

Village Chronicle – Neu-Postal, Bessarabia

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[Words in square brackets indicate translator's comments]

[Translation Begins]

Village Chronicle of Posttal Village, Akkermann District, Bessarabia

A brief summary resulting from the occasion of the filling out of the Kinship Questionnaires by the expatriate Germans for the Ausland Institut in Stuttgart.

After some 50-60 years of existence of the old German colonies in Bessarabia, the scarcity of land already made itself felt for the German farmers in Bessarabia, and, so that the farm land would not get partitioned, the future crop of young farmers, to keep them from becoming just laborers, had to search for new fields to work. In southern Bessarabia, there were still large parcels of land belonging to big Russian land proprietors who lived either in Petersburg or in other cities, who leased out their parcels of land, or even sold them. As so it was that there was such a huge piece of land to be rented in the vicinity of the district of Akkermann. German farmers, from the colonies of Dennewitz, Teplitz, Kulm, Katzabch and some others, arranged to lease an area of land measuring 3,217 hectares [1 hectare = 2.471 acres], each one adding on some 20, 30, 50, 100 or more hectares. This was in 1863. Already in the fall of the year, the farmers came with their wagons loaded up with the live and inanimate inventory onto the empty prairie (*Steppe*) and prepared the ground for the winter sowing. For the time being, they lived in earthen huts, did their spring field-work and returned to their old homes when winter approached, to prepare themselves for the big task awaiting them in the early part of the coming year. The lease contract was made with the representative of Prince Kotschubei for a period of 10 years at the cost of 1 ruble 10 kopeck per *dessetine* [1 dessetine = 2.7 acres] (somewhat larger than a hectare). This covered the period from 1864-1874. Unfortunately, I am unable to come up with the document of this contract, but what follows is a list of the persons which I came upon in the archives, plus, conveniently, a list of the first election of a mayor (*Schulzen*) in the new village of Posttal:

01.	Johann	Schulz	from mother village of	Kulm
02.	Martin	Leischner	from mother village of	Kulm
03.	Friedrich	Mauch	from mother village of	Dennewitz
04.	Friedrich	Koth	from mother village of	Kulm
05.	Georg	Vetter	from mother village of	Dennewitz
06.	Johann	Sandau	from mother village of	Katzback
07.	Georg	Schiewe	from mother village of	Dennewitz
08.	Martin	Gross	from mother village of	Kulm
09.	Christoph	Geiszler	from mother village of	Dennewitz

10.	Andreas	Gutsche	from mother village of	Dennewitz
11.	Johannes	Hermann	from mother village of	Dennewitz
12.	Johann	Schelske	from mother village of	Dennewitz
13.	Adam	Wagner	from mother village of	Teplitz
14.	Friedrich	Schelske	from mother village of	Dennewitz
15.	Karl	Schlauch	from mother village of	Dennewitz
16.	Ludwig	Springer	from mother village of	Brienne
17.	Christian	Elhardt	from mother village of	Malojarowlawetz II (Alt-Posttal)
18.	Georg	Hirsch	from mother village of	Neu-Arzis
19.	Gottlieb	Mattheis	from mother village of	Brienne
20.	Johannes	Kehrer	from mother village of	Teplitz
21.	Gottfried	Hanschke	from mother village of	Dennewitz
22.	Christian	Haensel	from mother village of	Kulm
23.	Gottlieb	Guenther	from mother village of	Dennewitz
24.	Christian	Hamann	from mother village of	Dennewitz
25.	Wilhelm	Weisspfenning	from mother village of	Dennewitz
26.	Johann	Joerke	from mother village of	Dennewitz
27.	Christian	Joerke	from mother village of	Dennewitz
28.	Johann	Joerke	from mother village of	Dennewitz
29.	Christoph	Mueller	from mother village of	Kulm
30.	Daniel	Welz	from mother village of	Brienne
31.	Jakob	Schweigert	from mother village of	Brienne
32.	August	Mattheis	from mother village of	Brienne
33.	Just	Maisch	from mother village of	Grossliebenthal
34.	Andreas	Schlenker	from mother village of	Katzbach
35.	Christian	Litz	from mother village of	Neuburg
36.	Gottlieb	Drefs	from mother village of	Neu-Arzis
37.	Johann	Guenther	from mother village of	Dennewitz
38.	Lorinz	Haertter	from mother village of	Borodino
39.	Johann	Isack	from mother village of	Kulm
40.	Michael	Schlenker	from mother village of	Katzbach
41.	Johann	Schlenker	from mother village of	Katzbach
42.	Christoph	Stickel	from mother village of	Dennewitz
43.	Gottlieb	Boepple	from mother village of	Dennewitz
44.	Karl	Rall	from mother village of	Dennewitz
45.	Friedrich	Haag	from mother village of	Dennewitz
46.	Daniel	Koth	from mother village of	Dennewitz
47.	Christoph	Machau	from mother village of	Neu-Arzis
48.	Bernhard	Schlenker	from mother village of	Katzbach

Concerning the election of the first mayor of the new village of Posttal, the following was written:

Posttal Colony Area Committee (*Ortsvorstand*)

As a result of the formal request of that community on the 21st day of this month, for the establishment an office of mayor, which is what the long-standing regulations of the laws already requires should take place, and so that under the care of a district office various matters of business can be provided, the Area Committee resolved to send word, and makes it known, that next week, on the 3rd or the 4th or maybe first on the 5th of June, a meeting of the members of the district will take place for the purpose of electing a mayor, and that the register of electors with the registration of the names of that community be brought along. Everyone must unfailingly attend so that, with reverent regard, discussions pertaining to the community can be undertaken.

2 Malojaroslawetz,
No 1914
27 May, 1864

Oberschulz (his signature) Weisz
District Secretary (his signature) Laeger

To the Office of the Mayor of Posttal Colony

His Honour, Colonial Inspector, Councilor and Nobleman (*Ritter*) Lagorid has issued the following decree to this regional authority under 11 of this month, sub-No. 1545: In response to my proposal of 16th July, of this year, sub-No. 1371, the Welfare Committee, following the resolution of its deputy chairman to set up the office of village mayor for the colonists settled in the Posttal Colony on the land of the Princess Kotschubei, has confirmed the Colonist Johann Schlenker as mayor and Johann Jeske und August Mathais as assistants (*Beisitzer*). Whereof I inform the district authority, by order of the Welfare Committee of 31st July, sub 5900, to properly carry this out, so that the named persons are authorized to carrying out their duty.

The office of village mayor is to be informed concerning this decree, and this office is to be instructed to report without delay to the district authority whether the local community has made arrangements with one of the H.E.E. pastors, and with whom specifically, so that the district authority can meet with the designated pastor for the swearing-in of all three mayoral members. If it is not possible for the swearing in to take place in the Posttal Colony, it is to be reported where specifically, whether in Sarata or an alternate place (*altarus*) and on which day an official should travel there.

2 Malojaroslawetz,
No 2822
13 August, 1864

Oberschulz (his signature) Weisz
District Secretary (his signature) Laeger

Among the regulations come upon in the district office pertaining to the office of mayor in Posttal, it is evident that in this community there existed an area court of justice (*Ortsgericht*). The following is an extract dealing with the installation of a newly named judicial assistant:

Concerning the Posttal Office of Mayor

Upon inspection of the register of electors and a summary of the same, in the report of the mayor's office of the 10th of this month, under No. 20, it shows that the community, immediately after Johann Joerke served out his legal term of office as judicial assistant to the satisfaction of the authorities, by majority vote, elected colonist **Lorenz Haertter** to be the assistant, and after certification by the mayor's office, the required notice being given that Haertter carry out the conditions this office; the district office confirmed him in the office as a mayor's judicial assistant.

2 Malojaroslawetz,
No 2263
24 July, 1865

Oberschulz (his signature) Gaeckle
Mayor's Assistant (his signature) Ensslen

Even when it came to the principle administration concerns for the German colonists in Bessarabia, German men were employed. For example, consider a document about the succession of the Inspector of the German Colonies in Bessarabia:

Posttal Office of Mayor

Indicates a regulation (*Vorschrift*) of the Welfare Committee on the 21st of this month, under No. 5704, that, as of 2 August, Baron Osten Sacken was numbered among the colleagues of assessors in the Ministry of National Domain and appointed as Inspector of the German Colonies in Bessarabia.

The Office of Mayor was informed of the action.

2 Malojaroslawetz,
No 2847
07 September, 1865

Mayor's Assistant (his signature) Ensslen

Posttal Office of Mayor

Indicates a regulation of the Welfare Committee on the 3rd of this month, under No. 4221, that Deputy Inspector of the German Colonies in Bessarabia, retired Captain-Lieutenant Baron Geismar was confirmed by the Welfare Committee.

No 1531
12 May 1866

Mayor's Assistant (his signature) Ensslen
2 Malojaroslawetz

Documents Concerning the 2 Mayoral Elections in Posttal

Posttal Office of Mayor

Herewith notice is given that the Welfare Committee, by means of the regulation of the 19th of this month, under No. 8911, by a majority vote, elected colonist Christian Stickel **as mayor** and then confirmed colonist George SCHIEWE as probationer (*Kandidaten*).

2 Malojaroslawetz,
No 2310
26 July, 1866

Oberschulz (his signature) Gaeckle
Mayor's Assistant (his signature) Ensslen
Mayor's Assistant (his signature) Gross

The unconditional self-government the German colonies is revealed in a circumstance where the community voted for special assessment (*Taxanten*). A document makes mention of this:

Posttal Office of Mayor

According to the register of electors put forward in the report of the 29th of this month, under No. 112 and 113, the district office confirmed the calling of Georg Vetter as an assistant and Johannes Schlenker as probationer mayor, and directed the Office of Mayor to allow the called persons to carry out their duties. However, assistant Vetter, in the presence of Mayor Stickel, through the Most Honorable Pastor Beinemann be confirmed by oath, the community is however, enjoined that they **give their obedience to the called persons and pay attention to them**.

2 Malojaroslawetz,
No 4155
07 December, 1866

Oberschulz (his signature) Gaeckle
Mayor's Assistant (his signature) Ensslen

From a statement concerning the domestic economy of 1876 comes this that some of the tenants already left the area, specifically: Friedrich Mauch, Johann Sandau, Georg Schiewe, Johann Schelske, Adam Wagner, Georg Hirsch, Gottlieb Guenther, Christoph Mueller, Daniel Welz, Jakob Schweigert, Just Maisch, Christian Litz, Gottlieb Drefs, Lorenz Haertter, Johann Isaak, Gottlieb Boepple.

On the other hand, others moved in and are included in a list concerning the number of farms from 1871-1876. At the end of the first ten years of leasing, the following: Christoph Mix, Friedrich Kath, Sr., Johann Leischner, Daniel Gross, Friedrich Ernst, Andreas Kramlich, Johann Schlenker, Philipp Wagner, Martin Weisspfenning, Gottfried Schulz, Friedrich Joerke, Sr. (*alt*), Friedrich Joerke, Jr. (*jung*), Andreas Reiner, Friedrich Schlenker, Johann Hiller, georg Brost, Daniel Fischer, Andreas Schlenker, Jr., Johann Schlenker, Johann Friedrich, Michael Reimann, Martin Hermann, Michael Hoerth, Adam Ernst and Johann Stadel.

The fundamental local practice of the law of inheritance from father to child, in the German colonies in Bessarabia, was indicated in a simple inventory and was applied up to the most recent time and honored by all authorities, while provisions were also made for it in Russian administrative regulation Art. 62, that the community decree is valid.

The community chose its taxation on the basis of this article, which, together with the mayor's office, determined the inventory of a newly-wed couple, in which the parents put in writing the moveable and immovable property for their children. Since the land at that time was still rented, the newly-wed couple only had moveable property recorded for them. As an example, I am providing the following inventory:

Inventory

In regards to the property dowry of unmarried 2 Malojarowlawetz settler Christian Elhardt and unmarried Dennewitz settler Christine Joerke:

Item #	Listing of Securities	Value	
		Rbl.	Kop.
Property of the Bridegroom			
01.	One hymnal	02	40
02.	One Testament	--	30
03.	One pair cloth pants	03	--
04.	One pair blue cloth pants	03	--
05.	One blue vest	01	90
06.	One vest	01	50
07.	One shirt	01	25
08.	One shirt	--	75
09.	Three shirts	03	60
10.	One silk scarf	--	80
11.	One neck scarf	--	10
12.	One jacket	03	50
13.	One fur (<i>Pelz</i>) overcoat	20	--
14.	One cap	--	50
15.	One pair boots	01	--
16.	One black gelding	60	--
17.	One black-brown mare	40	--
18.	One pair horse collars (<i>Kummete</i>) with reins/harness	25	--
19.	One wagon with large and small moveable sides (<i>Leitern</i>)	75	--
20.	One plow with single/whipple-tree (<i>Wage</i>)	20	--
21.	One cow	20	--
22.	Two old sheep with lambs	10	50

23.	One hoe		50
24.	Cash	20	--
			=====
	Total	314	60

Property of the Bride

01.	One Bible	01	--
02.	One hymnal	02	--
03.	One half wool dress	05	--
04.	One half wool dress	05	--
05.	One half wool dress	05	--
06.	One <i>shalunenes</i> garment	03	--
07.	One calico garment with buttons	02	75
08.	One nightgown with buttons	03	50
09.	One <i>shalunenes</i> garment with buttons	03	75
10.	One <i>schelunener</i> dress	03	--
11.	One <i>schelunenes</i> garment with buttons	08	--
12.	One <i>schelunenes</i> scarf	01	50
13.	One silk scarf	02	75
14.	One silk scarf	02	40
15.	One silk scarf	02	30
16.	Three course silk scarves	01	30
17.	Four cotton fabric cloths (<i>Piquettuecher</i>)	01	20
18.	Three <i>ketune</i> scarves/cloths (<i>Tuecher</i>)	--	60
19.	One muslin scarf/cloth (<i>Tuech</i>)	--	20
20.	One wool scarf	02	75
21.	Three <i>schelunene</i> aprons	01	75
22.	Five <i>kettunene</i> aprons	01	80
23.	One made-up bed with bedstead	57	00
24.	Six shirts	06	--
25.	Four pair woolen stockings	02	--
26.	One pair ankle-boots	03	50
27.	One pair of shoes	01	--
28.	One table	06	50
29.	One sofa	08	--
30.	One hutch	07	--
32.	[sic] One spinning wheel	04	--
33.	One kneading-trough	01	--
34.	One pair of flour sifters	01	50
35.	Money for kitchen utensils	03	--
36.	Two sacks	01	--
37.	One hoe	--	50
38.	One cow	25	--

39. One pig	20	--
	=====	
Total	207	94

Altogether, the bridal couple brought together property amounting to five hundred twenty-two rubles and fifty-four kopeck.

Total	522	54
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The proper assessment of the above items of property was certified by the assessors with their signatures: August Mattheis, Gottfried Schulz.

The married couple agreed that if one or the other of them, with or without off-spring, should happen to die, a portion of their goods left behind be turned over to the district authorities.

The father of the bride gave the newly-weds a place to live in his home. Even up to as late as 1875, the newly-weds had free access to be at his table. Moreover, they received from him every third *Pud* [1 pud = 36 pounds; or 16.4 kg] or a third portion of all the seed of the harvest. Part of the bargain was that they obligated themselves to help in the work to the best of their ability. After the course of a few years, the married couple did receive a third portion of the existing farm that belonged to the father of the groom.

Then, according to German system of drawing up of the inventory, it shows that the bride and groom and the parents or relatives of the married couple signed it in their own hand-writing.

Bridegroom: Christian Elhardt
 Bride: Christine Joerke
 Witnesses: Johann Schlenker
 Andreas Schlenker
 Parents: Johann Joerke
 Christian Elhardt

The correctness of the preceding inventory, as well as the written signatures of the bride and groom, the parents and relatives is certified by the Posttal village authority with signature and seal.

Posttal, on 28 November, 1872, No. 184

Community Elder: Hanschke
 Recorder: Knauer

An Orphan's Fund was established in the German colonies in which all money left behind for the orphans was deposited. The community itself chose the guardian for the left behind orphans and their property, who in turn were accountable to the whole community for the property and the orphans. Annually, through open discussions (*Gemeindespruch*), the year's reckoning of the guardian was verified, after which account was audited and verified as an account revised. If there was ready cash, it was paid into the Orphan's Fund where it was managed and drew

interest. Once the orphan in question became of age or got married, the savings book from the Orphan's Fund was handed over to him with all that had accumulated. This procedure took place through village administration and following is a document testifying to the requirement of an account for an orphan:

Orphan Administration of Malojaroslawetz District

From the Posttal Village Authorities

Extract

The marriageable daughter of local resident Dennewitz settler Johannes Hermann, by the name of Christine, having arrived at the point of holy matrimony, at this time, from her paternal and guardianship claim, petitions and requests the authorities of the Orphan Administration to remit to her the amount indicated in the savings bank book of this village authority.

The Village Authority has the honor to share this with the Orphan Authorities.

No. 113

11 September, 1872

Posttal Settlement

Village Elder: Hanschke

Recorder: Knauer

In this same year, there is also a document which shows how seriously the matter of catechism instruction (*Kinderlehre*) was taken. The spiritual authorities, in order to achieve the regime and discipline, were able to make demands to the secular authorities and did just that, as is here indicated:

From the Village Authorities in Posttal

Concerning Wilhelm Machau, of this community and obligated to participate in catechism instruction, sharing with me his desire to be released from catechism instruction, indicating to me that on my next visit to Posttal, he wanted to be released from attending; he took the liberty, in my presence in the prayer house, by making the insolent remark that he would no longer be attending catechism instruction.

As a result of this, I requested from the Posttal village authorities that they come up with the appropriate punishment for this Wilhelm Machau because of such **unheard of insolence**.

Posttal, 12 March, 1872

G. Schomburg, Pastor

However, just as every repentant sinner finds forgiveness, so it was with the unheard of offender Wilhelm Machau. He also found mercy from Pastor Schomburg as is noted in this document:

12.	Christian Joerke	4	4
13.	Christoph Stichel	2	6
14.	Friedrich Brost	3	1
15.	Johannes Hermann	4	3
16.	Daniel Fischer	1	5
17.	Daniel Koth	4	3
18.	Johann Friedrich	3	3
19.	Karl Rall	2	4
20.	Johann Guenther	2	1
21.	Wilhelm Weisspfenning	3	7
22.	Johann Joerke, Jr.	4	3
23.	Friedrich Weisspfenning	3	1
24.	Martin Hermann	1	1
25.	Gottfried Hanschke	5	3
26.	Friedrich Joerke, Jr.	4	3
27.	Karl Schoettle	6	2
28.	Friedrich Haag	7	3
29.	Martin Leischner	3	2
30.	Johann Leischner	4	6
31.	Christian Hensel	2	6
32.	August Radke	3	3
33.	Friedrich Koth	5	1
34.	August Koth	5	2
35.	Andreas Schlenker, Jr.	3	4
36.	Johann Schlenker, Jr.	2	3
37.	Andreas Schlenker, Sr.	4	4
38.	Johannes Schlenker	2	4
39.	Friedrich Schlenker	2	3
40.	Michael Schlenker	8	1
41.	Gottlieb Hettig	2	1
42.	Johann Schlenker, Sr.	3	4
43.	Bernhard Schlenker	4	4
44.	Andreas Kremlich	2	3
45.	Johannes Kehrer	5	3
46.	August Mattheis	5	6
47.	Andreas Reimer	2	3
48.	Karl Traichen	3	1
49.	Friedrich Krueger	4	2
50.	Christoph Mix	4	2
51.	Samuel Machau	2	2
52.	Christoph Machau	4	7
53.	Christian Elhardt, Sr.	4	4
54.	Christian Elhardt, Jr.	1	2
55.	Michael Reimann	2	2
56.	Johann Stadel	3	4
57.	Adam Ernst, Sr.	2	2

58.	Adam Ernst, Jr.	2	1
59.	Christian Hetterle	1	1
60.	Gottlieb Kohler	2	3
61.	Friedrich Weber	6	3
		=====	
	Total:	201	190 = 391
	Accurate : Recorder: Knauer		

As in every era, so it also happened in the olden days that the single boys instigated disturbance on the street. These fellows were severely pursued and punished by the local authorities. The punishment that existed was a monetary penalty, which was prescribed at up to one ruble by the village mayor and up to 3 rubles by the *Oberschulz*. Moreover, the village mayor, through a community decree, was empowered to apply even other penalties. The village mayors made use of this privilege and also made use of corporal punishment, and, in fact, documentation calls for this for the offender. I came across such a document dated 10 October, 1878, which read:

Statement:

1878, 10 October. We, the undersigned single boys and farm-hands of Posttal, make this statement that if, starting from today, we create disorder on the street, or start fights, for such behavior, each time, request 15 lashes, whereby we are then totally absolved and no further complaint be brought, so that such a penalty exist for our own good, to which we personally sign our names: Daniel Weber, Andreas Blischke, Georg Hildebrand, Gottlieb Hermann, Martin Birkle, Friedrich Schweigert, Gottlieb Kallis, Johann Schimke, Philipp Waldbauer, Friedrich Rall, Friedrich Haag, Christian Ernst, Daniel Fischer, Christian Weisspfenning, Heinrich Suelzle, Martin Stock, Bernhard Schlenker, Heinrich Steinke, Daniel Geissler, Johannes Geissler, Johann Joerke, Johannes Kehrer, Friedrich Ramaan, Johan Waelz, Ludwig Prasch, Christian Schimke, Adam Schneider, Johann Rollof, Jakob Kehrer.

As already mentioned above, the community of Posttal made two lease agreements with Prince Kotschubei, the first for 12 years from 1864 to 1876. The second one was for 10 years, from 1876 until 1886. The first lease agreement called for 1 ruble and 18 kopeck per *dessetine* and the second one at 1 ruble and 65 kopeck per *dessetine*. During the course of the second agreement, the Posttal community agreed that it was okay for individuals to buy their own land. The agreement was concluded on 25 April, 1881. Unfortunately, I was not able to locate a document of this agreement and I also did not come across any document listing the new proprietors for 1881. However, a list exists for 1883, which ought to be quite similar to that of 1881. The initial buyer, well known at that time, was Gottfried Schulz, who possessed great talent for organization and was very venturesome. He gathered together the people who agreed, as much as was in their power, to purchase a portion of land. He was quite rich already at that time and made available funds to those who were unable to come up with the money. The amount of land was 3,217 *dessetine* (one *dessetine* contains 10.925 square meters). The purchased property was divided into 45 farms, each containing 71 *dessetine*. The 22 *dessetine* left over, which was not divided, was identified as community land. These 22 **dessetine** were always worked by communal labor according to the needs of the community. In payment for their communal labor, people received, besides money, things from nature, that is, grain. When the 22 *dessetine* were harvested, the

workers were provided with grain from that acreage. The buyers did not all possess the same financial means and so some bought two farms while others a half, each according to their ability. I will let the following list show how the farms were distributed in Posttal.

List
Concerning the purchase of the proprietors and the number of animals in Posttal in 1883

#	Name of Those Who Paid	Land	Horses	Horned Cattle	Sheep
01.	Christian Junk	71	09	11	40
02.	Gottlieb Schulz	71	09	18	40
03.	Andreas Schill	71	04	03	20
04.	Gottfried Schulz	190	10	38	150
05.	Friedrich Ernst	88	11	17	07
06.	Friedrich Schlenker	47	07	13	60
07.	Samuel Macau	50	05	02	54
08.	Christoph Mix	50	04	11	23
09.	Karl Rall	92	09	20	09
10.	Martin Hermann	71	02	07	--
11.	Friedrich Brost	71	10	20	30
12.	Andreas Kramlich	71	07	09	06
13.	Georg Mayer	71	10	14	20
14.	Christoph Fischer	71	09	23	50
15.	Gottlieb Mueller	71	10	17	26
16.	Christian Elhardt	48	06	11	06
17.	Johann Schimke	47	05	04	--
18.	Johann Herberg	92	11	19	61
19.	August Koth	92	08	22	52
20.	Gottfried Hanschke	71	04	07	67
21.	Johannes Rivinius	63	08	09	19
22.	Christian Hamann	86	11	19	--
23.	Johann Handel	21	06	12	--
24.	Gottfried Stickel	50	07	05	10
25.	Widow Joerke	71	05	14	08
26.	Christian Ziemann	47	05	06	16
27.	Wilhelm Mix	71	09	07	10
28.	Friedrich Fischer	60	08	08	06
29.	Martin Brost	47	07	14	15
30.	Christian Siewert	47	06	12	14
31.	Johannes Schlenker	71	04	14	34
32.	Johann Rall	50	08	12	28
33.	Johann Bohnet	71	08	16	21
34.	Andreas Gutsche	71	06	15	17
35.	Jakob Eckert	71	09	02	--
36.	Jakob Faas	71	02	10	13

37.	Michael Schlenker	106½	06	14	84
38.	Bernhard Schlenker	35½	06	11	28
39.	Christian Mueller	71	14	30	48
40.	Friedrich Joerke	71	08	15	22
41.	Gottlieb Radies	82	10	23	22
42.	Christian Brost	71	05	18	35
43.	Friedrich Haag	71	08	12	43
44.	Friedrich Koth	35½	06	04	08
45.	David Koth	35½	04	04	04
46.	Christoph Machau	71	10	17	22
47.	Karl Friedrich	71	--	04	--
Sub-Total		3,195	359	647	1,232
Community Land		22			
Total		3,195	359	647	1,232

Besides these, it is evident from the list that there were those in Posttal who were landless, some semi-farmers lived off the land or some found work in the village. These received no part in the community land distribution, also had no voting privilege in the community meetings, but had to readily submit to the decisions of the land-owners. If they had children of school age, they were obligated to help pay for the teacher, even for the sexton and the pastor. The haulers of water, cow and horse herders were hired without their input, but they also had to pay if they had animals. I came upon a community document concerning this:

Community Decision of 1885

We, the undersigned members of the Posttal Colony identified at the conclusion of this document, have together agreed, in the signed data to settlement the differences/quarrel/dissension of community decision on behalf of at that time agreedon the following point as an addition our community decision ourselves to adhere to:

We, the undersigned members of Posttal Colony, have come to an agreement on behalf of the community on the ratified information to the settlement of differences of the community decision—to commit ourselves to the community decision in the addition of the following points:

- a. Strangers living here, from this time on, are permitted to keep four animals (that is, two horses and two cows). Money for pasture use must be paid annually to the community at a rate of five rubles for a horse and 4 rubles 50 kopeck for a cow. There is no obligation to pay toward the support of the herders and haulers of water.
- b. There will be a charge of half the rate for the animals using the pasture in the period before summer.
- c. Should it be that a farmer has his full number of animals, but drives some of them to another area of the prairie, he will be charged for all the animals. He will receive no pasture money.

- d. Any animal that dies before the distribution is made is not to be included in the account.
- e. For each number – house with land – the place will be counted as a farm, but the remaining (stranger) residents will be counted as strangers.

Village Elder: Mueller

Since the founders of Posttal, as proprietors, did not start off without wealth, and, on top of that, were very energetic farmers, in a short time they arrived at great prosperity. The farms were also very versatile in that, beyond cultivated land, they pursued in large scale a great passion for cattle and sheep. The harvests were usually pretty good and, because of that, the Posttal farmers kept enlarging their farms on which they sowed more and more each year. Soon the farmers replaced their small leased houses with completely new structures, in part with stone or brick so that, in the last days, not one house stood from the era of leasing. The community put up a brick factory and the rent was used for the purposes of the community. The village had several community houses, since all civil servants had homes free of charge. The community also put great worth in education development. Through a community decision they mutually bound themselves to strictly adhere to their children attending school on a regular basis so that the students regularly attended from 01 September to 01 June. The community also paid their teachers much better than other villages in the surrounding area. The regular school attendance, the better salaries and better living conditions, which Posttal offered its teachers, also attracted better teachers to Posttal. The result did not fail to manifest itself: Before the time of the war, in normal times, the students, moving on to the next level of higher education, always entered directly into the second class and, as a result, gained a whole year, which was largely due to the student's faithful efforts in middle school. One short-coming was that the community, during the whole time of its golden age, remained in the old school building, which was very unsuitable. To be sure, a plan was conceived which was to be initiated in 1913. However, only the artesian well was dug which was to be the future water supply, furnishing water to the village. The school was scheduled for 1914, but then came the war with all its consequences and the school stayed as it was. In 1904, the community decided to build a church. The necessary preparations were made, bricks fired, money collected, and, in 1905, a very nice church was put up.

A small cooperative was started in 1917, each of 64 members contributing 10 rubles. Thanks to the energetic and unselfish work of the manager of the cooperative, soon the venture prospered and eventually a building was put up with a large grain storage, a shop with needed office space, and a dairy-farm. The business worked very well until 1926, to the credit of very good management, working with unselfish devotion and sometimes to the neglect of their own farms, whenever money was offered and given for the common good. In the pre-war years, the Posttal farmers enlarged their village estate with the purchase of yet more land, something like another 1,500 *dessetinen* [4,050 acres], and brought it to a very great prosperity. Since the town was very proximity, so had also the fashion in village firm foot lay hold of, and one has to say that the house furnishings and clothing were no longer unrefined country, but entirely urban. The circumstance also contributed much to the coming of luxury in that many young people went off to middle schools (*Mittelschulen*) and even high schools [*Hoehschulen*]. From the Posttal community arose doctors, engineers, diplomats, farmers and merchants, lawyers, and in almost every household there was a person with a middle school degree, or about to achieve one. Empty yards, at the founding of Posttal were, over time, built up and soon there would be a

housing shortage. In 1927, the community made a decision to measure land for new yards and by the time of Resettlement there were already 23 new homes erected. One always felt really sensitive for the lack of a place for cultural activities and for various organizations. When the school was nationalized, the one place in question where the local youth could come together was taken away. The idea of constructing a German house eventually reached the point where one could proceed with the construction. The plan was drawn up by a master builder engineer and within a year there stood a practical building known as "The German House", made completely from fired brick at the price of over half a million Lei [Romanian currency]. Nevertheless, the young people were not always able to use the German House as they desired, since the Romanian authorities found all kinds of possible and impossible vexations to hinder all ethnic gatherings. And since Posttal especially played a leading role concerning things ethnic, here especially the authorities worked hardest to hinder the efforts. However, as usual, it was also here, that the more persecution and hindrances that were placed in the path, so the more inventive were the youth and always found another way around to be able to do their thing, so that there was a preparatory training for the Resettlement and also, finally, the time arrived when everything was in preparation so that all went smoothly for them.

I am providing here a list of the following Posttal residents who, at the time of the Resettlement, resided there, whereby indeed it can be seen that Posttal, although spacious, was not enlarged numerically.

LIST

Residents of Posttal who lived there at the time of the Resettlement:

#	Family & Given Name	# of Persons	House Number
01.	Bohnet, Albert	03	01
02.	Heer, Albert	04	02
03.	Kappel, Imanuel	03	03
04.	Gutsche, Teodor	03	04
05.	Handel, Albert	03	05
06.	Schlenker, Andreas	--	06
07.	Gutsche, Edmund	03	07
08.	Mueller, Arnold	04	08
09.	Kaemmler, Johannes	04	09
10.	Traichel, Oskar	04	10
11.	Mogck, Traugott	03	11
12.	Mogck, Albert	06	11
13.	Mueller, Friedrich	03	12
14.	Handel, Robert	04	13
15.	Mueller, Gotthilf	02	14
16.	Mdueller, Willi	02	14
17.	Mueller, Alois	02	14
18.	Kaesse, Teodor	05	15

19.	Schulz, Rudolf	04	16
20.	Bohnet, Friedrich	05	17
21.	Elhardt, Jakob	05	18
22.	Elhardt, Artur	04	18
23.	Schlenker, Andreas	02	19
24.	Gutsche, Rudolf	03	20
25.	Gutsche, Albert	04	20
26.	Gutsche, Eduard	02	20
27.	Eckert, Wilhelm	02	21
28.	Eckert, Traugott	02	21
29.	Joerke, Artur	03	22
30.	Schmidt, Jakob	04	22
31.	Schell, Emil	03	23
32.	Leitz, Emanuel I.	03	24
33.	Leitz, Imanuel II.	02	24
34.	Staib, Friedrich	05	25
35.	Bohnet, Artur	04	26
36.	Traichel, Gottlob	04	27
37.	Koth, Albert	03	28
38.	Maier, Albert	04	29
39.	Fischer, Christoph	02	30
40.	Martin, Jakob	07	30
41.	Schoettle, Imanuel	03	31
42.	Hanschke, Friedrich	04	32
43.	Joerke, Emil	04	33
44.	Eppler, Gottlieb	03	34
45.	Brost, Matilde	01	35
46.	Hermann, Adolf	02	35
47.	Kaemmler, Eduard	04	36
48.	Kaemmler, August I.	02	36
49.	Kaemmler, August II.	01	36
50.	Eckert, Berta	06	37
51.	Weisspfenning, Iohannes	06	38
52.	Weisspfenning, Friedrich	02	38
53.	Mix, Rudolf	05	38
54.	Bohnet, Imanuel I.	03	39
55.	Eckert, Oskar	04	40
56.	Ziemann, Friedrich	--	41
57.	Traichel, Albert	04	42
58.	Schempp, Edgar	04	43
59.	Hermann, Reinhold	06	44
60.	Hettig, Christian	06	45
61.	Schlenker, Paul	04	46
62.	Mix, Emil	03	47
63.	Leitz, Otto	01	48
64.	Weisspfenning, Emil II.	04	48

65.	Ziemann, Friedrich	--	49
66.	Mauch, Eduard	--	50
67.	Schlenker, Gotthilf	--	51
68.	Fischer, Christoph	--	52
69.	Hermann, Imanuel	07	52
70.	Hanschke, Georg	--	53
71.	Widmer, Georg	--	54
72.	Joerke, Alexander	04	55
73.	Hettig, Gottlieb	03	56
74.	Gerling, Teodor	04	57
75.	Radies, Hugo	02	58
76.	Mueller, Wille	--	59
77.	Bohnet, Imanuel I.	--	60
78.	Bohnet, Imanuel II.	03	61
79.	Bohnet, Johann	--	62
80.	Schneider, Gottlieb	06	63
81.	Weisspfenning, Imanuel	03	64
82.	Schlenker, Teodor	04	65
83.	Elhardt, Marie	01	66
84.	Elhardt, Sophia (orphan)	02	66
85.	Schmidt, Barbara	05	66
86.	Schulz, Lorenz	05	67
87.	Hansen, Magdalene	03	68
88.	Lutz, David	04	68
89.	Schlenker, Gotthilf	03	69
90.	Mauch, Eduard	04	70
91.	Ziemann, Freidrich	06	71
92.	Schlenker, Rudolf	04	72
93.	Weisspfenning, Emil I.	04	73
94.	Weisspfenning, August	02	73
95.	Hermann, Albert	03	74
96.	Hanschke, Gottfried	06	75
97.	Hanschke, Georg	02	75
98.	Ziemmer, Marie	02	76
99.	Bohnet, Johann	05	77
100.	Social Hall	--	78
101.	Koch, Dr. Robert	04	78
102.	Schmarzmann, Eduard	02	79
103.	Haerter, Pastor Adolf	06	80
104.	Faas, Georg	04	81
105.	Faas, Margarete	04	81
106.	Schlenker, Katarine	02	83
107.	Mayor's Yard	--	82
108.	Mueller, Christian	03	84
109.	Joerke, Friedrich I.	03	85
110.	Radies, Imanuel	03	86

111.	Bausch, Christoph	05	87
112.	Joerke, Friedrich II.	04	88
113.	Koth, Berthold	03	89
114.	Koth, Gotthilf	02	90
115.	Schulz, Dr. Alfred	03	90
116.	Neth, Christian	04	91
117.	Koth, Gotthilf	--	92
118.	Anhorn, Jakob	05	93
119.	Anhorn, Friedebert	04	94
120.	Haerter, Pastor Adolf	--	95
121.	Mueller, Freidrich	--	96
122.	Bausch, Christoph	--	97
123.	Knauer, Gottlieb	--	98
124.	Bohnet, Friedrich	--	99
125.	Joerke, Friedrich I.	--	100
126.	Elhardt, Jakob	--	101

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Written down by Christian Neth in NSDSP Camp No. 60 in Franzental, Hohenelbe District

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