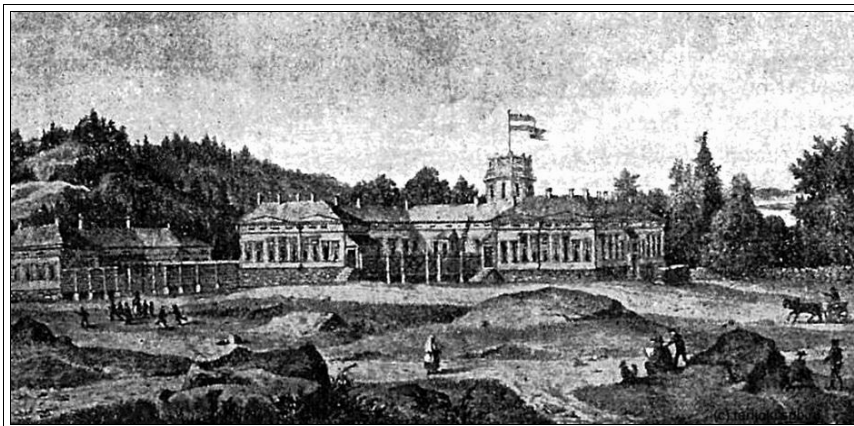


## Prussian-Russian Zeidlers



*The School of Bem – Zeidler. Papula. Vyborg. About 1860.*

Our collaboration has quite understandable reason. Alexey Klebanov is the representative of one of the few branches of the Zeidler's family that remained in Russia. Murat Valiev has been dealing for many years with the history of the German school of Karl May, where four representatives of this well-known surname had been studying. We were driven not only by the wish to tell the

difficult history of one of the German lineage, but, as it seemed to us, by the necessity to raise the problem of historical justice of the relationship and the interaction of two great nations. Additional motivation to study carefully the Zeidlers history was the fact that the founder of the Russian branch of «our» Zeidlers, whose name was Ferdinand Fridrich Zeidler (1832-1886) and the settler of our school, Karl Johann May (1820-1895), they both were married with sisters Bertha and Agnessa Kempe.

The history of German cultural penetration to the Russian state has ancient and well-known roots<sup>1</sup>. From the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the German settlement became the integral part of the Russian urban scenery, German language was the main language of Russian science for a long time; Peter the Great easily installed German standards of the political system. We mustn't forget that till the end of 18<sup>th</sup> century all the foreigners in Russia were called “nemtzy” (translated from Slavic as “mute, without understanding of Russian language). One more proof of multiple international ties with Germany could be the list of transitions to the citizenship of Russia – three fourth of foreigners were coming to Russia form German lands as Prussia, Germany, Saxony, Golstinya.<sup>2</sup> Very seldom could be found in files cases of French, British and other subjects. The very important French influence, and moreover, English-Saxon influence appeared much later in Russia, the first – at the turn of 18<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the second – at the turn of 19<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Of course we should remember traditional family links of the Russian Imperial House with German aristocracy. From the middle of 18<sup>th</sup> century there were more German blood in veins of Russian tzars than Russian.

In general there were the indisputable influence of German science and school on Russian Academy of Science and Russian educational system. It is sufficiently to recall that among the thirteen first-row academicians from the Petersburg's Academy nine were Germans. We may say that Dutch taught us to built ships, Italians – to raise palaces and Germans – to teach and study.

The description of Michailo Lomonosov's fight against German preponderance in Russian Academy of Science mostly was of bespoke character, in fact the influence and the contribution of the German culture to the formation of Russian educational system and science has the priceless and indisputable meaning.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> “Germans of Russia” Encyclopedia “ERN”.2004

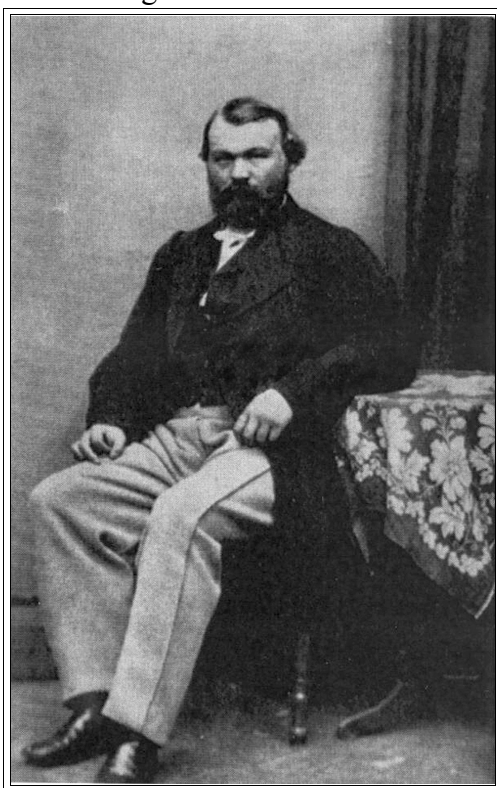
<sup>2</sup> RGIA, F, 1284. Department of common cases of MVD. Transitions to Russian citizenship cases.

<sup>3</sup> I.V. Cherkazyanova. G.I.Smagina. “German schools and teachers. Germans in Russia: historical and documental edition. Editor G.I.Smagina. Spb: “Faces of Russia”.2004

Even the odious critic of pan-Germanism A.V.Korolev had to admit<sup>4</sup>: «There is no mystery that the system of our primary and secondary education was borrowed from Germany and German influence was probably the strongest in this exactly field of Russian life.»

Unfortunately, the 20<sup>th</sup> century damaged the relationship of two great nations. Two world wars dissolved us on different sides of the front and historical memory of peoples keeps negative motives. This is the most important to collect by small particles the light pages of the history and try to restore the deserved respect for the influence of German nation, German culture, science, political system on our history.

Not a long time ago our museum was visited by the German delegation of high level officials. The keynote from the head of the delegation's speech was the German nation's conscience of guilt to Russia. With all the due respect for the historical memory there appears involuntary protest in the soul – maybe there is a time to sum it up? Perhaps there is a time to recall the good pages of our united history? Should we, when creating a new building of German –Russian relations, put into the basement the witness of kind deeds and reciprocal benevolence but not the mutual reproaches and insults? Could it be more demonstrative and effective than the tale about our ancestors who used to live, study, suffer and love together on the Russian land?



*. Ferdinand Fridrich Zeidler. From the Zeidler's family archive.*

After his successful graduation from school in 1851, the nineteen-old Fridrich became the student of the Goettingen University mathematical faculty<sup>6</sup>. This is when for the first time was mentioned the “Russian trace” in the family history, because the successful student of one of the best German universities received the grant of the Greatest Princess Olga (1822 – 1892)<sup>7</sup>. Now we may say that the grant was received with the condition to work afterwards in the domain of Russian popular education. It seems that Princess Olga wished to improve the quality of teaching in the national school.

We hope that such tale about one German family would be our little contribution to the restoration of the good name of “Russian” Germans.

As it was already mentioned, the founder of the Russian lineage of «our» Zeidlers was Ferdinand Fridrich Zeidler. He was born on March 2, 1832 (old style) in a small village Lamischiringhe<sup>5</sup> (near Hildesheim) in a family of Catholics of the lawyer Gotfrid Franz Josef Philip (1806 - ?) and his spouse Johanna Maria Sophia Luisa (born as Genze, 1814 - ?) Zeidlers two years after their marriage. At the time of the wedding, on November 1, 1830, Ferdinand Fridrich's mother was only 15 years old. Ferdinand Fridrich was baptized on March 28, 1832. The fact of the birth and the baptizing was proved by the official extract from the Catholic parish church's register in Lamischiringhe. His grandparents, Venezhelaus Zeidler and Augusta Sophia (born as Stachel) were originally from Hildesheim. Paternal grandfather, Heinrich Genze was a brick master in the same town. We should admit that when Ferdinand Fridrich was born, the Zeidlers belonged to the Catholic church.

As it was shown by further genealogical investigation, the family did not interrupt the connection with the historical motherland, some of the post-revolutionary branches of the family-tree would resurrect on the previous home-land.

<sup>4</sup> A.V.Korolev. “Pan-Germanism proclamation in Russian school”. Petrograd. 1915

<sup>5</sup> Lamischiringhe is a city in the south of Low Saxony. Currently is situated in the district of the city Hildesheim.

<sup>6</sup> Goettingen University of George-August (germ. Georg-August-Universitat) is one of the biggest and oldest universities in Low Saxony.

<sup>7</sup> The Greatest Princess Olga (1822 – 1892), daughter of the Emperor Nicolay 1<sup>st</sup> and the Empress Aleksandra Fedorovna, wife of Karl 1<sup>st</sup>, king of Wurttemberg. From 1846 she used to live in Germany but with the connection to Russia. Olga Nikolaevna dedicated a lot of time to charity institutions, thus she deserved love and respect from German population.

That is why after having graduated from the University in 1855 he came to Vyborg and entered as a teacher of mathematics into the famous school of Karl Bem (1823–1856)<sup>8</sup>. Bem's school, one of the first private boarding-schools in Russia, was already very famous and popular. A distinct feature of the Bem's school was the highest attention paid to the study of Russian language, even "more attentive, than in Swedish and Finnish local government schools". The prestige of the school was encouraged by the number of teachers which were carefully chosen.



*Bertha Albertovna Zeidler (born as Kempe).  
From the Zeidler's family archive.*

The young teacher deserved respect from pupils and colleagues. Unfortunately in 1856 the settler and the director of the school, Karl Bem died at a young age, and after a short time the thirty-four year Fridrich Zeidler took charge of the school. In the same time, in July 1860, begins his happy marriage with Bertha Albertovna Kempe (1840–1925).

One year after the wedding of Fridrich and Bertha in 1861 was born their first child, Hermann (1861–1940). In the future Zeidlers constantly were enlarging their family by new members – Ludwig (1863–1916), Albert (1865–1908), Emma (1868–1923), Clara (1870–1952), Rudolf (1872–1966), Gustav (1874–1959) and Antonia (1876–1962). It is interesting to notice that all the children were born in Vyborg and were registered as the natives of Duchy of Finland, which was the main reason why later their nationality was mistakenly interpreted<sup>9</sup>.

It is likely that the settler of the German private school, Karl May was familiar with the principles of the school's organization by Bem. We remind you that in his second marriage Karl May was married with Agnessa Albertovna Kempe (1845–1928), the younger sister of Fridrich Zeidler's wife. It is hard to believe that both sisters did not participate in the family business. It was

proved by the documentary that Agnessa May was working as a teacher for a long time at May's school<sup>10</sup>. There was the parentage not only between the families, but between schools of Bem, Zeidler and May. It is possible to claim Fridrich Zeidler and Karl May family members and collaborators.

In 1881 Bem and Zeidler's school was closed because of unfavorable circumstances, and Zeidlers moved at first to Derpt (Tartu) and later to Valga<sup>11</sup>. In 1881–1882 Fridrich Zeidler works as the teacher of mathematics in a private school of Zeddelman in Derpt. From 1882 till 1884 Fridrich Zeidler is the doctor of philosophy, the director and the owner of the private school «Zeidlersche Schule Walk» in Valka (the Seminar street, 27). In 1884 F.F. Zeidler was changed by the director fon Zeddelman.

F.F. Zeidler's sons received the primary formation at this school, daughters were studying at the primary school of Missus Mary fon Klein<sup>12</sup> (Seminar street, 11).

All the sons of Fridrich Zeidler, except for Albert, spent within the walls of Karl May's school from one to five years, moreover, Hermann, Gustav and Rudolf received here the complete secondary education<sup>13</sup>. Practically, children were studying under the kind supervision of the uncle and aunt. Parents could calmly trust the formation of their children to their relatives.

<sup>8</sup> Karl Gotlib Bem (1823 – 1856) – the prominent teacher, candidate of theology, the graduate of Derpt University. In 1853 he settled a college (a boarding-school) for boys in Vyborg with the courses of secondary school institutions and with the teaching of subjects in German language.

<sup>9</sup> RGIA f.1234 op. 129. d.310. l.1,4.

<sup>10</sup> N.V. Blagovo. The school on the Valilyevsky island. Spb. 2005. Part 1, page 221.

<sup>11</sup> Valga/Valka – the city divided into two parts, situated on the border between Estonia and Latvia. The city was firstly mentioned in 1286.

<sup>12</sup> Mary Fon Klein (born as Eberhart, Marie fin Klein; Eberhrd). In 1892 the school was handed to V. Johansen (W. Johannsen). The school was functioning till 1913, when Johansen left.

It was during the time of the Zeidlers staying in the Karl May's school, when was recorded one of the brightest and truest characteristics of the heroes of our tale, written in amazingly picturesque memories of Ivan Valilyevich Petrashen (1875–1937)<sup>14</sup>, the Gustav Zeidler's classmate,. Lines are mostly devoted to Gustav Zeidler, but they transfer the whole atmosphere of Zeidler's family. The classmate of Gustav was also the famous painter N.K.Rerich (1874–1947), the future doctor of medicine A.D. Bogovsky (1876–1927), the art critic A.V.Scalon (1874–1919), engineers O.A.Parland (1876–1956) and L.I.Schpergaze (1874–1927), the architect F.F.Postels (1873–1960). Let us give the most interesting small extracts from the text of Petrashen, having supplied them with some comments:

*«...Now I will pass to the mates from the so-called "Russian club". As I have said, "Russian club" was the name of the noisiest and the most scandalous part of our class, consisted from Russian and English boys. The most of them were Russians. Gustav, who was half-German, Half-Finnish, was the honorable member of this club<sup>15</sup>.*

*The Russian club took the leadership in the class, occupying the fist places in studies and in the same time, in misbehavior. Our class journal with marks and a penalty journal both witnessed the active energy and cheerfulness of Russian club. We did not have any statute, neither written, nor oral, and German teachers definitely gave us a wrong name, but we had fellow solidarity and friendship, and we were able to suffer for our mates if that was necessary.»*

*Now about Gustav Zeidler, Gustya, Gustenka, who also responded for the nickname «mercazio<sup>16</sup>» and «stinkspiritus<sup>17</sup>». The last name he received from me, because he pronounced "S" instead of "Sh". Gustav was the young member of a big and quite gifted family. All the family of Zeidlers consisted of determined, whole characters, they were very independent in their everyday life, free from any sentiments, leaded, as it seemed to them, only by the reason and calculation. Verbally, they all were egoistic, and accepted the world as the whole lot of restless atoms, which quite pointlessly, but, sometimes, rather lucky were pushing each other, and "everything" happened as the result of this hustle. Certainly, Zeidlers were very far from any duty to the surrounding life, far from serving any idea or society, and if happened that they were doing something useful for the society, and they all were very useful citizens, then as they were thinking, they were doing everything only for themselves, meanwhile pursuing interests of their own. Speaking briefly, they all were consequent materialists – mechanists, who definitely are able to care about common wealth of humanity only by accident. In fact, Zeidlers's family consisted of finest people, strong, businesslike and gentle in the soul men and women. Later, being already a student, I started to visit this family and especially was attracted by their tender old mother<sup>18</sup>, who kept till the old age the youth of the soul and the Populist convictions of sixties. She was the only one in her family in this regard (Gustav's farther already had died), the others did not accept any Populist point of view, but they all cherished her, and she loved them all, and their eternal disputes (during the evening tea, when everybody were getting together to have a rest) on social themes were very amusing, when the old age was progressive and the youth was old and extremely wise.*

*Naturally, Gustav in his world conception was definitive from the early age and very firm. He acquired it already in finished form, besides, dogmatically, and it would be very bad for him, if not for his brilliant intellect. Wherever it was, but being only 15 years old he was debating the «Nature» like Buchner<sup>19</sup>, Moleschot<sup>20</sup> and K.*

*In appearance Gestav represented a hearty Finn, it contrasted quite funny with his full egoistic cruelty of enunciations. He was above the average high, with blond reddish hair, light-eyed, with a bent nose, not large round head and crooked legs, without any disguise he could be easily*

<sup>13</sup> N.V.Blagovo. The school on the Valilyevsky island. Spb. "Nauka".2005. Part 1. The years of the study of Zeidlers in K.May's school: German 1878 – 1880, Ludwig 1880 – 1881, Rudolf 1886 – 1890, Gustav 1887 – 1893.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid. the extracts from memories of I.V.Petrashen. The full version of memories is currently being prepared for edition.

<sup>15</sup> Gustav Zeidler only was born on the territory of Duchy of Finland.

<sup>16</sup> Mercazio, from latin, means the commercial operation, purchase and sale, it looks like the youngster received this name from his interest to insignificant commercial operations.

<sup>17</sup> Stinkspiritus, from latin, means the deceived spirit

<sup>18</sup> Bertha Albertovna Zeidler (Kempe), widow of Fridrich Fridrich Zeidler

<sup>19</sup> Buchner Ludwig, (1824 – 1899), German philosopher, doctor, naturalist.

<sup>20</sup> Moleschott Jacob (1822 – 1893), German physician and philosopher.

acknowledged as a «Veyka<sup>21</sup>», with which we were loving to ride at Shrovetide for a price of “thirty kopecks”. He came to us in the third grade. During his first year we were not very closed. We became friends in the forth grade, when I started loosing my childish belief.

After some time, approximately in a year, in the sixth grade, my disputes with Zeidler stopped as I was captured by ideas of Populism with my “good fellow” Popov. But our friendship with Zeidler interrupted only after my marriage. As you know, Musenka, Gustav Zeidler became afterwards a very good doctor, treating inner diseases. For a long time he remained a bachelor, and he advised me not to get married. “Vanka, the fool, don’t get married.” That is what he used to say to me. But, having found from me, that I was getting married with Jessie Parland<sup>22</sup> he granted me the permission: «Well, if you need so much to get married, then the best choice is Jessy Andreevna», was his blessing.

First of all, the fact that a German, Gustav Zeidler, so easily becomes the estimated member of RUSSIAN club, is really amazing. Even this small fact reflects the attitude of Zeidlers to Russian culture, to its basis and traditions. German “Ordnung”, German sentimentality is providing wonderful sprouts on an alien Slavic soil, as it could be considered. Which is good for a Russian is not bad for a German. All the following history of Zeidler’s family shows that they really became the most useful citizens of society, and it hurts to realize the irreparable damage to our motherland from the historical turbulences that took place thereafter.

On the last day of 1886, at the age of 54 years the patriarch of the clan, Fridrich Zeidler had left this vain world. This sad event happened in Valga. We presume that the orphaned family of Zeidlers



**Hermann Fedorovich Zeidler. From the illustrated Bulletin of culture “Our leaders in Medical science”. Issue 1. 1910.**

went to Saint-Petersburg very soon after his death. By that time the eldest son, Hermann Zeidler was twenty five, and he was able to support his mother, younger sisters and brothers. The majority of the children of Zeidler by that moment already had chosen a profession. It is quite surprising that during the all well-known family history the representative of the lineage from the military Prussia had never chosen a military path. It is remarkable especially, when considering the traditions of Russian Army and Marine forces, where most of the officers were descendants from German families. Zeidlers preferred instead pedagogy, medicine, diplomacy, art, commerce, entrepreneurship, mining and science.

In the same year when his farther died, Hermann Fedorovich Zeidler graduated from the medical faculty of Moscow Emperor University<sup>23</sup> and started working at the hospital of Obukhov in Saint-Petersburg<sup>24</sup>. Within the short period the name of Hermann Zeidler, professor, doctor of medicine, deserved the fame in wide medical circles. From 1895 Hermann Zeidler was the Head of the Surgeon department of the Female hospital of Obukhov, from 1912 – the Head of the surgical faculty hospital of

the Female Medical Institute in Saint-Petersburg<sup>25</sup>. Except from the medical practice, he was teaching the course of the theoretical surgery, consulting at the Hospital of Maximillian of the Red Cross and at the hospital of Saint Eugenia, doing social work at the Society of Russian doctors, Russian Surgeon Society of Pirogov (the chairman) and afterwards – at the Society of the Red Cross<sup>26</sup>.

<sup>21</sup> Veyka – a light walking horse sleigh, driven by Finns, who used to come to S.Petersburg for Shrovetide.

<sup>22</sup> Jessie Andreevna Petrashen (born as Parland. 1878 – 1942).

<sup>23</sup> RGIA F.740. Op.8 D.656, L.22-28

<sup>24</sup> Hospital of Obukhov (Fontanka embankment, 106) was founded in 1779. At the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century this clinical and scientific institution was very progressive.

<sup>25</sup> The surgical faculty hospital of the Female Medical Institute in Saint-Petersburg. The Speech, made by the professor Zeidler during the opening of the hospital. Spb. 1912.

<sup>26</sup> RGIA F.733. Op.151. D.367.L. 254-256.

On September 1, 1911, the famous professor Zeidler was called from Saint-Petersburg to the bed of the dying chairman of the Ministry Council of Russian Empire, Pyotr Arkadyevich Stolypin<sup>27</sup>. In these days the representative of the Zeidler's family could have influenced the course of Russian history, but the destiny was ill-disposed - the reformer Stolypin died and later the circumstances were developing in quite a sad way<sup>28</sup>.

The activity of Hermann Zeidler during the years of the First World War absolutely refutes usual accusations to ethnical Germans of the betrayal of Russia's interests – in April 1915 professor Zeidler was rewarded with the sign of the Red Cross Excellence by the Highest Consent<sup>29</sup>, and in October 1916 «For the distinction in the deeds against the enemy the Head of the Medial department of the enabled administration of the Red Cross Russian Society by the armies of the Northern front, medical doctor, actual civic counselor Hermann Zeidler is rewarded with the order of the Saint Anna 2<sup>nd</sup> grade<sup>30</sup>». After the tragic events of 1917 Hermann Zeidler returns to places, familiar to him from the childhood and he settles in the property Vonkury near Vyborg<sup>31</sup>. He did not accept the Bolshevik's overturn, considering it as a temporary insanity, he was trying to help the suffering Russian



*Zeidlers: Katarina, Hermann, Sophia Antonovna, Sophia's son Eric Salo. From the Zeidler's family archive.*

population<sup>32</sup>, working in the «Special Committee on Russian affairs in Finland» and then he became the Head of this Committee. He manifested the highest example of humanism when he was saving the remaining parts of the revolted garrison from the Kronschtadt fortress in spring 1921<sup>33</sup>. When running from the red terror, the soldiers and a few officers crossed the Finnish Bay on the ice and escaped to Finland where they found shelter, medical help and food in temporary camps, organized with the participation of Hermann Zeidler.

In his tale «The red cross of professor Zeidler's life path»<sup>34</sup> the famous ethnographer M.N.Kostolomov writes: «He was helping a lot his «classical enemies» – ex-sailors and their family-members. But his main quality was the reputation of trustworthy and absolutely honest person. When the rebellion started, he hurried to Paris and collected a lot of money because of his name. The Commercial Trade Union, leaded by emigrants gave 100 000 francs, Russian Asian Bank – 225 00 francs. Zeidler received money from International Parisian Bank as well. The dimension of the amount allows to witness the trust that this man could inspire during the years of the world tumult. However the rebellion did not have any success, but after the defeat this money helped to build refugee camps. The warehouses of the Red Gross were opened, including Vyborg. The food from these warehouses saved many people from death.»

<sup>27</sup> Stolypin Pyotr Arkadyevich (1862–1911) was Russian politician, the minister of internal Affairs, the chairman of the ministry Council of Russian Empire.

<sup>28</sup> A.I.Soljenizyn. "Red wheel. The fist node – August the fourteenth". The full work. YMCA-PRESS. Vermont – Paris. Volumes 11-20, 1982 – 1991.

<sup>29</sup> CGIA Spb. F.436. Op.1. D. 14514. L.26.28

<sup>30</sup> Before G.F.Zeidler was rewarded with the Order of Saint Stanislav 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (1989) and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (1902) and the Orden of Vladimir 4<sup>th</sup> grade (1905).

<sup>31</sup> In 1910 the property Vonkury belonged to the counselor Ernest Zeidler, the uncle of G.F.Zeidler. Kostolomov. M.Wiborgiana. Ethnography. "Kerramix". 2010.

<sup>32</sup> Herman Zeidler. Describes agony of dying Petrograd. The New York Times. October 7, 1920.

<sup>33</sup> Kronschtadt – 1921. Completed by V.P.Naumov, A.A.Kosakovsky. M.:Intern.Found "Democracy". 1997.

<sup>34</sup> Kostolomov M. "Flowers on the thorn branch. The red cross of professor Zeidler's life path". Vyborgiana. Ethnography. "Kerammike".2010.

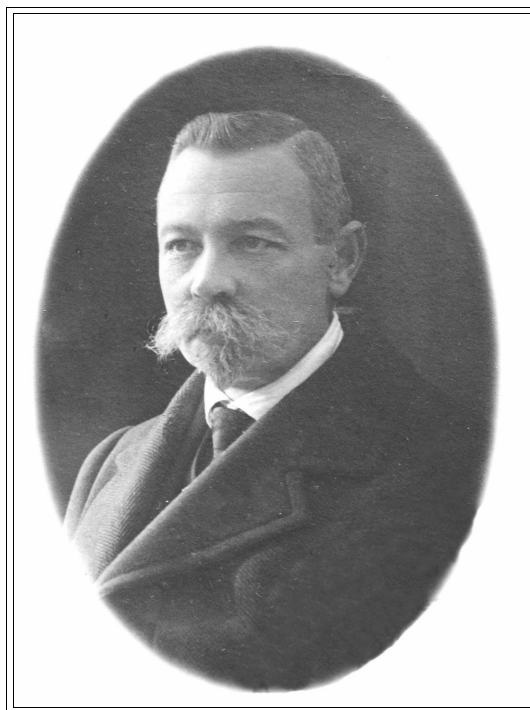
For a second time professor Zeidler could change the course of Russian history, but, like in the first time, when he was trying to rescue P.A.Stolypin, the hopes were destroyed by cruel reality of life.

The family chronicle of the related Bursianovs also is speaking in favor of human qualities of Zeidlers. The collector of the family history, Arseny Tarasovich Rusakov, states the following: «The Zeidler-Walter family had a big part in the life of my relatives, Bursianovs, having supported them during the emigration. In 1918 Hermann and Sophia Zeidlres sheltered Maria Bursian (1894 – 1968, the niece of Sophia Zeidler) and during the Second World War Sergey Zeidler, the son of professor Zeidler, saved from German camps his cousin Olga Bursian (1904 – 1996) and nephews, Irina (1923 – 2009) and Robert (b.1927) Bursianov».

Hermann Fedorovich, the decent representative of Zeidler's family, passed away in 1940, in Jyama, a province of Finland, where professor had to move because of the approaching "red" menace.

We will tell shortly about the family of Hermann Zeidler. His wife, Sophia Antonovna Zeidler (born as Walter, 1872 – 1961), survived her spouse for twenty long years, she found peace in the capital of Finland in summer of 1961. The elder daughter, Sophia Hermanovna (1894–1983), married with a gardener, who was working in the property of Zeidlers, a Finn, Lauri Salo, they had a son Eric. As for the younger daughter, Katarina Hermanovna, we don't know much, only the date and the place of her birth and death (1895, Saint-Petersburg – 1962, Helsinki). The destiny of the son of professor, Sergey Hermanovich Zeidler was quite optimistic (1900–1970). He came to Hildesheim, the motherland of his ancestors. Then his son Andrey (1929) with his mother Dora Devrie, moved to Frankfurt-on-Maine. He opened there a fur trade and became a successful entrepreneur. Nowadays in Frankfurt-on-Maine live great grandsons of Hermann Zeidler: Matius (1958), Daniela (1960) and Patricia (1965).

The second representative of the Zeidlers, who proclaimed a sermon of Hypocratis, was Gustav Fridrichovich Zeidler, who was described pathetically and with love in picturesque texts of I.V.Petrashen. His life was not so full of events and rewards, like his brother's, but he lived it decently and, without doubts, he could be very famous if not for the revolutionary tumults of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Like all the children of the doctor of philosophy, F.F. Zeidler, he was born in Vyborg<sup>35</sup>. In 1893, at the age of nineteen, he graduated successfully from the school of Karl May and entered the military-medical Emperor Academy, from which he graduated in 1899 with an approval and in the status of the doctor. He started working as a junior doctor at the city hospital of Obukhov in Saint-Petersburg. We should admit, that in the same time in the same institution was working his elder brother, Hermann Zeidler. In the nearest future (1900 – 1902) brothers will collaborate also at the ambulatory hospital of Saint Eugenia. In Russia the younger Zeidler finished his career, being the head of the Furschtadt department of the hospital of Obukhov, the deputy of the Head doctor at the hospital of Obukhov. By this time the work of the general practitioner, Gustav Zeidler, was rewarded with the Order of Saint Stanislav 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (1907) and the Order of Saint Anna 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (1910)<sup>36</sup>. In 1919 Gustav and his elder brother Hermann left Soviet Russia, then he was working as a general practitioner and an X-ray specialist in Vyborg, later in Gelsingforce (Helsinki). He ended his vital path in the capital of Finland, May 26, 1959. He was married with Emmy Paulina Margarita Bang (1882–1970), they had a daughter Katarina (1925) who did not create a family, she was working in a kinder-garden and nowadays lives in Helsinki.



*Gustav Fedorovich Zeidler. From the Zeidler's family archive.*

<sup>35</sup> CGIA SPb.f 62, op.1.d.289.1899.

<sup>36</sup> RGIA f.1349.op.2.d.1000.l.130-132.

The representative of the family, Ludwig Fedorovich Zeidler, was the only one who had chosen an unusual profession on the field of the diplomatic service. At the school of Karl May he remained

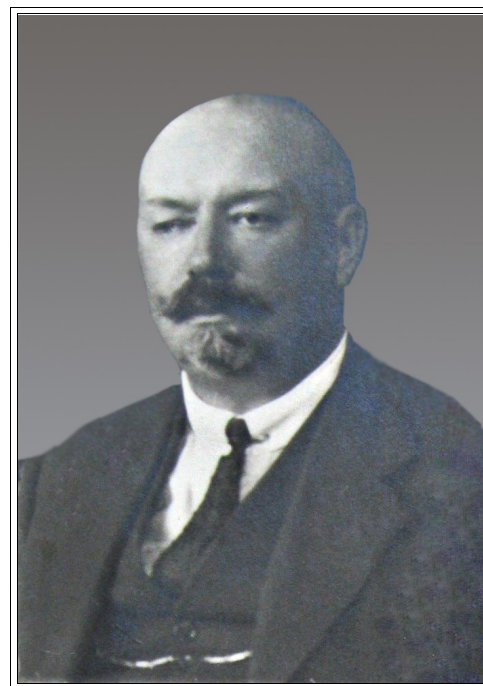


*Ludwig Fedorovich Zeidler. From the Zeidler's family archive.*

only one year (1880–1881), then he continued his studies at a private school and in 1883 he entered the Emperor University of Saint-Petersburg, the faculty of eastern languages (Persian and Turkish)<sup>37</sup>. The list of languages he had been studying, was rather exotic – Arabian, Turkish-Tatar, Osmanian and Persian. No doubt such knowledge has been in great demand in Russia even nowadays. After his graduation in 1889 Ludwig practiced for a year in Tehran, from 1890 till 1900 he was working in the Asian department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and from 1900 – till 1904 – in the Russian consulate in Rescht city (Iran). However this eastern exotic was changed in 1904 for a service in Russian consulate in Leipzig. Considering his brilliant knowledge of German language and German traditions, this change was not difficult for Ludwig. Ludwig was working on his motherland till the beginning of the World War and finished his diplomatic career as a Russian consulate in Schtetin (now Poland, Shezin)<sup>38</sup>. To sum up, we may say, that from October 1891 Ludwig was married with Mary Cruz (1872–1956). In this marriage was born a daughter Nadejda (1894–1989), we will come back to her destiny

quite later, and a son Alexey (1902–1979). The only one known diplomat Zeidler died on August 13, 1916, in Saint-Petersburg after an unsuccessful operation. In 1918 after the revolution Mary Cruz, the widow of Ludwig Zeidler, managed to move to Germany with her son Alexey, to her mother Dina Bond Gruz (Skrivens). Nowadays in Karlsruhe lives a grandson of Ludwig Zeidler and Mary Cruz – Peter Zeidler (1930). The daughter of Peter, whose name is Maria Zeidler (1973) and her husband Christopher Zeidler (1979) live not far from Peter Zeidler – in Baden-Baden, and Peter's son Johannes (1968) is the professor of molecular Biology, and he lives and works in Toronto.

Rudolf Fedorovich Zeidler, the fourth son of Fridrich Zeidler, settled the mining traditions in the family. After his graduation from the school of Karl May in 1890, Rudolf entered the Mountain University on Saint-Petersburg and graduated in 1895<sup>39</sup>. It is remarkable, that Rudolf Zeidler applied to the Mountain Department of the Land and State properties only in 1896, with the demand “not to reject the petition to cross me out from the list of the native born in the Great Duchy of Finland.” And it was only on September 9, 1897, when, according to the Highest Decree, «the mining engineer, Rudolf Zeidler, born as a Finn native, is to enumerate to the Empire.<sup>40</sup>»



*Rudolf Fedorovich Zeidler. From the Zeidler's family archive.*

The mining engineer Rudolf Zeidler continued to work at the factories of metallurgy society in Donetsk and Jurievsk, combining the engineering and commercial activities. By the 1900 Rudolf

<sup>37</sup> CGIA Spb.f.14.op..3.d/23637/1888.

<sup>38</sup> Archive and library of Eric Amburger

<sup>39</sup> CGIA Spb.F.963.op.1.d.10345.

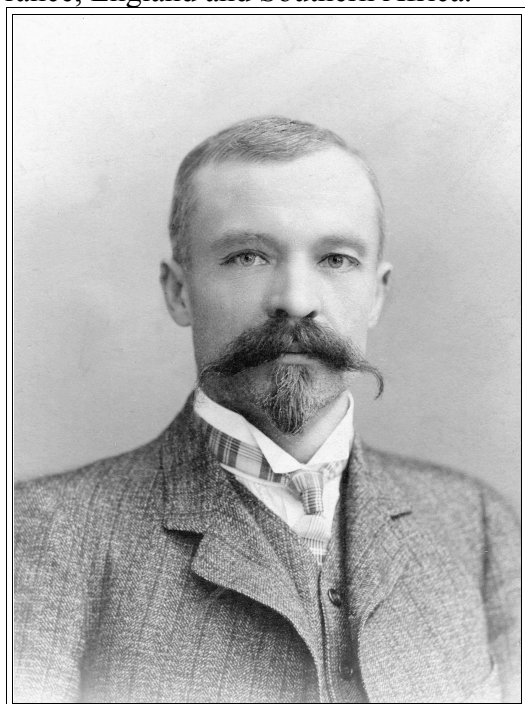
<sup>40</sup> RGIA f.1284.op.129.d.310.



Zeidler had already become the member of the board and the managing director of the Bogoslovsk mining society, the technical director of Bryansk society, the manager of Kerch society of metallurgy miners and plants. Due to his efforts May 30, 1900, with the «crimson ring» of cathedrals in Kerch and singings was launched the first blast furnace<sup>41</sup>.

By the beginning of the war of 1914, the mining engineer R.F.Zeidler was the managing director of the Bogoslovsk railroad society, the chairman of the board of Russian-Persian mining society, the member of the board of Bogoslovsk mining society<sup>42</sup>.

After the revolution Rudolf Zeidler moved to Finland, he bought a property «Pietilya» on the Saymensky channel<sup>43</sup> and became a successful entrepreneur in Estonia. His book on the elaboration of Estonian slate acquired a broad popularity<sup>44</sup>. The mining engineer Zeidler lived a long and interesting life and died in Finland in 1966. From the marriage of Rudolf Zeidler with Eugenia Udolskaya (1883–1962) were born five children: George (1902–1968), Woldemar (1905–1989), Dmitry (1906–1941), Irina (1910–1946) and Elena (1917–2009). Their numerous descendants live in Sweden, Finland, France, England and Southern Africa.



*Albert Fedorovich Zeidler. From the Zeidler's family archive.*

In the conclusion of our tale about the settler of mining traditions of Zeidlers we should say, that Rudolf Zeidler influenced a lot his nephew, Alexander Albertovich Zeidler (1899–1993) who then became one of the most famous scientist and a practitioner of domestic ferrous metallurgy.

Albert Fedorovich Zeidler was the only one from the sons of Fridrich Zeidler who did not study at the school of Karl May. In Germany he received his professional preparation and became an engineer-technologist brewing. After his return to Russia he started to work at the famous Trekhgorny brewing plant in Moscow<sup>45</sup>. This plant, created in 1875 by Albert Albertovich Kempe, an uncle of Albert Zeidler, was producing the best beer in Russia. In 1907 Albert Zeidler became the director and the part owner. Due to the energy of the uncle and the nephew, the plant took the leading position in the branch of using technical innovations in the brewing area. Albert Zeidler remained in history as the worthy successor of brewing traditions in Russia<sup>46</sup>.

The family life of Albert could not be called cloudless: his first marriage with Natalya PaulinaKruz (1868–1904)<sup>47</sup>, the sister of Mary Cruz was interrupted because of her sudden death. In this marriage were born: Vera (1894–1904), Sophia (1896– after 1970), Alexander (1899–1993), Nicolay(1989–1918), Natalya (1903–1983). In 1906 Albert was married with Nadejda Hermanovna Duks (1872–1970) but he was killed under strange circumstances very soon after the birth of his son Vladimir. There was an article in “Moscow Vedomosti” which stated: “At the Trekhgorny brewing plant, situated behind Dorogomilovskaya gate, was committed a terrible murder of the director of this plant, whose name is A.F.Zeidler. This assassination was made with a sharp bradawl by the assistant of the

<sup>41</sup> Cheremovsky U.U. “Russian roulette”: the historical publication, essays to the 100 years of Kerch metallurgy plant of P.L.Voykov. Simferopol. Tavrida. 2000.

<sup>42</sup> RGIA f.54.op.1.d.905.l.43,64,65.

<sup>43</sup> Kostolomov M.Wiborgiana. Ethnographical essays. Keramaa. “Kerimikko”2010.

<sup>44</sup> Zeidler R.F. New ways of using combustible slates and its elaboration to produce oil. Translated from German.M.L.NKTP.1935.

<sup>45</sup> Trekhgorny brewing plant, then Badaevsky brewing plant was opened in 1875. Albert Zeidler was the director of the plant in 1907.

<sup>46</sup> The founder of brewing in Russia was a Finn Abraham Kron (1766 – 1827) who settled the first brewing plant in Saint-Petersburg in 1795.

<sup>47</sup> Paola Cruz, the sister of Mary Cruz, Adolf's younger brother Ludwig's wife.



*Zeidlers: Nicolay, Vera, Sophia (standing), Natalya, Alexander Albertovichi. From the Zeidler's family archive.*

electrician, whom the director of the plant had addressed a remark. ..” Other sources were telling about anarchists. The family myth says that he was menaced from competitors. There is no chance to know the truth. It is possible that Albert Zeidler was the first victim in the family from the approaching time of troubles. Nadejda Hermanovna survived her husband for sixty (!!!) years. She was kind and caring mother for all the children of Albert Zeidler, including five adopted kids. This amazingly kind-hearted and compassionate woman had to survive one more tragedy – in 1938 her only son Vladimir, who was the famous mountaineer and V.M.Abalakov’s

companion, died under the avalanche.

To complete the picture, we should tell about the female part of Zeidler’s family. Matriarchs of the lineage, Bertha and Agnessa Kempe were teaching at their husbands schools. The second generation, Fridrich Zeidler’s daughters, Klara, Antonia and Emma were well educated and expressed themselves with dignity in areas of education and art. Being independent, intelligent, perseverant, they hardly could find suitable spouses. Unfortunately, here we may say about one more family tradition – the highest standards of the requirements of Zeidler’s women were impassable and unbridgeable. Celibacy and childlessness - that was the price for emancipation and education.

The destiny of the elder daughter of Fridrich Zeidler, Klara Fedorovna, is very interesting and illustrative. The daughter of the doctor of philosophy was born in Vyborg, on April 25, 1870. She received her primary education at the private school of Klein in Valke<sup>48</sup>. During her study at school she demonstrated outstanding abilities to draw, which were developed and reinforced in Central college of technical drawing of baron Schtiglitz<sup>49</sup> (graduation in 1894). In 1897 Klara Zeidler was admitted as the art teacher to the Imperial educational society of noble maidens<sup>50</sup>. In 1912 she was rewarded with the Mariinsky sign of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade for 15 years of dutiful service, and in 1913 she received the permission “to carry on the chest the Highest pale brass medal, established in commemoration of 300 years of Romanoff’s reign”. In 1914 she was the member of the Pedagogical Council at the School of the Art Encouraging Imperial Society<sup>51</sup>, where the director was N.K.Rerich (1874–1947). There are such grateful lines in one of the letters of Nicolay Konstantinovich, addressed to P.Ja.Rudzitis and G.F.Lukin: «*I was always of good opinion about K.F.Zeidler <...> She was a good teacher, teaching the watercolor class, she had a big success and established solid principles*»<sup>52</sup>. We should admit, that Klara did not forget her director and congratulated him with his jubilee of 50 years of his career in 1937.<sup>53</sup>

In 1917 professor Zeidler was teaching at the college of baron Schtiglits

<sup>48</sup> CGIA Spb.f.2.op.1.d.14745

<sup>49</sup> Central college of technical drawing of baron Schtiglitz – was the state art school, which was preparing artists of decorative and applied art for industry, besides – teachers of drawing and painting for secondary art schools.

<sup>50</sup> More famous under the name of “Smolny Institution of noble maidens” – the first educational female establishment, which started the tradition of the formation for women. It was settled after the Decree of Catherine 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1764 in Saint-Petersburg.

<sup>51</sup> Art Encouraging Imperial Society was a charity society, the oldest in Russia (1820 – 1929), specially created to promote the development of Fine Arts, to spread the knowledge of Art, to educate artists and sculptors.

<sup>52</sup> Rerich E.I., Rerich N.K. 2000, volume II. page 73.

<sup>53</sup> Zelta gramata. Riga. 1938 page 108.

. In the same time she collaborated with the famous Faberge company<sup>54</sup>.



*Klara Fedorovna Zeidler. The State archive of Estonia. (ERA) F.14 op.16 D.300. C.4.*

Nevertheless, Klara had to emigrate in 1918, she acquired the citizenship of Finland, and later – the citizenship of Estonia and settled in Tallinn, where in 1919 – 1940 she was working at the State industrial art college as the teacher of the art processing on metal, porcelain, sketch and watercolor. Besides, Miss Zeidler opened a private studio in Tallinn, she participated in exhibitions and in the unit of artists of decorative and applied art RaKU. Her artwork was represented several times abroad during the official exhibitions of Estonian Art – in 1929 in Helsinki, Lubek and Kil, in 1939 – in Rome and Budapest. Pieces of her artwork are kept nowadays in Estonian, Swedish and German museums. In our article the reproductions of this famous painter are represented, graciously given by the Art museum of Estonia. In 1941 Klara moved from Estonia to Finland, and then almost immediately she moved to Germany, to Mecklenburg, and in 1948 she went to Sweden. Klara Zeidler died on September 9, 1951 in Eskilcktun (Sweden). It can be assumed that all the transitions of the remarkable representative of Zeidler's family were connected with the desire to live in a free cultural and creative space, which

hardly could be done in the Soviet system.

We scarcely know much about the destinies of Emma and Antonia – two younger sisters of Klara.

Antonia, being the youngest in the family of F.F.Zeidler, received her secondary education at the female college of Saint Peter and in 1895 she entered the famous Bestugevsky courses<sup>55</sup>. After her graduation in 1899<sup>56</sup> Antonia was the head of practical courses on Chemistry for students till 1902. It shows her unusual abilities for a girl in the most difficult areas of science like Physics and Chemistry. Then Antonia was working at the famous Butlerovsky laboratory<sup>57</sup>. She married with the chemist Lev Vladimirovich Musselius (1874–1925). In this marriage were born Elena (1903–1941) and George (1908–1991).

According to the memories of George «it was beyond words to express how much she <Antonia, the remark of the author> meant for all her family, especially for me, as she lived thirty years in my house till her death at the age of 86 years».



*Klara Fedorovna Zeidler. A view on a balcony. Watercolor. Tallinn. The Art museum of Estonia. Before 1938.*

<sup>54</sup> The name of Klara Zeidler as the enamel artist was mentioned by Franz Birbaum (1870 – 1947), the head master in Faberge from 1883 till 1918.

<sup>55</sup> Bestugevsky courses were the higher courses for women in Saint-Petersburg (1878 – 1918). One of the first high schools for women in Russia.

<sup>56</sup> Bestugevka in numbers: to commemorate the 130 jubilee of Saint-Petersburg Higher courses for women. 1878-1918. Written by O.B.Vakhromeeva. Saint-Petersburg.2008.

<sup>57</sup> Butlerov A.M.(1828 – 1886) - the founder of the fist Russian school for chemists. At the Butlerovsky laboratory by Saint-Petersburg University were working famed Russian chemists : A.E.Favorsky, M.D.Lvov, I.L.Kondakov, E.E.Wagner, D.P.Konovalov, F.M.Flavitzky and others.

We know much less about the life path of Emma. Probably, Emma was working as a teacher at the school by the Russian-American rubber manufactory, where Boris Albertovich Kempe, her mother's uncle was the director. It is appropriate to mention one more time the close familial links of Zeidlers and Kempe: Albert Fedorovich Zeidler was working at his uncle's plant, Emma Fedorovna was working for the other uncle, Boris Albertovich Kempe. This is how familial traditions of mutual care and support were manifested. The touching relationship were evidenced by the fact that the daughters of Fridrich and Bertha Zeidler used to live for a long time with their mother in the family nest on the Sadovaya street, and afterwards till the revolution, sisters were renting a flat on the Ekateringofsky avenue<sup>58</sup>. After the revolution sisters immigrated to Finland.

The exit of Zeidlers from Russia marked the summary of the social and national opposition at the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century. In this exactly period was irreparably damaged the relationship of two nations and two cultures. It is difficult to say, who suffered more – losses were reciprocal and could be hardly repaired. The sad statistics demonstrates that from ten graduates from the school of Karl May with German background only one third remained in Russia, and we wished at least one of them would had lived till the old age without the tough pressure of the repressive system.

Among multiple branches of the family only descendants of Albert Fedorovich, the director of the brewing plant, and the diplomat Ludwig Fedorovich, remained within the frontiers of the new motherland. It could be connected with the fact, that by this time Albert and Ludwig already had died and it was hard to decide to leave the country for their adult children. With rare exceptions, their following fate confirms our sad statistic. Nicolay Albertovich Zeidler, the elder son of Albert Zeidler, was shot in Ekaterinburg, according to the family legend, as a participant of the White movement.



*Vera Albertovna Zeidler. Oxford. About 1913.  
From the Zeidler's family archive.*



*Vera Albertovna Zeidler. Kazakhstan.  
About 1955. From Zeidler's family archive.*

Before the revolution, the eldest daughter of Albert, Vera Albertovna Zeidler, graduated from prestigious college in the homeland of her mother in Oxford, besides Russian language she knew very well German, English and French. After the revolution she was working as the stenographer at the secretariat of V.I.Ulyanov (Lenin), but it did not save her from repressions. After the beginning of the war, as the alien element by her nationality and social background, the Oxford's graduate was sent to Kazakhstan and she was working as the typist at the simple Kazakh sovkhos, she managed then to come back to Moscow after the death of I.V.Stalin only because of the heroic efforts of her niece, Vera

<sup>58</sup> Till 1901 the address is: Sadovaya, 88, from 1901 till 1917 – Ekateringofsky avenue, 20.

Alexandrovna Zeidler<sup>59</sup> (1925–1994). Thereafter “the alien element” was working as a secretary of the academician Lysenko T.D. (1898–1976) at the Institute of Genetic<sup>60</sup>, she had to live in a tiny room in the building of the Institute. Only in the late sixties, thanks to an article in the magazine “Science and life”<sup>61</sup>, which told about the work of Vera Albertovna at the secretariat of B.I.Ulyanov (Lenin), Vera Albertovna was rewarded with the rank of personal retiree and received a separate room.



*Sophia Albertovna Zeidler. About 1915. From the Zeidler's family archive.*

Sophia Zeidler, the sister of Vera Albertovna, repeated her sister's destiny – she spent more than ten years in exile in Kazakh steppe. Sophia was keeping the best family traditions, and in her relatives memory she remained as the exceptionally strong-willed and whole person, not without some German sentimentality. She did not have her own children and loved very much her nephews and nieces. After her come back to the civilization, she did not receive Moscow registration, lived in a country house in twenty kilometers from Moscow, and nevertheless she was working at the central hospital “MPS” till the end of her days, she defended PhD thesis and had the excellent reputation of the specialist in diseases of the joints.

Natalya, the younger daughter of the brewer Zeidler, according to the decision of the family council was sent to Finland, and later she moved to Germany (Berlin). In Berlin Natalya was working with children in a private kinder garden. It looks like her aunt Mary Kruz (the widow of Ludwig Zeidler and the sister of Natalya's mother – Paola Kruz) took a large part in her life, living in Berlin with her son Alexey. At the end of the war Natalya escaped from Berlin to West, she lived in London. We managed to establish communication with her descendants. The daughter of

Natalya Albertovna, Seglinda Robinson (1936) and grand children Nina (1966) and Simon (1968) live in England.

Tatyana Kovaleva (born as Komelova, 1916–2008), the grand-daughter of Ludwig Fridrichovich Zeidler, Nadejda Ludwigovna's daughter, remained with her little daughter Natalya (born in 1939) on the territory, occupied by Germans during the war. Later Tatyana found in Germany her grandmother, Mary Kruz, who invited her to Magdeburg. All the war Tatyana and her daughter lived with the granny, Tatyana was working at the canteen for officers. According to the family traditions, Zeidlers supported their relatives, the “refugees” were given money and some clothes. After the war Tatyana with Natalya returned to USSR in status of soviet citizens, forced to stay in Germany. They were not repressed. They settled in Petrozavodsk, where Nadejda Ludwigovna moved as well at the end of life. We managed to establish the communication with the great granddaughter of Ludwig Zeidler and listened the most interesting tale about the family saga.

From all the descendants of the doctor Fridrch Zeidler, remained in Soviet Russia, the destiny was the most favorable to his grand son, the successor of mining traditions, the doctor of technical sciences, the State prize laureate - professor Alexander Albertovich Zeidler<sup>62</sup>. Despite his suspicious background: his brother was from White army, the uncle – “a counterrevolutionary, entrenched in Finland”, his farther – a capitalist, the younger sister emigrated; despite these circumstances Alexander Albertovich became a well-known scientist, one of the settler of the domestic non-ferrous metallurgy,

<sup>59</sup> Vera Alexandrovna Zeidler – the daughter of the professor Alexander Albertovich Zeidler and the mother of Klebanov Alexey Felixovich (born in 1958), the author of the current article.

<sup>60</sup> Institute of Genetic at the Academy of Science USSR (Moscow, Leninsky avenue, 33). T.D.Lysenko was the director of the Institute from 1941 till 1965. From 1966 on the base of the Institute was settled the Institute of General Genetic at the Avademy of Science USSR, which received the name of Vavilov N.I.

<sup>61</sup> R.Vekman. How we were recording Lenin's speeches. “Science and life” #1, 1968, page 22-26.

<sup>62</sup> Alexander Albertovich Zeidler (to 100 years from birth). “Non-ferrous metals”. 1999.#9 page 122-123.

rewarded with numerous prizes and awards. An impressive blond, blue-eyed, of high growth, with wonderful sense of humor, Alexander Albertovich was a typical representative of the Zeidlers, who had managed to see the fading grandeur of Russian Empire. When he was asked, why he could speak so many languages, he used to answer: «...in the morning an English governess was coming, in the afternoon – a French, and in the evening in the family everybody was speaking German. In revolution everything was taken away». In a family circle he used to remember about the light summer months at the family nest Papula near Vyborg, sailing tours from the mansion to town to buy bread, raids on the berry plantations and mushroom huntings. He was talking with gratitude and warmth about his uncle



*Alexander Albertovich Zeidler. From Zeidler's family archive.*

Rudolf, who seriously influenced his choice of the metallurgy profession. In early childhood Alexander almost lost his hearing, but nevertheless he graduated from school in 1917 with a golden medal, in 1924 he graduated from Leningradsky Polytechnic Institute, then later he defended his master thesis and the doctoral thesis and became a great expert in this area. From the stories of relatives some relevant authorities did not live the family of Zeidler without their attention – the flat was searched several times, in pursuit of contacts with foreign relatives, compromising materials, prohibited literature. But professor Zeidler was so immersed into his silent world, so busy with his beloved profession, that even the sophisticatedly criminal and punitive machine retreated in confusion. Till the end of his life he was fond of yachting, he successfully participated in the Moscow regatta with his sons Albert and Nicolay<sup>63</sup>. Alexander Albertovich remained in the memory of many people as the light and devoted to his profession person.

Unfortunately nowadays in Russia there are no carriers of the branch of Zeidler's name, but family traditions are safely respected and transmitted from one generation to another, to the families of grand children and great grand children. The

descendants of Zeidler, the doctor of philosophy, live in Europe, in America and even in Africa, and we reestablished family links with them.

At the beginning of Russian saga of the Zeidler's family, the patriarch Fridrich Zeidler brought seeds of roses from Germany to Russia in remembrance of his native home, of sweet "fatherland". Subtle plants settled down in northern country. Thanks to attentive care, on a rocky ground of Papula mansion, cooled by the sea winds, grew the whole plantation of a new sort of pink bushes, called under the place of it birth – Papula roses (*Rosa Pimpinellifolia-rhyma* «Papula»). From there these flowers were spread to the south of Finland and the north of Russia. This is exactly how the children of doctor Zeidler by their labor and love grew on the Russian land and within historically short time they became an organic part of Russian society, they served faithfully to their new found Fatherland, and «all the Zeidler's family, consisted of the finest people, strong, businesslike and gentle by soul men and women»<sup>64</sup>, left a significant and unforgettable trace in our history.



Hopefully this is seen not only as a deep symbolic meaning, but also as a happy sign.

<sup>63</sup> Alexander Albertovich was married four times and raised sons Nicolay (1926 – 2008), Albert (1928 – 1982), Vladimir (adopted) and daughters Vera (1925 – 1994), Irma and Elena (adopted).

<sup>64</sup> N.V.Blagovo. The school on the Vasilyevsky island. "Nauka" Spb.2005.Part I. letters of I.V.Petrashen, page 245.