

Chapter 12

The Landeis Family in Karlsruhe and Neu-Karlsruhe

The new colonists arrived late in 1809, so they had to spend the winter huddled in cramped quarters with other families in the German colonies that had been established earlier in the Liebenthal and Kutschurgan enclaves. In the spring, 1810, they reassembled in Odessa where under the leadership of Franz Brittner, head-mayor of the colony of Liebental, they were led to the location where the new colony of Karlsruhe¹ was to be founded, about 130 kilometers (78 miles) northeast of Odessa, in a valley known as *Lisitzkaja Balka*, or “Fox Valley,” which joins into the Beresan river valley. They were confronted with an empty rolling steppe, overgrown with high grass and weeds. There were two shade trees, which were the only sign that other peoples had resided there at some point in the remote past. Their only companions were numerous snakes and wolf packs.

Of the 71 founding families, 42 originated in Baden, 26 from the Pfalz, and five from Alsace. The colony received the name “Karlsruhe” from the Liebental mayor, Franz Brittner, because most of the colonists came from the Grand Duchy of Baden, whose royal residence city is Karlsruhe. Each family was allotted 60 *dessiatines* of land (about 162 acres) by the Crown, and given an advance loan, repayable after 10 years at a low interest rate. Height² reports that the amount was 135 *rubles*. Keller³ confirms that when the immigrants reached the Russian border they received a daily allowance of 10 *kopecks* per person, and each family received 100 *rubles* for the purchase of a wagon and draft-animal, and an additional 35 *rubles* for a cow. Some colonists also received various household implements, such as rakes, shovels, scythes, sharpening tools and three or four spinning wheels. Keller also states that each family received wood and reeds for building crude waddle-and-daub huts, known as “crown houses.” The houses were constructed following the models of the already established colonists from the Liebental district. Most of these houses collapsed after a few years and were replaced by brick structures.

Slightly different figures for their financial resources have been cited⁴ which may not be reliable, or perhaps they were based on figures known for German colonies in other parts of the Black Sea region. Hodapp states that each family was given 335 *rubles*, and they had to repay 175 *rubles* to the colonial officials for the crown houses, which he states were constructed prior to their arrival by the Russian army. The remaining balance (135 or 160 *rubles*, depending on the source) was hardly sufficient to enable them to purchase a cow, seed-grain, and the necessary farming implements. They were given free lumber to reinforce the roofs of the homes, but Hodapp adds that they had use their own resources to provide for doors, windows and fireplaces. These crown houses proved to be totally inadequate for the winters, and the first task that the settlers faced was to replace them with more permanent structures.

The colonists survived severe hardship during the early years. One of their first tasks was to break the virgin sod of the Ukraine. The thick layer of black earth was 1 – 2 feet deep,

¹ Later in the century the Tsarist authorities assigned Russianized names to each of the German colonies. Karlsruhe today is known as *Stepovoye*, or *Stepove* as shown on Google maps.

² Height 1972, p. 74.

³ Keller 1914.

⁴ Hodapp, n.d.

quite fertile, but it was packed hard and overgrown with a tangle of wild grass that had never before been plowed. Although it was ideal for raising wheat and corn, the primitive Russian plow (the “*socha*”) was not suitable for the tough sod without great effort. The first breaking of the sod required six oxen or four horses per plow. The problem was eventually solved by the introduction of the so-called “German” plow, which had hardened steel blades and a curved plate to turn the sod over after the cut was made. The soil was very fertile in the beginning, but from 1820 – 1840 the yields began to decline noticeably and good harvests were rare. Another unforeseen problem was the periodic plagues of grasshoppers, which swept north from Egypt.

They also had to contend with the harsher Russian climate and the restricted growing seasons. The harvests yielded summer-wheat, oats, and potatoes, but the winter-wheat had difficulty surviving. Usually there was a strong frost at the end of April and the beginning of May, which hindered the growth, and then in the middle of May it got very hot with little rain, which ruined the harvest. Attempts to plant fruit orchards failed because the soil in the summer was too hard and dry.⁵

Many colonists died during the early years from the hardship, exposure to the harsh living conditions, and disease. Some documents attribute the epidemics to typhoid fever.⁶ If a colonist died, his wife and children lost their rights to his estate, and it was reallocated to someone else. She retained rights only if she remarried, or if one of her sons was of legal age and could take over the farm. Life was an elemental struggle in those early years. The colonial administration governed the people with great rigor. Discipline for legal violations was strict, involving use of the whip, with only pregnant women being exempt from such treatment. Even swearing was forbidden and it could be punished by five days imprisonment. Escape was virtually impossible since the colonies were many days journey from the Russian border, and it was guarded by Cossacks.

The harsh conditions were reported in a letter written by Johann Peter Lösch after he returned in 1809 to his home village of Leimersheim in the Pfalz. A colonist in Strassburg had interceded on Lösch’s behalf, so he was issued legal papers by Richelieu, the governor of Cherson, dated Sept. 30, 1809 -- but the papers were issued under false pretenses because Lösch had promised that he intended to retrieve other relatives residing in Germany. Lösch had to leave behind a bond of 300 *Gulden* as security for his return. He gladly forfeited this amount as the price for his freedom in order to escape a land in which he was bitterly disappointed.⁷

⁵ Keller 1910.

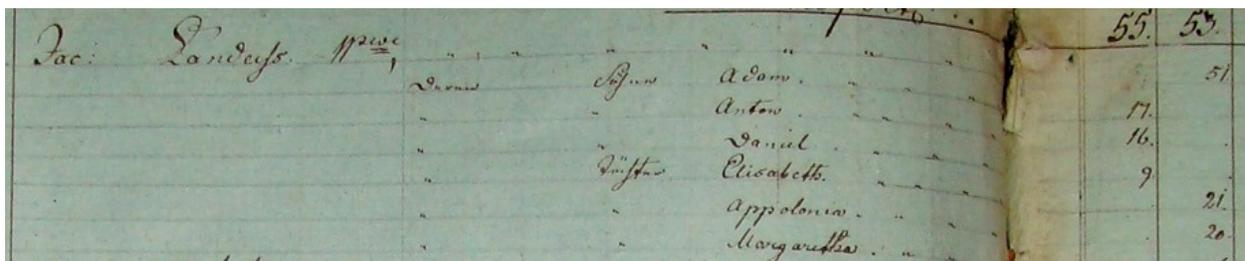
⁶ The colonists believed that the epidemic was due to stagnant water. Typhoid fever is passed only through human waste, there are no known animal carriers. Rivers are usually the villain when a typhoid carrier passes germ-laden water downstream which pollutes water for drinking or swimming. Cholera can be passed through water contaminated by humans or animals. A third source of disease is typhus, which is passed from person to person via body lice, fleas, or chiggers. Typhus is associated with overcrowding, underwashing, and lowered standard of living. The colonists would have been vulnerable to any of these diseases in their first years. The standard preventive treatments back then involved fumigation of houses and washing items in vinegar.

⁷ Height 1972, p. 50 summarizes Lösch’s letter, and it is also discussed in Hodapp n.d., p. 145-156.

The "Revision List" and Crop Reports of 1811 to 1816 for the Beresan Colonies

Soon after the German colonies were established, the Tsarist statistical department commissioned the 6th "standard" (empire-wide) census, which was initiated in 1811. These censuses, known as "Revision Lists" (*reviskie skazki*), were conducted at various times between 1719 and 1858 to provide a national registry of tax-payers. In addition, a detailed report was commissioned to itemize their livestock and crops planted and harvested.⁸ The report included the amounts of rye, wheat, buckwheat, oats, barley, millet, potatoes, peas, beans, lentils, flax, and hay produced in each colony. In 1811 the colonists in Karlsruhe owned a total of 72 horses, 69 wagons, 215 cattle, and 782 loads of hay. The colony had been originally apportioned 5,450 *dessiatin* of land (about 14,715 acres), which was planned to be enough for 90 families. By 1817 the colonists had increased their holdings to 309 horses and 51 plows.

More importantly, the Revision List of 1816 reported each family residing in the Beresan colonies at that time, showing their names, ages, and those who were deceased since the colony was founded.



Name	Age
Jac: Landeiss Wwe	55
Adam	17
Anton	16
Daniel	9
Apollonia	21
Margaretha	20

1816 Revision List for "Jac[ob] Landeiss's widow" Family Unit in Karlsruhe⁹

The 1816 census shows that the household head for the family was "**Jacob Landeiss widow**," a woman age 51, and sons **Adam** age 17, **Anton** 16, **Daniel** 9, and daughters **Elizabeth** 21, **Apollonia**, 20 and **Margaretha** 6. The notation *Wwe* (the abbreviation for *Witwe* or widow) is made after Jacob's name and her age is shown in the female column, which confirms that the record referred to Anna Maria, his widow.

Assuming that Jacob died in about 1811, he probably was among the victims of epidemics that devastated the colonies in those early years. An epidemic (perhaps typhoid) swept the colonies in the Beresan region in October, 1811. In 1812 an epidemic broke out in the city of Odessa, which took 2,656 victims before it ran its course in 1813. The German colonies were placed under quarantine. Victims were confined to their houses and primitive methods of decontamination were used, such as fumigating houses with "wormwood, vinegar, sulfur, and gunpowder."¹⁰ Many families suffered the loss of a parent, leaving the survivors in dire straits.

⁸ The 1811 Revision List is File 134-1-319 in the Archive at Dnepropetrovsk. It surveyed all the German colonies in the Beresan region, including Rastadt, München, and Karlsruhe. The farm and livestock report is File 134-1-320.

⁹ File 134-3-319 Karlsruhe 1811, Dnepropetrovsk Archive

¹⁰ Height 1972, p. 108.

One of my other ancestors, Franz Wagner in nearby Rastadt, is also known to have died at that same time in 1811.

The Secondary Sources on the Catholic Colonies in the Beresan Region -- Fr. Konrad Keller and Karl Stumpp

Fr. Konrad Keller was a Catholic priest who was born in the German colonies in the Black Sea region. In a brief article on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Catholic Beresan colonies written in 1910,¹¹ he was the first to publish the census records for 1816, which show the original settlers for Karlsruhe in 1816. In Karlsruhe he reported the following:

Anna Maria, age 51, born Mösmann, widow of Jakob Landeis from Leimersheim. Sons: **Franz-Adam** 17, **Anton** 16, **Daniel** 12. Jakob's daughters: **Elisabeth** 20, **Apollonia** 18, **Margaretha** 7.

Later, Fr. Keller expanded his brief article in a two volume set, published in 1914. Ever since their publication, Fr. Keller's books have been an invaluable source of information about the Catholic colonies in the Beresan region – and indeed, almost the only source available for about 100 years. Since then, in 2011 the Germans from Russia Historical Society in Bismarck, N.D. negotiated to obtain photocopies of the original Revision Lists of 1811 and 1816. The information shown for the Landeis family in Karlsruhe matches what is shown (above) in the photocopies from the original census records.

The other important secondary source for early records on the German colonies is Dr. Karl Stumpp's massive 1,018 page volume which presents records compiled by his staff during the occupation of the Ukraine by the German *Wehrmacht* during World War Two.¹² Stumpp was born in the German colonies and he managed to escape to Germany during the Bolshevik years prior to the war. There he earned a Ph.D. and devoted his academic career to the study of the colonists in Russia. He was generally acknowledged as the dean of German-Russian studies. After Germany attacked Russia in 1941, Stalin branded the German colonists as traitors and began arresting them enmasse and sending them to labor camps in Siberia. The Volga colonists could not be saved, but the rapid push of the *Wehrmacht* into the Ukraine saved many in the Black Sea region. Stumpp was in charge of a Special Command with the assignment of coordinating the remaining ethnic Germans, assessing their current living conditions and tracking down and compiling all records available on them in the Russian archives (this included not only historical records, but also records of their farm lands which had been seized by the Soviets). Stumpp and his staff extracted massive amounts of data, primarily from the archives in Odessa, Kherson and Dnepropetrovsk. Stumpp incorporated records from the original Russian censuses, as well as new information that his staff had found in the archives, such as the passports for the immigrant colonists. After the war he published all this material in a volume which was eventually translated and released in the USA by the

¹¹ Keller 1910.

¹² Karl Stumpp, *The Emigration From Germany to Russia in the Years 1762 to 1862*. Lincoln, Nebraska: American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 1973.

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia. It has been the single, indispensable handbook for German-Russian studies.

Stumpp was the first to publish the Revision List of 1816 for Karlsruhe. This later census shows the Landeis family in Karlsruhe, with their ages adjusted 3-4 years -- Maria Landeis age 56, from Hördt, and her children Apollonia 24, Adam 21, Anton 20, Daniel 13, and Margaretha 10. The other daughter, Elisabeth, had married Michael Pfoh in Rastadt by that date and she had moved out. A detailed comparison shows that Stumpp's data pertaining to our Landeis family matches all the original archival records, which is a testimony to the dedication, precision and accuracy of his staff during very trying wartime conditions.¹³

Baptismal and Marriage Records 1816-1840 Referring to the Children and Grandchildren of Jacob Landeis

Since 2020 we have been fortunate to receive copies of the baptismal records for several colonies, including Karlsruhe 1827 to 1840, which were preserved in the Tiraspol Catholic Archbishop's Consistory in Saratov. Jacob Landeis's children in the 1816 R.L. and their children appear in several records.

Elisabeth Landeis married Michael Pfoh (also mistakenly translated as "Pfau") in Rastadt and she relocated to his colony of residence. They had two children:

1. **Christina Pfoh**, bapt. in Rastadt in Jan. 17, 1816. Elisabeth Landeis served as godmother for Anton Wilhelm on Aug. 10, 1816 in Rastadt.

2. **Georg Michael Pfoh**, bapt. Oct. 29, 1829 in Rastadt.

After marrying into Rastadt, Elisabeth does not occur in any other records in Karlsruhe.

Apollonia Landeis, served as godmother for Maria Apollonia Fitterer in Karlsruhe on Aug. 13, 1816. At that time she was stated to be unmarried.

Margaret Landeis marr. Franz Jonas on Sept. 16, 1831 in Landau and she relocated to his colony of residence. They had two children:

1. **Magdalena Jonas**, b. and bapt. Aug. 26, 1834 Landau, godmother was Maria Antonia Landeis (she was the wife of Adam Landeis).

2. **Katharina Jonas**, b. and bapt. Sept. 7, 1835 Landau.

After marrying into Landau, Margaret does not appear in the records of Karlsruhe.

Anton Landeis married Magdalena Hummel. They had several children:

1. **Katharina Landeis**, b. Feb. 18, 1825, marr. Michael Wanner on May 29, 1839 in Karlsruhe. She died March 29, 1842, stated to be the dau. of Anton Landeis. Her age at death was 16, which yields a birth year of ca. 1826 which approximates her birth record.

2. **Maria Landeis**, bapt. Aug. 7, 1827, godparents were Daniel Landeis and Maria Landeis. The godmother Maria was the child's grandmother, Jacob's widow, shown in the earlier records from Hördt.

3. **Marianna Landeis**, b. Dec. 28, 1833, bapt. Jan. 2, 1834.

¹³ The 1816 Revision List for Karlsruhe is found in File 134-1-477, Dnepropetrovsk Archive.

4. **Raphael Landeis**, b. Oct. 23, 1836, bapt. Oct. 25, 1836.

5. **Karl Landeis**, b. Jan. 31, 1839, bapt. Feb. 2, 1839, godmother was Katharina Landeis, probably the wife of Daniel.

Anton Landeis died Oct. 24, 1838 in Karlsruhe. His death record states that he was the son of Jacob, he left behind a pregnant wife, two sons and four daughters. His age at death was 40, which yields a birth year of ca. 1798. This matches the 1816 R.L. which shows Anton, son of Jacob, as age 16, yielding a birth year of ca. 1798.

Daniel Landeis married Katharina Jungmann. Their children:

1. **Pius Landeis**, born May 4, 1836, bapt. May 6, 1836, godmother was Katharina Landeis. He married Helena Hatzenbühler.

2. **Apollonia Landeis**, b. Oct. 31, 1839, bapt. Nov. 1, 1839

Daniel also served as godfather for Martha Jungmann, July 30, 1839.

Katharina Landeis served as godmother for several children:

-- Katharina Wander, Feb. 17, 1837.

-- Katharina Jungmann, Dec. 29, 1837.

-- Katharina Schoch, May 21, 1838.

-- Karl Landeis, Feb. 2, 1839.

Adam Landeis is of special interest because he was my direct ancestor. His original baptismal record in Hördt in 1793 showed that he had a compound name, Adam Franz Georg. He later appeared in the records of Karlsruhe with the name Franz, but most commonly as Adam. Presumably Franz and Adam were the same person because there were no other persons with those names in the family records during those early years.

As will be shown below, Adam Landeis and his family appear in the 1839-1840 R.L.

The Petition from the Beresan Colonies in 1828

Some indication of the difficulties faced by the colonists during these early years can be gleaned from a request which they filed in 1828 for an extension in the repayment of debts due to the Crown.¹⁴ They were granted a two year extension, until 1830. In accordance with the elaborate bureaucratic protocol typical at that time, the "Comptoir" of the Beresan colonies in Odessa conveyed the royal decree to the district officials, who in turn conveyed it to the mayors of the eight "old colonies" of the Beresan district (Landau, Speier, Karlsruhe, Sulz, Rohrbach, Worms, Rastadt, and München) colonies. The mayors convened general meetings in each of their villages and the decree was read aloud. Each mayor then signed a document and affixed his seal of office attesting that the decree had been transmitted to the residents.

The documents for this petition are of special interest because they contain a list of the family heads in each of the eight colonies, including the number of males and females resident in their households, the amount of original debt owed to the crown, the amount that had been paid from 1820 to 1828, the cost of building materials that had been applied to the debt during that time period, and the remaining amount of debt owed in 1828.

¹⁴ The documentation is contained in Fond 252, Inventory 1, File 666 at the Odessa Archive.

Anton Landeis is listed in the 1828 report, residing in Karlsruhe at the time. His total family size was eight persons, consisting of four males (including himself) and four females. The amount of his original debt was 1,080 *rubles* and 54 $\frac{1}{4}$ *kopecks* (the same figure is cited for all the colonists), the amount he had repaid was 27 *rubles* and 24 *kopecks* (most of the colonists had repaid nothing at that point), 5 *rubles* and 52 *kopecks* had been added to his debt due to building materials (the same amount was added for all residents of Karlsruhe), and the remaining debt owed was 1,047 *rubles* and 78 $\frac{1}{4}$ *kopecks*. We may conclude that Anton was in a marginally better position than the majority of the other residents because he had managed to repay a small amount of his crown debts.

Interestingly, Anton Landeis was the only family head with this surname listed in the eight Beresan colonies in the 1828 report. There is no explanation for why Anton's brothers Adam and Daniel were not shown. They were apparently not residing in Anton's household since the number of residents shown matches the number of his children shown in the next Revision List of 1839/40.

The Tsarist Revision List of 1839/40

The next records available on the family are the Revision Lists compiled in 1839-40. Fr. Conrad Keller reprinted this data in his two volume history of the Catholic colonies in the Beresan region, thereby preserving another crucial link with their past for many families of Black Sea German descent.¹⁵ The census reported two households for the Landeis family in Karlsruhe. The first household consisted of:

1. **Magdalena Landeis**, age 40, widow of Anton, and daughter of Franz Hummel from Birkenau, Baden. Her children: **Philipp** age 9, **Raphael** age 7, **Karl** age 2, **Elisabeth** age 18, **Barbara** age 17, **Katharina** age 14, and **Marianna** age 5.
2. Magdalena's sister, Franziska Hummel age 35, with her husband Karl Schuh age 38, and their four children: Katharina age 13, Elisabeth age 8, Franziska age 2, and Marianna age 1.

Philipp Landeis later had a son, **Thomas**, born in Karlsruhe in 1851. Presumably he was Philipp the son of Anton Landeis and Magdalena, born ca. 1830.

The second household consisted of:

1. **Adam Landeis** age 46, from Hördt, Rhinepalatinate, his wife Maria Antonia Ihly, and their son **Peter** age 15.
2. Jacob Pfaff age 18, son of Anton Pfaff, and his wife **Katherine Landeis** age 19, daughter of Adam.
3. **Daniel Landeis** age 38 [Adam's brother], son of **Jakob**, and his wife Katharine Jungmann age 24, daughter of Adam Jungmann from Spechbach, Baden.

The mother of Anton, Adam, and Daniel (Jacob's widow Anna Maria Messmann), was not listed in the 1839/40 census, which indicates that she was deceased by that point. She

¹⁵ Keller 1914.

would have been 80 years old and most colonists didn't live that long in those early years of hardship. Anton Landeis was also dead by 1839/40, since his wife, Magdalena, was stated to be a widow.

Adam Landeis and his son **Peter**, age 15 (born about 1825), were my next lineal ancestors in this chronicle. Adam's stated age of 46 yields a birth year of ca. 1793-1794, which matches his birth record in Hördt. **Maria Antonia Ihly** (also misspelled "Hely" in some records) the wife of Adam and the mother of Peter, was from Malsch, Baden. The 1839/49 R.L. shows three Ihly families living together in the same household in Karlsruhe – Joseph age 53, his sons Jakob age 27 and Johann Philipp age 23. They were undoubtedly close kin with Maria Antonia Landeis.

Adam Landeis served as godfather for Barbara Anton on March 29, 1825, and for Barbara Hatzenbühler on Feb. 27, 1827 in Karlsruhe, his name was shown as Franz Landeis. Presumably he was the same person as Adam Franz Georg Landeis born in Hördt. All other records refer to him only as Adam. His wife Maria Antonia served as godmother for Magdalena Landeis bapt. Aug. 26, 1834 in Landau, dau. of Margaret Landeis and Franz Jonas. Adam Landeis also served as a witness for the marriage of Johann Rösle on Aug. 15, 1826 in the colony of Katharinental. This colony was near Karlsruhe, about 2 miles on the north, and it was part of Karlsruhe parish. Probably Adam had become friends with Johann and had agreed to serve as marriage witness.

The Revision List of 1858

The Revision List for Karlsruhe, dated March 1, 1858,¹⁶ shows only two Landeis households. The first consisted of the family of the deceased Anton Landeis:

1. **Philip Landeis**, age 29, his wife Elizabeth, age 24, and their two daughters -- Margaretha, age 5, and Catharina, age 3. Presumably he was Philip who had a son **Thomas** born 1851.
2. Philip's two brothers also resided in the house -- **Raphael** age 22, and **Karl** age 19. His sister, **Marianna**, was reported to be "married and absent" (Marianna Landeis and her husband, Caspar Friess, had a son Anton Friess baptized in Karlsruhe July 17, 1865.

The second household consisted of Anton's brother, Daniel Landeis, and his family:

1. **Daniel Landeis**, age 55, and his wife Catharina, age 58. A note indicates that Daniel "came to Russia in 1809," and that he was the uncle to Philip Landeis (above).
2. Daniel's son, **Philip** age 31, Philip's wife Barbara (Reisenauer) age 28, and their son **Josef**, age 1/4 year.
3. Daniel's son, **Jakob** age 26, Jakob's wife Catharina age 23, and their daughter Theresia, age 1.
4. Daniel's son **Pius**, age 22.
5. Daniel's son **Michael**, age 13.
6. Daniel's daughter, **Catharina**, was "married and absent."

¹⁶ This 1858 Revision List of Karlsruhe has been retrieved by the GRHS from the Archive in Dnepropetrovsk.

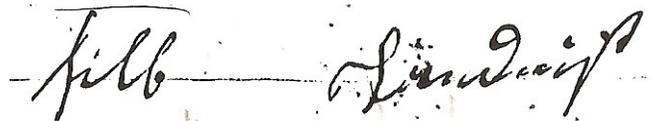
Adam Landeis, and his son Peter, are not shown in the 1858 census. They may have left Karlsruhe, perhaps relocating to one of the private *Khutors* that were beginning to form in the mid-19th century, or working in the city of Nikolaiev. There were growing German neighborhoods by that time in both Odessa and Nikolaiev. The first daughter colony of Karlsruhe was Neu-Karlsruhe, formed in 1867 and there are records showing that members of the Landeis family settled there. Those remaining in Karlsruhe were the offspring of Anton and Daniel, the two brothers of Adam.

The Petitions of 1852, 1856, and 1861 for a Separate Parish of Karlsruhe: Pius, Philipp, and "Pl" Landeis

The colonists in Karlsruhe had begun construction of a stone church in 1820, which was completed in 1830. Since they lacked a resident priest, Karlsruhe remained an affiliate of the mother church at Landau until 1861.¹⁷ Landau was the largest German colony in the Beresan valley, so it served as the administrative center as well as the mother parish for neighboring colonies. The colony of Speier was allowed to separate from the parish of Landau in 1857 and to form its own parish, with its own resident priest and church. At about this same time, Karlsruhe and Katharinenthal got together and reached a decision to do the same.¹⁸ They sent a representative to the diocesan bishop, who granted permission, after which they were also given approval in 1861 by the Colonist Welfare Committee in Odessa. Fond 6-3-14709 contains the documentation, including the correspondence of the Mayor's Offices of Karlsruhe and Katharinenthal with the District Office in Landau and the Colonist Welfare Committee in Odessa. Of particular interest, it also includes signatures of all the family heads in Karlsruhe, indicating their willingness to support the financial obligations involved – for the support for a resident priest and the construction of a church.

There are four sets of signatures for Karlsruhe. The earliest is dated 1852 which is when the process for the separation of the parishes began. The latest is dated 1861, when the new parish was finally approved. The secretary referred to the signators as *Wirten*, a German term referring to them as household heads. It is possible that unmarried adult sons still residing with their parents may not have been included, so the lists may not be a complete inventory of all adult males in Karlsruhe.

The first list in 1852 shows three members of the Landeis family – **Daniel, Philipp**, and an ambiguous third signature that looks like "**Pill**" or perhaps "**Filb**."

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive script. The first signature is 'Pill' and the second is 'Landeis'. They are written in dark ink on a light background.

"Pill" Landeis 1852

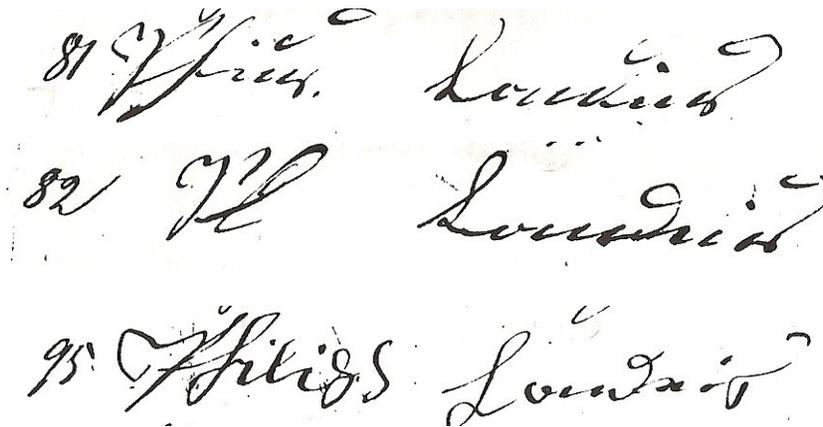
¹⁷ Height 1972.

¹⁸ See Fr. Konrad Keller 1914, p. 188 in A. Becker's English edition for a summary of the history of the parish of Karlsruhe.

The next list, 1856, seems to be partial because it contains only Daniel's signature.

The third list, also dated 1856, contains the signatures for Daniel, Philipp, and the ambiguous person, who spelled his name this time as "Pli."

The fourth list, dated 1861, contains signatures for Philipp, Jacob, Rafael, Pius (spelled as "Phius"), and the ambiguous person, who spelled his name this time as "Pl."



**"Phius," "Pl," and Philipp Landeis (top to bottom)
Signatures on 1861 Petition from Karlsruhe**

The identities of these members of the Landeis family can be determined by referring back to the census of 1858. At that time there were two family households in Karlsruhe -- the offspring of the deceased Anton (Raphael, Philipp, and Karl) and the offspring of Daniel (Philipp, Jacob, Pius, and Michael). The identities of those whose signatures appear on the petitions are clear, with the exception of "Pill" or "Filb" (1852), "Pli" (1856), and "Pl" (1861).

"Phius," "Philipp," and "Pl" were separate persons since those three names appear on the 1861 petition, the scribe assigned them separate numbers, and he counted them separately in the total 156 household heads (*Wirten*) in the colony of Karlsruhe. An important clue is that there were two Philipps in that generation, one the son of Daniel and the other the son of Anton. Both of them were about the same age (born 1827-1830). We note that Philipp had a son, Thomas, born in 1851 in Karlsruhe. This Philipp could be either one. The most likely solution seems to be that one signed his name as "Philipp," and the other signed it as "Pli" or "Pill," perhaps as a way to distinguish themselves. The three signatures in 1861 look like they were written by the same hand, perhaps by Pius or Philipp who signed on behalf of the other two.

A Russian researcher, Igor Pleve, who I hired to extract Landeis records stated that Pius was written as "Pii" or "Piy," which was simply a variant form of "the pope's name" -- that is, "Pius" minus the Latin ending. Once again, we should not confuse "Pii(us)" with "Pli"(ipp) - Pius had a brother named Philipp, and also a cousin Philipp (the son of Anton).

The Baptismal Records for Karlsruhe (1855-1866)

The original church books for Karlsruhe are not available, but copies of all the baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and funerals are available in the Tiraspol Archbishop's Consistory, which is currently stored in the Russian State Archive at Saratov. The GRHS has been able to retrieve the records for the colony of Landau, which was the district capital for the colonies and the mother parish for neighboring Karlsruhe. Karlsruhe formed its own separate parish and its first priest arrived on December 15, 1861 and entries for Karlsruhe residents cease at that point in Landau's church book.

There are several entries referring to the Landeis family in Karlsruhe (again, keeping in mind here that all dates cited are in Julian format and that 12 days should be added to convert to Gregorian or "modern" format):

1. **Jacob Landeis** (son of Daniel, brother to Pius and Philipp) and his wife Katharina Reisenauer had a daughter **Theresia Landeis** born March 16, 1855 in Karlsruhe. Jacob Landeis's wife Katharina served as baptismal sponsor for the daughter of Andreas Schmidt in 1860. Jacob Landeis served as a baptismal sponsor for the son of Josef Reisenauer in 1861. MyHeritage.com reports that **Theresia Landeis**, b. Mar. 16, 1855 married an unknown person named **Meier**. After his death she remarried apparently **Valentin Schaaf (Schaff)**, he was b. 1842 in Speier, his first marriage was in 1870 and he remarried Theresia after his wife died. Theresia died 1921 in Speier, and Valentin died 1928 in Speier. They had at least 10 children with surname Schaaf. It is unknown where Theresia's first Meier husband was born, or what his name was. MyHeritage.com shows that Theresia Landeis was the sister to my great-grandfather, Heinrich Landeis, although there is no documentation for this. That contradicts the information showing that Heinrich's father was Peter Landeis.
2. **Pius Landeis** ("Pii" or "Piy," the son of Daniel) and his wife, Helena Hatzenbühler, had a son, **Philipp Landeis**, born on Jan. 17, 1861 and baptized the next day. The godparents were Philipp Landeis (Pius' brother) and his wife Barbara Reisenauer. Barbara Reisenauer-Landeis also served as a godmother for the daughter of Oswald Lochbaum in 1861. Barbara (Reisenauer), wife of Philipp Landeis, served as godmother for the daughter of Oswald Sprung in July, 1861. Philipp Landeis served as godfather for the daughter of Franz Ruf in Nov. 1861. We may assume that Barbara Reisenauer, wife of Philipp Landeis, was a close relative of Katharina Reisenauer, wife of Philipp's brother Jacob Landeis.
3. **Katharina Landeis**, married to Jacob Pfaff had a son, Johann Pfaff, on March 11, 1861. The godfather was Valentin Meier. The entry doesn't state Katherine's father, but the 1839/40 census shows that she was the daughter of Adam Landeis and that she was already married to Jacob Pfaff at that point.
4. **Raphael Landeis** (son of Anton) and his wife, Franziska Forster, had a daughter, **Elizabetha Landeis**, born on Dec. 3, 1861, and baptized the next day. The godfather was Philipp Landeis.
5. **Jacob Landeis** and his wife, Katharine Reisenauer, had a son **Jacob Landeis** born Jan. 5, 1862.

6. Kajetan¹⁹ Friess and his wife, **Anna Maria Landeis**, had a daughter Anna Maria Friess born and baptized in Landau on Dec. 30, 1862. Kajetan Friess (stated to be the son of Franz) and his wife, Maria Anna Landeis (stated to be the daughter of Anton Landeis), also had a son Anton Friess born in Landau on July 14, 1865. Anna Maria Landeis may be the same person as **Mariana Landeis** married to Caspar Friess, or perhaps there was a double marriage between the Landeis and Friess families.
7. **Jacob Landeis** and his wife, Katharine Reisenauer, had a daughter, **Magdalena Landeis**, born April 12, 1864 in Karlsruhe.
8. **Karl Landeis** and his wife, Marianna Blumenstiel, had a daughter, **Carolina Landeis**, born Aug. 21, 1864 in Karlsruhe.
9. **Raphael Landeis** and his wife, Fraziska Forster, had a daughter, **Helena Landeis**, born June 12, 1864.
10. **Pius Landeis** and Helena Hatzenbühler had at least four later children born in Karlsruhe: **Barbara** (born 1859, died Sept. 22, 1860), **Brigitta** (born Aug. 12, 1862), **Elizabeth** (born Oct. 3, 1863), and **Katherine** (born Oct. 21, 1866), in addition to their son **Philipp**, born in January, 1861.
11. **Jacob Landeis** and Katharina Reisenauer had a son, **Andrew Landeis**, born Feb. 31, 1866 in Karlsruhe.

The Death Records for Karlsruhe (1860 -1880) and Other Colonies

Some researchers briefly got around the restrictions of the Saratov Archive staff when they visited the archive in 2017 and used their cell-phone cameras to take photos of the death records of several of the German colonies. When this was discovered, the archive staff forbid them from taking any further photos. Since then the death records have been paid for by GRHS and legally retrieved from the archive.

The death records for Karlsruhe cover 1860 to 1880, although they are incomplete. These are the records available for the Landeis family:

1. **Barbara Landeis**, age one year, died on September 22, 1860 in Karlsruhe. Her parents were **Pius Landeis** and Helena Hatzenbühler. She was the only member of the Landeis family shown in the Landau death records. Three other children died in Karlsruhe on that same day, and another one five days later. This hints of an epidemic, a common danger in the colonies in those years. There is an error in translation for this record because it states that Barbara was the dau. of Paul Landeis and Helena Hatzenbühler. These death records were in Cyrillic, which I didn't translate. There are several records from various sources that show Helena Hatzenbühler married to Pius Landeis.
2. **Magdalena Landeis**, daughter of **Pius Landeis** and Helena Hatzenbühler, d. Nov. 16, 1871, age 2.
3. Valentin Steckler, son of Joseph Steckler and **Margaret nee Landeis**, d. Dec. 21, 1879, age 4 months. This Margaret is unknown in the Landeis genealogy, presumably she

¹⁹ St. Gaetano (1480-1547). The German form of the name is Kajetan or Cajetan.

was b. ca. 1852. Jacob Landeis had a daughter, Margaret, shown in the 1816 R.L. age 6 (= b. ca. 1810) but she was clearly earlier than Joseph Steckler's wife.

4. **Johann Landeis**, son of **Karl Landeis**, son of Anton, and Maria Anna nee Blumenstein, daughter of Joseph, d. June 11, 1878, age 3 months.
5. Joseph Steckler (b. ca. 1852), husband of **Margaret nee Landeis**, d. March 14, 1880, age 28, children: Martin, Barbara.
6. **Michael Landeis**, husband of Rosalia, d. May 13, 1873, age 28, children: Jacob, Elisabeth, Apollonia, Katherina.

In addition, there are two records from the nearby colony of Speier:

1. Stephan Stockert, son of Martin Stockert and **Katherina nee Landeis**, d. April 23, 1873, age 1 year and 3 months.
2. **Katherina Landeis**, d. April 6, 1878, age 76, children: Philipp, Jacob, Pius, Katherina. This Katherina Landeis was born ca. 1802, she apparently was Katharina nee Jungmann, wife of Daniel Landeis, who was born ca. 1806. It is likely that Daniel Landeis was deceased by 1878 since Katharina was residing outside Karlsruhe.

There were no death records with the Landeis surname in the colonies of Heidelberg, Katherinenthal, Kostheim, Krasna (Bessarabia), Liebenthal (Kleinliebenthal, Josephstal, Mariental, Franzfeld), Mannheim, Selz, or Strassburg.

The Voter Registries for the Beresan Colonies in 1862

We also have available the voter registries for the Beresan colonies in 1862, which record the results of elections for members of the village council in each of the colonies. All of the major colonies in the Beresan enclave are shown, including Karlsruhe, Rastadt, München, Speier, Landau, and Katharinenthal. These records are important because they show the names and signatures for all males who were old enough to vote. As we have seen, the petitions for a separate parish of Karlsruhe, from 1852 to 1861, contained the signatures of the household heads (*Wirten*) in the colony, which may not have included all those who had reached legal voting age.

There are only two members of the Landeis family shown on the 1862 voter registry for Karlsruhe – Philipp and Jacob, who were apparently sons of Daniel. Other members of the family, such as Daniel's brother Anton and Anton's sons Raphael, Karl, and "Pill," were adults at that time and they would have been eligible to vote if they were present in the colony, but they are not listed, nor are they shown as "absent" (*abwesend*) which was customary at that time for voters who were temporarily away from the village. The Landeis family was also not shown in the voter registries for any other Beresan colony.

The Branching of the Landeis Family -- Neu-Karlsruhe, Halbstadt, and Klosterdorf

By way of review, we have seen that **Jacob Landeis** (b. 1756) and his wife **Anna Maria Messmann** (b. 1758) immigrated to Karlsruhe in 1810, when it first was established as a colony. The 1816 R.L. shows that they had six children: **Elisabeth** (b. 1790), **Apollonia** (b. 1791), **Adam**

Franz (b. 1793), **Anton** (b. 1794), **Daniel** (b. 1802), and **Margaret** (b. 1804). Jacob died ca. 1811, and Anna Maria died later by 1839.

Of these children, there are only two lineages shown in the 1860s and later in Karlsruhe. One lineage was **Anton** married to Magdalena Hummel and their sons **Raphael**, **Karl**, and **Philipp** (it's possible that there was another son "PI"). The second lineage was **Daniel** married to Katharina Jungmann and their sons **Pius**, **Philipp**, and **Jacob**.

There are no records for Jacob's third son, **Adam Franz** married to Maria Antonia Ihly, and their son **Peter**, who are shown in the 1839 R.L. They do not appear in the petition of 1861 for a separate parish church, nor in the voter registry of 1862. Adam's wife Maria Antonia served as godmother for Magdalena Jonas, dau. of Margaret Landeis and Franz Jonas, on Aug. 26, 1834 in Landau. Adam's dau. **Katharina**, married to Jacob Pfaff, had a son Johann Pfaff b. 1861 in Karlsruhe.

Nor are there later records for the three daughters of Jacob Landeis and Anna Maria Messmann. **Elisabeth** married Michael Pfoh and they settled in his home colony, Rastadt. **Apollonia** appeared as a godmother in one record in 1816, but not after that. The whereabouts of the third daughter, **Margaret**, is also unknown after 1816.

This indicates that members of the family began to leave Karlsruhe during those years. The daughters likely left the colony through marriage with outsiders. The sons likely left to seek opportunities elsewhere, at least temporarily, or permanently if they managed to purchase or lease lands elsewhere. This was common at that time, not only in Karlsruhe but also in the other German colonies. The colonies had experienced a growth in population and by mid-century they were facing chronic shortage of land for the younger generations. By 1860 the population of the 11 mother colonies in the Beresan region had risen from about 4,000 to 13,000. Younger families began leaving the colonies as early as the 1840s. In 1853, for example, 10 families left Rohrbach, and 28 families left Johannestal and Waterloo.²⁰

In the German colonies in the Black Sea region the farm lands were inherited by the youngest son in order to avoid over-fragmentation of the land holdings. The other siblings were given cash as their share of the inheritance, or if possible the father purchased land for them elsewhere. We note that Adam Franz was the oldest son of Jacob Landeis, and Daniel was the youngest. This suggests that Adam Franz sought lands outside the colony.

Each colony had set aside communal funds to provide for the younger generations. After the available land near the mother colonies was purchased, daughter colonies began blossoming everywhere in the 1860s, purchased by the pooled resources of the citizens of a village. Typically the daughter colonies had "Neu-" added as a prefix to the new colony's name -- Neu-Rohrbach, Neu-Rastadt, Neu-München, Neu-Worms, Neu-Danzig and so on. Because these new colonies were established using communal funds, we may assume that most of the settlers stemmed from the corresponding mother colonies, since they had a legal right to claim land there. There were also isolated estates (*Khutors*) purchased by private families, if they could afford to do so.

Some of the younger colonists settled in larger cities such as Nikolaiev or Odessa. Due to the proximity of the German colonies, both these cities had growing German neighborhoods. It was common for younger men and their families, especially those without land holdings in the colonies, to move into the city for employment. The *Nord Dakota Herold*, a German language

²⁰ Giesinger 1974, p. 114.

newspaper published in Dickinson, North Dakota, regularly contained letters written by relatives of ethnic Germans who had remained behind in the Ukraine -- in several of the letters Nikolaiev was stated as their place of residence.

An internet source²¹ provides the following description of the growing German neighborhoods in Odessa:

"A reporter of the *Odessa Zeitung* wrote in 1863: "Everywhere you look you see elegant signs of German carriage builders, shoe makers, wood turners, tailors, confectioners, carpenters, bakers, watch makers, journalists, photographers, book and stone printers."

"One particularity was the *Lutherische Hof*, the intellectual center of the Germans in Odessa. The *Lutherische Hof* was a designated district. It included an Evangelical church with 1,200 seats, two parsonages, the St.-Pauli-*Realschule* (secondary school), an orphanage and additional charities and nursing homes. Furthermore, the district included a hospital with German doctors that was very popular among the Germans as well as the Russian community. Next to the evangelical-Lutheran church in *Lutherischer Hof*, Odessa had a Catholic, an Evangelical-Reformed and a Baptist church."

"The German periodicals were *Odessaer Zeitung* (1863-1914), the *Neue Hauswirtschaftskalender* and the *Odessaer Kalender* (1863-1915)."

Rev. Joseph Kessler in his history of the Diocese of Tiraspol²² (1930) provided information for the various parish churches and their filiales. It is unknown what percentage of the membership were ethnic Germans, nor what the date was for the statistics:

Kessler states that Odessa had two Catholic churches -- Assumption of the Virgin Mary, with membership of 14,986, built in 1844-1853, and St. Clement, with membership of 17,773, built in 1906, founded to serve the largely Polish residents in Odessa. A filiale church, St. Peter the Apostle, was consecrated in 1913.

Nikolayev had membership of 8,555. Its filiale churches were Neu-Karlsruhe, Laryevka, and Dobraya Kerniza. Karlsruhe had a parish church membership of 1,933, with a filiale of Antonovka.

A. Neu-Karlsruhe

The colonists in Karlsruhe at first leased the land of the neighboring Russian nobility, then purchased it when they had the opportunity. The land reforms which accompanied the abolition of serfdom gave the colonists, for the first time, the right to purchase land wherever they found it. The land was mostly owned by absentee nobles and St. Petersburg elites, who no longer had the ability to farm the land after the serfs no longer wished to work like slaves. Because the land parcels were fairly large, in most cases several families had to combine assets to purchase the land, so the colonists moved around in clusters. They eventually owned all the land on the eastern side of Karlsruhe, including Katzk, Bapelhut, Kyrijakow, Kowaljowk, Katschowk, Solonichy, and other estates. They also began purchasing land more distantly

²¹ <https://www.russlanddeutsche.de/en/russian-germans/history/the-history-of-russian-germans.html>

²² Rev. Joseph Aloysius Kessler, *Geschichte der Diözese Tyraspol*, privately published by Rev. George P. Aberle, Dickinson, N.D. 1930. The entire book was translated and published in the GRHS *Heritage Review* in 15 parts beginning March 2017 to December 2020.

removed from the colony. The Kotschinsky land was rented by Karlsruhe farmers until World War One. From there they branched out to the Antonowka estate, located 18 kilometers northeast of Karlsruhe on the Bug River, and to Gradowka (the Schardt estate) near Rastadt, located across the Bug River 12 miles northeast of Nikolaiev. In total, the Karlsruhe colonists purchased about 50,000 hectares of land outside the original mother colony.

The first daughter colony of Karlsruhe was known as “Neu-Karlsruhe,” it was a Catholic colony founded in 1867. Another daughter colony, known as Klein-Karlsruhe (Little Karlsruhe) was established in 1869, north of Odessa.²³ Neu-Karlsruhe was located at Baschlanka, about 48 miles east of Karlsruhe, on the east side of the Ingul river, and 42 miles (70 kilometers) north of Nikolaiev. On the map below it is shown as the eastern-most colony, a red dot north of Neu-Danzig. Today Neu-Karlsruhe is known as Tschervona Sirka (*Червона Зірка*). The *Deutscher Volkskalendar* of 1913, published in Odessa, listed all the colonies in the Black Sea region at that time. Neu-Karlsruhe was in the *Gouvernement* of Cherson, the *Kreis* (District) of Odessa, the *Volost* (administrative unit) of Poltawka, and its closest post-station was Poltawka. It owned 2,307 dessiatines of land. The land was acquired from two Russian nobles, Butovich and Cherkas. Interestingly, the village mayor (*Dorfschulz*) in 1913 was named Landeis. Neu-Karlsruhe was an affiliate of the Catholic mother church (*Pfarrei*) at Nikolaiev, along with the two small villages of Larejeffka and Dobrja kerniza. These outlying villages were served by a priest from Nikolaiev who periodically travelled there to hold church services and to serve their needs. The mother colony of Karlsruhe had a *Gymnasium* (post elementary school) established by Fr. Scherr, which was a well-known cultural light in the Beresan colonies. Neu-Karlsruhe had an elementary school (*Volksschule*), and the EWZ records from World War Two (see discussion below) report that some residents attended at least four grades in the school there. It remained a small village in 1907, its population was only 190, and in 1913 it was 199 (although several families had emigrated to the USA). A letter written by Johann Renner in 1922 to his uncle Joseph, who had emigrated to North Dakota, mentions that Neu-Karlsruhe had 33 homes at that time.

Philipp Landeis, a relative of the family, wrote a detailed history of Neu-Karlsruhe, published by the *Landsmannschaft der Deutschen aus Russland*.²⁴ He stated that his grandfather, **Jakob Landeis**, was one of the founders of the daughter-colony in 1867. This most likely was Jakob, the son of Daniel Landeis and Katharine Jungmann.

Paul Landeis (unknown father) was born in 1868 in Neu-Karlsruhe, shortly after it was founded. He married Isabella Riedinger, who was born in 1870 in Dobrinka. They had a son, **Peter Landeis**, born in Neu-Karlsruhe in 1898. It’s possible that our Peter Landeis (son of Adam, b. ca. 1839) served as his godfather and passed on his name. The younger Peter and his wife, Mariana, remained in Neu-Karlsruhe until 1929, when he was arrested by the Soviets and sent to his likely death in a labor camp in Siberia. His father, Paul, also remained in Neu-Karlsruhe and he was reported dead between 1920-1925. Peter and Mariana had three children (see the details in the genealogical summary chapter at the end of this narrative: **K17471**).

In 1900 **Jakob Landeis (K1452)**, born 1866) and his family emigrated to North Dakota. He was the son of **Raphael Landeis**, and the grandson of **Anton Landeis**. Their point of origin on the ship’s registry was stated to be Neu-Karlsruhe.

²³ Giesinger 1974, p. 116.

²⁴ Landeis 1962.

In the German language newspaper, *Nord Dakota Herold*, a letter was printed on April 30, 1926 sent from Karlsruhe. Interestingly, the writer gave his location as “Old Karlsruhe” (*Alt-Karlsruhe*), which shows the distinction made at that time between the original mother colony and the daughter colony.

B. Halbstadt

In addition to the first daughter colony of Neu-Karlsruhe in 1867, another daughter colony was Halbstadt, founded in 1869 by Beresaners, it was a Catholic colony about 10 miles southeast from Karlsruhe, in the parish of Schönfeld.²⁵ It owned 3,076 dessiatines of land, its population in 1905 was 317. There were several settlements in Russia with the name Halbstadt and it shouldn't be confused with the larger Mennonite colony also known as Halbstadt in the Molotschna district. The EWZ records indicate that some members of the Landeis family had married spouses from Halbstadt. **Peter Landeis** (see **K1748** in the family summary chart at the end of this chronicle) is shown in the EWZ records with various birth information – one record states that he was born in 1870 in Halbstadt; however, another more likely true record states he was born in 1878 in Karlsruhe. He married Eugenie Matz from Karlsruhe or Landau. Another member of the family, **Josef Landeis (K1733)** married Anna Bruechner, who was born in 1865 in Halbstadt. **Ottilia Landeis (K1746)**, born in 1874 in Karlsruhe, married Johannes Renner from Halbstadt. These records confirm that members of the family had become mobile by the 1870s. Some had relocated to the daughter colony of Neu-Karlsruhe north from Nikolaiev on the Ingul River, and some of their spouses came from Halbstadt.

C. Klosterdorf

There are also baptismal records for members of the Landeis family much farther away in Klosterdorf, a German Catholic colony located about 70 miles east of Nikolaiev on the west bank of the Dnieper river.²⁶ Klosterdorf was established in 1804, on the northern edge of Alt-

²⁵ Today the former daughter colony of Halbstadt is shown as Novoselovka, also shown as Katyushino, the Google map shows it as latitude 47.1307, longitude 31.6892, judging by the map scale it is about 10 miles southeast from Karlsruhe (today known as Stepove), Google shows it as founded in 1869 by Catholics Beresaners, population today is shown as 286.

²⁶ Today Klosterdorf is known as Kostyrka, not to be confused with the mother village of the same name now subsumed into Zmiivka. Klosterdorf was named after an Orthodox monastery about 20 miles to the north. It was a Catholic colony, affiliated with the parish of Nikolaiev; the other two neighboring German colonies, Mühlhausendorf and Schlangendorf, were Lutheran. These three colonies and the older Alt-Schwedendorf were located on the west bank of the Dnieper river, about 53.5 miles upriver from Kherson, which was 42.7 miles southeast from Nikolaiev. Wikipedia describes them as being in the Beryslav district (Ukrainian, *Beryslavs'kyi raion*) of Kherson province (Ukrainian, *Khersons'ka oblast*), Ukraine, some 12 kilometers (or 7 Versts under the old Tsarist system of measurement) east-north-east (16.6 km by car, and 16.4 km by approved footpaths of the town of Beryslav on the same side of the river. Wikipedia states that Klosterdorf was a filial chapelry served by priests from the city parish of St Pius and St Nicholas in Kherson, part of the Odessa deanery of the Tiraspol Roman Catholic diocese. By

Schwedendorf (*Gammalsvenkby*), an earlier Swedish colony established in 1782. Two other German Lutheran colonies, Mühlhausendorf and Schlangendorf, were also established nearby. In 1859 there were 35 families residing in each of the three colonies. and by 1887 Klosterdorf had grown to 70 families. In 1886 it had 773 inhabitants with 52 houses and one Roman Catholic chapel. Rev. Kessler, in his history of the Diocese of Tiraspol, states that Klosterdorf had a membership 1,237 persons, presumably around the turn of the 19th century.²⁷

Barbara Landeis & Johann Mengel had children born there 1884 to 1901, and also **Jakob Landeis** & Magdalena Deutsch had three children born there in 1904, 1910, and 1912. Jakob was the grandson of Daniel Landeis & Katharina Jungmann in Karlsruhe.

There are also records for Maier families in Klosterdorf, several of whom later emigrated to Saskatchewan. There is no clear link between these families and Louisa Meier.²⁸

D. Konrad, near Alexandrowka in the Crimea

Finally, there are additional records for **Jakob Landeis** from Karlsruhe and his wife, Magdalena Deutsch from Landau, they were the same couple who had prior resided in Klosterdorf. The records indicate that they later settled in Konrad, a German *Khutor* in central Crimea in the parish of Alexandrowka. Their son, **Michael Landeis**, was baptized there on Feb. 21, 1910 and their daughter Mathilda Landeis was bapt. on Oct. 14, 1912, both in Tasch-Kasan-Konrad.²⁹ The German colony of Alexandrowka was founded in 1863 by immigrants from the Austrian Empire, the parish church was established ca. 1912. It was primarily a Roman-Catholic colony, but there were also Lutheran settlers. The baptismal records show that other families from farther north in the Beresan region migrated south into the Crima. Besides Landeis, some of the surnames that occur in the baptismal records of Alexandrowka include Fitterer, Deutsch, Heck, Roller, and Bast. Jakob Landeis and Magdalena Deutsch were the only Landeis family from Karlsruhe which appear in the records of Alexandrowka. There is overlap

1864, however, the local German Catholic community had raised enough funds to pay for a village chapel dedicated to St Vincent, which eventually became an independent parish church.²⁷ Rev. Joseph Aloysius Kessler, *History of the Diocese Tiraspol*, orig. in German, privately published by Rev. George P. Aberle, 1930, trans. and pub. in GRHS *Heritage Review* 2019-2020. It is unknown what the date was for Kessler's statistics about the various churches in the Black Sea region, presumably near the turn of the 19th century.

²⁸ Peter Maier (1817-1868) & Elisabeth Fahlmann (1826-1868) had a daughter Katharina Maier who married Wilhelm Ehmann (1847-1918) and they had 13 children surnamed Ehmann, from 1886 and later in Klosterdorf. In 1890-1891 several families with the surname Mayer emigrated from Klosterdorf to Canada, where they were among the founders of Rastadt in Saskatchewan. The records for the St. Peter's parish in Saskatchewan show these families from Klosterdorf: (1) Johann Mayer, wife Margaret Sperling, children Michael 17, Marianna 13, Katharina 11, Josephina 9; (2) Jacob Meyer, wife Margaret Ehmann, children Adam 10, Katharina 8, Joseph 6, Maria 2; (3) Christian Mayer, wife Elisabeth Rieberger, children Maria 4, Alex 2; (4) Johann Mayer, wife Dorothea Keller.

²⁹ A map of German colonies in Crimea shows Konrad or T'Konrat, about 20 miles southeast of Alexandrowka. It is also known as Tashli-Konrat (45°20' N34°15' E), 40 km northwest of Theodosia. <https://www.grhs.org/chapters/krim/Crimean%20Village%20Map.pdf>

in the records with Klosterdorf, they reportedly had three children born in Klosterdorf 1904 to 1912, and two in 1910 and 1912 in Alexandrowka.



Map showing Halbstadt 1869, east of Karlsruhe, and Neu-Karlsruhe on the Ingul River, Klosterdorf east of Nikolaiev is not shown

The German Immigration Records (EWZ) from World War Two

Some of the gaps in the Landeis family history in the latter decades of the 19th century can be filled by the records of the Immigrant Central Office (*Einwandererzentralstelle*, or EWZ) which were compiled during World War Two. During the war the German *Wehrmacht* invaded the Ukraine and moved rapidly eastward to block the Soviet forces, which were in the process of arresting all the ethnic German colonists and deporting them to work camps in Siberia. The *Wehrmacht* authorities managed to rescue many of the ethnic Germans and relocate them to temporary safety in the *Wartegau* in western Poland. The Immigrant Central Office (EWZ) interviewed each person to determine their family backgrounds, and fortunately most of these records survived the war. Also known as the Berlin Document Center collection, it is made up of biographic records of more than 2.1million ethnic Germans who went through the immigration and naturalization offices in German territory in 1939-45. There are at least 100 references in these files for members of the Landeis family.³⁰

The family had greatly expanded by the end of the 19th century. By the 1920s some intermarriages had even taken place between the third generation descendants of Daniel Landeis and his brothers. One branch of the family stemmed from Daniel's son, **Pius Landeis** (born 1836) and Helena Hatzenbühler. Pius's son, **Peter Landeis** (born 1870s Karlsruhe) and his wife Eugenia Matz had a son and a daughter, who married the daughter and son of **Paul Landeis** (born 1868 in Neu-Karlsruhe) and **Isabella Riedinger**. This Paul Landeis was likely the grandson of Anton, but not of Daniel, otherwise the relationships would have been too close to allow intermarriages in the 1920s. In the April 3, 1925 issue of the *Nord Dakota Herold*, a German language newspaper published in Dickinson, North Dakota, there is a letter from Neu-Karlsruhe, written by Joseph Röther and Adam Schmidt. The letter mentions that within the past five years (1920-25), several people had died in the colony. Among the names listed were **Martin** and **Paul Landeis**. This reference to Paul Landeis also appears in the EWZ records, so he may be the one mentioned who had died. There is an error in the translation of the death record of Barbara Landeis, age 1, who died in 1860, she was stated to be the dau. of Paul Landeis and Helena Hatzenbühler, but her father should be Pius Landeis. There is no other information about who Martin Landeis may have been.

The EWZ records also refer to **Karl Landeis** (born 1867 in Karlsruhe or 1868 Neu-Karlsruhe), also married to Isabella Riedinger (born 1870 in Dobrinka). This couple had a daughter Rosa born Sept. 1905 in Neu-Karlsruhe. Since Paul and Karl Landeis had wives with the same name, this indicates that they were the same person. It is easy to make mistakes when reading old German Gothic or Cyrillic handwriting, and since Paul/Karl are both four letters long and both end in "l" it would have been an easy mistake to make. There is an earlier reference in the family history to Anton's son, Karl, born ca. 1839, who may have served as the godfather for Karl/Paul born in the 1860s.

This information confirms that several members of the Landeis family had relocated to Neu-Karlsruhe when it was founded in 1867. **Paul/Karl Landeis** may have been born there, as the EWZ records indicate, and at least three of the children from the marriage with Isabella Riedinger were also born in Neu-Karlsruhe near the end of the century. We also know that my ancestors, Peter Landeis, and his son Heinrich, settled in Neu-Karlsruhe at some point.

Peter Landeis and Barbara Hoffmann-Meier

³⁰ See the summary of the family history in the final chapter.

My ancestor, **Peter Landeis** (born 1824/25), was the son of **Adam**, who had come to Tsarist Russia with his father, **Jacob**, in 1809. Other than the reference to Adam and Peter in the census of 1839/40, no further records are available. As we have seen, neither of them appears in the 1858 census, the petitions of 1852–1861, or the 1862 voter list for Karlsruhe. Adam's daughter, Catherine, married to Jacob Pfaff, had a son in Karlsruhe in 1861 (recorded in the Landau baptismal records), but there are no records on her brother, Peter.

Adam Landeis was probably deceased by 1858. He would have been 64 years old and given the shorter life spans at that time people often did not make it into their 60s. Peter most likely had left Karlsruhe and sought his opportunities elsewhere, as did many other young colonists. It is not known where Peter Landeis lived during his early years after he left Karlsruhe, but it was probably in one of the several *Khutors* or community lands owned or leased by the families in Karlsruhe for their younger generation. It's possible that he settled in Klosterdorf, near Nikolaiev, where Jakob Landeis & Magdalena Deutsch resided then moved to Neu-Karlsruhe after it was established in 1867.

Family memories, passed down to my mother, help fill the gaps in the chronicle. According to stories told by her grandmother (Louisa Meier, dau. of Alois Meier) Peter Landeis was married twice. His first wife is unknown, but supposedly he had four children from this first marriage, two boys and two girls. Of these, only two are known:

1. **Heinrich Landeis**, my mother's grandfather, born Nov. 25, 1864; he married Louisa Meier.
2. **Katherine Landeis**, born Nov. 12, 1866, married Jacob Scheeler in Dickinson, North Dakota.

At some point Peter and his family moved to the daughter colony of Neu-Karlsruhe which was founded in 1867. According to family lore, Peter's first wife died when their son, Heinrich, was between 5 to 9 years of age (i.e., 1869-1873). Peter remarried the widow of Alois Meier, her surname was Barbara Hoffmann.³¹ The Hoffmann family stemmed from Karlsruhe. She was born 1828-1929, and Alois Meier was born in 1829. Barbara Hoffmann-Meier had five children from her first marriage with Alois Meier from 1850 to 1862, the first two were born in München, the later three in Rastadt. Barbara and Alois apparently had three more, including Louisa who was born two months before his death in 1864:

1. **Friedrich Meier**, born Nov. 29, 1856.
2. **Jakob Meier**, born Aug. 23, 1860.³²
3. **Louisa Meier**, my mother's grandmother, born Dec. 10, 1864.

³¹ The details of the parents' names, Peter Landeis, Barbara Hoffmann and Alois Meier, are derived from the death certificates for Friedrich Maier and Katherine (Katy) Landeis-Scheeler. The surname Meier is spelled in various ways, including Maier and Meyer. Katy Landeis-Scheeler's death record confirms that her father was Peter Landeis, her mother's name was unknown.

³² Jakob may have been their first-cousin (*Halb Bruder* in German).

It is likely that Peter Landeis and his first wife were among the founders of Neu-Karlsruhe, along with Jakob Landeis, as well as Alois Meier and his wife, Barbara Hoffmann. It is a reasonable speculation that the widow Barbara Hoffmann-Meier and the widower Peter Landeis came to know each other and got remarried there in the daughter colony Neu-Karlsruhe. His relative, Paul Landeis (born 1868 in Neu-Karlsruhe) married to Isabella Riedinger, also resided there and they had a son, Peter Landeis, born in 1898. It's possible that our older Peter served as his godfather and passed on his name.

Heinrich Landeis and Louisa Meier, my great-grandparents

After Peter Landeis remarried the widow Barbara Hoffmann-Meier, they had sizeable land holdings between the two of them – probably lands located in the daughter colony, Neu-Karlsruhe, which came into being only three years after the birth of Louise Meier. They decided that they wanted to keep their combined estates within the family, so they arranged a marriage between his son, Heinrich, and her daughter, Louisa Meier. Arranged marriages were common among European farming families at that time, a custom known in their German dialect as *Kuppola*.³³ Louisa told my mother that she and Heinrich did not like each other and although she was opposed to the marriage, they had little choice. They had a difficult relationship, compounded by the fact that they were step-siblings. Judging from the birth date of their first child, Philip, we can assume that the marriage took place about 1882 when Heinrich was 18 and Louisa was 17.

Heinrich and Louisa's first three children were born in Russia: Phillip (born 1883), Katherina (born 1886), and Alexander (my grandfather, born March 2, 1889). I hired a Russian researcher³⁴ to search the Tiraspol Catholic Consistory records for 1888 and 1889 in the colony of Neu-Karlsruhe. He stated that there were no records for anyone with the surname Landeis during those two years in that daughter colony. However, I am somewhat skeptical of this because I haven't had confirmation that the records for Neu-Karlsruhe are available in the Tiraspol Catholic Consistory. My grandfather Alex always said that he was born in "Nikolae, Russia," which matches the information provided by his mother, Louisa. When Heinrich Landeis and his family emigrated to the USA, along with Louisa's brother Friederich Meier, the Hamburg ship records (shown in the next chapter) list their point of origin, their home village, as Neu-Karlsruhe, and their occupations as "farmer." This clearly anchors both the Landeis and the Meier families as being in the daughter colony at some point by 1889, but it is possible that Heinrich and Louisa went to the city of Nikolaiev at the time of Alex's birth for medical assistance.³⁵

Heinrich and Louisa emigrated to the USA in 1889. It is possible that Peter Landeis died about that time (he was born in 1825, so he would have been 64 years old). Heinrich may have

³³ This dialect term derives from the German verb *koppeln*, to couple or join together.

³⁴ Igor Pleve

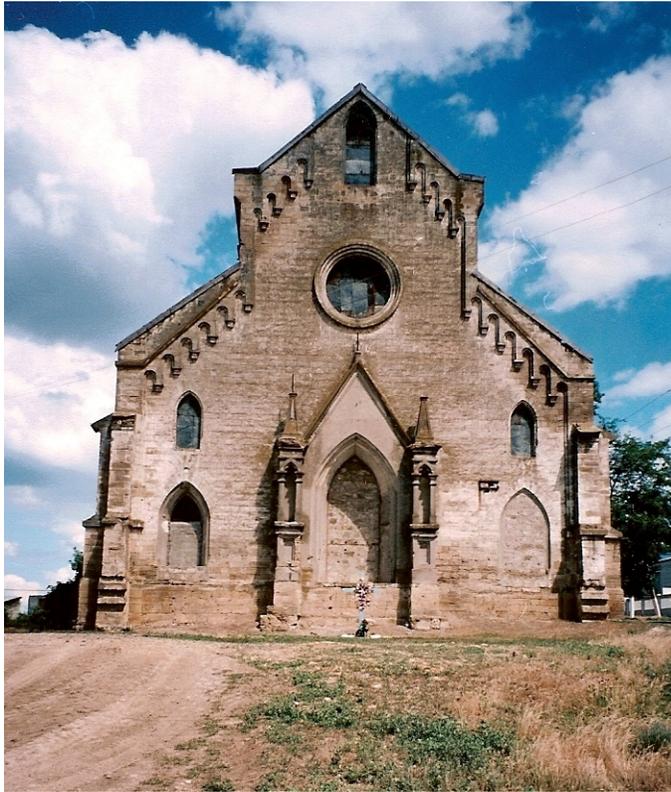
³⁵ The *Nord Dakota Herold* in Dickinson, N.D. reprinted some of Fr. Konrad Keller's book on the German colonies in 1922. They added a list of some of the early settlers in the Dickinson area, with their colonies of origin. Philipp Landeis (my grandfather's brother) is shown as coming from Karlsruhe, but it is not certain how literally this should be taken. The families were listed by their original mother colonies.

inherited the estate in Neu-Karlsruhe, which provided him with sufficient money to start a new life in North Dakota.

My separate narrative explores the history of the Meier family and the related Hoffmann family. Louisa Meier's parents were Alois Meier and Barbara Hoffmann. Alois Meier was born ca. 1829, presumably in München, and Barbara was born presumably about the same time in Karlsruhe. Baptismal records show that they had five children born from 1850 to 1862, the first two were born in München and the next three were born in Rastadt. Their final three children, Friedrich, Jakob, and Louisa Meier were born from 1856 to 1864. Louisa was born only two months before the death of Alois Meier in 1864, she was apparently named in commemoration of her father, "Louisa" is a feminine form of Alois. Barbara Hoffmann Meier was left in dire straits after the death of Alois, since none of her sons were old enough to legally inherit the family estate. Barbara remarried to Peter Landeis, who also was a widower, this enabled them to consolidate the two family estates. We don't have a baptismal record for my grandfather, Alex Landeis, born in 1889, presumably in Neu-Karlsruhe, so the origin of his first name is unclear. However, baptismal records for the Meier family in München show that Louisa had a young uncle, Alex Meier (brother of Alois) who was born Sept. 4, 1858. It is chronologically possible that this uncle Alex Meier was the godfather for Louisa's son, Alex Landeis, my grandfather, thereby passing down his name. He was the only contemporary person with the name Alex in the Meier or Landeis families. In the German colonies babies usually were given the names of their godparent and it was common practice to have uncles or cousins serve as godparents.



Karlsruhe 1910



St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Karlsruhe 1885 to present (steeple removed during Soviet era)

