

Doing Eastern European Research at the MGS Resource Center

Mary Bole (#884)

The following is a guide for volunteers and patrons using the MGS Library. It is far from complete. To find other resources search the card catalog under the name of the country or look on the shelves in the European section.

Columbia Gazetteer of the World

A database of names, descriptions, and characteristics of over 165,000 places in the world, listing 6,068 in Russia.

Atlas of Original Mennonite Villages and Homesteaders of the East Reserve, Manitoba, edited by John Rempel and William Harms.

Atlas of Original Mennonite Villages Homesteaders and Some Burial Plots of the Mennonite West Reserve (Altona, MB, 1990), The two atlases include maps and local history.

Historical Atlas of East Central Europe, by P.R. Magocsi.

This atlas provides a systematic and comprehensive treatment of Europe west of the former Soviet Union, east of Germany, and south of the Baltics down into western Turkey. Also included are eastern Germany, northeastern Italy (Venice), and historic Poland-Lithuania (today's Belarus, Lithuania, and parts of Ukraine). In a progression of 89 full-color maps, the essentially chronological presentation of ever-shifting boundaries extends from the fifth century to 1993.

Atlas of Austro-Hungarian Empire 1892
Atlas of the German Empire 1892

Historic map reproductions are normally very hard to read. These reproductions are easy to read and follow, and contain extensive indexes.

Gazetteer of Eastern Europe.

This list of places contains a soundex system, ie you know how Grandma pronounced that town but no idea how to spell it. The gazetteer is on Microfiche and a guide is in the Reference section of the library.

The Tchorikiv Districts: a collection of memoirs and historical data.

Includes comprehensive information on the counties of Tchorikiv, Kopyshyntsl, Borshchlv and Zalizhchyky.

Emigration from Germany to Russia in the Years 1763-1862 by Karl Stumpp,

For anyone doing genealogical searches for German ancestors from Russia, this is the most complete study, with many lists of German settlers who moved to the Volga and Black Sea areas. It contains census returns of the different German-Russian colonies with lists of surnames, origins in Germany, spouses,

children, where settled in Russia, etc. Also includes maps.

Building on the Past by R.P. Friesen, 2004.

A treasure of photographs, information and new insights about the Russian Mennonite story from 1789 until today. It explores the architecture and landscape of numerous colonies, villages, estates, forestry camps and cities in southern Russia, now eastern Ukraine, where the Mennonites once lived.

Researching our Galizien Roots

A research package of information showing what is available, (ie historical articles, maps, photos, etc.) on 127 villages in Galicia and where to find this information

ARE THESE YOUR ANCESTORS?

By Kathy Stokes

The Winnipeg Telegram of July 7, 1919 and following tells an unusual tale of life and death at Stony Mountain Penitentiary.

Albert Johnson aka Fred F. Fishburn was an inmate at the penitentiary. Born in Northamptonshire, England, he was 45 years old, about 5'8", heavily built with reddish complexion and a sharp nose. He had been in the pen for some time. Other prisoners described Johnson as crazy and a malingerer as he often claimed illness. He also claimed to be suffering from mistreatment from guards, telling of how he was made to stand for nine hours every day with hands thrust between the bars of his cell and handcuffed together, and being fed only bread and water for 21 straight meals.

On May 2, 1919, Johnson requested a knife from a hospital overseer to cut his nails, apparently a common procedure. Johnson then stabbed Anton Fladeby, a guard, severing an artery in his neck. Fladeby was a returned WW1 serviceman, about 30 years old, who had been a guard at the penitentiary for four years before serving overseas. He had resumed his interrupted career only a week before the stabbing. Johnson had complained about his brutality and had asked the warden for protection.

The trial was held in early July. Johnson claimed he could not remember his terrible act. The jury was out for only one hour and twenty minutes before finding Johnson guilty of manslaughter and was sentenced to life in prison.