

Yefim Kogan

Session: **Laws for Jews in Russian Empire**

Description:

The Russian Empire established Government special laws and regulations for the Jews. Laws concerning Jews from 1649 to 1873 were published in S. Petersburg in 1874. To better understand how our ancestors lived in Russian Empire, it is important to know these laws. Knowledge of these laws will assist us to understand how our ancestors lived and worked and why they moved to from one place to another.

I will introduce three categories of the published laws and discuss examples of the laws in each category. Some of these laws looked too good to be true, some of them were later reversed, some laws were not followed by local regions or town governments. Below are samples of what I will present:

1) Laws for all Jews in Russian Empire

1804: **About Arranging Jews.** There are 56 laws in it, and here one:

All Jewish children can be accepted and taught, without any distinction from other children, in all Russian public schools, gymnasiums and universities.

2) Laws for Jews in a region (gubernia) or a town

1856: **On granting Jewish farmers of the colony Valia-lui-Vlad in the Bessarabian region a fifty-year benefit/privilege from recruitment.**

3) Laws for a particular person or group of people

1836: **About Jews who received degrees in medicine.** Practicing doctor Iosif Bertenzon required to have an appointment in medical profession and he received an approval from Tsar Nikolai I who made it a law.

[Yefim Kogan bio](#)