

Hello everyone and welcome to Black Sea Germans and other German Colonists in Ukraine.

This session will focus on the historical German experience in Ukraine.

This may be a new topic for many of you. Maybe doesn't relate at all to your family history. But the Germans may have been your ancestor's neighbors, either in adjacent villages, or even in the same village. You may want to think of this session as "getting to know the neighbors."

This is a large topic to cover in the time allowed. Your syllabus has descriptions of settlement groups, sources, and research communities to explore.

Feel free to screenshot any of this presentation. If you want to use it elsewhere, just drop me an email and let me know.

### Germans in Ukraine

Who were they and why were they there?

- Germans were a minority population in the Austrian, Hungarian, and Russian empires.
- Empires needed to populate newly acquired territories from the Partitions of Poland and the Russo-Turkish wars.
- Germans needed land, opportunity, and freedom. They had skills their host empires needed.
- Empires offered incentives, promises, privileges.
- Stories are varied, but they all ended up similarly displaced, either east or west.

Germans in Ukraine: Who were they, and why were they even there?

- They were a minority population in Austrian, Hungarian and Russian empires. With the exception of Transcarpathia, the majority of Germans lived in Ukraine for just around 180 years...from the Partitions of Poland to the final deportations of WWII.
- When the empires gained new territory, the first thing they want to do is put some compliant bodies on the new land to populate it.
- As Poland was carved up, Austria, Prussia, and Russia **all** invited Germans to colonize the new territories. They were lured with incentives and promises. Realistically, those who took the Crown up on its offer were usually in fairly dire straits and had little or nothing to lose by immigrating elsewhere.
- With them, they brought their language, religion, culture, and most importantly their skills.
  - They were experienced farmers, artisans and tradesmen.

The stories of Germans in Ukraine are varied, but in the end, kind of the same.

They arrived at different times, to different regions, under different circumstances. But in the end, all of the Germans were, in short, kicked out. They endured forced deportations and resettlements during both world wars that took them east, deeper into Imperial and Soviet Russia....and west, into German-occupied Europe during WWII.

# Germans in Ukraine

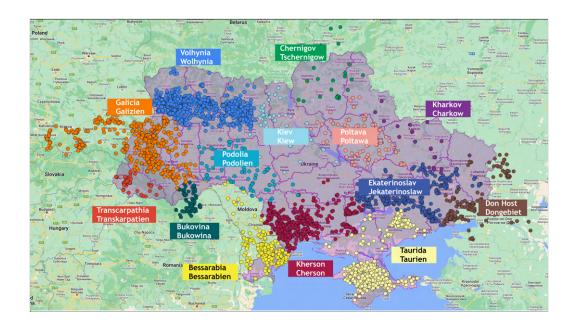
Population circa 1900

Russian Empire	German speakers	Population	%	Austria-Hungary	German speakers	Population	%
Volhynia	171,331	2,989,482	5.73	Galizien	212,372	8,025,723	2.7*
Kherson	123,453	2,733,612	4.55	Bukovina	73,073	794,945	9.2
Ekaterinoslav	80,979	2,113,674	3.83	Transcarpathia	64,257	605,942	10.6
Taurida	78,305	1,447,790	5.41				
Bessarabia	60,206	1,935,412	3.11	*The majority were J	ewish. 80,000 re	ported Christian	faith.
Don Host	34,855	2,564,238	1.36				
Kiev	14,707	3,559,229	0.41				
Kharkov	9,080	2,492,316	0.36				
Chernigov	5,036	2,297,854	0.22				
Poltava	4,579	2,778,151	0.16				
Podolia	4.069	3,018,229	0.14	Sources: 1897 Russia	in Concue and 10	10 Austrian Cons	2119

This table shows the population of self-declared German speakers in the historical regions. The numbers in these tables are from the 1897 Russian census and the 1910 Austrian census. Both of these were taken after immigration to the Americas had begun. The Austrian census did not have Yiddish as a language option. In Galizien, 80,000 of the German speakers were of Christian faiths. The rest were Jewish, but some of those identified German as their native language. On the Russian census, "Jewish" was listed as a language. Not Yiddish, not Hebrew. But Jewish. Regardless...the numbers and percentages are pretty small.

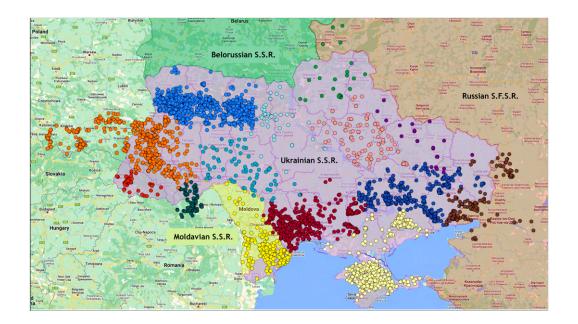
# Germans in Ukraine Where did they live?

Where did they live? I love answering this question.



This map shows where Germans were known to have lived.

- Each pin represents a village originally settled by Germans, or a village to which they migrated.
- Each color is one of the imperial provinces or regions. By now you've seen several other maps with those regions noted. The pins here roughly provide the outline of those historical provinces over the modern map. They cross modern-day oblasts and spill out into other countries. The oblasts are the purple lines which you are probably most familiar with.
- Each region is labeled with the English name along with the German spelling. The colored labels match the pins.
- In eastern Ukraine, are the Germans in the Hungarian and Austrian regions. The settlements in Galizien extends outside of Ukraine into Poland, as does Bukovina into Romania.
- The land that became Volhyhnia and Podolia was from 2nd and 3rd partitions of Poland.
- Kyiv, Chernigov, Poltava and Kharkov were more sparsely settled by Germans.
- The southern provinces were ceded to the Russian Empire by the Ottoman Empire. This area was called Novo-ro-Seeha, Neues (Noyus) Russland in German, or New Russia. Later it would be divided in the provinces of Kherson, Ekaterinoslav, Taurida and the Don Host. Bessarabia was added a few years later. This southern region of Ukraine is where the Black Sea Germans lived.



This is the same map with the Soviet SSRs noted after WWII

Of you're interested in live maps, you can find many of them on Germans from Russia Settlement Locations. The link is in the handout. The maps are also on other websites including Black Sea German Research and Galizien German Descendants.

### **Terms**

### Geography

- Novorossiisk, Black Sea gubernia Wrong neighborhood.
- South Russia Administratively by 1914, the provinces of Bessarabia, Kherson, Ekaterinoslav, Taurida, and Don Cossacks Host. In Ukraine today, the Odessa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, and Luhansk oblasts; all of Crimea; all of Moldova; and part of the Rostov
- Black Sea region Genealogically speaking, the larger geographical region of South Russia (see above) plus areas of migration along the physical Black Sea, including parts of Romania, Bulgaria, and the Caucasuses.
- "Odessa area," "near Odessa," or "Odessa" In most cases, not the city of Odessa. Four German enclaves: Liebental, Beresan, Kutschurgan, Glückstal. Roughly the Odesa and Mykolaiv oblasts.

Just a couple geographical terms to be aware of.

- NovoROYsisk, **Black Sea gubernia** You will see this as a locale attached to records in the searchable Lutheran church book duplicates on Family Search. It is incorrect. It is the wrong place, wrong neighborhood. The Black Sea gubernia was part of the North Caucasus in the late 19th century. It sounds like it should be related to the Black Sea Germans, but it's not. This is a locality issue in the indexes in FamilySearch. I know you have talked about this in a previous class. So I won't say anymore here.
- South or Southern Russia Administratively speaking, by 1914, it included the provinces of Bessarabia, Kherson, Ekaterinoslav, Taurida and the Don Cossacks Host. You'll hear this used a lot.
- Black Sea region Genealogically speaking, this is often defined as South Russia plus areas of migration along the Black Sea, including parts of Romania, Bulgaria, and the Caucasuses.
- Odessa area Sometimes the phrase "near Odessa" wasn't really anywhere near Odessa. But in Germans from Russia research, you see it referred to this way quite a bit. Sometimes it means "not in Bessarabia" or not the Mennonite colonies. In most cases, it refers to the area in and around the four original German enclaves in the former Kherson province.

### **Terms**

### Places

- Colony A settlement or village established by German colonists by religious confession.
- ❖ Mother colony Original colonies settled by immigrants.
- ❖ Daughter colony Subsequent colonies settled by the sons of immigrants.
- **❖ Khutor/Chutor** Small farmsteads consisting of a few families.
- Enclave Group of German colonies, sometimes referred to along with the word "colony", such as the Glückstal Colonies, Beresan Colonies, Grossliebental Colonies, etc. Usually connected by settlement dates, religious parishes, and volosts/districts.

A colony is a settlement or village established by German colonists. They are always . At least initially, established by religious confession.

A mother colony is an original colony. One of the first colonies settled by immigrant colonists.

A daughter colony is any subsequent colony, usually settled by the sons of immigrants when the Mother colony runs out of land.

A Khutor is a small farmstead consisting of a few families.

Enclave is a group of colonies located in the same area. They are usually connected by settlement dates, religious parishes, and volosts/districts.

### **Black Sea Germans**

Who were they?

- Immigrant colonists in Russia settled with the express purpose of farming the fertile land in South Russia
- German-speaking population.
- Religions:

Protestant (Lutheran, Reformed, Baptist, Seventh-Day Adventists) — largest population

Roman Catholic

Anabaptist (Mennonite, Hutterite)

Separatist ("Württemberg Separatists")

The Black Sea Germans were immigrants. They chose to immigrate to the Russian Empire. They didn't wake up one day to find themselves subjects of another country. They also weren't sent by Germany to colonize Russia for Germany.

Like other Germans in Ukraine, they were settled as colonists by the Crown with the express purpose of farming the fertile land. They were grain farmers, vitaculturalists, they had experience growing crop vegetables, fruit trees, and were bee keepers. They also knew how to make wine and distill spirits and vinegar. Based on their skills, they were placed in areas that had soil that was best suited for them.

The earliest Black Sea colonies were settled under Catherine the Great. Her son, Tsar Paul I — brief as his tenure was — courted Prussian Mennonites to the Russian Empire by giving them their own set of privileges. But it was Tsar Alexander I who opened the Black Sea region for settlement.

The colonists spoke German and were from German-speaking lands in Europe, but not just the Germany we know today. They also came from the Alsace region of France, Switzerland, Sweden, and parts of Poland that were once Prussia. They spoke different dialects of German depending on where they came from, and tended to settle with others they understood....as long as they were the same religion.

They all retained their language, religion, and culture living in enclaves. The colonies were very German places in a very un-German land.

Religion was important to them. They were all Christians. Protestants, Catholics, and Mennonites. Yes, Mennonite is a denomination of Protestantism, but it is never lumped in with the Lutherans and Reformed in Russia. Mennonites and Hutterites are referred to separately. Both are Anabaptist and researched together. There was also a small population of so-called "Württemberg Separatists" who thought that even the Reformed Protestants were beyond reforming, and basically wanted further separation from other Protestants.

If it sounds like there is a lot of separation here, there was...and there is still today. Mennonite colonies are researched separately from the Protestant and Catholic colonies, whom Mennonites refer to as "the Germans." Mennonites identify themselves by their religion first. While some sites will have information about all three religions, Mennonite sites will have no information about Protestants and Catholics unless it somehow relates to Mennonites. The remenets of the Protestant Reformation live on.

For the purpose of this class, I will use Black Sea Germans to encompass the entire German-speaking group of colonists in South Russia.

## **Black Sea Germans**

Volk auf dem Weg (People on the move)

- ❖ 1721-1796: Expansion of the Russian Empire
- ♦ 1800-1871: Life in South Russia
- ♦ 1872-1913: Emigration & Migration
- ♦ 1914-1922: Liquidation & Revolution
- 4 1923-1944: Life in the Ukrainian S.S.R.

One thing you should know: these people moved a lot. They moved between colonies. They moved outside of their colony for work or for marriage. They moved between provinces. They moved east and south to obtain more land. They emigrated out of the Empire...all that is **not** including the **IN**voluntary movement that started after the turn of the 20th century.

The best way to understand the Black Sea Germans is to walk with them through time and look at some records along the way.

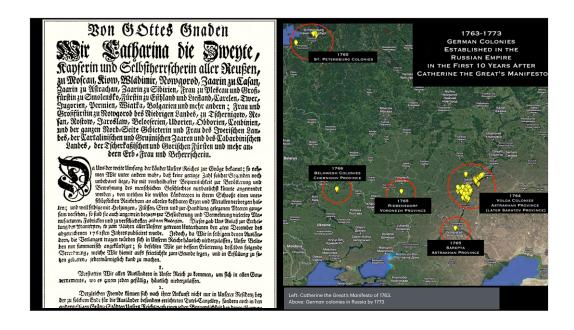


In previous sessions, the Partitions of Poland have been referred to frequently. But they didn't really play into the presence of the Black Sea Germans as much as the Russo-Turkish wars did. That's where the southern part of Ukraine came from.

Russia became an empire under Tsar Peter I after the Baltic states were incorporated into Russia. Baltic Germans of Lutheran faith came with that territory. They played a large part in developing Imperial Russia's civil and military services. To be an empire meant to continue to expand, and that would set the stage for other German immigration.



On July 22nd 1763, Catherine the Great, a German princess who married into Russian royalty, issued her manifesto inviting Christian foreigners her empire.



She did not specifically invite only Germans, but there was heavy recruiting in the German-speaking areas of the Holy Roman Empire. The regions had been devastated by the 30 Years War that resulted from the Protestant Reformation. The Reformation split those regions into Catholic or Lutheran. The Holy Roman Empire was a collection of kingdoms, principalities, duchies, and each sovereign determined the religion of his territory - "his region, his religion." Subjects could leave, but realistically most were unable to and had no choice but to adopt the faith of their sovereign, or practice the opposite faith and endure the consequences. When news of Catherine's invitation came, it must've sounded like a great deal. Freedom of religion, free land, paid transport, a period of exemption from taxes, and no required military service.

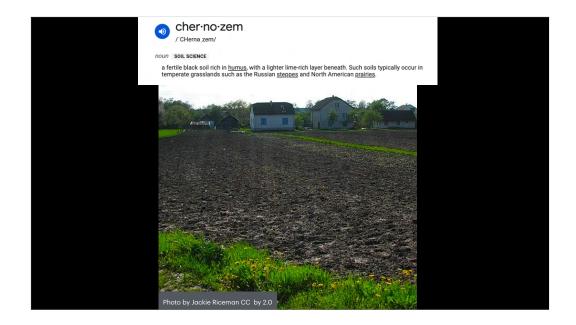
The map on the left shows the German colonies established in the first 10 years. In total there were 125. You can see, there were some already in modern-day Ukraine. But most were in the Volga region near Saratov. Black Sea German research is not the same as Volga German research. If you are awash in Volga references and you're looking for a person who was a Black Sea German or lived somewhere South Russia...you are in the wrong neighborhood.



The Russian Empire and the Ottoman Empire were at war every century since the 16th century. There were It had long been the plan of Russia to expand to the Black Sea in order to open trade to Europe. Catherine especially understood that agriculture was the source of growth that could be the economic basis of her empire. She who controls the land controls the food. To make this happen, she needed 3 things: land with fertile soil, a grain port, and good farmers



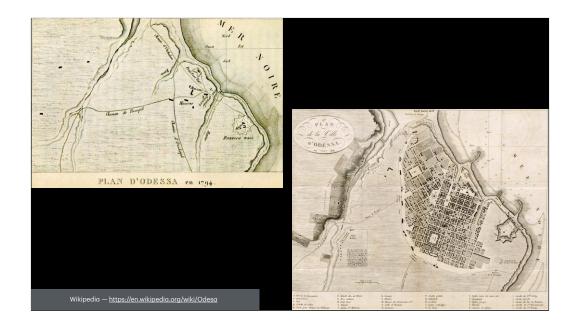
The Russo-Turkish wars of the 18th century in resulted in treaties that granted Russia the free navigation of the Black Sea and all the Ottoman-controlled seas. This included the passage through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits to waterways into Europe and Africa. Land was also ceded to Russia along along the north coast of the Black Sea from Azov to Odessa. And Russia seized Crimea, breaking one of those treaties, but Turkey gave it up in the end. This whole acquisition is important as it comprises the area where Russia would settle the Black Sea German farmers. Why settle farmers here? One word: Chernozem.



Literally, black soil. This stretch of Ukraine has some of the most fertile soil on the planet. 25% of all chernozems on earth are in Ukraine. They occur in temperate grassland found on the steppes of Ukraine and Russia, on the North American prairies, and some in Argentina. While the term was't coined until the late 1800s, Russia knew what it gained by acquiring this territory.



Next step: the city of Odessa was founded by decree by Catherine as a navy harbor and trade port.



At the time, there wasn't much to it, but by 1814, the population grew to almost 20,000 people, and included colonists of various ethnicities, including German colonists.

Those who settled in cities were trade colonists and artisans. They were loaned land for a house and a garden, much less land than an agricultural colonist received because it was expected they would earn their livelihood practicing their trade. The garden was for feeding their family.



Farmers came next. There were a few early and scattered German colonies established under Catherine in New Russia. All three religious confessions were represented. Most of the colonists came from West Prussia. The early colonies were Danzig, Josefstal, Fischersdorf, and Jamburg. They were a mix of Lutheran and Catholic colonies and formed the earliest parishes in what would eventually be South Russia

Another notable early arrival was the first Mennonite group from West Prussia. They had negotiated with Russia for land near Melitopol, but continued unrest with Turkey prevented them from going that far south. Instead, they established villages near Insel Chortitza and Aleksandrovsk (Zaporzhizha today). They named their settlement Chortitza Colony. It's sometimes referred to as the Old Colony.



In 1796, Catherine the Great died. Her son Paul, who was not favored, assumed the position as emperor of Russia. Meanwhile, back in Germanic Europe, Napoleon invaded and occupied German territories until 1813. German-speaking people on in the Rhine, Württemberg, Franconia, and Bavaria were all affected. Having had enough war, none of them really wanted to fight for France.

The previous year, Prussia had taken its part of Poland in the third partition. The king of Prussia was very eager to colonize what was then South Prussia. He invited Germans to this region, and hundreds of families saw the offer as a refuge and moved to the areas around Warsaw, Plock [Plosk], Kalisz [KA-leash], and Poznán. However, not long after arriving in Prussia, the Germans again found themselves in the path of war. Napoleon defeated Prussia in 1806 and returned control to Poland, an ally to France. The Polish saw the recent German colonists as interlopers. More on what happened to these colonists when we get to Bessarabia.



Under Paul I, the "Guardianship Office for Foreign Settlers in New Russia" was established in April 1800 in the city of YEkaterinoslav (Dnipro today). This was the main office that managed all of the foreign settlers in southern Russia and is rich with documents about life in the colonies and their economic progress from the colonists' arrival forward. This office basically governed the colonies. It approved everything above the local administration of the colony, which was run by the German colonists.

The name changed a couple of times. "Office" to "Committee" and "New Russia" to "Southern Russia." The office also moved. First in Dnipro, then in Kishinev [Quiche-in-now] to assist with settlement of Bessarabia, and finally in Odessa until it was dissolved in 1871. It's referred to as the Guardianship Office or Colonist Welfare Committee.

The correspondence of this committee is a mixed treasure trove of genealogical goodies about life in the colonies and bureaucratic minutiae.

There are some English language indexes that have been compiled. And many of the documents have been translated and published. Here are descriptions few files in the Odessa Archive.

https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/programs/archives/holdings/organizations/OdessaArchivesF6.htm

# The Guardianship Committee of Foreign Settlers in South Russia

### Odessa Archives: Fund (Fond) 6, Inventory 1

### Mennonite Heritage Center

**File 50.** File concerning an order by the Senate and the Government Economic Department to send some members of the Guardianship Office to the village of Vishenka in the Chernigov Province. Also about the initiation of collecting various taxes from Hutterites in Radichev.

File 64. File concerning estates which were passed from one Mennonite or colonist to another because of death or other cause during 1801.

File 195. File concerning the solution from the Guardianship Office for smallpox vaccinations of the colonists' children 1805-1820

File 2746. File concerning the issuance of temporary passports to colonists from the Bessarabia, Odessa, and Ekaterinoslav Settlements who had obtained permission to leave the colonies for business and private affairs during 1832.

File 2753. File concerning incidents, events, and accidents that happened in all the colonies for 1832

File 2758. Statistical information about financial, industrial and economic activity of the colonists from the Ekaterinoslav, Odessa, and Ressarabia Settlements for 1832

File 2783 File concerning an incident in which Voznesensk settler Stephan Stoganenko (also called Pavluetenko as well) exported hot wine from the Nieder Chortitza tavern.

Odessa Archives Fund 6: Guardianship Committee of Foreign Settlers in Southern Russia

Starting to collect taxes in the Hutterite colony
Estates passed on to other colonists because of death.
Concern about smallpox vaccinations
Temporary passports issued
Incidents and accidents
Statistics on industrial and economic activity the colonies are engaging in.
Incident of exporting hot wine from a tavern.

There were more than a handful of incidents regarding hot wine. So I had to look this up. It's apparently mulled wine, with a higher alcohol content.

It's in these documents that you'll find debt lists, voter lists, requests to move between colonies, requests to change religion, complaints about the about the neighbors. You know...life.



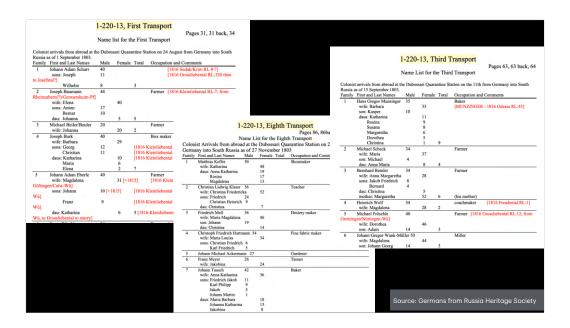
Tsar Paul was killed and his son, Alexander, ascended. He said that he wanted to "rule in the spirit and according to the heart of his grandmother, Catherine the Great." In part, that mean continuing expanding the empire and colonizing the southern provinces.

1800-1871: Life in South Russia								
1800	Fürsorgekomitee Für ausIndische Ansiedler In Südrussland [Guardianship Office for Foreign Settlers in New Russia] established.							
1801	— Paul killed. Alexander I ascends.							
1803	— Recruiters sent to southwestern Germany. 400 families arrive by end of year.							

Knowing that Napoleon was causing a stir along the Rhine, in the summer of 1803, agents were sent to southwestern Germany to start recruiting immigrants. The first transports arrived in September 1803. 8 transports arrived by the end of November with 400 families, well over 5,000 people, ready to settle in their new colonies. "We're here! Where's the hot wine?!" In addition to the coordinated transports, some had come on their own.

The Russians were not ready for this kind of response. Correspondence in documents in the Colonists Welfare Committee notes they were overwhelmed. They felt that this immigrant must go well because they were afraid if it didn't, the Germans would write home about it this may discourage others from following.

The immigrants were housed in quarantine in old army barracks in Ovidopol [AHvidopol] and temporarily settled in Armenian villages along the Dniester River until their colonies were ready for them to inhabit.



Here are some transport lists from the Odessa archive. They've been translated, annotated, and published by several research communities. The annotations in red connect the immigrants to their colonies, revisionlists, and note a few deaths.



Now that 400 families had showed up at the party early, Alexander I reissued his grandmother's manifesto 20 February 1804. It invited immigrant colonists to newly acquired Russian lands around the Black Sea. All the privileges of Catherine's 1763 Manifesto were reaffirmed. But this time with the invitation, Alexander put into play a policy that would be more selective about immigration.

### Alexander I — Invitation to South Russia

### Key points

- 1. Complete religious freedom.
- 2. Exemption from taxes and other burdens for the first ten years.
- After the ten years of exemption, the colonists will be treated like any other subject of the Empire, with the exception that they will not be required to house troops, except those en route to the battle fields.
- The colonists are exempt from military service and also civil service. Each one, however, is free to enter the service of the Imperial Crown, but this will not exempt him from the payment of his debts to the Crown.
- 5. To get established, every settler will receive an advance loan, which he must repay in the 10 years following the decade of exemption.

- Every family is permitted to bring its movable property dutyfree, plus commodities for sale not exceeding 300 rubles in value
- Craftsmen are permitted to join guilds and associations. Each one may carry on trade and commerce throughout the Empire, without hindrance.
- 8. Through the magnanimity of His Imperial Majesty, all serfdom has been abolished in the provinces of Imperial Russia.
- Every family will receive from the Crown a grant of 30-60 dessiatin [1 dessiatin = 2.7 acres] of productive land for its use. In addition to the police dues, each family will pay an annual ground tax of 15-20 kopecks per dessiatin after the ten years of exemption have expired.
- 10. Any settler who desires to leave the Imperial realm of Russia and return to his native land must first pay his Crown debts, plus the taxes for three years for the use of the land.

Only colonists that were "capable agriculturists and artisans" would be accepted. The idea was that they would serve as model farmers, grape-growers, animal breeders and craftsmen in the newly acquired and underdeveloped areas of the Russian Empire.

Colonists also had to already own property valued at 300 florins or more [1 florin = 54 grains of gold, 3.5g, or 0.1125 troy ounce]. In other words, they had to already be somewhat successful in their current situations.

In addition, only families were allowed to immigrate, not individuals, and no more than 200 families were allowed to immigrate per year in groups organized by the Crown's immigration agencies. However, there was no restriction on how many families who chose to immigrate independently. More than **800** families arrived by the end of that first year.

And again, the Russians were not ready for this response.



Between 1804 and 1810, German colonists arrived in South Russia. The flow of immigrants drastically slowed between 1807 and 1808. Because of Napoleon's military campaigns, fewer than 390 families arrived.

King Friedrich of Württemberg also prohibited emigration from his kingdom in 1807 in order to maintain his military force and collect taxes. The restriction on immigration would be in place for Württembergers until 1815....unless they wanted to pay 10% of all they wanted to take with them.

Between 1808 and 1810, immigration picked up again as the Rhine-Franconian migration occurred with colonists from Baden, Alsace and the Palatinate. About 2,000 families arrived in those years.



In 1812, the territory of Bessarabia and part of Moldavia was ceded to Russia, again from Turkey. This ended the Russo-Turkish war of 1806. Yes...they were still at it. It also granted Russia free navigation in the Danube River for merchant ships. Needing more colonists, Alexander I went back to the well, so to speak, and sent recruiters to the former South Prussia. This was Poland again, Congress Poland, which was under the protectorate of Russia and eventually become a part of the Russian Empire. Anyway, recruiters were sent to persuade Germans to become colonists in southern Bessarabia. Remember these are the families who immigrated to Prussia when Napoleon became a problem and were seen as interlopers by the Polish. The Germans didn't need much persuasion. More than 1,500 families emigrated joined by others from southwestern Germany.

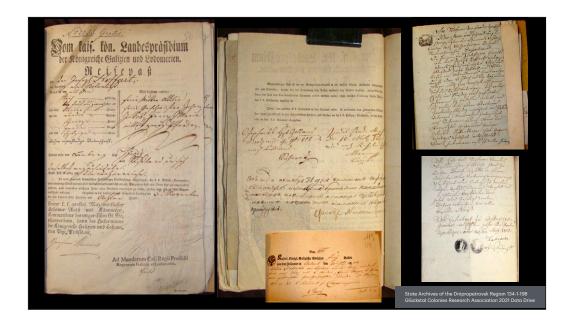
There are many translated documents regarding travel, border crossings, and lists of families from those first names lists and revisionlists.



This is an example of a passport issued in Frankfurt in the spring of 1809 for Martin Schilling of Steinsfurt, along with his wife Anna Maria and 5 children, Katharina, Georg, Barbara, Michael and Philipp. It has their path of immigration with places where the passport was presented and stamped along with the dates noted in both New Style, which was the Gregorian calendar that that was in use in Europe, and Old Style, which was the Julian calendar still used in Russia. Most of the passports at this time out of Frankfurt note that the colonists would be traveling to Taurida province. There were so many people trying to get passports at this time, that they were pre-filled out so agents just had to fill in the names.

Translations of these can be found in a number of places including Karl Stumpp's "The Emigration from Germany to Russia in the Years 1763-1862."

the Glückstal Colonies Research Association's 2021 Data Drive, and from the Germans from Russia Heritage Society. The originals are in the archive in Dnipro.



This is another example. This one is a Galizien passport papers issued to Joseph Hoffart in the fall of 1808. He is single with his mother OOO-tila and his siblings Johann, Jacob, Franz, and Maria. This was issued in Lemberg or Lviv today. The documents state that they travelled on their own with a wagon, 2 horses, household goods, clothes, and tools on a ticket issued to Utila. In the file, there is a French Republic statement of good character issued from Aschbach, Canton Selz, Wissenbourg. So, he was from Alsace. Many of the German immigrants to Russia who had Galician passports were among those who fled Napoleon's occupied territory for South Prussia. And I did find this family on a list of Germans in Prussia along with the name of village where they lived for a short time, and confirmed in French church records where they came from.

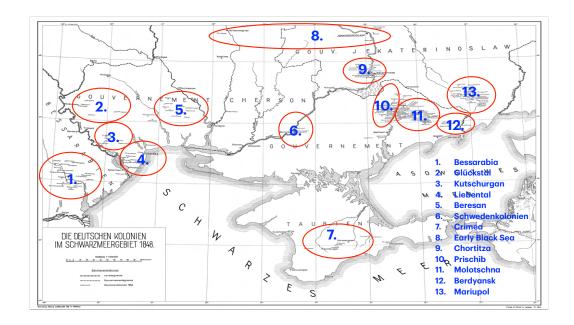
State Archives of Dnipropetrovsk Region

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											Archive 383-29- man Research <u>h</u>		ww.blac	kseagr.or	g/rese	arch_n	nigration.htm

You might also find passports lists. This example is of passports issued to emigrants from Baden, Wurttemberg, Elsass, Pfalz and Hesse to travel to South Russia.

The lists are written in French. That was the international diplomatic language of the time. On the left is an example the images from the St. Petersburg Archive, and on the right is a translation. Here is the Schilling family again and their fortune listed as 250 florins. Interesting to me is the others with the same place of birth. Neighbors? Relatives?

One thing to note is that many of the documents related to the Black Sea Germans may not be found in archives in Ukraine. Many will be in the St. Petersburg and Saratov archives. That's just where they ended up. Also, during WWII when the German army arrived, documents were stolen from the archives, in particular the archive in Odessa. This may sound familiar. They were taken back to Berlin, translated, published, and used as propaganda. Propaganda that was meant to show how productive the German people were in Ukraine as far back as the 1820s, and that the Fatherland already had Germans in the East (meaning Ukraine), and therefore the East already belonged to them...and the army was just there to "liberate" their people and their land for Germany. Isn't propaganda fun? There is a lot to be said about the context surrounding how some of our genealogical records came to light...as grateful as we are to have them, they, too have their stories.



Okay, over the next 30 years, the distribution of Black Sea colonies looked something like this. You can see here that South Russia now had German farmers settled from end to end. There were, of course, other ethnicities among the Germans in their own villages, colonies, and cities. Here it looks like they're all alone, but they weren't. I've not talked about the enclaves specifically because there are so many. Refer to your syllabus for more on each one.



Life in the colonies. There are a wealth of information about each enclave and each colony. Many sources are listed in your syllabus. As I mentioned, Black Sea Germans are well documented as a population.

You've discussed revision lists, censuses, and names lists in previous sessions. Those lists are available for the Black Sea German colonies, too. I won't review those now.

We'll take a look again at some church records and then a few examples from the Colonist Welfare Committe. Beyond baptisms, marriages, and deaths, the documents in the Guardianship Committee is where you may find interesting tidbits about your family.

# **Church Records**

Protestant (Evangelisch-Lutherisch and Reformiert)

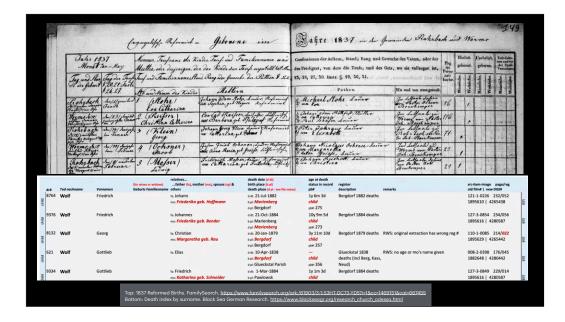
- Housed in St. Petersburg Archive
- Digital images on FamilySearch (some indexed in English; be careful with localities)
- English indexes with film numbers on Odessa3
- \* English indexes with links to images on Black Sea German Research (BSGR)

### Read the slide

As was mentioned before, the Protestant church records are housed in the St. Petersburg Archive. St. Petersburg was the Lutheran consistory for the German parishes in South Russia. They received duplicate church books. Family Search has been successful getting those records scanned and available. Be careful with the places mentioned in the indexes.

**Odessa3:** "Odessa3: A German-Russian Genealogical Library". Odessa3 is the oldest online collection of Black Sea German research. It's full of all sorts of indexes of records and translations of documents. It has been around since the 1990s first as Gopher server. It was moved to a web server in the early 2000s. It's now an inactive repository. Those extracts have not been updated with new information nor have errors been corrected. No new parish records have been added that have been discovered since.

**BSGR:** An ongoing project to revisit and re-extract names, dates, and places from the St. Petersburg records that are on FamilySearch and post them on the Black Sea German Research website. The indexes are being done on spreadsheets and contain links to the records on Family Search. Extracts for both Odessa3 and BSGR were done by descendants of Black Sea Germans who know the language, script, and the surnames in the colonies.



The image on top is of Reformed births from 1837 for the colonies of Rohrbach and Worms. This is from FamilySearch. It is in German in the old script. Easy page to read if you know the script and the language. They're not all this neat.

On the bottom is an index of death records for the Glückstal colonies. Note the film information on the right and a link to the image on FamilySearch.

# **Church Records**

Catholic (Katholisch)

- Housed in the State Archive of Saratov.
- ❖ A few digital images on FamilySearch. Not searchable.
- Some English indexes and images from the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS).
- English indexes on Black Sea German Research (BSGR).

### Read the slide

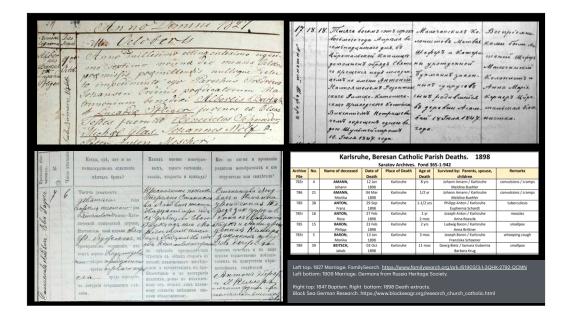
As was mentioned earlier, it has been more difficult to get Catholic Church records out of Russia for the Black Sea Germans. Right now, it is even more complicated.

There are a few Catholic church books on FamilySearch for the Mannheim parish. The images are not searchable and not even identified as to what they are other than created by a church.

The Germans from Russia Heritage Society has some Catholic parish extracts and images with English translations for some of the Kutschurgan enclave parishes. Both you can purchase.

Black Sea German Research has some parish extracts on its website with more in progress. This site is free.

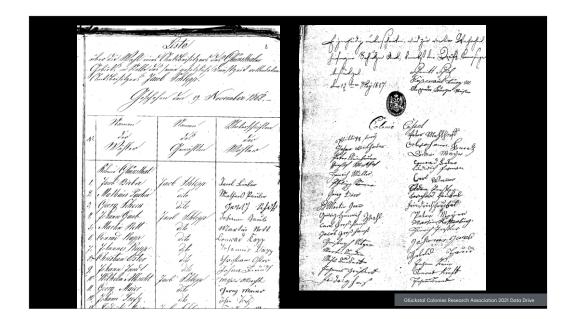
All of them identify the Fond (fund), Delo, and Opis in case you want to try to obtain the original at some point, if it gets easier to do so.



Here are some examples of what the Catholic records look like.

The early records were in Latin until the 1840s. Then they were in Russian. Toward the end of the century, there were printed forms where the relevant information would be filled in. The two records on the left are marriage records from 1827 and 1909, Mannheim and Strassburg parishes respectively. On the top right is a baptism record from 1847 in Crimea. And below it is an index of death records from the Karlsruhe parish for 1898. You can see the archive reference at the top.

Next we'll look at a few documents from the Guardianship Committee for Foreign Settlers in South Russia. I mentioned earlier that these documents in the archives in Dnipro and Odessa documented the lives of the colonists.



Signatures from voter's lists and petitions. I love finding signatures.

The item on the left are signatures on a voter's list. They were voting on a resident to be their representative on the Guardianship Committee in 1868. The first column is the colonists's name nicely written out by the Schriber, the clerk. The second is the name of the the person voted for. And the third column is the signature.

The item on the right is from a petition from 1827 signed by the heads of household. Given the date, these would likely have been the original settlers in the colony.

Department of the Interior	10		12
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change of faith among some colonists with		N:46	Timo num Kononucmexical often
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To the Trustee Committee for Colonists of Southern Russia		M. Kaymonse .	pa Barneps, Anna-Toopsapa; Herry
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Krasna; namely Peter Vagner's wife Anna-Barbara, Peter Veber's wife Do	oroteya,	Januaris Keenigga	Маріанна и Андаси Винорого
Mikhail Shnabel's wife Katerina, Elias Zeifert's wife Marianna, and Mikhai	1	hisallekeno Kara	Anna-posuna; dues nywinge Down
Vilbrat's wife Anna-Rozina; who were at first of Evangelical faith, without		meteno repearans	
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<ol> <li>Vagner asked the Office to take measures to stop this kind of self-will.</li> </ol>	In	consensame tte.	принам римско Катомическое; К
esponse to that the Office requested Ksendz Kozelsky to report and pres	ent	postogonis, unog	Terry J. Barneyets reproduct houtings
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Now, Ksendz Kozelsky informs the Office that above mentioned colonist	s	symmomend.	
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nade them give him written undertaking in which they swore that nobody	had put		Tow hournoge orneonenient ny
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ask about the adoption of Roman Catholic faith.			och servine en tipagermadiciones of
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This is a report of a complaint by a Lutheran pastor in Bessarabia. He claimed that 5 wives of colonists in Krasna who were Lutheran adopted the Catholic faith without permission — Krasna was the only Catholic colony in Bessarabia, btw. He asked the Guardianship Committee to "take measures to stop this kind of self-will." Turns out the women voluntarily changed their religion, but the person investigating didn't believe them and made them sign affidavits that nobody forced them to become Catholic.

There are other change of religion documents, sometimes with very long lists of colonists moving from one confession to another. Permission had to be granted by the Guardianship Committee to switch religions. Perhaps the event in Krasna generated that rule. Going from Protestant and Catholic and vice versa seemed to have been granted most often. What wasn't granted was going from Russian Orthodox to anything else, and if you were a Separatist colonist, you couldn't change your religion either. Not sure if the Committee didn't want to grant it, or if the other religions didn't want radicals in their church.



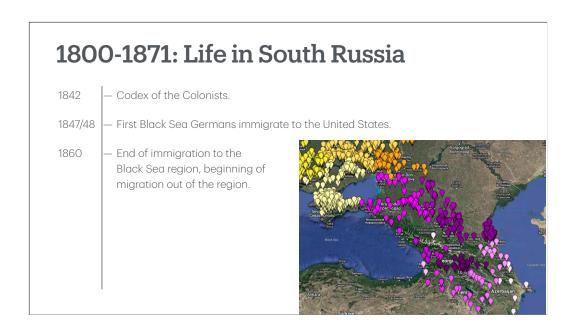
This crop report has the names of heads of household on it, number of workers, males and females, and what they planted. This is from an inventory of the settlements in the Odessa area. Not every crop report has what each colonist planted. Most just have totals per colony, and even those are interesting. Some of the reports showed they planted all kinds of things just to see what stuck: grains, vegetable crops, grapes, fruit trees, even mulberry trees not for the fruit but for silk worms. It also has the comments and occupations at the end. Comments at the end note other occupations, brewer, miller, butcher, carpenter, tailor, weaver, shoemaker, chimney sweep, winegrower. Interesting stuff that helps tell the story of our ancestors.



In 1842, all of the rights, responsibilities, and privileges of the colonists were codified into law. It also granted them civil rights. So, things were going well for the German colonists in Russia.

180	0-1871: Life in South Russia
1842	— Codex of the Colonists.
1847/48	— First Black Sea Germans immigrate to the United States.

You may be surprised that around this time, the first Black Sea Germans immigrated to the United States. They settled near Sandusky, Ohio on Kelley Island in Lake Erie and grew grapes. Others went to Iowa and Wisconsin. It's not clear why they left at this time, but some theorize that they were in contact with family back in Germany and decided to join them in the U.S. The 1850s was a period of mass immigration to the U.S. from Germany. Most immigrants in South Russia still had extended family in Germany. What's important about this and why I included it is that members of the Sandusky settlement kept in contact with friends and other relatives in South Russia. They...and Sandusky...would be instrumental in the immigration of Black Sea Germans to the U.S.



By 1860, immigration to South Russia had pretty much stopped except for a few stragglers. The end of serfdom in the Russian Empire (for real this time) brought more German immigration into Volhynia.

The colonies were growing and thriving. There was prosperity and continued acquisition of land and the modern tools to work the land. At this point, migration began in earnest. Daughter colonies were established much further away from Mother colonies, wherever there was land available and wherever the Colonist Welfare Committee permitted it. Smaller farms called khutors were established. Often the khutors were named after the family who started them, which is a fun thing to find if your surname is on one of them. One had to be well off to buy or rent land for your own khutor.

Germans began to move east into the Don and also into the north and south Caucasus regions, shown here on the map. The Don was also a migration territory for Volga Germans. In some cases, both groups ended up in the same colonies, but still under only one religion. Mennonite colonists continued to live in closed colonies only open to other Mennonites, but they too migrated away from their Mother colonies. Things were looking good.

These migrations are out of the scope for a Germans in Ukraine session, but it is all a part of the movement of the Black Sea Germans. I wanted you to be aware it in case your research takes you there. And there would be even more movement to come.

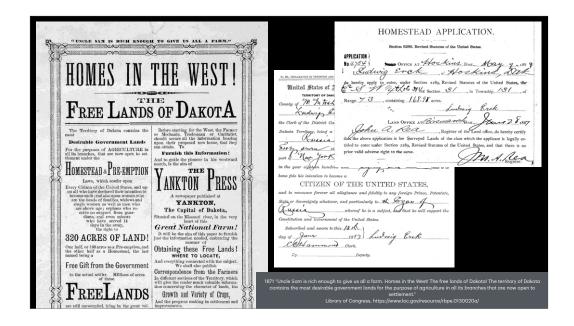


Just when things seemed to be going so well, growing nationalism within the Russian Empire prompted Tsar Alexander II to revoke the Codex of the Colonists. Control over the local government in the German colonies was abolished. The Colonist Welfare Office was shut down. There German colonies became dorfs. For the Germans, this was the beginning of repressing their identity in favor of a Russian national identity. And this did not sit well.



The following year, Alexander II issued an edict ending the German colonists' freedom from military service, giving them a 10 year reprieve before it began. This was a deal-breaker. Emigration from Russia began the year after that.

Emissaries were sent from colonies in Bessarabia to investigate migrating to nearby Dobrudscha. They found it a suitable place and many left along with some colonists from the Odessa area.



Enticing was news coming from North America where there was cheap or free land for the taking through the Homestead Act in the U.S. and Domain Lands Act in Canada. A representative from the earlier Sandusky settlement in the U.S., who was quite successful at this point, traveled to South Russia that year to encourage the colonists immigration to the United States were they could homestead. Sandusky would be an early hub for Black Sea German immigrants. While there was was no land for them there in Ohio, it was, at least initially, a place along the railway to stop and figure out where to go next.

Among the Germans in Russia, the decision was clear for some, and the response was swift. In the early spring of 1873, the city of Yankton, Dakota Territory became home to Black Sea Germans from Russia, the first of many. The Mennonites and Hutterites were pacifists, so they were also among the first to leave. The Hutterites from Russia would immigrate in total and established Bonn Homme Colony not far from Yankton, and Mennonites began settling in Minnesota, Kansas, and in Canada.

Those who saw the writing on the wall did something about it. They got the memo. Some took a little longer than others and sent their sons first...but still not everybody left. They must've thought, "Well, maybe it won't be so bad."



In 1878, German-language newspapers were founded in the U.S in the Dakotas, Kansas, and Nebraska for the purpose of connecting the immigrant Russian-Germans in the U.S with their families back in Russia. They circulated in both North America and in South Russia. They became an easy way for families to keep in touch. Germans in both countries wrote letters to the editor about events, weather, crops, politics, who married, who died. All of these were published along with other news from the old and new countries.

As life in Russia got harder, those in America wrote to their friends and neighbors in Russia that the water's fine over here. Lots of work and opportunity. Come while you still can. And as things got darker and darker in Russia, the letters became heartbreaking during collectivization, the famines, and the terror years.

# **German-Language Newspapers**

Dakota Freie Presse (1878)

index: https://www.grhs.org/Documents/Uploads/freie-idx.html online: https://www.newspapers.com/paper/dakota-freie-presse/30852/

**Die Mennonitische Rundschau** (1878, began as the Nebraska Ansiedler) index: <a href="https://cmbs.mennonitebrethren.ca/publications/mennonitische-rundschau-die/">https://cmbs.mennonitebrethren.ca/publications/mennonitische-rundschau-die/</a>

online: https://archive.org/details/pub\_die-mennonitische-rundschau

Die Eureka Post (1889)

Index: https://www.grhs.org/Documents/Uploads/eureka-post-idx.html online: https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn99062854/ (German) online: https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn99062853/ (English)

Der Staats-Anzeiger (1906)

index: https://www.grhs.org/Documents/Uploads/staats-idx.html online: https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn89074935/

The "Herold" newspapers out of Sioux Falls, SD **Deutscher Herold** (1907)

online: https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn98069091/

Nachrichten=Herold (1901)

online: https://www.loc.gov/item/sn98069092/

Süd=Dakota Nachrichten und Herold (1900)

online: https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn98069095/

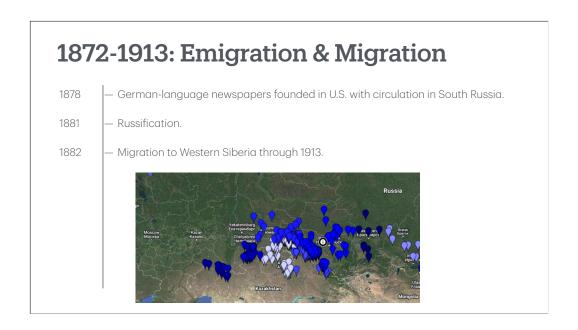
Süd Dakota nachrichten (1896)

https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn98069093/

These newspapers are very rich source of information. Many newspapers are digitized and on the Library of Congress website Chronicling America. Others are on Newspapers.com. At least one is on the Internet Archive. State and church archives have physical holdings of some of the newspapers, as do the Germans from Russia Heritage Society and the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia. Here is just a sample of those that can help with your research. You can search for German-language newspapers in the state where your ancestor lived and find more that way. They are, as I said in German, and in the Fraktur font. Several have indexes available from the Germans from Russia Heritage Society and the Center for Mennonite Brethen Studies.



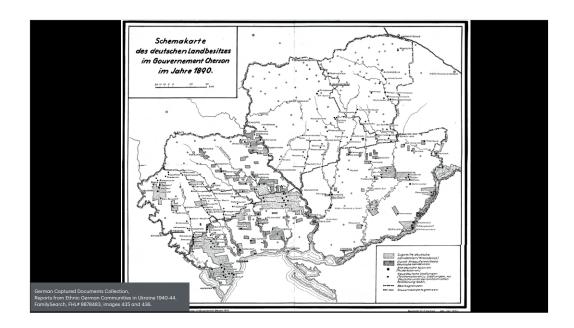
Russification, to some degree, had started in the 1850s after the Crimean War, but became more intense after the assassination of Alexander II, and Alexander III came to power. Russification was the policy of enforcing Russian language and culture on the ethnic minorities, replacing a population's identity with a nationalistic one. Germans were just one of those ethnic minorities. Acts like that continued to fuel German emigration from Russia.



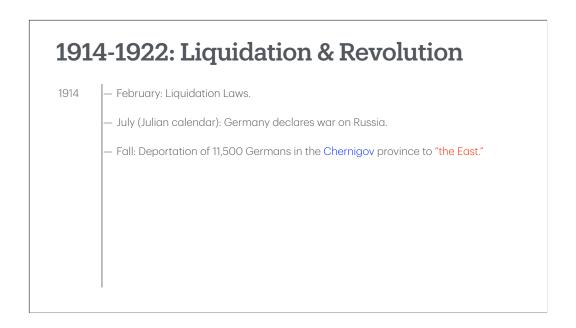
When Western Siberia had become open for resettlement to anyone in the empire, many Black Sea Germans immediately wanted to migrate there. There was more land, and it was good land. And maybe, just maybe they there would be less oversight in the east.

The image here are the German settlements in western Siberia and the Steppes Krai, that's where Russia and Northern Kazakhstan meet...just so you have an idea of where some of them went. And these were voluntary resettlements.

They had to get permission to move. Each person requesting to resettle had to answer questions about whether 1. they were under trial or inquest; 2. weather there were any infants or others not able to work; and 3. whether anyone was in arrears in taxes. Names, ages, and relations are listed out. Not every request was approved, but many were. Like the Don and the Caucasus region, this is out of the scope of this class. I just wanted you to be aware of this migration if your research takes you there.



By 1890, Germans owned a lot land in Russia. This map is of Kherson province. It includes the Crown land given to the German colonists on their arrival, additional land acquired through purchase, the land given to the original Mother colonies, the Daughter colonies, and the settlements where Germans were living with the native population and other ethnicities.

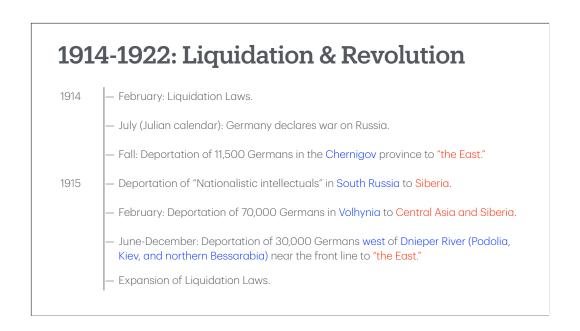


Emigration out of Russia ends as WWI beings. In 1914, Russia enters the Great War (WWI) against Germany and Austria-Hungary. Germans living in Russia became the enemy by extension, even though they had lived in Russia all their lives, had probably never been to Germany, and 300,000 were serving in the Russian Army. In previous sessions, conscription lists were discussed. There were similar lists for the Germans.

In February, the initial "Liquidation Law" was decreed. It was aimed at expropriation of Germans living in Russia, taking their property because they were German.

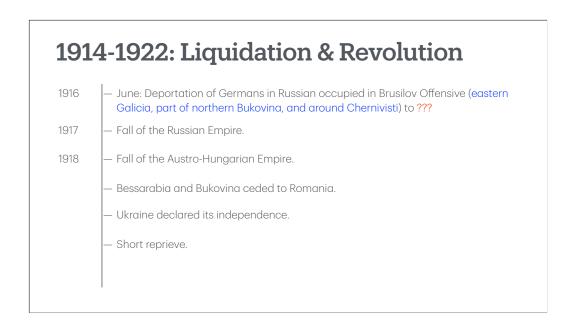
That fall, Germans in the Chernigov province were deported to the "East."

Whenever I present deportations, I present the source location in blue and the destination in red to make it easier to follow. The timeline following of deportations and resettlements were taken from numerous published timelines, and I've culled them to just include those pertaining to Ukraine. The full list is much longer than what you'll see here.



### Deportations continue in 1915.

When I say "deportation" - and I will a lot for the remainder of this session - keep in mind that Russia never **expelled** anyone **out** of Russia. They just moved or "resettled" people further east or north and used them for labor, or to remove them from places where they might cause trouble. To expel the enemy **within** Russia **out** of Russia meant that the enemy on the **outside** could use them **against** Russia. So, it kept its human assets squirreled away, so to speak, in the far north and eastern regions. After the Soviet Union was formed, they would continue to be deported out of the Ukrainian Republic, but again, not out of the Soviet Union.



More deportations in 1916 due to the war. Deportation of German population occupied by Russian troops in the Brusilov Offensive (All of Eastern Galicia and part of northern Bukovina around Chernivisti.

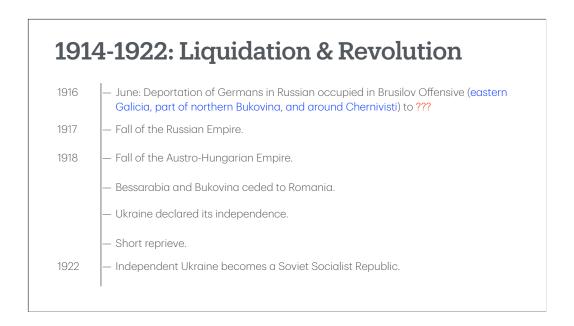
1917 the fall of the Russian Empire.1918 the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire

1918 - Lenin puts Russia on the Gregorian calendar. Feb. 1918 [O.S.] becomes Feb. 14, 1918 [N.S.]

Bukovina and Bessarabia become a part of Romania. For 22 years, the Germans in Romania were untouched by Communism that affected their family and friends to the east. They farmed, worshiped, and educated their children in German. And very important, they had church records up until 1939/40. The Protestant parish record images are on FamilySearch. They are, I think, mostly indexed if not entirely indexed on Black Sea German Research with the ability to search the entire collection of indexes. And there are partial indexes on Odessa3. Of course, the film source is noted so you can go back and have a look at the images.

Ukraine declared its independence. The capital was Zhytomyr.

There was a short reprieve until...



In 1922, Stalin came to power, and the independent Ukraine became the Ukrainian SSR and a part of the USSR, back under the influence of the former Russian Empire.



Collectivization and the liquidation of kulaks began. Kulaks were any farmers, not just Germans, that the Soviets deemed were "wealthy." This could mean owning land, having a large farm, employing others, having a surplus of grain... or it could mean having one more pig, cow, or horse than anyone else. Same for all. The farmer would be relieved of his excess wealth and was often arrested and deported to a labor camp, especially if it was found he or his family was hiding anything extra.

Last emigration out of Soviet Russia occurred in 1929. Over 12,000 Germans went to Moscow petitioned to immigrate to North America. Most were Mennonites. 6,000 were allowed to leave. The rest were sent to Siberia. This group of emigrants settled in Canada, with the assistance of the Mennonite Central Committee.

Next I wanted to lay out what was going on with the Germans in the 1930s and 40s.

You will have a class on displaced persons and repression records coming soon. Here are two sites I use and would be helpful to you. I have found many Black Sea Germans them. I don't think these are in your syllabus, so you may want to screenshot this page.

— Farmers are now farming for the state on collective farms. All of the farm implements, tools, machinery that the German farmers owned were confiscated and moved to Machine Tractor Stations. It was meant for use by all, but most of the equipment didn't work because no one was taking care of it anymore.



- Deportations pick up. This time people are sent north instead of east. The Karelian ASSR, is on the border with Finland.
- Period of "blood-cleansing" by Stalin. Mass arrests, deportations, executions. A campaign directed against Soviet Germans to "fight fascists and their supporters" was carried out. Those who received and forwarded help from abroad were called fascists. Physical and moral terror was inflicted on the German citizens of the Soviet Union. Hundreds of people were shot; thousands were exiled to camps. In the Ukrainian SSR, 24,900 Germans were affected by the repressions in 1935 alone.

# 1923-1945: Life in the Ukrainian S.S.R. 1937-38 — The "German Operation" of the NKVD. "The Terror Years." Crimean A.S.S.R. 1,625 arrested of which 1,391 were shot. Total of 70,000 Germans in Russia were arrested and deported. Of those over 53,000 were executed. Those who were were not shot ended up in the GULAG system.

### 1937

— The Great Terror of 1937–1938. The "German Operation" of the NKVD. The goal: "liquidation of the spy base of fascist Germany in the Soviet Union." Other concurrent operations targeted Poles, Fins, and Latvians. The Ukrainian SSR was greatly impacted by this. In the Crimean ASSR (1,625 arrested of which 1,391 were shot). In total, 70,000 Germans were arrested and deported: 76.14% (approx. 53,298) were executed. Those who were were not shot ended up in the GULAG system.



Treaty of Non-Aggression between Germany and the USSR, a secret pact between Hitler and Stalin that allowed movement of ethnic Germans back to German controlled land.

Two valuable genealogy resources came out of this.

## **Kolbenz Questionaires**

Questionnaires filled out by villagers from Bessarabia, Bukovina, and Dobrudscha. Indexed at Black Sea German Research. Images available from Germans from Russia Heritage Society.

- √ name of head of household
- ✓ current place of residence
- √ his or her occupation
- √ birth date and place of birth
- **√** place and date of death
- √ confession and religion
- ✓ spouses' same information (if married)
- ✓ date of marriage and location (if applicable)
- √ names, birth dates and locations of birth of children (name of spouse if child is married) and death dates (if applicable)

- √ emigrated (day, year, destination)
- √ parents' information along with dates of birth and location (if known)
- √ does family have property and is so, size of property
- √ name of ancestor and location of where and when they emigrated
- √ first, second and so on regarding place of settlement
- √ name and profession of ancestor who emigrated (on mother's side)
- $\checkmark$  from what land, town, year and to where emigrated
- ✓ if family spread out in other countries
- √ if an Ahnentafel (ancestor chart) is available for family and where it is
- √ if pictures of ancestors are available and where
- $\checkmark$  notable happenings for the family or individual

Koblenz questionnaires were filled out by villagers from Bessarabia, Bukovina, and Dobrudscha **before** they were brought out of Romania at the beginning of World War II. The questionnaire is a one-page form (front and back) containing vital information about the villager.

Ahn-nen-tafel

# **EWZ Files**

Einwandererzentralstelle records (Immigration Central Office) are German immigration records filled out by **all** ethnic Germans returning to German-controlled land during WWII. They are applications for German citizenship where proof of German ethnicity is outlined in a series of questions and an Ahnentafel (ancestor chart). If approved, the applicant would receive German citizenship papers.

Indexed at Black Sea German Research. Copies of images:

- American Historical Society of Germans from Russia
- Germans from Russia Heritage Society
- Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia
- National Archives

Once repatriated, the men and boys were conscripted into the German army and the women and girls were sent to work.

Einwandererzentralstelle records (Central Immigration Center) are German immigration records filled out by people returning to German-controlled land during WWII. This office started in 1939 to process repatriations. German ethnicity is outlined in a series of questions and ancestor charts. If the percentage of German was sufficient and if approved, the applicant would receive German citizenship papers. These files tend to be many pages long and sometimes include a lebenslauf - a life story where the applicant wrote out their story. Sometimes there are photos, previous places lived, education, names of spouse and children. There are entire classes on how to use these files, and I recommend attending one to get the most of them.

Many of these films are indexed on Black Sea German Research. Images can be purchased from several different places.

REad slide

# 1923-1945: Life in the Ukrainian S.S.R.

1941

- Deportations, August-October
- August 20. Mass deportation of Germans in the Crimean A.S.S.R. first to Ordzhonikidze [North Caucasus] and the Rostov area; then to the Kazakh S.S.R. and the Dzambul oblast.
- August. Deportation of Germans from the Karelo-Finnish S.S.R. (originally from Ukrainian S.S.R. border areas in 1932–33) to the Komi S.S.R.
- August to September. Deportation of approximately 3,200 Germans from the Dnipropetrovsk oblast to the Altay region.
- August to September. Deportation of approx. 6,000 Germans from the Odessa oblast to the Altay region.
- September. 10–20. Deportation of 38,288 Germans from the Rostov oblast [part of the former Don Host] to the Altay region, Novosibirsk oblast, Dzambul oblast, Kyzyl-Orda oblast and South Kazakhstan oblast.

Back to the front. The German Wehrmacht was approaching. Leading up to the winter of 1941, the following deportations of the German population in the Ukrainian SSR took place. Initially they were carried out under the guise as resettlements or evacuations in order to protect the Russian-Germans from the approaching war, but soon they became forced population movements. The Soviets considered them "unreliable," sympathetic to the enemy, and even spies. But they were still human assets that could be used in remote parts of the country. Some they kept around long enough to bring in the harvest before deporting them east.

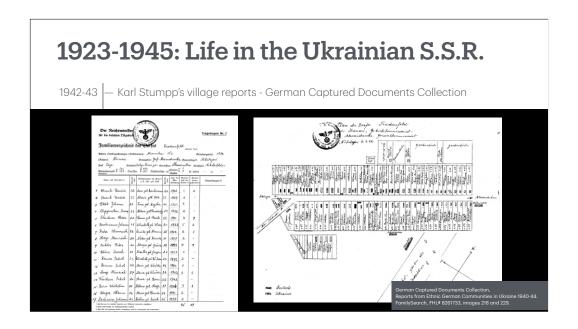
I won't read all of these. You can pause the video to read them if you like.

# 1923-1945: Life in the Ukrainian S.S.R.

1941

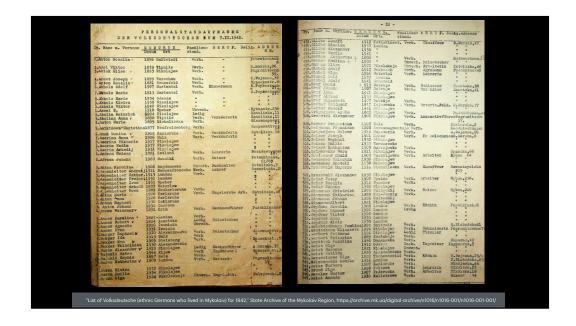
- August-October (cont.)
- September 28–29. Complete forced deportation of the tri-city area of Zaporizhzhya, Mariupol, Melitopol to the Kazakh S.S.R.
- September to October. Deportation of 31,320 Germans between 25 September to 10 October 1941 from Zaporizhzhya (city and oblast) to the Kazakh S.S.R.
- September to October. Partial deportation of Germans from the Voroshilovgrad oblast [Donbas today] to the Kazakh S.S.R.
- September to October. Deportation of 50,000 Crimean Germans to the Kazakh S.S.R.
- October 2. Deportation of 15,000 Germans from the Molotschna colonies in the area of Halbstadt to Siberia.
- October. Deportation of Germans in the Stalino oblast to the Kazakh S.S.R.

Same with this slide. Pause if you'd like to read them all. Again, please note that these is ONLY the deportations for the Ukrainian SSR. Germans in the rest of Soviet Russia were also being deported at this time, causing all kinds of backups on the railways.



Just after the German army moved into Ukraine, in 1942, Dr. Karl Stumpp arrived. Stumpp was a sonnderkomanndo, a special commander, for the Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories 1942 through early 1943. He was born in a German colony near Odessa and had immigrated to Germany as a young man to attend school before the Revolutions. He was an ethnographer and was assigned to compile village histories of the German settlements in Ukraine. In addition, he enumerated their populations and recorded the names of the Germans living in the villages. In doing so, he created a valuable genealogical resource for the descendants of those German villages. However, he also created lists of Jews in those villages who were then murdered by the Ein-satz-gruppen, the Nazi death squads. While this is a rich resource of genealogy compiled at the end of the time the Germans lived in Ukraine, I also must recognize the context in which it was created. The images are a part of the German Captured Documents at the National Archives. This particular collection is also on FamilySearch. It is not indexed on FamilySearch, but it is indexed on Odessa3 under war documents. The images here are of a list of Germans and a village plat map showing where everyone lived at that time.

When the Nazi's were there, Russian Germans had the option of resettling, and some did. Some of the men and boys were conscripted. The German army wasn't in a rush to move out the farmers. They thought it was better to keep them where they were in order to feed the German troops, who they believed were there to stay. That would not be the case.



In addition to Stumpp's work in the German villages, Germans who lived in cities, or had moved to the cities when were also recorded. These pages are from the Mykolaiv archive. It gives the name, year and place of birth, marital status, profession. Several are clerks and interpreters, presumably there to translate Russian into German and vice versa.



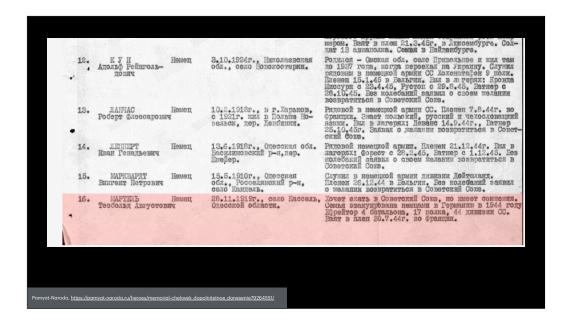
In 1943, Germany retreats after being defeated at Stalingrad. By summer, the Germans still living Ukraine also resettle west. Remember, each person will create an EWZ form once they get to German-occupied Poland. Again, I won't read each of these. You can pause the video if you'd like to read them.



The last of the resettlements to the west occurred in early 1944. Anyone who did not evacuate were deported to the east. The deported Germans are resettled into special settlements in the east and far north and not allowed to go back to their original homes in Ukraine. How do you find out where they went? The two repression websites I mentioned earlier are good sources.

Ord.	Name	Birth place (group)	Relatives	half of GCRA under contract  [Birth date] Region of exile [Comment]				brother Fliman Johann s. Johann sister Fliman Hilda d. Johann brother Fliman Friedelin s. Johann	[1932] » [1937] » [1938] »
1	2	3	4	5	201	Jrma d. Heinrich	(B)	dau Fliman Lilia d. Karl	[1919] Chaply, North-Kazakhstan [1940] »
1.	ABEL/ZEB Chernogorka (Helenental) (B) husband Solomatin Michael s. Peter dau Abel Irene d. Rudolf son Abel Vladimir s. Michael	[1920] Krasnoyarka, Svendlovsk [1927] » [1942] » [1952] » (Bom in Krasnovarka)		15		dau Fliman Emma d. Karl son Fliman Robert s. Karl father Fliman Heinrich mother Fliman Karolina	[1942] » [1944] » [1878] Stalin, Molotov [1883] »		
			brother Zeb Friedrich s. Jacob sister Zeb Pauline d. Jacob mother-in-law Abel Johanna d. Christian	[1907] Molotov, Russia [] Karaganda region, Kazakhstan	100	FLIMAN Karolina d. Ludwig FLIMAN	Machulsky,	_	[1908] Yesil, Akmolinsk [1935] Yesil, Akmolinsk
2.	ACKERMANN Rudolf s. Johann	Hoffnungstal, Odessa		[1909] Akmolinsk, Kazakhstan [†5.IX.1949 of consumption]		Vladimir s. Andreas		mother Fliman Tatiana d. Alexey brother Fliman Andreas s. Andreas brother Fliman Jury s. Andreas	[1916] » [1938] » [1940] »
	100	(H)	wife Ackermann Emma d. Johann son Ackermann Oskar s. Rudolf son Ackermann Richard s. Rudolf nephew Berg Gerhard s. Jacob nephew Berg Victor s. Jacob	f [1934] s   Shad Ashan   Shad	206	FORSCH Elsa d. Johann	Freudental (L)	father Forsch Johann s. Christian mother Forsch Pauline d. Philipp sister Forsch Helene d. Johann brother Forsch Friedrich s. Johann	[1931] Reid, Molectov [1895] » [1897] » [1934] » [1938] »
3.	ACKERMANN Albert s. Gregory	Traskevicha, Nikolayevka (B)	grandmother Ackermann Christina d.Jacob brother Ackermann Harry s. Gregory brother Ackermann Johann s. Gregory		1- 1-	- 124	uncle Forsch Priedrich s. Christian sister Forsch Martha d. Johann brother Forsch Johann s. Johann Martha's hsb. Kramer Ernst s. Friedrich	[1925] Bestube, Akmolinsk [] Krasnokarusk, Molotov [1920] Bestube, Akmolinsk	
4.	Ewald s. Friedrich	Guldendorf (L)	sister Ackermann Bertha d. Friedrich	[1929] Berezovsky, Sverdlovsk h [1920] » [1921] Vishnevka, Akmolinsk [1942] »	201	7. FORSCH Louisa d. Heinrich	(L)	son Forsch Arthur s. Theodore	[1900] Kliucheska, Aktubinsk [1939] »
5.	ACKERMANN Katharina d. Andreas	Kardamytch, Grosulowo (Schonfeld)	son Ackermann Jacob s. Gottfried mother Kaiser Sophia d. Jacob		FRANK	Franzfeld	dau Forsch Irma d. Theodore son Forsch Friedrich s. Theodore dau Forsch Olga d. Theodore	[1935] » [1937] » [1940] »	
6.	AHNER	(H) Tarutino.	sister Kaiser Lydia d. Andreas	[1924] » [1901] Chromtau, Aktubinsk [19.XII.1950]	44	08. FRANK Anastasia d. Josepi		husband Frank Jacob s. Laurenty son Frank Johann s. Jacob	[1911] Malaya-Lata, Svendlovsk [1910] > [1935] >
7.	Fania d. Abraham AKHMADEYEV Alexandra d. Valentin	Bessarabia Klein- Liebental (L)	son Ahner Friedrich s. Georg sister Akhmadeyev Magdalena d. Valentin granddau Akhmadeyev Helene d. Kasper grandson Walz Kasper s. Kasper	1990  is   1883   Vozmesenovka [†16.II.1952 heart disease]   Valentin   1882  is   Lasper   1926  is   1930  is	1	38	son Frank Jacob s. Jacob son Frank Joseph s. Jacob son Frank Philipp s. Jacob beother Braum Johann s. Joseph sister Zerr Katharina d. Joseph	[1940] » [1943] » [1949] » (born in Malayu-Lata) [1899] Kostroma region, Russia [1897] Akmolinsk region, Kazakhstan	
8.	ALEXANDER Ella d. Theodore	Saratowo, Frunzovka (H)	husband Graf Theodore s. Johann son Alexander Eduard s. Theodore	[1926] Maminskoye, Sverdlovsk [1925] » [1949] » [bom in Mamin]				sister Braun Francisca d. Joseph sister Braun Elizabetha d. Joseph sister-in-law Eckert Agatha d. Laurenty	[1903] Omutninsk, Kirov, Russia [1901] Kemerowo regioe, Russia [1908] Malaya-Lata, Svendlovsk
	10		dau Alexander Zinaida d. Theodore uncle Lammle Philipp s. Wilhelm aunt Lammle Elizabetha d. Christian	[1951] » [n] [1905] Berezovsky, Sverdlovsk [1908] » [1926] » [1928] »	209	Emilie d. Adam	(B)	husband Frank Alfred s. Heinrich sis-in-law Brunnmeier Leontine d.Heinrich	[1914] Yessil, Akmolinsk [1905] » h [1902] Peschanka, Omsk
	53.		cousin Lammle Amalie d. Philipp cousin Lammle Frieda d. Philipp cousin Lammle Othilia d. Philipp		210	PRANK Konrad s. Michael	Franzfeld (L)	wife Frank Katharina d. Johann son Frank Johann s. Konrad dau Frank Katharina d. Konrad	[1882] Novaya-Lialya, Sverdlovsk [1889] » [1922] » [1926] »
9.	ANDREAS Karl s. Peter	(Kuhnersdorf) (B)	wife Andreas Rosina d. Rochus son Andreas Johann s. Karl	[1918] Sokolovka, North-Kazakhstan [1918] Presnovka, North-Kazakhstan [1943] »	211	FRANK Maria d. Konrad	Franzfeld (L)	son Frank Michael s. Konrad husband Frank Balthasar s. Klementy	[1911] = [1913] Novaya-Lialya, Sverdlovsk [1911] =
10.	ARNOLD Albert s. Johann	Alexanderhilf (L)	mother Arnold Magdalena d. Andreas brother Arnold Friedrich s. Johann	[1929] Chanchar, Aktubinsk [1897] » [1933] »	213		(L)	fusband Frank Balthasar s. Klementy foster-dau Zerr Ida d. Anton brother Frank Michael s. Konrad	[1937] » [1937] » [1911] Saltanowo, Sverdlovsk
			sister Arnold Erna d. Johann brother Arnold Adolf s. Johann brother Arnold Johann s. Johann	[1935] » [1938] »	213	Michael s. Konrad	(L)	wife Frank Othilia d. Georg don Frank Katharina d. Michael	[1911] Saltanosso, Sverdlovsk [1913] » [1020] –

These are some compilations that are focused on the Germans from the Odessa area. There are other lists for all the Mennonite colonies. The page on the left are family groups, and on the right are where they were from in blue and where they were sent in red or pink in this case.



Remember the Germans who were conscripted into the German army? Some were captured, sent to POW camps in the U.S., and returned to Soviet Russia after the war. There are lists of them on the website <a href="Pamyat-Naroda.ru">Pamyat-Naroda.ru</a> - the Russian war hero site for WWI. It was talked about in the session about military records. The highlighted entry is for Theobold Martel of Kassel colony. It notes that he is German and that he wants to go to the Soviet Union but has doubts. The family was evacuated by the Germans to Germany in 1944. He served as a corporal of the 4th battalion, 17th regiment, 44th SS division. Captured on July 30, 1944 in France. The entry above is for another German named with the surname Marquart of Kandel colony.



One last source I want to mention: the memories of those who survived. Almost immediately, they began recording their stories, either written or orally. Some drew maps of their villages. Their personal stories give insight that no archival document ever could, and we're fortunate to have a vast body of those stories and by refugees. And they're still being told today.

Here is were I must stop, even though the story continues on through the fall of the USSR, the independence of Ukraine in 1991, and the resettlement of those exiled to Kazakhstan and Siberia back to Germany...and the young descendants of those born there now asking questions about their Black Sea German ancestors.

# **Research Communities**

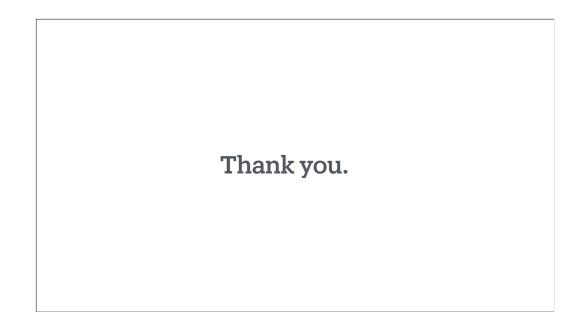
Nobody knows the neighborhoods better

- · You are not alone.
- · Communities know the language, the German script, the surnames in the colonies, and migrations.
- English translations of archival and church records, many of which are annotated.
- · Sourced research already done and ready for you.
- · Many have searchable pedigree databases of family trees and other record extractions.
- Most have an archive of work papers, newsletters, journals that contain valuable research.
- Large libraries of books, family histories, town books, German-language books, article translations, etc.

Was that a lot? It seemed like a lot. Yeah, that was a lot.

A reminder, again, that research communities are your best friend when researching Germans in Ukraine.

You're not alone. If there are any questions that I can answer, feel free to email me.



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