

0. WHO REALLY DIED at IPATIEV HOUSE? - Story
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This image depicts three skulls which Dr. Alexander Avdonin and Gely Ryabov unearthed from a grave site, at the Pig's meadow, in 1979. Although they believed the skulls were murdered Romanov-family members, the two men reburied the skulls (deciding it was better to publicize their findings in the future, when the political climate might improve). Photo, compliments Dr. Alexander Avdonin, online via SearchFoundationInc.org.

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 local Ural Worker 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, which initially made DNA testing virtually impossible. She always claimed she was Anastasia, although recent tests say she was not.

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-at-IPATIEV-HOUSE-Nicholas-and-Alexandra>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WHO-REALY-DIED-at-IPATIEV-HOUSE-Nicholas-and-Alexandra>

Media Stream



Destruction of the Impatiev House

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Destruction-of-the-Impatiev-House>



Ipatiev House

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

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ipatiev-House1>



Impatiev House Site - Marked by a White Cross

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Impatiev-House-Site-Marked-by-a-White-Cross>



Cathedral on the Blood - Site of the Romanov Executions

Image online, courtesy of the Yeltsin Presidential Library.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Cathedral-on-the-Blood-Site-of-the-Romanov-Executions>



Anna Anderson

Image online, courtesy freewebs.com.

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Anastasia and her Sisters

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Anastasia-and-her-Sisters0>



Heino - Claimed to be Alexei

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

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Heino-Claimed-to-be-Alexei>



Alexei - Photo

Image online, courtesy the npsnet.com website.

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