**A PAGE FROM THE HISTORY OF VYSOCOPILLYA**

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Vysocopillya (used to be called Kronau before 1915) is a small town located in Kherson oblast’. At the same time, it is the centre of the region of Vysocopillya. The distance to Kherson is approximately 169 km.

 The history of the town began with the integration of the small groups of settlements of the German immigrants from Taurian Province in 1896. The centre of these settlements was called Kronau. In 1887, there were 86 houses. In the eighth issue of “*The News of the Most Important Settlements in European Russia*”, 1886, Kronau is mentioned as the centre of a parish. In 1889, there lived 497 people, 349 of whom were farmers. Commodity-money relations and capitalistic economy were intensively developing in the community. Two wine storages, a small brewery and two sawmill stocks began their work in Kronau in the mid 80s of the XIX century. Later, a Russian merchant Y. A. Torlin built a steam-powered mill (30 people worked there on a permanent basis) which produced 14,5 tons of flour of 9 sorts per day. In 1900, commodity circulation of Kronau’s seventeen trading companies constituted 145 thousand karbovantsiv (local currency). There was also a fair that was organized in the town three times a year.

 Landless people from Poltava and Chernihiv provinces were coming here to find work even in the early years of the colony. Some workers stayed in Kronau for winter, later they got married, built their own houses and stayed with the Germans learning their culture, language and customs. Gradually, four main communities were formed in the town: Ukrainian, German, Russian and Jewish. They varied in size but they made significant contributions to the well-being of the town. The representatives of the communities often mixed between themselves making Russian-Jewish, Ukrainian-German families.

 The colony grew, and the development of the major industrial companies increased each year. The high quality of Torlin’s flour was known far beyond the borders of the Russian Empire. The economic growth of Kronau made Y. A. Torlin introduce amendments into the project of building the Merefa-Kherson railway line that had already been approved by the Emperor’s decree. Due to this merchant’s influence and finances the railway was laid through Vysocopillya in 1916.

**Based on:**

1. Матеріал з Вікіпедії — вільної енциклопедії;
2. http://forum.wolgadeutsche.net/viewtopic.php?f=268&t=127

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