

Events in chronological order

1353: In 1353, an important purchase was once more made, moving Guben's estate property towards the river Oder. On 18 April 1353, the city of Guben bought the village **Niemaschkleba (Nymatschclebe)** from three brothers, namely Hans, Otto and Frenzel von Budyssin, who – like their parents which were called the Schultheißen (= village officials) – had owned it.

Margrave Friedrich III, called "The Rigorous", of Meißen who together with his brothers Balthasar and Wilhelm possessed the lien property for the whole of Lusatia since 1353, acknowledged the purchased on the said date (18.4.1353) in Dresden to the city mayors, jurors and citizens of Guben and enfeoffed them with the village, still belonging to the city as of today, enlarging their forest significantly¹.

1429: On the eve of Simon & Judae came the Hussites, at their time known as heretics, and lay siege to Guben, took and destroyed it, killing everyone and –thing breathing, leaving only a big pile of stones. Many a thousand people in this highly populated city were killed, the city becoming one collective grave of its inhabitants. The Cloister of the Virgins was burned down, the vineyards were ravaged and the Cloister of the Monks in the city was turned inside out, the monks being cruelly tortured. The Cloister never fully recovered from this brutal attack. At that time, it was said that both villages in the heath, **Chelmen** and **Niemaschkleba**, also were destroyed. **Niemaschkleba** had been rebuilt afterwards, however not at the old site but closer to the river Oder. **Chelmen** however never really recovered and vanished in 1431. Probably the remaining dwellers of Chelmen came to live with the inhabitants of Niemaschkleba. Afterwards, a tavern called **Heydekrug**² was built at the place where the so-called village of **Cholm/Chelmen** had stood, nowadays in the direction leading to **Croßen**.

Guben under Habsburg rule (1437 – 1457) as well as under feudal lordship in Lower Lusatia up until the Peace of Guben in 1462

1441: The financial situation of the community seemed to be rather unfavorable, as they pledged their village **Niemaschkleba (Nemaschklebe)** for the price of 100 Schok (1 Schock = 60 pieces, old measuring/counting units) Bohemian Groschen (= pennies) to Rule von Kalkreuth, who on 13 March 1441 had been feoffed with it by bailiff Nickel von Polenz. It took until 1452 – seemingly without dispute – that it was redeemed back. In 1444 the community even had to mortgage its mill, which was purchased back 15 years later – same as the said village - through the mediation and help of its commoner Friedrich Schönebecker³.

1449: Crossen, 19 October 1449

Melchior von Leben, captain of Crossen, requests the city of Guben to keep the dwellers of **Nymaschclebe** from damming up the Swartzwasser (= Blackwater), thus doing harm to the fields of the people of Polentzk⁴.

¹ Lower Lusatia Messages (NM), Volume 18, 1927, page 15, No 19

² History of the district city of Guben by Johann Christian Looke, Görlitz 1803, page 190

³ History of the city of Guben by Karl Gander, 1925, page 77 (also see NM, volume 18, 1927, page 38/No 75 and page 40/No 80 and page 42/No 87)

⁴ Lower Lusatia Messages (NM), Volume 18, 1927, page 61, No 130

Guben under Bohemian Kings and Roman Kings from the House of Habsburg (1526 – 1623)

1524: In 1523 there existed some disputes with the Cloister Neuzelle because of fishing in the Langen See. These disputes were mediated amicably on Sunday Invocavit (= 14 February) by abbot Michael on the one side and the governing mayor Hans Naumburgk together with council members Johann Swantner, Valten Peißsch and Melcher Richter on the other side. The representatives of Guben abandoned their claims, whereafter the abbot and convention of the monastery out of friendliness and good neighborhood decided eternally to “let Guben’s men fish in the Langen See whenever they went to **Niemaschkleba** for either work or court days, as well as for 3 convivias (so-called festivities/feasts) such as Pentecost, Christmas and Mardi Gras.”⁵

1534: In the extremely hot summer of 1534, during which “all waters dried up”, the council had to clear the estuary of the river Neiße, amounting to costs of 360 Taler. This must have been the reason for building three ships in Guben’s forest near the river Oder, leaving the citizenship muttering⁶.

1545: The establishment of the sheep farm before the heath (nowadays Colony Haideschäferei) was begun in April 1545 (Lower Lusatian Messages, volume 5, 1897, page 309)

1548: Within 1548 several boundary disputes came up: First on 18 January a conflict with the old Melchior Frank and his sons and cousins, claiming a rather sizeable area from the city along the Chöne. Following, an unsuccessful negotiation on the boundary between the council village **Niemaschkleba** and **Polenzig**. Third and also failed the negotiation with abbot Matthias of Neuzelle. He had a dam erected at Lahmo “by which the meadows of **Niemaschkleba** were flooded”.⁷

1556: The account book of the city of Guben by Hugo Jentsch⁸

The said year brings us back in time when the cities of Lower Lusatia as a side-country to the crown of Bohemia were not yet under rigorous control of its administration, therefore being able to cope with their internal matters without the interference of the bailiff and his councils. As far as the connection to their sovereign, the Bohemian King, was concerned, the only way was by tax payment.

The federal tax was the (Schoß?) up to the amount granted by the councils to the sovereign. This tax was taken since an estimate in 1543, which was mainly based on real property, therefore can be called a property tax. Every village was only charged in the amount of the estimate according to its Feldmark, the allocation and survey completely allotted to the municipal authorities.

Of the three groups of special tributaries of the former three villages Niemaschkleba/Oder, Mückenberg and Gubinchen, the unpaid manual work and unpaid horse and cart work were often mentioned. For farming/agricultural activities or occasional other services, e.g. forest fires or hunting, they received beer and these deliveries, both in prices and value differing throughout the year, resp. works such as plowing, sowing, harrowing, binding, bringing in and

⁵ History of the city of Guben, 1925, page 94 (also see NM, volume 18, 1927, page 75/No 165)

⁶ dito, page 95

⁷ dito, page 105

⁸ Lower Lusatian Messages, volume 5, 1898, pages 276 ff

threshing. As far as hard cash was concerned, the three communities altogether raised nearly 61 Schock.

As is generally known, on the countryside the names of the farm owners (Nahrung or Wirtschaft) were passed down together with the farm/land (as "an der Thorsäule haftend"), interesting but difficult to answer however the question how long this namekeeping went back of if perhaps only the name of the latest predecessor in the line is shown. The bigger the number of the respective names, the higher the importance of the result; because of this the register of **Niemaschkleba** was examined: it goes 112 years further back than the first known church register (the oldest of which starts 1668), therefore being of considerable value. Indeed one can find a rather high accordance between the old and the actual list of landowners. Therefore, in order to answer the above question, it would be essential to know whether only one layer of owners (the momentary ones) were put on top of the former, maintained farm names, or whether several changes in ownership had already taken place. On several occasions, the current list of landowners includes names out of the old register, which however cannot be found as names of one of the Thorsäulen. This coincidence – however unanswered in the end – might very well not be accidental: It is said that he who experienced the breakout of fire on his land had to leave the village, had to change his housestead into a garden and had to settle either on its end or beyond on his acre, thus the old name of his estate being extinguished in the line of farms. Furthermore and not to appear strange, some names have been transformed over the years, and in two known cases the altered first names were kept and passed on: Valtins (after Valten Heinz, 1556?) and Clausch (compare 1556 Claus Türk). Important to mention in this context that into the middle of the 16th century in the country the first names were of higher meaning and importance than the family name.

The following 15 names remained unchanged: Lehmann (former indication of the co-mayor/=Beischulze), Türk, Merkisch (these three names existed twice as names for Thorsäulen), Schneider, Herke, Krüger (the name of the tavern owner handed down from generation to generation, =Erbschankkrug), Rademacher, Johann and Kube (used to be a Zeidler, now farmer/=Bauernnahrung), Wolschek(Woitschak), Kupisch(Kubel) Jasingk(Jasnik), Gram (twice Gromm, momentary owner Gromm and Kamjang) Jasnick(Jaß), Qual(Koal) and finally Gadan(Goadatz, also Gadans). Among 57 names, some of which bear Wendish appearances, 24 have survived. The other Thorsäulen or names of farmsteads therefore have to be of younger origin.

Tax of **Niemiscklebe**

- I Farmers
- II Gardeners (= Gärtner, now Büdner, owning half or quarter of a farm)
- III Beekeepers (= Zeidler, now Kossäthen)

1569: The legal status of the 16th century can be demonstrated by the boundary disputes at the Hammerfließ (small river) in 1569. The counselors Andreas Redlich and Peter Franke were sent to **Niemaschkleba** in order to negotiate with Crossen's commissioners from the margrave Hans von Cüstrin; however they were captured and put in prison, both at own costs as well as harming coldness.⁹

1574: In 1574 the story of a truculent civil self-confidence, which might have brought disadvantages for the city, is reported: On 25 June Hans von Bomsdorff living on the estate

⁹ Lower Lusatian Messages, volume 18, 1927, page 111

Drewith (belonging to a family who also owned Bomsdorf, Groß-Breesen, Bresinchen, Crayne, Grano, Lübbinchen and mortgaged Bärenklau, furthermore Forst in Eulo and Weißagk) had strangled Guben's coppersmith, George Mäurer. According to the mayor Nickel Appel, this was done without fault. 21 hours later on the afternoon of the following day he was beheaded, even though his wife and friends had asked for 2-day-delay. This apparent hardness might have been come from earlier annoyances provoked by the neighbors of the nobility when they protected the troublemakers of the Mile Law. Furthermore, already 3 years earlier on the evening of 6 November 1571, Baltzer von Bomsdorff had shot a farmer of **Niemaschkleba** on the market.¹⁰

1591: The disputes on the county boundaries along the Hammerfließ which were not settled in 1569 started anew in 1591, however came to a provisional settlement in 1595.

1593: brought two great floods, during the first one the ice of the river Neiße tore down the trestle of the drawbridge (Guben), the second was done by the river Oder and did great damage to **Niemaschkleba**. Furthermore, there were several fire disasters¹¹.

1598: A great year for the acorns which were so good that the inhabitants of Niemaschkleba even tried to deny this in order to avoid taxing. However after thorough inspection they had to pay an acorn tax of 3 bushel (= Scheffel) per subject to the council¹².

The oak forests were of great importance for the former pig farming. The riversides along the Neiße were populated with oaks as can also be seen by field names such as Dubrau (Dubrawa = Wendish for oak forest) as well as Old Oak Dam. In autumn, when the acorns fell from the trees, the pigs were hustled onto the fields in order to fatten them and soon afterwards the slaughter began. As long as the potato was unknown, acorns represented an important fodder during winter and were busily collected. Same as the grape harvesting needed an official order to be started, the council announced the official day when in the city forest or in bushes the collection of acorns could be started. This was done to ensure that all residents had the same chances. When in 1556 the inhabitants of the monastery started to – unofficially - knock the acorns down from the oaks in front of the monastery, the council dropped the youngest of them (??) in order to banish the tributaries of the monastery, which led to the already mentioned insult of the abbess, costing the council 300 Guilds. All in all this explains the oak tax the farmers of **Niemaschkleba** – three bushels per person - had to pay to the council of Guben in 1599 who held a pig feedlot in the city mill¹³.

Guben at the beginning of the 17th century

1602: Municipal archive: Further to several less relevant details on the amount of acorns (many) and wine (little) there was this rather important piece of information by a chronist: "This year the civil uproar, namely of the farmers of Niemaschkleba, against (the?) E.E. Rath started."¹⁴

1603: (Antique German, acknowledging the fact that...) it used to be common practice in Lower Lusatia to have rebellious subjects emigrated and their estates sold; Bailiff Baron von Promnitz for the community of **Niemaschkleba** against the Council of Guben, May of 1603.

¹⁰ History of the city of Guben by Karl Gander, 1925, pages 112/113

¹¹ dito, page 116

¹² dito, page 117

¹³ dito, pages 483/474

¹⁴ dito, page 121

As far as the 4 agitators Godatz, Jirichen, Prinik and Koßagk were concerned, a legal precedent was to be stated to put them in jail unless a security would have been paid and their estates to be sold by next Michaelis (29 September) to new owners. Afterwards the expulsion of rebellious and unwanted citizens was common rule in Lower and Upper Lusatia.¹⁵

Guben during the reign of the House of Wettin (1623 – 1815)

1. Under the electoral prince John George I of Saxony, 1623 – 1656

a) During the 30-years-war (1618 – 1648)

1629: In 1629 there happened to be a smaller trade's war between people from Guben and from Crossen. The people from Crossen had confiscated from the local boatmen their loads of chalk and because they were unwilling to give them back when ordered to do so, the people of Guben took 206 tons of beer from Bernau on 6 April 1629. At least this reprisal led to the success that through mediation of the captain of Crossen and the administrator of the principality, Joachim von Köckritz/Mitweyda, a settlement was found between the two towns on 25 May 1629 in Niemaschkleba.¹⁶

1631: In the year 1631, Guben and its surrounding villages were hit by the plague. It is not known, however, if/how far Niemaschkleba was also hit.¹⁷

1636: On 13 October 1636 imperial and Saxon troops, having been beaten by the Swedish General Banner, returned from the Mark. Count Harrach, who was unable to enter the town without higher order, tried to enter it by force. However, after General von Klitzing appeared, the troops marched off on 16 October. During the quartering, all counselors were held under arrest in the town hall until the officers were given 200 thalers and 10 quarts of wine. Also in October the Major General von Taube arrived with 4 companies of Saxonian cavalymen and stationed them in Guben. At that time, the imperial Colonel Winß was stationed in Gr.-Gastrose, he was let into town and supplied with rations for 17 days, costs amounting to 113 thalers. These troops, apparently stationed for their winter quarters, were obviously chased away because on 12 December, 4 a.m., our town was attacked by the Swedish General Wrangel with about 1000 horses, Crossen gate was opened and the citizenship was plundered during 2 hours.

Niemaschkleba was also looted by these horsemen and its church was burnt down. At that time, the country roads of our margraviate were not really secure, as wandering mercenaries united into robber bands doing great harm to the neighboring villages.¹⁸

1670: The "Urbar"¹⁹ of the city of Guben in the year 1670 of Karl Gander²⁰
The Urbar of 1670 is very valuable as far as the history of the city, the culture and the families is concerned. It shows that even 22 years after the 30-year-war the devastations that came

¹⁵ Domestic Rights, including the most useful jurisdiction of Julio Bernhardt von Rohr, Leipzig 1734, §17

¹⁶ History of the city of Guben by Karl Gander, 1925, page 519

¹⁷ New Lusatian Magazine, Volume 8 (1904), by Pastor Otto Baltzer, pages 44 - 47

¹⁸ dito pages 145 - 146

¹⁹ „Urbar“ is an old German word originally meaning „own income“. In the middle age its meaning changed from „earnings from your lands“ to the listing of „income out of a manorial estate“. Actually, „Urbane“ include different labor services (robot = work) of the subservient farmers and landmen.

²⁰ Lower Lusatian Messages, Volume 20/21, 1931, pages 35 ff

from it had not yet been completely repaired. Seen from an economical-historical point of view, the taxes and services delivered by the tributary subjects were rather valuable. Back in 1603, the citizens of the sheepholding villages / financial district villages were bound to the customary services and taxes. However, the "Urbar" of 1670 states the following: "Pay tax or do the customary services" ... In Niemaschkleba there were only 2 farmers to pay the tax of 10 thalers, all others serve 3 days a week, doing 1 day horse- and 2 days handlabor; the gardeners do 3 days of handlabor however every 3rd week with horse and carriage. There is an ongoing legal dispute in 1670 because formerly, everybody had to serve 5 days per week.

Niemaschkleba (The names of the owners correspond to those of the owners of the estate = Thorsäule), which in 1670 were 53 and nowadays (= 1932) only 38: This village has its boundaries to the east (morning) with the river Oder and the Polenzic fields and meadows, to the south (noon), west (evening) and north (midnight) however with the heath of Guben.

Following are 2 1/2 pages of detailed listings of the people and their estates as well as the respective taxes and services they are to render (...) For details, see German translation, pages 6 – 8.

2. Under the dukes of Saxony-Mersebug, 1656 - 1738

1682: Among **Niemaschkleba's** complaints was the following against its priest: "Former priests used to preach half in German and half in Wendish, however the actual priest preaches not even a quarter or less in Wendish and this only at the very end of the sermon so that older people unable of German find little consolation. Nevertheless, the usual tenth has to be paid to him; therefore the citizens want him to preach again half Wendish and half German so that the older and Wendish people can understand."

1687: In 1687 the people of **Niemaschkleba** asked for Christian Kapke as priest, because he as a village's child had learned the Wendish language.

1705: In 1705 Master Johann Melchior Lucans applied for the pastorate. He knew that the congregations most important criteria would be for someone to speak and understand the Wendish language." In the following year the parish rejected the clergyman Gregorius Krüger because neither were they able to understand him in German nor could he speak/understand Wendish.²¹

1707: On 30 August 1707 King Friedrich August in his position as guardian of Duke Moritz of Saxony-Merseburg gave his permission to borrow 2000 thalers from the Prussian Court and General Commissioner Bock in order to pay the Swedish contribution. **Niemaschkleba** and Mückenberg were then pledged in favor of this permission.²²

1722: From the history of the margraviate Lower Lusatia by Rudolf Lehmann, 1937, page 327, cultural circumstances: A big dispute started among the system of estate arose from the patent of 29 April 1722, by which the consistory one-sidedly decided on various regulations as far as the improvement of the clerical organization was concerned...whereas prohibiting sexual intercourse and engagements among mixed religious relations before eventual and necessary circumstances were approved of. The first to object against this regulation was abbot Konrad who wrote a moving letter to the estates asking for their help resp. common

²¹ NM, Volume 20, 1930/31, page 17 (The Lower Lusatian Wendish and the church from the 17th to the 19th century; by Dr. Rudolf Lehman, page 1 ff)

²² History of the city of Guben by Karl Gander, page 174 (also NM, Volume 18, 1927, page 110, no 244)

approach. He indicated that the prohibition of free choice to marry among mixed religious members was against the empires statutes and traditions. Furthermore, he complained that a few years ago the consistory had started undermining conventional jurisprudence of the abbeys, e.g. the punishment of the Lutheran miller of **Niemaschkleba**, baptizing the child of his Catholic wife in the monastery.

1725: On 23 December 1725, **Niemaschkleba** concluded a contract with Hanns George Ludewig, the blacksmith of the village (also see tab "The Blacksmith).

1726: On 11 February 1726, the council of the city of Guben sells the law of inheritance and ownership of the village's forge to Hanns George Ludewig, the blacksmith of **Niemaschkleba** (also see tab "The Blacksmith).

1734: According to § 15 of the judicial teachings, both the Wendish and the German farmers in Lower Lusatia were properly divided up into 4 classes:

1) Farmers or Hüffner, owning a complete so-called "Huffen"-estate and keep horses to farm it as well as to do their services. Their tax is in common estimated with 100 gulden, however is not the very same in all places.

2) Half-Hüffner, owning only half a "Huffen"-estate which is cultivated by smaller horse and carriage. Also their taxes only amount to 50 gulden resp. their services are only half as extensive.

3) Gardeners or Cossäten, own a small house together with a garden and have to do handlabor as services, rather seldom however they might also be taxed (28 to 50 gulden, varying)

4) Büdner owning only a shack without field or garden, being taxed by smaller amounts or doing handlabor.

Furthermore, there are the so-called Hausgenossen (=housemates), not owning anything but renting in agreement with the authorities, either paying small tax or having to spin flax. They are not living in serfdom/peonage as long as they do not own land/property.

These were the 4 classes of farmers as far as their property and their subservience were concerned.²³

3. Guben again electoral-Saxonian city, 1738 - 1806

a) Up until the 7-year-war (Austria ./. Prussia, 1756 – 1763)

1746: Following 1746 came 10 peaceful years. The village of **Niemaschkleba** burnt down almost completely on 23 October 1746, 68 farmsteads as well as the parish priest's and clerk's home were destroyed by the fire.²⁴

In this context the following article from a supplement of Guben's Newspaper, Volume no 62/2 dated 12 September 1935 according to reports on these days in 1746:

A long time ago in October 1746. Everybody in Niemaschkleba was happy, the harvest was gathered and winter could come now. The soldiers of Cavalry Captain von Brunschitz, who were quartered in Niemaschkleba also benefitted from this positive atmosphere. Farmer, gardener and Büdner served their best of kitchen and cellar. The young folk loved to look at

²³ Continuation of the complete domestic rights, jurisprudence of Julio Bernhardt von Rohr, Leipzig, 1734, published Christian Martini, bookseller in Grimm's Lane

²⁴ History of the City of Guben by Karl Gander, 1925, page 188

the neat soldiers. The young girls fancied the friendly musketeers and many of the young lads thought how nice it would be to be one of them. Only Martin Coße, the innkeeper of Kubes' estate, had no sense whatsoever for this. He rumbled and ranted throughout the house, frightening his housemates, and regarded the whole matter of Guben's quartering to Niemaschleba with dark concern. He did not understand his wife and his children. They were awestricken by George Schröter, a soldier who was also son of a farmer and who put quite some fantasies into their heads. Thus, when the sun set down on 23 October, the innkeeper – angry about his wife, his children and other village mates – went out to the fields. He stopped when reaching the acre of swedes. During the afternoon, his son and his daughter had worked here. They had brought home the remaining cabbages so that now this empty field could also be plowed. However – it was not empty, cabbage leaves were lying all around. Normally, this was not a great deal as one had enough. Today though, Martin Coße thought differently about this matter: all work was only done half-heartedly and half-complete since these men coming from who-knows-where were here. Should this continue, he mused, one would surely have to leave the premises sooner or later.

Upon returning to the village, laughter and cheerfulness were all about. At home, they were still sitting snug around his table, George Schröter had so much to tell about the army life. Calm and grim, the innkeeper of the Kubeshof sat down with them. Soon, laughter and joy vanished. A gloomy atmosphere settled upon them. His wife looked angrily at him – what was wrong with him. What had happened to him?

Suddenly he broke forth: "Tomorrow you will go and collect the remaining cabbage leaves!" "Cabbage leaves?" the son asked "we have collected already everything". His wife intervened "Leave the children alone – the whole day you have been nagging at them". But now Martin Coße rants and rumbles so that the whole house is shaking. George Schröter, the soldier, stands up, bids the wife, the daughters and the son good night and leaves angrily for his chamber. Still the conflict goes bickering hence and forth until it eventually subsides.

Some of the housemates slept in the hay barns. Martin Coße also climbed – still angry – to the attic of the horse stable and there lied down to sleep in the hay. Now the village came to rest by and by. Only in the tavern, some late soldiers were still sitting together, gambling. Three villagers, who ought to guard the village by night, were watching them. They were waiting for Adam Reschke, the night watchman, in order to start their tour around the village. In the place where Cavalry Captain von Brunschitz took quarter, musketeer Scharre kept guard, his thoughts travelling to his far away home town. Adam Reschke came by with heavy steps. He hurried to the tavern. "Over there, what is that? A blazing flame is coming out of Kubes house! Oh my God, what an intense brightness! Fire! Fire!" Musketeer Scharre came running out of the house "Cavalry Captain! Fire! Fire! Fire!" The shout then finally came from the tavern/Krüge itself "Fire! Fire!" The shouting travelled forth, here and there a roaring, the night was lit as day. All of a sudden, it burned here and there, everywhere. Many villagers, woken up by the terrible screaming, ran half naked into their yards, barns, stables, houses, everywhere it was burning now, they ran with little in hands but their lives. At Kubes farm, the son had only been able to cut the cattle loose, then he was stopped by the fire. The old mother of the farm had only taken hold of her bed sheets and ran crying outside, just outside the door she stumbled and fell, the roof also fell down at that moment, her bed sheets started to burn and if it had not been for the landlady who took her to the blacksmiths' with great trouble, she would have burnt to death. Horrible shouting filled the air, people and animals burnt.

Trooper Christoph Freund tried unsuccessfully to gather men in order to combat the fire. Finally, help was coming from Polenzig, Lahmo, Merzwiese, Messow and Schönfeld! These men – under the leadership of Christoph Freund – fought the fire.

However, all help seemed in vain. Almost the entire village was burning by now. Other surrounding communities were also asked for help, therefore, the following day men from Kuschern, Ratzdorf, Groß-Drenzig, Buderose, Seitwann and Germersdorf arrived. The mayor of Guben who came with the treasurer and Simon Lehmann to the burnt site already went back to Guben again. Simon Lehmann stayed and took over the lead of the rescue works. Early in the morning of 25 October, Guben villagers come to replace the men from the villages.

Finally, when the fire was extinguished, only 21 houses were left. 70 families were now homeless, 58 cows and calves, 69 pigs, 13 trek oxen, sheep, poultry, the food stocks and almost all of the furnishings were lost to the fire.

The farmers from Reichenbach who also came to help asked the headsman of Guben with his menials to come in order to clear away the animal cadavers as the terrible stench made this impossible for them.

Fatally, also human life was lost to the fire. The farmer Martin Kaschube, a farmer's daughter Eva Brülkin, the old farmer's widow Maria Türkin and the 7-year-old son of the farmer Adam Türke had died.

The church register, no 37/1746, enlists as can be read: In the night of 23 October between 11 and 12 p.m., the following persons died in the big fire:

- 1) Adam Türkes (Herkes) middle son, named Adam, age 7
- 2) Maria Budachin, born Türkin, widow, age 63
- 3) Martin Kaschube (Boynak), age 75
- 4) Eva Brüllin (Klausch), damsel, age 27.

1751: Again in April 1751, a fire destroyed 21 farm buildings as well as the agricultural buildings of the outlying estate of **Niemaschleba**.²⁵

The church register, no 106/1751 lists the following: In the early morning of 7 April, 1 a.m., Christoph Richter, age 56, farmer on Türke's farmstead, was burnt in his barn. His remains were buried the very same day when the bells tolled. The funeral sermon was held for him on 18 April.

1756: Farmers in Niemaschleba²⁶

State archive Potsdam, Lübben, Rep. III (or VII), us 463: Acta probationis between the community of N(iemaschleba) and the council and the citizens of Guben concerning the deed to fetch wood for free out of the forest of Guben:

Adam Hans (Bauer), Antke Mart. (Büdner), Baltin Christoph (Büdner), Berner Hans (Büdner), Betke Hans (Bauer), Bettke Adam (Bauer Peschke TS), Bordack Mart. (Büdner), Brauer Gottfr. (Kossät), Broddack Martin (Büdner Dorothea Witwe), Brüll Hans (Büdner), Budach Adam (Büdner), Fietke Christian (Bauer), Gasnick Martin (Bauer), Gattschan Adam (Kossät), Geke Hans (Bauer Jechs TS), Glausch Adam (Bauer), Godatzsch Martin (Bauer, Gosche Hans George (Büdner), Greike Hans George (Kossät), Greis Martin (Kossät), Grom Martin (Bauer Gerichtsman), Gromm Adam (Büdner), Grunert Adam (Büdner), Hanschke Martin (Büdner), Hebbelbäcker Mart. (Büdner), Hensel Michel (Büdner), Herke Hans Georg (Bauer), Hertzsch Hans (Kossät), Junge Hans (Bauer), Kamjang Martin (Bauer), Kappe Hans (Kossät), Kaschube Martin (Büdner TS Koschalke), Kesen Martin (Bauer), Koschal Martin (Kossät),

²⁵ History of the City of Guben by Karl Gander, 1925, page 191

²⁶ Municipality of Guben – Archive – Handwritten notes by Erich Müller, pages 6-7

Koymeschak Mart. (Kossät), Krüger George (Büdner), Kubal George (Bauer), Lampe Hans Friedrich (Bauer Gerichtsmann), Lehmann Martin (Bauer), Loyke Hans (Bauer), Loyke Christian (Kossät), Machatz Christian (Kossät), Maltzdorf Matheus (Büdner, Matschke Martin (Büdner), Mecho Martin (Kossät), Nietzsche George (Bauer Gerichtsmann), Nietzsche Christian (Büdner), Noack Hans (Bauer), Pepke Hans Christoph (Büdner), Pettke George (Bauer), Puda Martin (Bauer), Qual Martin (Bauer Erben), Rademacher Hans George (Büdner), Reschke Adam (Kossät), Richter Christian (Bauer Lehnschulze), Richter Martin (Bauer Gerichtsmann), Richter George (Büdner Elisabeth Witwe), Richter Christoph (Büdner Elisabeth Witwe), Rossak Hans (Büdner), Schesnick Adam (Bauer), Schneider Claus (Büdner), Schneider Christian (Kossät), Schwig Joh. George (Büdner), Startak Martin (Kossät), Stein George (Bauer Anna Witwe), Stein Friedrich (Büdner), Stromann Adam (Bauer Gerichtsmann), Teutsche Christoph (Büdner), Thorwärter Martin (Büdner Thonstrcker), Tizschke Martin (Büdner Margarete Witwe), Tommitz Christian (Büdner), Tröster Adam (Bauer Gerichtsmann), Truntzsch Hans (Bauer), Türcke George (Bauer), Türcke Mart. (Büdner), Voigt Martin (Büdner Anna Witwe), Woysak Adam (Bauer)

For the meanings of „Bauer“, „Büdner“, „Kossät“ etc., please see previous pages.

Out of the diary of Samuel Friedrich Grimm, 1751 – 1799

(Heimatkalender of the district of Guben, 1926, pages 15 ff)

Personal data of Samuel Friedrich Grimm: born 19 February 1730, probably in Guben. As from 1751, he was organist and cantor, teacher and sexton in Niemaschkleba. He died 12 September 1799 in Niemaschkleba.

Father: Grimm, Joh. George, shoemaker/tanner and gatekeeper at the Crossen Gate in Guben

Mother: Antonius, Katharina Elisabeth; oo 16 February 1757 in Niemaschkleba, Jentzin Anna Elisabeth from Guben

Children:

- a) Grimm, Johann Friedrich Adolph: *19 August 1752 in Niemaschkleba, baptized 23 August 1752, godmother Helwig, Sophia Caroline oo NN Bresler from Niemaschkleba
- b) Grimm, Johanna Regina: * 4 January 1761 in Niemaschkleba
- c) Grimm, Joh. Samuel: * 20 November 1763 in Niemaschkleba, head pries in Niemitzsch in 1799
- d) Grimm, Christiane Erestina: 18 January 1768 in Niemaschkleba

The personal data of the inhabitants has not been published by Samuel Friedrich Grimm in the Heimatkalender.

Important dates of his diary:

1751: Thursday after Whitsun I was elected cantor of Niemaschkleba and Michaeli (= 29 September) I moved there.

1752: Wednesday before Ascension, the school was expanded. In this year, shortly before the harvest, a locus plague came upon the Lower Lusatia and did great harm.

1755: Michaeli was celebrated as a magnificent jubilation and thanksgiving all over Saxony in remembrance of the 200-years-religious-peace. With musicians from here, namely Johann George Freund and Martin Grimm, and their disciples we sang “O Herre Gott, dein göttlich Wort” and “Herr Gott, dich loben wir” from the tower.

1756: 8 days before Bartholomew (= 24 August) the 7-year-war started.

1757: On 16 February I was married to the respectable, prim and moral damsel Anna Elisabeth Jentzschin, middle daughter of the respected master Sigismund Jentzsch, citizen and one of the elders of Guben, blacksmith and armorer.

1759: Russian folk came to Saxony and entered our land on 1 August. On 2 August, I was ransacked by them. The upcoming Michaeli, livestock began to perish and it was by Christmas that 665 pieces of cattle had died.

1760: On 11 June (= Wednesday after the first Sunday after Trinity) we had a tremendous freeze and everything froze. On Michaeli, the Russians came from Silesia and marched through Guben to Berlin which they conquered with the Imperial Corps under General Lascy.

1761: The day after Michaeli – 30 September – we had a great snowfall and everything froze.

1762: During springtime, the crop was damaged by freeze so that the farmer could barely thresh the next seed grain. During harvest time, we had a locust plague devouring part of the millet until the locusts finally left. On Michaeli I was given tax and excise tax. On 1 October the church roof here in Niemaschkleba had been newly tiled – 12.000 splices were needed. The 12 thalers the masons got was hard earned and paid by the community.

1763: Double excise tax from Christmas to Easter. On 22 February, first information was heard that the war was going to end after 7 1/2 years. On 21 March – being Monday after Sunday Judica – we rejoiced in a peace festival and together with the school pupils I sang from the top of the tower the following 3 chorales “Gott Lob ist nun erschollen”, “Es woll uns Gott gnädig sein” and “Nun danket alle Gott”.

On Sunday evening as well as Monday morning of the peace festival, after I had chimed the bell (= not tolled with a rope but instead by hand with a hammerlike object; used to be done in this part of the country...), maidservants had sung in front of the magister/pastor several most respectful chorales given to us by our merciful and loving god. During their singing, the farmhands started to shoot as loud and hard as possible. Shooting also continued during our chorale “Herr Gott, dich loben wir” right after the high homily.

On 1 April we received order that an 8-groschen-piece minted during the war was not to be higher than 3 gl. (?), resp. a 6-groschen-piece 2 gl. and 4 pennies to be 1 gl.

On 17 December our most gracious elector, Friedrich Christian died at 2 a.m.

This year is a very good year as far as the crop, the fruit and the mushrooms are concerned. However, the wine did not come out all too well. 1/4 grain is to be 10 gl., a “Pitschel” of beer 3 gl., whereas a “Mäßchen (see below)” vegetables and greens to be 5 and 6 “Dreier” (= 1/4 of a Groschen; 1 Groschen = 2 Sechser wobei 1 Sechser = 2 Dreier)

- **Königreich Sachsen** 1 Mäßchen = 84 5/8 Pariser Kubikzoll = 1 7/9 Liter
 - 4 Mäßchen = 1 Metze
 - 16 Mäßchen = 1 Viertel
 - 64 Mäßchen = 1 Scheffel
- **Sächsische Fürstentümer**
 - **Altenburg** 1 Mäßchen = 110 2/3 Pariser Kubikzoll = 2 1/5 Liter
 - 64 Mäßchen = 1 Malter
 - 32 Mäßchen = 1 Scheffel
 - 16 Mäßchen = 1 Viertel
 - 4 Mäßchen = 1 Metze
 - **Arnstadt** 1 Mäßchen = 109 3/16 Pariser Kubikzoll
 - **Eisenach** 1 Mäßchen = 120 Pariser Kubikzoll = 2 3/8 Liter
 - **Gotha** 1 Mäßchen = 69 Pariser Kubikzoll = 1 7/20 Liter
 - **Jena** 1 Mäßchen = 126 1/3 Pariser Kubikzoll = 2 1/2 Liter
 - **Weimar** 1 Mäßchen = 90 9/16 Pariser Kubikzoll = 1 4/5 Liter

1764: On the afternoon of 23 May, a tremendous fire burnt down the village Merzwiese with only a handful of houses – standing a little outside on the sands – and the mill withstanding. On 12 December at 9 a.m., fire started at Reschkes’ and burnt down their as well as Bockpfeifers’ home.

1765: On 15 May most of the crop froze on the acres, resulting in a price of 12 gl. for a quarter grain and 4 gl. for a “Pitschel” beer. On 18 August, the roman emperor, Franz I, had died and from 29 September to 13 October was given his knell for Lower Lusatia, 3 rounds for half an

hour over midday. On 8 October, the ropes for our church bell have been renewed, costs of 6 thalers 8 gl. to be paid by the community.

1766: On 4 July a heavy rain fell for 24 hours nonstop, so that afterwards we had the flood coming, doing great harm to some of the villages.

On 25 December as of Christmas, the here living tenant Budich had given a new blue taffeta vesperal to our church, the cloth to be said costing 16 thalers. The very same day farmer Adam Woitschach gave the new chandelier also to the church, costing 5 thalers.

1767: On 8 August lightning struck Mätschach's barn in Lahmo, the fire burning down 5 barns and 6 dwelling houses.

1769: On 11 April in Lübben, our most gracious elector Friedrich August was paid homage to now being our sovereign lord.

1770: On 21 March we had lots of snow and great freezing so that on "Kleibetag" (= women's day of the "clibes"), 25 March, the windows were still frozen. The snow lay until 1 April. On 22 September at 6 p.m. there was a tremendous thunderstorm with lots of rain and lightning.

1771: On 1 January Major von Posem's company of Albrecht's Dragoon Regiment came to be stationed in garrison here. From 24 – 26 March we had great snowfall, snow lying one cubit high and partially up until 1 May.

Then there was a big Oder flood, so that on 30 April our dam on the Oder fields as well as Magister Rottpollen's broke.

On 3 May, the Oder broke between Neudorf and Münchsdorf and a savage flood came upon our acres and meadows. The waters were thus high that the barges in the alleys were moored to Krüger's barn and it stayed up until 1 June.

14 days before Michaeli the boundary dispute in the Streitbusch was settled and boundary posts were put down. This dispute had lasted 350 years.

This year we had tons of acorns however very little wine. It was not only a very wet but also an extremely expensive year.

1772: This year the grain cost 1 thalers 12 gl./quart up until the harvest; afterwards it cost 20 gl. until Christmas. A "Pitschel" beer cost 5 gl. (in Upper Lusatia grain was 12 thalers/bushel until the harvest. This year, we had no acorns however the wine was quite good. Notably also, that this year was no good for apples and pears. The vegetables came... Around Christmas, millet was 10 "Dreier" (= 1/4 Groschen) per "Mäßchen, beans 7 Dreier, a quart of wheat for 1 thaler 2 gl. and barley for 18 gl.

1773: On 29 March I brought our oldest son, Adolph, to Master Jahnen (pharmacist in Guben?) for apprenticeship. May God give his blessing and lots of luck to him.

1776: On 20 April, our church was given the baptizing angel from the widow and all children of the late Hf. Budich. Including the baptistery and the work done, this will amount to 16 thalers.

1777: The 2 days following Johanni, 25 and 26 June, we had frost. On 1 September we had tremendous windstorm damages.

1778: The garrison which had stayed here for 7 1/4 years left on 30 March and now sought quarter in Dresden.

1780: On 13 March we had a great flood and lots of water came from the Oder. On the 16 the dam broke at the Oder fields of Polenz thus flooding our fields and meadows and the waters stood almost as high as to the churchyard. Pachter Krügers' and Schulzes' Gaßnich barns and stables were flooded. Also, 2 dams broke in Neundorf and Pfeifferhahn. In Neundorf, upper end, 3 houses collapsed. On 27 April, there was a great tragedy in Polenzig on the Oder. At 9 a.m., 11 persons were meant to cross the Oder in order to milk the cows. An extreme stormwind came up and broke the sail of the two barges which were bound together and the tow boats started sinking. Thus, 7 persons drowned (1 pregnant, 1 bride, 1 young woman – the innkeeper's young wife, leaving a 12-week-old-baby, 1 maidservant, 1 servant boy, 2 farmhands – one from Kunsches', the other one from Kulkes' (?). The remaining 4 persons were able to save themselves. On 22 April, our Serene Highness, electress Mother who was born in 1726 died in the afternoon, 4 p.m. On 9 June a frost damaged lots of potatoes, beans and pumpkins.

1782: Her electoral Highness gave birth to a beautiful princess on 21 June at 1 a.m. At 5 p.m. in the afternoon, the little princess was baptized and given the following names: Maria Augusta Nepomucena Antonia Franziska Xaveria Aloysia. Her most Serene Godparents are the Roman Emperor, the Russian Emperor, the King of Prussia and her Serene Highnesses, Electress of Palatinate and widowed Electress of Bavaria.

On 27 July at 7.30 p.m., lightning struck into Schlauke's barn in Polenzig, burning down 21 houses and 6 barns, also killing/burning a man and a woman and lots of calves and pigs.

From Whitsun to Michaeli we had a very dry time. This year Niemaschkleba had a rich harvest of fruits.

1783: From 16 June till Jakobi (= 25 July) we had such a foggy and dry weather that due to mist and fog no clouds could be seen in the sky. The sun was bloody red from sunrise to sunset. Some days, sun was black at sunset. The moon did not shine either, due to the foggy mists it shone red. During this time, we had lots of heavy thunderstorms which did great damage. On 26 September we had a very bad tempest with heavy rain.

1785: From 1 February till 1 March we had so much snow that not even people older than 80 years had seen such loads. The snow lay until 1 May. Around 11 April it began to melt and on 19 April the river overflowed. On 23 April it flooded over almost every dam, however there were said to be only 8 broken dams between Crossen and Polenzig. On 26 April the water reached our churchyard and one could go by barge just up to Pächters' corner. The waters stood 4 cubits high on our "Hutung" (= forest pasture). Pächters', Schulzes', Gaßnicks', Krugers', Trösters', Puders' and Quahles' had to remove their cattle. Gaßnick even had to move himself for 8 days, the water was said to be almost as high as the bench around his oven. They say the flood was 8 to 10 inches higher than in 1590, in 1736 and in 1780. The rivers have done damage running into millions this year. On 30 April, the flood decreased which continued up until 20 May until the Oder was normal height again. On 20 April we started planting and digging. On 20 May the farmers started sowing oats, peas, barley and flax on the Oder fields which were by now drained. On 1 June the trees were ready and the cattle were no longer allowed on the meadows. This year we had no acorns and no fruit. Also it was a bad year due to the moisture it was difficult/nearly impossible to harvest anything into the dry. Furthermore, because of the late sowing lots of the fruit did not ripen completely.

1786: On 28 August the Oder broke at the barns of Polenzig and the water did great harm: 1000 "Fuder" (= loads*) of "Grummet" (= second hay harvest) were damaged, 21 pieces of cattle drowned in the barns, 2 barns were taken away by the tearing waters and several others fell or almost fell down.

Getreidemaß [Bearbeiten | Quelltext bearbeiten]

- Braunschweig 1 Fuder = 12 Malter = 72 Himten = 288 Metzen = 2373 Liter^[2]
- Hannover 1 Fuder = 12 Malter = 72 Himten = 112.896 Pariser Kubikzoll = 2240 Liter
- Hildesheim 1 Fuder = 13 ½ Malter = 40 Scheffel = 80 Himten = 104.560 Pariser Kubikzoll = 2072 Liter
- Osnabrück 1 Fuder = 6 Malter = 72 Scheffel = 288 Viertel = 1152 Becher = 104.184 Pariser Kubikzoll = 2061 Liter

This year we had very little fruit because the caterpillars munched everything till the trees were bare. Also, it was quite a wet year so we had to stock the crops wet.

1787: This year, the church windows had been renewed. It was a very dry year but everything went quite well with the crops, vegetables and fruits. Fruits, however, we did not have very much. The grain cost 12 and 13 gl., wheat 22 and 23 gl., barley 9 and 10 gl. The vegetables cost 6 "Dreier", millet however 2 gl. The "Pitschel" beer was for 4 gl. The wine was of middle quality/quantity, the acorns quite ok. To be remembered that from Michaeli (29.9.) till Martin (11.11.) northern lights could be seen every night.

1789: We had lots of snow on 2 and 3 December of 1788. Some days later, a bitter freezing started, a lot colder than 1740. This cold lasted until the middle of January and a lot of people as well as uncountable fruit trees froze.

1790: Emperor Joseph II died on 20 February, and I did the bell ringing for 14 days from 7 to 20 March (3 rounds at midday vom 10.30 to 11.30 a.m.) whereof I received 1 thaler from our

church. On Wednesday after Whitsun, the Prussian army troops started moving to Silesia. From Easter to Johanni (24.6.) we had both a tremendous heat and drought and no rain at all so that almost everything dried up. In September, the Prussian army came back from Silesia into their old quarters and no war started. On 16 September at 11.30 p.m. a big fire started at the Kalisch's soap works at the Crossen gate in Guben. The fire burnt down 104 homes (not counting the lived-in rear buildings). On 30 September Emperor Leopold was crowned in Frankfurt/Main. Because this was a very dry year, we had a rather bad harvest.

1791: To be remembered that this was an excellent year for the grain. It was so much that the farmers could not stock all of it in their barns. Milisch had to set up 2 to 3 sheds for the crop on the sheep farm.

1792: The 8 June was day of penance and during the afternoon we had a tremendous thunderstorm with hail and sleet coming down, behind the mill everything was crushed. The seeds are now 208 bushels: 1 thaler taxed for 8 measurements however not for beans, lentils, sweet peas and other garden vegetables. According to travelers, hail and sleet did great damage all the way from Mußke (= Muskau) to Birnbaum in Poland. On 10 December, Monday night, a great storm started in a way that barns and houses almost began to move. However, on 19 December, it even got worse around 11 a.m. and lasted until sunset. It was "...atemberday" (??), houses and barns moving, people frightened to death and almost believing in an earthquake. The resulting damage is not to describe. Especially in the forest there was great damage, a lot of the long spruce trees were jerked out of the soil so that almost 1000 "Schock" (1 Schock = 5 dozen = 60 pieces) trees in and around our Guben heath have fallen over. On 19 and 24 February we had an as big storm as before Christmas. In this year the new organ was built by Joh. Georg Gast and his son, costing 189 thalers.

On the 15th Sunday after Trinity it was first played, on the 16th thereafter consecrated and on Michaeli completely finished. From Palm Sunday to Quasimodogeniti (= 1st Sunday after Easter) we had wonderful weather, all trees and bushes were flowering, nice bright days, lots of green grass and everybody sound and happy during the Easter holidays. It started 13 April and lasted till 27 April. However, the days in May were as bad as those in April had been nice. Caterpillars came, white, black and colorful and ate everything from the trees, we could not help it so the trees stood bare and looked very sad. On 3 June – it was Thursday before Whitsun – a fire started at 11 p.m. at Henkels' in Merzwiese and burned down 23 houses, the church, the parish, the tavern, the blacksmith and several barns. Also 5 people were harmed by the fire, some dying during the following 4 to 6 days, others survived. Sheep, cattle and dogs also burnt.

1796: On 13 February at 9 p.m., a fire started at Schlaukes' in Pollentzig and burnt down the houses of Schlaukes, Scholkes, Bunzes and Klausches. Up until Carnival we had such a warm winter that a lot of people went around barefoot. At many places in the neighborhood towards the end of February, a lot of fireballs fell down from the sky, also one at Niemaschleba at 10.30 p.m. 3 weeks before that, a great cold started and his has been freezing and we had snow at Easter.

1797: On 20 June a tremendous storm ripped down most of the fruits from the trees, many trees itself went broke or were torn down and the crops on the fields were greatly damaged. The storm lasted for 12 hours.

On 19 September 1797, the whole "Streitbusch" (part of the forest?) has been added to the meadows of the community to be used by farmers, Kossäten and Büdners all alike and not to be taken away from them again.

1798: On 20 March the 6 new families/farmers have been advised to fell the timber for their houses from the most backward part of the hazel trees. Michaeli they were all "aufgesetzt" (= roofed), 4 of them already moved into.

1799: On 24 December 1798 a fierce cold started, it became so cold that even in the heated parlors, also in the cellars, people no longer kept warm. This coldness lasted for 6 weeks and a lot of people and livestock froze. The frost did great harm to the grapevines. The frozen ices on Oder and Bober brought lots of water, thus leading to a broken dam at the boundary to

Lahmos. On 27 May, Rentsch together with the recruit Kaulig came down from Oderwerder by barge, loaded with – too much – sand so that the barge sank, both men drowned and not to be found by 4 June.

1804: Chinese oil radish from Dresden/Metze to be had for 1 thaler 4 gr. to be bought from Pachter Milisch, Guben. Can be received by mail (postage added).²⁷

1812: On Good Friday, 27 March at 8 a.m., we left Niemaschkleba near Guben – where we had been quartered since 12 February), it was a bright, hoarfrosty spring morning. Half an hour from Niemaschkleba the boundary to Brandenburg separated us from our homeland. A wide ditch, grown with bushes and oaks, marked the boundary; newly built houses on the one side belonging to Augustwalde, to the other belonging to the Prussian settlement Friedrichswalde.²⁸

1812: While I was stationed in Großenhain, the Hussar regiment was quartered around **Guben**. After finishing the necessary recruiting, I returned to my squadron who were stationed in the village of **Niemaschkleba**, about 3 hours from Guben, together with a company of shooters. When I first heard the name of the village, I was all but happy because “niema Cleba” both in Wendish and Polish means “no bread”. Therefore, on my way to Niemaschkleba my fantasy was busy imagining a rather poor and miserable village because its name “no bread”. However, upon my arrival I had to admit that the situation was not as bad as imagined: even though the village was surrounded by sandy fields, the village consisted of quite a number of clean houses which – if not showing great wealth of their inhabitants, nor did they suggest poverty. The food in the quarters was quite meager: there were potatoes for breakfast, lunch and dinner, in varying forms and preparations; meat was to be eaten seldom. The innkeepers were friendly and gave what could be given, therefore the soldiers – always hungry – lived peacefully and without quarreling with them. On Good Friday, 27 March 1812, the Hussar regiment coming from near **Guben**, crossed the Prussian border and marched onto **Scheegeln near Crossen**. All other Saxonian troops which under the supreme command of Division General Earl Reynier were to build the 7th army corps of the Grand French Army, were marching at the same time. When leaving **Guben**, they consisted of 2 infantry divisions, 2 cavalry divisions and 6 artillery batteries.²⁹

1813: Everybody born in **Guben** knows that a treasure is said to be hidden in the city forest. Presumably somewhere near **Merzwiese** or **Augustwalde**, the treasure was buried by the French in the spring of 1813 during their hasty retreat from Russia.³⁰

To the Prince of Neufchatel and Wagram³¹

Major General of the Grande Armée (*) in Dresden, Dresden 18 June 1813

Dear Cousin,

According to the letters of Duke of Bellune I have to state that the enemy refuses to evacuate the city Crossen as well as all surrounding areas on the left shore of the river Oder. The commissioners in Neumarkt have answered the claims of the Duke of Bellune saying that “the demands of the enemy were justified”. These commissioners seem to have misunderstood the resp. paragraph of the article on the truce treaty, explicitly stating that “the demarcation line will follow the river Oder from the estuary of the Katzbach to the Saxonian-Prussian border.”

²⁷ Intelligence Note from Leipzig, No 15, Saturday 14 April 1804, page 118

²⁸ F.W.Winkler: Comments on the military campaign against Russia in 1812/1813, page 12, collected at the AvantGarde of the VII Army Corps

²⁹ Taken from the life of a Saxonian Husar, by Theodor Goethe, Leipzig 1853

³⁰ History of the City of Guben by Karl Gander, 1925, page 354

³¹ Napoleon I, published on behalf of Emperor Napoleon III, Volume 25, No 20146

As the Saxonian-Prussian border on the Oder starts at a point lying between **Niemaschkleba**/Saxonia and **Neuendorf**/Crossen surroundings, studying a map will easily show that the truce line will have to follow the river Oder until Niemaschkleba, therefore Crossen and its surrounding areas on the left side of the Oder have to be assigned/given to the Duke of Bellune's troops.

I want you to write this to the commissioners of Neumarkt in order to remedy these difficulties.
Napoléon

(*) la Grande Armée = the army of Napoleon I

Guben under the House of Hohenzollern (1815 – 1918)

1. Under Frederick William III (1815 – 1840)

1820: unsigned file holder in the court office for the district Guben, pages 159-173,200³²

Niemaschkleba was counted 90 economic estates; 34 Farmers, 13 Kossäthen, 42 Büdner, and 1 Miller. Except for the miller, who was not interested/concerned in the question, the remaining 89 parishioners sued the municipal authorities and citizenship of Guben in 1820. In September 1825 in Soldin, complete ownership of their properties was entitled to them by the general commissioner. These titles were confirmed in 1827, when the city called upon the audit council for regulating the lairdly and farming relations for the province Brandenburg.

1824: Official regulation and separation title

Municipality of Guben, Archive, page 8 ff

Unsigned 2nd file holder in the court office for districts, page 267 ff:

In order to ascertain the legal relation and as far as the official regulation and separation title is concerned, a negotiation between commissioner Billner and the following parishioners has been started on 18 February 1824:

No	Last name	First name	Torsaule	Quality
1	Richter	Christian	Gerichtsschulze	Farmer
2	Türk(e)	Christian	Türks	½ Farmer
3	Kosser	Gottfried	Loichen	½ Farmer
4	Nitschke	Christian	Nitschke	½ Farmer
5	Kosser	Christian	Trunsch	½ Farmer
6	Türk	Christian	Goddatz (Kodatz)	½ Farmer
7	Budach	Christian	Junger	½ Farmer
8	Ludewig	Sam. Gotthilf	Bethke	½ Farmer
9	Türk, widow	Anne	Jochoms	½ Farmer
10	Gramm	Christian	Gramms	½ Farmer
11	Lampe	Christian	Kube	½ Farmer
12	Noack	Adam	Klausch	½ Farmer
13	Budach	Hans Christoph	Pethke	½ Farmer
14	Richter	Christian	Kubel	½ Farmer
15	Kaschube	Christian	Woitschak	½ Farmer
16	Donat6	Martin	Boinack (Brinak)	½ Farmer
17	Türk(e)	Christian	Herkerks	½ Farmer
18	Kaschube	Martin	Maerkisch	½ Farmer
19	Reiche	Gottlob	Schernicks (Zscherniks)	½ Farmer
20	Krueger	Christian	Adams	½ Farmer

³² Municipality of Guben – Archive, handwritten list of Erich Müller

21	Kaminke	Martin	Qualisch	½ Farmer
22	Loichen	Christian	Puder	½ Farmer
23	Bud(a/i)ch	Adam	Gassnick	½ Farmer
24	Türk, widow	Anna Elisabeth	Fittkes	½ Farmer
25	Türk	Christian	Kappe	½ Farmer
26	Noack	Joh. Christoph	Noack	½ Farmer
27	Richter	Gottlob	Lehmann	½ Farmer
28	Türk(e)	Christian	Lehmann	½ Farmer
29	Thuran	Christian	Jecks (Jekes)	½ Farmer
30	Reiche	Martin	Pellke	½ Farmer
31	Budach	Martin	Troester	½ Farmer
32	Gramm	Adam	Kammjank	½ Farmer
33	Woitschack	Christoph	Sparmann	½ Farmer
34	Dammaschke	Gotthelf	(Schank)Krüger	½ Farmer
35	Jas(s)nick	Christian	Koals	Kossät
36	Richter	Gottlieb	Gass	Kossät
37	Loock, widow	Anne Elisabeth	Loock	Kossät
38	Richter	Christian	Jetschens	Kossät
39	Grimm	Gottlieb	Standagk (Stardags)	Kossät
40	Breyer	Gottfried	Breyer	Kossät
41	Noack	Martin	Reschke	Kossät
42	Jasnick	Martin	Maranz	Kossät
43	Dr(o/a)bbe	Gottlieb	Koinzack	Kossät
44	Donath	Christian	Machatz	Kossät
45	Lehmann	Christian	Kap(p)ke(ns)	Kossät
46	Budach	Christian	Greicke(ns)	Kossät
47	Hensel	Gotthilf	Kutschans	Kossät
48	Krueger	Christoph	Debke	Büdner
49	Grimm sep.	Anna	Tonne	Büdner
50	Jas(s)nick	Christian	Sandküster	Büdner
51	Lampe	Hans Christoph	Rademacher	Büdner
52	Kaminke	Joh. George	Hebbelbaecker	Büdner
53	Freund, widow	Marie Dorothee	Freund	Büdner
54	Hanschke	Martin	Hanschke	Büdner
55	Gramm	Martin	Gramm	Büdner
56	Loichen	Gottlieb	Jurres	Büdner
57	Richter	Christian	Berdags	Büdner
58	Lampe	Christian	Rossack	Büdner
59	Türk(e)	Christian	Matschke	Büdner
60	Türk(e)	Martin	Thorwerter	Büdner
61	Wittchen	Martin	Grunert	Büdner
62	Türk(e)	Christian	Bockpfeifer	Büdner
63	Ludewig	Carl	(Dorfschmied)	Büdner
64	Woitschak,w.	Anna Elisabeth	Bartel	Büdner
65	Br(ü/i)ll	Christian	Brüll	Büdner
66	Loichen	Martin Friedrich	Brenner	Büdner
67	Türk	Martin	Voigts	Büdner
68	Nitschke	Gottlob	Sandkrueger (Wuschel)	Büdner
69	Freund	Christian	Freund	Büdner
70	Grimm	Christian	Grimm	Büdner
71	Gramm	Christian	Verwalter/Custodian	Büdner
72	Ga(sch/g)e	Christian	Neubert	Büdner
73	Türk	Joh. George	Richter	Büdner

74	Grimm	Gottfried	Grimm	Büdner
75	Deutscher	Gottlob	Deutscher	Büdner
76	Nitschke	Gottlob	Wuschel	Büdner
77	Noack	Christian	Antke	Büdner
78	Br(ü/i)ll	Christoph	Schwiegk	Büdner
79	Richter	Gottlob	Friedack	Büdner
80	Hensel	Christoph	Kullar	Büdner
81	Hensel	Martin	Hensel	Büdner
82	Schulze	Gottlob	Matze	Büdner
83	Kaulick	Christoph	Kaulick	Büdner
84	Nitschke	Gottlob	Valentin	Büdner
85	Noack	Martin	Neu-Antke	Büdner
86	Kaminke	Christian	Kaminke	Büdner
87	Noack	Christian	Budach (Gadatz)	Büdner
88	Gramm	Christian	Schneider	Büdner
89	Lehmann	Friedrich	Sietze (Tietz)	Büdner
90	Kaschube	Christian	Kaschube	Büdner

The following was determined:

Meadows: The owners of the so-called “corner meadows” have to give 1/3 or every 3rd hay stack per year to the landlords who, however, have to send their own carts to get them.

Wood for own use: The 34 Farmers, 13 Kossäthen and 4 of the Büdners (namely Christoph Krueger (Debke), Martin Wittchen (Grunert), Christoph Noack (Budach) and Christian Gramm (Schneider) possess all the alder bushes in the Feldmark, which are the Oderbusch and the Mühlenbusch.

Out of these alder bushes, every Farmer, Kossät and all of the 4 named Büdners (except the village Schulze/Richter and his 2 deputies) has to deliver yearly and free of charge a Fuder (pulled by 2 horses) of wood to the inaugurated mayor. The organist in Guben has to be given 6 of these Fuders free of charge per year by the community.

Wood license:

Firewood...For their wood licenses in the Guben Heath, the community has to pay 25 thalers 10 Groschen per year. All “Wirte” (= persons with an economic estate) are liable to contribute and have to pay this so-called Martini-tax to the treasurer of the community cash.

Forest pasture: Supposedly all parishioners are allowed to let their horses and cattle graze all over the Guben forest pasture, excepting protected plantations as well as pigs are allowed only on the outskirts of the forest. For this usage of the forest pasture the following taxes are to be paid to the municipal treasury:

- a) from each of the 34 farmers 1 Metze (in the old Guben measurement) of oats resp. per ox and per cow, horses and young cattle were free of charge
- b) from each Kossät 1 (derf.?) Metze of oats for each horse, ox and cow; foals and young cattle being free
- c) from each Büdner per horse, ox and cow also 1 Metze of oats (in the old Guben measurement).

Also every year shortly after Johannis (= 24 June) the livestock of every Wirt is to be counted by deputies of the magistrate and the citizens. Thus, the amount of oats can rise or fall, depending on the amount of livestock to be held on the forest pasture

(Wikipedia) Das Maß selbst war regional sehr unterschiedlich:

- [Alsfeld \(Großherzogtum Hessen\)](#) 1 Metze = 997 [Pariser Kubikzoll](#) = 19 ³/₄ [Liter](#)

- [Freie Stadt Frankfurt](#) 1 Meste = 2 [Sechter](#) = 8 [Gescheid](#) = 32 [Mäßchen](#) = 128 [Schrott/Schoott](#) = 723 Pariser Kubikzoll = 14 7/20 Liter
- [Friedberg \(Wetterau\)](#), [Homburg](#), [Gießen](#)
 - Getreide ohne [Hafer](#) 1 Metze = 817 4/5 Pariser Kubikzoll = 16 1/10 Liter
 - Hafer 1 Metze = 881 1/10 Pariser Kubikzoll = 17 9/20 Liter
- [Grünberg](#) (Großherzogtum Hessen) 1 Metze = 1120 2/5 Pariser Kubikzoll = 22 1/5 Liter
- [Marburg](#) (Kurfürstentum Hessen) 1 Metze = 1263 1/4 Pariser Kubikzoll = 25 Liter
 - 16 Metzen = 1 Malter
- [Nidda](#) (Großherzogtum Hessen) 1 Metze = 1003 1/5 Pariser Kubikzoll = 19 8/9 Liter
- [Wetter, Rosenthal](#) (Großherzogtum Hessen) 1 Metze = 1400 1/4 Pariser Kubikzoll = 27 3/4 Liter
 - 16 Metzen = 1 [Malter](#)
- [Wetzlar \(Preußen\)](#)
 - Getreide ohne Hafer 1 Metze = 843 7/10 Pariser Kubikzoll = 16 7/10 Liter
 - Hafer 1 Metze = 94 Pariser Kubikzoll = 18 4/5 Liter

Fishery: Fishing in both Kranich- and Grabopond are reserved for the lords. The community is granted fishing right in the Striemingfließe (river) from the lime tree to the Kranichpond and then again from Kranichpond to Grabopond. This fishing right is taxed with 7 thalers yearly given to the governing mayor.

Natural tax services: The farming Wirte were liable to give the following natural produce to their landlord:

1. The hereditary judge (Gerichtsschulze) Richter as well as both farmers Gottlob Richter (Lehmann) and Christian Türk (Lehmann) must
 - a) deliver all venison shot during any kind of hunting either here in our Feldmark or in the Guben city heath directly to Guben; whereas both half farmers together (GR + CT) have to deliver the same amount of loads as judge Richter alone. When a single hare or other small game is shot by a hunter in either the Feldmark or the city heath, the servants will take turns to deliver it to Guben.
 - b) the Gerichtsschulze has to deliver 6 loads and both half farmers each 3 loads (in this case load = net loads full) per year of the smaller hunts
 - c) the Gerichtsschulze has to deliver 2 and both half farmers each 1 Kienfuhre (load of pines) to the governing mayor per year
 - d) the Gerichtsschulze has to deliver 2 and both half farmers each 1 Fuder of hay of the lordly meadows to the master forester of Guben per year
 - e) drive the deputed counselors to the main judicial day held once a year as well as the 2 days (bringing them and returning them back to town) when the oats' seed (Weidehafer) is brought out and money for flax and spin is collected also the oats' seed has to be brought into town. However the flax and the geese are to be brought to town by the rest of the farmers and Kossäten. Furthermore they have to:
 - f) collect the deputed counselors for the cattle counting whereas the remaining parishioners have to drive them back to town.

As far as all these loads and driving is concerned, both half farmers of the Lehmann estate have to administer half of the amount the farmer/Gerichtsschulze Richter has to do alone. However, they are not liable for any further service.

2. Farmer and Krüger Gotthelf Dammaschke is released from all natural tax services except that if asked for to feed a dog and – if needed/wanted – to place 1 person for hunting. Furthermore, instead of the earlier tax (to cut 6 Schock → 1 Schock = 5 dozen = 60 pieces of vine stakes) to do 9 days of handlabor per year.

3. Annually, the 22 half farmers (see list no 2 – 23) have to

- a) provide for 1 weekly carriage with 2 horses for driving services not farther than to Guben as well as 4 days of handlabor either man/womanservice as needed, this service going 9 weeks between Johannis and Bartholomäi
- b) provide 1 weekly carriage with 2 horses and 2 days of handlabor, this service for 42 weeks from Bartholomäi to Johannis.

4. Widow Türk (Fittke) listed no 24 has to do a yearly service of 4 days carriage/2 horses and 10 days of handlabor man/woman as desired. For all other days free of service a certain service money amounting to 6 thalers yearly is to be paid.

5. The 5 half farmers listed under no 25 to/including no 31 without Glob Richter and Christian Türk (Lehmann) are annually serviced with 1 carriage/2 horses and 10 days of handlabor (either man or woman), furthermore they have to pay a service money of 5 thalers. An exception are the half farmers Adam Gramm (Kammjank) and Christian Woitschack (Sparmann) who give 5 thalers service money per year but are otherwise free of service.

As far as the Kossäten are concerned:

1) The 8 Kossäten listed under 35 to/including 39 as well as 41, 21 and 47 have to render during Johannis to Bartholomäi, 9 weeks, 2 weeks in a row 5 days/week handlabor (either man or woman), in the resp. 3rd week only 4 days of the same handlabor and 1 carriage service (2 horses). From Bartholomäi to Johannis it is 2 weeks in a row 3 handlabors per week and in the resp. 3rd week only 2 handlabors and 1 carriage service.

2) No 40, Gottfried Breyer, is completely free of service yet has to pay a yearly service money amounting to 4 thalers.

3) The Kossäten listed under 43, 44 and 45 are also free of service and have to pay the following service money instead: Christian Donath (Machtzs) 2 thalers 12 groschen whereas the other two only have to pay 1 thaler each.

4) Kossät Christian Budach (Greicke) serves 3 days of handlabor (either man or woman) per week from Johannis to Bartholomäi and during the rest of the time 2 days of handlabor as well as 10 days of carriage service (to be taken into account and credited against the days of handlabor).

As far as the Büdners are concerned:

1) Martin Gramm, no 55, 30 days of handlabor (man or woman) per year

2) Christian Türk (Bockpfeiffer) is free of service, paying yearly 4 thalers service money

3) Martin Wittchen (Grunert) is free of service, paying yearly 1 thaler service money

4) ...

5) The widow Freund pays 1 thaler 12 groschen per year, otherwise free of service.

6) Martin Türk (Voigt) serves 1 day of handlabor (m or w) per week during Joh. and Barth.

7) Christian Gramm (Schneider) is free of service, paying yearly 1 thaler service money

8) Gottlob Deutscher pays 1 thaler 12 groschen per year, otherwise free of service

9) The 3 Büdners, Christian Richter (Berdags), Christian Türke (Matschke) und Christian Kaschube each serve 1 day of handlabor (man or woman) per year.

10) All others, from no 48 to/including 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 64 – 66, 68 – 74, 75 – 87 as well as 89, that is these 82 Büdners serve 2 days of handlabor per week from Johannis to Bartholomäi and 1 day of handlabor from Bartholomäi to Johannis, in each case either man or woman.

Extraordinary handlabor

Except for the 3 farmers, namely the Schulzen Richter and both half farmers Gottlieb Richter (Lehmann) and Christian Türk (Lehmann), the blacksmith Ludwig, Adam Gramm (Kammjank) und Christoph Woitschack (Sparmann), also the Büdner Christian Türk (Bockpfeiffer), the rest of the remaining half farmers, Kossäten and Büdner have to serve 6 days of smaller hunting services per year. These however are not subtracted from the ordinary services as they have to be rendered/served on top.

Furthermore – with the exception of the Schulzen Richter and the 2 half farmers – all other farming persons have to serve one day of handlabor between Bartholomäi and Johannis, instead of the earlier obligation to cut and sharpen a certain amount of vine poles (6 L...). In the same way, every farming person except for the blacksmith Ludwig, Gottfried Grimm and

Martin Gramm have to render 1/2 day of handlabor per year instead of the earlier lot of vine poles (3 Bo.)

Finally for all repair works on the manor and landlordly estates,

- 1) the Schulze Richter and both neighboring half farmers, Gottlob Richter and Christian Türk (Lehmann) as far as buildings of Heideschäferei (sheepfarm on the heath) are concerned
- 2) all other farmers and Kossäten have to transport materials such as wood, chalk, stones, sand and clay to the buildings of the outlying estate.
- 3) all Büdners without exception have to do handlabor services, furthermore Büdners possessing horses have to transport materials in additionally, Büdners 4 times as much as a farmer, Kossäten twice as much as a farmer.

Furthermore, 23 half farmers and 10 Kossäten (named in a list) have to give each 3rd haystack when mowing the Winkelwiese the 1st time of the year to the outlying estate. No haystacks have to be surrendered from the 2nd mowing (= the Grummet), e.g. the farming people can keep all to themselves.

The 3 relatively new Büdners Christian Grimm, Martin Noack (Neu-Antke) and Christian Kaminke have each to pay 2 thalers 15 groschen wood tax per year for the granted right to collect wood and forest litter.

Also both new Büdners, Martin Noack and Christian Kaminke pay a yearly tax of 10 Sgr. for an acre let to them on the grounds of the Guben City Heath and therefore not belonging to the village fields of Niemaschkleba.

Miscellaneous:

*The name of Niemaschkleba's miller in 1824 was Johann Carl Gottlob Klein.

*The name of the manorial shepherd in 1824 was Gottfried Spahn and Marie Elisabeth, born Grei... In 1818 the wife had received 2 pieces of wild/desolate land in the Nowine in order to cultivate and use it. For this, 12 Sgr. had to be paid per year.

1826: the following amendments to the natural tax services of the farming people was added by the magistrate:

The community had forgotten to mention the Schulze Richter as well as both half farmers – and the rest of the farming people possessing carriages have to transport the vine poles for the members of the magistrate, e.g. the Schulze for the conductor/director and all other inhabitants for the rest of the counselors and senators, all free of charge.

Same as the Schulze has to deliver/transport all game to the city, the others have to transport the fish from the outlying estate to Guben.

Also, each of the three - the Schulze and both half farmers (Müller/miller and Krüger/innkeeper) - have to feed a hunting dog.

Further to this, the parishioners have to transport (back and forth) the members of the magistrate on court days, when oat, flax and spin money is brought out as well as for the cattle count. In addition to that transportation is to be granted for each trip concerning administrative matters and organizational issues of the village and the outlying estate of Niemaschkleba, inspections of the city forest or all further official orders.

Last but not least, the Schulze and both farmers in Lehman Torsale not only have to provide 4 pine loads to the governing mayor but also the same amount of pine loads to each of the other 2 mayors.

1830: A terrible thunderstorm developed on 25 May 1830. The in 1812 newly built sheep stable in Heideschäferei crashed down, altogether with a great number of animals. In the villages Gubinchen, Mückenberg and **Niemaschkleba** the farmers lost 33 barns.³³

1836: In the night from 24 to 25 April a disastrous fire started in the Lower Lusatian village of Niemaschkleba, lain between Guben and Crossen. Within 15 minutes, due to the heavy

³³ History of the City of Guben by Karl Gander, 1925, page 283

winds, the fire had spread tremendously and 16 farms, 5 Kossäten houses and 5 Büdner houses were burning. It required utmost efforts to save the rest of the village from burning. 26 living houses, 14 barns and 46 stables were completely destroyed by the flames. 30 families lost not only their houses but all their belongings. It was great luck that nobody died in the fire; however a 24-year-old young woman was very seriously hurt during rescue. The misery of the community is indescribable, as 200 persons are affected by this disaster without their fault. Gräfe, the pastor of Niemaschkleba, has started a call to all philanthropists near or far to help the miserable parish.³⁴

Conflagrations: 3 out of 26 fires which were reported during April were extinguished while starting. The majority of the fires were rather insignificant, only one deserves special notice. The namely fire started around 10 p.m. on the 24th in the village of Niemaschkleba, district Guben, and spread – due to the thatch-covered roofs of the buildings with almost incredible speed. Despite the help of Niemaschkleba villagers as well as people come running from both Guben and Crossen, 16 farmers, 5 Kossäthen and 5 Büdner lost their complete housings, farm buildings and belongings as well as 11 further barns and smaller stables. Except for a girl (age 20) injured by the flames, nobody was hurt.
Frankfurt/Oder, 5 May 1836
Royal Government, Home Affairs³⁵

1838: Announcement: A masterless 3 -4-year-old horse was caught in the village of Niemaschkleba. It is 4 feet high and of has dark color with a with star, its left hind leg is white up to the fetlock. Whoever can legitimize being the owner, can receive it from the Gerichtsschulze in Niemaschkleba against payment of fodder etc. Guben, 17 Mai 1838³⁶

2. Guben under the government of Frederick William IV (1840 – 1861)

1841: Up until 1841, mayor Bothmer of Guben remedied several abuses in order to render the city forest more profitable: the head forestry was built at the Heidekrug and the first forest official was given housing in the forest. Furthermore, he started the replacement/repayment of the wooding rights of the 5 neighboring (Kämmer) villages.³⁷

Announcement: According to order of the Royal Government of Frankfurt/Oder, there shall
1) be built a new way from Neuendorf to Niemaschkleba in the Jagen No 78 of the Merzwiese area near the forestry of Neuendorf with a length of 126 “lauf. Ruthen”(*), estimated costs 114 Rthlr. 11 sgr.3 pf. including 16 sgr. 3 pf. ³⁸for the inlaying wooden gutter,
2) be built a new bridge on the same way over the Strömlingsfließ, estimated costs 153 Rthlr 11 sgr. 2 pf. including 57 Rthl. 5 sgr. for the value of the wood.
3) be built a second bridge on the same way, Neuendorf side, over the Freiwassergraben of the Neuendorf mill, estimated costs 51 Rthlr. 29 sgr. 2 pf. including 30 Rthlr. 22 sgr. 9 pf. for the value of the wood
to be given to a suitable and reliable “entrepreneur”³⁹. Thus, the undersigned has arranged for a meeting on “Sunday 17 April, 9 a.m.” in Jacobi’s forester’s lodge, in order to view the invited building contractors to approve of their suitability and reliability. Their original

³⁴ Newspaper of Augsburg Post, No 127, Friday 6 May 1836

³⁵ Official journal of the Royal Prussian Government, Frankfurt/Oder, No 20, 18 May 1836

³⁶ Public Announcement included in the official journal No 21, Frankfurt/Oder, 23 May 1838

³⁷ History of the City of guben by Karl Gander, 1926, page 295

³⁸ Rthl. = Reichsthaler, sgr. = silver groschen, pf = penny

³⁹ Entrepreneur = tenant

suggestions and conditions shall be shown during the meeting but can also be looked at beforehand in my office.

Braschen, 20 March 1841, head forester Kreith⁴⁰

1844: Visit of Frederick William IV in Guben on 2 + 3 June 1844

The head foresters as well as the city foresters and the young citizens of the Werder suburbs rode in front of the Royal carriage to the Heidekrug, from where **Niemaschkleban** farmers on horseback escorted the sovereign to the boundaries of the Crossen district.⁴¹

1844: On 13 August, 12 Büdners of Niemaschkleba reached a settlement with the magistrate and the city authorities of Guben concerning the redemption of their services and yearly taxes to the manor.⁴²

1. Widow Maria Elisabeth Lampe, born Türk (Rossags) No 23
2. Johann Gottlieb Woitschack (Bartel) No 53
3. Johann Gottlieb Loichen (Brenner) No 55
4. Friedrich Gotthilf Grimm (Grimm) No 59
5. Johann Christian Gausch (perhaps Galasch? Neuber?) No 62
6. Widow Marie Elisabeth Grimm, born Richter (Grimm) No 64
7. Gottlob Deutscher (Deutscher) No. 65
8. Johann Gottlob Nitschke (Wuschel) No 67
9. Gottlob Richter (Friedack) No 69
10. Christian Noack for his wife Anne Elisabeth, born Loichen, formerly widow Kaulick (Hansschneider) No 74
11. Gottlob Nitschke (Valentin) No 76
12. Christian Gromm (Schneider) No 83

1846: Proclamation:

The Oder barge belonging to the heirs of the late **Niemaschkleban** wood dealer Türk, No I 1412, weight with plank (riesbord) = 741 centners, estimated value with all supplies = 570 Rthlr. 14 Sgr., shall be sold in a forced auction on 25 March, 11 a.m. The resp. tax can be seen in the registration office, the purchasing conditions will be published upon the date of the auction. The unknown creditors of the barge are also invited in avoidance of suspension. Crossen, 12 February 1846, Royal Prussian County and Municipal Court⁴³

1846: an official census of the population was done Guben⁴⁴

From 1846, a handwritten – however incomplete – list of all male persons of **Niemaschkleba** exists. This list was found by Michael Gromm, **Berlin**, about 1992 in the attic of the former mill in **Niemaschkleba**. Owner of the mill up until 1945 was Emil Gromm, house no 18, he also was registrar, see also personal lists.

1847: the transformation of grazing land into cropland continued

The government was asked to see to a speedier handling of all matters concerning the redemption of the foresting matters. Traditional rights were to be kept to the smallest degree. Thus, the municipal authorities had to sue the community of **Niemaschkleba** because of their refuse to deliver the annual load of 1 quart of crabs to the rifle association, as was customary tradition and duty from time immemorial.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ Public Announcement included in the official journal No. 13, Frankfurt/Oder, 31 March 1841

⁴¹ dito page 301

⁴² Contract in the land registry files, Vol. 1, Page 20, House No 23 (Rochatz), Main Archive Brandenburg Potsdam

⁴³ Public Announcement included in the official journal No 8, Frankfurt/Oder, 25 February 1846

⁴⁴ History of the City of Guben by Karl Gander, 1925, page 324

⁴⁵ dito, page 208

1852: Message in the district newspaper of Guben during the years 1852-1855, release of the territorial army, 3rd Battalion Sorau, 12th Regiment of the Territorial Army: Gotthilf Grimm (Kossät), Christian Gromm (Farmer), Gottlieb Kossert (Büdner), Gottlieb Laurisch (Büdner), Ferdinand Poetke/Pötke (Schulze/Lehnschulze), Eduard Schreiber (economic inspector). No 07-1855 District newspaper Guben: Hausch, bailiff of **Niemaschkleba**, evidence for expired hunting permits.

In the institute for teaching midwives, Lower Lusatia in Lüben, the following women were listed as:

9) Marie Dorothee Richter (unmarried) from **Niemaschkleba** during the obstetric course 18 51/52 to have succeeded in the public exam and thus being officially appointed midwife.⁴⁶

1855: In order to render the Guben city forest more profitable, the municipality had been trying for 14 years to discharge the many duties and natural services by which the forest was debted. To continue these activities were even more important, as the net revenues from the heath in the years 1833 – 1855 did not amount to more than 4.000 thalers on average. A temporary agreement was reached with the farmers of the (Kämmerei) villages of **Niemaschkleba**, Mückenberg, Gubinchen, Kaltenborn and Reichenbach to grant them the right to demand free wood for building and repairs in exchange for their payment of the annual taxes.⁴⁷

Public announcement of the magistrate: The (pond and shore) order for the municipality of Crossen and its inhabitants, by which both lowlands Bindow and Raednitz on the right side of the Oder above Crossen, as well as the Crossen lowlands on the left side of the Oder below Crossen – build a common, so-called Crossen dike union, shall be revised. It is intended to organize this community/union anew, thus putting the Crossen lowlands below Crossen into a new union together with the lowlands of **Niemaschkleba**, Lahmo and Cuschern to form a new dike union...⁴⁸

1856: Public summons no 316⁴⁹

After the formal desertion case had been declared against musketeer Johann Gotthilf Türke of the 35 infantry regiment, born in **Niemaschkleba**, district of Guben, governing district Frankfurt/Oder, on 19 Mai 1834, he is publicly summoned to appear at the undersigned court offices within 3 months, at 16 June, 11 a.m. at the latest, to take responsibility for his illegal departure. Should he however not appear, the case will be closed and he will be proclaimed deserter with a penalty of 50 to 1.000 thalers against him.

Luxemburg, 14 February 1856, Royal Prussian Court of the Gouvernements

1859: File concerning the farming estates of **Niemaschkleba** against **Guben**, June 1859, on the use of the wood/forest license⁵⁰

The following farmers were listed as deputies:

- a. Farmer Gotthilf Türk (Loichen)
- b. Farmer Johann Samuel Türk (Lehmann)
- c. Kossäth Gottlieb Richter (Konzack)
- d. Büdner Johann Christian Noack (Antke)

⁴⁶ Official journal of the Royal Prussian Government, Frankfurt/Oder, No17, Wednesday 28 April 1852

⁴⁷ dito, page 334

⁴⁸ Public Announcement No 46, Frankfurt/Oder, Wednesday 14 November 1855

⁴⁹ Official journal of the Royal Prussian Government, Trier, No10, March 1856 and
Public Announcement No11, Frankfurt/Oder, Wednesday 12 March 1856

⁵⁰ Secret Federal Archive for Prussian Cultural Values, I HA Rep. 170, No 976

- e. Büdner Johann Christian Krüger (Tepke or Töpke)
- f. Farmer Gottlieb Donath (Gasnick)
- g. Büdner and blacksmith Gottlieb Ludwig, No 44

3. Guben under King William I (1861 – 1888)

1861: Certificate of the private stallion stations in the district of Guben in 1861:
Niemaschkleba, Lehnschulze Ferdinand Pötke, private stallion, brown, without markings/badges, fixed stud fee 1 1/6 thlrs
(stallions which are fine for breeding, licensed and selected are so-called “Beschäler”)⁵¹

1862: Request of the creditors in the liquidation process concerning heritage
The liquidation process has been started on concerning the inheritance of the late day laborer Johann Christoph Schulze, died 2 April 1856, and his late widow Marie Elisabeth, born Barsch, died 22 December 1858.

Guben, 18 January 1862, Royal District Court, 1st Section⁵²

Announcement: The liquidation process concerning the heritage of the day laborer Johann Christoph Schulze and his wife, Marie Elisabeth, born Barsch, from **Niemaschkleba** is completed.

Guben, 25 May 1862, Royal District court, 1st Section⁵³

Certificate of the private stallion stations in the district of Guben in 1862:

Niemaschkleba: Lehnschulze Ferdinand Pöthke: private stallion, brown without markings/badges, fixed stud gee 1 1/6 thlrs.⁵⁴

1863: For the following rural districts the following arbitrators have been elected and confirmed: for the 6th district Gottlieb Lehmann, Büdner, from **Niemaschkleba**.⁵⁵

1864: The colonists from **Augustwalde** were given forest land as property. The forestry Tiefensee died down and was sold to the colonist Budach from **Niemaschkleba**. A new one was established in the area **Panicke**.⁵⁶

1866: File concerning **Niemaschkleba’s** mill master Oelschläger and comrades, applying against other ... **Guben**, in September 1866 concerning wood settlement⁵⁷

In the name of the King! Concerning the redemption of the wood settlement affair in **Niemaschkleba**, district of Guben, RB Frankfurt, namely

1. mill master Rudolph Oelschlaeger, owner of the water mill No 18
2. farmer Gotthilf Lampe as representative of his wife Maria Dorothea, born Noack, owner of Noack’s farm No 34
3. Gotthilf Türke for himself and as representative of his wife Maria Dorothea, born Kossert, owner of Goddatz’s farm No 35
4. carpenter Gotthilf Krüger as representative of his wife Anna Maria, born Kossert, owner of Jochem’s farm No 90
5. Gotthilf Krüger, owner of Loock’s Kossät estate No 12

⁵¹ Official journal of the Royal Prussian Government, Frankfurt/Oder, No7, Wednesday 13 February 1861

⁵² Public Announcement No 66, Frankfurt/Oder, 5 February 1862, No 549

⁵³ Public Announcement No 66, Frankfurt/Oder, 25 May 1862, No 2689

⁵⁴ Official journal of the Royal Prussian Government, Frankfurt/Oder, No8, 19 February 1862

⁵⁵ Official journal of the Royal Prussian Government, Frankfurt/Oder, No22, 3 March 1863

⁵⁶ History of the City of Guben by Karl Gander, 1925, page 344

⁵⁷ Secret Federal Archive for Prussian Cultural Values, I HA Rep. 170, No 1018

6. Johann Gotthilf Noack, owner of Breyer's Kossät estate No 29
7. August Mehley as representative of his wife Maria Elisabeth, born Freund, owner (proprietress) of the Tonnisch's Büdner estate No 11
8. ...(?) master Johann Gottlieb Richter, owner of half of the forest redemption of the Garreisch Büdner estate No 20
9. carpenter Bernhard Kunze, owner of Brüll's Büdner estate No 54
10. cartwright Friedrich Ernst Brüll, owner of Schwiegk's Büdner estate No 68

as well as the following other persons: bailiff Penther as representative of the community of Niemaschkleba, village mayor (Schulze) Ferdinand Poethke and comrades....

Also listed on this page are the following persons:

2. Friedrich Wilhelm Schmidt (Poethke), No 50
3. Joh. Gotthilf Richter (Kubel), No 70
4. Gottlob Schulze (Woitschack), No 86
5. Gotthilf Kaschube (Boinack), No 87
6. Wilhelm Türke (Puder), No 93
7. Joh. Gotthilf Richter (Jetsch), No 24
8. Joh. Gotthilf Gromm (Schneider), No 83
9. Joh. Gotthilf Lampe (Rademacher), No 15
10. Gottlieb Laurück ? (Wuschel), No 67
11. Friedrich Lu.... Türke (Herke), No 88
12. Wilhelm Grimm (Adam), No 91
13. Christian Noack (Kube), No 47
14. Gottlieb Lehmann (Budach?), No 80
15. widow Türk, born Noack (Voigt), No 56
16. ... Gromm ... Kaminke (perhaps Grimm?), No 64
17. Gottlob Deutscher (Deutscher), No 65

1868: Announcement: From 1 October to 31 December 1868 the following persons have been legally sentenced by the Royal District Court: Johann Gottlieb Finke, servant/farmhand, **Niemaschkleba**, repeated theft, 2 years 6 months⁵⁸

1869: Open requisition: Upon legal mandatory of 6 September 1866, Theodor Wilhelm, cartwrights' assistant, born in **Niemaschkleba** (district Guben), illegally abandoning his workplace, is sentenced to 1 thlr penalty or 24-hours-imprisonment... Crossen, 13 October 1869, Royal District Court, 1st Section⁵⁹

1870: German-French war, 1870-71, lists of casualties

Publisher: Royal & Private Printshop, Berlin:

Budraß, Wilhelm	grenadier	Niemaschkleba	1870	024-VL-154
Glöckner, Gottlieb	grenadier	Niemaschkleba	1870	024-VL-154
Kaschube, Gotthilf	grenadier	Niemaschkleba	1870	016-VL-097
Kaschube, NN	gunner	Niemaschkleba	1870	FieldArt. 3-622
Krüger, August	private	Niemaschkleba	1870	024-VL-152
Türke, Ernst	dragoon	Niemaschkleba	1871	182-VL-003

1870: Class tax roll Lower Lusatia provincial war debts tax⁶⁰
This is to certify that every inhabitant of the community is listed correctly in this tax roll.

⁵⁸ Public Announcement to the official journal of the Royal Government, Frankfurt/Oder, No 6, page 127

⁵⁹ Public Announcement to the official journal of the Royal Government, Frankfurt/Oder, #44, 3 Nov. 1869

⁶⁰ BLHA, Rep. 6B Guben No 592

Niemaschkleba, 25 September 1869, presiding board: Loichen, Türke ...
(The resp. class tax roll can be found in the tab 'persons' lists')

1875: ...when 3 years later (1875) on the estate of **Niemaschkleba** the contract with the tenant Penther was ended, the land was split and let to different Niemaschkleban owners to lease.⁶¹

1878: Niemaschkleba and **Merzwiese** are struck by the cattle plague coming from Russia. A great amount of cattle died subsequently. Many villages were blocked by armed forces. Cattle transportation via train was prohibited.⁶²

1880: In the 1880s a war union was established and all former soldiers and war veterans joined it. A banner was acquired and every member received a sash.⁶³

Along the road from **Niemaschkleba** to **Augustwalde** – probably in the night of the 25 to 26 February – 45 poplars of the new alley trees were torn down resp. destroyed. The alley had been newly built in springtime 1879. Anybody knowing details and thus helping to sue and punish the culprit/s will receive a reward of 30 Marks.⁶⁴

4 Guben under King William II, 1888 – 1918

1890: On 14 September 3 farms and 10 barns burned down completely in **Niemaschkleba**⁶⁵

1895: In order to render the river Neiße navigable, 20.000 Marks promised by the Oder authorities have been granted by the municipality. Furthermore, the district was given 30.000 of the requested 40.000 Marks for building a country road to Niemaschkleba, plus the right to look for stones in the city heath.⁶⁶

1896: On 20 September, news spread about our village that the municipal forest supervisor Grünke was shot by poachers. For a longer time, the hunting in the city heath had been let to a banker named Simmichen in Berlin. In order to oversee the area, Simmichen had paid a stalker, Kubsch from Wallwitz. They knew that for quite some time, poachers were roaming about the boundaries to **Niemaschkleba**. Therefore he had organized to meet with Grünke, forester Schmidt and forester-to-be von Tzschaschka at dawn on the named day at a specified place in the forest in order to catch the poachers. Grünke, who happened to be the first at the meeting point was shot from ambush by Krüger, the butcher's son from **Niemaschkleba**, with double gunfire. When Krüger started to carry away the dead body on his back, the other foresters came by and wounded Krüger with their gunshots. Krüger then shot himself by headshot. Grünke was buried on behalf and costs of the municipality. Two comrades of Krüger, both also from **Niemaschkleba**, who had poached together with him on that morning were arrested and sentenced to long imprisonment.⁶⁷

⁶¹ BLHA, Rep. 6b Guben No 592, page 363

⁶² Church chronicles of Atterwasch, Source: Guben city administration, Archive, handwritten notes of Erich Müller

⁶³ Memories of Paul Gromm

⁶⁴ Guben's District Newspaper No 11, dated 12 March 1880

⁶⁵ Cottbus Publisher, Source: Guben city administration, Archive, handwritten notes of Erich Müller

⁶⁶ History of the city of Guben by Karl Gander, 1925, page 392

⁶⁷ dito, page 394

1900: The county committee of the district of Guben had decided to establish an independent county community out of the colonies **Augustwalde** and **Heideschäferei**. The magistrate appealed against that.⁶⁸

1906: Niemaschkleba, rag hunting on 9 August 1906:

The rag hunt on deers which had been organized by game tenant E. Gromm from Niemaschkleba on 6 August was very successful. 4 strong and stout stags were shot, 2 royals and 2 eightpointers. Their impressive antlers – some of them measuring 1 meter both in wingspan and height – were all but one already bare.⁶⁹

1910: A main advantage for the transport of wood from the city forest was that the art(ificial?) road from Germersdor to **Niemaschkleba** has been completed. Many years before, Guben had granted 40.000 Marks to the district for building this county road, however reducing it by 20.000 Marks as the conditions -to be built to the Oder opposite of Polenzig as well as creating a space for the wood to be deposited – were not met.⁷⁰

1913: The tavern Heidekrug, burnt down in 1913, was replaced by a new building.⁷¹

1927: Notarial deed of 30 December 1927, notary register no 565, 1927
Contract on the rights of coal mining for the “Municipal Electricity of Berlin Corp.”

With this contract, 93 estate owners of Niemaschkleba have registered coal mining rights in section II of their resp. land register. The notarial deed can be found in the title register volume I, page 16, Emil Gromm, mill.

⁶⁸ dito, page 444

⁶⁹ Municipal library of Guben, Guben newspaper 1906

⁷⁰ History of the city of Guben by Karl Gander, 1925, page 438

⁷¹ Heimat pictures of Guben, 1929, page 11

1936:

2nd – 4th grade with Miss Hornack



Bottom row fr. left: Werner Türke, unknown, H.-J. Woitschack, Franz Schultke,
Rudi Heinze, Walter Krüger
2nd row: I. Richter, G. Lux, H. Burdack, H. Grünberger, U. Böhme, E. Dargatz,
Werner Richter, E. Richter, G. Wagner, G. Budach
3rd row: E. Heinze, G. Schulze, W. Schulz, M. Türke, H. Mäthke, Ch. Türke,
E. Markusch, R. Schulze, H. Wandtke
4th row: P. Koppe, R. Wilbert, unknown, W. Lux, M. Schmidt, G. Garkisch,
unknown
5th row: unknown, W. Manthe, G. Schulz, H. Jagode, P. Schwitzke, unknown
unknown, Grünberger

1937:

with Miss Hornack



Kneeling fr. left: Hanni Grünberger, Elfriede Wittchen, Heinz Retzer, Werner Richter, Arno Lampe, Irmgard Richter, Gilda Mäthke
2nd row: Hilda Lehmann, Helmut Nitschke, Erich Richter, Hubert Krüger, Günter Wagner, Günter Garkisch, unkown, Ingrid Türke, Erika Heinze, Gerda Türke, Hilda Burdack, Ursula Böhme
3rd row: Gertraud Lux, Helga Mäthke, Sonja Budach, Franz Schultke, Christel Türke, Walter Krüger, Ruth Schulze, H.-Joachim Woitschack, Lieselore Brüll, unkown, Charlotte Helm, Rudi Wilbert, Waltraud Schulz, Werner Schmidt

1938:

1st – 3rd class with Mr. Kirks



Standing left: G. Budach, G. Garkisch, R. Heinze
1st row: A. Lampe, F. Naujokat, H. Budach, W. Schulze, L. Noack, E. Wittchen, E. Burdack, L. Schulze, G. Lehmann, G. Giersch, H. Lampe
2nd row: W. Hensel, W. Markusch, M. Dargtz, W. Wölbier, S. Simowski, H. Grünberger, E. Jagode, S. Hartwig, R. Jagode, W. Gromm, unknown
3rd row: M. Zeschke, unknown, W. Steinke, E. Koppe, H. Retzer, W. Wittig, E. Schmidt, E. Richter, H. Lehmann W. Richter, P. Tzscheetzsch

4th row: S. Erdmann, H. Nitschke, H. Burdack, E. Markusch, S. Budach, L. Brüll,
 G. Mäthke, S. Wittchen, E. Schultke
1944: **School in Lindenhain with teacher Cajar**



1st row fr. the left: ? KÜchhold, Lothar Noack, William ?, Harald ?, Anita Helm,
 Magdalena Türke, Annemarie Petzold, Gisela Türke, Ella Burdack,
 Evi Giersch, Irene Rieger, Elfriede Wittchen
 2nd row: Erich Schmidt, Wilhelm Markusch, unknown, Waltraut Budach,
 Ursel Noack, Helga Lampe, Gilda Lehmann
 3rd row: K.-Heinz Petsching, unknown, unknown, Ingrid Türke, Sabina Hartwig,
 Gisela Giersch, Edelgard ?
 4th row: Eberhard Zimms, Manfred Zeschke, unknown, unknown, Lieselore Brüll,
 Hubert Krüger, Heinz Retzer
 5th row: Herbert Gebert, Helmut Nitschke, unknown, Hilda Lehmann
 6th row: Werner Hensel, unknown, Sonja Budach, Inge ?
 right of teacher C.: Hans-Joachim Richter
 2nd row: Gilda Mäthke, unknown
 3rd row: Ruth Jagode
 4th row: Werner Sydow, unknown, unknown, Heinz Budach
 5th row: Paul Tzschetzsch, Waldo Gromm, unknown, Harald Klausch