

The following statements were made by Abraham Conrad [GM#198088] and Heinrich Epp [GM#198877] while passing through Königsberg, on their way to Russia.

The original is in the Berlin archives HA. Gen. Dir. Abt. 9. Westpreussen Materien. Tit. 109, No. 1: Mennonitensachen LDS microfilm#1056553.

Copy

Königsberg, August 16th, 1788

In the course of an inspection, which the undersigned was charged with by the local government, of a transport of people, who declared themselves to be, and who were confirmed by their papers to be, free people from Gdansk traveling to Crimea as colonists and were passing through here today, the two families hereinafter were identified as genuine subjects of Royal Prussia and subsequently arrested:

1. **Abraham Conradt** states the following [ill.]: My name is Abraham Conradt, I am 44 years and 4 months of age, a Mennonite native of Schoensee, not far from Marienburg. My last place of residence was in Heubuden where I worked as a tailor, but as this did not provide sufficient income for my family, I decided to go to Russia with my family, namely my wife and six children, three of which are sons and three are daughters. So last Tuesday, on the 12th of this month, we left Heubuden with all that was ours and were not stopped by anyone; in fact when I reported to the intendant of Marienburg, councilor of war Schlemmer, he told me that, since I didn't own any property, I was free to leave and that nobody could stop me, since the Mennonites had been given permission by the king to leave the country if they so wished. Read out loud and approved; hereafter testified.
2. **Heinrich Epp** after being warned to speak the truth.
My name is Heinrich Epp, a native of Schlابلan, not far from Marienburg, 62 years old, a Mennonite with a wife and two children, namely a son and a daughter.
On Tuesday last, on the 12th of this month, I left my home in the town of Kaldau [Kalthof] on the outskirts of Marienburg with my family in order to try my luck elsewhere, ideally in Russia, in Crimea, where we have been promised a bright future as colonists, and because I could no longer feed my family in my trade as a weaver. But before I left, I reported to the mayor of Marienburg, Mr. Lohn, and he said nothing about my relocation other than that as a Mennonite I was free to go wherever I pleased, especially since I didn't own any property.

Read out aloud, approved and signed
[abbreviation unclear]

[Signatures mostly illegible]

X X X

Abraham Conradt's signature

X X X

Heinrich Epp's signature

Translation provided by Glenn H Penner, Winnipeg Manitoba, 7 Oct 2024