

Reasons for Emigrating from Germany to Russia

Source: DAI Microfilm T-81; Roll #599; Serial 816; Group 1035;
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[Translator's Note: The following information is taken from a file folder of DAI (Deutsches Ausland-Institut) documents captured in Germany during World War II which contains documents dealing with ethnic Germans from Russia between 1940 and 1941. This document deals with the names of 17 persons and their reasons given for wanting to leave Oberamt Waiblingen and Vaihingen, Wuerttemberg and go to the Caucasus and Georgia in 1818-1820. It also contains reasons given by others for leaving West Prussia, Danzig, Marienwerder and Flatow in 1875-1880.]

[Translation Begins]

Reasons for Emigrating [pages 1-2]

Wuerttemberg: Oberamt Waiblingen

Binder, Jakob of Lautenbach: "It isn't going so good with his profession and he has too little to support himself and his family." (Destination: Caucasus) 09 Jul 1818 [occupation written in the margin] Weaver

Ellwanger, Andreas of Winnenden: "There are too many artisans in the trade in Winnenden and he has no prospect for advancement in the future." (Destination: Georgia) 13 Jun 1818 [occupation written in the margin] Butcher

Fraenzel, Gotthard of Winnenden: "The profession in Winnenden has too many people and he would be more able to support himself in a foreign land rather than in this country." (Destination: Georgia) 13 Jun 1818 [occupation written in the margin] Tailor

Hamp, Dorothea of Schwaikheim: "She does not have the desire any more to stay in the country." (Destination: Caucasus) 13 Jun 1818

Hochberger, Jakob Friedrich of Winnenden: "His business is doing poorly and so he is not able to support himself in his birthplace." (Destination: Georgia) 09 Jun 1818 [occupation written in the margin] Maker of Cider

Kloepfer, Christian of Winnenden: "His profession is not profitable for him any more and because of that he wants to look for his support in a foreign land." (Destination: Georgia) 13 Jun 1818 [occupation written in the margin] Cloth maker

Koehler, Johann Georg of Schwaikheim: "He and the following are Separatists and, along with many others in the realm, wants to go to the Caucasus to establish their own community." (Caucasus) 29 May 1818

Krauter, Jakob of Winnenden: "The profession has stagnated and he is unable to support himself in his birthplace." (Destination: Georgia) [occupation written in the margin] Cloth maker

Otto, David of Winnenden: "His business is doing so poorly that he is unable to support himself in his birthplace." (Destination: Georgia) [occupation written in the margin] Wood worker

Roessler, Jakob of Kirschenhardtshof: "He is short on cash and feels that, due to the high prices, he is unable to purchase goods and so believes that he can become successful by going to a foreign country." (Destination: Russia) 08 Apr 1818

Ruemlin, Anna Magdalena of Streumpfelbach: "Her sister also emigrated and wishes that she join her as she does not have any other sisters." (Destination: Georgia) 30 Jun 1818

Sieber, Karl of Winnenden: "He is unable to support himself locally and for that reason wants to try his luck in a foreign country." (Destination: Georgia) 13 Jun 1818

Sieber, Jakob Friedrich of Winnenden: "The wool is too expensive for him, with not much wealth, to support himself in his cloth making business." (Destination: Georgia) 30 Jun 1818

Wuest, Leonhard of Winnenden: "There are too many people in the trade in his present place of residence and it is his hope to find better support in a foreign country." (Destination: Georgia) 13 Jun 1818 [occupation written in the margin] Butcher

Wuerttemberg: Oberamt Vaihingen

No names given (2 families) of Enzweihingen: "These two families are really down financially and have the fear that in a few years they will really suffer for that." (Destination: Caucasus) 29 Sep 1819

Pfeiffer, Johann of Kleinsachsenheim: "To recover his fortunes lost due to poor management." (Destination: Russia) 28 Jul 1820

Schnauffer, Johann Gottlob of Enzweihingen: "Has no prospect to care for himself in the future due to his epilepsy." (Destination: Caucasus) 16 May 1818

Trostel, Christian Friedrich of Weissach: "Trostel has been residing there (Waterloo) already for a long time and has requested a foreign release due to financial constraints." 13 Sep 1822

Weeber, Johannes of Kleinsachsenheim: "Because he himself has received news from his brother there and he wants to care for him." (Destination: Russia) 28 Jul 1820

Reasons for Emigrating [page 3]

In the report of 1875-1876, concerning emigration from West Prussia and Danzig, the following reasons were given for emigrating:

"The hope of better profits in a foreign country."

"Some due to the suggestion of their relatives already in a foreign country; some to make a lot of money."

"Some unhappy with the local (Schlochau) economic conditions; some fearing judgements up ahead."

"The hope of establishing a better existence in another country."

"The majority wanted to be with relatives, who are already living in America."

"Some wanted to avoid the military, some to seek better employment in another country."

"The emigrants were chiefly workers of the land, who, by means of letters from their relatives and friends living in America, who left Prussia in the hope that, in a short time, by profitable businesses managed to become land owners and become wealthy."

1879 – Marienwerder:

"The vast majority of emigrants became at home in Russia and America, where they hoped, with easier work, to find an acceptable existence. This hope is brought about through information from relatives who went on ahead of them, at times also through the activity of emigration talk."

1880 – Flatow:

"That the emigration contingent recruited, to a large extent, from small proprietors, artisans and workers, it is only too obvious that the reason for emigrating was the endeavor to better one's social standing."

[End of Translation]