

Nikolaidorf, Molotschna Mennonite Settlement

Early Landowners

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There are 4 files in the various Russian archives which provide information on the first group of landowners in the village of Nikolaidorf.

1. File #1751 of the Peter J. Braun archives has a list of the original 1851 settlers in Nikolaidorf, arranged according to their Wirtschaft numbers.
2. The Braun archive, file #1841, has a school register for the year 1857-58. Although Wirtschaft numbers are not given in this file, the families with school-age children are arranged by Wirtschaft number and can be compared with the list of original settlers.
3. The Braun archive, file #1932, also has a school register for the year 1861-62. This list has the Wirtschaft numbers for landowning families with school children.
4. A Molotschna colony voters list dated 17 Sep 1862 has a list of Nikolaidorf voters arranged according to Wirtschaft number (Odessa archives Fond 6 Inventory 4 file 20854).

A comparison between these 4 documents allows one to follow the landowning families during the first 11 years of the history of Nikolaidorf. Nikolaidorf originally had 22 full Wirtschaften. By 1860, there were also 8 landless families in Nikolaidorf.¹ The 1857-58 school register includes 3 landless families. The 1861-62 list also has 3 landless families. Unfortunately landless families can be very difficult to track and also had a tendency to move frequently. This study makes no attempt to follow all of the landless families in Nikolaidorf.

The prepared table indicates new owners with shaded entries. If an owner did not have children enrolled in school in 1857-57 or 1861-62 the entry for that year is blank. I have also included the probable number for each owner in the GRANDMA database.

[Table of Nikolaidorf, Molotschna Mennonite Settlement Early Landowners](#)

¹Isaac, Franz. *Die Molotschnaer Mennoniten: ein Beitrag zur Geschichte derselben: aus Akten älterer und neuerer Zeit, wie auch auf Grund eigener Erlebnisse und Erfahrungen dargestellt.* Halbstadt, Taurien : H.J. Braun, 1908. (See also the GAMEO article on the Molotschna Mennonite Settlement)

[Return to the
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