

History of Gnadental

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Note: Comments in [square brackets] in the document are those of the translator.

Measurement equivalents:

Deßjatinen [1 dessjatin = 2.7 acres / 1.09 hectares

Faden [1 faden = 7 ft / 2.1 m]

Pud [1 pud = 36 lbs / 16.38 kg]

Werst [1 werst = 0.67 mi / 1.06 km]

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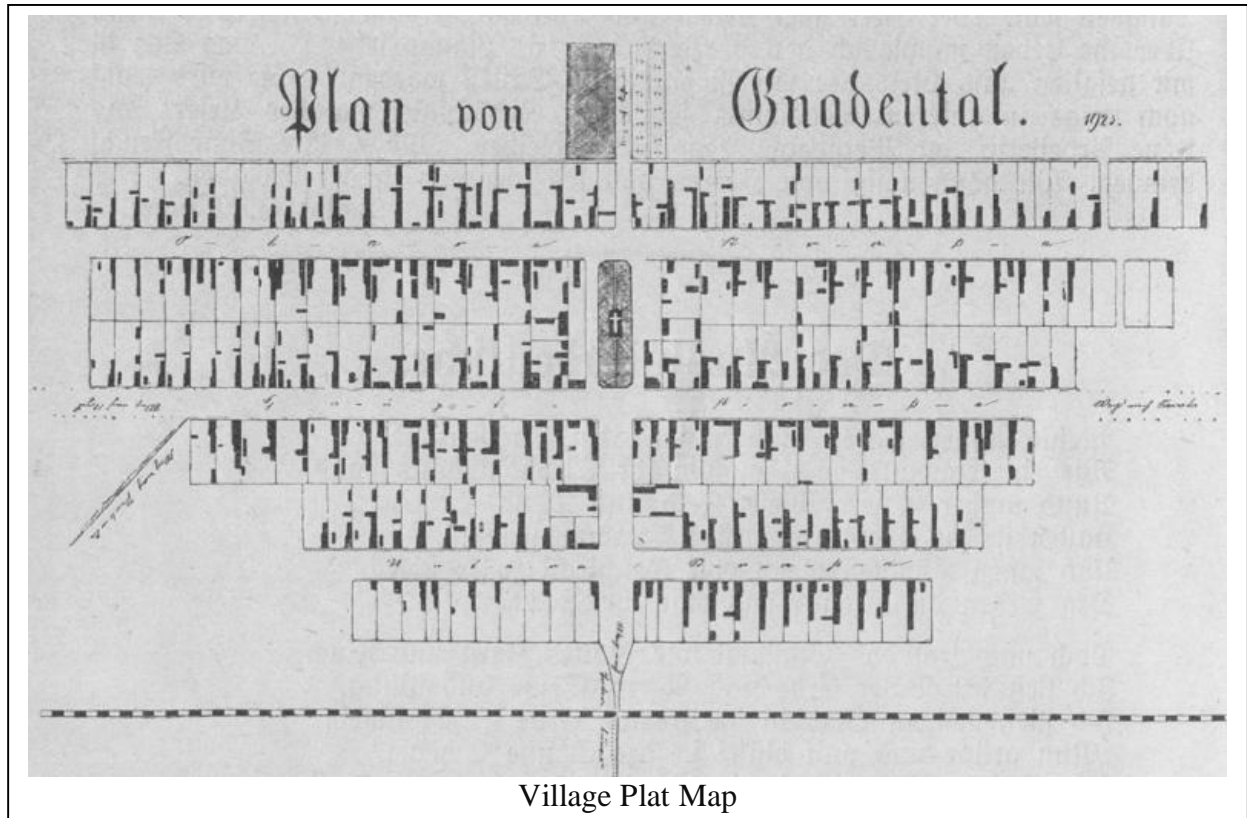
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Gnadental Municipality

by Friedrich Rüb

The foundation of the Gnadental municipality occurs at the end of the immigration of German colonists in Russia, namely in the period when the official advertising of emigrants in Germany on the part of Russia had already been stopped for 10 years. The settlers were therefore non-recruited, free emigrants, to whom no support was given by the Russian government either for the journey or for the first equipment. In the order in which it was created, Gnadental is the 21st German municipality in Bessarabia.

The settlement took place in the years 1830-1833 on a plot of land that had been made available to Provost Lindl in 1822. In a petition of the Sarata Mayor's Office of 29 April, 1829, the Welfare Committee granted permission to found the colony according to the letter of 14 May, 1829, N^o. 716.



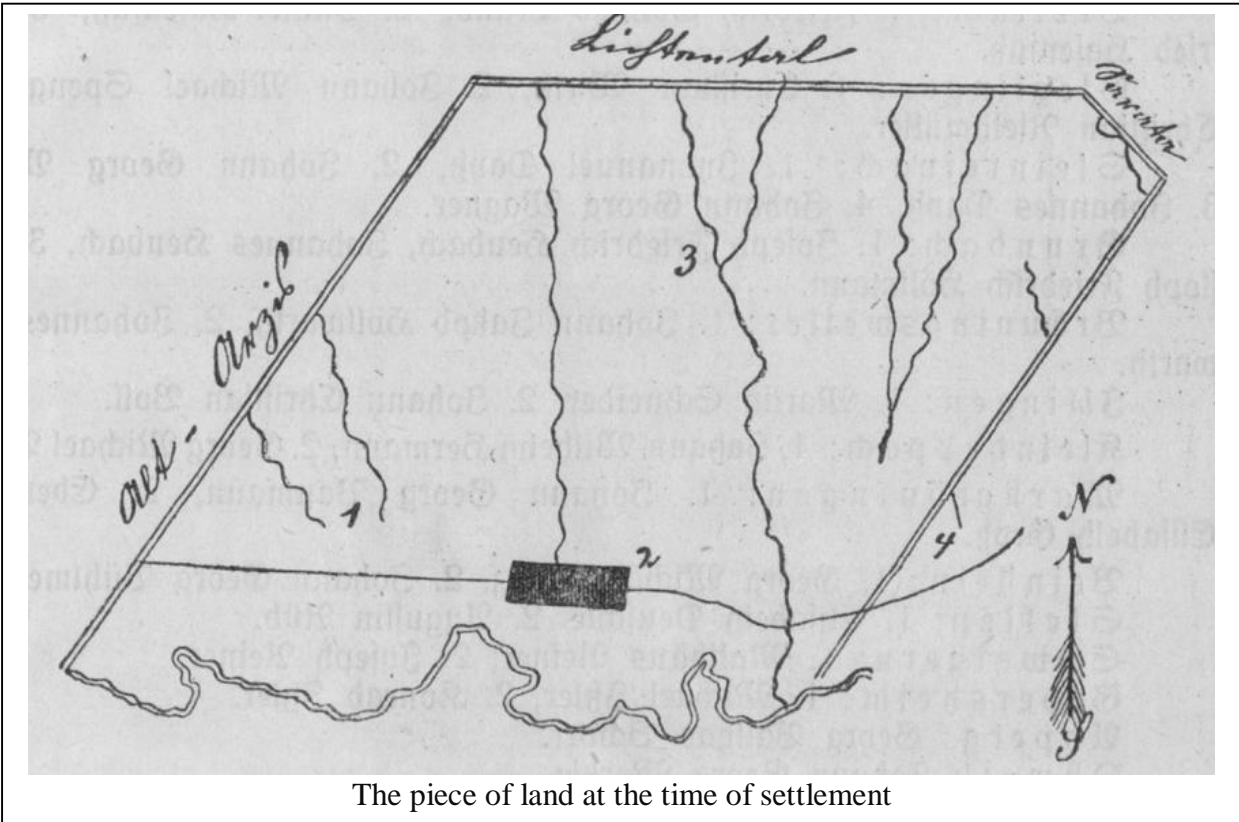
At the time of the settlement, the property of the municipality of Gnadental was leased by the Sarata Senior Mayor (*Oberschulzen*) Veygel to some Moldovans, who used the same as pasture land for their flocks of sheep. So the Podob section (*Chuter*) was located at the southeastern end of the village. Since the colony was established mostly on his section, he moved away in the first year of settlement.

"Bendele Tscholak" lived to the west of the village, who kept leasing part of the land until 1833 for 180.44 rubles.

North of the village, in the Tschalair Valley "not far from the village of Essemaar" lived Alexander Schröder, the Fleet Lieutenant (later Major) of the 10th Danube Transport Fleet. The valley still bears the name Major Valley (*Majortal*) today.

Furthermore, the files report about **Theodor Balan**, who had land in lease until 1835. One valley still bears the name "Balansteich".

There are also the names Hiller, Banik, Bälder, which held parts of the Gnadental property in lease before the settlement. These were German colonists from the older Bessarabian colonies.



In the spring of 1830, the settlement was started with 10 families, to which another 12 families were added in the same year. These 22 families were joined in 1831 by 12 families, so that by the end of 1831, 34 families with a total of 168 souls had settled in the colony. 2 families gave up their farms soon after arrival. In 1832, another 37 families settled in the young settlement and, in 1833, the last 11 families. The settlement of the colony was completed in 1833 with 80 families and a total of 455 souls.

The settlers of Gnadental did not form an organized group. They came from 40 villages in Württemberg, mostly did not know each other outwardly and arrived in Gnadental over the course of 4 years.

List by Name of the Settled Families according to the Places of Emigration.

Kornwestheim: (1) Johann Georg Kienzle, (2) Johannes Wiedmann, (3) Christian Oßwald, (4) Barbara Messerle, (5) Johann Georg Benninger, (6) Johann Jakob Kienzle, (7) Josuas Kienzle.

Hanweiler: (1) Johann Jakob Krug, (2) Gottlieb Schäfer, (3) Johannes Kurz, (4) Ludwig Laier, (5) Johann Georg Börner, (6) Johannes Schäfer.

Haußen: (1) Georg Michael Vogel, (2) Georg Michael Zeller, (3) Daniel Vogel, (4) Gottlieb Jakob Vogel, (5) Daniel Fickel.

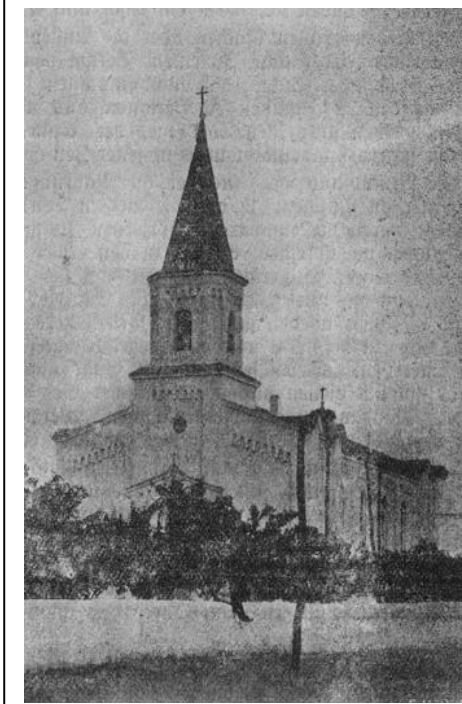
Kleebronn: (1) Christoph Friedrich Baumann, (2) Jakob Friedrich Ernst, (3) Katharina Dorothea Ernst, (4) Christoph Friedrich Baumann II.

Fellbach: (1) Johann Georg Alldinger, (2) Philipp Rebmann, (3) Johannes Pfander.
Schnaith: (1) Georg Friedrich Wahler, (2) Jakob Wahler, (3) Johannes Deiß.
Brettach: (1) Friedrich Gottlieb Traub, (2) Daniel Hasenfuß, (3) Gottfried Hasenfuß.
Gieglingen: (1) Christian Wirth, (2) Johann Michael Spengler, (3) Christian Riethmüller.
Steinreinach: (1) Immanuel Dayß, (2) Johann Georg Wagner, (3) Johannes Dayß, (4) Johann Georg Wagner.
Grunbach: (1) Joseph Friedrich Heubach, (2) Johannes Heubach, (3) Christoph Friedrich Hottmann.
Bräuningsweiler: (1) Johann Jakob Höllwarth, (2) Johannes Höllwarth.
Illingen: (1) Martin Schneider, (2) Johann Christian Boll.
Kleinheppach: (1) Johann Wilhelm Hermann, (2) Georg Michael Bandel.
Markgröningen: (1) Johann Georg Baumann, (2) Eberhardin Elisabeth Groß.
Beinstein: (1) Georg Michael Merz, (2) Johann Georg Bühlmeyer.
Stetten: (1) Elisabeth Deuschle, (2) Augustin Rüb.
Schweigern: (1) Matthäus Reiner, (2) Joseph Reiner.
Gebersheim: (1) Michael Ißler, (2) Konrad Ißler.
Asperg: Georg Balthas Schorr.
Oßweil: Johann Georg Merkle.
Kirchberg: Michael Sommer.
Hartmannsweiler: Johann Georg Schäfer.
Korb: Johann David Schnaithmann.
Nußdorf: Georg Friedrich Häcker.
Erbstetten: Gottlieb Bareiter.
Ilfeld: Christoph Lust.
Neuenstein: Karl Friedrich Augst.
Pfaffenhofen: Johann Friedrich Gebhardt.
Elmerspach: Konrad Hägele.
Romelshausen: Georg Michael Silcher.
Altbach: Christian Frick.
Brackenheim: Jakob Friedrich Eckert.
Reihlingshausen: Philipp Sperr.
Böckingen: Jakob Adam Döbler.
Niederhofen: Gottlieb Mader.
Kaltenwesten: Adam Friedrich Müller.
Kaisersbach: Johann Georg Laier.
Langenbeutingen: Georg Michael Dorsch.
Baach: Johann Christoph Bühlmayer.
Unterurbach: Johann Georg Weller.
Place of emigration unknown: Johann Christoph Wägerle.

After the fixed number of 80 farms was occupied in 1833, individual families still arrived to settle in Gnadental. They had to buy their farms. In 1834, these people made their purchase: Christoph Häußer and Johann Michael Hornung from Riehlingshausen, Salomon Singer from Korb, Johann Daniel Hermann from Kleinheppach. In 1837-1842, the final 13 families made their purchase: Johann Konrad Laib, Friedrich Albrecht, Johann Christoph Käß, Johann Georg

Roth, Jakob Reutter, Gottlieb Fischer, Christian Layer, Johann Georg Reutter, Johannes Beyhl, Johann Peter Föhl, Johann Georg Zick, Johann Jakob Koch, Heinrich Harsch.

After their arrival, all Gnadental settlers were enrolled in the colonist rank.



After the completion of the settlement in 1833, there were also 8 families and single persons in the place who did not own any land. They were landless people who settled in with the farmers. In 1833, an agreement was reached between them and the municipality on ‘what right a small landless occupier of a house (*Kleinhäusler*) or owner should have and under what conditions each of the municipality’s respectable small landless occupier of a house is admitted and accepted.”

In the first years, the village was officially called “Sarata N^o. 2 Litt. A.” About the current name we find the following records: “In the second year of the settlement (1831) cholera prevailed in Gnadental as well as in the whole area, which demanded many victims. The gracious averting of this evil gave rise to calling this colony ‘Gnadental’.” This name was presented by the municipality through the Sarata Regional Office to the Welfare Committee for confirmation, which was also made by a letter of August 1832, N^o. 1043.

When it was founded, the settlers of Gnadental no longer had to struggle with as many difficulties as the settlers of the older colonies. The colonists of Gnadental were able to rely on the already existing colonies. Sarata already existed for 8 years, Arzis and Brienne 14, Teplitz 13, Klöstitz 15 and Tarutino 16. It was especially the Sarata colony where the new arrivals found all-round support in words and deeds. Senior Mayor (*Oberschulz*) Beygel repeatedly took the opportunity to remind the community of Gnadental of this.

While the former colonies had received support from the Russian government, the Gnadental colonists were no longer served in that manner. Only a few better off people were able to make it through on their own strength. Senior Mayor Veygel gave support by advancing money.

The first shelter they built was an earth hut “Pude”, as it is called in the old documents. It usually consisted of 2 rooms. At the entrance was the kitchen, where no pail (*Kübel*), water pitcher (*Wasserbitsche*) and tub (*Gelte*) were absent. Then came the living room with the “four-post bed”. Furthermore, there was a table and a “baker’s stall” (*Schranna*).

Various hardships broke over the settlers. Typhoid fever and dangerous fever appeared. An 1831 report states: “Right now there is not a house or lodging (*Budik*) where there is not someone within it with the fever.” In addition, there was cholera, which took away 70 people from all age groups from the 22 families; 12 marriages were separated by the death of one of the

spouses. Medical help was almost completely absent. Gnadental was served at that time by a Mr. (*Mansiere* [Monsieur]) doctor. ["Mr." indicating more education than someone identified as a "Medical Doctor"]

Everyone experienced poverty and the lack of food. There was also a lack of plows, so that most of the farmers had to harness their horses together with those of others. In addition, the wooden single-plowshares were too weak, the hard new ground was enough to break them down. Especially in the first years of the settlement from 1830-1834, there were crop failures, and the hardship increased to the extreme. In addition, there were livestock epidemics. A lot of cattle had to be slaughtered for a lack of food. 13 farmers remained completely without workhorses. By means of a joint loan of 14,000 rubles, 52 of the most needy families were helped. It is said to have been at that time that the Gnadental settlers did not consider it possible to stay here and often at public municipal meetings brought up the topic of a return migration. Even though they stayed, it was only because they lacked the means to return home.

The planting of vineyards and fruit trees began in the first few years. The first fruit trees were planted by the settlers in their farmyards. In 1834, at the end of the settlement period, 3,183 fruit trees and 25,300 grapevines were planted.

Thus, the 1830-1834 settlement period of the municipality of Gnadental is characterized as a struggle for the simple preservation of life. A small progression can only be perceived from 1835, the year of the first good harvest.

Until the end of the 1880s, choice summer cereal grains were planted: rotation wheat (*Wechselweizen*), *Ulka* [Turkish grain-?], barley (*Gerste*), oats (*Hafer*). At the end of the 1870s and the beginning of the 1880s, failed harvests with wheat increased. The smut fungus (*Brandpilz*), since cleansing was not used, was found to such an extent that sometimes half of the harvests were destroyed. In 1873, the first winter wheat is said to have been introduced in Tarutino, and already in the 1880s it became the main grain to plant. The summer crops: rotation wheat and *Ulka* were continuing to be planted to a lesser significant extent, until finally the last of the seed came to an end.

As a result of failed harvests in the 1890s, grain was imported from other areas, mainly from Crimea. In this way, one became familiar with the Crimean white winter wheat and with the *Banatka* [grain from the Banat—region located within W Romania, NE Serbia, and SE Hungary], which cereals grains, although greatly reduced, are still planted today.

In 1844, one comes across an iron plow for the first time in the asset collections. In the 1850s, only wooden harrows (*Eggen*) are still mentioned. In 1849, we meet a threshing stone for the first time. In the 1870s, the first cleaning mills came to the village. The first harvest machine was purchased in 1876.

Of the cereal grain pests that caused significant damage, the locusts (*Heuschrecken*), the cereal grain beetle (*Getreidekäfer*) and the earth hare (*Erdhase*) should be mentioned. Gnadental suffered from locusts in 1857, 1858 and 1859. The cereal grain beetle appeared in the flowering period. Neither the capture nor the application of *Strickschleisen* was successful. Formal hunts

were carried out on the earth hares [similar to North American gopher/prairie dog-?]. Their appearance was particularly strong in 1892, 1893, 1924 and 1925. With resounding success, the destruction was carried out in 1925, when the skins could be sold for money.



Church Interior

In 1910, Gnadental divided the steppe into 4 fields: twelve, eight, six and four in such a way that a farmer has his land in 4 places.

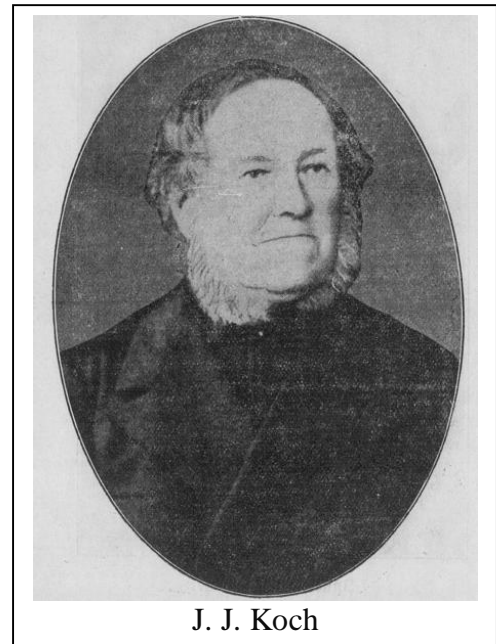
Total crop failures affected the community in 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1869, 1873, 1892, 1899, 1904.

A favorable circumstance for the municipality was that only 3 *Werst* [2 mi. / 3.18 km] from the village was the estate of Gamalei, where land could be taken into lease at cheap prices if there was a lack of land. In 1866, a company of 53 farmers bought 1,000 *Defjatinen* [2,700 acres / 1,090 ha] from there.

If the settlement period was a time of hardship and misery, the first period of development, the time of our grandfathers, is a time of firm rootedness in the new homeland soil. The period of our fathers, however, is characterized as a period of full strength.

Today's agriculture has fallen into a crisis that has already become disastrous for a large part of our farmer class. The reasons that led to this crisis cannot be explained in more detail here. One of the main causes is the premature, too harsh parceling out of land ownership. While in 1855 there were still no divided farms in Gnadental, in 1871, out of 80 farms, there were still 48 whole farms and already 60 half farms. Now there are: whole farms—21, half—54, two-thirds—8, one-third—22, one-quarter—46, one-sixth—11, one-eighth—24, one-sixteenth—22, and one-thirty-second—3.

The fact that the old way of farming is maintained with the low level of land ownership is another reason that has led to the crisis in agriculture. Furthermore, the rapid succession of dry years will force us in the future to turn to other sectors of the economy and, above all, to limit the costs of doing business under all circumstances.



J. J. Koch

Livestock breeding. Special breed horses have never been kept; but the horses, if they are well groomed, are beautiful and strong. Since they have to be fed at home for almost the whole year

because of the bad pasture, their maintenance is expensive, and they become a luxury item for a small farmer.

The first cows kept by the settlers were of the Russian breed and were more suitable for meat production than for milk production. In the 1880s, they began to introduce the “red cattle”. However, the income from cattle breeding remained low, as too little attention was paid to the cows. The introduction of milk separators provided the first incentive for increasing milk production. But it was not until the founding of the dairy that cattle breeding became a worthwhile economic sector. Founded in 1924, the community dairy took in 362,602 quarts of milk in the first year and sold sweet butter for 1,596,418 lei. Production had already doubled by 1927.



Old Schoolhouse

Businesses. Crafts have developed only weakly over the course of the century. Even today, the craftsmen hardly satisfy the local needs. To mention is the locksmith workshop of † Fr. Kappler, which has become known in the surrounding area through the construction of corn-pickers (*Maisreblern*), presses, cleaning mills, grape mills and shredding machines. The cleaning mills of Ph. Gebhardt also enjoy a good reputation. In 1919, Gotthilf Marks built a cloth factory, but it is not yet fully developed. In operation are the fulling-mill and dyeing. The steam mill, built in 1890, passed through various hands. In 1925, the interior was transferred to Sarata. Since then, Gnadental has had to grind outside [the village]. The rich soil of Gnadental has a lot of coarse sand (*Verputzsand*). 13 *Deßjatinen* [35.1 acres / 14.17 ha] of which, and indeed the richest, are located in the administration of the Akkerman-Leipzig Railway Management. As a result, the community was deprived of millions in assets.

Commerce. In the first 70 years of the existence of the colony Gnadental, no well-known business could arise. The reasons being that the larger purchases were made in the city, with which one was constantly connected to by the sale of the grain, and the proximity of the Arzis market. A lot was also bought from house-to-house tradesmen. With the founding of the community store in 1906, the municipality took the trade in goods into its own hands. Through its connection with the dairy, the cooperative (*Konsum*) is in the fortunate position of always having the necessary cash available. Of the 5 million turnover in 1927, 3 million were paid for with milk and around 1 million with eggs. That is a firm foundation. It is actually an exchange-trade (*Tauschgeschäft*).



New Schoolhouse

Church. The first worship services were held by the settlers in a private home. In 1833, on the church square where the church stands today, the first prayer house with a school hall and a teacher's apartment was built and the first bell was purchased. Since the teachers were local farmers and lived in their own houses, the teacher's apartment was unnecessary. In 1839, it was joined with the church hall and the latter was significantly enlarged. In 1840, a bell tower was added and a second bell was purchased. Since the first school building was built in 1847, the partition wall between the church hall and the school hall was removed and the room served from now on only worship service purposes. In 1848, the first organ with 4 stops was bought, which, after 61 years of use, was sold in 1909 to the municipality of Neu-Sarata.

Attendance at the Sunday worship service was good. The children's teachings (*Kinderlehren*) on Sunday afternoons were introduced during the settlement period, and the attendance of the same by the youth was mandatory.

All disturbances of order on Sundays and holidays were resisted with great severity. The penalty books are teeming with punishments for horsing around (*Jächteln*) on Sundays, dancing on Sundays and public holidays, selling wine on Sundays, unloading hay on public holidays, and so forth.

The largest number of illegitimate children are noticeable in the 1870s and 1880s. Also our time must be a direct significance of it.

Since the old church, built in 1833, had gradually fallen into ruin and gotten too small, the community decided to build a new church in 1880. The master builder was Klaus Lorenz, a German citizen from Odessa. The construction costs came to about 25,000 rubles. In 1909, a new organ was purchased. It has a 10 stop keyboard (*Manual*) and peddles, 54 keys and 534 pipes.

Of religious movements that more or less influenced the community that are to be mentioned: the Separatism in the 1840s and the appearance of the Hoffmanians (friends of Jerusalem). However, the movements had no lasting effects, and today there are no more followers of these sects.

Gnadental has been part of the Sarata Parish since its foundation and has pastor conducted worship service every 3rd Sunday.

At that time, Johann Jakob Koch, who was in the service of the church and the school in Gnadental for 42 years, had a decisive influence on the ecclesiastical field. He was a graduate of the Teacher Training Institute “Lichtenstern” and was sent to Russia by the school board with 2 of his fellow pupils (David Mayer, later a teacher in Klöstitz, and Christian Hartmann, later a teacher in Friedenstal). On 1 May, 1846, the congregation hired him as a church school teacher, which service he held with rare fidelity until 1893. He died at an old age on 7 December, 1893. On the occasion of his death, his former assistant (*Provisor*) writes:

“But to you, God, an obligation to praise
for this man’s teaching.
O give us such teachers more
full of anointing and as faithful as he was.”

“And in spirit I see again
you surrounded by little children:
Would that I also be allotted
to be an assistant there with you.”

School. At the same time as the founding of the colony, school life also began. Since there was no school building, school was held in a farmhouse. The settlers created the school they were accustomed to from Germany and which corresponded to their religious persuasion. It was definitely a religious school. In 1833, in the third year of settlement, a special school class (*Schulklasse*) was built under one roof with the prayer house, in which school was held until 1846. In the first 17 years, local farmers were employed as teachers. 1846 brought a turn for the better in which an expertly trained teacher was employed in the person of Johann Jakob Koch. In the following year, the first school building was built. Today, it houses the village administrative office (*Dorfkanzlei*).

The school was under the supervision of the pastor, who held school visitations 1-2 times. Until 1861, all students from 8-15 years of age were joined together in one classroom. The school was a single-class, and the more gifted students were not busy enough. If a student could read, recite the catechism, the textbook and many hymns, write and calculate somewhat, he had nothing more to learn at school, but the attendance of the same was obligatory until confirmation.

The year 1862 brought further progress, namely the construction of a new schoolhouse with a teacher's apartment. Since the school also consisted of a single classroom, little was achieved for the internal progress of the school. Only the division of the students into 2 classes and the employment of a 2nd teacher was of essential importance. This happened in 1876. The municipality divided the gigantic hall into 2 classes and hired the first *Provisor*, that is, assistant teacher, who had to teach the Russian language in addition to other subjects.

In the meantime, the number of students had increased significantly. The municipality took this into account and, in 1907, built a new school building with 2 classrooms and hired the 3rd teacher. With the stipulation that no more than 50 students should come to a teacher, the municipality appointed the 4th teacher in 1912. Today, 5 teachers work in 5 classes.



Children in the Schoolyard

List of Teachers from 1830-1930

Sexton-Teachers: 1. Georg Michael Merz (1831). 2. Fried. Gottlieb Traub (1832-1834). 3. Wilhelm Hermann (1834-1837). 4. Johann Konrad Laib (1837-1841). 5. Wilhelm Hermann (1841-1844). 6. Christoph Fried. Baumann (1844-1846). 7. Johann Jakob Koch (1846-1888). 8.

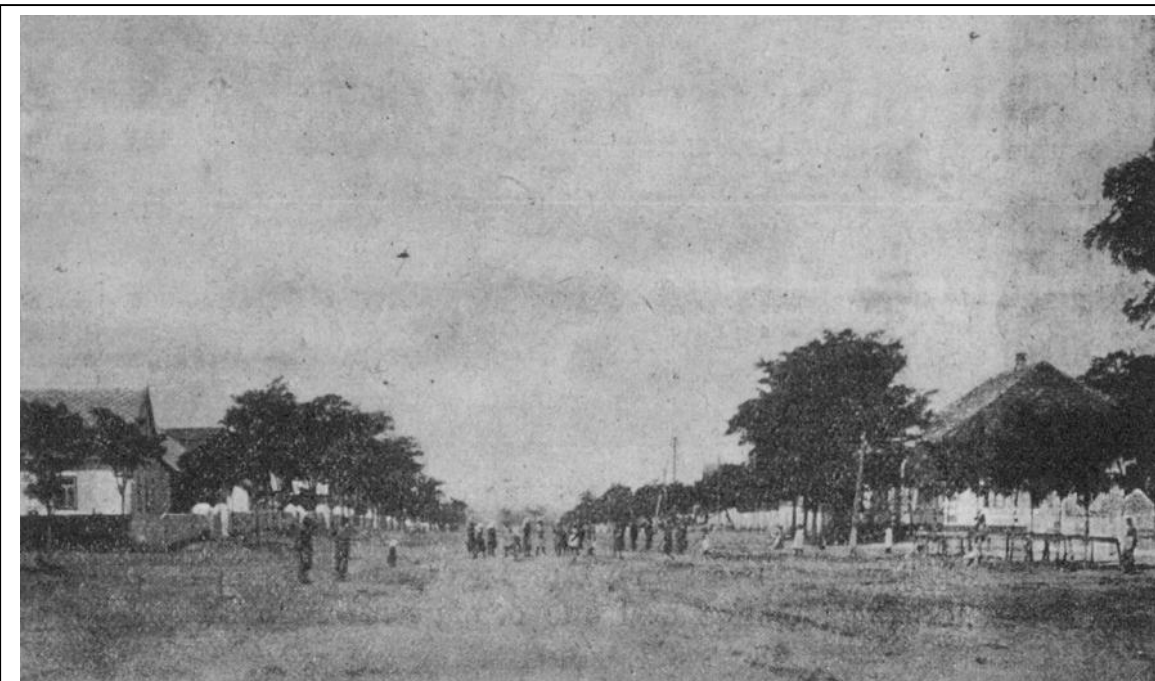
Immanuel Koch (1882-1901). 9. Karl Graf (1901-1904). 10. David Dieno (1904-1909). 11. Friedrich Rüb (1909—). The first five were local farmers without formal training.

Teachers: 1. Christian Walter (1876-1877). 2. Wilhelm Beck (1877-1878). 3. Christian Rüb (1878-1880). 4. Johann Bossert (1880-1888). 5. Gottlieb Landsiedel (1888-1893). 6. (?) Sirpul (1893-1894). 7. Philipp Iwanowsky (1894-1896). 8. Jakob Fiechtner (1896-1903). 9. Gottlob Enßlen (1903-1903). 10. David Koth (1903-1909). 11. (?) Weißgerber (1909-1910). 12. Ferdinand Wagner (1910-1928). 13. Jakob Heer (1911-1912). 14. Peter Kowalsky (1912-1914). 15. Albert Knauer (1913). 16. Jakob Fiechtner (1920-1925). 17. Nikolai Ploskaru (1925-1928). 18. Georg Riethmüller (1925—). 19. Karl Reutter (1928—). 20. Bernhard Häußer (1928—).

Teachers of the Small Children School: 1. Rudolf Weiß (1907-1908). 2. Heinrich Erbele (1908-1909). 3. Immanuel Kalmbach (1909-1910). 4. Gotthold Wingern (1910-1911). 5. Johann Zick (1911-1912). Friedrich Alldinger (1912-1913).

Not uninteresting are the data on the increase of the population. Gnadental was originally settled by 80 families with 460 souls. With the 17 families added later, there are 97 families. Since 1842, the increase in population from the outside has stopped. Today, the number of families is 212 with 1,037 souls. Consequently, the population had more than doubled. In addition, however, there is the emigration, which was very strong in the course of the century. Fairly accurately, around 300 families with about 1,500 souls have emigrated. The 80 families with 460 souls would therefore have grown into about 500 families with 2,500 souls.

The number of births over the course of the century hovered between 40 and 56 and that of deaths between 20-28.

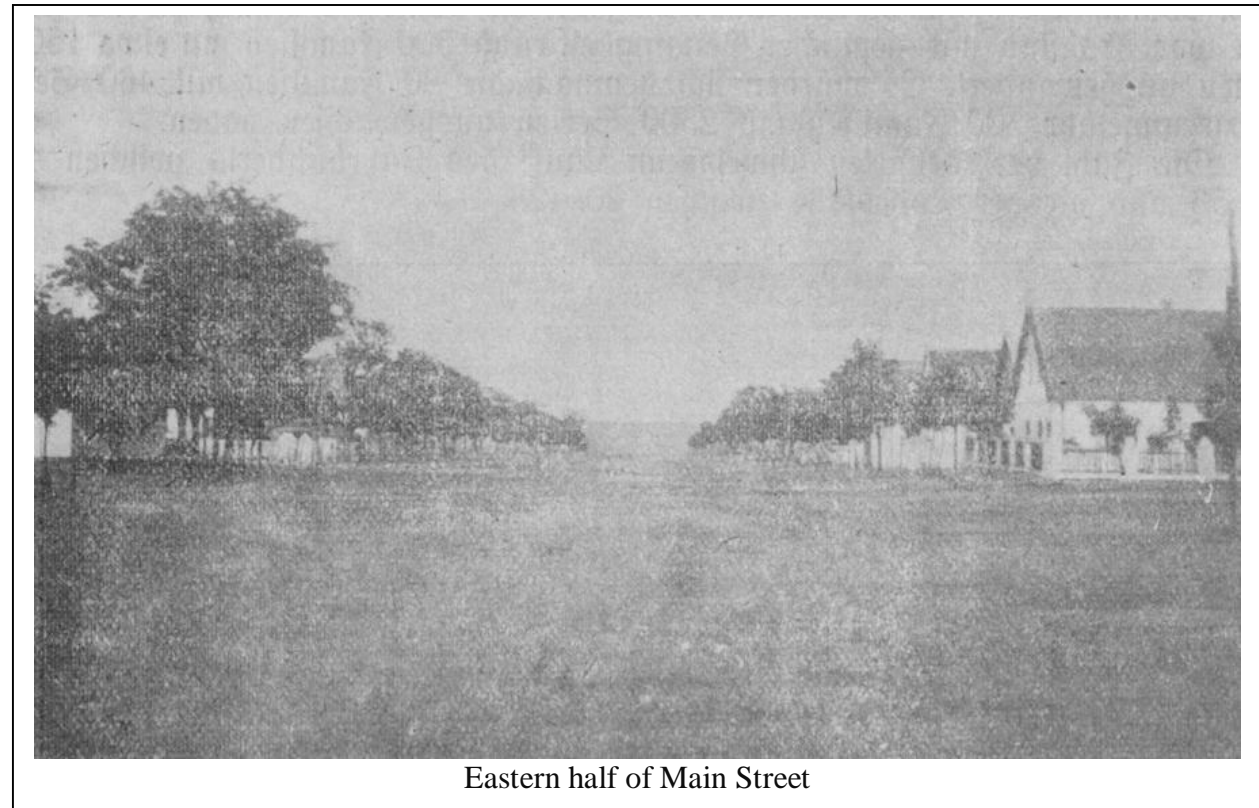


Western half of Main Street

As far as the exterior of the village complex is concerned, despite the hardship of the first few years, the settlers were anxious to get stone houses as quickly as possible. After 6 years, ¾ of the village was built up with stone. It was roofed with reeds. The first houses had mostly hipped roofs, but they were soon replaced by straight gables. Today, the progress of the time is taken into account. The new houses are being built high enough, covered with tiles and the rooms with floor boards. Main attention is paid to the front room. This contains the best furniture, often also a pump organ (*Harmonium*). Verses (*Wandsprüche*) and framed confirmation certificates hang on the walls. Photographs that used to be on the wall are now placed on the chest of drawers or saved in albums. There is a summer kitchen in almost every yard. Buildings and street walls are regularly whitewashed.

There are something like 23 pump organs and 4 pianos in the village.

The well water is said to have been better in the past. As the water deteriorated, cisterns were dug into which the drinking water and washing water from wells outside the village were transported. In 1923, 9 artesian wells were dug, which provide good water. They have a depth of 38-42 *Faden* [266-294 ft. / 79.8-88.2 m].



Until 1918, Gnadental belonged to the Sarata district. Because in these years the road to Sarata was simply long and hilly, Gnadental joined the Arzis district.

The village administration office was located in the house of the respective mayors until 1860. Since 1861, it has been transferred to the old schoolhouse, where it is still located today. Until 1871, the correspondence of the village office was conducted in German. Then the Russification

of our administration began. All forms printed in German had to be removed and the correspondence had to be conducted in Russian. In 1917, the village office (*Dorfamt*) also put on a small red jacket. Due to an order from higher up, the office was converted into a village committee (*Dorfkomitee*), with a president at its head.



Lower Street

List of Mayors

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 01. Johannes Dayß (1831) | 19. Georg Bantel (1876-1878) |
| 02. Johann Jakob Höllwarth (1832-1838) | 20. Gottlob Augst (1878-1881) |
| 03. Christoph Fr. Hottmann (1838-1843) | 21. Georg Benninger (1881-1883) |
| 04. Georg Michael Silcher (1843-1845) | 22. Wilhelm Föhld (1883-1885) |
| 05. Jakob Kienzle (1845-1847) | 23. Gottlieb Hasenfuß (1885-1885) |
| 06. Christoph Friedr. Hottman (1847-1853) | 24. Daniel Hermann (1885-1887) |
| 07. Christian Frick (1853-1856) | 25. Georg Benninger (1887-1889) |
| 08. Friedrich Spengler (1856-1858) | 26. Wilhelm Föhl (1889-1891) |
| 09. Georg Rüb (1858-1860) | 27. Johann Rüb (1891-1894) |
| 10. Christian Frick (1860-1862) | 28. Gottlieb Fischer (1894-1896) |
| 11. Gottfried Merz (1862-1864) | 29. Jakob Heubach (1896-1898) |
| 12. Wilhelm Hermann (1864-1866) | 30. Gottlieb Fischer (1898-1901) |
| 13. Gottfried Merz (1866-1868) | 31. Jakob Bantel (1901-1904) |
| 14. Georg Häußer (1868-1870) | 32. Gottlieb Krug (1904-1906) |
| 15. Karl Augst (1870-1871) | 33. Christoph Merz (1906-1909) |
| 16. [no name]. | 34. Christian Riethmüller (1909-1911) |
| 17. Jakob Höllwarth (1873-1875) | 35. Wilhelm Schneithmann (1911-1914) |
| 18. Christoph Schnaithmann (1875-1876) | 36. Johann Hermann (1914-1917) |

37. Johann Föhl (1917-1918)
38. Wilhelm Roth (1918-1921)
39. Johann Hermann (1921-1923)

40. Karl Benninger (1923-1926)
41. Wilhelm Roth (1926—).

List of Municipal Secretaries/Clerks

01. Johann Jakob Höllwarth (1833)
02. Georg Michael Dorsch (1833-1846)
03. (?) Manske (1846-1848)
04. Christoph Friedrich Hottman (1848-1858)
05. (?) Läger (1858-1859)
06. Heinrich Schaupp (1859-1867)
07. Johannes Kurz (1867-1872)
08. Christian Koch (1872-1898)
09. Wilhelm Kaul (1898-1899)

10. (?) Raschkov (1899)
11. Nikolaus Deutschle (1899)
12. Karl Becker (1899)
13. Johann Becker (1899-1901)
14. Natanael Tschritter (1901-1912)
15. Johannes Winkler (1912-1914)
16. Emil Schnaidt (1914-1916)
17. Georg Schäfer (1917-1919)
18. Karl Hasenfuß (1919—)

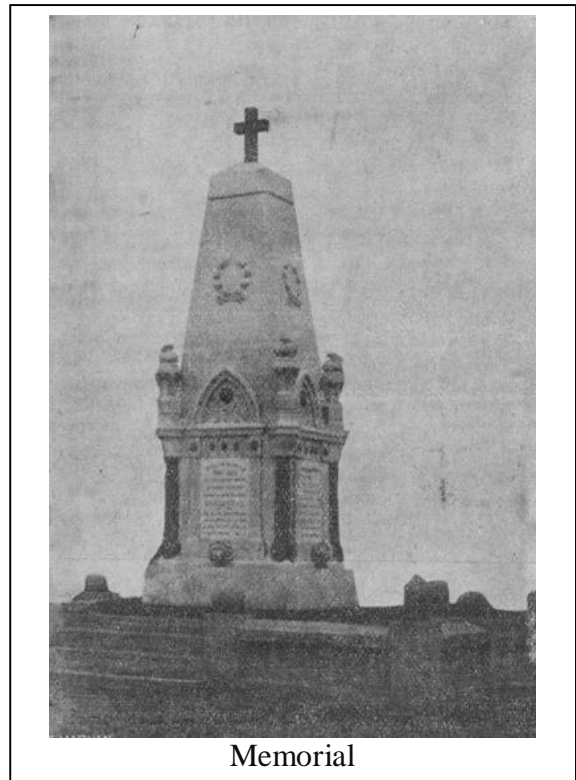
Since the existence of Gnadental, Russia has fought 4 wars, of which the community has been more or less involved.

1. The Crimean War (1853-1856) brought Gnadental many quartering of troops and other burdens, of which the outfitting of the “*Pogonzen*” was particularly oppressive.

2. The Russo-Turkish War (1877-1878) also resulted in frequent quartering. 12 youths from Gnadental took part in this war as compassionate brothers.

3. The Russo-Japanese War [1904-1905] had not affected the community as much as the previous ones because of the great distance. 12 Gnadental soldiers and conscripted reservists took part in the decisive battle at Mukden.

4. In the last war (1914-1917), 210 men were called up, so that actually only women, old people and children were at home. Of the conscripts, 7 were killed in action, 7 missing in action, and 16 have died of various diseases. 15 people were taken prisoner.



Memorial

Those killed in action: Johann Rüb, Johann Heubach, Benjamin Groß, Johann Deuschle, Johann Roth, Johannes Handel, Johann Lust.

Those missing in action: Johann Weller, Gottlieb Wiedmann, Gottlieb Rüb, Friedrich Spingler, Georg Hasenfuß, Johannes Bilmeyer, Christian Deiß.

Those who have died: Gottlieb Bareiter, Friedrich Föhl, Johannes Krug, Georg Schnaithmann, Friedrich Layer, Friedrich Dorsch, Christian Spingler, Friedrich Ernst, Christian Baumann, Johannes Jergentz, Otto Hottmann, Adolf Layer, Friedrich Merkle, Friedrich Dayß, Immanuel Föhl, Andreas Kurz.

Requisitioned for the needs of the Russian army were: horses—261, wagons—119, horse harnesses—118, horn cattle—274, sheep—531, pigs—9, wheat—8,755 *Pud*, oats—6,763 pud, barley—4,441 pud, corn—790 pud, hay—1,085 pud, straw—2,000 pud, bread—175 pud. For the Romanian army: wheat—1,600 pud, oats—700 pud, barley—3,000 pud, hay—500 pud, straw—1,200 pud.

On 3 May, 1921, the community decided to erect a fitting memorial to its sons who had fallen victim to the World War. The cost came to around 20,000 lei.

There were no facilities for the fostering of entertainment, social life and further education in Gnadental until the time after the last war. In 1884, Teacher Immanuel Koch founded a “reading circle”, but it soon came to an end.

In 1923, an “Entertainment Society” was founded. It was an association of young men for entertainment. After 2 years of existence, it broke up. The wind choir it founded continues to exist.

In 1925, a youth club was founded to include male and female youth.

The need to read was satisfied by the church library until the last war. In 1923, a lending library of the Co-operative (*Konsum*) was added. The youth club also has one.

As for newspapers, the *Unterhaltungsblatt* [Entertainment Paper] was read in the 1840s to the 1860s. The *Odessaer Zeitung* [Odessa Newspaper], founded in 1873, was very popular. *Deutschen Zeitung Bessarabien* [German Newspaper Bessarabia] is read in 55 copies.

As for religious publications read today: 53 copies of the *Christenbote* [Christian Messenger] and 8 copies of the *Lichter der Heimat* [Lights of the Homeland].

The male youth cultivate social life and entertainment through their camaraderie. Some customs have been preserved to this day through the camaraderie, such as the setting up of the Maypole (*Maiabaumstellen*) and the gathering of eggs (*Eierlesen*). While the practice of these customs was fought in earlier years by the village administration, today, one calmly watches these amusements.

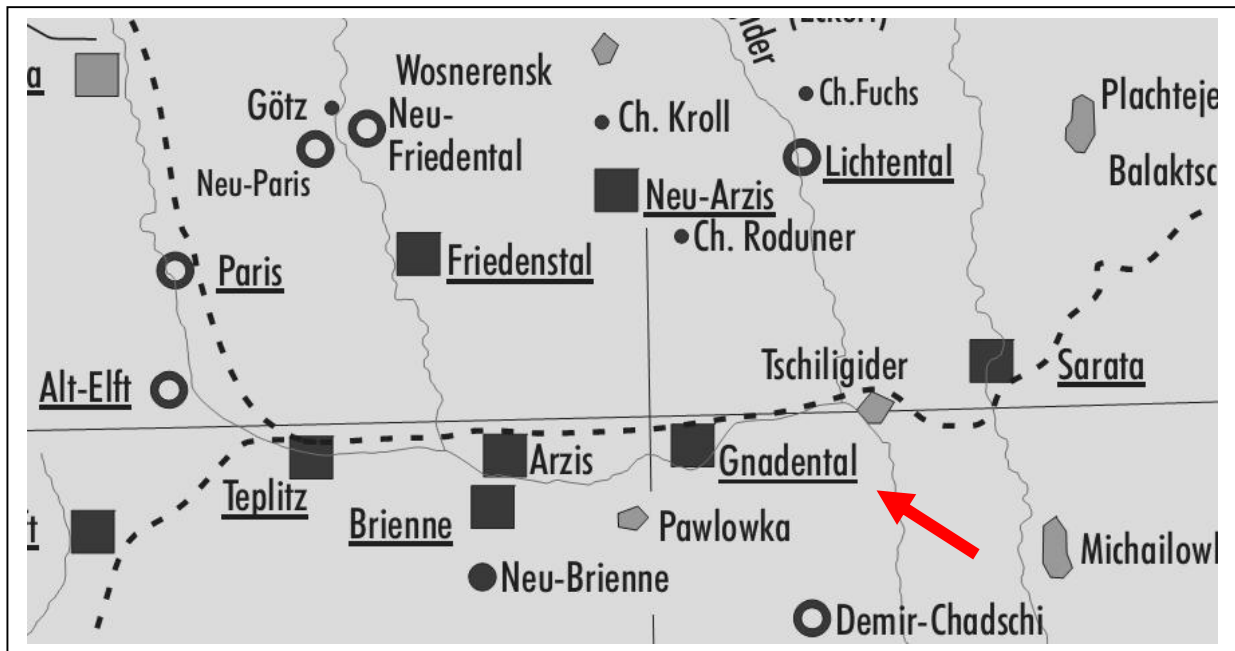
Female youth is less likely to enter the public eye in the area of social life and entertainment. They visit each other on the winter evenings and work diligently on handbags and purses for the

“future”. Two booklets are rarely missing with a young woman: in one, folk songs are entered, which are sung on occasions; in the other, there are recipes for various baked goods.

If Gnadental is now preparing for the centenary of the existence of the community, this should above all be a celebration of thanksgiving for the help and thousandfold blessings of our God. But it should also bring to maturity in each individual the realization that our future does not finally depend on us. Old things have fallen, many rotten things (*Morsches*) are still wavering, and new, unproven things are coming in from all directions. Would that the whole community as one person gather around the good things that were the requirements of our existence in the past and are to be so in the future. If the community and its leaders agree on the goal, then mutual trust will also find ways and means to achieve the goal. God grant it!

The limited space allowed only a very general reproduction of the foundation and development of this community. If you are more interested in the same, read the book published in 1929: *The Gnadental Municipality (Die Gemeinde Gnadental)*.

[Translation Ends]



Stump Map of Bessarabia reworked by Rolf Jethon—not in original document