

Brief History of Strassburg I

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[Note: Comments in square brackets in the document are those of the translator.]

[Translation Begins]

Brief History of the Strassburg I Municipality

In 1873, the fellow-countryman Johann Knecht from Paris obtained the 1,015 *dessjatin* [2,740 acres/1,106 hectares] land of the Akkerman landowner Nawotzki in lease. The first lease contract was concluded for 6 years at a price of 2 rubles a *dessjatine* per year. On this estate, where there was already a house with several farm buildings, Johann Knecht founded the settlement of Strassburg II with the following 6 fellow-countrymen: August Ruff, Johann Funk, Ludwig Funk, Ferdinand Knecht, Gottlieb Ziemann and Gottfried Heinrich.

At the end of the first 6 years, Johann Knecht leased the estate for another 6 years at the same price of 2 rubles per, but ceded it, at the end of this period, to the intermediary (intermediate tenant) Friedrich Renz, whereby the lease price remained the same.

In 1891, when the third lease period had passed, the following fellow-countrymen took the land into lease for another 5 years: Jakob Rivinius, Johann Bohnet, Georg Schmauder and Friedrich Anklam. This time, however, the lease price was increased to 6.25 rubles.

In the first 18 years after the founding of the settlement, the settlers felt quite comfortable, because one still speaks of that time, as the “good old days.” However, when the rent price rose, the settlers began to flee.

In 1896, the estate passed to its last German tenants, namely the brothers Frank and Merkle from Plotzk. They leased it at 10 rubles per *dessjatine* per year. That was a high lease price for those times. But when a considerable surcharge was imposed on the settlers in addition to this lease price, Strassburg I, in 1900, except for the Russian manor house and a cottage built there and even now still stands and occupied by builder, only the ruins were to be found.

During the whole period, the settlement had two total crop failures, namely in 1882 and 1886. From the turn of the century until 1921, Strassburg I existed only on the map. However, after the Agrarian Reform also extended to this estate, the place where Strassburg I once stood began to

revive itself anew. The estate was divided into plots of 6 hectares [14.8 acres] each and divided among the landless population of the surrounding villages. The following municipalities were mainly considered: Schabo, Posttal, Demidowka, Benkendorf, Marianka and others.

The first huts were built in 1922. Their appearance was poor, because their builders were mostly horseless and had to, in most cases, tread with their feet to mix the clay. But it gradually got better, because afterwards more well-to-do people were added. Not only the poverty prevailing here had to make a depressing impression on the visitor, but rather the fact that the population of several nations was thrown together here. In recent years, however, the German element seemed to take over, as Germans from outside bought their farms from the Russians and settled here.

As a result of the poverty prevailing here, many of the fellow-countrymen were forced to emigrate temporarily to work in other areas of the country (Banat, Transylvania).

From a cultural point of view, it has always been bad here.

The newly built village, built on the ruins of Strassburg I, received the official name Alkalia. In the neighboring communities, however, it is usually called Furatowka, which can sometimes irritate its inhabitants very much, as this is a word of evil meaning and means in German as much as stealing.

Rudolf Tilleman

Strassburg II
26 September, 1940

History of the Strassburg I Municipality

Strassburg I municipality was settled by Germans in 1921. Immigration continued until 1934.

The first to immigrate were: Jakob Ensmenger, David Jörke, Christian Biber and Johann Stock.

Until 1934, the Strassburg I community was part of the 1 km [0.6 mi] distant Strassburg II, Posttal Parish. On 15 February, 1934, the community left the Strassburg II municipality and established their own municipality of 199 souls

In 1939, the municipality erected a school and a prayer house building. The school was completed in the same year, the prayer house still stands with its rough brickwork.

Jakob Ensmenger was elected as municipality leader in 1934, at the same time also elected as overseer of the church and school. Jakob Reich was the municipal administrative authority for land matters. Further leaders of the municipality were:

Emmanuel Netz (1935-1939)

Friedrich Reich and Traugott Jörke (1939-1940)

Serving as teachers in the school: Emil Bohnet (1934-1935) and Oskar Bohnet (1935-1938).

Emil Kallmeier

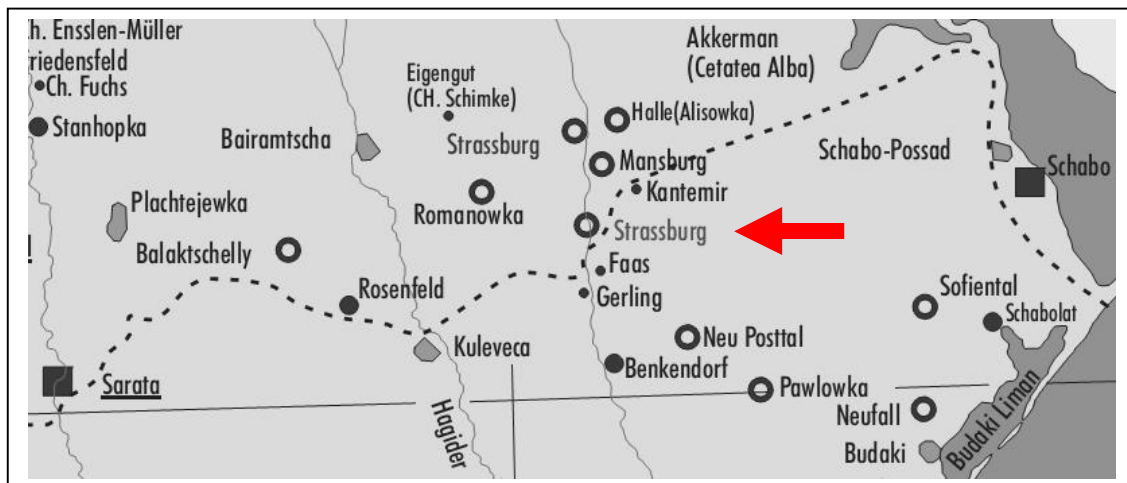
Strassburg I
October, 1940

List

of the members of the Strassburg I and II municipality, who each have an 800 lei interest in the agricultural “*Kultura*” co-operative at Maraslewka.

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|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 01. Wiedmaier, Johann I | 09. Thillmann, Maria | 17. Meske, Gottfried |
| 02. Fried, Christian | 10. Bast, Johannes | 18. Siegler, Gotthilf |
| 03. Thillemann, Rudolf | 11. Schill, Andreas | 19. Thillmann, Albert |
| 04. Thillmann, David | 12. Mogk, Eduard | 20. Renke, Friedrich |
| 05. Biber, Johann | 13. Maier, Johann | 21. Quast, Friedrich |
| 06. Renke, Jakob | 14. Flaig, Eduard | 22. Wegner, Gotthilf |
| 07. Jörke, Johann | 15. Kuhr, Johann | 23. Sculer, Christine |
| 08. Renke, Adolf | 16. Hehr, Immanuel | |

[Translation Ends]



Stumpp Map of Bessarabia reworked by Rolf Jethon—not in original document