

Families of Germans from Russia in Walla Walla

The names of families of Germans from Russia who settled in Walla Walla from approximately 1882-1920 included:

Alles, Amen, Anhorn

Benzel, Blehm, Brehm, Breightham, Butherus, Cilk/Zilk

Derr, Dewald, Dietz, Dippel, Dumle,

Eckhardt, Ells/Ils, Engelmann, Erdmann, Ehrlich

Fiewig, Foltz, Frank, Frickel, Fries, Fox/Fuchs,

Fritzler, Funk

Gabel, Geier, Geist, Gettmann, Gies, Gradwohl, Green,

Haberer, Hamburg, Harding, Hardt, Hartung, Hartwig,

Heberlein, Heagle, Hein, Heimbigner, Heinbigner,

Hergert, Hill, Hoff, Hoffner, Holland, Holwager, Horst,

Kanzler, Kimbel, Kindsvater/Kinsfather, Kissler,

Kleweno, Knaub, Knaus, Knell, Knopf, Kohler,

Lais, Laufer, Leichner, Linker, Litzenberger,

Meininger, Michaelis, Michel, Mill, Miller,

Mohr, Morhland,

Neubauer

Ochs, Ostwald,

Rahn, Raugust, Reiswig, Reiter, Rempel, Repp Rieker,

Riehl, Rohn, Roth, Rutz,

Salmeier, Sauer, Schaefer, Schafer, Schatzel, Schiffner,

Schledewitz, Schmidt, Schneider,

Schneidmiller, Schössler, Schreiber, Schreiner, Schuhart,

Schwartzkopf, Seibel, Sept, Starkel, Steinmetz, Streck,

Stumpf,

Triebwasser

Volker,

Wacker, Wagner, Walter, Weber, Weis, Weitz, Wilhelm,

Wolf.



Jacob Roth Family of Walter Russia, c.1907 in Walla Walla

WALLA WALLA 2020 HISTORIC RESEARCH & PLAQUE SERVICE

If you would like to honor a building or property by obtaining a research report on its history all the way back to when it was bare ground owned by local Tribes, and by displaying a handsome plaque listing the date of construction, along with the names of owners and builders, you can do so by contacting the Walla Walla 2020 Historic Research & Plaque Service.

For qualifying properties, Walla Walla 2020 will research the title, construction, and occupant history, and provide a written report along with proposed plaque language. The research fee for residences is \$100; the fee for other properties ranges from \$150-\$250 depending on the complexity of the title and occupancy history.

Qualifying properties may be in any neighborhood but must be more than 50 years old, and have retained their architectural integrity. For those properties accepted, a photo of the current property along with the completed research report will be included in the Walla Walla 2020 Interactive Map of Historic Properties available on the internet at www.ww2020.net under the Architecture & Neighborhoods tab.

Following completion of the report, the property owner may order a plaque for display on the property. The cost of a basic 9"x 6" six-line plaque is \$50, with additional lines and sizes available on request. Application information is available online at www.ww2020.net under the Architecture & Neighborhoods tab.

Historic Sites & Markers Project

For more information on Germantown and other little-known Walla Walla area history sites, go to www.ww2020.net/historic-sites. If you would like to help with the marking & interpretation of this and other significant sites, please send tax-deductible donations to Walla Walla 2020, PO Box 1222, Walla Walla WA 99362, call 509-522-0399, or email ww2020@charter.net.

WALLA WALLA'S GERMANTOWN



Germans from Russia settled in SW
Walla Walla from 1882-1920



Historic Sites & Markers Project

www.ww2020.net/historic-sites

PO Box 1222, Walla Walla WA 99362

509-522-0399

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Germans from Russia

During the mid 1700's, Catherine the Great of Russia granted German immigrants concessions to settle in Russia in the Volga River region. Later colonies were established in the Ukraine and Black Sea area.

Germany was beset by wars, poverty and hunger, and many Germans saw this as a opportunity, hoping these settlements would bring them a better life.

The Russian government gave them land for villages and farming. They were allowed to govern their own settlements and maintain their own religions and language, and were not required to serve in the military.

In 1874, the military service concession was rescinded, and their young men were required to serve in the Russian army. During the same period, the U.S. sent recruiters to Germany and Russia offering many of the same concessions the Germans had enjoyed in Russia. In 1890, Germans from Russia were the second largest immigrant group to come to the Northwest.

Religious freedom was a strong motivation to emigrate; many were Lutheran and these immigrants brought their faith with them to the U.S.

Walla Walla's Russian Corner

From 1882-1920, many of these families settled in the southwest part of Walla Walla. The largest neighborhood was west of Third Avenue and south of Chestnut Street, which became known as Germantown to others in Walla Walla, but was called Russaecke (Russische Ecke—Russian Corner) by the approximately 300 German families who resided in Walla Walla. Garrison Creek which runs there was known as the "Little Volga."

The German immigrants from the Volga region of Russia came primarily from the "Bergseite" (hillside) area of Lutheran villages, including Frank,

Walter, Kolb, Norka, Hussenbach, and Kautz, all located southwest of the governmental city of Saratov on the Volga River, and from Jagodnaja Poljana, north of Saratov.

The primary area of Russaecke was bordered by Third Avenue on the east, Chase Avenue on the west, Chestnut Street on the north, and Willard Street on the south. Outside of this neighborhood lived many more Germans from Russia, particularly in the southwest Walla Walla homes from Second all the way to the railroad tracks at Thirteenth Avenue, including Chestnut, Willow, Emma, Sprague, Military, Birch, Poplar, and Alder.

These immigrants built homes, corner grocery stores and churches. Their children attended local schools, and were also required to attend a Sabbath school on Saturdays in their churches.

German-Language Churches

German-language churches in Walla Walla included the Second German Congregational Church, first established in 1882 and reorganized in 1896 at 7th & Willow as Zion Lutheran Congregational Church, as well as the first German Methodist church in the Northwest, established here in 1883.



German Congregational Church, 7th & Willow

In 1888 the first Lutheran services were held in Walla Walla, out of which came Emmanuel Lutheran Church, also at 7th & Willow. In 1896

a split occurred in the congregation and several families withdrew to form Christ Lutheran Church on Maple Street, later relocated to a new building South Second.

In the early twentieth century there were said to be seven German churches in Walla Walla. English did not fully displace German in these churches until World War II.



The Hill Family of Walter, Russia, c.1902 in Walla Walla.

Employment

The Germans from Russia and their descendants became staunch members of the WW community. Most of them quickly learned English, especially the men who worked at jobs on the railroad, street maintenance, carpentry, shoemaking, cutting sugar beets, picking hops, and other farm work.

The women maintained their own homes, while some worked as housekeepers and laundresses for the "English" ladies.

Some members of the community were fortunate enough to eventually open their own businesses. These included Johann Conrad Frank who in 1928 opened the Conrad Frank Construction Company and trained each of his sons to carry on his tradition of fine carpentry. That same year, John David Frank established a grocery store and meat market on Fourth Avenue in competition with a grocery on Maple Street opened earlier by the Hill family in about 1915.