

History of Tariverde, Dobrudscha

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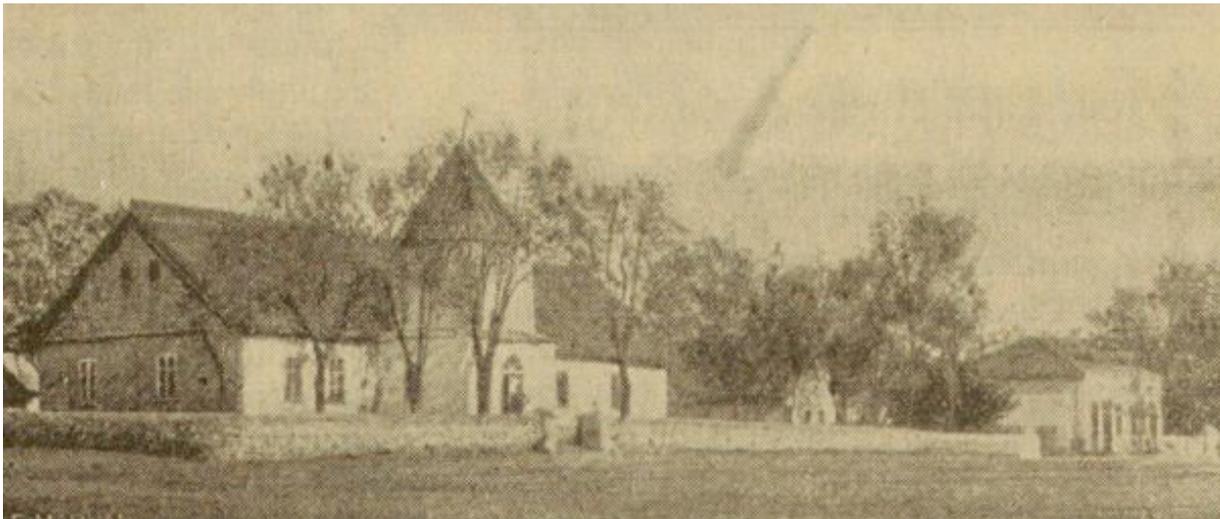
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[Note: Comments in square brackets are those of the translator. According to a 2011 European Road Atlas, Tariverde is located in Constanta County, on highways E87 & 22 between Constanta & Tulcea, about 42km (26 miles) north of Constanta and 100km (62 miles) south of Tulcea.]

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[Translation Begins]

Tariverde Colony, Constanta District (Dobrudscha)

Tariverde Colony, which now bears the official name “Dorothea,” lies at a distance of 2½ kilometers [1.6 miles] from the market town of Cogealac (Domnești) and the train station of the same name, bordering on the big main Constanta-Tulcea highway, and is probably one of the most beautiful of all German settlements in Dobrudscha [Dobruja, Dobrudja, Dobrogea]. The image which the village portrays in the summer time is frankly charming. A 2 kilometer [1.24 miles] long and fairly broad street, straight as a string and flat like a table, cleaned of all embarrassing dirt and weeds. About 1½ meter [4.9 feet] high walls, blindingly whitewashed, enclose the yards and form two long brilliant lines, over which the fresh crowns of huge acacia



Old Prayer House in Tariverde. The House to the right is the German School.

trees lean and go on indefinitely in front of and behind them. The bright homes, all equally spaced, turn their different color-painted gable ends to the street with green and blue arched windows and house corners. In the yard, decorated and massive summer kitchens and high white and colorful painted structures over the cellars. The stables and farm places in the backyard are usually massive and “whitened.”

A plain, picturesque little church, a modest farmhouse with a cane roof and a wide, wooden bell tower erected by it, stood for a few years in the middle of the village, half hidden in the greenery of the trees. This old building from 1886—on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the



Ev. Luth. Church at Tariverde,
built in 1928, with church banner
and sundial on the steeple.

community—was replaced in 1928 by a new stately church, built at a cost of 1,393,000 lei [167.20 lei = 1 US dollar on 07 February, 1929 ¹] and under the direction of the Imperial German Candidate Architect Erwin Brückner and Fritz Meier, from Berlin.

The initial plan for the church was drawn up in Bucharest by Architect Engineer Ernst Schmidt. The existing funds were not enough to carry out the project in the form as designed, which resulted, in place of a vault, with the installation of a flat ceiling, and the steeple in the front of the church had to be moved forward. Through this solution, a distinctive flavor was given to the whole layout, which is unusual in Dobrudscha, but occurs repeatedly in Württemberg and Bavaria. The above mentioned construction cost, for the most part, was raised by the area community members and some gathered from the German villages in Dobrudscha. A significant donation also came from the headquarters of the Gustav-Aldolf Association in Leipzig and the Saxon State Consistory in Dresden, thanks to the gracious mediation on the part of the Evangelical Dean's

Office in Bucharest. Various private individuals, locals and foreigners, supported the work through contributions of goods. Mr. Johann Franz, Executive Board member of the Evangelical community in Bucharest, donated 10,000 lei to the procurement of a stone baptismal font; Mr. Kroner of Bucharest, a beautiful floor carpet, etc.

On 14 October, 1928, the new church was dedicated by German District Dean, Pastor Rudolf Honigberger from Bucharest, since the Reverend Bishop Dr. F. Teutsch, who had already made his commitment to perform the dedication himself, was prevented from coming due to illness. Since the old brass bells were confiscated during the occupation in the last war, to be melted down and processed into war material, the community was forced to get new bells and now has 3-tone steel bells, very beautiful, harmonious melodic chimes sounding the notes: A = C = D, weighing a total of 1,000 kg [2,200 pounds], obtained from the tone steel bell foundry of Schilling & Lattermann in Apolda (Thuringia). After a short time, however, the largest of these bells, for some unknown reason, developed several cracks and, as a result, can no longer be rung.



Pastor Erich Darsow preaching at the Dedication Day Celebration on 14 October, 1928

The new spacious church is still without an organ, which now cannot be purchased because of the severe economic conditions, and so the old pump organ (*Harmonium*) must do its service. A mixed choir contributes its part to the embellishment of the worship service on festival days

Next to the church, in contrast to the settler houses with the long side to the street, is the congregation school (*Gemeindeschule*) with an addition in which is the residence where the sexton-teacher (*Küsterlehrer*) is housed. Previously, these rooms were used as a consumer shop, and, still earlier, an inn operated by an Armenian. However, eventually, the community put an end to the tavern, not wanting to promote an immoral life-style. The Romanian State School was imposed upon the community in 1890, with half the instructions remaining in German until 1902, but since the end of the war, German instructions are limited usually to 2 hours daily. Since the establishment of the village, the following German sexton-teachers were employed:

Julius Gulke, Gustav Wolff, J. Jaßmann, Theofil Hoffmann, Karl Reinhold Fischer, Gottlieb Hannemann, Gotthilf Weingärtner, Theodor Schaible and, since 01 September, 1930, Otto Enßlen. Hannemann from Brienne worked 21 years and Fischer from Tarutino 10 years. The last one has profited greatly, not just from the German education system, but also from the overall cultural life of the community. His merits were recognized by the mother land when, in 1909, he was awarded with the Hohenzollern House Order.

The Tariverde congregation was initially served spiritually and pastorally out of Galati, and later from Atmagea. In 1924, the Cogealac-Tariverde parish was established with the pastor's residence in Cogealac, where, in 1925, a new parsonage was erected. As successor to Pastor Richard Zimmerling, who, at the end of May, 1930, returned to Vatterode-Klostermansfeld, Germany, Pastor Benjamin Wildermuth from Bessarabia now officiates, installed into his officer on 14 December, 1930.

Tariverde Colony was settled in 1878 and currently numbers 214 German families with 873 souls. At the time, 10 hectares [24.7 acres] of land per head was allotted only with the restriction that no family be awarded more than 50 hectares [123.55 acres]. Of these 10 hectares, 8 hectares [19.8 acres] were designated for agriculture and 2 hectares [4.9 acres] for pasture. Besides that, each farmer received a farmyard of 2,000 square meters [21,520 square feet]. The land was paid

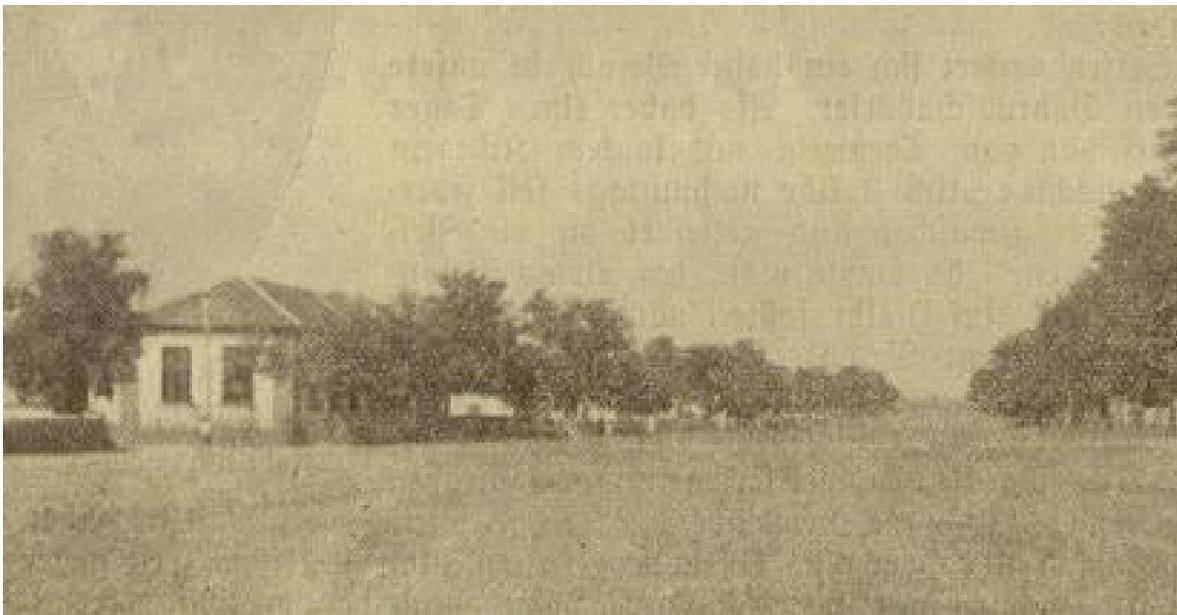


Pastor R. Zimmerling with spouse, Teacher Gotthilf Weingärtner, Grand Mayor Fr. Ritter and son.

for in 30 years at 3 lei annually. During this time, the owner had no right to sell. The land returned to the State if someone did not pay the taxes for 3 years straight; as was the case for those who emigrated. Whoever was born after 1886, no longer received any land, but there was still the opportunity for buying. Currently, Tariverde possesses a total of about 4,000 hectares [9,884 acres] of land. The first settlement consisted of 44 families who had immigrated from the Bessarabian colonies of Klöstitz, Kulm, Leipzig, Arzis, Beresina, Tarutino and Borodino. Despite this original mixture, Tariverde has developed completely into a Swabian [speaking] colony and only a few families are regarded as Platt [Low German]. Family names of German descent are: Adam, Buttau, Fischer, Kraus, Klatt, Sommerfeld, Raugust, Horning, Kling, Chudsinski, Schigurski, Kirschhorn, Wallewein, and others. Making mention of Swabian names: Nagel, Knight, Steiger, UnterSchütz, Speitel, Berg, Bender, Pfeiffer, Gäckle, Heim, Mayer, and others.

Administratively, Tariverde belongs to the Greater Municipality (*Großkommuna*) Domnești (Cogealac), at the head, as Grand Mayor (*Großprimar*), is local farmer Friedrich Ritter, a migrant from the Crimea and from Weilstein in Oberamt Marbach, born German, who already occupied high honorary posts as a member of the District Administration (*Kreisverwaltung*) and Chamber of Agriculture (*Landwirtschaftskammer*), served as President of the Church Building Committee, etc., and was repeatedly decorated with most high awards.

Generally, the approach to farming in Tariverde is still extensively according to the old Russian way of doing things. Only a few richer farmers have farm tractors: 3 “International” and 1 “Grossbuldogg-Lanz,” as well as 2 threshing machines. An methodical approach to crop rotation



Northern Side of Tariverde Village with the Romanian School in the Foreground

is still unknown. Grown are wheat, barley, oats, maize; to a lesser extent also rye, canola, rapeseed and beans. The viniculture is beginning to come back to life again; it lagged behind seriously because the Phylloxera [a microscopic louse or aphid that lives on and eats roots of grapes] also showed up here. This year's wine harvest leaves much to be desired, because the

beetles have caused great damage and, even more, it was battered by hail. Cattle breeding is at a high level here and sustains the community to this end with good breeding stallions and breeding bulls. In the area are 2 motor-driven flour mills, 2 dairies and 3 stores. That value is also placed here on education is shown by the fact that some children from the community attended boys high school [*Knabengymnasium*] in Tarutino and the Werner School in Sarata. There is also a municipal library with 239 volumes, and several newspapers are read: “*Das Bukarester Gemeindeblatt*,” “*Bukarester Tageblatt*,” “*Banater Tageblatt*,” “*Arader Zeitung*,” “*Deutsche Zeitung Bessarabiens*”; and from America, “*Dakota Freie Presse*” and “*Staatsanzeiger*.” The latter ones are usually sent as a gift by relatives who emigrated across the “Big Pond.”

It is further to be mentioned that there is also a “Brotherhood Hour” (*Stundenbrueder*) Assembly in Tariverde, and also about twenty Baptist families with approximately one hundred souls.

In the summer of 1925, Bishop Fr. Teutsch intended, on his visitation trip through Northern Dobrudscha, to also come to Tariverde, but, unfortunately, he had to abandon the plan due to sudden illness. At the train station of Cogevalac, where the congregation waited in festive attire to greet him, the Dean had to share the deeply sad news with the honorable fellow believers gathered there. In place of the ill bishop, existing Visitation Commission Pastor Dr. Karl Kurt Klein, from Jassy, came to Tariverde, where he delivered a powerful sermon in the old Prayer House.

14 May, 1930 remains indelible in the annals of the Tariverde community. Pastor R. Zimmerlind wrote the following in the “*Bucharest Tageblatt*”:

Rarely does a more significant visit go astray in our lonely Dobrudscha villages. When therefore one day the village marksman from Tariverde made known by way of loud ringing: “At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, everyone should come to the mayor, cleanly washed and dressed,” whereby one knew that something special was going to happen. The Honorable Imperial Bank President Dr. H. Schacht and Assistant Minister Raducanu were coming from Constantse, to arrive in Tariverde at 2 o'clock and then also to visit Cogevalac. Everything was joyful anticipation, festive banners fluttered in the streets and the community gathered in front of the mayor. But in Dobrudscha it is often difficult to travel according to a preconceived plan. It was only toward evening that Dr. Schacht arrived in Tariverde with his wife, accompanied by Minister Raducanu and the Prefect of Constantza and Tulcea. With the community waiting in front of the church, the important guests were given a friendly welcome by Senior Mayor (*Großprimar*) Friedrich Ritter. Minister Raducanu pointed out to guests there that he imagined them, through Mr. Ritter, not to be half, but total Germans, just as the name conveys: a recognition about which each one will rejoice, who is acquainted with Mr. Ritter's effort and work for the welfare of the German community here. The guests first visited the German school and then the Romanian State school, where the youth had lined up. The newly built church, dedicated in the autumn of 1928, where the students from the Technical University in Germany had



Otto Enßlen, present
Sexton-Teacher at
Tariverde and Author of
this History.

performed excellent holiday work, pleased [the guests] by its simple small village conditions and shining beauty. The motto on the beams of the balcony: “Faithfulness of devoted citizens built this church to the glory of God despite hardship and tribulations in the years 1927-1928, that in it come from the community those who grow in the Word of God, strong in faith, excellent in productivity, faithful to the State and national characteristics”—made an exceptional impression. In the brief conversation that followed, low grain prices for our farmers naturally were the major topic. Dr. Schacht noted that this crisis is not the fault of any single government; it is happening in the same way with all governments, since it is a global crisis. After that, Dr. Schacht offered 1,000 lei for the good of the church, the honored guests graciously excused themselves and then continued their trip by automobile in the direction of Tulcea.

Otto Enßlen.

[End of Translation]

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanian_leu