

Landed Property Economic Situation of Germans in Bessarabia in 1939

Source: DAI Microfilm T-81; Roll 317; Group 1035;
Item VOMI 923; Frames 2447916-2447921
Translated/Transcribed by Allen E. Konrad (October 2011)
P.O. Box 157, Rowley, IA 52329 (USA)
<onamission@lbt.org>

[Translator's Notes: A 6 page document which identifies the ratio of landed property owned by German heritage people in mother colonies, daughter colonies, leased land and hectare communities, and those living in urban centers.] (1 hectare/ha = 2.471 acres)

[Begin Translation/Transcription]

Concerning the Landed Property Economic Situation of Germans in Bessarabia in 1939

The total German landed property came to about 300,000 hectares after the Agrarian Reform on 13 March, 1920, amounting to 3.5 ha per head for the German population (4.4 before the land redistribution), or 21 ha per family. When one deducts the hectare communities, there remains a population count of 73,170 and landed property of 285,130 ha. Minus the hectare communities, that means 23.22 ha of landed property per family. Estimating that there are around 13,000 (15%) people without landed property, that brings the real farming communities, minus the hectare communities, to being in possession of 4.6 [ha] per head, or 27.6 per family.

By all accounts, the number of children stands at 4, which means a family is made up of 6 persons. Should it prove in practice that the number is too high and that the average is only 3.5, then it follows that if 3.5 per family is the number, then all declarations must be adjusted by about 10%.

Summary Review

- A. Mother Colonies:
 - Landed Property 158,666 ha, which is 52.8%
 - Soul Count 45,440 which is 52.8% or 1,800 inhabitants per settlement
 - Landed Property per head: 3.5 ha – per family 21 ha

- B¹. Wealthy Daughter Colonies - 22:
 - Landed Property 31,510 ha, which is 10.5%
 - Soul Count 3,286 which is 3.8% or 150 inhabitants per settlement
 - Landed Property per head: 9.6 ha – per family 57.5 ha

- B². Daughter Colonies with average land possession - 55:
 Landed Property 92,570 ha, which is 30.8%
 Soul Count 23,110 which is 26.9% or 420 inhabitants per settlement
 Landed Property per head: 4 ha – per family 24 ha
- C¹. Hectare Communities formed from allocated land - 15:
 Landed Property 3,950 ha, which is 1.3%
 Soul Count 2,764 which is 3.2% or 184 inhabitants per settlement
 Landed Property per head: 1.4 ha – per family 8.4 ha
- C². Lease-Hectare Communities - 25:
 Landed Property 9,594 ha, which is 3.2%
 Soul Count 8,090 which is 9.4% or 324 inhabitants per settlement
 Landed Property per head: 1.2 ha – per family 72 ha
- C³. 7 very poor Hectare Communities (workers and day-laborers):
 Landed Property 725 ha, which is 0.24%
 Soul Count 1,392 which is 1.5% or 199 inhabitants per settlement
 Landed Property per head: 0.52 ha – per family 3.2 ha

The German settlements in Bessarabia classified according to the landed property and specific features.

=====

Compiled by Dr. Karl Stumpp,
 Department Head of *Deutschen Ausland-Instituts*, Stuttgart

- A – Mother Colonies
- B. – Daughter Colonies
- C. – Hectare Communities
- D. – Urban under German Influence

A – 25 Mother Colonies established between 1814 and 1842

Landed Property: 158,666 ha, which is 52.8% of the total German landed property
 Soul Count: 45,440 ha, which is 52.8% of German inhabitants in Bessarabia

The inhabitant count fluctuates between 318-3,730 (on average-1,800). The landed property in the mother colonies fluctuates between 15-30 ha per family (average 21), only in Dennewitz does it come to 43, in Plotzk and in Schabo each 60 ha.

It must be noted that the percentage rate of those without much land and without any at all is relatively large in the mother colonies, so that the strictly speaking farmyards do have a higher average, maybe **30-40 ha**. This might be due to the fact that the landless **half-farmer** (*Halbbauern*) works the fields of the land-owner, that is, they sow, harvest and thresh and, for this, receive half of the crop harvested. As to specific peculiarity, the following needs to be emphasized:

1. **Tarutino** – A small town market and the political, economic and cultural center of things German in Bessarabia. Factory making agricultural machinery and three textile factories. Dye-works. Here the percentage of those holding no landed property is high: Merchants, teachers, laborers, freight haulers, etc. Residence of the Administrative Office (*Gaurat*), Evangelical Lutheran Regional Consistory, German Boys and Girls Secondary School.

2. **Arzis** – Small town market. Railroad Station. Tall Mill (*Hochmühle*). Agricultural School. High percentage of those holding no landed property.

3. **Sarata** – Factory for agricultural machinery. Teacher Training College. German Hospital. German Home for Old People. Brick factory. In this respect, similar to Tarutino and Arzis. In all three settlements, the percentage of the non-German population is large (see chart).

4-6. **Alt-Posttal, Wittenberg and Teplitz** – Known for their wagon fabrication “Colonist Wagons” (*Kolonistenwagen*) – manifested in its light weight and stable construction and its beauty. Was known and sought after in the whole of southern Russia before the war. Not only the German, but also the Bulgarian, Russian and Romanian gladly did business at the weekly market. Many blacksmiths. Besides the wagons, rakes and forks were also produced.

7. **Beresina** – Railroad Station. The largest tall mill (*Hochmühle*) in Bessarabia, which delivered its flour also to Romania (in the “Old Kingdom”).

8. **Borodino** – Farming colony. Here there are also 2 large mills and a pottery industry.

9. **Leipzig** – Near to the Basarabasca Railroad Station. Here the social differences are especially strongly evident. Wealthy farmers and also a really poor population.

10. **Schabo** – In many ways, when one thinks back, a peculiar place (*Sonderstellung*):

1. A mixed settlement of Russians, Germans and French out of Switzerland. There is a long-standing conflict between the Germans and the French which the Germans have stirred up again in Bessarabia. The French have always shown themselves to be anti-German.

2. It is the largest vine-culture colony. The major industry is making wine. To be sure, the frost damaged the vine stocks many a year (and in the previous winter), so much so that now there is a strong conversion of land use to other purposes.

11. **Alt-Elft** – Farming characteristics. Of special significance here is the model fruit orchard of Reinke.

12. **Gnadental** – A well established co-operative organization (*Konsum*).

13-25. **Brienne, Dennewitz, Friedenstal, Hoffnungstal, Katzbach, Klöstitz, Krasna** (the only Catholic colony), **Kulm, Lichtental, Neu-Arzis, Neu-Elft, Paris, Plotzk** – There is nothing extraordinary to mention about these mother colonies; it can be said that these settlements are

nearly pure farming in character. They are wealthy settlements with the following possessing over 40 ha per family: **Dennewitz** (43), **Plotzk** (60) and **Schabo** (60).

B¹. Wealthy Daughter Colonies (22) established 1863-1912:

Landed Property: 31,510 ha, which is 10.5% of the total German landed property
Soul Count: 3,286 ha, which is 3.8% of the German population in Bessarabia.

On average, there are around 150 inhabitants to a settlement.

The average landed property per family is 57.5.

The establishment of these settlements implies for sure the best. Due to economic improvement and filled with a desire to accomplish great things, the sons of the farmers left the mother colonies and established new settlements on land purchased from the wealthy Russian nationals, who then brought it into a blooming economy.

It looks like this for the following colonies:

Balaktschelly (51.6), Basyrjamka (42), Eigengut (over 100), Friedenfeld (40.8), Friedrichsdorf (72), Halle (42), Larga (73-?), Maltscha (53), Negrowo-Ensslen (100), Netusche-Weiler (54), Neu-Alexandrowka (44), Neu-Postal (66), Parapara (58), Pomasan (54), Reimann-Gut (100), Romanowka (60), Rosenfeld (46-?), Saratzika-Weiler (100), Sofiental (42), Tamurka (60), Tschiligider (55), Balabanka (108), Ensseln-Gut (100) and Schulzenheim (over 100).

B². Daughter Colonies with average land possession (55):

Landed Property 92,570 ha, which is 30.8% of the total German landed property
Soul Count 23,110 which is 26.9% of the German population in Bessarabia.

On average there are 420 inhabitants per settlement.

The average landed property per family is 24 ha.

Albota (14.1), Alexanderfeld (26.7), Alexandrowka (19.8), Andrejewka (28.8), Annowka (35.3), Baimaklia (23.4), Bajusch (25.5), Balaban (37.2), Balmas (6), Benkendorf (35.4), Demir-Chadschi (30), Ebenfeld (20), Eichendorf (32.4), Eigenfeld (35.4), Eigenheim (31.8), Emmental (13.2), Fürstenfeld II (33.6), Glückstal (36), Gnadenfeld (30), Gnadenheim (24), Hoffnungsfeld (36), Jakobstal (12.6), Jargara (15.6), Jekaterinowka (19.8), Josefsdorf (13.8), Kaschpalat (32.4), Ketrossy (29.4), Kisil (34), Kalatschowka (30), Korntal I (31.8), Korntal II (36), Kurudschika (16.2), Lunga (35.4), Mannsburg (33.6), Manukbejewka (12), Marienfeld (20.4), Mariental (25), Mariewka (31), Mathildendorf (28), Mintschuna (20), Mischeny (36), Neu-Dennewitz (31), Neufall (17), Neu-Friedenstal (?), Neu-Nikolaewka (18), Neu-Parish (10), Neu-Sarata (28), Neu-Tarutino (20), Pawlowka (37), Philippowka (22), Raskajetz (19), Seimeni (29), Sofiowka (23), Stanhopka (14 and Wischniowka (20).

C¹. Daughter Colonies – Hectare communities formed 1920-1923:

After the agrarian decree of 13 March, 1920, the German landless families also were granted 6 ha per family. So there arose 13 communities with an average 6 ha landed property per family, or 1 ha per head for the German population.

Landed Property: 3,950 ha, which is 1.3% of the total German landed property
Soul Count: 2,764 ha which is 3.2 % of the German population in Bessarabia.

On average there are 184 inhabitants per settlement. Average landed property comes to 1.4 per head.

To this group belong:

Bergdorf, Hoffmannsfeld, Luxemburg, Neu-Borodino, Neu-Josepsdorf, Neu-Kureni, Neu-Mariowka, Neu-Mathildendorf, Neu-Seimeni, Nusstal, Paruschowka, Popasdru-Detusch, Rosental, Strassburg I and Unter-Albota.

C². Lease-Hectare Communities - 25:

These communities are not new establishments. They were already established by long-standing lease contracts long before the world war. This land was to gradually become personal property. Through the Romanian agrarian decree, this land was confiscated and there remained only about 6 ha per family. These lease-hectare communities differed from the newly established hectare communities in that the inhabitants once were wealthy farmers. They differed from other hectare communities in another manner. The living quarters of earlier times indicated wealth, while the houses in the new hectare communities were miserable mud huts.

Landed Property: 9,594 ha, which is 3.2% of the total German landed property.
Soul Count: 8,090 ha which is 9.4% of the German population in Bessarabia.

On average there are 324 inhabitants per settlement. The average landed property comes to 7.2 ha per family (1.2 per head).

To this group belong the following colonies:

Alt-Oneschti, Blumental, Bratuleni, Fundu-Saratzika, Fürstenfeld I, Mannowka, Helenowak, Hirtenheim, Kamtschatka, Katlebug, Maraslienfeld, Neu-Annowka, Neu-Odessa, Neu-Oneschti, Neu-Strymba, Peterstal, Reulingen, Ryschkanowka, Romanowa, Sangerowka, Schabolat, Scholtoi, Strassburg II, Strymbeni, Tschemtschelly (near Culevcea).

C³: 7 Hectare Communities

The inhabitants hardly are occupied with farming. They are craftsmen, workers and day laborers living scattered among other nationalities. They are exceptionally poor and also in danger of losing their German way of life.

Landed Property: 725 ha, which is 0.24% of the total German landed property.
Soul Count: 1,392, which is 1.5% of the German population in Bessarabia.

On average landed property come to 0.52 ha per head. There is an average of 199 inhabitants per settlement.

To this group belong:

Manscheshti, Mansyr, Missowka, Oloneshti, Romanowka (Tighina District), Sarjari, Schabo-Passad.

D-Urban with German Influence

The percentage of Germans living in cities is very modest: 0.65%.

The biological continuation of this German people is endangered. The death rate is greater than the birth rate. There are German communities in the following cities:

Cetatea-Alba (Akkerman)	104 out of 28,000 inhabitants
Bendery (Tighina)	80 out of 31,700 inhabitants
Kischinev (Chisinau)	252 out of 120,000 inhabitants
Leowa	80 out of 6,495 inhabitants
Tatarbunar	45 out of 11,453 inhabitants
	===
	561

[End Translation/Transcription]