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Cover Illustration

The inside of the Neudorf Lutheran Church, built by German colonists with blue borders and a high steeple. As author Justin Ehresman writes: "This was the church my great-grandfather was baptized in, the church that everyone in my family was married in, the church where their funerals were held. This was my family's church. It was my history." He goes on to say, "I could feel the walls bulging with history, with stories, with memories. I touched the walls as I walked along the side of the church wondering which pews my family had sat in." The image accompanies Ehresman's story, "Cherries from Neudorf," which was a runner-up in the 2016 AHSGR Storytelling Contest. It appears on pages 17-19.

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF GERMAN SETTLEMENTS ALONG THE MID-TOM RIVER IN SIBERIA

By Vladimir Ivanovich Kosovets

Editor's Note: *This article is about the German settlements that arose in the South of the Tomsk Uezd [Okrug] at the beginning of the twentieth century. It has been eagerly awaited by specialists, as well as by residents in the United States and abroad for whom the described settlements are considered to be their ancestral origins. It is presented for the first time. This article has been translated from Russian to English by Irene Gies, and edited by Wilhelm G. Doos.¹*

The first German settlements in West Siberia arose in the nineteenth century. According to the All-Russian census of 1897, more than 8,870 Germans lived in Siberia at that time.² These were the first German settlers (colonists) from the European part of Russia, as well as descendants of German specialists in ore mining, administrators, craftsmen, pharmacists, watchmakers, and tailors who appeared in Siberian towns, such as Tomsk, Barnaul and others at the beginning of the eighteenth century.³

At the end of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century there were three main regions of German agrarian colonization in Siberia:

- Akmolinsk and Semipalatinsk Oblasts
- Tarsk and Tiukalinsk Uezds of Tobolsk Gubernia
- Barnaul and Zmeinogorsk Uezds of Tomsk Gubernia

A small number of German colonists also lived in Ishim Uezd of Tobolsk Gubernia and Kainsk Uezd of Tomsk Gubernia. Many articles and monographs about the areas of German settlement mentioned above are available on the Internet.

This article is a brief report about the German villages that appeared in the southern part of Tomsk Uezd at the beginning of the twentieth century on the current geographic area of Bolotnoe and Togutchin Rayons of Novosibirsk Oblast and Yurginskii Rayon of Kemerovo Oblast, about which I did not find any information on the Internet.

According to the information contained in the archival document titled "List of Populated Areas of Tomsk Prov-



Yulianovka Village, 25 Tsentralnaya St. Home of Emmanuel and Elena Klein, on Sept. 20, 2015. Photos courtesy of Wilhelm Doos.

ince in 1911," compiled by the Tomsk Gubernia Statistic Committee, and "Lists of Populated Areas of the Siberian Territory," volumes one and two, published in 1928-1929 by Sibkraistatotdel (Siberian Statistical Department) on the materials of the 1907 census, the first German settlements appeared here in 1907.

From 1907 to 1919, seven purely German population centers were founded in the territory of Bolotnoe Rayon: two resettlement villages or daughter colonies, "Teleutskii" and "Nemetskaia Koloniia" (German Colony), and five *khutors*: "Autermann" (one household or home, four residents), "Bartelia" (two households or homes, thirteen residents), "Batki" (two households or homes, six residents); "Rishel" (one household or home, five residents), and "Ryleevskii" (two households or homes, eight residents). According to oral history of the old residents of Bolotnoe Rayon, at the beginning of the twentieth century, a number of German families lived together with Russians and Poles

in several resettlement villages Novo-Romanovskoe (or Butyrskoe) and Severnoe-1,⁴ which were founded in 1907 and 1908, respectively. According to the above-mentioned archive documents, the settlement Kaluzhskii and *khutor* Assanovskii were founded in 1907 and 1910, respectively, in the current-day territory of Toguchinskii Rayon (in 1924 it was transferred to the Novosibirsk Oblast), where Germans settled together with Russians and Poles and subsequently became the majority population.

The resettlement or daughter colony Teleutskii (currently Yulianovka village) was founded in 1907 on the river Kiik (Ob River tributary), approximately 150 kilometers⁵ to the south of the city of Tomsk by German small farmers from Volhynia Gubernia. In 1911 it had twenty-two households or homes and 103 residents—fifty-one male and fifty-two female. In 1913-1916 the residents of this settlement were used in the building of a new railway branch-line from the railway station Yurga to Kol'chugino and Kemerovo. From its foundation until 1924 this location administratively belonged to Tural'skaia Volost (small rural district in Old Russia) of Tomskii Uezd. The question of why the German village was called "Teleutskii" could not be answered—possibly because it was near to the lands of the adjacent Volost Teleutsk in Tomskii Uezd, founded as far back as the middle of the eighteenth century. By 1926 the settlement changed its name—in the records of the 1926 census it is called "Yulianovskii." That year it had thirty-one households or homes and 156 inhabitants, seventy-two male and eighty-four female. During the administrative-territorial transformations, Yulianovskii became part of Yurginskii Rayon. At the beginning of the 1930s it was called "Yulianovka," and during the collectivization period a collective farm named after Karl Liebknecht was founded here.

The resettlement, or daughter colony, "German Colony" was founded in 1912 by German small farmers—immigrants from Volhynia Gubernia at a picturesque place on the watershed area of the rivers Kanderep and Chubur (Tom River tributaries) and Kunchuruk (an Ob River tributary), approximately 90 kilometers⁶ south of the city of Tomsk. Its first residents were Wilhelm (father Wilhelm) Kelm and Friedrich Witt. In 1926 the settlement consisted of forty-three households or homes with 212 residents, one hundred male and 112 female. In 1931 a collective farm "Krasnoe Znamia (Red Banner)" was founded here and finally the village was renamed "Krasnoznamenska." From 1912 to 1920 it belonged administratively to the Gondatev

The Gubernia Migrant Committees allowed the migrants free pieces of land, not occupied by the old-settled Siberian peasants, at the rate established in Russia as long ago as 1797, i.e. fifteen desyatins (163,900 square meters) for each male, including babies and senile old men.

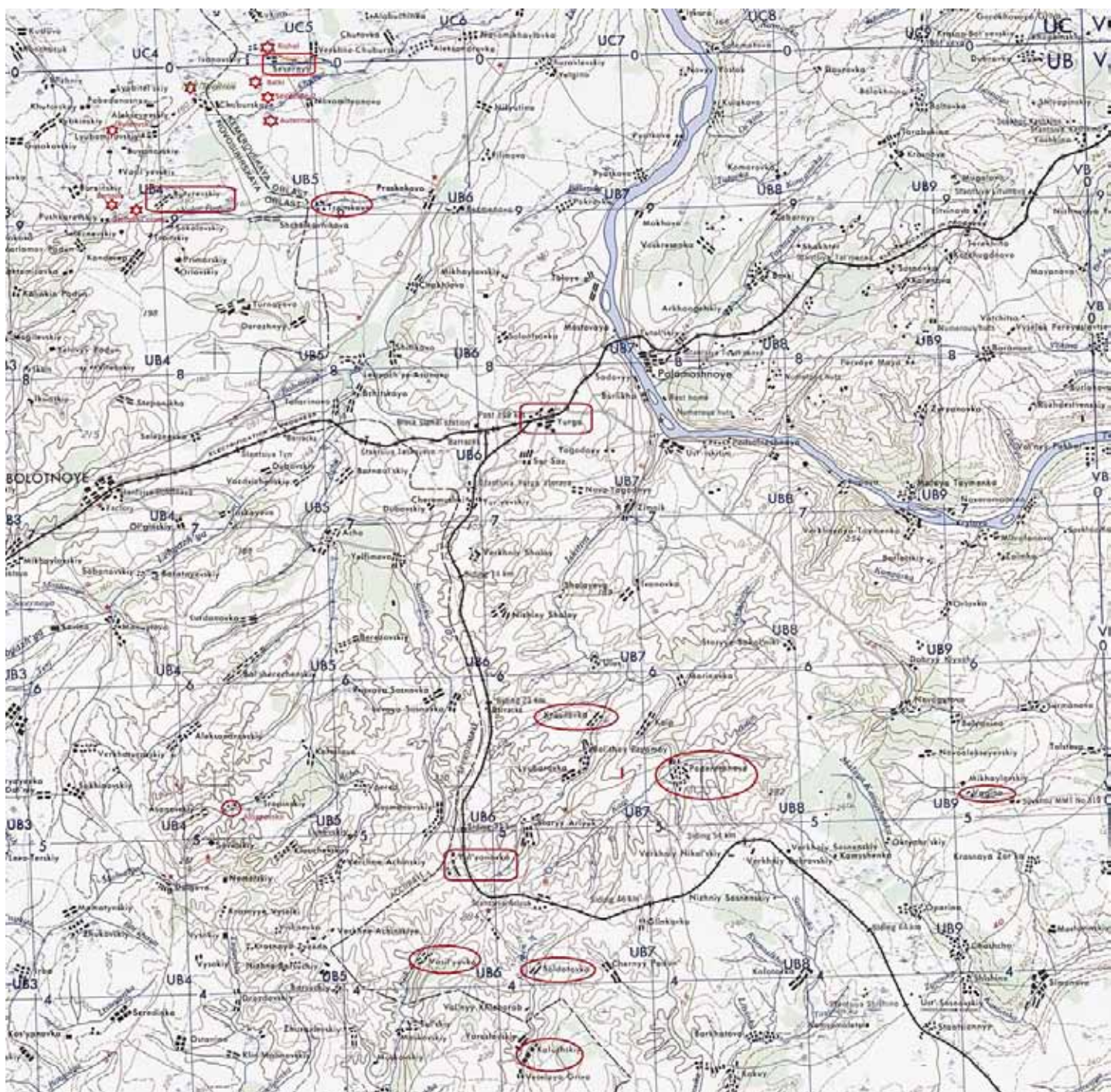
Volost of Tomskii Uezd established in 1909 and named after Nikolai Lvovich Gondatti, Greek by origin and governor of Tomsk Gubernia in 1908-1910. According to his contemporaries, he was a very upstanding and respected governor of the *gubernia*.

The resettlement or daughter colony "Kaluzhskii" was founded in 1907 along the river Kusmen (an Ob River tributary), about 160 kilometers⁷ to the south of Tomsk. From its foundation to 1924 it was administratively part of Kailinskii Volost of Tomskii Uezd. In 1911 it had twenty-seven households or homes with 168 residents, in 1926 seventy-one households and 355 inhabitants. By 1980 this village (called Kaluga after the 1930s) ceased to exist. The German families left the village still earlier.

Khutor Assanovskii was founded in 1910 along the river Topka (a Tom River tributary), about 130 kilometers⁸ south of Tomsk, near the Russian resettlement called "Assanovskii." From its foundation to 1924 it was part of the Kailinskaia Volost of Tomskii Uezd. In 1926 the settlement had twenty-four households or homes with ninety-six residents. By the middle of the twentieth century this *khutor* ceased to exist.

The German *khutor* Ianeka, consisting of one household or home with three inhabitants and was founded in the Kolarovskii Rayon of Tomskii Okrug, approximately 35 kilometers⁹ from the city of Tomsk.

Other than the above-mentioned locations, there are no other population centers in Tomskii Okrug (Uezd) listed in the materials of the 1926 census, where Germans would have lived.



Map of villages and cities described and referenced in the text. This is superimposed on NN 45-1, Series N502, Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army, compiled in 1956. Centers existing on the map are circled; those not represented are identified by a six-pointed star with the village name adjacent to it. Since the location of many of the villages were based on old maps used by Kosovets, their location had to be estimated without the use of grid coordinates and therefore are approximate locations. This overlay was created by Wilhelm Doos, who takes responsibility for any inaccuracies.

From 1904 to 1924 in Siberia, including Tomskii Okrug (Uezd) a great number of new population centers appeared: villages, settlements, *khutors*, *zaimki* (small settlements in Siberia, usually of one household), *vyselki* (comparable

to a small daughter colony of a village), cordons, *razesdy* (stopovers, temporary settlement points), mills, etc.¹⁰ Thus, according to the census of 1926, in the territory of Bolotnoe Rayon—which also included Yurga Rayon

until 1935—420 population centers, including 360 new ones built after 1904, were registered. They were founded by migrants of different nationalities: Russians, Belarusians, Ukrainians, Germans, Estonians, Latvians, Latgales, Lithuanians, Poles, Mordovians, Tatars, and Zyrians. The Gubernia Migrant Committees allowed the migrants free pieces of land, not occupied by the old-settled Siberian peasants, at the rate established in Russia as long ago as 1797, i.e. fifteen *desyatins* (163,900 square meters)¹¹ for each male, including babies and senile old men. Everyone had enough land, and there were no conflicts because of it.



Yulianovka Village, 34 Tsentralnaya St., the former home of the Gies family, now abandoned, September 20, 2015.

Gradually the settlers made themselves at home and got adapted to the Siberian climate. Their financial status improved and well-to-do families appeared. Friendly households, business and good relationships developed. Their calm and measured peasant life lasted until the beginning of collectivization of agriculture.

From the 1930s the reverse process—disappearing of rural settlements—began. The beginning of collectivization in the USSR contributed to the disappearance of minor settlements, such as *khutors*, *zaimki*, *cordons* and others. Almost all of them no longer existed by the middle of the twentieth century.

The Amalgamation of Rural Settlements Reform in the 1960s was apparently urgent and necessary. The replacement of animal-drawn transport by motor vehicles demanded roads with firm surfaces to be built, but paving the same to each village was unrealistic because of the immense financial investments. This reform gave push to the disappearance of villages and settlements, especially those being far away from well-kept roads and navigable rivers.

With the building of good roads and placement of electricity lines, life in the consolidated settlements and remaining villages began gradually to improve, but the *perestroika* of 1985, initiated by General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU Gorbachev halted this because it was inadequately considered, hastily created

and not understood by the people. There was collapse of agricultural enterprises everywhere: collective farms, state farms, machinery and tractor stations, farms left people without work and forced the villagers to move to cities. Large settlements began to fall into decay and villages having survived the consolidation, began to disappear. This process is still continuing.

The residents of the German villages Yulianovka and Krasnoznamenska having overcome the difficult years of the Revolution, the Civil war (1918-1921), the Great Patriotic War (WWII, 1941-1945), the collectivization and repressions of the 1930s, the reform of the enlargement of rural settlements in the 1960s, were not in position to overcome the devastation of collective enterprises, initiated by *perestroika*. The collapse of the collective enterprises, lack of work and conditions for building private farms forced the inhabitants of these settlements to change their places of residence, and in due course the majority of them left for Germany.

It is necessary to mention here, that also before *perestroika* some inhabitants of these villages moved to towns, district centres or neighbouring villages—for domestic reasons, in order to acquire a new profession, etc. For example, still in the mid-1940s the family of Edmund Sonnberg moved to Yurga, actively under construction at the time, and three of his sons still live there: Adolf, born in 1942 in Yulianovka; Ludwig, born in 1946; and Alexander, born in 1953 in Yurga.

In the years of 1937-1938 almost all of the men were repressed—as it was said by the folk at that time “collected on the line of NKVD”—without any explanation. Almost all of the repressed disappeared without a trace.

In the village of Yulianovka there were approximately seventy-five German households before the beginning of the *perestroika*. In different years families with the names Bayer, Behm, Hartmann, Heck, Haering, Gies, Glaser, Sonnberg, Klein, Konrad, Krause, Richter, Roth, Rotomski, Zorn, Zytlow, Jahnke lived here. In 2015, about sixty households were left in the village. Three German families had permanent residence: Ida (father Gottlieb) Haering (born 1950), Andrey (patronymic Afanasjevich) Rotomski

(born 1948) with his wife Olga (Polish by nationality) and Hulda Fischer (who moved from Krasnoznamenska in 1993). Andrey Rotomski and Ida Haering, natives of this village, are cousins. Their grandfathers, belonging to the first settlers of Yulianovka, were repressed in 1937 and disappeared without leaving a trace. In addition, twenty-five Russian families settled here after the departure of the Germans to Germany. The remaining households belong to country-cottage owners from Kemerovo and Yurga. Nobody ploughs and nobody sows grain crops in the village. The inhabitants of the village mostly go into kitchen gardening, some families keep livestock and poultry. The animal farm is destroyed; all the surrounding fields are covered with tall weeds.

The village Krasnoznamenska had approximately eighty households before *perestroika*. In different years families with the names Witt, Wohl, Kelm, Metinski, Peltzer, Rehl, Filawohr, Fischer, Schmidt, Schreiber and others lived here. In the years of 1937-1938 almost all of the men were repressed—as it was said by the folk at that time “collected

LIST OF VILLAGES

NAME(S)	DATE	ETHNICITY	2015 STATUS
Yulianovka (Teleutskii)	1907	German	Present
Nemetskaia Koloniia	1912	German	Unknown
Autermann	1907-1919	German	Unknown
Bartelia	1907-1919	German	Unknown
Batki	1907-1919	German	Unknown
Rishel'	1907-1919	German	Unknown
Ryleevskii	1907-1919	German	Unknown
Romanovskoe (Butyrskoe)	1907	German/Russian/Polish	Unknown
Severnoe-1	1908	German/Russian/Polish	Unknown
Severnoe-2	1930s	Latvians/Estonians	Abandoned
Kaluzhskii	1907	German/Russian/Polish	Unknown
Assanovskii	1910	German/Russian/Polish	Unknown
Ianeka	?	German	Unknown
Vagino	1930s	Mordvin & German	Abandoned
Krasilovka	1907	Ukrainian & German	Abandoned
Soldatovka	1907	Russian & German	Abandoned
Vasil'evka	1763-1782	Russian & German	Present
Poperechnoe	1703	Russian & German	Present
Mitianovo (Troitskaia)	1691	Russian & German	Abandoned

on the line of NKVD”—without any explanation. Almost all of the repressed disappeared without a trace. Only two men returned because of their old age to Krasnoznamenka: Pelzer and Reinhold Kelm’s grandfather Wilhelm (father Wilhelm). In 2015 only seventeen households were left in the village. Five German families had permanent residence in the settlement: Reinhold Kelm (father Julius), born in this village in 1933; Egor Schmidt (originating from the Volga Germans) and Martha Schmidt (Egor Schmidt’s wife, sister of Reinhold Kelm); and three mixed German-Russian families: Alexander Fischer, Eduard Fischer and Emmanuel Wohl. In addition, seven Russian families permanently lived here and five households belonged to summer residents. Egor and Martha Schmidt left for Germany at the beginning of the 1990s, but returned after two years to live the rest of their days in Krasnoznamenka. The villagers and summer residents work in their kitchen gardens. A big cattle-breeding farm with seven hundred head of horned cattle previously existed, but is gone; the neighbouring fields are overgrown with high weeds. It appears that the village will soon cease to exist.

In conclusion, it should be mentioned that from the beginning of the Great Patriotic War (World War II) and during the post-war period about 90 percent of the German population residing in the western regions of the USSR and on the Volga were forcibly relocated to the East of the country: to Siberia, Kazakhstan and other regions. According to the researcher Viktor Diesendorf,¹² in the years of 1941-1942 about 805,000 persons of German nationality were deported to the Asian part of the USSR. This huge number of Germans was additionally increased by over 208,000 in 1945-46 by so-called “repatriates,” i.e. Germans who in the western regions of the USSR fell under the occupation of Hitler’s army and in 1942-1944 were deported by the occupational authorities to the territories of Poland and Germany.

At their new places in Siberia the deported families were mainly quartered in temporary shelters: in dug-out earth houses, wooden barracks, etc., in existing population centers, villages, settlements and towns. The able-bodied German population was used in the construction of industrial plants, residential buildings, railway lines, as well as in agricultural works, timber felling and in mines.

Whereas in 1926 only 872 Germans resided in the Tomsk Okrug, their number increased several dozen times during the war and early post-war years in the territory of Tomskii

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Uezd. According to the archive of the Tomsk Regional Department of the Interior, some 26,432 resettled Germans (including prisoners of war) were recorded on this territory. About nine of the twenty-seven thousand inhabitants of the newly built town of Yurga were of German origin. Forty German families lived in the rural settlement Yurginskii (founded in 1935 twenty kilometers from Yurga) during the war and post-war period; thirty German families reside there now.

After February 1956 the bulk of the German prisoners of war in Yurga, who had been interred there (seven hundred out of 2,900, according to the information of N.N. Dorofeva, director of the Museum of Regional Studies) left for Germany. In 1972 the deported Germans were allowed to go back to the places of their origin¹³ in the European part of the USSR, but most of them stayed in the Asian part of the country until 1989.

According to the results of the All-Russian census of 2002, some 289,370 Germans lived in the Siberian Federal District, including 13,444 in the Tomsk Region and 35,965 in the Kemerovo Region. As of 2010 about five thousand Germans resided in Yurga and Yurginskii Rayon. The mass exodus of Russian Germans to Germany, having begun in 1989, is still going on and is apparently irreversible.

Issues concerning detailed information—such as numbers, places of residence, living conditions, working activities, and studies of the deported Russian Germans—still has to be researched.

NOTES

1. The ALA-LC system for transliteration of geographic place names is used.
2. From «Исторической энциклопедии Сибири», Том 2, страница 464, изданной в г. Новосибирске в 2010 г. Comment by Doos: other references have cited a greater number.
3. Comment by Doos: Germans who moved to cities as professionals were called urban Germans, while those who moved to German colonies or villages consequent to Catherine's Manifesto were referred to as rural agricultural Germans. The original colonies they formed were called mother colonies; all new ones created by resettlements out of these were called daughter colonies (resettlements). These terms were coined by Karl Stumpp.
4. Another one called Severnoe-2 was formed from Churburski khutors in the 1930s, also called "Latgalts," and abandoned by 1982. This was inhabited by Latgales and Estonians.
5. Comment by Doos: These distances are based on travel along existing roads, not in a direct line.
6. See #5.
7. See #5.
8. See #5.
9. See #5.
10. Comment by Doos: These terms refer to a variety of small, usually independent hamlets, farmsteads, stopovers, establishments, etc.
11. 1 desyatina = 10,930 square meters; see <http://www.convert-me.com/en/convert/area/stdesyatina.html>. 15 desyatins = 163,900 square meters.
12. Comment by Doos: A noted Russian born Russian German historian and author who has subsequently immigrated to Germany.
13. Comment by Doos: They were allowed to return to their places of origin, but not to their homes; those were already occupied by other residents and they had no right to reclaim their homes. In many cases they had to ask permission of the local Selsoviet to reside in the village. Most were not given this permission and relocated to other population points in the general area.
14. Abstract available at: www.depcult.ru/documents/.../nash_kuzbass_19.doc. Full title: Косовец, В. И. Заселение и освоение окрестностей Юрги и прилегающих территорий Среднего Притомья и Приобья : о заселении и освоении территорий Юргинского, Яшкинского и Болотнинского районов / В.И. Косовец. - Юрга : Юргинский филиал ФГУП ЦНИИ "Комплекс", 2010. - 142 с.



Vladimir Ivanovich Kosovets is an enthusiastic student of local lore, history and economy. He was born in 1937 in the town Bolotnoe, Novosibirsk Oblast, Russia. Having walked all over the Yurga, Bolotnoe and Yashkino Rayons for over half a century, he has meticulously gathered an invaluable amount of information about the history of the settlements of this area. An additional five years of hard work at scientific libraries in the cities Tomsk and Kemerovo, and an analysis of more than fifty books and archive documents gave birth to his 2012 publication "The Settling and Exploration of the Environs of the Yurga and Adjacent Territories of the Mid Ob and Mid Tom Rivers," which students of local lore have praised as unique.¹⁴ Kosovets is a mechanical engineer and a graduate of the Technical Mechanical School of Yurga and the Polytechnical Institute of Tomsk. He has worked forty-seven years at the Machine-Building Works in Yurga, including thirty years as head of the design office for crane building. He has been awarded nine inventor certificates and patents and has received a number of honorary titles and awards, including honored rationalizer of the RF, the order of "Friendship of Peoples," and a medal for outstanding contribution to the development of Kuzbass 3d Class. He is an honorary member of the Kemerovo Regional Society of Hunters.



Vladimir Kosovets