Waldheim, Molotschna and Heinrichsdorf, Volhynia 1833-1851

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Those who are trying to trace their ancestry though the early years of the village of Waldheim in the Molotschna colony face several problems. The village was founded just after the 1835 census. Those who founded Waldheim around 1836-39 came from areas in Volhynia for which we have no pre-1836 church records and very few other records of genealogical use. The available records for Waldheim such as voter lists and school records were only started after over half the population packed up and returned to Volhynia and founded the village of Heinrichsdorf (1845).

To my knowledge nearly the entire village of Heinrichsdorf immigrated to the United States in 1874 on the S. S. Colina. Although the Heinrichsdorf church records, started in 1858, have survived, these records were poorly constructed and lack much information one would expect in a church register. These records can be viewed at https://mla.bethelks.edu/archives/cong_312/. See also: "Heinrichsdorf in Volhynia" in Mennonite Family History (July 1995): 128, by Adalbert Goertz. The 1850 census of Heinrichsdorf, below, should be of tremendous help to descendants of the Heinrichsdorfers.

Also included is a translation, by Glenn Penner, of M. Wolter's <u>1848 Gemeindeberichte for the village of Waldheim</u>. It has some information about the founding of the village.

The following are several sources, many of which were not readily available to researchers:

- *Please note that one should not confuse the numbering systems in these sources. Some lists used Wirtshaft (property) numbers, some family numbers (used in Russian census lists) and the remaining simply used arbitrary numbering. This can make comparing the lists difficult.
- 1. <u>List of those Mennonites who wished to move from Volhynia to their Brethren in the Taurida Governorate</u>. 1833. Translated by Glenn Penner. Source: St. Petersburg Archives Reel 12, Fond 383, Opis 29, Delo 578.
- 2. <u>List of Mennonites who transferred from Volhynia to Waldheim and were assigned land in the year 1839</u>. Translated by Steve Fast. Source: Odessa State Archives Fond 6, Inventory 1 File 4889.

Note: 1 Desiatina = 1.09 hectares = 2.7 acres

3. <u>List of Mennonites who transferred from Volhynia to Waldheim and were assigned land in the year 1840</u>. Translated by Steve Fast. Source: Odessa State Archives Fond 6, Inventory 1 File 4889.

Note: 1 Desiatina = 1.09 hectares = 2.7 acres

- 4. <u>List of those assigned Wirtschaften in Waldheim in the years 1839 1841 according to files in the Peter J. Braun archives. Extracted by Glenn Penner. Source: Peter J. Braun Archives, File 738.</u>
- 5. <u>List of those in Waldheim who planted potatoes and flax in the spring of 1839</u>. Extracted and translated by Glenn Penner. Source: Peter J. Braun Archives File 575.

Note: 1 Chetwert = 2.1 hectoliters = 5.95 bushels, 1 Chetwerik = 1/8 Chetrwert

- 6. <u>Transfers to Waldheim from other Molotschna villages according to the 1835 census: 1839 to 1850. Compiled by Glenn Penner. Source: 1835 Census of the Molotschna Mennonite Colony:</u> Odessa State Archives Fond 89 File 357.
- 7. <u>List of those moving back to Volhynia and those remaining in Waldheim. 1845. Translated by Steve Fast. St. Petersburg Archives Fond 383, Opis 8, File 7169.</u>
- 8. Waldheim voter lists for the years 1847 and 1851. Extracted by Glenn Penner. Source: Odessa State Archives Fond 6, Inventory 2, Files 10510 and 13128.
- 9. <u>The 1850 census of Heinrichsdorf, Volhynia. Translated by Steve Fast with GRANDMA numbers by Glenn Penner. Source: State Archives of Zhytomyr Oblast: Fond 58, Opis 1, Delo 959.</u>

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