

68th Anniversary of the German Community in Cetatea-Alba (Akkerman)

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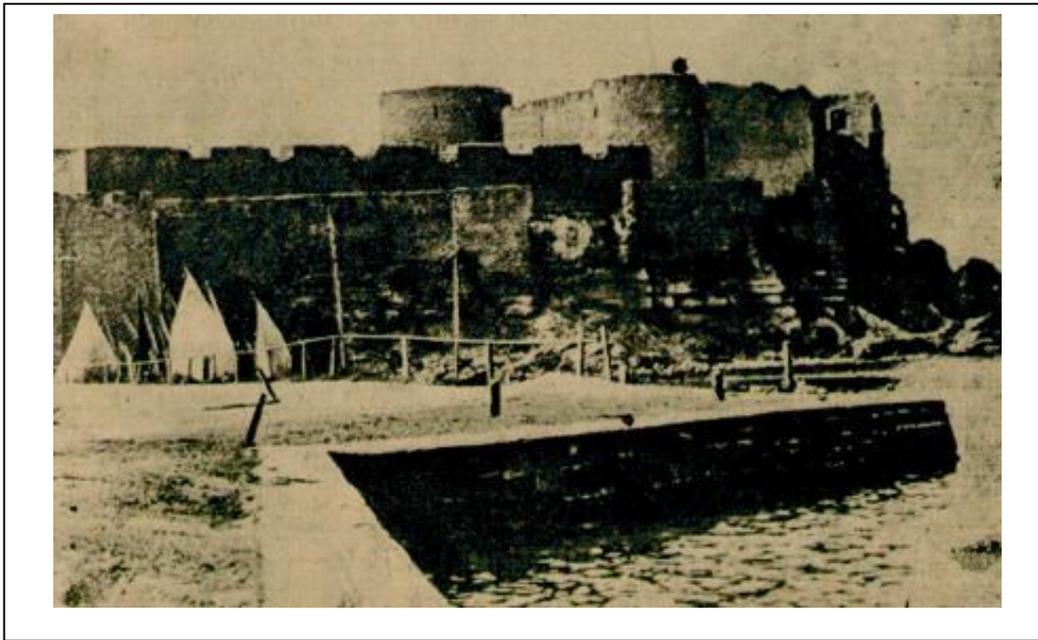
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68th Anniversary of the German Community in Cetatea-Alba (Akkerman)

Written by Mrs. L. Golwer

“What you have inherited from your fathers, acquire it so as to possess it.” If we look back on the past of local Germans, we can truly say that we do have the heritage of our fathers, though it sometimes seemed to get lost. German families, mostly foreigners, lived in Akkerman already in 1841, as one can see in the Schabo church books. Here we find the following names:



The Old Fortress and Tower

- 1841 Johann Riegel from Bavaria,
- 1844 Christoph Beck, baker, Württemberg,
- 1845 Fritz Pudick,
- 1829 Court Physician Karl Pfeiffer, Württemberg, deceased,
- 1854 Jakob Hermannsohn, merchant,
- 1854 Michael Marquardt, butcher,
- 1855 Johannes Bantel, baker, Gnadental,
- 1855 Deutschle, baker,
- 1857 Peter Hopf, mechanic from Odessa, deceased,
- 1858 Dr. Martin von Günther,
- 1861 Heinrich Eisenhardt, decorator, Württemberg,
- 1861 Christian Reichhardt,
- 1865 Adam Gröber, butcher,
- 1866 Friedrich Stief, baker,
- 1867 Georg Häfner, blacksmith.

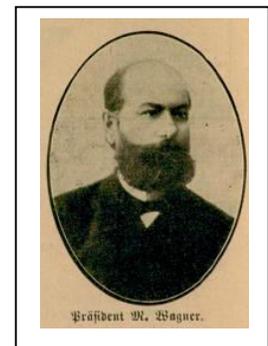


In the years between 1870 to 1880: Karl Layher, Inn proprietor; Accountant Harsch and Klotz near Föhl and Augst; Föhl and Gassert leather tannery; Kimbali, tanner; Ritter, dye-works; Schilling; Schmidt; Wienert, stove fitter; Hildebrandt, cobbler; cane merchant Rexius; Kabarett von Gerschheimer; Scherer with shipping; Sommer, Schlender, Drescher—employed at Gorelow's, now Aswadurov's mill; Pharmacy Kästner (19 years); Schaub, intestine cleaner; Schanzer, owner of cognac factory; Dr. Gorgenfrei; Häusser, owner of the hotel; Zimmerling, wood-carver at Bayhinger; Dehnhardt, German teacher at the boys high school; Meermann, president of the Zemstvo local government; female music teacher from Tschudi; Häcker.

In the years 1880 to 1895: Bleich; Weinkipper; Bovien, dyer; two brothers Blumental, officials; from Wilperth, German high school teachers; Wurster, engineer; Bodamer, member of the Zemstvo; General v. Vogel; Postmaster Meiszner; Meiszner, carpenter; Lasslo, maker of saddles; Widow Kratz, sausage booth.

From 1895 to 1907: German grammar school teacher Müller from Prischib; Krupinski, bank accountant; Schuster intellectual (*Geist*); Mehl, craftsman; Buttman; Maile; Pfaff, butcher.

From 1907 to 1923: A. Widmer, Zemstvo member; Wolberg, administrator; Pfaff, engineer; Dr. Schanzberg, from Riga; Frost, ophthalmologist; Hörschelmann, tax inspector; Patsch, homeowner; Robert Stamm, German teacher at the *Gymnasium*; Postmaster Reichberg; Landowner Jakob Renz Jr.; Official of the Zemstvo Hierburger; Christian Klundt, homeowner.

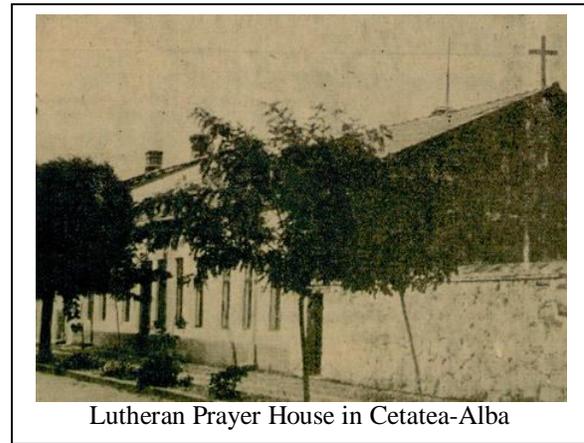


1923-1930: A. Baierle, an employee of Deutsche Bank; Engineer. J. Ensslen, owner of an iron foundry and a store of agricultural machinery; Deutsche Bank: President K. Gassert, fellow member with J. Ensslen, Schoettle, Fischer and Klundt; Zemstvo member Mittelstädt; Postal clerk

Josef Meyer; Dr. Eberler, conductor of the music school; Hotel Roduner from 1913-1931; Schulz, an employee at Jesse's cloth factory 1936.

Here, in earlier times, life among the Germans was blessed. The elderly visiting each other more. When they came together, German songs were sung, the youth made trips on Sundays to the water and countryside. Bayhinger allowed dancing in his workshop on Sunday evening. M. Wagner played the music. During the evening, the families organized masquerade balls and things like that. In 1913, there was a German evening with theater, concert and dancing. Strohmeier wrote at the time: "Artistic achievements are here not the main thing, but the mutual approach of the Germans and the strengthening of Germanness more so in the city than in the village."

Currently, we have here: E. Schertzinger, K. Borck, Th. Klundt, and J. Küst—"Bugeac" partnership; W. Küst and W. Gerstenberger—fire-insurance office. Göbel—railway engineer; R. Harmsen—engineer; Heer—radio equipment; R. Ost—fabrics shop and bookstore; J. Aippersbach—German leather and shoe-ware merchant; J. Harmsen—grocery and delicatessen; E. Weiss, nee Müller; R. Weiss, and Prof. retired (*a.D.*)—German grammar school teachers; Wieland—postal clerk; J. Wagner—cinema; Schneider—hotel; Deiss—lodging; Wagner—decorator from Eigenheim; Möller—music teacher; Hammel—carpenter; 2 Sisters of Mercy with Dr. Smolensky; 10 German maids from the countryside; three lawyers—O. Golwer, A. Strohmeier, and G. Gerling. Those having completed college (*Hochschule*) are Dr. Augst, K. Gassert—lawyer, and Al. Wagner—certified agronomist.



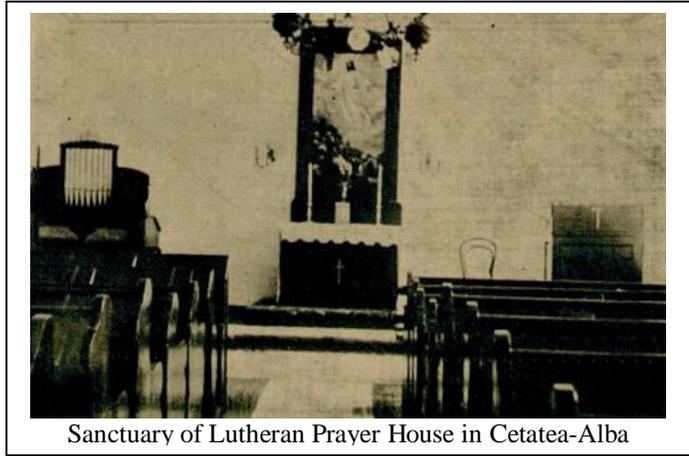
Lutheran Prayer House in Cetatea-Alba

Attending the girls high school are the 2 daughters of Föhl, 2 daughters of Gassert, and 2 daughters of Wagner.

The first settler of the present German community, Friedrich Bayhinger, from Sarata, settled in 1843 as a 15-year-old boy. Later, he built a large carpentry shop. Fr. Bayhinger built the theater of the city of Akkerman (1877). Jakob Schneider, from Großliebental, had a forge and wagon building firm and blacksmith shop in 1845. Michael Wagner, from Sarata, was called to Akkerman as a Zemstvo member in 1870. Gottlieb Gassert, from Lustdorf, came here in 1878, to open a hotel and guest house. Karl Augst and Johann Föhl, from Gnadental, took up business with grain in 1875. At the time, Akkerman was considered a corn granary. Konrad Renz, from Friedenstal, in 1873, and his son Jakob Renz, from Liuba, in 1875, dealt with grain trading.

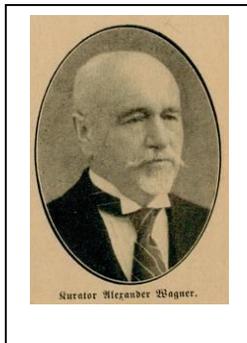
Up to 1870, the baptisms were performed by the pastors from Schabo, the last one was Breitenbach, in 1870. Later, Pastor Schomburg 1861-1877; Pastor L. Katterfeld 1877-1870. The first pastor, Naumann, settled in Akkerman in 1879 and was here until 1880. Following him were Pastor Alber, from May until October, 1880, and Pastor Julius Peters, 1880-1883. From

1883-1885, Pastor Eck lived in Akkerman. In 1886, we had the Vicar Pastor Peters; Pastor J. Golwer—1886 to 1895; Pastor Vicar W. Beck—1895 to 1897; Pastor O. Schneider—1897-1902; Pastor W. Jürgens—1902-1909; Pastor Vicar J. Peters—1909-1912; Pastor W. Meyer—1912-1919, Pastor G. Winger—1919-1922; Pastor Wollendt—1922-1923; Pastor R. Meyer—1923-1926. Since 1926, we have had Pastor A. Kern, who has been serving us faithfully six time a year. Since 1870, and for eight



Sanctuary of Lutheran Prayer House in Cetatea-Alba

years, Michael Wagner read the sermon, played the music and lead the choir in his residence. Pastor-led worship service was also conducted in his house. An old lady, the sister of dyer Bovien, from Petersburg, taught the first local children. Sexton teacher (*Küsterlehrer*) Seitz was placed here from 1880 to 1881. Karl Augst rented out a large place in his home, presently No. 2 Eminescu Street, where school and church services were held. The following sexton teachers

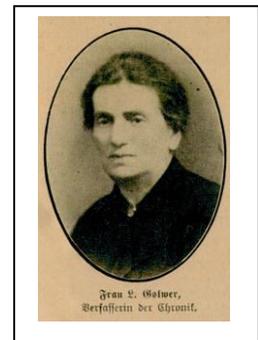


Sexton Alexander Wagner.

came after Seitz: Müller (1881-1883); Härter (1883); Heinrichsen, B. Bittau (1884-1886); Baumann (1887); Jakob Wagner, from Schabo, Stuhlmüller, Gross (1890); and last, Thilemann (1895). Jakob Renz gave the congregation a small place (1891), free of charge, in his yard (currently No.5 V. Alexandri Street). For major worship services, such as confirmations and weddings, larger premises were rented. After Thilemann, J. Renz read the sermons to the congregation for many years, M. Wagner played the songs as well as the blessed Pastor W. Meyer then a high school student. Jakob Renz rendered the congregation much good by word and deed. From 1905 to 1907, our dear Pastor R. Meyer read the sermon as a high school student. For this, he received a little golden memento as a show of thanks from the congregation with the inscription, “God watch over you and date.”

Dr. J. Waldermaier played the pump organ (*Harmonium*) as a high school student, sometimes being helped out by the one writing these lines.

The first church fathers were J. Augst, M. Wagner, J. Schneider, President J. Renz. Jakob Schneider was the church father during the difficult times in 1905, when interest for the church pretty much subsided. But he was a particularly avid and loyal church father right up to the time of his death. Augst and Renz moved away, M. Wagner became ill. Friedrich Strohmeier, from Schabo, relocated to Akkerman in 1904, where he was an assistant of the secretary to the Zemstvo. From 1907 on, teacher Immanuel Müller, from Freudental, was sexton teacher, teacher of religion, and teacher of the German language at the boys high school. With teacher Müller, a regulated life started up again in the congregation. The church school was reopened (1915). He introduced the distribution of Christmas presents and directed the choir, now singing on all festive occasions. The congregation was large at that time and the school was



Frau C. Walmer, Benefactress of the Church.

attended by 25 students. In 1908, the congregation bought a granary with a courtyard for 3,582 gold rubles. The deposit, 800 gold rubles, was taken from the proceeds of the lottery, which was not the first, since those were already taking place during the times of Pastors Eck and Golwer. In the same year, the storehouse became the prayer hall and a school hall was attached to it. The sexton residence was put up in 1909. The money for the construction was borrowed from the bank. Jakob Renz also lent 2,500 gold rubles to the congregation. Thereafter, the debt was paid off gradually by the donations of the local Germans and many foreigners.

Thanks to the lottery of the women in the assembly, the remaining debt was also covered (1918). In 1918, the congregation, in gratitude for the substantial assistance to the construction of the prayer house, gave the right to vote to the widows and women of mixed marriages. The three following lotteries, up to 1912, provided 1,808 gold rubles; the three last lotteries, up to 1926, provided 688,075 lei. Teacher Müller was around until 1919. Following him were these sextons: H. Schöttle—1919-1926, H. Irion—1926-1918, O. Ensslen—1929-1930. In 1930, German soldiers, who were in the military service here, read the sermon. Since 1930, and up to now, sexton Harry Lindikoff is doing the work. As our congregation is unable to support its own sextons, they are forced to be occupied with another profession. The only compensation that they get is the free residence.

Fr. Strohmeier was the secretary of our congregation in 1917. He was arrested by the Russian Government and the minutes of the German congregation were all confiscated. The library was founded in 1921, which is expanding every year; some 400 volumes are already available now. In 1929, the school hall was converted into a new sexton residence, consisting of 3 rooms and a kitchen, and the old residence of 5 rooms was rented out. The furnishings of the prayer hall were donated: a pump organ “donated to the Evangelical Lutheran congregation in commemoration of the golden wedding” by Michael and Katharina Wagner (1861-1911) and a large crucifix; the velvet altar cloth and the covering on the lectern by the older Mrs. Konrad Renz; an oil painting by the Women's Society; the altar painting “The Ascension” painted by Mrs. Wilperth from Dorpat; a hanging lamp installed for the electric light in 1921, by Mrs. Radi, the niece of G. Gassert. The candlesticks on the altar, offering plates, a runner, a small carpet on the platform of the altar by Mrs. Ch. Gassert; a large carpet in front of the altar and two wall brackets by W. and A. Schneider; a bench by trustee Wollberg; a carpet before the altar from Mrs Küst, née Gassert; by the same, 10 hymnals on the occasion of her silver wedding; a covering on the altar of artistic handwork, by Mrs. Baierle, née Gassert; a covering on the lectern, handmade, by the wife of Dr. Frank, née Renz; a velvet doily for the altar vessels, crafted by Mrs. Ed. Roduner; the Bible on the altar by the person writing these lines. In 1932, an oak altar was set up, worked in the Gothic style; the benches oak-stained.

Alexander Wagner is the treasurer of the congregation for 31 years. He was president for 19 years and curator for 9 years. The church fathers (*Kirchenväter*) are: A. Beierle, R. Weiss, and O. Golwer.

As for families that are German, there are presently 45 living here, of which as many as 40 are of mixed marriages, church members number 42. The congregation is debt-free. In our joy, we note that in recent years Germans are again moving back from the countryside into the city.

Up to now, the Lord has helped. Filled with much gratitude, we ask that His Almighty hand continue to lead and maintain the congregation, so that our religion, German language ,and German customs do not get lost.

[End of Translation]