

St Petersburg Fond 283 Opis 29 Delo 161
Translated by Helen Ens (2019) and edited by Glenn Penner (2020,2023)

Litt: G Copy

We, the undersigned, have investigated and admit that, while the honourable Mennonite, Jacob Hoepfner, who was the deputy for the Mennonites emigrating to Russia, was introduced to Her Majesty, the Empress of Russia, has shown such unshaken loyalty and affection that he has acted in such a manner that the Russian Empire has gained considerable advantages and we have rewarded him for his loyal services, in agreement with others the following:

1. That one of the two mills – grain and grist (“Korn und Grütze”) – will eventually become property of Hoepfner. This, according to point 9 of the Privileges the most gracious Majesty has agreed to, will happen after the building material delivered with expenses paid by the Crown according to the Immenoi – Ukas [1] and repaid after 15 years, interest free.
2. Besides receiving the 65 Desjatin land that every family is entitled to, will receive 20 Desjatin hay land on the island Tawan [2], and that he may choose which piece of land he would like, and it would become his very own property.
3. He would be free to brew beer and vinegar and to sell it unhindered in cities as well as in the villages.
4. He would be free to open a Hackenbude [a type of general store] to sell clothes (?) as well as a bakery to bake and sell both the fine and sweet bread and the whole wheat kind. In view of the fact that in this region there is a steady passage of people going to and from the Crimea, this would meet a need for the public and he would, therefore, receive an advance payment of 800 Rubel besides the advance to develop the 65 Desjatin land, which he also would have to repay after 15 years, again interest free.
5. Finally and lastly he has been promised that the expenses incurred by the travels and care of his wife and children, until their arrival in Berislav [2], shall be gratis due to the graciously mild attention of Her Majesty, this in view of the loyal services he renders.

For the assurance of several people to the deputy Jacob Hoepfner this written document has been signed personally and has been sealed with our seal. Thus it happened in Danzig, the day we had the General Assembly of Mennonites on January 19, 1788.

SEAL

G. Trappe

Of Her Majesty highest self confirmed Director and curator of the Mennonite Colonies

C: de Socolowsky

Russian Empire: Empire's Collegii Assessor and in the city of Dantzig Accredited Charge d'affaires.

Identical to the original

Joh. Brizontzy SEAL
Director of the Colonies

1. An Imperial decree.
2. Note that this document was drawn up before the final destination of the Mennonite settlers was changed from Berislav to Chortitza.

Copy

We, the ones named below, state and admit that we borrowed money from the honourable Heinrich Jantzen 127 # I say one hundred twenty seven Ducaken [add note]cash and have received it correctly, which we promise to repay him in Ekaterinoslav. This happened August 26 in Riga 1794.-

Arend von Riesen has 25 pieces # he admits this -
Dierich Braun has 36 pieces # he admits this-
Salomon Neufeld has 35 pieces # he admits this-
Peter Klahsen has 10 pieces # he admits this-
Peter Siemens has 21 pieces # he admits this-

Where we have all signed individually
Johann Ewert as witness

Copy

I, the undersigned, state and admit hereby that I, with my wife's knowledge and agreement, have received from the honourable man, Heinrich Jantzen, 21 pieces Ducaten in writing twenty one pieces Ducaten and he promises to put all he owns as security and he promises to repay it with a thank you without any expenses when they come to Ekaterinoslav. This happened in Meilow [add note] on September 22, 1794.

Solomon Neufeld admits to this and because he is unable to write he has signed with two crosses - XX - -

(something in Russian)