

Neu-Alexandrowka

Bessarabischer Heimatkalender—1986

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[Translation Begins]

Neu-Alexandrowka Founded in 1911

by Ottomar Fass

On the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the community of Neu-Alexandrowka, an overview of the origin and development of this community shall be provided, as far as this is still possible today.

Called to the country by Tsar Alexander I, the first German colonists entered Bessarabia in 1814. According to the applicable laws, the estates in the mother colonies were not allowed to be divided, and only the youngest son could take over the farm, so the older sons were forced to leave their hometown through internal migration (local relocation of the population within the state borders) and found daughter colonies. Over time, this led to the establishment of numerous new German communities, called daughter colonies. One of the youngest daughter colonies was Neu-Alexandrowka in the Akkerman District.

In the spring of 1911, 15 settler families from mother and daughter communities founded the settlement of Neu-Alexandrowka in the parish of Andrejewka in the Chadschidere Valley, which flows into the Alkalia Valley. The associated land, totaling 1,225 *Deßjatinen* [3,307.5 acres / 1,335.25 hectares], had been purchased by the settlers the previous year through Gottfried Schulz, the well-known German colonizer of Bessarabia, from the landowners Figuera and de Almada. An additional 95 *Deßjatinen* (1 *Deßjatin* = 1.0925 hectares) were bought. This was a sizable estate for just 15 settler families.

Origin of the founders and their land ownership:

Name of Founder	Place of Origin	Land Area in Deßjatinen	[In Acres]	[In Hectares]
Bohnet, Benjamin	Halle	50.00	135.000	54.625
Bohnet, Samuel	Halle	62.50	168.750	68.281
Hettig, Johann	Halle	56.25	151.875	61.453
Ritz, Eduard	Halle	68.75	185.625	75.109
Ritz, Michael	Halle	31.25	84.375	34.140
Schlauch, Johannes	Halle	75.00	202.500	81.937
Brost, August	Dennewitz	62.50	168.750	68.281
Brost, Johann	Dennewitz	168.75	455.625	184.359
Fano, Samuel	Eigengut (Schimke)	62.50	168.750	68.281
Krause, Friedrich	Eigengut (Schimke)	62.50	168.750	68.281
Kuch, Friedrich	Brienne	165.75	447.525	181.081
Machau, David	Neu-Posttal	200.00	540.000	218.500
Malke, Daniel	Tschemtschelly	65.50	176.850	71.558
Meilke, Johann	Tschemtschelly	43.75	118.125	47.797
Morgenstern, Wilhelm	Gnadental	50.00	135.000	54.625
Additional Purchase		95.00	256.500	103.787
		=====	=====	=====
		1,320.00	3,564.000	1,442.095

Through diligence and dedication to agriculture, prosperity increased in the growing community. The people of Alexandrowka stuck together and distinguished themselves throughout the parish by adhering to the church and political organization as well as by exemplary willingness to make sacrifices. Lists of delinquent payers were not tolerated, even if others had to step in to help those who were behind. The farms of the single-street village were located on both sides of the Chadschidere Valley, which was named Neu-Alexandrowka. At both ends of the village, the settlers each built a “well house”, whose very deep well provided people and livestock with good drinking water. Whether Alexandrowka is named after Tsar Alexander I, who invited the German settlers to the region, or in honor of the miraculous preservation of Tsar Alexander II, is beyond my knowledge. When passing through the Gorki railway station, Alexander II was supposed to be killed by several bombs. On 4 April, 1866, the miracle occurred: the bombs were discovered and the Tsar was saved.

The village bordered its land with the land of various Russian villages. Neu-Alexandrowka was located about 30 km [18.6 miles] west of the district town of Akkerman. The eastern border was formed by the land of Karnalejewka, the western border by the land of Chadschidere. Karnalejewka was the main municipality (*Comune*) and provided the mayor (*Primare/Bürgermeister*). Neu-Alexandrowka was a subsidiary municipality and had a delegate who held the office on a voluntary basis and received no compensation.

The community of Neu-Alexandrowka recognized the imminent threat of Romanization and took over the school in 1939 as an Evangelical-German Elementary School (church school) under its

own administration. Until 1940, the school had only one classroom and was attended by 40 to 50 children. A German teacher was available at all times. The teacher also served as sexton (lector). The teachers changed very frequently from the year of the founding of the school until 1920. In the 1920s, the following people worked as teachers:

1. Enßlen, Otto (until 1924)
2. Hansen, Robert (1924-1925)
3. Schaupp, Otto (1925-1926)
4. Bohnet, Immanuel (1926-1929)
5. Becker, Jakob (August-September 1929)
6. Eckert, Paul (1929-1930)
7. Faas, Ottomar (1930 until October 1940)

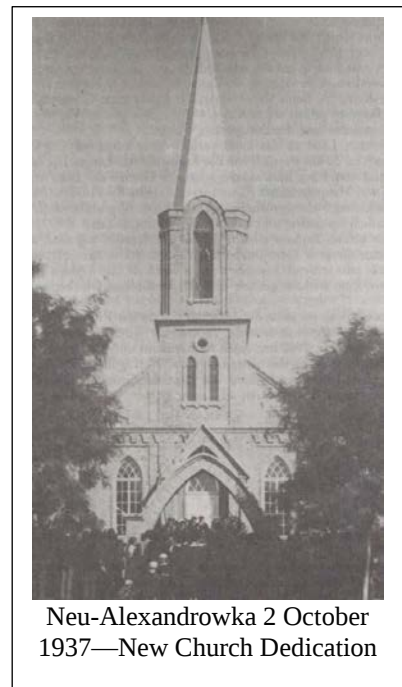
In 1934-1935, the municipality of Neu-Alexandrowka employed Willy Schulz as sexton and German teacher.

Just as the founders guaranteed “one for all and all for one” when purchasing land, the descendants also helped each other in all aspects of life until the Resettlement in 1940.

In the aftermath of the First World War, in October of 1921, the small community was attacked by 36 bandits, who stationed two armed men at each farm. A machine gun was positioned at each exit of the village; however, the unity of the community proved effective. The police were alerted through the most difficult means, and the panicked, fleeing gang was captured in a swift operation; eight of its members lost their lives.

The community was too small for a church construction even after years. The money, which had to be raised exclusively by it in addition to the other assessments, could be provided through an accumulated principal and an additional assessment. The community was basically in agreement about the construction since 1924. The farmers provided 7 hectares [17.3 acres] of arable land and cultivated it collectively for the benefit of the Building Fund. The money was partly deposited in a bank and partly lent to community members. The bank supplied the construction timber in return for the deposit, and the creditors paid off the loan at once according to a favorable special arrangement decided by the entire community. And so the church could be built in 1936-1937 and dedicated on the Harvest Thanksgiving Festival, on 2 October, 1937. Construction was carried out by master builder J. Jörke from Dennewitz under the supervision of architect Büxel from Schabo—cost 900,000 Lei.

Ecclesiastically, Neu-Alexandrowka belonged to the parish of Andrejewka (around 3,000 souls), which consisted of 15 villages and settlements. The settlements were divided into main and subsidiary communities. Since Neu-



Alexandrowka was considered a subsidiary community, the parish pastor held a sermon service (*Predigtgottesdienst*) only every ninth to tenth Sunday. In the absence of the pastor, the “sexton-teacher” conducted a reading service (*Lesegottesdienst*). He was also a religion teacher at the elementary school and was allowed to perform baptisms and burials. Children baptized by the teacher were brought to the pastor at the next sermon service for validation and blessing. The sextons, like the teachers, received their training at the Evangelical German Teacher Training Institute “Werner School” in Sarata.

From 1911 to 1926, Neu-Alexandrowka was permitted to be cared for by the pastors of the Neu-Posttal Parish. From 1926 to 1939, Neu-Alexandrowka was served by Pastor Albert Kern, and from 1939 to 1940, Albert Schlenker was our parish pastor.

Curators were:

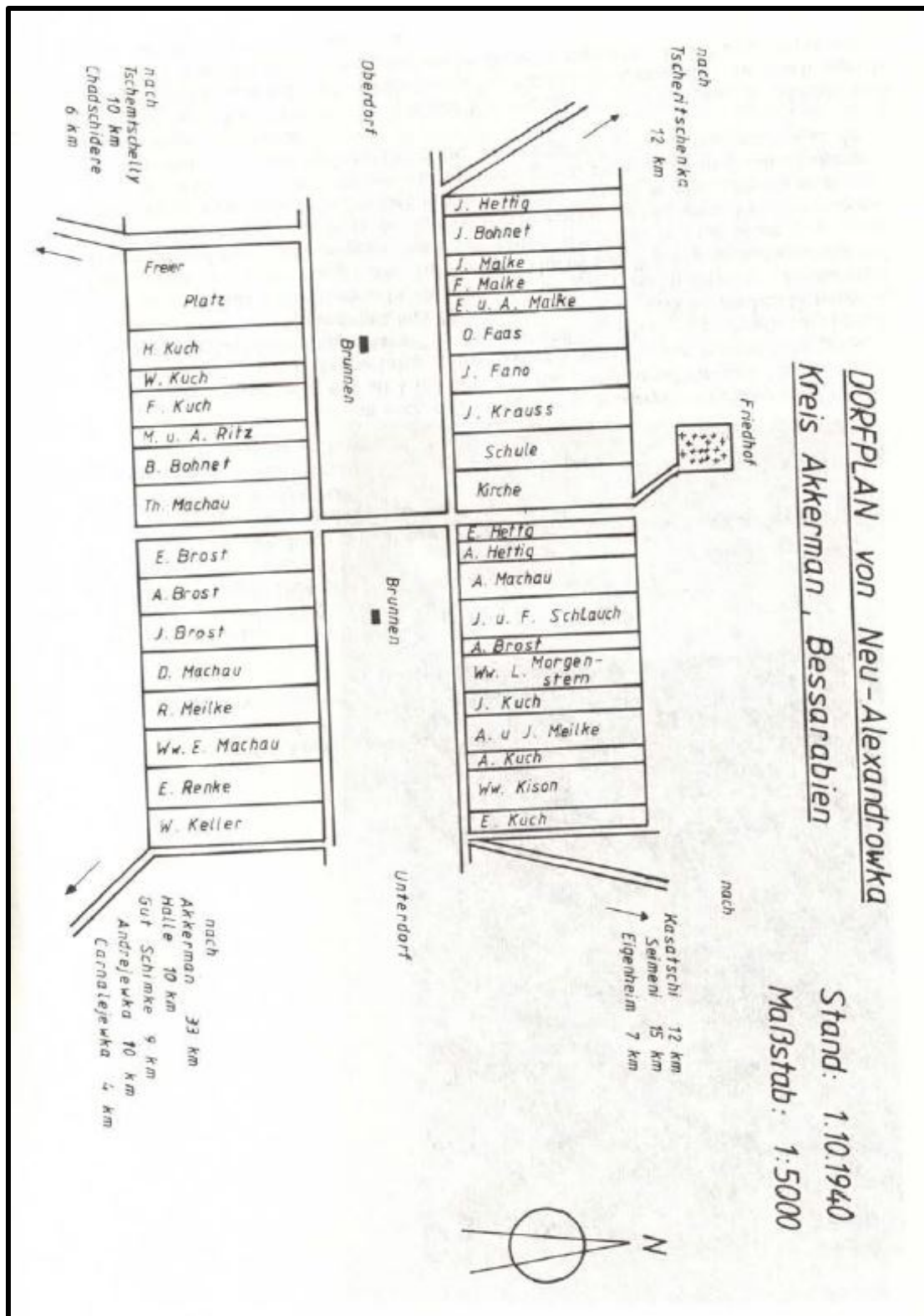
Ritz, Eduard	(1920-1923)
Fano, Johannes	(1924-1926)
Machau, Emil	(1927-1933), who distinguished himself through the municipality report and later in the homeland information office.
Machau, Adolt	(1934-1937), during whose term the church was built.
Bohnet, Immanuel	(1938-1940)

In the village, there was also an Evangelical Brotherhood community.

In Neu-Alexandrowka, agriculture was the main source of income and sustenance. The soil was quite fertile. Thanks to abundant harvests, better farm tools and modern machinery were purchased. Progress happened increasingly quickly. Attention was paid to good and clean seeds. In addition to growing the traditional cereal crops, they gradually also began cultivating oilseeds, which brought in good money. They were also a good fertilizer. Due to the lack of forests in southern Bessarabia, there was often a shortage of rain in the summer. We were never safe from crop failures.

Like every Bessarabian village, Neu-Alexandrowka also had its vineyards. They were located on flat fields. Direct-bearing (*Direkträger*) vines were used. These required no special care and were grown only for personal use. Orchards and vegetable gardens, which were attached to the threshing floors in every yard, were also used to meet personal needs.

Special importance was attached to a good colonist horse and a good dairy cow (Angler breed) [from Angeln, Schleswig-Holstein-Germany]. Angler bulls were also acquired for breeding purposes. Over the past 20 years, the milk was delivered to various dairies. Household butter was only produced for personal use.



Plat Map of Neu-Alexandrowka

Neu-Alexandrowka was supplied by two grocery stores. Owners: Michael Ritz, Eduard Schwarzmann (private home), and Adolf Machau.

The community had two carpenters, Johannes Schlauch and Eduard Malke. Two mill owners lived in the community, Immanuel Bohnet, owner of a share of the mill in Karnalejewka, and Herbert Kuch, owner of a share of the mill in Tscheritschinko.

The place was too small to establish rooms for youth work; but people made do in private residences. The youth also rented rooms for singing, dancing, and games.

The community, by the example of the elders, was joyfully embraced by the youth. This led to the formation of a harmonica orchestra, a theater group, and a folk dance group. For a small village with only 153 inhabitants, these were remarkable achievements.

There were no doctors or dentists in Neu-Alexandrowka. If one needed them, one had to travel to Bairamtscha or Sarata. There were also no veterinarians in the village.

In June of 1940, Bessarabia, which had joined Romania in 1918, was occupied by the Soviet Union within a few days. According to the German-Russian Resettlement agreement, the Resettlement of the ethnic German population was initiated. On 9 October, 1940, the inhabitants of Neu-Alexandrowka, 32 families with 153 souls, bid farewell forever to both their village and their beautiful church.

War and post-war impacts claimed human lives.

Died on the hospital transport during the Resettlement in 1940: Hertig, Albert

Killed in action in World War II: Bohnet, Edgar; Kraus, Hugo; Kuch, Eduard; Kuch, Herbert; Kuch, Waldeman; Machau, Bruno; Machau, Gerhard; Ritz, Albert

Missing in World War II: Brost, Emil; Malke, Erich

Missing in the *Volkssturm*: Brost, Oskar [**Volkssturm**: National militia established by Nazi Germany toward the end of World War II by drafting males between the ages of 16 and 60 years who were not already serving in some military unit.]

Gone missing during the Flight in 1945: Fano, Johannes; Kuch, Gotthilf; Kuch, Robert; Machau, Adolt; Malke, Friedrich

Died in Siberia: Malke, Erna; Malke, Eduard

Died in Polish internment: Bohnet, Benjamin; Kuch, Friedrich; Malke, Johann

We will not forget them!

Those who used to pass through Neu-Alexandrowka were delighted by the picturesque little village and its proud farmsteads, by the abundant greenery, and by the hospitality of its ambitious inhabitants. So it was once upon a time. The formerly so progressive Neu-Alexandrowka has disappeared from the earth. It was one of the last daughter colonies where, once, German cultural will had created a flourishing garden. Now only a lonely witness remains: the steeple of the Neu-Alexandrowka church, built with so much love and dedication, still stood in July of 1978. At that time it was seen by a tourist and captured in a photograph.



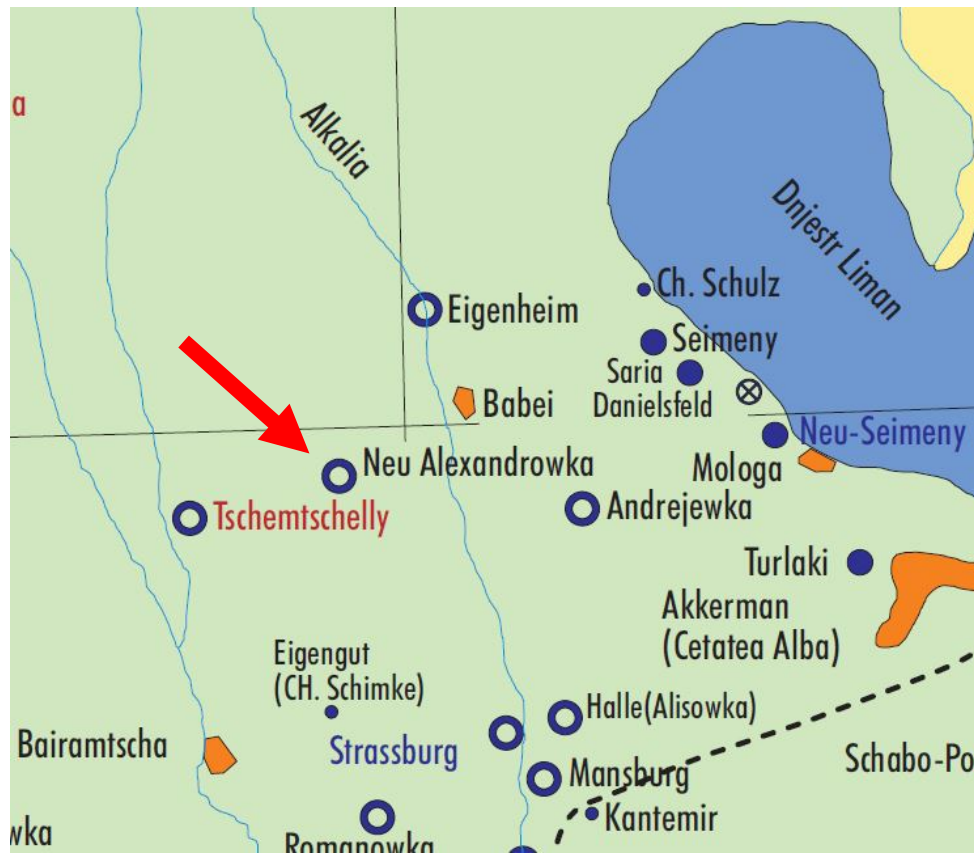
Neu-Alexandrowka church—July 1978

Even if everything is missing that was once valuable to us, we still say in faithful remembrance to our little village:

“I remain” the same to you in love,
In death I am yours!”

Source: 1. Albert Kern, *Heimatbuch der Bessarabiendeutschen*, p. 160
2. Information from Hugo Bohnet
3. Personal knowledge

[Translation Ends]



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