



HEIMWEG

VICTORIA GERMANS FROM RUSSIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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FALL 2017

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Well it is the Fall once more – did I complain about the winter and spring? Yikes!! What was I thinking? This never ending drought is really terrible for the forests, yards and, not to mention, our wells. So far our well is holding on but we are really trying to limit the water usage.

A new program for our group. I would like each and every one of us to review a research project you have been working on, i.e., that hard to find relative; a website from which you gained oodles of information; anything really that pertains to your research.

So my thoughts are one person per meeting doing a 20 minute, or so, dialog followed by a written synopsis on your findings, or lack of findings. I will then publish in our newsletters.

Helen R. will start at the September meeting.

Please sign up for this program, everyone's stories will be of interest

OUR EXECUTIVE

Jean Martyn bertiemycat@gmail.com	President
Isidore	V-P
Helena	Secretary
Linda	Director & Librarian
Anni	Treasurer

Can we be of assistance? Just pop a message to our email address and we will gladly try to help.

A DNA REVIEW BY JANET BAUER

Curiosity about 'who' we are and where we 'came from' seems to be of great interest to many these days. I've seen a considerable increase in advertising by companies such as 'Ancestry' (<https://www.ancestry.ca/>) and many others. The 'International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki' lists dozens and dozens of companies who do this now, likely due to the technology and advancements in the science that makes this both easier and more readily available. The price of these tests varies greatly. Mine, from ancestry.ca, was around \$100. However, others charge a variety of prices (i.e. '23andme' charges about \$250). I understand the higher the cost, the more details there are about health, disease, genetic breakdown, ethnicity, etc.

My mom has done a considerable amount of work on our family tree over the past number of years and luckily for us, via family knowledge or her own research, she has found many, many records to fill the branches of our tree going back as far as 200 + years. We've always known we were, without question, 'Germans From Russia'. However, one trait that runs through the paternal side of my family is beautiful, dark skin and dark, curly hair. The joke for years has been that somewhere along the line, 'someone slept with a gypsy'. To be honest, it was this trait that peaked my curiosity as to where, in our long ago past, we might have come from. I decided it was worth it so I ordered my 'kit' from Ancestry.ca, created my online

account, spit in the tube, sent it back and in under two months, received my results online. It turns out, I am 81% 'Europe West, 11% 'Europe East and 8% 'Other' (which leads back further to the Middle East – and, I'm sure, the darker skin and hair). Curiosity satisfied!

The online results I now have access to allow me to create a family tree, see a breakdown of each area of my ethnicity and drill down into detailed descriptions of its history and migration along with other very interesting information. Most interesting and what I believe is the most exciting benefit of having my DNA analyzed is that I am now a part of what are referred to as 'genetic communities' – 'groups of AncestryDNA members who are connected through DNA most likely because they descend from a population of common ancestors, even if they no longer live in the area where those ancestors once lived.' I can now connect with, potentially, hundreds of others whose DNA has some sort of match to mine in one way or another. The program even lets me know which ones could be close/distant cousins. Being able to send a private message to others will help my mom and I connect them and work together to fill in 'leaves' on the family tree and possibly go back even further in time to find our 'roots'.

Thank you Janet it was an interesting discussion at our last meeting and the review, I'm sure, will help readers to decide.
–Editor

Editor's Note: Taken from their website

Black Sea German

www.blackseagr.org/

Welcome!

Our ancestors' historic and often perilous migratory journey in the early 1800s took them from their homes in Germany, Alsace, Poland, and Hungary to the Black Sea region of South Russia (now Ukraine). Their subsequent journeys led them to the plains of the United States, Canada, South America, and elsewhere around the globe.

Inspired by our genealogy mentor, Dale Wahl, we're committed to the following:

Free Research

- * **A database** of 500 trees with over 2.3 million names
- * **Research Repository** with over 450 research documents and growing daily
- * **Maps** (over 350) and **photos** (over 2,500) of the region and environment of our ancestors

Connecting German-Russian researchers worldwide

- * **Submit your own GEDCOM** to the database and connect with others
- * **Chat** with fellow researchers, inquire about culture, history, etc.
- * Share your travel or family photos on our **Facebook page**
- * **Visit ancestral villages** (virtual or in person)

We think this is a good place to get started on your search. Grab the beverage of your choice, a comfy chair, and start searching for your family!

Black Sea Research Group

We are a virtual group of volunteers wanting to freely share with fellow researchers. Therefore, there are no membership dues or fees for anything we provide on this site.

ON JULY 8, 2017 BY VERA MILLERIN (Blog) DISCOVERING DOCUMENTS, MY JOURNEY, SUCCESS STORIES

<https://lostrussianfamily.wordpress.com/about/>

Great-grandpa's arrest record helps breakdown a brick wall

It's been quite frustrating to not know the full name of my great-great-grandmother. No one passed on information more than her first and middle name and archives lost her marriage record.

I thought hope was lost in knowing who was my great-great-grandmother. Then luck again happened once again on the most popular Russian genealogy forum.

A woman who previously worked for the regional archives in the same area of my family village offered her services to research records. I didn't have much hope records could be found but this woman would know archives better than anyone else I could hire to dig through archives.

By luck, she knew another resource for marriage information. My great-great-grandfather had to ask permission from a military board for his marriage to be approved, with him being a Don Cossack, soldier of the Russian czar's army.

Thank you Don Cossacks for having such rules. The researcher found a document that revealed the month and year of marriage, the full name of my great-great-grandmother and her father's title of captain and engineer.

The maiden surname sounded familiar. An investigation record of my great-grandfather's arrest from his college days mentioned him staying with an uncle in Lugansk, Ukraine, with the same last name.

My grandmother gave my father an oral history of the family. That family surname was supposed to be connected to a maternal aunt's husband, not her paternal grandmother.

Thanks to connecting my great-grandfather's arrest document from St. Petersburg archives with his father's marriage request record, the man in Lugansk is confirmed as my great-grandfather's uncle, not just an older family friend. This explains why my great-grandfather attended college in Lugansk, so far away from the family Cossack village in southern Russia.

And thanks to Russian culture, I also know the first name of my great-great-great-grandfather. Once a full name is known of an ancestor such as given name, patronymic name (in honor of the father's given name) and surname, the father's first and last name are known. It's a two-for-one deal in Russian genealogy.

The profession of my great-great-great-grandfather was hardly a surprise. His grandson, some great-grandsons and a

great-great-grandson were engineers. After all these years of researching, I finally discovered a family profession comes from an ancestor.

Learning about my great-great-grandmother's family didn't seem realistic, with my past luck in southern Russian archives. My researcher got lucky with finding my great-grandfather's death record so my curiosity was peaked whether his parents' marriage record could be found.

The birth records of my great-grandfather and his brother vanished from archives. Thanks to connecting with my cousins from my great-grandfather's brother on the most popular Russian genealogy forum, I guessed when the parents could have married, based on their great-grandfather's birth year, and hit the jackpot.

In Russian genealogy, you can either be bitter about what can't be found or be delighted with surprises after constant resilience.

Websites of Interest

Welcome to Displaced Persons' Camps

<http://www.dpcamps.org/>

Captured German and Related Records on Microform in the National Archives

Genealogy.net

<http://forum.genealogy.net/>

https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Main_Page

It looks very new - in fact it's just the Beta test phase, so they will probably be adding to it.

Cont'd...

You can see here, which countries have been included:

[https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Browse by Country](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Browse_by_Country)

Canada: millions of Ontario records to go online

Ontario Genealogical Society and Findmypast have announced a deal which will bring millions of Ontario records online.

The first records, scheduled for release later this year, will include 3.7 million entries from the Ontario Name Index, an ambitious project with the goal of including every name found in any publication relating to Ontario, ranging from registers of birth, marriage & death to obituaries, memorial inscriptions, newspaper articles and more, together with 2.6 million entries from the Ontario Genealogical Society Provincial Index including data from censuses, birth, marriage and death registers, references in books, land records, passenger lists, military records and a host of other references.

Many of my relatives emigrated to Ontario, mostly to Toronto, in the late 19th or early 20th centuries - but I didn't know about any of them until I started to research my family tree. The fact that so many families from different parts of my tree ended up there suggests that most people with British ancestry will have cousins in Canada - and I suspect that, like me, many of you won't know about them.

Ironically the one cousin I haven't been able to trace in Canada is my great uncle who, according to a family story, was killed in a logging accident. I'm beginning to think it was a myth: one great uncle was killed at Ypres during the Great War, and a second died of typhoid in New York - is it really

possible that the third brother also died a tragic death overseas? Amazingly, until I began my research my father didn't know that his father had three brothers - he'd only been told of one, the uncle who "died in a logging accident".

Going back to Canadian records, one of the best sources of information is the Library and Archives Canada website: you may recall that last month I [mentioned](#) that digitization of WW1 service files, which is proceeding alphabetically, had reached Oliver - they're now up to Patterson.

[FamilySearch](#) has a large collection of Canadian records including [passenger lists](#); [Ancestry](#) have many Canadian records including the [Drouin Collection](#) of mainly French-Canadian records.

Excerpt from *Lost Cousins* June 22, 2017

The Same But Different: Why Identical Twins Share Same Dna

Identical (monozygotic) twins happen when a single egg (zygote) is fertilised.

The egg then divides into two embryos, creating identical twins who share the same genes as one another.

Since monozygotic twins come from the same fertilized egg, they have the exact same DNA.

Identical twins are always the same sex and blood type.

Identical twins do not run in families, contrary to popular myth. *Source: NHS*

OR

Do identical twins have identical genes?

They start with identical genes, because each is formed from a single fertilised egg that splits into two embryos. But from that moment onwards, their DNA begins diverging. The DNA replication mechanism introduces about one new mutation for every 100 million base pairs copied, per generation.

There are around three billion base pairs in the human genome, so you would expect between 10 and 100 new mutations per person that occur early enough in embryonic development to be present in most cells in the body. Ordinary DNA tests won't normally detect this because they only examine a short section of the DNA, in a region known to be highly variable between individuals. But if the entire genome were sequenced, these differences would show up. In France a case of multiple rape, in which identical twin brothers were both suspects, was solved in this way in 2012.

Your DNA also gets modified by epigenetic mechanisms such as DNA methylation. This changes the chemical structure of the DNA and affects how active certain genes are, based on diet and other lifestyle differences. So identical twins that have lived different lifestyles could also be genetically distinguished in this way.

Source: BBC Focus

UPDATE: FamilySearch Digital Records Access Replacing Microfilm

Salt Lake City, Utah (30 August 2017), Thursday, September 7, 2017, marks the closing of an 80-year era of historic records access to usher in a new, digital model. FamilySearch is **discontinuing its microfilm circulation services** in concert with its commitment to make **billions of the world's historic records readily accessible digitally online**. (See [FamilySearch Digital Records Access Replacing Microfilm](#)). As its remaining microfilms are digitized, FamilySearch has provided additional information to users of its historic microfilm program.

FamilySearch, a global leader in historic records preservation and access, began microfilming historic records in 1938. Advancements in technology have enabled it to be more efficient, making an unbelievable tide of digital images of historic records accessible much quicker online and to a far greater customer base.

FamilySearch released a list of helpful facts and tips to help patrons better navigate the transition from microfilm to digital.