upper layer of soil is black, light humus soil. The subsoil is dry, yellow clay, of extraordinary firmness, which, together with the prevailing harsh dry easterly wind, greatly inhibits growth. Quarries and forests are not present.

Because Her Imperial Highness, the wife of the present Grand Duke, our future mother Maria <sup>4</sup>), left the Grand Duchy of Hesse in the same year, when the 15 families coming from there and forming the basis of the local community migrated to Russia, they gave the village the name Maria. Our future mother of the country is therefore a princess of the Grand Ducal Hessian House of Regents, unforgettable to us and distinguished by many high virtues, and we wanted to carry on the memory of the above-mentioned events, which appeared to be very important in our eyes, also transferred to our most recent descendants.

<sup>1) 1857: 31</sup> farmsteads (96 men) on 1,860 Dess. and 3 landless families (41 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 33.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 177 note 1.

<sup>3)</sup> Russian name: Marinopolje.

<sup>4)</sup> Maria Aleksandrovna born 1824, died 1880 (Maximiliana Wilhelmine Auguste Sophie Marie), daughter of Grand Duke Ludwig II of Hesse, wife of Alexander II, cf. Lindemann op. cit. 108 ff.

Of the 15 families, 11 came from the village of Hamm, 1 from the village of Eick, and 3 from the village of Ibersheim. These villages are all located in the province of Rheinhessen, district of Worms, canton of Osthofen.

The local settlers arrived here with the batch of Grand Ducal Hessian emigrants, 40 families strong, without leaders. 25 families founded the neighboring village of Darmstadt and 15 the local village of Marienfeld.

The steppe, which was assigned to this village for settlement, was uninhabited and leased to neighboring colonists. Plowed land was not available, nor were houses. Therefore, each family built an earthen hut covered with boards.

Thus, they lived through the exceptionally rainy summer of 1842 with its cold nights and suffered considerable shortages of bedding, clothing, white goods and the like. In the fall, the first 10 houses were completed, in which all 15 families lived during the winter, until the next fall of 1843, the 5 remaining houses were also completed with God's help.

The first 15 settlers of this village did not receive any further support, except that from mid-October 1841 to May 15, 1842 they were quartered in the village of Elisabetdorf, not knowing when they would be settled, because the settlement was postponed from one time to another. They leased plow land nearby, bought grain and sowed it, but extraordinary drought and the so-called steppe mice destroyed their hope for a harvest.

They faced the future with a sad heart, as the funds they had brought with them, which amounted to about 4,000 Rubles Banko, were gradually consumed.

Since with the prevailing inflation all prices were high, the indispensable foodstuffs cost significant sums.

In 1844 and 1845 again from the same state, province and district where the first settlers came from, 8 families have been settled in this village <sup>1</sup>). These have found more support. They have received free plow land on the municipal sheep farm, enjoy 10 free years, while the first settlers from Marienfeld and Darmstadt, who arrived at the same time, have only 5 free years.

With the very meager harvests of 1842, 1843 and 1844, the colonists could hardly cover the most necessary expenses from the proceeds of the sold products.

By God's wise providence, the village was spared livestock epidemics, conflagrations and epidemic diseases.

The prosperity of the village has been somewhat enhanced by the fact that in the last 2 years the harvest was more abundant and the grain had an acceptable price.

Marienfeld, March 22, 1848.

Author: School Teacher Becher Mayor: Hofmann Assistant Mayors: Dubs, Köhler

<sup>1) 1857: 25</sup> farmsteads (99 men) on 1,500 Dess., no landless families, cf. Klaus op. cit. Supplement 2, p. 33.

#### 19 Bergtal 1) a)

By the order of His Excellency, the Chief Trustee of the Colonists of Southern Russia, following the petition of the Chortitza Mennonite Aelteste, according to the Supreme Decree of March 30, 1833, the land in the Alexandrov District was granted for settlement. March 1833, the plot of land containing 9,540 Dessiantine in the Aleksandrov District of the Ekaterinoslav Governorate and adjoining the Mariupol colonist area, which was left over from the land intended for the settlement of the Jews, was designated for the settlement of the increasing number of Chortitza Mennonites suffering from the lack of land, In 1836 the settlement of the village was started and in the same year 29 dwelling houses were built, to which 3 landowners and some cottagers added, so that at present the village consists of 32 farmers and 14 cottager families <sup>2</sup>).

The name of the village Bergtal was proposed by the Chortitza District Mayor Bartsch<sup>3</sup>), accepted by the settlers, and confirmed by the higher authority. It was to designate its location.

The village is located 180 versts from the district town Aleksandrovsk and 34 versts from Mariupol on a small stream, which is called Badny <sup>4</sup>) by the neighboring Russians and Greeks.

The soil is friable and gravelly and soon dries up when the heat sets in.

The most important part of the forage grass on the meadow steppe is the yellow or sweet clover, which remains small and does not bloom in dry weather.

In order to divide the lands, fireplaces, gardens and roads appropriately and equally, the three local landowners Wilhelm Rempel [#39722?], Jakob Martens [#185121?] and Johann Wiebe [#197452?] were elected as deputies (Deputierte), who administered this business until, after the settlement of the other 3 colonies in this district, and a common District Office was established <sup>5</sup>).

Except for a small chutor, where the peasants of Count Tolstoy lived, no housing was found on the whole property, and the settlers were forced to erect shacks, tents or earthen huts on this place immediately after their arrival, in order to protect their belongings from wetness, until after 2-3 months the residential houses were completed.

As most of the resettlers were destitute families, the transport of their belongings and property from the Chortitza district, 5 carloads were paid to each family (repaid by labor in row services <sup>6</sup>). Some of these

<sup>1)</sup> Russian name: Bodnya or Petropavlovka.

<sup>2)</sup> On March 30, 1833 (II PSZ Vol. 8, 1, No. 6085) the Tutel Committee for Hebrews established on March 25, 1817 was dissolved, and the countries referred to the settlement of the Orthodox Jews to the Ministry of the Interior, so that they would be given to colonists.

<sup>3) 1857: 32</sup> farms (113 men) on 2,080 Dess. and 9 landless families (115 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 32.

<sup>4) =</sup> Bodni.

<sup>5)</sup> The Mennonite villages of Bergtal, Schönfeld, Schöntal, Heuboden were merged into a special administrative district.

<sup>6)</sup> In the Molotschna Mennonites, in the [18]40s, the row or farm services (Frohndienste) were calculated according to so-called "Zechen", i.e. the daily work of one person was 6 Zechen, 9 Zechen at harvest time, 3 Zechen for a horse, 6 Zechen for a plow. At the end of the year an exact account was made and possibly a credit note for the next year. Cf. p. von Koeppen: On some land relations, p. 27.

a) The Mennonite Atlas spells this village name as "Bergthal".

settlers got into deep debts during the construction of their houses and later due to a few bad harvests, but at present, after having had a good income for grain and other products for a few years, they have almost completely paid them off again, except for 2 landowners, all have already built good stables and barns mostly from their own funds.

The biggest income from agriculture in this area was the wheat and linseed (Leinsamenernte) [flax-seed?] harvest, since these grains grow well and were always sold for very good prices in the port city of Mariupol, which is not far from here. Thus, the industrious peasant is no longer sorry that he dared the complaint of moving, so to speak, without fortune.

If the Lord would give us his peace and keep us our most gracious Emperor and the colonial administration that exists over us for our protection, then a people will live here that will rejoice in its existence.

Village Mayor: Penner Assistant Mayors: Falk, Funk. School Teacher: Heinrich Wiens.

Bergtal, 1 May 1848.

#### 20. Schönfeld 1)

If one climbs the hill rising on the southwestern side of this village, which is separated from the village by a lowland, one can overlook the rows of farm buildings. All the houses are regularly laid out and purposefully furnished on the inside. What particularly decorates the exterior are the orchards planted by the settlers, bordered along the lane with wild pear trees and between the fireplaces with mulberry hedges. On the eastern side of this village is the grove plantation of the entire village community, which is planted with various species of forest trees, including one-third mulberry trees. This plantation contains  $12\frac{1}{2}$  Dessiantine of land, which amounts to  $\frac{1}{2}$  Dessiantine for each family.

The village was founded in 1837 and the houses were built of air bricks. The lowland in which the village is located is called in Greek Bodny, i.e., water valley. Since it is rich in water sources, a small stream flows here almost all summer long. The soil has an upper layer of black fertile earth ¾ - 1 arschin thick, on a subsoil of yellow clay mixed with rocks in places. The fertility is medium. The best growing trees are maple, ash, elm, American acacia, mulberry and in the lowlands willow. The necessary stones are brought from a large stone hill at a distance of 8 versts.

Since the settlement site, which was chosen by the deputies of this district Wilhelm Rempel and Jakob Martens, together with the Chortitza District Mayor Jakob Bartsch [#187277], was a nice flat field, they named the village

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<sup>1)</sup> Russian name: Ksenyevka.

21.Schontal 193

Schönfeld. When digging a well at a depth of 52 feet, no water was found there, so the village had to be established at the village Bergtal at the above-mentioned brook. But the village kept the name Schönfeld.

Initially 25 families <sup>1</sup>) from the Chortitza Mennonite district settled here. In the last 11 years, 16 more young families have formed and farmed as small cottagers. The assets of the first settlers, who were all small cottagers, amounted to only 400 to 900 Rubles Banko. Considering their poverty, they received 5 transports each from the Chortitza district to relocate their effects.

Since the soil of this village is quite suitable for growing grain and cultivating trees and grain has had good prices in nearby Mariupol for several years, the circumstances of the settlers have improved greatly.

The years 1840 and 1845 brought severe crop failures. The winter from 1840 to 1841 was very violent, and 679 sheep out of 1,385 fell due to lack of fodder. Since the founding of the village, 31 draft horses have already been stolen, causing great poverty for some landowners.

The village has been spared from fires, floods, earthquakes and epidemic diseases.

In the winter of 1840-41, the loss of livestock would have been even more significant if the honorable church Aeltester Jakob Braun from Bergtal [#176629] had not taken steps to borrow money from the Chortitza Colony and to provide food for the starving people and animals. The resulting large debt has already been repaid. The money had been given by the Neuendorf grocer Franz Thiessen at inexpensive percentages.

Village Mayor: Gröning Assistant Mayors: Töws, Huebert School Teacher: Abraham Friesen

Schönfeld, May 8, 1848.

### 21. Schöntal<sup>2</sup>)

After the first two colonies of this district, Bergtal and Schönfeld, were established, in 1838 another 22 and in 1839 9 families of small cottagers from the Chortitza district settled in a side valley of the Bodny lowland not far from the two colonies mentioned. However, in the first year only 8, in the following 14 and in the third year the remaining dwellings were built <sup>3</sup>). For the rest, see the history of the first two villages.

The somewhat stony land gives at most 7-8-fold harvests. Fruit and forest trees thrive well.

<sup>1) 1857: 25</sup> farmsteads (100 men) and 7 landless families (66 men), cf. Klaus op. cit. Supplement 2, p. 32.

<sup>2)</sup> Russian name: Novo-Romanovka.

<sup>3) 1857: 31</sup> farmsteads (94 men) on 2,015 Dess. and 8 landless families (120 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 32.

The name Schöntal is supposed to denote the beautiful location of the village, has been proposed by the Chortitza District Mayor Bartsch and presented for confirmation by the District Mayor von Kämpen <sup>1</sup>).

Sixty-five work horses were stolen from the village.

Village Mayor: Kehler. Assistant Mayors: Neufeldt, Sawatzky. School Teacher: Franz Dyck.

Schöntal, 1. May 1848.

## 22. Heuboden <sup>2</sup>)

The village was founded in 1839 by 28 small cottage families from Chortitza, to which 9 young families formed and settled as small cottagers <sup>3</sup>). Since the place, where the village was settled, provided a lot of hay, it was called Heuboden by the Chortitza District Mayor von Kämpen and the men forming the settlement commission were Wilhelm Rempel, Jakob Martens and Johann Wiebe. It is in a valley that joins the Bodny below the Bergtal village. Natural forests are not present. The stones necessary for building the houses are quarried right next to the village. The property of the first settlers, apart from cattle and farming implements, consisted of about 13,300 Rubles Banko. It was acquired in the Chortitza Colony mostly by day labor.

According to the order of the Inspector Kirchner <sup>4)</sup> the fireplaces of the homesteads were measured 30 fathoms wide and 80 fathoms long. The deceased chairman Johann Kornies had them extended by 40 fathoms.

For the rest, see Bergtal and Schönfeld <sup>5</sup>).

Village Mayor: Kraus Assistant Mayors: Klaassen, Hiebert School Teacher: Abraham Wiebe

Heuboden, May 1, 1848.

#### VIII. Alt Danzig

Reprint of the report published by J. Stach under the title "Concise Übersicht der Gründung und des Bestehens der Kolonie Alt-Danzig" from: Jahrbuch des "Landwirt" für das Jahr 1915, 3. Jg., Eugenfeld (1914).

In late 1786, more than 50 families from the government district of Danzig in the Kingdom of Prussia gathered under the Lord von Trop  $^6$ ), who was the guide

<sup>1)</sup> Jakob von Kampen [#196808], Chortitza, the successor of Jakob Bartsch [#187277], Rosental, administered the Chortitza area in the years 1838-41, cf. Epp loc. cit. p. 119.

<sup>2)</sup> Russian name: Sergeyevka.

<sup>3) 1857: 28</sup> farmsteads (103 men) on 1,820 Dess. and 6 landless families (48 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 32.

<sup>4)</sup> A titular councilor Franz Kirschner supervised the settlement in 1823, cf. the chronicle of Grunau mentioned above.

<sup>5) [</sup>There is no footnote text in the original.]

<sup>6) =</sup> Georg von Trappe, vgl. p. 3 Anm. 3.

who accompanied them. They went by ship across the Baltic Sea to Riga, where they spent the winter. The next spring, they went by land with wagons to the city of Kremenchug.

Here they separated: one batch went to the Swedish village <sup>1</sup>) and the other to Yelizavetgrad. 15 versts from the station they were given land by Prince Potemkin <sup>2</sup>) on which they settled. Due to inability to work, deaths <sup>3</sup>), poverty, opulence and waste, many remained penniless, others went back home or got lost <sup>4</sup>). Finally, out of 29, only 19 families remained, engaged in agriculture. In 1803 again 10 families from the Bitau district arrived in Hinterpommern, which got permission from the Herr Kontenius to settle here. Through them the agriculture started to move. They kept order and eliminated the existing disorder. They built more houses, also a small prayer house, so that the service would not be completely forgotten.

The village is situated on a tributary of the Ingul River, called Zudaklee <sup>5</sup>), which rises 7 versts from the village and is formed by three valleys rich in springs.

In some places the banks of the river on both sides consist of hard field stones, which rise like high walls. From them springs so much good, fresh water that the village is sufficiently supplied. A profitable water mill has been built. On the opposite side of the village is a small forest of wild fruit trees, aspens, willows, etc., which does not belong to the village. On the other hand, the village has its own community forest on its side, which is growing quite well. Since the land below is rocky, the trees often dry out in dry periods, and the village is located on a hill, which also has an unfavorable effect on tree growth. However, the good, black soil is excellently suited for cattle and sheep breeding, as well as for grain and potato cultivation.

The village was named Danzig in memory of the old hometown. However, by order of the General and Knight of Insor <sup>6</sup>) young settlers from Danzig founded Neu Danzig <sup>8</sup>) on the Ingul river, 35 versts from Nikolayev <sup>7</sup>), whereupon the old village received the name Alt Danzig by order of the authorities. Before our settlement our steppe was a completely uninhabited, wild area. We did not know what to do with it. We lived in earthen huts, which we had to build ourselves. As craftsmen, we did not understand anything about agriculture, the crown daily money was consumed, without houses, without roof, without knowledge of the local language in a strange country

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. p. 163, note 2.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 4 note 5.

<sup>3)</sup> Due to an extraordinarily high mortality rate, there were only 21 families (41 men) in this village in 1800 only 21 families (41 men), cf. I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19372.

<sup>4)</sup> Contaenius (Cf. p. 9 note 2 and I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19372) reported that in 1787 and 1788 Trappe had recruited 510 men and 400 women, of whom only 111 men and 97 women settled in 1800 in Alt-Schwedendorf, the "German village," in the Crimea and Kherson could be determined.

<sup>5) =</sup> Sucakleja cf. Semenov-Tjan-Šanskij op. cit. Vol. 14, p. 385.

<sup>6) =</sup> Inzov, Cf. p. 108 note 3.

<sup>7)</sup> Nikolaev was founded as a town in 1789, cf. Semenov op. cit. Vol. 3, p. 467.

<sup>8)</sup> Cf. the report p. 200 ff.

we often came close to despair during frequent bad harvests in the first years and often thought of settling in another place <sup>1</sup>). But better harvests came, and under the leadership of a wise authority prosperity and orderliness returned. Thanks be to God that the youth experienced the time of the present highly honored caretaker State Councilor E. v. Hahn. Tree plantations and many other useful facilities have elevated the village under his leadership. Whereas in former times disorder reigned here and drunkenness undermined prosperity and a poor, unchurched life characterized the local colonists, now church services are diligently attended and encouraged. In 1844, on January 12, a revival arose among us, which took hold of the majority of the colonists. They converted and abandoned their bad way of life.

Drinking, gambling and dissoluteness have now come to an end among us, and if now and then one of us has erred, he will be punished by the Mayor's Office and other insightful men, so that God's honor may be promoted and the wishes of the authorities may be better fulfilled.

School Teacher: Johann Ernst. Mayor: B. Pritzkau.

Assistant Mayors: Wilhelm Pritzkau. Johann Giedd.

IX. Josefstal <sup>1a</sup>)

Reprint of the report written by J. Stach under the title "Concise Overview of the Founding and Existence of the Village of Josefstal" published by J. Stach: Yearbook of the "Landwirt" for the year 1915, 3rd ed. (1914).

The village Josefstal was founded in 1789 by the late governor, Real State Councilor Kachowsky <sup>2</sup>) in the newly established governorate town of Ekaterinoslav,. Before this happened, he sent some of the newly arrived colonists of the future village to Nikopol, located 120 versts from Ekaterinoslav on the Dnieper River, to search for suitable lands for settlement in the surrounding area <sup>3</sup>). They returned with the news that the land there was not suitable for settlement. As new arrivals, they naturally did not know how to judge the quality and location of that land. So, they were sent here,

<sup>1)</sup> With the exception of 7 landowners, the rest were already arable farmers by 1800, cf. I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19372.

<sup>1</sup>a) Russian names: Josifowka, Dolgoje, cf. Semenov-Tjan-Šanskij op. cit. Vol. 14, p. 564.

<sup>2)</sup> This refers to Vasily Vasilyevich Kochovsky (Kakhovsky), who since 1788 was the Governor of Ekaterinoslav, see about him V. A. Bilbasov: Istoriceskie monografii (Historical Monographs), Vol. 3, Petersburg 1901, p. 429 f.

<sup>3)</sup> We find here again the effort of the Russian government to settle German settlers at important transportation points, for at Nikopol, the old Nikitin Rog, the Tschumak Road from the Crimea led across the Dnieper. In the second half of the 19th century, many Mennonite settlements were established Mennonite settlements on leased land, cf. Semenov op. cit. Vol. 3, p. 476.

where they liked it better and where the village was also established by order of the State Councilor Kochowsky. The construction of houses was not started immediately. Since a settlement of Greeks and Armenians had existed here in the past, but had been abandoned due to frequent floods, the houses that had been left behind and had not been used by the sparse population were used as temporary dwellings <sup>1</sup>). It was not until 1796 that the governorate government gave the order to the colonists to build houses, since the wood for it had been bought already in 1792.

The village is situated on the right side of the Samar River <sup>2</sup>) which joins here with the small River Kiltschin <sup>3</sup>), crosses the meadows of the village and flows into the Dnieper not far from the Igren <sup>6</sup>) <sup>a</sup>) timber harbor belonging to the village of Josefstal <sup>4</sup>) and Rybalsk <sup>5</sup>). The land of this village is situated in a lowland surrounded by sand hills on one side and is 15 versts away from Ekaterinoslav and 12 versts away from the district town Novomoskovsk.

The land, consisting partly of saline clay and sand and partly of humus soil with a clay and saltpetre subsoil, is not particularly suitable for agriculture.

The best means of making these different types of soil productive for the growth of crops is manure, which has been used with good success for several years. To protect the land near the sand hills from drifting sand, the authorities have prescribed the planting of shrubs. The greater part of the meadows is usually under water until the beginning of June, when it yields only reeds, rushes, and ferns. The growth of grain and garden produce proceeds rapidly in the spring when the weather is warm and wet. But when the heat comes, the soil dries out completely, and growth stops. In wet years, there are good harvests of grain and vegetables in the fertilized fields. Besides shrubs and pastures, the village has about 30 Dessiantine of natural forest.

Out of gratitude for the benevolence shown to them by Josef Kochowsky, the Real State Councilor, the colonists gave the name Josefstal to their village in order to create a permanent monument to him <sup>7</sup>).

Of the 100 families that emigrated from the city of Danzig and the surrounding area, only 90 arrived on the spot, ten families perished on the journey and in the winter quarters, and the remaining families were severely thinned out.

These families formed the two colonies Josefstal and Rybalsk. In 1801

<sup>1)</sup> In 1786 Ekaterinoslav (= Novomoskovsk) was moved to the vicinity of the Bogorodickaya fortification, cf. Skalkovsky op. cit. Part I, p. 179.

<sup>2) =</sup> Samara. Samar is the popular name for the district town Novomoskovsk.

<sup>3) =</sup> Kiltschen.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. p. 199.

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. p. 199 f.

<sup>6)</sup> The town of Igren or Ogren, founded in 1850, is located on the left bank of the Dnieper on the main road leading from Poltava Governorate to Aleksandrovsk. Here was probably also the timber harbor. Cf. Semenov op. cit. Vol. 3, p. 591.

<sup>7)</sup> There seems to be a confusion here. The above-mentioned governor of Ekaterinoslav, who rendered great services to the settlement of the region, was called was Vasily Kakhovsky. It may be that the village was named after Joseph Baron von Igelström, but for the time being there is no better evidence.

a) Inverted word order has moved citation 6) from its original order in the German text.

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22 Württemberg families, who had been living in Poland for some time, arrived here, of which 17 were settled in Rybalsk and 8 in Josefstal on vacant lots. The village of Josefstal now consists of 54 landowners <sup>1</sup>).

The first settlers came to Russia under a special section in 1788 together with the Mennonites from the Danzig area <sup>2</sup>); they had no actual leaders other than those chosen from among them.

As a result of a great flood in 1788, the Greeks and Armenians living here left their place called Moskovsk <sup>3</sup>) or Bogoroditsa <sup>4</sup>) forever. Therefore, the Germans found a few dilapidated houses here, which they made makeshift dwellings and gradually settled in a somewhat higher place nearby. One of the houses was in a better condition and was later repaired and turned into an inspection building. It stood until the year 1832.

Besides the daily food money from abroad to Russia and houses built by the crown, the first settlers received 250 Rbl. as support for each family <sup>5</sup>). The Würtembergers who arrived later received the support only as an advance and had to pay it back after a period fixed for them. For most of them, the wealth they brought with them from abroad probably consisted only of a box of clothes, since they had had to struggle with hardship and poverty as day laborers and indigent craftsmen in their homeland. Those who still had something on the journey had to help their fellow brothers in the many cases of illness, death and burial and other adverse circumstances connected with the journey, so that they finally arrived in the country just as poor as the others.

The village suffered a little from fires, but even more from floods. In 1820 the river Samar <sup>6</sup>) flooded the grain fields and gardens, partly also the houses, in 1824 again the grain fields. The flooding of the meadows repeated itself with few exceptions annually and is of such long duration that later no more proper fodder grows. The most oppressive year of flooding was 1845, when the village and the farmland resembled a lake and the water rose so quickly that the inhabitants had to take refuge on the hills of other villages, on the sand hills of their own land and in the nearby village of Rybalsk. The damage suffered was great, but by God's grace no man perished. The cause of these floods is to be found in the fact that when high water levels occur, the Dnieper emerges from its bed and flows against the Samar, driving the water into the unprotected plain of the village land.

<sup>1) 1857: 54</sup> farmsteads (254 men) on 1,783 Dess. and 35 landless families. (241 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 31. Important information about this village also contains I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19372 (report of Contaenius).

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 1 ff.

<sup>3)</sup> Ekaterinoslav I (Moskovsk) was a governorate town until 1786, Cf. p. 197. Note 1, and Semenov op. cit. Vol. 3, p. 529.

<sup>4)</sup> The fortification Bogorodica was probably located more to the north, cf. Skalkovsky op. cit. Part I, p. 179.

<sup>5)</sup> About the supports granted to the colonists, cf. Bilbasov loc. cit. Vol. 3, p. 464.

<sup>6) =</sup> Samara.

Epidemic diseases have never prevailed in this village. There were bad harvests in 1820, 1824, 1833 and 1834.

Since the colonists did not understand anything about agriculture, they did not have an easy time at the beginning. Nevertheless, young and old alike made every effort to keep up with the other settlers in the cultivation of arable land and vegetables. They found a reliable advisor in the noble Herr Kontenius <sup>1</sup>). He was always thinking of ways to increase the prosperity of the village and to and to secure its future. He purchased garden nurseries for the colonists, whose plants sold well in the nearby governorate of Ekaterinoslav and increased the village's income. The introduction and refinement of Spanish sheep can also be attributed to him. When the village was put in a difficult situation due to the drifting sand, which made part of the cattle pasture on the mentioned sand mountains completely unusable, our present authorities gave our present authorities gave permission to lease land from the community income from the landowner Klewzvw <sup>2</sup>) and even if the community had to pay 3,000 Rubles Banko land rent later, the profit obtained was always such that it was always supported in economic terms.

Josefstal, May 8, 1848.

Mayor: Michael Eisfeldt. Assistant Mayors: Johann Jantzen. Christian Goebel. (Author) School Teacher: Johann Schreitel.

### X. Rybalsk <sup>3</sup>)

Reprint of the report written by J. Stach under the title "Concise Overview of the Founding and Existence of the Village of Rybalsk" published by J. Stach from: Yearbook of the "Landwirt" for the year 1915, 3rd ed. (1914).

The Rybalsk village was founded under the Ekaterinoslav governor Real State Councilor Josef Kochowsky <sup>4</sup>) by colonists arrived in Josefstal in 1791. For the construction of the dwellings the wood was purchased in 1792 at the expense of the High Crown. The village is situated on the left side of the Samar River <sup>5</sup>) where it flows into the Dnieper not far from the Igren timber port <sup>6</sup>) belonging to the village, on a hill with field stones towering high above the village in the southwestern direction. The village is 15 versts away from the governorate town of Ekaterinostav and 20 versts away from the district town of Novomoskovsk <sup>7</sup>). The mountainous land,

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<sup>1)</sup> Contaenius was buried in Josefstal, see p. 129.

<sup>2)</sup> The name could not be determined.

<sup>3)</sup> Also called Nemcy.

<sup>4)</sup> Cf. p. 196 note 2.

<sup>5) =</sup> Samara River.

<sup>6)</sup> Cf. p. 197 note 6.

<sup>7)</sup> Cf. p. 197 note 1.

crisscrossed with valleys consists mostly of loam, sand, clay and saltpeter.

Even the good land has a base of clay and saltpeter. With the help of manure, the land can be successfully cultivated. The stone mountains are barren, the meadows are usually under water until the beginning of June and yield mainly reeds, rushes, ferns, etc. Besides shrubs and willows, there are 7½ Dessiantine of natural forest on the land belonging to the village.

Before founding of the village, the place has been inhabited by Starowerzen <sup>1</sup>) who lived mostly on fishing, which is why the village was called Rybalsk by its founders.

Ancestry and immigration of the settlers is similar to the village of Josesstal.

In the Rybalsk village there are now 27 landowning owners <sup>2</sup>). The original settlers found their first shelter in the few dilapidated houses left by the Starowerzen.

Thanks to its elevated position, the village suffered little from the floods of 1820, 1824 and 1845. Epidemic diseases have not struck the village. Through Misswachs the community has suffered more or less in 1820, 1824, 1833, 1834 and 1845.

The development and promotion of agriculture, vegetable growing and sheep breeding has been the same here as in Josefstal, whereby Herr Kontenius, the State Councilor, has rendered invaluable services to this community as well. By cultivating the land leased from the landowner Rulischensk <sup>3</sup>) the prosperity of the community has increased. Land is currently leased for 1,000 Rbl. Banko annually.

Mayor: Jakob Welterlich. Assistant Mayors: Johann Bauer. Friedrich Müller. (Author) School Teacher: M. Lange.

#### XI. The Village of Neudanzig

Report of the Municipality of Neudanzig (1848). Reprint of the report prepared by J. Stach and in the collective possession of Georg Leibbrandt. from the former archives of the "Guardianship Committee."

Already in the last decade of the eighteenth century a number of people from the former free city of Danzig migrated to Russia, where some of them settled near the city of Elisabethgrad, others near the city of Berislaw. After a few years, however, the latter were resettled together with the former.

<sup>1)</sup> The Old Believers (Starowery) are schismatics who broke away from the official Orthodox Church in the 17th century.

<sup>2) 1857: 35</sup> farmsteads (136 men) on 1,156 Dess. and 8 landless families (93 men), cf. Klaus op. cit. Supplement 2, p. 31.

<sup>3)</sup> The name could not be determined.

<sup>4)</sup> For the history of these colonies, see I PSZ Vol. 26, No. 19372.

united into one village, which they called Danzig. After half a century, most of these immigrants had died off, and the younger generation, which had increased greatly during this time, felt the need for a new settlement due to a lack of land, so in 1837 they turned to His Excellency General von Inzow, the former chief administrator of the colonists of southern Russia, with the request to have such land allocated to them. After this request had been granted and a quantum of land 70 versts from the governorate town of Kherson had been allotted, extending almost 3 versts wide and 12 versts long at its south-western border on the Jngul River, the colony was established near the river lowlands in 1839. The houses were mostly built of earth, or, as it is called here, patched up and were miserable huts. The village was collectively called Neudanzig.

The steppe, which was not occupied by anyone and was used only for grazing by a few tenants, was then so overgrown with grass that it looked like a steppe field almost throughout. Wild horses were also encountered, often numbering 40 and sometimes causing considerable damage to the grain fields, which is why the inhabitants of this area often hunted them down and captured them in the hope of getting them used to working, but this failed because they soon died as a result of the hunt. Even now, up to 10 of them are often seen together. But from the luxuriant grass carpet, which was encountered at that time, not much is to be seen already for several years. Forests were not found, and even now there are none, because the recently started plantings cannot yet be called by that name.

The level soil consists in most places of black sand; however, especially in the lowlands of Ingul, one also finds black earth containing saltpeter from three quarters to one arschin deep, among which, except for the Ingul valley, there is hard clay. There are also some hard stones and some saw stones (Sägsteine), which are difficult to obtain because of their depth. The soil is best suited for rye cultivation.

Since most of these colonists were young people who had not owned any land in their former homeland, they were almost all poor. Most of them owned 1 pair of oxen, a wooden, unshod [lacking steel rimmed wheels] wagon, 2 cows and about 50 Rubles of money, others 3 to 4 pairs of oxen, as many wagons, 4 to 5 cows and 200 to 250 Rubles of Banko.

Many of them brought with them the tendency to carousing, where they prepared to continue the life of vice to a greater degree. Any concern for the future was thrown to the wind. Even in the harvest time days and weeks were spent in revelry by rich and poor. On Sundays it went particularly wild. The admonitions of some better-minded people went unheard. It seemed as if no means could be found to stop the destruction. In 1841 several families from the village of Munich, Beresan area, were settled here at their own request <sup>2</sup>). They had converted from Roman Catholicism to the Protestant faith

<sup>1)</sup> Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 30, names 1843 as the year of foundation, cf. also pp. 194 ff.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. p. 202.

and now wanted to live with their fellow believers. There was room for them, because instead of 60 families for whom the land was intended, only 33 ¹) had moved here. The protests of the new arrivals against the profligate life were of no avail, and some of them took part in it themselves. Due to the inadequate cultivation of the land and harvesting errors, many got into trouble and distress. People resorted to borrowing money or selling their farms. The farms had already become a burden for some people because they did not want to work, and they were happy if someone gave them a few hundred Rubles for a whole farm. However, the farms were difficult to sell at that time, and the debts incurred put a lot of pressure on many of them for a long time. However, there was a turn for the better.

In the late 1842 several colonists from Rohrbach, Berechner area, came here. They were settled here partly as landless people, partly they had sold their farms in their hometown in order to buy new ones here. However, because these new arrivals did not want to participate in the festivities, the local people refused to accept them, which led to the fact that the chief welfare officer, State Councilor von Hahn, gave the order that they must be accepted <sup>2</sup>). Through the good influence of these Rohrbach colonists, it was possible to bring about a change for the better. A great religious movement arose, which had the consequence that many completely changed their way of thinking and acting. Instead of going to the tavern, they went to the church, and instead of cursing they read the Bible or a Christian book <sup>3</sup>). Now also the prosperity lifted visibly. The earthen huts disappeared, and beautiful stone-built houses took their place. Trees were planted, and prosperity was promoted in spite of many a calamity, such as bad harvests and locusts (in 1845).

Mayor Dickhaut Assistant Mayor Kohl Assistant Mayor Beutusch School Teacher I. G. Nuss

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<sup>1) 1857: 62</sup> farmsteads (246 men) on 3,745 Dess. and 1 landless family (6 men), cf. Klaus loc. cit. Supplement 2, p. 30.

<sup>2)</sup> Still on October 18, 1832 (II PSZ Vol. 7, No. 5684) it had been ordered that the admission of new colonists had to be made conditional on the consent of the village community concerned. The order of the State Councilor von Hahn therefore meant a breach of the legal provisions.

<sup>3)</sup> One of the most important consequences of the Pietist movement was the reconstruction of the school system among the Black Sea colonists.

## Directory

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