

Brief History of Annowka Municipality

Bessarabischer Heimatkalender—1963

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Note: Information within [brackets] are comments by the translator.

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[Translation Begins]

Short Chronicle of the Community of Annowka

by Oskar Bantel

Annowka was founded in 1908 and received its name in honor of Countess Anna Cagarina-Sturdza, who once owned 20,000 *Deßjatinen* [54,000 acres / 21,800 hectares] of land in this area. The Countess spent most of her time in France, to where she eventually moved. The last administrator of the land was the settler Johann Fies, who offered the land to interested farmers. He himself also bought 150 *Deßjatinen* [450 acres / 163.5 hectares]. The first settlers settled in early 1908, but it was not until 10 January, 1909, that the purchase of a total of 2,000 *Deßjatinen* [5,400 acres / 2,180 hectares] of land was finalized. During this time, the buyers had already taken possession of and cultivated the land. Most of the settlers came from Gnadental, so Annowka could rightly be referred to as a daughter community of Gnadental. The following settlers came from **Gnadental**: Jakob Bantel I and II, Adam Schnaithmann, Karl Deis, Michael Days, Gottfried and Karl Fohl, Christian Oßwald, Karl Baumann, Gottfried and Friedrich Bihlmaier, Jakob and Albert Bantel, Friedrich Hermann, Immanuel and Reinhold Hermann, Albert Silcher, Immanuel Schnaithmann. The latter moved from Gnadental later through inheritance and purchase. From **Eigenfeld**: August and Daniel Adolf, Gotthilf Schimke, Georg Volz, Gottlieb Häuser, Heinrich Wirth. From **Sarata**: Johann Fies, Mattheis and Reinhold Brenner. From **Borodino**: Jakob and Johann Schneck. From **Lichtental**: Christian Gösler, Heinrich Gerber and Friedrich Gentner through purchase and inheritance. From **Jakobstal**: Johann Hille. Christian Sauer sold his land to David Siewert, Georg Volz to Philipp Kämpf, the land from Spreinger went to Daniel Maier. These three settlers had moved from **Neu-Odessa**.

The first year was very difficult, as only a few clay huts were available and the spring was wet and cold. Therefore, emergency shelters for horses and people were made of reeds, so that

animals and people had some protection against rain and cold. Since I was six years old at the time and had not yet started school, I was allowed to go to Annowka for planting in the spring. I was able to see everything. Even today, I can still remember well how people lived there; two to three families lived in one clay hut, and I fed myself throughout the day with *Märzelblümle* [Märzel flower]. In the summer of 1908, construction began, so that the settlers could already



School & Prayer House in Annowka

live in the new houses by winter. The stones for this were taken from the Russian villages of Petropavlovka and Faraonovka, the timber from Bendery, and the roof tiles from Tiraspol. In this way, Annowka soon became quite a beautiful community within a few years. After the First World War, new building plots were allocated, which rapidly expanded the settlement. Annowka had a large mill that was equipped in the most modern way. The owners of the mill were the brothers Albert and Friedrich Appelt and Oskar

Brost. Two German stores with a dairy, butcher shop, and grain purchase had also already been built. There were three carpenters in Annowka: Heinrich and Johannes Gerber and Otto Flatho. They also produced grain-cleaning mills [*Putzmühlen*], which were very much in demand. Furthermore, there was a blacksmith, Friedrich Hillus, and two cement brick factories, owned by Otto and Berthold Fies and Karl Baumann. The main occupation of the inhabitants of Annowka was agriculture. Due to the good black soil, the diligence and perseverance of the owners, and the constantly improving cultivation methods, prosperity increasingly came to the village. Annowka soon became one of the richest villages, then, in the 1930s, the Karakul sheep breeding in the area made great progress and brought good profits to the owners. At the time of Resettlement, there were about 2,000 Karakul sheep and over 500 wool sheep in Annowka. The first Karakul breeder was Karl Baumann, followed by Immanuel Hermann, Friedrich Bihlmaier, Otto Fies, Oskar Bantel, Friedrich Appelt, Eduard Maier, Friedrich Hermann, Wilhelm Bantel, and Emil Fies. Horse breeding left much to be desired, although every farmer had four to ten state horses. The livestock breeding was good, as every farmer was eager to have the best dairy cows. Since the money from milk and eggs went into the woman's purse, there was always great effort involved, as every woman wanted to deliver more milk. Soybeans were also grown extensively in the 1930s. They were very well paid and left a very good soil for winter wheat. For example, Karl Bumann had cultivated nearly 100 hectares [247 acres] of soybeans in 1940.

We had 24 kilometers [14.9 miles] to the train station, the next market town was Wolontirówka, 7 kilometers [4.4 miles] away. Since 1927, Annowka was part of the Eigenfeld Parish. The district town was Akkerman. At the time of its founding, Annowka had 177 souls, and by 1940, during the Resettlement, it had already grown to 425 souls. Through the Resettlement, the residents of Annowka moved to Asch (Sudetenland) and were divided into three camps there: Jahnhalles, Jägerhaus, and Schützenhaus. In 1941, they were scattered in the Warthegau and settled. After the Flight in 1945, most came to Saxony-Anhalt; there the majority were settled. Only a small portion moved to the West, mostly to the districts of Heilbronn and Ulm.

In the Second World War, Annowka suffered heavy casualties: 18 fallen, 9 missing. Currently, there is still one man in Russian captivity in Siberia.

Of the first settlers of Annowka, only Karl Bumann still lives today. He resides in the East Zone. The oldest woman in our community, Mrs. Pauline Fies, who is already 89 years old, lives with her daughter Mathilde Schulz in Altbach (Württemberg).

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