

The German Colony

ALT-POSTTAL

(Malojaroslawetz II in Bessarabia)

TEXT

of the

HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY

1823 - 1923

by M. Weiss, Instructor at Alt-Posttal

Published by the German Newspaper entitled
"Bessarabian" in Tarutino, Bessarabia

PREFACE

At the meeting of the Tarutinoer Labor Party in Posttal an outline of the events of the village was presented to the assembly by the Board Members. It was set up in a chronological order. After a few changes were made they accepted the outline. It was also discussed on how to effectively write up such matters. Who should be responsible? This was not an easy question to answer. After some long discussions it was decided that the sexton would be the most suitable person because he is employed in the village for a longer time, knows its history and has the easiest access to all the material needed. However, the assembly was well aware of the extra burden this job would put on the sexton. This anniversary is so important for all the colonies that we surely hope that none of the sextons will refuse to help. The first year is probably the most difficult one of all. We take it for granted that other colleagues will come to the aid of the sexton in any way possible. This resolution is only binding for the Tarutinoer Church, nevertheless we hope that this might be an inspiration for other German colonies to write a village chronicle.

The Members of the Labor Party

Agenda for the Village Celebration

1. Name of the Colony.
2. Geographical Area.

3. When established.
4. Reasons for Leaving.
5. Original Homeland.
6. Immigration Route.
7. Hardships encountered on their journey and in getting settled.
8. Reception by the Local Authorities.
9. Adjustments to the surrounding community.
10. Record of original settlement - population, growth and deaths as recorded for each year.
11. Record of the Chinese, Turkish & Japanese Wars - total that were killed, missing, wounded, and died as the result of injuries received during the war in which they served.
12. Total number of families.
13. Occupations.
14. Home residences.
15. Church and School Information: Pastor, Teacher, Church Lay Leader, School enrollment, Prayer Homes, Church, Cemetary, Church Bells, Organ and when installed.
16. Land Development - Size, Cultivated, Tree Plantings, Water Areas, Types of Crops raised, other plantings and crop yields.
17. The Agricultural Laws of 1919.
18. Type of Farming, machinery used, methods employed, growth of stock, and crop failures. Good years, grasshoppers, hail-storms, floods and fires. Hurricanes. Wolf intruders. Vineyards. Grapes. Fruit. Growth in the community. Increase in the tree area. Increase of horses. Range or prairie. Stable-fed animals: sheep, pigs, poultry. Improvements: silkworm breeding, bees raised, bricks made and limestones. Mills. Oil presses. Factories. Community stores and Individual buildings.
19. Customs and Morality - Weddings, baptisms, funerals, church festivals, Pentecost, and other special occasions. Folk customs - immorality such as unbelief, drunkenness.
20. Village arrangement - Administration, Offices & Officeholders, List of the same in order of importance.

21. Biography of each important person.
22. Departures from the colony - reason, when and where.
23. Privileges of the community - inheritance and use of the place.
24. Handcrafts and trades, home industries (spinning and weaving).
25. Commerce and industries.
26. Education: private tutors, books, newspapers, attendance in the lower and higher schools, community chorus and band.
27. Public Welfare - health care (doctor, doctor's helper, midwives, hospital, drugstore), post office, telegraph office; orphans, deaths, and fire insurance, credit office.
28. Accidents, drownings, killings, live burials, contagious diseases.
29. Important visits: Kaiser, King, Secretary of State, Governor, etc.

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Village Chronicle

Composed by Professor Martin Weiss

In 1923 one hundred years have passed since the colony of II Malojaroslawetz was founded. Therefore, this is a very important year for the colony.

1. The Name of the Village

Our ancestors that immigrated to Bessarabia settled in the narrow valley of the prairie-creek Kirgis-Kitai, nowadays named Wittenberg. Since most of the immigrants came from the kingdom of Württemberg, they named the colony Württemberg at first, which gradually was changed to Wittenberg, probably for reasons of pronunciation. The surrounding nations: Bulgarians, Gagansen and Moldowaner still call the colony to this day after the name of

the prairie-creek "Kirgis" and do not understand the name of Wittenberg or the official name of II Malojaroslawetz. The Russian government gave the colonists upon their arrival in Kirgis-Kitai, nowadays Wittenberg, 8,280 acres (units of land - Dessjatinen) to settle on. But because the village was on the west side of the river valley of the Kirgis-Kitai and the fields on the east side/a lot of time was wasted in travelling back and forth to tend the fields. For this reason it was decided 8 years after the founding of Wittenberg to move half of the settlers to the eastern part of the valley which happened in 1823. This is how a branch colony was started and which received its name of Posttal. No one knows why and from what it received its name. Some think a Tatar post station in this valley was the reason for the name, which is very doubtful. Why would a tribe of shepherds and nomads like the Tatars use a postal station? It is more likely that it got its name from a big road which goes through the village and was named Poststrasse (Postal route) and today is still called by that name. In the beginning one did not write Posttal but "Borschtal" which even to this day is what the Bulgarians and Russians call it and the low Germans call it "Porsch-tal." The official name of II Malojaroslawetz was given by the government in memory of a battle between Russians and the French at the city of Malojaroslawetz near Moscow in 1812.

The people only know the colony by the name of Alt-Posttal (Old-Postal Valley) and it needs to be mentioned that the colony had a good reputation in the beginning in all of the surrounding areas.

In the church chronicle it was recorded that Posttal was the only colony in which one could live like a human being. Sounds

very flattering and it would be desirable that Posttal would value and keep this reputation.

2. Geographical Location.

Hidden from the eyes of a hiker, our village is situated very picturesquely in the desolate prairie of Budschak, in a narrow and deep prairie valley. It is obscured from view by the orchards and the vineyards growing on the hillslopes on both sides of the colony. The hiker gets his first glimpse of the colony when reaching the steep hilly edge. The village lies in the most northwestern part of the county of Akkerman, nowadays Cetatea-Alba, in the province of Bessarabia, near the springs of the prairie creek Kirgis. To the lonely prairie hiker the colony looks very friendly and peaceful from the summit of the mountain chain with its abundance of trees, its rows of houses that run from the north to the south, its white-painted city-walls, its massive school building and with its well kept up church. The land is separated by several narrow, deep valleys running from the north to the south also. The valley west of the village is named "Windmühlental" meaning valley of windmills. In 1823 when the colony was founded only one windmill was left, nothing was left of it but the name of the valley. It is said that at night the ghost of a Tatar goes around crying like a dog. Earlier people were afraid to stay there overnight. However, the author of this chronicle once spent a night in the area and later was asked if he had heard the bow-wowing of the ghost. Unfortunately, the author did not have that kind of luck. There is a huge cavern in "Windmill-Valley" where one can find good building stones at

times. People call this cavern "hell" in the Windmill-Valley. No one has ever reported seeing the bad guy of this cavern. Since this valley is rich in springs and good pasture, it is used for cattle grazing. Another valley is named "Deep Valley" simple because it is so deep. In it are several dams which serve as drinking places for the herds and cane growing nearby. Another valley worth mentioning is "Lochtal" north of the village and "Posttal" south of the village, both planted with grapes. The hills don't have any names. They are called cannon humps, of which there are four in number.

3. Time of the Founding.

Wittenberg was founded in 1815 from immigrants that came from the kingdom of Württemberg mostly. Since most of the village was on one side of the valley only, it was divided 8 years later, the same year when Posttal was founded, 1823.

4. Reason for Emigration from Germany.

Before I give the historical outline about our ancestors, I would like to find out their reasons for leaving their homeland and where they came from. They all came from the beautiful Germany and most of them from the kingdom of Württemberg or Swabia. "Do you know the land of the German provinces, the beautiful one on the Neckar?" asks the poet of a song. I am afraid few of us know it, which is a pity.

Germany looked about the same 100 years ago as it does now. Foreign invaders, the foe of the German, ravaged the German countryside. The kingdom of Württemberg was especially hard hit. Everybody groaned under the heavy tax burden the conquerors demanded. Young people were forced to fight in battle for the enemy and die

for them. Yes, it was a bad and sad time in the Fatherland. Then came the offer from Russia that every hardworking honest man could find a new home in this distant country. A message from the Russian Czar invited German farmers to immigrate to Bessarabia, which was in the hands of Russia after the peace treaty of the Russian-Turkish war (1806-1812) and signed in Bukarest on May 12, 1812. Countless prairies, overgrown with tall grass and weeds, inhabited by wild animals, treeless, waterless fields waited for the hard-working hands of the immigrants. Every immigrant was promised about 120 acres of land (60 dessj.), a loan, a pair of oxen, a cart, a harrow, building material and exemption from the military service for life. Such privileges were very attractive for all suppressed people back home. Many took their walking sticks, their belongings were piled on a two-wheel cart pulled by a dog or the owner himself. After many hard days, adventures and hardships, the immigrants reached their destination - Bessarabia. Others had left Germany in 1804 and 1805 for Poland, the duchy of Warsaw, and had settled in the backwoods in that area. But they were not happy in that area and also migrated to Bessarabia upon hearing of the Russian offer, having sojourned in Poland about 10 years. The sparse population of Bessarabia was made up of Tatars and other nomadic tribes who didn't like the Russian government and were eager to make room for the new immigrants. They then moved to the Turkish Dobrudscha to be with their kinfolk. The first winter after their arrival, our ancestors spent in the villages along the Moldau River in the county of Bender where they became acquainted with the "Mamaliga." One of the first projects for all the immigrants was the construc-

tion of houses. In the beginning these were only dirt huts. The Russian government helped the people with building supplies, money and food, but often the Russian officials cheated the people of their supplies. Most of them had sticky/~~xxxx~~^{fingers} and by the time the money reached the German homesteaders it had dwindled considerably.

The first thing the new immigrants sowed were tears. Everyone had to fight the misery and distress and many returned to Germany, but whoever was not able to return just had to stay. It was not recorded, of course, that the tools were of very bad quality, the flour mouldy, full of worms and caked into balls, that it had to be thrown away or broken by a hammer to be useable. Also the promised 5 Kopeken (money) were never delivered. Because of the change in climate and the bad food, febers broke out as well as typhus, and small pox which caused a great many deaths so that often whole families vanished. On top of that unemployment. Twelve Kopeken was a good day's wage for a hard worked during harvest time, otherwise only six Kopeken was paid.

Immigrants and their Origin

Christine Mohdenhauer from Poland.

Gottfried Fode from Württemberg, Germany.

Christine Stumpf ^{maiden name} ~~gsh~~ (Kraus) from Oberamt Nürtingen, Württemberg

Johann Stumpf " " " "

Elizabeth Eberle, born Seger, from Oberamt Dornstätt Dorf Hallwang

Christine Scherbinske from Preussen Kanischel

Anna Maria Lehr from Wiesbaden in Hessen

Sibilla Siegler from Bodelshausen, Württemberg

Joseph Anhorn from Urach Dorf, Grurn

Katharine Mans from Dorf Westal, Württemberg

Regina Dittus wife of Andrew from Schönberg, Liebenzell, Württemberg

Margarita Kroll, born Burgstaler, from Stöck, Baden

Caroline Heier from Poland

Johannes Bauer from Egenhausen, Württemberg

Barbara Speck, wife of Bartholomew, from Schönaich, Oberamt Loblingen

Matthew Stumpf from Unterfingen, Amt Nürtingen, Württem.

Gottfred Merz from Rommelshausen, Oberamt Cannstatt, Württem.

Adam Bohnet from Mireschie, Preussen

Johann Aberle from Grimbach, Poland

Friedrich Kalmbach from Grimbach in Poland

Gottlieb Zeller from Preussen

Christine Schaible from Kachanof, Poland

Margaret Schaible from " " "

Bernhard Maier from St. Nagold, Württem.

Michael Bohnet from Dorf Kirschweiler, Württem.

Adam Brost from Grimbach, Lasnauer Amt

Johannes Wölfler from Grimbach

Jacob Teurer from Warth, Oberamt Nagold

Christine Heller from " " "

Margaret Jüngling born Markus from Dorf Masov, Poland

Bohnet Andrew from Hörschweiler, Württem

Katharine Schlenker born Scherer from Danzig, Prussia

Johannes Scherbinski from Poltschef near Pabianitz

Anna Maria Bohnet from Poland

Barbara Flaig, Ehef., from Martin Flaig from Mönchweiler, Oberamt St. Georg

Johannes Anhorn from Gruern, Uracher Amt, Württem

Margaret Mogck born Maier from Dorf Friedrichshofen, Poland

Maria Henriette Bitz born Hoffmann from Schönerg Hessen, Darmstadt

Johann George Aberle from Wittershausen, Oberamt Sulz, Württem

Carl Elhard from Dorf Roschin, Peterwardein, Ungarn
Anna Zaiser from Wilhelmsbruch by Kulm, Preussen
Johannes Flaig from Grünbach, Polen, Amt Lasnach
Christine Schwab Ehef. d. Math. G. Strauch from Schelack, New Tamischler
Schlesien

Christian Mogck from Stadt Warschau
Anna Maria Kludt from Kanien, Polen
Anna Maria Schneider geb. Lehr from Dorf Dittersweiler near Freudenstadt
Eva Katherina Esslinger from Strickov, Polen
Barbara Schulz Ehef. d. Leopold from Bautenberg in Bayern
Christine Finkbeiner geb. Grimm from Sidelfingen in Bayern
Johann Bausch from Heiningen Ober. Göppingen, Württemb.
Michael Maier from Dorf Schönbrunn b. Wildberg, Württemb.
Jacob Baumann from Mittelschöntal b. Erbstetten, Württemb.
Christine König geb. Faut Ehefr. des George from Reinich Ober. Neuburg, Württ.
Christine Heier from Dorf Burgenfeld, Polen
Phillipp Gackle from Bernbach Ober. Nauburger, Württ.
Baltaser Schneider from Stuttgart
George Sauter from Sulz in Württemb.
Rosine Pfizenmaier geb. Gaudrian from Württemberg
Louise Brosz from Schönwald, Preussen
Eva Speck from Nagold in Württem
Christian Jauch from Tuttlingen in Württem
Julianna Gackle geb. Witt from Lauteracken in ~~an~~ the Pfalz
George Jr. Heier from Oberwalddach in Württem
Karl Rau from ~~an~~ Oberwalddach in Württem
Katharina Mogck geb. Ernst from Lehnbrun in Württemb
Erhard Flaig from Schweningen
Leopold Schulz from Strassburg, Frankreich
Michael Kroll from Grünbach, Polen

Christine Sauter geb. Witt from Grosssachsen, Polen
Anna Maria März from Waisach near Maulbronn, Württemb
Rosina Bohnet g geb. Leitner from Tomischel, Württemb
Jacob Schlenker from Petrikau, Polen
Michael Zeller from Pabianitza, Polen
Frau Bietz from Maschelwitz, Preussen
Maria Kroll from Württem
Matth. Schwab from Kresbach, Pfarrort Tuttlingen
Elizabeth Anhorn, ~~mg~~geb. Schaible, from Kachanoff, Polen
Gottlieb Manz, from Rohrdorf, Württem
Philipp Elhard from Neukirchen near Lauterecken, Pfalz, Bayern
Johann Müller from Hallwangen Dornstadt, Kirchspiel Grüntal
Johann Heier from Oberwalddach near Tuttlingen
Andreas Dittus from Schwarzenberg Kirchspiel Schönberg
Rosina Dittus geb. Kuch, Frau of Benj. Dittus from Posen
Christine Flaig geb. Hofer, Frau of Erhard Flaig from Rothfelden
Altensteig Ober.
Elizabeth Vetter from Petrikau
Elizabeth Krämer, Grünbach, Polen
Kasper Schlenker from Schweningen near Tuttlingen, Württem.
Martin Flaig from Mönchsweiler, St. George Kloster, Württem.
Johann Weisz from Posen
Katharina Schulz geb. Speck from Grünbach Petrikau, Polen
Katharina Gackle from Schützingen Württem.
George König from Tobel Württem
Karl Friedrich from Petrikau, Polen
Elizabeth Hermann, geb. Haag, Frau of Friedrich from Heiningen Württem
Michael Schaible from Eckenhausen, Württem
Barbara Müller, geb. Schöttle, Frau of Johann Schöttle from Schnaitz
near Schorndorf.

Eva Haag, geb. Lohrer from Oberbaldingen near Tuttlingen

Elizabeth Heidinger geb. Dande from Linsburg in Preussen

Ehman geb. Schöttle from Oberaltenstein

Agnes Barbara Maier geb. Vetter from Aschenbronn near Maulbronn

Johann Kludt from Kamien, Polen

Franz Schulz from Pest in Ungarn

George Brosz from Württem

Anna Maria Scherer, geb. König from Bodelshausen near Tübingen

George Vetter from Aschelbronn Oberamt Maulbronn

Joseph Ensslen from Plonsk, Polen

Benjamin Dittus from Liebenzell, Württemberg

Katharina Lehr, geb. Jauch from Grünbach

Christian Weisz from Nietleben, Landkanton Hallen In Westfalen

Paul Schlenker from Grünbach, Polen

Martin Wölfler from Eggenwiler, Altensteig, Polen

Barbara Elhard, geb. Stumpf from Kachanov, Polen

Friedrich Hermann from Mühlen on Milbach Oberamt Sulz on Neckar

George Seik from Petrikau, Polen

Anna Maria Grimm, geb. Wiedmaier from Siedelfingen, Württem

Jacob Krämer from Offerdingen, Württem

Gottfried Lindauer from Schillingshof, Oberamt Welzheim

Adam Bietz from Gnesen in Preussen

Leonard Schwarz from Allmersbach, Oberamt Marbach

Esther König, geb. Fischer, Frau of George König from Mittelschöntal, Württ

Anna Jauch, geb. Flaig from Görden Württem

Elizabeth Sept, geb. Klaiber, Frau of George Sept from Dorf Kalmbach, Württ

Christian Scherbinske from Polten in Polen

Conrad Heller from Haselbach, Oberamt Reichenbach, Württem

Christine Ziegler, geb. Maier, from Danzig, Preussen

Katharina Vetter, geb. Golda, Frau of George Vetter from Onschelbrunn,

Oberamt Maulbronn Württem

Gottlieb Weisz from Halle in Preussen

Bartholomäus Speck from Tuttlingen, Württemberg

George Ziegler from Borgfeld, Oberamt Rosenfeld, Württemberg

Bernhard König from Bodelshausen near Tuttlingen

Johann Dölker from Freudenstadt Württem

Mathias Kroll from Petrikau, Polen

Anna Maria Schlenker from Petrikau Polen

Karl Kludt from Bosche, Polen

Elizabeth König, geb. Ruszhard from Zweilecken in Frankreich

Gottfried Fode from Unief, Polen

George Sept from Obereichen Württem

Christine Zeller from Schocken, Polen

Nawodni on Böhmen, Dorf Brandeis, Oberamt Hohenmaut

Bartholomäus Speck, Polen

Katharine Kroll, geb. Schulz, from Ungarn

Martin Boszler from Petrikau, Polen

Dorothea Dölker, geb. Richter, from Tomischel

Katharina Brosz, geb. Vetter from Plonsk, Polen

Magdalena Mogek, geb. Müller, from Wischigrad, Polen

Johann Ehmann from Baiersbronn, Darmstadt

Anna Maria Ensslen, geb. Kroll, from Rawa

Anna Maria Lehr from Kochanoff, Polen

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Heinricke Albrecht, geb. Bechtle from Hepfingheim

Johann Finkbeiner from Reichenbach, Württemberg

Maria Schwarz from Riednau, Württem

Rosina Weisz, geb. Steinke, from Krakau, Polen

Friedrich Brosz from Petrikau

Christina Dittus, geb. Vetter, from Plosk, Polen
Maria Sauter from Sackwitz, Polen
Susanna Weisz from Strickhof, Polen
Henry Laeger from St. Posen
Katharina Fode, geb. Schöttle from Plosk, Polen
George Wetzlein from Westernach Oberamt Ohringen Württem
Elizabeth Heer, geb. Scherbinske, Polen
George Dittus from Petrikau, Polen
Susanna Kludt from Josusow, Polen
Erhard Mogck from Polen
Julianna Maier, geb. Bauer from Polen
Friedrich Klein from Landsgut, Preussen
Johann Schaible from Polen

Of all those that migrated from Germany and Poland and founded the Colony of Alt-Posttal, none were present at the celebration for their 100-year Jubilee. It had just taken too long. They had all died even though some lived to a ripe old age, over 90 years old. Of those that came from Poland, the last of that group died in 1898. His name was Johann Schaible. The first to die in Posttal was Johann Weisz, the child of Johann Weisz.

The oldest people living at the time of the Jubilee are: Widow Sept, Widow Boszler, Christian Kroll, Christian Lehr, George Seik, and Johannes Haag.

Number of People at the Beginning

There were 72 families that resettled from Wittenberg, Russia, to Alt-Posttal. (Then they gave a list of births from the year 1823 to 1923. It ranged from a low of 16 per year to 99 per year, giving a total of 6,074.)

This table showed a continual increase in population. The highest increase was in 1889 with 99 births. From 1893 on it began to decrease. It was then that families began to emigrate to America - 30 families leaving in 1911. Particularly great were the migrations in 1878 and 1879 and from 1894 to 1897. In 1905 and 1906 they also ^{lost} families to the new colonies of Wischneoffka and Katarinoffka from Alt-Posttal. The large loss of births during the years 1914 to 1918 was because of World War I.

(They then give a list of deaths from the years 1823 to 1923 ranging from 5 to 83 in a year. Some of the diseases listed as the causes of death were Cholera, Scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhus, measles, whooping cough, and smallpox. Total was 3,053.)

From 1838 to 1893 they had 7 strong visits of measles in the dorf, and 4 times during this 100 year period they had cholera. Particularly bad was cholera during the Crimean War from 1853 to 1855. In fact, it spread throughout all Russia at that time. In 1890 typhus was so bad. Pneumonia and tuberculosis also took its toll, often taking a whole family. Such as the Finkbeiner and Speck families where but only one survivor was left.

(Now I can continue the chronicle where Alrun left off
on page 11.)

number of deaths, so that often whole families vanished. On top of that unemployment. Twelve Kopeken was a good day's wage for a hard worker during harvest time, otherwise only six Kopeken were paid.

Page 11.

Ground and fields: units of land, quality of the land. Forest.

Posttal owns 4170 Dessj. of land. (1 Dessj. equal approx. 2½ acres. The surface has about ½ to 1 meter of black dirt under which one finds mostly clay and sand layers. On the hill sides one can often see only clay or pebble stones under which fine sand and layers of sand and shells are found. This ground is of poor quality and lately has been used for the growing of wine. The uncultivated ground grows clover and other grasses. But nowadays most of the land is used for grain fields and therefore the grazing areas moved farther away. Of the total land 2544 Dessj. are being cultivated, 1031 Dessj. are used as grazing areas. Wine fields take up 117 Dessj., orchards 4 Dessj., forage fields 120 Dessj., forest 34 Dessj., farms 113, and unusable land 327 Dessj.

2,544 cul
1,031 gra
117 wine
4 orch
120 forage
34 forest
3,850

320 unusable

The Forest

Posttal is the only colony that has kept up the forest from its ancestors. It is only an area of 30 Dessj. but in good condition. If someone from the neighboring colonies wants to go hiking through the woods they have to come to Posttal. Before the last war one could have still enjoyed a walk

through the oak forest of Kulm, but even that is gone nowadays and the Posttal forest is all that is left of the beauty our ancestors left. Most of the trees are acacia besides ash, poplar, elm, oak, mulberry-trees, cherry and plum trees. Shortly after the colony was formed a forest club was started, which set as its goal to forest the treeless prairie of Budschak and also help to better the need for wood. Upon the resolution of the club trees were planted in all German colonies. The club supervised the work and forced the owners to take care of their forest, to keep out the weeds. From time to time someone checked on the owners if they had done their jobs. Woe unto those who had not kept up their woods. Right in the woods he had to lie down and take a spanking. That's the reason why we as the only settlement have a beautiful shadow-giving forest. When spring arrives life also awakes in the forest. The ravens from all the surrounding areas have settled also in the Posttal forest. Their noise is deafening. The call of the cuckoo echoes in field and forest. Who is not happy to hear the sounds of spring? Wild doves coo now and then. In moonlit nights a nightingale sings its songs, thrushes and blackbirds join in. This all is given to us by our Posttal forest.

Who has you o beautiful forest
planted so high up there?
I want to praise the Lord as
long as I have a voice.

The Water. Every farm has a well with good water. In the

Page 18 is missing

close to 150 Pud in an average harvest or more. The grain yield is always dependent on the winter weather. If the winter is wet with lots of snow the harvest will be good. Summers are often dry. Someone once said: Bessarabia has good earth but a bad sky, it was meant too little rain.

Effects of the Agricultural Laws. As long as the door to America was open, people from Posttal left for America from time to time. Also many Posttal people moved into the nearby villages that were being founded and bought land there and homes. When these possibilities stopped the number of families grew who were without land since they couldn't buy any or were not able to emigrate. Lately, there were 71 families in the village without farm land. All of these received from the present Russian government in the year of 1922 each 4 hectares of land south of Klositz. It was land that ^{had} been previously owned by people with large estates. Therefore there are no more people without farms now. The new farm people are called hectar-farmers to distinguish them from the old property owners. In due time these old owners were supposed to settle again on land assigned to them and form new colonies together with the hectar-farmers coming from other German settlements.

The following families received each 4 hectares of land near Klositz: Heinrich Wilke, Johannes Flaig, Johann Scheerer, Johann Reile, Johann Ensslen, Samuel Sept, Jakob M^ogck, Johann Felter, Friedrich M^ogck, Gottlieb Anhorn, Michael Fode, Heinrich Albrecht, Jakob Baumann, Gottfried Pahl, Ludwig Heine, Johannes Schlenker,

Jakob König, Konrad Müller, Dorothea Baumann, Christian Albrecht, Johann Scheerer, Immanuel Richter, Georg Bauer, Konrad Gäckle, Gustav Schlenker, Jakob Albrecht, Johann Fode, Otto Sept, Jakob Weiss, Christian Fode, David Elhard, Christian Anhorn, Matthias Fode, Jakob Fode, the village school, Christian Albrecht.

The other without property did not receive land, since they never farmed. But they were advised to apply for property also and land has been promised to them.

Farming. The three-field system is being used. First year corn, second year winter wheat, third year barley or oats. To let a field lie fallow or fertilizing it was not considered to be of much value. It has been said, our land is too rich. But this the author doubts. The stubble fields are not being turned over and are used for grazing cattle in late summer. In the spring the fields are turned over with a 2 or 3-pronged plough-share, the grain is planted and then harrowed with an iron harrow. Later it is being pressed down with a wooden drum and the rest is done by the Lord. Natural and chemical fertilizers are not known to the German farmer, a German-Bessarabian doesn't believe in things like that. His motto is: Blessing comes from the Lord and if it fails, there is nothing we can do. Horses are the only animals being used to pull things. Oxen are too slow. Posttal likes to work in a fast pace and nobody ~~is~~ can measure up to them. Other villages are always later with their plantings or harvesting. Early to rise, late to bed is the Posttal motto.

Everyone likes pretty horses. Pastor Pingoud from Petersburg once said at a church meeting that one has to be quick or he will be run over by the horses. A saying goes around that expresses the value the horse has in the eyes of the Posttal people: Woman dead - no great loss, horse being sick - panic stricken.

In the beginning the grain was cut with sickle. Later one used a scythe and bound it into sheaves. After this the grain was arranged into mounts which were named Kopitzen. The grain is being threshed right after harvest at the threshing place with the help of horses pulling a threshing drum made of stone in a circular motion. Straw and chaff are being stored in a barn and used as fodder. Nowadays machines are being used to cut the grain but the threshing is still being done in the old manner. Progressiveness has not caught up with the people here which was being noted by Germans from other countries when visiting. During the last 100 years there were a few crop failures, when animals and humans suffered a lot. The years of 1823 (founding of Posttal), 1824, 1830, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1839, 1867, 1886, 1899, 1904, 1918 were failures. The little crop was being eaten by mice. For that reason people went on mouse hunts. Every head of the family had to deliver 100 mouse tails to the chancellery. This hunt has been existing for 100 years already and there are still too many mice around which do a lot of damage every year. In one of the bad years after a bad harvest the cattle had to spend the winter in the colony of Mansburg and Chersson. The grain for bread had to be bought from the farmer Vaatz in Chersson. Later a silo was built in the village to store excess grain for future failures.

1893, 1895, 1910, 1919 were very good years of harvest.

The Grasshoppers. Another plague that only the old people know of were the grasshoppers. In the years 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1836, 1847, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1874 and 1875 they ate up whole fields. If a swarm of grasshoppers was being sighted somewhere one person from each family had orders to go to that field to fight off the grasshoppers. Long, $\frac{1}{2}$ meter ditches were dug, the young grasshoppers were brushed into the ditches with brooms and covered with dirt. Later horses did this job. Wide sleds were made out of thorns and pulled by horses. With thousands of these thorn sleds one went up and down the fields and crushed the little grasshoppers. If one was too late the insects would fly away and take over the other fields. They ate everything in sight. If they laid their eggs, the ground had to be dug up and the eggs were collected and burned or the place was trampled down by the horses, only when the ground was soft enough. Everyone always looked south and was ready to fight the grasshoppers with scythe, pails, and other noise makers. For days our people fought against the grasshoppers in Mansburg, Elft, Dennewitz and Kulm. Once the insects ate all the crops. Since 1875 we have not had any grasshoppers and this generation only knows about it from hearsay. In 1900 we had caterpillars which consumed a lot of the crops.

Hurricanes. We have these seldomly. One hears more about them through letters from relatives from America. In 1910 we had a bad hurricane that pulled trees with their roots out of the ground. But we really cannot complain too much about hurricanes.

Wolves. In the beginning of the colony we had a lot of wolves in our prairie, which lived in the thick underbrush. Often foals were attacked by them at night, mostly at their necks, but often from the rear. To protect the foals little bells were put around their necks. The wolves were afraid of that sound. The wolves attacked when the horses were asleep. Sometimes 7 - 8 foals were killed during one night. Then helpers were given to aid the shepherds. Usually two more men had to help guarding the animals. Once a year in May an order was given to hunt the wolves and many of them were shot. The government paid 5 Rubel for every dead wolf. In winter time the wolves often came into the village and stole sheep out of the barns. But since the underbrush disappeared more and more and the fields grew in size the habitat for the wolves was taken away and they got less and less in number. Many middle-aged farmers have never seen a wolf. Since the last war there are more wolves again because the guns had been taken away from the people.

Fires. All buildings of the village were originally covered with reed. Naturally the fire hazard was greater. The officials were very strict with smokers and punished them, but it was often too late. About 40 years ago during harvest time, when nobody except old people and children were in the village, all the buildings of Georg Heier burned down. Georg Seitz had two fires in which everything burned down except the house.

Lately the blacksmith shop of Heinrich Brass and the house of

George Baumann burned too. Nowadays houses are being built out of cement and fires are less often. Firemen we do not have, but certain rules are laid down. Every house has a sign picturing some tool for the fire fight which the person of the house has to bring to the scene of a fire when the bells of the church announced it. The command was given by the mayor or the fire chief and everybody had to follow. A little fire engine has been owned by Posttal for quite some time. In 1889 it purchased a bigger one, which is stationed in a barn and under the supervision of the fire chief. This job is an honorary duty. Friedrich Bross is fire chief now, others before him were Konrad Lohrer, Konrad Bross, Adam Bohnet, Konrad Finkbeiner, Georg Widmer, Gottlieb Esslinger.

Wine-fields. Shortly after founding the colony, in the year 1823, wine fields were planted. The first wine fields are still in the same place today. When this area got too small new fields were started outside the village. The oldest wine fields behind the house gardens were to the north and west of the village. Later fields were also established to the east of the village and in Deep Valley, Posttal Valley and Lochtal. In the beginning one planted the good old varieties like Bordeaux, Muskateller, Salviner etc., all very good grapes that produced good wine. The tending of the fields was simple, but careful. One didn't know about diseases or spraying the plants. In the fall the vines were covered with dirt to keep them from freezing. In the spring they were dug out again after the danger of frost was over. That was hard work but necessary, because winters

were rougher than nowadays. In the year 1828 and 1829 the fruit trees and vines froze to their roots. During the years the climate and the winters got milder. The wine fields grew in size according to the thirst of the people. Export of wine was not necessary since all of it was consumed in the village. It was not profitable to sell the wine since a pail full of wine was sold for 20 Kopeken and one could buy a large glass of it for 5 Kopeken. Often it was even cheaper. In the year 1886 phylloxera was introduced to Bessarabia and within 25 years almost all of the wine fields were ruined. So the Bessarabians had to quench their thirst for many years with water. In 1914 one started again to plant wine fields, and today the same area is covered again with vines. But these vines produce a wine of less quality. Also these wild species are not all resistant to the disease phylloxera. But today we also have some French vines which give even a better wine than the old grapes. The up-keep of the fields is more expensive and harder as that of the old vine species. Today 108 Dessjatinen are planted with wild grape vines.

Orchards. Take off your hat because I would like to preach about orchards, says Johan Peter Hebel (poet) in his Treasure Box. The Orchards, one of men's most pleasant occupation, still have not attained much importance in the German colonies. But I have to admit that our ancestors in Posttal valued the fruit trees. The entire valley of the village, on both sides of the creek formed an orchard. The best species grew in a surplus.

Even today Posttal is superior to any other colony in fruit production. In no other colony of the state have I seen such large and beautiful fruit trees. Cherries, plums, apples, pears, apricots, walnuts, hazelnuts, quinces, peaches and prunes grow very well here. Some of the orchards had to make room for new rows of homes, but new orchards were started again in the eastern part of the valley, also on both hill sides. The merchants from Tarutino buy large quantities of fruit from Posttal and sell it at their markets.

Horse-breeding, cattle-breeding, sheep and poultry industry, hog-breeding.

Everyone values pretty horses a lot - I think too much. They have to be pretty even though most of the harvest is eaten up by them. I think that was allright as long as there was enough farm land available, but when the farmland had to be divided even more, it was impossible to keep that great a number of horses. It is too expensive. Oxen are a lot less expensive for farm work. But the German colonist does not want to use them - they are too proud. A middle-size farm keeps 5-6 horses, a large farm 10-12. The smallest farm has between 2-3 horses. Here one cannot understand how a farmer in Germany can tend his fields with one horse and one cow. But these times seem to be coming here too, the population is growing - the farm land not expanding though. Horses that are not being used as work-horses graze day and night on the meadows. In the ^{ce}winter

of the village is a place called "Harman" where the horses are gathered and then being driven to the grazing areas by a cowboy. The community owns two stud-horses which are kept in a community stable cared for by cowboys during winter-time, during summer they go out to the meadows with the other horses. The stud-horses are far more interesting to the farmers than church or school. A special breed the farmers do not own, but the animals are very pretty, a little too fragile for heavy farm work.

The cattle are still the old gray stock animals - Moldauer". They are very modest in food consumption and care, but they also do not give too much milk or meat. Red dairy cattle are also available, but only a few of them and none are of too good stock. Bulls are bought in your own village usually, so incest is very great and the animals get weaker. One should get bulls from other colonies who have better dairy-cattle.

Sheep have always been present. Sheep-breeding has been enlarged considerably, probably because material for clothes was very expensive. Every farmer takes his wool from the sheep to the Tarutinoer factories to have it made into material. The "Zackel-sheep" is being raised here for its good quality wool. Lately three cheese-factories opened up. It is easier and cheaper to produce cheese this way. Today we have 6 herds with a total of 5476 sheep.

Hog-breeding is also not too successful. Earlier the hogs were taken to the meadows and guarded by swineherds. There was a herd of pigs in the lower and upper village,

It was no special honor to be a swineherd for the pigs, but the hogs brought quite a bit of money. But since the land below and above the village has been rented to the vegetable gardeners, the hogs have to stay in the pig-sty, which is pretty expensive and therefore not very profitable anymore.

Poultry industry is very good. There are no special breeds of chickens. One kept the small, half-wild country-chicken. In 1920, the teacher Martin Weiss, the author of this booklet, introduced a new breed here, the white "Orpington", which he brought back from Kiev. Geese and ducks are also kept. Geese are of no particular breed, turkeys, guinea-fowl and doves are hardly ever seen. Peacocks and swans are not present.

Sericulture.

Even though in the declaration of the Zcar it was asked to further sericulture among the colonists, nobody in the German colonies occupies himself with silkworm-breeding. In the last 3-4 years a few homes have set up small breeding centers, but the Germans do not know much about silk-production. They also have too few mulberry-trees.

Apiculture.

More and more people get into apiculture since the honey is so sweet. The oldest beekeeper in Posttal was: Friedrich Irion and the old Sept. They kept the bees in the old-fashioned way. The present beekeepers who use the

newest methods are Gottlieb Vossler, David Irion, Immanuel Fode, Gottfried Jauch, and Nathanael Tschritter. They are making a lot of money from the honey. Some of them own up to 80 beehives of Dathe, Dathe-Blatt, Lewitzki and others. Posttals' meadows, forests and orchards are perfect and guarantee success. It would be desirable to spread apiculture around here even more.

No - Factories.

The population is mainly made up of farmers and craftsmen. There were no factories in Posttal in this century. A factory producing roof-tiles was founded by Heinrich Konig and in 1912 David Kambach and Friedrich Lehr opened both cement factories. Both folded up in 1918 since there were factories of this kind in almost every village and the demand was not that great. Houses were not built very much and also at the time people still used reed for a roof-covering. Today, since the building is picking up again a brickyard could have lots of business. In 1923 the year of the centennial celebration Mr. Adam Bohnet opened up a factory across the school, which will be a spinning mill. The machinery has all been set up, but only a millstone is being operated right now to crush the grain. Hopefully factories will invade Old-Posttal in the second century.

Mills.

In the first years after the founding of the colony

there were only manual mills present for grinding the grain. ~~Top~~ mill-stones were used, the lower one stationary, the upper one being turned. The upper stone had a hole in which a rod was inserted with its upper end being fastened to a beam. The stone was moved with this rod and the grain was ground. It took a lot of sweat and time to grind the grain in this way and no one knows anymore how many of these mills were present at the time. But this method was soon taken over by the horses and windmills. Many of the old people can still remember the horse- and windmills. The younger inhabitants of Posttal have to go to the neighboring village Tschiumlekiol if they want to see a windmill nowadays, since the last windmill ceased to exist in 1884. The outside of a windmill can still be seen in Posttal at Johann Heier's. Everything changes in this poor world, the old vanishes, the new comes and so it goes on and on. The windmills were on the top of the hills. The old owners of windmills were taylor Gäckle, Johannes Ehmann, Michael Maier, Daniel Maier, Martin Bross, Jakob Bietz, Konrad Bietz, Christian Jauch, Christian Müller, Friedrich Heier, Johann Heier.

Horse mills were owned by Erhard Flaig, Georg Ziegler, Bartholomäus Speck, Joh. Ehmann, Jakob Heier, Gottlieb Bössler, Michael Heller, Konrad Bross, Johann Manz, Andreas Weiss and Konrad Finkheimer. Forty years ago steam mills were introduced. The steam mill of today in Posttal was erected by Bergholz, Dite, and Sperling, which they sold to several people. In 1918 it changed to the ownership of

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the Jew Jaroslowski. Next to the mill there was an oil mill and press. One of these oil mills had been owned by Georg Gackle. Why it stopped to function no one knows. The steam mill of today can yield 700 Pud of flour within 24 hours at full speed. The mill has two pairs of drums and one pair of mill stones to crush the grain.

Community store and other community buildings.

In 1903 the village opened a community store. Wvery-one in the village now could buy the needed items for house and home. The profit was kept by the community. One was forced to these steps since a few merchants that had no competition had made a fortune selling their goods. One decided therefore to open up a village store and use the profits from it for community purposes. This business existed for 18 years. In 1921 the community store was changed to a Co-op.. The reason for this was that all the property and money owned by the community should be turned over to a general manager. The co-op had three directors and twelve people on the board. The membership number was 267. All inhabitants of the village were members. Unfortunately, many members still bought a lot of their goods from the Jews who were competition, which was sad. Also the co-op should have exchanged dairy products for other goods. But it did not do that, which was also sad.

Besides the building that houses the store the village owns the church, school, teacher's house, parsonage, fruit storage house, restaurant, pub, mayor's house, the shepherd's home. The church was built in 1838, school house in 1867,

the fruit storage house in 1841 and the pub in 1891.

People that died in wars, missing in action and deceased.

Since the colony had been founded it had been involved in five wars: the Russian-Turkish war of 1812, which brought freedom for Greece and ended with the peace treaty at Adrianopel brought military occupation. The Russians occupied Bessarabia for six years, until Turkey had paid off their debts. All reserves of food and feed in the Moldau area and Bessarabia was used up by the military, a famine broke out, pestilence and cholera followed. A death penalty was administered to whoever left the village. This strict rule was necessary to prevent a spreading of the pests. Nobody from the German colonies had to fight in the earlier wars. The settlers had been exempt from the draft for "eternity", which ended all too soon - 70 years later. During the war of 1854-55, the Krim war, the German settlers already had to supply carts, horses and oxen and drivers. These people were called "Pogonzi". They had to provide the food and feed supplies to the armies. The following persons from Posttal were chosen: Heinrich Pfitzenmaier, Gottfried Bohnet, Jakob Sept, Jakob Elhard, Gottfried Sprenger, Konrad Schrbinske, Andreas Zeller, Georg Bross, Christian Mögck, Philipp Manz, Jakob Schlenker, Ad. Kalmbach and And. Naber. If you did not want to go as "Pogonetz" you could pay someone else to go for you. From the reports of the military it was noted that most of the Pogonzi

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Kalmbach.

This war also brought military occupation and many burdens for the villagers.

During this last war the colony was once robbed and nearly destroyed by revolutionary and drunken Russians. They broke into the cellars and stole wine and food supplies. The Posttal people were very upset and about to give in. A dangerous fight developed and was ended with the help of cossacks that had been called back from Paris. 25 Turks who had landed at Tulsa on the Black Sea were arrested near Posttal by Posttal people and Bulgarians from Tschumlekoi.

Craftsmen and their trades.

Home business: spinning and weaving. A negro who got to London is to have said: In London all work, people work, machines work, horses work, oxen work, only pigs don't work, they lie in the mud all day. The same could have been said of Posttal. Everyone works harder here, only I. Majaroslawetz and Teplitz can be compared with Posttal. Most people have a craft they do besides the farmwork, so that they really have two jobs at one time or if that's not possible, then they farm during the summertime and go back to the trading business in the winter. Many of the men build wagons. Since the founding of the village there have always been a lot of craftsmen, most of them being builders and designers of wagons, blacksmiths and harness makers. One can always hear the hammering and pounding of the craftsmen in summer- or wintertime. There

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is no market in southern Bessarabia that does not sell the handsome wagons manufactured by the Posttal craftsmen. Approximately 3,000 wagons per year are produced. And who does not know the shiny brass horse harnesses made by its Posttal craftsmen? The ambitious youth from near and far is being drawn to Posttal to learn the different trades. Here too, only two other colonies could compare with Posttal - I. Malojaroslawetz and Teplitz. It is also being noted that everything was made manually even though some things could have been produced by machines. One might have been afraid of overproduction. But this worry was needless since today wagons were even bought from Old Russia. The market was even more expanded, but output was not increased, therefore the high prices. A wagon was sold between 5000 - 10000 Lei.

Had 2000 a wagon in Russia - cost approx 5000 rubles and 5000 to 5500 rubles cost more than 60 rubles

*1000 rubles - 10000 Lei
not as much as a ruble - 10000 Lei
of a ruble*

There were 56 blacksmiths in the village, wagon builders - 83, carpenters-6, harness-makers-12, taylor-3, farmers-142, cobblers-4, coopers-4, butchers-4, shepherds-12. The number of blacksmiths has decreased considerably recently. Twenty years ago there were 80-90 blacksmiths. More men are starting to build wagons. People work harder here than in other places. Driving through other villages one can see people sitting on benches smoking pipes and talking with each other during the day-time. But one never sees people idle in Posttal. Old and young alike is busy in the fields or workshops. In the first few years all materials were made into clothes. Every house had a spinning-wheel and loom. In the long winter evenings

the spinning wheel hummed, grandmother told fairy tales and ghost stories, grandfather listened, observed and drank wine. Summer clothes were made from flax and hemp. The girls in those times did not wear silk blouses, shawls and shoes like today, instead they wore a traditional dress like the farmers in Germany. Since there are cloth factories in Tarutino now, the loom is not used anymore, but the spinning wheel still hums along, but only in a few homes and most young girls do not learn the trade anymore. Not like the good old times when even princesses learned how to spin, like the daughters of Charles the Great. Looms are still being found in the homes of Friedrich Sauter, Josef Ensslen, Daniel Scherer.

Church and school.

Most Germans from Bessarabia were not very steadfast in their belief when settling in their new colony, except for a few old people. Teacher Wilhelm Kludt records German colonists in Bessarabia. A general longing for a church service was present though. The first service was held in a farm house. An old farmer who could read conducted the service, which consisted of singing, praying and sermon. It happened that the teacher had to take the pipe out of the mouth of some people when attending the church service. Sunday afternoon was spent at the village pub with talking and dancing. The first prayer- and schoolhouse was opposite the water ditch. Next to it was a small house occupied by the custodian. When this prayer- and schoolhouse became too small a new one was built where the present one still is. The old prayer house was changed

to a pub and the Jew Isaak sold a lot of liquor there to many thirsty souls. Later the old prayer house slipped even lower and was made into a horsestable. "My Father's House shall be called a House of Prayer and you have made it a den of thieves", comes immediately to one's mind. The second prayer house was used until 1838. The church of today was erected that year. It is the oldest German church in Budschak. In 1875 it got an addition - the chancel and the choir that are still the same today. In the beginning it had only the little choir with the organ. The old Joh. Schaible had taken over the work of erecting the choir and completed it to the satisfaction of most. The erection of the church though caused a lot of fights and disagreements in choosing a location. The church guardian Fr. Hermann accused the Postal Mayor Anhorn of interfering with churchly matters and Pastor Helwig became angry. The Mayor was not to get involved in church affairs. Part of the community wanted the church to be built along the road between the farms of Jakob Bross and the widow Johannes Mogck. Pastor Helwig did not allow this. The work had to be stopped on the church building and a new one was begun, in the same place of the church of today. When the second prayer house became too small as school a new school was erected in 1867. The building was started in the spring and was completed by fall. That was quite an achievement at those times. The school is massive, high and large. In the beginning it had 2 classrooms, 2 rooms plus kitchen and wide corridor, as housing for the teacher. The schoolrooms held up to 300 kids and had one teacher plus helper. Today the building is divided into four rooms and has four teachers. There are 308 pupils. The

attendance is short and irregular even though school is obligatory. The people use their children at an early age for physical labor. At an age of 8 the children already are to work like adults and of course their growth is inhibited. One can notice it mostly with the candidates for confirmation - they are always getting shorter.

Even the church is not big enough anymore when all go, like on holidays. It was therefore agreed on at the St. Matthew's Day to start with a collection for a new building. But another fight broke out, not about the location this time but about the amount of money that the richest farmers were supposed to give. They refused and complained the most. A bad omen of this time. "Make friends with the unjust mammon so that it can take you to its eternal places", says the Lord.

The Cemetery.

West of the village, on the crest of the hill is the cemetery. It is surrounded by a deep ditch and a high dirt wall. Every grave has a head stone. Earlier one used simple stones that resembled a cross, with the words "Here rests in the Lord" and then the name of the dead one. Nowadays one uses more elaborate monuments. Every year the graves are planted with different garden flowers. On the head stones one has engraved bible verses or songs. The oldest head stones of the colony are already decayed or broken and hardly readable. The oldest cemetery is overgrown with grass that has to be cut every year and be made into hay. "Man is like grass in his life. He blossoms like a flower in the field, when the wind blows over, it disappears and nobody knows its place anymore."

In the middle the cemetery is overgrown with thick acacia bushes and trees and looks pretty wild. The cuckoo calls and the wild doves coo. The newer part is very nice and well-kept up. In 1923 the cemetery was enlarged and on the south side some land was closed in with an earth wall. Also the chapel was newly erected farther south in the same year. In 1890 the church yard was also enlarged.

The Bells.

Both bells of the church tower were bought in 1887. During the time when the teacher Oskar Hahn from Sarata was the sexton, 1894-1899, the small bell that did not give a pure tone anymore was exchanged for this small bell. It was bought in Odessa by the merchant Jelowikoff. There was no special ceremony for this bell. The following song depicts the job of the bells:

Bell you sound so happy when there is a wedding,

Bell you sound so pious on Sunday morning,

Bell you sound so comforting when in the evening you
announce prayer time.

Bell you sound so sad when you announce that life has ended.

Say, how can you mourn, how can you be happy?

You are only a lifeless metal.

But our sorrows, our joys you understand them all.

God has embedded something wonderful in you that we
don't understand. When the heart seems to be breaking
from the impact of the storm only you can help.

When the prayer bell sounded the old ones took their
pipes out of their mouths, removed their hats and prayed,

"Father thou art in heaven". Nowadays many do not know anymore why the bells are ringing at night. Today it is only called closing time not prayer time anymore.

The Organ.

It was bought in 1837 (name of company unknown). In its 87 years it has sung many songs to God's honour and for the growth of the Christian. During cold winters it often got hoarse, but seemed to perk up in warm summer days. It has 6 registers, no foot pedal and it is being operated by hand. It plays loud and noisy. Repair would help, but it is doubtful that it will be repaired.

Housing Conditions.

At the founding time small houses were erected, being called "Kronshouse", which can still be seen at farmer Georg Heier's, Johannes König's and Johannes Ensslen's farm. All the others have disappeared and made room for larger homes. The first houses were called Kronshouses (crown house) because the Russian government supplied the material. From the woods of Kischineff the colonists received wood, boards, doors, small windows and reed. One put four posts in the ground, put beams with rafters on top, covered the beams with thin poles and the rafters with reed and grass, filled in the holes with wickerwork, then coated the entire inside and outside with clay and the house was finished. But the building material often was not enough and many families had dirt huts, a square pit

covered with poles, reed, grass and dirt. It is not a question of being sanitary. It was only important that they protected themselves from the rain, sun, snow, cold and heat. Such a colonial house had a living room, kitchen and a small entrance area. The kitchen had a small window and so did the entrance room. When the colonists became richer and the families larger one started to build houses like the ones back in Germany. The homes of today are mostly hard stones, from the quarries nearby. It was the custom that neighbors would help each other without pay. There were brick layers and helpers, roof layers, etc.. When they wanted to build a house one helped in return. In this way one was able to build well and inexpensively. A house of today has four rooms, kitchen, entrance hall and is called a Whole-house, or it has two rooms, kitchen and entrance hall and it is called Half-house. In Posttal most of the houses have panelled floors, whereas in Wittenberg they are not panelled. The rooms are decorated with more or less modern furniture. Every house has a dresser, wardrobe, sofa, Vienna chairs, single beds, wooden or iron shutters on the windows and flowers on the window sills are everywhere. The old German canopy bed with curtains, the settee with its engraved name of the owner as well as his birthdate, is only found in a few houses as old furniture. It is not being manufactured anymore. The rooms have special names: one is the fore room or state room. It contains the good furniture: wardrobe, sofa, dresser, etc.. This is only the guest room, the rest of the time unused. The others are the chamber- the bedroom of the parents. In the other room the children sleep. The kitchen serves as dining-room. The house also has a summer kitchen built-on. One sits

here in the summertime so that the flies do not get into the house, but they do get into the summer kitchen. Next to the summer kitchen is a small living room, not covered with a hardwood floor, where the family spends most of the summer.

Then follow the workrooms: a barn for the wagon and machines, a horse stable, cow shed, sheep fold. The pig sty, a small hut of boards, is in the barn yard. Many houses have cellars and a "Baschka", a small house that serves as entrance to the cellar. The well is usually near the entrance to the barnyard. Until now most houses were covered with reed but nowadays one uses shingles. On top of the reed roofs one could normally see a stork nest. In the spring one could always hear the storks clattering. On the shingles the poor birds cannot build any nests and the number of storks that always announce springtime is steadily decreasing. What a pity! Today there are still nests on the following roofs: schoolhouse, Samuel Gäckle's, Selig's (Jew), Johann Heier's, Ferdinand Dittus' - five pairs of storks are left.

How beautiful the vers of the song writer:

Song of a countryman away from home.

When will I be able to see the linden-tree planted in the church yard, where in the cool evening wind the youths ^{is} dancing? When the church's tower ^{is} hidden by the trees of the orchards the storks are raising their young high up on the roof tops.

Dear homeland of my beloved will you have a place for me sooner or later to rest my body in?

Church Affairs.

Pastor, sexton, teacher and churchwarden.

The first pastor ministering in Posttal was Schnabel. He died in 1823, the year of the founding of Posttal. His follower was Pastor Wagner. Kludt says in his booklet about the colonies that he was a well-fed, fiery man, with a love for hunting. He did not care at all to arrive late for church on Sunday mornings still in his hunting attire to tell "some lies to his dumb farmers". He used his red cap to signal the start of dance music. He also told the brides that insisted to be married in the prayer house instead of the living room of the pastor that they were dumb and very lucky to even find someone to marry. Also it would make no difference to have the ceremony on the manure heap or in the church. His motive was: intelligence has to be victorious. He was fired in 1827 because of unchastity. One can imagine what the spiritual life of this village was like. The youths was confirmed without any basic knowledge of Christianity. The pastor was^{not} able to train such a large number of children and therefore it was left up to the teachers to teach the bible. Many of them were not very conscientious. At the examinations the questions were handed out to everyone beforehand and each pupil only had to know five answers at the public examination period.

After Wagner was fired the pastor from Glückstal, Pastor Penset, took over. From 1838-40 Pastor Hastig ministered. From 1840-1845 it was Pastor Hübner. He lived in the house of Georg Heier. He liked it here, claimed it was the only

place one could live like a human being. Kulm and Leipzig ordered Pastor Hübner to preach in Tarutino though and threatened to get out of the church organization. The fight caused the pastor to leave for another parish. W. Pingoud followed him, he was more a ruler than a soul comforter and not very popular. He was pastor from 1846-81. During vacation times pastors Ripke and Th. Neander, 1878, took over.

After Pingoud's death Pastor Schlarb was elected in 1883. He was a believing christian and joined the party groups. He often attacked the drunkards in his sermons and was hated by them. Once he was put out of office because of his partiality to one party, but because of insufficient evidence was put back into office by superintendent Pingoud from Petersburg and provost Fabin. Both would have liked to see him guilty. In 1910 Pastor Schlarb had to quit because of health reasons. He died in Bender shortly afterwards. He was burried in Marioffka, county of Bender.

Handwritten notes:
 Schlarb
 died in Bender
 1910

In 1910 the present Pastor Daniel Haase was elected who has been the main pastor of the evangelical lutheran state church.

Sexton.

Like it was mentioned before, the first sextons were not trained people but farmers or craftsmen who were able to read and write. Wilhelm Kludt, present teacher and sexton here describes the first teachers of the German colonies of Bessarabia as follows: There was no great concern about unmoral teachers. Kulm had a drunkard, afterwards an adulterer and incestuous person whom the community would have liked to keep because of his nice voice. Tarutino had a drunkard who eventually was

fired because of fornication, etc.. Like you can see the good old times had many dark sides too.

Not only the sextons, but also pastors and farmers had a drinking problem. This was a memorandum that Pastor Pingoud sent to his teachers in his district:

Tarutino, Sept. 2, 1848

Take to your heart psalm 78.

I have observed that sextons and teachers of my district like to visit wine cellars and pubs. Don't you see how impossible it is to combine the two? Should the visits to the wine cellars, the sin offerings be profitable to your respect with the parish? Don't you think you will not be tempted? Are you not supposed to be my representative? What do you think the people would say if they saw me sitting in one of these places? It would spread through the village like a fire! The saying remains true: Tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are. Think my letter over, do not take it as an accusation but as a guide and a soul searcher and you will agree with me. Now then even though I have the power to order you to stay away from these places I trust you will under no circumstance enter them again. I will keep^a sharp eye on everybody to keep my command or otherwise I will have to follow up accordingly.

I hope with all my heart you will take these words to your heart and change.

Pingoud.

Make a copy of this and return the letter to me.

There are similar letters in our archives of pastors addressed to the sextons and parishes. They show the conditions of church and school very clearly. But do not think that every teacher was of that sort - there were some very good and moral christian persons, that were concerned about their reputation. The following proofs this: To the school teachers in Borodino, Malojaroslawetz I and II, Klöstitz, Kulm, Beresino, Tarutino and Leipzig.

Beloved in Christ!

The closer the time comes when your parish will be divided with consent of His Royal Majesty, the more I am concerned about your well-being and that of the schools. I cannot go without having given you my good advice. I am proud to name Eckert, Kurtz, Kludt, Dino, Geigle and Winter for their good work and hope that they will be not only approved of by the pastor or church members but also by our Lord and Savior. I regret to say though that Schielke and Bomm did not do a sufficient job and for the school's sake would advise to replace both with more efficient and competent men. Doesn't the apostle say, "Don't be idle and lazy in whatever you do". And Jesus Christ who loves the children says in Matthew 18:6: "But whosoever shall offend one of these little ones who believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

Whosoever has ears let him hear.

Petersburg, 4. Oct., 1840

General Superintendent

This almost sounds like the Last Judgment. Even during the good old time not all was perfect. I would like to mention shortly all sextons and teachers who served during the first century since the founding of Posttal, as well as indicate their achievements. The first sexton was Reichert. He served from the beginning until 1832. Nobody of today can remember him. After Reichert Mr. Koch was chosen. From 1840-1870 Mr. Wilhelm Kludt was the beloved teacher. The old people of today still remember him. He was a christian, God-servant and drew many friends among students. Since he was the teacher for 30 years he influenced the community a lot with his view of life. He was a man of virtue. He wrote an extensive report: The German colonists in Bessarabia and their moral and religious condition until 1861. It would be nice to have this booklet in every house. The book was published by the son of Sam. Kludt. Kludt's body rests in our community cemetery. Wilhelm Kludt's brother Henry was the next teacher from 1870-72. He was fired by Pastor Pingoud for an unknown reason, even though the entire community stepped in for him. David Dino, 1871-79, took over. He had his training as sexton through Pastor Becker privately. He came to Posttal as a young fellow, married here, then went to Teplitz as sexton. He was not very talented. Josef Hobbacher followed him. Before that he had been a linen weaver and poet, like Hans Sachs in Germany. He was trained by Pastor Birnbach. His

education was incomplete. He wrote a whole book of poems which he had planned to have printed in Odessa before the war, but which got lost during the war and never were found again. He worked as reporter for the Dakota Free Press until his death. He died in Sarata, his home village.

Johann Keller from Sarata followed, a pupil of the Werner School. He had a good voice and started a large choir. He sang well and often. He associated a lot with his choir members and offended other members of the community. Keller went from here to Tarutino as sexton. He had served here from 1882-94. His successor was the teacher Oskar Hahn from Sarata. He too was a good musician and singer. He served from 1894-99 and then took over his father's position in Sarata. Anklam from Mannsburg followed him. But he only stayed for a short time, 1900, when Bernhard Weiss from Paris became sexton and teacher. He had been educated at the Russian teacher's academy at Bairamtscha and served from 1899-1906. He worked to improve the education of the colony. Semtswo from Akkerman agreed to open up a new Semstvoschool. Bernhard Weiss put a lot of effort into this, but the community just was not interested and all fell apart. But he did open a new library which had 134 books and was used a lot by the people. Unfortunately most of its volumes were carried off or ripped during the "Great War." Only a few books were rescued which also have become torn and useless now. From here B. Weiss went to Chersson where he and his son were shot by the communists during the revolution.

Before his death he taught German at the central school in Grosslibental. Christian Sept succeeded B. Weiss. He came from the Caucasus and served from 1906-1910.

Johann Geigle followed from 1910-15. He served in the war and someone else took over his job and stayed on. Johann Geigle is a teacher in Tarutino now. He often gave interesting talks at teacher conferences and is said to be one of the best teachers. From 1915-1918, during war-time, the old Joh. Tschritter taught. He presently lives here and gets a pension from the state for living expenses. From 1918-1920 Emmanuel Sauter was sexton and teacher. He died here and was burried here. Since 1921 Martin Weiss has been teacher and sexton here. He improved the library. He is also author of the village chronicle and this booklet.

; These were the first 100 years of our village. So far it was mostly talked about the sexton. In the beginning the job of sexton and teacher was held by one person. Teacher and sexton were elected by the people and confirmed by the pastor. In 1892 all German schools came under the authority of the education department. Teachers were installed by a supervisor. Often Russian teachers were used instead of Germans. There were 60 pupils per teacher, the salary was 360 rubel. As long as the schools were German schools there were always two people teaching - teacher or sexton and a helper. Often it happened that they had up to 200 pupils. An older pupil who could read well had to teach reading to others and teach the catechism

and report back to the teacher. He usually called the dumb forward and punished them. The common punishment was spanking. The pupil had to lie across a bench and was spanked on his hind end. The teacher who hit the hardest was known as the most strict and best. A teacher who did not spank very much was said to be too soft on the children. One scared the little ones at home with "Only wait until you have to go to school - then you will get a good' spanking." Nowadays kids are not afraid of the teachers anymore - they only spank seldomly. Today a teacher has smaller classes and teaches without helpers. Often the student helpers received roasted corn as a bribe from the pupils so they would not report back to the teacher. The lazy ones also had to kneel on peas or corn kernels and were hit on their hands with a ruler until they started to bleed. Another punishment was the cat-bench where the dumb had to sit and study.

Main subject at school was religion. Often they had two hours of religion - biblical history and catechism. A lot of bible verses and songs had to be memorized. There was a special book containing only bible verses that the pupils had to memorize. It was more important that they knew the verse than the meaning of it. German lessons consisted of reading and spelling. Sometimes one hour was spent studying bible history and the other half with spelling and writing. Reading books were not available. The bible served as reading material as well as grammar book. It was always an important step when a little kid graduated from his ABC-book to the bible. Every grade-

school child was eager to reach that stage as soon as possible since it was considered a disgrace to have to keep studying the ABC-book.

The teacher's aide often taught the small kids. They would sit around him and he would point to letters the children had to name, so loudly that one's ears would hurt. The first aides were farmers. I still remember the following aides: Jakob Ensslen, Karl Fode. The later aides were people who had attended central school. These were Keller, Michael Krause.

In 1892 the Dept. of Education took over the supervision of the schools and there were no more aides, only teachers. The format changed, reading books, grammar books, math- and geography books were introduced. Grade-school teachers with certificates started to teach. Certificates were given at the end of school to the pupils.

In 1905 the following students finished school with a certificate: Johann Fode, Christian Albrecht, Matthias Schulz, Johann Weiss, Christian Sauter, Martha Sauter.

1898. Heinrich Bross, Ferdinand Bross, Immanuel Schlenker.

1897. Johann Heier, Christian Kalmbach.

1895. Gottfried Irion, Adolf Bauer, Friedrich Irion.

1906. Em. Heier, Jakob Heier, Maria Krause.

1903. Em. Schaible, Emil Zimmermann, Heinrich Bohnet, Leopold Bross, Reinhold Heier, Samuel Ensslen.

1907. Johann Fode, Em. Schlenker, Gottlieb Weiss, Gustav Weiss, Emilie Bohnet, Anna Bohnet, Maria Kalmbach, Teresie Sauter.

1899. Georg Heier, Immanuel Sauter, Paul Flaig,
Friedrich Lohrer, Lukas Rubanski, Emilie Bohnet,
Berta Widmer.
1904. Andreas Gäckle, Emmanuel Kalmbach, Oskar Bohnet,
Christine Irion, Ida Bohnet, Pauline Kalmbach,
Christine Fode, Berta Jauch.
1902. Adolf Schefer, Johann Schaible, Johann Kalmbach,
Berta Müller, Anna Bohnet, Maria Schöttle.
1901. Daniel Flaig, Friedrich Irion, Johann Vetler,
Karoline Irion, Christine Weiss.
1921. Hilda Kalmbach, Alma Weiss, Helene Bohnet, Edmund
Tschritter, Martha Fode, Paul Fode, Olga Schulz.
1922. Hanna Fode, Matilde Fode, Berta Finkbeiner, Maria
Irion, Hilda Kalmbach, Johann Krause, Christine
Schlenker, Marta Schulz, Frieda Weiss, Leontine
Schöttle.

After a few ^{other} ~~years~~ pupils finished school obtaining
a diploma but their names got lost during the war.

Since 1892 the following teachers were employed:
Oskar Hahn, Petruchin, Wilhelm Rüb, Misol, David Dino,
Weissgerber, Tscherenkow, Jesse, Miron, Gawrilowitsch,
Ferdinand Wagner, Stenov, Im. Sauter.

School History.

In the early years, from 1823 to 1892 the school
was named German Evangelical Churchschool.

From 1892 - 1915 it was the German School of the
Department for Public Advancement.

From 1915 - 1917 it was closed by the Russian
government for no apparent reason.

From 1917 - 1918 the school was supported by the district Semstwo. The language of instruction was both German and Russian.

From 1918 to 1923 the language at school was German as well as Rumanian. There were four teachers, two of them being supported by the state and two by the village.

This spring the school was supposed to be taken over by the Rumanian government. The church wants to get back the authority over the school and is sending requests to Bukarest all the time.

Animal Pests.

In the early years animal pests caused great losses to the herds. Animal pests as well as the grasshopper plague were the greatest threat to the colony. A farmer could loose all his animals overnight and become a poor man. Animal pests have not reoccurred recently.

Accidents.

The wise preacher says in chapter 9, verse 12: "Man does not know his time, just like the fish are being caught and the birds trapped with a net, likewise man is being hit with tribulations." This is true for all men, all times, all places. From 1823-1923 the following accidents happened and impregnated the minds of relatives, bringing up the question again: "What is man?"

The following accidents were recorded in the death register of the colony:

1865 - Karolina Vossler crushed by a millstone

1866 - Jakob Vetter, 36 yr., suffocated in a landslide at the quarry.

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- 1866.- Jakob Kalmbach, fell off a wagon, 14 yrs.
1874 - Jakob Kroll, 46 yrs, fell off a hay wagon
1879 - Johann Bross, 13 yrs, fell off a wagon
1880 - Christian Bohnet, fell off the barn roof
1888 - Martin Sauter, 68 yrs, kicked by a horse
1897 - Johann Finkbeiner, Son of Joh. , 10 yrs, fell off
a tree.
1898 - Katharina Rauser, 16 yrs, suffocated in a sandpit
1902 - Erhard Mogck, 13 yrs, fell off a wagon
1908 - Katharina Wilke, maidenname Heller, 34 yrs, burned
1909 - Friedrich Schlenker, 66 yrs, accident
1909 - Christian Anhorn, 29 yrs, accident
1912 - Albert Wiese, son of Heinrich, 12 yrs, fell off wagon
1912 - Gottfried Fode, 42 yrs, suicide
1916 - Andreas Fode, fell off wagon, 52 yrs.
1885 - Andreas Lohrer, 43 yrs, suicide
1839 - Katharina Hofer, trampled by horses
1839 - Friedrich Weiss, son of Gottlieb, died of rabies
1844 - Adam Bross, died in the quarry
1845 - Andreas Bohnet, 45 yrs, drowned
1850 - Johann Dittus, 2 yrs 10 mos, drowned in a well
1851 - Jakob Esslinger, 15 yrs, died in the clay pit
1856 - Elisabeth Bohnet, 7½ yrs, suffocated in the barn
1861 - Christian Weiss, died in the quarry
1885 - child - Baumann, shot by Elhard
1865 - Jakob Kalmbach, fell off the wagon
? - Gottlieb Stadel, drowned in the swamp

The poet says:

"Death strikes quickly, he does not give a choice to man. He attacks in the middle of everything, takes him out of a busy life."

Whether you are ready or not you have to stand in front of the Judge.

Education.

Posttal always had a school. In the beginning school attendance was irregular. Kludt writes about this: Since there was no school law only a few children attended and mostly during the bad winter months. The children gathered in the living room of the teacher's house and often were instructed by the teacher's wife while she also busied herself at the spinning wheel or stove. The teacher spent hours at the inn drinking with his fellows and then went home and in a drunken condition taught reading and catechism. The poor children were to be pitied. Writing and math were not being taught. It went on like this for many years. When Mr. Kludt was hired things changed for the better. He was a very conscientious teacher, and brought new life to the school. His students not only learned how to read and write but also math and catechism. After his death the standard went down again, but since the time of teacher Oskar Hahn the education of the children is progressing again. Posttal had quite a number of pupils going on to middle school and was competitive with Sarata. The following persons finished Werner School and became teachers and writers in the German colonies of

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Bessarabia: Josef Ensslen, Georg Bohnet, Johannes Ensslen, Georg Bross, Samuel Kludt, Samuel Irion, Martin Weiss, Ferdinand Kroll, Johannes König, Christian Kalmbach, Em. Kalmbach, Leopold Bross, Em. Ensslen, Gottlob Ensslen. High school in Tarutino was finished by Herbert Weiss, Emil Tschritter, from the High School in Kischineff graduated Herbert Irion. To college went: Samuel Heier, Jakob Ensslen, Gottfried Ensslen.

There is no data of persons living outside of Postal. Unfortunately, lately not too many Postal children are attending middle school anymore, even though the money is available. The desire for material wealth is steadily increasing and idealism decreasing.

Law and order.

The colonial law and order rules remain the same. The community has its mayor, two committee members and a clerk. In the beginning everything was recorded in German, only very important documents were issued in Russian. All German colonies of the Budschak were divided into 3 areas: Malojaroslawetz, Klöstitz and Sarata.

Malojaroslawetz was called number I. district. The following villages belonged to the first district: 1. and 2. Malojaroslawetz, Kulm, Tarutino, Krasna, Katzbach, Fere-Champenosse 1 and 2, Teplitz, Dennewitz, Plotzk. Nobody knows how many souls our village had after the separation from Wittenberg. In 1859 there

were 929 people. The office consisted of 3 men elected by the community for two years. One was the mayor, the other two representatives and the clerk, as well as the district clerk. In matters concerning the colonies the mayor's office corresponded with the district office, the district office with the office in Odessa and this with the state department.

State and criminal affairs went from the area office via the inspector to the Akkerman District Court. The mayors were very strict in general. Often being some of the greatest wine consumers themselves, they were strict in dealing with other drunkards and were good in radiating an atmosphere of respect.

Chancellery.

From one of the first lord mayors it is being said that the horses stood outside the inn all day long waiting for the mayor to go home. The coachman never complained and when the mayor finally appeared the coachman had to greet him respectfully. Once the lord mayor was so drunk that he had to be carried out of the inn and taken home on a cart. His hat was hung up over a stake and everyone had to salute it since it was a crime not to. But the same mayors never hesitated a moment to arrest a drunkard and beat him. It has to be said though that law and order was being observed in all areas. The young honored the old, the children the teachers, the people the pastor.

The generation of today can learn a lot from them.
Trying to name all the lord mayors, committee members and
mayors in order:

Lord mayor of district office 1 (2. Malojaroslawetz):

Widmer	1823-1839	Georg Heier	1873-1876
Dölker	1839-1851	Haag	1874-1875
Heller	1851-1852	Gäckle	- -1865
Krause	Taru- fino 1852-1856	Gottfried Ensslen	1882-1889
Hammel	Taru- fino 1856-1862	Friedr. Bross	
Andreas Weiss	1862-1870	Georg Widmer	
Kämmler Teplitz	1870-1873	Johann Manz	1899
Johannes Necker		Gottlieb Dittus	
Christoph Widmer		Georg Heier	
Christian Heier			

If some of the lord mayors have been drunkards it would be unfair to say that all fall in that category. That is not the case. The majority were efficient, men that brought honor to their office. They encouraged the people to lead a good, honest, busy life, kept law and order and fought dipsomania. They were strict with the lawbreakers. Every document had to carry the signature of the lord mayor and two committee members. From the beginning until 1872 the official language was German, but from then on it changed to Russian. Since 1872 only clerks were employed that had the knowledge of the two languages.

Office or district clerks were the following persons:
In 1823 Georg Rudolf Ey , him followed Reich. From 1839 it was a man named Baumann from Lichtental. He died here in 1845. Levi succeeded him from 1845-1851. Raugust was the

next in line. Him followed Ferd. Laeger until 1875, then Wilhelm Bechtle until 1884. Heinrich Bohnet from 1884-1911. The last district clerk was Nathanael Tschritter. In 1918 the district office was dissolved. Every lord mayor had two assessors.

Assessors were the following:

With Lord Mayor Widmer from 1823: Mich. Maier, Joh. Anhorn 1825. Kalmbach 1833, Heller 1834-37. Dölker 1837. Widmer 1839. With Lord Mayor Dölker assessor Lehr 1847-51. With Lord Mayor Krause, Assessor Kroll, Hammel 1854. Maier, 1855 Manske Mogck. Assessor Mogck, Krüger. 1859.

Lord Mayor Gackle 1865, Assessors Ensslen, Gross.

With Lord Mayor Weiss - Haag, Widmer 1876. With Lord Mayor Haag: Hammel, Weiss 1861, Gackle 1862. With Lord Mayor Kammler - Haag, Widmer. With Lord Mayor Gackle - Assessors Ensslen and Bross, 1865. Lord Mayor Weiss - Gackle, Kammler. With Lord Mayor Dölker: Assessors Lehr, Kroll, Bottcher. Lord Mayor Heier 1877. Daniel G. Ensslen 1882-89. Friedrich Bross, Johann Manz, Georg Widmer, Johann Necker, Christoph Widmer, Christian Heier 1915, Gottlieb Dittus 1917. Georg Heier 1918.

Village Mayors.

Every mayor had an assistant. List of all mayors and assistants of the colony Posttal between 1823-1923. The first mayor was Gottfried Fode, son of Gottlieb Fode 1823. Him followed: Konrad Heller 1824-29. Assistants Mich. Maier, Johannes Anhorn, Clerk Rauschenberger, Assistant

Dölker, Joh. Anhorn.

Mayor Dölker 1829-35. Assistant Jakob Bausch, Kramer. From 1836-38 Mayor Anhorn. Assistant Josef Anhorn, Johannes Finkbeiner. During their term the church of today was built, 1836.

Mayor Manz 1847. Mayor Finkbeiner 1851. Assistant Kroll, Bart, Speck. Mayor Haag 1858-65. Assistant Krause, Ensslen. Assistant Bross 1864. Mayor Widmer 1868. Assistant L. Flaig, Finkbeiner.

Mayor Finbeiner 1850, Ass. Vossler, Kroll

| Mayor Kroll 1852, Ass. Speck, Dittus

Mayor Speck 1854, Ass. Weiss, Fode

Mayor Ensslen 1856, Ass. Haag, Flaig

Mayor Haag 1858, Ass. Ensslen, Sept

Mayor Ensslen, 1851, Ass. Haag, Jauch

| Mayor Bross 1870, Ass. Schlenker, Gückle

Mayor Ensslen 1845, Ass. Manz, Bohnet

Mayor Bross 1874

Mayor Esslinger 1873-76

Mayor Zeller 1876-1878

Mayor Joh. Schlenker 1884

Mayor Esslinger 1889

Mayor Andreas Bohnet 1844

Mayor Mogck 1899

Mayor Bross 1889

Mayor Ensslen 1875

Mayor Friedrich Heier 1878-80

Mayor Martin Bross 1871

Mayor Johann Schlenker 1884

Mayor Martin Bross 1882

Mayor Karl Fode

Mayor Christian Lehr

Mayor Gottf. Mogck

Mayor Christian Kalmbach

Mayor Karl Fode

adh / Mayor Johann Gäckle 1907-1911 - *for assistant*

Mayor Chr. Heier 1911-1913

Mayor Gottlieb Dittus

Mayor Johann Weiss 1914-1916

Mayor Konrad Anhorn 1917

President Johann Heier 1917-1921

President Michael Sackmann 1921

President Johann Hofer 1922

President Konrad Anhorn 1923

Since 1872 there are no more assistants. Also the title mayor changed to Primar (president) in 1918. He is the chairman of the community council which consists of nine men.

The following men are members of this group: Georg Heier, Georg Zeller, Adam Bohnet, Georg Bauer, Johann Weiss, Konrad Anhorn, Johann Ensslen, Johann Hofer.

The list of the village clerks starting with the most recent: B. Renz, N. Mjachtschenko (Russian) 1 year, Karl Schaup - 14 yrs., Gotthilf Tschritter died here, Adolf Unterseher, Wilhelm Kaul 1895., Johannes Heier, Georg Bohnet was clerk for many years, 1851. Raugust, Läger, Matthias Rauschenberger. Nobody

remembers the names of the older ones and their names cannot be found in the archives.

Today's village buildings.

Constructed were:

church in 1837, term of Mayor Anhorn

school in 1867, term of Mayor Widmer

The Wolost-Building in 1863 term of Mayor Haag and Lord Mayor Weiss. Cost: 2 000 rubel of silver

grain silo 1841 (14.5m X 6.5m). The same was enlarged by 8m in 1864-66 with a cost of 493 rubel, 40½ Kop. silver., during the term of Mayors Schulz and Lord Mayor Weiss.

teacher house in 1911

Co-op in 1902

chancellery in?

The large bridge in 1908

The Kalarasch House was bought by the eleven villages of the area for 200 rubel silver from Georg Sept in 1865.

The district office kept at the commerce bank in Odessa a mortgage loan of 6321 rubel, 23 Kop. silver. The interest of 2 000 silver rubel was used to build the Wolost building.

In the beginning eleven villages belonged to the Wolost office I. During the years some villages dropped out and formed new offices. At last there were only three villages, 1. and 2. Malojaroslawetz and Katzbach in the office of 2. Malojaroslawetz.

Emigration from Old-Posttal.

In the beginning of the seventies of the past century it became more and more apparent that the colonists would have

remembers the names of the older ones and their names cannot be found in the archives.

Today's village buildings.

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Emigration from Old-Posttal.

In the beginning of the seventies of the past century it became more and more apparent that the colonists would have

to serve in the military. Exemption for eternity from the draft had been promised to the early settlers, but everything pointed to its end. The colonists also received a good picture of what it was to be a Russian soldier. They would rather own nothing, than be a soldier. They sang in a song about the military:

"Golden stripes, nothing to eat, lice on your head, like an old man."

Across the ocean waited the land of the golden opportunities. There it was where the eyes and steps turned of the Postal people. Later in 1904 land became scarce and expensive and was another reason for leaving. Most emigrants were happy with America and asked their relatives to follow their example. I am enclosing a list of all the emigrants between 1823-1923. Some of the dates are incorrect: see pages 46,47,48 and 49.

give list here.

Reading Material.

Everybody reads a lot. There were many newspapers available. The Bible, songbook of hymns, and catechism were read the most. That is good, may it be like this forever.

Clubs.

In 1913 an educational club was founded but closed again after four years.

Brass music club.

In 1866 some music lovers founded a brass music group under the direction of teacher O. Hahn, consisting of 12

Those who emigrated to America:

Christian Bossler.....	1894	Gotth. Fr. Kludt.....	1858
Johannes Widmer.....	1897	Gottlieb Anhorn.....	1877
Andrew Widmer.....	1897	Ad. Brosz.....	1873
George Widmer.....	1897	Michael Anhorn.....	1894
Gottlieb Ziffle.....	1904	Fr. Brosz.....	1890
Johannes Ziffle.....	1902	David Brosz.....	1890
Jacob Bohnet.....		-Jacob Dittus.....	1890
Johann Brosz.....		-Johann Dittus.....	1884
Gottlieb Brosz.....		Christian Elhard.....	1894
Johann Brosz.....		Jacob Elhard.....	1894
Emanuel Brosz.....		Andrew Elhard.....	1894
Christian Brosz.....	1905	Gottfried Elhard.....	1894
Matthias Ehmann.....		Philipp Elhardt.....	1897
Daniel Ehmann.....		Gottlieb Elhard.....	1894
Wilhelm Brosz.....		Johann Elhard.....	1898
David Elhard.....		Johann Elhard.....	1896
Johann Ensslen.....		Heinrich Pinkbeiner.....	
Johann Flaig.....	1902	Karl Fr. Fode.....	1894
Gottfried Fode.....	1897	Joh. George Fode.....	1897
Gottlieb Gackle.....	1898	Jacob Fode.....	1897
Johann Haag.....	1898	Gottfried Fode.....	1894
Johann Heier.....	1905	-Gottfried Gackle.....	1897
Jacob Heller.....	1905	Samuel Heller.....	
Widow, Bart. Heller...	1898	Fr. Heller.....	
Andreas Heller.....	1897	Christian Hermann.....	1894
Jacob Heller.....	1898	Jacob Irion.....	1897
Martin Irion.....	1905	George König.....	1893
Samuel Kalmbach.....		Fr. König.....	1895
Andrew Kalmbach.....	1905	Conrad Sept.....	1894
Jacob König.....	1901	Christian Sept.....	1894
Heinrich König.....	1901	Jacob Sept.....	1894
Wais. Gottfried Krause.	1897	Heinrich Schlenker.....	1896
Heinrich Ost.....	1897	Jacob Schlenker.....	1910
Johann Sept.....	1898	Im. Anhorn.....	1910
Daniel Schlenker.....	1891	Gottlieb Anhorn.....	1910
Fr. Schlenker.....	1897	Heinrich Anhorn.....	1908
Jacob Schlenker.....	1898	Maria Anhorn.....	1908
Emanuel Schlenker.....	1905	Im. Anhorn.....	1894
Heinrich Schlenker.....	1905	Barbara Mogck.....	1908
Andrew Weiss.....	1898	Im. Anhorn.....	1910
George Seitz.....	1878	George Baumann.....	1908
Christian Weiss.....	1862	Gottlieb Bohnet.....	1908
Gottlieb Weiss.....	1862	Gottlieb Brosz.....	1908
Christian Mogck.....	1879	Johann Brosz.....	1911
Adam Brosz.....	1878	George Elhard.....	1908
Fr. Weiss.....	1878	Adolf Elhard.....	1908
Michael Maier.....	1876	David Elhard.....	1910
Ad. Kludt.....	1879	Christine Elhard.....	1893
Jacob Brosz.....	1880	Christian Elhard.....	1908
George Elhard.....	1908	Christian Lehr.....	1898
Jacob Ehmann.....	1910	Wilhelm Lehr.....	1910
Daniel Ehmann.....	1904	Reinhold Lehr.....	1911
Rudolf Ensslen.....		Ed. Lehr.....	1908

Page 65 is missing

Those that moved to Belzi:

Matthais Ehmann.....1896

Those that moved to New-Elft:

Heinrich Mogk.....1899

Ferd. Mogek.....1899

Those that moved to Dennewitz:

Jacob Scherer.....1875

Ferd. Bohnet.....

Those that moved to Matildendorf:

—Christian Gackle.....1859

Friedrich Brosz.....1859

Those that moved to Lichtental:

Gottfried Schäfer.....1852

Those that moved to Benkendorf:

Erhard Mogk.....

Those that moved to Hoffnungsfeld:

Johann Krämer.....

Konrad Heller.....

Those that moved to Kaukasus:

August Krause.....1899

Johann Walter.....1879

Fr. Biesz.....1879

Fr. Müller.....1875

Gottlieb Anhorn..... ?

Jacob Weisz.....1882

Jacob Anhorn..... ?

Joh. Scherbinske.....

Those that moved to Odessa:

Samuel Kludt.....1850

Christine Kludt.....1849

Those that moved to Töplitz:

August Kludt.....1834

Those that moved to Gütersloh, Germany:

Louise Kludt.....1858

Eva Rosina Frankfurt....1858

Those that moved to Katzbach:

Johann Weisz.....1840

Paul Schlenker.....1880

Mich. Weisz.....1840

Those that moved but we don't know where:

Rosina König geb. Weisz..

Gottl. Gackle.....

Norwer geb. Bublitz.....1838

Daniel Haag.....

George Ehmann.....1863

Heinrich Müller.....

-Andrew Gackle.....

Those that moved to Manusburg:

Joseph Ensslen.....

Those that moved to New-Posttal:

Jacob Elhard.....

Those that moved to Sarazika:

Heinrich König.....

Those that moved to Old-Rumania:

Joseph Anhorn.....1889 Gottfried Pöde.....
 Adam Bohnet.....1892 *W* - Karl Gackle.....

ack

Those that moved to Strassburg near Akkerman:

Christian Mogck.....

Those that moved to Eigenfeld:

Bernhard Bohnet, Konrad Biesz, Jacob Biesz, Friedrich Weisz,
Gottfried Kalmbach.

Those that moved to Friedensfeld:

Gottfried Ensslen.....1887 Jacob Ensslen.....1887

Those that moved to Gnadenfeld:

Bernhard Biesz.....

Those that moved to Fürstenfeld:

David Baumann, David Kalmbach, Adolf Krause, Joh. Hofer,

Those that moved to New-Dennowitz:

Maria Weisz, Widow.

Those that moved to Andreefka:

Martin Brosz.....1892 Jacob Flaig.....1892
 Jacob Ensslen.....1892

Those that moved to Sofiefka:

Jacob Finkbeiner..... Fr. Finkbeiner.....

Those that moved to Mintachiuna:

Gottfried Scherer..... Fr. König.....

Those that moved to New-Sarata:

Gottfried Schlenker.....1892 Johann Schwab.....1892

Those that moved to Katharinoffka:

Johann Zeller, Wilhelm Brosz, Jacob Esslinger, Jacob Finkbeiner, Christian Heier, Joh. Kalmbach, Matth. Kalmbach, Christian Mogck, Joh. Schulz.

Those that moved to Burlaki:

Daniel Bohnet.

Those that moved to Kalatschoffka:

Heinrich Bohnet, Oscar Bohnet, Jacob Finkbeiner, Wilhelm Fode, Daniel Irion, Em. Kalmbach, Jacob Mogck, Johann Ost, Gottfried Sauter, Gottlieb Wölflle.

Those that moved to Alexandroffka:

Daniel Bohnet.

Those that moved to Helenental:

George Bohnet.

Those that moved to Marienfeld:

Leopold Brosz.

Those that moved to Wischnioffka:

- Daniel Brosz, Gottfried Ensslen 1905, Joh. Gackle 1906, Em. Heier 1906, Joh. Jauch 1906, Fr. Lehr, Gottlieb Manz 1905, Johann Manz 1905, Gottfried Manz 1906, Ferd. Heller, Gottfried Jauch, Daniel Brosz.

Of all the families that moved to the new dörf there were 122 families. Total that with the 137 that moved to America and you have 259 families leaving Alt-Posttal. If they had all stayed in Alt-Posttal it would indeed be x crowded and probably couldn't support all of them.

Reading Material

Everyone here reads a lot. Newspapers such as the following are read: The German Bessarabian 50, Er. Dakota Freie Presse about 40, Er. Lichter der Heimat 45, the Evangelist from Siebenbürgen 55, Er., the Staatsanzeiger from Dakota 3 Er., German Tagespost 1 Er., Earlier publications that were read are: The Odessa Newspaper, the Volksbote, Friedensbote, Petersburger Sonntagsblatt, Stuttgarter Sonntagsblatt, Berlin Sonntagsblatt, etc. Devotionals are: Hiller's Schatzkästlein, Goszners, Bogaszki, Habermann's Prayerbook, Stark's prayerbook, Sermon books are found in almost every home: Em. Brastberger, Ludwig Hofacker, Wilhelm Hofacker, Seeger and others. Earlier they used the Odessa Calendar, Krökerscher Calendar, Friedensbotes Calendar, Landwirt Calendar, and others. Today we find the German Volkskalendar for Bessarabians, the Bible, Songbook and Catechism are read mostly by our people. That is good, may it be like this forever.

Clubs In 1913 an educational club was founded but closed again shortly.

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Daniel Bohnet.

Those that moved to Kalatschoffka:

Heinrich Bohnet, Oscar Bohnet, Jacob Finkbeiner, Wilhelm Fode, Daniel Irion, Em. Kalmbach, Jacob Mogck, Johann Ost, Gottfried Sauter, Gottlieb Wölflle.

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Clubs In 1913 an educational club was founded but closed again shortly.

Brass Music Club

-59-

In 1866 some music lovers founded a brass music group under the direction of teacher O. Hahn, consisting of 12 members. After two years it too folded, the instruments were sold or taken away.

Health care.

There were never any doctors, mid-wives, hospital, pharmacies, post-office or telegraph stations. Everyone helped themselves. In 1840 a Mr. König started to help the sick. The old Friedrich Bross and today his son of the same name set broken legs. Everyone from near or far comes to Friedrich Bross with their broken limbs. Also the Bulgarians go to him. In North America and Canada his name is also known since he lived there for 25 years. In 1923 Posttal employed a Russian woman holding a medic diploma.

Orphan fund.

There were eleven colonies sharing in the orphan fund of the district office I., but today there are only four villages left. The office is in the Wolost Building. This fund has helped many.

Funeral insurance.

In 1900 an insurance group was formed having 151 members. It folded up again at the beginning of WWI. It has not been completely dissolved yet, but there is little chance of it opening up again.

Fire insurance.

Four villages - Posttal, Wittenberg, Katzbach and Krasna

are members. It has brought many benefits, but unfortunately seems to be breaking up too, since Krassna and Katzbach want to get out. Many of the good institutions are being lost. A proverb comes to mind: "What you inherit from your fathers - work for it to keep it." It would be nice if that would be the case.

Credit Union.

Posttal had one of them too. It was founded in 1913, had many members. After the war it became useless and was dissolved. It was sold for a real cheap price. One recognized the mistake but it was too late.

Names of the church elders.

Georg Zeller, Friedrich Widmer, Johann Schlenker, before that Friedrich Kalmbach, Andreas Fode, Johann Ensslen, Johann Fode, Gottlieb Dittus, Christian Heier, Ad. Bohnet, Johann Krause, Johann Flaig, Konrad Lohrer, Johann Manz, Konrad Bross, Christian Lehr, Jakob Ensslen, Johann Flaig, Christian Esslinger, Johannes Kalmbach, and even before that Konrad Wölfle, Daniel Maier. Nobody remembers the others.

Floods.

Since Posttal is situated in a narrow valley it floods easily in heavy rains. There were a few floods, some causing damage. The biggest damage was in 1908 where much of house and home was lost. All that lived through it remember it very well. This is an account of a hail storm as recorded in the German

paper of Bessarabia:

A terrible accident.

Old-Posttal, 18. Aug., 1921. After a long drought and heat wave a heavy thunder- and hailstorm touched down over our area. The morning sky had been blue and cloudless, and nobody anticipated a storm. At 10o'clock small clouds came up in the southwest and it looked like we would get a few drops of rain. It started to rain at eleven. The first drops were unusually large and some hailstones mixed with the rain came down too. Then it started to hail like the world was coming to an end. It poured like buckets and the hail stones got larger. Windows clattered, animals whimpered, beams groaned and it sounded like canon fire. The entire valley formed a wild, raging river. All bridges collapsed, stone walls broke apart, geese, ducks, calves, chicken, pumpkins, fences, carts, outhouses, beams, wagons, beds, pig-sties with pigs, everything went downstream. The hailstorm lasted for 30 min. and the kernels reached the size of a walnut, sometimes bigger. It would be easy to forget all this, but the wine fields that had promised one of the best harvests ever, are totally ruined. Many had hoped to earn a fortune from the wine and now this. The entire area looked like a battle field and the gardens are bare and desolate. For two days already things are being recovered from 10 to 20 km away. The damage is said to be 1½ millions. It is true what Schiller (poet) said, "You cannot make a treaty with heavenly powers. Accidents happen quickly."

If the committee would like some work, they should consider setting up an insurance against hailstorms.

M. Weiss.

Even though I have emphasized the bad sides of the old generation I have to point out their honesty. A promise was never broken, the word was honored. The generation of today should follow that example. Many checks bounce today and even the signature is not binding for some people. Some are able to pay off their debts, but do not want to and their promises are not being held. Take your fathers honesty as an example! The German word had a very good reputation with the neighboring countries. But that has changed some. So let's get back to the German honesty, loyalty and reliability.

Miscellaneous.

In the beginning Posttal only had two rows of houses. Then another row was built in the middle - the "residential row". Now the village has three rows of houses everywhere. Besides the residential houses there were also the little houses (cabins). But none of those exist anymore. In earlier times the messenger always called out: Every restaurant owner, resident and cabin dweller come to the chancellery. Whosoever does not come will be punished, which is mostly a lie. Come, whosoever wants to and nobody will be punished.

The streets received the following names in 1923:

Forest-street - leads to the woods. Main Street - school house, town hall, Wolost Bldg. are located on this street. Church Street where the old church is located. Kulm Street - which leads to the colony of Kulm.

During the eighties Posttal people started to emigrate to Turkey. The village poet Andreas Zeller was asked by his brother to go too. This is Zeller's answer to his brother:

1. Get up, my dear brother, you can be free. Take the rod and make yourself free in Turkey.
2. It is a golden area, none is better, in the mountains you find gems.
3. Gold is so plentiful - nobody values it. One paves the walks to the bars with it.
4. Bratwurst as long and thick as poles are hanging in thousands in front of every house.
5. Bratwurst and hams are at home there. You only have to signal the servant and he will choose the best for you.
6. Pumpkins are so big that some breaking off the vines have destroyed houses and parts of villages.

Even though Turkey was described in such an enticing manner Zeller thought it too far from the village inn. He stayed on, guarded the pigs and wrote poetry.

"Pigs in, pigs out
 I drive them out of the village, people laugh.
 I drive them into the deep valley. How big you are!
 Into the thistles they march - eating and I can sit -
 what a pleasant occupation."

? In 1915 on 14. Dec. our prairie was sold at an auction by the Bessarabian governor according to the Czar's liquidation law of 2. Feb. 1923. The farmers' bank bid for the prairie. Through the decree passed by His Majesty King Ferdinand I of Rumania we got back our ownership rights. For the law suit we payed 20 Lei from the Dessjatine to the people's council and the advocates L. Dausch and Neguesku.

New buildings.

After the war, from 1919-1923 new houses were built by:

Adam Kalmbach, Christian Fode, G. Sauter, Albert Krause,
 Johann Weiss, Johann Fode, Johannes König, Ludwig Heine, Georg
 Zeller, Daniel Scherer, Adam Weiss, Heinrich Haag, Gottfr. Dittus,
 Joh. Flaig, Sam. Sept, Konrad Anhorn, Otto Bauer, Eduard Flaig,
 Gottl. Anhorn, Daniel Heller, David Hehr, Im. Schlenker,
 Andreas Finkbeiner, Johann Bross, Adam Kalmbach, Adam Bohnet,
 Gottfr. Finkbeiner, Ed. Gäckle, Gottlob Mogck, Gottfried
 Schaible, Johann Schlenker, Em. Richter, Johann Scherer, Matth.
 Fode, Jakob Schlenker, Theodor Gäckle.

Village council of Posttal:

consisting of the following: Adam Bohnet, president; Nathanael
 Tschritter, secretary; Martin Weiss, treasury; members: Georg
 Zeller, Ludwig Heine, Andreas Finkbeiner, Samuel Heller, Georg
 Heier, Georg Bauer, David Schulz, Friedrich Widmer, Em. Fode,
 Konrad Lohrer, Driedrich Bross, Johann Hofer.

Church Council:

To it belonged: Georg Zeller, Friedrich Widmer, Johann Schlenker,
 sexton Martin Weiss.

Administration of the Co-op store.

Johann Hofer, president. Johann Ensslen, cashier. David
 Kalmbach, member. Johann Schlenker, Im. Fode, Friedrich Kalm-
 bach. Auditors: Adam Bohnet, Martin Weiss, Georg Zeller, Nat.
 Tschritter.

School committee.

Johann Wittke, president. Ferdinand Bross, cashier, Martin
 Weiss, secretary. Konrad Lohrer, economist; Konrad Anhorn,
 membership.

Customs.

It was the custom for the fiance to give his fiancée five rubel. If she changed her mind she had to double the amount and return it to him. This unpleasant custom is not in use anymore. Engagement rings are not used yet.

Sects were not present in Posttal. Everyone joined the local church and had the same God. That's right so. Whoever does not admit his belief is worse than a heathen.

Church construction.

On 24. Feb, 1923 it was decided at the local assembly to start a collection for a new church building. No papers were signed and at the next meeting the decision was dropped again because of disagreement.

Outstanding people.

The first president of the German people's council for Bessarabia is from Posttal - Christian Kalmbach, son of Christian. He was born in Posttal in 1884, attended Werner School in Sarata and was taken to Germany in 1915 as prisoner.

The vice president of the same council is Samuel Heier, a lawyer from Posttal. There are four men's clubs in Posttal today, which meet this year (1923) at the homes of Friedrich Irion, Jr., David Schulz, David Kalmbach and Friedrich Lehr. There are about 250 club members.

Michael Sackmann witnessed the coronation of the King Ferdinand and Queen Maria of Great Rumania at Bukarest.

Konrad Anhorn had the village chancellery, teacher house

church and school repaired. We have to express our gratitude to him.

Gifts.

When Lord Mayor Gottfried Ensslen sold his estate in Posttal and moved to Negrowo he gave the church a new altar ceiling which is still adorning the church today. This act is to be praised and desirable to be copied by every emigrant.

Gifts of the Old Posttal people in America. At the Centennial celebration the following Old-Posttal people of America sent gifts to the poor. They had been asked to give by the editor of the Dakota Free Press Mr. Richard Sallet. A special thank you to the honorable Mr. Sallet and the donors in the name of all the Posttal Poor.

First Names.

Names that are obsolete now, but were used often:
Sara, Agathe, Henriette, Barbara, Margaretha, Karoline, Susannę, Phillip, Regina, Tobias, Bartholomäus, Johann-Georg (Hansjörg), Anna-Maria (Annei), Eva, Baltasar, Konrad, Michael, Martin, Magdalene (Magdalena), Peter, Justine, Louise (Lise), Samuel, Rosine, Friderike, Amalia, Ernst, Sibilla, Veronika, Sebaldus, Wilhelmine, Kasper.

The spring.

A pleasant surprise to every hiker is a spring coming up somewhere out of the ground and especially in this dry, waterless prairie of Bessarabia. Such a spring is in the field near

Old-Posttal. In the first valley, west of the village, near the wine fields is the spring. Many years ago a nature lover set up a wooden soldier's head with an iron tube protruding out of his mouth through which the water flows. On Sundays the youth gathered here. It was a picturesque place. Unfortunately, the soldier figure was destroyed. Once more it was repaired, but soon broken again and today it has lost its attraction altogether. What a pity. A hiker might think: "The water quenches my thirst on a hot humid day. What you have inherited from your fathers, work for it to preserve it."

The White Stone.

Walking westwards on the road toward Wittenberg you notice an upright large white stone of about 2 m in height. Everyone knows it as the "White Stone". It looks like a monument. How did it get there and what is its meaning? It is being told that Johann Ehmann once got lost in the winter during a blizzard and almost lost his life. At this place, where the white stone stands today, he found his way again and expressed his thankfulness to God for saving his life by erecting the white stone in that place. It has been there for fifty years now and reminds of the prophet Samuel who once set up a similar stone with the inscription: "Thus far the Lord has brought me". When the old Ehmann was still alive he painted the stone and repaired it periodically, but nobody cares for it anymore today. It is falling apart slowly. The entire village recognizes it and also the neighboring villages know the stone. It is a witness from the past and should be preserved. How many Old-Posttal

people might have thought of the song words: "At the mossy stone, in the tree covered valley I greet you for the last time - dear fatherland. Good-bye." Old-Posttal should preserve it.

Fires.

On 6. Oct. a fire broke out at the steam-powered mill. The owners, brothers Jaroslowski, had gathered a lot of straw for the winter. Three very large silos were near the mill. Two burned down. There was a strong south wind. The fire could have spread to the village very easily, which would have turned our centennial celebration into a tragedy. At two p.m. the fire started and the wind slowed down at the same time. The entire village was there helping. Because everyone helped it was possible to extinguish the flames, but it took all afternoon and half the night. The damage was excessive.

The Centennial Celebration. 1923

It was held Oct. 7. The following pastors had been invited: Head Pastor Daniel Haase, Tarutino, Pastor Wolleydt, Klöstitz, Pastor Simson, Old-Elft, Rudolf Meier, Arzis, Winger, Sarata, Koch - Albota, Skriba - New-Sarata, candidate Harter, Tarutino, the ev. luth. consistory, the board members of the People's Council.

The choir sang several songs. These are the choir members: Soprano: Adele Weiss, Alma Weiss, Olga Schulz, Hulda Schulz, Hulda Heier, Martha Schlenker, Lena Schlenker, Hilda Krause, Elsa Gäckle, Ida Fode, Gertha Esslinger, Lidia Bross, Ida Ensslen.

people might have thought of the song words: "At the mossy stone, in the tree covered valley I greet you for the last time - dear fatherland. Good-bye." Old-Posttal should preserve it.

Fires.

On 6. Oct. a fire broke out at the steam-powered mill. The owners, brothers Jaroslowski, had gathered a lot of straw for the winter. Three very large silos were near the mill. Two burned down. There was a strong south wind. The fire could have spread to the village very easily, which would have turned our centennial celebration into a tragedy. At two p.m. the fire started and the wind slowed down at the same time. The entire village was there helping. Because everyone helped it was possible to extinguish the flames, but it took all afternoon and half the night. The damage was excessive.

The Centennial Celebration. 1923

It was held Oct. 7. The following pastors had been invited: Head Pastor Daniel Haase, Tarutino, Pastor Wolleydt, Klöstitz, Pastor Simson, Old-Elft, Rudolf Meier, Arzis, Winger, Sarata, Koch - Albota, Skriba - New-Sarata, candidate Harter, Tarutino, the ev. luth. consistory, the board members of the People's Council.

The choir sang several songs. These are the choir members: Soprano: Adele Weiss, Alma Weiss, Olga Schulz, Hulda Schulz, Hulda Heier, Martha Schlenker, Lena Schlenker, Hilda Krause, Elsa Gäckle, Ida Fode, Gertha Esslinger, Lidia Bross, Ida Ensslen.

Alto: Martha Mogk, Maria Gäckle, Martha Wiese, Hulda Gäckle, Elsa Flaig, Ottilie Schlenker. Base: Oskar Weiss, Otto Irion, Daniel Bross, Flaig. Tenor: Eduard Schlenker, Gustav Schulz, Wilhelm Heller, Jakob Fode - Lehr.

The 100-year celebration of Old-Posttal in newspapers.

German paper of Bessarabia.

On 7. Oct., as well as on Thanksgiving Day, the colony of Old-Posttal marked its hundredth birthday. At dawn the bell rang hundred times, then all three bells joined in three times, as if one wanted to bury the passing century. When the bells stopped the choir sang: "Closer to you, my God," with its melody ringing through the fresh morning air. All day long from everywhere visitors arrived. At ten o'clock a church service was conducted in front of the church, since the church couldn't hold all the guests. The message was given by Pastor Haase. His text was centered on Samuel erecting a stone with the words - Eben-Ezer, meaning "thus far the Lord has brought me". He described the development of the colony from its early days which often were not very easy ones, up to today. The exhortation was "What you have inherited from your fathers - work for it to really possess it." After Pastor Haase Pastor Winger from Sarata gave a sermon based on these words, "Taste and see how loving the Lord is. Blessed is he who trusts in Him". His advice was to put all your trust in the Lord and praise Him for the blessings of harvest time. The choir sang in the beginning, "Greet ye the beautiful morning". Between the sermon,

"Praise ye the Lord", and "Who rests under the protection of the Lord". After the church service one went to the cemetery where a memorial service for the dead was given. Pastor Skriba from New-Sarata gave the message and the choir sang another song. Never before had there been so many people in Posttal.

At three p.m. teacher M. Weiss gave a long talk about the history of the village; the material for the talk had been collected by him all summer long. 108 congratulations arrived at M. Weiss's from people of America and some from Germany. He also received a gift of 22 000 Lei partly for the poor and partly for a new church. A great interest was shown by the Dakota Free Press and its noble-minded editors Fr. Sallet and Rich. Sallet. Mr. Sallet himself gave 200 Lei and paid the costs to send the 22 000 Lei over here. His as well as all names of the donors shall be remembered forever in big letters in the Posttal village chronicle.

At night Pastor Wolleydt gave another sermon about the Sunday gospel. The choir also sang two more songs.

A seldom, but beautiful celebration was held, one that will be remembered for a long time.

Martin Weiss

Alt-Posttal, 15 July

Dakota Free Press.

Dear Mr. Sallet,

From your letter of 7 May I and all people of Posttal express our thanks to you for remembering us at our centennial celebration. It is a great pleasure to receive the congratulations of all ex-Posttal people of America. I can imagine from my own experience how the thoughts of these Germans go

back to the time and place of their birth and the golden days of their childhood, like it is expressed in the song: "I always remember my fatherland". It is noble, even though one is in a foreign country, to think about the old country and remember it. That's how it should always be!

Your letter really started things. In the beginning one thought to celebrate the 100th birthday of the colony by erecting a monument for the soldiers of Old-Posttal that died during the World War. The monument was to commemorate the eleven persons that died and was to be placed in front of the church. One was looking for a suitable place and since nobody could agree it was decided to start a fund for a new church instead. A few, mostly the richest people, disagreed, but they were overruled this time and it looks like the project will come through after all.

Like I mentioned before, the Americans started us, especially with the announcement of a monetary gift. One Old-Posttal man from America gave 200 Lei for the first building stone of the church. To all Old-Posttal people in America I as well as all the people of the village express our deepest gratitude to you. May God bless you!

Now I would like to tell you that we are planning to print a booklet about the 100th birthday of the colony. I am in charge of it. The book will describe everything that has happened within this period. It is also to contain pictures of buildings. This book is to be given to everyone in return for his support of the new church. This booklet is mainly printed for the Old-Posttal people in America to please them and show them that they too have not been forgotten yet. The celebration will take

place on Oct. 7. This year's harvest is almost over. It was generally good, winter wheat was very good. Many new houses and buildings were finished. At both ends of the village new rows of houses have been built. Posttal has been enlarged by 62 farms and is close to the size of Leipzig and Paris. Health is good. -This last half year less than 100 persons died - mainly children. The adults were Eduard Gäckle¹ -34 years, Immanuel Dittus, son of Ferdinand, 17 years, Katarina Muller, 86 years old; Gottfried Schöttle, 60 years; Elisabeth Esslinger, wife of Gottlieb Esslinger, 66 years. A great number got married, the names of them I will give in my next letter.

*And oldest son of Johann & Gertrude
led to Blandon
older than he
-1844*

Teacher Martin Weiss.

To all having lived in Old-Posttal once. Tripp, S.D., 10. May.

Dear Friends: You all have read the announcement in the Dakota Free Press, and I have to admit I was very pleased. My Father belonged to one of the first emigrants of Old-Posttal, his name is Michael Mayer and he left Posttal in 1875 for America. The first winter we spent in Yankton. We were three brothers, Daniel, Friedrich and Samuel, and two sisters, Barbara and Christina. One brother stayed back in Sophienvalley, Bessarabia. He died, but his son Daniel is still alive, and for him I will subscribe to the D. F. P. for a year. Also I am sending \$1.50 which I wish to be used for charity, like Mr. Sallet said. I am giving the \$1.50 for the poor in Old-Posttal.

I am always pleased to read about Old-Posttal. All my thoughts wander to that place and I feel like I am there in

person. It has been 47 years now since we left Old-Posttal. But I have not forgotten my Fatherland. You in 2. Malojaroslawetz should write more often, we enjoy hearing from you. Maybe someone of you can still remember me.

F. F. Mayer

Attention - Old-Posttaler!

Fredonia, N. D., 21. June

Dear Mr. Sallet,

I have gone through the trouble of collecting the names of the people from Old-Posttal, so we can celebrate the 100th birthday and send over a greeting of all from America. In different areas I have hired men to collect the names and gifts for the poor of Old-Posttal.

I, Samuel Ensslen am collecting in Fredonia, N. D., Andreas Elhard in Jud, N. D., Gottlieb Elhard in Gäckle, N. D., Friedrich Gäckle in Watkins, Mont., and Johann Mogck in Walsh, Alta, Canada. If you want to be placed on the name list and also contribute to the poor send your donation to the names above. There are a few that do not want their names on the list - it is a pity, but true!

Dear Old-Posttaler!

Rest and think a little. Isn't it wonderful to have your name on that list when it will be read in Old-Posttal? Maybe after 20,30,40,50 years you have been already forgotten, but then suddenly your name appears again. Everyone will be studying the list and will remember you favorably. But not only a name also a donation should be given. At this occasion we should

not only be the architect, bricklayer and carrier, but also the mortar and shingles. Then only will Posttal see that we still remember our birthplace. For this reason I ask again to give your name and if possible a small donation.

Samuel Ensslen.

To the 100th birthday of Old-Posttal.

By Wilh. Lehr, Walsh, Alta, Canada

Melody: "Greetings will I give to you"

Falks visited them in 1953 & ate lunch with them. Dad knew Bernhard Lehr his two weeks.

" It has been 100 years since Posttal was rounded in God's beautiful world. We are convinced - the Lord was your shepherd, everyone bows to Him, praise and honor to Him.
Oh God, it was your grace that helped them through the dark days, God, please keep guiding them, so that in peace they will be able to do their work and your will.
Let us confess openly that it was God's plan for us to leave, even though there were many tears. We have travelled half around the earth so that there would be more space for you.
So let us praise the Lord that He was the guide and let us pray for His grace for the next hundred years.
Let us be honest and practice love, then God will bless us here too in everything.

Posttal is our birthplace where our cradle once stood. We always remember that even if hundreds of years pass by. We like to think back to our childhood that was full of joy where we were taught diligence and to honor our fathers, had religion in school, learned about God's son, learned German

and Russian, reading and writing. At home we were taught farming.

The lovely valley, from south to north, has farms. Every farmer has a garden behind his farm where he grows delicious grapes and fruits of every kind.

There were once 69 innkeepers settled in Posttal. Church and school were placed in the center next to the prison, the district office and chancellery. What beautiful buildings, a magnificent sight and the church with its greenish glistening shingles.

All along the village street are acacia trees planted that give shadow and fragrance and joy to the heart. When thinking about our birthplace-Posttal seems like paradise."

record here the names & donations given

A word from the Dakota Free Press:

The collection of congratulations for Old-Posttal has come to an end, and if your name is on the list and you are reading these lines, your wishes and donations will already be traveling toward the east. My dear friends, let me tell you, not only your greetings and donations but also your thoughts will accompany the letter that is speeding through America by railroad, then ocean steamer and then one morning will be delivered to Posttal by the Tarutino mailman. Then on 7. Oct., the day of the celebration, when everyone is gathered, your names will be read and you will be praised. I am also pleased that a German from the Wolga area, Mrs. Anna Ehrhardt is on the honor list. Also the famous writer Titus sends his greetings from Germany; "where a hand shake equals an oath, loyalty shines in the eyes, and the heart is filled with love."

Jubilee Wishes from the following:

1. Samuel Ensslen.....\$ 5.00
2. Samuel Heller
3. Johann Heller
4. Barbara Heller
5. Elizabeth Krüger, geb. Baumann
6. Barbara Heller, geb. Esslinger
7. Christian Esslinger & Frau
8. Jacob Dittus (young)
9. Heinrich Ost (young)
10. Jacob Heller..... 1.00
11. Andreas Widmer & Frau
12. Heinrich Ost (old)
13. David Heller
14. Jacob Dittus (old)..... 2.00
15. Johann Brosz (young)
16. Gottlieb Elhard & Frau, geb. Kalmbach..... 5.00
17. Johann Fode & Frau, geb. Schlenker..... 1.00
18. Andrew Schlenker & Frau, geb. Kalmbach
19. Gottfried König & Frau, geb. Fode..... 2.00
20. Joseph Plaig & Frau, geb. Gackle..... 1.00
21. Jacob Schlenker & Frau, geb. Elhard..... 1.00
22. Johann Brosz & Frau, geb. Vetter..... 1.00
23. Jacob Hermann & Frau, geb. Kurz..... 1.00
24. Immanuel Heier & Frau, geb. Kalmbach
25. Daniel Schlenker & Frau, geb. Kalmbach..... 1.00
26. George König & Frau, geb. Elhard..... 1.00
27. George Fode (young) & Frau, geb. König..... 2.00
28. Friedrich Gackle (old) & Frau, geb. Dittus.. 1.00
29. George Elhard..... 2.00
30. Andrew Gackle..... 2.00
31. Friedrich Gackle (young) 2.00
32. Jacob Gackle..... 1.00
33. Daniel Schlenker..... 1.00
34. George Schlenker..... 1.00
35. Andrew Elhard & Frau, geb. Fode..... 1.00
36. Christian Elhard.....
37. Gottfried Irion..... 1.00
38. Gottfried Elhard..... 1.00

39. Jacob Schlenker.....\$ 1.00
 40. Maria Elhard, geb. Stadel..... 1.00
- Total....\$40.00

(This money was sent in by Samuel Ensslen, Fredonia, N. Dak. and is to be used for the widows, Orphans and the poor. To be administered by Martin Weisz and Johann Ensslen.)

Thru the Dakota Freie Press we received the following:

1. F. F. Mauer, Tripp....\$ 1.50
 2. Heinrich Zeller, Irwin 1.00
 3. Konrad, Sept, Elgin...
 4. Konrad & M. Wölflle, Portland..... 2.00
- Total.....\$ 4.50

The following contributions were sent in by Johann Mogck, Walsh, Alberta, Canada. It is to be applied toward the church and to help towards a legacy for the two blind children of Konrad Gackle.

1. Johann & Bertha Mogck, Children Jak. & Bertha Dollar..... 1.00
2. Wilhelm & Katharina Lehr & 3 children..... 2.00
3. Edward & Louise Lehr & 3 children..... 2.00
4. Christian & Christina Weiss & 3 children..... 1.00
5. Christian & Christina Brosz..... .50
6. Emmanuel & Kath. Schlenker & 3 children.....
7. Martha Fode..... 1.00
8. Friedr. & Justina Weiss
9. Joh. & Barbara Müller & 3 children..... .50
10. Joh. & Elizabeth Heller & 2 children..... 1.00
11. Joh. & Justina Weisz. & 6 children..... .50

12.	Johannes & Maria Sept & one child	
13.	Joh. & Christina Heller & two children.....	1.00
14.	Konrad & Kath. Heller & one child.....	1.00
15.	Andrew Weisz & two children.....	.50
16.	Joh. & Ottilia Ensslen & one child	
17.	Jacob Emann & 2 children	
18.	Adolf Schlenker	
19.	Adolf Elhard	
20.	Emman. & Kath. Anhorn.,	.50
21.	Jacob & Christina Hehr & one child.....	.50
22.	David Krause.....	1.00
23.	Gottlieb & Kath. Anhorn & two children.....	.50
24.	David & Emilie Elhard..	.50
25.	Gottfried Hehr.....	
26.	Jacob & Julianna Elhard	.50
27.	Johannes & Maria Hehr & 3 children.....	.50
28.	Maria Heine, geb. Sept, & 3 children.....	
29.	George & Maria Ensslen.	1.00
30.	Friedr. & Maria Haag & one child.....	1.00
31.	Justina Pahl, geb. Schlenker.....	.50
32.	Friedr. & Christina Hermann & 5 children..	1.00
33.	Samuel Hermann.....	2.00
34.	Christian & Sophia Elhard & 2 children.....	.50
35.	David & Christina Brosz	
36.	Joh. & Dorothea Mogck & 6 children.....	.50
-37.	Andr. & Elizabeth Gackle	1.00
-38.	Johann & Salome Gackle & 3 children.....	.75
39.	Jacob & Bertha Wölflle & 3 children.....	.50
40.	Salome Grosz, geb. Klaus, & 3 children.....	.50
41.	Jacob Müller & 2 childrn	.50
42.	Jacob & Lydia Finkbeiner & 3 children.....	.25
43.	Gottl. & Elizabeth Brosz & 4 children.....	
44.	Karl & Magdalena Fode & 5 children.....	
45.	Martin & Maria Bossler.	.50
46.	Reinhold & Bertha Lehr & 1 child.....	.50
47.	Jacob Heller.....	1.00

Total....\$27.00

Others who sent greetings & contributions thru the Dakota Freie Press were:

Anna Ehrhardt, Eden.....	\$ 2.00
Jacob Bietz, 67 yrs old, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Ca...	
Conrad Weisz, 76 yrs old, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Ca...	1.00
Jacob Weisz, 69 yrs old, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Ca..	
Jacob Ehmann, 63 yrs old, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Ca..	1.00
-Emmanuel Gackle, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Ca.....	
Heinrich Müller, Brother-in-law to Gackle	
Friedrich Weisz, Medicine Hat	1.00
Katharina Friedrich, geb. Baumann, Tripp, for the church,	1.00
"", for George Baumann.....	1.00
Gottlieb Fode, Medicine H at..	.50
Konrad Wölflle, Portland.....	1.00
Ludwig Reich, Portland.....	1.00
Heinrich Zeller, Irwin.....	5.00
Heinrich Finkbeiner & Frau, geb Brosz, Walsh, Alberta, Ca...	1.00
Benjamin Schwab, Walsh, Alberta Canada.....	2.00
Maria Schaufelberger, Merrill, Wisconsin.....	JD
Ferdinand Krause in Washington	
Anna Maria Böttcher, geb. Mogck Lonalift, Alberta, Canada...	
Heinrich Ost, (alt) Fredonia, N.Dak. for his sister Kath. Eman, geb. Ost.....	5.00
"Titus" Osterode, Germany.....	
Samuel Ensslen, Fredonia, N.Dak.	5.00
Dak. Freie Presse, New Ulm.....	5.00
(and shipping charges)	*
Total.....	\$34.50

(This money which is not designated will be used to help with the church building fund.)

A word from the Dakota Free Press:

The collection of congratulations for Old-Posttal has come to an end, and if your name is on the list and you are reading these lines, your wishes and donations will already be travelling toward the east. My dear friends, let me tell you, not only your greetings and donations but also your thoughts will accompany the letter that is speeding through America by railroad, then ocean steamer and then one morning will be delivered to Posttal by the Tarutino mailman. Then on 7 October the day of the celebration, when everyone is gathered, your names will be read and you will be praised. I am also pleased that a German from the Volga area, Mrs. Anna Ehrhardt is on the honor list. Also the famous writer Titus sends his greetings from Germany, "where a hand shake equals an oath, loyalty shines in the eyes, and the heart is filled with love."

There were 108 families who participated in sending greetings and donations. Some names have been printed twice because of two donations. The total was \$100. A nice gift. Our special thanks to Samuel Ensslen and Johann Mogck who worked hard to collect names and donations.

And now, dear Posttal people of America, an important announcement. Teacher M. Weiss has agreed to become a steady reporter to our paper. You will be able to read many reports about Old-Posttal in this paper. And when in the winter the blizzards rage across the prairie then you can place yourself with your "old Free Press" next to the warm stove and read the reports of M. Weiss. I'm sure you would like that.

Dear Friends, you have proved that you all can stick together. Remember now that the hand that has been holding all of you together for the last 50 years, has been and will be the Dakota Free Press. Like the blood pulsates through the body, so will this paper carry news from our friends and acquaintances from all over the world to you