

History of Beresina

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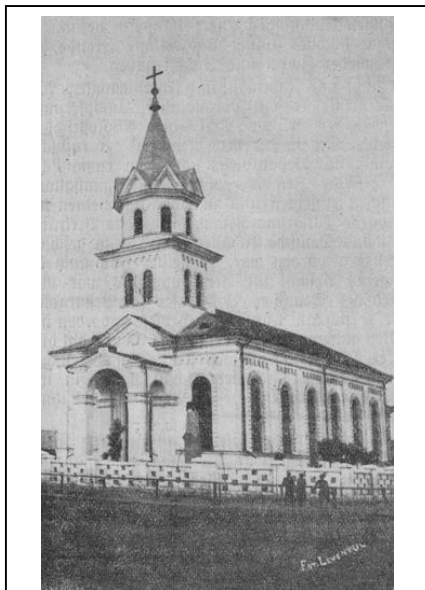
Note: Comments in [square brackets] in the document are those of the translator. Measurement conversion: 1 *Deßjatine* = 2.7 acres / 1.09 hectares

[Translation Begins]

History of Beresina Municipality

Cetatea-Alba (Akkerman) District, Bessarabia
written by Michael Bork, Municipality Secretary/Clerk (*Notär*)

The municipality of Beresina was founded in 1816, by German emigrants, in the southern part of Bessarabia on the Kogälnik river. The population was initially purely German colonists, mostly from Bavaria and Württemberg. During the settlement, the village was given a piece of land of 8,449 *Deßjatinen* (9,209.41 ha.) by the Sovereign Russian government, which was later divided into 138.75 farms in 1871, of which 60.9 *Deßjatinen* for each farm, of which 56 *Deßjatinen* usable and 4.9 *Deßjatinen* unusable land were estimated on each farm.



Church

Until 1888, the municipality owned this portion of land with the rights of enjoying all the advantages derivable from it (*Nutznießung*), but from then on the municipality was authorized to acquire it as its property, obliging it to pay the state an annual purchase sum of 4,604 rubles 49 kopecks, and this purchase was to be completed by 1930. The municipality was also given the right to buy its land earlier if possible.

From its beginning, the colony was administered by its own people elected from among its members. Most of the disputes

were settled by the village mayor. The drinkers and lazy people were usually treated harshly. Music and dance were only allowed at weddings and other important events, and only with the permission of the Inspector of the Bessarabia German Colonies at Tarutino. As proof of this, the following document can be cited:

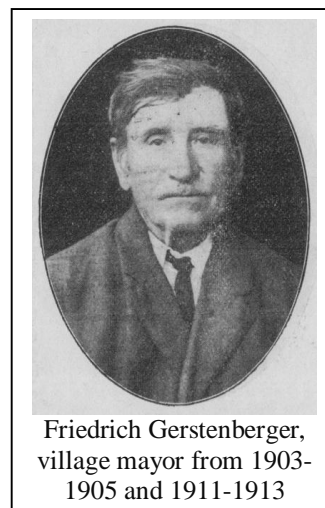
According to the report of the mayor's office of the Colony of Beresina of 8 November, 1860, N^o. 308, the local colonists and farmers Gottfried Dobler and Gottfried Nitschke are allowed on the basis of the ordinance of 20 January, 1853, and the rules preserved therein on music and dance, to hold some music and dance in their house at their upcoming weddings, whereby the office of the mayor is obliged to observe §2 and §5, point (c) of this ordinance in the most punctual manner.

*Colony Tarutino, 9 November, 1860
{signed} Lagoriu—Inspector of the Bessarabia German Colonies*

How to deal with thieves with our ancestors is shown in the following document:

Deputation Decision.

At the deputation held today, the local mayor's office informed us that local colonist Nikolaus Steer had stolen chaff (Spreu) from colonist Gottlieb Becker, and second, that local colonist Johann Becker had stolen 3 pieces of soap from the shop (Lafke) of Denis Klatschkow in Tarutino, and demanded that penalties be determined of the colonists for these offenses. In view of this, we have decided, after careful consideration, that not only should it serve these colonists, but that it should also serve as a model for other colonists, namely, that these two persons should walk through the colony, the first one with some chaff, and the latter with some soap, being accompanied by the village riflemen, with the ringing of bells and, in addition to this, on every street junction, to give them a swat with a stick (Ruthenstreich).



Friedrich Gerstenberger,
village mayor from 1903-
1905 and 1911-1913

About which we affirm this statement for fulfillment single-handedly.

*Beresina Colony, 29 November, 1867. (Followed by 15 signatures).
N^o. 371. This deputation with signatures is certified by the Beresina Mayor's Office
by means of signature and crown seal. Beresina Colony, 29 November, 1867.*

*Mayor {signed} Wegenast.
Deputy {signed} Höhn.
Deputy {signed} Eßlinger".*

Equally strict action was taken against slanderers. People who behaved unruly in the community, whether by indecent lifestyle or by quarrelsomeness, and thereby often caused inconvenience to the community, were expelled from the community.

The colonists were held to a strict adherence of respect toward the officials, clergy and teachers, while the clergy were forbidden to participate in political life by general decree. (Archival File.)

It would be good to be guided by some of the good manners and order of our ancestors that could be instructive for us.

In 1871 the colony had the following population:

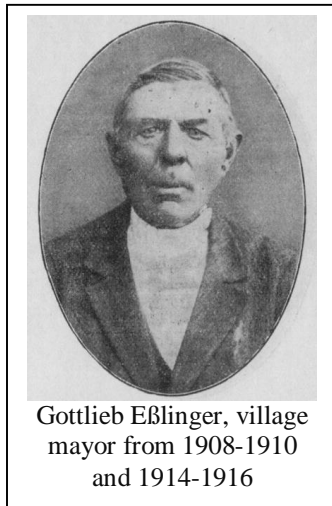
Male landowners—558

Landless persons—88

Persons with property outside the municipality—42

Beresina Colony was constantly on the way up from the day of its foundation.

Thus, the initially small colony has developed into one of the largest in the south of Bessarabia.



Gottlieb Eßlinger, village
mayor from 1908-1910
and 1914-1916

In the initially existing 157 courtyards, there were always new ones surveyed, which were also gradually built on, so that today the municipality has 348 built-up courtyards and 92 still undeveloped ones, which will also be built on shortly, as they are mostly all close to the Beresina railway station.

Many local settlers have emigrated, mostly to America, a few to Siberia, the Caucasus and other villages in Bessarabia. Several families have also moved away from here, who acquired their own larger places elsewhere in Bessarabia, such as, for example, Gerstenberger, Bodamer and Höhn.

According to the latest statistics, the community currently has a total of 2,682 souls, of which 2,501 are Germans, 66 Jews, 13 Bulgarians, 32 Russians, 52 Romanians, and 18 are foreigners (8 Russian subjects and 10 Reich Germans). If the emigrants were all still here, the colony would at least be double the size.

The destiny of the colony was guided by village mayors, as far as one can determine from the individual documents of the municipal archive, which was almost completely destroyed by the post-war period:

Stadel (1839-1844). **Silzer** (1845-1847). **Biederstädt** (1848-1854). **Herrmann** (1854-1856), during whose tenure the first school was built. The building is made of stones that had to be brought in from the surrounding Bulgarian villages, and consists of two school rooms and the teacher's apartment. **Bauer** (1857-1859). **Göhring** (1860-1964). **Silzer** (1865-1867). **Wegenast** (1868-1870). **Höhn** (1870-1872). At the time of this village mayor, our municipal administrative building was built from our own resources; the stones were gotten from the surrounding Bulgarian villages, the work was done by voluntary labor. **Hose** (1872-1874). **Schütt** (1875-1877). **Eßlinger** (1878-1880). **Mantei** (1881-1883). **Höhn** (1884-1887). **Göhner** (1888-1890). During the term of office of Village Mayor Göhner, our beautiful, large

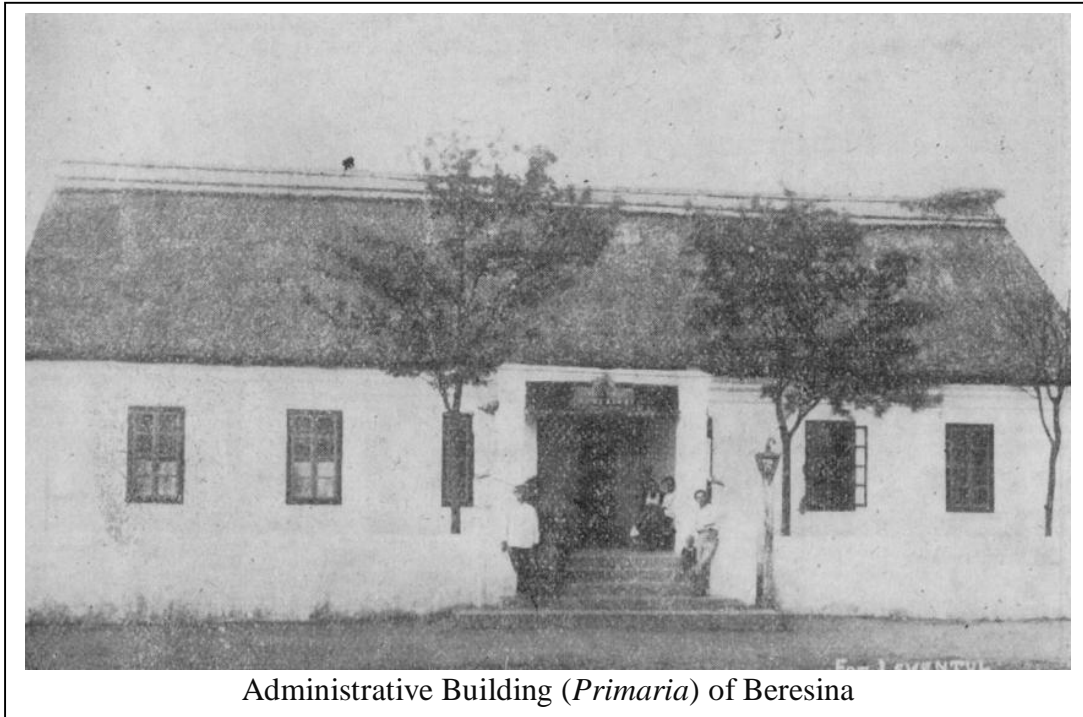
church was built in the years 1889-1890, which was completed under the direction of Village Mayor **Müller** (1891-1893). **Wanke** (1894-1896). In 1896, a second school building was built, as the old one could no longer hold the school-age children of our community. The new school building initially also consisted of two classrooms and a teacher's apartment, but the teacher's apartment, as there was again a lack of space, was converted into two more classrooms in 1922. **Mertz** (1897-1899). **Wegenast** (1900-1902). In the time of Mr. Friedrich **Gerstenberger**, village mayor from 1903-1905, the Japanese War took place, which demanded great achievements from our village head. During the same term of office, in 1904, local customs were made law and made the guideline for the settlement of all inheritance cases, which laws were applied until recently.



Railway station building *Beresina*

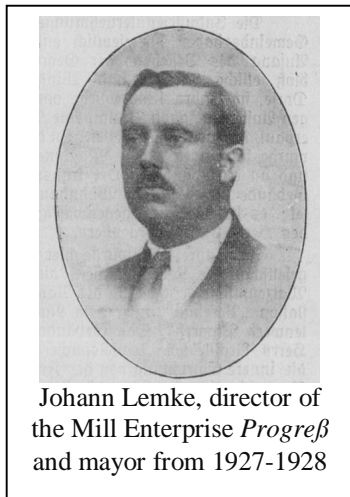
Jakob **Speitel** (1906-1907). Gottlieb **Eßlinger** (1908-1910). Friedrich **Gerstenberger** (1911-1913). Gottlieb **Schneider** (4 months in 1914). He could no longer hold the office because he was called under the military banner. Gottlieb **Eßlinger** (1914-1916). In the time of Mr. Gottlieb Eßlinger came the last World War, where it was certainly sometimes difficult for him to meet all the demands placed on him. However, thanks to the great popularity of which he enjoyed among the population, he was able to provide leadership to his office to the end. Many amusing circumstances are still told today about how he knew how to win people over with ease even in the most difficult achievements; he was also a serious and strict village elder, and it is seriously regretted by some better-minded community members that his old age no longer allows him to be re-elected to this post. Friedrich **Höhn** (1917). Matthäus **Rothacker** (1918). Johannes **Anhorn** (1919). In 1918, at the time of the incorporation of Bessarabia into its motherland Romania, Mr. Johannes Anhorn was elected village mayor, who was the only man in our community who had a command of the Romanian language. It was a very difficult period of service for him, because the newly employed officials of Romanian nationality did not know the

laws and customs existing here, the population, on the other hand, again did not know the Romanian laws and due to this often misunderstanding between officials and the population arose. It was now up to the village mayor to ensure that such misunderstandings, as soon as they arose, were resolved, which was certainly not easy and also forced him to resign his office after a year. But it must be confessed that he has guided many good things for the community during his short term of office. His successor, Village Mayor Friedrich **Herrman** (1920-1921), also had to endure the same difficulties, as the conditions in his time had changed only a little.



Mayor Jakob **Kalisch** (1922-1926), also had a difficult term of office, as two regiments of military were in our colony during his time, who had their quarters here for more than two years, which had some unpleasant consequences; but thanks to the calm mind of our village elder, who did not understand the State language (Romanian), all things were managed in such a way that there were no serious incidents between the military and the population. Mr. Johann **Lemke**, village mayor from the year (1927-1928), has also displayed a lively profession. During his time in office, a new roof was put on the school, the grain market was opened, the *Anciocrac* railway station was renamed *Beresina* and the same station was equipped with electric lighting. There was a lot to do during the flood, which was taking place while he was in office. Municipal stables were re-roofed during his tenure, the administrative building courtyard was provided with new gates, the administrative building got a new staircase, a municipal treasury was acquired, since the old one was stolen in 1918 with the money found in it, and a new typewriter was purchased for the administrative office. After Mr. Lemke, the difficult office was taken over by our present Mayor (*Primar*) Gottlob **Wanke**, who completed many of the jobs begun by Mr. Lemke. He knew how to save the community 205,000 lei through frugal management, of which among he was able to hand over 40,000 lei to the local newer school for remodeling purposes. He used the rest of the 165,000 lei to put a new roof on our church. In general, the last two mayors, like Mr. Lemke as well as Mr. Wanke, increased the community assets, which had been

heavily taken away by the war, and put them in good condition, as well as many new ones, which were not possible for their immediate predecessors during the war and post-war period, because the conditions at that time and the general poor material situation did not allow them to do so.



Until 1918, the individual members of the municipality lived peacefully for themselves and among themselves: one can call the whole time, since the existence of the municipality and up to now a “fraternal coexistence”. From 1918 onwards, however, it must be noted with regret that the old good peace has disappeared and that it has been replaced by discord and mutual envy, which gradually led to a split in the community into two opposing parties. Very special battles usually take place when it comes to the election of a mayor; each party desperately wants to end up with their candidate unconditionally, and the consequence of this is that the mayors find it unprofitably difficult to hold office and are often prevented from carrying out their duties, and the consequence of this is again that every year there is a different mayor. Hopefully, the persons to blame, and this is undoubtedly on both sides, will soon come to the

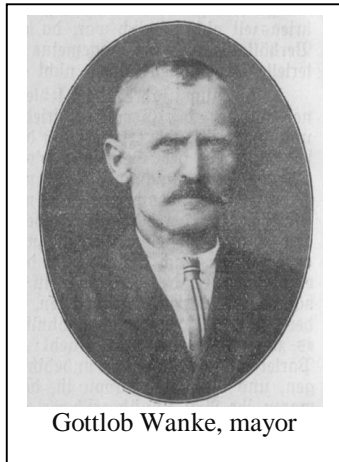
realization that such conditions only harm the common good; only then will unity return to our community. That would be very gratifying.

Officiating as municipal secretaries/clerks and advisors to the mayors in this colony: **Bauer** (1839-1845), **Birkholz** (1845-1867), **Singer** (1868-1872), **Ludwinsky** (1872-1878), **Ziegler** (1879-1887), **Müller** (1888-1891), Jakob **Schnaidt** (1891-1902), Wilhelm **Kaul** (1901-1911), Gottfried **Schulz** (1912-1915), temporarily Gottfried **Dobler** (1916-1917), Gottfried **Schulz** (1918-1919), **Dumitresku** (Romanian) 1919, Alexander **Scherbanesku** (Romanian) 1919-1920, Gottfried **Stelter** (1920-1922), Stoika **Jene** (Romanian) 1923 and Michael **Bork** the author of this chronicle, with an interruption of 6 months (like Nante Strumpf¹ says “Went in other directions for a little while” for inexplicable reasons) from 1923 to now.

The main occupation of the population is agriculture, viticulture and cattle breeding, also several craftsmen are here, such as: carpenters, tailors, blacksmiths, wagon frame makers, and so forth. There is also an engine factory of the brothers Otto and Albert Burkhardt. Years ago, Beresina was particularly famous for its good wine, which was purchased here in bulk and was mostly sold in the cities. Today, however, the lofty concerns of the vines have been destroyed by phylloxera (*Reblaus*) and replaced by the “direct bearing” (*Direkträger*), whose wine is no longer sold in the cities. What is not consumed “directly” here finds a good market in the surrounding Russian and Moldovan villages. This wine, as the doctors claim, is harmful to the

¹ [The Eckensteher Nante, actually Ferdinand Strumpf (* 1803; † ?), was a Berlin servant with the police concession number 22 (noted on a brass license plate worn around his arm). Nante was located on the corner of Königstraße and Neue Friedrichstraße – not far from the Eulner distillation, where he used to stop for a bite to eat. Waiting on the street corner for odd jobs, he commented on what was happening around him with a joke that made him the Berlin original. Source as of April 2022—https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eckensteher_Nante]

human organism, but consumers disagree. Several beekeepers are also here, such as Matthäus Adam, Friedrich Maier III and Friedrich Eßlinger, of whom the latter alone owns 25 beehives.

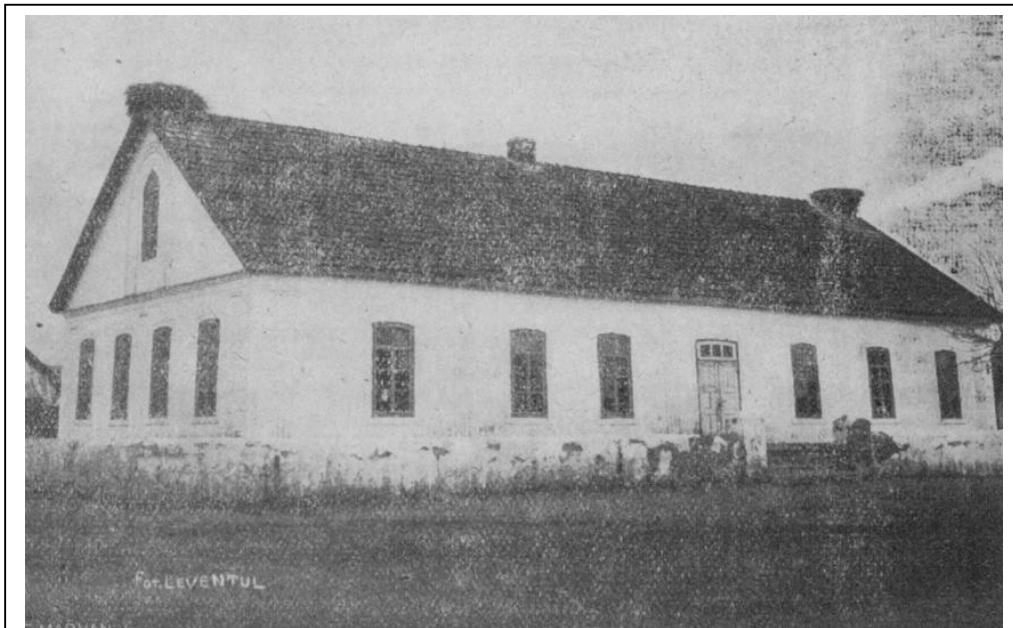


Gottlob Wanke, mayor

The industrial enterprises in this community have developed quite a bit. At the beginning of the existence of the community there were only several horses and windmills in the village, in 1896 a steam mill was built by local settler Jakob Beglau, which operated until 1923. In this year it was closed, the machinery was sold and transported to another place, but the building was converted into a residential building; it is currently in the possession of Mr. Karl Morgenstern.

In 1923, a joint-stock company was founded here, which built a large roller mill near the railway station *Beresina* under the name *Mühlenwerk Progreß*. The building was put up by Mr. Beutelspacher, the interior was occupied by the company *Luther Braunschweig-Deutschland*. It is one of the largest mills in Bessarabia. The company's share-capital initially amounted to 9,000,000 lei and has now doubled in value. Work is currently underway to build a branch in Arzis, which will also swallow up several million. The entire enterprise is managed by Director Johann Adam Lemke, whose enterprising spirit and understanding management is also responsible for the flourishing of the business. Beresina is especially happy about this mill, as people no longer need to go to other villages to meet their flour needs, and, in addition, the quality of the flour of this mill is much better than that of the surrounding mills.

In addition to this mill, Beresina also has the oil factory with engine operation owned by Mr. Gottlieb Zahn and two brick factories of Friedrich Eßlinger and Johannes Nitschke. There is still a building brick factory of a joint-stock company here, but its development is very much hindered by the lack of straw, since our colony has had several recent crop failures.



The "New School" in Beresina

A grain market has been operating in the village since 1927. From the year of its foundation until 1914, for 98 years, the products of the colony had to be transported by wagon to the cities of Akkerman, Kilia and others, and much grain was also transported to Odessa. There were often many difficulties to go through. In the last years before the war, a lot of grain was also transported to the Leipzig railway station, 25 km [15.5 mi] away from here. The demand for various goods for house and farm was met in Tarutino. All these difficulties were suddenly brought to an end by the construction of the Leipzig-Akkerman railway line. Beresina got its own railway station in 1914. In order to get the station very close to the village, the municipality donated the land necessary for the railway line. The wish of the community was complied with, and it got the station directly at the village. However, it was baptized *Anciocrac* and not *Beresina*, as the people of Beresina wished. This step of the management of the railway line was justified by the fact that there was still a station in the interior of Russia called Beresina, and there could be confusion. Due to the annexation of Bessarabia into its motherland Romania, this circumstance also fell away, and the municipal council of 1927 succeeded in getting the station named with its real name *Beresina*. It was not an easy battle to name the station, as there were people who found themselves trying to frustrate our just demands. What motives they may have had for this, is a mystery to this writer.

Thanks to the fact that Mr. Johann Lemke, the director of the *Mill Enterprise Progreß*, promised to provide the station, free of charge, with the electricity necessary for lighting, and the station was also equipped with electric lighting in 1927. It is the only station on the Akkerman-Leipzig line (now called Basarabeaska) with electric lighting, of course apart from the two stations on either end.



Business Premises of the Joint-stock Company *Farmer House* in Beresina

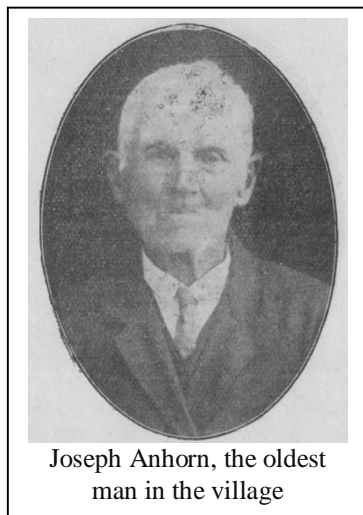
The station has recently attracted several merchants who settled here and opened business enterprises; so Beresina, in the course of time, came to have the following trading enterprises; the shop with manufactured goods, colony goods and groceries (*Bakaleiwaren*) of the joint-stock

company *Farmer House* with a share-capital of 45,000 lei; the shop of Mr. Gottlieb Höcker Jr., also for manufactured goods, colony goods and *Bakaleiwaren* with a share-capital of approximately 300,000 lei; several smaller shops; three wood warehouses [lumber yards-?]; two wine taverns; eleven butcher shops and two butter factories, one belonging to the joint-stock company *Farmer House* (A.G. “Haus der Landwirte”) and the other belonging to Mr. Johann Kleist; a Commission office of Mr. Gottfried Stelter and Co. for grain trade; two agencies of petroleum, naphtha and gasoline, which serve the whole neighborhood; four grain storehouses (two more are still under construction); Beresina also has a People’s Bank, called *Hoffnung*, with 72 members and a share-capital of 108,000 lei, which was founded in 1928.

If you compare today’s Beresina with that of 10 years ago, at which time there was only one community store, you can see a very rapid growth.

The church, built in 1891, underwent major repair in 1925, totaling 98,000 lei; the steeple was re-roofed with zinc sheet, the cross was gilded and the roof was painted.

In 1927, the older school building was re-roofed with cement tiles after the old reed roof was torn down, and also subjected to other minor repairs, amounting to a total of 65,000 lei. In the same year, two new bells were also purchased for the church, as the old ones were no longer



Joseph Anhorn, the oldest man in the village

sufficient, and furthermore, a stately monument was also erected to our fallen and lost warriors from the Japanese War and the last World War. The necessary funds were obtained through voluntary gifts from the members of the community. The local Women’s Association, from which the initiative actually originated, has also contributed a lot to this. The monument was erected in the churchyard space, to the right of the entrance door, and bears the names of the following warriors and fellow citizens of our colony:

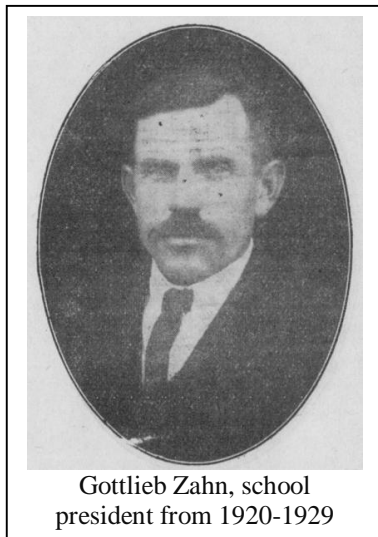
1. In the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905): Jakob Mertz, killed in action, and Johannes Nitschke, missing in action. 2. Those who served in the World War (1914-1918) and have died: Friedrich Höhn, Gottlieb Stahl, Johannes Mertz, Jakob Müller, Andreas Schwartz, Friedrich Göhring, Christian Fregien, Friedrich Mantei, Immanuel Dietrich, Gottlob Mertz, Jakob Klotzbücher, Martin Schramm, Johannes Bensinger, Johannes Rothacker, Immanuel Tschritter, Friedrich Schaber and Jakob Herrmann; Missing in Action: Eduard Kunusch, Gottlieb Kempf, Friedrich Hagel, Jakob Göhring, Gottlieb D. Mantei, Gottfried Schwartz, Jakob Stahl, Gottlieb G. Mantei, Jakob Schönberger and Gottlieb Göhring; Killed in Action: Gottlieb Reichenberger, Jakob Becker, Jakob Eßlinger, Johannes Prophet, Johannes Hagel, Christoph Kalisch, Johannes Göhring, Adolf Stahl, Daniel Löffelbein, Samuel Mück, Georg Hartmann, Gottlieb Mößner, Johannes Herrmann, Wilhelm Mößner and Reinhold Wolt.

Since the establishment of the colony, the following people have been killed by accidents: In 1851, on 19 August, Matthäus Löffelbein, 7 years old, son of local settler August Löffelbein, was kicked by a horse and died. In 1853, on 20 January, Friederika Anhorn, 4 years old, daughter of local settler Joseph Anhorn, was scalded by boiling water and died, and on 9 September, Gottlieb Ziffle, 6 years old, son of local settler Friedrich Ziffle, bled to death as a result of a gun shot. In

1854, on 8 May, Johann Skalai, 48 years old, local settler, was run over by a loaded wagon and died. In 1855, on 4 January, Luise Raugust, 2 years old, daughter of Kulm settler Ludwig Raugust, died as a result of burns, and on 4 May, Johannes Mertz, 4 years old, son of local settler Thomas Mertz, drowned in the well.

In 1855, our colony was hit by a cholera epidemic, which infected 106 males and 109 females, of which 84 died: 17 husbands, 15 wives, 40 children, 4 widows, 1 widower and 7 in adolescence. Cholera raged from 8 June to 23 July.

On 14 April of the same year, Benjamin Rösler, a local colonist, 50 years old, died as a result of being crushed. In 1857, on 15 October, Friedrich Rattei, local colonist, 50 years old, died as a result of being run over during a trip to Odessa. In 1861, on 13 May, Christine Kögel, 38 years old, died as a result of a fall. In 1862, on 13 April, Gottlieb Rattei, 4½ years old, son of local colonist, Friedrich Rattei, drowned in the well, and on 18 March,



Gottlieb Zahn, school president from 1920-1929

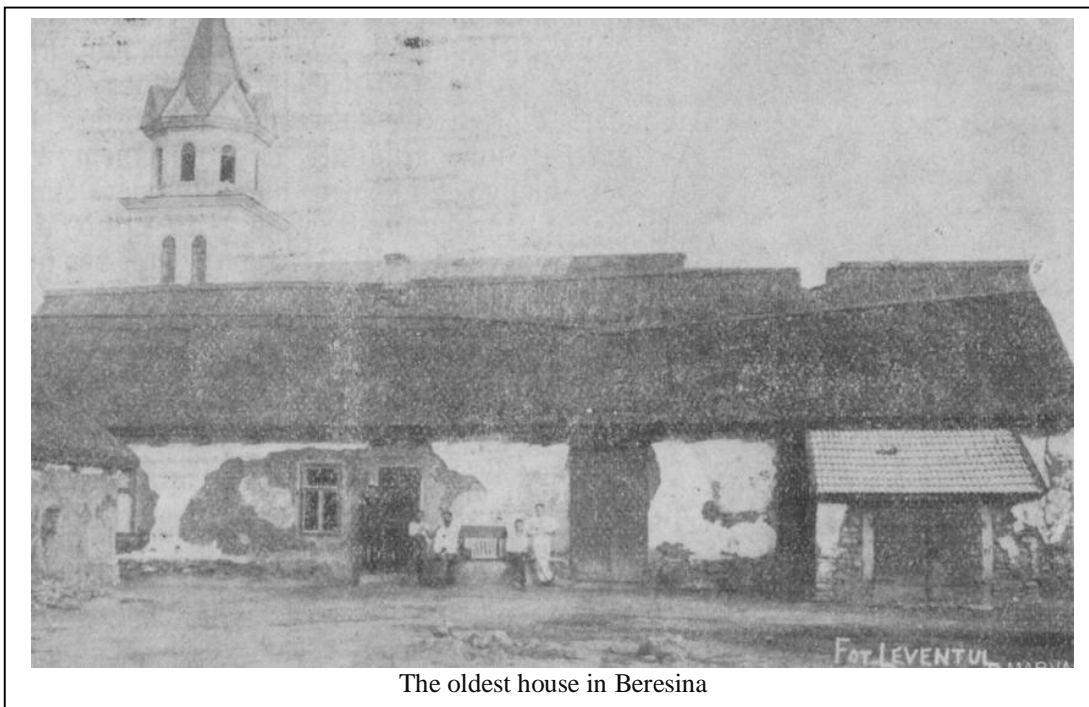
Johann Müller, 4 years old, son of Reich German subject Johann Müller, also drowned in the well. In 1863, on 14 February, Johannes Härter, local colonist, 37 years old, died as a result of a head injury. In 1868, on 2 March, Joseph Fregien, local colonist, 33 years old, was killed in the stone quarry. In 1870, on 25 May, Christine Breitling, wife of local colonist Gottlieb Breitling, 32 years old, died as a result of a fall, and on 7 August, Gottlieb Göhner, 9 years old, son of local settler Friedrich Göhner, was shot. In 1872, on 1 January, Andreas Bossert, 21 years old, son of local settler Friedrich Bossert, was shot during the New Year's shooting. In 1876, on 23 January, Johann Jakob Sperle, 38 years old, local settler and widower, was killed in the stone quarry,. In 1878, on 12 April, Dorothea Kern, 10 years old, daughter of local settler Konrad Kern, was buried in the sand trench, and on 8

June, Christian Grams, 43 years old, local settler, died as a result of a fall. In 1879, on 14 July, Jakob Nitschke, 12 years old, son of local settler Gottlieb Nitschke, died as a result of a drawbar blow (*Deichselstoßes*). In 1880, on 2 June, Dorothea Gumke, 4 years old, daughter of local settler Michael Gumke, died after eating a poisonous plant. In 1881, on 10 January, Christoph Mück, 22 years old, son of local settler Jakob Mück, died as a result of a gunshot he had received during the New Year's shooting.

In 1883, our colony was hit by a diphtheria epidemic, of which 34 children were snatched up in the period from 1 January to 16 February; in 1887, this epidemic broke out again and this time claimed as victims 48 children in the period from 15 July to 31 December.

On 12 October, 1887, Luise Schramm née Reinschmiedt, widow, 57 years old, died of a concussion as a result of a fall from the wagon. The diphtheria epidemic continued in 1888 and 45 children died. In this year, the 2-year-old son Gottfried of local settler Gottfried Kurtz was run over and died on 27 September. In 1891, on 23 April, Luise Fandrich, wife of Tarutino settler Johann Fandrich, 37 years old, and Jakob Nitsche 7 years old, son of the local settler Gottlieb Nitschke, drowned. In 1898, on 12 June, Maria Wößner, 7 years old, daughter of local settler Andreas Wößner, died. In 1912, on 24 December, Gottfried Dietz, 32 years old, husband

and local settler, was buried in the stone quarry. In 1914, on 23 May, Mathilde Pflieger drowned, and on 18 August, Gottfried Stepper, local settler and husband, 60 years old, was murdered in the field during a dispute. In 1919, on 6 September, Johannes Müller, 52 years old, was killed in the stone quarry. In 1921, on 11 October, local settler and husband Friedrich Nill fell under a loaded wagon and died. In 1922, on 30 January, Friedrich Herrmann, local settler and husband, 32 years old, was shot by a soldier. In 1924, on 3 March, Ludwig Nandt, local settler and husband, 32 years old, drowned.

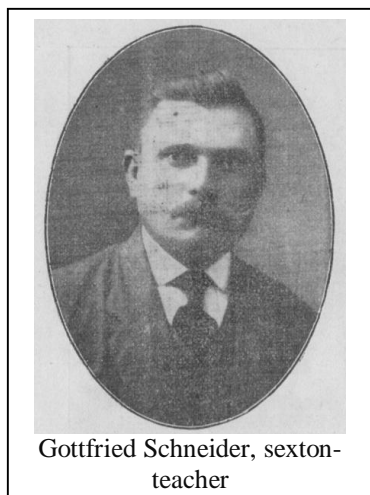


The oldest house in Beresina

In 1927, our colony had two major accidents. There was a big hailstorm on the seventh of June, which destroyed a large part of our harvest and also claimed two lives: it flooded the valley, overtaking by the rainwater local settler Reinhold Dobler and his daughter Erna. On 2 September, it was the big flood that hit our colony along with all the villages in the Kogálnik valley. As a result of this flooding, a third of all houses and other buildings were washed away by the water. In addition to the material damage suffered by the community, which amounted to approximately 50,000,000 lei, we also had to mourn the loss of 5 human lives: Wilhelmine Welk, wife of local settler Adolf Welk, and Christine Weltz, wife of local settler Jakob Weltz, who both drowned in the floods, and the children Berta, Friedrich and Gottlieb of local settler Gottlieb Nitschke and his wife Johanna, née Grams, all three of whom died under the rubble of their collapsing house. The injured parties were given new and higher up courtyards by the municipality, where they could also, thanks to the support they received, rebuild their homes. But there were also some who remained in their old places and built their houses and stables there. But this misfortune will be remembered for a long time to come.

In 1928, on 22 July, Nikkolai Scherbanesku, 10 years old, son of Blaiker settler Alexander Scherbanesku, drowned. On 7 April, Feodor Bobeika, 15 years old, was killed by the collapsing ruins of a stable.

Suicides have been committed in our colony similar to other colonies: In 1887, on 29 March, local settler Christian Nitsche, 33 years old, single, hanged himself while under local detention and was buried on the field border. In 1898, on 21 May, local settler Michael Herrmann, 66 years old, hanged himself. In 1917, on 7 March, Michael Kasverk, 37 years old, a non-commissioned officer in the Odessa Gendarmerie Corps, shot himself. In 1918, on 8 June, local settler and widower Johann Georg Hartmann, 65 years old, hanged himself in his house, and on 3 April, in 1929, local settler Jakob Götz, 51 years old, hanged himself.



Those having served as sextons in our community and at the same time also led as a teacher the education of the youth and teaching of the school-age children of our community: Franz **Förster** (1849-1850). **Kurtz** (1850-1873). **Steinke** from 1 May, 1873 to 1 April, 1875. Joseph **Schwartzmann** from 1 May, 1875 to 1 November, 1895, of whom it is still mentioned today that he was a very good teacher, he had to teach 300 school-age children and that alone without assistants. People who are big followers of the old claim that at that time you "learned more than you do today." Are they right? Sexton **Kuck** from 1 November, 1895 to 1 November, 1897. Samuel **Irion** from 1 November, 1897 to 1 May, 1907. Michael **Roßmann** from 1 May, 1907 to 1 November, 1908. Johann **Schaupp** from 1 November, 1908 to 1 May, 1913. Johannes **Eichelberg** from 1 May, 1913 to 1 November, 1917. Traugott **Schock** from 1 November, 1917 to 1 September, 1919. Johann **Geigle** from 1 September, 1919 to 1 May, 1920. Friedrich **Häcker** from 1 May, 1920 to 1 October, 1923. Johann **Gäßler** from 1 October, 1923 to 31 December, 1923 and Gottfried **Schneider** from 1 January, 1924 until now.

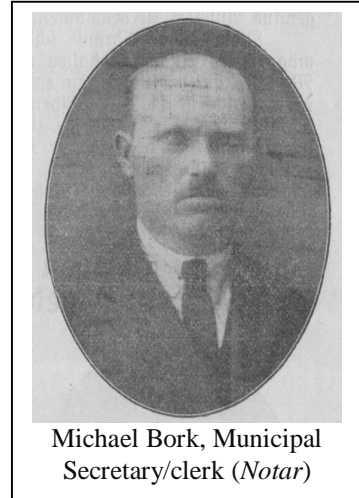
I do not want to conclude without mentioning that in 1929 the church is to be repaired, as it is in great need of repair. The cost estimate is 195,000 lei, which amount, as already mentioned above, is to be collected from the savings of the municipal treasury (165,000 lei) and from the church fund (30,000 lei); also the administrative building and school building N^o. 2 will be remodeled, which projects will each cost 40,000 lei. These amounts are also to be raised by the municipal treasury.

I would also like to remember our oldest man in the community. It is Mr. Joseph Anhorn who was born in this colony on 15 May, 1844. Despite his 85 years, he is still vigorous and still does a lot of work. He has also retained his sense of humor and knows a lot to talk about from his life experiences. He was the friend of all teachers and secretary/clerks, and if a teacher or a secretary/clerk needed a means of transportation, it was old "Uncle Joseph" (*Josephvetter*) who immediately, willingly made himself available. That is why he was so popular with all teachers and secretary/clerks. Today, he can no longer afford to do that, but he still amuses his surroundings with his humorous stories. May he continue to have a happy end of life.

I would like to remember a few more men who have distinguished themselves through their outstanding achievements and loyalty to duty:

1. Mr. Matthäus Göhring, died in 1929 at the age of 67. He was the village's land surveyor. All the measurement work that occurred at some point and somewhere in the village was carried out by him and thus many a border dispute between neighbors was settled. For more than 20 years, he has rendered this service to the community free of charge.

2. Mr. Christian Fregien, died on the Turkish Front in 1917, at the age of 26. He possessed such a beautiful handwriting that rarely a mortal possesses. The past writings of his are immediately startling at how it is possible to execute such letters with a free hand; he also worked for several years in the law firm as a clerk's assistant and in the community office as an accountant, where he was able to apply his pure, beautiful and clear penmanship.



Michael Bork, Municipal Secretary/clerk (*Notar*)

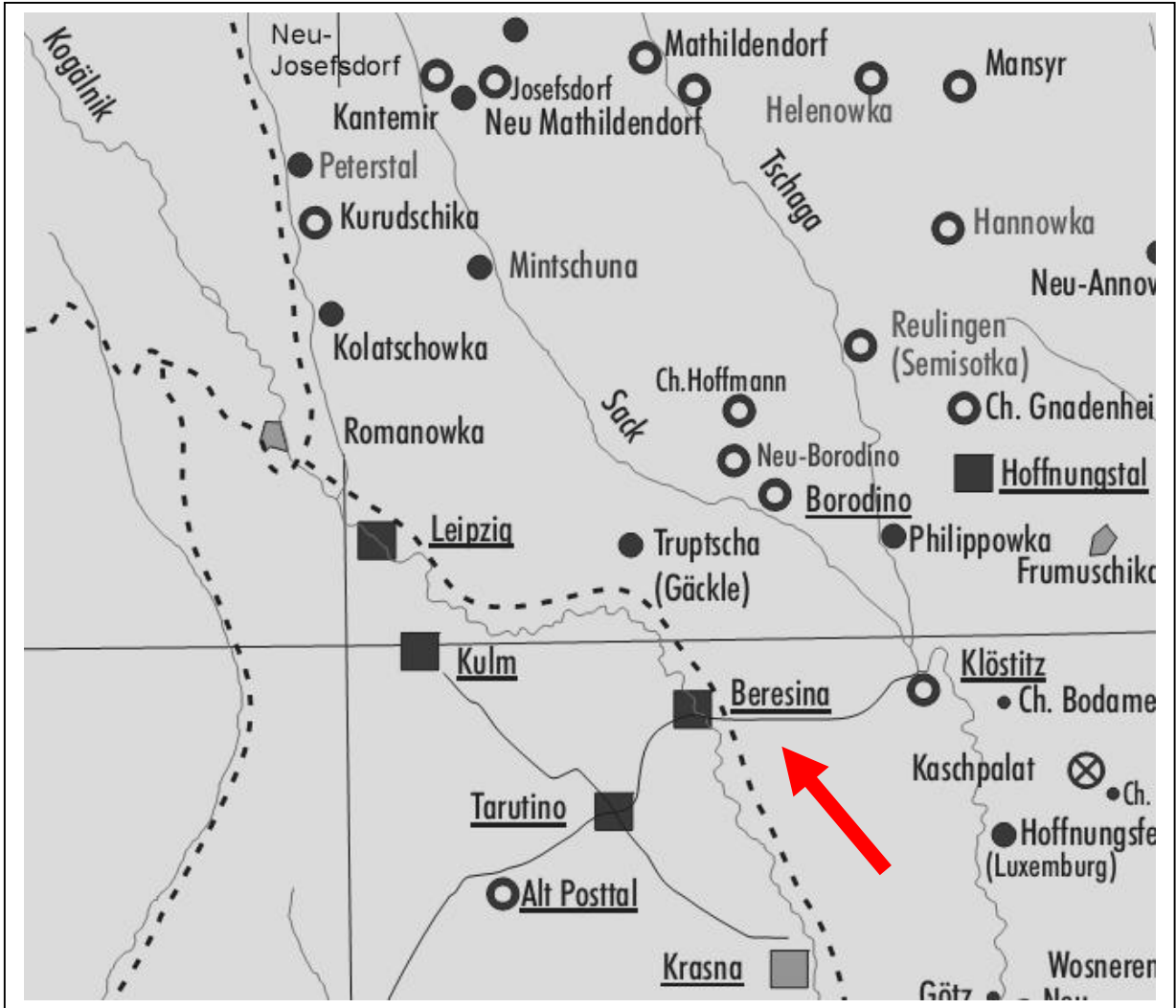
3. Mr. Johann Rattei, 67 years old and still alive. He served the community for 23 years, without interruption, as a municipal clerk and always faithfully fulfilled his duties until he had to give up his service because he was almost completely blind. At present, his son Gottlieb Rattei has been providing this service since 1927.

The oldest house in our community is the house built by local settler and farmer Jakob Eßlinger. It is located opposite the church on the road that leads to Tarutino. In this same place, Emperor Alexander the Second, the Liberator, stopped for a few minutes during a trip to the Turkish Front in 1854 and also accepted the food presented to him by the home owner. On this occasion, so it is said, the most faithful friend and companion of the monarch, his dog, came into the unpleasant position of having to scratch itself. When asked by the emperor why the dog had become so restless, the fleas were blamed as disturbers of peace. This explanation made the monarch laugh and also evoked general cheerfulness in his entourage. The chair on which the emperor sat was later picked up by a policeman for a museum. The house is now occupied by the joint-stock company *Farmer House*. It houses a butter factory and the living quarters for the accountant's family.

That is all that could be brought together after long searches and questions. Any inaccuracies and gaps may be graciously forgiven by the honored readers, as it is truly not easy to get an accurate answer to everything that is important to a person.

Concluding my short chronicle, I wish that the community of Beresina might often keep a fly in the room perspective (*Mückschau*) and seek to learn from their old ancestors. They can have some good examples in them. Even in the past, there were differences of opinion, but nevertheless there was always agreement when it came to protecting the interests of the community. And since there is no time that does not come again, I hope that even the present oppositions are coming to an end soon, and that the hour is not far away when self-interest and self-love cease to be the motivation of all action.

[Translation Ends]



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