

# Court Cases involving Molotschna Mennonites: 1859–1860

## Odessa State Archives Fond 6 Inventory 4 File 23950

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### 1. Fire at Jacob **Stoesz** house

As per His Imperial Majesty's decree, on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1859, Berdyansk Uyezd Court and the Colonial Deputy have heard records [or "summary," lit. "note"] from the case of a fire that happened in Halbstadt colony, and as a result of which local Mennonite Jacob **Stoesz** has lost to fire a shed, hay, straw, and various tools, for a total value of 1,100 silver rubles. Conclusion: the Uyezd Court and the Colonial Deputy have determined from the circumstances of the case, which was presented before this court per article 280, book 2, vol. XV and followed proper procedure, that the reason for the fire that happened at Halbstadt colonist Jacob **Stoesz's** [property] was not uncovered, and that the proprietor himself and his ten neighbours state that they do not to know the cause of the fire and do not suspect anybody of arson. [The court's] opinion is that the fire should be attributed to the will of God until the explanation is discovered on its own. However, as per article 367 of the aforementioned book, without putting the conclusion into action, the case and the records are to be left to the discretion of His Excellency Governor of Tavrisheskaya Guberniya. The original is signed by Uyezd Judge Kuklyarskiy, Nobility Representative Dubskiy, Nobility Representative Rostovskiy, and Colonial Deputy Andre.

### 2. Fire at Houses of Tiege Mennonites

As per His Imperial Majesty's decree, on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1859 Berdyansk Uyezd Court and the Colonial Deputy have heard records [or "summary," lit. "note"] from the case of a fire that happened in Tiege colony, and as a result of which were destroyed homes, sheds, and various movable property belonging to Mennonites Martin **Hamm**, Peter **Friesen**, Heinrich **Wilms**, David **Wall**, Jacob **Wiebe**, and another Jacob **Wiebe**, for a total value of 9,809 rubles 50 kopeikas in silver. Conclusion: it was determined from the circumstances of the case, which was presented before this court as per article 280, book 2, vol. XV of the law [codex] and followed proper procedure, that the reason for the fire was not determined. When asked, the owners of the destroyed property said that they do not suspect anybody of arson. Mennonites, who were putting out the fire, have explained that the fire started from a shed that belonged to Martin **Hamm**, and thus suppose that the fire must have happened due to negligence of one of the workers smoking a pipe. Under these circumstances the Uyezd Court suggests that this case of fire should be attributed to the will of God until another explanation is discovered. However, as per article 367 of the aforementioned book, without putting the conclusion into action, the case and the records are to be left to the discretion and for approval of His

Excellency Civil Governor of Tavricheskaya Guberniya. The original is signed by Uyezd Judge Kuklyarskiy, Nobility Representative Dubskiy, Nobility Representative Rostovskiy, and Colonial Deputy Andre.

### 3. Theft of Wheat from the Mennonites Abraham **Matthies** and Abraham **Wiebe**

As per His Imperial Majesty's decree, on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1859, Berdyansk Uyezd Court and the Common Colonial Deputy have heard records [or "summary," lit. "note"] from the case of a theft of 95 chetverts and 1 chetverik<sup>1</sup> of wheat, which was being delivered to Berdyansk foreign guest Dzhurasovich, allegedly committed by state peasant Apseut Avbekirov from village Kotur-Oshu. Conclusion: as evident from the case, in 1838 and in 1839 Pordenau Mennonite Abraham **Matthies** bought wheat for Rudnerweide Mennonite Abraham **Wiebe**, who delivered it to Berdyansk on behalf of Berdyansk Foreign Guest [capitalized in the document] Nikolay Dzhurasovich, who lived there, on carts hired by Dzhurasovich himself. During the last transaction between Dzhurasovich and those who delivered the wheat, it turned out that 95 chetverts are missing from the shipment of wheat that was sent. Later it came to be known through a third person that the missing wheat was allegedly taken by Dzhurasovich's cart driver, a Nogai from settlement Kotur-Oshu Apseut Cheleby Avbekirov. However, during the investigation Avbekirov did not admit to the wrongdoing that he was accused of, and the circumstances of the case did not prove his guilt. As the investigation was underway, Nogai Avbekirov, who was accused of stealing the wheat, and Foreign Guest Nikolay Dzhurasovich both died, and thus the Uyezd Court and the Colonial Deputy have determined: although the suspicion that Apseut Cheleby Avbekirov, a Nogai from settlement Kotur-Oshu, has stolen 95 chetverts from the wheat delivered to Foreign Guest Nikolay Dzhurasovich in 1838 and 1839, was made known to Dzhurasovich, Avbekirov did not admit to this, his guilt was not proven, he has already died, and nobody else culpable for hiding or stealing this wheat was found in 20 years, thus in accordance with article 169, section 1 and article 172 of the Penal Code (ed. 1857), this case is to be closed and moved to the archives for storage, which is to be declared through the Berdyansk Zemstvo Court, followed by Abraham **Matthies** from Pordenau and Abraham **Wiebe** from Rudnerweide signing [a document confirming they heard it]. The original is signed by Uyezd Judge Kuklyarskiy, Nobility Representatives Dubskiy and Rostovskiy, and Colonial Deputy Andre.

### 4. Theft of Wheat from the Mennonite Johann **Funk**

As per His Imperial Majesty's decree, on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1859, Berdyansk Uyezd Court and the Colonial Deputy have heard records [or "summary," lit. "note"] from the case of a theft of 507 [silver?] rubles from Mariantal Mennonite Johann **Funk**, where the suspects are state peasants, Nogais from Mashkir village, Meligarib Assenov, Tulevali Konurbayev, and Odiney Avbekirov. Conclusion: as evident from the circumstances of the case, on August 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year Molochansk Mennonite District Office has reported under #5905 to the Police Chief of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stan of

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<sup>1</sup>1 chetvert is probably around 118.9 kg, 1 chetverik is probably about 14.86 kg, so the weight of wheat was 11310.36 kg

Bryanskiy uyezd that on the night of the 22<sup>nd</sup> that month, at 2 a. m., said Mennonite Johann **Funk**, who was in bed with his wife, was attacked by unknown robbers, and while Funk and his wife were almost strangled by the strong hand [sic!], another robber took 507 silver rubles from a chest that was near the bed. Namely: one 100 silver rubles bank note, six 50 rubles bank note, and four copper coin notes. When the robbers left, it was discovered from the barkeep of the Mariental pub that three unknown Nogais and the Mariental horseherd have been drinking there on the 21<sup>st</sup> until 10 p. m., which is why as per the instruction of the Village Office, aforementioned Nogais were caught by Mennonites, who gave chase, and delivered back to the colony, where their boots were compared to the traces found in Funk's garden, and also one of them turned out to be in possession of the money that was undoubtedly stolen from Funk. Thus, the Village Office delivered all three Nogais to the District Office so that further action could be taken. During the interrogation the three Nogais have stated when questioned:

1) Meligarib Sarsenbiyev Assenov and Tulevali Konurbayev agreed to make a trip to Pordenau colony to buy some household goods at a store there, and Kairle Assenov went to receive the 2 silver rubles 50 kopeikas owed to him by the horseherd of Mariental colony, which is next to Pordenau, Nogai Odiney. To this end they used the interviewee's own carriage, driven by his own horse, a bay gelding. Kairle added his brown horse. Into the cart they put two measures of wintercress to exchange it for goods, and Tulevali took a bag of wheat. Upon arrival to Pordenau the interviewee exchanged wintercress for 1 pound of soap, 1/4 pounds of tobacco, a piece of chalk, and around a pound of coffee at the store. Tulevali exchanged the wheat for a pair of shoes, and about 1 ruble in notes. From the store they went to the aforementioned horseherd Odiney, who repaid to Kairle the 8 1/2 rubles [sic!] in silver that he owed. They stayed at the stable master's until the evening, and then decided to have some vodka, and the four of them went to the pub in Mariental colony, where they had about a quart of vodka and wanted to go home to Mashkir. At the time, candles were still lit [in people's houses], but Odiney didn't let them go to Mashkir, advising them instead to spend the night with him near the horses, explaining that if after their departure some horses were stolen, the Germans might accuse him of willingly giving horses to his friends, and he will be in trouble. However, if some horses were to be stolen while they are all here, he could explain himself to the Germans, saying that strangers have been already spending the night with him, and he saw nobody suspicious. The reservations expressed by Odiney seemed reasonable to them, and so they agreed to spend the night near the horses, but to avoid German complaints and accusations that by spending the night in their steppe they have poisoned the grass with their horses, they have crossed the border between the German and the Nogai land, and on that Nogai land prepared to sleep. On sunrise, were approached by four men on horseback, who ordered them to immediately go to the Mariental colony's Schulz. When they came to the Schulz, he began demanding from them some money, allegedly stolen from some German last night. When they protested, some German hit the interviewee on the head twice on top of his hat, the Schulz hit Karlie, and the assembled Germans beat them further, pressing them to admit that they stole the money from the Germans. However, as they were innocent and didn't know who the thief was, the Germans kept beating

them. Then, on their instruction, the Germans examined their night camp, and everything was confirmed as per their statement. The interviewee was not guilty of the theft of the money that he and his friends were accused of, same as his friends, because they were always together. This was also the statement of the other Nogais: Kairle Assenov, and Tulevali Konurbayev, each additionally speaking of the beating that he received at the hands of the Germans. When the Nogais were examined, two of them had marks from a whip on their bodies.

Marienthal Mennonite Johann **Funk**, son of Adam, and his wife Anna [daughter of] Daniel stated during the interrogation:

1) on the night of the 21<sup>st</sup> of this past August, Johann Funk and his wife were sleeping, and nobody else was at home. At 12 at night, they woke up and heard [sic!] that somebody threw over them the pillows that were by the bed. Funk didn't get a chance to call out before some man grabbed him by the throat with one hand and covered his mouth with the other hand. Another villain did the same to his wife, and this continued for several minutes. Then those, who have been smothering them, left them and left the house. Whether they were two men or more was impossible to determine, as the night was dark, but his wife raised her hands out of fear, and grabbed the one who held her by the head, and noticed that he wore a Tatar hat, and so he [Funk] concluded that they were being smothered by Nogais. After the robbers left, Funk and his wife lit a candle and noticed that the chest that stood by the bed, and which by mistake had the key left in the keyhole since the evening, was open, and everything that was in the chest was scattered around the room, but none of the things, except for the key, were missing. As for the money that were in the chest, 507 silver rubles, 500 of them in notes: 1 100 r. note, 6 50 r. notes, and 4 25 r. notes that were kept in a separate box, those were missing. Coming to the house entrance, they noticed that a window frame near the doors was ripped out, which is how the robbers initially got into the house. At the same time, Schulz Franz **Derksen** was notified of what happened, and the Schulz soon came to [Funk's] place with Beisitzer Jacob **Dyck** and his neighbour Erts [Entz?]. The Schulz examined the disorder caused by the robbers and summoned the barkeep of the Marienthal public house Jacob **Boschmann**, from whom he learned that until 10 p. m. three Nogais from Mashkir village and local horseherd Odiney were in the pub. After that, in the morning, human traces were found in the garden near the house, and the Schulz was notified of that. The Schulz came with some Nogai and local Mennonites, examined the traces and determined that the traces belonged to the Nogai he brought with him, as the traces of the right foot only had a boot's sole in the middle section and at the heel, while the front section of the sole was missing, showing instead the traces of bare toes. Meanwhile, the right boot of the Nogai that the Schulz brought with him was missing the front section of the sole, and the traces made by that Nogai as per the Schulz's orders were identical to the traces left in the garden by the perpetrators. Half an hour later, two more Nogais were brought in, and all three Nogais were sent to the Molochansk Mennonite District Office. The Germans did not beat those Nogais and whether they are the ones, who robbed him, he Funk cannot say with confidence, as when the robbers were in his house he did not get to have a good look at them due to darkness.

2) The interviewee's wife Anna Funk reported the events same as her husband and added that because of being smothered by the unknown robber, she had blood come from her mouth and nose, dirtying the hands of the one who's been smothering her, which he wiped on her shirt, but which she has already washed. The statements made by the Schulz and other Mariental Mennonites provide no evidence that the aforementioned Nogais stole the money from Mennonite Funk, the Germans deny that they beat the Nogais, and the Nogais have not provided any witness statements to support their own.

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, this year, as per Johann **Funk**'s instructions, the Police Chief examined in the presence of the Colonial Deputy the window, through which the robbers entered on the night of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August. The window near the entrance was 1 1/2 arshins above the ground, 14 arshins long, and 1 arshin 6 vershoks wide, it was split in half by a wooden divider going from top to bottom, and had two frames, each with 6 panes of glass. These frames had no hinges and were held on one side by a wooden beam, which supported both frames at once, and the frames could be removed without any damage, and with care – without any noise. Once you enter the entryway through the window, you can freely enter the room, as the door there does not lock. After that was examined the garden, where unclear boot traces were found. The shape of these traces could not be well determined, as they were partially swept by the wind. For completeness, the boots worn by Nogai Kairle Assenov, and it turned out that both boots were completely worn down. The left one had no [some sole part], and no sole under the heel, so that [Assenov's own] heel could be seen through it. The right boot had [that sole part], but the front of the sole was first torn away and then sown back by a thick string, apparently recently. However, due to lack of certainty this circumstance cannot be treated as evidence in this case.

According to the victims of the robbery, Johann **Funk** with his wife, and to the other Mennonites, who apprehended the aforementioned Nogays in the steppe, one of them, namely Kairle Assenov, had on his hands the blood that came from Mrs. Funk's nose and mouth as she was being smothered during the robbery by unknown villains. In response to this, during the interrogation, Kairle Assenov explained that when he was apprehended along with his friends near Mariental colony by four unknown Germans, who took him to the colony, his hands were covered in dust, as before the trip to Mariental he was moving hay at home, and set out without washing his hands, but on the morning when he was apprehended by those four men, he did not dirty his hands with anything, and there were no blood stains on them. Instead, when his hands were examined by the Schulz and other people, they mistook for blood small dark reddish stains that he still has on his right hand and which remain from scabs he had long time ago. To prove this, Kairle Assenov demonstrated to those present his right hand, and there are Examination Records, which state that in fact on his wrist near the thumb there are dark reddish spots the size of a 5 silver kopeikas coin, almost the same colour as the skin on his hands, and also on his wrist there are barely noticeable reddish spots the size of a pea and smaller, there are 4 of them, and they disappear completely, when the hand is let to hang loose and blood fills them. The cause of all of these is probably a rush

that Kairle Assenov had a long time ago, but the colour of these spots is completely unlike the red marks of fresh human blood. Furthermore, according to Johann and Anna **Funk**'s statements, a notable amount of blood was spilled first by Anna and then, according to Johann **Funk**'s repeat statement, him as well, but it is impossible that the blood wouldn't stain the sheets or some other part of bedding, which would have to be presented for examination during the investigation. Instead, Anna **Funk** only said that her bloodied shirt, on which the unknown villain wiped his bloody hands, was already washed, but even then did not present it to the investigation.

Taking into consideration the described circumstances of the case, in accordance with articles 304 and 313 of volume XV part II of the Code of Law (1857 edition) the Uyezd court and the Colonial Deputy believe that as they did not admit to the wrongdoing and there is no sufficient evidence, the state peasants, Nogais from Mashkira village, Berdyansk uyezd, Mengkharib Assenov, 34, Kairle Assenov, 34, Tulevali Konurbayev, 25 (ages according to the 70<sup>th</sup> census), illiterate, on good behaviour, and the Nogai peasant from Second Kogan, Odiney Avbekirov, 42 years old according to the 10<sup>th</sup> census, illiterate and not on good behaviour, must be left as suspects in regards to the night robbery of Mennonite Johann Funk and the theft of 507 silver rubles according to section 1 of the aforementioned article 313, and the later, Odiney Avbekirov, who is not on good behaviour, shall be presented to the community that deemed his behaviour not good, in regards to making the decision: whether he should be left at his place of residence or sent to Siberia for resettlement. The cause for suspicion is first that they were in the pub on the night of the robbery; second, their guess about the theft of horses from the herd; third, the foresight that the accused had to move from German land to Nogai land for the night. Not putting this into action, according to article 365 of the same volume, this case and the summary are presented for review to the Tavricheskaya Office of Criminal Court, reporting also that the accused are under the watch of local police.

The original is signed by Uyezd Judge Kuklarskiy, Nobility Representative Dubskiy, Nobility Representative Rostovski, and Colonial Deputy Andre.

##### 5. Theft of a horse from Mennonite Heinrich **Buller** (Gnadenfeld)

As per His Imperial Majesty's decree, on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1860, the Berdyansk Uyezd Court and the Colonial Deputy have heard records [or "summary," lit. "note"] from the case of the horse recognized by the state peasant from Shekla village, Dzhumalazy Kendzhiyev, at Gnadenfeld colony's Mennonite Heinrich **Buller**'s, valued at 25 silver rubles.

Conclusion: on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1859, Shekla village Nogai Dzhumalazy Kendzhiyev recognized at Gnadenfeld Colony Mennonite's [place?] a light chestnut mare that went missing from him 5 years ago. That this horse belonged to Kendzhiyev was confirmed by 8 people from his settlement, while Mennonite **Buller** stated that he got this mare through barter with Mennonite Tobias **Schmidt** residing in Steinfeld colony, who in turn stated that he bartered that mare from another German. In the end, based on the investigation of the chain of ownership it turned out that the

horse originally was held by Sparrau Mennonite Jacob **Bekker**, who stated that he bartered it from Alexanderwohl Mennonite Jacob **Kroeker**, but the latter could not be questioned as he is dead, and **Bekker** could not provide any other evidence to support his story. Because of this, the Uyezd Court and the Colonial Deputy suggest that the mare recognized and already seized by Dzhumalazy Kondzhiyev, valued at 25 silver rubles, could be left in the possession of the one who provides [or “provided”] appropriate evidence of the ownership, then Sparrau Mennonite Jacob **Bekker** must repay the value of the horse to Gnadenfeld Mennonite Heinrich **Buller**, if he is not yet compensated and wishes to receive the compensation, seeking it from **Bekker** in accordance with article 1512, volume X, part 1 of Civil Code (1857 edition), and that the decision on this case is to be declared in the Court to Kendzhiyev, **Buller**, and **Bekker**, who are to be subpoenaed by the Berdyansk Zemskiy Court so that they come to hear the decision, and their signatures confirming they received the subpoenas are to be delivered to this Court as soon as possible.

The original is signed by Uyezd Judge Kuklarskiy, Nobility Representative Dubskiy, Nobility Representative Rostovskiy, and Colonial Deputy Andre.

#### 6. Fire at the houses of Hutterthal Mennonites **Hofer** Jacob, **Martens** Wilhelm, **Wurz** Adrian, **Wipf** Samuel

As per His Imperial Majesty’s decree, on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 1860, the Melitopol Uyezd Court and the Colonial Deputy have heard records [or “summary,” lit. “note”] from the case of a fire in Huttertal colony, as a result of which burned down four houses and various property for a total value of 3138 rubles 32 kopeikas in silver, belonging to local colonists Jacob **Hofer**, Wilhelm **Martens**, Adrian **Wurz**, and Samuel **Wipf**.

Conclusion: as the lawful investigation did not find anybody guilty of purposefully starting the fire that destroyed the homes and other property for a total value of 3138 rubles 32 kopeikas in silver belonging to Huttertal colonists Jacob **Hofer**, Wilhelm **Martens**, Adrian **Wurz**, and Samuel **Wipf**, and the cause of that fire was not determined, this event should be considered an accident, and this case can be closed and submitted in turn to the archive. The appropriate documents were prepared, but before putting this decision into action, the case with the summary and the decision are submitted for approval to His Excellency Civil Governor of Tavricheskaya Guberniya in accordance with article 367, volume XV of Criminal Code (1857 edition). The original is signed by Judge Kadygrob, Nobility Representative Yagshin, Nobility Representative Stavraki, and Colonial Deputy Andre.

#### 7. Debt of the Margenau Mennonite Martin **Kroeker**

As per His Imperial Majesty’s decree, on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1860, the Berdyansk Uyezd Court and the Colonial Deputy have heard records [or “summary,” lit. “note”] from the case of the money owed by Bazar Shamakov, a state peasant from a 2<sup>nd</sup> Kagan

village, to Marienau colony Mennonite Martin **Kroeker** according to two promissory notes, for a total debt of 253 rubles 3 kopeikas in silver.

Conclusion: it is apparent from the case that the state peasant from a 2<sup>nd</sup> Kogan village, Shamakov, borrowed from Marienau colony Mennonite Martin **Kroeker** 283 rubles 3 kopeikas in silver. According to the wardens of Kroeker's underage orphans and estate, Marienau Mennonites Heinrich **Hiebner** and Jacob **Langerman**, Shamakov has repaid 91 rubles 42 1/2 kopeikas in silver, which happened when **Kroeker** was still alive, in the form of giving the latter one horse valued at 34 rubles 28 1/2 kopeikas, one mule valued at 20 rubles, and one cow valued at 14 rubles 28 1/2 kopeikas, as well as [letting Kroeker] plant crops on Shamakov's plot of communal land, valued at 22 rubles 85 1/2 kopeikas. This leaves Shamakov with a debt of 161 rubles 61 1/2 kopeikas. Acknowledging this debt, peasant Shamakov stated that he has no means of repaying it due to poverty and lack of cash, his inability was confirmed by 6 people from his settlement. When questioned in this Uyezd Court on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1859 in order to determine the nature of his poverty [lit. "inability"], Shamakov stated that being poor for a long time he was driven to the limit by the fact that during the last war, for three years straight, seven times a year, he was appointed to Crimea with his carriages to transport supplies for the state, during which trip his working cattle and horses died along the way, and as there was nobody to pull the carriages, he had to leave them on the road, and for all of these losses he received no compensation. Six state peasants from Abulgapir village questioned on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 1859 after Shamakov was sent away state that they are well aware that during the last war their neighbour Bazar Shamakov provided his own carriages for military needs in Crimea and other places, giving them to appointed drivers, or hired carriages from other peasants, or went himself with his own carriages on the instructions of the local administration, up to 20 times. Although they do not know for certain the number of losses sustained because of this, they know that Shamakov, who was a decent proprietor before that, and did not squander his property, fell into complete poverty as the war started. According to them, the reason for that lies in the losses and expenditures suffered by Shamakov during the last war because of frequent appointments. Taking these circumstances of the case into consideration the Uyezd Court and the Colonial Deputy suggest: state peasant from a 2<sup>nd</sup> Kogan village Bazar Shamakov should be considered an incapable, unfortunate debtor in accordance with section 1 article 1019 volume X part 2 of Civil Code (1857 edition); the statements of his six neighbours confirm that Shamakov was driven to poverty because of frequent appointments during the last war, which caused him significant losses and expenses, and as Shamakov has no property that can be used to repay the debt, according to articles 1020 and 1021 of the same X-th volume, he can be released from the debt. The decision is to be declared in this court to **Kroeker's** heirs or their wardens, Mennonites Heinrich **Hiebner** and Jacob **Langerman**, as well as the debtor, Shamakov, with the unsatisfied party retaining the right to revoke this decision, and to submit this to be signed on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and in order for them to come on that day, they are to be subpoenaed by the Berdyansk Zemskiy Court.



The original is signed by Uyezd Judge Kuklarskiy, Nobility Representative Dubskiy, Nobility Representative Rostovskiy, and Secretary Belayev. Not agreeing with this decision, I attach my opinion. - March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1860, colonial Deputy Andre

#### Opinion

As state peasants can be appointed to community work, with the wage being taken for the benefit of the plaintiff, if they do not have property that can satisfy their debts, the same should be done with peasant Bazar Shamakov in accordance with articles 400, 401, 402, 403, and 404 of the Code of Law, volume XII, part 2 (1857 edition) of the Rules of Rural Courts for state peasants. March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1860

#### 8. Fire at the house of Johann **Hofer** (Johannesruh)

As per His Imperial Majesty's decree, on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1860, Melitopol Uyezd Court and the Colonial Deputy have heard records [or "summary," lit. "note"] from the case of the fire that happened in Johannesruh colony, which destroyed a shed, a barn, 2 horses, a plough, 50 sheep, and other property for a total cost of 800 silver rubles.

Conclusion: as lawful investigation has uncovered that the cause of the fire that destroyed local Mennonite Johann **Hofer's** shed, barn, 2 horses, plough, 50 sheep, and other property for a total cost of 800 silver rubles was the negligence of **Hofer's** worker Bolshebelozersk state peasant Fedor Lebed, who stated that on the evening of December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1859 he put a candle into a lantern and went to feed the horses as usual, after giving them fodder he hanged the lantern on a pillar, locked the stables, forgetting to extinguish the candle, and went for a walk. Having returned, he saw that hay was on fire and his master was trying to extinguish it with water. Therefore, Fedor Lebed must be fined for this negligence for the benefit of Mennonite **Hofer** in accordance with article 2195 of the Penal Statute, 1857 edition, book 1, in the amount of 100 silver rubles, and once this decision is put into action, he should be notified of that. Appropriate records have been made, but not put into action, the case with the summary and the decision are submitted for review to the Tavricheskaya Office of Criminal Court in accordance with article 369 volume XV book 2.

The original is signed by Judge Kadygrob, Nobility Representative Yagshin, Nobility Representative Stavradi, and Colonial Deputy Andre.

pp. 37-43 theft of horses in German colonies of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District; names: Gotlib Knitel (Rozenfeld), Johann Shekhler (Rozenal) [not needed]

#### 9. Insulting Thomas **Wiens** (Altonau) pp. 44-51

As per His Imperial Majesty's decree, on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1860, Melitopol Uyezd Court and the Colonial Deputy have heard records [or "summary," lit. "note"] from the case of peasants from Petrovka village, which belongs to landlady Buturlina, attacking the house of Altonau colonist Thomas **Wiens** and stealing from him a horse and a gun.

Conclusion: the circumstances of the case are as follows. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1846 the warden of 2<sup>nd</sup> District colony, Pelekh, sent report #59 to the Melitopol Zemstvo Court, stating that Altonau colony Mennonite Thomas **Wiens**, who lives on his own land, notified him in a message that when some dogs belonging to peasants from Petrovka village of Yekaterinovskaya Economy caused damage to his sheep business, and those peasants were notified of that, the peasants having attracted wandering dogs, and when two of them [dogs] were killed by Wiens's worker Ilya, the peasants, having learned about it, gathered into a band up to 20 men strong, came running to Wiens's khutor with wooden and iron weapons, and threatening to kill that worker stole Wiens's horse along with its yoke and [Vints's] gun. The Governor of that village, Kopeykin, returned the horse, while the gun was left there and not returned. Later, when 4 horses were captured [lit. "taken"] in a winter crops field, and he notified of that Governor Kopeykin, the aforementioned peasants once again assembled into a band of up to 30 men strong, came to **Wiens's** yard, and threatening him with murder seized by force those four horses taken in the field, and left, except for one man, who remained at **Wiens's** and threatened him with a stick, and whom [Wiens] wanted to capture and deliver to proper authorities. However, the peasants that left returned to **Wiens's** as they heard noise, and attempted to break into his house. Then, as **Wiens** opened the doors himself, they attacked [lit. "threw themselves at"] him and dispersed only when he struck one of them in defence. **Wiens** told about this to aforementioned Governor Kopeykin and asked him for protection, but Kopeykin did not satisfy his request, which is why he is asking to investigate the matter.

According to the investigation carried out by the Police Chief of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Stan of Melitopol uyezd, the accused peasants of landlady Buturlina from Petrovka village, Yekaterinovskaya Economy: Matvey Kotenko, Petr Shikula, Gavriilo Gubonko, Ivan Vernidub, Lavrentiy Grechenko, Petr Durlan, Mikhail Kudrenko, Ivan Lyubchenko, Timofey Okhremenko, Andrey Varava, Vasilii Kryachko, Maksim Korodchenko, Timofey Kotenko, Gordey Gubenko, Sergey Vernidub, and Matvey Ponotarenko, stated when questioned: when the horse with the yoke was seized, Kotenko was not there, and they only came when [somebody] was looking for the gun, and when they seized by force their horses captured by **Wiens** in his steppe, which happened as follows: When those horses were captured, they asked **Wiens** to return them, offering to pay for the field, but Wiens did not want to take their money, and did not return the horses, which is why they came back to the village, explained it to the rest of the peasants, organized, went to Wiens's settlement, and there the owners of the horses took them without any resistance [from] **Wiens**, at which point none of them had any weapons, and they neither swore at Wiens, nor threatened to kill him. Neither did they swear at the Molokans who were there, Ilya and Kondrat. When they took the horses and were heading to Petrovka, they heard some noise near **Wiens's** house, and having returned noticed that one of the peasants, who was with them, Avram Korotekov, is being dragged by the aforementioned Molokans and some unidentified Germans into **Wiens's** house, so [the peasants] rushed towards them, freed Korotekov, and know nothing else about the matter. As for **Wiens's** gun seized by the peasants from Molokan Ilya, it was returned to Wiens (submitted to the case, file #49).

The state peasants from Astrakhanka sloboda, Berdyanskiy uyezd, Ilya Mamontov and Kondrat Verisayev, as well as the state peasant from Novonikolayevka settlement, Aleksey Goroanov (also known as Prochukhan) and the resident of state settlement Alekseyevka, Aleksandovskiy Uyezd, Yekaterinoslav guberniya, private in reserve Vasiliy Maliy have stated (the former two not under oath and the latter two under oath) that in fact on the second day of Christmas festivities his master Wiens has noticed 4 horses belonging to landlady Buturlina's peasants from Petrovka village grazing in his field, and sent him, Maliy, to capture those horses, which he did, because the horses were grazing on winter crops. The next day Petrovka peasants came to **Wiens's** yard in large numbers, carrying stakes, (whether they had any metal implements he did not see). Petrovka village peasants beat his master Tomas Wiens with stakes and with fists, so if Molokans, who lived in Wiens's steppe at the time, and whose names and surnames he could not recall, did not come in time and intervened [lit. "taken away," presumably the stakes], **Wiens** would be killed. Then the Petrovka peasants took their horses and left. Whether anybody attacked Petrovka peasants' dogs, geese, or swine, they do not know and did not see. Based on all of the above circumstances, the Uyezd Court has determined that as Altonau colony Mennonite THomas **Wiens** complained that his home was attacked by peasants from landlady Buturlina's village Petrovka, that he was assaulted and his horse and gun were stolen, and as it later turned out that 16 peasants belonging to landlady Buturlina in fact came to plaintiff Tomas Wiens's yard on Christmas carrying large stakes and severely beat him, because he ordered his servant Vasiliy Maliy to capture 4 horses belonging to those peasants, which horses were grazing on his land, and the peasants seized those horses, as well as a gun, while the horse that belonged to Wiens they promptly returned to him, and as this event was confirmed by witness statements, the accused peasants belonging to Yekaterinovka landlady Buturlina: Matvey Kotenko, 31, Petr Shikula, 50, Gavriila Gubenko, 34, Ivan Vernedub, 27, Lavrentiy Grechenko, 25, Petr Durman, 41, Mikhail Kudrenko, 27, Ivan Lyubchenko, 25, Timofey Okhremenko, 42, Andrey Varava, 38, Vasiliy Kryachka, 35, Maksim Korobchenko, 28, Sergey Vernedub, 28, Timofey Kotenko, 29, Gordey Gubenko, 25, Matvey Ponomarenko, 49, (as per the 9<sup>th</sup> census), illiterate, Orthodox Christians, not on good behaviour, as they did not admit during the investigation to committing the aforementioned actions, although it would be appropriate to confine them to a correctional facility in accordance with article 2111 of the Penal Statute without a loss of some special rights and advantages for a period from 6 months to a year, instead of that, in accordance with appendix to article 358 of the same statute, based on article 88 section 3 of the statute, where there are no correctional facilities or not enough room in them at the time, this punishment is to be replaced by 50 strikes of the cane for each of them, and as this act was committed by the aforementioned peasants prior to the Most Merciful Manifesto of August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1856, based on section [XIX] of that manifesto, they can be relieved of that punishment. Thus, they only must, in accordance with the rules of article 62 of the same statute ask the offended Altonau colony Mennonite Thomas **Wiens** for forgiveness, and, if he [Wiens] wishes, to pay him for the dishonour [as described] in Civil laws and state settlement organization by-laws and to compensate him for all of the damages or losses, as these are calculated. Of this matter an official record must be made, which, in accordance with article 354

volume XV book 2 of the Criminal Code (1857 edition) is to be announced to the plaintiff, Altonau colony Mennonite Tomas Wiens, and to the aforementioned peasants of landlady Buturlina in the presence of this court, with the right to demand from them signatures confirming that they shall come to this court in the time determined by article 497 of the same volume XV of the Criminal Code, and to instruct the Melitopol Zemstvo Court to deliver their signatures to this court as soon as possible.

The original is signed by Judge Kadykrob, Nobility Representative Yakhmin, Nobility Representative Stavradi, and Colonial Deputy Andre.

pp. 53-78 theft of a horse from Tiegerweide Mennonite Albrecht **Fast**, a mention of Margenau Mennonite Jacob Heinrich **Janzen** (Rueckenau is mentioned as a nearby location) Albrecht **Fast** (Ruckenau) 30.

### Opinion

As per His Imperial Majesty's decree, on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1860, the Berdyansk Uyezd Court and the Colonial Deputy have heard records [or "summary," lit. "note"] from the criminal case of state peasants from settlements Andreyevka, Luka Butenko, Novogrigoryevka, Mikhey, Oklevatyy, Andrey Olizko; and Terpeniye, Timofey Andreyev. The first one, Butenko, [being accused] of stealing from Tiegerweide Mennonite Albrecht Fast a horse evaluated at 65 silver rubles, and the latter three being suspected of being accomplices in the theft.

Conclusion: as apparent from the case, in its April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1859 report #3105 the Molochansk Mennonite District Office notified the Police Chief of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stan of Berdyansk Uyezd that on the night from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of that month a bay gelding that cost 70 silver rubles was stolen from the stables of Tiegerweide Mennonite Albrecht **Fast**, and as a result of the search that was immediately launched the horse was found in the possession of the Rueckenau horseherd, Novogrigoryevsk peasant Mikhey Mashay, with whom (Mikhey) there also were present the Margenau horseherd, state peasant from Sladtobalkovskoye community [or "society"] Andrey Olizko, and peasants Luka Butenko from Andreyevka settlement and Timofey Ivanov from Terpeniye settlement, which peasants are named in the report. When questioned on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1859, the aforementioned peasants have stated:

1) Mikhey Ignatyev Mashay, illiterate, a state peasant from Novogrigoryevka settlement, Berdyanskiy uyezd, under prosecution for sheltering a wanderer, Jacob Demchenko, though the decision is not yet published, had a contract with the Rueckenau Colony society, serving as the herder of communal horses since January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. Last Wednesday (April 22<sup>nd</sup>), in the morning, the horseherd of Margenau colony, Andrey Olizko, came to the interviewee on a German carriage driven by a single horse and brought along a cow, saying that he is going to a fair at Prishib colony to sell that cow, and as the interviewee wanted to sell his horse on that fair, he asked Olizko to let him come along, to which end the interviewee added his horse to the carriage, and both him and Olizko departed on that morning. Along

the way they visited Halbstadt colony, and in a pub there met with Terentyev[o] state peasant Timofey Andreyev, the interviewee's long time acquaintance, whom [Mikhey Mashay] took as a worker, invited onto Olizko's carriage, and the three of them arrived to the Prishib fair together. When they were preparing for the return trip, a man, whom the interviewee did not know, and who introduced himself as Andreyevsk state peasant Luka Butenko, came to the carriage and asked Olizko for a permission to put his saddle in the carriage, saying that he sold his horse on the fair and now has nowhere to put his saddle. Olizko accepted the saddle, and Butenko returned to the fair to buy a horse, but soon returned, saying that he did not buy a horse. Having found out that the interviewee is from Rueckenau and Olizko is from Margenau, Butenko asked them to take him with them, as he was planning to look for a place to enter service in the German colonies. Everybody agreed to take him along. About 3 versts<sup>2</sup> before reaching Rueckenau, when they were passing Tiegerweide colony, Butenko jumped off the carriage and headed towards the dam built on the Kuruyushan river. Supposing that Butenko went there for natural relief and being drunk, they did not pay any mind to that, and kept going, thinking that Butenko may as well reach Rueckenau by foot. They drove onto the yard [of the house] occupied by the interviewee, where they unharnessed their horse from the carriage. When they entered the house the interviewee's wife Feodosia lit a candle. Being utterly drunk, he refused dinner and went to sleep, as for the others, he does not remember who went to sleep where after dinner. Some time later he was woken up by his wife, who told him that the Germans from the colony caught in their yard a thief with a [stolen] horse. When he came out of the house, he saw several Germans from Tiegerweide colony, among whom he recognized Albrecht **Fast**; they surrounded the thief, who turned out to be the aforementioned Butenko, and who, according to the Germans, was caught harnessing the horse stolen from Fast to Olizko's carriage. The interviewee also saw his sojourns, Olizko and Andreyev, in the yard, and having arrested Butenko the thief, the Germans also arrested Olizko and Andreyev, as well as the interviewee, presuming them to be Butenko's accomplices, and brought them all before the Schulz. The interviewee did not participate in the theft of **Fast's** horse by Butenko, did not advise it, and did not even know about it until he saw Butenko in his yard surrounded by Germans.

2) Andrey Dmitriyev Olizko, illiterate, a state peasant from Skelevatoye settlement, Berdyanskiy uyezd, serving as a herder of communal horses in Margenau for 5 years, and 3) Timofey Ivanov Andreyev, illiterate, a state peasant from Terpeniye settlement, Melitopolskiy uyezd, have supported Mashay's story in their statements, clarifying that after having dinner at Mashay's place they also went to sleep in the house, but soon heard shouting outside, ran out of the house and saw several Germans surrounding Butenko

4) Luka Ilya's son Butenko, a state peasant from Andreyevka settlement, [states that] last Monday (April 20<sup>th</sup>) he rode his horse (a bay mare) from Andreyevka, intending to go to Prishib colony's fair. He spent the first night in the steppe, and on Tuesday before noon he was passing through Margenau colony, and saw the horseherd, Andrey Olizko, with whom they were not yet acquainted, watering

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<sup>2</sup>1 verst = 1.067 kilometres

communal horses. The interviewee was also watering his horse, and as they struck up a conversation, he was invited by Olizko to his house and was a witness to Olizko trading his black gelding, blind in one eye, for some German's bay mare with a colt. [p58, the case continues]

[on pg. 62] When questioned [without an oath] on April 27<sup>th</sup>, Margenau Mennonite Jacob Heinrich **Janzen** stated that the man shown to him and presented as Luka Butenka was indeed present when [Janzen] was trading horses with Olizko on April 21<sup>st</sup> [...]

[pg. 67] Schulz Benjamin **Matthies**'s statement

[pg. 68] Abraam Grinins and Peter Baltzer support Matis's statement

[pg. 69] Jacob **Berg**, Peter **Wiebe**, Jacob **Petker**, and Peter **Rempel** confirm that the stolen horse belongs to **Fast**

pp. 81-101 10. Theft of horses from Johann **Rempel** (Furstenau), David **Dyck** (Schoenau), Heinrich **Kroeker** (Ladekopp)

Having examined the circumstances of the case, the City Hall, the Uyezd Court, and the Colonial Deputy have formed the following opinion:

1. Citizen of Novomoskovsk Abram Favel (a former Jew who adopted Orthodox faith and received in holy baptism the name Mikhail) Dubinskiy, 12 years old according to the 9<sup>th</sup> census (currently 21 years old), literate, unmarried, based on his own confession and articles 316 and 317 and their sections of volume XV, book 2 of the Criminal Code (1857 edition) shall be considered guilty of theft:

a. On the night from 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of September 1857, Fuerstenau Mennonite Johann **Rempel**'s stables, where the doors were barred on the inside by a block of wood, were entered through a small window without glass, and three horses [were stolen]: a chestnut stallion, a 7 year-old grey gelding, with the brand NK, and a dark bay gelding, as well as three bridles. According to the statements, the victim of the theft, Rempel, as well as three [other] Mennonites, the cost of the horses and the bridles was 153 silver rubles, and Rempel did not get back the horses or the bridles.

b. On the night from 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of October, 1857, villains entered the stables of Schoenau Mennonite David **Dyck** by tearing of a board from the wall of the granary [barn?], [and stole] three horses: an 8 years old chestnut gelding, a 6 years old bay gelding, and a 5 years old black mare, all horses bearing a brand on the front left shoulder blade, 3<sup>3</sup>, and 2 decorated bridles. The horses and the bridles are evaluated under oath at 178 silver rubles, and **Dyck** them back.

c. Two horses [were stolen] from the stables of Gokhshtet colonist Yakub Artes, a grey gelding with a 13 branded on its front right shoulder and an M branded on his rear, and an 11 years old light bay gelding, on October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1857 (according to the copy of the 3<sup>rd</sup> part of the case, page 54, their price was 62 silver rubles), and they were sold by Dubinskiy in Tokmak to some unidentified Russian visitors.

d. On the night from 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 1857 three horses were stolen in Ladekopp, namely: a bay mare and a 5 year old black gelding[, the latter] branded with a K, from Heinrich **Kroeker**'s stables (evaluated at 95 silver rubles according to the back of page 51 of part 3 of the case); of these two horses the mare was sold to

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<sup>3</sup>I'm not sure, but I am guessing "3" was the brand

peasant Iustin Zhuk, the other to Konstantin Krepus; the third horse (owner unknown) was let go as it was too old.

e. On the night from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>st</sup> of October 1857 two horses were stolen from the shed of Orekhov citizen Kalistrat Gordik: a brown stallion and a chestnut gelding, which were given to Godrik by Orekhov City Police for keeping; also a black mare, a yoke, and a harness were stolen from a peasant named Nikifor (no price is given for these three horses, the yoke, and the harness, and Nikifor himself was not questioned about the theft of his mare and the rest).

f. On September 14<sup>th</sup> in Bolshoy Tokmak settlement, during a fair, a chestnut gelding with bold forehead was untied from a German carriage, it was one of four horses near a set up stall [possibly “tent”].

g. Also in Tokmak during the fair, five yokes were stolen from Russian drivers (the names and surnames of the drivers, where are they from, and the cost of yokes are not stated).

Conclusion: according to the Penal Code (1857 edition): article 2228 sets the punishment for a break in robbery for a first time offender as the nullification of all special rights and advantages acquired personally and due to outside conditions, and, for those for whom the law does not make an exception, a bodily punishment by caning in the amount determined by article 35 of the same code for the third degree of this type of punishment[... the rest of the case is a detailed legal opinion interspersed with repeat descriptions of each theft and discussions of sentences for Abram Favel/Mikhail Dubinskiy’s accomplices]

pp. 107-111 Theft of 2 horses from Mennonite Heinrich **Reimer** (Schoensee) and of a carriage from Mennonite Johann **Penner** (Steinfeld) by Count Sheremetyev’s peasants

As per His Imperial Majesty’s decree, on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1860, the Berdyansk Uyezd Court and the Colonial Deputy have heard the records [or “summary,” lit. “note”] and the case regarding count Sheremetyev’s peasants: Ustin Kharchenko, Avvakum Korovyanskiy, Demid Ulanskiy, Petr Bezuglyy, Semen Orob, and Nikolay Berezovskiyy accused of stealing two horses from Mennonite Heinrich **Reimer** and a German carriage from Mennonite Johann **Penner**.

Conclusion: it is apparent from the case [materials] that the six men apprehended on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1858, in Borishovka settlement, Grayvoronskiy uyezd, on suspicion that they have stolen the two horses, carriage, and horse tack that were with them were asked where and when they obtained that property and have stated:

1. Ustin Kharchenko [stated] that he and his five comrades were in the service of Bryansk uyezd Germans until October 1<sup>st</sup> of that year, and on that day having received their payment headed to Bolshoy Tokmak settlement but could not reach it before dark and spent the night in a pasture. On October 2<sup>nd</sup> they passed Tokmak and went to Halbstadt colony to find out in the post office there whether their new permits have arrived, and having learned that they did not, they [peasants] returned on the same day to Tokmak and spent the night there on the market square. On

October 3<sup>rd</sup>, in the morning, they bought 2 horses, a German carriage, and horse task from an unknown person for 100 silver rubles, splitting the cost equally among themselves; while there were other people in the market during the purchase of the horses, they [peasants] could not recall who exactly. On the same day they left Tokmak and three days later arrived to Kharkov, where they bought some things, left the city planning to go home, but were apprehended in Borisovka settlement. Neither the interviewee nor his comrades stole the horses, the carriage, or the task, and his five comrades, namely Avvakum Korovyanskiy, Demid Ulanskiy, Petr Bezuglyy, Semen Orobey, and Nikolay Berezovski support his statement.

The follow-up investigation revealed: the horses seized when those people were arrested belong to Schoensee Mennonite Heinrich **Reimer**, and the German carriage belongs to Steinfeld Mennonite Johann **Penner**, from whom they were stolen on the night from October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1858: the horses from the stables, which the thief entered by removing the window [glass? shutters?] and then opened the latch on the doors from inside, and the carriage was stolen from the yard. According to the owners of the horses and the carriage with the task, prior to the theft the cost of the former was 105 rubles, and of the latter 80 rubles, plus Penner stated that the carriage had in it two collars that cost 1 ruble. That the aforementioned property belongs to Mennonites **Reimer** and **Penner** and the value of that property declared by the owners was confirmed by 8 Mennonite witnesses.

Based on these circumstances of the case the Uyezd Court and the colonial deputy suggest: the peasants of count Sheremetyev from Dmitriyevka sloboda (Grayvoronskiy uyezd): Ustin Stepanov Kharchenko, Avvakum Mironov Korovyanskiy, Demid Petrov Ulanskiy, Semen Ivanov Orobyev, Petr Stepanov Bezuglyy, and Nikolay Pavlov Berezovski, aged 28, 23, 28, 23, 30, and 35, respectively, as per the permits of leave from the place of residence provided to them on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1858 and their own statements, illiterate, on good behaviour, to be guilty according to [articles] 308 section 2, 341 and 343 section 10, volume XV of the Criminal Code (1857 edition) of knowingly purchasing stolen [goods]: a) two horses that cost according to witness statements 90 rubles; b) horse task that cost 15 rubles, and; c) one German carriage with two breechings that cost 81 rubles, all of which were stolen on the night of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1858, the horses and horse task from Mennonite **Reimer** and the carriage and 2 breechings from Mennonite **Penner** (the identity of the thief remained unknown). This crime committed by the accused is considered according to article 16 of the Penal Statute a concealment of the aforementioned theft for a total value of 196 silver rubles (the stolen property was returned to rightful owners), and the crimes that the aforementioned accused are guilty of are:

a) theft of horses and damaging a window, the punishment is according to paragraph 2 [article] 2228 1 [paragraph] 1 section 7 article 2245 of the Penal Statute, appointed for the 1<sup>st</sup> degree of article 35 of the code;

b) concealment of crime, when the co-operation was not necessary for committing the crime, according to articles 133 and 136 of the statute, the appointed punishment is two degrees lower than the punishment for the main culprit, which



means as they concealed the night theft of the horses with a break in, the punishment for the accused is that for the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, which is replaced for those who are not excused by law from bodily punishment according to paragraph 3 section 1 appendix V[?] of article 358 book 2 volume XV;

c) the circumstances of the case neither increase nor lessen the severity of the crime or the punishment; they, Karchenko, Korovyanskiy, Ulanskiy, Orobyev, Bezuglyy, and Berezovskiyy should be deprived of any special rights or advantages obtained personally or due to outside circumstances, punished by 75 strikes of the cane each, and confined to correctional prisoner companies of the Civil Service for 9 months, or if there is not enough room in those at the moment or they are deemed to be unable to work there, to a working house or jail, and then sent for settlement to East Siberia, where they are to be put to work according to the consideration and directions of local administration according to section 4 of article 882 volume XV of the Statute on Exile (1857 edition) up to three and a half years from the day of arrival to the place of settlement.

However, without putting this into action the case and the note are provided for review to the Tavricheskaya Office of Criminal Court, stating in the report that the accused, Karchenko, Korovyanskiy, Ulanskiy, Orobyev, Bezuglyy, and Berezovskiyy are being kept in Berdyansk City Jail, and their [destiny?] is to be relayed to the Berdyansk City Police.

The original is signed by Uyezd Judge Kuklyarskiy, Nobility Representative Dubskiy, and Colonial Deputy Andre.

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