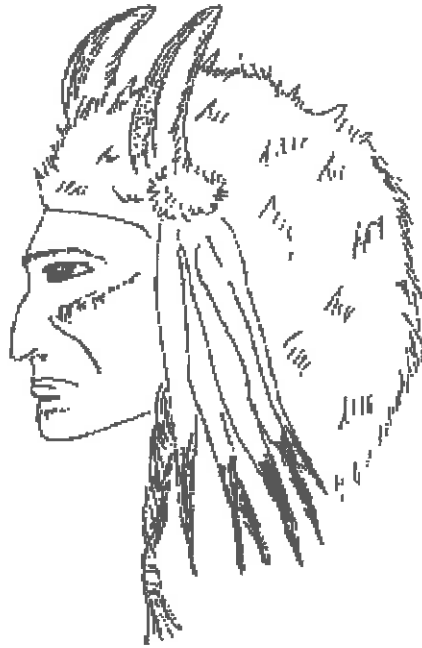


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BESSARABIA HISTORY

Submitted by Ferdinand Schwab

The west boundary of Bessarabia was the river Pruth. This was the border between Rumania and Bessarabia. The east and north boundary was the river Dniestr. The south was the Black Sea and the Danube River. Bessarabia has an area of 17,760 sq miles. In comparison, Alberta is about fourteen times as large as Bessarabia.

From the year 106, South Bessarabia was part of the mighty Roman Empire. Kaiser Trajan conquered the previous resident Dakier and made a Roman Province of this land. Kaiser Trajan built a wall called Trajan wall. This was extended from Leowa on the river Pruth, to 16 kilometers south of Bendery (Tighina) on the river Dniestr. Later another wall was built further south. This wall started 15 kilometers south of Cahul on the shore of the Pruth. This was near the ancient village of Trojan. From here it went toward the Jalpug Sea, north of the town of Bolgrad. It ended at the west shore of Catlapung Sea. It went past the north end of the Chitai Sea and ended on the west shore of Sasic Delta (Kunduk Delta). This is 10 kilometers south of Tatur - Bunar. The length of this wall is 126.2 kilometers. There were other shorter walls built. One was called Smiejnhi Wall (snake wall). Signs of these walls can still be seen.

The Romans founded Dakien Colonies. During the next century the people became know as Rumanians. In the second century the Goths, a German people, came from the north, down to the Black Sea and forced the Romans out of South Bessarabia. In 1367 Bessarabia became part of Muldavia. In 1484 (Cetatea - Alba) Akkerman was taken over by the Turks. By 1511 all of Moldavia including Bessarabia was taken over by the Turks.

About 1564 the Turks got the Tartars to settle in South Bessarabia. The Tartars named South Bessarabia " Budschak" meaning triangle. This was the piece of land between the River Dnjestr and the Black Sea. There were many years of strife between Russia and the Turks. A serious Russian - Turkish war lasted from 1806-1812, when Russia took possession of Bessarabia on May 28, 1812. By that time there were few settlers left.

Many Russian families rented land from large land owners. They worked it for one half share. Besides the rent the farmers had to work 12 days each year free for the landlord. These large estates had been given to Generals of the army, Princes, etc. Many of these landowners never even saw their land. They hired supervisors to collect their rent. Many of these owners got so far in debt that they had to sell their land.

In 1812 Alexander I, put out a call for immigrants. He especially wanted German farmers. They mainly targeted the German farmers in Poland. Every family was offered 160 acres of free land. Besides that there was other help offered to get them started. I guess the most important offer was that they would never have to serve in the army. Also, they would be allowed to keep their own religion. In a short time many colonies were founded. I will mention some of them.

1814: Tarutino, Krasna and Borodina.

1815: Leipzig, Kulm, Beresina, Wittenberg and Klöstitz.

1816: Alt Elft, Alt Arzis, Brienne and Paris.

1817: Teplitz was founded by 98 families from Württemberg, Germany.

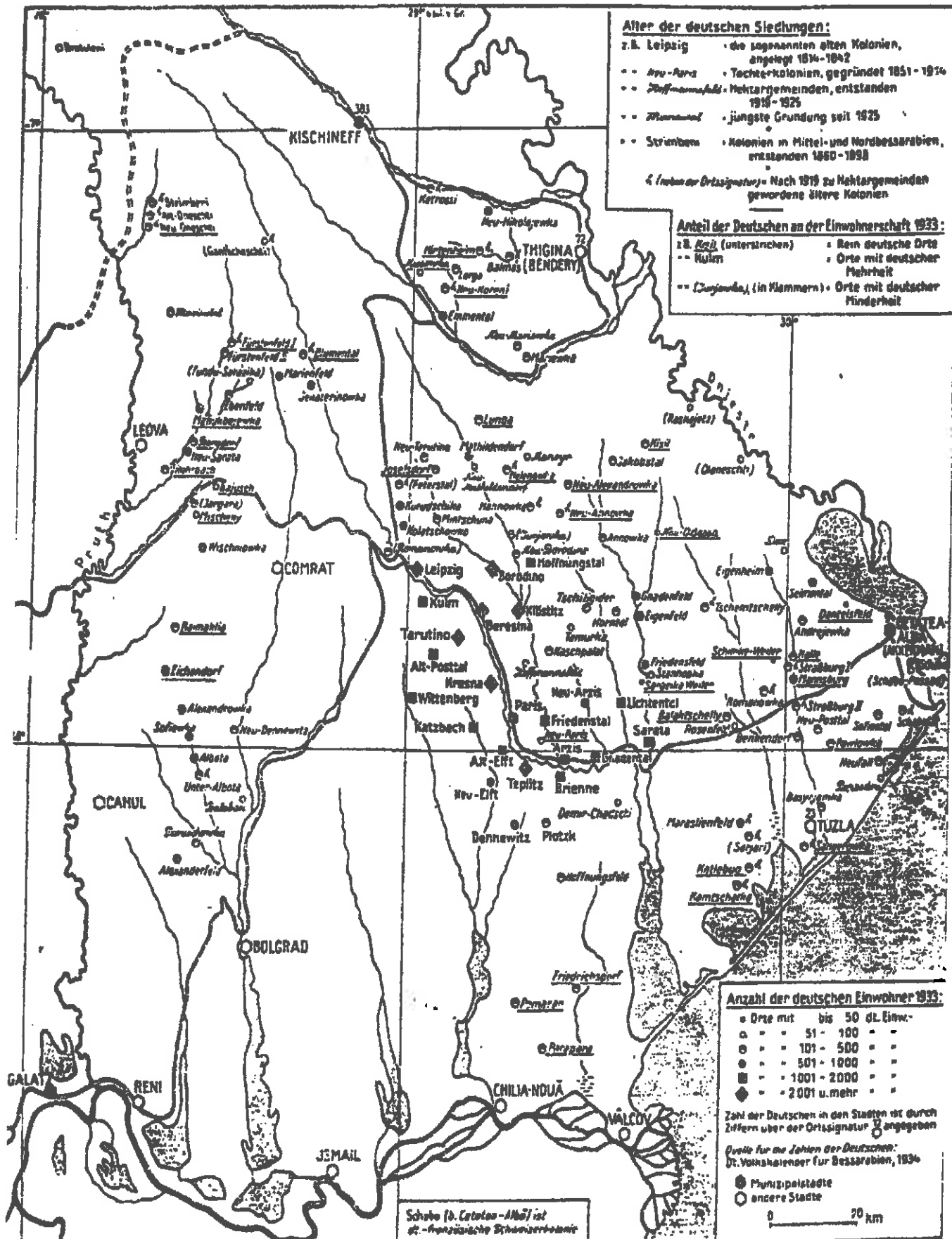
1821: Katzbach.

1822: Sarata was also founded by families direct from Germany.

1822: Schabo: A special area was settled by a mixture of Germans and Swiss.

1823: Alt Posttal, by dividing Wittenberg Steppe (prairie).

1824: Neu Arzis, by dividing Alt Arzis Steppe (prairie).



- 1825: Neu Elft, by dividing Alt Elft Steppe (prairie).
- 1830: Gnadental by Württemberg families.
- 1834: Lichtental.
- 1834: Friedenstal and Dennewitz: The latter consisted mostly of resettlers from Tarutino, Beresina, Kulm and Wittenberg.
- 1839: Plotzk.
- 1842: Hoffnungstal: was settled by Germans from Cherson Russia.

The descendants of these settlers lived and prospered until 1940, when Hitler called them back to Germany. Russia again has Bessarabia. However it is now a part of Moldavia. Bessarabia can no longer be found on the map. Even all the villages now have Russian names.

OBTAINING BRITISH STAMPS

Submitted by Fern Muirhead

British postage, including the 63p stamps, to be used for SASE's can easily be obtained by either of 2 ways:

By mail from: Order Department

British Philatelic Bureau

20 Brandon Street

Edinburgh, Scotland EH3 0HN

By phone: 011 - 44 - 131 - 550 - 8900

Stamps can be ordered using any credit card and take about 2 weeks to arrive. Sure beats the cost of International Reply coupons.

NICKNAMES

The following nicknames were collected by Neil Danielshere's my list of the more uncommon nicknames versus their formal name counterpart.....and appear here with his permission

<u>Nickname</u>	<u>Formal Name</u>	<u>Nickname</u>	<u>Formal Name</u>
Ade [male]	Adam	Carla	Charlotte, Caroline
Addie, Addy [female]	Adelaide, Ada	Carrie (female)	Caroline, Carol
Alec, Alex	Alexander	Cary (male)	Charles
Alfy, Allie	Alice, Alexandria, Allison	Cassie	Catherine, Cassandra
Anita	Anne, Ann	Cele, Celia	Cecilia, Celeste
Anna	Hannah	Chad	Charles
Arnie	Aaron, Arnold	Cole	Nicholas,
Bat	Bartholomew	Della	Adelaide
Belle, Bella	Arabella, Isabel	Dick, Dicken	Richard
Bess, Bessie	Elizabeth	Dirk	Derrick
Betsy	Elizabeth	Dob,	Dobbin, Robert
Biddy	Bridget	Dody	Dora, Dorothy

Dolly	Dorothy	Mimi	Mary
Effie	Ephemoia	Minnie	Mayme, Mary, Minerva
Elana	Eleanor, Helen	Minna	Minnie, Wilhelmina, Mayme
Eli	Elijah, Elias, Ellis, Elliot	Missy	Melissa, Millicent
Ella	Eleanor, Helen, Luella	Nancy	Anne, Ann, Anna
Eric, Rick	Frederick, Richard	Ned, Ted	Edward Edmund, Edwin
Essie. Essa	Esther		Edgar
Fan, Fannie	Frances	Nell, Nelly	Eleanor, Helen, Ellen,
Florry (male)	Florence(old Irish male)		Cornelia
Flossie	Florence	Nessi, Nessa	Agnes
Frank (female)	Frances	Netta	Antoinette, Harriet,
Frank (male)	Francis		Henrietta, Jeanette
Freddy	Guinevere, Frederica	Nora	Leanora, Eleanor, Honora
Fritz	Frederick	Nina	Anne, Ann
Greta	Margaret, Gretchen	Paddy, Patsy (male)	Patrick
Hai	Henry. Harold	Patty (fem)	Martha, Matilda, Patricia
Harry	Henry, Harold, Harrison	Pip	Phillip
Hattie	Harriet, Henrietta	Polly, Poll	Mary, Paula
Hettie	Hester, Henrietta, Esther	Pris, Prissie	Priscilla
Hodge	Rodger	Rae	Rachel
Huggin	Hugo, Hugh	Rate (fem)	Rachel
Jack	Jacob, John	Rex	Reginald
James	Jacob	Rollo	Rudolph
Jenny	Jane, Jennifer	Ron	Aaron,Ronald
Kay	Katherine	Sadie	Sarah
Kester	Christopher	Sally	Sarah
Kit (female)	Katherine	Sander, Sandy (male)	Alexander
Kit (male)	Christopher	Shari	Sarah Sharon
Lena,	Eleanor, Helen	Sissy	Cis
Lina,	Eleanor, Helen	Sukey	Susan, Susannah
Lisa, Liza	Elizabeth	Tad	Theodore
Lola	Delores, Louise	Terry (fem)	Theresa, Theresa (fem)
Lottie	Charlotte	Terry (male)	Terrence (male)
Lynn	Madeline, Carlyn, Caroline	Tess	Therese, Theresa
Maddie	Madeline	Theo	Theodore, Theobald
Marion	Mary	Tilde, Tilda	Matilda
Maria	Mary	Toff, Toffy (male)	Christopher
Marti	Marta, Martha	Tracy, Traci	Theresa, Therese
Mattie, Matty (female)	Martha, Matilda	Trixy	Beatrice
Mattie, Matty (male)	Matthew	Winnie (male)	Calvin, Vincent
Maude	Madeline, Matilda,	Wendy	Gwendolyn, Wanda
	Magdalena	Zane	John
May	Mary		
Meg	Margaret		

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