



[DOI: 10.35549/HR.2026.2026.57.004](https://doi.org/10.35549/HR.2026.2026.57.004)

Original paper



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Formation of the Southern Border of the Elisavetgrad Province of the Novorossiya Governorate, 1764–1775

Abstract

This article examines the establishment of the southern border of the Elisavetgrad Province of the Novorossiya Governorate, as well as the delimitation of the territories of the governorate and the lands of the Zaporozhian Sich. The creation of the Novorossiya Governorate in March 1764 marked an important step in the gradual transformation of the southern territories of the Russian Empire. In the second half of the eighteenth century, the Dnieper region (Podneprovye) was a space in which a wide variety of territorial formations coexisted (Little Russian regiments, Serbian settlements, the Zaporozhian Sich, etc.), which did not always have clearly defined borders. For this reason, the issue of defining the boundaries of the Novorossiya Governorate was of considerable importance. In particular, the southern border of the Novorossiya Governorate was effectively intended to become the northern border of the Zaporozhian Sich. The

southern boundary of the Right-Bank Elisavetgrad Province (from which the formation of Novorossiia began) was determined according to a map approved by the Empress. Since the map itself has not been preserved in the Complete Collection of Laws of the Russian Empire, and no description of the border exists in legislative acts, the question of the precise location of the southern boundary—and, consequently, the full territorial composition of the Elisavetgrad Province of the Novorossiia Governorate—long remained outside the focus of researchers. The analysis of cartographic materials from the second half of the eighteenth century held in the collections of the Russian State Archive of Ancient Acts, the Russian State Military-Historical Archive, the Library of the Academy of Sciences, and the State Historical Museum makes it possible to reconstruct the intended course of this boundary, as well as to identify a number of problems faced by the Novorossiian administration in attempting to implement the actual delimitation of territories between the Novorossiia Governorate and the Zaporozhian Sich on the ground. These cartographic materials also provide insight into the results of the internal territorial division of the Elisavetgrad Province during the first ten years of its existence.

Keywords:

Historical cartography; Catherine II; Novorossiia Governorate; A.P. Melgunov; Elisavetgrad Province; Zaporozhian Sich

For citation:

Elizaveta V. Savchenko. Formation of the Southern Border of the Elisavetgrad Province of the Novorossiia Governorate, 1764–1775 // The Historical Reporter. 2026. Vol. 57. P. 98–119. DOI: [10.35549/HR.2026.2026.57.004](https://doi.org/10.35549/HR.2026.2026.57.004)





On March 22, 1764, by decree of Empress Catherine II, a new governorate was established, named the Novorossia Governorate. The creation of the Novorossia Governorate in the region of the Middle Dnieper became part of the government's plan to reorganize the system of managing the southern territories¹, and was the first step by Catherine's government towards integrating the Northern Black Sea region into the Russian Empire. The governorate was formed from the territories of New Serbia — a settlement from Elizabeth's time, located on the right bank of the Dnieper, in the region of its tributary Omelnik. In June 1764, the new governorate also incorporated the territories of Slavic Serbia, a Serbian settlement on the left bank of the Dnieper between the Seversky Donets and its tributaries Bakhmut and Lugan. The Ukrainian fortified line was also included in the Novorossia Governorate. Novorossia was designed to become a new stronghold of state power in the Dnieper region. The very fact of the emergence of a new administrative-territorial unit was a major event; in the forty years following Peter's reforms, only one governorate had been established — the Orenburg Governorate in 1744.

The Novorossia Governorate was territorially embedded in a region of a quite complex interweaving of diverse administrative and territorial formations. To the west, it bordered Poland; to the north, the malorossia regiments under the Hetman's administration; to the east, the Voronezh and Belgorod Governorates. To the south, Novorossia bordered the Zaporozhian Host, which had its own traditional military structure. Given such diversity in the administrative organization of the region, the question of determining the boundaries of the Novorossia Governorate was of great importance.

In 1764, the Zaporozhian Sich formally was under Hetman's rule, so the Novorossia Governorate was wedged between the malorossia regiments and the Zaporozhian settlements, creating a break in the territories for which the Hetman was responsible. The question of clearly defining the boundaries of the new governorate was also

¹ Готье Ю.В. История областного управления в России от Петра I до Екатерины II. Т. 1. М.: типография Г. Лиснера и Д. Собко; 1913. С. 16.

a question of determining the territorial limits of the authority of the Novorossia Governor General and the Malorossia Hetman.

The southern border of the Novorossia Governorate, which separated it from the territory of the Zaporozhian Sich, raises the most questions. The Zaporozhian Sich was not included in the new governorate, in addition to the fact the boundaries of the Zaporozhian Cossack lands had not previously been clearly defined. From the south, the Zaporozhian Sich was limited by a line established according to the Russian-Turkish boundary record of 1705, which ran from the confluence of the Synyukha into the Southern Bug to the confluence of the Kamenka into the Dnieper². To the north, the Zaporozhian Cossacks bordered the Serbian settlers, but no clear division of land between the Sich and New Serbia had been conducted. Thus, the question of the southern border of the Novorossia Governorate is interesting in several aspects — this line was supposed to establish the final territorial boundaries of the Zaporozhian Sich, as well as to determine the limits of the authority of the provincial administration.

The Novorossia Governorate consisted of two provinces — the Elisavetgradskaya on the right bank of the Dnieper and the Ekaterininskaya on the left. Initially, the Novorossia Governorate arose on the right bank — the Elisavetgrad Province immediately included New Serbia and the Novoslobidskiy Cossack regiment, as well as the Orlovsky shanets (entrenchment). The Ekaterininskaya province, which included Slavic Serbia, Bakhmut, and the Ukrainian fortified line, was formed on the left bank of the Dnieper later. I would like to begin examining the question of the formation of the southern boundary of Novorossia with the Elisavetgrad Province, as it was the region where the Novorossia Governorate initially arose. Moreover, in the 1760s and first half of the 1770s, the Elisavetgrad Province was being settled and developed at more active rates than the Ekaterininskaya³. The question of the formation of the territory of the Novorossia Governorate

² *Эварницкий Д.И.* История Запорожских козаков. Т.1. СПб.: Тип. И.Н. Скороходова; 1892. С. 4–5.

³ *Кабузан В.М.* Заселение Новороссии (Екатеринославской и Херсонской губерний) в XVIII — первой половине XIX века. М.: Наука; 1976. С. 102.

was certainly the subject of researchers' attention. V.M. Kabuzan⁴ and E.I. Druzhinina⁵ examined in general terms the process of formation of its territories in the first stage of formation (1764–1775); however, a detailed study of how exactly the boundaries of the Novorossia Governorate were determined has not been conducted before. In works on the history of the Zaporozhian Sich⁶ (*History of the Novaya Sich or the last Kosh of Zaporozhzhia* by A.A. Skalkovsky, *Zaporozhian Cossacks* by V.A. Golobutsky, etc.), when describing the relations between the Zaporozhian Cossacks and the Novorossia Governorate, the question of territorial delimitation was not examined in detail.

During the 18th century, the status of the Zaporozhian Cossacks in the Russian Empire changed repeatedly. Under the reign of Peter I, the Zaporozhian Cossacks existed in the format of the Chortomlyk Sich (a military-territorial formation with a center on the island of Chortomlyk), but after the Cossacks supported the rebellious Hetman Mazepa in 1708–1709, they were driven out of the country. In 1733, Empress Anna Ivanovna granted the Zaporozhian Host a “pardon charter”, which allowed the Zaporozhian Cossacks to return to Russian citizenship⁷. However, the charter did not address the question of the territorial location of the new Zaporozhian Sich. In 1734, the Zaporozhian Cossacks returned to the Lower Dnieper region and established the New Sich in the mouth of the Pidpolnaya River. On cartographic materials from the mid-18th century, “settlements and winter camps of the Zaporozhian Cossacks” are marked on quite extensive areas on both

⁴ Кабузан В.М. Заселение Новороссии (Екатеринославской и Херсонской губерний) в XVIII — первой половине XIX века. М.: Наука; 1976. 307 с.

⁵ Дружинина Е.И. Северное Причерноморье в 1775–1800 гг. М.: Изд-во Акад. наук СССР; 1959. 279 с.

⁶ Скальковский А.А. История Новой Сечи или последнего Коша Запорожского. Ч. 1–3. Одесса: Гор. Тип., 1842–1846. Эварницкий Д.И. История Запорожских козаков. Т. 1–3. СПб.: Тип. И.Н. Скороходова; 1892–1897. Голобуцкий В.А. Запорожское казачество. Киев: Госполитиздат УССР; 1957. 462 с. Голобуцкий В.О. Запорізька Січ в останні часи свого існування 1734–1775. Київ: Вид-во Акад. Наук УРСР; 1961. 416 с. Голобуцкий В.О. Запорізька Січ в останні часи свого існування 1734–1775. Київ. 1961.

⁷ Скальковский А.А. История Новой Сечи или последнего Коша Запорожского. Ч. 1 — 3. Одесса: Гор. Тип.; 1842 — 1846. С. 52.

banks of the Dnieper⁸. In administrative terms, the Zaporozhian Sich was first subordinated to the Kyiv Governor-General⁹, and then, after the hetmanship was revived in 1750, the Zaporozhian Host was transferred to the Hetman's jurisdiction. From 1765, when the hetmanship was abolished, the Zaporozhian Cossacks were placed under the jurisdiction of the Malorossia Collegium. In matters of delimitation, local authorities were guided by the principle of population subordination and the results of colonization processes. With the emergence of the Novorossia Governorate, a conflict inevitably arose between the territorial and the departmental approaches to managing territories.

In administrative and territorial terms in the mid-18th century, the New Sich was divided into eight palankas: Kodatskaya, Bugogardovskaya, and Ingulskaya on the right bank of the Dnieper; Protovtchanskaya, Orejskaya, Samarskaya, Kalmiusskaya, and Prognoinnskaya on the left¹⁰. On the right bank of the Dnieper, the territories of the new governorate partially included settlements of the Bugogardovskaya and possibly Kodatskaya palankas.

The status of such settlements was unclear: by the territorial criteria they belonged to the newly formed governorate, but at the same time they could retain subordination to the Zaporozhian Sich. In his reports, A.P. Melgunov reported on a significant number of such settlements¹¹. To resolve their disputed status, the question of delimitation of lands between the Novorossia Governorate and the lands of the Zaporozhian Host was important.

In the legislative acts establishing the Novorossia Governorate, there is no clear description of its southern border. The High Impe-

⁸ *Map of the Little Russian and Sloboda Regiments, as well as the Novorossiysk Governorate with their Surrounding Lands, Signed by Quartermaster General Magnus von Rönne in 1764.* (РГВИА. Ф.846., Оп.16., №16194.); *Border Map of the Russian, Turkish, and Polish Empires, Compiled According to the Latest Reports at the Academy of Sciences by Adjunct J.F. Schmidt*. 1769. (ГИМ. Отдел изобразительных материалов/Архитектурной графики ИА 311/73).

⁹ Голобуцкий В.О. Запорізька Січ в останні часи свого існування 1734–1775. Київ: Вид-во Акад. Наук УРСР; 1961. С. 74–75.

¹⁰ Эварницкий Д.И. История Запорожских козаков. Т. 1. СПб.: Тип. И.Н. Скороходова, 1892. С. 202–205.

¹¹ РГАДА. Ф.16. Оп.1. Ед.хр. 793. Л. 11–12.

rial Report of March 22, 1764, describes the following section of the boundary of the Elisavetgrad Province of the Novorossia Governorate: “represented on the attached map (by the) angle of land to the current boundary of New Serbian settlement, from the headwaters of the Ingul River with an oblique line to the village of Orel, lying at the Polish boundary on the Synyukha River, as marked on the attached map with a red line”¹². No other information about the boundary’s location is contained in the report, but from this fragment, it follows that the boundary was approved according to a special attached map. Thus, in this case, the creation of a map preceded the emergence and formation of an administrative-territorial unit. The maps that determined the boundaries of the Novorossia Governorate were not included in the Complete Collection of Laws of the Russian Empire.

One can restore the approximate location of the southern boundary of the Novorossia Governorate by referring to cartographic materials from the 1760s — early 1770s.

One of the earliest cartographic sources is the “Map of the malorossian and slobodsky regiments, as well as the Novorossia Governorate”¹³ (see Fig. 1). Given that both Novorossia and Slavic Serbia appear on it, it reflects a short period of the history of the Novorossia Governorate after its establishment in March 1764¹⁴ and before the inclusion of Slavic Serbia in June 1764¹⁵. The southern border of the governorate on the right bank of the Dnieper is represented by an almost straight line, which begins from the area between the Sukhoy Tashlyk and Chyorny Tashlyk rivers, crossing the headwaters of the Ingul River, the Ingulets River at the confluence of the Verblyuzhka River and further along the Samotkan River until its confluence with the Dnieper. In the boundaries of the governorate, this “angle of land to the current boundary of New Serbian settlement”, from the village of Orel at the Synyukha River to the headwaters of the Ingul, was not included. The map was probably intended for use by the regimental

¹² ПСЗ Т. XVI № 12099, 22 March 1764. С. 659.

¹³ РГВИА. Ф. 846, Оп. 16, № 16194.

¹⁴ ПСЗ. Т. XVI. № 12099. 22 March 1764.

¹⁵ ПСЗ. Т. XVII. № 12180. 11 June 1764.



Figure 1. The Novorossia Governorate on the map of the Little Russian
 and Sloboda regiments, 1764.
 РГВИА. Ф. 846. Оп. 16. № 16194

administration; its main purpose was to depict the Little Russian and Sloboda regiments, which may explain the inaccuracies in describing Novorossia’s boundaries.

Several handwritten maps have also been preserved, depicting separately the Elisavetgrad Province of the Novorossia Governorate, which can serve as sources for clarifying the boundaries of the governorate on the right bank of the Dnieper. On the Map of the Elisavetgrad Province of the Novorossia Governorate with Surrounding Lands¹⁶, the boundary no longer represents such a straight line. It begins from the Migeisky Tashlyk River, then rises northward to the headwaters of the Ingul, crosses the Ingul between two of its tributaries — the Sugakleya and the Kamenka — then crosses the Ingulets in the area of its tributary, the Verblyuzhka, then crosses the headwaters of the Saksahan River — one of the tributaries of the Ingulets, reaches the Samotkan River and then runs along the channel of this river to the confluence of Samotkan with the Dnieper. On this map of the Elisavetgrad Province, the boundary line is accompanied by inscriptions — from Orel to the headwaters of the Ingul “this line according to the approved map¹⁷ goes from the possessions of the Zaporozhian Cossacks which, due to obstacles, was not traversed”, from the headwaters of the Ingul to the confluence of Samotkan with the Dnieper

¹⁶ РГАДА. Ф. 192. Оп. 1. Екатеринославская губ. № 2. Ч. 2. After 22 March 1764.

¹⁷ “Approved by authorities”.

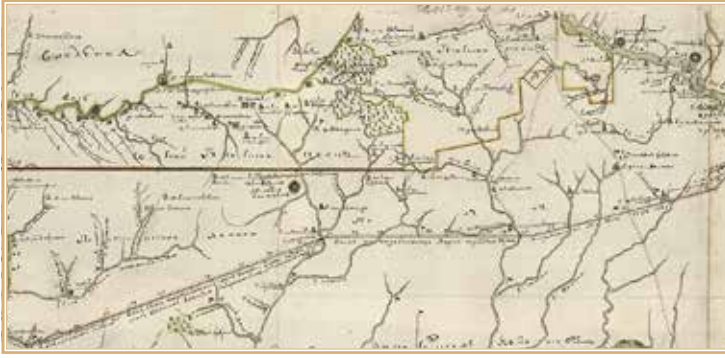


Figure 2. The Elisavetgrad Province on the map of the Elisavetgrad Province of the Novorossia Governorate with surrounding lands (after March 22, 1764).

РГАДА. Ф. 192. Оп. 1. *Карты Екатеринославской губернии. № 2. Ч. 2.*
 После 22 марта 1764 г.

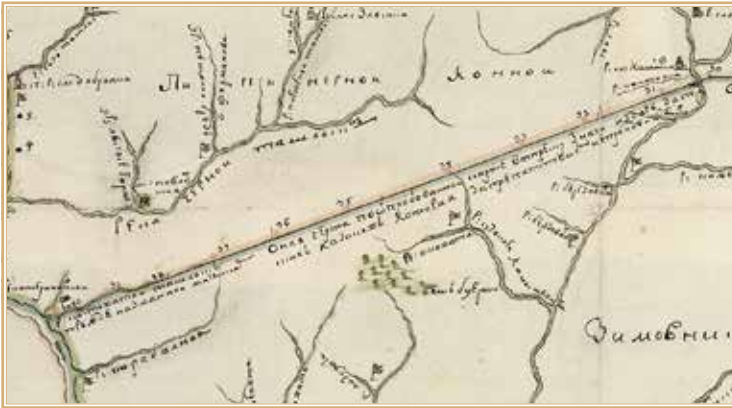


Figure 3. Signature to the southern border on the map of the Elisavetgrad Province of the Novorossia Governorate with surrounding lands (after March 22, 1764).

РГАДА. Ф. 192. Оп. 1. *Карты Екатеринославской губернии. № 2. Ч. 2.*
 После 22 марта 1764 г.



Figure 4. Signature to the southern border on the map of the Elisavetgrad Province of the Novorossia Governorate with surrounding lands (after March 22, 1764).

РГАДА. Ф. 192. Оп. 1. *Карты Екатеринославской губернии. № 2. Ч. 2.*
 После 22 марта 1764 г.

“a newly, according to the approved map, traversed line and marked with signs in 1764” (Fig. 2–4). It should be noted that this map has been preserved in the archive in two handwritten copies¹⁸. Both maps are identical in content and format and have a small size (~37x28 cm), which could be quite convenient for transportation and use in the field. The Imperial approved map, which confirmed the boundaries of the new governorate, could not have been created in just one copy; the Novorossia administration, to understand the boundaries of the managed governorate, should also have used samples of such a map. On this basis, one can make a cautious assumption that both maps (№2. ч.1 and №2. ч. 2) can be copies of that very original map that was attached to the High Imperial Report.

The Map of the Entire Elisavetgrad and Ekaterininskaya Provinces and Possessions as well as the Surrounding Lands of Two Neighboring States¹⁹ from 1767 (Fig. 5) depicts the southern boundary of Novorossia in a manner similar to the Map of the Elisavetgrad Province of the Novorossia Governorate with Surrounding Lands²⁰.

An important source, related to the period of F.M. Voyeykov’s administration of the governorate, is the Map of the Novorossia Governorate, Elisavetgrad Province showing the settlements newly established by the Zaporozhian Cossacks, settlements and winter camps as well as a considerable number of commands placed next to them, as well as settlements of Black, Yellow, and Moldavian hussar and pikeman regiments and established quarantines against the Crimean and the Polish (lands)²¹ from 1773 (Fig. 6–8). This source allows us to imagine the approximate picture of Zaporozhian settlements on the border of the Elisavetgrad Province of the Novorossia Governorate. In the very name of the map, the Zaporozhian settlements and winter camps are designated as “newly established”, possibly implying that these settlements had suffered from the destructive Tatar raid of 1769

¹⁸ РГАДА. Ф. 192. Оп. 1. Екатеринославская губ. № 2. Ч. 1. After 22 March 1764.

¹⁹ ГИМ. Отдел картографии. ГО-4381/11.

²⁰ РГАДА. Ф. 192. Оп. 1. Екатеринославская губ. № 2. Ч. 2. After 22 March 1764.

²¹ РГВИА. Ф. 846. Оп. 16. Ед. хр. 19147.



Figure 5. The Elisavetgrad Province on the map of the Elisavetgrad and the Ekaterininskaya Provinces, 1767.
 ГИМ. Отдел картографии. ГО-4381/11

and subsequently managed to recover. The map's title also mentions that commands are placed against these settlements in "considerable number", meaning that Zaporozhian settlements could represent a certain threat to the population and administration of the Novorossia Governorate.

On the map there are marked the Zaporozhian settlements, the winter camps of the Elisavetgrad pikeman regiment, and the locations of Zaporozhian commands. From west to east along the border, these settlements were arranged as follows: in the area of the confluence of Synyukha into the Southern Bug within the boundaries of the Elisavetgrad Province near the Ekaterininsky Shanets, there were a "Zaporozhian settlement" and Zaporozhian commands. Further, beyond the Bolshoy Ingul River, at the source of the Malaya Kamenka from the Golaya Kamenka, right on the boundary line, there was the settlement Zaporozhian Kamenka with Zaporozhian commands. Near the Zaporozhian Kamenka on an unnamed tributary of the Maly Ingulets (apparently the Verblyuzhka River) on the boundary line there was the large settlement "Zaporozhian Verblyuzhka". Somewhat to the east, at the point where the boundary line crossed the Maly Ingulets River, were Zaporozhian commands, and further south along the river beyond the boundary there was the settlement "Zaporozhian Petrova". At the place where the boundary crossed the Komissarovka River inside the boundary there were Zaporozhian commands, and



Figure 6. Map of the Elisavetgrad Province of the Novorossiia Governorate, 1773.
 РГВИА. Ф. 846. Оп. 16. Ед. хр. 19147



Figure 7. Legend to the map of the Elisavetgrad Province
 of the Novorossiia Governorate, 1773.
 РГВИА. Ф. 846. Оп. 16. Ед. хр. 19147

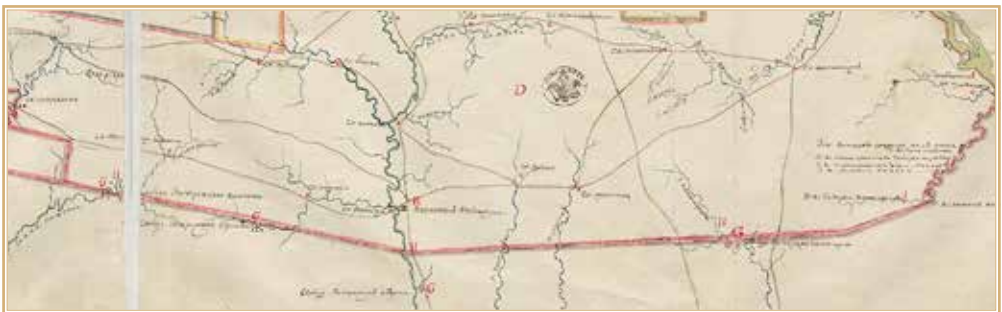


Figure 8. Zaporozhian settlements on the map of the Elisavetgrad Province
 of the Novorossiia Governorate, 1773.
 РГВИА. Ф. 846. Оп. 16. Ед. хр. 19147

directly on the line there was a very large settlement Zaporozhian Kamisarka. In the eastern part of the province along the right bank of the Dnieper, according to this map, there were winter camps of the Elisavetgrad pikeman regiment: winter camps of Yevtukh Kan-elevsky, Samanla Nos, Roman Pokhil, Platnirovsky Denis Stukanog, Mishastovsky Grigory Shunga, a soldier Cossack, and Senior Officer of the Host Makar Nagay.

Similar inscriptions beneath the southern line also contain the Map of the Novorossia Governorate Elisavetgrad Province from 1774²², where the southern boundary corresponds to how it was drawn on the previous two maps. The boundary line is accompanied by two inscriptions: on the section from the Southern Bug to the Ingul it reads “this line according to the approved map goes from the possessions of the Zaporozhian Cossacks which, due to obstacles from them, in nature was not traversed”, and on the section from the Ingul to the Samotkan “this line according to the approved map from 1764 was traversed without obstacles and was possessed up to ___ year without dispute” (see Fig. 9–11).

In addition, a later source also refers to this same line — the Map Representing the Azov and Novorossia Governorates, Showing Surrounding Lands from 1778²³. Although the map depicts the Novorossia Governorate in a completely new state and with new boundaries after the transformations of 1775, it marks a line corresponding to the boundary of the Elisavetgrad Province on the above-mentioned maps, with the inscription “the approved line in the year 764 for the division of lands of the Elisavetgrad Province and former Zaporozhian Cossacks” (Fig. 12). This line, even after the expansion of the Novorossia Governorate’s lands to the Black Sea coast, remained, according to this map, the boundary of the Elisavetgrad Province. This may indicate that such division of lands proved to be stable, at least on maps.

At the same time, it is important to note that the compilers of two maps of the Elisavetgrad Province (the map compiled after March 22, 1764, and the map of 1774) mention that the Cossacks hindered

²² БАН. Карт. осн. 565.

²³ РГАДА. Ф. 192. Оп. 1. Екатеринославская губ. № 4.



Figure 9. Fragment of the map of the Elisavetgrad Province of the Novorossiya Governorate, 1774.

БАН. Карт. осн. 565



Figure 10. Text below the boundary line from the Southern Bug to the Ingul on the map of the Elisavetgrad Province of the Novorossiya Governorate, 1774.

БАН. Карт. осн. 565



Figure 11. Text below the boundary line from the Ingul to the Samotkan on the map of the Elisavetgrad Province of the Novorossiya Governorate, 1774.

БАН. Карт. осн. 565

the passage of surveyors. These testimonies indicate that the boundaries approved on the maps were not practically observed, and that the Zaporozhian Cossacks resisted attempts to conduct cartographic measurements of territories contiguous to their habitats.

The information about further developments regarding the southern frontier of the governorate can be obtained from reports



Fig. 12. The Elisavetgrad Province on the fragment of the Map of the Novorossia and the Azov Governorates, 1778.
 РГАДА. Ф. 192. Оп.1. Карты Екатеринославской губернии. № 4

by F.M. Voyeykov, who held the position of Governor-General of the Novorossia Governorate from 1767 to 1774, that is, until the beginning of Potemkin's transformations of these lands.

In 1767, upon taking position as Governor-General of the Novorossia Governorate, Fyodor Voyeykov set out to inspect the condition of the lands entrusted to him. By December 1767, he had traveled throughout the Elisavetgrad Province and almost half of the Ekaterininskaya, which he reported to the Empress on December 12, 1767²⁴.

In this report, he stated that, despite the fact that the boundary between the Elisavetgrad Province and the lands of the Zaporozhian Host had been determined according to the approved map (referring to the very map attached to the high imperial report of 1764 on the creation of the Novorossia Governorate), disputes between the local population and the Zaporozhian Cossacks arose regularly on the border territories. Voyeykov considered one of the reasons for so many disputes on the border to be the Cossacks' ignorance of the peculiarities of the boundary's course. He writes that after the establishment of the Novorossia Governorate in 1764, the Hetman was supposed to inform the Zaporozhian Cossacks about the new boundaries; however, it was unknown to Voyeykov whether the Hetman actually informed the Zaporozhian Kosh. To resolve this situation, Voyeykov requested

²⁴ РГАДА. Ф. 16. Оп. 1. Ед. хр. 792. Л. 4–9 об.

to “establish the final delimitation”, which in his understanding meant finally conveying the information about how the boundary should run according to the map to the Zaporozhian Kosh²⁵.

The Empress postponed making any decisions until a report on the condition of the entire governorate was provided; however, in the end, until the large-scale reorganization of the governorate in 1774–1775, no significant measures were taken on this issue.

The development of the territories of the Novorossiya Governorate proceeded according to the Plan for the Distribution of State Lands for Settlement. Any free person could receive a plot of land in hereditary possession by resettling to these lands or entering military service. The border position of the southern lands presupposed the need to combine military and administrative management in the Novorossiya Governorate. On these territories, it was planned to create settled regiments, which could solve two tasks at once — settling these lands and ensuring their defensibility. In the Elisavetgrad Province from the very beginning, it was planned to place three regiments — the Black and Yellow hussar regiments and the Elisavetgrad pikeman regiment. Later, the Moldavian regiment was added to them. The former New Serbian settlement was supposed to be divided into 70 districts — 52 for military personnel, 2 for city dwellers, and 16 for schismatics (Old Believers), foreigners, and Russian expatriates. Each district was supposed to have up to 19,000 tithes of land²⁶. The Plan described in detail the new internal structure of this region, as well as the sizes of land allotments; at the same time, in the Elisavetgrad Province, a significantly larger number of territorial districts was initially provided specifically for military settlements.

Cartographic sources are also capable of providing insight into the internal structure of the Elisavetgrad Province. On the Map of the Elisavetgrad Province of the Novorossiya Governorate with Surround-

²⁵ Бессарабова Н.В. Захаров В.Н., отв. ред. Управление Новороссией и административные преобразования в крае в последней трети XVIII в. История Новороссии. Рос. ист. об-во; Ин-т рос. истории Рос. акад. наук. М.: Центр гуманитарных инициатив, 2017. С. 172.

²⁶ Дружинина Е.И. Северное Причерноморье в 1775–1800 гг. М.: Изд-во Акад. наук СССР, 1959. С. 59–60.

ing Lands²⁷, the Black hussar regiment is located in the northwestern part of the Elisavetgrad Province, occupying the territory along the Kaharlyk, Vis, Malaya Vis rivers and the uppermost part of the Ingul. The Yellow hussar regiment was located in the northeastern part of the province and occupied the lands at the headwaters of the Ingulets and the Tsybulnyk and Omelnik rivers. To the south, beneath the hussar regiments, there was the Elisavetgrad pikeman regiment, designated on the map as the “pikeman cavalry regiment”. Somewhat later, the Moldavian hussar regiment was transferred to the Elisavetgrad Province, settling in the southwestern part of the province, which is reflected on the Map of the Granted Lands of the Entire Elisavetgradskaya and Ekaterininskaya Provinces from 1767. However, according to the map of the Novorossia Governorate Elisavetgrad Province Showing the Settlements Newly Established by the Zaporozhian Cossacks from 1773, hussar and pikeman regiments were the prevailing but not the only form of development of these territories. On this map, between the Moldavian hussar and Elisavetgrad pikeman regiments was located the fortress district (district of the Holy Elizabeth Fortress), while the lands of the Yellow hussar and Elisavetgrad pikeman regiments were divided between themselves by a state district.

An excellent illustration of the results of the process of territorial development during the first decade of the Novorossia Governorate’s existence is provided by the map of the Elisavetgrad Province from 1774²⁸ (Fig. 9–10). The lands belonging to the regiments were divided among owners; individual plots of land were also allocated for military purposes — for example, those on which the field fortifications were located. The legend of the map contains a detailed record of the lands, providing information about the owners of land plots (“granted to auditor Apurin”, “to manufacturer Popovich”, etc.) or utilitarian purposes of these plots (“for the pasture of Cossack horses”, “pastures for merchants”, etc.). The entire border territory was also delimited; by 1774, of the 31 plots located on the line of direct contact with the southern boundary, 14 had been distributed to owners. 17 plots, in-

²⁷ РГАДА. Ф. 192. Оп. 1. Екатеринославская губ. № 2. Ч. 2. After 1764.

²⁸ БАН. Карт. осн. 565.

cluding several quite large ones, remained vacant. The map also marks several Zaporozhian settlements (Kutsaya, Bolshaya Verblyuzhka, etc.) and Zaporozhian winter camps. Considering that, in addition to those 17 border plots, almost all land plots in the rest of the Elisavetgrad Province had been distributed, it is possible that the problem was that the vacant plots were located on the line of direct contact with the Zaporozhian Sich.

According to the Plan for the Distribution of State Lands for Settlement, no separate areas for Zaporozhian Cossack settlements were planned in the new governorate. The Zaporozhian Cossacks were invited to resettle in Novorossia; however, for the Cossacks themselves, this would mean renouncing Sich life and accepting new statuses — as pikemen or settlers of the Novorossia Governorate. Cases of such transitions did occur, but this happened infrequently. The majority of the Cossackry and especially the Sich leadership painfully perceived the state development of the Dnieper territories. This is evidenced by inscriptions on maps and reports from the Novorossia governors. Border conflicts continued even during the Russian-Turkish War of 1768–1774. In 1772, Zaporozhian armed commands prevented a hundred Wallachian families of the Moldavian regiment from occupying the lands allotted to them in the area of the Ekaterininsky Shanets (future Olviopol)²⁹.

From the government's perspective, the authority of the Novorossia administration was supposed to extend to territories with clearly defined boundaries. The Cossacs, on the other hand, understood their subordination not from a territorial but from a corporate point of view. For the Zaporozhian Host, all territories where Zaporozhian Cossacks settled were considered under the control of the Kosh. With this approach, Cossack territories had a tendency toward endless expansion, which contradicted government policy in the region. This fundamental difference in understanding borders (both from the territorial and the administrative view) led to such aggressive claims by the Zaporozhian Cossacks to Novorossia's territories, as well as resis-

²⁹ Голобуцкий В.О. Запорізька Січ в останні часи свого існування 1734–1775. Київ: Вид-во Акад. Наук УРСР, 1961. С. 401.

tance to attempts of delimitation of the boundaries of the governorate and the Zaporozhian Sich.

Nevertheless, cartographers did manage to traverse part of the southern boundary, as evidenced by the inscription on the 1774 map: “this line according to the approved map from 1764 was traversed without obstacles and possessed up to ___ year without dispute” on the section from the Ingul to the Samotkan. In this same part of the province, inside its boundaries along the Samotkan River, Zaporozhian winter camps are marked (they are also present on the 1773 map). Since there were no special territories provided for Zaporozhian settlements in the new governorate, one can assume that in this area, the Novorossia administration made peace with the existence of these places, clearly controlled by the Kosh. Or, taking into account the success noted on the map in cartographing this section of the boundary (similar inscriptions were not found on earlier maps), perhaps here the provincial authorities and the Zaporozhian leadership managed to reach some consensus.

The internal development of the province, judging by the cartographic materials, also proceeded within the framework of the originally planned division of territory, since the location of the boundaries of regimental territories coincides on the earlier and the later maps.

Therefore, cartographic materials of the 1760s — 1770s are capable of providing a more detailed description of the southern boundary of the Novorossia Governorate than legislative acts. Except for two small sections of the boundary that ran along rivers (along the bed of the Migeisky Tashlyk in the west and along the bed of the Samotkan in the east), the southern frontier of the Elisavetgrad Province represented a broken line that crossed the Ingulets in the area of the confluence of the Verblyuzhka River; after the Ingulets, the boundary ran to the Samotkan River to the point of its confluence with the Dnieper. Such a boundary is presented on several handwritten maps, with reference to the “imperially approved” map. Since the creation of the original map, from which other boundaries were copied, preceded the formation of the governorate itself, such a map could prove to be “approximate”. In the central part of the country, “approximate” maps depicting boundaries as a series of straight lines were reference guides for the delimitation

of border settlements based on the actual situation on the ground. Some maps were compiled in this manner after the gubernatorial reform of 1775; for example the delimitation of some districts of the Vyatka Governorate, where, as a result of surveying according to these very approximate maps, boundaries were nevertheless adapted to the peculiarities of the terrain and therefore not actually straight³⁰.

However, in the Novorossia Governorate, the situation was different. Straight lines on the map were drawn before the Novorossia Governorate acquired its own settlements and a stable network of communications. Apparently, here the “approximate” boundary was actually drawn on the ground and became the basis for emerging land ownership and the organization of the system of transport communications. The creation of the Novorossia Governorate in this sense is similar to the formation of administrative-territorial division in sparsely populated regions of North America, where boundaries were often drawn on maps before the formation of settlement and communication systems, and therefore truly represented straight lines drawn without accounting for the peculiarities of the terrain³¹. Cartographic materials from the 1760s – 1770s give an impression of a stable process of internal development of the Elisavetgrad Province within the established boundaries. According to the 1778 map, the boundary of the Elisavetgrad Province was preserved even after the expansion of the Novorossia Governorate’s boundaries southward in 1774.

At the same time, as cartographic sources and materials from the offices of the Novorossia governors A.P. Melgunov and F.M. Voyeykov show, the established boundary was not observed by the Zaporozhian Cossacks, which in every way hindered attempts to conduct cartographic measurements of this boundary. Despite the fact that the government apparently initially strived for strict delimitation of the territories of the new governorate and Zaporozhian lands, it was ul-

³⁰ Хитров Д.А. О методах «нового разделения империи»: реформы административного деления в Вятском крае от Екатерины Великой до Павла Первого. *Quaestio Rossica*. 2023; 11 (3): 877.

³¹ Хитров Д.А. О методах «нового разделения империи»: реформы административного деления в Вятском крае от Екатерины Великой до Павла Первого. *Quaestio Rossica*. 2023; 11 (3): 866.

timately forced to agree to a certain extraterritoriality of the rights of the Zaporozhian Host. State power at this stage was cautious in its actions toward the Zaporozhian Kosh and did not strive for harsh restriction of its control over Zaporozhian settlements existing on the territory of the Novorossia Governorate. Zaporozhian settlements and winter camps continued to be established on the territories of the Novorossia Governorate, and in some areas even Zaporozhian commands were stationed, militarily not subordinate to the Novorossia command. Despite this, the Novorossia administration actively engaged in the delimitation of lands in the province, including on the line of contact with the Zaporozhian Sich. Nevertheless, the provincial authorities apparently could not count on the Zaporozhian Cossacks' compliance with the boundary. In this format, the Novorossia Governorate was forced to coexist with the Zaporozhian Sich until 1775, when the Sich was finally liquidated, and the boundaries of the Novorossia Governorate extended to the Black Sea.

Conflict of interests

The author declares no relevant conflict of interests.



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Received
17.11.2025

Revised
11.02.2026

Accepted
13.03.2026