



John Grapentin and Wilhelmine Rehberg were both of Germanic descent. In 1809, Czar Alexander I (grandson of Catherine the Great) invited 100 German families, primarily from Württemberg and Alsace, to immigrate to Russia. The families settled in a colony they named Neudorf. By 1848, the village increased to 208 families. The village has since been renamed Karmanova and is in Moldova (part of the Soviet Union from 1940-1991, now a republic).