

History of Neu-Dennewitz

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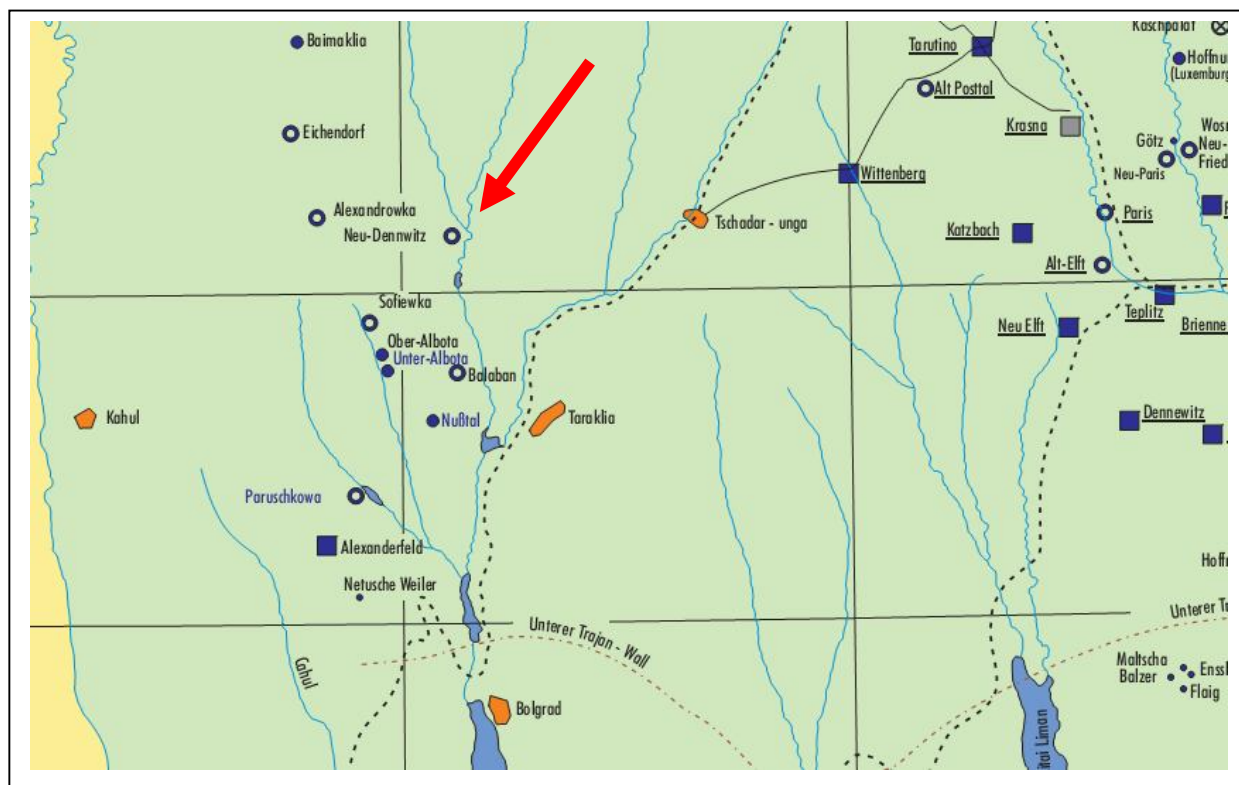
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Translated by: Allen E. Konrad
P.O. Box 157 Rowley IA 52329
<onamission1939@gmail.com>
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[Note: Comments in square brackets in the document are those of the translator.]

Location of Neu-Dennewitz in Southwest Bessarabia



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

[Translation Begins]

History of Neu-Dennewitz Municipality Kahul District

By Wilhelm B. Chr. Wagner

Only a few are still around who know the beginning and the circumstances of the history of Neu-Dennewitz, for this reason the history is summarized as a remembrance for our descendants, who should work on it further in the future.

On a spread out hill,
Where the Jalpug flows from the north,
There lies a village small and beautiful
Became a dear homeland to me.

Wagner.

Introduction. On the western side of the Jalpug river is an estate of 8,000 *dessjatinen* [1 *dessjatin* = 2.7 acres or 1.09 ha], once the property of two noblemen Adolf Sewastianow Schlinger and widow Julia Sewastianow Sponer, both French, who were close relatives. The manor house, with all the stables and buildings belonging to it, was located in the middle of this estate in present day Bortscheag, where it can still be found in part today. The administrator of this estate was Alfred Scherer. The land was mainly worked by people who lived in simple huts near the manor house. Pasture, forest and vineyards took up a beautiful area of this portion of land. In many cases, sheep farming was also carried on. In later years, Germans from Sofijewka also leased from this land. Large debts lay on the land and, over the years, 7,000 *dessjatinen* were sold to Bortscheag, Katlebug, Kardash, Alexejewka, Neu-Gortin and others. Consequently, about 1,000 *dessjatinen*, the heart of this estate, remained. But even this was not debt-free, and the owners decided to sell another nice section of their land. It involved around 856 *dessjatinen*, which was located in the Kahul District, 40 kilometers [1 km = 0.62 miles] northwest of the district capital Kahul. Border neighbors are: in the north Alexejewka, Neu-Gortin and Bortscheag, in the west Sofijewka, in the south also Sofijewka and Neu-Gortin, and in the east Kasaklia. Also Russians, Bulgarians, Moldovans, Germans and Turks are neighbors. Through Immanuel and Daniel Broneske, one of whom was a teacher in Sofijewka and the other in Dennewitz, came to find out that the land was to be sold.

Buyers. It was just around the time when the Germans from the big colonies set out and bought whole steppes to establish a new home. So the following buyers came together and bought land: According to the purchase letter, the following buyers came together and bought land: 1. Christian Höfel from Dennewitz 50 *dessjatinen*; 2. Georg Schiewe from Dennewitz 50 *dessjatinen*; 3. Johann Seitz from Dennewitz 75 *dessjatinen*; 4. Friedrich Hehr from Dennewitz 25 *dessjatinen*; 5. Immanuel Schöttle from Dennewitz 100 *dessjatinen*; 6. Heinrich Müller from Dennewitz 50 *dessjatinen*; 7. Christian Götz from Sofijewka 25 *dessjatinen*; 8. Johann Weiß from Sofiewka 12½ *dessjatinen*; 9. Adam Kalmbach from Sofijewka 12½ *dessjatinen*; 10 August Schwabe from Sofijewka 25 *dessjatinen*; 11. Friedrich Gebhardt from Sofijewka 25 *dessjatinen*; 12. Adam Sackmann from Sofijewka 25 *dessjatinen*; 13. Adam Weiß from Sofijewka 25

dessjatinen; 14. Johann Wanke from Sofiewka 12½ *dessjatinen*; 15. Johannes Broneske from Neu-Elft 100 *dessjatinen*; 16. Immanuel Schaible from Neu-Elft 12½ *dessjatinen*; 17. Daniel Schaible from Neu-Elft 50 *dessjatinen*; 18. Gotthilf Balmer from Teplitz 75 *dessjatinen*; 19. Christian Wildt from Plotzk 37½ *dessjatinen*; 20. David Weiß from Alt-Posttal 37½ *dessjatinen*; 21. Jakob Götz from Beresina 25 *dessjatinen*. As common possession were 6 *dessjatinen*, for a total purchase of 856 *dessjatinen*. All buyers were in Kischinew on 3 October, 1912 for the finalization of the letter of purchase, which has the following information: purchase price 425 rubles per *dessjatin*; fee for the purchase letter cost 3 rubles; 10,903 rubles 60 kopek personal property, 1 ruble 40 kopek office expenses, 7 rubles 50 kopek public notification, and 1,820 rubles official seal; a total of 12,735 rubles 50 kopek. The land had to be paid for in 10 years. 100 rubles deposit, then as first pledge of 94,000 rubles by the Cherson Bank and as the second pledge, the rest by the owner.

Establishment In late 1912, Immanuel Schöttle moved to Sofijewka to work on his land. On 2 February, 1913, the following founders came: 1. Daniel Schaible; 2. Daniel Weiß; 3. Friedrich Hehr; 4. Johannes Hehr; 5. Johannes Schlenker. Immanuel Schöttle also moved here from Sofijewka and Johannes Seitz came in 1914. There was a single building on the whole purchased estate; built by Furtuna, brother-in-law of Alfred Scherer. It served as a wine tavern on the Komrat-Bolgrad road. There was a vineyard near the house. The house had 4 rooms, a hallway and a cellar under the house. The founders, apart from J. Schöttle and D. Weiß, moved into this house, who lived in Bulgarian cottages in adjacent Neu-Gortin, north of this house. D. Schaible also lived in Neu-Gortin, but toward the south. In the house, each family had a room; it was close quarters, but better than out under the sky. After all had arrived and been sheltered, they began to sow seed. When they were finished with this, they immediately set about building their own houses. Unfired bricks (*Patzen*) were made in the valley next to the river. Stones were gotten from their own quarry and some also from Kasaklia. The lumber was bought jointly in Benderi (Tighina) and transported by train to the Taraklia station, from where it was hauled by wagon. All houses were covered with sheet metal, which was partly obtained from Bolgrad, partly from Odessa (Russia). The lumber work was mostly done by Johann Schaible (Sofijewka). Wells were also dug, which are 6-8 *Faden* [1 *faden* = ca. 7 feet or 2.1 m] deep and draw up to 2 *Arschin* [1 *arschin* = 28 inches or 71.1 cm] of water. The water is drinkable, but a little hard to wash with. That is when they, where it was possible, gradually put a cistern in the farmyard, where rainwater is kept. There are 17 in number.

Changes. Of those who bought and were founders, over time, the following again sold: 1. Daniel Schaible (founder) 1918, (went to Ebenfeld); 2. Daniel Weiß (founder) 1918, (went to Alexandrowka); 3. Johannes Broneske 1918; 4. Immanuel Schaible 1918; 5. August Schwabe 1918; 6. Friedrich Gebhardt 1918; 7. Adam Weiß 1918; 8. Christian Höfel 1919; 9. Heinrich Müller 1921; 10. Adam Kalmbach 1926.

Buyers and residents who, from the time of the founding until the present time, later sold out and left: 1. Farmer Johann Schlenker, 1918 to Dennewitz. 2. Herder Johannes Müller, 1924 to Brazil. 3. Day-laborer Andreas Schlenker, 1918 to Ebenfeld. 4. Farmer and timber-worker Friedrich Krieger, 1924 to Brazil. 5. Day-laborer Adolf Weiß, 1924 to Brazil. 6. Herder, farmer und miller Georg Bauer I, 1932 to Fagadou. 7. Teacher Ferdinand Semmler, 1916 to Albota. 8. Day-laborer Gottlieb Rädcl, 1921 to Unter-Albota. 9. Timber-worker Gottfried Funk, 1922 to

Unter-Albota. 10. Farmer Johannes Räder I, 1930 to Pawlowka. 11. Farmer Adolf Müller, 1922 to Brazil. 12. Farmer Johannes Schlenker, 1934 to Fagadou. 13. Carpenter Immanuel Kranz, 1932 to Poganesti. 14. Farmer Heinrich Kläuber, 1932 to Fagadou. 15. Teacher Edhard Schlenker, 1926 to Mathildendorf. 16. Herder Ludwig Weinert, 1926 to Transylvania. 17. Teacher Wilhelm Wagner, 1928 to Alexanderfeld. 18. Day-laborer August Erfle, 1930 to Neu-Gortin. 20. Teacher Immanuel Schöttle II, 1931 to Sofijewka. 21. Farmer Friedrich Räder, 1932 to Neu-Gortin. 22. Infantry Private (*Schütz*) Jakob Siegler, 1932 to Neu-Gortin. 23. Infantry Private and Field-marksman (*Feldschütz*) Johannes Kranz, 1933 to Eichendorf. 24. Farmer Samuel Bauer, 1933 to Fagadou. 25. Infantry Private Otto Schweigert, 1933 to Albota. 26. Day-laborer Gottlieb Zendel, 1934 to Wischinewka. 27. Day-laborer Jakob Schweigert to Baimaklia.

Later, these bought and stayed here permanently: 1. Johannes Schlimmer, 1920, from Dennewitz. 2. Samuel Reich, 1920, from Dennewitz. 3. Gotthilf Siegler, 1921, from Dennewitz. 4. Johann Schütt, 1922, from Dennewitz. 5. Jakob Döhring, 1923, from Dennewitz. 6. Gottfried Siegler, 1924, from Dennewitz. 7. Immanuel Müller, 1926, from Katzbach. 8. Heinrich Böpple, 1926 from Alexanderfeld. 9. Georg Gieg, 1926, from Teplitz. 10. Otto Bast, 1928, from Balaban. 11. Wilhelm Wagner, 1931, from Alexanderfeld. 12. Rudolf Taober, 1931, from Marienfeld. 13. Immanuel Schöttle II, 1932, from Sofijewka. 14. Friedrich Kämmler, 1933, from Teplitz. 15. Albert Wernik, 1933, from Hoffnungsfeld.

Location of the Village and Land Division. The village is located close to the eastern border of the land. It stretches from north to south. The main road is 320 *Faden* long and 15 wide; and the intersecting street is 10 *faden* wide. A whole farmyard is 26 *faden* wide and 70 *faden* long, so that it takes up $\frac{3}{4}$ *dessjatin*. Also the 6 *dessjatinen*, which were bought by the community and of which each buyer received an equal area, whether he bought much or little land, are measured in 24 small courtyards, each $8\frac{1}{2}$ *faden* wide and 70 long, (an area of $\frac{1}{4}$ *dessjatin*) and are located at the ends of the village, 6 each on each wing (*Flügel*). The 850 *dessjatinen* are divided into 17 farms (*Wirtschaften*), so that in Neu-Dennewitz a farm amounts to 50 *dessjatinen*. The whole land is divided into 11 sections, in which each landowner has his share depending on the amount of land. They are called: No. 1 Village Sections, 50 *dessjatinen*, 480 *faden* long and 44.20 *faden* wide. No. 2. Middle Hill-Upper Part, 50 *dessjatinen*, 1,200 x 33.76 *faden*. No. 3. Wildness, 50 *dessjatinen*, 494 x 14.24 *faden*. No. 4. Vineyardless, 50 *dessjatinen*, 594 x 14.24 *faden*. No. 5. Road to Sofiewka, 50 *dessjatinen*, differing lengths and widths. No. 6. Old Forest, 50 *dessjatinen*, 311.70 x 16.52 *faden*. No. 7. New Forest, 50 *dessjatinen*, 286 *faden* long, front 15.88 and back 17.84 *faden* wide. No. 8. Garden Sections, 50 *dessjatinen*, 73 x 12.74 *faden*. No. 9. Cattle Drive, 50 *dessjatinen*, 80 x 7.24 *faden*. No 10. Below the Gardens, 50 *dessjatinen*, 168 x 9.95 *faden*. No. 11. Clover Sections, differing lengths and widths. Meadow comes to 50 *dessjatinen*, 4 *dessjatinen* 594 square *faden*. In addition to the Neu-Dennewitz estate, some people of Neu-Dennewitz also own additional land totaling $155\frac{3}{4}$ *dessjatinen*.

Soil Condition A long hill, which stretches from the valley to the ridge of the hill (from east to west) for 5 km, is the surface area of the estate. Near the northern border there is a small valley that branches off. It stretches from the west to the east and has the name "Radosch-Konduck." The person from Neu-Dennewitz always goes downhill with the loaded wagon (from the field home except from the Konduck and from the New Forest). The humus layer is everywhere on the surface, and in some places up to $\frac{1}{2}$ *arschin* thick. Under the humus layer comes soil made

up of clay and calcium carbonate (*Mergel*), also $\frac{1}{2}$ *arschin* thick. Then comes a layer of clay, which is up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ *faden* thick in places. In the “Wildness” there comes, immediately after the black earth, fine sand up to 2 *arschin* thick. Under the sand are stones. They are sandy and $\frac{1}{2}$ —2 *faden* deep in the earth, but the stone layer is only 1 *arschin* thick. At the time of the purchase, there were up to 4 *dessjatinen* from which stones were broken. Later, the section was surveyed and today everyone who has received a part of it breaks stones on his land. In 1925, coarse, brown sand, mixed with many small *Kremmel* stones, was found on the northeastern corner of the land. It is up to 2 *arschin* thick. South of the village is the clay pit. The Neu-Dennewitz land still gives a suitable harvest even in more dry years.

Waters. There are two springs in the Konduck. One flows at 450 kg [1 kilogram = 1 liter or 0.264 gallons] of water per hour and the other at 225 kg per hour. The springs also bubble stronger or weaker at times. From the large one, water flows through an iron pipe onto two stone flat troughs, from one to the other. Both springs give very good water and are not far from each other. In the valley, the Jalpug flows from north to south. It originates above Komrat and flows into the Jalpug Estuary (*Liman*) by Bolgrad, which opens into the Danube River. It has a side-river that often dries up in the summer, the Jalpuschel, which empties into the Jalpug in our vicinity. The Jalpuschel is overgrown on the western shore with reeds, which is cut every year, collectively or distributed among the farms. Half the western side of the 800 *faden*-wide Jalpuschel valley makes up our pasture and has, some years, 1 *arschin* high grass on the northern border. Often the valley is flooded and then looks similar to an estuary, whose passage is not harmless. The water is 1 meter [1 meter = 2.38 feet] high in places. The big bridge can then hardly be seen, while the small one is almost completely washed away. In the first years, the people of Neu-Dennewitz made a main road of earth, but this one has long since been washed away. When the valley was flooded last winter, frost set in so that it created a large frozen ice surface. The Jalpug formed the border between Russia and Romania until 1877.



Farmyard of J. Seitz. (The middle building from the founding period)

Name of the village. The village got the name “Neu-Dennewitz” because several buyers were from Dennewitz, and because the people from Dennewitz bought more land than others. The

nickname “Neu” [New] has been added to distinguish it from the Dennewitz in the Cetatea-Alba District. The name Dennewitz comes from a place of battle during the Napoleonic War.

Harvest Result and Seed. Neu-Dennewitz had very good harvests in 1919, 1926, 1929, 1930 and 1932; medium harvests: 1920, 1922, 1923, 1927, 1931, 1933 and 1934; weak harvests: 1913, 1914, 1921, 1924, 1925 and 1928; from 1915-1917, the harvests were mediocre, but the land stayed un-worked because of the war. 1918 was a total crop failure. That which was grown in Neu-Dennewitz: wheat (*Weizen*), barley (*Gerste*), corn (*Mais*), oats (*Hafer*), flax (*Lein*), mustard (*Senf*), rapeseed (*Raps*), sunflowers (*Sonnenblumen*), watermelons (*Arbusen*), melons (*Melonen*), pumpkins (*Kürbisse*), potatoes (*Kartoffeln*) and cow beets (*Kuhrüben*). Little corn was sown in the first years, up to 8 *dessjatinen* on the agriculture field. Today, 14-20 *dessjatinen* are sown. Since 1925, the seed has been rotated annually on three almost identical sections of land (Road to Sofiewka and the Old Forest, Middle Hill-Upper Part, and the Village Section). The order is usually: corn, then barley or oats and finally wheat. It is of great benefit; one gets pure seed and protects the field from the noxious insects (*Ungeziefer*). In 1936, the “soy bean” was introduced. 10 *dessjatinen* were planted. An experiment with tick beans (*Zeckenbohnen*) was also made in 1933 and 1934. There were a lot of watermelons in the first years, today it is still talked about. The cow beet has been at home with us for several years and is particularly popular as we have suitable land close to the Jalpug. (1 cow beet weighs 30-40 pounds.) Those who have them in abundance feed not only the cows with them, but also horses, sheep and pigs, which they like to eat. In 1932, some “Sudan grass” was sown, but it quickly came to an end. As a result, several farmers have sown clover, which keeps nicely and turns out good.

Woodland. An area of 18 *dessjatinen* took in a planted forest. It was planted in 1892 into 1893. The trees were placed nicely into rows. The following trees could be found there: aspen (*Espen*), ash (*Eschen*), elm (*Rüster*), oak (*Eichen*), trembling poplar (*Zitterpappeln*), acacia (*Akazien*), elder wood (*Holder*), maple (*Ahron*) and others. Some trees had a diameter of 1 *arschin* and greater. Rose hips (*Hagebutten*), some currant bushes (*Johannisbeersträucher*) and blackberries (*Brombeeren*), as well as violets and other flower types of different colors and overgrown high grasses adorned the forest. Large snakes (*Schlange*), hares (*Hasen*), foxes (*Füchse*) and other small wild animals liked to be in it. There were still the remains of a natural forest in the upper half of the planted forest, above the ground oak scrub, in the earth stumps and roots. Today, one still comes across such stumps with the plow and very rarely you can also see the shrub. During the Revolution, the forest was heavily cleared by people from the surrounding villages. After the war, it was cleared out. Today, you can still find some acacia offspring, some of which grow into vine props, while others really make for a lot of work. Both forests, under the name “Old Forest and New Forest,” were located in the northwest corner of the estate.

Fruit Growing and Grape Growing. As far as fruit growing is concerned, it is only in recent years that more emphasis has been placed on it and various trees such as apple (*Äpfel*), pear (*Birnen*), plum (*Pflaumen*), apricot (*Aprikosen*), cherry (*Kirschen*), nut (*Nüsse*), etc. are planted in the farmyard and garden. Gotthilf Balmer has a beautifully landscaped and well-kept orchard, who plotted almost all of his trees himself. Vineyards were planted in 1914 and 1915. And it was at the very top of the hill at the Sofiewka border (4 km), as this location was the most suitable. Most of the set-vines were cut from the first vineyard, which were obtained by purchase. Later in 1931, vineyards were planted in the New Forest, where the land is too

slopping and too unfavorable to work with a plow and mowing machine. The following types of grapes are found in Neu-Dennewitz: Seibel (*Saiber*), Early White (*Frühweiße*), Couderc (*Kuderg*), Tara (*Taras*), *Färbe* and *Noah*. Some improved ones are also planted, but they take too much time for the fellow-countryman to care for them properly.

Livestock-breeding. The total number of horses is 114, of which about 8 are stallions, which wealthier farmers keep for breeding. Collectively or from the Chamber of Agriculture, the people of Neu-Dennewitz did not yet have a breeding stallion. Almost all horses are of Orlov descent. The breeding bulls were always bought in the surrounding German villages. They were black spotted and red spotted. In 1931, Neu-Dennewitz bought a bull from the Chamber of Agriculture in Kahul, from the “*Angler*” breed. It was obtained from Germany (Schleswig-Holstein) and came at a cost of 25,546 lei. In 1934, the municipality made an exchange with the municipality of Baimaklia, which had also acquired their bull. We also have, apart from a few colored (*bunten*), mostly dark red cows, in all 91. Most of our 440 sheep have brown and black spots on the face and feet. According to the provision of the municipality, 20 sheep and 2 rams go from the farm to the pasture, as well as 10 head of large cattle. The pigs were kept in the pasture next to the Jalpug River until 1923. 2-3 farmers operate as breeders. Today, almost every farmer buys his pigs at the market in Kongas (9 km distant), where a very good breed of pig is offered for sale.

Poultry-breeding. In the beginning, turkeys were often bred because of their tasty meat; because they were causing damage, they were eliminated in 1926. Geese were kept until 1928. The farmers were allowed to have 4 geese and 1 gander walk about, the landless 2 geese and 1 gander. There was a meadow tax (*Weide-Geld*) of 50 lei per goose and 75 lei on the gander. The geese were tended by a herder when the grain headed. Ducks are still kept by some farmers to this day. Apart from some “Rhode Island” and “Plymouth,” we are still with our old chicken breed. Pigeons are on almost every farmyard.

War and Revolution. The wartime brought a lot of hardship and suffering to the people of Neu-Dennewitz. Right at the beginning, 6 men were mobilized. Horses, wagons, harnesses and cows were also taken. In 1917, entire Russian troops wandered through Neu-Dennewitz, who came from the District town of Kahul, spent their mid-day break here, and then continued their march to Kasaklia, Tschadyrlunga, etc. Later, military agents came to Neu-Dennewitz from Bolgrad and Kahul to get oats, barley, hay and straw which was purchased by the government. On this occasion, too, there were unpleasant incidents and robberies. At the time of the Revolution, the people of Neu-Dennewitz were advised to flee immediately if they wanted to save their lives. As the uncertainty grew and the danger reached its peak, the few farmers set out, moved to Sofijewka and Albota and lived there. They took the most necessary and important items with them. Later, they came back to pick up still more things. Thus Neu-Dennewitz was left in solitude. Only one stayed behind, Christoph Bauer, who was employed as a guard. But even he could not stand it for long and had to flee. Neu-Dennewitz came into dangerous hands. Doors and windows were broken in, door frames and window frames were stolen, stove shovels, as well as other small farming equipment: rakes, forks, wine barrels, etc. etc. disappeared. A tar pot and a lot of dirt were thrown into a well, so that it could only be cleaned with great difficulty later on. Also wagon loads of corn cobs were stolen from the corn binds (*Welschkornhäuschen*). In order to see what had happened of their property and what still stood, the people of Neu-Dennewitz,

together with some from Sofijewka, often drove to Neu-Dennesitz, where they repeatedly chased away the thieves. Great damage was also done in the planted forest. Whole wagon-loads of wood was stolen. When the people of Neu-Dennewitz came with a body of men, the thieves disappeared. But it was only when a person from Sofijewka came with other men dressed in military uniform, managed to shoot down one such a wood thief from a neighboring village, that the wood-stealing in the forest stopped. When the revolutionaries began to remove the roofing, the Romanian troops arrived in the early year of 1918 and put an end to the devastation and stealing in one strike. The people of Neu-Dennewitz returned. They found everything devastated and everything in the houses was blackened with smoke. No one was wounded or killed in the war.

Historical Things. Land section No. 10 “Below the Gardens” is usually still named “Ash Hill” (*Aschenbuckel*). An ash layer covers the height. It is said that about 100 or more years ago there was a Tatar village here, which was destroyed and burned by war. One has often found clay (*Tönerne*) pipes and pieces of such. Also, in 1931, an entire human skeleton was dug up in the clay pit (at the southern end of the village). A Bulgarian also found such a skeleton when he made a dregs hole (*Satzloch*) on his farmyard in the village. In late 1934, when everyone was able to pay off their national debts on the highway construction, a person from Alexejeka found beneath a small hill from which they were removing earth, 15 skeletons near our border and close to 100 in Samursa. Legend says that in the lower part of the Dragan and Schöttle farmyards there were once 3 huts, and that there, as reported by a woman to the police, a well-known robber named “Krösewsky” was captured during the baptism of a child. It is also said to have been very dangerous to cross the Jalpug at this place in the past. Anyone who had to pass this way made sure that dusk and night did not come to him with death (*nicht auf den Hals*).

I and II Pledge Royal Decree. Although in 1918 the date for the payment of the second pledge (*Versatz*) for the land had not yet arrived, the people of Neu-Dennewitz agreed to pay off the land debt. Some had to have the money loaned to them. At that time, there was a lot of money (Kerensky) among the people and so the payment was not difficult to make. It happened easily in Kischinew by Scherer, where the payment was also accepted. In 1919, a royal decree granted the land to the people of Neu-Dennewitz. No land was confiscated. In 1921, envoys from the Cherson Bank of Odessa came to Kischinew, where the first pledge was to be paid. Neu-Dennewitz sent Johann Schlimmer and Gotthilf Balmer together to make the payment. It was paid with a bank draft (*Bons*), 60 lei for 100 rubles. It was possible for everyone to cover the debt.

Accidents and Epidemics. Lydia Döhring, 36 years old, fell from the loaded wagon in 1923 when she drove to the station and was killed. In 1921, scarlet fever (*Scharlach*) reigned among the children, and death snatched two of them. In 1934-1935, almost all children had the red spots/measles (*roten Flecken/Masern*). The influenza (*Grippe*) reigned among the adults. Almost no house was spared. Often there was also relapse and stomach ailments, stiff limbs and pneumonia (*Lungenentzündung*) were the consequences of this. Among the farmyard animals killed since the founding, the wolf got 1 colt, 1 calf and 2 sheep. In 1934, a cow was bitten by a mad dog, and later 3 cows of this farmer and 1 pig, in which rabies broke out, had to be shot. In 1913, several children perished with anthrax (*Milzbrand*). In 1915, almost all pigs died

(*krepierten*) in the village. In 1917, the hoof and mouth disease reigned among the cattle and in 1934 several sheep died due to smallpox (*Pocken*).

Doctor. Our doctor is John Makarenko, based in Kongas. In case of more severe cases sickness, however, we turn to Dr. L. Dobler, in Sarata. At the parish meeting last year, it was arranged to hire a German doctor to be in the central part of the German congregations of the Albota Parish in order to find it easier to travel over the distant, difficult and troublesome roads.

Hail and Fire. In 1913, hail destroyed a nice part of the harvest. In 1933, hail again, this time mainly hitting the vineyards, which were very damaged, and the corn, which recovered nicely. In the month of August, 1931, there was a terrible fire in Neu-Dennewitz, which raged for 19 hours. The fire started at Joh. Sietz, which burned 4 large straw stacks, separators and some small farm implements (*Wirtschaftsgeräte*). Due to the storm, a piece of ember was carried over to a straw stack of Immanuel Schöttle I (the third neighbor down), which then burned 4 straw stacks, 1 small hay stack, the framework of the 4 *faden* long chaff barn (the bricks were broken during the extinguishing) and partly also the thresher, which was housed in the chaff barn.

Cemetery. The cemetery is located in the middle on the western side on the upper half of the village. It has an area of $\frac{1}{4}$ *dessjatin* and is surrounded by a ditch. A wooden cross stands in the middle of the cemetery as a landmark. In addition to the deceased from Neu-Dennewitz, there are also 9 graves, mostly of children who died here in the wartime, who came here from the Old Kingdom with a number of refugees. (They stayed here near Neu-Dennewitz; who, besides a vehicle {*Fuhrwerk*} and luggage, had brought with them many sheep. They were only old men, women and children.)

Congregation Leaders. The congregation leaders (*Gemeindevorsteher*) were elected for only one year until the new church law was adopted in 1927. Their names are as follows: 1. Immanuel Schöttle I (1913), 2. Daniel Schaible (1914 and 1915), 3. Johann Seitz (1916 and 1917), 4. Johannes Hehr (1918), 5. Immanuel Schöttle I (1919), 6. Johannes Rädcl (1920), 7. Johannes Schlimmer (1921), 8. Immanuel Schöttle I (1922), 9. Gotthilf Balmer (1923), 10. Johann Schütt (1924), 11. Johannes Schlimmer and Johannes Rädcl (1925), 12. Johann Seitz (1926), and 13. Johann Schütt (1927). Now the following Curators: 1. Johann Seitz (1927-1930), 2. Heinrich Böppl (1930-1933), and 3. Gotthilf Balmer (1933—).

Brickworks. In 1921-1924, a brick making company was started by 4 men. There were 2-3 brick kilns fired up during the year, each time making 30,000 bricks. The company had to deliver to the municipality 250 bricks from each kiln because the brickworks was located on the community pasture. The bricks were used for their own needs as well as sold to the surrounding villages. The bricks were not of very good quality because the clay was not suitable for bricks. When there was no straw due to weak harvests, and the municipality made greater demands (500 bricks per kiln) and the tax cost a lot of money, they let the brickworks come to an end.

Prayer House In the first year, there was no common worship service. In 1914, the house, which was the only one to be bought in the land, was used as a prayer house. There the first teacher also found his residence. Throughout the war, however, the congregation was again

without worship service. When the war was over, worship service was held in the private home of David Weiß.



Prayer House and School House

In 1923, the congregation realized that it could no longer continue without a prayer house, and since everyone could already help themselves better, so a prayer house was built. It was built on the southwestern wing (*Flügel*), beside the street junction, in the municipal court. The stones were bought from their own quarry, and on the 10 cubic *faden* of foundation, the first house (which was demolished and distributed in 1920) was built. 1,000 units of unfired bricks (*Patzen*) were obtained from the agricultural land (*Wirtschaft*). It was built by Stanislav. The lumber was hauled from Bolgrad. The roof tiles were made with their own press. The roof was erected by labor in exchange for taxes owed to the government (*fronweise*). Johann Schaible made the windows, doors, benches, altar, pulpit and remaining woodwork. Johann Seitz and Johannes Fädel I were elected to oversee the construction. The prayer house consists of 1 large prayer hall, 1 hallway and 4 small living rooms for the teacher. It is 10 *faden* long, $4\frac{1}{2}$ *faden* wide and cost 134,212 lei and 56 bani. It was dedicated by Pastor Haase on 4 November, 1923.

Bells. 2 bells were purchased in 1927. The first, tuned to the “D” pitch, weighs 200 kg [1 kg = 2.2 lbs] and bears the inscription “A Mighty Fortress is our God” and the second bell, tuned to the “F” pitch, weighs 120 kg. Both bear the inscription *Evangelical Lutheran Church of Neu-Dennewitz, Easter 1927*. They come from the ringing steel bell foundry “Schilling and Lattermann, Apolda” near Weimar and cost a total of 33,800 lei. At the same time, a bell structure was erected; it consists of 7 fir beams with a roof above it and cost 18,571 lei. Before the purchase of the bells, one was content with a flag, which could not be seen in unfavorable weather conditions. As a result, some people were late for worship service or turned around when halfway there.

School. Where the worship service was held, there the children also gathered for school lessons. Since the new prayer house was built, the students have been taught there. But in order to keep the benches looking nice, a room of the teacher's living quarters is used as a school classroom.

This is also where the parishioners gather when they are summoned by the curator. The Neu-Dennewitz school is one of the denominational church schools. In the first year there were 4 students. Today, the number has risen to 35. The congregation always hired a teacher who was also sexton and clerk. The position was filled as follows: (1913-1914) nobody; (1914-1915) Ferdinand Semmler; (1915-1918) nobody; J. Broneske (teacher in Sofijewka) cared for the town administration; (1918-1921) Gotthilf Balmer; (1922) only as sexton and clerk; (1921-1922) Berta Winger, teacher only; (1922-1923) Wilhelm Messerschmiedt; (1923-1926) Erhard Schlenker; (1926-1928) Wilhelm Wagner; (1928-1931) Immanuel Schöttle II; and (1931—) presently Rudolf Tobler. The teacher has to work with 4-6 sections. Since 1928, students have taken turns going to school for half a day. In addition to the prayer house, there is a stable and a shed, a vaulted cellar and a well on the municipal courtyard. At the southern end of the village, the house of the herder was built in 1924, which cost 19,723 lei.



Customs, Practices and Fashion. Every year, on New Year's Eve, exactly at midnight, the bell is rung for an half hour straight, followed then by 2 rounds of twelve [clapper] bell strokes, and then another half an hour of ringing. Since 1926, when the weather is favorable, an early service has been held in the cemetery at sunrise on Easter morning. At Easter, everyone cleans up the graves of their deceased. On the first day of Christmas, in the evening, there is usually a

decorated Christmas tree in the prayer house every year; the students perform two recitations, say poems and sing Christmas songs. At Pentecost, the prayer house is decorated with flowers and greenery, and for Thanksgiving, decorated with a wide variety of harvested items. A May pole was set up several times on 1 May. Every Saturday and the day before the holidays, the farmyards are nicely swept. In the later part of the year, everyone hauls some sand to the yard, which on rainy days and in thawing weather gradually spreads out in the farmyard so that the dirt does not get so big. The footpaths are also sprinkled with sand or ash in such weather conditions. At Easter, the inside of the houses, and on Pentecost, the outside of the house and barns are fixed up and whitened. The women have therefore arranged to decorate almost every farmyard with a flower garden, which is particularly beautifully put in order in many farmyards. On Sundays and public holidays, people usually visit each other, and some have made it an obligation to serve a coffee to their guests. As far as the fashion spirit is concerned, Neu-Dennewitz has not advanced far in that. The healthy spirit of the German farmers still prevails everywhere.

Mechanical Works. There are two threshing machines, two tractors and one roofing tile press in Neu-Dennewitz. (The tile press belongs to a business consisting of 5 men). It makes most of the roofing tile for the people of Neu-Dennewitz.

Shops. In 1933, Johann Schütt started an independent shop in his own house, connected with a butchery, where you can get everything you need. Fresh meat is available 2-3 times a week. It is located in the middle of the northeastern wing. In the past, the people of Neu-Dennewitz bought their goods in Bolgrad, less often in Tarutino, also in Albota, which is still happening today.

Village Administration. (*Primarie*). The village administration for Neu-Dennewitz, since its foundation, was located in Bortscheag. Representatives from Neu-Dennewitz were: Immanuel SchöttleI, Johannes Rädcl, Johannes Schlimmer and Gotthilf Balmer. We had a lot to go through while under Bortscheag. Some had to go there 2-3 times because of a small matter.

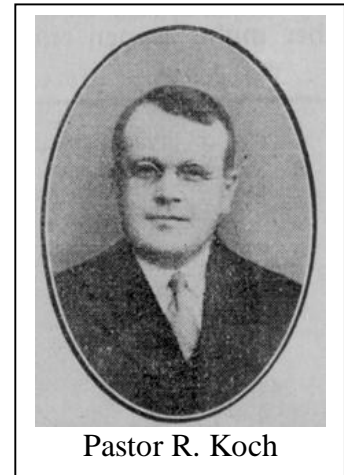
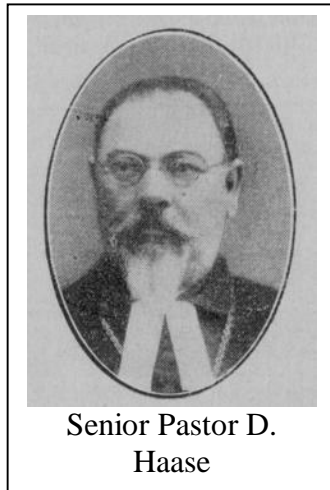


Village Administration in Rented Residence. Owner in front of the house.
(Reporter of the *Staatsangeiger*, North Dakota)

In 1926, Neu-Dennewitz submitted a petition to be joined with Sofijewka; it was not adopted. In 1932, however, Neu-Dennewitz, together with Alexandrowka and Samursa, received an independent administration, with the seat of Neu-Dennewitz. The first mayor was Immanuel Schöttle I, 1932-1933. With the alternating of management, he was followed by a Moldovan from Samursa. In 1933, the telephone connection from Neu-Dennewitz to Albota was established by the prefecture, which is of the utmost importance for our remote village. Michael Furtuna is employed as a clerk.

Post. The post office for Neu-Dennewitz is in Albota. From there, the infantry man (*Schütz*) or somebody initially picked up the mail once a week. In 1927, the state hired a letter carrier who had to bring the mail three times a week. But this often happened very irregularly in the past. Sometimes it took up to 14 days. Only since we have the administration (*Primaria*), the mail comes regularly.

Church Parish. In 1913, a parish was founded in Albota. Since Neu-Dennewitz had few families when it was founded, the person who was in need of the pastor paid a certain rate for baptism, confirmation and marriage. This is also how the worship services were held. In 1922, Neu-Dennewitz joined the parish as a half municipality (*halbe Gemeinde*); it paid 3,714 lei and, for 2,606 lei, supplied a fresh remount horse (*Remonten*). Four to five times a year, Neu-Dennewitz has pastor conducted worship service. The following care-takers of souls (*Seelsorgern*) have served Neu-Dennewitz: 1. Pastor S. Wolleydt (1913-1916). 2. Pastor D. Haase (1916-1922) and 3. Pastor R. Koch from 1922 until today.



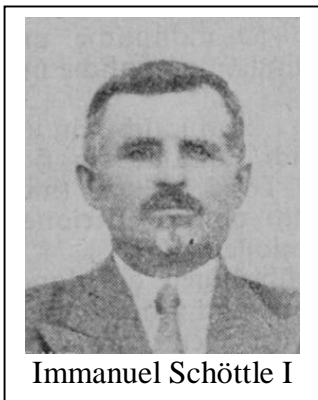
There were 21 marriages between 1914 and 1915. In the first years, Neu-Dennewitz celebrated the Apostle Days; in 1926, the celebrations were stopped by decision of the parish assembly, but were reintroduced by the same assembly in 1932.

Brethren Fellowship. Since its founding, Neu-Dennewitz has a Brethren Fellowship (*Brüdergemeinschaft*) whose leader is Johannes Hehr. Early in 1932, there was an awakening so that the number of believers rose from 13 to 30. A second fellowship began in 1933, whose leader is Johannes Schlimmer.

Newspapers. The following Christian papers were read in Neu-Dennewitz in 1935: *Licht und Leben* (1 subscriber) and *Lichter der Heimat* (3 subscribers); then newspapers: *Deutsche Zeitung Bessarabiens* (6 subscribers), *Deutsches Volksblatt* (5 subscribers), *Banater Tagblatt* (1 subscriber), *Perjam. Bürgerzeitung* (1 subscriber) and *Staatsanzeiger* (1 subscriber).

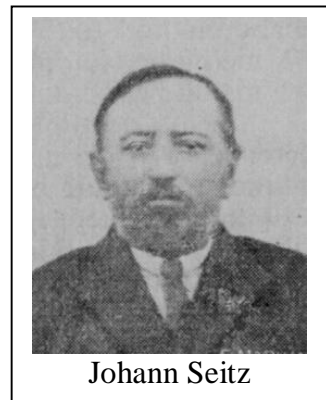
Music. There are 4 foot-pedal organs (*Fußharmoniums*) and 1 grand piano (*Flügel*) in Neu-Dennewitz. Besides in the worship service and the Fellowship, there is little singing. The Immanuel Schöttle family sings nicely and in good voice.

Railway Station, Market and Mill. The nearest railway station for Neu-Dennewitz is Taraklia. All our grain is hauled there. The bad road, which is impassable in wet weather, was replaced in 1933 by a simple highway filled with earth and connected by 4 bridges, so that it is now always possible to travel. There is a large market in Tschadirlunga. The people of New Dennewitz often visit this market to make their purchases as well as sometimes selling things. We do not have a mill in the village. Neu-Dennewitz now grinds mostly at the one in Taraklia. The mill there was built in 1932 and is well equipped; it provides nice flour. Before that, people ground in Tschadirlunga (quite far away) or Sofijewka, and much earlier in Alexandrowka or Bolgrad. In 1927, Georg Bauer II had a grist mill, which was driven by a traction engine from the threshing machine and, in 1934, an oil mill and grist mill with a small motor.



Immanuel Schöttle I

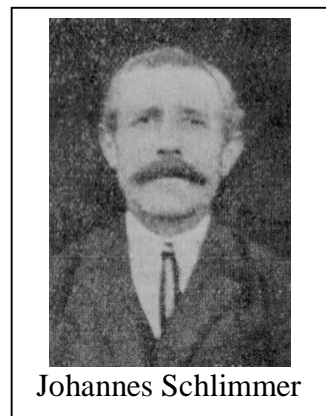
Additional Things. Almost all the people of Neu-Dennewitz are farmers; in addition, we have 1 blacksmith, 1 saddler, 1 basket maker and 1 merchant, but they also operate a farm in addition to the craftsmanship. 5 families in the village own no land. On the field as well as at home, the people of Neu-Dennewitz always work with zeal. With very few exceptions, everyone regularly attends the worship service. Apart from a Baptist and



Johann Seitz

some Bulgarians, all people of Neu Dennewitz are of the Evangelical Lutheran Confession. The houses are built of stones and unfired brick, three of fired bricks. Apart from 2 tin roofs, 2 reed roofs and a clay stall, Neu-Dennewitz has only roofs made of cement tiles. Some farmyards are still undeveloped. Several street walls are also missing.

The following men have always taken the lead in the community with advice and deeds in important matters: 1. Immanuel Schöttle I. Mayor (*Schulz*) 1913 and 1922, mayor (*Primar*) 1932-1933. He worked a lot to get us a telephone station and get the connection not with Bortschag, but with Albota. 2. Johann Seitz. Mayor 1916, 1917 and 1926; Curator 1927-1930. He worked to build a prayer house and school house and made the purchase of the bells. 3. Johannes Schlimmer. Mayor 1921 and 1925. He managed the loan fund of the people of Neu-Dennewitz from 1929 to 1933. All together, 140,000 lei had been borrowed from the *Hermannstädter Allgemeine*



Johannes Schlimmer

Sparkasse, which he gradually cashed in and put in the right place. 4. Gotthilf Balmer. Teacher 1918-1922, Mayor 1923 and Curator 1933. All 4 men have managed great well-earned merits for the community and have also made the trips unselfishly in the interest of the good of the community. Gotthilf Balmer was almost always at the front when it came to surveying.

From a portion of our land, Germans from other communities occupy 231 *dessjatinen* and 157½ *dessjatinen* belong to Bulgarians and Turks.

There were 6 families in Neu-Dennewitz at its founding, today there are 25. In the first year, there were 13 males and 20 females, a total of 33 souls; today Neu-Dennewitz number 57 males and 70 females, a total of 127 souls. Besides them, there are also five Bulgarian and Turk families living in Neu-Dennewitz, amounting to a total of 26 souls. According to the Church Book, in these 22 years, 59 males and 53 females were born, a total of 112 souls; and 15 males and 53 females died, for a total of 38 persons.

Six German families, who live on our border in Neu-Gortin (¼ km south from our village), who all bought a small farmyard and together occupy 23½ *dessjatinen* land (not on our steppe), have a soul count of 33 persons, of whom 7 are school children, and have joined themselves to our community.

Closing Word. I have reached the end of my presentation. We have seen how Neu-Dennewitz came into being and developed. We have come to know the needs of the community through war and revolution, through plagues, hail and fire; but we have also learned with what will to work and the will to build the community, has always met the obligations of its church, its people and its state. Through effort and diligence, Neu-Dennewitz has moved forward. The building of the prayer house, the purchase of the bells, the being joined to the parish and the maintenance of the teacher, to which great farmers have contributed 2,000-3,500 lei and more annually, are the witnesses of a beautiful, strong community spirit. However, may God the Lord give his blessing to the community so that unity and peace may continue to prevail among all its members in the future.

[Translation Ends]

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