



GD Bildung und Kultur

Programm für lebenslanges Lernen



Immigrants Past and Present - Towards Greater Integration?

Heritage Centre Letter (Board 6) : An ethnic German from Russia and his long odyssey to Seelze

Alois Lautenschläger is born in the village of Aschaga-Djain (the Crimea peninsula) as the ninth of eleven children in 1915. After his mother's death his father remarries and the family now comprises 17 children.

Alois takes on the school rolls in 1923, later becomes an apprentice in a tiny village shop and then works as a book-keeper. He marries Katharina Lang and their first son Otto is born.

In 1938 he is arrested for reasons of 'sabotage' and 'anti-Soviet agitation'; gets free after two years.

Following the invasion of the Soviet Union by German troops in 1941 the family is forced to move on: first to the Caucasus Mountains then to Kazakhstan.

The newborn son Viktor dies during the transport. The Lautenschläger family is put up in the village of Kasanka in northern Kazakhstan.

In April 1942 Alois L. is put as a forced labourer into the encampment of Tschelabinsk. He is informed against and condemned to five years' imprisonment, regains his liberty after 2 1/2 years in 1946.

Now he encounters for the first time his son Alexej, born in 1943.

In 1949 their fourth child Ludmilla is born.

After Alois's renewed imprisonment in Petropawlowsk (from 1952 until the amnesty in 1963), the family moves to Belowka, later to Aktjubinsk.

In 1990 the Lautenschlägers emigrate to Germany and - following their friends' advice - find a new home in Seelze.

In 2003 Katharina L. dies and Alois follows her three years later. They had been married for 66 years.

A number of family members still live in Seelze.