

# **Kisil – 1909-1984**

*Bessarabischer Heimatkalender—1984*

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

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## **Daughter Colony Kisil 1909 to 1984**

Otto Hettig

At the time of the Resettlement in 1940, Kisil was still a young community. Today, the village would be approaching its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In 1908, nineteen brave colonists from the mother and daughter colonies came together and purchased an estate with 1,400 *Deßjatinen* [3,780 acres / 1,526 hectares] from the landowners Jakob Hermansson, N. Tumanski, and Georgi Spiliotti at a not exactly cheap price of 250 rubles per *Deßjatine* [= 2.7 acres / 1.09 hectares].

The Founders were:

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<b>Name of the Founder</b>	<b>Place of Origin</b>	<b>Land Area</b>
01. Böpple, Christian	Friedensfeld	75 Deßjatinen
02. Müller, Heinrich	Friedensfeld	75 Deßjatinen
03. Flöter, Daniel	Mannsburg	50 Deßjatinen
04. Schreiber, Friedrich	Lichtental	50 Deßjatinen
05. Anklam, Friedrich	Mannsburg	100 Deßjatinen
06. Voßler, Friedrich	Friedensfeld	50 Deßjatinen
07. Witt, Michael	Sofiental	125 Deßjatinen
08. Witt, nathanael	Alisovka	125 Deßjatinen
09. Schoon, Wilhelm	Teplitz	50 Deßjatinen
10. Anklam, Gottfried	Mannsburg	50 Deßjatinen
11. Faas, Georg	Mannsburg	50 Deßjatinen
12. Müller, Gottlieb	Friedensfeld	100 Deßjatinen

13. Gutsche, Emanuel	Friedensfeld	50 Deßjatinen
14. Faas, Wilhelm	Mannsburg	50 Deßjatinen
15. Kehrer, Gottlieb	Friedensfeld	100 Deßjatinen
16. Witt, Immanuel	Alisovka	100 Deßjatinen
17. Hanschke, Eduard	Schabo	50 Deßjatinen
18. Jundt, Rudolf	Friedensfeld	50 Deßjatinen
19. Enßlen, Josef	Mannsburg	100 Deßjatinen
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Total		1,400 Deßjatinen

Some of the settlers, overcome with suspicion, including Gottlieb Kehrer, Friedrich Voßler, and Christian Böpple, examined the purchased land in the spring of 1908, took samples from various locations, and convincingly determined that mostly good topsoil prevailed. Later, however, it turned out that the western part of the steppe was sandy soil.

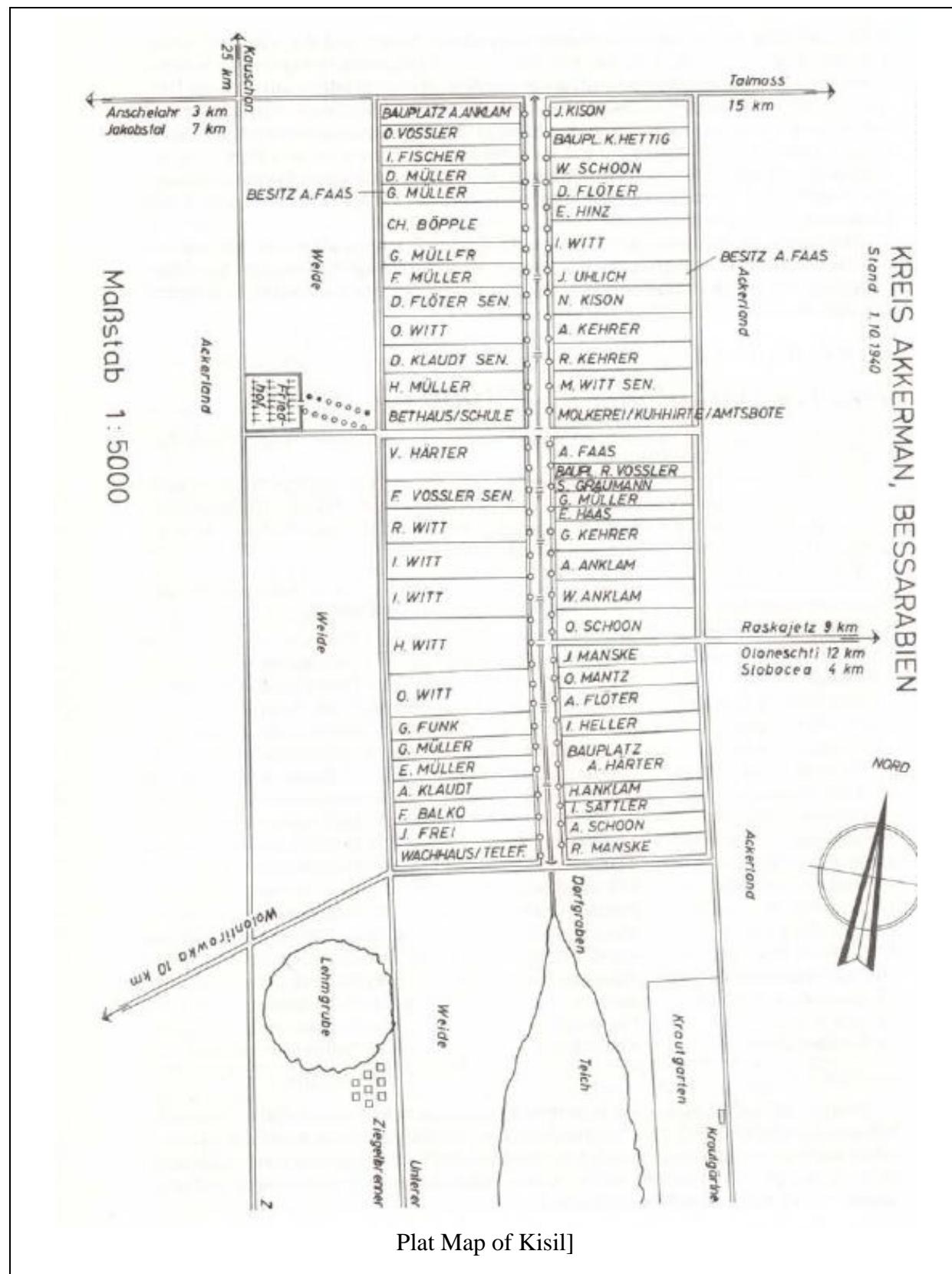
The settlers courageously set to work and founded the village of Kisil in 1909. Already in the autumn of 1908, some farmers were cultivating their fields. Plowing up the land, which had been grazed by herds of sheep and partly overgrown with thorns and thistles, was not exactly easy. Temporary shelters had to be created—mostly modeled after the existing *Ökonomie*, a hut made of clay. The buildings, located directly next to the clay pit, from which clay was later also taken for making plaster and for firing bricks in the brickworks, served as accommodation for the estate staff, horses, and cattle.

Georg Faas was the only settler who lived there in the winter of 1908-1909 in a hut he had built himself. He was also the first to encounter the howling wolves that came over the frozen Dniester [River] from the Russian steppe, in deep snow peering through the iced over window panes with their piercing, greedy eyes.

The single-street village stretched from north to south across level ground with a shallow valley depression, where a spring arose that fed a fish-rich pond at the lower end of the village.

Kisil bordered, as the only German village among the Moldavian villages in the northeastern corner of Akkerman District (Cetatea Alba), to the north on Talmaz, to the south and southwest on Stefanowka and Volontirowka, a market town where a weekly market used to take place, to the west and northwest on Adjelar and Marianowka, and to the east on Raskejetz and Slobozia. The nearest German village, seven kilometers [4.4 miles] away (in Tighina District), was Jakobstal. During Romanian times, Slobozia was the main municipality (*Comuna*) and also provided the mayors (*Primare*).

Kisil, as a subsidiary community (*Nebengemeinde*), had a deputy—*Delegat*—appointed by the Subprefecture, who was employed on a voluntary basis and received no salary. However, so that he would not come away empty-handed and would perform his duties diligently, the *Comuna* put him on the payroll as a second night watchman, and he then also received the night watchman's wage of 400 lei per month. I myself was a *Delegat* for four months as well. However, since I



Plat Map of Kisil]

was a salaried teacher, I did not receive the night watchman's wage. The only official act during my short term was that, on the order of the state, I established a two-hectare [4.9 acre] acacia forest. I am still proud of that today.

List of Schools, for example, Delegates:

Name	Duration	Title
Witt, Nathanael	1909 until 1912	probably mayor (Schulz)
Voßler, Friedrich	1912 until 1914	probably mayor
Schoon, Wilhelm	1914 until 1915	probably mayor
Müller, Gottlieb	1915	probably mayor
Kehrer, Gottlieb	1915 until 1918	probably mayor
Witt, Michael	1918 until 1920	probably mayor
Kehrer, Gottlieb	1920 until 1924	Delegat
Witt, Michael	1924 until 1927	Delegat
Härter, Viktor	1928 until 1933	Delegat
Witt, Immanuel II	1933 until 1936	Delegat
Anklam, Willi	1936 until 1937	Delegat
Hettig, Otto	1937	Delegat
Witt, Immanuel II	1937 until 1940	Delegat
Balko, Friedrich	1940 until the Resettlement	Chairman ( <i>Presedatel</i> )

The settlers of the village were religiously minded and soon set about building a Prayer House (*Bethaus*) with a residence for the teacher. The Prayer House also served as the classroom for the school. The bell stand with two bells was not to be missing either.

The school was and remained a single-class school until the Resettlement and was attended by about 50 to 60 children. The teacher was also the sexton of the village.

Teachers who worked in Kisil in the early years were:

Gutsche, Karl-Friedrich	(1909-1912)	Scheuffele, Friedrich	(1917-1919)
Enßlen, Otto	(1912-1913)	Kehrer, Oskar	(1919-1921)
Scheuffele, Johannes	(1913-1916)	Schwandt, Samuel	(1921-1922)
Ößwald, Richard	(1916-1917)	Messerschmidt, Wilhelm	(1921-1922)

In the [final] twenty years, the following worked as teachers:

Keller, Richard	(until 1929)	Hettig, Otto	(1930-1939)
Hartwig, Benjamin	(1929-1930)	Deis, Robert	(1939-1940)

Unfortunately, the people of Kisil sent few students to advanced schools despite having the financial means.

Attended the Advanced Schools:

Names	Born	From—To	School
01. Kehrer, Albert	16 Apr, 1903	1918-1924	Werner—Sarata
02. Faas, Klara	24 Dec, 1901	1922-1924	Secondary School—Tarutino
03. Böpple, Else	02 Jan, 1903	1922-1924	Secondary School—Tarutino and Bukarest [Romania]
04. Böpple, Rudolf	11 May, 1909	1922-1926	Secondary School—Tarutino and Hermannstadt [Romania]
05. Faas, Artur	1908	1922-1926	Secondary School—Tarutino and Hermannstadt
06. Mantz, Oskar		1924-1927	Secondary School—Tarutino
07. Härter, Gertrud		1938-1940	Secondary School—Tarutino
08. Witt, Aline		1938-1940	Secondary School—Tarutino
09. Kehrer, Albert	06 Mar, 1926	1939-1940	Werner—Sarata
10. Witt, Ernst	02 Oct, 1927	1939-1940	Werner—Sarata
11. Deiss, Walli	03 Oct, 1927	1939-1940	Werner—Sarata



Kisil, 9 June, 1981, Upper Village

In the early years, Kisil was served ecclesiastically by the Kischinew Parish through Pastor Gutkewitsch, later by the Klöstitz Parish through Pastor Wolleydt and Senior Pastor Baumann, and from 1938 on by the Andrejewka Parish through Pastors Kern and Schlenker.



Kisil, 9 June, 1981, Upper Village  
The empty schoolyard located on the vacant ground before the four-window long building

The Evangelical Brotherhood was active and was overseen by Brother Daniel Flöter. In the early 1930s, a Baptist congregation also emerged. Their preachers came from abroad. The leader of their congregation was Adolf Klaudt. The Baptist congregation was particularly active, which had a negative effect on the small Evangelical community in Kisil. There were often recruiting efforts (*Abwerbungen*) between the two communities. Without these recruiting efforts, they could have lived alongside each other much more peacefully. Frictions often arose.

The Kisil youth showed a great sense of sociability and community life. Unfortunately, they had no resources at their disposal. Many parents had no appreciation (*Verständnis*) for their needs. There were probably dance evenings, for which courageous citizens like Viktor Härter, Albert Faas, and others made their spaces available. School festivals and Christmas celebrations, organized by me, were popular. The mixed choir that I founded and directed brightened the festivals and events.

Only once was there a theater evening in Kisil. And that would not have been possible if Immanuel Witt II had not made his house, still under construction, available. To raise money, the youth turned to self-help. They set up a tobacco and cigarette sales point since there was none in the village. They did not hire a seller. They passed the slightly larger belly tray (*Bauchladen*) from one eager to serve person to another. In this way, they saved a nice sum until the Resettlement. After the Resettlement, they handed their money over to the Red Cross.

The people of Kisil also had a hunting club called "*Trappe*." The club flourished because all the members were passionate hunters. Their hunts, where animals were pushed toward hunters (*Treibjagden*), often lasted two to three days. They had a good buyer for the game they shot in the Russian traveling merchant Leonid from Bender. To expand their hunting ground, the

hunters leased neighboring steppes. The hunting clubs often invited each other to their hunts. I once witnessed an event during a hunt in the Raskajetz Forest, to which the hunters from Neu-Posttal were also invited, where Fr. Ziemann from Neu-Posttal shot a wolf, which was sensational.

The people of Kisil had a sense of community not only in hunting, but also in general, despite religious differences. In times of danger, misfortune, and emergencies, neighborly help prevailed. Assistance was always provided, especially in house construction, in cases of fire, burglary, and theft. In the event of fire or other general dangers, the residents were alerted by the ringing of the bells. A person left everything what was being worked on, even work in the fields, as responding to help took priority.

Agriculture was the main source of income and sustenance. The soil proved to be quite fertile. Thanks to abundant harvests, better farming tools and more modern machines were acquired. Progress was happening increasingly faster. Attention was paid to good and clean seed. In addition to cultivating the traditional cereal crops, people gradually also turned to oilseeds, which brought in good money. They were also a good fertilizer.

Special importance was attached to the good breed colonist horse and a good dairy cow of the Angler breed. Angler bulls were also acquired for breeding. The milk was processed in the on-site dairy, and the butter was delivered to the German cooperative in Kischinew.

A herb and vegetable garden with an irrigation system provided for the kitchen and cellar. The water was taken from the nearby pond, which also had plenty of fish.

Kisil had the following craftsmen: two carpenters—J. **Frey** and G. **Böpple**, a blacksmith—F. **Balko**, and a saddler—Ivan **Iwanko**.

There were no doctors or dentists in Kisil. If you needed them, you had to go to Volontirowka, Sarata, or Tarutino. Veterinarians were also lacking.

In 1922, Nathanael Witt and, in 1924, his brother Immanuel Witt were attacked by armed bandits from Ukraine. The victims were tied up so that the residents could not be alerted. The attacks only stopped when the Romanian border commander, who was conspiring with the bandits, was transferred.

The population grew, and new building plots were needed for the adult sons and daughters. In the 1920s, building plots were allocated on 50 hectares [123.5 acres] of land at the village outskirts, most of which were already built on by the time of the Resettlement. Kisil left behind 50 developed farms and three empty building plots during the 1940 Resettlement. And especially for such a small community, it is noteworthy: five threshing machines.

Killed in Action, Missing in Action, and Deceased:

**First World War:**

**Klaudt**, Reinhold, missing in action; **Kision**, Nathanael, died as a soldier.

**Second World War:**

**Anklam**, Hugo, killed in action; **Fischer**, Otto, killed in action; **Kehrer**, Albert, missing in action; **Müller**, Richard, killed in action; **Balko**, Fritz, missing in action; **Kehrer**, Helmut, killed in action; **Krüger**, Artur, killed in action; **Witt**, Ernst, killed in action; **Kehrer**, Gotthilf, died in a Russian Prisoner of War Camp.

Honor to their memory!

Sources:

1. Albert Kern, *Heimatbuch der Besarabiendeutschen*, S. 159, 517.
2. Information from Rudolf Böpple and Kuno Kehrer.
3. Personal knowledge.



Tshiligid, founded 1884, sheep milking at V.O. Hahn]

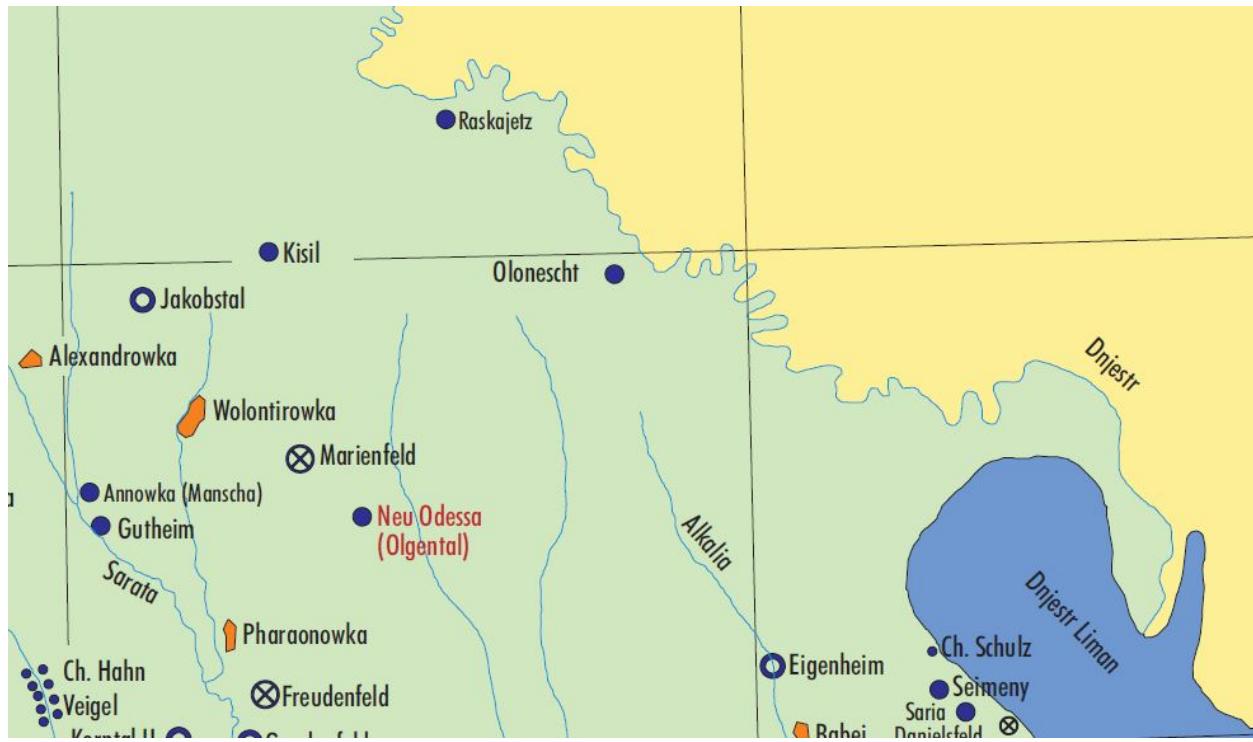


Borodino, founded in 1814, Egg Game on Easter Monday



Hoffnungsfeld, founded in 1864, Group of Young Men]

[Translation Ends]



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