AWESOME stories

- 0. WHO REALLY DIED? Story Preface
- 1. GIVE US BREAD
- 2. WORLDS APART
- 3. NICHOLAS OUT-OF-TOUCH
- 4. ENTER RASPUTIN
- 5. RASPUTIN THE HEALER... RASPUTIN THE DECEIVER
- 6. RASPUTIN'S MURDER
- 7. NICHOLAS LOSES THE THRONE
- 8. HOUSE ARREST
- 9. EXECUTION IN SIBERIA
- 10. THE DEATH SCENE
- 11. ANGUISH FOR THE GIRLS
- 12. WHERE WERE THE BODIES?

13. WHO REALLY DIED?

- 14. ARE THESE ROMANOV BONES?
- 15. EIGHTY YEARS LATER
- 16. THE ROMANOV FAMILY

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 Englishlanguage 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 "<u>The Last Tsar: Blood and</u> <u>Revolution</u>"). 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 <u>destroy</u> the <u>lpatiev</u> <u>House</u>. It had become a kind of shrine for pilgrims. For more than twenty years thereafter, the only evidence of its existence was a <u>white cross</u>. Since 2003, a <u>new church</u>—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 <u>she looked like</u> the Tsar's youngest daughter, <u>Anastasia</u>. 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 "<u>Heino</u>" to the picture of <u>Alexei</u>. 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: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WHO-REALLY-DIED-Death-of-a-Tsar-Romanov-Executi</u> on

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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

Media Stream



<u>Anna Anderson - Looked Like Anastasia</u> Image online, courtesy freewebs.com. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Anna-Anderson-Looked-Like-Anastasia</u>



<u>Cathedral on the Blood</u> Image online, courtesy of the Yeltsin Presidential Library. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Cathedral-on-the-Blood</u>





<u>Heino Tammet</u> Image online, courtesy the romanov-memorial.com website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Heino-Tammet</u>

<u>Alexei, Heir to the Russian Throne, in Exile</u> Image online, courtesy Alexander Palace and Wikimedia Commons. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Alexei-Heir-to-the-Russian-Throne-in-Exile</u>









<u>Grand Duchess Anastasia with her Sisters in 1906</u> Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Grand-Duchess-Anastasia-with-her-Sisters-in-1906

Destroying the Ipatiev House Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Destroying-the-Ipatiev-House</u>

<u>Ipatiev House - Last Home of Tsar Nicholas II</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ipatiev-House-Last-Home-of-Tsar-Nicholas-II

Russian Cross Marks Location of Demolished Ipatiev House

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Russian-Cross-Marks-Location-of-Demolished-Ipatiev-House