

Markosowka, Kuban, North Caucasus



1902 map of the Kuban Region with Markosowka marked and circled.

I finally found a map that has the colony name “Markosowka” on it.

It is not exactly where Russian-German sources describe it to be, either. Those sources, which probably all stem from the work of Karl Stumpp, state there were two colonies, Gross-Markosowka and Klein-Markosowka. However, contemporary sources from 1906, 1909 and 1910 with lists of German colonies, and now a period map published in 1902 indicate there was only one colony called Markosowka. Even most family trees do not use Gross- or Klein- for their Markosowka ancestors' entries. Stumpp and those who echoed him appear to be incorrect on this.

Given this new evidence, I have removed the estimated locations for [Gross-Markosowka](#) and [Klein-Markosowka](#) and added [Markosowka](#) to the map with cross references to the names and a link to this post.

While this post may only interest a few researchers with Bessarabian roots, the sources might be of interest to a wider audience. Feel free to skip the analysis below and go to the sources at the end.

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Every time someone asks me about Gross-Markosowka or Klein-Markosowka (est. 1870/71) in the North Caucasus region, I go off to look for any new maps that might have these two daughter colonies on them by name. You see, up to this point, the only map that had the names is Karl Stumpp's "Karte der deutschen Siedlungen im Nord u. Südkaukasus" [Map of the German Settlements in the North and South Caucasus]. And it is not one of his better maps.



Section of the Karl Stumpp "Karte der deutschen Siedlungen im Nord u. Südkaukasus"

[Map of the German Settlements in the North and South Caucasus]

The two lines you can barely make out on the top to the left (west) of the railway line (the heavy black and white line going from Kropotkin to Armavir) is Gross-Markosowka. The two lines to the left (east) of the railway line below were Klein-Markosowka. The crosses in parenthesis (+) at the end means that they were no longer there by the time the map was published in 1960.

And below is what was written about these places from two published sources. There are some contradictions between them and the map above, but for the most part they are in sync.

From *Немцы России Населенные Пункты И Места Поселения Энциклопедический Словарь* [Germans of Russia Populations and Locations Encyclopedic Dictionary] (2006):

GROSS-MARKOZOVKA [ГРОСС-МАРКОЗОВКА] (Markozovka), until 1917 – Kuban region, Labinsk (Zakubansky) department; in the soviet period – Krasnodar region, Gulkevichsky/Kropotkinsky district. Lutheran village on leased land, founded in 1871. Situated 40 km

northwest of Armavir. Founders from the Eigenfeld [Bessarabia —SSP] village. Lutheran parish Pyatigorsk. Land 1,551 dessiatines. The heirs of the owner Markozov did not wish to sell the leased land, and in 1910 many residents left the village, buying land near the Kuma River. Residents: 536/529 German (1897), 150 (1925).

KLEIN-MARKOZOVKA [КЛЕЙН-МАРКОЗОВКА] (Markozovo), until 1917 – Kuban region, Labinsk (Zakubansky) department; in the Soviet period – Krasnodar region, Kropotkinsky/Armavir (Novo-Kubansky) district. Lutheran village on leased land, founded in 1871. Situated 25 km northwest of Armavir. Named after the landowner Markozov. Founders from the Eigenfeld [Bessarabia —SSP] community. Lutheran parish Pyatigorsk. Land 500 dessiatines. Pop.: 507/455 German (1897), 200 (1925).

From *German-Russian Handbook: A Reference Book for Russian German and German Russian History and Culture with Place Name Listings of Former German Settlement Areas* (2010):

Groß-Markosovka, Caucasus, Armavir, Krapotkin. #E 2. Founded by Bessarabian families on leased land in 1870. Evangelical; parish: Pyatigorsk. As Markosovs' heirs did not want to sell the land, residents left in 1910 and bought land on the Kuma River. Acreage: 35 farms. Population: 150 in 1926. Ceased to exist after 1918. Also see Groß-Markosowka; Gross-Markosovka; Gross-Markosowka; Markosovka, Groß-; Markosowka, Groß-; Markosovka, Gross-; Markosowka, Gross-.

Klein-Markozovka, Caucasus, Armavir, Krapotkin. #E 2. Founded in 1870 on leased land by families from the Volga. Evangelical. Approximately 40 farms. Population: 200 in 1926. Ceased to exist after 1918. Also see Klein-Markosowka; Markosowka, Klein-; Markozovka, Klein-.

A little side history and a connection to German-Russian Mennonites: [Vasily Ivanovich Markozov \(1838-1908\)](#) was a Russian infantry general in the Caucasian War (1817-64 and the Khiva campaign of 1873. The result of the former was the annexation of the North Caucasus into the Russian Empire, opening more migration land for the Germans in Russia. Makes sense that he would have estate lands in the North Caucasus. The latter was a military expedition of Russian troops with the goal of conquering the Khiva Khanate. The outcome was that Khiva became a protectorate of the Russian empire between 1873 and 1917, and it was during this time that two Mennonite colonies were established in Khiva in 1884 as a part of the [Great Mennonite Trek to Central Asia](#). You can find the colonies on the [Russian Turkestan map](#) and read more about the area in a [previous post](#).

Although they are listed as two colonies, family trees rarely distinguish between the two. Gross is used more than Klein when recording the place name, but most often there is no prefix at all, with just plain Markosowka used, like on this newly found map. Where the place names originated as they were added to the trees (family

lore? parish records? someone else's tree?) is undetermined in most cases with no sources listed to verify an origin. The few EWZ files for people from this colony also note just Markosowka, and those have birth dates back into the late 1800s, so not soviet era.

At this point, I wondered just how many Markosowkas were there? Three: Markosowka, Gross-Markosowka, and Klein-Markosowka? Two: Gross-Markosowka (aka Markosowka) and Klein-Markosowka? Or was there one Markosowka, the one that appears on the map from 1902?

Searching my ever-growing digital collection of “stuff” on my laptop for every which way to spell the name of the colony, I came up back with three important files: digital copies of the *Neuer Haus- und Landwirtschaftskalender für deutsche Ansiedler im südlichen Russland*, or the New Domestic and Agricultural Calendar for German Settlers in Southern Russia for the years 1906, 1909, and 1910. I think of these as the farmer's almanac of South Russia. Markosowka showed up in these as a German colony in the Kuban region. Markosowka. Not Gross-Markosowka. Not Klein-Markosowka. Just Markosowka. These coupled with the map from 1902 confirmed that there was indeed just one.

N a m e n			Seelenzahl des Dorfes	Gründungsjahr	Landbesitzquantum in Dess.
der Wolost und a. des Wolostvorstehers b. dessen Gehilfen c. des Wolostschreibers d. der betr. Pöststation.	der zur Wolost gehörigen Dörfer.	a. des Gemeinbeältesten b. dessen Gehilfen c. des Gemeinbeschreibers			
g. Kuban - Gebiet.					
156 * Wannowskaja. a. Johann Kramm. b. Friedr. Schäfer. c. M. Baronoff. d. ст. Тюлисская.	Wannowskoje (Eigenfeld) Scheremetjewskoje (Rosenfeld) Leonowskoje (Alexanderfeld) Ghutor Arnoldsheim	a. Johannes Hein. b. Abraham Schäfer. c. A. Sabelnikow. a. Gottlieb Schäfer. b. Jakob Kallis. c. F. Turpetko. a. M. Rußmaul. c. St. Abropow. a. Friedr. Kaug. c. Jak. Knaus.	630 510 494 320	1868 1872 1870 ?	1500 1000 1000 ?
157 Dshiginskaje (Michaelsfeld) a. Joh. Veierbach. b. Konr. Schneidler. c. Christ. Schelske.	Michaelsfeld (Dshiginskaje) Pilenkowsk (Sossit) d. АНАНА.	Die Glieder der Gebietsverw. bilden zugl. die Dorfsverw. a. Karl Metz. b. Johannes Nidel. c. Vasant.	925 365	1868 1886	4473 1200
158 Belikofnjasshesk. (Mennon.-Kol.) a. David Klassen. b. Abrah. Reimer. c. Heinz. Kornelsen.	Belikofnjassheskoje Alexanbrodar d. Великокняжеское, Куб. обл.	a. Jakob Wiens. b. Abrah. Peters. a. Johann Görh. b. Gerhard Görhen.	1112 910	1864 1864	2340 2015
159 B. Nowo-Michailowst. Wol. geh. d. Отрада-Кубанская	Markosowka (Pachtl.) Natalino (Pachtl.)	a. Philipp Göhring. b. David Flegel. c. Johannes Bender. ?	600 —	1874 —	1600 —
160 * B. Bogosjowski-schen Dorfsamt geh. d. Армавирь.	Eigenheim	?	—	—	—

Page 55, image 64 from *Neuer Haus- und Landwirtschaftskalender für deutsche Ansiedler im südlichen Russland. 1906*

The image above shows the name Markosowka in the Kuban-Gebiet. The names listed to the right of the colony name are a. the community elder (Phillipp Göhring), b. his assistant (David Flegel), and c. the municipal clerk (Johannes Bender). Population 600. Founded 1874. 1600 desyatina of land.

N a m e n			Zahl der Schüler.
der Kirchspiele und Geistlichen.	der zum Kirchspiele ge- hörigen Orte.	a. des deutschen Lehrers. b. des russischen Lehrers. c. des Gehülfen.	

III. Evangelisch-lutherische Gemeinden im Kaukasus.

1 Stawropol.	Stawropol	Heinrich Giner.	48
Pastor J. Martensen, seit 1902.	Johannisdorf	Gustav Schmidt.	?
	Martinsfeld	Johann Robemann.	80
	Friedrichsfeld	Balant.	36
	Bethel	?	?
	Deutsch-Chaginsk	Rüsterl. Karl Ewaldsohn.	256
	Estnisch-Chaginsk	J. Loßmann.	60
	Karlsruhe	Hermann Jesse.	155
	Hermannsburg	Johann Wolff.	106
	Petersthal	J. Swoboda.	35
	Johannisheim	Fr. Neuland.	56
2 Jekaterinodar: Nowo- rossisk.	?	?	?
Pastor A. Schulz, seit 1890.			
3 Filiale von Jekaterinodar.	Michaelsfeld	a. Jakob Böhner. b. Olga Rja- sanskaja.	106
Pastor-Adj. A. Ahmus, seit 1897.	Gnabau	a. u. b. Gustav Bender.	60
	Markosowka	Johannes Bender.	132
	Dsbiginskije (Michaelsfeld)	a. Johannes Schmale. b. S. Dnitschenko.	118
	Bilensfeld	Balant.	43
	Wannowskoje (fr. Eigensfeld)	Johann Elfe.	96
	Scheremetjewskoje (fr. Rosensfeld)	Peter Stujin.	60
	Leonowskoje (fr. Alexanderfeld)	Friedr. Rosensfeld.	90

Page 72, image 81 from *Neuer Haus- und Landwirtschaftskalender für deutsche Ansiedler im südlichen Russland. 1906*

The image here shows the Evangelical Lutheran congregations in the Caucasus. Markosowka was a part of a branch of the Ekaterinodar-Novorossiysk parish. Johannes Bender was the German school teacher. It was a requirement to have a Russian school teacher at this time, but there wasn't one assigned, nor were there any helpers. There were 132 students.

Markosowka was listed as a part of the Pyatigorsk parish in the *German-Russian Handbook* and other sources. [FamilySearch](#) has no records for Pyatigorsk and only Armenian Catholic records for Ekaterinodar (Krasnodar today).

The [Black Sea German Research \(BSGR\)](#) database contains names with birth places that contain the word [Markosowka](#), [Markosovka](#) or [Markozov](#) and death places that contain the word [Markosowka](#) or [Markosovka](#) (none for Markozov). These fit the years of known habitation, roughly 1868-1910.

The text extracts of GEDCOMs that used to be on the [American Historical Society of Germans from Russia's \(AHSGR\)](#) website several years ago have references to Markosowka/Markosovka. Some may be duplicates of the BSGR data.

Searching [Ancestry.com](#) for just the place name Markosowka or Markosovka came back with ship manifests, social security applications, obituaries from AHSGR and newspaper clippings from [Newspapers.com](#). Most of them noted the place of birth or last residence as Markosowka. The surnames were all the same as those in the BSGR database.

Below is a summary of the data that is/was publically available online. It is far from a full analysis of Markosowaka, but it gives a general idea of the diaspora of this one daughter colony.

Known Surnames — Babitzke, Beierle, Bender, Borth, Bossert, Diede, Fischer, Flagel, Flato [Flatho], Flegel, Gebhardt, Gehring, Göhring, Guenther, Haecker, Hartfelder, Hasert, Hein, Hirschhorn, Isaak, Janke, Klauss, Kleim, Knodel, Kroll, Kruse, Kurtz, Lang, Littau, Mann, Manske, Mittelstaedt, Mueller, Pahl, Patzer, Plischke, Pries, Rauser, Ruff, Scheffelman, Schelske, Schmidt, Schulz, Sommerfeld, Stern, Trautwein, Wagner, Werner, Widmer, Wittchen, and Wonnenberg.

Known Places of Origin — Markosowka was a daughter colony, so it was a place of migration from other colonies. Places of origin here include birthplaces for those who died in Markosowka.

Bessarabia: [Borodino](#), [Brienne](#), [Eigenfeld](#), [Gnadental](#), [Josefsdorf](#), [Katzbach](#), [Klöstitz](#), [Kulm](#), [Leipzig](#), [Lichtental](#), [Tarutino](#), and [Wittenberg](#).

Saratov: [Huck](#)

Luisental was also listed in a database entry as “Luisental, Bessarabia,” but I do not know this place in Bessarabia. The only [Luisental](#) I am aware of is part of the Bergtal settlement near Mariupol.

Known Places of Immigration/Migration/Repatriation/Deportation — These are final destinations from ship manifests, places lived and died from published obituaries, and death places (modern countries) for those who were born in Markosowka as they are noted in family trees from BSGR and AHSGR.

Argentina - no specific place noted

Canada

Alberta: [Medicine Hat](#)

[Caspian Sea](#) - According to the notes in the tree, this person was accused of being a kulak in 1933 and sentenced to 6 years in Pyatigorsk, where he was malnourished and released in 1937. He was then taken again, and with others “forced to walk plank into the Caspian Sea.”

Germany

[Neuss](#)

[Neustadt](#) (Bavaria)

[Palatinate \(Pfalz\) region](#)

[Schossin](#)

[Schleswig](#)

[Wittenburg](#)

Iran

[Duruk](#)

Kazakhstan

[Batpak Collective \(?\)](#)

[Collective Farm \(no specific place given\)](#)

[Frunze \(not sure which one\)](#)

[Karaganda](#)

[Pavlodar area](#)

[Pokrovka](#)

[Semipalatinsk](#)

[Uljanovka \(not sure which\)](#)

Russia

[Chelyabinsk \(labor camp\)](#)

[Dagestan - Chasavjurt, Machatschkala](#)

[Krasnodar Krai - Gulkevichi](#)

[Omsk - Luzino \(shot in the labor army\)](#)

[Stavropol - Marienbrunn, Mineralne Wodje](#)

[Siberia - no specific place given](#)

[Sverdlovsk Oblast](#)

[USSR labor camp - no specific place given](#)

United States

California - [East Palo Alto](#), [Jackson](#), [Lodi](#), [Sacramento](#)

Idaho - [Aberdeen](#), [American Falls](#), [Pocatello](#), [Rupert](#)

Kansas - [Galva](#), [Hutchinson](#), [Kingman](#), [Moundridge](#), [Pretty Prairie](#)

Missouri - [Columbia](#), [Knob Noster](#)

Nebraska - [Naper](#), [Plainview](#)

Oklahoma - [Shattuck](#)

Oregon - [Cottage Grove](#), [Hillsboro](#)

Montana - [Watkins](#)

North Dakota - [Bismarck](#), [Ellendale](#), [Kulm](#), [Jamestown](#), [Monango](#), [Mott](#), [Wishek](#)

South Dakota - [Dallas](#), [Rapid City](#), [Tripp](#), [Winner](#)

Washington - [Cashmere](#), [Chelan](#), [Spokane](#)

Uzbekistan

[Tashkent](#)

Sources:

1. [American Historical Society of Germans from Russia](#)
2. [Black Sea German Research](#)
3. *German-Russian Handbook: A Reference Book for Russian German and German Russian History and Culture with Place Name Listings of Former German Settlement Areas* (2010)
4. *Немцы России Населенные Пункты И Места Поселения Энциклопедический Словарь* [Germans of Russia Populations and Locations Encyclopedic Dictionary] (2006)
5. Idaho, U.S., Obituary Collection, 1868-2013 via [Ancestry.com](#)
6. “Karte der deutschen Siedlungen im Nord u. Südkaukasus” [Map of the German Settlements in the North and South Caucasus], Karl Stumpp, 1960.
7. “Карта Кубанской области...” [Map of the Kuban region and the adjacent Black Sea province and part of the Sukhumi district. Compiled by the active member of the Kuban regional statistical committee N.S. Ivanenkov, assistant to the manager of the Kuban regional drawing office. The map was drawn from November 10, 1900 to August 20, 1902. Scale 1:420000 (1 cm = 4.2 km or 10 versts per inch)], Ivanenkov, 1902. [EtoMesto](#).
8. [Markosowka, Kuban photo album](#) (images from this post)
9. *Neuer Haus- und Landwirtschaftskalender für deutsche Ansiedler im südlichen Russland. 1906* [New Domestic and Agricultural Calendar for German Settlers in Southern Russia, 1906]

10. *Neuer Haus- und Landwirtschaftskalender für deutsche Ansiedler im südlichen Russland. 1909* [New Domestic and Agricultural Calendar for German Settlers in Southern Russia, 1909]
11. *Neuer Haus- und Landwirtschaftskalender für deutsche Ansiedler im südlichen Russland. 1910* [New Domestic and Agricultural Calendar for German Settlers in Southern Russia, 1910]
12. New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957 via [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)
13. Texas, U.S., Arriving and Departing Passenger and Crew Lists, 1893-1963 via [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)
14. U.S., American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Obituaries, 1899-2012 via [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)
15. U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007 via [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)

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