

# History of Alt-Arzis

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

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**Brief History  
of Colony Alt-Arzis,  
Akkerman District (Cetatea-Alba), Bessarabia,  
written by Sexton-Teacher A. Witt**  
on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Church.

What is easily acquired does not seem expensive;  
What goes sour is doubly yours. (—)

There are times and hours in life by which a person is stopped on his path of life and remains standing. An historical event, joyful experiences, or heavy strokes of fate of all kinds and serious hours of inner movement are often what make the heart beat faster than usual or constrict the chest. These are stopping points where man looks back; at the same time, however, they are also vantage points that he sees in the future. And like the individual person, so also a whole community, a whole people has its stopping points and vantage points.

The 5<sup>th</sup> of October, 1930 is a day of historical importance for the municipality of Alt-Arzis,

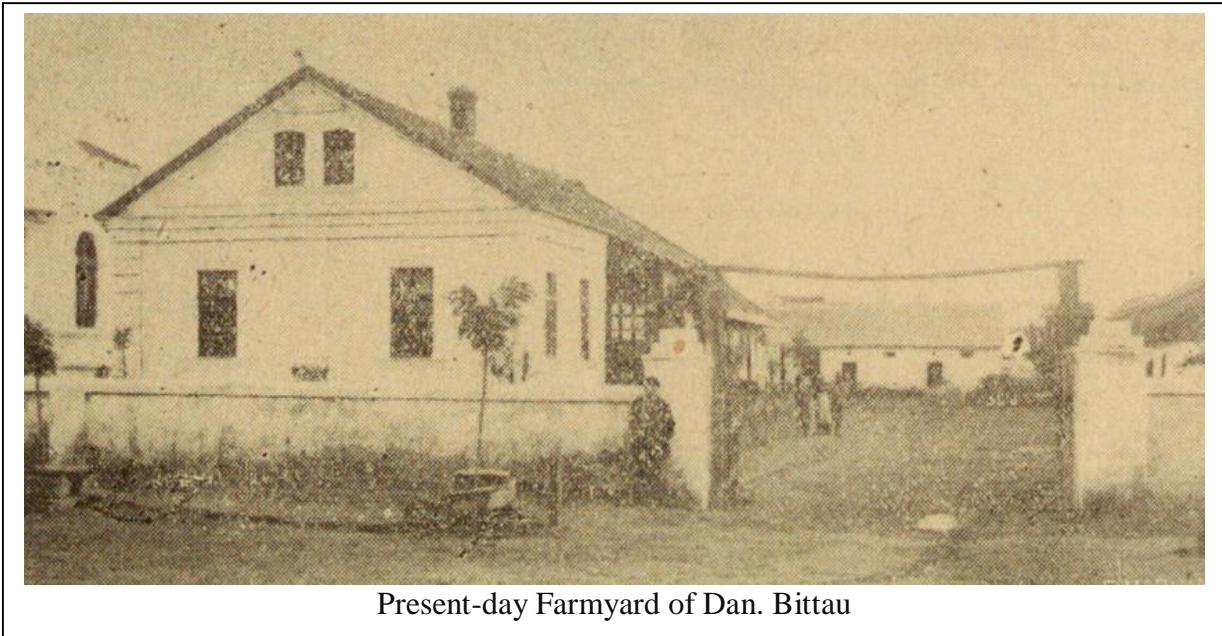


Crown House of Ernst Rahn in Alt-Arzis

insofar as on this day the community celebrates the 50th Anniversary of its church and at the same time the dedication of the new schoolhouse.

These are the big stopping points which also gave me occasion to report in short strokes something about the Alt-Arzis colony. On the basis of the history, I also first lead the esteemed reader back to the distant past, to the founding time of the colony.

The immigration of the first German colonists to Bessarabia took place through a Proclamation of the Russian Emperor Alexander I. In 1813, this emperor also issued a Proclamation to the Germans in the Duchy of Warsaw, who had immigrated there earlier from Prussia and should come to Bessarabia. Beautiful privileges and significant support for the first domestic and economic establishment were promised to them by the Tsar. The imperial offer was all the more desirable to them because, after the hardships of the recent war, they hoped to find peace and prosperity under the powerful protection of the Russian Tsar.

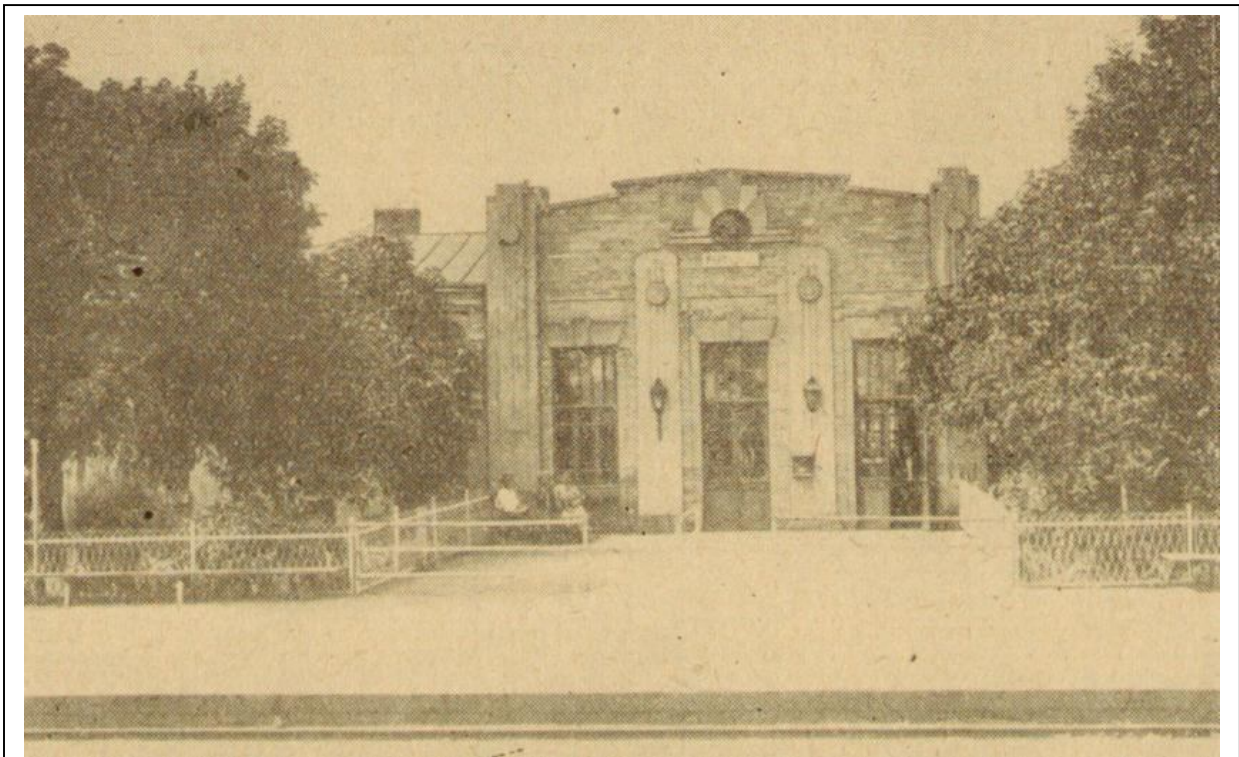


In 1814, a group of 82 families with 417 souls, under their bold leader Baron von Wittenheim, responded to the Imperial Manifesto and left their homeland. After great difficulties and long hardships, they arrived at their destination in Bessarabia. They came for the most part from the administrative district of Marienwerder, the Prussian province of West Prussia with the district town of Kulm; only some came from Bavaria, Württemberg and Kassel, province of Hesse-Nassau.

In 1815, a second group of 41 families set out to come to Bessarabia, the land of promise. Once here, they joined the first group and became a community of 123 families. The immigrants of the last group came from the Russian-Polish Kalisch Province (*Gouvernement*) and came from Bromberg, the administrative district of the Prussian province of Posen. These 123 families were also the founders of Colony Arzis (only later Alt-Arzis). The names of the founders cannot be given here, as several documents from the founding period are no longer available today. Since

the Steppe intended for the settlers was still in the hands of Moldovan tenants when they arrived, and since no houses had yet been built for them, our immigrants were initially quartered in Moldovan villages. Here they led a difficult life, — many died.

It was not until 1816 that the Arzis colony began, which is located on the Tschaga and Kogälnik streams and is about 120 *Wersts* [80.4 miles / 127.2 kilometers] away from the provincial town of Kishinev and 70 *Wersts* [46.9 mi / 74.2 km] from the district town of Akkerman. The founders settled on the “land and layout of Plan No. 14”, which was assigned to them by President Karl von Müller and was 7,380 *Deßjatinen* [19,926 acres / 80,442 hectares] in size. Each family was allocated a plot of 60 *Deßjatinen* [437.4 acres / 65.4 hectares]. Here they put up a makeshift shelter against storm and weather made of cane and grass. Accordingly, a village was created which bore the name “Johannes-Hort”. Soon after, the colony was given the name “Arzis” by order of the higher authorities, in memory of the victory of the allies over Napoleon I in France at Arzis in 1814.

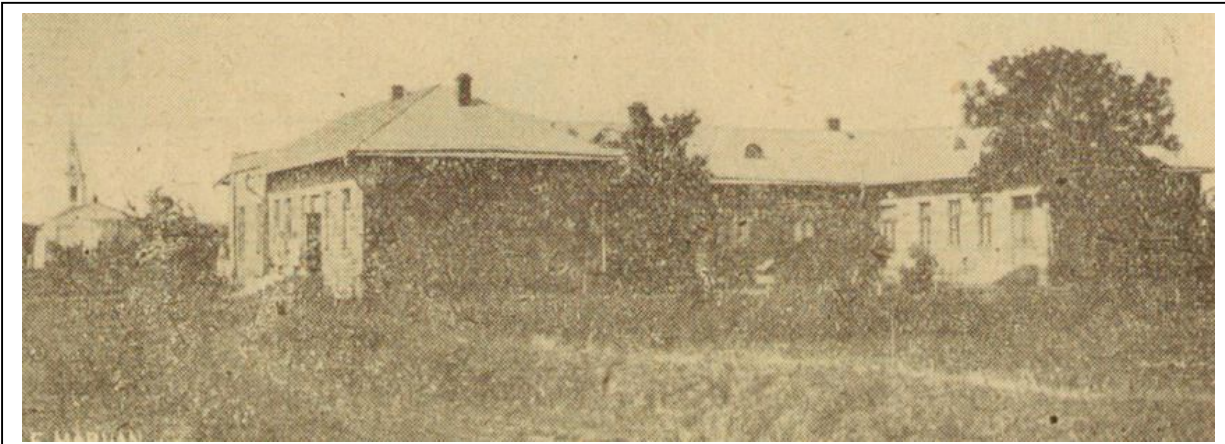


Railroad Station in Alt-Arzis

The first dwellings were, as already mentioned, very primitively constructed and very unhealthy. At last, thought was given to building larger, more comfortable and more healthy dwellings, all the more so since each farmer received 10 rubles of silver and “some wood and beams” from the Crown for the construction of the houses. Soon after the founding, it was also discovered that the hill in the neighboring Brienne colony contained stones. Because it was considered as unusable land and was “access-free” (*accisfrei*), our settlers were also allowed to break stones there free of charge. So, small stone houses were built in the Arzis colony, which were called “Crown Houses” (*Kronshäuschen*). How poor and meager nonetheless compared to a farmyard of the present!

Since the cultivation of the field was very difficult to accomplish due to the excessive extent of the Steppe, the settlers decided to divide the Steppe. An application was made to the High Colonial Authorities for the establishment of a second colony on the same Plan No. 14, which was approved in 1824 by the President of the Welfare Committee of Foreign Settlers of Southern Russia, Infantry General Insov. 41 families (the 2<sup>nd</sup> immigrant party) left Arzis and settled at a distance of 10 *Werst* [6.7 mi / 10.6 km] in the Chalaïr Valley. As a result, a second colony was established on the same Steppe, which received the official name “Neu-Arzis” in 1825, while the first and older colony was now called “Alt-Arzis”. At that time, there was only one street in Alt-Arzis with two houses, which runs along the Tschaga river from east to west; today there are already 7 streets here.

So there were still 82 families left behind in Alt-Arzis, who now still had an amount of 4,920 *Deßjatinen* [13,284 acres / 53,628 hectares] of land. In 1898, some settlers bought another 660 *Deßjatinen* [17,982 acres / 719.4 hectares] and established a co-operative on the “Walerjanowka” estate, on the so-called “Bulgarian Steppe” near Neu-Arzis, but some of them have already sold again. There are only a few undivided farms left today in Alt-Arzis; they are fragmented into smaller parts. The soil is quite saltpeter and clay rich, sandy in places; pure humus soil is little available.

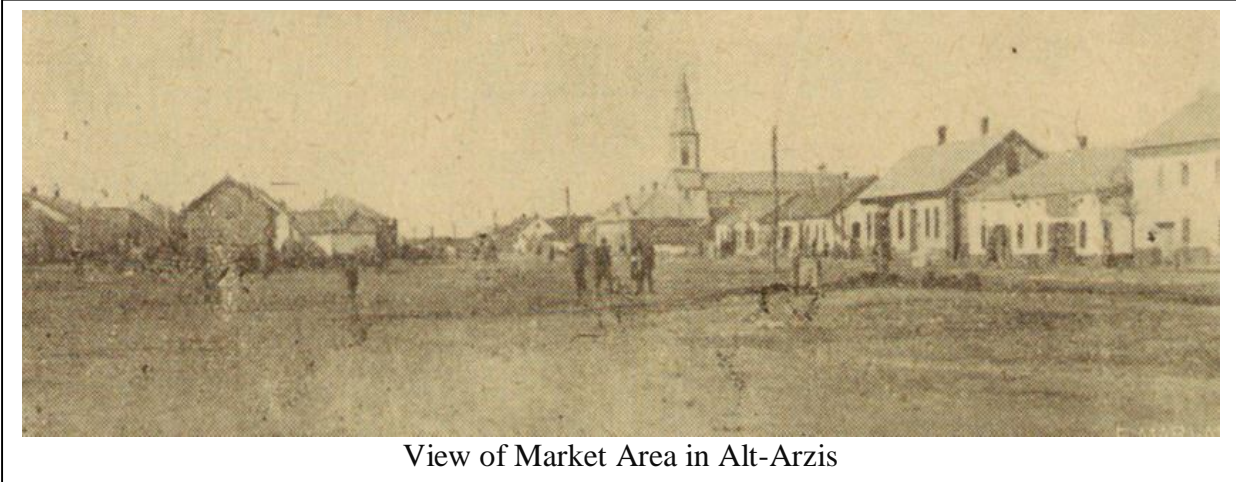


Semstwo Hospital

Then, as now, all kinds of cereal grains were grown, which found a good market in Ismail, from where the people also obtained construction lumber and cane. Later, the grain was hauled to Odessa and Akkerman. Today, the grain is also transported to as far as Kilia to get better prices, but it is mostly sold here on the spot. In 1914, Alt-Arzis got a railway station with a magnificent station building. For this purpose, the municipality provided the then railway company with the necessary amount of land for the station and railway line, insofar as it cuts through the Alt-Arzis land, according to agreement—free of charge. From there, the grain merchants (mostly Jews) transport the grain sold by the colonists, and the great difficulties and hardships with the hauling of the grain are removed.

Our ancestors did not encounter any forests or other natural tendencies here. They had to do it all for themselves. In later years, Alt-Arzis had a small forest between the Tschaga and Kogálnik rivers. Although it was compulsorily to do this planting, to a certain extent it awakened in our

ancestors a consciousness for forests, as well as a consciousness for trees and shrubs in general. According to statistics from 1843, the stock of forest and fruit trees was as follows: forest trees—3,111; fruit trees—15,906 of various fruits, so that the village made an imposing impression in the summer with its lush greenery. By order of the authorities, acacia trees had to be planted along the street walls and roads from one village to another. Today, little of all that splendor can be seen. Why? — —



View of Market Area in Alt-Arzis

Our ancestors were also very concerned about planting vineyards. Again, it was the colonial government that sought to raise viticulture among the colonists and supported it very much. In 1839, the colonists had already planted 19,700 vines here; in the year 1844—165,580 pieces, in an area of 70 *Deßjatinen* [189 acres / 76.3 hectares], the “old” varieties were planted and gave a good wine. Because it was very cheap in the first years, little was sold, — they drank of it frequently themselves. In the 1880s, almost all vineyards were destroyed by phylloxera [plant lice]; only individual gardens were preserved longer. After the World War (1914-1918), Direct-bearing (*Direkträger*) were planted here, but most of them were destroyed by frost in the winter of 1928-1929. But again they were very busy planting various vines. The planting of Direct-bearing is now prohibited by the state.

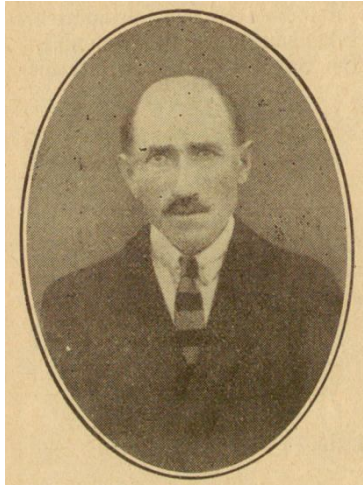
As far as agriculture is concerned, the so-called four-field system has existed here for many years. It is a pity that the farmers do not have their own land together in one place! But it is even more of a pity that the land here is not being worked on more intensively. The cultivation of the soil is generally taken casually; only a few make an exception. And if the rain does not come quite early, the crop failure is there and so is the need.

The Alt-Arzis colony was hit by total crop failures in the years 1823, 1824, 1833, 1834, 1839, 1854, 1867, 1892, 1899, 1904 — and, in 1929, all of the winter wheat froze. But the good and gracious Heavenly Father did not completely withdraw his helping hand from his children, but always graciously helped.

And all there is that could be reported about epidemics and land plagues! In 1829, the plague raged here from 20 August to 10 December, killing 180 people. After this epidemic was over, the colony of Alt-Arzis still numbered 300 out of 480 souls. The plague cemetery is marked by a cross, which can still be seen today. — In 1831, 22 people died of cholera. In 1848 and 1855,

the colony was also visited by cholera. — A Semstwo [rural administrative] hospital with qualified doctors did not exist here at that time, as we have had since 1915, and little medical help was given to the sick. — In 1833, 1834 and 1847, the colony was ravaged by swarms of locusts, caterpillars and hailstorms. — In these years also, the Almighty has helped graciously, and the colony, despite all the blows of fate, has nevertheless brought it to a certain degree of prosperity and well-being.

But it must not be forgotten that in the economic field the market has played a not insignificant



Michael Brickmann,  
Congregation Curator

role. Although the market was and is ruinous for some Arzis colonists, it has been of great benefit to the general public to this day. Old documents show that there was already a market in Alt-Arzis in the 1830s. The so-called stall-money (*Standgelder*) from foreign merchants, wagon taxes for the entrance, taxes from the purchase of horses and cattle, and so forth, — all these funds flowed into the treasury of the church community (*Kirchengemeinde*) until about a decade ago. Community houses (*Gemeindenhäuser*) on the market square could always be easily leased to merchants (mainly Jews). All this was a good source of income for the colony. Today, most of these revenues flow into the coffers of the political community (*Kommuna*), and only the income from the congregation buildings (9 in number) and wooden booths (56) flows into the coffers of the church community. — The church community is strictly separated from the political community.

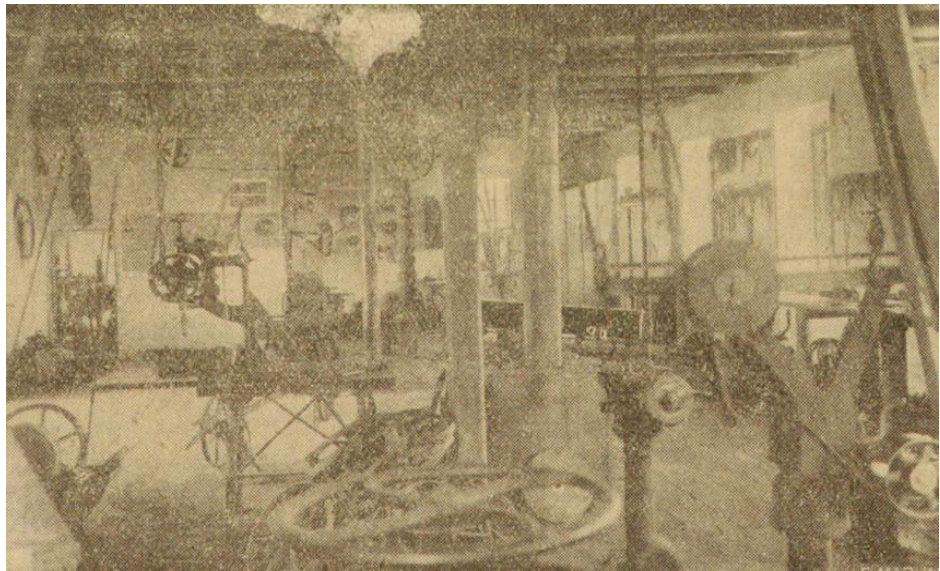
Mr. Michael Brickmann has been the curator of the church community since 1926. As such, he now presides over a German congregation of 1,603 souls.

At the time of its founding, the population consisted exclusively of farmers and craftsmen. At that time there were no factories in Alt-Arzis. It was not until 1846 that the local colonist Samuel Meske founded a locksmith's shop, which today has been expanded by his grandson Josef Meske into a plow factory and iron foundry.



Plow Factory and Iron Foundry (Josef Meske)

Plows of all sizes, including mowing machines and corn setters, are now manufactured by him. —There were also no mills with power operation in the early years. There were only hand mills, which later had to make way for horse mills and windmills; only in the 1870s was the first steam mill built. The owners were the local settlers Michael Rasch (today 90 years old and the oldest man in the village), Friedrich Haas and others. Today there is a branch of the mill *Progreß* at the upper end of the



Interior of Meske Factory

village close to the railway station, where the steam mill of Jakob Handel used to stand. The Joint-Stock Company with the enterprising Mr. Johann Adam Lemke at the head has put about 8,000,000 lei [Romanian currency] into this motor driven mill and the mill is already so far along that the work in it has already begun. Hopefully, it will make us good flour and, over time, introduce electric lights. — Moreover, in the field of industry, today there are many others to be listed in Alt-Arzs, such as: 2 fabric factories, 2 plow factories and iron foundries (including the Meske one), 7 brickworks, to mention some.



Branch of the *Progreß* Mill in Alt-Arzs

A whole series of German trading companies have emerged in recent years. Alt-Arzs colony also knows a lot to say about one German co-operative business. But, unfortunately, it only lasted a few years—it was shipwrecked and sank. Jewish businesses, on the other hand, grow out of the earth like mushrooms. If we consider that today there

are already about 720 Jews living in Alt-Arzs, who are trying to seize the German property for themselves, then we have to be on our guard, and Mr. “Solo” [Author Emanuel Schlechter]

might be right when he calls our village a “Jewish Paradise” in his “New Year's Dance”. — Hold on to what you have so that no one may take your crown from you!

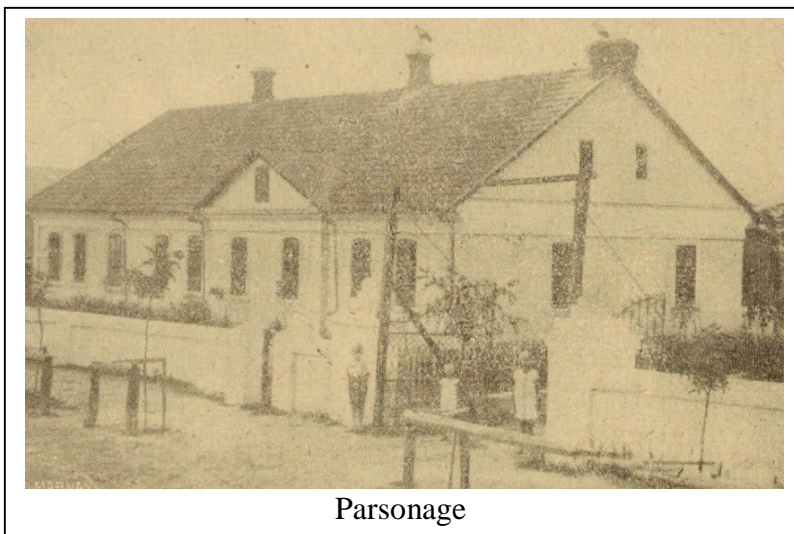
There are tradesmen currently in Alt-Arzis: 2 tailors, 4 cobblers, 7 carpenters, 2 blacksmiths, 1 locksmith, 1 wagon builder, 2 coopers, 3 bricklayers, 3 saddle/harness-makers, 1 mechanic.

In addition to the above-mentioned buildings, which are set up as shops and leased to merchants on the market square, the municipality owns the following buildings: church, 3 school buildings, 2 teachers' living quarters, village administration, house of the Orphan Fund (belongs to the municipalities: Alt-Arzis, Neu-Arzis, Brienne and Friedenstal), parsonage (belongs to the main congregations of the parish: Alt-Arzis, Neu-Arzis, Brienne, Teplitz and Friedenstal), post office building, 4 shepherds' houses.

As already mentioned at the beginning, the settlers of the Alt-Arzis colony lived in Poland for several years before their immigration to Bessarabia. There they became a rather depraved people in the Polish forests; they wanted to know very little about religion and church. So they came to Bessarabia mostly religiously and morally neglected and founded Colony “Arcis” here. In 1815, the Russian government sent Pastor Friedrich Schnabel to Tarutino, from where he had to serve pastorally all the Evangelical Lutheran municipalities. A few times a year, Schnabel also visited the colony of Alt-Arzis, conducted worship services and Holy Communion and baptized the children. Pastoral care was not required of him. Otherwise, the “schoolmaster” served in his place, whom the community chose from among their group and had no professional education. He also conducted the worship service on Sundays and feast days and “held school” in the winter—both in the houses of farmers. It was poorly arranged.

Things got a little better in the ecclesiastical field when Pastor Peter Williams took over the parish of Arzis in 1819, which until 1840 also included the colonies of the present parish of Fere-Champenoise [another name for Alt-Elft]. Discipline and order were reintroduced and also in moral-religious relations some things improved. —

Pastor Williams had to make do with a miserable farmhouse for the first few years, until, in 1831, a parsonage was built in the



Parsonage

colony of Alt-Arzis; it was also quite small and simply built and cost the parish congregations, along with cellar, well and outbuildings, 897 rubles and 14 kopecks silver. It was not until 1844 that a larger stone parsonage was built, which was remodeled and enlarged in 1892. After Pastor Williams contributed toward the construction of a church in Alt-Arzis in 1835, he left the parish in the same year because he could no longer exist on the small income and the parish villages denied him any increase.



Following are the names of the pastors of the Arzis Parish from the time of founding until today:

01. Peter Williams	1819-1835	07. Baumann	1868-1875
02. Joh. Gottfr. Heinr. Hastig	1837-1840	08. Paul v. Lösch	1878-1883
03. Woldemar Kroon	1842-1846	09. Gustav Jürgens	1885-1888
04. W. Karlblom	1847-1852	10. Alex. Theoph. Meyer	1890-1898
05. Georg Wold. Knauer	1855-1858	11. Karl Art. Hanson	1899-1912
06. Herbord Julius Bienemann	1859-1868	12. Rudolf Meyer	1913-up to today

During the years of vacancies, these pastors substituted here:

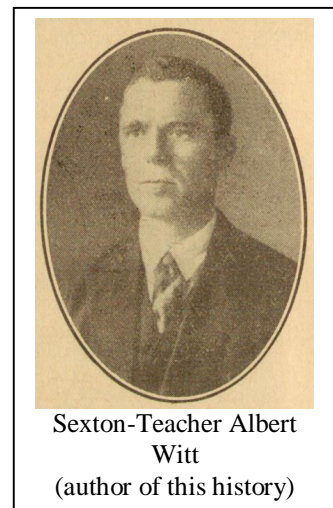
1. Lehedov—Sarata	5. Ludwig Zeller—Fere-Champenoise
2. Breitenbach and Henke—Sarata	6. Julius Peters—Klöstitz
3. W. Pingoud—Tarutino	7. Alfons Meyer—Sarata
4. Georg Behning—Sarata	8. Albert Hesse—Eigenheim.

Helper for the pastor was and still is today the sexton, who at the same time also held the office of teacher. Following are the names of the sexton-teachers from the time of the founding until today: (from 1816-1827 there are none to mention)

01. Christoph Kotke	1827-1835	12. Johann Tschritter	1874-1894
02. Georg Kurz	1835-1839	13. Albert Mauch	1892-1900
03. Christoph Fr. Baumann	1839-1841	14. Mich. Neumann	1900-1908
04. Franz Förster	1841-1844	15. Mich. Roßmann	1908-1913
05. Johann Jakob Groß	1844-1845	16. David Deutsche	1913-1921
06. Johann Ludw. Baisch	1845-1846		(during the war years, his substitute)
07. Johann Wilh. Herrmann	1846-1848	17. Jakob Fiechtner	1915-1917
08. Johann Christian Dieno	1848-1850	18. Albert Rudel	1921-1924
09. Franz Förster	1850-1852	19. Albert Witt	1924 up to today
10. Johann Christ. Dieno	1852-1863		presently holding the office of sexton
11. Johann Paulus Keck	1863-1874		and the author of this history

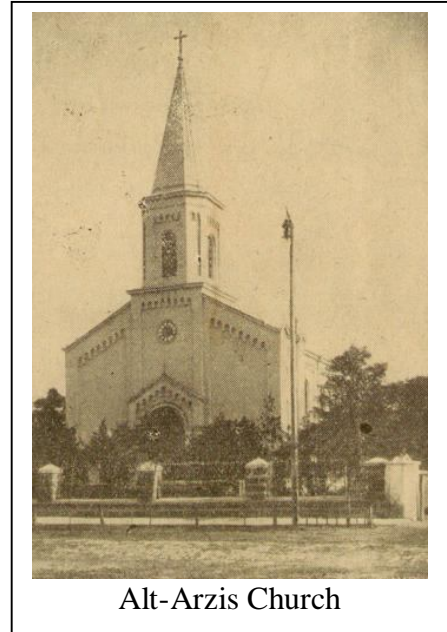
In 1837, the construction of the first church began and it was dedicated on 26 March, 1838. The first church stood on the place where the school with the sexton's residence now stands, was built of stone, had a tower with 2 bells and was covered with cane. An organ was purchased only in 1851, which was sold to the community of Eigenheim after the dedication of the new church.

In the ecclesiastical realm, there was strictest discipline and order. Offenses against the 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment [committing adultery] were severely punished. For example, a young couple refused to pay the legal penalty for such an offense. A report by the pastor to the Senior Mayor (*Oberschulzen*) was sufficient, and the latter ordered that the two spouses should be "resettled" immediately, back to Großliebental, where they came from. The order of the Senior



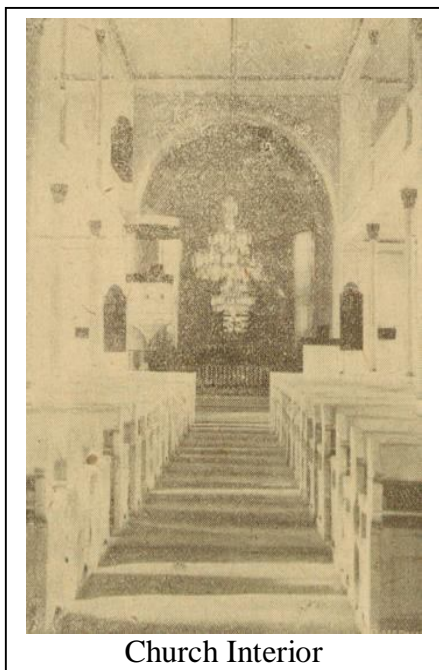
Mayor would have been strictly carried out if the two had not paid their fine at the last moment and received “forgiveness” from the pastor. — Young people were required to attend Sunday School regularly. — Dancing and games (*Spiel*) used to be forbidden.

Already in the 1860s, when the Alt-Arzis colony numbered about 960 souls, the old church proved to be too small and ways and means were thought of to build a new, more beautiful and larger church. In various ways, money was saved and, in the spring of 1879, the sum of 20,172 rubles and 58 kopecks had already been handed over to the Church Building Committee. On 31 May, 1879, on the solemnly promised Village Penitential Day, the foundation stone for the new church was laid. The construction had been taken over by the German Reich citizen Klaus Lorenz for 25,000 rubles. On 5 October, 1880, the new church was solemnly dedicated. It is built in the Romanesque style and has a steeple decorated with an excellent steeple clock. The organ, by W. Sauer, Frankfurt on the Oder, cost 4,000 rubles. The whole construction of the church cost the community 44,041 rubles and 70 kopecks.



Alt-Arzis Church

Since 1921, the church garden has been adorned with a beautiful war memorial. On it we find the names of the fallen warriors of this colony, who gave their lives for homeland and fatherland in the Russo-Japanese War and the last World War. The sum of about 6,000 lei, for the erection of the monument, was raised by a collection. “Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation to John 2:10) —are the words that are inscribed, in faithful remembrance, on the front of the monument to the warriors.



Church Interior

We really do not need to be ashamed of our fathers and grandfathers in the graves, because they really did great things! When we look back today and reflect on our present time, we have to say that many things have changed in our midst. Selfishness is the great disease of our time, craving for pleasure the plague of our days!

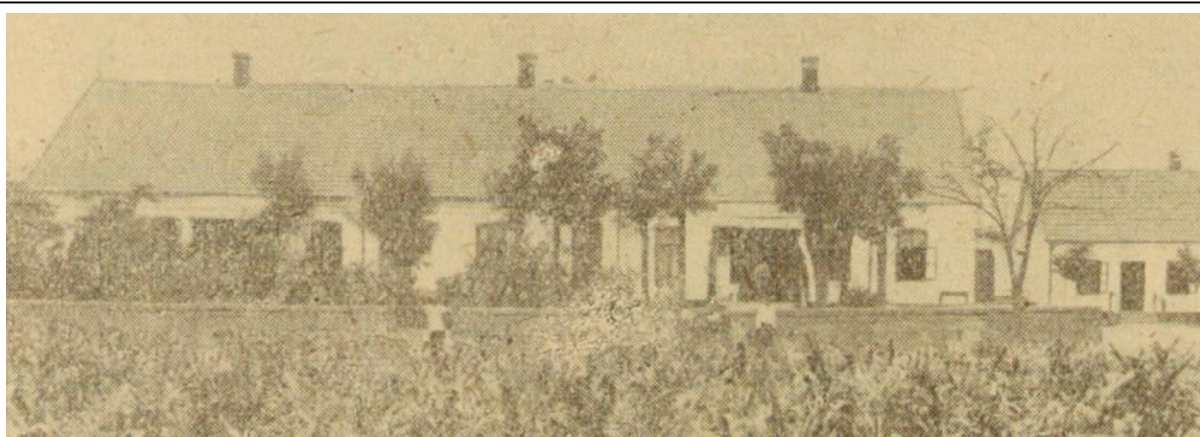
Many other buildings stand there to the pride of our fathers. — At the suggestion of Pastor Jürgen, a branch of the Alexander Asylum in Sarata was founded in Alt-Arzis in 1886, which was housed for 6 years in the house of Michael Jahsmann (today the house of now deceased Gottlieb Herrmann). Through collections and donations from the surrounding colonies, a beautiful institutional building was constructed in the garden behind the church in 1892. It was dedicated under the name *Bethel* and offers a place for 25-30 male patients. The late Pastor Jürgens, who is buried in our cemetery, has created a good memory through this work. Honor be to his ashes.

**Clubs and Societies.** In 1894, the Women’s Association was founded by Pastor Theophil Meyer. This association is today under the leadership of the wife of Pastor Ilse Meyer and has 45 members. Work is quite diligent here, and the net profit from the sale of the handicrafts made for various charitable purposes is diminished. If, in the course of the last 10 years, the sum of 111,930 lei has been donated (donation to where cannot be specified here due to lack of space), then it must be said that the Women’s Association has achieved great things. Above all, it is the sacrifice of the wife of the pastor, the current leader of the association, with whom she has worked so far on the good work. May the Lord continue to receive the good work and bless the diligence of the hands of the women!

In 1906, Pastor A. Hanson founded a Youth Club in Alt-Arzis. After the statutes and the association had received the official confirmation, serious and cheerful plays were performed in addition to lectures, which each time had a resounding success and brought the association handsome income. Wind instruments were purchased, and the music offered the most beautiful pieces of music in the club. — But, unfortunately, this Youth Club no longer exists today. However, since 1923, it has officially been replaced by the *Sport and Culture Association*, whose founders are Dr. Fr. Bittau and Ed. Bierer. It has a slogan written on its banner: “Fresh, Happy, Free, Pious.” This association, too, has already acquired many a property from the net profit of Theater Evenings and has already donated many a sum for various good causes. Today, it is headed by Dr. Ed. Gerstenberger and has about 120 members. May this association become as popular in our village as that first youth association was, and take to heart the word spoken by the great expert of life (*Lebenskenner*) Goethe: “Fight joyfully for the progress of your people”!

Furthermore, there has been a wind orchestra in the colony of Alt-Arzis for many years, which is under the direction of Mr. Otto Rudel. The music has embellished our festivities many times, and we hope that the musicians will always show good unity among themselves. Then this orchestra will continue to exist, because unity makes us strong.

**Administration.** Each municipality had its office of mayor; to it belonged the members of the community: the mayor [*Schulz*], 2 assistants [*Beisitzer*] and the secretary/clerk [*Schreiber*]. The



Bethel Institution Building

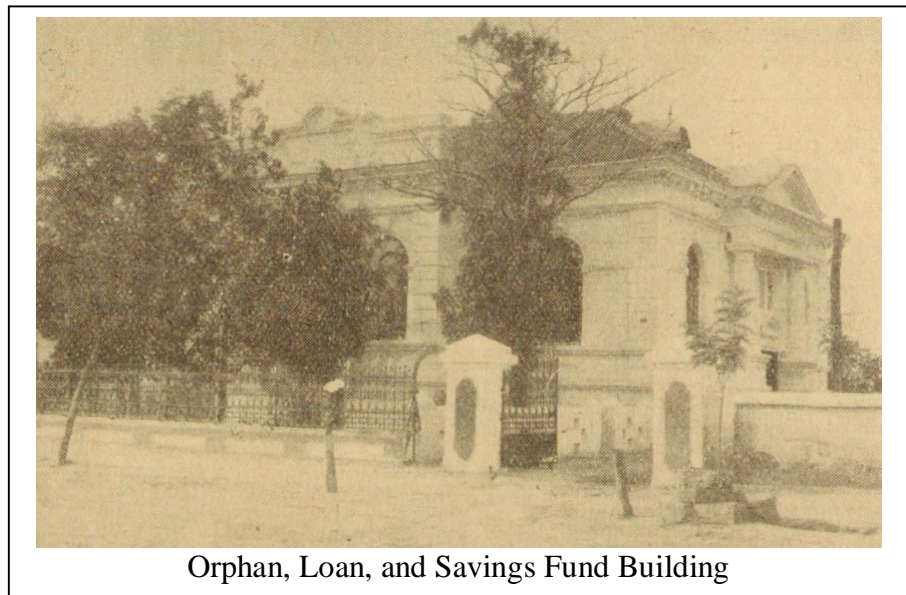
office of the mayor was subordinate to the district office [*Gebietsamte*]; to it belonged: the senior

mayor [*Oberschulz*], 2 assistants and the district secretary/clerk. Above the district office stood the Welfare Committee [*Fürsorgekomitee*] in Odessa. This was directly subordinated to the [government] Ministry. — Alt-Arzis belonged to the Klöstitz District Office until 1871, but then separated itself from Neu-Arzis, Brienne and Friedenstal, and a separate District Office was founded in Alt-Arzis. In 1873, the same colonies separated from the Orphan Fund of Klöstitz and founded, in the same year, their own Orphan, Loan and Savings banks, for which purpose the house of Friedrich Sommer was bought. In 1907, the 4 colonies exchanged the purchased house for a courtyard with a building which belonged to the local settler Johann Mackus. In the same year, a stately building was erected on this courtyard according to the plan of Architect Beutelsbacher. It cost the municipalities 14,500 rubles, which amount was paid exclusively by funds from the Orphan, Loan and Savings Funds. This building housed the district office for the whole time until it was dissolved on 1 January, 1924, and the political community (*Kommuna*) took its place. — Also, the *Pretorat* for the whole time and, since 1925, temporarily also the School Auditor (*Schulrevisorat*) were housed in the building of the Orphan Fund, which paid a certain sum of house rent annually.

Here I would like to mention that, since 1919, the local colonist, Mr. Daniel Bittau presides as director of the Orphan, Loan and Savings bank and has already taken care of this institution and ensured its prosperous progress. Quite apart from the fact that for many years he held the office of Administrative Judge (*Wolostrichter*) and Senior Mayor, Mr. Bittau is regarded as a leading figure in the community.

Mr. Daniel Tobler has held the position of accountant of the Orphan Fund since 1921; since 1922, he was secretary of the church congregation, and, from 1921 to 1924, he was District Secretary/Clerk here.

As already mentioned, the office of mayor used to administer the village. The mayors were great rulers and were generally



Orphan, Loan, and Savings Fund Building

respected. However, they had to have a good reputation in the community. Until 1870, the administration [business] was conducted in German. In the same year, the Welfare Committee in Odessa dissolved, and the Russian language was introduced.

I could not find out the names of the mayors from the earlier years, because many of the old files were lost during the last years of the war.

Names of the Mayors from 1880 up to today:

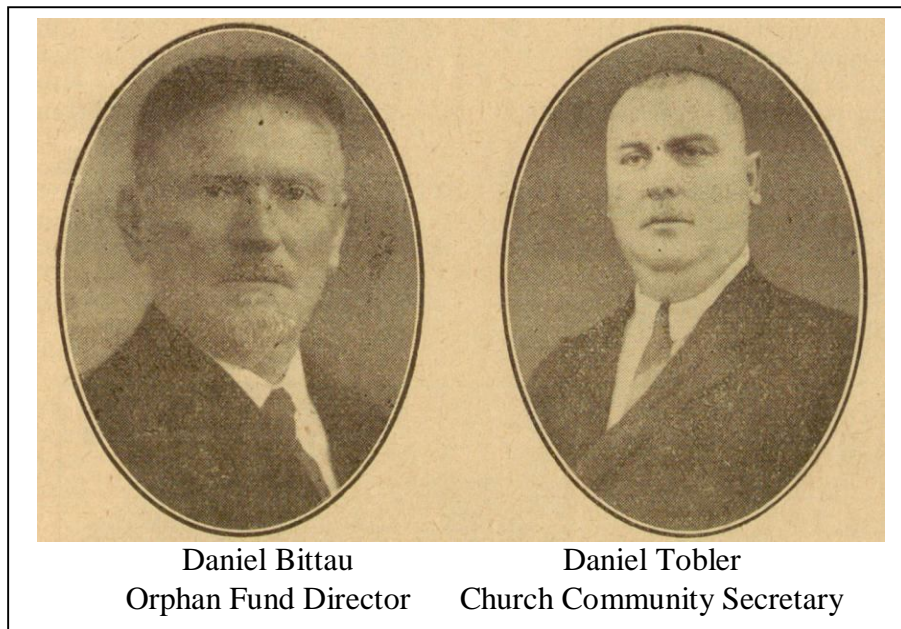
01. Ferdinand Rasch	1879-1882	12. Jakob Klett	1913-1916
02. Michael Böttcher	1882-1885	13. Christ. Kappel	1916-1917
03. Karl Brickmann	1885-1888	14. Imm. Maas I	1916-1917
04. Michael Rasch	1888-1891	15. Jakob Klett	1917-1918
05. Karl Kappel	1891-1894	16. Gottfr. Semmler	1918-1919
06. Friedrich Baier	1894-1897	17. Heinrich Herrmann	1919-1920
07. Michael Franz	1897-1900	18. Rud. Schwandt	1920-1922
08. Daniel Bittau	1900-1903	19. Konst. Roduner	1922-1923
09. Karl Kappel	1903-1906	20. G. Schock/M. Brickmann	1923
10. Michael Haas	1906-1910	21. Konst. Roduner	1923-1926
11. Friedrich Dux	1910-1913	22. Jakob Klett	1926-up to today

Since 1918, the mayor has been called *Primar*. He is the presiding authority of the political community, while the curator presides over the church community.

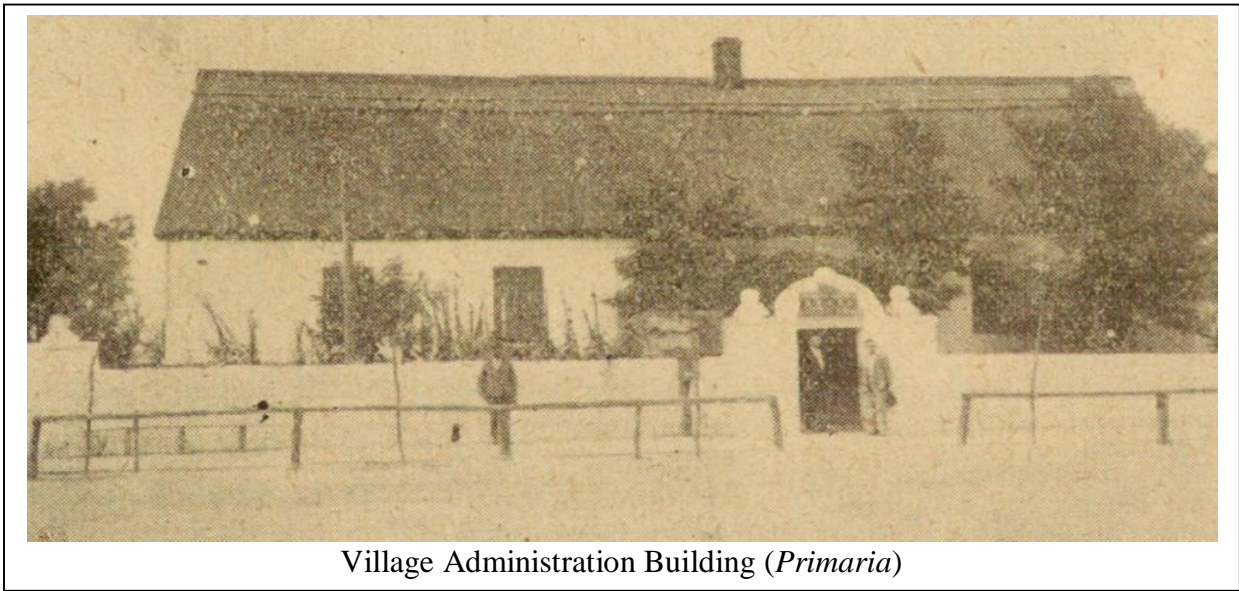
The administrative work was carried out by a secretary, the village clerk. Following are their names since the founding:

1. Johann Haag	1880-1886	6. Daniel Handel	1908-1919
2. Konst. Roduner	1886-1901	7. Gustav Rasch	1919-1920
3. Christ. Erdmann	1901-1903	8. Gottfr. Schulz	1920-1925
4. Jakob Kienzle	1903-1905	9. Eugen Malaxiano	1925-up to today
5. Friedrich Wölfle	1905-1908		

Since 1918, the Secretary/Clerk for the *Kommune* was called *Notär*, —for a single village it was *Sekretär*



The village Administration Office (*Primaria*) was remodled and enlarged in 1870 and was located beside the church on the courtyard, which was originally intended for this purpose.



Village Administration Building (*Primaria*)

**School.** As already mentioned at the beginning, in the first years the schoolmasters were chosen from among the colonists. These “schoolmasters” “held school” in the winter and also conducted the worship service. The children learned little from these miserable “school holders” (*Schulhaltern*). Religion, reading and spelling were the main subjects in school until the 1860s. In 1855, the Alt-Arzis school had 168 students who were taught by a teacher. The result is easy to imagine. It was not until 1866 that the *Provisoren* appeared in Alt-Arzis, who were the assistants of the schoolteacher as well as to the sexton. Things got a little better. In 1892, the [government] *Ministerium* took over the schools and *Provisoren* were no longer employed; there were now only teachers with diplomas. Also, better teaching methods were introduced in general: the phonetic method (*Lautiermethode*) replaced the alphabet-letter method (*Buchstabiermethode*) and system and program returned to the school.

List of Teachers from 1880 and on:

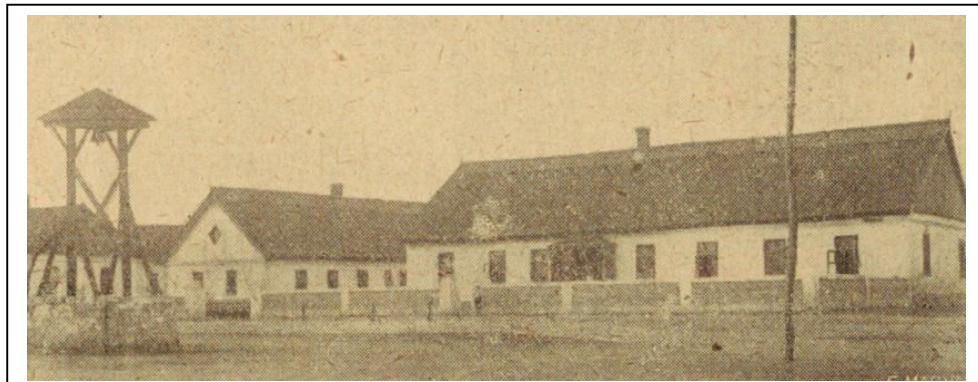
01. Jakob Wenzlaff	1879-1884	12. Eduard Knauer	1901-1903
02. Daniel Gärtig, Provisor	1884-1885	13. A. Pronin	1902-1903
03. Konst. Roduner, “	1885-1886	14. Iwan Chinew	1903-1905
04. Wilhelm Koch, “	1886-1888	15. Christ. Hermann	1903-1906
05. Daniel Bittau, “	1888-1889	16. Albert Jundt	1906-1913
06. Adolf Bossert	1889-1891	17. Andreas Sandau	1906-1908
07. Samuel Irion	1891-1894	18. Immanuel Rasch	1908-1918
08. Porfirij Alexeew	1894-1902	19. Ilija Baron	1912-1914
09. Jakob Diegel	1894-1895	20. Wilhelm Kappel	1913-1915
10. Otto Würth	1895-1897	21. Adele Weiß	1917-1918
11. Karl Fräenbring	1897-1900	22. Alfred Ziebart	1918-up to today

23. Chr. Hämmerling	1918-1923	34. Stan Neagoe	1924-1925
24. Anette Kotta	1918-1919	35. Helene Weiß	1925-1927
25. Albert Rudel	1918-1924	36. Kalin Jorga	1925-today
26. M. Maximilian	1919-1920	37. Aug. Munteanu	1925-1926
27. Red. Zimmermann	1920-today	38. Adele Bittau	1925-today
28. E. Pantilimon	1921-1923	39. Wilhelm Schöch	1926-1927
29. Immanuel Rasch	1923-1924	40. Friedrich Wolf	1927-today
30. Christian Idler	1923-1924	41. Johann Deuschle	1928-1929
31. Klara Roduner	1923-1924	42. Karl Balmer	1929-1930
32. Klemanza Tomesku	1924-1925	43. Elisabeth Jorga	1929-1930
33. Joan Dobroiu	1924-1926	44. Anna Haidirliu	1930-up to today

Kindergarten:

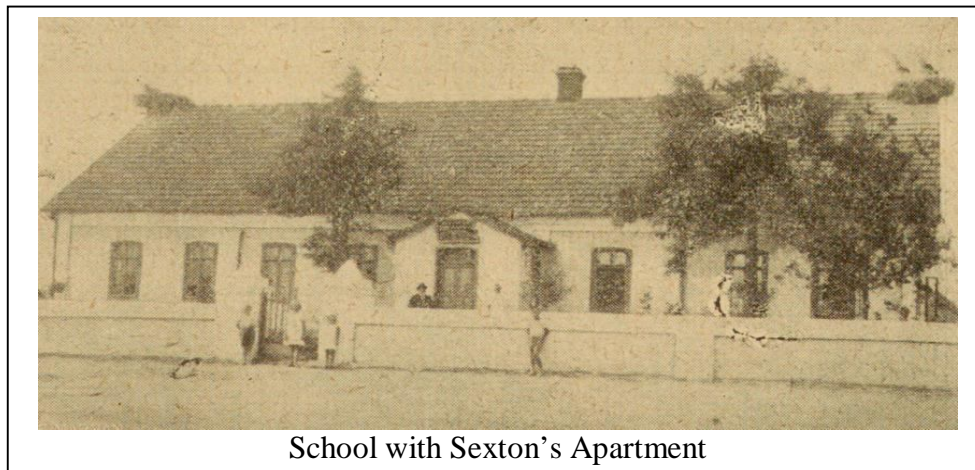
1. Lidia Karakulakowa	1925-1926	4. Lucia Dinesku	1928-1929
2. Germinia Kostaske	1926-1927	5. Felicia Dobrea	1929-up to today
3. Eugenia Bondarenko	1927-1928		

As far as the school premises are concerned, it was also sad at first. Until 1835, school were held in farmhouses. Then the first schoolhouse was built on the place where our old school now



The Old School

stands. It consisted of a large classroom and a teacher's apartment and cost the community 576 rubles silver. But the number of the population increased and the schoolchildren became more



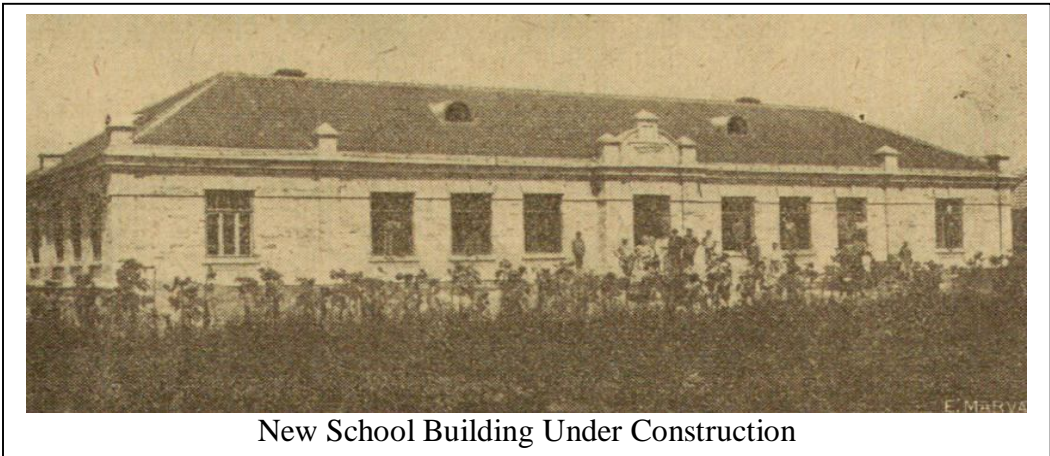
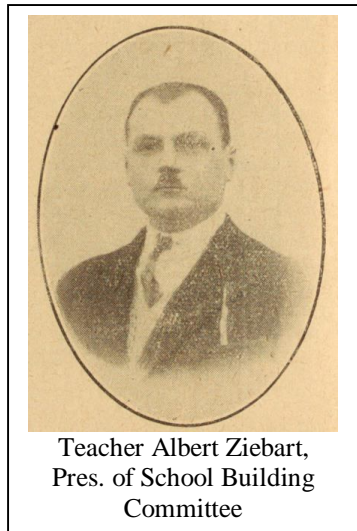
School with Sexton's Apartment

and more. So the community was forced to rebuild the school and, in 1842, a schoolhouse was built out of stone, 12 *Faden* [84 feet / 25.2 meters] long and 4½ *Faden* [31.5 feet / 9.45 meters] wide. This

building contained a larger classroom with a teacher's apartment. In 1859 and 1860, a "large"

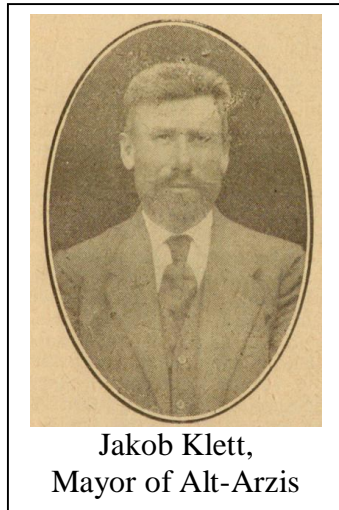
and a “small” school were established, that is there were now 2 classrooms. On the same yard, 2 teachers’ apartments were also built under one roof next to the school. Today, the old school premises is divided into 4 classrooms. But even this schoolhouse finally proved to be too small and, in 1891, a second schoolhouse was built next to the parsonage, on the site of the old church, which contains a classroom for about 80 students and a third teacher's apartment (today sexton’s apartment). It was in 1912 when the Russian school authorities ordered that no more than 50 children should be taught in one class. At that time, Alt-Arzis had 223 students in 3 classrooms. But they did not want to start building yet. Walls were put up in the old classrooms and things had to continue like that. In 1913, the municipality bought half of the farmyard from Gottfried Nebowsky, specifically for the construction of a new school building. But the ill-fated war came in 1914 and nothing could be started for a number of years. In 1924, the post office building was built by the municipality on the courtyard that had been acquired for the school. There was now neither a place nor money for the new school.

The Romanian government brought us a new school law, according to which all children from 5-16 years of age are required to attend school. The number of students has already risen to 338, and the lack of space in the old schools was particularly noticeable when a Romanian school and a kindergarten were also opened in 1925; it had to be taught in the morning and afternoon—until late into the evening. Imagine the condition the child’s body (*Kinderorganismus*) had to put up with in the afternoon! The community was forced to come up with remedies. After many stormy and stimulating community meetings, on January 13, 1930, it was decided to build a 4-class school with a community hall on the site of the old grain warehouse. The elected School Building Committee, with teacher Alfred Ziebart as president of this committee, also immediately and seriously engaged the construction of the school, and on 13 April of the same year the foundation stone for the new school was laid. The new school building, built according to the plan of Architect Al. Ermakov and really a magnificent building, was dedicated on 5 October, 1930. This building cost the church community 1,400,000 lei.



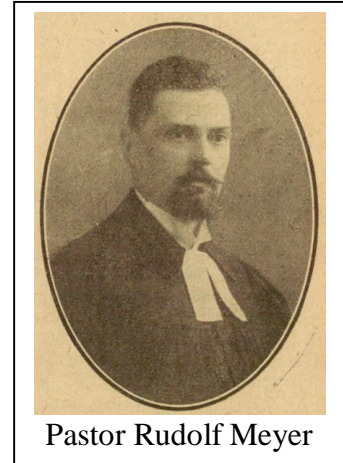


Apart from Mr. Alfred Ziebart, who worked tirelessly for the construction of the school, our Pastor Rudolf Meyer, who knew how to lead the community meetings for the purpose of building the school, contributed much to the construction of the new school by word and deed.



Jakob Klett,  
Mayor of Alt-Arzis

The mayor of the community, Mr. Jakob Klett, has also taken on this great cause energetically. Who knows what would have happened if he had withdrawn. He not only supported the community financially, but also surrendered a piece of land from his farmyard garden to the school with a favorable condition for the community. — In short, we have a nice new school.



Pastor Rudolf Meyer

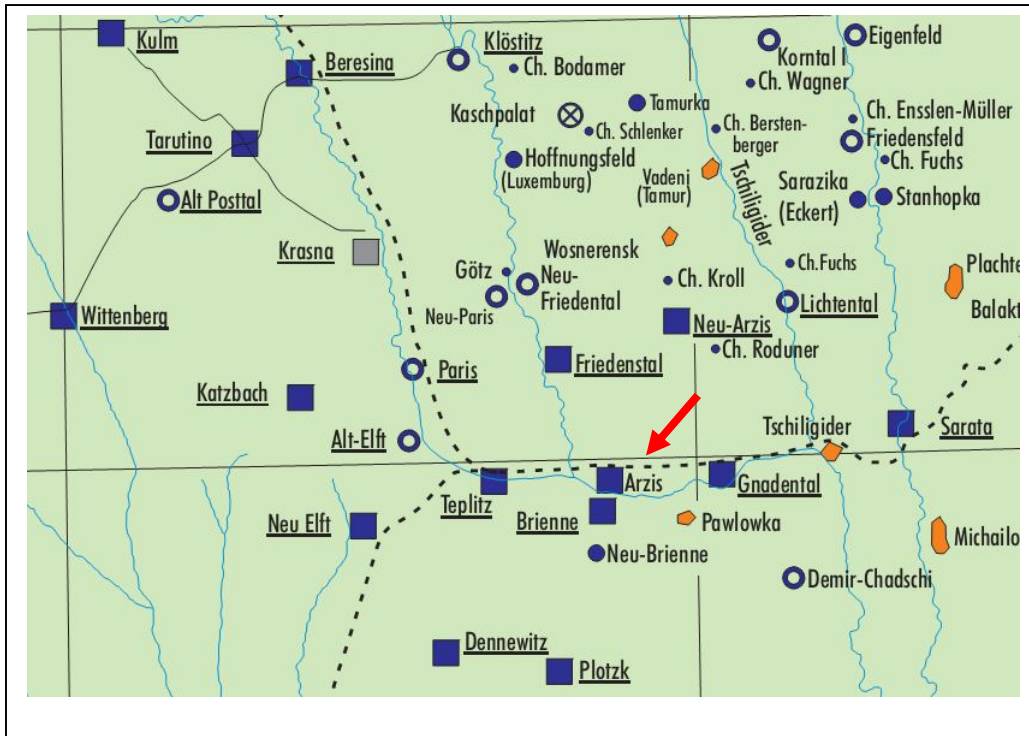
So, after many years, the municipality of Alt-Arzis has once again achieved something great and with that has taken a step up. — God bless the work of the teachers at this school and grant that this place may become a proper educational institution and through it raise up a generation of which it can be said:

“Before men an eagle, before God a worm,  
So you stand firmly in the storm of life.  
Only those who feel small before God,  
Can be powerful before men”. (E.M. Arndt)

I have finished my brief history and hope that the German community of Alt-Arzis will keep the good from its own history and test the bad. And if the community was able to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of its church and the dedication of a new schoolhouse, it can set up a stone here, like Samuel, and say: Ebenezer—so far the Lord has helped. The erected stone is the newly built school and is, as it were, a true offering of thanksgiving, pleasant before God as Abel's devout sacrifice once was. May God also bestow on this church his protection, assistance and help. — God grant it.

[Translation Ends]

## Map of Alt-Arzis Area



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