

The Tichy Family of South Russia

Collaborative research by Tom Stangl and Merv Weiss

Normal genealogical research begins with an individual and moves backwards into the past – parents, grand-parents, great-grandparents, etc. Often the researcher is stymied two or three generations into the past. This was me. The other approach is like that of a detective trying to solve a crime – start in the past and work towards the future. This was Tom Stangl. He had started with an original German colonist in South Russia, and was documenting his descendants. We met in the middle, so to speak, and with further research, we learned that the line I was tracing backwards was the direct extension of the line he was pursuing forwards. This is a report of our collaborative research.

Tichy. Up until a few years ago I was not even sure how to write my maternal Grandmother's family name in print. I had only ever heard it orally. My mother pronounced it "Tich-ee" with an emphasis on the "ch" and the "ee". The "ch" is a soft sound like the German "ich". It is a Slavic name, mostly unknown among fellow researchers of the Germans from Russia. In the Russian Cyrillic script, "Tichy" looks like this: ТИХИЙ. In Russian, the word ТИХИЙ means "quiet". Transliterated letter for letter, the Roman spelling would be "Tichiy". Various translators have spelled it "Tickee", "Dichee" "Tihy", "Tiege", and then there is an old family photo, with the signature on the back, clearly written in Roman script, "Magdalena Tihin". This spelling follows an old German practice of the female members of a family spelling the family name with "in" at the end. According to oral family history, Grandmother's family came from Austria,¹ and on-line directories reveal that "Tichy" is indeed a common family name in Austria. It is only recently that I have seen the 1822 signature of my ancestor Franz Tichy in his own hand-writing in Roman script (German Fraktur), clearly spelled "T-i-c-h-y". His signature appears on many Glückstal District documents (as obtained from the State Archives of Odessa Region) as the Gebietsschreiber, or district secretary. Franz Tichy was therefore an educated person.

My mother was born in 1923 in the small village of Anakoi-Eli², east of Simferopol, the capital city of Crimea. Her parents were Philip Schafer and Elisabeth Tichy. Bits and pieces of oral family history reveal the struggles of life in Crimea during World War I, the Civil War which followed, the famine years 1920-1922, and the transition to a new economic order. As we grew up, we heard a lot about the Schafers of Crimea. Grandfather eventually joined his eleven siblings and his mother, who had emigrated to Canada in 1911. In other words, the entire Schafer family left Russia. In contrast, Grandmother Elisabeth was the only one of her family to leave Russia. She died before I was born, so as I began my family research, I knew virtually nothing about the Tichy family.

¹ Austria, in historical time perspective, was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which included the province of Galicia, or present-day western Ukraine.

² Crimean Tatar word. "Anakoi" = mother's village, "Eli" = people, also saint or holy as in reference to Allah.

Upon entering Canada in January, 1925 my grandparents filled out declaration forms. One of the questions asked: “Nearest relative in country from which you came.” Of course, English-speaking agents recorded the information. The answer is given as “Tiege, Magdalena, mother” with address recorded as “Taku-Eli, Taurien Gubernia”.

Years later I had Grandmother’s Russian passport translated into English. The translation reads: “The bearer of this passport, citizen of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic, Elizaveta, Iosifovna, born Tihy, with children” This information told me that her father’s name was Joseph, after the Russian custom of using the father’s first name as an individual’s second name or patronymic. Thus immigration records revealed that Grandmother’s parents were Joseph and Magdalena Tichy, with Joseph already deceased in 1925 and Magdalena’s maiden name unknown.

The next documented evidence of the existence of the Tichy family name in Crimea came in 2006 when an archivist located three 1917 Census cards in the Simferopol State Archives in Crimea, Ukraine. It was the first time I had seen my Grandmother’s surname in official print, albeit in the Cyrillic alphabet.

Fond 27, Opus 7, Delo 11058, List 77. Tichy, Fyodor Josefovich, a tenant, the village of Anakoi-Eli, Tabuldinskaya volost, Simferopol Uyezd, 29 years old, was absent for two years at the time of the census, as he was drafted to the army. Married, his wife was 25, his daughter was three.

Based on the patronymic, Fyodor was a brother to my grandmother Elisabeth because his father was also Joseph, and he was living in the same village where my mother was born in 1923.



I wonder if this is Feodor who has posed here with my Grandmother Elisabeth, while her own husband was away from home, also serving in the Russian army. Judging by the size of the twins Nikodemus and Katharina (my uncle and aunt) in this photo, I would guess the year to be 1916.

The other two Tichy census cards belonged to sons of Joseph's brother Anton Tichy, but this was family information I would learn only later.



1924 passport photo of my Grandmother and her four children.
My mother is the bare-foot baby in her arms.

Up to the 2006 GRHS Convention in Bismarck, this then was the extent of what I knew about the family of my mother's mother. Joseph and Magdalena Tichy lived in Taku-Eli, Crimea, about one kilometer north of the village of Anakoi-Eli, where my mother was born. These villages are about 25 km east of the city of Simferopol. From photos and oral history, as well as my own research, my grandmother had siblings Frederick, Joseph, Ivan, Fyodor and Rose. My Grandmother Elisabeth Tichy married my Grandfather Philip Schafer around 1911 (we have no marriage date), and they lived in Anakoji-Eli up to December, 1924. They emigrated with four children, including my mother.

ENTER TOM STANGL.

At the 2006 GRHS Convention I delivered a presentation about finding long-lost relatives in Germany. In my introduction, I gave the names of my grandparents. Immediately after the dinner, Tom Stangl approached me. He had written the name Tichy on the palm of his hand. Showing it to me, he said, "We need to talk". Tom had been very involved in researching the villages of origin for the Glückstal colonists. He told me that he had been "chasing" a Franz

Tichy from Glückstal all over South Russia, but lost him in the 1850's. Because the name Tichy is uncommon in South Russia, there had to be a connection between what he knew and what I knew.

The collaborative effort which followed, along with the successful location of Tichy marriage and baptism records in the Kherson State Archives, produces an interesting story about a family that moved about South Russia a great deal. Files from the State Archives of Odessa Region reveal Franz Tichy to have lived in Glückstal, Michailowka, Grossliebental, and Alt-Postal. A summary of Tom's research follows.

The *Gebietsschreiber* – District Clerk – for Glückstal District (*Gebiet*) from about March, 1819 until the early 1830s was named **Franz Tichy**. He prepared and signed many Glückstal District reports dated 1819-1832, which have been obtained from the State Archives of Odessa Region (SAOR). The earliest document found bearing the actual signature of **Tichy** as District Clerk, was dated 18.1.1822 – a *Report* (SAOR 252-1-463), which included a Name List of 1819-1820 new immigrants from Galicia, who were quartered in the colony of Neudorf in Glückstal District.

However, using handwriting comparisons, the earliest known document that **Tichy** prepared was dated 24 March 1819. Apparently, the previous Clerk (name unknown) overlapped until at least April 1819. Among other German language Glückstal District documents written by and/or signed by **Tichy** are the 1820 Crop Report, dated 1 May 1821 (SAOR 252-1-314); the May 1821 Voter Lists (SAOR 252-1-277); the *1822 Monthly and Annual Statistical Population Reports* (SAOR File 252-1-470); a *Population Report*, dated in June 1826; and a *1830 Kassel Annahme* (Acceptance) for several new arrivals to the colony of Kassel.

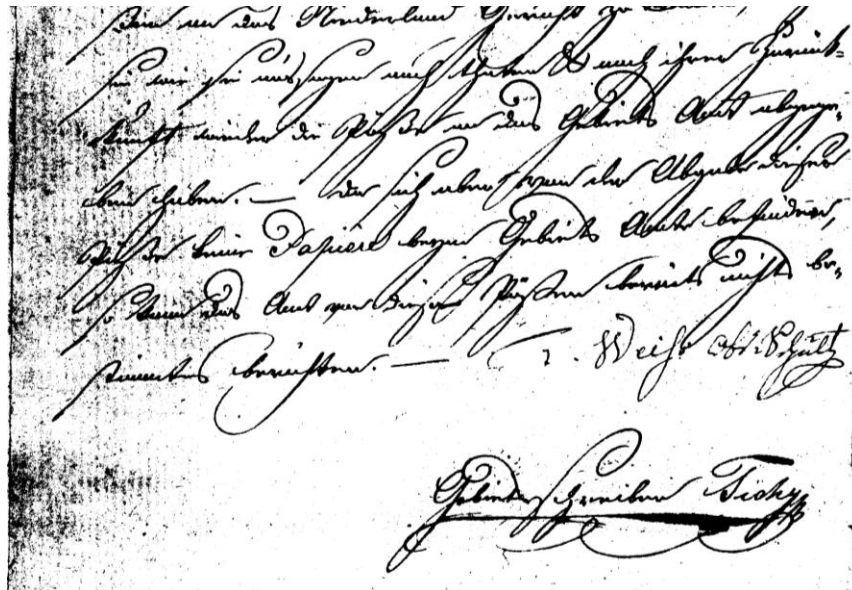


Image of document signed by Gebietschreiber Tichy

Franz Tichy had arrived in early 1819 to assume his district administrative position, located in the colony of Glückstal. He was Catholic and an *Österreichischen Unterthan* (Austrian citizen). It is assumed that **Tichy** came from somewhere in the Austro-Hungarian empire, most likely from Galicia, but possibly from Bohemia or Moravia. Shortly after his arrival in Glückstal, **Franz Tichy** married **Margaretha Geckenheimer** (+2.3.1843, Alt-Postal, Bessarabia, age 42, *5.3.1801, Hagsfeld), who had arrived in the colony of Glückstal after November 1818, with her parents and three sisters, as the second daughter in the family. The "**Goeckenheimer**" family was entered as the last entry of the 1818 Glückstal "Census" ("*A Summary Table Concerning Economic Farming Operations of the Glückstal Colony for the Year 1818*" – including a Census Table dated 1 November 1818), as Household #139, after the listing of the Singles and Orphans. This position on the document means that this family was an "addendum" entry to the Report, occurring sometime after 1 November 1818.

The family of **Andreas** and **Catharina Geckenheimer** (a.k.a. **Göckenheimer** or **Goekenheimer**), Evangelical Lutherans, came from Hagsfeld, now a suburb in northeastern Karlsruhe, Baden. Andreas died as a widower in Glückstal on 24.12.1852 (*20.1.1765, Hagsfeld, son of Johann Martin Geckenheimer & Katharina Österle; occupation in Hagsfeld – *Bittner*, cooper). **Andreas Göckenheimer** [mostly spelled Geggenheimer on children's birth records in Hagsfeld] married in Blankenloch? on 17.1.1790 to his wife **Maria Catharina Hofheinz**, from Blankenloch, 6 km north of Hagsfeld (*28.9.1769 Blankenloch, daughter of Michael Hofheinz & Catharina Siegel – IGI record]. Oldest daughter, **Eva Katharina Geckenheimer** (+8.11.1864, Glückstal, *18.11.1796, Hagsfeld), married probably before 1821 to Jonathan Hottmann; she appeared in 1858 GRL:129, as his widow, age 62. In the *1828 Glückstal Name List*, the Hottmann family was part of the Andreas Geckenheimer household. Daughter, **Magdalena Geckenheimer** (*20.9.1806, Hagsfeld), married probably before 1828 to David Stradinger; she appeared in 1858 GRL:172, as his widow, age 52, with their son, Conrad (*18.1.1833 Glückstal). Conrad Stradinger attended the Werner School in Sarata/Bess, 1848-1852, training to become a teacher; he married in Glückstal Parish on 23.9.1858 to Rosina Schanzenbach, and moved to Kischinew as a teacher in the Russian school; later moving to Leipzig, Bessarabia. Daughter, **Barbara Geckenheimer** (+16.9.1854, Glückstal, *15.3.1810, Hagsfeld), married ca 1830 to Conrad Kapp Jr. In the Hagsfeld records, four other children were found, but did not survive to emigrate – **Andreas Geggenheimer** (*18.9.1790, father listed as *Fusselier*; +7.3.1795); **Catharina Geggenheimer** (*7.7.1792, father listed as *Fusselier*; +4.2.1793); **Christina Geiggenheim** (*21.7.1794; +30.4.1807); **Jacob Friedrich Geggenheimer** (*3.5.1799; +13.3.1800).

Andreas Geckenheimer appears on the *1820 Crop Report*, #G15; and on the *1821 Voter List* for Glückstal. On the *1828 Glückstal Name List*, #15 – **Andreas Geckenheimer**, 2 families, 3 males, 4 females (includes Andreas, his wife, Catharina & youngest daughter, Barbara; as well as the family of his son-in-law, Jonathan Hottmann, his wife, Katharina Geckenheimer, Jonathan's son, Franz, and probably Jonathan's daughter, Margaretha).

Because **Franz Tichy** had "married into" a family living in the colony of Glückstal, his ancestry became a "subject of interest" to the Glückstal Colonies Research Association's Points-of-Origin project. **Tichy** was also of interest because he was an early *Gebietsschreiber* for Glückstal District. As the individual currently responsible for maintaining and expanding the GCRA

Points-of-Origin, I (Tom Stangl) established an item for "**Tichy**" in the file after 2004, which eventually was included in the 2008 DVD, and began to accumulate as much information about **Franz Tichy** as could be found in the available records.

In the St. Petersburg Lutheran Consistory reports, which have been extracted from LDS microfilm and published in GCRA publications, three "**Tichy**" children were born in Glückstal, 1833-1836 – **Augustina Rosina** (*8.11.1833, Glückstal; +29.5.1834, Glückstal); **Franz #1** (*11.3.1835, +27.3.1835, Glückstal); **Rosalia** (*18.2.1836, Glückstal; fate unknown) [Glückstal1, p. 320, and Glückstal2, p. 144]. As a result of my research in Nikolajew Province for Glückstalers who had moved there, it was found that **Franz Tichy** and his wife, **Margaretha Geckenheimer**, had another son named **Franz** (*20.11.1837) in Michailowka, Nikolajew Province [FHL #1882647, Item 3, p. 400, #26, 1837 Births, Nikolajew City Parish] [Glückstal3, p. 166-167].

Michailowka may be on what later became a Falz-Fein estate (now Mihajlivka) located south of Kherson City near the Crimean Peninsula, or it may be a Ukrainian town (now Mikolaivka) located about 100 km northwest of Nikolajew City, about 28 km south of Wosnesensk, west of the Pivdennij (Eastern) Bug River (about 35 km west of Novo Odessa). In 1837, Michailowka may have been the headquarters of an estate of Admiral Alexey Greig, as Franz Tichy was known to have been his estate manager before ca. 1840 (see below). After the Admiral died in St. Petersburg in 1845, his estate may have been liquidated and taken over by the Falz-Fein family [Glückstal3, pp. 151-156].

The **Tichy** family apparently moved to Odessa City by 1842, and later briefly to Alt Postal in Bessarabia, where **Margaretha Geckenheimer** died on 2.3.1843, listed as the wife of **Franz Tichy**, age 42, born in Hagsfeld/Karlsruhe/Baden [FHL #1882594, Item 3, p. 25, #3]. It is not known why **Franz Tichy** was in Bessarabia. He may have been employed as a *Schreiber* (clerk), but thus far no documents have been found to support this. (No records involving Franz Tichy have been located beyond 1846.)

Their daughter, **Maria Christina Friederika Tichy** (*27.1.1827, Glückstal), was confirmed in Odessa City on 14.6.1842. She married in Odessa City on 19.10.1847 to **Johann Jacob Forsch** (a.k.a. Johannes; may have been baptized as Johann Wilhelm), a shoemaker from Freudental residing in Odessa; several children were born/died in Odessa City 1848-1870s. **Johann Jacob Forsch** died in Odessa on 4.2.1877 (*ca 19.2.1820 in Freudental). The **Forsch-Tichy** family is found in the *1841-1860 Odessa City Family Book*, page 113, (SAOR File 630-1-355), listing six children born in Odessa City, 1848-1858 [OdessaFamBk], with three more born in 1861-1870, found in the St. Petersburg extractions. The **Forsch-Tichy** children found in Odessa City records include – Jacob (*2.7., +6.7.1848, 4d old); Jacob (*1.6., +7.12.1849); Theresia (*22.1.1851; +12.8.1875, single); Paul Matthaus (*21.3.1853); Marie (*2.1.1853; +22.5.1878, single); Caroline (*11.12.1858; +27.10.1871); Rosalia (*3.12.1861; +19.7.1885, single); Julie (*25.3.1864); and Mathilda (*26.2.1870; +22.12.1871).

A child, **Maria Margaretha Tichy**, was born in Glückstal on 31.3.1844; her parents were **Anton Tichy** (erroneously extracted as "Fichy"), *Ausländer* (foreigner) and his wife, **Margaretha Pfoh**, both listed as "evangel. religion" (this is doubtful, most likely both were

Catholic); sponsors were – Carl Retzer, *Col. Schumacher*; Johanna Zimmer, *Ausländerin*; Christina Lang, *Bauer Frau*. How this family fits in the above **Tichy** family has now been verified. **Anton** was the oldest son of **Franz Tichy** and **Margaretha Geckenheimer**, born in Glückstal ca. 1821-1823. **Margaretha Pfoh** was probably a Catholic from München or Rastadt [see Stumpp, pp. 394 & 785]. She may be the daughter of Joseph Pfoh (**1816 München RL:36**, age 21), son of Michael Pfoh from Hilsbach/Sinsheim-Baden. . The fate of this family is not well documented, but they apparently moved to Nikolajew Province, in or near the city of Kherson. It appears that Anton Tichy may have resided briefly with his father in Grossliebental or Odessa City before he married.

A report in **SAOR File 6-1-5783**, "*About providing the Odessa City Authorities with various information about foreign émigrés living here and about issuing several passports for going abroad and (for) living in Russia*," dated 25 February 1841, provided the proof needed to connect the members of the Tichy family. From this file we learn that Franz Tichy was serving as the assistant district clerk in Grossliebental in 1841, having lived in the colony since March 1839; however, during part of his tenure there, he may have actually been living in Odessa City. This file establishes that Franz Tichy had a son Anton, who in 1841, was old enough to conduct business for his father. A quotation from this file reads as follows: "Local colonial authorities reported to the Committee concerning the identity card of the Austrian native **Franz Tichy**, who is living in the colony of Grossliebental, which was issued by Acting Odessa Military Governor for him to live freely in Odessa District (Uyezd) dated 12 March 1839, under **No. 116**. After arriving in the colony of Grossliebental the foreigner **Tichy** fell ill, from which at the present time he is recovering. (However,) his present condition is such that he cannot go to Odessa personally to exchange his previous identity card and is requesting with respect to the state of his health, he be given a new identity card. The Welfare Committee for Foreign Settlers has the honor to report about this to Your Excellency, and while sending with this the foreigner **Tichy**'s previous identity card (issued) under No. 116, most humbly requests that you not abandon him, but order that **Tichy** be provided with a new identity card for a term of one year to live in the colony of Grossliebental. Tax money will be paid in person by his son, **Anton Tichy**." This Anton Tichy then is the father of Maria Margaretha (above), born in Glückstal in 1844. A marriage record follows below which cites this Anton Tichy as also being the father of Joseph Tichy, Merv's great-grandfather.

Anton Tichy (assumed to be the son of the Anton referred to above) was married in Nikolajew Parish on 26.10.1872 to **Karolina Dorn**; **Josephine Tichy** married in Alt-Schwedendorf Parish on 27.11.1881 to **Johann Matteika**; and **Alois Tichy** married in Nikolajew Parish on 2.11.1882 to **Elisabeth Mateika**. The actual locations of these marriages is not known, since the marriage records in the Evangelical parishes in Nikolajew Province did not identify the villages. It is assumed that the latter two couples are sister and brother marrying brother and sister, with **Anton Tichy** being their older brother. As supported by the 1897 baptism sponsorship cited below, these three Tichys are also assumed to be the children of **Anton Tichy** and **Margaretha Pfoh**, born in unknown locations in Nikolajew Province between 1845 to 1860, and probably baptized in the Kherson Catholic Parish or one of the village Catholic churches in the Province.

(end of summary of Stangl research)

Reviewing some old Tichy information, I discovered this pertinent file uncovered by Serge Yelizarov in the State Archives of Odessa Region. Several years ago when Serge sent it to me, I had simply filed it because I did not know where, or if, this would fit into my family history. Now, as a result of Tom's research, it had relevance.

SAOR File 6-1-8714, "*On pastor Doll's request as for 83 Rubles 50 Copecks debt to be exacted from foreigner Tichy*" – contains a letter dated 24.10.1846 from **Pastor Doll**, Nikolajew Evangelical divisional (Parish) pastor, addressed to the Chairman of the Board of Guardians (in Odessa City). **Doll** asks that the debt be collected from foreigner **Franz Tichy**, who was then holding a clerk's office at an unnamed colony within the Board's jurisdiction³. The debt consisted of 80 Rubles borrowed from Doll several years earlier when **Tichy** served as a manager at the estate of **Admiral Greig**. Also, **Tichy** had borrowed 3 Rubles 50 Copecks from Doll in Odessa the previous year (1845). The letter was signed by Doll at Novaya Odessa (Novo [New] Odessa, located NW of Nikolajew City, on the Bug River 44 km SE of Wosnesensk).

Comments: From 1816 to 1833, Admiral Alexey Greig was Military Governor of Nikolaev. It appears from the above record that he had a private estate somewhere in the area around Nikolaev, and that my ancestor Franz Tichy was the manager for this estate around 1840. Possibly this estate was Michailowka, where **Franz Tichy** was living in 1837. Alexey Greig 1775-1845 was an admiral of the Imperial Russian Navy, and Commander of the Black Sea Fleet. His father was personally recruited from Scotland by Czarina Catherine the Great, to develop a modern navy for Russia. Samuel Carlovitch Greig is called the "Father of the Russian Navy". Under his son, the city of Nikolaev became the shipbuilding centre of Russia.



Alexey Greig 1775-1845

Besides showing up in many official documents in his capacity as Gebietschreiber, my ancestor **Franz Tichy** left his mark in South Russia in other ways. His un-paid debt to Pastor Doll is one example, as is the following.

SAOR File 252-1-576, "*About the unpleasantness that occurred between the Glückstal District Mayor Hausauer and the local District Administration Clerk Tichy*", is a large file from 1826

³ Likely, Pastor Doll did not know exactly where Tichy was living. Doll was the Pastor of Glückstal parish in 1829, and this is likely how they knew each other.

illustrating that local personality squabbles have been a part of municipal politics for a long time! Basically, it appears that **Franz Tichy** resigned his position as District Secretary after **Mayor Hausauer** would not support him when Tichy sought redress from a citizen who had insulted him. Tichy later attempted to retract his resignation when he learned that the Mayor had recruited a replacement, whom Tichy and his supporters deemed to be un-qualified. The Odessa Office of Foreign Settlers eventually ruled that because Mayor Hausauer had never officially accepted Tichy's resignation, Tichy had the right to withdraw it, and it was ordered that Tichy be re-installed as District Secretary. The correspondence contains references to: "stubbornness and rudeness"; "he yelled and kicked up a row in the office"; and other such unpleasantries among the protagonists.

Tom's and my research finally connected in August 2008, when archivist Ludmilla Safranovna of Nikolaev found the marriage record of my Tichy Great-Grandparents and several Tichy baptism records from Kherson Catholic Church Parish in the State Archives of Kherson, Ukraine. This new information definitely linked my information to Tom's research. Most important was the 1881 marriage record of Joseph Tichy and Magdalena Dorn. The record provided their ages, places of residence, and names of parents.

In his marriage record, Joseph Tichy was named as an Austrian citizen, Catholic, 31 years of age, citizen of Wasserau⁴ village. Magdalena Dorn was 19 years old and Lutheran. Joseph's parents were given as Anton Tichy and Margaretha Pfoh. Magdalena's parents were listed as Johann Dorn and Katharina Meinier (perhaps Meinert, as in Stumpp, p. 372, village of Blumental, Taurien).

By the 1880s, Magdalena's brother Johann Dorn (1851) was living in Klosterdorf⁵, as evidenced by birth records of his children, also found in Kherson Archives. Tom Stangl and I speculate that Joseph continued in the line of work performed by his grandfather – that of "Gebietsschreiber" or a form of district secretary or administrator. And that is likely how Catholic Joseph Tichy came to be living in the Jewish colony of Lvove, about 35 miles from Klosterdorf. Possibly this is where he would have met Magdalena Dorn. Church baptism records reveal that Joseph and Magdalena had already produced a daughter the year before they married. Emelia Tichy, was born in Klosterdorf, but subsequent children were born in Lvove. The reference to his being a citizen of Wasserau on the marriage record could mean that he was born there, or that his parents were living there, or once lived there.

Kherson Catholic Church baptism records were found for three children of Joseph Tichy and Magdalena Dorn: Joseph 1893, Paulina 1896, and Nikolai 1898. These were younger siblings to my Grandmother, whose baptism record was not found. They were born in Colony Lvove. Godparents for Joseph and Paulina were Anton Tichy and Karolina Dorn.

Colony Lvove. At least three children of Joseph Tichy and Magdalena Dorn were born in Lvove colony, about 50 km east of the city of Kherson, Ukraine on the north bank of Dnjeper River.

⁴ Lutheran village of Wasserau, in the Prischib colonies 50 km north of Melitopol, Ukraine.

⁵ Klosterdorf was a German village on the north bank of the Dnepr River east of Kherson.

My Grandmother's passport gives Kherson as her birthplace, but I would interpret this now as also being Lvove colony. Lvove was founded in 1841 by Jews from the provinces of Vitebsk and Mogilev in Belarus, their move promoted by the Russian government in the form of free land. Again we can only speculate that Joseph Tichy was living there, in a Jewish colony, because he was employed as some sort of administrator or municipal secretary, or perhaps as a teacher. A 1877 village map for Lvove shows living in Household # 6, a "Joseph Fiting". If this is my great grandfather, he was living in Lvove before he married. After 1887 Germans could no longer be employed as estate managers ("Gutsverwalter"), and this is what may have spurred the Tichy family to move into Crimea.

At the time of marriage, Joseph Tichy was listed as an Austrian citizen. Several birth and marriage records refer to Joseph as an Austrian citizen. We are now certain that Josef's grandfather was Franz Tichy born before 1800, likely in Austrian Galicia. Today this region is part of western Ukraine, but in Franz Tichy's time, it was part of the Austrian-Hungarian empire. If he never became a land-owner, he would never have acquired Russian citizenship. Therefore, he and his descendants would continue to retain the designation as Austrian citizens. On their 1917 census cards, Anton and Eduard Tichy, sons of Anton Tichy and Karolina Dorn, were referred to as Polish-Austrian subjects, and had applied for Russian citizenship in 1914. It appears that the Tichy men were not farmers, and hence had not acquired Russian citizenship.

The Dorns, on the hand, were original settlers in Wasserau when it was colonized in 1805. Friedrich Dorn (44 yrs old in 1811) and his wife Rosina appear on Dr. Karl Stumpp's list of original colonists for Wasserau. I do not know at this point if Magdalena Dorn was a direct descendant of Friedrich Dorn. Stumpp shows seven Dorn men as emigrating to South Russia in the early 1800's, but Friedrich is the only one listed as going to Wasserau. Perhaps, Johann Dorn, Magdalena's father, was a son to this Friedrich.

The Dorn connection. My Great-Grandmother Magdalena Tichy was born Magdalena Dorn. While this was new information to me, the Dorn name was very familiar to me, and this new fact "tied together" some loose ends. I know now that my Grandmother was a first cousin to:

1. Johann Dorn who married Jakobina Schafer, sister to my Grandfather.
2. Elisabeth Dorn who married Peter Ries – Liebenthal, Saskatchewan district.
3. Rose Dorn who married John Grünwald. –Richmound, Saskatchewan district.
4. Gustav Dorn - old family photo from Russia.
5. Anna Dorn - old family photo from Russia.
6. All five Dorns above were children of Johann Dorn (1851) and Maria Benko.

Johann Dorn (1851) died in 09 Jan 1907 in Anakoi-Eli (Nikolaev Archives, Fond 484-2363-93-1). He is likely the Johann Dorn who was known to the Trotsky family, as cited in Leon Trotsky's autobiography, "My Life", Chapter II, page 32:

The German settlers constituted a group apart. There were some really rich men among them. They stood more firmly on their feet than the others. Their domestic relations were stricter, their sons were seldom sent to be educated in town, their daughters habitually worked in the fields. Their houses were built of brick with

iron roofs painted green or red, their horses were well bred, their harness was strong, their spring carts were called "German wagons." Our nearest neighbor among the Germans was Ivan Ivanovich Dorn, a fat, active man with low shoes on his bare feet, with a tanned and bristling face, and gray hair. He always drove about in a fine, bright-painted wagon drawn by black stallions whose hoofs thundered over the ground. And there were many of these Dorns.

Elisabeth Tichy married Philipp Schafer about 1911. The only definite date our family knows is the birth date of the twins, Nikodemus and Katharina, born 29 August 1912, my uncle and aunt. In a family-recorded video of Uncle Nick, he says he was born in the village of Taku-Eli. The timing of Elisabeth and Philipp's marriage is interesting, because Philipp had actually tried to leave Russia a year earlier, in August of 1911, with his mother, and 10 of his 11 siblings. An older brother had left a month earlier to scout for land around Glen Ullin, ND. The family had liquidated the property and holdings of their private Khutor Tasanai which was located on Siwash Bay of the Sea of Asov, east of Perekop. Several of Grandfather's siblings were already married with children of their own, making for a large group of 27 people. Their travel documents were checked at the Latvian border. My Grandfather Philip Schafer obviously did not have the appropriate travel documents because he had not yet served his military obligation, and his name was still on the "call-up" list. He was physically removed from the train, and his family continued without him. There has never been a mention in our family that Grandmother was with him. Forced to turn back and start over, Philip obviously returned to Crimea. Also obvious is that he quickly found a wife and a place to live! Because his older sister was married to Johann Dorn, a first cousin to Elisabeth Tichy, it is obvious the families knew each other. It is almost a certainty that my grandparents met each other through the Dorns.

With his mother and siblings settled in Canada, Philip Schafer and Elisabeth Tichy began a family of their own in Crimea. Grandfather served six years in the Russian Czarist army 1912-1918. The family survived World War I, the civil war 1918-1921, and the famine years of 1921/22. When my mother was born in 1923, Grandfather was working on the collective already established near Anakoi-Eli. Konstantin Ponomarenko, of whom I wrote in the June 2006 GRHS Heritage Review, was also born in Anakoi-Eli and he worked his entire post-war career as the agronomist on the collective *Sary Burulcha* which was formed from a large estate, formerly owned by the Dyck family. I visited this area with the Robert Schneider Tour Group in 2005.



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Perhaps in another article, I can tell the story of how my mother and her family came to Canada in 1925. The rest of Grandmother's Tichy family remained in Crimea, but I have found a few references that tell of their fate.

In the **Book of Memory** (which lists the people who died during World War Two) these names were found: (translation by Inna Stryukova)

1. Tichy, Nikolai Fedorovich, born 1905 in Simferopol, a soldier, was killed 29 April 1944, buried in Sevastopol area of Crimea.
2. Tichy, Ivan Fedorovich, born 1928 in Saki district, village of Mikhailovka, Russian, a soldier, was killed 07 October 1944, buried in city of Kelme, Lithuania.
3. Tichy, I.A., born . . . (cannot read), village of Kainash (Krasnoflotskoye), missing.
4. Tichy, Alexander Yakovlevich (Jakob)⁶, a sergeant, was killed 28 March 1942, buried in the common grave at Prudnikovo.

Hilda Riss, an author and researcher of the Crimean Germans, has published a list of Crimean Germans registered in the Trudarmee camps of Swerdlovsk region. In this list I found:

1. Tichy, Cecilia Antonovna, 1890-1955, mother of Peter Josephovich, born 1922. This implies Cecilia's husband was Joseph Tichy, likely my Grandmother's brother who died of starvation during the first famine, according to our oral family history.
2. Tiche, Paul-Josef, son of Jakob, born 1921 in Taku-Eli. To my inquiry, Frau Riss answered that Paul Josef's mother was Cecilia Antonovna. To date, I have not found a Jakob Tichy, so I think the reference is incorrect, and I believe this Paul-Josef is also a son of Joseph Tichy, my Grandmother's brother.

⁶ To date I have found no Jakob Tichy, and I believe this should be Alexander, son of Ivan Tichy. Ivan (or Johann in German) was a brother to Elisabeth Tichy.

3. Schafer, Philip son of Philip, born 1916 in Anakoi-Eli. This was a son of Philip Schafer and Elisabeth Tichy, who had been left behind in Russia with unknown disabilities. He was my uncle.

Also found in Nikolaev Archives were 1913 and 1914 marriage records for Eduard Tichy, and Katharina Tichy, both children of Anton Tichy and Karolina Dorn. They married brother and sister, Katharina and Frederich Heinrich, whose father Daniel died in Anakoi-Eli 04 Nov 1907 {Fond 484 – 2363 – 142 – 113, Nikolaev Archives}.

My Grandmother, Elisabeth Schafer, nee Tichy, died in Medicine Hat, AB in 1943, a year before her daughter married my father.

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