

**MARIENTAL
&
LOUIS
DAYS OF YORE**

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Marienthal Church by Michael Boss

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German Russian Proverb:
Everything can't belong to you,
where is the room for it?

Letter from the Editor: Hello to all of the searchers of ancestors from Mariental, Louis, and Chasselois. I have decided to add the village of Chasselois to my villages, as when it was destroyed by the Kirghis, many of the survivors escaped to the villages of Mariental and Louis close by. The 1798 census gives the surnames of those survivors and where they moved to. I felt that these statistics need to be documented for all of you. Chasselois is spelled differently sometimes, but since I do not know which is the correct spelling, I will use this spelling found in *The Volga Germans – in Russia and the America's from 1763 to the present – by Fred C. Koch.*

I have decided to tell the story of Chasselois in this issue. *It must be told* especially to the people that do not have computers and are therefore unable to freely find and read these stories of our ancestors.

CHASSELOIS

Their Chosen Village

This Village was bounded on one side by Louis. After it was destroyed by the Kirghiz Kaissak, and prior to 1786, the Saratov Treasury Chamber gave the Village of Louis possession of this land because so many of the survivors moved to that village. This included 1628 desyatina of tillable land, and 22 desyatina of forest

Among the Volga German villages established along the Big and Little Karaman rivers on the wiesenseite of the Volga, the village of Chasselois was a neighboring village to Mariental, and Louis, among others. These villages were being established in and about the year 1767. This land – the Volga Steppes, had been the land where the Kirghis were always able to freely roam and move their herds of cattle and horses around the country in their nomadic lifestyle. When they found these strangers inhabiting their land, with permanent structures to live in, they , with their strong sense of possession, did not hesitate to challenge them by raiding their villages, pillaging, raping, kidnapping, and destroying everything in sight. They felt they had to destroy these people for their own survival. They discovered that these strangers had (by their standards) a wealth of desirable goods such as tools, implements, wagons, firearms, utensils, clothing, leather goods, scissors , cutlery, needles, books, buttons, and many other items that the Kirghiz had never seen. They knew they

could seize these treasures, and also kidnap the many men, women, and children that would bring the highest prices in the eastern slave markets. In August, 1771, Kirghiz raiding parties struck Chasselois and Louis, the two farthest inland, while most of their inhabitants were in the fields harvesting severely reduced crops shriveled by another summer of drought. Louis had been settled by only 50 families, but the Chasselois population figure had not yet been recorded. Information about this raid is meager except that it was executed by no more than 50 or 60 riders. Chasselois was totally destroyed in this raid (according to one report) and the inhabitants who escaped capture found refuge in nearby Louis and neighboring colonies.

(This information is published in The Volga Germans by Fred C. Koch).

The following is an excerpt from Adam Geisinger's book, "From Catherine to Kruschev". It gives some numbers of the captured and killed.

“Another terror, the most fearful of all, loomed constantly in the east. Before the founding of the German villages, the grassy plain east of the Volga, stretching all the way to the Urals, had been the exclusive grazing ground of the nomadic Kalmucks and Kirghiz. These mongol tribes, who occupied themselves with raising horses and cattle, resented the newcomers establishing farms on land which they considered their own. The Kalmucks contented themselves with occasional thievery in the new settlements but the Kirghiz were more warlike. Kirghiz attacks started as early as 1771 and continued for many years. They affected directly the villages on the east side of the Volga, particularly those on the Great Karaman, which were the most exposed, but they struck terror into the hearts of all. These raiders robbed, destroyed, and killed without mercy, and carried off hundreds of captives to the slave markets in the East. The most destructive attacks came to the villages on the Karaman during the month of August 1774, while Pugachev's hordes were busy across the Volga looting Saratov. From Mariental alone two to three hundred people were carried off into slavery, including the parish priest, Father Johannes de Ducla. A brave band of 150 colonists under the leadership of the Lutheran pastor of Katharinenstadt, Ludwig Balthasar Wernborner, who set off in pursuit with the hope of freeing the captives, was captured, tortured, and killed. Several other villages along the Karaman were then attacked and their people, their horses and cattle, and all their movable property carted off to the east. Early in September 1774, a force of 600 men, under Russian officers, followed the Kirghiz eastward and managed to liberate 811 of the captive colonists. Some others, including Father Johannes, were ransomed later through government efforts, the rest were never heard of again. In October 1774 the villages in the Tarlyk River region farther south were attacked and 317 people carried away. Two of the villages here, Keller and Leitsinger, were so devastated that no effort was made to rebuild them. Instead, the surviving colonists, in 1776, founded a new village, NeuKolonie, in a more sheltered spot near the Volga. To protect themselves against more such attacks the German villages now had to become armed camps, surrounded by walls and trenches, manned at all times by armed guards. As late as 1784 and 1785, there were more attacks in force on the villages along the Karaman. Destruction again was so great that two of the villages, Caesarfeld and Chasselois, were abandoned by their surviving inhabitants. Eventually the Russian government established a line of forts from Orenburg to Astrakhan and brought the Kirghiz raids to an end.

The Kirghiz attacks and the other hardships of life on the Volga had cut the 6,433 families which Count Orlov's census had found in the colonies in 1769 to 6,175 families in 1792, to 5,858 families in 1775, to 5,674 families in 1785! Only after 1785 did an upswing begin. Life now became more peaceful and organized. The settlers had finally become acclimatized. They had mastered the methods to grow crops in this region. Wheat and tobacco were grown successfully and a thriving trade in them was developing. The German scientist and traveler Pallas, who visited the region in 1793, remarked on the contentment and the prosperity of the Volga German settlers and gave their numbers as 33,000. The hard years of beginning were over. The German Volga settlements were now firmly established.

The following lists give us some of the surnames of our people who were living in these villages, and had to go through this horrendous period in their lives. One cannot imagine what it must have been like to live through these raids, and try to save themselves and their families. How fortunate we are! We must give thanks each and every day for our brave and thoughtful ancestors.

CHASSELOIS
 (aka Chaisol, Schasselwa)
SURNAMES LIVING IN LOUIS
 During the 1798 Census

<u>SURNAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>FROM</u>
Jakob Bach	25	Chaisol
Mariana Bach	27	Chaisol
Lambertus Becker	38	Chaisol
Matthias Behrens	35	Chaisol
Anna Katarina Berns	46	Chaisol
Johann Berns	47	Chaisol
Agata Bersch	36	Chaisol
Katarina Bersch	44	Chaisol
Maria Bersch	37	Chaisol
Barbara Bollig	38	Chaisol
Matthias Bollig	31	Chaisol
Nikolaus Bollig	61	Chaisol
Peter Falter (Walter?)	45	Chaisol
Peter Gale (Halle?)	45	Chaisol
Maria Hein	36	Chaisol

Katarina Kasper	30	Chaisol
Matthias Kasper	37	Chaisol
Johann Krefeldinger	67	Chaisol
Anna Katarina Kusch	39	Chaisol
Katarina Leidecker	29	Chaisol
Barbara Manrich	47	Chaisol
Anna Katarina Nikolai	26	Chaisol
Matthias Nikolai	47	Chaisol
Johann Orth	69	Chaisol
Johann Orth, Junior	28	Chaisol
Katarina Orth	20	Chaisol
Nikolaus Orth	39	Chaisol
Anna Katarina Peter	41	Chaisol
Heinrich Peter	29	Chaisol
Johann Peter	23	Chaisol
Markus Peter	39	Chaisol
Michael Schoenberger	39	Chaisol
Katarina Schwartz	51	Chaisol
Barbara Spiess	21	Chaisol
Jakob Spiess	24	Chaisol
Johann Spiess	48	Chaisol
Johann Spiess, Junior	28	Chaisol
Peter Spiess	41	Chaisol
Vincent Spiess		Chaisol
Elisabeta Tire (There?)	30	Chaisol
Katarina Tire (There?)	20	Chaisol
Matthias Tire (There?)	40	Chaisol
Michael Tire (There?)	28	Chaisol
Peter Wilger	39	Chaisol

CHASSELOIS SURNAMES
(aka Chaisol, or Schasselwa)
Living in Mariental during the 1798 Census

<u>SURNAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>FROM</u>
Sebastian Bersch	44	Chaisol
Katherina Falder (Walder?)	22	Chaisol
Nikolaus Gross	35	Chaisol
William Gross	41	Chaisol
Katharina Haas	46	Chaisol
Matthias Hein	45	Chaisol
Adam Husch	36	Chaisol

Elisabeta Nuss	39	Chaisol
Anna Marie Sander	19	Chaisol
Georg Sander	40	Chaisol
Christoph Schiller		Chaisol
Jakob Schoenberger	44	Chaisol
Anna Klara Vilhauer	48	Chaisol

CHASSELOIS
(aka Chaisol, Schasselwa)
SURNAMES
Living in Herzog during the 1798 Census

<u>SURNAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>FROM</u>
Margareta Mertz	29	Chaisol
Peter Tire (There?)	31	Chaisol

WHISPER:

Tough problem for Genealogists:

When the date on the tombstone is not the date of birth in the Census.

Shaving years off of their life might be due to the following reasons:

They were marrying a younger man, so they changed their age, making them younger as well.

They wanted to appear younger when looking for a job or position in a home.

Sometimes if they were not home at the time the census taker arrived, the neighbors had to give their best estimate of the ages in that family.

The Census Takers hand writing was often times misunderstood.



This is a painting showing the Deportations of the Volga Germans by Andrej Andrejewitsch Prediger. Andrej was born in 1926 in Marienfeld in the Saratov Region. In the famine of 1932/33 his two sisters and brother died of starvation – he was deported to Siberia in 1941 under Stalin's Decree.

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When you fill out your registration form for the Convention, there is a delightful way to make it a most interesting experience – all you need to do is to volunteer for a couple hours – for a day or two. You meet the most fantastic people and it enriches your day twofold. It enlarges your immediate circle of friends to include many more that you will look forward to seeing again each year.