



## Reviews

### **[Rev.]: Viktor Petkau. Kondratjewka. Geschichte des Dorfes und das Sckicksal seiner Bewohner gesammelt, zusammengefasst und aufgestellt von Viktor Petkau. Stienhagen: Samenkorn, 2017. - 312 s.**

At the present stage of the development of the national historiographic process, the tendency towards fixing the scientific interest of scholars and ethnographers on the study of little-known Aspects of regional history, which, due to the ideological circumstances of the Soviet past, were seized by official science from the problem field of domestic discourse, was clearly outlined. It is necessary to stress the recent appeal of the scientific community to various socio-economic, socio-cultural plots of local history of the south of Ukraine, devoted to the illumination of the historical trajectory of socio-economic, socio-cultural development of individual settlements, economic activity of regional industrial infrastructure objects, educational establishments, public societies, unions.

The growth of the general interest of scholars in regional problems is dictated mainly by the desire to analyse how, through the prism of micro history of individual families, small local social groups, the settlements re-edited social and political events of "great history", transforming the existing socio-cultural traditions, changing existing social and industrial practices, deforming the traditional way the lives of ordinary inhabitants, creating a new social landscape and colonies.

It should be noted that, by the beginning of the 1990s, for the political and ideological reasons, the history of Mennonite settlements in the south of Ukraine was beyond the focus of research attention of scientists. Only in recent decades, it has become the subject of studies, noting the numerous socio-cultural and economic achievements of the colonial community in various areas of public life and the economic system of the region.

In 2017, in the publishing house Zamenkorn, the city of Steinhagen (Federal Republic of Germany), a small copy (600 copies) of the work of Victor Petkau (Dortmund, Germany), the current member of the Vejerhovsky Mennonite Historical Union, was published under the title «Kondratjewka». The history of the village and the fate of its inhabitants, collected, processed and laid out by Viktor Petkau".

This work is devoted to a meaningful coverage of the historical stages of the formation and development of a daughter settlement of the Mennonite colonists of the Complex of the Settlement Khor-tytza. From the moment of the settlement's establishment in 1885 to 1941, the deportations of the population of the colony carried out by the punitive organs of the Soviet power were in the quarries of the Santurin Bakhmut district of the Yekaterinoslav province (now the Kidrativka village of Konstantinovsky district of the Donetsk region).

Through his extensive work of factography, the author de facto continues the old intellectual traditions of the historiography of Mennonites, which was mostly thematically focused on the descriptive presentation of the local history of settler complexes, religious communities, and individual families of colonists. Historical memory is one of the important structural elements of the ethnoconfessional identity of the Mennonite community, which to some extent explains the presence among the colonists of a rather powerful intellectual tradition of describing the historical past, including the history of settlements. First of all, this is a consequence of the specific public perception of the Mennonite community of past congregations, the desire to comprehend the acquired historical experience, social practices through the prism of theological providentialism of the Mennonite doctrine.

As it follows from the contents of the entry of labour, to study the history of the colony Kindrativka spurred the researcher for stories and talks about life in this village of the older generation of his family: the grandfather A. Petkau and his father D. Petkau. The author put significant interest into the history of the family in the materials of the diary by A. Petkau, which contained in detail the biographical moments of the life of the former colonist from 1948 to 1979. V. Petkau's special attention attracted the memoirs of his grandfather contained in the diary. They became one of the important components of the source base, on the basis of which the researcher reconstructed the history of the colony and the fate of its inhabitants.

The work of V. Petkau is the result of many years of fruitful research activity of the author on the accumulation and processing of historical sources that contain information about the past colony. The researcher managed to compensate for the low informativeness of the archival materials by sources of personal origin: numerical memoirs, memoirs, diaries, testimonies of ordinary residents of the colony and their descendants living in the Russian Federation, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, the United States of America, the Federal Republic of Germany, Canada, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Most of these materials are inaccessible to use and analytical work for the wider scientific community, which makes this intelligence extremely interesting for domestic scholars in the history of the Mennonite community, "the history of everyday life" and local ethnographers.

Structurally, the work of Viktor Petkau consists of two parts. In the first part the author outlined a meaningful sketch of the history of the settlement from the moment of its foundation to the present. In the second part the researcher offers memoirs, memoirs and biographies of the owners of the majority of the farmsteads of the colonies and their descendants, which illustrate the historical stages of settlement development against the backdrop of large-scale historical processes of the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century.

In the first part of V. Petkau's book, an analysis of the migration movements of representatives of the Mennonite community of Molochnaya and Khortytza on the territory of the Bakhmut district of Ekaterinoslav province was carried out, and the socio-economic reasons that stimulated the migration of the landless population to new territories were given. In the paper, small intelligence is devoted to the elucidation of the biographical milestones of life, financial, trading and economic activity of merchants Borisovsky — landowners, who were purchased by representatives of the Mennonite congregations to establish a new subsidiary complex.

Based on a wide range of archival and print sources, the researcher has thoroughly reconstructed the process of initial economic adaptation of the colonists, outlined the circumstances of the formation of the economic system of settlements of the subsidiary complex, the history of the development of the mill industry: steam mills belonging to G. Eckert, V. Frisen, A. Wibe, J. Kastdorf, J. Leven, A. Gerzen, J. Braun.

Describing the historical trajectory of the colony's life, the researcher could not ignore the military-political events of the First World War, the Feb-

ruary, October revolutions, the Civil War. In particular, the author gives interesting information about the service of residents of the colony in the sanitary detachments of the Red Cross during the First World War, in paramilitary formations of local self-defence of colonists, military units of the Wrangel army during the Civil War.

Restoring the general situation in the colony in the early 20-ies of the twentieth century, V. Petkau teaches a dramatic picture of total economic destruction, caused by the consequences of the Civil War and the expropriator policy of the Bolsheviks, which led to the loss of the colonists a significant part of the land ownership that they owned.

Using data from statistical sources, the author attempts to recreate the peculiarities of the economic life of the settlement during the NEP, on the specific factual material, indicating the specifics of the development of the economic infrastructure, which was characterized by an increase in the total area of agricultural crops, a general increase in the number of drag and livestock. In parallel, the researcher notes the restoration of production activities of industrial facilities in the processing industry in colonial settlements: private and cooperative steam mills, oil mills, brick factory.

The author of the emigration of colonists to Canada and Paraguay, which became a kind of escalating reaction by the representatives of the Mennonite community on the socio-economic experiments of Soviet power in the economic system of the colonies, was not overlooked by the significant strengthening of the anti-religious policy of the Bolshevik internal policies of the colonial religious communities, which was accompanied by political harassment of congregations, the closure of churches and prayer houses, the persecution of religious leaders, church activists and ordinary believers.

The dramatic scenes related to the collectivization and dispossession of the Mennonite population of the colony, which gave a new impetus to the further destruction and decline of the traditional socio-cultural structure of the community, were accompanied by numerous political repressions against former owners of large farms, enterprises and industrial objects, wealthy colonists, ordinary inhabitants and members of their families. Former gulags were expelled from the colony, and in their settlements were placed Russians and Ukrainians resettled by Soviet authorities from other districts of the Donetsk region and other regions of the USSR.

V. Petkau, on the basis of the analysis of numerous witnesses' testimonies, materials of the family

archives, outlines a large panorama of the political persecution of Soviet power towards representatives of the Mennonite congregations of Borisovo. In his research, the author lists numerous repressed inhabitants of the colonies who were arrested by the NKVD authorities from 1929 to 1939, indicating their biographical data, the circumstances of the arrest and the subsequent fate.

The beginning of the Second World War for the population of the colonies was marked by a new massive wave of repression and political persecution. During this period, 10 residents of the colony and neighboring Mennonite villages were arrested, detained and repressed.

In the history of the Mennonite community of the Kindratovka, the period of the Stalinist deportation occupies a special place, which has become a peculiar water source in the lives and fate of the ordinary inhabitants of the colonies, turning them into victims of the Stalinist punitive machine. According to the author's estimates, 75 families of colonists were deported [s.51-53]. Most of the inhabitants of the Kindrativka deported to the Chkalovsky area the Pohvistnevo station for the construction of industrial facilities, where they worked as part of the Trudarmia units until 1955, when the commandant's office and general administrative supervision of the colonists were cancelled.

In the second part of his work, V. Petkau provided memoirs, stories, letters, biographies, documents and photographs of the inhabitants of the colony, who collected as a result of his many years of heuristic searches devoted to the study of the history of the colony. In particular, in this part we present the memoirs of A. Petkau, D. Petkau, M. Alber, E. Rupp, I. Weinberg, A. Neubauer, M. Frese, F. Savadsky, A. Savadskaya, P. Schroeder, M. Pfaffengut, J. Kasdorf, Fr. Savadsky, I. Ertel, A. Braun (recorded by G. Braun's grandson), I. Buckert, J. Frese, K. Frisen, a story about the history of life in the Zaborsky colony, P. Rempel, A. Eckert, D. Neudorf, S. Rempel, G. Leven, V. Kasdorf, F. Savadsky, R. Kovtunenko, E. Lorenz, G. Leven, J. Kasdorf, B. Lepp.

In addition to the memoirs in the second part, the author presents the biographies of the inhabitants of the colony: Y. Levena, K. Janzen, P. Schro-

eder, P. Neudorf, G. Frese, I. Frese, P. Frese, G. Frese, B. Frese, J. Rempel, I. Rempel, J. Klassen, P. Letkeman, P. Savadsky, J. Gamma, A. Gamma, A. Gerzen, K. Gerzen, A. Harms, V. Frisen, V. Leven, N. Leven, N. Dick, D. Rempel, A. Epp, K. Janzen, Autobiography of A. Casdorf, G.Hildebrandt. In addition, V. Petkau gives a significant passage from the work of G. Hildebrandt, devoted to the illumination of his life in the colony.

The sources of personal origin used by the researcher allow to analyse meaningfully and reconstruct the psycho-emotional reaction of the population of the colonies to the political processes of the First World War, the Civil War, to determine the public opinion and assess the representatives of the Mennonite congregations regarding the socio-economic transformations of Soviet power during the policy of military communism and the NEP, to investigate the attitude of the colonial community to the events related to the dispossession, the political harassment of the colonial power of the national sign. These documents make it possible to recreate the general atmosphere of the gradual destruction of the traditional life of the colonists, caused by social experiments of Soviet power.

Particular attention deserves the materials, which contains the memoirs and narratives of the residents of the Kindrativka about the organization and the course of the forced deportation of the colonists, the circumstances of the stay and production activities of the Mennonites and their families in the numerical camps and special settlements of the Gulag, there were few attempts to return to the small Motherland after the abolition of the regime of special settlements and the commandant's office.

The work of Viktor Petkau is fairly well illustrated by unique photographs, copies of original documents that were provided by the author to former settlers and their descendants from their own family archives.

Victor Petkau's research is addressed to a wide range of researchers who study the history of the Mennonite community of Ukraine, "everyday life," and to all those interested in the regional history of the South of Ukraine.

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