

## Paris, Bessarabia – Part 2a

*Paris in Bessarabien:*  
*Chronik der Gemeinden Paris und Neu-Paris in Bessarabien,*  
Arthur Suckut, self-published, 1986, 321 pages.

Translator: Allen E. Konrad  
P.O. Box 157 Rowley, IA 52329  
E-mail: <onamission1939@gmail.com>  
Date Translated: March, 2020

Information in square brackets [ ] is that provided by the translator. This book has 321 pages of information. So as to not overload a digitized copy of this book, the translation will be made in parts. The translation below is pages 51-111 of Arthur Suckut's book.

---

[Translation Begins]

### Contents

Administration	- - - - -	052
Administration of the Bessarabian Germans in Russia and Romania from 1814 until 1940 — Orphan and Fire Funds — Paris Village Administration		
Church Life in the Community	- - - - -	076
Our Church — Our Pastors — The Worship Service — Official Church Functions — Marriage — Holy Communion — Religious Instruction and Confirmation Lessons — Funeral — The Promised Day of Repentance and Prayer — Christmas in the Old Homeland — Tower Clock and War Memorial — Cemetery — The Brethren — Youth League for Decisive Christianity — Brethren Conferences (Bible Days)		
School Life	- - - - -	110
Supplements	- - - - -	114
Appendix #5 Attended College & University [Suckut Book, p.279]		
Appendix #6 The Senior Mayors and Clerks in the Paris Wolost [Suckut Book, p.280]		
Appendix #9 Roll of Honor for those Killed or Missing in Action during World War I and World War II from the Municipalities of Paris and Neu-Paris [Suckut Book, p.300]		

## The Administration and its Institutions

In the absence of our own documents and a lack of knowledge, we let a good researcher and expert of this matter have his say; namely, our compatriot and former teacher from Eichendorf (Bessarabia), Mr. Hugo Häfner. We had some discussions with each other and he was kind enough to allow me to use his good treatise on the administration in Bessarabia, which appeared in the *Heimatkalender 1975*, which is so good and to the point for all our homeland communities that I am not able to offer something equivalent. Once again, thank you very much for your kindness.

### Administration of the Bessarabia Germans in Russia and Romania from 1814-1940

#### *Introduction*

Humanity has continued to develop. The unassuming man of earlier centuries was pleased with what he could do on his own: he fed and clothed himself, lived in simple, self-made dwellings, and used his legs on his “journeys.” The more exacting person let things work for himself. The craft trades developed, followed by industrialization and the business world, which increased and deepened the dependence of people on each other. At the beginning of their dependence, people were still able to carry out individual tasks together (road construction, well development, etc.), so the modern man is exempted by his tax payment. The municipality and the state build schools and hospitals for him, regulate the water supply and waste collection, maintain the traffic routes and the means of transport, and the like.

Conversely, it is not possible for many people to live together without order, rules and guidelines. Only their consideration and observance ensure peaceful coexistence.

So, with increasing civilization, need and necessity has evolved over time into what we call administration.

According to Brockhaus, administration is an ordering or shaping of the activity of certain areas of life according to instructions or guidelines. The State or any other public authority representative carries out certain activities, irrespective of whether that activity follows the rules of public or private law. More recently, administration is described as “social design within the framework of the law and on the basis of the law.”

When southern Russia and Bessarabia were colonized at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as in other countries, an administration had developed in Russia. The large number of German immigrants may have contributed to giving them a separate administration in their special status as “*colonists*,” which differed from the current administration of the state. The administration of their colonies regulated the interests of the colonists with the state, just as the state kept itself informed by this administration about the colonists. Through the creation of the *colonist status*, the free cultural development of the German settlers was guaranteed and secured. With the dissolving of the colonist status and the transfer to the general association of state life, a new era began for the Germans in Russia. They now— if they still wanted to preserve their

Germanism—had to assert themselves as a national minority in a foreign environment. For them, it meant to reorient themselves. Especially under Romania, they could only save and preserve their community property and the preservation of their kind by maintaining their self-government.

## The Administration of the Colonies

### Russia

**The Authority.** In 1763, the “Guardianship Chancellery of Foreigners” (*Vormundschaftskanzlei der Ausländer*) was opened in Petersburg for the settlement, supervision and administration of the colonies. It set up an “Accountant (*Komptoir*) of the Guardianship Office of Foreigners” (*Kontor der Vormundschaftskanzlei der Ausländer*) in Saratov. With the division of Russia into Gouvernements (1782), the supreme authority created a “Directorate of Housekeeping” (*Direktion der Hauswirtschaft*), which the colonies were now under because the law firm and accountant had been dissolved. Under Tsar Paul, the “Directorate of Housekeeping” was renamed “Expedition of the State Economy, the Guardianship of Foreigners and Rural Household” (*Expedition der Staatswirtschaft, der Vormundschaft der Ausländer und des ländlichen Hauswesens*). Tsar Alexander I introduced the ministries in 1802. The colonists came under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior and, under Nicholas I, in the Ministry of Imperial Domains (1837).

The administrative authorities proved to be incapable of managing and supervising the colonists. The complaints of the colonists led to their re-administration in 1797. Three “Guardianship Accounts for Foreign Settlers” (*Vormundschaftskontore für ausländische Ansiedler*), also called “*Tutelkontore*” (tutela = guardianship), were created, one for the Volga colonies, one for the colonies near Petersburg and one for the colonies in southern Russia. The latter opened its doors on 26 March, 1800 in Jekaterinoslaw under the direction of State Councillor Samuel Kontoius, who held the title of Chief Judge. On 22 March, 1818, the colony of southern Russia and Bessarabia received as a new authority the “Welfare Committee” (*Fürsorgekomitee*) This served from 1818-1822 in Jekaterinoslaw, from 1822-1833 in Kischinew, and in Odessa from 1833 until its dissolution in 1871.

Until 1834, Kauchani was the “Bessarabia Accountant of the Foreign Colonists.” From then until 1871, a colonial inspector was the extended arm of the Welfare Committee in Bessarabia. It was based in Tarutino.

The presidents of the Welfare Committee were:

General Insow	1818-1845	F. Islawin	1856-1858
Baron von Hahn	1845-1848	Alexander von Hamm	1858-1866
Baron von Rosen	1848-1853	Th. Lysander	1866-1867
Baron von Mestmacher	1853-1856	Wlad. Von Oettinger	1867-1871

**The Colonist Laws.** The Russian government helped the colonists in many areas through legal measures. Only these legal ordinances, combined with the characteristics and abilities of the colonists, contributed to the full success of the settlement. The need for administrative measures

by the state is illustrated by some figures. Farmers have been wanted in the first place. But mostly non-farmers came. According to Dr. Stumpp (Lit. 15), the deserving explorer of Germanism in Russia, out of 4,400 people who emigrated from Württemberg at the beginning of the 19th century, there were 817 farmers, 427 winegrowers, 567 day laborers and 2,597 craftsmen and members of other trades. Since Russia had only land to give away, it is clear that it must not have been easy to satisfy the various interests and desires of the willing settlements, to teach the ignorant, to put the unskilled in bounds, to encourage the unruly to obedience, and to maintain calm and order.

For the farmers brought into the country, the government created the status of “colonists.” It is outlined in paragraph 110 of the colonist laws and reads:

“As colonists, only such foreigners who settle as farmers or craftsmen necessary in agriculture on the territory of crown land (*Krontum*), private land (*Privattum*), or as property of the lands acquired by them are recognized as colonists; in no way may they include foreigners who, individually or with family, establish themselves for trade and commerce or for the purpose of acquiring an urban status.” (Lit. 9, p. 170)

The colonial laws of the governments referred only to this state of affairs, to which German, Bulgarian, Jewish and Swedish settlers belonged, and were based on the colonization law of Catherine II of 19 March, 1764. It was originally “Instructions of the internal organization and administration” that were included in the “Full Russian Legislative Collection 1800-1803” and from then on considered as colonist laws. These are to be regarded as the foundation of the flourishing development and favorable development of the colonies. The administrative structure of the colonies was precisely defined in this.

1. The colonists of each colony form the village community. The village office, consisting of the mayor (*Schulzen*), two or more committee members, who are elected by the municipality for two years, and a hired clerk, presides over the village where it is established. According to the determination of the mayor, at least one meeting a week must be held. Books must be managed: to enter the orders and decrees of the authorities; the submission of private actions, claims and decisions that followed; about the collection and expenditure of municipal funds.

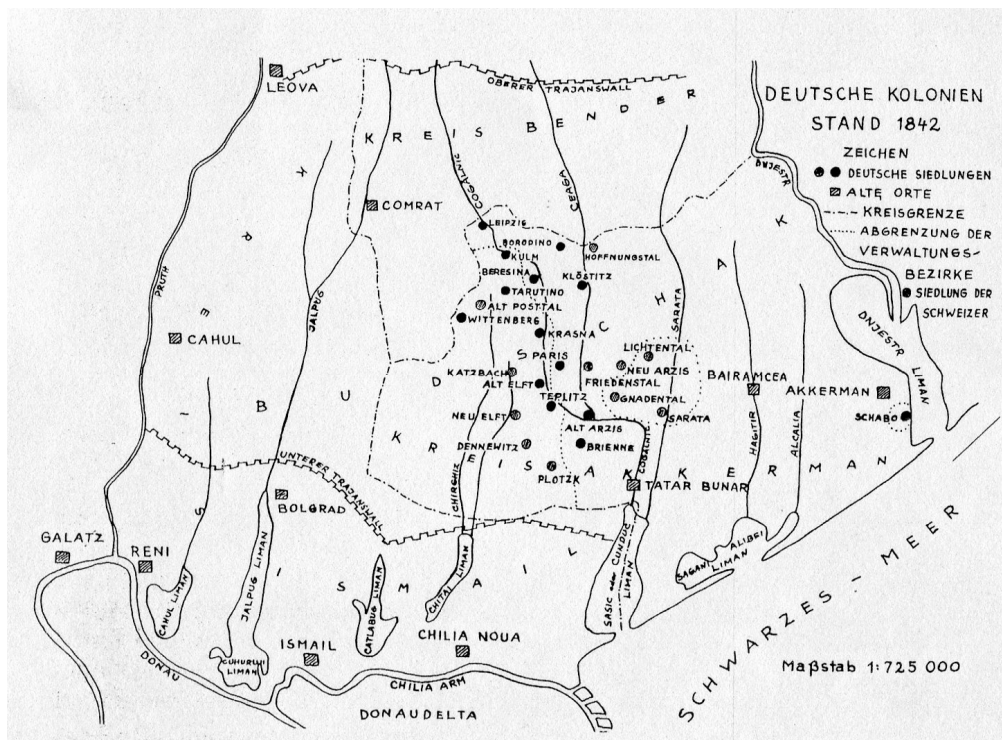
No decision of the Office may be recognized as legal if the matter in question has not been heard, discussed and decided by all members of the Office in general. The mayor is responsible for the external and internal order in the colony and also for the punctual receipt of all taxes; he keeps an account concerning all the funds of the municipality; he takes care of the needs of the community and reports these things to the municipality assembly of which he is chairman. In the municipality assembly, which is formed by no less than one colonist from each yard (widows can be represented or send an adult son), where the following will be dealt with: Election of the members of the village offices and region offices (*Bezirksämter*); Dismissal of colonists in different situations; Confirmation of conditions upon the appointment of a pastor; Advice on applications and complaints concerning municipal needs; Distribution of levies and burdens; Settlement with the elected officials at the end of each year and at the time of withdrawal from office; Exclusion of the colonists for immoral performance and removal from the colonies; Determination of municipal requirements and municipal expenditure.

2. Several colonies are united into one region (*Bezirk/Okrga*) and in each region there is a region office. It is to consist of the senior mayors (*Oberschulzen*) and two or more committee members, which are elected by the district municipality (the former for 3 years, the latter for 2 years). Each district office has a clerk employed, usually with assistants.

The clerks are employed by the “Welfare Organization” (*Fürsorgenschaft/Inspektorat*) after agreement with the senior mayor. Rules of procedure and accounting are the same in the region offices as in the village offices. The region office is the higher authority, which is why the mayors are subordinate to the senior mayor. But he, too, is obligated to give an account to the municipalities that elected him.

The establishment of region assemblies was not provided for in the “Instructions.” In practice, such meetings took place. Each village sent its mayor and two or three deputies to the same, who then discussed common topics and made binding decisions for the region under the chairmanship of the senior mayor. On the same basis, conferences of the senior mayors and the deputies of some regions or certain districts (*Kreise*) took place in the colonies.

3. Several regions are combined into a *Rayon* where local conditions allow or require it. This is headed by an inspector (*sonotritel*) who is appointed by the Guardianship Accountant (*Vormundschafskontor*). He has his residence in a village of his *Rayon*. His task is to assist the supreme “Welfare Organization” to improve the prosperity of the colonists, to maintain order in the colonies and to report on any disturbance and to ensure that the appropriate obedience to the authorities is preserved.



According to a map by Dr. K. Stumpp, adapted by Hugo Häfner

4. The Guardianship Accountant (later the Welfare Committee) is the supreme authority of the colonists. The committee consists of 1 president, 2 members, 1 director of the legal office (*Kanzlei*), 1 translator (*Dolmetscher*), civil servants for special assignments, 1 land surveyor, 1 doctor, 1 veterinarian and several legal firm employees. From the catalogue of the tasks of the committee should be mentioned: admission of the foreign settlers to the colonist status; Settlement of the same on the basis of this regulation; Management of the lands assigned or to be assigned to the colonists in the future; Protection of all benefits, rights and benefits given to or to be granted to the colonists; Supervision of the colonies; Investigation of the complaints and requests filed by the colonists; Encourage the improvement of land cultivation, horticulture, livestock farming and the construction of factories; Supervision of the farms and house building in the colonies; Issue passports for the colonists; Transfer to another situation and release to go abroad. Confirmation of the area officials (*Gebietsbeamten*) and village officials in the established order (compiled according to Lit. 9 and Lit. 11.)

The official language was German, which is indicated by the designations in the administrative structure. So one may be tempted to see the whole thing as a German administration that the Germans have carried out in Russia. But if one is familiar with the administrative structure of Russian villages, one recognizes features of Russian administrative thinking. Consequently, German and Russian administrative ideas must have been sensibly intertwined with the above-significantly merged German-looking administrative structure of the colonies.

**Reforms.** On 1 January, 1864, the *Semstvos* were introduced under Alexander II. They were intended as a substitute for a Western European-style representation. The members of the *Semstvos* were elected by the taxpayer, regardless of the status. They were completely autonomous and administered through *Gouvernement* Assemblies and District Assemblies (*Kreisversammlungen*). Their responsibilities were: road construction and bridge construction, maintenance of postal services, health care, care of the population in bad years, all kinds of insurance, public education, agriculture, and even more.

Alexander III curtailed the rights of the *Semstvos* by the law of 12 June, 1890. They were placed under the control of an aristocratic marshal and the governor. The number of representatives (*glasnye*) was reduced, the nobility was given special privileges. The farmer representatives were appointed by the governor. The control of the government extended not only to the legality, but also to the purpose of the actions. This, of course, was an obstacle for the *Semstvos*. Afterwards, they exerted a great influence on the development of the Russian people. Since 1871, the Germans also voted in the *Semstvos* for their possession of Crown Land in the Peasant's Curia (*Bauernkurie*), for their own land holdings in the Large Landowner's Curia (*Großgrundbesitzerkurie*).

Under the temporary government, new elections were held in the *Semstvos* in 1917. But the October Revolution of 1917 brought innovations in the area of administration. The Village Office (*Dorfamt*) was converted into a Village Committee (*Selskij komitet*), whose chairman took over the function of a mayor. The *Wolost* Office had to give way to the *Wolost* Committee (*Wolostnoi komitet*), and in 1918, they were converted into a *Wolostsemstov* (*Volostnaja zemskaya uprawa*).

Under Romanian rule, the *Semstwo* institution was dissolved on the basis of Decree No. 2720 of 4 October, 1918. The *Gouvernementssemstwo* had to hand over all its capitals to the Finance Directorate. Later, the District Land Organization assemblies (*Kreislandschaftversammlungen*) and the District Land Organization offices were also abolished. The *Semstvos* were replaced by the “Temporary Commissions,” which were meaningless, since the powers of the former *Semstvos* had been transferred to other directorates.

With the dissolution of the Welfare Committee on 16 June, 1871, the colonists were transferred to the General Association of State Life (*allgemeinen Verband des Staatslebens*). The former colony was re-designated a village (*Dorf*), the colonist a settler (*Ansiedler*), a real “land-owning settler” (*poseljane sobstvenniki*). Becoming a citizen, the former colonist enjoyed all rights, but also had to fulfill all the duties of such a citizen. The worst duty of the colonists was the duty of military service, which became an irreversible reality from 1874 on.

In the case of the offices and the municipal assemblies, the capabilities were redefined. The regions (*Bezirke/Okruga*) were replaced by areas (*Gebiet/Wolosten*). Individual municipalities were given the right to form a *Wolost* if they had a certain number of souls. The mayors and senior mayors lost their assistants (*Beisitzer*). In order to maintain order, the mayor received a few tenth men (*Zehntmänner/Desjatzki*), led by a hundred man (*Hundertmann/Sotski*), who were elected for one year. The mayor (*Schulz*) was now called “*Selskij starosat*” (village elder) and the senior mayor (*Oberschulz*) “*Wolostnoi starschina*” (area elder/*Gebietsältester*).

Next, the colonial inspectors were replaced by so-called Peace Brokers (*Friedensvermittler /Mirowie posredniki*) in order to give way to the establishment of the District Farmers Commission (*Kreisbauernkommission / Ujezdnoe po krestjanskim delam prisutswie*), which in turn was replaced in 1892 by the *Landvögten* (*Zemskie natschalniki*).

With the introduction of the Russian language as an official language, the colonists were met with mixed feelings because they feared a Russification that might result in the loss of religious freedom.

After the dissolution of the Welfare Committee, in the course of time the Land Organization Office (*Zemskaya uprawa*) with the *Landvogt* (*Zemskij natschalnik*) at the head became the authority directly superior to the *Wolost*. This was followed by the Land District (*Landkreis*) with the District Governor (*Kreishauptmann*) at the helm. The district authorities were under the authority of the governor, who was based in Kischinew. In the military and school sector, several *Gouvernements* were combined into General *Gouvernements*, with a Governor-General (military) and a curator (school) at the helm.

The administrative structure in Ismail District differed from that in Akkerman District at the lower administrative level. This was related to the predominant Moldovan population in Ismail District, as well as to the fact that this district belonged to Romania from 1856 to 1878. Instead of the *Wolost*, there was the *Communa* with a mayor (*Primar*) (first, eldest) at the top. Teacher Jakob Romppel recalled that in New-Sarata in the Russian period, no mayor was elected, but a municipal representative (*upolnomotschenyj*), who had to be confirmed by the *Primar*.

**Area Classification.** The 13 colonies, which existed in 1817, were divided into 2 regions (*Okruga*). The first region was first located in Wittenberg and from 1834 in Alt-Posttal. This region included the colonies: Wittenberg, Tarutino, Krasna, Kulm, Alt-Elft and Teplitz. In addition, came the later establishments: Alt-Posttal, Katzbach, Neu-Elft, Dennewitz and Plotzk.

The second district was located in Klöstitz. To this belonged these colonies: Klöstitz, Borodino, Leipzig, Beresina, Paris, Brienne and Alt-Arzis. Later, Neu-Arzis, Friedenstal and Hoffnungstal were added.

Sarata and Shabo did not belong to any of these regions. They were in direct contact with the Welfare Committee. In 1836, Gnadental and Lichtental came to the region of Sarata.

After a distinction was made in Russia between place of residence and place of expertise, it is easy to answer the question of which of the existing regions included the settlements that emerged as daughter colonies after 1842. They had to be looked after by the region from which the founders of the new settlements came. Distances did not matter or the fact that another region was closer. The place of expertise was considered to be the place of responsibility. Every municipality was required to look after its municipality members, even if who knows where further in Russia they wanted to go.

The above classification changed when, in 1871, the regions were replaced by areas (*Gebiete/Wolosti*) and individual municipalities also had the opportunity to form a *Wolost*. But the growing settlement activity also brought with it changes in the division of the area. Many German villages outside the German settlement area were assigned to foreign *Wolosts*. In the following, the progress of the development can only be shown in the German settlement area.

Alt Posttal, Wittenberg and Katzbach remain at the *Wolost* of the former first district. Klöstitz, Hoffnungstal, Borodino, Leipzig and Beresina remain in the *Wolost* of the former second region. Of those newly founded, Neu-Klöstitz, Friedrichsfeld, Tamurka, Tschiligider, Kantemir, Peterstal, Elisabethowka, Wladimirowka, Alexandrowka and Baraboj were added. In 1871, Tarutino and Krasna got their own *Wolost*. In 1872, several *Wolosts* were created: Alt-Arzis with Neu-Arzis, Friedenstal and Brienne; Teplitz with Alt-Elft, Neu-Elft, Plotzk, Dennewitz and Hoffnungsfeld; Paris with New Paris; Kulm; Eigenheim with Seimeny, Tschemtschelly, Andrejewka, Danielsfeld, Olgental and Alexandertal; Josefsdorf with Mathildendorf, Persianowka, Hoffnungsdorf, Neu-Leipzig, Günsburgsdorf, Kurudschika, Mintschuna, Neu-Tarutino, Skrikanowka. In 1880, Neu-Posttal became a *Wolost* with Benkendorf, Rosenfeld, Mannsburg, Sofiental, Neufall, Pawlowka, Straßburg I, Straßburg II, Basyrjamka, Kajabei I, Alisowka, Romannowka and Alexandrowka. To the 1882 establishment of the Eigenfeld *Wolost*, these were included: Gnadenfeld, Friedensfeld, Kantemir, Jakobstal, Alt-Annowka and Neu-Annowka. Nothing changed at the Sarata *Wolost*, and the Schabo *Wolost* had added to it Schabolat, Kadajeschti, Neu-Sergejewka, Katorga, Akimbek and Tscheban Bunar.

In Ismail *Kreis*, the *Gebiete* were divided as follows: Ismail *Gebiete* with its seat in Bolgrad, Lower-Budjaker *Gebiet* (Kahul *Kreis* and parts of Akkerman *Kreis*) with its seat in Komrat,



Upper Budjak *Gebiet* with its seat in Iwanowa and the Kahul-Pruth *Gebiet* with its seat in Hadschi-Abdul.

## Romanian

The unification of administration was urgently needed in Romania as a matter of area growth. The bill, introduced in 1921, entered into force on 14 June, 1925. In it, the Pruth [River] was not taken into account as a border, but the area of the Moldau Dorohei, Botoschani, Jassy and Fältschiu reached across the Pruth, as well as the Bessarabia area of Hotin was enlarged to the west. But the classification that was made proved impractical, which is why they were later abandoned. The following administrative structure was planned (transcribed in German).

1. The *Kommune (Comuna)* may include one or more villages. Their interests are taken care of by a *Kommunal* council. The *Kommunal* council is elected by the voting population of the *Kommune* by registry election (*Listenwahl*) for 8 years. It consists of 3/5 elected members and 2/5 of ex officio. The executive body of the *Kommunal* council is its permanent delegation, consisting of the *Primar* (chairman) and 2 members, elected by the *Kommunal* council for a term of 4 years. The *Primar* [mayor] is the head of the *Kommune* and head of the *Plizei*.

Only a member of the *Kommunal* council can be elected as mayor. The following are ex officio members: The clergy, the head of the municipal school, the doctor, the veterinarian, the midwife, the tax collector, the local agronomist, a delegate of every cooperative in the *Kommune*.

Women can be elected. However, participation in the election is left to their free will.

The *Kommunal* council has to take on specific tasks: maintenance of the administration and school buildings, repair of bridges and paths, water supply, lighting, order and cleanliness, measures against epidemics, care for the poor and orphans, maintenance of hospitals, establishment of burial sites, care for the improvement of cattle breeding and horse breeding.

2. Several *Kommunen* form a *Bezirk (Plasa)*. This is not a juridical entity. It is administered by an official (*Prätor*). Its duties include the exercise of control and supervision over the application of laws and regulations in the *Plasa*.

3. Several *Bezirke* form the *Kreis (Judez)*. At its head is the *Kreis* council, which the population elects for 8 years. It consists of 3/5 elected members and up to 2/5 of ex officio. The *Kreis* council elects from among its members a permanent delegation for 4 years. It is the executive power of the *Kreis* and is led by the Prefect (*Präfekt*).

The responsibilities of the *Kreis* include: maintenance of its management, various professional schools, hospitals, sanatoriums, poor institutions, orphanages and abandoned infant homes, workhouses for beggars and vagrants; it provides for the encouragement of cattle breeding and horse breeding, organizes agricultural and other exhibitions, establishes agencies of agricultural machinery and equipment, ensures good condition of the roads and bridges, establishes vine nurseries and tree nurseries, and so on.

According to the law, it was inevitable that various German villages were united into one *Kommune* with neighboring villages of foreign origin. That was the sorrow of the Germans, for they foresaw that with their better tax revenues they would be worse off and that the financially weak foreign-speaking places would benefit from it, and in the end they were also right. But their proposal to combine the German villages of a church parish (*Kirchspiel*) into a *Bezirk* did not find urgency with the Romanian parliamentarians.

In the new administrative law of 3 August, 1929, the village (*Dorf/Sector*) was designated as the smallest administrative unit besides the *Bezirk*, *Kommune* and *Kreis* (the latter two again identified as legal entities). Villages of up to 600 inhabitants should be administered by the village assembly as an advisory body and the executive body consisting of the village mayor (*Dorfprimar*), his assistants (deputies) and 2 delegates of the assembly. The Executive Body, elected by the assembly for 2 years, is given a Cashier and a Secretary who are not elected. A member of the village assembly is every entitled to vote resident of the village over the age of 25. The creation of large municipalities (*Großkommunen*) with at least 10,000 inhabitants was provided for, but not made compulsory, by merging a corresponding number of localities (*Ortschaften*). At the request of the population, the existing *Kommunen* were allowed to remain, new ones could be formed.

According to the “Law on Amendments to Some Provisions of the Law on the Organization of Local Administration” of 15 July, 1931 (Amtsblott No. 161), a regrouping of the villages into *Kommunen* was ordered according to the classification made in 1925. The size and payment power of the villages and their territorial location, distance, etc. should be taken into account in the reclassification. A village that wanted to form an independent *Kommune* should be able to have no less than 150,000 lei of decent income in the budget. All villages have been obligated to ensure that their interests are safeguarded during the regrouping.

The new administrative law brought about the introduction of civil marriage, which from 1 January, 1930 had priority over the church marriage.

The next administrative law came into force on 14 August, 1938. It provided for the *Gemeinde* (*Communa*), *Bezirk* (*Plasa*), *Kreis* (*Judez*) and *Gebiet* (*Zinut*) as administrative units. But only the *Gemeinde* and the *Gebiet* were endowed as legal entities. They represented local interests and at the same time exercised the powers of the general administration, which they were legally entitled to.

The *Bezirk* and the *Kreis* were units for the control and decentralization of the general administration. The mayor (*Bürgermeister*) of the municipality, who had to be at least 30 years old, was appointed by the Prefect for a minimum of 6 years. He was head of the *Gemeinde* administration and chairman of the *Gemeinde* council (*Conciliul communal*).

The 10 areas (*Gebiete*) into which the whole country has been divided are: Olt, Bucegi, Marea, Dunarea, Nistru, Prut, Suceava, Somesch, Timisch and Alba Julia. Again, Bessarabia had not been treated as a unit, but fell to 4 areas: the districts (*Kreise*) of Bältz and Soroca came to the area of Prut with the main town of Jassy; the districts (*Kreise*) of Orhei, Lăpuschna, Tighina and

Cetatea Alba (Akkerman) formed the area of Nistru with the capital Kischinew; the districts of Cahul and Ismail were added to the Dunarea area with the main area Galatz and the district (*Kreise*) Hotin came to the area Suceava with the main capital Tschernowitz. Full power of authority was presided over by a Royal Governor (*Resident Regal de Zinut*).

Particular attention should be paid to Article 41 of the Law, which, after many negotiations and discussions between the German Members of Parliament, was taken into account and had the following text:

“In the municipalities in which the majority of the population belongs to an ethnic minority, the mayor shall be appointed from among them. In these municipalities, the members of the *Gemeinde* council can express their opinion in their mother tongue at the meeting. In this case, the speech must be translated immediately into the Romanian language.”

### **Civil and Postal Services**

The colonial regulations made it compulsory for the offices of mayors to further transport “in turn” all officials and persons sent by the authorities who had something to do in the colonies or who traveled through the settlement area. As a result of the unequal distances to be covered, compensation had to be worked out every year. Therefore, the “Mileage Book” (*Werstbuch*) was kept, in which every journey made was recorded. Not only the distance, but also the condition of the road was important. Thus, the mayor was able to have the double mileage number credited for bad roads. The practice of the “Compulsory Mileage” (*Wersfron*) remained until 1940.

According to Rudolf Weiß, the mother communities relieved themselves of the imposed natural burden on the basis of the State Postal System by hiring a so-called Post-holder (*Poschtars*), who had to make all official trips for a fee. According to Russian custom, a bell rang out at the front of the wagon shaft, announcing the approaching official vehicle to the officials, so that they could meet the official with the appropriate respect, and the haulers readily cleared the way.

Official mail and parcel transport had to be dealt with in a similar way as with the passenger transport. The official mail was to be picked up or brought to the office (*Kontor*) of the Welfare Committee in Kauschani. The colonists received and sent their private mail in the same way.

After the dissolution of the Kauschani *Kontor*, Kauschani remained a Post Office (*Poststation*) for the areas of Klöstitz and Alt-Posttal. According to Mutschall, the people of Tarutino had to pick up the mail in Kauschani once a week until the 1860s, then for a few years in Sarata and from 1873 to 1875 in Dennewitz. As a result, Sarata is believed to have been the first German colony to receive a Post Office. Before that, the Sarata had to pick up its mail in Tatarbuniar. For the entire *Kreis* of Ismail, Bolgrad was postal place (*Postort*).

On 1 May, 1875, Tarutino received its own Post Office. The travelers of the postal service in Russia entered in a book name and destination. Likewise, the keeper of the posting house had to enter all incoming and outgoing letters in a list.

With the opening of the Bender-Reni railway line (built in 1878), the mail was transported by rail. Tarutino picked up its mail daily at the Basarabskaja (Leipzig) railway station. Probably in the course of the expansion of the Akkerman-Kischinew Telegraph Line, Tarutino received a Telegraph Office in 1877. At the beginning of the 1880s, the Tarutino Agricultural Office (*Landschaftamt*) set up a “telephone office.” The village office of Teplitz received a telephone in 1909. This is the beginning of the development of modern technology in the transport sector in the German villages.

## **Nationality**

Germans came to Russia from Germany, from the then Congress Poland and from other settlement areas of Europe. It is not known exactly when and where they became Russian citizens. Paragraph 144 of the Colonist Laws states that “the swearing-in of the colonists shall be made according to their faith and custom.” It can certainly be assumed that no one who had not become a Russian citizen or wanted to become a citizen was admitted to the colonist status. (See *Kalendar* 1971, page 37ff.)

If the colonists wanted to travel, a leave of absence letter (*Beurlaubungsschreiben*) from the mayor’s office was sufficient if the trip went to the next village, the *Kreis* town or the *Gouvernement* town. In the case of more distant destinations, longer absences and foreign trips, the colonists had to apply for a passport from the colonial inspector with the leave of absence letter from the mayor’s office.. Departure from the colonies without granted leave and without passport ended up with a loss of colonist status.

## **Order and Security**

The administrative bodies were responsible for order and security in the colonies. All disputes, insults, theft, bad lifestyle, negligent husbandry management (*Wirtschaftsführung*), fighting, slander, disturbance of public peace, rudeness against officials, disobedience to the office were presented in the office of the mayor, who settled lighter cases himself and punished the guilty persons, but in serious cases made a report to the *Gebiet* Office, where the senior mayor (*Oberschulz*) acted as “judge.” What he could not decide came before the colonial inspector.

Penalties were often physical punishments, but also fines, community work, compulsory labor, stone delivery, rarely arrest. In the extreme case, the colonist offices could apply for dismissal from the position as a colonist.

All penalties had to be entered in the “string bound book” (*Schnurbuch*), which was introduced in 1846. In particular, with regard to the fines, accurate accounting was required, “who was punished, for what and how high and for what purpose the fines were used.” The Welfare Committee had these books submitted for review at certain times and responded for any irregularity or poor leadership with “rebukes,” then with “strong rebukes” and, in the case of repetition, with “non-lenient penalties.”

In legal cases which involved the police, such as robbery, and in criminal cases, the colonists were subject right from the start to the general courts, as well as in civil actions against non-colonists.

After the dissolution of the Welfare Committee, the office of the mayor retained the judicial authority. Independent courts were created for the *Gebiete*, the *Wolost* court (*Wolostnoj sudj*), consisting of a chairman and 3 judges, elected by the colonists directly by a majority of votes for 3 years. The Inspectors were replaced by Peace Brokers (*Friedensvermittler / mirowya prosrédniki*), who were also given executive judicial authority, but who soon had to cede the latter to Justices of the Peace (*Friedensrichter / mirowye sudja*). As the next court of justice came the *Kreis* court (*ujezdnye sjesd*).

In Romanian times, the mayor (*Primar*) had no judicial powers at best. The lowest court was the Peace Court (*Friedensgericht / Judecattoria de pace*) of the *Bezirk*. As the next court of justice came the Tribunal in the *Kreis* town, above it the Court of Appeal (*Appellationsgerichtshof / Curtea de apel*), and finally the High Court of Appeal (*Hohe Revisionsgerichtshof / Inalta Curte de Casazie schi revizuire*).

In 1787, during the reorganization of the municipal administration in the New Russian *Gebieten* under Catherine II, hundredth-men (*Hundertmänner / Sotskie*) and tenth-men (*Zehntmänner / Desyatskie*) were employed for the police tasks. The former were chosen at 100 (*sto*) men each, the latter at 10 (*desjati*) men each. These offices were also introduced in the German colonies in 1871. The *Sotskie* was the deputy of the mayor and was responsible for the position of transports and compulsory laborers. The tenth-men carried out community policing duties, supervised the youth, intervened in the event of disturbances, assigned the night guards and supervised them.

Mounted police were used in the zone of the *Wolost* whose leader was called “*Straschnik*.” He was subordinate to the “*Urjadnik*,” who was responsible for several *Wolosten*. In the *Kreis*, the commander was the “*Pristav*,” whose superior was the “*Ispravnik*.” As police captain, he served over a larger *Bezirk*.

During Romanian times, the *Orts* police chief (*Schef de post*) and his rural policemen (*Gendarmen*) represented the lowest police authority in the area of one or more municipalities. He was under the head of the department (*Schef de seczie*) in the *Bezirk*. The police director (*Director de polizie*) was commander in the *Kreis*.

## Taxes

### Russia

The tax free years granted to the colonists ranged from 3 to 30 years. Even above that there were exemptions from fees (*Abgaben*). In Bessarabia, free years were granted at the most for 10 years, in a few exceptional cases for 7 years.

At the end of the free years, the colonists had to pay taxes and deliver in kind. The payments were based on general land fees, municipal fees and crown fees.

The colonists had to bear all the land fees under which they lived. Here were included contributions for the land police and the post office.

Municipality fees included: 1. the maintenance of the (colonist) administration; 2. the maintenance of the clergy, as well as payment of the distance money for their journeys to the colonies; 3. maintenance of the schoolmasters; 4. payment of salaries for the *Gebiet* school, deputies and mayors; 5. the maintenance of the deputies to the Welfare Committee in court cases and complaints of the colonists and 6. the maintenance of the community herdsmen. Crown fees were: 1. taxes to support the authorities (meaning the *Gouvernements* authorities and their officials); 2. taxes for the maintenance of state roads and waterways (the colonists of Bessarabia were exempt from this fee); 3. Land fees (*Grundsteuern*).

What the colonists had to pay in detail is shown in the municipal report of Wittenberg. At that time (1848) Wittenberg numbered 77 families with 768 souls and owned 4,069 *Dessjatinen* [1 *dessj.* = 2.7 acres; 1.09 hectares] and 285 square *Faden* of land. This land was used as follows: vineyards and fruit orchards 175 *dessjatinen*, arable land 1,116 *dessjatinen*, hay land parcels 1,116 *dessjatinen* and pasture 1,662 *dessjatinen*. In the year under review, the following had to be paid:

Maintenance of the colonial administration	58 rubles	17 kopeks
Maintenance of the rural police	18 rubles	63 kopeks
State fees and Postal fees	56 rubles	58 kopeks
Property interest, property tax	661 rubles	2 kopeks
Municipality fees	1,069 rubles	79 kopeks
Total:	1,884 rubles	19 kopeks

Taxes were distributed over the entire *Gouvernement*, and partly among the individual colonies. The latter were given the general fees at a total which they had to pay. It was left to the mayor as to how he intended to apportion taxes in his municipality. The most common method was by head count, which led to the opinion that only a head tax was levied during the Russian time. For the municipality of Wittenburg, this would mean that in 1848 a tax of a total of 2 rubles 43 kopeks was payable per capita. A family of five would have had to pay 12 rubles 15 kopeks.

The money collected is paid by the mayor to the *Gebiet* office and this is transferred to the superior authorities. The payment dates set by the law for the first installment was 1 March and the second installment was for 1 January. In 1871, the contributions to the *Semstwo*, which in Bessarabia in 1918 amounted to 5 rubles per *Dessjatine* of land, replaced the maintenance for the colonial administration.

The payments in kind consisted of countryside charges in kind (*Landschaftsnaturallasten*) and municipality charges in kind (*Gemeindenaturallasten*).

The general countryside charges in kind were the same as those of the other residents, namely: construction and repair of the roads, bridges, dams and maintenance of the overpasses, insofar as they are located within the confines of the municipality; 2. compulsory quarters for night camps of army troops passing through or resting; 3. place for transports; (a) for officials on business trips, (b) for escorting those under arrest, (c) for the post office, (d) for private individuals with appropriate identity cards; 4. escort for those under arrest; 5. maintenance of the fire brigade; 6. maintaining internal order, neatness and cleanliness.

The municipality charges in kind included: 1. construction of official buildings and dwellings for inspectors; 2. place for transports and dwellings for officials commanded by the government to visit and other matters of service to the colonies; 3. immediate dispatching of official letters and packages. Even after 1871, the Germans paid their taxes to the office of the mayor, with few knowing what of their fees were for the state and what was allotted for the municipality.

## **Romanian**

Even if Romania had had the same taxation as Russia, an essential feature would have been eliminated, namely the increased bond between the state and the colonists. It was not the administrative bodies that collected the taxes, but rather a separate finance authority with inspectors (*Kontrolleuren*), *Pertscheptoren* and agents who collected the taxes directly from the taxpayer. According to the Tax Act of 1 April, 1921, taxes were levied on

Income from land (*Grund und Boden*),

Income from buildings,

Income on agricultural holdings,

Income from industrial enterprises and commercial enterprises,

Income from non-commercial (free) licensed (*Befugten*) and occupations,

Income from movable capital, debt claims, deposits and securities (capital tax), salaries, allowances, pensions, pensions,

Total income (personal income tax) in a progressive way: up to 5 hectares [1 ha=2.471 acres] 10%, 5 to 10ha 12%, over 10ha 15%, leased land 18%.

Later tax legislation did not bring any significant changes.

## *Literature*

1. *Bauernkalender 1936-1939; Herausgeber: Kulture- und Presseamt des deutschen Volksrates, Tarutino.*
2. *Der große Bockhaus, Verlag F.A. Brockhaus, Wiesbaden 1952.*
3. *Deutscher Volkskalender für Bessarabien 1920-1939; Verlag DZB, Tarutino.*
4. *Deutsches Volksblatt, Zeitung der Deutschen in Bessarabien 1935-1940, Tarutino.*
5. *Deutsche Zeitung Bessarabiens (DZB) 1919-1940, Tarutino.*
6. *Neuer Haus- und Landwirtschaftskalender für deutsche Ansiedler im südlichen Rußland, Odessa.*

7. *Bienemann j., Dr. Friedrich, Werden und Wachsen einer deutschen Kolonie in Südrußland, Geschichte der evang.-luth. Gemeinde zu Odessa, Druck von A. Schultze, Odessa 1893.*
8. *Häfner, Hugo, Die Volksgemeinschaft der Deutschen in Bessarabien (Manuskript).*
9. *Hummel, Theodor, Hundert Jahre Erbhofrecht der deutschen Kolonisten in Rußland, Reichsnährstand-Verlags-GmbH, Berlin 1936.*
10. *Küsgen, Wilhelm, Handwörterbuch des Postwesens, Verlag von Julius Springer, Berlin 1927.*
11. *Mauch, Albert, Staatsrat Samuel Contentius, schreibmaschinenvervielfältigt 1952.*
12. *Mutschall, Wilhelm, Geschichte der Gemeinde Tarutino von 1814-1934, Buchdruckerei "DZB," Tarutino, 1934.*
13. *Prinz, J., Die Kolonien der Brüdergemeinde, Moskau 1898.*
14. *Sommer, E.F., Die Einigungsbestrebungen der Deutschen im Vorkriegsrußland (1905 bis 1914), Verlag S. Hirzel, Leipzig.*
15. *Stumpp, Dr. Karl, Ostwanderung, Akten über die Auswanderung der Württemberger nach Rußland 1816-1822, Verlag S. Hirzel, Leipzig 1941.*
16. *Veredarius, Das Buch von der Weltpost, Entwicklung und Wirken der Post und Telegraphie im Weltverkehr, 3. Aufl. Verlag H.J. Meidinger, Berlin 1894.*
17. *Weinreich, E. Friedrich, Die Verfassung von Rumänien von 1923, Verlag R. Noske, Peipzig, 1933.*

The Orphan Funds (*Waisekassen*) and Fire Funds (*Brandkassen*) proved to be a particularly beneficial institution of the administration. A specialist from our homeland, Daniel Tobler, explains:

## **Orphans Funds and Fire Funds**

### *I. Orphans Funds*

The Orphans Funds in Bessarabia were not independent public entities. They were an institution of the *Gebiet* offices in Bessarabia, which undoubtedly constituted a *Gebiet* entity.

The statutes confirmed by the Welfare Committee were the rules of a Community Orphans Fund, the Loan Fund and the Savings Bank for the first three *Gebiets* offices of Klöstitz, Malojaroslawetz (Alt-Posttal) and Sarata. The rules were still in force until the resettlement in 1940. The statutes (rules) of the Orphans Funds were confirmed on 4 June, 1871 by an Imperial Supreme Decree and included in Volume XI of the Imperial Laws. In addition to the three *Gebiet* offices from the founding period, five other *Gebiet* offices were established over the years: Arzis, Kulm, Paris, Tarutino and Teplitz. The villages to the right side of the "Cogältnik" [River] were separated from the *Gebiet* office of Malojaroslawetz, and the villages to the left side of the "Cogältnik" from the *Gebiet* office of Klöstitz.

Accordingly, the following *Gebiet* offices had Orphans Funds:

- |    |                               |              |
|----|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Malojaroslawetz (Alt-Posttal) | founded 1869 |
| 2. | Arzis                         | founded 1873 |



3.	Klöstitz	founded 1869
4.	Kulm	founded 1872
5.	Paris	founded 1864
6.	Sarata	founded 1868
7.	Tarutino	founded 1871
8.	Teplitz	founded 1873

Why did the Orphans Funds come into being? Right in the first years of the settlement of the colonists in Bessarabia, in which several family fathers died, the care of the orphans caused a major headache for the offices of the mayors. The surviving assets were auctioned off and the orphans were placed under the care of a guardian who had to take care of the money. The guardianships were determined after 1820, according to the documents at the time. The guardian had to explain in court that he was taking over the guardianship of the child of the deceased. The widow was given assistance. The support was also called *Kreis* overseer (*Kriesvogt*). The guardians loaned the money of the orphans to private individuals, who had to repay them with interest when the orphans came of legal age. Of course, the cash was not always idle, and the orphans sometimes had to wait for the guardian to hand over the assets. At the auction, the debts of the orphans were first deducted by the offices of the mayors. The national interest rate, which was paid at that time for money of orphans, was 5%. According to a decree of the Welfare Committee in the 1860s, the guardians of the 5% paid for the money of orphans should be paid one-fifth part (1%) but had to be personally liable for the assets of the orphans. It is not known whether the guardians were guilty of embezzlement of assets of the orphans, but it is not conceivable with the honesty of our elderly. However, some irregularities may not have been avoided. Moreover, the lending of the money of the orphans to private individuals offered far too little security. That is why the idea of setting up credit institutions to save the money of the orphans came up early on. In some colonies, so-called “Village Orphans Funds” were established in the lawyer’s office. However, these do not seem to have worked well. As far as I remember, the following was said in a circular of the Welfare Committee at the beginning of 1860:

“Because Orphans Funds exist in almost every colony, in which the capital of the orphans is loaned to the colonists in addition to a percentage rate and most often not only allow for irregular confusion and entanglement of the invoices, but also prove to be unreliable with regard to the preservation of the capital of the orphans, the need is imminent to take measures already now that all capital of the orphans be deposited into the Orphans Funds, which are exclusively available to the *Gebiet* offices according to the type established by the people of Großliebental in the *Gebiet* Orphans Fund.’

At the suggestion of the Welfare Committee, the *Gebiet* offices also founded the following Orphans Funds: Alt-Posttal, Klöstitz and Sarata. At the beginning of 1869, the *Gebiet* offices stipulated to the village attorneys that all notes in the hands of the guardians must be checked for borrowed money of orphans and that a list of capital of orphans with the corresponding interest must be drawn up. In June or July 1869, the *Gebiet* offices asked the office of mayors to demand from the persons who had borrowed orphan money to draw up a special form and statements of liability signed by two guarantors and send them to the *Gebiet* offices. However, it was not without difficulty, as many refused to sign them and found no guarantors. But gradually

all the debtors signed a statement of liability in which they undertook to pay the debt on time or all at once. In November 1869, a fourth part of the debt and the interest (6%) was called in. In December of the same year, some orphans in their adult age already received their assets and the establishment of the new "Orphans Funds" could be considered completed.

The administration of the Orphans Fund consisted of three elected persons, sworn in by the *Bezirk* office and confirmed by the Welfare Committee: a director and two members. The Orphans Fund loaned all capital of orphans as well as all surplus sums of the offices of the mayors, also accepted deposits from private individuals at 5% and loaned them to colonists in need of credit at 6%. The deposits were guaranteed by the total stock of the municipalities and the funds of the Orphans Fund. Each colonist could get a loan against pledging his assets, and that, according to his credit, was two-thirds of the amount insured under the fire ordinance. Those who did not have assets had to provide two solvent guarantors. The loans were issued for 10 years, with interest and the tenth part of the principle having to be repaid each year. The administration had the right to buy land for the Orphans Fund. The loans were repaid in September and October each year. In the case of a small harvest, only the 20<sup>th</sup> part of the loan was to be repaid, but the resulting arrears had to be paid in subsequent better years. Those who had not paid their debts by 1 December without any specific reason had to pay a half percent more for the next year. If he did not pay his debt until 1 December of the next year, part of his dispensable assets were taken up and auctioned. Examiners (*Revidenten*) were chosen to audit the books and invoices. The Orphans Funds were also audited by the state authorities. The resulting difference between the interest rate base of 5% and 6% covered the expenses of the Orphans Funds. The remainder was the reserve capital of the fund, which remained interest free and was used to cover unforeseen expenses and losses.

Once the money had reached the required size, the savings of the fund should be used for charitable purposes: construction of hospitals and poor houses, schools, churches, midwifery institutions, community libraries and the like. The administration had the right, after consultation with the village elders, to increase the interest rate. The first directors of the Orphans Funds were the *Gebiet* clerks, the first deputy of the senior mayor. Only later were the senior mayors the directors and the *Gebiet* clerks the accountants. There were no special officials of the Orphans Funds, but the work was done by the *Gebiet* clerks. After the abolition of the *Gebiet* offices, the Orphans Funds had a special administration, consisting of the director, the accountant and two members. By an administrative reform law, the *Gebiet* offices were dissolved on 1 January, 1924, and the assets transferred to the municipalities of the former large municipality (*Groß-Gemeinde*). The balance sheets of the Orphans Funds were different.

At the foundation, the loans were around 50,000 rubles, the deposits of Orphans Funds also around 50,000 rubles. When the Ruble was converted to Lei in 1920, loans were about 400,000 to 500,000 rubles and deposits of money of orphans also about 400,000 to 500,000 rubles. In Romanian times, loans were 4,000,000 to 5,000,000 lei, and the deposits of money of orphans were also 4,000,000 to 5,000,000 lei. In order to reconcile the base of interest rates with the conditions, the Orphans Funds increased the same and, as far as I can remember, the base of interest before the Resettlement in 1940 was 12% for deposits and 14% for loans. Remaining in favor of the management of the Orphans Fund was 2%.

Since its existence, the Orphans Funds have brought some benefits to the German villages. The deposited money of the orphans was in good security and was always paid to the orphans at time when they became of age. Moreover, until 1908, when the banks were established in several municipalities, the Orphans Funds were the only credit institutions where the colonists could borrow money at a low rate of interest. This circumstance was of considerable importance for the municipalities, where the trade had always developed strongly. Many a craftsman made progress through the money borrowed from the Orphans Funds, which served for him as working capital. Many a farmer have also acquired land with the help of loans from the Orphans Funds. Many a day laborer would not have been able to build a home if the Orphans Funds had not existed and helped. What must not go unmentioned, however, is the fact that the Orphans Funds spend some money from their reserve funds for worthy causes and often helped the communities out of trouble in times of need.

As far as I remember, the most important subsidies and donations of the Arzis Orphans Fund are listed here. Around 1879, the Arzis Orphans Fund gave the municipality of Arzis 150 rubles for church construction, about 1,000 rubles for the school residential building and the sexton residential building in 1890. Furthermore, around 1903, about 1,500 rubles to the municipality of Brienne for the construction of a school. In 1895, the Arzis Orphans Fund donated 1,000 rubles to the Alexander asylum in Sarata. From 1904 to 1913, the Arzis Orphans Fund gave 300 rubles annually to the maintenance of a parish doctor, which together amounted to 3,000 rubles. During the Japan War, the Arzis Orphans Fund donated about 2,000 rubles to the expansion of the war fleet and about 2,000 rubles for the wounded. Around 1903, 1,000 rubles to the municipality of Neu-Arzis for the construction of a sexton residence and teacher residence. In 1906 and 1907, the reserve fund for the Orphans Funds building in Arzis paid out around 12,000 rubles. In 1910, the municipality of Friedenstal received 2,000 rubles for church construction. In the war years 1914 to 1917, the Arzis Orphans Funds gave about 4,000 rubles for equipping a voluntary column of wagon drivers on the battlefield and for the maintenance of the families of the haulers. In 1927, the reserve fund of the Orphans Fund spent the following for the congregations of the municipalities: Arzis—75,000 lei, Neu-Arzis—15,000 lei, Friedenstal—90,000 lei and Brienne—60,000 lei. These are all figures that I still remember. In any case, much more was given from the Orphans Fund.

In 1928, the Romanian government ordered that all money of orphans be entered in the state "*Casa de Depuneri*" treasury. At that time, the old, good institution was threatened with the risk of dissolution, which was generally regretted. The liquidation did not happen as quickly as the authorities had thought at the time. Various interventions in the ministries in Bucharest postponed the government's regulation indefinitely. But the postponement did not last too long. In 1933, the Romanian government, for the second time, definitively ordered that from 1 July, 1933, no more money of orphans will be accepted, failing which the administration of the Orphans Fund would be accountable. The money of the orphans was loaned for 10 years and the administration of the Orphans Funds could only collect interest and 10% of the capital (debt) according to the statute.

The Orphans Funds would therefore have had to be liquidated in 1943. Until the Resettlement in 1940, the Orphans Funds in Bessarabia still existed, and their legal situation had not changed.

## II. Fire Funds

The Fire Funds in Bessarabia were founded, on the basis of an ordinance of the Welfare Committee in 1849, at the first three *Gebiet* offices: Klöstitz, Malojaroslawetz (Alt-Posttal) and Sarata. The Welfare Committee had not attached any rule (statutes) as a model for the establishment of the Fire Funds, as was the case when the Orphans Funds were founded, but each *Gebiet* had to work out its detailed rules. The rules of the Fire Funds were defined differently by each *Gebiet* office, which were then approved by the delegates of the *Gebiet* assembly by a resolution and confirmed by the Welfare Committee. In the above-mentioned three *Gebiet* offices, the buildings of the following municipalities were first insured:

### I. *Gebiet Office Klöstitz:*

Klöstitz, Beresina, Borodino, Hoffnungstal, Leipzig, Paris, Alt-Arzis, Neu-Arzis, Brienne und Friedenstal.

### II. *Gebiet Office Malojaroslawetz (Alt-Posttal):*

Kulm, Tarutino, Krasna, Malojaroslawetz I (Wittenberg), Malojaroslawetz II (Alt-Posttal), Katzbach, Alt-Elft, Neu-Elft, Teplitz, Dennewitz, Plotzk.

### III. *Gebiet Office Sarata:*

Sarata, Lichtental, Gnadental.

After 1870, several villages were separated from the *Gebiet* offices of Klöstitz and Malojaroslawetz and formed independent *Gebiet* offices: Kulm, Tarutino, Krasna, Paris, **Arzis** with the villages: Alt-Arzis, Neu-Arzis, Brienne and Friedenstal, and **Teplitz** with the villages: Teplitz, Alt-Elft, Neu-Elft, Dennewitz, Plotzk and Hoffnungsfeld. In 1908, Leipzig separated from the Klöstitz *Gebiet* office as an independent *Gebiet* office. Later, *Gebiet* offices were founded in four German villages in the *Kreis* of Akkerman: Neu-Posttal, Eigenheim, Eigenfeld and in the *Kreis* of Bender in the village of Josefsdorf. I do not believe that there were Fire Funds, because Russian villages were also among these *Gebiet* offices. The Fire Funds were directly under the authority of the *Gebiet* offices. In each village, one fire elder and three to five assessors (*Taxanten*) were elected for three years. The *Gebiet* office chose a *Gebiet* fire elder, who, together with the senior mayor and the village elders, taxed the buildings of the building owners. A book of the building owners was created in each village into which the assessment was entered. Every ten years, the buildings were re-assessed. Each year, the newly built buildings were assessed and entered into the mortgage book and the demolished buildings were cancelled. The *Gebiet* office received a report about this each year.

The fire tax was collected in the different *Gebiet* offices. The Klöstitz *Gebiet* office had other rules like Malojaroslawetz, Teplitz and Arzis. Ten kopeks out of 100 rubles were collected annually in the Klöstitz *Gebiet* office. The fire money was deposited in the Orphans Fund, and if someone burned down and the fire damage was determined, he could immediately receive his fire damage. On the other hand, this was not the case in Malojaroslawetz (Alt-Posttal), Teplitz and Arzis, because the person experiencing the damage could only receive his fire damage after the fire damage had been assessed, the distributor at the *Gebiet* office of the concerned

municipalities informed, and the fire tax collected. In any case, these differences in the rules also existed in other *Gebiet* offices. The above mentioned rules were in force until the abolition of the *Gebiet* offices on 1 January, 1924. From then on, the Fire Funds were placed under the Orphans Funds. Where there were no Orphans Funds, the Fire Funds were placed under the church parishes or individual municipalities. It was unclear how the Fire Funds still existed in the Romanian period. One thing I know very well is that in 1927 all the buildings were reassessed from the Arzis Orphans Fund. The Fire Fund in Arzis existed under the administration of the Orphans Fund until the Resettlement in 1940. How it was in other places, where no Orphans Funds existed and the Fire Funds were transferred to the parishes or individual municipalities, I can no longer remember. One thing I know for sure is that most of the Fire Funds came to an end by the time of the Resettlement in 1940.

### **Village Administration in Paris**

As far as our own municipality of Paris is concerned, I would like to add that—as has already been mentioned elsewhere—we belonged to the *Wolost (Gebiet)* Klöstitz until 1871 and were under the senior mayors of that place.

In the village itself we only had the mayor and his committee member (*Beisitzer*) (today one would say deputy {*Stellvertreter*}). They were the responsibility of the entire village administration, including the Orphans Fund and the Fire Fund, as well as the municipal store. The construction of the municipal warehouse, herder houses, church houses and schoolhouses and the like, all this was in the hands of the village administration, the village mayor. However, he was subordinate to the *Wolost* administration in his decisions, especially in important matters, and had to follow their instructions. Although Paris was “dependent” until 1871, according to a statistic by Rudolf Weiss, it founded the first Orphans Fund of all mother colonies in 1864. Rudolf Weiss told me verbally: “She should—the municipality of Paris!—just take the first place that was intended for her!”

It was only because of the residents of the community that this never happened. Only once (according to Rudolf Weiss) was it possible: during the entire First World War and beyond until 1921, Paris was the only post office approved by the government. Only from here you could send mail and parcels to the soldiers in the war, as well as telegrams. And because the opportunity was not seized here, the moment passed Paris and never came back, as once so beautifully planned and thought! Its own *Wolost* since 1872, its own railway connection since 1915, its own bank since 1908/09—what all could have been!

[Continued in Paris, Bessarabia - Part 2b]