

MOLOCHANSK GERMANS, MENNONITES AND THE SURROUNDINGS SOCIETY: FEATURES OF THE LAND RELATIONS

Alla Krylova¹, Natalia Schkoda², Aleksiy Zamuruysev³, Aleksandr Zhiryakov⁴
Melitopol State Pedagogical University named after Bogdan Khmel'nitsky, Ph.D. in History, Associate Professor
(Ukraine)¹;
Melitopol State Pedagogical University named after Bogdan Khmel'nitsky, Ph.D. in History, Associate Professor
(Ukraine)²;
Melitopol State Pedagogical University named after Bogdan Khmel'nitsky, Ph.D. in History, Associate Professor
(Ukraine)³;
Melitopol State Pedagogical University named after Bogdan Khmel'nitsky, Ph.D. in History, Associate Professor
(Ukraine)⁴
e-mail: allakr2006@yandex.ru1; igor.schckoda@yandex.ua2; grifon632@rambler.ru3; alzhiryakov@mail.ru4

ABSTRACT

In article features of the land conflicts between ethnic Germans, Mennonites and the state peasants are considered. These conflicts can be divided into three types: conflicts resulting from incorrect demarcation of land, conflicts among ethnic groups and between them, conflicts with the government

Keywords: Germans, Mennonites, South Ukraine, conflicts, land site, legislative acts on the closure of the German land tenure.

РЕЗЮМЕ

В статье рассматриваются особенности земельных конфликтов между этническими немцами, меннонитами и государственными крестьянами. Эти конфликты можно разделить на три типа: обусловлены неправильным разграничением земли, конфликты в среде этнических групп и между ними, конфликты с правительством.

Ключевые слова: немцы, меннониты, Юг Украины, конфликты, земельный надел ликвидационные законы.

РЕЗЮМЕ

В статті розглядаються особливості земельних конфліктів між етнічними німцями, менонітами та державними селянами. Ці конфлікти можна поділити на три типи: обумовлені неправильним розмежуванням землі, конфлікти в середовищі етнічних груп і між ними, конфлікти з урядом.

Ключові слова: німці, меноніти, Південь України, конфлікти, землеволодіння, ліквідаційні закони.

INTRODUCTION

Joining the vast territories in the south of the Russian Empire and the need for economic development led to relocation to the territory of different ethnic and religious groups. The result was the formation of multi-ethnic society that has arisen on the basis of proximity to land holdings and relative isolation from the central government. One important element of society emerged were ethnic Germans and ethnic and religious representatives of the Mennonites. They receive substantial acreage in the region, led to their involvement in almost all conflicts related to land. Encyclopedia defines conflict as a clash of opposing interests, views and aspirations [7]. Historian S.J. Borovoy, defines the term "struggle for the land" as a struggle for the redistribution of land among different categories of population: peasants, settlers, landowners and others [1, 371]. Using this point of view in our study, we can add that in the Melitopol district of the problem with the redistribution of land existed not only among the social categories of the population, but also between the government and the public. In addition, they bore an ethnic coloration.

Land conflicts in the Melitopol district can be divided into three types:

- conflicts resulting from incorrect demarcation of land, and fuzzy boundaries between plots (from the beginning of settlement to the 1830, when ended the first phase of adaptation [21]);
- conflicts among ethnic groups and between them due to lack of land and overpopulation (1830. - The second half of the 19th century);
- conflicts with the government (the end of the 19th century – 1917), due to the emergence of anti-German sentiment in Russian society and the outbreak of II World War.

Weak tool support at the initial stage of resettlement land development led to the fact that the amount of land originally allocated to the settlers during the shooting frequently did not correspond to its actual area. The result was a series of land disputes with neighboring Germans. An example is the dispute Germans Molochansk kolonists County with the peasants of village Mikhaylovka incurred in 1825.

Materials and methods

In the land section number 14 was identified shortfall. 9547 desyatin of land of the settlers were busy with the peasants of Mikhaylovka and 3694 desyatin of peasant villages were annexed to Mikhaylovka kolonists district. Thus, the land of the colonists had to add the 5853 desyatin. Michael put out the peasants. By agreement of the St. Michael's farmers and society of the colonists, the surveyor noted this deficiency in the plan, which

Ekaterinoslavskaya Office of Foreign Settlers posted February 10, 1825 in an expedition Tauride asking about adding a 5853 desyatin of land to Molochansk colonists district. Treasury expedition waiting for an answer on the issue of Land Survey Office. Last found at Mikhaylovka's peasants only 15 607 desyatin 542 fathom excess land. This land was given to the disposal of the Treasury Expeditions, which did not turn in order the replacement. Since September 29, 1835 from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Department of Economic Division) to the Minister of Finance came a petition to replace the 5853 colonists desyatin of land. At the same time, it was stated that the petition of the colonists Minister of Internal Affairs considers all valid [15].

By the conflict also resulted in a lack of clear boundaries between allotments. In 1819, the Committee of Ministers discussed the complaint with the peasants of Tokmak with Mennonites. Mennonites were not allowed their cattle to the fields, captured from the fields of corn and hay. Peasants estimated its losses at more than one thousand rubles. The complaint was a petition for division of land among the peasants and the Mennonites, the eviction of two Mennonite colony near Tokmak, as well as the return of the peasants their damages.

The chief guardian of the colonists of the southern edge of Russia lieutenant general Inzov, could explain the problems. Tokmac peasants have arranged their village on the river Begim-Chokrak among Mennonite possessions. The peasants, living on the border ownership of the Mennonite village Ryukkenau, due to carelessness left unattended their cattle, which came on Mennonite land and inflicted losses. Mennonites stopped cattle, and this led to problems.

To stop the conflict Inzov suggested farmers to resettle in Tokmak, leaving his 3000 desyatin on the left sides of the river Begim-Chokrak. The rest of the land he proposed to give the Mennonites. Minister of the Interior agreed with this decision. But on these 3000 desyatin disputes arose again, as in this case tokmacs people lost more than 6000 desyatin of land assigned to them by the Military Governor of Kherson Duc de Richelieu. As a result, Count Kochubey found that farmers have more land per capita ratio set. He decided that there is no reason to leave the peasants more than 15 desyatin per capita. Finally it was decided to leave the peasants 3000 desyatin and Mennonites pass 9340 desyatin [16].

After the establishment of clear boundaries between allotments conflicts with its neighbors practically ceased. However, at later stages of development of the territory, the problems encountered in the environment of ethnic groups.

End of the first adjustment period was characterized by reduction in the area of free land and overpopulation area of Melitopol district [20, 84]. Since that time, ie 30s begins a struggle for the redistribution of land among the settlers, one social or ethnic group, due to the reduction of free land areas and increasing social differentiation in their society. In general, conflicts of this kind can be divided into three groups: among the colonists (Germans, Mennonites), the state peasants and sects, the Doukhobors. The problems were caused by the colonists reduction in the number of spare land, inheritance rules and indivisibility of allotments. Here, it should make a reservation, that the German colonists of Melitopol district problems with landlessness began later than in the Mennonite Berdyansk. The reason for this was that the Mennonites when moving very quickly divided among themselves all the spare land, and the Germans, by contrast, slow shared additional land [20, 81–82]. The distinguishing feature of such problems among the Germans is no evidence of any complaints to the government or claims against each other. In this case, the present persistent belief that community leaders will find an alternative way to fight landlessness [20, 81]. We can say that it was more a social rather than legal conflicts.

In turn, the lack of land has been a catalyst to strengthen contacts with their neighbors the Germans, which resulted in the intensification of the purchase and lease of land.

In another light appear problems with the land from the state of the peasants. The conflicts were caused by the emergence of new villages and towns. They appeared on the distant margins of the community sometimes at her request, and often at the initiative of private individuals. Usually hutoryane did not ask any permission from the company to settle. The old settlement claims and claimed the land occupied by farms, and the villagers themselves, who have shied away from the natural duties. Hutoryane refused to return, do not throw their farm and did not give ground. Conflict begins. Hutoryane appealed to the authorities and were separated from the community (Green, Peskoshnoe), and sometimes still obey the public and handed over the farm. Farms, which are then developed villages, inhabited came not one but several neighboring communities, for this reason, raises a number of clashes that lasted until the 1840s [2, 42]. We should also examine conflict between the authorities and Dukhobors County. Large plots of Doukhobor cause confusion among local officials who did not understand what the Doukhobors have earned such a privilege. The area of land allocated to them from 1804 to 1820 in general was 48 673 desyatin of convenient and inconvenient land 6066 [6, 34–109]. Take advantage of the Doukhobors in the environment of the problems associated with multiple alleged murders and robberies, a series of complaints and reports to the Senate, they got eviction Doukhobors. The central government officials, concerned about the reduction of land for state peasants throughout the empire, was dubious charges and agreed to the eviction. A large role in this played opinion Mennonites Johann Kornisa, which is very negative attitude to the Doukhobors, and to which after the expulsion took over a significant amount of land Doukhobors [20, 87–107].

The third type of conflict are problems with the government, arising from the anti-German sentiment in the strengthening of Russian society because of the increased extent of Mennonite and German holdings, which limited their support to the government [8]. Ability to sell and buy land led to an increase in the number of privately-owned German farms and made them one of the biggest landowners in the region. Thus, if in the first

years of settlement land for ethnic Germans was a means of survival, by the end of the 19th century it became a way of accumulating capital.

The analysis shall be prepared annually Melitopol local boards "Sheets consist in the possession of land in rural communities, private landowners, church clergy and other agencies" for 25 years (from 1889 to 1914) makes it possible to trace in detail the trends in the German private land ownership in the Melitopol uyezd, Tavrid gubernia [9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14].

In studying of German private land ownership were analyzed lists of landowners, local boards composed Melitopol uyezd, of which the Germans have been selected landowners. Calculations were performed at intervals of 5 years.

With the possible incompleteness of the sample were identified variations in the total area of German estates, with a general tendency to increase it. From 1889 to 1894 the amount of land has increased from 17905.75 to 27839.3 desyatin, i.e. on 64%. By 1899 the number had fallen to earth 21218.3 desyatin., And increased again to 1904, but only slightly - on 7% (up to 22636.8 desyatin). Over the next five years the number of privately owned land increased by 38% (up to 31150.9 desyatin), Mainly due to the transfer of land in 1908, six rural communities and the public section of the sheepfold to private ownership. By 1914, the amount of land has increased by only 1.4% (up to 31580.3 desyatin).

Thus, from 1889 to 1914, the total area of private land ownership of German (including land in rural communities) increased on 76%.

According to Zemstvo statistics for the same period was to investigate the dynamics of private land ownership within the German media.

To study [9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14], we took the 12 most frequently occurring German surnames: Albrecht, Keller, Lukovic, Lutz, Surf, Faltz-Fein, Fein, Fisher, Tsener Schwartz, Ulmer.

In 1889 they owned 20 site. The average area of size was 647.4 desyatin. The owner of the large estates (3470 desyatin) Gustav I. Faltz-Fein. The smallest segment (3.5 desyatin In the village of Peschanoe, Terpenevskaya volost) owned by Peter G. Lukovic.

1894 at presence of 22 sites, the average of one was 618.5 desyatin. Joint owners the largest estates (8188.5) was a titular councilor Charles Antonovich Durante, and villager-owner Andrey Fisher. The two smallest sites (Each at 49.25 desyatin) owned by Gustav and Christian J. Schwartz.

In 1899, the quantity of sites has not changed, but the average size of land ownership has increased to 812.9 desyatin. The owners of the largest ownership remained K.A. Durante and G.I. Fisher, but their ownership has decreased to 4100 desyatin. The owner of the smallest ownership was still Peter G. Lukovic (the area of his site was reduced to 2.5 desyatin).

In 1904, the number of holdings remained unchanged, while the average size has increased slightly – up to 866.9 desyatin. The owner of the smallest area was still P.G. Lukovic, and the largest portion (6020 desyatin Agaymanskoy estate at the Ivanovo district) owned by Countess Elizabeth E. Keller, with his comrades.

In 1909, in the presence of 30 sites, and their average size has decreased to 536 desyatin. Owner of the largest estates (3470 desyatin in Matveevka, Michael volost) was Frederick E. Faltz-Fein. The smallest site is still owned by P.G. Lukovic.

In 1914, the number of sites increased to 31 and the average size has decreased to 477 desyatin. The owners of the smallest and largest ownership remained P.G. Lukovic and Countess of E.E. Keller, respectively.

Conclusions

Thus, the surnames recorded in the 25 years the number of holdings increased from 20 to 31, and the average tenure reduced on 26%. [9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14].

Initially, despite the strengthening of anti-German sentiments in society, Mennonites and Germans continued to receive government assistance. In 1905 a law was passed, by which, for the purchase of the former colonists land there were no restrictions [3].

Yet gradually, the government was inclined to limit the tenure of Mennonites and Germans. This is evidenced by correspondence in the years 1906–1908 Land Management and Soil The chief Knyaz Vasilchikov with Earthen Department of Internal Affairs. It discussed the limitation of the settlers, the owners (the former German colonists, among whom were included and Mennonites) in the acquisition of that bank, crown and state lands on the same footing with the peasants, with the assistance of the Peasant Land Bank. It was alleged that the villagers, the owners can not be attributed to one of those rural populations that need special assistance to the Government of the land management, and represent the most prosperous class of the agricultural population. Knyaz Vasilchikov suggested that the villagers-owners in each province needs to sell that area, designed to eliminate the land that would have been no more than their percentage of the population of the same province to the entire agricultural population of the latter. He also considered it necessary to explain the land use planning to the Commission that the fact of landlessness bidders shall be invoked to provide them priority to facilitate the purchase of land, and that such assistance should be rendered only in light of the totality of the economic conditions of applicants for the purchase of land officials.

On this subject Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs said that the distribution operations of the Peasant Land Bank settlers on proprietors (former colonies), even in exceptional cases, is undesirable [18].

About the infringement the rights of Mennonites and Germans of Melitopol district demonstrated by the fact that in Statement of Melitopol district council estates in 1915 among the 1732 names of landowners received during 1908–1913 sites from the Treasury or the Peasant Land Bank does not have the names of Mennonites and Germans.

The beginning of World War increased an anti-German sentiment in the Empire. During the period 1915–1916 the imperial government adopted a series of legislative acts on the closure of the German land tenure. Unclear laws and especially the liquidation of war led to a situation in which only a small portion of land holdings included in the lists of liquidation has been evaluated and put up for sale. In order of these laws in 1915–1916 Peasant Land Bank purchased the 59 Mennonite estates, whose geography is vast. As an example, the estate P.Y. Reimer in Serogozskaya volost, A.I. Martens estate at Veselovskaya volost. The estate of F. and A.F. Wiebe in Yuzkuyskaya volost [17].

March 21, 1917 Minister of Agriculture A. Shingarev by telegram to prevent the reduction in planted area in 1917, asked Hubersky Kommissarov make widely known the villagers-owners whose land came under the statutes of suspended February 2 and February 13, 1915 and additional provisions to them that:

1) all assigned to the elimination of kolonists lands that have not yet taken the Peasant Bank (even if the data they have already been awarded a senior notary) and for which the calculation is not made, remain in the enjoyment of the previous owners, with no obligation to make the latest Bank of any lease payments;

2) conservation of land already placed at the disposal of the Peasant Bank to use the former owners, as well as the establishment of conditions for such use depends in each case the agreement with the previous owners by the Bank [4, 72].

March 24, 1917 Gubernsky Commissar, Chairman of the Tauride provincial zemstvo in its turn signed a document which required notification of villagers, the owners (the German colonists and Mennonites) on liquidation of their estates. Those estates that have already been received into the possession of the Bank, the owners are not subject to refund. The estate remained with the owner, in case it was made in the liquidation list, but has not yet been sold, and if the sale or purchase documents were not approved, or the Bank shall not be accepted by the receiving property inventories. [5, 5].

Such a policy of the state, of course, led to a reduction the areas of German and Mennonite estates in the Melitopol uyezd [19]. In Soviet times, conflicts with the German government has become more acute, but were somewhat different.

***Notes:**

Уезд – uyezd – was an administrative subdivision of Rus', Muscovy, Russian Empire, and the early Russian SFSR which was in use from the 13th century. Uyezds for most of the history in Russia were a secondary-level of administrative division.

Губерния – guberniya – was a major administrative subdivision of the Russian Empire usually translated as government, governorate, or province. Such administrative division was preserved for sometime upon the collapse of the empire in 1917. A guberniya was ruled by a governor (губернатор, gubernator), a word borrowed from Latin gubernator, in turn from Greek kybernetes. Sometimes the term guberniya was informally used to refer to the office of a governor. This subdivision type was created by the edict (ukase) of Peter the Great on December 18, 1708, which divided Russia into eight guberniyas. In 1719, guberniyas were further subdivided into provinces (провинции, provintsii). Later the number of guberniyas was increased to 23.

Десятина – desyatina – is an archaic land measurement used in tsarist Russia. A dessiatina is equal to 2400 square sazhen and is approximately equivalent to 2.702 English acres or 10,900 square metres.

Колонист – colonist – is a person who has migrated to an area and established permanent residence there, often to colonize the area. Settlers are generally people who take up residence on land and cultivate it, as opposed to nomads. Settlers are sometimes termed "colonists" or "colonials" and—in the United States – "pioneers".

Надел – hideland – the earth's surface whose boundaries are determined in accordance with federal laws.

Меннониты – Mennonites – are a group of Christian Anabaptist denominations named after the Frisian Menno Simons (1496–1561), who, through his writings, articulated and thereby formalized the teachings of earlier Swiss founders. The teachings of the Mennonites were founded on their belief in both the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ, which they held to with great conviction despite persecution by the various Roman Catholic and Protestant states. Rather than fight, the majority survived by fleeing to neighboring states where ruling families were tolerant of their radical belief in adult baptism. Over the years, Mennonites have become known as one of the historic peace churches because of their commitment to nonviolence.

Сажень – Fathom, or sazhen (syazhen, Sazhenkov, direct fathom) – Old Russian unit of measurement range. In the XVII century, primary measure was the Treasury seven feet, equal to 2.16 m, and contains three feet (72 cm) to 16 inches. On October 11, 1835, under the direction of Nicholas I «On the system of Russian weights and measures," length fathoms was equated to the length of seven feet of English, that is exactly 2.1336 meters to [1]. With the introduction in 1924, the USSR metric system fell into disuse.

1 sazhen = 7 ft English = 84 inches = 2.134 meters

REFERENCES

1. Боровой С.Я. О некоторых особенностях аграрного строя Степной Украины в предреформенный период // Ежегодник по аграрной истории Восточной Европы. 1962 г. – Минск : Наука и техника. – 1964. – С. 368–377.
2. Васильчик В.М. Міграційні шляхи німецьких поселенців в Україні у кінці XVIII – на початку XIX ст. // Історична пам'ять. – 2000. – № 1–2. – С. 164.

3. Вернер К., Харизоменов С. Сборник статистических сведений по Таврической губернии. Крестьянское хозяйство в мелитопольском уезде. – М., 1887. – т. 1, вып. II. – VIII, 128, 45, 131, 51 с.
4. Государственный архив в Автономной Республике Крым (ГААРК), ф. 71, оп. 2, д. 18, 115 л. Циркулярные распоряжения Крестьянского Поземельного банка о порядке приобретения на торгах имущества немецкого землевладения.
5. ГААРК, ф. 71, оп. 2, д. 19, л. 5об. Циркулярные письма о приостановлении ликвидации землевладения.
6. Государственный архив Херсонской области, ф. 14, оп. 2, д. 70, 218 л. Дело об отмежевании земли в оброчное содержание духоворческим селениям в Мелитопольском уезде. Сведения о количестве земель и наличии населения в слободе Ефремовке. 4 августа 1821 – 14 июня 1823 гг.
7. Конфликт // Большая Советская Энциклопедия. – 3-е изд. – М., 1975. – Т. 13. – С. 84.
8. Панченко П.П., Марчук В.А. Аграрна Історія України: Підручник. – К. : Т-во „Знання”, КОО. – 2000. – 342 с.
9. Постановления XXIV очередного Мелитопольского Уездного Земского Собрания. 1889 г. – Мелитополь : 1890. – нум. стр. разная.
10. Постановления XXIX очередного Мелитопольского уездного Земского Собрания. 1894 г. – Мелитополь : 1895. – IV, 486 с.
11. Постановления Мелитопольского уездного Земского Собрания XXXIV очередной сессии созыва 5–8 октября 1899 г. и чрезвычайных сессий : 7 Апреля 1899 г. и 2 Июля 1899 г. – Мелитополь : 1900. – II, 2, 404, I, 8, I, 9 с.
12. Постановления Мелитопольского уездного Земского Собрания XXXIX очередной сессии созыва 27–30 сентября 1904 г. – Мелитополь: 1905. – V, 531, 58 с.
13. Постановления Мелитопольского очередного уездного Земского Собрания 44-й очередной сессии созыва 24–29 сентября 1909 г. – Мелитополь : 1910. – IV, V, 593 с.
14. Постановления Мелитопольского очередного уездного Земского Собрания 49-й очередной сессии созыва 10–15 ноября 1914 года и чрезвычайного уездного Земского Собрания созыва 16 августа 1914 года. – Мелитополь : 1915. – VI, 27, 884, 253 с.
15. Российский государственный исторический архив (далее РГИА), ф. 383, оп. 30, д. 445, 60 л. Дело об отводе земель колониям в Мелитопольском уезде.
16. РГИА, ф. 1263, оп. 1, д. 183. О жалобе казённых крестьян селения Токмак, Мелитопольского уезда, Таврической губернии на притеснение их меннонитами во владении землёй.
17. РГИА, ф. 592, оп. 42, д. 1786. Книга имений приобретённых Банком в порядке узаконений 2 февраля и 13 декабря 1915 г.
18. РГИА, ф. 1291, оп. 54, д. 12. К вопросу о праве немецких колонистов на покупку земли при содействии Крестьянского поземельного Банка.
19. Списки населённых мест Российской Империи. – Вып. 41. – Таврическая губерния. – СПб., 1865. – 138 с.
20. Goerz H. The Molochna settlement. – Winnipeg, 1996. – 252 P.
21. Staples J. R. Cross-Cultural Encounters on the Ukrainian Steppe: Settling the Molochna Basin, 1783–1861. – University of Toronto Press Incorporated, 2003. – 253 P.