

THE STORY OF ELSA AND OTTO BECKER'S FAMILY AND PARASKEVA SUHAREVA



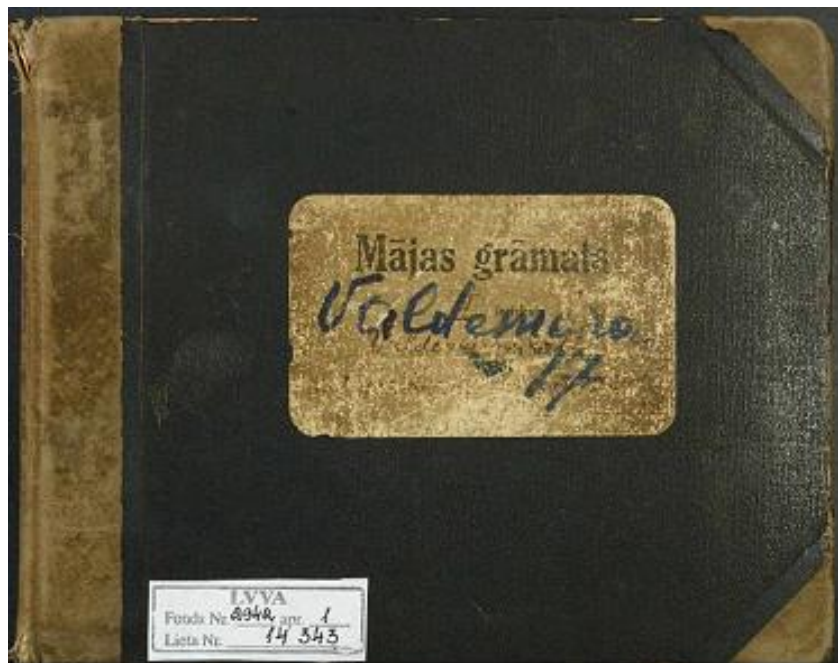
Old genealogy of their family given by Otto Becker's daughter's son.

The stages of the Elsa and Otto Becker family from Russia through Finland, Latvia and the war to Germany in the years 1915 – 1945.

In the introduction, I will write about my mother-in-law's mother, but I will soon return to the Beckers, because they are the subject and matter of this essay. Why have I researched the Becker family? They are not related to me or my wife. My wife's mother, Paraskeva Suhareva, came to Finland as a servant of the Becker family in 1917 or at the latest in 1920. Documents in Russia and Finland give different information about the time of her arrival in Finland, and things can no longer be confirmed anywhere. The same inaccuracy is also found in the Becker family information. According to tradition, the Beckers and Paraskeva escaped from Russia to Finland via Poland. There is no confirmation of this in the archives of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is equally possible to arrive in Finland via the shortest route from St. Petersburg to Hämeenkylä in Kanneljärvi, about 80 kilometers. I researched the Becker family, hoping that they might have some information that would help me find my wife's family in Russia. Would they perhaps have a photo or document of their servant. After two years of close work, I received an email from St. Petersburg in December 2021. A Russian genealogist had found Borovaja ulitsa 26 in the house register and information about Becker's family and their servant Paraskeva.



The house book of Borovaja Ulitsa contains information about the Becker family and Paraskeva



The cover of the house book is from the house book Valdemāra iela 17 in Riga, i.e. from the time when the Beckers lived in Latvia.

According to the house register at Borovaja ulitsa 26, Paraskeva got a passport in 1912 from the Tserepovets region and went to St. Petersburg. He arrived at Borovaja ulitsa 26 in 1916 from Olgino and left for Finland on May 27, 1917.

The Beckers also arrived at Borovaja Ulitsa from Olgino. Otto Becker officially left the apartment on July 31, 1918 and moved to Olgino. According to the house register, Elsa Wilhelmina Becker left for Finland on September 26, 1918, at the same time as the family of merchant Albin Bade. The family had spent a lot of time in Kanneljärvi because Elsa Becker's family had several villas there, such as Hertzfeldt, Bohne and Milhan.

№ квартиры	Старый и новый улицы и дома	Фамилия или отчество владельца, квартира или улица, дельце и номер участка по плану или, с/з записочный лист	№	№	№	№	№	№	№	№	№	№	№	№	№	№	№	№	№	№	№	№	№
				Роды, смерти, браки разрешения или отказы гражданства и др.								Время работы Владельцами или другими лицами, с/з указанием размера				По какому делу выдана, от кого подана, к кому, за номером № и за какой срок				Когда и куда уехали			
		<i>Беккерей</i>																					
		<i>Савостьянов</i>																					

The house register contains information about the Beckerei and Albin Baden family's move to Finland.



Elsa Becker also owned a villa in Kanneljärvi. In the picture above is Elsa Becker in middle and her brother and mother Olga Beinroth



On March 9, 1917, Otto Becker bought a villa from the merchant Carl Björklun in addition to the villa already owned by Elsa Becker.

It appears from the immigration lists of the namesake circle of the Uudenkirkko Suomen that the Becker family came to Finland on June 6, 1919, and the last notification of being in Finland begins on November 1, 1921. 1.5.1922 is marked as the end, but by then they were already in Latvia. Every six months, foreigners came to register with the name man.

Paraskeva's first attendance notice is 27 May 1920 – 1 November. 1920. His first name is mentioned as Pararaskovia and his age is given as 25 years. Paraskeva's second period is 4 November 1920 – 1 May 1921

Kihloissa

Oli Veiss.
Vilho Lonka

Uusikirkko. Vuokseniska.

Passa Suharova
Ville Määttänen

Uusikirkko.

Kauniit kihlat
 estate
Eino Koivulan
 Kultasepänilikkeestä,
 Punas. läht. apiteekkitalo.

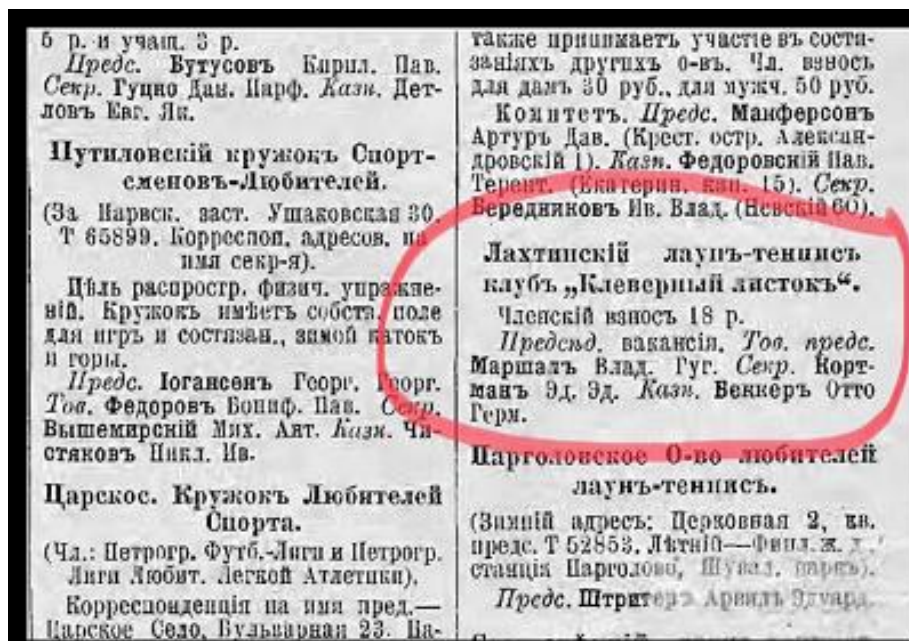
Kuolleita

Announcement in Karjala newspaper 13.11.1920. Paraskeva Suhareva married Ville Määttänen on March 6, 1921, and thereby obtained Finnish citizenship.

In Russia, Otto Becker worked as Albin Bade's branch manager. The Beckers belonged to the German congregation in St. Petersburg.



In St. Petersburg, Otto Becker belonged to the same sailing club as the Tsar.



Otto Becker was the secretary of the Lahta tennis club west of St. Petersburg.

Nr. 1 Name der verheirateten Eltern: Becker Vatersname: Beck
 Beruf: Kaufmann Geburtsjahr: 18 Geburtsort:
 Geburtsort:
 Geburtsort des Vaters: Waldpommern, Neuzem

Nr. 2 Geburtsname der Mutter: Beck Vatersname: Beck
 Geburtsjahr: 53 Geburtsort:
 Geburtsort:
 Geburtsort des Vaters: Waldpommern, Neuzem

Nr. 3 Geburtsname der Mutter: Becker Vatersname: Herrmann
 Beruf: Kaufmann Geburtsjahr: 18 Geburtsort:
 Geburtsort:
 Geburtsort des Vaters: Waldpommern, Neuzem

Nr. 4 Geburtsname der Mutter: Becker Vatersname: Herrmann
 Beruf: Kaufmann Geburtsjahr: 18 Geburtsort:
 Geburtsort:
 Geburtsort des Vaters: Waldpommern, Neuzem

Nr. 5 Geburtsname der Mutter: Becker Vatersname: Herrmann
 Beruf: Kaufmann Geburtsjahr: 18 Geburtsort:
 Geburtsort:
 Geburtsort des Vaters: Waldpommern, Neuzem

Nr. 6 Geburtsname der Mutter: Becker Vatersname: Herrmann
 Beruf: Kaufmann Geburtsjahr: 18 Geburtsort:
 Geburtsort:
 Geburtsort des Vaters: Waldpommern, Neuzem

Nr. 7 Geburtsname der Mutter: Becker Vatersname: Herrmann
 Beruf: Kaufmann Geburtsjahr: 18 Geburtsort:
 Geburtsort:
 Geburtsort des Vaters: Waldpommern, Neuzem

a) Ich verheiratete mich, als ich noch keine Zwanzig und keinen Eltern und Großeltern gerade habe.
 b) Ich bin nie verheiratet, das heißt, ich habe keine Zwanzig und keinen Eltern und Großeltern gerade habe.

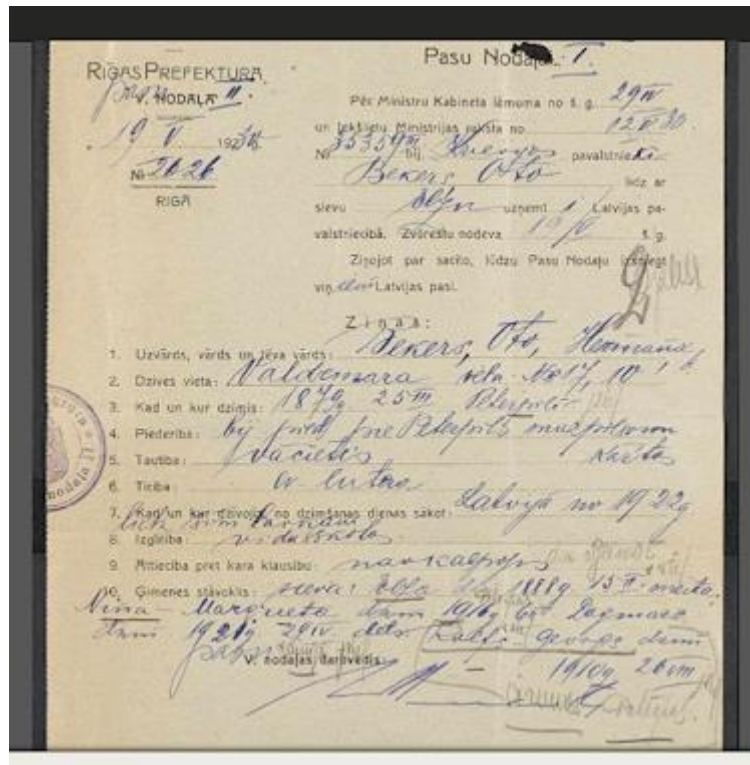
P. 1111 am 2. November 1911

[Signature]

Das Antragsformular ist gültig, wenn
 die Eltern nicht in der Ehe sind.

Kopie aus dem Bundesarchiv

The Beckers left Finland for Latvia at the turn of 1921 – 1922. Daughters Nina and Dagmar told about it when they got married during the war. Wartime marriage papers give an accurate picture of the phases of families, also from the point of view of genealogy. Everyone had to tell very precisely about their family for three generations.



Family received Latvian passports in 1930. Everyone's passport information and much more can be read both on Latvian websites (<https://raduraksti.arhivi.lv/> and <http://ciltskoki.lv/>) and on the LDS Church's Family Search website.



In Latvia, the Becker family belonged to the German congregation. They lived right in the center at Valdemare iela 17, almost opposite the Latvian National Art Museum.

The Hertzfeld family belonging to Elsa Becker's family also lived in the Waldemare Iela 17 house. Elsa's mother Olga Beinroth also lived in the house for a short time, but then moved to Kanneljärvi in Finland to her sister Karoliina Milhan.



The house where the Beckers lived during the war 1941 – 45, i.e. Buddestrasse 8, nowadays Rosevelta 8 in Posen/Poznan

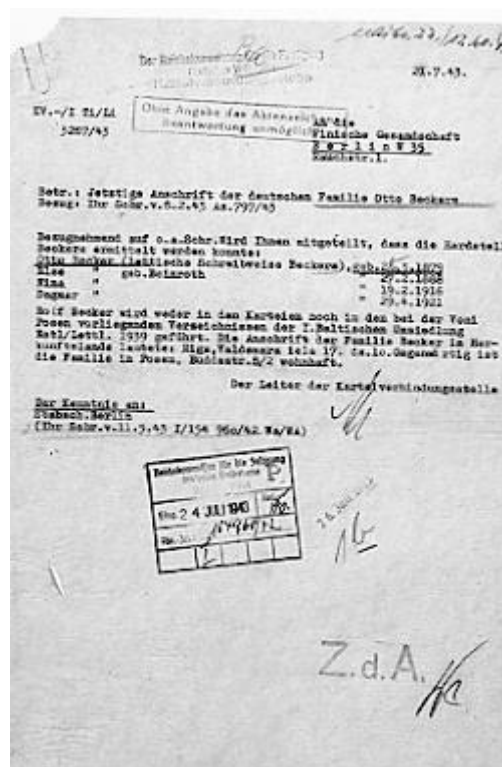
Both Olga and Karoliina were buried in the Kanneljärvi cemetery in Finland. Kanneljärvi is currently part of Russia, but used to belong to Finland. Both Karoliina and Olga applied for Finnish citizenship. Of the sisters, Karoliina got Finnish citizenship because she was married to German capolerra master Friedrich Milhan. Olga did not get Finnish citizenship because she was a subject of the Soviet Union when she moved to Finland. Several house records can be read on Latvian websites, as well as the house record of Valdemare Iela 17. In Latvia, the Becker family lived a normal life. The children grew up, got married and went to school. Otto Becker had a metalworking company, which he gave to his son Rolf in connection with the Umsiedlung. Elsa owned a bus company, which went bankrupt due to the 1930s depression and workers' strikes. Otto, Elsa, Dagmar and Nina moved to Germany on 13/14/12/1939. Rolf and his wife Irina o.s. Pavlovna and daughter Ija only on February 13, 1941. Was Rolf's spouse of Russian background the basis for the later move or the uncertainty of the overall situation

From Latvia, the family first moved to Grimmen and then later to Posen (Poznan), where they lived at Buddestrasse 8. This apartment was also right in the center. Rolf lived in Hamburg and tried to get permission to move to Posen to help his father. However, he failed to get permission to move.

Elsa had a sewing shop in Posen at Meisterhausstrasse 51 and Otto was a representative of the Jena glass factory at Luisenstrasse 3. Daughters Nina and Dagmar got married during the war. Nina's husband, Karl Scholze, worked part of the time as a guard at the Posen VII camp. Dagmar's husband Erik Barz served at the end of the war in the 19th Latvian Division. Erik Barz was wounded and was given permission to wear warm clothes. The entire Becker family survived the difficult stages of the war. The stages of Rolf's wife Irina and daughter Ira are unknown.

Elsa, Otto and the daughters fled Posen in January 1945. The family settled in Hamburg. Otto died on November 3, 1963. He tried until the end to get compensation from the German state for the property left in Finland, Latvia and Posen, but without success.

In just under 30 years, the Becker family experienced four big moves, when they had to take all their possessions with them. The first move/escape was only 80 kilometers from St. Petersburg to a villa in Kanneljärvi. The escape may have taken place on a Polish cargo ship. The move from Finland to Latvia took place peacefully and according to his own schedule at the turn of 1921 – 1922.



At that time, the Beckers still had two villas in Finland, regarding which the Finnish government tried to get in touch with them during the war.

The most difficult move was perhaps the last escape, which took place on January 22, 1945 from Posen when the Soviet troops were already on their heels.

The family members survived these stages of the Second World War all alive. Otto and Elsa and their children Rolf, Nina and Dagmar are buried with their spouses in West Germany. One of the family's children, Edith was born on February 6, 1909 and died in 1914 in St. Petersburg. He is buried in St. Petersburg.

Elsa and Otto had three grandchildren, one for each of their children who lived to adulthood. Rolf's child was born from his first marriage with Irina Pavlovskaya. Rolf and Irina moved separately already in 1940, but nevertheless moved together to Germany on February 13, 1941. The final divorce took effect on May 6, 1941. There is no information about the life course of mother (Irina) and daughter (Ira or Ija). The two cousins who were still alive hadn't even heard of Rolf's daughter. The connection had been lost. If any genealogist can find out the life of mother and daughter during and after the war, I would be grateful for the information. With the information, I would bring the story of the Becker family to a final conclusion. Maybe Rolf's child or grandchild would be interested in cousins still living in Germany?

While following the steps of the Becker family, I also learned a lot about the history of Europe and how small a person is when people think about each other. At school, my history teacher said about someone that "he is the interpreter of his time". The Becker family is an interpreter of the Germans who lived in Russia, who fled the country after the Russian Revolution, and of the suffering that the Second World War also caused the Germans when the war swept across Central Europe and drove them as refugees to new places of residence.

I have compiled a more extensive report with all attachments on my website. The writings are there in Finnish, German and Russian at www.reijomolanen.fi

I also have several hundred documents from German archives. I have officially acquired them from there in the correct order. If you want clarifications or additional information, you can contact me. My contact information is on my homepage.

I have also translated the reports into Russian. Elsa and Otto Becker were subjects of Russia (Soviet Union) until the end of the 1920s. They spoke German and Russian. And until the very end, for example, festive times were spent in the Becker family in the authentic Russian way - according to the long formula - abundantly enjoying all the food on the table.

For me, following the life stages of the Becker family gave a good result in the end. I found the home and family of my wife's grandmother Paraskeva Suhareva in the Tserepoveti region. At the time of this writing, in November 2023, at least one of my wife's mother's cousins lives there, as well as several of my wife's second cousins. It's war again. Meeting the relatives would of course be a long-term wish. Now there seems to be no chance of that happening.

Otto Becker fled Russia with his wife and children during the Russian Revolution. However, part of Otto's family remained in Russia, such as his mother Anna, his sister Emma and his brother Rickhard. Among them, Rickhard was sentenced to death in Stalin's persecutions. Interrogation information was found in the archives of the Russian secret police, which partly helped in following the family's tracks after they had left Finland. Russian police archives said that Richard's brother lives in Latvia.

In many different stages of my research, I have received a lot of help and support and good advice from genealogists in Russia, Finland, Latvia, Poland and Germany and in various archives. There are several examples of them in the "links" on my homepage.

My website www.reijomoilanen.fi

I thank everyone. I wouldn't have succeeded alone.

Reijo Moilanen

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