

Trapp's Letter Granting Funding to the Delegates

Translated by Helen Enns, Winnipeg (Jan 2021)

I, the undersigned, certify hereby that I, with the authority given to me by the nobleman Potemkin, have made an agreement with the deputies, Jakob Hoepfner and Johann Bartsch, who have come to scout out the opportunities of where to settle on unclaimed lands [for] the more than three hundred Mennonite families, which will be of profit for the royal crown, under following conditions:

- a) to pay for their expenses for their travels as well as for their stay in Cherson until the conclusion of their expedition, they will each of them, receive monthly four Dutch Ducats, or the equivalent in Russian currency, which I have paid them in advance, verified by their receipt, until Oct. 19 (old style) as the day of their departure.
- b) Free travel on water and land, not only up to Cherson, but also in spring for the return journey, either via Warsaw or via Petersburg, as the Hon. nobleman will command.
- c) Free living quarters, during travels, also during their stay in Cherson.
- d) Should the result of this scouting trip be that several hundred Mennonite families would come to Russia to settle here the Hon. Nobleman [Potemkin] would try to persuade Her Royal Majesty, the Empress, to graciously give the deputies a bonus gift.

By the way, the deputies will have to, as soon as they arrive at the boarder of the lands which Hon. Nobleman Potemkin has designated to be scouted out by them, report to the landowners of each place, so as to be assured the assistance necessary to look at the unclaimed and unsettled lands, thanks to the patriotic endeavours of the Hon. Nobleman who is eager to assist in populating the land according to the wishes of the Empress.

For the sake of greater security, I have personally prepared this document for the above-named deputies and have signed it. This happened in Danzig on September 22, 1786.

Trappe

Russian royal Coll. Assessor and authority to receive colonists for the Crown.