

A Reply to the Requests of the Mennonite Delegates – 12 Aug 1787

Translated from Russian (by Glenn Penner with Microsoft Word translator) from the [Mennonitische Geschichte und Ahnenforschung](#) website, which does not provide information on the original document.

On the resettlement of Mennonites in Russia. // Russkaya Starina. XXIV, 1879.

On the resettlement of the Mennonites to Russia, since 1787,

Her Majesty, on the recommendation of the General-Field Marshal, the State Military Collegium of the President, the Governor-General of Ekaterinoslav, Taurida and Kharkov, Prince Grigory Alexandrovich Potemkin-Tavrichesky, and on the petition of the deputies from the Mennonite Society, who are in the Danzig District and wish to resettle in Russia, the Imperial Majesty has deigned to declare to them that the benefits and allowances with which they have occasioned to relocate the resettlement desired by them shall be taken advantage of, are clearly depicted in the decision of the mentioned General-Field-Marshal on the points presented from them; but as for their release from the return of the money given to them under the 10th and 11th points mentioned above, this cannot be allowed; And they shall be obliged, after the expiration of the ten years of privilege, to pay without interest for the next five years. The removal of laborers from foreign lands, whatever their use, is permitted to them without hindrance. In the same way, he who is not forbidden to leave Russia shall be allowed to do so at any time, but with that he shall pay the money used for him, which, according to the conditions of his commitment, shall be obliged to return: and if, after the expiration of ten privileged years, he shall be obliged to leave on the basis of the laws of the state, in such a case he shall be obliged on the basis of the laws of the state. In addition to the above-mentioned, to pay the three-year tax which he has paid, and then he shall be free to emigrate wherever he wants. As for the granting of appropriate protection and allowance to them, if they wish to move to Russia on these grounds, it will be prescribed to the Russian Imperial resident in Danzig or to a resident in Danzig.

Count Alexander Bezborodko. The decision of Empress Catherine II on this report: "To be according to this". A note in the hand of Count Bezborodko: "In St. Petersburg, August 12, 1787."