

Wischniowka

Bessarabischer Heimatkalender—1978

W. Rumpelstin, Buchdruckerei und Zeitungsverlag K.G.

[Book Printing and Newspaper Publishing Limited]

Burgdorf, Hannover/Germany

Pages 80-82

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February, 2026

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

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[Translation Begins]

Wischniowka

O. Gwinner

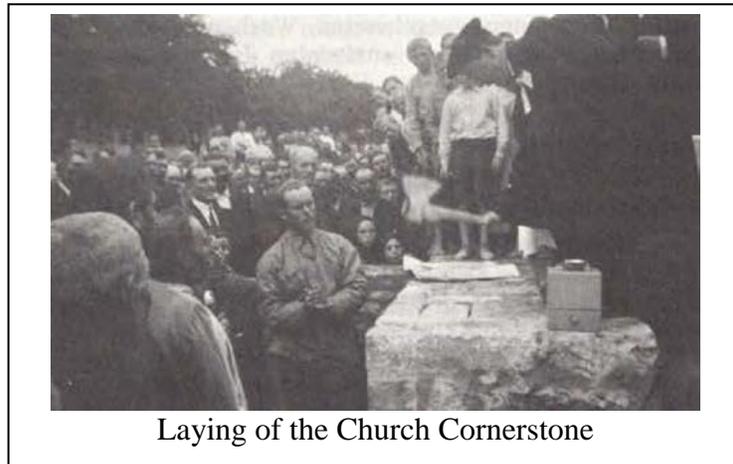
Wischniowka is said to have been founded by the large landowner Wischnewsky. For that reason, probably also the name of the place. Various nationalities settled there, engaging in agriculture, sheep breeding, crafts, and trade.

In 1906, German farmers bought land from this estate. I do not know how many farmers there were or how much land they bought. However, land continued to be purchased until 1940, so that at the time of Resettlement it was said to be 2,676 hectares [6,612 acres]. In addition to the 881 Germans, there were also 479 people of other backgrounds living in the community.

Living together with the other nations was good, except for minor frictions. People respected each other, their religion, and their customs. The children went to the Romanian school together. They simply belonged together.

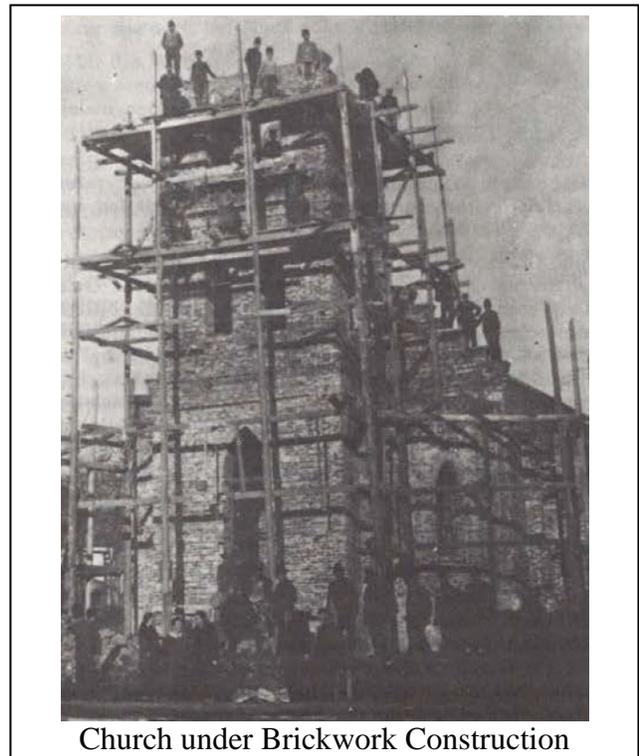
The community of Wischniowka was in a good financial position, with a dairy and a general store (*Konsumladen*), and was free of debt. Crafts were represented by 6 master blacksmiths, 6 wheel-wrights, 3 cabinet-makers, 4 saddlers, 6 masons, 2 stucco-workers, 3 carpenters, 2 locksmiths, 2 shoemakers, 2 tailors, and 1 barrel-maker. In addition, there was a well-equipped grain mill and oil pressing facility, as well as 2 fired-brickworks. The brickworks did not operate in the winter months. Furthermore, the town had a workshop for cement roof tiles, a wool carding facility, and 3 colonial general stores run by Jews, Romanians, Bulgarians, and Greeks. They also employed craftsmen: 1 butcher, 2 tailors, 1 fur-trader, 2 shoemakers, 2 merchants, 1 saddler, and 1 glass-worker.

Until around 1925, Wischniowka had a successful weekly market. However, it was then discontinued after a new market was established in Jargara, 12 km [7.5 miles] away. This location had the advantage of being situated on the railway line.



The rough brickwork of a new church was completed in 1939, because the old house of worship had become too small. This was also used as a school. A church choir, which was always well attended, was also not lacking.

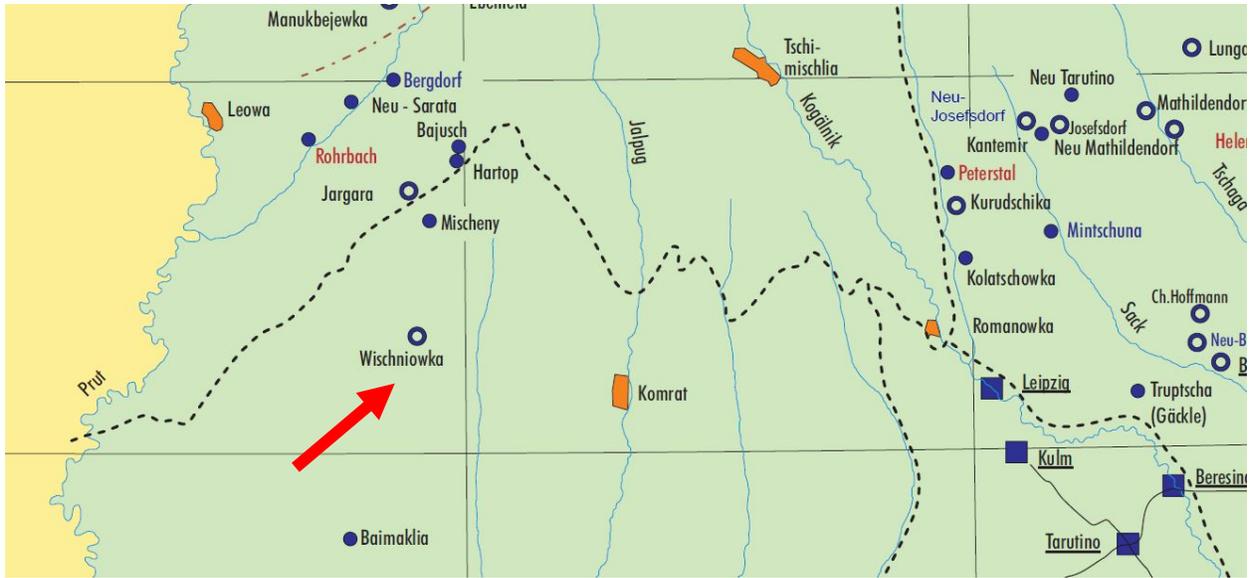
The financing of the church construction was carried out by the community itself. The payment of the teacher and the congregation worker also had to be assumed by the community. Likewise, it had to cover their housing and the school. The Romanian state provided no support.



At the time of the Resettlement, the municipality of Wischniowka had 881 inhabitants, of whom about 120 were students in 8 classes, taught half days, which was only possible for the teacher if the classes had no Romanian lessons.

Then came the day of Resettlement, the day when farewells were said. Not just from the place, but by all the surrounding villages, whose inhabitants were of different nationalities. They came to say goodbye, as if we had been one of their own. Many a tear was shed that day. It was incomprehensible for them that one nation was leaving and the other remained behind. Many would have gone with us, if it had been possible.

[Translation Ends]



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