

FEEFHS

Newsletter of the Federation of East European Family History Societies

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THE FIRST FEEFHS CONVENTION, MAY 14-16, 1994

by John C. Alleman

Our first FEEFHS convention was successfully held as scheduled on May 14-16, 1994, at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Satt Lake City. The program followed the plan published in our last issue of the *Newsletter*, for the most part, and we will not repeat it here in order to save space. Anyone who desires more information on the subjects presented in the conference addresses is encouraged to write directly to the speakers at the addresses given there.

The most important business of the convention was the installation of permanent officers. Charles M. Hall, Edward R. Brandt, and John D. Movius had been elected and were installed as president, 1st vice president, and 2nd vice president, respectively. Brian J. Lenius, who had been elected 3rd vice president, informed us that he would not be able to serve in this capacity. In his place, the officers and directors approved the appointment of Watt Rusel of Calgary, Alberta. I have been asked to continue as *Newsletter* editor. Also elected to FEEFHS offices were Kathy Fisher, secretary, and Azra Jojic, treasurer, and Kathy H. Feit of Plano, Texas, was appointed as auditor. For different reasons these last three were unable to attend the convention, but they will be functioning in their respective offices. All elected and appointed officers are to serve through December 1995.

There was some discussion about a possible need for amendments to the FEEFHS Constitution that was approved earlier this year, but it was noted that according to that Constitution, no amendment could be decided on at the convention. Proposed amendments should be submitted to President Charles Hall in writing. If approved by the executive committee or supported by a sufficient number of members, the amendments will be submitted by mail for ratification.

A total of about 75 people registered for the convention, and many others assisted in various capacities. There were a few unexpected problems, of course, but altogether the meetings provided a valuable service, enough so that at the end of convention it was tentatively decided that next year we will try to hold two conventions, in Calgary, Alberta, and Cleveland, Ohio, in order to help serve the interests of people who have difficulty coming to Satt Lake City.

THANK YOU, CONVENTION SPEAKERS

by Ed Brandt, Program Chair

Many people attending the FEEFHS convention commented favorably on the quality of our convention speakers and their presentations. I have heard from quite a few who could not attend, who were similarly impressed with the qualifications of the speakers, although they did not have the opportunity to hear them.

As program chair, I would like to express my great appreciation and admiration to those who unselfishly donated their talented services, without any reimbursement of their travel costs, much less honoraria. Indeed, most of them paid the same fee for attending the convention as their listeners.

After schedule changes, which continued until the last few hours of the convention, we ended up with the following speakers from Utah (about half of whom work at the Family History Library): John Alleman, Danielle Caswell, Margarita Choquette, Thomas Edlund, Charles Hall, Larry Jensen, Marek Koblanski, Eva Liptak, Kahlile Mehr, Tom Noy, Gwen Pritzkau, Horst Reschke, Daniel Schlyter, Steve Summers, and Richard Woodruff. Thank you very much for sharing your expertise.

Tue out-of-state speakers, besides the program chair, were: Patricia Eames (District of Columbia), Irmgard Hein Ellingson (Iowa), Duncan Gardiner (Ohio), Doug Holmes (California), Tom Hmcirik (California), Jo Ann Kuhr (Nebraska), John Movius (California), Walter Rusel (Alberta), and Jonathan Shea (Connecticut), who gave two presentations.

These speakers spent thousands of dollars of their own money (and more than the total balance in the FEEFHS treasury), because of their dedication to the goals of FEEFHS, embodied in the words "UNITY, HARMONY, DIVERSITY."

They certainly deserve recognition as super-super-patrons of FEEFHS. We hope that our other organizational and individual members, who have been beneficiaries of the information provided through FEEFHS, will follow this model and contribute as generously as possible to FEEFHS (instead of paying only the minimal dues, which we have kept low in order to encourage maximum membership), so that we can speed up the development of other FEEFHS services and resources.

Roy Rushka deserves thanks for making his videotape available for showing at the convention, even though he himself could not attend.

I would also like to thank our guest speaker from the Russian archives, Vladislav Soshnikov, who not only made a presentation, but also offered individual consultation services. Since genealogical research (other than that for the nobility) is new to Russia, we hope that he gained useful knowledge, as well as imparting it. We anticipate benefiting from this increased familiarity with American family history through future services provided us by the Russian archives.

Finally, I want to thank Jacque Penstone, coordinator of the United Polish Genealogical Societies convention, and others who worked with her, for their great help and cooperation in making the FEEFHS convention much more effective in maximizing participation than would have been the case otherwise.

FEEFHS NEWS SINCE THE CONVENTION

by John D. Movius

EXPANDED COVERAGE

In response to requests from many people, it has been decided to add the countries of Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and Finland to the area served by FEEFHS.

FEEFHS, 2:3 (July 1994), p. 2

FEEFHS PUBLICATIONS

FEEFHS Newsletter Volume #1 Reprint: This soft cover bound 50 page publication is a well-indexed reprint of our first four issues (October 1992 - October 1993). The purchase price is US\$5.00 each postpaid (members) or US\$10.00 postpaid (non-members) in America and Canada. Please add US\$2.00 for overseas postage.

Resource Guide – East European Genealogy: This is the new name of the *FEEFHS Addressbook, Resource Guide and Data Base*, first issued as a 7-page document to attendees of our May convention. Since then it has added a section on professional translators and genealogists, and with the growth of FEEFHS it is now a 22 page document. It will continue to grow in size and will be published twice a year (Summer in August; Winter in February).

The Summer 1994 issue of the 22 + page *Resource Guide* will be mailed to all members of record thru October 1994 on a one time basis only. Thereafter it will become available only on a separate subscription basis. This is to keep membership costs down while covering the costs to publish this expanding document.

The single-copy price of the *Resource Guide* is US\$4.00 postpaid in America and Canada or US\$5.00 postpaid airmail overseas. Subscription price of the semi-annual guide is US\$8.00 postpaid America & Canada; US\$10.00 postpaid airmail overseas. Both the Reprint of Volume 1 and the *Resource Guide* can be purchased by sending a check or money order (payable to FEEFHS) to John D. Movius, P. O. Box 4327, Davis, CA 95617-4327. No credit cards, please.

DISTRIBUTION OF FEEFHS PUBLICATIONS

A goal is for our FEEFHS Newsletter to be the most widely available and read English language publication on East European genealogy in the world. One of our initiatives to make this come true is donation of sets of our publications (Reprint of Volume No. 1 of the Indexed *FEEFHS Newsletter* and the *Resource Guide*) to selected archives, libraries and family history centers in America, Canada and Europe.

This list is starting to grow. It includes the Library of Congress, the Family History Library (Salt Lake), the Allen County Public Library (Ft. Wayne, IN) and Sutro (California State) Genealogy Library (San Francisco) and the Omaha Nebraska Public Library.

Many of the larger Family History Centers in California (Concord, Los Angeles, Oakland, Sacramento (from SGGs), San Diego (from GRA), Palo Alto, Placer County/Auburn and

Vacaville now have FEEFHS sets. In Ontario Canada, all seven of the largest (stake) Family History Centers now have FEEFHS sets.

Copies were delivered by FEEFHS member Marilyn Wellauer (The Swiss Connection) to four archives in Wisconsin and by Jacques de Guise to five major libraries in Switzerland. Copies have been taken by SGGS officers Vic Boisseree and Shirley Riemer to archives in Köln, Munich, Stuttgart, while Margaret Freeman (Glückstal-GCRA) has delivered them elsewhere in Germany. Margarita Choquette of Salt Lake City left five sets in Finland and Russia during her recent trip. We continue to seek FEEFHS members traveling to European archives who agree to deliver a set of FEEFHS documents for us, saving us the postage.

John Skibiski, president of the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts (PGSMa) suggested that sets be mailed to four major Massachusetts libraries indicating they are a joint gift of FEEFHS and the PGSMa. Other FEEFHS member organizations have the same opportunity.

FEEFHS Representatives are requested to nominate/send us of the names and addresses of several of the most important genealogy libraries in their state/province that should receive sets of these documents. Please send your recommendations to John Movius at his address listed above. This is a one-time donation. We hope each archive or library will either become a FEEFHS member organization or at least subscribe to the FEEFHS Newsletter.

FEEF11S GROWING FAST

FEEFHS began in July 1992 with 11 societies. By the end of 1993 we had grown to 22 societies. By mid 1994 we are now growing at the rate of one new organization a week. Presently the 54 FEEFHS societies and organizations represent 43 American organizations from 19 states, 6 Canadian organizations from 4 provinces, 3 Polish, 1 Russian, 1 German and 1 Australian member organization. We have been growing in individual memberships too and welcome all our new members. At mid-year, here is our current roster:

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia
(AHSGR Headquarters)
AHSGR Sacramento Valley Chapter
Bukovina Society of the Americas
California Czech and Slovak Club
Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International
Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies
Croatian Genealogical and Heraldic Society
East Europe Connection (formerly Tue Slavic Connection)
East European Branch of the Manitoba Genealogy Society
German-Bohemian Heritage Society

Gennan Genealogical Digest
German Genealogical Society of America
Germanic Genealogy Society
German Research Association, Inc.
Germans from Russia Heritage Collection at NDIRS
Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS
Headquarters).
GRHS Puget Sound Chapter
Glückstal Colonies Research Association
Gottscheer Research and Genealogy Association
The Gottschee Tree
Hungarian Genealogical Society of America
Hungarian-American Friendship Society
Immigrant Genealogy Society
Knobloch Genealogical Archives: Lithuanian American
Genealogy Society
Mennonite Family History
Mennonite Historical Library
Minnesota Genealogical Society
Moravian Heritage Society
Polish Genealogical Society (PGS) of America
PGS of California
PGS of Massachusetts
PGS of Michigan
POS of Minnesota
PGS of The Northeast (CI)
PGS of Wisconsin.
Die Pommerschen Leute
Rusin (Ruthenian) Association
Russian Heritage Society
Sacramento German Genealogy Society
Saskatchewan Genealogy Society (SGS Hdqts)
SGS Swift Current Branch
Silesian Genealogical Society
Slavic Research Institute
Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International
Slovenian American National Art Guild
Slovenian Genealogy Society
Stammbaum
Tue Swiss Connection
Ukrainian Genealogical & Historical Society of Canada
Wandering Volhynians
Western Australian Genealogical Society European
Interest Group
Worsten Genealogical Society
Zielke Verlag

Addresses and other details about each organization can be found in our *Resource Guide*.

SEVEN NEW GENEALOGY SOCIETIES FORMING

Faced with growing requests for genealogy assistance where

oo society presently exists in Canada or America, last June at the Genealogical Jamboree in Pasadena, President Charles M. Hall announced a series of new efforts to assist in the grass roots formation of seven new genealogy societies. Initial efforts will focus on these East European nations for which there are no existing family history societies in America or Canada.

- Austrian Genealogy Society
- Bulgarian Genealogy Society
- Estonian Genealogy Society
- Finnish Genealogy Society
- Latvian Genealogy Society
- Romanian Genealogy Society
- Russian Genealogy Society

Others under serious consideration include societies for Armenia, Galicia, and Silesia. "We are being approached by a growing number of persons wanting to join such societies, but none have been found. A goal of FEEFHS is to help establish new societies where none exist.

"Once created, each society will be independent, just as other FEEFHS member organizations", said Hall. "Our first task is to get the publicity needed to attract a critical mass of potential members and volunteer leaders for each society. We then will link them up with persons having the needed language skills and with a genealogical specialist who has the needed genealogical research skills for that country.

"As qualified candidate leaders and persons with language and/or genealogy skills step forward, we'll mention their names in our *FEEFHS Newsletter*. We'll then turn over our database of interested persons to these leaders so they can get organized, while continuing to seek out more members.

"When each society feels it's ready to announce its officers, set dues, select a name and start publishing a newsletter, they'll make their own decision to do so and then will be off and running. We'll wish them well. continue to help publicize their existence and continue to pass on any inquiries relating to them, just as we are doing now for our other FEEFHS member societies."

Hall assigned 2nd vice-president John Movius the responsibility to establish computer databases for each of these seven new societies, lead FEEFHS's efforts to publicize this initiative and obtain the needed level of interest to activate each group. Hall, 1st vice-president Ed Brandt of Minneapolis and 3rd vice-president Walt Rusel of Calgary, Alberta, will also be available to advise the new leaders if requested.

Future issues of the *FEEFHS Newsletter* will periodically report on progress toward the formation of each new society.

A leader has already been found for the *Bulgarian Genealogy Society* and will be announced in our next report.

You can help create one of these new societies. Please send a letter of interest, describing your country, province/region of interest, any language skills, other abilities or help you can offer toward organizing such a society.

Please include two self-addressed stamped envelopes (SASE from America) or several International Postal Reply Coupons (IPRC's). One will be sent to you by FEEFHS with the address of a leader when he/she is found. The second envelope will be given to the new leader to help them start the organization of the society. Please mail to John D. Movius, 2nd vice-president FEEFHS, at his address shown elsewhere in this issue. Please send a separate letter and SASE's or IPRC's for each society of interest.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RESEARCH AND OTHER ACADEMIC WORK IN RUSSIA

By Lawrence Klippenstein

At the conclusion of a tour to the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States = former Soviet Union), which I guided from Sept. 1-20, 1993, a number of North Americans and Europeans joined a group of Russian scholars in Moscow for a four-day conference dealing with the topic of Pacifism in Russia. Walter Sawatky and I had been invited among many others to present short papers on themes of our choice related to the topic. Walter Bergen, then from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Canada, took the opportunity to come along also. He would become a country representative for MCC Russia a year later.

When the conference ended on Sept. 26, a number of people were asked to form a committee to discuss publishing the proceedings. Since I would be coming to Moscow shortly to stay for a year, I was invited to join a steering committee for this project. Dr. Peter Brock of the University of Toronto, Ontario, and Dr. Michael Holman from the University of Leeds in England were also appointed, as was a certain Rev. Michael Zykov, a priest in the so-called Leo Tolstoy church, who was rumored to have connections with the Moonies and access to a lot of funds! Several other professors from the World History Institute of the Academy of Sciences were also on the committee. We began our meetings only after Christmas, because the chairperson, Dr. Ruzanna Iliukhina, had been having some health problems.

I was also encouraged to take on the task of editing the

English-language papers which would be contributed to the volume. Russian scholars are to be asked to translate them into Russian for the Russian edition, and translate Russian ones into English for an English edition. The project is moving along slowly. Much, of course, hinge! on whether money will be available to pay translators and to publish the volumes. It has been proposed that persons with completed papers come to Moscow for another conference in October this year to have them critiqued (at their own expense, needless to say).

Since then, I have come to know several others working with questions related to conscientious objectors in Russia today. Already at the conference I met Dr. Bruno Coppeters from Belgium, who is doing a book on Russian COs, together with Alexei Zverev, a lay scholar who has good access to the former Lenin Library archives. Also I met Lieutenant Colonel Anatoli Ptchelintsov of the Russian Army, who was leaving the Forces so that he could write a book on conscientious objectors. All along in recent years, he had been working to improve existing Russian legislation related to getting exemption from military service. Anatoli asked me for a Russian-language copy of my dissertation, *Me11no11ite Pacifism and State Service in Russin, 1789-1936*. I asked Alexei Zverev if he would do some translating on it for me, and he agreed. He has two chapters done and handed in, with another one promised. I then hired Alexei Gumilevski to translate chapters from chapters 4 on, and have recently heard that he has finished 4 and 5. He and his wife have moved to Mississippi to study at the University of Mississippi, so I must continue my contacts there. I have just learned that the MCC office and the Quakers in Moscow want to work together on CO concerns, and have been officially asked by Walter Bergen in Moscow to get the translation finished as soon as possible. Some funds to help may be forthcoming from there, but more will be needed, I think, to finish.

Zverev also agreed to search libraries for dissertations on topics related to Mennonites, and to make copies of them, if possible. The Khimki collection of the former Lenin Library is alleged to have several such items. I don't know what success he will have, but I expect more results from Terry Martin, who is working in Moscow now, doing research on his PhD dissertation. He has promised to keep looking for Mennonite-related materials and to copy for us what he can. When he was back in Chicago recently, he called to say that he was noting quite a few things, but expected to see more. He will complete his work there around June 30 this year.

Terry also introduced me to some Ukrainian scholars who are working on topics related to Germans and Mennonites in Ukraine. We met only one in person, someone named Oksana, who is a graduate student in Dnepropetrovsk working on a dissertation about German influences on the Ukrainian

evangelical movement of the 19th century. She recently sent a letter indicating what she had found in the Odessa archives, but it would not be too significant for us so far. I promised to send her some things we had gathered and written here on that theme, and have forwarded it through Terry. He will return to Moscow on Jan. 26, and quite possibly meet her there again. I am hoping to forward the Pashkov papers microfiche to her somehow, but have not figured out how so far. Dr. Sergei Plokhi, who was with us a few years ago, from Ukraine, called recently to tell us where he is (Edmonton), and to say that Oksana had been his student in Dnepropetrovsk for a time.

Terry and I talked about setting up a Canadian conference with Ukrainian scholars working on German topics in Ukraine, but we are not sure if this idea can fly. There are certainly people there who would come if invited and paid for, and who could present things in English. Right now, conditions in Ukraine are very difficult, and Terry has lost touch somewhat with the people he met in Dnepropetrovsk several years ago. Leonard Friesen has been out there also, but various factors have made his connections there somewhat more tenuous than they once were.

I also met a group of American scholars who were together on a seminar related to religious topics during the month of July. By attending one seminar session, I could meet their director, Dr. Gregory Freere from Brandeis University, and get some information on Russian archivists who might be helpful to us if we could ever direct our energies solely to archival matters there. I did not get to spend any time in any archival center myself, but did mandate someone to look for some records (Mennonite Sanitäter in Moscow) after I left. I am not sure if this will bear any fruit, however. I thought it might be useful to organize a tour of archivists from Canada to meet Russian counterparts, and share some of the things we do, and perhaps eventually a little more archival material as well.

Contacts with scholars of German background became a distinctive aspect of this broader experience. In Moscow I met Dr. Hugo Wormsbecher, who edited the Russian Gennan periodical *Heimatliche Weiten* (from Vol. I, 191, on) for a number of years, and who has good contacts with the office of *Neues Leben*. Both publications came out of Moscow. The former is defunct now (since 1991), but *Neues Leben* lives on. Unfortunately, I did not get to go with him to meet the editor of that paper, although Dr. Wormsbecher was very willing to make arrangements to do so. I am planning to send him some German books we have published here and follow up the connection if possible. He presently heads up an organization of Russian Germans trying to find ways to improve the lot of Russians of German background who will probably not be emigrating, as many others have.

Our visits to Siberian points, such as Bamaul, Novosibirsk, and the Mennonite village of Neudachino near Omsk, may open some doors to get Mennonite-related materials from those communities. Bamaul is the center of a large Russian German community, with a German Cultural Center led by Komelius Petkau at the present time. I met Dr. Leo Malinovsky there, a writer and historian, who has dealt with Siberian German topics, although much of it was colored by the socialist restrictions of communist times. If we had stayed there longer, we might have been able to meet more writers and poets of Mennonite background who still reside in the area, notably people like Peter Klassen, Johann Schellenberg, and others. Petkau gave us some of his tapes, also videos of the work of this Center, and the history of Germans in Russia (a three-hour presentation). I also obtained several issues of a new journal, *Unser Wort* (1991), which soon folded due to lack of funds. Komelius gave us a copy of a new study of Germans in Siberia, written by Manfred Klaube, and published in Germany.

In Neudachino, I was given a copy of the memoirs (of sorts) of Jacob Schroeder, who had written a long poem about his personal life experiences, and put it on tape for me (he also gave me a hard copy on paper of the same). On another occasion, on a visit to a city near Moscow, called Novomoskovsk, we also got a taped poem and the text written down about the broader tragic German experience in Russia. It was all produced and recited for us by an elderly member of the German community there, Aron Willms.

On our return from Siberia, we became acquainted with Garri Wallmann, related to the owners of the famous factory in Chortitsh. He gave us a substantial chunk of genealogical and a bit of other material in German, which we could copy and bring home to deposit in the archives. In Moscow too we got the story of a certain Rempel, the father of young Peter Rempel, who did a great deal of research, travel, and photography to obtain the story of his father, who died in the Gulag many years ago. Part of the story was published in *Der Bote*. I have the full text now, but need to get the photos for the article yet. Peter has just publicized an offer to do this kind of research for other who would like information of that sort.

In summary, I would say the year was a fine opportunity to make many contacts with people who are ready to help us procure materials, if we can follow this up with future connecting and can give the needed time for gathering things in Russia and Ukraine. I realized eventually, though, that it is difficult to do very much serious research and collecting -- alongside another major assignment -- except for incidental acquisitions and perhaps a few "lucky strikes."

I have concluded that Russians want very much to work

together with westerners and will go to considerable lengths to be helpful, if some of their own visions and dreams can be realized more fully through these contacts also. Exchange is a key word, that is, and of course, the opportunity to get financial assistance in some form is very significant for them also. They have almost no means of their own when it comes to finances, and, for that matter, materials, equipment, etc., also.

[Editor's note: This article and the net are reprinted with the permission of the author, who retains the copyright. They originally appeared in the Genealogical Journal of the Utah Genealogical Association, the first in Volume 21 (1993), No. 4, and the second in Volume 22 (1994), No. 1. Note also that the article after these two, by John Movijs, contains updated information on the status of microfilming projects.]

GENEALOGICAL SOURCES AND FILMING ACTIVITIES IN EASTERN EUROPE

c 1994

by Kahlile B. Mehr, AG

In 1992, the Genealogical Society of Utah signed a contract with Russia to film genealogical sources in their archives. The contract was the culmination of protracted negotiations over the twenty-three year period beginning when Genadi Belov, head archivist of the Soviet Union, spoke at the 1969 World Conference on Records. Freed from political oversight, the Committee for Archival Affairs approached the Genealogical Society of Utah in 1991 and offered to grant filming permission. As is the case in many projects, the Society did not send in its own filmers but contracted to have the filming done by local operators. Western filming equipment was shipped into Russia. In February 1992, a training seminar was held in Moscow for camera operators to learn how to best operate the western equipment.

At this seminar the representatives of the Society got their first look at Russian records. Knowledge of genealogical sources in Russian archives circulated only sparsely in the West prior to 1990. No description of what the sources actually looked like, their arrangement, or their extent, was available. It was somewhat of a surprise then when a few ponderous volumes, two or more feet (not inches) thick were brought to the cameras. The two primary sources for pre-revolutionary genealogy in Russia are revision lists (poll tax census) and parish registers (more precisely, parish register transcripts). In both cases the annual returns for a particular region were often bound together no matter how many folios existed for

that region.

This was surprisingly different from the more petite volumes encountered during fifty previous years of filming in Western Europe. It was immediately recognized that cameras would need to be adjusted in order to deal with a constantly diminishing focal length as filming proceeded through a multi-foot volume. On the spot engineering solved the problem. It was only the first of many problems, such as un-grounded electrical circuits, freezing conditions, indifferent work attitudes, shipping delays, and so on. But the prize was worth the risk and films will soon begin to arrive from Russia as well as from many other countries in East m Europe.

Contracts have been signed and filming initiated in the former Soviet republics of Belarus, Estonia, and Armenia. In Eastern Europe projects have been established in Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Sovenia, and Slovakia. In addition, new cameras have been placed in Poland and Hungary. Negotiations continue in the other countries where archives have been inaccessible to the West for seventy years.

In April 1992, a delegation of archivists from Russia, Belarus and the Ukraine visited Salt Lake City. Their trip was sponsored by the U.S. State Department. In addition to visiting in Washington D.C. they requested permission to visit Salt Lake City to become better acquainted with the institution that had for so long importuned them for authorization to film their records. I was able to meet and converse with the group, asking questions that I had long wanted and waited to ask. In return the Russian Committee of Archival Affairs sponsored my visit to Russia in May 1992.

It was with feelings of excitement and hope that I exited the plane in Moscow. Tue delegation to greet me was surprised to learn that I knew some Russian, a little rusty after twenty years, but still there. Soon I was ambling along the cobblestones of Red Square surrounded by St. Basil's, the Kremlin Wall, and the other weil known sites of this oft photographed site. Tue next day I was ushered into an archive, not knowing exactly which archive nor what I would encounter. I was surprised to see fire prevention, air filtration, and air conditioning systems, along with rows of metal containers protecting the archival materials. Theo I was told that this was the archive of the Communist Party and was shown a few papers of Vladimir Lenin. I had never imagined such an experience, even in my wildest dreams. This was the first of many exceptional experiences during a three week visit that took me to St. Petersburg, Minsk, and Kiev. And I have since returned twice and not only to these places but to other countries such as Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, and Romania.

The purpose of these visits has been to identify the nature and extent of genealogical sources in archives of the former

European commuoist world. The following observations hopefully reflect the general nature of what is there, but are still very preliminary. At first couot there are approximately 200 archives with genealogical sources in the area of the former Soviet Union alone.

While it is commonly assumed in the West that the Commuoists destroyed Church records as part of their anti-religion campaign, nothing could be further from the truth. Indeed, under Russiao archival law decreed by Lenin, all records became property of the State and were accordingly gathered into archives. Of course, many were not, but sizeable collections were established and then left untouched for the next seventy years. If anything, it was the aoti-religion bias of the Communists that helped preserve the records since it did not permit access to the sequestered volumes. Only now are these volumes becoming accessible.

Church records in Russian archives are not centralized in a single collection but are scattered in various record series. The archivists do not know how many church books exist in their collection and can provide only a rough estimate. One archivist became quite irate when I asked him bow many church books be had (probably because he did not know the answer). He told me it was none of my business. Other archivists were less antagonistic but asked, "Who would want to know that?" or "Why is that important?"

Most of the church records in the archives are parish register transcripts, compiled annually and, in the case of the Russian Orthodox Church, are those normally sent to the Consistory Office. It appears that volumes kept in local churches are not as weil represented in archival collection. However, many of these were gathered into civil registration offices after the Russian Revolution. Those gathered by these offices are supposed to be transferred to archives seventy-five years after the date of the record. This regulation is not always promptly obeyed.

Tue parish register transcripts for a region are normally bound together into annual volumes. This will greatly complicate cataloging and access because numerous films will have to be retrieved to identify the entries for a single parish church. As mentioned previously, these volumes can be several feet thick. To further complicate the picture, church books are kept in the same accession groups in which they were received by the archive. For instance, accessions of church books received from civil registration offices are kept separate from earlier books for the same churches.¹

Church books are not the best research source for Russian genealogy. Both archivists and researchers told me that the best place to begin research on Russian nobility and royalty are the separately classed nobility records and the best place

to begin research on other social classes is in the revision lists. Nobility records were compiled by governmental offices to establish noble privileges. Revision lists were kept between 1719-1858 to support a national poll tax.² They covered 95% of the population. They are necessarily very easy to use. For instance, the lists are divided by social class. As a result there may be six or seven census lists for the same locality in the same year.

Most archives are not staffed to do research for clients but they will do limited searching. They might expand their services because the government has instituted a program of self-finance, so that many archives are looking for new forms of revenue. Currently, archives do nobility research, which is the easiest to do. The genealogy for noble families is often compiled in the archival record. Archives will also search in revision lists but will normally not search church records because it is too time consuming. The arrangements for doing client research probably vary from archive to archive. [asked in Minsk (in 1992) and they said at that time that they require a \$50 retainer and charge \$2-3 per hour for research. The address is Central Historical Archive, 26 Kozlova St., 220038, Minsk, Belarus.

The Russian government has instituted an official genealogical organization to answer research requests from the West, known as AROS (Archives of Russia). Information can be requested directly from them at 15 Pushkinskaya ul., 103821, Moscow, Russia, or through the National Archive Volunteer Association at PO Box 236, Glen Echo, MD 20812. As of 1992 the fee for AROS service was a \$50 non-refundable request fee and \$6 per hour research fee, minimum requirement of \$120 for the first 20 hours. I recently received a letter from one of the AROS staff that mentioned he had already performed client research in Kiev, Kamenetz-Podolsky, Lviv, Saratov, Engels, Minsk, Zhytomir, and Odessa.

Below, I have summarized some general information on some of the other countries I have visited.

ARMENIA

There are approximately 7,500 volumes of church books and tax census records in the Central Historical Archives of Armenia, located in Yerevan. The Armenian church books do not only pertain to Armenia but also Armenian congregations from throughout the former Soviet Union. There are virtually no books for the portion of historic Armenia now in Turkey.

ALBANIA

The country was under Turkish domination until World War I. The Archives were established only recently and many of

the records have not yet been gathered to them. Also, 70% of the population is Moslem. The church records for Moslems are much more limited than those for Christians. What church records do exist are interfiled with all other documents created by the churches. For example, in one record group of 3,500 volumes, there were only about 27 parish register volumes. Consequently, it is not clear exactly how many records are available, although it would appear that the number is small.

BELARUS

There are two main historical archives in the country, located in Minsk and Grodno. The church records in the archival system have been gathered into these archives. It must not be overlooked, as noted above, that many church records are located in the civil registration offices. In the Minsk archive there are approximately 7,000 church books and 2,000 revision lists. In Grodno there are less than 1,000 volumes of church books. However, there are 297 volumes of the names lists from the 1897 Russian imperial census. Films are currently being received from Belarus but none are yet available for public use.

BULGARIA

Bulgarian civil registration began in 1893. The records are held at civil registration offices or transferred to any of twenty-five regional archives. The 2,000 volumes in Sofia (Sofia) are currently being filmed. The national archives system was only established in 1951 so there is comparatively less in the system than in other countries. The church books are all in the churches. Due to the Turkish occupation that lasted until 1878, most church books start quite late. The Roman Catholic register, primarily in the Plovdiv area, are older, going back in some cases to 1797. The main records for Bulgaria under Turkish domination are the Nufus census records located in the National Library.

ROMANIA

Romanian civil registration began in 1832-1834, which is very early in comparison to surrounding countries. For the traditional provinces of Romania, namely, Valachia and Moldova, church books have been kept since the end of the 18th century. For Transylvania they go back to the 16th century. Many Lutheran records have been transferred to civil archives. However, the Lutheran church is now collecting the records, still in the churches, to an archive in Sibiu (formerly Hermannstadt). The first census in Valachia and Moldova was taken in 1810-1811. The only genealogical organization in Romania is the Romanian Genealogical Commission, a private, unfunded organization drawn together by their common concern for genealogy. The organization does not

handle research accounts.

UKRAINE

Most of the church books have been gathered to the historical archives in Kiev and Lviv (or, Lvov, or Ukr: Lwiw; Pol: Lwow; Ger: Lemberg). As is the case in Belarus, most of the church records have been gathered into these archives, though many are still in the civil registration offices. I identified approximately 15,000 church books in Kiev and 10,000 in Lviv. There are twenty-six regional archives, some of which still have church books, but which all probably have revision lists. Many of the Jewish records have been lost or destroyed. In Kiev, there are only 1,469 volumes from nineteen rabbinates. In Lviv there are only 419 volumes of Jewish records. The historical archives in Kiev do handle research requests from the West. Their address is: 24 Solomenskaya ul., 252601, Kiev, Ukraine.

The Lviv collection is distinguished by the fact that all of the Greek Catholic church books have been gathered into one record group. In addition, the individual volumes pertain to only one locality rather than numerous localities (as is the case with most of the extant Orthodox records). The inventory for this collection has an alphabetical locality index. There are approximately 7,500 church books in this record group.

CONCLUSION

Information on genealogical sources in the West has been compiled for many years and consists of countless volumes. This brief sketch hardly even begins to identify the broad range of sources that exist in Eastern Europe. Truly, research service there is in its infancy, filming has only barely begun, and most archives are not well acquainted with the extent of their genealogical sources. Under the Communist regimes, genealogical activity was a non-issue. This is now changed. The first conference of Russian genealogists was held in St. Petersburg during the fall of 1992. Genealogical queries are receiving responses, and microfilming cameras are beginning to preserve invaluable volumes that tomorrow's world will know its kindred of ages past in these eastern lands.

FOOTNOTES

1. I asked one archivist what they did with duplicate volumes for the same parish. The response was that they are burned.
2. Revision lists were the basis for the novel, *Dead Souls*, a parody of the fact that a landlord was taxed for people listed in the census if they had died. An adjustment was only made when the next revision was taken.

GERMAN-RUSSIAN GENEALOGICAL RECORDS

c 1994

by Kahlile B. Mehr, AG*

A 1763 invitation of the Russian Empress, Catherine II, precipitated the immigration of many Germans into the Russian Empire during the 18th century. In earlier centuries, many Germans settled the Baltic states. The priests in these congregations kept original parish registers on a local basis and for some years made parish register transcripts that were then forwarded to the bishop and filed in the records of the consistory office which supported the operations of the diocese. The Genealogical Society of Utah is identifying where many of these records are located and has begun to film them. This article will provide some details on the preliminary results of this effort.

The predominant faith among the Germans in Russia was Lutheran. Statistics from the 1897 census indicate that 76% of the German-Russians were Lutheran and 13% Catholic. Reformed, Mennonite, Baptist, Russian Orthodox, Jewish and miscellaneous categories comprised the other 11% of the population. Germans in the Baltics, Volhynia, Crimea, and the Caucasus were almost exclusively Lutheran.¹ With respect to the Volga Germans, Protestantism prevailed in 72 of the original 104 German colonies, with four-fifths of these being Lutheran.² These figures held up over time. A 1910 estimate is that 80% of the 1909 population was Protestant, of which 78% were Lutheran and 22% Reformed.

Most of the church records identified to this point are those of the consistories. In 1734, Tsarina Anna issued a decree placing the consistorial affairs for Protestant (Lutheran and Reformed) congregations throughout Russia under the College of Justice (established at St. Petersburg in 1718). The College has supervised these affairs in the Baltics since its inception.⁴ It is not clear exactly when consistorial offices began to function in St. Petersburg and Moscow. The Imperial Church ordinance of 1819 established the Imperial General Consistory at St. Petersburg and defined jurisdictions for eight consistories, establishing a new one in Saratov. This consistory was officially constituted on January 23, 1822. The Imperial Church Ordinance of December 28, 1832 redefined the eight Lutheran consistorial districts.⁵ These eight districts were those in Russia proper - Moscow (65 parishes) and St. Petersburg (87 parishes) - and six in the Baltic states: Courland (120 parishes), Livonia (113 parishes), Estonia (52 parishes), Saaremaa (then Oesel, 14 parishes, Riga (11 parishes), and Tallinn (then Reval, 5 parishes).⁶ As a result of this ordinance, the Saratov Consistory was absorbed into the one in Moscow.⁷ The ordinance of 1832 mandated the creation of transcripts; it is not clear if they were created

before then.

The St. Petersburg General Consistory collection contains parish register transcripts for German congregations not only in the St. Petersburg area and northern Russia but also in Volhynia, the Black Sea region, and Bessarabia. This consistory is located in the Central Historical Archive in St. Petersburg, record group 828, series. 14. A total of 276 volumes exist for the period 1833-1885.⁸ These registers were filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah during 1993.

The films are currently being received in cataloging. Film numbers will not be available in the catalog until the 1994 edition. However, they can be obtained at the International Reference Center. The material is poorly arranged for research purposes. The consistory filed the returns for each year separately. Consequently, the researcher must look at a different film for each year of the parish being searched. Recognizing this problem, the cataloging section with the assistance of volunteers is preparing a locality index that will permit a researcher to find the film number and page numbers for all returns from a single parish.

While the St. Petersburg collection will be a great boon to those with German Protestant ancestors in western and southern Russia, it does not provide any information on either the lower Volga Germans, the Baltic Germans, or the Catholic Germans throughout Russia. The records for these groups have been partially identified but not yet filmed, except for Estonia (as will be discussed later.)

The transcripts from the Protestant Volga parishes are probably located in the records of the Saratov and Moscow consistories respectively. The records of the Moscow Consistory are located in the collection of the Moscow City Archive (formerly the Moscow Regional Archive). A 1961 description of this collection lists 62 items in this record group for the period 1803-1917.⁹ More may exist but no published description is yet available. The author has not surveyed this collection to see if it contains parish register transcripts but hopes to do so or learn more about it from others who have investigated what these records are. The records of the Saratov Consistory may be interfiled with the records of this consistory. The author found no records for the Saratov Consistory in the archive located in that city.

The original parish registers for the Protestant German churches of Ingermanland (St. Petersburg area) are located in Finland. The original registers for Bessarabia are in the Zentralstelle für Genealogie in Leipzig, Germany. Extensive collections of original registers for the Baltic states have been preserved in their archives. The author has not inventoried these records extensively and there is not sufficient time to do so for this article. However, it should be noted that the

Genealogical Society of Utah has been filming parish registers and transcripts in Estonia since 1992 for a total production of approximately 400 rolls to date. The registers cover congregations throughout the country. They extend back to the early 1600s in some cases and continue through the 1940s. The rolls are being cataloged as they arrive and the parishes filmed can be found in the current edition of the catalog.

The location of the registers for other Protestant German churches, in general, is not known. Twenty-four original parish registers for scattered churches are in the records of the Religious Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Mary, record group 849, Saratov Government Archive. Sparse samplings are found in the St. Petersburg City Archive (18 churches for the period 1712-1926). Minsk Central Historical Archive (record group 1952), Grodno Central Historical Archive (record group 649 and others), and Lviv Central Historical Archive (record group 427). Original registers can also be found in civil registration offices as seen by the author at the central civil registration office in Moscow in 1992. But the evidence suggests at this point that the original parish registers for the most part, were not preserved and were either scattered, lost, or destroyed in the many political and social upheavals that have occurred in this area during the last century.

As mentioned previously in this article, the next largest religious grouping of Germans was Catholic. Many Catholic colonies were established in the Black Sea region. In Kherson was the largest number while large groups were also found in Taurida, Ekaterinoslav, and the Don region.¹⁰ Thirty-two of the original 104 Volga German colonies were *Catholic*.¹¹

The Catholic consistory initially responsible for these parishes was established in 1783, at Mogilev, Belarus.¹² It is not clear to the author if another consistory had jurisdiction for the Volga Germans during the first twenty years of their colonization and he welcomes information from those who have researched this topic more extensively. In 1848 the Kherson Consistory was established and assumed jurisdiction from the Mogilev Consistory for southern Russia. This consistory was moved to Kherson in 1847, to Tiraspol in 1852 and to Saratov in 1855.¹³ Even though it was seated in Saratov, it continued to be known as the Tiraspol Consistory.

The records of the Mogilev and Tiraspol' consistories, a total of 647 parish register transcripts, are located in the Saratov Government Archive. They are found in two record groups; number 166 for Mogilev (1801-1852), and number 365 for Tiraspol (1853-1918). In both record groups the transcripts are in series 1, where they are interfiled with many other record types.¹⁴ The registers cover the period 1801-1918, and appear to be complete. The transcripts are filed in two

sets of volumes. One set is for the provinces of Saratov, Samara, and Astrakhan; the other for the Black Sea region and Bessarabia.

In addition to parish registers, the Saratov archive has revision lists (poll tax census records) for six of the ten Russian revisions. These contain information on both the Protestant and Catholic Germans, who began paying taxes during the 6th revision, conducted in 1811. Other revision lists cover the years 1815-1816, 1834-1835, 1850, and 1857-1859. These records are interfiled with other records of the Saratov Financial Administration, record group 28, series 1. These types of records are normally compiled by district (uezd) but are not in any particular order. Consequently, the only way to search a volume is page by page.

The Genealogical Society of Utah has not yet been given permission to film these records. However, the researcher can write to the archive asking for information. I would suggest that the letter be written in Russian and sent to this address:

410710 CapaTOB
yn. KyntKOBa 15
06nacTHoß rocynapcTRP.rmuä apxHB

410710 Saratov
Kutyakova St. • Building 15
Regional Government Archive

No one in the reference section speaks English and though a correspondent might get a response, it would probably be delayed. A photocopy costs \$3.18 per page (\$3 for the information and \$.18 for the actual copy). It is not known what the current rate is for staff to do research. In October it was 800 rubles, about \$.65, for reviewing the contents of a single volume; but the financial crisis in Russian archives has caused the cost of research services to skyrocket. For example, while in October it cost a researcher on site only \$.08 (100 rubles) to order a single item for research, it now costs \$.40 for every 250 pages. ⁵

Research service is available through AROS/RAGAS (Archives of Russia and its American affiliate, the Russian American Genealogical Archival Service). Requests can be made in English. There is a \$22.00 charge for obtaining a single birth, marriage, or death record. There is a \$50 charge to set up an account for extended research and \$6 per hour research fee. These rates may go up because of the increased costs to do research as noted above. The author is personally acquainted with AROS researchers and vouches for their honesty and research credentials. For further details contact:

RAGAS
P.O. Box 236
Gien Echo, MD 20812
(tel. 202-501-5205;
e-mail INTERNET:IN% "ragas@sovusa.com")

The most expensive route to have research performed is through an independent researcher in Saratov, Dr. Igor Pleve. The average fee for researching a complete family is \$500. One can contact this researcher at:

(Home)	(Work)
410005 Saratov	410601 Saratov
8. Gomaya St. 272-2	Radisheva St. 41
Dr. Igor Pleve	Dr. Igor Pleve
(e-mail INTERNET:IN% "igor@pleve.saratov.su")	

An American point of contact for Dr. Pleve is:
Arthur E. Flegel
1895 Oakdell Dr.
Menlo Park, California 94025
(tel. 415-322-8694; e-mail through Compuserve, Arthur E. Flegel 73014,2714)

There may be other independent researchers of whom this author is not aware.

As was mentioned initially, this information is preliminary. Because these records have not been available for over seventy years and the information concerning them has only been received in smattering, much is yet to be learned and probably the author will need to be corrected for what he has already provided in this article. However, the exciting news for those who have long awaited this day is that the records are no longer totally beyond reach. The great yearning for knowing one's heritage, amply demonstrated in the research groups and associations descended from German-Russians, can begin to be satisfied.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

* 412 South 400 East, Centerville, Utah 84014. Mr. Mehr is the Supervisor of the International Cataloging Section of the Family History Library. He is the author of many articles, as well as co-author of the forthcoming history of the Family History Library. He is an Accredited Genealogist in LDS Church Records, and attended Brigham Young University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Russian, a Master of Library Science degree, and a Master of Arts degree in Family and Local History. He is fluent in Russian and Portuguese. Kahlile is also a Major with the Utah Army National Guard, assigned to a linguist unit.

FOOTNOTES

1. Karl Stumpp, *The Gennan-Russians; Two Centuries of Pioneering* (2nd ed. New York; Edition Atlantic-Forum, 1971), pp. 20-21.
2. James W. Long, *From Privileged to Dispossessed* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1988), pp. 42.
3. Fred C. Koch, *The Volga Gennans* (University Park; Pennsylvania State University Press, 1977), pp. 117.
4. Edgar C. Duin, *Lutheranism Under the Tsars and the Soviets* (Ann Arbor; Xerox University Microfilms, 1976), pp. 173-174.
5. A few of the far tlung congregations were administered by the Department of Alien Faiths of the Ministry of the Interior; the Lutheran and Reformed congregations in Archangel, the Mennonite and Pietist colonies of South Russia, the Brethren congregation at Sarepta on the Volga, and the Lutheran colonies in Gruzija.
6. *Ibid.*, p. 297.
7. Long, p. 45.
8. Entries for Bessarabia (approximately 40% of the total) are duplicated by films of original parish registers already in the Society's collection.
9. S. O. Schmidt, ed., *Gosudarstvennyi /storicheskii Arkhiv Moskovskoi Oblasti; Putevoditel* (Moskva, 1961), p. 324.
10. Stumpp, *Ibid.*
11. Long, *Ibid.*
12. Gottlieb Beratz, *The Gennan Colonies on the Lower Volga* (Lincoln, Nebraska; American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 1991), p. 238.
13. Inventory of the Tiraspol Roman Catholic Consistory, Record Group 365, Regional Government Archive, Saratov, Russia.
14. Many series in Russian record groups contain a variety of record types. These are not broken out into separate series as is the custom in Western archival practice. Rather they are arranged together chronologically by the first year represented in the contents of the item.
15. These current figures are based on information obtained from RAGAS and the earlier figures from a personal visit of the author to the archive.

PROJECT STATUS REPORT: BAST EUROPEAN FILMING

© 1994
by John D. Movius

At the FEEFHS convention last May, Family History Library (FHL) librarian Thomas Edlund provided a well prepared summary outline and lecture on Slovenian and Croatian archival sources now available on microfilm thru the FHL in Salt Lake City and its 2000 Farnily History Centers

worldwide. Tom is weil placed to offer these insights, having cataloging and indexing responsibilities for a large number of East European extraction (filming) projects ofthe Genealogical Society of Utah at the FHL.

Hoping to learn more of specific interest to many of our various FEEFHS member societies, an interview with Tom was obtained at his FHL office on 22 July 1994. My interview notes reflect the following status of various projects:

SLOVAKIA -- Five major archives exist in Slovakia. Top priority is given to extraction of parish records. Camera crews working here have shipped over 700 reels of film since starting bere in 1993. Presently Slovakian church books are being filmed by three camera crews -- one each at the archives of Kosice, Presov and Levoca.

CROATIA -- Nine flirning projects have been undertaken in Croatia, four of which are still active, as follows:

Zagreb: Filming of parish records at the State Archive here is complete. This includes Roman Catbolic parish records starting circa the 1750's to 1820's and then continuing until World War 1. Typical record group spans are from 1820 to 1915.

Blaski Diocese: Tue Greek Orthodox records here are completely filmed.

Osi: This archive near the Serbien border took hits from artillery shells during a recent conflict. It bumed and most or all records were destroyed. Fortunately all vital records there had been rmicrofilmed before this terrible destruction. This accomplishment stands as a shining example of the paramount importance ofthe many microfilm projects ofthe Genealogical Society of Utah. These Osijek records consist of Bishop's transcripts of all Orthodox and Roman Catholic records existing there. Tue starting dates vary from 1769 to 1808. Tue records continued until the start of World War I (1914-1915).

Zagreb (local region): For the last few years a film crew has been working with vital records periodically delivered to it in Zagreb by a government van. Tue van travels thru the surrounding countryside, borrowing church books from archives nearby to bring them in for filming before retuming them the same way. This interesting project has generated the bulk of the large amount of film from Croatia. This local project is expected to continue to be a major source of records extraction film from Croatia in the foreseeable future.

Varazdin: Tue Historical Archive bere has been done, in so far ar filming its Orthodox and Catholic records.

Zadar and Split: Filming of all Roman Catholic records in the Historical Archives at these two coastal cities is complete. Now this crew is starting on the Orthodox records there.

Dubrovnik and Rijeka: Two new projects have been started at Dubrovnik and Rijeka where Roman Catholic and Orthodox church records are being filmed.

Languages on Croatian records: Edlund noted the Croatian films catalogued to date reflect the rich and broad range of languages used in this land over the last few centuries: Croatian, Latin, Hungarian, Italian, and Glagolitic.

HUNGARY -- In the past, Hungarian parish records were filmed up to an 1895 cutoff, as defined by the Hungarian 90-year privacy law. While no church books after 1895 have been filmed, civil records are being filmed for the period of 1895-1903. Camera crews are active at Pecs and Budapest on this project.

RUSSIA -- Ten camera crews are now at work here. The major current effort is to film the Russian Orthodox Church books at six provincial consistories (equivalent to Catholic dioceses): These are Astrakhan, Kaun (central Russia), Tobolsk, Tomsk (Siberia), Tula and Tver.

Pskov: This Russian border city just east of Estonia has two camera crews currently active. In addition to filming the Pskov consistory Russian Orthodox church books, some German-Russian records have been filmed.

German-Russian films: The 136-reel St. Petersburg Lutheran consistory church records have been microfilmed and catalogued. These records are now available from the FHL. However, only the Salt Lake City FHL has them on its computer catalog. A 178-page index and a 452-page register are in process as of late July and is expected to be on the annual update of the FHL Catalog on CD-ROM when it is released this fall -- look for it around November 1994.

UKRAINE -- Four camera crews are here. One camera crew is in Chernivtsi and two are in the capital of Kiev. They are all concentrating on Russian Orthodox church records. One crew in Ukraine's Lviv (Polish: Lwow; German: Lemberg) is now filming Greek Catholic records. These are of major interest to the hundreds of thousands of this faith who emigrated to western Canada and their descendants.

Second priority at Lviv now is Russian Orthodox records. These are so extensive they may well take up to 15 years to complete the filming project, however it is not unusual to have filming projects of such a duration due to the size of certain archival collections. Jewish synagogue records exist at Lviv, and these will eventually be filmed too.

BELARUS -- Two camera crews are active here. One in Grodno is filming consistory records of the Russian Orthodox Church. Some of these start in the mid 1700's. A film crew in the capital, Minsk is filming Russian Orthodox consistory records and Lutheran consistory records. They also have some tax revision (= census) lists to film in Minsk.

BULGARIA -- One crew in Sofia is now filming post-1890 civil registration records.

DIE AHNENSTAMMKARTEI GERMANIC PEDIGREE COLLECTION, 1221 REELS OF "LEIPZIG FILMS" NOW AVAILABLE AT FHL/FHC's

by John D. Movius

The *Deutsche Zentralstelle für Genealogie* at Leipzig, with an origin dating back to 1904, has recently been designated by the German government as the lead archive for genealogy in all of united Germany. But long before the iron curtain went up or came down, this major archive was well known throughout Germany for its genealogy holdings.

According to professional genealogist Henning Schröder of Gummersbach, this archive was the main reason West Germans took the trouble to travel to Leipzig during the cold war era. And when they got there? Most headed for its premier holding -- a huge card file collection - Die Ahnenstammkartei des Deutschen Volkes. It is sometimes called by the acronym •ASTAKA• in the literature. It is best known as the "Leipzig Films" at the international reference desk of the Family History Library (FHL) at Salt Lake City. Others as well as myself call it "Die Ahnenstammkartei."

Started in 1922 and still being added to, this collection is estimated to contain from five to six million individual names. It survived the fire bombings of World War II and the benign neglect of the East German government during the cold war. Note that this collection spans the entire German Empire of the last century, not just the Leipzig region.

In 1991 the Genealogical Society of Utah filmed both parts of this collection. Part I is a mammoth 617-reel A-Z index plus 19 reels of six other supporting indices. Part II is an additional 583 rolls of multi-generation pedigree information called Ahnentafels by the Germans. Cataloging was finally completed this year by librarian Thomas Edlund, who prepared a preliminary index for the Family History Library Catalog (FHL) last fall. The complete index, due out on the

next FHLC update this fall, takes 133 pages to index all the films.

I first came across this collection in a lead article in the *German Genealogical Digest*, Vol 9 No. 4 (Winter 1993), pp. 110-124, published by FEEFHS member Larry Jensen. This is *Still* the best article on how to use the collection. I began to use it last March but found some films had not arrived at the FHL and others were not in the microfilm stacks on floor BI.

Using *it* requires several steps, starting with converting the surname you are searching for into a Germanic form of a Soundex-like phonetic spelling, finding the correct film number in Part I for that spelling, and finding the card of the name you are searching for. This index card will provide considerable information, including vital data for the subject and two generations back including place of birth.

It also includes the AL file number in Part II, where the Ahnenliste are found. Returning to Part II of the Edlund catalog index, the AL number is matched up with another film number that contains the ancestor list you are looking for. But there is more to it than we have space to cover here.

It would seem that for unique and relatively uncommon Germanic surnames that it may be possible to bypass passenger lists and go directly back to the village of origin with the Part-I index card and the three-generation ancestor list. This may not be a panacea for everyone. But properly used, I feel this collection will solve a great number of German genealogy problems that so far have defied solution. So if you have ancestors from Germany and have been unable to locate a city or village of origin in the past, then it's time to try again.

A partial index was placed in the FHLC last fall but it has a dozen or more "missing films" that had not been cataloged by the cutoff time. Since then, a full and final index to this collection is now available through the FHLC on computer. It will appear in the annual update of the FHLC this fall (best estimate: October or November). In the meantime, to provide an overview for your access to various indices, access the catalog using these film numbers:

- Introduction in English, catalog pp 1-2
- Vorwort -- Complete explanation, film #1799712, item 3

Part I:

- A to Z index (617 reels):
 - starts with film# 1797918 (Aa - Appenzeller), catalog p. 3
 - ends with film #1799235 (Zoephel - Zutzenheimer,

Sossenheimer), catalog p. 64

- Einsenderkartei -- Submitter list (6 reels), catalog p. 64:
 - starts with film # 1798338 (Aardeo - Eichenauer)
 - ends with film #1798343, item 1 (Sttder - Zwimer)
- Ahnenlisten-Nummernkartei -- Ancestor Lists indexed by submission no. (5 reels):
 - starts with film #1798343, item 2 (0001 - 0595)
 - ends with film #1798336 (9141-11352)
- Berühmtenkartei -- Index of Famous People/VIP's (1 reel), catalog p. 65:
 - film #1798337, item 1 (Abbe - Zschokke)
- Ortskartei - Index of Places (1 reel):
 - film #1798337, item 2 (Aachen - Zwickau)
- Sachkartei -- Miscellaneous Index of Things (1 reel):
 - film #1798337, item 3 (Apotheker - Zwillinge)
- Nummernkartei -- Index of Sources (13 reels):
 - starts with film #1798327 (A 0001 - A 02170)
 - ends with film #1798332, item 7 (S 0001 - S 00106)

Part II:

- Ahnen tafeln (AL) -- Index of Manuscript Numbers (about 538 reels):
 - starts with film #1809152 (00001 - 00019), catalog p. 66
 - ends with film #1809542, item 2 (Z. 00065-00098), catalog p. 133

NEW GERMANIC PARISH REGISTERS

Any Germanic record searcher who becomes a frequent user of the Leipzig Films' Part II above will notice some very interesting German parish records interspersed with all those AL's. It seems the *Deutsche Zentralstelle für Genealogie* at Leipzig also has a large collection of old German church registers (Kirchenbücher). It is estimated the number may be upwards of 5000. These also cover all of the old German Empire, not just the Leipzig area.

The filming of some/all of these old Kirchenbücher occurred at the same time as Die Ahnenstammkartei, and somehow they became intermingled with Part II above. These church books have not been indexed as a group. They will show up in the FHLC main catalog as additional church records for the place (village, city, Kreis) where the church was located.

Example: Of great importance to me is that in Pommern, Naugard church records from the year 1800 forwards have been filmed. They start with film #1768409. One church record for Bukovina starts with film #1768385. The fact that Posen, Bessarabia and the Baltics are also well represented should give Germanic record searchers pause to think. You will want to return to try again for a city where a lack of church records meant a dead end in the past. I sense there are new lights turned on at the ends of many dark tunnels thanks

to this fortuitous act -- so be sure you should check again.

Remember, these new film numbers will not show up in the November 1993 catalog now at your Family History Center (FHC). You will either have to wait for the new Family History Library Catalog to get to your FHC this fall for these new entries to appear -- or make a trip to Salt Lake City where that master FHL catalog on computer is updated by the librarians each working day with newly cataloged films.

GERMANS FROM RUSSIA FILMS

The 136 rolls of films from the St. Petersburg Lutheran Consistory have been catalogued recently. Access in the Salt Lake City FHL computer to these records can be obtained by using the computer number (CN) 710545. Examples here include the Glückstal Colonies, appearing on film #1882636, item 2, on pages 112 thru 145. These are now being calendared and mapped by Tom Edlund for the FHLC and will also appear in this fall's updated FHLC.

When Larry Jensen spoke at the Sacramento Gennap Genealogy Society last April, instead of repeating the lecture he had given to the Immigrant Genealogy Society last fall, he opened with fifteen minutes on Die Ahnenstammkartei, and he also spoke about it at the FEEFHS convention.

THE IMMIGRANT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

by Jean Nepsund

The Immigrant Genealogical Society (IGS) is among the charter members of the Federation of Eastern Europe Family History Societies. The IGS was founded in 1982 to preserve and make available to the public the genealogical collection begun by Elisabeth Sharp and Gerda Haffner. Today it is one of the major contributors to German Research.

The Immigrant Genealogical Society moved from its original location in a redevelopment area in North Hollywood, CA, to its present location in Burbank, CA, in 1989. The past five years have seen steady growth in membership and dramatic expansion of a "research by mail" program that has assisted thousands of persons of German ancestry. The Society now also offers research by mail to persons in Germany attempting to trace their relatives who emigrated to the United States. During 1993, the diligent IGS volunteers completed 1256 U.S. orders, many of which utilized more than one resource. Many of those orders came from a rural route or small town address, where there is no genealogical library within 75 miles, much less one that has materials for German research.

While the IGS German Collection consists mostly of books from and about West Germany, some of the gazetteers, maps, and guides have help with former East Germany and the areas of eastern Europe where Germans settled in earlier centuries. As genealogical societies are once again organizing in former Communist areas, the IGS will add materials from those areas as they become available.

Some of the basic resources for Eastern Europe in the present collection include the following:

Gemeindeverzeichnis für Mittel- und Ostdeutschland und die früheren deutschen Siedlungsgebiete im Ausland [Index to Communities in East Germany and Eastern European Areas of Earlier German Settlements].

Angus Baxter, *In Search of Your European Roots*

Degner, *Genealogical Guide to German Ancestors from East Germany and Eastern Europe*

Großblatt -- many unindexed 1:100,000 maps of Europe, including eastern areas.

Ortnamenverzeichnis der Ortschaften jenseits von Oder und Neiße [Index to Place names beyond the Oder and Neisse] -- Multi-language place-name index.

Stumpp, *From Gennany to Russia in the Years 1963-1862*.

The Immigrant Genealogical Society does not seek to acquire records of individual eastern European villages. It concentrates on reference works to help locate villages and to provide addresses for contacting appropriate governmental jurisdictions. It can often refer you to a U.S. organization that specializes in your area of research once you identify the place from which your ancestor emigrated.

Membership in the Immigrant Genealogical Society is presently \$15 per year per person or \$20 per family. This includes free use of the IGS Library, a monthly newsletter, two periodicals per year, monthly meetings the first Friday of each month, and at least one seminar each year.

It is wise for the researcher of an eastern European family or village to exhaust all the resources for research available here in the United States before writing to government offices in Europe. Through the extensive filming of records done by the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, more records are available here in the United States than most researchers realize. Securing records from Europe is both time consuming and expensive. The "fall of the wall" has opened many more possibilities than existed under the Communist regime. The coming years will see a dramatic increase in availability of records for eastern European research. IGS is excited to be part of that process.

WINNIPEG CENTERS FOR MENNONITE GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

by Alf Redekopp

Winnipeg, with its population of 650,000, has well over 19,000 Mennonites located within its limits. Their roots for the most part trace back through Russia and Prussia to Dutch and North German origins. Genealogical researchers coming to Winnipeg can find valuable sources in the following centers:

1. Mennonite Genealogy Inc., 790 Wellington Avenue, mailing address Box 393, Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3C 2H6, phone (204) 772-0747; director Margaret Kroecker.

Tue collection at this center includes a card file with over 186,000 individuals, a computer database with over 20,000 individuals, a historical library and newspaper collection, maps, photographs, and charts. Mennonite Genealogy Inc. is a non-profit organization. Research services are free of charge; donations are accepted to cover the costs.

2. Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies in Canada, 169 Riverton Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, Canada R2L 2E5, phone (204) 669-6575; <director Abe Dueck, archivist Alf Redekopp.

Tue holdings of this archive consist mainly of the congregational, institutional, and agency records of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches. This denomination originated in Southern Russia in 1860. The collection includes personal papers, maps, periodicals, photographs, sound recordings, and rare books. The Katie Peters Genealogical Collection <donated to the center in 1985 is the single largest Mennonite family history collection in Western Canada. A *Guide to Genealogical Resources at the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies*, prepared by Alf Redekopp in 1989, is available for \$10.00.

3. Mennonite Heritage Centre, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3P 0M4, phone (204) 888-6781; historian-archivist Lawrence Klippenstein, assistant archivist Peter Rempel.

Tue holdings of this archive focus on records related to Mennonites in Western Canada and Russia. Major collections of interest to genealogists are the Prussian Mennonite church records (on microfilm), the church registers of the first Mennonite groups to settle in Manitoba in the 1870's, the records of the Canadian Mennonite Board of Colonization (1924-1930, 1947-1956), and the most recent acquisition of the Peter J. Braun Russian Mennonite Archive 1803-1920 consisting of 140,000 pages of documents on microfilm from the State Archives of Odessa Region, Ukraine, received in July 1993. Lists prepared by Adolf Ens in February 1992,

entitled "Basic Genealogical Sources at Mennonite Heritage Centre – Mennonites in Russia" and "Basic Genealogical Sources at Mennonite Heritage Centre - 1870s Immigrants to Canada from Russia," are quite helpful.

FROM VOLHYNIA TO THE UNITED STATES

by Lois Ann Mast

One hundred and twenty years ago, in 1874, Swiss-German Mennonites emigrated from Volhynia to the United States. Based on Andreas D. Schrag's previously unpublished journal entries, Orpha V. Schrag of Nashville, TN, has compiled an illustrated article titled "Andreas D. Schrag: Volhynia to Dakota," that is printed in the July 1994 *Mennonite Family History*.

In late August 1993, Orpha V. Schrag traveled to the Ukraine on a pilot project to search for the former Swiss-German villages located between Zhitomir and L'viv. Using a pre-written itinerary, Victor I. Selivonov of Intourist-Kiev organized the travel arrangements. Orpha and her husband, Oswald, together with interpreter Dina Nemnay, and drivers Antonio Decktyr and Vladimir Manuelov visited fifteen villages.

A mass emigration of four Swiss-German congregations scattered in present-day Ukraine began with a dream and a trip to America by Andreas D. Schrag to see if it was feasible. Andreas D. Schrag was a great-great-uncle of Orpha V. Schrag.

Eleven families (Müller, Schrag, Schwarz, and Waldner) were the first to say goodbye to their homeland in 1874, and set out for what Andreas Schrag thought would be northern Dakota near the Red River. Somehow, this changed to southern Dakota between the Little Vermillion River and Turkey Ridge Creek. On June 1, 1874, Andreas purchased 40 acres of land for \$500.00. Three weeks later, he purchased another 40 acres for \$190.00.

In July 1974, 14 more families arrived, and in August, 65 more families. Virtually all of these families took the train from New York a week later, the last group arrived and settled primarily in Kansas. In one summer, almost 100 families numbering about 500 persons had the will to begin a new and challenging phase of their lives – to pioneer another Ukraine, a word that means "frontier."

Copies of the July 1994 *Mennonite Family History* that include

a full front-cover photograph of rural Kutusafa in Ukraine, where many emigrant families left, along with Orpha Schrag's article, can be purchased for \$4.00 plus \$1.00 shipping from Mennonite Family History, P.O. Box 171, Elverson, PA 19520-0171.

GERMAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

When the ship *Concord* arrived in Philadelphia on 6 October 1683, it brought the first organized group of German immigrants to the New World. Since then, about 7 million Germans have left their homeland to start a new life in America. Many settled in Canada and Latin America, most came to the United States. About 20 % of the population or 50 million are either immigrants or descendants of German immigrants.

In spite of man-made and natural disasters, many records of your ancestors do exist. With assistance from books and translators, the language need not be a handicap. The biggest roadblock is believing that the best place to begin one's research is in Europe. Many Europeans, however, come to the United States to do their personal and professional research.

In the fall of 1986, the German Genealogical Society of America was founded to assist family historians in locating records of their ancestors. The society has an extensive library of books, periodicals, and fiche, including passenger lists, archives, atlases, family histories, and more. We welcome your visits. The Library hours are Saturday from 1:00 to 5:00, other times by appointment. Although the GGSA Library is not always accessible to our out-of-the-area members, much research by mail is accomplished with the aid of this collection.

For more information, contact the Society at 2125 Wright Avenue, Suite C-9, La Verne, CA 91750, tel. (909) 593-0509.

NAME CHANGES

We have received notification from the United States Board on Geographic Names of the following new geographical names for countries in the region served by FEEFHS. This is a continuation of the list published in the first issue of the *FEEFHS Newsletter*, p. 5. People interested in receiving this kind of information regularly should request the free publication *Foreign Names in FIEFHS Bulletin* from the U.S. Board on Geographic Names at (301) 227-2495 or (800) 826-

0342. Be sure to request back issues as well.

Old

Bereza
Dribin
Gantsevichi
Glubokoye
Gorki
Kalinkovich
Komlishche
Lepel'
Logishin
Lukomer
Mormozhevo
Mstislavl'
Narutovich
Novogrudok
Novopolotsk
Novoselki
Osovtsy
Pervomayskaya
Perschanka
Samoylovichi
Selets
Slavgorod
Soshitsa
Uglyany
Vorozhbity

New

BELARUS

Byaroza
Dribin
Hantsavichy
Hlybokaye
Horki
Kalinkavichy
Komlishchy
Lyepyel'
Lahishyn
Lukamyer
Mormazhava
Mstislav
Narutavichy
Navahrudak
Navapolatsk
Navasyolki
Osawtsy
Pyershamayskaya
Pyaschanka
Samoylavichy
Syalyets
Slavharad
Sashytsa
Uhlyany
Varazhbity

BULGARIA

Avramov
Barutinska
Belanitsa
Bodrovo
Boyka (41° 54' N, 23° 35' E)
Boyka (43° 21' N, 25° 58' E)
Chukarite
Dimitür-Ganevo
Filevo
Georgi Traykov
Kapinovo
Khlebarovo
Lazar-Stanevo
Michurin
Mikhaylovgrad
Mirovo
Monchil
Muletarovo
Oresnik
Peshterite

Mokren
Goma Arda
Kosharite
Stambolovo
Gomo Kraishte
Lom Cherkovna
Todorcheta
Pobeda
Vurbitsa
Dolni Chiflik
Kilpinovo
Tsar Kaloyan
Toros
Tsarevo
Montana
Vratsa
Tsarichino
Rupite
Novo Khodzhovo
Genchovtsi

Pilashevo
Shishmanovo
Stanke Dimitrov
Stanke-Lisichkovo
Siievo
Temelkovo
Vilrbanovo
Yordankino
Zhitarovo

Bukovo
Tsar Shichmanovo
Dupnitsa
Logodazh
Staro Selo
Batanovtsi
Tsareva Livada
Eleshnitsa
Vetren

Soroki
Stepanovka
Strasheny
Tarakliya
Teleneshty
Tiraspol'
Ungeny
Vulkaneshty
Yaloveny

Soroca
Stefäneljti
Strilni
Taraclia
Teleneljti
Tiraspol
Ungheni
Vulcilnejti
Ialoveni

CROATIA

Kardeljevo

Ploce

ESTONIA

Tahku

Tahkuranna

LITHUANIA

{pilties Piliakalnis
Karklyne
Naujaupe
Suneliai

Naujoji {piltis
Karkline
Jaunakaimis
Anavilis

MOLDOVA

Bendery
Bessarabka
Bolotino
Brichen'
Chemenko
Chimishliya
Dondyushany
Drokiya
Dubossary
Faleshty
Floreshty
Glinoye
Glodyany
Grigoriopol'
Kagul
Kalarash
Kamenka
Kantemir
Kaynary
Komrat
Kongaz
Kriulyany
Leovo
Oknitsa
Orgeyev
Salkutsa
Slobodzeya

Bender
Besarabeasca
Bolotina
Briceni
oldllne ti
Cimi lia
Dondu eni
Drochia
Dubäsari
Flile ti
Floreljti
Hlinaia
Glodeni
Grigoriopol
Cahul
Cälara!ji
Camenca
Cantemir
Cäinari
Comrat
Congaz
Criuleni
Leova
Ocnita
Orhei
Salcuta
Slobozia

ROMANIA

Gheorge Gheorgiu-Dej

ÜOeijti

SLOVENIA

Titovo Velertje

Velenje

UKRAINE

Arbuzinka
Artsiz
Bolgrad
Borschchovka
Chermerovtsy
Chomivody
Chortkov
Demkovtsy
Dolina
Dombrovka
Dunayevtsy
Frunzovka
Glybokaya
Gailyakovo
Gorodok
Gradenitsy
Gritskov
Ivakhnovtsy
Kamenskoye
Kel'mentsy
Kolesnoye
Konstantinovka
Kremannaya
Kupin
Kutkovtsy
Kuz'min
Lesogorka
Lesovody
Lossogorka
Lysaya Gora
Lyubashevka
Malaya Yaromirka
Mogilev-Podol'sk.iy
Novaya Ushitsa

Arbuzynka
Artsyz
Bolhrad
Borshchivka
Chemerivtsi
Chornyvody
Chortkiv
Demkivtsi
Dolyna
Dubivka
Dunayivtsi
Frunzivka
Hlyboka
Hnylyakove
Horodok
Hradenytsi
Hryts'kiv
Ivakhnivtsi
Kam"yans'ke
Kel'mentsi
Kolisne
Kostyantiynivka
Kreminna
Kupyn
Kutk.iivtsi
Kuz'myn
Lisohirka
Lisovody
Lysohirka
Lysa Hora
Lyubashivka
Mala Yaromyrka
Mohyliv-Podil' s'ky
Nova Ushytsya

Novoarkhanhel' s'k
 Nove Porichchya
 Obodivka
 Obzhyle
 Ozerne
 Petrivka
 Plakhtiyivka
 Radkovytsya
 Shevchenkove
 Skypche
 Klynove
 Stare Prochchya
 Svirshkivtsi
 Syrватыntsi
 Tarutynе
 Terernkivtsi
 Troyits'ke
 Trostyanets'
 Velyka Levada
 Velyka Yaromyrka
 Velykyy Bychkiv
 Velykyy Karabschiyiv
 Veolykpolske
 Vylkove
 Vylok
 Vynohradiv
 Vyshnivchyk
 Vradiyivka
 Yampil'chyk
 Yurkivtsi
 Zakupne
 Zavadiivka
 Zverkhivtsi

August 4-6, Grand Wayne Center, 120 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN. Contact Joan A. Griffis, 105 Poland Road, Danville, IL 61832, or Allen County Public Library Historical Genealogy Department, (219) 424-

(translation:) Czech puppeteer and ventriloquist; reminiscences of his life and travels. A brief description of Czech settlements in North America), 71 pages.

SHIP EASTLAND

Kathryn Betlach Dankowski is also interested in getting information on the passenger vessel called the *Eastland*, which turned over in the Chicago River, Chicago, IL, on July 24, 1915. 812 passengers perished.

MATTHEWS, WOYTE

Eunice B. Larson, 57 Aalapapa Place, Kailua, HI 96734-3118, is seeking information about:

Descendants of Johann Matthews, bom 31 Dec 1777, Prussia, wife Anne Elisabeth Mittelstädt; sons Johann Gottlieb Matthews, b. 1820, wife Anna Caroline Krüger, and Wilhelm Matthews, bom 24 Apr 1825, both went to Kansas City; daughter Anna Carotine Matthews, b. about 1818, Prussia, married Gottlieb Rekow, emigrated to Faribault Co., MN, 1881; his sister, Christine Wuske/Furstenau, also emigrated, date/destination unknown, parents Christoph Rekow and Anne Justine Fiedler.

Carl Wilhelm Woyte, bom 25 Sep 1817, Schönewalde bei der Sande, Prussia, location unknown, wife Anne Dorothea Machmüller, bom 10 Oct 1822, Neu Langsow, Brandenburg, Prussia, daughter of Friedrich Machmüller and Henriette Pöhle(n). Living 1856 in Tuchband, emigrated to Mayville, WI, area 12 Mar 1856, traveling with Henrich August Woihe, bom 5 Apr 1830, Seelasgen, working 1856 in Golzow, destination unknown. Also traveling with Johann Heinrich Lindorf, bom 6 Oct 1829, Zechin.

BOOKS OF INTEREST

The book *Following the Paper Trail: A Multilingual Translation Guide*, by Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman, has been mentioned in passing before in this *New.letter*, but we feel it important to call special attention to it here. It is published by Avotaynu, Inc., a leading publisher of books on Jewish research, but this book will be helpful to people working with records of all ethnic groups. It provides detailed help with language problems in German, Swedish, French, Italian, Latin, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish, Czech, Polish, Russian, Hungarian, and Lithuanian, with specific reference to genealogical records, as well as a bibliography and a list of genealogical organizations. Order from Avotaynu, Inc., P.O. Box 1134, Teaneck, NJ 07666.

The Crossroads Resource Center, of Minneapolis, MN, and the German-Bohemian Heritage Society, of New Ulm, MN,

have published *Border People: The Böhmisches (German-Bohemians) in America*, by Ken Meter and Robert Paulson, a history of the Germans from Bohemia and Moravia (now the Czech Republic) who settled in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and North Dakota. Order from Robert Paulson, 800 West Idaho, St. Paul, MN 55116, or Ken Meter, PO Box 7423, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

Zdeilka Urbancova, secretary of the Society of Friends of the USA in Ostrava, Czech Republic, has prepared a series of bilingual books and tapes of Czech fairy tales and has requested our assistance in informing people about them. There are four sets available at \$10 each for a tape and 45-page color-illustrated book. Write to her at Zilinska 1375, 70800 Ostrava-Poruba, Czech Republic.

The European Cultural Centre of Geneva, Switzerland, and the European Centre for Regional and Ethnic Studies, located in Bydgoszcz, Poland, have published a book entitled *Regionalism in Europe: Traditions and New Trends*, edited by Janusz Slugocci, consisting of presentations made at a conference held in Bydgoszcz in 1990. It is of special interest to FEEFHS, because it contains an article by President Charles Hall, "The Contribution of Genealogy to European Regionalistic Studies." Contact European Cultural Centre, 122, rue de Lausanne, CH 1202 Geneva, Switzerland, or European Centre for Regional and Ethnic Studies, ul. M. Skłodowskiej-Curie 11A, PL 85-094, Bydgoszcz, Poland.

People planning to visit or do business in Russia may wish to obtain *The Russia Survival Guide: Business and Travel*, published by Russian Information Services, Montpelier, VT. Call (800) 639-4301 for their free catalog. •Access Russia. •

The Oldest Families in Slovakia (Najstarsie rody na Slovensku) is a collection of remarkable contributions from the symposium held on 4-6 October, 1993, by the Slovak Genealogical and Heraldic Society at the Matica slovenska, the Slovak Historical Society of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Department of Archiving and Auxiliary Historical Sciences, and the State District Archives, Bratislava. Send US\$35 to: Slovenska genealogicko-heraldicka' spolocnost' pri Matici slovenskej, Novomeskeho 32, 036 52, Martin, Slovakia.

NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES

It has come to our attention that many people may have requested and/or paid for back issues of the *FEEFHS Newsletter* and not received them. We have found several such requests in our files with no indication of whether they were fulfilled, though probably most of them were. Also, those that have joined FEEFHS during 1994 are entitled to

receive issues 2: 1 and 2:2 without additional charge, and we have usually failed to send those out.

Please contact John C. Alleman, 204 W. 300 North, Salt Lake City, UT 84103-1108, if you have not received copies you are entitled to or if you would like to order additional back issues. We apologize for any inconveniences these oversights have caused.

We are striving to correct these problems in various ways. If you receive this issue of the newsletter by mail, your address label should contain a symbol in the upper right hand corner. These symbols were devised by OOT secretary, Kathy Fisher, to assist in her record keeping. If your symbol is *, II, or +, it means you are on her records as being a paid member or subscriber or entitled to this copy on an exchange basis. If your symbol is 0, we have no record that you have paid your 1994 membership or subscription, but we are sending you this issue in hopes that you will be joining, subscribing, or renewing soon.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

by Charles M. Hall

The greatest desire of our FEEFHS executive committee, relative to the convention we held in conjunction with UPGS between May 12 and 16 this year, was to fulfill at least some of the 10 stated goals of the one page information sheet we use to answer inquiries about FEEFHS, and do it consistent with our motto of "UNITY - HARMONY - DIVERSITY":

- 1) Publish and newsletter dealing with new genealogical research developments in Eastern Europe, sharing information of interest to two or more ethnic or religious groups;
- 2) Develop data bases of pertinent genealogical organizations and resources;
- 3) Maintain liaison with federations, state, provincial, and national societies in the U.S., Canada, and overseas that have similar interests;
- 4) Serve as a clearinghouse for information on member societies;
- 5) Hold conferences in conjunction with conventions sponsored by one or more member societies or national societies;
- 6) Cosponsor genealogy-related educational events of interest to two or more ethnic groups with member societies;
- 7) Help to develop new ethnic societies where they are needed but none exist;
- 8) Promote genealogy research and publication of the results;
- 9) Publish important resource material of interest to two or more Eastern European ethnic groups;
- 10) Promote public awareness of our member societies and publications and of their many valuable membership services, resources, and activities.

This issue of the *Newsletter*, reporting on the convention and

many exciting developments in Eastern European family history research, goes a long way toward fulfilling our first goal.

The "Address Book" compiled by 2nd Vice President John Movius, makes a major contribution to fulfilling our 2nd goal.

The interaction with Vladimir Soshnikov from Moscow and Patricia A. Eames of RAGAS, at our convention, represented a positive step to fulfilling our third goal. The formulation of the "Russian Heritage Society" as a result of our participation in the Genealogical Jamboree in Pasadena, California, was another step in the fulfillment of this goal. The Russian Heritage Society has now become a member of FEEFHS.

Relative to the 4th and 5th goals, seeds of several new societies were planted during the convention. An excellent example of this is the in process formulation of a genealogical society dealing with the former Austrian Province of Galicia, which currently lies in southeastern Poland and southwestern Ukraine. At one point, in the process of my lecture during the convention, I became aware that there were several people in our group who had specific interest in the Galicia area. Therefore, I asked for a show of hands of those interested, and got a count of 13, which was about one fourth of those present. One of the amazing things about the ancestors of those 13 people, was that they represented several different ethnic groups; Poles, Austrians, Ukrainians, Jews and Romanians.

Although we made plenty of mistakes, and learned some valuable lessons during the convention, we were very pleased with the success of our program chair, and 1st Vice President, Dr. Ed Brandt, in being able to gather such a variety of speakers, covering a diversity of topics, and ethnic origins to make our first attempt at a convention so financially feasible.

Even though our committee was exhausted by the end of the convention, we were already getting excited and planning what we were going to do next year, in the area of fulfilling goals relative to promoting conventions in Calgary, Alberta, and Cleveland, Ohio. We therefore wish to express special thanks to the attendees of this year's convention, for giving us the courage to go on to bigger and better things.

Some of these attendees came to our rescue at the registration table when we had a staffing dilemma, as did some people who had no direct connection with FEEFHS, including Normandie Nunez, Carolyn Zenk, my wife Frankie, and Carol Meyers, who was our photographer. Whoever you are, and wherever you live, "Thanks, from the bottom of our collective hearts."

Organizational membership in FEEFHS is available to societies interested in Eastern European genealogy at the following rates:

Regular: US\$ 15 per year

Sponsor: US\$ 25 per year

Patron: US\$ 50 per year.

Individual memberships are US\$ 15 per year or US \$250 for a life membership.

The FEEFHS Newsletter is published quarterly. Subscriptions without voting membership are available to libraries and others who desire this status for US\$ 10 per. year. Send dues or subscriptions to Charles M. Hall, FEEFHS president, P. O. Box 21346, Salt Lake City, UT 84121.

Contributions to the newsletter (preferably on diskette in WordPerfect) are welcomed from both organizations and individuals, whether members or not. Paid advertisements will be accepted at the rate of \$25 per page per issue or \$/0 if camera-ready copy is provided. Send items for publication to John C. Alleman, FEEFHS Newsletter editor, 204 W. 300 North, Salt Lake City, UT 84103.

Copyright to material in this publication is retained by FEEFHS, except for the articles by Kahlile Mehr starting on pages 6 and 9 and John Movius starting on pages 12 and 13. Permission is granted to member societies to reprint all other material.

FEEFHS OFFICERS, 1994-1995



Charles M. Hall, President



Edward R. Brandt, 1st Vice President



John D. Movius, 2nd Vice President



Walter Rusel, 3rd Vice President



Kathy Fisher, Secretary



Azra P. Jojic, Treasurer



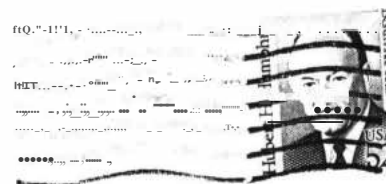
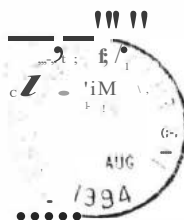
John C. Alleman, Editor



Ed, Charles, Welt, John M., and John A. at the convention

FEEFHS
Federation of East European
Family History Societies
c/o Charles M. Hall
P.O. Box 21346
Salt Lake City, UT 84121

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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*