

Leeleva Online Map

Water Wells

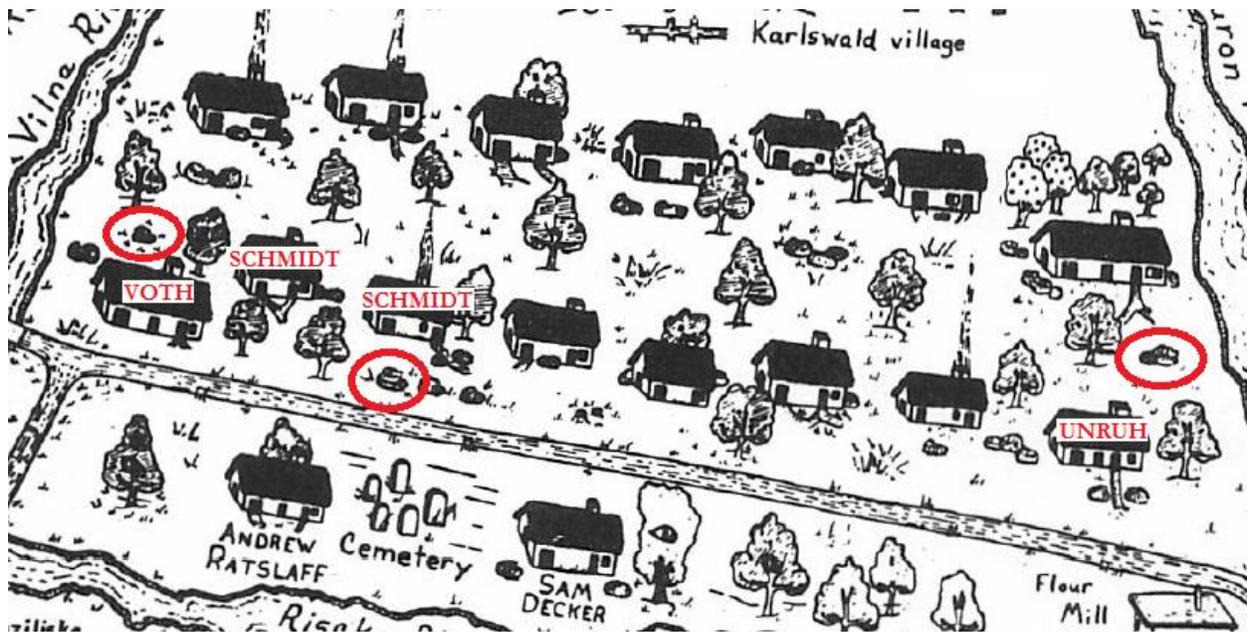
German: Ziehbrunnen; Brunnen

Ukrainian: krynytsya; криниця

Russian: kolodets; колодец

Polish: studnia

Jake Unruh indicated that there were three wells in Leeleva; one at the Voths, one at the Schmidts, and one at the Unruhs. All the families of the villages shared these three wells. These wells are not labelled on the map, but there are three odd symbols that may indicate them:



Leeleva Village¹

The German colonists in Volhynia utilized two different types of water-wells. Most familiar to our 21st Century imagination is the typical well outfitted with a windlass and buckets (krynytsya z kolovorotom [криниця з коловоротом] in Ukrainian).

A crank turned a drum around which wound a rope. Usually buckets were attached to both ends of the rope; as one rose to the surface, the other descended down into the well. A roof or canopy over the top provided some shelter for the well and its users. This is a photo of a well in western Ukraine.²



Western Ukrainian Krynytsya z Kolovorotom

A variation on this type of well, nicknamed a Russian Well, includes a wooden enclosure covering the well itself and a door allowing access. This is a photo of such a well from the Village of Bergthal in the Mennonite Colony of Chortitza in southern Ukraine.



Russian Well in Bergthal, Chortitza Colony³

The other type of well that may have been employed by the LEELEVA villagers was known in German as a Schaduf (after an Arabian term: Shadoof). This type of well is known as a sweep well or crane well in America.⁴ The Schaduf consisted of a long pole, mounted on a fulcrum, with a rope and bucket at one end and a counterbalance at the other. The Schaduf, properly counterbalanced, required significantly less effort in order to draw water than did a windlass well.

This German model clearly shows how the Schaduf would work⁵:



German Model of a Schaduf

Schadufs such as these were in fact utilized by Mennonites in the Volhynian Village of Zofyovka (Zofjówka)⁶. This pre-WWII photo shows a German house in Zofyovka with a Schaduf in the yard. Other Volhynian German villages such as LEELEVA may have used wells of this type too.



German Colonist House with Schaduf; Zofyovka⁷

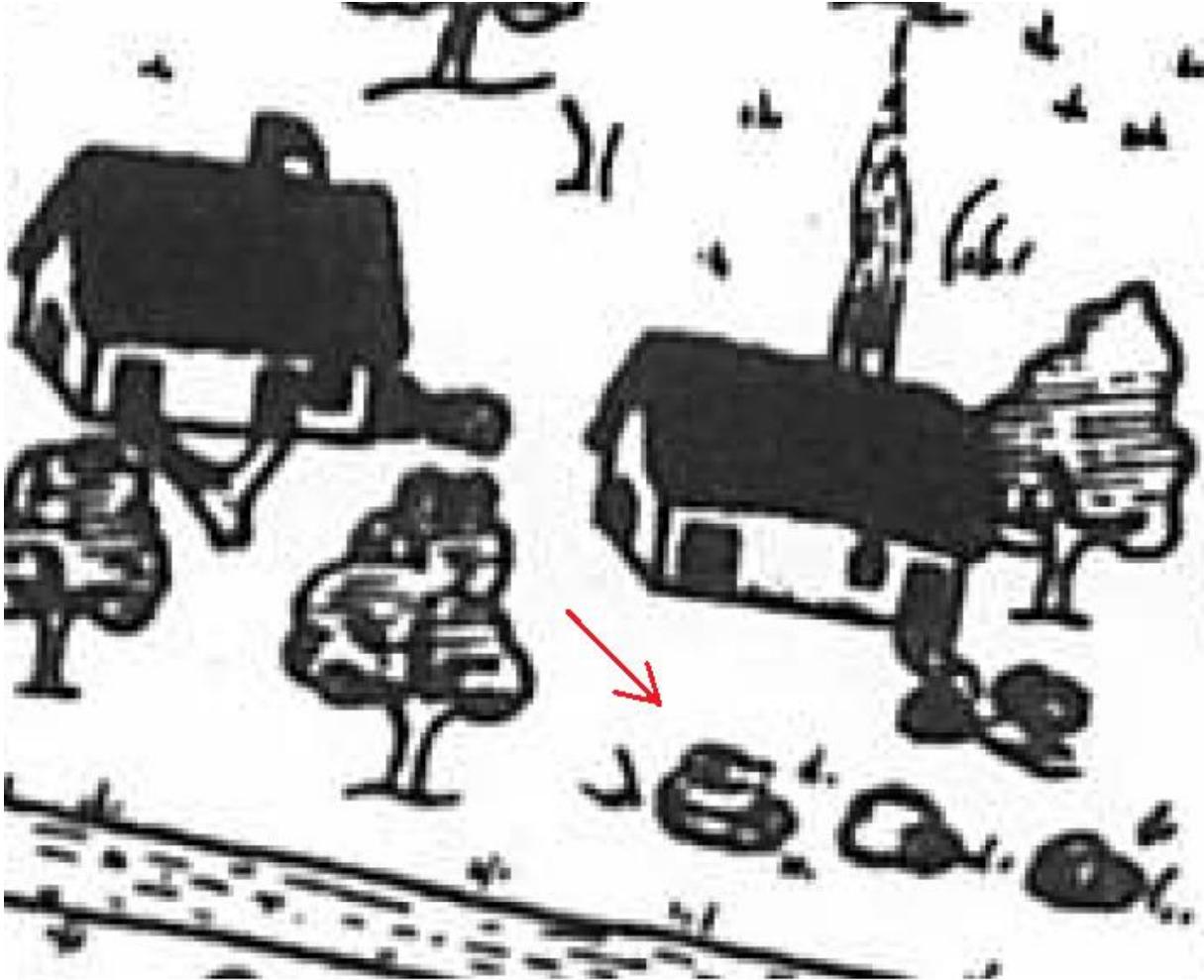
These Schaduf wells can be found throughout central and eastern Europe, including Germany, Poland and Ukraine. This photo shows a sweep well in a barnyard in Markowa, in southeastern Poland.⁸



Schaduf Well in Southeastern Poland

If Schaduf or windlass wells were utilized in Leeleva, it seems to me that Jake would have indicated such with symbols similar to  or . A symbol for a Russian well might look something like this: 

The symbol in front of the Schmidt house is clearer than the others. Could it perhaps indicate a Russian well?



Leeleva Map, Schmidt House

Sources:

Kauder, Viktor, Das Deutschum in Ostpolen. S. Hirzel; Leipzig, 1939.

“Krynytsya Is More Than Just a Well” (Wells as a feature of Ukrainian Traditions), [Welcome to Ukraine Magazine](#).

“Muzeum Wsi Markowa (Polska) - studnia ‘żuraw’ i stodoła”, via pl.Wikipedia Commons, 2006.

Schönfeld (Bergthal) Ksenjewka; “Ein ehemaliger mennonitischer Brunnen”. Foto: Juli 2002. Mennonitische Geschichte und Ahnenforschung; Chortitza. 2002.

Schrag, Martin H. "Volhynia (Ukraine)." Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online. 1959. Web. 15 Jan 2014.

Unruh, Jacob, “From Village Life to Kansas Plains”, 1978.

Ziehbrunnen 1:72 model produced by Fredericus-Rex © 2011.

Notes:

¹ Unruh, Jacob, “From Village Life to Kansas Plains”.

² “Krynytsya Is More Than Just a Well”.

³ Schönfeld (Bergthal) Ksenjewka; “Ein ehemaliger mennonitischer Brunnen”.

⁴ Żuraw studzienny in Polish; Shaduf (Шадуф) in Russian; krynytsya z zhuravlem (криниця з журавлем) in Ukrainian.

⁵ Ziehbrunnen 1:72 model produced by Fredericus-Rex © 2011.

⁶ Zofyovka was a German Mennonite village established around 1811 and was located about 20 miles northeast of Lutsk. The original Mennonites villagers descended from Mennonites of the Schwetz-Graudenz area on the Vistula River. (Schrag, Martin H. "Volhynia [Ukraine]).

⁷ Kauder, Viktor, Das Deutschum in Ostpolen.

⁸ “Muzeum Wsi Markowa (Polska) - studnia ‘żuraw’ i stodoła”.