

**ON THE SWISS VOLHYNIANS WHO CAME TO AMERICA
AFTER THE MAIN GROUPS LEFT RUSSIA IN 1874**



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THE SWISS VOLHYNINIANS WHO CAME TO AMERICA AFTER THE MAIN GROUPS LEFT RUSSIA IN 1874:

INTRODUCTION:

It is common knowledge in Swiss Volhynian circles that the major portion of the clan came to America during the great Mennonite emigration from Russia in 1874. The first to cross the Atlantic Ocean was the Zahoriz Congregation from the Dubno vicinity in Russia. They came on the S.S. City of Richmond in two groups, docking at New York Harbor 05/18/1874 and 07/27/1874. The Horodyszczce and Waldheim Congregations followed on the S.S. City of Chester which docked in New York 08/24/1874. The last group was the Kutusovka Congregation which came on a later voyage of the S.S. City of Richmond arriving in New York 08/31/1874.

It may not be as well known that as many as twenty Swiss Volhynian families remained in Russia when the four groups departed. Many of these immigrated later but a few remained in Europe indefinitely. In this report we are focused upon the dozen or so families that remained in Russia but came later to America in the months and years that followed the departure of the four main groups.

The documentation reviewed in this effort are the manifests or passenger lists of the steamships that carried Swiss Volhynian passengers to America. These hand written documents were filed by the captains of the steamships upon arrival at the Port Authority in New York and provide basis in fact for this study.

In this work an effort is made to identify the Swiss Volhynian passengers listed in the manifests and to correlate them with the available genealogical data. A number of "ship-lists" have been published in the past which list the names of Swiss Volhynian passengers from the main groups that left Russia in 1874. Here we will try to present passenger list information for about 66 individuals who came after the main groups.

James W. Krehbiel (2006) provides previous study in his paper: "The Story of the Schweitzers who stayed behind in Ukraine in 1874" [Kr06]. His discussion is available via the SMCHA website <Monthly Features>. The reader is referred to Krehbiel's research as a considerable amount of information conveyed there will not be reiterated here. At the same time it is hoped that this study will provide answers to some of the questions that arise from Krehbiel's work as well as some additional information.

The research for this work commenced in 2006. The hunt for ship records has been a formidable task. There were as many as 37,471 voyages which carried about 4.5 million German and Russian immigrants to America during the period 1834 to 1897. The Swiss Volhynians came during the period of greatest activity. After eleven years one begins to think it is time to report as one might have found all the information that one is going to find. Even so this report is considered preliminary and may be subject to updates in the future, depending.

There is some nomenclature that the reader may find confusing or obscure. An explanation of such is offered at the end of this document.