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Sometimes treasures are hidden away, then forgotten. For nearly a century after the Romanovs were executed pictures of their lives (mostly before the Revolution) were stored in a crate in the Science and Media Museum (in Bradford, England). If anyone once knew about the photographs, taken by an English tutor who had worked for the Romanov family, the information wasn't passed along.

One day Natalia Sidlina, while researching materials about Soviet cosmonauts, found 22 albums in what appeared to be a champagne crate. The albums—and the photos inside—had been put together by the English-language tutor who was teaching the Tsar's nieces and nephews. As a result of this astonishing discovery, Ms. Sidlina helped to prepare a special exhibit for the Science Museum (called "[The Last Tsar: Blood and Revolution](#)"). This image depicts one of those photos, showing Nicholas II with his son (Alexei), his daughter (Tatiana) and his nephew (Prince Nikita Alexandrovich). Click on the image for a really good view.

In 1977, while he was first secretary of the Sverdlovsk Region, Boris Yeltsin gave an order to destroy the Ipatiev House. It had become a kind of shrine for pilgrims. For more than twenty years thereafter, the only evidence of its existence was a white cross. Since 2003, a new church—the Cathedral of the Blood—marks the place where the Romanovs were killed.

After the Tsar was executed, headlines in the *Ural Worker* (the local paper) told of his death, but not the deaths of his family members:

*EXECUTION OF NICHOLAS, THE BLOODY CROWNED MURDERER SHOT WITHOUT
BOURGEOIS FORMALITIES BUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR NEW DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES*

Because no one was sure what had happened to the Tsar's children, folks began to speculate whether some of the family members had survived. Most notably, a young woman named Anna Anderson surfaced in Germany in 1920, after surviving a suicide attempt.

Although she did not speak Russian, the young woman seemed to know a great deal about Russian protocol and she looked like the Tsar's youngest daughter, Anastasia. Many people thought she was Anastasia.

Anna Anderson died an old woman, in 1984. She was cremated but a hospital had preserved a section of her intestines which had been removed years before her death. Her DNA was compared to the DNA of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh (a Romanov relative). They did not match.

Meanwhile, in Canada, a man called "Heino" died of a blood disorder in 1977. His tombstone says:

*His Imperial Highness, Alexei Nicolaievich, Sovereign Heir, Tsarevich, Grand Duke of Russia,
August 12, 1904, June 26, 1977*

It's interesting to compare pictures of "Heino" to the picture of Alexei. But how could "Heino" claim to be Alexei? Yurovsky said he and his colleagues burned Alexei's body after they killed him. And—even more unlikely—how could a hemophiliac survive the Ipatiev blood bath?

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WHO-REALY-DIED-Death-of-a-Tsar-Romanov-Execution>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WHO-REALY-DIED-Death-of-a-Tsar-Romanov-Execution>

Media Stream



Anna Anderson - Looked Like Anastasia

Image online, courtesy freewebs.com.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Anna-Anderson-Looked-Like-Anastasia>



Cathedral on the Blood

Image online, courtesy of the Yeltsin Presidential Library.

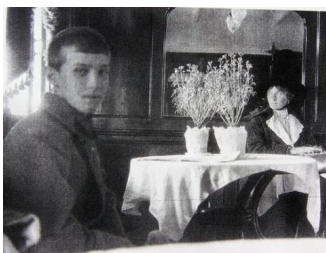
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Heino Tammet

Image online, courtesy the romanov-memorial.com website.

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Alexei, Heir to the Russian Throne, in Exile

Image online, courtesy Alexander Palace and Wikimedia Commons.

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Grand Duchess Anastasia with her Sisters in 1906

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Destroying the Ipatiev House

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Ipatiev House - Last Home of Tsar Nicholas II

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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Russian Cross Marks Location of Demolished Ipatiev House

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