

George Valko
325 W Belden Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60614

773.988.8619 voice
773.935.9967 fax
george@georgevalko.com
www.georgevalko.com

July, 2006

New CDROM *eBook* version

The Volga Germans
Krasnojar, Chicago, Everywhere
Their Stories, Their Words, by George Valko

Dear friend, family member, family historian,

I am happy to announce all three Volga German books are now on one CDROM in **PDF** format as *eBooks*. This CDROM, with Krasnojar data, summarizes my 10 years of research about the Volga Germans of Krasnojar; why they went to Russia, their early years at Krasnojar and their lives everywhere after 1876.

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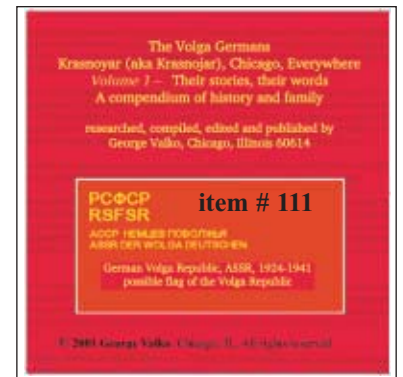
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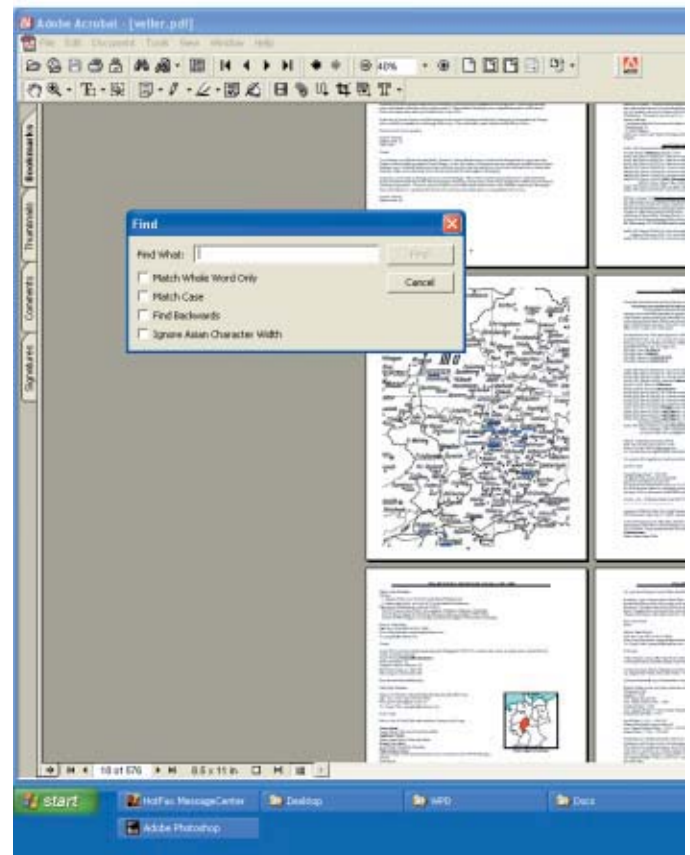
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item # 111



Item # s 104 & 104a

The Volga Germans, Krasnoyar, Chicago, Everywhere Volume 3, Their stories, their words

VELLER / FELLER genealogy, letters, notes, photos, maps, charts and emails

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Other books by George Valko

SLOVAKS

0-9679706-0-1 Brezová pod Bradlom to Chicago, Turn of the Century Slovak Emigration with Valko and Karlik genealogies and notes, March, 2000, color version, 410pp

0-9679706-1-X Brezová pod Bradlom to Chicago as above black text version, 410pp

0-9679706-2-8 Valko Family Genealogy, Zaturice [Martin], Slovakia to Whiting, Indiana; c. 1770-2000, 44pp

0-9679706-3-6 Brezová pod Bradlom to Chicago CDROM *eBook version*

VOLGA GERMANS

0-9679706-4-4 **Volume 1** — The Volga Germans; Krasnoyarsk, Chicago, everywhere, their stories, their words; **A compendium of history and family**, October, 2001, 330pp

0-9679706-5-2 **Volume 2** — The Volga Germans; Krasnoyarsk, Chicago, everywhere, their stories, their words; **Franz / Frantz family**, genealogy, letters, notes and photos, January, 2002, 460pp

0-9679706-6-0 **Volume 3** — The Volga Germans; Krasnoyarsk, Chicago, everywhere, their stories, their words; **Veller / Feller family**, genealogy, letters, notes and photos, July, 2002, 568pp

Thumbnail Volga German chronology*

1763-1772 about 30,623 people** leave Europe for the Volga Russia, many are from Hesse

20July1767 original settlers arrive at Krasnoyarsk, Volga, Russia (*Dr. Igor Pleve*)

1874 German-Russian's exemption from Russian military service repealed

1876 German Russians begin leaving Russia

1897 Russian census shows approximately 1.79 million ethnic Germans living in Russia

Turn of the century emigration of about 300,000 German Russians to North and South America

1907-1913 peak period of Volga Germans leaving Russia

1924-1941 "Volga German Autonomous Republic" exists as part of the *RSFSR*

1930 Chicago area has approximately 30,000 first and second generation Volga Germans (*Sallet*)

1970 approximately 1.8 million people with German ancestry living in Russia

1970 approximately 1.8 million German Russians living in America

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This work is a compendium of oral history and family stories of the Volga Germans, VELLER and (same) FELLER family, Lutheran, 1716-2001, from colony Krasnoyarsk, (Krasnojarsk-German spelling) Volga, Russia. An edited summary of genealogy, letters, notes, photos, maps, charts and email communications.

ISBN 0-9679706-6-0

*reference pg 372, **From Catherine to Khrushchev**, ©1974, 1981 ISBN 0914222058, available from AHSGR

**about seven thousand families, 3,293 people died enroute to Russia, source is Dr. Igor Pleve, p12, ©1999

Germany, ISBN 3-9806003-3-5, **Einwanderung in das Wolgagebiet 1764-1767, Volume 1**

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genealogy, photos, notes, letters
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* This book is indexed by name with page #s.
Visit my website, ASK GEORGE, for free name look-ups.

This book is dedicated to my sister Bonnie.
Bonnie's encouragement, enthusiasm and generosity made this book possible.

People have distinct personalities. Researching this book I discovered families also have unique personalities. I thank all the Franz family members whose openness and willingness to share and contribute made my job easier. Thank you Franz family.

Other books by George Valko

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expected soon 0-9679706-6-0 **Volume 3** — The Volga Germans; Krasnoyar, Chicago, everywhere, their stories, their words; **Veller / Feller family**, genealogy, letters, notes and photos

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This work is a compendium of oral history and family stories of the Volga Germans, FRANZ family, Lutheran, 1767-1941, from colony Krasnoyar, (Krasnojar-German spelling) Volga, Russia. Included are genealogy, letters, notes, photos, maps, charts and email communications.

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**about seven thousand families

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this is NOT a genealogy book
the perfect family Christmas gift

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As a young person I knew I was a member of a unique ethnic group, the Volga Germans. I had a great curiosity about this group observing my family and others in Chicago's Mayfair neighborhood. My family's answers about our family in Russia never satisfied my curiosity.

My Volga German grandparents were Henry VELLER and Sophie FRANZ (also Feller and Frantz) who came to Chicago in 1923 from Germany. Henry and Sophie left Russia for Germany three times in the approximate period of 1906-1918 before settling in Chicago. My grandparents settled in Chicago near other family and within a large Volga German Chicago community. This book was prepared as a "show and tell" for those with an interest in their Volga German ethnicity; especially those with Krasnoyar, Chicago and Sheboygan ancestors.

I had a concept of Germans and concept of Russians but not a concept of German-Russians nor Volga Germans. My search for family members, especially two of the brothers of my grandparents resulted in this book. All the 'close' family members of each family left Russia before or during the Great Revolution c. 1917 except for one brother of each of my grandparents. My search for the descendants of these two families, Jacob Veller (1889-1964) and Friedrich Franz (1901-1958), was a ten year effort.

For ten years I mailed letters everywhere seeking information about family. For ten years I received replies with joyful and tearful stories. They sent family history, stories, photos, photocopies of photos, audio tapes, hand drawn maps and charts. Their stories must be known and shared with others. Preparing this book and sharing these stories are my most wonderful accomplishment.

This book is dedicated to my mother's brothers and sisters, Johanna, Katy, Molly, Henry, 'Chuck', Ernie and Richard Veller. This book is an adventure in reality publishing.

Thumbnail Volga German chronology*

ITEM #s 101 & 102

1764-1766 about 25-27 thousand people** leave Europe for the Volga Russia, many are from Hesse

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1874 German-Russian's exemption from Russian military service repealed

1876 German Russians begin leaving Russia

1897 Russian census shows approximately 1.79 million ethnic Germans living in Russia

Turn of the century emigration of about 300,000 German Russians to North and South America

1907-1913 peak period of Volga Germans leaving Russia

1924-1941 "Volga German Autonomous Republic" exists as part of the *RSFSR*

1930 Chicago area has approximately 30,000 first and second generation Volga Germans (*Sallet*)

1970 approximately 1.8 million people with German ancestry living in Russia

1970 approximately 1.8 million German Russians living in America

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This work is a compendium of history and family stories of the Volga Germans from colony Krasnoyar, (Krasnojar-German spelling). Included are reasons and stories for emigrations from Germany c. 1766 to the Volga, Russia and the later spread of this ethnic group through out the world. Included in this work are personal recollections, maps, charts, photos and lists of names identifying some of these people.

ISBN 0-9679706-4-4

*reference pg 372, **From Catherine to Khrushchev**, © 1974, 1981 ISBN 0914222058, available from AHSGR

**about seven thousand families

The Volga Germans
Krasnoyar (aka Krasnojlar), Chicago, Everywhere
Volume 1 - Their stories, their words
A compendium of history and family

October, 2001
researched, compiled, edited and published by
George Valko, Chicago, Illinois 60614

In his latest book, George Valko has assembled a great collection of Volga information under "one roof," so to speak. Using a wide variety of sources, which he credits generously, George relates the stories of those Volga Germans who lived along the Karaman River; emigrated to Chicago, IL and Sheboygan, WI; those who were deported to Siberia in 1941; and of the survivors who, when the Berlin Wall fell, became the Aussiedler. Woven into this landscape are the stories of George's ancestors.

The book has plenty of maps, charts and photos along with personal family recollections of life in Russia as well as in the USA and especially Jefferson Park in Chicago. Many of the more interesting remembrances are from Valko's Franz and Veller cousins. Since I grew up in the Mayfair neighborhood [adjacent to Jefferson Park] of Chicago the street names and other identifying landscape mentioned were familiar to me and I could picture reminiscences clearly.

George has spent ten years corresponding with Volga Germans in Germany and Russia. You can read first hand experiences as they were deported from their beloved Volga to the Trudarmee in Siberia. I especially liked the discussion regarding "Beinamen, clan names and nicknames" - how, why and when they were used. The nicknames have always fascinated me because they are used in all ethnic groups to further define the person one is trying to identify.

My criticism with the book is mainly cosmetic. It would be easier reading if there had been more use of white space. For example: spacing between many of the paragraphs; blank pages between the individual chapters and essays. As it is, one section runs into the next which probably only annoys former journalism students like myself.

If you wish to purchase a copy of the Valko book please contact George Valko, 325 W. Belden, Chicago, IL, 60614, phone 773.477.8619. Check out his website at: <http://www.georgevalko.com>

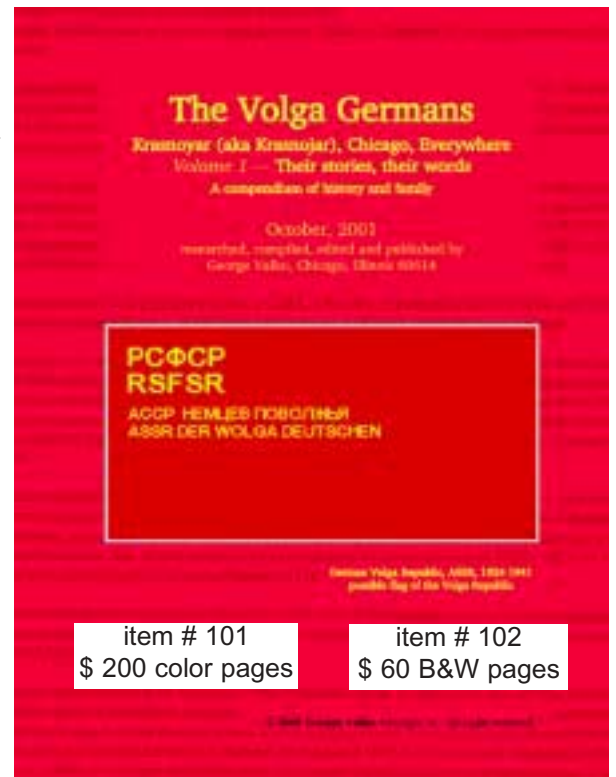
330 pages, 8½×11, plastic comb binding, color covers, photos, maps, charts



Subject: Volume 1, your Volga German Book
Date: Fri, 28 Dec 2001 19:13:18 EST
From: PaulK@aol.com
To: george@georgevalko.com

Hi George:

Just finished reading your book "The Volga Germans" and it was very well done. I read the entire book and it brought back some memories from days gone past. I can see where it took 10 years to put it together and put it on paper. Your family has to be proud of your achievement. Cheers from Florida Paul K



Spring Issue, 2002, page 3
Northern Illinois Chapter Newsletter, American Historical Society of Germans from Russia
Book Review by Carolyn Gorr

**The Volga Germans
Krasnoyar (aka Krasnojar), Chicago, Everywhere
Volume 2 — Their stories, their words
FRANZ / FRANTZ family**

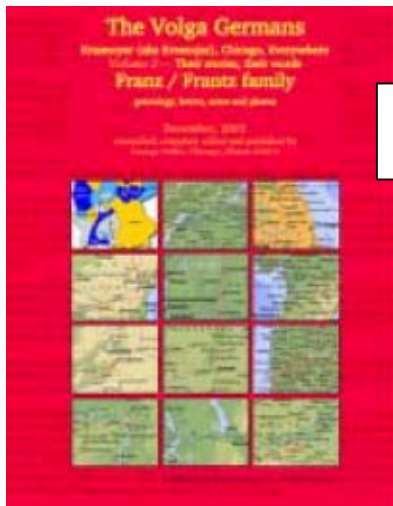
**January, 2002
researched, compiled, edited and published by
George Valko, Chicago, Illinois 60614**

George Valko's The Volga Germans, Krasnoyar, Chicago, Everywhere — Volume 2 features the genealogy, letters, notes and photos of his FRANZ/FRANTZ families.

If you think you do not have a FRANZ in your family tree you may want to think again — and take a good look at this book. As I read through this volume I discovered a couple of connections to the Gorr family tree that I am researching. I also ran into a FRANZ family that lived in the same apartment building that I did, as a kid growing up in Chicago.

Volume 2 of Valko's life work is rich and thorough in its genealogy documentation, maps and photography. George has FRANZ family members documented in Germany, Russia, Siberia, Argentina and the USA. George corresponds via email as through the postal system and has collected an unbelievable amount of information regarding his relatives.

This book becomes part of our NIC AHSGR Library as soon as Librarian Jerry Amen processes it. However, if you wish to purchase a copy of this volume or any of George Valko's other books please contact him at 773.477. 8619. Or write to him at 325 W. Belden Ave., Chicago, IL 60614. His email address is george@georgevalko.com Check out his web site which is <http://www.georgevalko.com>



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773.988.8619 voice
773.935.9967 fax

george@georgevalko.com