

MESSER Newsletter 3

October, 2013

Hello Everyone,

It has been a busy summer and I have a lot of new Messer information to share. I am now the Village Coordinator for both Messer and Neu Messer. I plan to send out only one consolidated Newsletter for both villages. Nearly all of the original settlers in Neu Messer were from Messer so we are all related and I would imagine most of you have an interest in both villages. If you know of anyone with an interest in Neu Messer who would like to receive this newsletter please ask them to send me an email, mrm1970@aol.com. I would like to thank all of you for your suggestions and contributions to this newsletter. Please keep sharing your ideas. They are greatly appreciated. I hope all of you have a wonderful fall and Holiday Season.

Regards,

Mike Meisinger
Village Coordinator for Messer and Neu Messer

Messer in google maps

If you paste the following Усть-Золыха, (Ust-Solicha in Russian characters), into the search field of <https://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en> you should get a google map of Messer. You can zoom in and out using the plus and minus signs in the upper left and change from satellite to map mode on the upper right. Enjoy.

Ship Passenger Records

Don Beavers has sent me a list of additional Ship Passengers from Messer. I will be sending it as an attachment, (*Passenger Lists Weber Update.doc*), to a second email along with another picture I will be referencing later. Thank you Don!

Neu Messer Records

I have started to create a database of various records related to Neu Messer. These are records which have been submitted by AHSGR members to headquarters in Lincoln, items I have found on Ancestry, and items extracted from correspondence with other Germans from Russia. Below is what I have so far. Please feel free to send me additional records if you would like them included in my database.

Last Name	First Name	Birth Date	Notes
Bakel	Henry Peter	07/24/1878	B503
Bauer	Katharina Margaritha	About 1870	M331
Beckel	Henry Peter	1881	Husband of Anna Katharina Laufer, Son of John Jacob Beckel and Christina Wilmont
Beckel	Henry Peter	12/20/1881	B187
Beckle	Margaret		Y014
Betz	Alexander	05/20/1897	B571
Betz	Amelia	03/22/1887	B571
Betz	August	08/12/1903	B571
Betz	Heinrich	02/04/1873	H275
Betz	Heinrich	10/28/1889	B571
Betz	Heinrich Peter Jr	08/13/1866	H275
Betz	Henry Jacob	09/24/1884	T107
Betz	Jacob	12/26/1868	B571
Betz	Jacob John	09/11/1867	B571
Betz	Johann	04/24/1858	B571
Betz	Katherine	01/15/1875	H275
Betz	Maria	1879	B571
Betz	Maria Catharina	10/17/1854	From Meisinger Pleve Chart, Wife of Johann Heinrich Meisinger
Betz	Maria Mary	05/02/1883	T107
Betz	Mary	02/07/1871	H275
Betz	Mollie	04/26/1897	B571
Betz	Molly	09/21/1910	T107
Betz	Natalie	02/10/1900	B571
Dinkelacker	Heinrich Franz		From AHSGR Journal, Volume 13, Number 2, Summer 1990
Dinkelacker	Marie Elisabeth		S500
Dinkelacker	Rachel		From AHSGR Journal, Volume 13, Number 2, Summer 1990
Dinkelacker	Sarah		From AHSGR Journal, Volume 13, Number 2, Summer 1990
Emmert	Frank	12/19/1892	Naturalized in Chattanooga on 12/07/1918, Husband of Pauline Greb, Immigrated in 1912
Emmert	Henry Franz	About 1886	Immigrated in 1913
Emmert	Katharine Maria	07/07/1886	Z039
Fischer	Jacob Peter	01/16/1869	From Meisinger Pleve Chart, Husband of Anna Katharina Meisinger
Gable	Amelia	11/07/1881	B503
Geis	Arnolia	About 1888	Immigrated in 1892
Geis	Elizabeth	08/02/1868	B571
Geis	Henry	About 1869	Immigrated in 1892
Geis	Henry George	12/06/1868	G069, B435
Geis	Karl	About 1877	Immigrated in 1892, husband of Lydia Lorenz
Geis	Maria Katrina	10/20/1866	B571
Geis	Mary S	About 1883	Immigrated in 1892
Geis	Pauline	About 1892	Immigrated in 1892
Geis	Katharina Elizabeth	About 1889	Immigrated in 1892
Geis*	Maria	About 1868	Immigrated in 1892
Göbel	Jacob	About 1887	From Passenger List
Gobel	Catharina	1878	From Meisinger Pleve Chart, Wife of Heinrich Meisinger
Goebel	Henry Franz	07/01/1886	Per WWII Draft Registration, living in Milwaukee
Hardt	Heinrich Franz	06/09/1883	
Hardt	Henry	Jul, 1883	T107
Hart	Alexander	12/10/1903	Son of Heinrich Franz Hardt and Maria Betz, Immigrated in 1906
Hart	Maria	06/03/1870	D153, F170
Heidenrich	Ana Marie		From AHSGR Journal, Volume 13, Number 2, Summer 1990
Kaiser	Henry Frank	10/16/1884	Y014
Kaiser	John		Y104
Laubach	Catharina	About 1843	From Lisanderdorf, left Hamburg 05/22/1878
Laubach	Frank	Jan, 1850	L230
Laubach	Franze Frank	01/12/1827	L230
Laubach	Heinrich	About 1857	From Lisanderdorf, left Hamburg 05/22/1878
Laubach	Heinrich	About 1869	From Lisanderdorf, left Hamburg 05/22/1878
Laubach	Henry Jacob	07/28/1872	L230
Laubach	Johannes	About 1821	From Lisanderdorf, left Hamburg 05/22/1878
Laubach	Johannes	About 1860	From Lisanderdorf, left Hamburg 05/22/1878
Laubach	John	03/16/1892	L230
Laubach	Kathryn Lizzie	02/15/1868	L230
Laubach	Phillip	1884	Immigrated in 1888
Laubach	Phillipine Katie	07/28/1872	L230
Laubach*	Maria	About 1822	Wife of Johannes Laubach, left Hamburt 05/22/1878
Laufer	Anna Katharina	1883	Wife of Henry Peter Beckel, Daughter of George Laufer and Christina Bauer
Lehr	Christina Barbra	04/14/1870	S690
Lehr	David	About 1904	From Passenger List
Lehr	Heinrich	About 1911	From Passenger List
Lehr	Jacob	08/23/1885	
Lehr	Jakob	About 1887	From Passenger List
Lehr	John George		Y014
Lehr	Karl	About 1886	From Passenger List
Lehr	Katherine	12/09/1912	Daughter of Jacob Lehr and Katherina Maria Schmidt, Immigrated in 1912
Lehr	Katherine Katja	12/04/1887	Y014
Lehr*	Maria	About 1887	Wife of Karl Lehr, from passenger list
Manweiler	Carl		C172
Manweiler	Mary		C172
Meisinger	Alexander	07/01/1882	From Meisinger Pleve Chart, Son of Johann Heinrich Meisinger and Maria Catharina Betz, died 12/21/1883
Meisinger	Alexander	11/17/1883	From Meisinger Pleve Chart, Son of Johann Heinrich Meisinger and Maria Catharina Betz, died 08/13/1897
Meisinger	Alexander	11/27/1904	From Meisinger Pleve Chart, Son of Heinrich Meisinger and Catharina Göbel
Meisinger	Annalie	02/14/1891	From Meisinger Pleve Chart, Daughter of Johann Heinrich Meisinger and Maria Catharina Betz
Meisinger	Anna Katharina	About 1869	From Meisinger Pleve Chart, Daughter of Johann Heinrich Meisinger and Maria Catharina Betz
Meisinger	Carl	06/19/1888	From Meisinger Pleve Chart, Son of Johann Heinrich Meisinger and Maria Catharina Betz
Meisinger	Carl	09/07/1900	From Meisinger Pleve Chart, Son of Heinrich Meisinger and Catharina Göbel
Meisinger	Catharina	06/26/1899	From Meisinger Pleve Chart, Daughter of Heinrich Meisinger and Catharina Göbel, died 01/11/1901
Meisinger	Catharina	12/18/1885	From Meisinger Pleve Chart, Daughter of Johann Heinrich Meisinger and Maria Catharina Betz
Meisinger	Heinrich	10/12/1903	From Meisinger Pleve Chart, Son of Heinrich Meisinger and Catharina Göbel, died 02/09/1904
Meisinger	Heinrich	12/31/1901	From Meisinger Pleve Chart, Son of Heinrich Meisinger and Catharina Göbel, died 08/28/1903
Meisinger	Heinrich	1876	From Meisinger Pleve Chart, Son of Johann Heinrich Meisinger and Maria Catharina Betz
Meisinger	Johann Heinrich	01/06/1848	From Meisinger Pleve Chart, Ancestor of all the Neu Messer Meisinger(s)
Meng	Alexander	04/09/1902	Immigrated in 1912
Meng	Alice	07/23/1879	H309
Meng	Heinrich	About 1897	From Passenger List
Meng	Jacob		M062, M083
Meng	Johannes	About 1893	From Passenger List
Meng	Karl	About 1901	From Passenger List
Michael	Jacob	04/09/1879	M083
Morsch	Katherine Mary	08/11/1885	T107
Oestreich	Anna Elizabeth	10/04/1881	T006
Oestreich	Henry Peter	01/09/1869	M144
Oestreich	Johann Heinrich	05/15/1864	M331, G190, E071, S558, M144
Oestreich	Johann Joseph	11/15/1871	M331, M144
Oestreich	Katherine Elizabeth	09/17/1871	M144
Oestreich	Katherine Elizabeth	09/17/1874	M331
Reispick	Friedrich	About 1874	Left Hamburg on 07/02/1904
Schantz	Mary Katherine	09/07/1852	L230
Scheibel	Katrina	About 1867	S048
Scheibel	Maria Katharina	1820/1821	W308
Schlagel	Jake	09/17/1907	S076
Schmidt	Harry Peter	06/12/1890	K059
Schmidt	Heinrich	About 1867	S048
Schmidt	Henry	1866	H477
Schmidt	Jacob J	08/17/1877	S135
Schmidt	Maria Katrina	11/12/1848	H477
Schmidt	Katrina Marie	04/02/1892	S048, Birth Year may be 1893
Schmidt	Maria Kathern	08/02/1889	H477, S048
Schneider	Alexander	01/09/1911	N026
Schneider	Henry Jr	12/18/1891	N026
Schneider	Henry Peter	About 1895	N026
Schneider	Jacob	03/14/1904	N026
Schneider	Jacob	About 1893	N026
Schneider	Kathryn	Jan, 1888	N026
Schneider	Mary	04/08/1908	N026
Schreiner	Margaretha		D056
Ulrich	Aleksander	1880	S500
Ulrich	Alexander		Son of Aleksander Ulrich and Katherine Marie Ulrich, From AHSGR Journal, Vol 13, No 2, Summer 1990
Ulrich	Franz	About 1843	S500
Ulrich	Heinrich		From AHSGR Journal, Volume 13, Number 2, Summer 1990
Ulrich	Jacob		From AHSGR Journal, Volume 13, Number 2, Summer 1990
Ulrich	Johann		From AHSGR Journal, Volume 13, Number 2, Summer 1990
Ulrich	Katherine Marie	01/29/1882	S500
Ulrich	Leah		From AHSGR Journal, Volume 13, Number 2, Summer 1990
Ulrich	Marie		From AHSGR Journal, Volume 13, Number 2, Summer 1990
Ulrich	Marie Barbara		From AHSGR Journal, Volume 13, Number 2, Summer 1990
Ulrich	Nathalie		From AHSGR Journal, Volume 13, Number 2, Summer 1990
Ulrich	Nathalie	06/08/1909	S500
Weibert	Heinrich	About 1837	From Lisanderdorf, left Hamburg 04/15/1892
Weibert	Johannes	About 1877	From Lisanderdorf, left Hamburg 04/15/1892
Weibert	Juliane*	About 1838	Wife of Heinrich Weibert, left Hamburg 04/15/1892
Weibert	Liese	About 1881	From Lisanderdorf, left Hamburg 04/15/1892
Weibert	Marie	About 1883	From Lisanderdorf, left Hamburg 04/15/1892
Weigand	Katarina	08/21/1865	Daughter of Conrad Weigand and Katarina Reutzelstein, Immigrated in 1883

Note: Items such as "S500" in the notes column refer to the AHSGR identification number of the person who contributed the record.

Messer Census records are now available through Amazon.com

“1834 Census of Messer in the District of Saratov, Russia - Dated 29 December 1834” by Brent Mai (Dynasty Publishing) is now on sale at Amazon for \$50 plus \$4.49 shipping.

“1857 Census of Messer in the District of Saratov, Russia - Dated 29 December 1834” by Brent Mai (Dynasty Publishing) is now on sale at Amazon for \$70 plus \$4.49 shipping.

Question on Don Beavers' Weber Picture

Don Beavers would like to know if anyone is aware of the significance of the picture which hung in either or both Frederick H Weber and/or Heinrich Jacob Weber's home in Messer, before locating to Blaine, Oklahoma. It has an obvious religious and / or political message. This is the only non family photo known to travel from Messer to the USA for the Weber family. If you know the significance of this picture, please respond to Don at digsbeavers@gmail.com (*I will be sending the picture in a separate email as it is too big to include in this newsletter.*)

Draft Records

Ancestry has recently loaded WWI Draft Records into their database. These can be very interesting, particularly for our ancestors who were born in Russia. Even if you do not have a subscription to Ancestry, many public libraries have institutional licenses so you can access these records there. I used the following procedure to view the records for my ancestors and other family members.

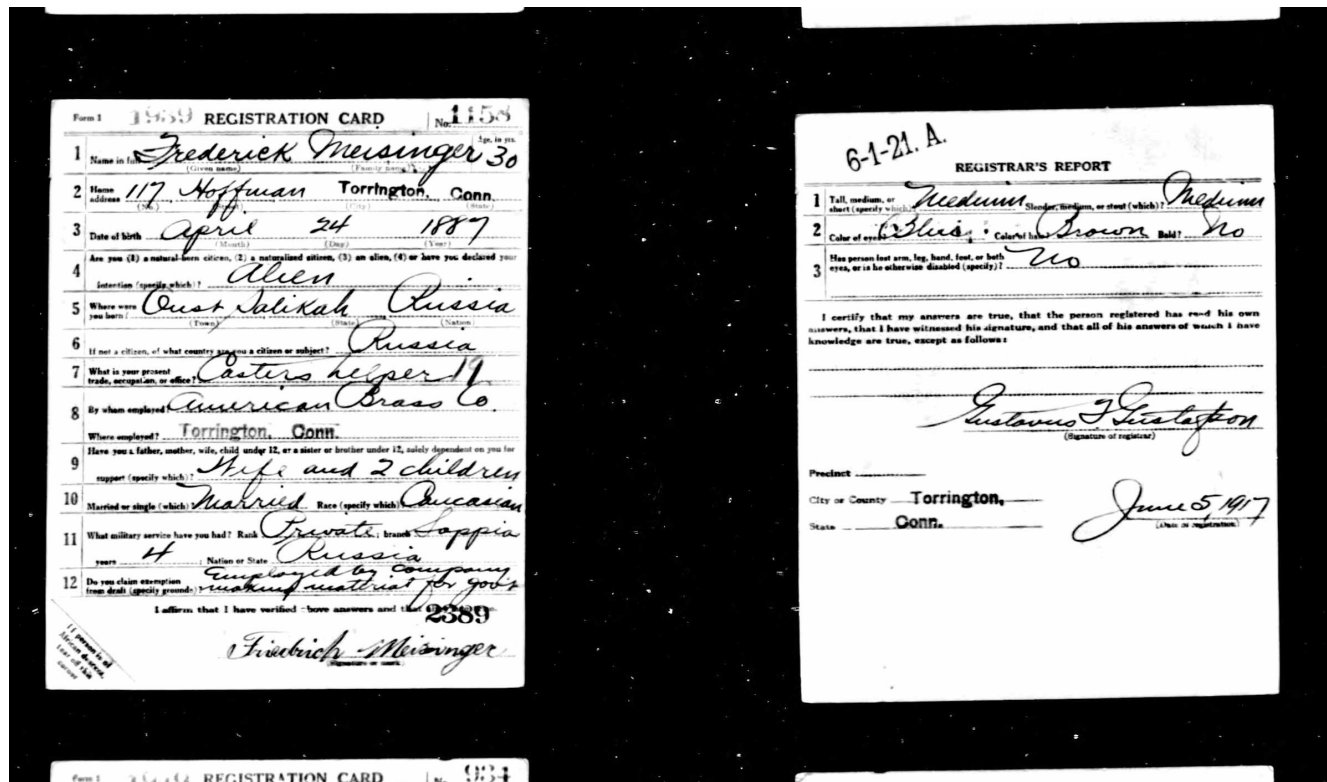
- 1. On the initial Ancestry Screen, select "Military" from the "Search" pull down.**
- 2. On the next screen enter a last name and optionally a first name and "Russia" in the "birth location" field.**
- 3. On the next screen select "Draft, Enlistment and Service" under "Military" on the left.**
- 4. On the next screen select "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918".**
- 5. Unless you are searching a common last name the results for your family member should be displayed within the first few pages.**
- 6. If there are too many results, you may want to further limit the search by selecting "Edit Search" on the left and entering a state in the "Lived In" field of the next screen.**

The information provided varies somewhat from state to state and county to county, but as an example these are the fields on one of the more prevalent forms:

**Name
Address
Date of Birth
Citizenship Status
Birthplace
Citizenship Country if not U.S.
Occupation
Employer Name
Employer Location
Dependents
Marital Status**

Race
 Previous Military Service
 Reason if claiming exemption from draft
 Height
 Build
 Eye Color
 Hair Color
 Bald (yes or no)
 List of any disabilities
 Date of Registration

Here is the record for my Grandfather who was living in Torrington, Connecticut.



Ancestry has also recently started adding World War II Fourth Registration Draft Cards to their database. This is commonly referred to as "The Old Man's Draft" since this registration was specifically for men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897. Currently Ancestry has the records loaded for:

Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

The records for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee were destroyed and will never be available.

The records for the remaining states are being loaded and will be made available over time.

These records include:

Name

- Residence
- Mailing Address
- Telephone Number
- Age
- Date of Birth
- Town or County of Birth
- Country of Birth
- Name and Address of Person who will always know your address
- Employer's Name and Address
- Place of Employment
- Race
- Height
- Weight
- Eye Color
- Hair Color
- Complexion
- Any other Identifying physical characteristics

You can find these records using the same procedure as above and selecting "U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942" in step 4.

Here is a sample record for Adam Schreiber who was living in Portland.

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

SERIAL NUMBER 4514	1. NAME (Print) Adam Schreiber	ORDER NUMBER
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 3956 NE 14th Ave. - Portland - Mult. - Ore.		
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]		
3. MAILING ADDRESS same		
[Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same]		
4. TELEPHONE	5. AGE IN YEARS 46	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Norka
	DATE OF BIRTH Feb 14 1896	RUSSIA
	(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	(Town or county) (State or country)
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS wife - same		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Electric Steel Foundry		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 2141 N.W. 25th Ave		
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 4-1-42)	(over) 314	16-21630-2
		Elizabeth Schreiber [Signature] By A. Hergett [Signature]

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION	
White	5'9 1/2"	180	EYES	
			HAIR	Sallow
Negro	Blue	Blonde	Light	Ruddy
	Gray	Red	Dark	Freckled
Oriental	Hazel	Brown	Light brown	Dark brown
	Brown	Black	Black	
Indian	Black	Gray		
		Bald		
Filipino				

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification _____

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

D. Bergert
(Signature of registrar)

Registrar for Local Board _____
(Number) (City or county) (State)

Date of registration _____

Local Board No. 9
Multnomah County

051

009

(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

Meacham Building
Portland, Oregon

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space)

Messer Luncheon at Ft. Collins Convention

We had a very nice Messer Luncheon in Ft. Collins during the AHSGR Convention. We all enjoyed the chance to share stories, photos, and just get to know each other better.



Back Row Left to Right: Reuben Zeller, Carl Zeller, Dave Meisinger, Mike Meisinger, Irene Ulrich Houtchens. Front Row Left to Right: Lynne Willman, Terry Sterkel, Ryan Meisinger, Freida Meisinger
Photo Courtesy of Dave Meisinger

The Danish Detour

I recently found out that many of the Germans who went to Russia in the 1760s had first been colonists in Denmark, (including several families who went to Messer). Dr. Jacob, Mary, and Dr. Alexander Eichhorn have done extensive research on this subject and have published a very interesting book packed with historical information. The families who went to Denmark before Messer were: Dinkelacker, Manweiler, Mauter, Meisterling, Rösler, Schmidt, Schwan, and Zwingmann. One of these families arrived in Messer on June 7, 1766 and the rest arrived in Messer July 7, 1766, making them some of the first colonists. (*There were five groups of original settlers; two families arrived June 7, 1766, 23 families arrived July 7, 1766, 8 families arrived November 15, 1766, 49 families arrived June 18, 1767, and 10 families arrived September 14, 1767.*) The Eichhorn's book, "The Immigration of German Colonists to Denmark and Their subsequent Emigration to Russia in the Years 1759 - 1766" can be ordered at

<http://germanstorussia.com/styled-9/> (Note: Jacob and Irma Eichhorn's grandfather, Eduard Eichhorn, was the last pastor in Messer and is mentioned in Olga Litzenberger's Book.)

Documentary on German Russians currently living near the Volga

The Paulskoye Village Coordinator shared the following link to a very interesting documentary on German Russians currently living near the Volga.

“A 2011 Russian documentary in English language called "Faces of Russia - The Volga Germans". Its theme is assimilation as well as cultural preservation for the German Russians who did not emigrate to Germany. My pardon if someone reported on this back in 2011.”

<http://rtd.rt.com/films/volga-germans-saratov/#part-1>

<http://rtd.rt.com/films/volga-germans-saratov/#part-2>

Tim Weeder
Village Coordinator for Paulskoye

1897 Russian Census

The summary of the 1897 Russian Census is available on line, (in Russian), and I was able to locate both Messer and Neu Messer. This summary only has population totals but I thought they might be of interest to you.

Messer Census 1897; 1,702 Males, 1,701 Females, 3,403 Total

Neu Messer Census 1897; 710 Males, 678 Females, 1,388 Total

Update on Litzenberger book

I have received the translation of the Messer section of Olga Litzenberger's book and sent it to the editor. When I receive it back I will format it for distribution and send out the copies to those of you who want one. If you want a copy and haven't already sent me a check, please send a check for \$25 to:

Mike Meisinger
13929 Briar
Overland Park, KS 66224

Also, if you would like to make a contribution to the translation fund, (*and haven't already*), you can also send it to the address above. *Many thanks to those of you who have contributed to this translation.*

Pictures of the Volga German Museum in Satatov

Irma Houtchens has graciously shared the pictures below that she took of the Volga German Museum in Saratov during her visit there in 1993. Thanks Irma!



Parish Ustsolicha

In 1909 – 1911, Buchdruckerei F Watsar, wrote “*Die Evangelisch-Lutherischen Gemeinden in Russland, Band II*”, which is a description on the Evangelical Lutheran Colonies on the Volga. The following is the section on the Messer Parish, pages 115-117, translated into English

43. Parish Ustsolicha

Directory p. 282 Supplement p. 33

Location: The parish Ustsolicha with the vicarage in the German settlement of the same name lies in the district Kamyschin of the Saratow administrative government.

History: The present parish Ustsolicha was made up of the newly formed German colonies Ustsolicha (*Messer*), Kljutschi (*Moor*), Popowka (*Kutter*), Goloi-Karamysch (*Balzer*), Sebastianowka (*Anton*), and Werschinka (*Kautz*) in 1765 and had its pastorate in Sebastianowka. It also got its first preachers in 1765. In 1799, the colony Sebastianowka was united with Wolskaja (*Kukkus*) into one parish after the pastorate of the original parish was transferred in 1771 to Ustsolicha. In the same year, the colony Werschinka was taken over (beaten) by the parish Oleschna (*Dietel*). Since the parish had become too populous over the years, a division took place in 1856, and the colonies Goloi-Karamysch and Sebastianowka were united into its own parish, Goloi-Karamysch, so that in the parish Ustsolicha, only the three large colonies Ustsolicha, Kljutschi, and Popowka remain, all of which possess churches from early times. As a result, a large resettlement of more than 1000 souls took place on the so-called Kronsteppe, and the new settlement was given the name Lysanderdorf, but bears the common name Neu-Messer and lately is served by (operated in) Norka.

The parish Ustsolicha is almost entirely Reformed. In the years 1895 - 1896, a new parsonage was built in Ustsolicha. Each of the 3 colonies, Ustsolicha, Kljutschi, and Popowka has a church council. Since 1866, the following preachers have served here: Friedrich Dettling 1855 - 1891, Johann Kaminsky 1894 - 1897, Eduard Seib since 1898.

Constituents: The parish Ustsolicha numbered 14,535 registered parishioners of German nationality in 1905, for the most part Reformed persuasion. In the years 1906/7, the number of confirmed was 183. In Ustsolicha are the German colonies Ustsolicha (5057 parishioners), Kljutschi (5370), and Papowka (4108).

Churches and houses of worship: The church of Ustsolicha has 500 seats, that at Kljutschi (8 Werst* from the parish seat/vicarage) 700, and that at Papowka (5 Werst) 600. Each of the 3 colonies also has a town hall where services take place in Winter.

Pastor: The pastor is elected by the community and introduced only by the Consistory. He preaches in each of the three churches about 26 times a year. In his absence, reading services are held by the head masters. The pastor enjoys free housing, but without free heating, and includes 171 Rubles, 60 Kopecs priestly salary and 1800 Rubles besides, which are raised by the souls of the province. Incidentals are standardized: baptism 20 Kopecs, confirmation 50 Kopecs, marriage 1 Ruble, burial 20 Kopecs. Lands belonging to the parish are not available.

Schools: 3 schools are located in the parish: in Ustsolicha (501 students), Kljutschi (460), and Popowka (420). All schools are located in a building with the house of prayer.

Head Masters: The head master in Ustsolicha is supplied with 600 Rubles, in Kljutschi 400 Rubles, and in Popowka 540 Rubles.

Charitable organizations: The parish has no charitable organizations.

**Werst is a Russian measure of distance = 1.067 Kilometers.*

Translation from the German Fraktur by Bob Howe, 128 Elmwood Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64123, bhowegen47@aol.com, 816-241-1502

Passport lists

I have added records for Neu Messer to the Russian Passport list I sent out in an earlier newsletter. Dr. Pleve has also added a web page for 1899 records so I have included those additions as well. The web site for the 1899 records is:

http://www.wolgadeutsche.net/pleve/liste_1899.htm .

German Village Name	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Russian Village Name	Passport Year	Last Name (Russian Spelling)	First Name (Russian Spelling)	Middle Name (Russian Spelling)	Russian Village Name (Russian Spelling)	Passport Year
Messer	Schmidt	Andre		Ust-Zolicha	1899	Шмидт	Андрей		Усть-Залиха	1899
Messer	Schmidt	Andre		Ust-Zolicha	1899	Шмидт	Андрей		Усть-Залиха	1899
Messer	Schmidt	Johann	Heinrich	Ust-Zolicha	1899	Шмидт	Иоганн	Генрих	Усть-Залиха	1899
Messer	Schmidt	Maria		Ust-Zolicha	1899	Шмидт	Мария		Усть-Залиха	1899
Messer	Schmidt	Anna	Maria	Ust-Zolicha	1899	Шмидт	Анна	Мария	Усть-Залиха	1899
Lysanderdorf	Deisel	Heinrich		Lizanderdorf	1912	Дейзель	Генрих		Лизандердорф	1912
Lysanderdorf	Östereich	Karl		Lizanderdorf	1912	Эстерейх	Карл		Лизандердорф	1912
Lysanderdorf	Laufer	Heinrich		Lizanderdorf	1912	Лауфер	Генрих		Лизандердорф	1912
Lysanderdorf	Manweiler	Heinrich	Franz	Lizanderdorf	1908	Манвейлер	Генрих	Франц	Лизандердорф	1908
Lysanderdorf	Masch	Katarina	Maria	Lizanderdorf	1906	Маш	Катарина	Мария	Лизандердорф	1906
Lysanderdorf	Schmidt	Heinrich		Lizanderdorf	1906	Шмидт	Генрих		Лизандердорф	1906
Lysanderdorf	Weibert	Frantz		Lizanderdorf	1912	Вейберт	Франц		Лизандердорф	1912
Lysanderdorf	Wilmann	Heinrich		Lizanderdorf	1906	Вильманн	Генрих		Лизандердорф	1906
Lysanderdorf	Zeller	Heinrich	Jakob	Lizanderdorf	1900	Целлер	Генрих	Якоб	Лизандердорф	1900

Henry Weber's Messer Childhood Story

Following is a section from Henry Weber's life story about his childhood in Messer. Thanks, to Greta Weber Beavers and her husband Don Beavers for sharing this with us.

“... I was born January 11, 1886, in the village of Messer in Russia. My parents with their family which included Amalia (Mollie), Henry, Jacob, John, Emelia (Millie), and Carl, migrated to the United States of America because of the wonderful opportunities that existed here. Three brothers and three sisters died in Russia before we came to the United States. One brother, Carl, the youngest of the family died in 1904 in March, and is buried north of Okeene, Oklahoma.

I started to school when I was seven years old. I attended school seven years and graduated from the 8th grade. Our school was conducted in the German language. However we were compelled to also learn the Russian language. The books we used were largely Russian fables.

At the age of seven I had to take the horses out to the “Steppes” to pasture every night. My cousin, who was nine years of age was with me. We hobbled the horses and lay down to sleep on the ground wrapped in a comfort. When a rain storm came we were frequently soaked to the skin. One night especially, we were in a terrible storm with no protection. My uncle came out to see how we were faring and took us home. Like all boys, we had lots of fun playing leap-frog and wrestling or pulling off tricks on one another, which was expected.

Since my parents were weavers by trade, I had to get up early at 5 o'clock in the morning to go to the Schmidts to get our Spools. In the winter time those two blocks were a long trek for a child through the snow and ice. We had to work when we were not in school. School was just one-half of a day because there wasn't room for all the pupils. We wove 180 yards in 3 weeks time and received 5 cents per yard.

We farmed 80 acres. We raised rye, wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, sunflowers, broom corn and many vegetables. We had 5 cows who came fresh in the Spring. During the winter we had little or no milk. Butter was rendered and put into crocks and saved for the winter. We children always had to help with the work. Our crops were harvested with a scythe or cradle and threshed with a roller purposely made to thresh the grain. Two horses pulled the roller over the bundles of grain. The wheat and rye were taken to the mill and ground into flour and cereal for our own use. The other grain was used for feed. Some wheat and rye were sold. Wheat was sold for \$.60 per bushel.

When I was 4 years old we attended the wedding of my father's sister. There was a big feast and when the couple came back from the church, the youngsters pulled a rope across the door and would not let them enter until they gave each child a coin.

Recreation was swimming in the old mill stream during the summer and we skated there in the winter. ..."

Messer Web site and Data Base

Terry Sterkel has graciously agreed to create and host a database of ancestral records for our ancestors from Messer and their descendants. Here is the proposal from Terry. Please let Terry, (Terry@sterkel.org) and me know what you think.

A web site and on-line database of our own

If the "village" agrees, I can set up, no cost a village website. It would have anything you support with contributions, And especially, the combined Messer Village Database.

The web site!

To start, please send me (and our village coordinator, natch), your suggestion for the name of the website. I will research and see if that name is still available as an "org" location. Our VC will send out updates and get input on which of the available names are the most preferred, and I will set up.

The database

1. In parallel, I would love to start the database. It will be the combined personal and family history of everyone who was associated with Messer, and ancestors and descendants. The best way to get this is for YOU to send me the RAW files your genealogy program creates. Why not a "Gedcom?" Because most programs honor the Gedcom Standard with poor implementations and lots of errors. I am using "The Master Genealogist" the most used program by genealogists-for-hire. It accepts the raw files and makes the best conversion to AGS standards.

2. Everything? Good question. I would appreciate it, if before you generate your RAW file, you would filter out anything you consider not relevant to a Messer resident/ancestor/descendant (and of course "private" info.) I will do this anyway, but it will be easier if you do it.

3. I will tag each person/family with your AHSGR researcher number, so anyone who sees it in the database will go directly to you for info.

4. To cut start-up costs, the initial on-line will be name index alphabetical by surname. When we get to a critical mass, I will put up some options, and our VC will get input on what you would like to see. One, as it is already popular would be a "marriage index"

What do you think? Contact Mike our VC, with suggestions. Send the files directly to me. Thanks!

Terry, researching Schumanns of Messer.

Isenburg, Hessen

The Messer First Settlers List shows 47 families who came from "Isenburg". Of those, various researchers have found church records for 24 of these families. These 24 are from a group of 14 villages all within 6 miles of Büdingen. The map on the next page shows these villages. Immediately below is a list of the families included in the church records of each of these villages.

Village Number	Village Name	Surname(s)
1	Wolferborn	Röder
2	Aulendiebach	Meisinger
3	Wolf	Ditmann, Hardt, Schröder
4	Rinderbügen	Hardt, Röder
5	Düdelnheim	Ochsenhirt, Willmann
6	Büches	Ditmann, Kaiser, Ochsenhirt, Sattler, Schlegel, Weber
7	Büdingen	Bopp/Popp
8	Lorbach	Bopp/Popp, Daut, Lang, Traumiller, Willmann
9	Eckartshausen	Bohn, Holland, Scheibel, Zieg
10	Vonhausen	Bopp/Popp
11	Hain-Gründau	Götz
12	Mittel-Gründau	Lipps, Lorey
13	Hüttengesäß	Burbach, Schneider, Zieg
14	Niedergründau	Wiederhold

