

# PRIVILEGES OF THE COLONISTS THAT SETTLED IN THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF THE RUSSIAN EMPORIUM

- 1) Freedom of religion in all ways
- 2) Ten years free of taxes and other such problems
- 3) After the ten free years, they will be equally subjected as the other Russians of the Empire, with the exception that they are not subject to provide quarters for soldiers, except when they are marching through.
- 4) Are free from recruitment as well as civil service, however, they are at liberty to enter services for the highest crown, but it will not free them from having to repay the debt to the crown.
- 5) Each settler is receiving an advance here in the country and are to repay that within 10 years after the ten free years expired.
- 6) Each family can bring their goods (furniture) free of toll, and on top of that can bring with them goods for resale, total value not to exceed 300 rubel.
- 7) The tradesmen can enter legal contracts and guilds. And each can do their trades throughout the Russian Empire.
- 8) All the suffering has ended in the Russian Emporia State due to the generosity of His Majesty, the Russian Emperor.
- 9) Each family receives usable acreage of 30 to 80 Dessjatines free to their use from the Highest Crown. Each family can use the land without payment to the Highest Crown. The tax, each family has to pay after the ten free years, is, next to police affairs, the basic tax, a yearly amount of 15 to 20 Kopek per Dessjatine. A Dessjatine is about a Yoch or Morgen by German measurement. A Kopek is a little less than a Kreutzer.
- 10) Those who want to leave The Russian Emperium to go back to their homeland, have to pay the debts to the crown and for the use of land a 3 year tax.

Signed in Lauingen, 20 April 1804

RUSSIAN EMPORIA  
COLONY TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.  
Signature unreadable

as translated by Elli Wise 1996