

Originally published in *Gedenkbuch Kasachtan: Staatsterror an den Deutschen in den Jahren 1919-1953 auf dem Territorium auf der heutige Republik Kasachtan* [Memorial book Kazakhstan: State terror against the Germans in the years 1919-1953 on the territory of today's Republic of Kazakhstan] by Michael Wanner. English translation provided by Black Sea German Research Group, 2022.



Linejewka was founded in *1904 by German farmers from the Black Sea region. It lies 90 kilometers north of the current rayon center, Serenda, and belonged to the Akmolinsk district. In honor of the prior landowner Linejew [or Linewitsch?], the village was named Linejewka.

In 1921, there were heavy fights between the Red Army and White Army all around Linejewka. After the win by the Red Army, several farmers from Linejewka were executed. After the disintegration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), many village inhabitants turned their backs on Linejewka. While in 1999 there were 342 inhabitants, ten years later, there were only 69 people. In 2007, their village was renamed Terekti.

*The German-Russian Handbook shows 1900 as the founding date of the village.

A short story of the village was sent to us by Eugen Beck from Hamburg.



Auto GAS-51 and Tractor DT-54. Photo ca. 1960. Author unknown.

The beginnings of the German settlement Linejewka (Thälmanowka) near Koktschetaw founded in 1904

This contribution rests on personal interviews, [my] own research work in all libraries of Hansestadt, Hamburg, and the personally performed queries of the author in the Koktschetaw, Omsk, and Almaty archives. The author has archival records (archival copies and certifications) available from these archives.

The land [property] on which the German settlement Linejewka was founded used to be under the administrative authority of the government of Omsk, Akmolinsk region, and the district of Koktschetaw. The administrative authority of the regions of Akmolinsk, Semipalatinsk, Semiretschensk, Uralsk, and Turgai was located in Omsk. That explains the fact why the author was able to locate the most extensive archival material about the settlement Linejewka (mostly church books) in the regional archive in Omsk.

In 1904, a resettlement law was discharged [abolished?], in which persons of Russian [ancestry] and the Russian-Orthodox faith received the resettlement permit of the Russian government. It was exclusive to the land of Turkestan.

The establishment of the settlement Linejewka thus happened without specific permission from Russian authorities.

As a result of the reforms in 1904-1906, the Germans received the right to sell the land parcels to leave their village community or to emigrate. In Koktschetaw, the German immigrants from colonies Baden, Selz (Kutschurgan colonies), Kaiserdorf (Planer Colonies) received free 15 desjantines of land. In 1904 many Black Sea Germans emigrated to the Koktschetaw district.

The Russian authorities tried multiple times to hinder the migration, especially the one from the Koktschetaw region. But they could not hinder the huge resettlement wave. Finally in 1910 the region was officially closed for settlement purposes.

The resettlement was caused by the failed harvests in the Black Sea region during 1891 and 1892.

The founding of the settlement Linejewka in 1906 was mainly done by the settlers from the families Beck and Hirsch. For that, they received special honor certificates.

In the beginning of 1920, the village was named Linejewskje and was under the municipality of Gross-Isjum, district Koktschetaw, Akmolinsk jurisdiction.

The ending of the 1920s and 1930s brought administrative changes. From then on, the village Linejewka belonged to the district of Krasnoarmejski, Koktschetaw region (later region North Kasachstan). At the lowest authority level the village soviet Gross-Isjum (center Gross Isjum) overtook the management. In 1958, this management went to the Dorfsowjet Rasolny (Center Kuropatkino).

The emigration to Linejewka started in the winter of 1903. In the spring of 1904 they began with the first construction and the following establishment.

To the Catholic settlements in Kokschetae belonged Linejewka, Kellerowka, Rosowka, and Llubimowka. A few of the first settlers from Linejewka also live in Ossanowo (North Kasachstan region, i.e. Petropawlawski). Later they even moved there. 1904 is the official year of the founding of Linejewka. The neighboring settlement Kellerowka was founded in 1906. To the first settlers of Kellerowka belonged Leonhard Hirsch and Johann Beck who came from the Cherson gubernia [district] as well as Franz Beck and Josef Beck who were already living in the Akmolinsk region.

Veterinarian N. Bajkow made a listing of the Linejewka settlement farms about the livestock examinations conducted:

Georg Beck: 10 cows and calves

Marjana Hirsch: 2 cows and calves

Andreas Beck: 4 cows, calves, and one bull.



During the first years after the founding of Linejewka, the German settlers had to fight for their survival. But they did receive strong support from their homeland colonies.

The settlers engaged in farming and partially with raising cattle. The land belonging to the Kasachen was cheap to rent for farmland or pasture.

They planted wheat, rye, oat and potatoes. Vegetable gardens and fruit orchards were also established.

Eugen Beck, Hamburg, 2013



Peasants from Linejewka around 1960. Photo author unknown.