

# 2025 CRIMEA RIG Meeting



КРЫМ

# Why is there a Crimea RIG?

- To bring together people interested in learning, researching and preserving the history, culture and heritage of the German Russians (and Czechs) from Crimea.
- We are a virtual chapter.
- We currently have 64 members.

# What does the Crimea RIG do?

- Village Coordinators
- Records Retrieval
- Crimea Web Site
- Crimea Listserv



# Election of Chapter Representatives

- Representative to the BOD
- Chapter Spokesperson
- Webmaster
- Listserv Administrator

# Election of Chapter Representatives 2024 Results

- Representative to the BOD – Yvonne Haefner
- Chapter Spokesperson – Matt Klee
- Webmaster – Matt Klee
- Listserv Administrator – Yvonne Haefner

# Village Coordinators

- What is a Village Coordinator?
  - Volunteers who help other researchers by sharing their knowledge of the villages, the families and the history
  - There can be more than one VC per village
- Qualifications
  - Interested in a particular village
  - A member of GRHS
  - Helpful to have an email address

# Village Coordinators

- Feodosia & Herzenberg: **volunteer needed**
- Friedental: Ken Messmer & Bob Schamber
- Heilbrunn: Ken Messmer
- Kronental: Matt Klee & Bob Schamber
- Neusatz: Al Berger & Ken Messmer
- Rosental: Al Berger & Matt Klee
- Simferopol: Matt Klee
- Sudak: Merv Weiss
- Zurichtal: Ken Messmer & Bob Schamber
- Crimea Czech villages: Marv Kubischta

# Crimea RIG Listserv

- Yvonne Haefner is the Listserv Administrator
- Currently there are **51** members
- There have been **25** messages over the last year
- Listserv is used to:
  - Introduce new RIG members
  - Announce new records available on the website
  - Ask and answer members questions
  - Share information
  - Conduct RIG business

# New Members since last year

- Clarence Heinz
- Lejames Emanuel Suess
- Steven Auch
- Natalja (Punkt) Crowell
- Teresa 'Teri' Richter
- Timothy Pfitzer

# Records Retrieval

- Translation of GRHS Obtained Records
- Translation of Privately Obtained Records
- Indexing of Family History Library Films
- Integration of Data

# What's New since last year? (available on the research page)

[Czech Emigration to Crimea 1860-1864](#)

[The Status of the Settlers of the Crimea Colonies  
August 1813 \(updated\)](#)

[Crimea 1813 Head of Household Inventory](#)

[Kronental List of Households Engaged in Rural  
Trades and Agriculture 1923](#)

# What's New since last year?

[Map of Kronental 1858](#)

[Regarding the Election of Village and District Assessors in 1852](#)

[Report on the buckets of wine made in 1827 by colonists in the colonies of the Crimean district File 134-1-845](#)

# Election of a Neusatz District Assessor in 1852

- In the mid-1800s, German colonists in Russia enjoyed a significant degree of self-governance
- This autonomy was largely maintained through a special administrative system known as the Committee for the Welfare of Foreign Settlers of Southern Russia which was established to oversee the well-being, order, and adherence to government directives of the colonists including:
  - land allocation
  - construction
  - movement
  - marriage
  - conflict resolution

# Election of a Neusatz District Assessor in 1852

- The colonists also had a set of laws, the Codex of the Colonists, written in 1842, which defined the rights responsibilities, and privileges of the German colonists.
- The Codex established a system of self-governance in the form of village and district offices.
- The Neusatz District Offices covered the colonies of Neusatz, Friedental, Rosental, and Kronental and consisted of a Schulz (area manager) and two Beizitsers (area assessors).
- At the end of 1851 the Neusatz District Office consisted of Area Manager Andreas Haar from Friedental and two Area Assessors Johannes Moser from Rosental and Philipp Hübner from Neusatz.

# Election of a Neusatz District Assessor in 1852

- Reason for the Election
  - District Assessor Johannes Moser's term of service was coming to an end and he was applying for dismissal from his office.
  - The Welfare Committee directed the District Office to organize an election for an Assessor to succeed Moser.
- Required Qualifications
  - The election was to be conducted in such a way that the elected one complies with the 33rd paragraph of the XII volume of the law on the electoral system in the colonies, according to which it is necessary that:
    - such a candidate has his own economy, be superior, upright, good, diligent and exemplary, especially in agriculture, horticulture and cattle husbandry.

# Election of a Neusatz District Assessor in 1852

- Election Results, January 1852

Candidate (age)	Neusatz	Friedental	Rosental	Kronental	Total
Anton König (35)			44		44
Johannes Reinbold (34)	5	18		21	44
Michael Hörner (60)	25	2		15	42
six other individuals	4	2	9	2	17
Total	34	22	53	38	147

The Neusatz District Office has the honor to present the electoral list of the community of this district, according to which a majority of the votes from the 4 communities of Neusatz, Friedental, Kronental and Rosental; Johannes Reinbold received 44 votes and from the municipality of Rosental, Anton König also received 44 votes, in the election for assessor of the Neusatz regional office.

# Election of a Neusatz District Assessor in 1852

- Extenuating Circumstances
  - In the District Offices report to the Welfare Committee, it rejected the election of Anton König because of his reprehensible conduct, for which he had already been punished three times in the three municipalities of Neusatz, Rosental and Kronental, twice at the time of Oberschulzen Bäsler, and once at the time of the current Oberschulzen Andreas Haar.
  - The Welfare Committee is hereby informed of the non-fulfillment of the above and at the same time Johann Reinbold is presented for confirmation in his office.

# Election of a Neusatz District Assessor in 1852

- Need for Clarification
  - The Neusatz district order submitted to the Committee the electoral lists of the societies of the colonies under its jurisdiction on the selection of a new amtsbeizitser, according to which the colonists Johann Reinbold and Anton König received an equal number of votes for the position.
  - The society of the colony of Rosental, contrary to the declaration of the reasons why König could not be elected to the beizitzers, almost unanimously voted in his favor.
  - The Welfare Committee instructs you to look into this matter and having considered the facts asks the Rosenthal Society to submit to the Committee your opinion on the subject.

# Election of a Neusatz District Assessor in 1852

- Report back from Rosental

- Regarding the case of colonists Johannes Reinbold and Anton König, I have the honor to inform you that although Anton König is indeed a good and diligent host, but:
  - König, in the presence of a meeting of the District Office, in spite of the exhortations of the District Schulz, he could not refrain from uttering offensive words, to the Beizitzer Moser
  - König confesses and apologizes but also states that **his relative** Moser also caused offenses
  - In addition to this, regarding the case of the orphan's property, left after the death of colonist Riffel, in which case it is clearly seen, that Anton König is endeavoring to keep this property intact
  - I dare to humbly request the Committee of Trustees to order, that Anton König not be approved as the Beizitzer for this position of the District Clerk's Office at this time and that Johann Reinbold be approved in the position, and that König's ability to hold the position would henceforth depend on the consequences of the of disputed cases between him and Moser.

# Election of a Neusatz District Assessor in 1852

- **Final Determination**

- The Welfare Committee, according to your submission of July 28th approves Colonist Reinbold in the said position, agreeing fully with your opinion that the colonist König cannot be elected to the office until the disputes between him and Amtsbeizitzer of the Neusatz district order, colonist Moser have been settled regarding the estate left by the death of the colonist Riffel. Of which the Board of Trustees hereby directs you to order that the colonist Reinbold be lawfully admitted to perform the duties of his office.

# Future Projects

## What's Left / Available ?

- Catholic Records from the Saratov Archive
  - Armenian Catholic Parishes (Simferopol, Karasubazar, etc.)
- Lutheran Records
  - From familysearch.org website
    - Zurichtal Parish Baptisms 1850 – 1885
    - Zurichtal Parish Deaths 1840-1869 (partial), 1870-1885
- Civil Records
  - St Petersburg Archive Files
  - Archival files from other Archives

# Future Projects

- Want to get involved? Here's how:
  - Contribute to future Acquisitions financially
  - Provide input on what project to do next
  - Help with translating or proofreading
- Contact Matt
  - [matt.klee@comcast.net](mailto:matt.klee@comcast.net)

# Questions?

- How can the Crimea RIG be more valuable?

