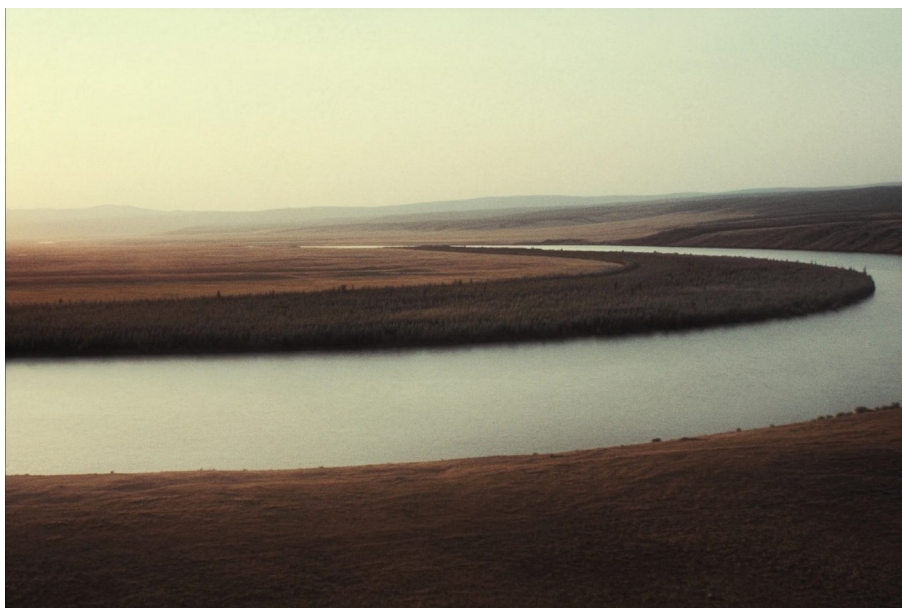




*The Argun river valley at dawn. Artist's reconstruction.*

A FAMILY HISTORY BRIEF

# The Tokmakovs

## ТОКМАКОВЫ

### *Origins, Migrations and Descendants*

From the Nerchinsk frontier and the Argun river, through Manchurian Trekhrechye, to Australia and the wider world — c. 1650 to the present

#### ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This is a research brief, not a proven pedigree. It sets out the documented history of the world the Tokmakov family came from, period by period, and shows exactly where a family of that name would appear in the surviving records at each stage.

Everything here is marked for its evidential weight. Where a fact is documented in a cited source, it is stated plainly. Where it is inference, it says so. Where the record is silent, it says that too — because in family history a clearly marked gap is worth more than a confident guess.

Prepared for Alex Tok · tok.info family tree project · August 2026



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## I. How to read this document



ou asked for the origins of the Tokmakov family, its descendants, and its migration to other countries and to Australia, period by period. That is exactly the shape of this brief — but it needs one honest preface, because the honesty is what will make the rest of it useful to you.

No Tokmakov ancestor of yours has yet been identified in any record. What follows therefore does two things at once. It tells the documented history of the specific world your family came from — the Transbaikal Cossack frontier, the Manchurian settlements, the exodus to Australia — in enough detail that you can recognise your own family story inside it. And it identifies, at every stage, the precise record set in which a Tokmakov of that generation would have been written down, so that the narrative can be turned into a proven pedigree.

Everything in this brief is graded. The grading is not decoration; it is the difference between family history and family legend.

| Grade                   | What it means                                                           | How it is used here                                                       |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Documented</b>       | Stated in a named published or archival source, cited in section XXIII. | Written as plain fact. You can repeat it.                                 |
| <b>Inferred</b>         | Not stated anywhere, but a reasonable reading of documented facts.      | Always signposted — "probably", "the likely reading is", "this suggests". |
| <b>Not found</b>        | Actively searched for and not located.                                  | Stated openly. A marked gap is a research target, not a failure.          |
| <b>Family testimony</b> | Something your relatives remember or say.                               | Recorded as testimony and labelled as such — never silently upgraded.     |

### The two documents this brief is built on

You supplied two sources, and they turn out to sit at exactly the two ends of the story.

- *Ю. В. Аргудяева, «Из России в маньчжурское Трёхречье: исход русских казаков и крестьян после Гражданской войны»* (Ойкумена. Регионоведческие исследования, 2019, № 2, pp. 27–36). **This is the Russian end.** Yulia Argudyaeva of the Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography of the Peoples of the Far East (Vladivostok) reconstructs, settlement by settlement, how Transbaikal Cossacks founded the Trekhrechy villages, who founded each one and in what year, and in which year the Russians left each one. It names Australia explicitly as a destination for three of them.
- *Elizabeth Ivanov, "Life with the Russian Émigré Community of Australia"* (Jordan Russia Center, 23 April 2021). **This is the Australian end.** A Stephen Cohen Fellow who teaches Russian in Sydney describes the community those settlers became: the surviving split between "urban" Harbin families and "village" Trekhrechy families, the churches that organised along that line, soy sauce in

the pelmeni, the two-day weddings, and the observation that in a community this small "everyone is related in one way or another."

Between those two documents lies a gap of thirty years and eight thousand kilometres. Filling that gap — with the Soviet invasion of 1945, the Chinese communist years, Hong Kong, the ships, and the Australian camps — is most of what this brief does.

## II. The name Токмаков

### ETYMOLOGY • VARIANTS • THE PRINCELY NAMESAKES

You chose Tokmakov (Токмаков) as the primary spelling for this document, with Tokmokov noted as a variant. That is the right choice for research purposes, because Токмаков is the form under which Russian archives index the name — and an archivist searching for Токмоков will usually find nothing.

### What the word means

The surname is formed from the ordinary Russian noun **токмак** — a heavy wooden mallet, beetle or rammer: the tool used for tamping earth, driving piles and pounding grain. Vasmer's etymological dictionary classes it as a borrowing from Turkic, with direct cognates in Turkish *tokmak*, Tatar *tukmak* and Kyrgyz *tokmok*, all meaning a wooden hammer or club. Related Russian forms include *токмарь* and *токмачка*, a shoemaker's hammer.

The verb **токмачить** means "to strike, to beat, to pound", and the old idiom «*дать токмача*» meant to punch someone. Both Familio and Rodnaya Vyatka, the two main Russian surname databases, therefore derive the surname from a personal nickname *Токмак* applied to a man who was stubborn and hard-headed, or fond of a fistfight — a "blockhead" or a "bruiser", by metaphor from the tool. The nickname then took the standard possessive ending *-ов* and became hereditary.

### Three competing derivations

Three explanations circulate in the literature. They should be kept apart, because two of them are much weaker than the first.

| Derivation                                                                                        | Where it comes from                                   | Assessment                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| From the nickname Токмак, "mallet" → a stubborn or pugnacious man                                 | Familio; Rodnaya Vyatka; analizfamili.ru              | Mainstream, and overwhelmingly the most likely for ordinary bearers such as Cossacks and peasants.                                                              |
| From a Turkic personal name Tokmak carried by a Tatar or Turkic servitor entering Russian service | analizfamili.ru, and implicit in the Turkic etymology | Plausible for some individual lines. Not demonstrable for any particular family without documents.                                                              |
| From Тимофей Вельяминович «Токмак» Зерно, late 15th century                                       | dic.academic.ru                                       | Treat with caution. The Velyaminov-Zernov line produced the Saburovs and Godunovs, not the princely Tokmakovs. This looks like an error in that reference work. |

#### THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT POINT ABOUT THE SURNAME

Токмак was an everyday tool-word, present in dialects right across the Russian-speaking world. The surname is therefore polygenetic — it arose independently, many times over, in families with no relationship to one another.

Bearing the name Tokmakov implies no shared descent with any other Tokmakov line. Any connection between two Tokmakov families has to be proved with documents or with Y-DNA. It can never be assumed from the name.

## The princely Tokmakovs — and why they are not your family

There was a princely family of the name. The **князья Токмаковы** descended from Prince **Иван Васильевич Токмак Ноздроватый-Звенигородский**, first mentioned in 1538, whose nickname became the branch surname. They were a cadet line of the Zvenigorodsky princes and thus Rurikids, by way of the Nozdrovatys. Ivan Tokmak's sons Yuri (d. 1578) and Vasily Ivanovich Tokmakov-Zvenigorodsky were both voivodes under Ivan IV; Yuri is strongly associated with Pskov. A third generation is represented by Ivan Yuryevich "the Black" Tokmakov-Zvenigorodsky.

They served по Коломне и Кашире — in central Muscovy — and they were a small, heavily documented court family that died out well before Russians reached the Argun. There is no evidence of any kind connecting them to Transbaikal Cossack Tokmakovs, and there are good reasons to think there is nothing to connect: the Transbaikal bearers appear in the records consistently as rank-and-file Cossacks rising to junior officer, which is the trajectory of a Cossack estate family, not of displaced princes.

Recommended wording if this ever comes up at a family gathering: *"We share the surname with a sixteenth-century princely family, the Tokmakov-Zvenigorodskys. There is no connection. The name was formed independently many times from an ordinary Russian word, and our people appear in the record as Cossacks of the Transbaikal Host."*

## The variants, and what to search

- **Токмоков** — not documented as a separate surname with its own etymology. It is almost certainly an orthographic variant of Токмаков produced by unstressed-vowel reduction (аканье/оканье), exactly the kind of variation that appears freely in 18th- and 19th-century Siberian metric books, where the same family is written both ways in successive entries. Expect both spellings in the same parish register.
- **Токмачёв** — formed from the same root by a different route: *токмач* (an agent-noun from *токмачить*, attested by Dahl) plus *-ёв*. It is an etymological cousin, not a spelling variant. Do not treat Токмачёв and Токмаков as the same surname without documentary linkage.
- **In Latin script** the name has been rendered, at minimum, as Tokmakov, Tokmakoff, Tokmakow, Tokmacoff, Tokmakof, Tockmakoff, Tokmokov and Tokmakova. The rule of thumb: the pre-revolutionary and émigré convention, French-influenced and standard on Harbin-issued travel documents, rendered *-ов* as *-off*; post-war Anglophone convention rendered it *-ov*. A document issued in Manchuria is more likely to say *Tokmakoff*; a 1960s Australian document, *Tokmakov*. Search both, everywhere, always.

## A note on the toponyms

There are towns called Tokmak in Kyrgyzstan (Chuy oblast) and in Ukraine (Zaporizhzhia oblast, founded 1784 on the river Tokmak). Both take their names from the same Turkic root — the Kyrgyz one from *tökmök*, "to pour", referring to the river, or alternatively from *tokmok*, "club"; the Ukrainian one from its river. The surname and the toponyms share an etymon and nothing else. A Transbaikal Cossack family named Tokmakov is not "from Tokmak". This is one of the commonest errors in amateur Russian genealogy and it is worth naming so nobody in the family makes it.

### III. Before 1851 — Siberia, Nerchinsk and the Argun

C. 1650 - 1851 • HOW RUSSIANS REACHED THE FRONTIER THE FAMILY LATER CROSSED

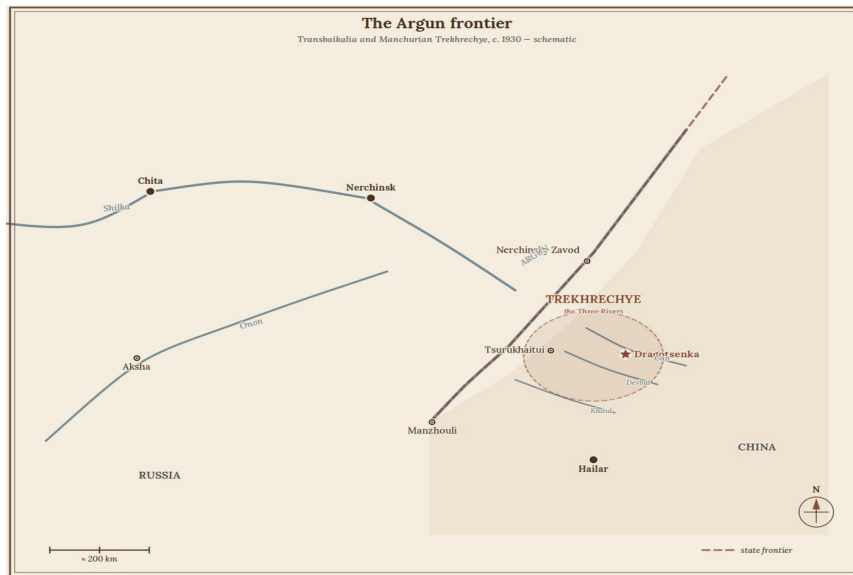


*A Transbaikalian Cossack settlement in winter. Artist's reconstruction.*

The Tokmakov story begins on a border that did not exist yet. Russian Cossacks and servicemen pushed east across Siberia through the seventeenth century, reaching the Amur basin in the 1640s and clashing with the Qing. The Treaty of Nerchinsk (1689) — the first treaty ever signed between Russia and China — pulled the Russians back from the Amur and fixed a frontier that would, in time, run along the Argun river. Nerchinsk itself became the administrative anchor of the whole region.

What made Transbaikalia distinctive was silver. The Nerchinsk mining district, worked from the early eighteenth century, tied a large settled population to the state as *горнозаводские крестьяне* — peasants ascribed to the mines. Alongside them lived frontier Cossacks strung out along the border in small posts and settlements, and the Tungus (Evenk) and Buryat formations that Russia had incorporated into its border service.

This is the population that the family came from, and its two components matter for research. Familio records Tokmakov bearers linked to *Нерчинск* (Nerchinsk district) and to *Хада-Булак* in the Borzinsky district — both squarely inside this world.



The Argun frontier: Transbaikalia, the river, and the Three Rivers beyond it. Schematic map drawn for this brief.

## The Argun as a working landscape, not a wall

The most important thing to understand about the Argun, and the thing that makes the later migration comprehensible, is that for the people who lived along it the river was not a barrier. Argudyaeva puts it plainly at the opening of her article: Transbaikal Cossacks, mainly from the Argun-line stanitsas, had visited the almost uninhabited Trekhrechy on the Chinese bank "from long ago", driving their herds and horse-droves across to graze. In summer they mowed hay there and sometimes broke the fertile virgin soil for a crop. In winter they lived on their *займки* — outlying homesteads — with their cattle, and hunted hooved and fur-bearing animals in the forest zone.

In other words: two generations before any Tokmakov fled across the Argun as a refugee, families like theirs had already been crossing it every year as graziers. When the moment came, they were not going into the unknown. They were going to the far pasture.

*Отдельные русские хутора появились в Трехречье ещё в конце XIX в. — Individual Russian farmsteads appeared in Trekhrechy as early as the end of the nineteenth century.*

— Argudyaeva 2019, p. 27



Cossacks riding out across the steppe.



A horse herd driven across a ford.

## IV. 1851-1900 — The Transbaikal Cossack Host

THE ESTATE THE FAMILY BELONGED TO

On **17 March 1851**, by decree and on the initiative of Governor-General N. N. Muravyov, the **Забайкальское казачье войско** — the Transbaikal Cossack Host — was created. It absorbed the existing frontier regiments, the Transbaikal town regiment, and the Tungus and Buryat formations. To make up the numbers, the peasants ascribed to the Nerchinsk mining works and their descendants were permanently enrolled as Cossacks.

That last clause is worth pausing on. It is the single most likely mechanism by which a family carrying an ordinary Russian nickname-surname — Tokmakov, "mallet" — became a Cossack family. This is inference, not documented fact for your family specifically: no source names any Tokmakov among the 1851 enrolments. But it is the mechanism to test first, and it explains the pattern.

By the early twentieth century the Host held roughly ten million desyatinas of land and was divided into four military departments — Troitskosavsk, Aksha, Nerchinsk and Nerchinsky Zavod — comprising 63 stanitsas and 515 settlements. The Cossack estate was formally abolished by the constitution of the Far Eastern Republic in 1921.



A Transbaikal Cossack trooper, c. 1900.



A Russian farming woman of the Manchurian steppe, 1930s.

*The two figures above are invented. No photograph of any Tokmakov ancestor has been found; these are painted reconstructions of how a Cossack of the Host and a settler woman of the next generation would have looked and dressed. They are here to furnish the imagination, not the record.*

## The documented Tokmakov Cossacks

Tokmakovy are listed in the canonical roster of «забайкальские фамилии» — the recognised set of old Russian settler and Cossack surnames of Transbaikalia — alongside the Taskaevs, Tashlykovs, Tonkikhs, Toporkovs, Trukhins and Turushevs. Familio's surname distribution data confirms the pattern from the other direction: the two largest concentrations of Tokmakovs in Russia today are Kursk oblast and Zabaykalsky Krai.

The best documented body of Transbaikal Tokmakovs comes from the awards lists of the Знак Отличия Военного Ордена (ЗОВО, the soldier's Cross of St George) for the China campaign of 1900–1902, compiled by the Chita historian V. Yu. Aprelkov. Eight Tokmakov Cossacks appear, every one of them Transbaikal, every one decorated in Manchuria.

| Name                                     | Rank and unit                                        | Home stanitsa        | Award and action                                                             |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Токмаков Василий                         | Junior uryadnik, 1st Verkhneudinsk Cossack Regt      | Staro-Durulguevskaya | ЗОВО 4th cl. No. 85492 — taking of Old Niuzhuang, 11 Sept 1900               |
| Токмаков Иван                            | Cossack, 1st Chita Regt                              | 1st Chindantskaya    | ЗОВО 4th cl. No. 90846 — taking of Hunchun fortress, 17 July 1900            |
| Токмаков Иннокентий                      | Vakhmistr, 1st Nerchinsk Cossack Regt, 5th sotnya    | Durulguevskaya       | ЗОВО 4th cl. No. 90246 — action at Ijou, 12 Feb 1901                         |
| Токмаков Иоаким Митрофанович (1879–1939) | Podkhorunzhy, 1st Nerchinsk Cossack Regt, 4th sotnya | Durulguevskaya       | ЗОВО 4th cl. No. 90841 — action at Xiao-Sythe, 15 Dec 1900                   |
| Токмаков Мефодий                         | Cossack, 1st Chita Cossack Regt                      | 1st Chindantskaya    | ЗОВО 4th cl. No. 90848 — taking of Hunchun fortress, 17 July 1900            |
| Токмаков Пётр                            | Cossack, 1st Chita Cossack Regt                      | 1st Chindantskaya    | ЗОВО 4th cl. No. 90844 — taking of Hunchun fortress, 17 July 1900            |
| Токмаков Пётр (second of the name)       | Cossack, 1st Verkhneudinsk Cossack Regt              | 1st Chindantskaya    | ЗОВО 4th cl. No. 90134 — skirmish with khunkhuz bandits, 20 March 1901       |
| Токмаков Фёдор                           | Junior uryadnik, 1st Verkhneudinsk Cossack Regt      | 1st Chindantskaya    | ЗОВО 4th cl. No. 90206 — expedition into Eastern Manchuria, March–April 1901 |

Read that list as a family document rather than a military one and two things stand out. First, the award numbers 90844, 90846 and 90848 are near-consecutive and belong to three Tokmakovs — Pyotr, Ivan and Mefody — decorated for the same action on the same day in the same regiment. That is the signature of brothers or close cousins serving together in one sotnya. It is inference, not stated in the source, but it is a strong one and it is testable in the regimental service records.

Second, the whole cluster sits in two stanitsas of the Onon basin — 1st Chindantskaya and Durulguevskaya, in Akshinsky uezd, an overwhelmingly Cossack district where in 1910, of 42,127 inhabitants, 41,779 were Cossacks. Add the village of Верхний Цасучей on the Onon (see section XVI) and the picture is consistent.

## The officers

Alongside the rank and file, at least six Tokmakovs held commissions in the Host. Their careers are recorded in the Imperial Russian officer database [ria1914.info](http://ria1914.info).

- **Токмаков Александр Матвеевич (13 March 1867 - 15 October 1944).** Irkutsk military gymnasium 1883; junior uryadnik 1884; served in the 1st Mounted Regiment of the Host; rose to lieutenant-colonel by 1914. In the China campaign of 1900 he commanded the 2nd sotnya, crossing into China on 2 July 1900. Senior adjutant of the 2nd military department; in the First World War, intendant of the 3rd Separate Transbaikal Cossack Brigade. Orders of St Stanislas 3rd and 2nd class, St Anne 3rd and 2nd class, St Vladimir 4th class with swords. **City head (городской голова) of Chita, 1920-21. Emigrated to Harbin and died there on 15 October 1944.**
- **Токмаков Александр Константинович (b. 10 September 1892).** Son of a retired sotnik. Khabarovsk Cadet Corps 1911; Pavlovskoe military school; khorunzhy in the 1st Chita Regiment from 6 August 1913. Wounded on reconnaissance near Prutsko, 1 November 1914; rose to esaul. **Emigrated to China; chief of security of the Russian colony at Hankow, 1919-1923;** in 1927 serving as an officer in a cavalry brigade with White Far Eastern forces.
- **Токмаков Иван Константинович (b. 17 June 1878, Primorskaya oblast).** Siberian Cadet Corps 1897; Nikolaevsky Cavalry School 1899; khorunzhy in the 2nd Transbaikal Cossack Battery. In 1900 he fought at Aigun (17 July), Yakshi (1 August) and the Khingan (11 August). Podyesaul by 1915, senior adjutant of the 2nd military department, still in post on 1 January 1920. St Anne 4th class "For Bravery". Served on the White Eastern Front.
- **Also:** Токмаков Алексей Васильевич (podyesaul, 1st Chita Regiment; head of the Host saddlery workshop, 1918); Токмаков Иван Матвеевич (khorunzhy, Host forestry administration); Токмаков Михаил Константинович (sotnik, head of workshop, Host administration).

The patronymics repeat suggestively — Alexander Matveyevich and Ivan Matveyevich; Alexander, Ivan and Mikhail Konstantinovich, the last three plausibly the sons of that retired sotnik. None of this is stated in the sources and it must be treated as hypothesis. But it points at a substantial, multi-branch Cossack service family rather than a handful of unrelated men who happened to share a name.

### THE ONON PROBLEM — AN OPEN QUESTION WORTH STATING PLAINLY

Every documented Transbaikal Tokmakov located so far comes from the Onon basin: the 1st Chindantskaya and Durulguevskaya stanitsas, and the village of Verkhny Tsasuchey, all in Akshinsky uезд.

But the Trekhrechye settlers came overwhelmingly from the Argun-line stanitsas — Tsurukhaitui, Olochi, Duroi, Chalbuchi, Klyuchevskaya, Dono — because Trekhrechye lies directly across the Argun from them. A targeted search for Tokmakovs in those Argun stanitsas found nothing.

Two readings are possible, and neither has been tested. Either an Onon-district Tokmakov family moved east to the Argun line at some point before 1920 — reassignment between departments and internal resettlement were both common between 1851 and 1900 — or there is a separate Argun Tokmakov presence that has simply never been digitised. Familio linking bearers to Nerchinsk and Khada-Bulak, both

east of the Onon cluster, makes the second reading quite possible.

This is the single question a BREM file would settle, because the registration form names the stanitsa of origin. See section XXI.

## V. 1900-1917 — Manchuria, the China campaign and the railway

### THE GENERATION THAT FIRST WENT INTO CHINA IN UNIFORM

The Tokmakov generation born in the 1870s and 1880s went into Manchuria twice before any of them went as a refugee — first as soldiers, then as neighbours of a Russian railway city.

The Boxer Uprising of 1900 brought Russian columns across the border in force, and the Transbaikalian Host was in the front rank of it. Every one of the eight decorated Tokmakov Cossacks listed in the previous section won his cross on Chinese soil: at Hunchun in July 1900, at Old Niuzhuang in September, at Xiao-Sythe in December, at Ijou in February 1901, and in the sweep into eastern Manchuria in the spring of 1901. Alexander Matveyevich Tokmakov led his sotnya across the frontier on 2 July 1900; Ivan Konstantinovich Tokmakov fought at Aigun, Yakshi and the Khingan pass that same summer.

The result was a generation of Transbaikalian Cossacks who knew Manchuria personally — its roads, its towns, its winters, and the fact that a Russian could live there. That familiarity is the quiet precondition for everything that follows in 1920.

### Harbin and the Chinese Eastern Railway



*A Russian street in northern Manchuria in winter, 1930s. Artist's reconstruction.*

The second thread is the railway. The Chinese Eastern Railway, built from 1897, cut across northern Manchuria and created Harbin — a Russian city on Chinese soil, with Russian churches, schools, a polytechnic, newspapers and a Russian administration along the line. Hailar, the market town nearest to Trekhrechye, was a station on that line. For the Argun-line Cossacks, Hailar and later Harbin became the places where you bought a mowing machine, sold your wool and sent your children to secondary school.

Argudyaeva notes that Trekhrechye farmers later bought their tractors, reapers and threshers — mostly foreign-made — in Hailar and in Harbin. The railway did not just

move Russians into China; it made a Russian economic world there that a Cossack family could join without ceasing to be itself.



*A train crossing the winter plain — the railway that made a Russian world in Manchuria. Artist's reconstruction.*

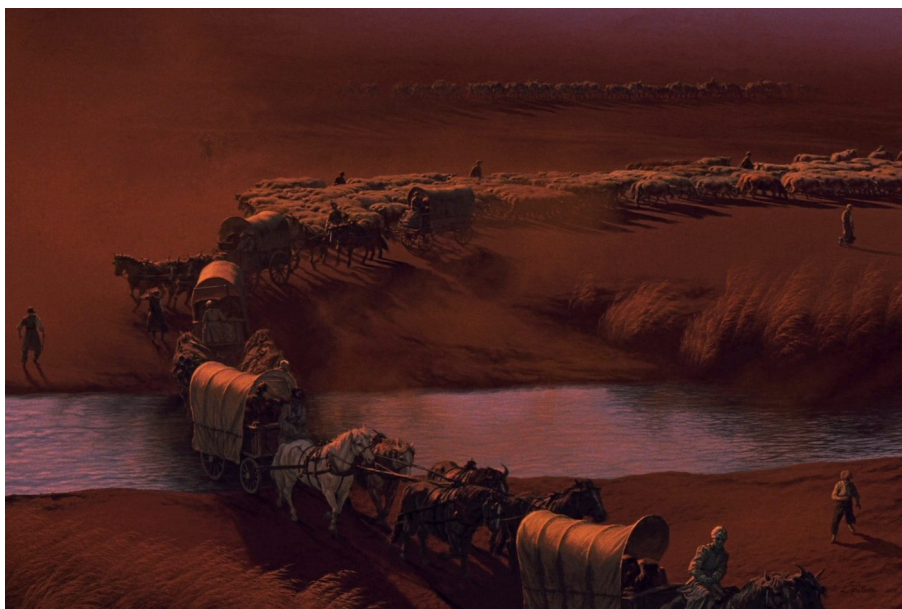
## **The First World War, and what it settled**

Argudyaeva records a small but decisive change in the war years. The owners of the farmsteads and *займки* on the Chinese side, "having lived through the First World War, stopped returning home to their left-bank Argun Cossack settlements and stanitsas, brought their families out of Transbaikalia, and took up permanent residence along the Khaul."

That is the hinge. Before 1914 the Chinese bank was a seasonal pasture. After 1918 it was where some of these families actually lived. When the Civil War broke, the road out was already worn smooth.

## VI. 1917-1922 — Revolution, Civil War and the crossing

THE YEARS THE FAMILY BECAME ÉMIGRÉS



A river crossing at dusk: families, wagons and herds. Artist's reconstruction.

The Transbaikalian Host was, in the main, on the losing side. Ataman Grigory Semyonov held Chita and the Transbaikalia with Japanese backing through 1919 and into 1920; when that position collapsed, his forces and the remnants of Kolchak's and Kappel's armies were pushed east and south into Manchuria. The Cossack estate was abolished outright by the Far Eastern Republic constitution in 1921.

*В годы революции и Гражданской войны в России, в Трёхречье устремился поток беженцев, отходили разгромленные красными части атамана Семёнова и других вожakov белого движения. В этот период казаки, не принявшие советскую власть, с семьями, скотом и имуществом активно переправлялись через р. Аргунь на китайскую сторону.*

In the years of revolution and civil war in Russia, a stream of refugees poured into Trekhrechye, and the units of Ataman Semyonov and other leaders of the White movement, broken by the Reds, withdrew there. In this period the Cossacks who had not accepted Soviet power actively crossed the Argun to the Chinese side with their families, their livestock and their property.

— Argudyaeva 2019, p. 28

The detail in that passage is what makes it a family document. They did not flee with a suitcase. They crossed with their families, their herds and their property — which is to say, they moved a working farm across an international river. Argudyaeva records that in the riverside districts of the Khaul they dug землянки, dugouts, then built houses, sowed grain and mowed hay. The population of the Khaul basin grew several dozen times over from refugees out of Siberia, Transbaikalia and Primorye.

Argudyaeva names the route as well. The settlement of Щучья (Shchuchye), founded in 1880 by I. Peshkov and D. A. Derevnin, was the gate: "it was precisely through it, in the 1920s, that the broken units of Semyonov's, Kolchak's and Kappel's men, and several thousand refugees, mostly from prosperous Transbaikal Cossack families, withdrew into Trekhrechye and further into the depths of Manchuria."

**IF YOUR FAMILY CROSSED IN THIS WINDOW**

A Tokmakov family that came over between 1918 and 1922 would have been, in the language of the community, part of the original refugee wave rather than the later "тридцатники" — the "thirty-ers" who fled collectivisation around 1930.

This distinction was live inside Trekhrechye society and it is recorded in the BREM registration forms, which asked when and by what point the person crossed the border. It also mattered a great deal in August 1945: Wikipedia and the Encyclopaedia of Transbaikal both note that the NKVD sweep fell especially hard on the тридцатники, who were treated as Soviet citizens who had absconded.

## VII. 1920-1931 — Trekhrechy

ТРЁХРЕЧЬЕ · THE THREE RIVERS · THE WORLD THE FAMILY BUILT



A Russian settlement in Trekhrechy: log houses, a wooden church, flocks on the steppe. Artist's reconstruction.

Trekhrechy is the basin of the right-bank tributaries of the Argun — the Gan, the Derbul and the Khaul — in the north-western corner of the Chinese autonomous region of Inner Mongolia, on the Hulunbuir plateau. It lies immediately across the river from Russian Transbaikalia, and its natural conditions are almost identical: the same steppe, the same forest edge, the same brutal winters. That similarity is the whole point. The Cossacks who settled there were not adapting to a foreign country. They were continuing a familiar life on the other bank.

*В итоге в Трёхречье возникли русские поселения, сохранявшие, в практически сходных с Забайкалем природных условиях, традиционный, присущий только русскому населению жизненный уклад.*

The result was that Russian settlements arose in Trekhrechy which preserved — in natural conditions almost identical to Transbaikalia — the traditional way of life peculiar to the Russian population alone.

— Argudyaeva 2019, p. 27

The Chinese authorities did not obstruct the colonisation of what was then an almost empty region. Through the 1920s and 1930s the Russians spread out along the Derbul and the Gan. By 1945 there were more than ten thousand Russians in sixteen settlements and three outlying hamlets; other counts give nineteen villages and around twelve thousand people. A Russian census figure taken at the end of 1944 gives 9,050 people — 4,739 men and 4,311 women. In the late 1930s and early 1940s Russians were over eighty per cent of the whole region's population.

## The settlements, one by one

Argudyaeva's core contribution, drawing on the fieldwork of A. M. Kaigorodov — himself a native of the region — is a settlement-by-settlement account: who founded each place and when, and in which year the Russians left it. If your family was in Trekhrechye, they were in one of these. The three marked in the final column are the ones Argudyaeva explicitly links to Australia.

### Along the Derbul

| Settlement             | Founded           | Founders and character                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Russians left                                             |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Дубовая (Dubovaya)     | 1880<br>заимки    | First заимки by Yegor Peshkov and Veniamin Volgin. First proper homesteads with log houses, barns and gardens, 1925–26: the brothers Ivan and Ignaty Zolotovskiy, Georgy, Makar and Pyotr Kaigorodov, V. P. Katkov.            | 1955–56; three families stayed to 1975                    |
| Ключевая (Klyuchevaya) | 1885<br>заимки    | Six km from Dubovaya, near the Derbul–Derbukan confluence. Founded by A. A. Volgin, K. L. Zverev and G. Poluektov. About twenty households by 1913; a church was built.                                                        | 1955–56; two families to 1970. → some went to AUSTRALIA   |
| Тулунтуй (Tuluntuy)    | 1882–85<br>заимки | Founded by Zhigalin, Kayukov and the brothers Alexander and Timofey Fomin. By 1945 split into Upper and Lower Tuluntuy by a small creek, with a church and a primary school in the centre. Stock-raising and arable.           | 1955–56; three families to 1965. → some went to AUSTRALIA |
| Попирай (Popiray)      | 1895              | Founded by Kozulin on the Derbul; grew into the settlement reckoned the richest in Trekhrechye by head of livestock.                                                                                                           | 1955–57                                                   |
| Караганы (Karagany)    | c. 1890           | Founded by Fyodor Shirokikh; grew to thirty-five households. Its size was limited by the nearness of the Soviet border and fear of raids. Stock, arable and taiga trades.                                                      | 1956                                                      |
| Щучья (Shchuchye)      | 1880<br>заимки    | Founded by I. Peshkov and D. A. Derevnin; a small (25–30 houses) but wealthy settlement. The gateway through which the defeated White units and several thousand refugees entered in the 1920s. About 200 inhabitants by 1945. | 1956                                                      |

### Along the Gan

| Settlement          | Founded        | Founders and character                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Russians left                   |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Покровка (Pokrovka) | 1925<br>заимки | In the spurs of the Greater Khingan on the Ilgachi. Founded by Pyatkov and Vyryshev. Besides Cossacks it took refugees of other estates — notably Old Believer peasants — and intelligentsia and former workers of the Votkinsk and Izhevsk arms factories, who set up a smithy, a pottery, a sheepskin-coat works and an apiary. Two churches: Old Believer (Protection of the Mother of God, priest Ioann Starosadchev) and New Rite Orthodox (Our Lady of Kazan). Primary school, youth club, arbitration court. | 1955–56; a few families to 1962 |

| Settlement                | Founded             | Founders and character                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Russians left                                          |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Усть-Кули (Ust-Kuli)      | 1907<br>заимки      | On the Gan, twelve km from Verkh-Kuli. Founded by Ye. V. Volgin and Paramonov. Thirty households, a primary school and two churches — Old Believer (Dormition) and New Rite (Protection). Arable, poultry, market gardens, fishing and hunting.                                                      | 1955–57; a few to 1960                                 |
| Лабдарин (Labdarin)       | 1895–1900<br>заимки | Founded by Kargin, Kosyakov and the Kustov brothers. Farming, market gardening and trades; several Chinese families kept two shops and grew vegetables. Primary school; older children went on to Verkh-Kuli or Dragotsenka. Today the Chinese city of Argun, with tens of thousands of inhabitants. | 1955–56; replaced by large parties of Chinese settlers |
| Челотуй (Chelotuy)        | 1914                | Founded by A. P. Morozov on the lower Gan; small, but one of the richest by number of sheep.                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 1955–56                                                |
| Светлоколуй (Svetlokoluy) | 1910                | Founded by I. Ye. Bizyanov; 50–60 households by 1945. Households held 500–1,000 sheep each; the founder's son held over 6,000.                                                                                                                                                                       | 1956                                                   |

### Between the Derbul and the Gan

| Settlement               | Founded           | Founders and character                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Russians left                                                           |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Верх-Кули (Verkh-Kuli)   | с. 1890<br>заимки | Founded by the Transbaikal Cossacks Aksyonov, K. I. Chegodaev and the Chipizubov brothers. Lived by hunting at first; farming only from 1925. Stood at a crossroads, so travellers from every neighbouring settlement stopped there. By the 1930s it had an inn, two Chinese eating-houses and three shops, small butter, cheese and felt-boot works, and branches of the Japanese trading firms Hayashikane and Tomobōeki Kōshi. An Old Believer church (Dormition) built 1911–12 and a later Orthodox church (Protection). Good fields and hay meadows and the nearness of the Hailar market made it first in Trekhrechye for grain and meat. Flocks were beyond counting; they even kept camels. THE LARGEST AND RICHEST SETTLEMENT IN TREKHRECHYE — about 1,500 Russians and 30 Chinese by 1945 (Kaigorodov), or 2,000 Russians (Shakhmatov). | Eviction began 1955. They went very unwillingly; MANY WENT TO AUSTRALIA |
| Драгоценка (Dragotsenka) | 1880–82           | Chinese Sanhe; under the Japanese, Nairumtu; today Sanhe in Ergun city. Founded by F. Kokukhin, A. Kulikov and V. Derevtsov. The centre of the region and its only Cossack stanitsa, to which all the Trekhrechye Cossack settlements were subordinate. See below.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Eviction began 1955                                                     |
| Баржакон (Barzhakon)     | 1922              | Founded by P. D. Bانشchikov and T. I. Lopatin. Arable and stock.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1955                                                                    |
| Лапцарог (Laptsagor)     | 1905              | Founded by P. Bykov. No more than twenty households by 1945 — but no fewer than 1,000 head of stock per household on the surrounding steppe meadows.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 1955–56                                                                 |

| Settlement               | Founded          | Founders and character                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Russians left                                           |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Верх-Урга / Усть-Урга    | 1920             | Verkh-Urga founded by Yermolin and Martemyanov; Ust-Urga at the same time by Kachikov, Sokolov and Fomin. Grain, fishing and hunting. A monastery stood 20 km up the Gan from Ust-Urga.                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 1955–57; some families to 1970–72                       |
| Ширфовая / Усть-Ширфовая | 1930s            | Grew in the upper Gan; reckoned one of the poorest settlements. Many lived by fishing, carting fish round the settlements in winter to barter for wheat and oats, and by exchange trade with the Evenks. Founded, per the archives, by Old Believer hunters who had come across the border and lived for a time on the Eastern Line of the railway. The Holy Trinity monastery stood three km away. | 1956                                                    |
| Нармакчи (Narmakchi)     | after Verkh-Kuli | A small place of 15–20 houses founded by the Pervukhin Cossacks from Argunsk in Transbaikalia. Mainly sheep; the nearness of the Hailar road made selling easy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | The whole Russian population DEPORTED to the USSR, 1956 |



*Dragotsenka, the trading and administrative centre of Trekhrechye. Artist's reconstruction.*

## Dragotsenka — the capital

Dragotsenka deserves its own paragraph, because if your family had business with any authority — a marriage licence, a school for the children, a court case, a doctor, a registration form — this is where they went.

It was founded in 1880–82 by F. Kokukhin, A. Kulikov and V. Derevtsov, and its central position and good dirt-road links to every settlement in the region made it the trading, then administrative, then cultural centre. It was the only Cossack stanitsa in the region, and all the Trekhrechye Cossack settlements were subordinate to it. It was also the one place where Chinese made up a substantial share of the population, keeping small shops, eating-houses, tailors, barbers and inns in what amounted to their own quarter.

By 1944 Dragotsenka held about 3,000 people — roughly 1,500 Russians, 900–1,000 Chinese and 500 Japanese, plus a Japanese garrison of about 300. It had a branch of the great Russian trading house I. Ya. Churin & Co., with a steam roller mill and repair workshops; branches of three Japanese firms; an electricity station; distillery, tannery, felt-boot and butter works; saddlery and machine shops; motor garages; a bakery; a post and telegraph office; an inn; a branch of the People's Bank of China; a Japanese-built military airfield; two joiners' shops, two smithies, three tailors, a laundry, a public bathhouse, three bootmakers, eight canteens and restaurants, two Chinese inns and a Japanese hotel.

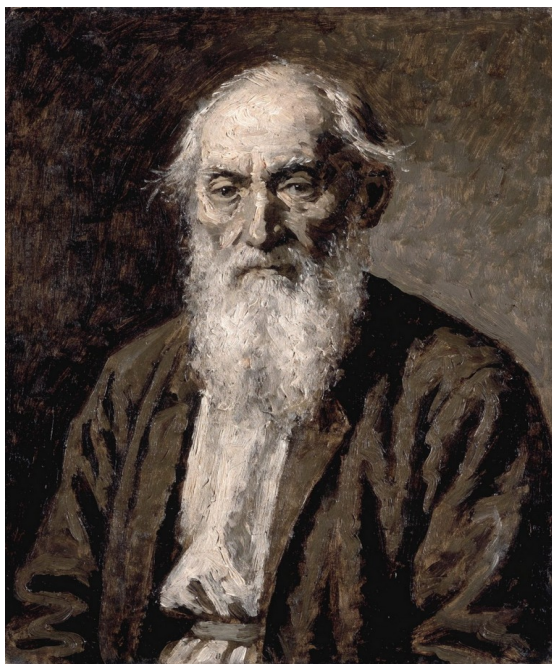
It also held the administration of the South Argun province — as Trekhrechy was renamed under the Japanese — the police and gendarmerie, the Cossack stanitsa administration, the forestry office, a branch of the Japanese mission, a branch of the Bureau for Russian Émigré Affairs, and a hospital with a surgical department. There was a Chinese school and the only Russian eight-year school in Trekhrechy, with workshops and a boarding house where children from the surrounding Cossack settlements lived during term. The Trekhrechy branch of the Bureau published a weekly newspaper, «Казачья жизнь» — Cossack Life. There was a Russian club. And in the centre of the town stood a large cathedral dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul.



*Flocks on the open steppe — the wealth of Trekhrechy before the arable years. Artist's reconstruction.*

## How they lived

The economy shifted twice. At first the settlers lived mainly by hunting and fishing; then stock-raising became the mainstay with a little field crop; and from the 1930s arable farming moved into first place. There was a great deal of free fertile land and the yields were high, so the population moved quickly from small plots "for ourselves" to sowing large areas — at first in the old Transbaikal way with horses and oxen, ploughs and harrows, sickles and scythes, threshing with horse- and water-mills, and later with imported tractors, reapers and threshers bought in Hailar and Harbin.



*An elderly Old Believer man, 1930s.*



*The interior of a village chapel.*

The society was not homogeneous. Argudyaeva divides the Russian settlers by confession into Old Believers and officially recognised Orthodox. Among the Old Believers were both *поповцы* of the Austrian concord — who came mainly from the stanitsa of Dono in Transbaikalia oblast — and *беспоповцы*, priestless Old Believers who emigrated from Primorye in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The *беспоповцы* rarely stayed long in any mixed settlement: their reason for moving on, stated plainly in Argudyaeva, was an unwillingness to live in the same place as the *поповцы* and the officially Orthodox. Several settlements accordingly had two churches, one of each rite.

Alongside the Russians lived Chinese (1,000–1,100 before 1945, mostly in Dragotsenka), Japanese from 1932, and the indigenous peoples — Orochens, who hunted on horseback mainly along the Gan; Evenks, who hunted with reindeer; and Mongols and Buryats, who herded on the steppe and worked as shepherds for the wealthy Russian stock-owners.



A settler family outside a log house in Manchuria, 1930s — the Trekhrechye households ran to as many as twelve children. Artist's reconstruction.

#### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR A FAMILY TREE

Which settlement, and which confession, determines which records exist. An officially Orthodox family appears in ordinary parish metric books. An Old Believer family, before 1905, may appear nowhere in the state church registers at all — or in a separate section, or in police-kept раскольничьи metric books — and Old Believer marriages were legally invalid before 1905, so children can be recorded as illegitimate even in a perfectly stable family.

The BREM registration form asked вероисповедание — confession — directly. One line on one form settles which body of records to search for the previous three generations. See section XXI.



Haymaking on the steppe meadows.



A log house interior: the stove and the icon corner.

## 1929 — the raids

Soviet authorities did not like the emigration, and organised punitive expeditions against it. Argudyaeva records that detachments of Transbaikalian partisans under S. I. Tolstokulakov were especially brutal, making several raids in 1929 across to the right bank of the Argun and the Khaul.

*После их набегов горели избы, погибло немало людей, в том числе стариков и детей. Слабо вооружённые казаки не могли дать отпор карателям. Уцелевшие поселенцы, побросав всё имущество, бежали на р. Дербул и р. Ган.*

After their raids the houses burned and a good many people died, among them old men and children. The lightly armed Cossacks could not fight off the punitive detachments. The surviving settlers abandoned all their property and fled to the Derbul and the Gan.

— Argudyaeva 2019, p. 28

Only a few *займки* and two small villages, Yernichnaya and Karavannaya — where many Chinese men had Russian wives — remained on the Khaul. This is why the map of Russian Trekhrechye after 1929 is a map of the Derbul and the Gan: the Khaul settlements had been burned out.

Independent accounts name the villages attacked in late September and early October 1929 as Tanekhe (Tynykhe), Tsankyr, Komary, Damysovo, Naidzhin-Bulak, Ust-Kuli, Labdarin and Verkh-Kuli. At Tanekhe sixty-two adults and adolescents were shot. Overall more than 140 were killed, more than 600 settlers were carried off into the

USSR, and more than a hundred were shot by Soviet detachments. Named victims include Nikolai Pinegin, aged twelve, and Pavel Bazhenov, aged fifteen.

The published victim lists are incomplete, and no Tokmakov appears in the portion that has been digitised. That is a genuine absence of evidence, not evidence of absence: the lists are fragmentary and there is no complete roll.

## VIII. 1932-1945 — Manchukuo and the BREM years

JAPANESE RULE • COMPULSORY REGISTRATION • THE PAPER TRAIL THAT SURVIVES

In 1932 the Japanese proclaimed the puppet state of Manchukuo, and Trekhrechye was reorganised as the South Argun province with its administration at Dragotsenka. Japanese arrived — soldiers of the small garrison, civil officials, advisers, merchants and teachers — and Japanese trading firms opened branches in Verkh-Kuli and Dragotsenka. A military airfield was built at Dragotsenka. The Japanese also took an ethnographic interest in the region: a study of Russian dwellings and life in Trekhrechye was published in Tokyo in 1943, and Japanese surveys of the Cossack villages of Hulunbuir have since become a scholarly source in their own right.

### BREM — the record that makes this family traceable

In 1934 the Japanese established the **Главное бюро по делам российских эмигрантов в Маньчжурской империи** — the Main Bureau for Russian Émigré Affairs, universally called **БРЭМ / BREM**. Registration with it was compulsory for Russian émigrés in Manchukuo, Trekhrechye included, which was administered through the Hailar branch. Dragotsenka had its own branch office. The Bureau also published the local weekly, «*Казачья жизнь*».

For a family historian this is an extraordinary stroke of luck, and it deserves to be understood clearly. A Japanese surveillance apparatus compelled every Russian adult in Manchuria to fill in a detailed personal questionnaire — and then the Soviet army seized the entire card index in August 1945 and shipped it to Khabarovsk, where it survives to this day as fond P-830 of the State Archive of Khabarovsk Krai. The consequence is that a Transbaikal Cossack farming family in a Manchurian village is, improbably, far better documented than most Russian peasant families who never left home.

The archive's own publicity puts the holding at roughly 56,000 personal files; older references say 44,000 and Familio's guide says "50,000+". Treat 44,000–56,000 as the range.

### What a BREM personal file contains

The core of each file is the анкета, the registration questionnaire, which typically records:

- Surname, given name and patronymic; date and place of birth — often naming the exact Transbaikal stanitsa or посёлок
- Сословие — social estate. "Казак Забайкальского казачьего войска" is the entry that would settle the family's Cossack status in one line
- Вероисповедание (Orthodox or Old Believer), национальность, and подданство — citizenship or statelessness, with the date it changed
- Education, occupation, place of employment and property owned
- Military service — White armies, Semyonov's units, and which regiment of the Host
- Political views and affiliations — a Japanese intelligence field, and often unexpectedly revealing

- Family details: spouse, children with dates of birth, parents, siblings, and relatives left behind in the USSR
- Addresses in Manchuria, and movement history — when they crossed the Argun and at which point
- Photographs, often full-face and profile; sometimes signatures and fingerprints
- Correspondence, permits and references. Files commonly run to 10–60 leaves

A single BREM file would therefore answer, in one document, the questions this whole brief has to hedge: which stanitsa the family came from, whether they were Orthodox or Old Believer, when and where they crossed, who the children were, and what the parents were called. It is the highest-value target in the entire research plan.

## IX. August 1945 — The Soviet army arrives

SMERSH • THE ARRESTS • THE QUARTER OF THE MEN WHO DID NOT COME BACK



*An emptied steppe village in winter. Artist's reconstruction.*

The Soviet invasion of Manchuria began on 9 August 1945. The Transbaikal Front under Marshal Malinovsky crossed into the Hulunbuir and Hailar sector — which is to say, straight through Trekhrechye. The Kwantung Army commander, General Otozo Yamada, surrendered at Changchun on 19 August.

Behind the front came SMERSH. About 150 experienced counterintelligence officers were deployed, coordinated by the deputies Isai Babich and Alexander Misyurev; A. A. Vadis headed counterintelligence for the Transbaikal Front — the formation covering Hailar and Trekhrechye. Operative groups were parachuted into Changchun, Mukden, Port Arthur and Dairen.

Between 9 August and 18 September 1945, SMERSH recorded 2,249 arrests in Manchuria: 317 officials of the Japanese Military Mission, 349 of its agents, 569 Japanese gendarmes, 305 leaders and members of the Russian Fascist Union, 75 leaders and members of BREM, and 162 classed as traitors. Ataman Semyonov himself was taken on 25 August in the suburbs of Dairen with two sons and his uncle. Lieutenant-General Alexander Baksheev — who headed the Transbaikal Cossack organisation in Manchuria — was arrested as "Ataman Semyonov's deputy". Lev Vlasievsky, the former head of BREM, was taken to Moscow, as was the fascist leader Konstantin Rodzaevsky.

That SMERSH return of 2,249 is an operational figure for named political targets. It is not the number of ordinary émigrés deported, and no reliable aggregate for that larger figure could be found. Estimates in the range of ten to fifteen thousand circulate but none could be verified, so none is asserted here.

## What happened in Trekhrechye

For the villages, the number that matters is different and much starker. Two independent sources — the English-language account of Russians in China and the Encyclopaedia of Transbaikalia — give the same figure: after the invasion the security service arrested and deported to the Gulag about one quarter of the male population of Trekhrechye. The livestock was confiscated.

The blow fell hardest on the тридцатники, the families who had fled collectivisation around 1930, because they were treated as Soviet citizens who had absconded rather than as pre-existing émigrés. Anyone who had held any office under the Japanese — and BREM registration made almost every adult legible to the new authorities — was exposed.

### THE AUGUST 1945 FORK IN THE FAMILY ROAD

For very many Trekhrechye families this single month is the point at which the tree splits in two: the men taken east into Soviet camps, and the women, children and old people left with a farm and no livestock.

It is also, brutally, the point at which record-keeping improves. Those arrested appear in Soviet repression records — the Открытый список database, the Memorial lists, and the Книга памяти volumes for Eastern Transbaikalia — which give arrest date, charge, sentence, camp and, where it applies, rehabilitation. Anyone whose Tokmakov ancestor vanished in 1945 should search there before searching anywhere else.

Mara Moustafine, whose family history of Harbin is the standard account of using the BREM archive for genealogy, describes the same events from the city end: "thousands of innocent émigrés... were rounded up by Soviet military intelligence agents of SMERSH and deported to prison camps in the USSR", the offence often being no more than having represented their community to the Japanese authorities.

## X. 1945-1955 — Under Chinese communist rule

COLLECTIVISATION · THE VIRGIN LANDS CAMPAIGN · THE CHOICE

The People's Republic was founded on 1 October 1949. The Russian farming settlements of Trekhrechye — private graziers with large flocks, in a state now committed to collectivisation — had no long-term future, and everybody in them knew it. The demographic record is unambiguous.

| Year | Russians in Trekhrechye        | Note                                                                          |
|------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1928 | 2,130 (of 2,330 total)         | The refugee wave settling in                                                  |
| 1933 | 5,519                          | Swelled by the тридцатники fleeing collectivisation                           |
| 1945 | c. 11,000 (of c. 13,100 total) | The peak. 16 settlements and 3 hamlets; 19 villages by another count          |
| 1955 | c. 3,000                       | After a decade of arrests, confiscation and the first Virgin Lands departures |
| 1972 | 23                             | Effectively the end                                                           |

### The Virgin Lands campaign

The Soviet целина — Virgin Lands — campaign was announced on 18 April 1954, and recruitment among the Russians of China followed almost immediately. The Encyclopaedia of Transbaikalia dates the beginning of departures for the Soviet virgin lands to 1954. Argudyaeva frames the whole exodus the same way: the Russians left Trekhrechye "by agreement between the Chinese and Soviet authorities", predominantly for the opening up of the virgin lands in the USSR, "and a part of them set off for Australia and other countries of the Asia-Pacific region."

The offer was, on its face, generous: land, machinery, wages and a homeland. For a family that had been farming for thirty years on someone else's soil under three successive foreign administrations, going home to Russian territory had an obvious pull. For a family whose men had been taken by SMERSH in 1945, it had an equally obvious terror. That is the choice, and it is the reason one Trekhrechye village could scatter to Kazakhstan and to Queensland in the same year.

### A caution about the numbers

Large repatriation figures circulate for this period — 6,005 families and 27,216 people leaving China for the USSR in 1954; 9,509 families and 49,179 people in the first half of 1955; 11,705 families and over 75,000 people in 1958–59. These come from Kazakhstani research on resettlement from the PRC, and they are overwhelmingly Kazakh and Uighur movements out of Xinjiang, not Manchurian Russians. They are useful for showing the scale and the machinery of the campaign. They should never be quoted as Trekhrechye figures.

A broader claim of around 100,000 Russians repatriated from China during the 1950s appears in lower-confidence sources and has not been corroborated here.

### **The clearance, and what can honestly be said about it**

Argudyaeva and Kaigorodov between them give the year of departure for every settlement, and the pattern is stark: 1955 for Barzhakon and the beginning of eviction at Verkh-Kuli and Dragotsenka; 1955–56 for Dubovaya, Klyuchevaya, Tuluntuy, Pokrovka, Labdarin, Chelotuy, Laptasgor; 1956 for Karagany, Shchuchye, Svetlokoluy, Shirfovaya and the deportation of the whole Russian population of Narmakchi; 1955–57 for Popiray, Ust-Kuli and Verkh-Urga. A handful of families held on much longer — three in Dubovaya until 1975, two in Klyuchevaya until 1970, some at Verkh-Urga until 1970, at Ust-Urga until 1972.

Argudyaeva uses the word выселять — to evict, to resettle by force — of Verkh-Kuli and Dragotsenka, and says of Verkh-Kuli that its people went "very unwillingly". Narmakchi's population is described flatly as депортировано, deported. What could not be located in the wider sources is a specific 1955–57 clearance order, and no such order should be asserted. The documented sequence is: 1945 arrests, confiscation of livestock, collectivisation, tselina recruitment from 1954, evictions and departures from 1955, a softening of PRC policy towards the White Russians from 1956 as the Sino-Soviet split opened, and general permission to emigrate to third countries from 1962.

*Русских начали выселять из Драгоценки в 1955 г. ... Жителей Верх-Кули начали выселять из посёлка в 1955 г. Уезжали очень неохотно; многие уехали в Австралию.*

The Russians began to be evicted from Dragotsenka in 1955 ... The inhabitants of Verkh-Kuli began to be evicted from the settlement in 1955. They left very unwillingly; many went to Australia.

— Argudyaeva 2019, pp. 32–33

## XI. 1954-1968 — The dispersal

### ONE COMMUNITY, FOUR CONTINENTS

The Encyclopaedia of Transbaikial summarises the outcome: the Chinese authorities subsequently permitted emigration to Australia, Brazil, Argentina and Bolivia; by the late 1960s most departures were complete; and in 1968 the last Russian families moved to Kazakhstan, later settling in Krasnoyarsk Krai and the Priargunye. The English-language account adds that most of the Russians who stayed on emigrated to Australia or Latin America after the Chinese government permitted it in 1962.

Argudyaeva names Australia three times in her settlement notes — for Klyuchevaya, for Tuluntuy, and, most emphatically, for Verkh-Kuli, the largest and richest settlement of them all, of which she writes simply "многие уехали в Австралию", many went to Australia.

| Destination                                                               | Who went                                                                                                                                                                          | Roughly when               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| USSR — Kazakhstan virgin lands, later Krasnoyarsk Krai and the Priargunye | The majority. Those who believed the amnesty, those with family still inside, those with nothing to fear from a Soviet file                                                       | 1954-1968, peaking 1955-57 |
| Australia                                                                 | The largest third-country destination for Trekhrechye people. Sponsored through the churches and the intergovernmental migration bodies, staged through Hong Kong                 | Mainly 1957-1965           |
| Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia                                      | Substantial numbers, especially Old Believer communities who wanted land and distance from any government                                                                         | Late 1950s onward          |
| United States and Canada                                                  | Especially the Shanghai and Tubabao stream, and Old Believers who moved on from South America                                                                                     | 1949-1960s                 |
| Old Believers of Pokrovka specifically                                    | Moved to the Greater Khingan in the 1930s; after the war refused to return to the USSR, emigrated to South America, then to Oregon, then to Alaska, where they founded Nikolaevsk | 1950s-1960s                |

That last row is Argudyaeva's, and it is worth keeping in mind as a caution against assuming a single destination. One village on the Gan sent people to the Greater Khingan, then to South America, then to Oregon, then to a village in Alaska. Trekhrechye families did not scatter tidily.

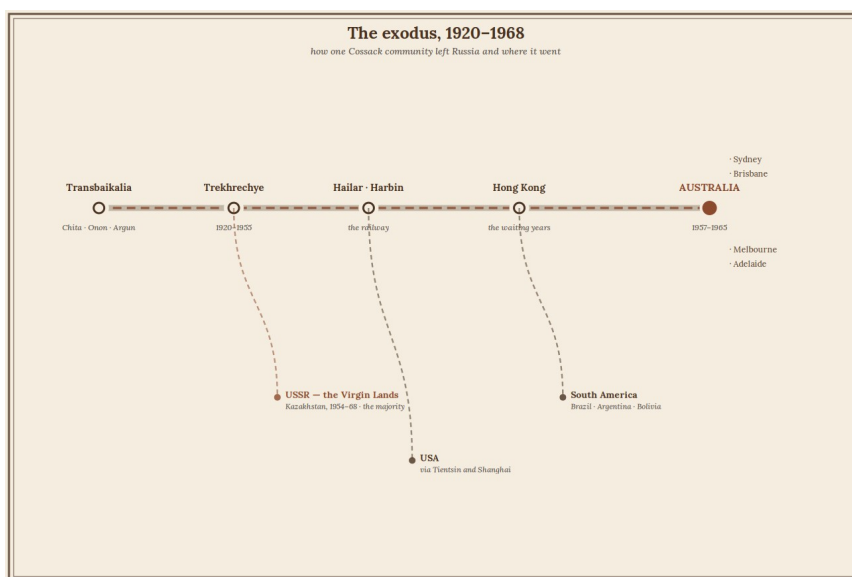
## XII. The road to Australia

HARBIN • HONG KONG • THE AGENCIES THAT MOVED PEOPLE



A migrant ship at the wharf in an Asian harbour, late 1950s. Artist's reconstruction.

Nobody sailed from Trekhrechye. A family leaving Verkh-Kuli or Tuluntuy for Australia in the late 1950s made a journey in stages: by road and rail to Hailar, along the old Chinese Eastern Railway to Harbin, then the long haul south through a communist China to the border at Shenzhen, and across into Hong Kong. There they waited — often for months, sometimes years — in boarding houses and cheap hotels paid for by international agencies, until a country took them.



The exodus: how one Cossack community left Russia and where it went. Drawn for this brief.

## Hong Kong

Around 20,000 White Russian refugees passed through Hong Kong from mainland China after 1949. The bottleneck was severe: in 1952, the IRO's final year, only 880 people departed Hong Kong for overseas resettlement. Refugees lived in temporary boarding houses and hotels funded by UNHCR and the World Council of Churches, drew living allowances and medical costs, and worked where they could as domestic helpers and on building sites. The Hong Kong government considered building a camp at Chi Ma Wan on Lantau Island and decided against it. The three destinations named as major were Australia, Brazil and Canada, with the United States and Israel also taking people.

## The agencies

| Body                                                         | Dates                        | What it did                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IRO — International Refugee Organization                     | 1947–1952                    | Repatriation, protection and resettlement; ran the Tubabao camp; signed the 1947 agreement with Australia                |
| UNHCR                                                        | operational from 1951–52     | Funded refugee upkeep in Hong Kong                                                                                       |
| PICMME → ICEM                                                | founded 1951; ICEM 1952–1980 | Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration — organised and paid for the passages. Later became IOM               |
| World Council of Churches                                    | from 1948                    | Funded Hong Kong accommodation; arranged sponsorship                                                                     |
| ACWCC — Australian Council for the World Council of Churches | 1948–1960                    | The key Australian body: proposed the scheme, negotiated UNHCR grants and government subsidies, ran the intake from 1957 |
| ROCOR Diocese of Australia & NZ                              | from 1946                    | Its Diocesan Refugee Committee, founded 1956 under Archbishop Sava, assisted about 4,000 people                          |

### A DISTINCTION WORTH KEEPING STRAIGHT

The Tubabao camp on Samar in the Philippines — where roughly 5,500 Russians lived from January 1949 until spring 1953, in sixteen districts with three Orthodox churches, a school and a hospital, under the pastoral care of Archbishop John (Maximovitch) of Shanghai — was the SHANGHAI evacuation of 1949. Over 3,000 of them went on to the United States and about 1,500 to Australia.

Trekhrechye people, leaving a decade later, went out by the Harbin → Hong Kong route. If your family came from a Trekhrechye village, Tubabao is almost certainly not part of their story — though it is part of the story of the wider Russian-Australian community they joined.



### **XIII. Arrival — policy, ships and camps**

#### WHAT AUSTRALIA ASKED OF THEM, AND WHERE THEY FIRST LANDED

Arthur Calwell became Australia's first Minister for Immigration in 1945, and the "populate or perish" programme followed. In July 1947 Australia signed an agreement with the IRO to take displaced persons from the European camps. Some 170,000 came between 1947 and 1952, of whom about 20,000 were Russians — but these were Russians from Europe, and they came under a two-year work contract that obliged the migrant to take whatever job the government directed, anywhere in Australia.

The Russians from China were a separate and later intake, and it is important to know which one applies to your family. Across the whole Cold War period Australia accepted about 14,700 Russian refugees from China. The Dictionary of Sydney puts it as "over half of the 14,000 people who arrived under the special humanitarian program for White Russians from China between 1947 and 1985 settled in Sydney." The peak came in 1957–1959, when 3,672 people arrived — roughly a quarter of the entire intake — in the first years the scheme was run by non-government organisations, principally the ACWCC. One documented sailing gives the flavour: the Anking, departing 12 November 1957 with 302 migrants listed.

The 1957–59 cohort was 79 per cent Orthodox, 13 per cent Protestant, 2.8 per cent Catholic, 2.7 per cent Jewish and 2.4 per cent other — a fair portrait of who was still leaving China at that date.

#### **The White Australia Policy**

This is the weakest-evidenced part of the brief and it is better to say so than to fill it in. Russians from China were assessed under an immigration regime formally committed to racial exclusion, and the scholarship notes debates over whether to describe the arrivals as "White Russian refugees" or as "Russian migrants from China" — a question of categorisation with obvious consequences. But no clean policy statement on how officers assessed applicants of mixed Russian-Chinese descent could be verified, and the question is a real one: Elizabeth Ivanov's essay notes that some second-generation émigrés in Australia "appeared physically mixed due to Chinese spouses and spoke Mandarin and Cantonese." Two works would close this gap: Ruth Balint, "Anti-Communism in Australian Immigration Policies 1947–54" (Australian Historical Studies 50:1, 2019), and Sheila Fitzpatrick, *White Russians, Red Peril: A Cold War History of Migration to Australia* (2021).



*A farewell meal: the trunk corded and waiting.*



*The winter road out.*

## Reception centres

New arrivals went first to a migrant reception centre. Bonegilla in Victoria was the main one, operating from 1947 to 1971. Others included Bathurst, Greta and Kapooka in New South Wales; Benalla, Rushworth and Somers in Victoria; Northam, Graylands and Cunderdin in Western Australia; Woodside in South Australia; and Stuart and Wacol in Queensland.

Wacol matters particularly for anyone with Queensland family. It opened in 1949 as the Wacol East Displaced Persons Holding Camp, on a tenth of the Army's old Camp Columbia site, and became Queensland's largest migrant centre — designed for 1,600 and holding close to 2,000 by 1952, in converted timber Army huts. It took Vietnamese refugees from 1975 and closed in 1987; the site became the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre in 1992.

The National Archives warns that few migrant centre records survive — but it holds name-index registration cards for every migrant who stayed at Bonegilla, in series A2571, and those cards are remarkably full. See section XXI.



*Cutting cane by hand in Queensland, 1930s.*



*A young Russian migrant labourer in Australia, late 1950s.*

## **The earlier Russian Queensland**

The Trekhrechy arrivals of the 1950s were not the first Russians in Australia, and the community they joined already had a history — one centred, unexpectedly, on Brisbane.

The 1921 census counted 4,138 Russians in Australia: 1,444 in New South Wales, 1,139 in Queensland, 943 in Victoria and 612 elsewhere. Proportionally, Queensland was the Russian state. By the late 1930s there were around 3,000 Russians in Australia, about half of them in Queensland and some 1,200 in Brisbane itself.

Brisbane's pre-1918 Russian community was radical rather than White — many were refugees from the failed revolution of 1905. They formed a Union of Russian Workers, published their own newspaper and kept a thousand-volume library at the Russian Society Hall in Merivale Street, South Brisbane. In the Red Flag Riots of 23–25 March 1919, seven to eight thousand people, mostly returned soldiers, attacked the Russian community; nineteen police were seriously injured on 24 March; fifteen Russians received seven-year sentences for displaying red flags under the War Precautions Act; and Alexander Zuzenko, who led the defence of the Russian Hall, was deported as an alleged Bolshevik.

Then came the Cossacks. Sixty-six Ural Cossacks arrived on 4 November 1923 under General V. S. Tolstov, having gone first to China. Russian Cossack stanitsas were formally established in Queensland: at Cordalba, about 300 km from Brisbane, where around 150 Russians in 45 families lived between 1924 and 1934 and a stanitsa was constituted around 1930; at Talli/Tangul, with about 100 families by 1934 and a stanitsa from 1929; and in Brisbane itself in the mid-1930s. Cossacks of the Transbaikalian, Don, Kuban and Ural hosts were all represented.

They went north for the money. Cane-cutting paid 16 to 18½ shillings for an eight-hour day against 10 shillings a day for general farm work — nearly double — and professional qualifications counted for nothing, so a mining engineer cut cane like everyone else.



*Peanut country on cleared red earth beside a tropical river in northern Australia, 1930s. Artist's reconstruction.*

#### **COSSACK, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

There is a locality named Cossack, just north of Katherine in the Northern Territory, postcode 0850. Its streets are named for the Russian Cossack peanut farmers who settled there in the 1920s and 1930s after coming out through Manchuria, cutting cane in Queensland and working the Katherine and Birdum railway gangs.

One of those streets is TOKMAKOFF ROAD, named after Alexander Tokmakov, who held land along the Katherine River from 1933 to 1959. The adjacent Lea Road is named for his wife, Liya. Their children were Irina, Viktor, Pyotr and Veronika.

And the detail that matters most: the community record states that Alexander Tokmakov came from near CHITA — the capital of Transbaikalia, and the heart of the Transbaikal Cossack Host.

Neighbouring streets carry the names Zimin, Kriloff, Ivanoff, Fomin and DeJulia. The peanut industry collapsed before the Second World War and most of them went broke.

This is a documented Tokmakov in Australia — but note the date. He belongs to the interwar wave, not the 1950s Trekhrechy exodus. Whether he is related to a Trekhrechy Tokmakov family is entirely unverified. It is a lead to chase, not a connection to claim — but it is the best lead in this brief. See sections XV and XXI.

## XIV. Settling — churches, suburbs, clubs and newspapers

WHERE THE COMMUNITY REBUILT ITSELF



*A Russian Orthodox church in an Australian suburb, 1950s. Artist's reconstruction.*

The Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia established its Diocese of Australia and New Zealand by resolution of the Synod in December 1946. Bishop Theodore (Rafalsky) arrived in Brisbane in late 1948 and was titled Archbishop of Sydney, Australia and New Zealand in February 1950, moving to Sydney; he died in 1955 and was succeeded by Sava (Raevsky, 1955–1970), Theodosius (Putilin, 1970–1980) and Paul (Pavlov, from 1981). By 1948 the diocese counted about 5,000 faithful, 11 parishes, 16 priests and 3 deacons. By the early 1980s there were 20 parishes in Australia, four in New Zealand and one in Tasmania; today around 42 centres.

The diocese's own history attributes that expansion directly to the refugees arriving from Manchuria and China in the early 1950s. The church was not incidental to this migration. It was the institution that received it.



Where they landed: Russian settlement in Australia. Schematic map drawn for this brief.

## Sydney

The 1954 census counted 5,472 Russians in New South Wales, three-quarters of them in metropolitan Sydney; with the post-war intake, Sydney displaced Brisbane as the main centre of ethnic Russian settlement in Australia. The suburbs were Strathfield, Burwood, Croydon, Fairfield, Cabramatta, Hurstville, Carlton, Blacktown, Lidcombe, Homebush and Bankstown.

- St Vladimir's, 31 Robertson Road, Centennial Park — opened 1942 in a converted house, the community having formed around a small St Vladimir chapel from 1938. The first Russian Orthodox wedding in Sydney was held in 1934, in the Greek church.
- Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral, Strathfield — land bought 1949, built 1950–53, consecrated December 1953. It became the archbishop's see and the hub of Russian cultural life.
- Protection of the Holy Virgin, Cabramatta; St Nicholas, Fairfield; Archangel Michael, Blacktown; St George, Carlton; All Russian Saints, Croydon, which houses the diocesan administration.
- Our Lady of Kazan Convent and St John the Baptist Skete at Kentlyn near Campbelltown. The All Saints' Monastery at Campbelltown took seven families — about eighteen people — straight off the Anking in 1957.
- Russian House: a rented room in Pitt Street from 1924, later 700 and then 800 George Street. The Russian Social Club, registered 1943 at 727 George Street — where Vladimir Petrov met ASIO's Michael Bialoguski before his defection in April 1954 — moved to William Street, Lidcombe, in 1976.
- The Russian Club moved to 3 Albert Road, Strathfield, in 1956 and became the Russian Relief Association in 1957, which built the St Sergius Retirement Village at Cabramatta. The ACWCC opened a home at Cabramatta in 1959.
- Russian schools: the first at Russian House in 1941; a Saturday school at the Strathfield church from 1954; then Fairfield, Cabramatta, Hurstville, Carlton, Blacktown and Croydon.

## Brisbane

St Nicholas Russian Orthodox Cathedral at 330 Vulture Street, Woolloongabba, is the oldest institution of Russian Australia. Father Alexander Shabasheff arrived in Brisbane in 1923, by way of China, and first served at St Thomas' with Church of England help; the parish was created at South Brisbane in 1925 and a cottage at 330 Vulture Street bought and converted in 1925–26. Under Father Valentine Antonieff, appointed 1933, a purpose-built church was designed by Gregory Mechonoshin and refined by the architects Cavanagh & Cavanagh; construction began in 1935 and it was probably consecrated in early 1936. On 5 November 1948 Bishop Theodore consecrated it as Australia's first Russian Orthodox cathedral. It was added to the Queensland Heritage Register on 21 October 1992.

Other Queensland parishes include Holy Annunciation and St Seraphim at Woolloongabba, Our Lady of Vladimir at Rocklea, and St Xenia at Tweed Heads. The Russian Club of Brisbane — "the Little Russian Club" — was established in 1928. Brisbane today has two Russian clubs, three Russian Orthodox parishes and a Russian delicatessen in Woolloongabba alone; in 2018 it was named the capital of Russian heritage in Australia and held an inaugural Russian Heritage Week from 14 to 20 May.

## Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth

- Melbourne — the Holy Virgin Protection (Pokrov) community was founded in 1949; it bought an empty church in Collingwood in 1954, acquired the Brunswick property in 1989, and consecrated the new cathedral in 2006. Also the Church of Our Lady's Dormition and St John of Kronstadt Chapel at Dandenong, and Joy of All Who Sorrow at Bell Park, Geelong. The ROCOR account records 2,500 Russians in Melbourne, many of them émigrés from China. The Holy Trinity parish (Moscow Patriarchate) is a different and much later foundation, growing from an iconography group in the early 1980s — do not confuse the two.
- Adelaide — the earliest known Russian arrivals date from 1910–11, with a Harbin-linked group from 1928; the first displaced persons arrived in 1949 on the transport ship Goya; anti-communist arrivals came from Shanghai from the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s, and emigration from Harbin and Xinjiang from 1953. The state history is explicit that "Russians mainly came to South Australia from Harbin and Trekhrechiye in Manchuria and from Kuldzha, Chuguchak and Urumchi in Xinjiang Province." The Russian Orthodox Church of St Nicholas opened in 1969 on Greenhill Road, Wayville. The Russian Community Centre followed, with a permanent home from 1978 at Portrush Road, Norwood.
- Perth — ROCOR parishes at Ss Peter and Paul, Bayswater, and St Mary's, Bunbury. Founding dates could not be verified and are deliberately not given here. Western Australia holds 8.7 per cent of Australia's Russian-ancestry population.

## The press and the record-keepers

Единение — Unification — was founded in Melbourne in December 1950 by members of the NTS, the National Alliance of Russian Solidarists: Oleg Perekrestov as first manager, Vladimir Komarov as first editor, and Vasily Yatsenko, a naturalised Australian resident in Queensland, as publisher of record. For nearly two years the type was hand-set by Kira Chernova, the editor's sister; a linotype was later installed

in the Chernovs' flat. It was distributed at Orthodox churches in Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne, moved to Sydney in 1977, and is still publishing.

Австралиада — русская летопись (Australiada: A Russian Chronicle) was published quarterly from 1994, 52 pages an issue, founded and edited by Natalia Melnikova with Georgy Kositsyn, Nikolai Agishev and Anatoly Zakrochimsky, staffed entirely by volunteers and funded by subscriptions. It ran to 61 issues by 2009 and continued into the mid-2010s, and it published dedicated collections on the Russian Harbintsy living in Australia. The associated book series Русские в Австралии began with volume 1 in 2004. The Russian Historical Society in Australia was established in 1994, the same year as the Russian Ethnic Community Council of NSW.

#### WHERE A NAMED TOKMAKOV IS MOST LIKELY TO APPEAR IN PRINT

Австралиада is a community chronicle full of biographies, obituaries, parish histories and photographs of people from Harbin, Trekhrechye and Shanghai. If a Tokmakov of this migration was active in Australian Russian community life, this is the publication that recorded it.

No cumulative name index appears to exist online. This is a job for a person, not a search engine: contact the Russian Historical Society in Australia and the editors, and check the holdings of the State Library of NSW and the Slavic collections at ANU and UNSW.

A warning: the domain russiansinaustralia.info, which search engines still surface as hosting an Australiada archive, now serves unrelated spam. Do not use it.

### "Urban" and "village" — the line that survived the journey

The most useful single observation in the Jordan Russia Center essay you supplied is that the social division formed in China survived the migration intact.

*Russian émigrés in China divided into two groups: urban professionals — doctors, engineers, chemists — in Shanghai and Harbin, and rural settlers in Trekhrechye, a three-river basin area where they maintained agricultural lifestyles with families up to twelve children. In Australia the distinction between "urban" and "village" families remained, and churches organized along those boundaries.*

— Elizabeth Ivanov, Jordan Russia Center, 2021

The urban families had one to three children; the Trekhrechye families up to twelve. Harbin Polytechnic graduates "found ready employment as engineers and draughtsmen in the NSW public service"; the village families went to farms, market gardens, cane, dairy and factory work. The essay also records what the community carried with it and what it picked up: pelmeni served with soy sauce and sour cream, pirozhki made with rice noodles, second-generation émigrés who spoke Mandarin and Cantonese, and two-day weddings whose "Second Day" has the newlyweds cook soup for guests who sabotage the cooking and throw money and newspaper clippings on the floor to test their hosting.

Ivanov's conclusion is the one that matters most for a family tree: "I have learned to assume that everyone is related in one way or another." In a community this small and this endogamous, that is not a figure of speech — it is a research strategy and, later on, a warning about interpreting DNA matches.

One caution. That the urban/village split persisted in Australia is documented. That Trekhrechy people specifically concentrated in Queensland and western Sydney is not — Queensland's Cossack farming character is documented for the 1920s-30s layer, and the western Sydney concentration is documented for the post-war China intake in general, but no source maps the 1950s-60s Trekhrechy arrivals onto those places. If the family remembers it that way, record it as family testimony.

## XV. Tokmakovs in Australia — the documented traces

### EVERY CONFIRMED SIGHTING OF THE NAME

Three traces of the surname have been confirmed on Australian soil. None has yet been connected to the others, or to any Trekhrechye family. Each is a thread worth pulling.

### 1. Alexander Tokmakov — Tokmakoff Road, Cossack, Northern Territory

A road in the locality of Cossack, north of Katherine in the Northern Territory, is named Tokmakoff Road after Alexander Tokmakov, one of the Russian Cossack farmers who settled the area between the wars. The neighbouring Lea Road is named for his wife, Liya. ABC Rural confirmed the street names in a February 2021 feature — "streets in the locality of Cossack to the north of Katherine are named after Russian families such as Zimin Drive and Tokmakoff Road" — and Tokmakoff Road appears in current Australian property databases.

The Russian-Australian community record in Единение adds the detail that makes this the strongest lead in the whole brief. It states that Alexander Tokmakov held land along the Katherine River from 1933 to 1959; that his wife was Liya; that their children were Irina, Viktor, Pyotr and Veronika; and that he came from near Chita.

#### WHY "NEAR CHITA" MATTERS

Chita is the capital of Transbaikalia and the administrative heart of the Transbaikal Cossack Host. Every documented Tokmakov Cossack in section IV came from that region. Alexander Matveyevich Tokmakov was city head of Chita itself in 1920–21, and Polina Vasilievna Tokmakov, later Troohina, was born in Chita in 1891.

A Tokmakov farming in the Northern Territory who came "from near Chita" is therefore, with very high probability, from the same Transbaikal Cossack stock as any Trekhrechye Tokmakov — even if the two came out of Russia by different routes and a generation apart.

And this lead has four searchable children's names attached: Irina, Viktor, Pyotr and Veronika Tokmakov, born most likely in the 1920s–40s. Those names should go straight into the NSW, Queensland and Northern Territory registries, the electoral rolls, the Ryerson Index and Trove.

The men of that settlement came out through Manchuria in the 1920s, cut cane in Queensland, worked the Birdum and Katherine railway gangs in the mid-1920s, and then took up land when the government released arable country for peanut production — clearing trees and seeding by hand. Their neighbours were Zimin, Kriloff, Ivanoff, Fomin and DeJulia; Andrei DeJulia, who arrived in 1924, was killed in the bombing of Darwin in 1942. The peanut industry collapsed on crop failures and supply problems as the war approached, and most of them went broke; some moved to cotton.

What to do with this: it establishes beyond doubt that a Tokmakov came from the Chita region through Manchuria to Australia and farmed there for a quarter of a century. It does not establish a link to Trekhrechye or to your own line — the date is a generation

too early for the Trekhrechyexodus. The records to chase are Northern Territory land and lease records for 1933–1959, the Katherine Museum and local historical society, and Alexander Tokmakov's naturalisation and alien registration files at the National Archives.



*The road north to Katherine. Artist's reconstruction.*

## **2. Ieva Tokmakoff — Russian Community Centre, Adelaide, 1969**

When the Russian Community Centre — "The Russian House" — was founded in Adelaide shortly after the church of St Nicholas was consecrated in 1969, its inaugural executive committee was John Strokowsky, Urey Pozydayev, Nicholas Donner, Luke Ambrose, Nicholas Kovanko and Ieva Tokmakoff. This is recorded in the official South Australian state history.

This is, for your purposes, the most valuable Australian find, because the same article states plainly that "Russians mainly came to South Australia from Harbin and Trekhrechiye in Manchuria and from Kuldzha, Chuguchak and Urumchi in Xinjiang Province." A Tokmakoff was a founding officer of the Russian community organisation in a community drawn principally from Harbin and Trekhrechyex, at exactly the right date for the 1950s–60s exodus.

"Ieva" is very likely a transcription of Лёв (Lev) or Ева (Eva) and should be checked against the Russian House's own records. Approach the Russian Community Centre in Norwood and the ROCOR parish of St Nicholas in Adelaide. This is still within living memory.

## **3. Andrew Tokmakoff — University of Adelaide**

Dr Andrew Tokmakoff is Associate Director and Technical Lead of TERN AusPlots at the University of Adelaide. Given the rarity of the surname in Australia and the 1969 Adelaide committee record, a family connection is very likely — but it is not documented, and he is a living private individual. The right approach is a courteous direct enquiry, not an inference in print.

## What has NOT been searched

This matters as much as what has. The following Australian sources could not be reached in preparing this brief, because they block automated access. Their silence is not a finding.

- Trove — the National Library's digitised newspapers. Naturalisation notices, arrivals, obituaries and community reports. Search Tokmakoff, Tokmakov, Tokmakow, Tokmak\*.
- National Archives of Australia RecordSearch and NameSearch — passenger arrivals, alien registration, naturalisation, migrant selection documents, ASIO files.
- The Ryerson Index of Australian death and funeral notices — over 10 million entries from 530 sources.
- NSW, Queensland and South Australian births, deaths and marriages historical indexes.
- ROCOR parish registers in Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide — held by each parish, with no public index.
- The two open-access University of Sydney datasets described in section XXI, which are compiled from both the BREM files in Khabarovsk and Australian records and are the single fastest way to link the two ends of the journey.

## And one more thing — "Tok"

Post-war migrants routinely truncated Slavic surnames for Australian workplaces, and Tokmakov → Tok is a phonetically natural clipping. But no documentary evidence for that specific shortening was found — no scholarly treatment, no community reference, no record instance. If the family holds an oral tradition that a member went by Tok, record it as family testimony and do not present it as an established pattern.

The practical consequence is the same either way: search Australian indexes for Tok as a surname in its own right, alongside every Tokmak- variant. A truncated name may be what appears on employment records, electoral rolls and death notices even when the full name appears on the arrival papers.

## XVI. The other branches

AMERICA • KAZAKHSTAN • AND THOSE WHO STAYED

Australia was one outcome among several, and the other branches are worth knowing because they are where distant cousins are, and because they are far better indexed.

### The American branch

United States records index several Tokmakoffs of exactly the China-route profile, with birth years between 1888 and 1904 and later residence in California and Washington State.

- Ariadna Ivanovna Tokmakoff, born 29 April 1917 in Harbin, China; daughter of Ivan V. Tokmakoff and Alexandra P. Oshurkoff; died 20 March 2000 in California.
- George Basilus Tokmakoff, born 9 July 1928 in Tientsin (Tianjin), China; son of Vasili Tokmakoff and Claudia née Kalinina; historian of Russia and professor at California State University Sacramento from 1963 to 1993; died 15 November 1997 in California.
- Polina Vasilievna Troohina, née Tokmakov, born 10 May 1891 in Chita, Siberia; daughter of Vasili Tokmakoff and Raisa Gantemurova.
- Also indexed: Alexandra, Andrew, Constantin, Elizabeth, Klaudia and Vassili C. Tokmakoff.

#### THE GANTIMUROVA MARRIAGE — A LEAD WORTH CHASING

Гантимурова is the surname of the Gantimurov family, the Tungus princes of the Nerchinsk region who converted and entered Russian and Cossack service. It is one of the most distinctive names in all of Transbaikalia.

A Tokmakov-Gantimurova marriage producing a daughter born in Chita in 1891 is precisely what one would expect of an established Transbaikal Cossack family. This is single-source and unverified elsewhere, so treat it as a strong lead rather than a fact — but it is the best independent corroboration found that the Tokmakovs were embedded in the Transbaikal Cossack world, and it hands you two surnames to search together.

### Those who went to Harbin and stayed

Two Tokmakov officers are documented in the Russian emigration in China. Alexander Matveyevich Tokmakov, lieutenant-colonel of the Host and city head of Chita in 1920–21, died in Harbin on 15 October 1944 — ten months before the Soviet army arrived. Alexander Konstantinovich Tokmakov, esaul, was chief of security of the Russian colony at Hankow from 1919 to 1923 and was still serving with White Far Eastern forces in 1927.

### Those who stayed in Russia — the 1937 terror

The mirror image of the family that crossed the Argun is the family that did not. Two Tokmakov brothers, born in the Onon Cossack village of Верхний Цасучей in Akshinsky uезд, appear in the Book of Memory of Eastern Transbaikalia.

| Name                        | Born                                     | Arrested                                                                                                            | Outcome                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Токмаков Семён<br>Фёдорович | 1913, Верхний Цасучей,<br>Акшинский уезд | 6 November 1937; convicted 3<br>December 1937 by the NKVD<br>Troika for Chita oblast under arts.<br>58-10 and 58-11 | Sentenced to death; executed 1 January<br>1938. Rehabilitated 6 January 1958 by<br>the Chita Oblast Court     |
| Токмаков Яков<br>Фёдорович  | 1915, same village                       | 6 November 1937; sentenced 3<br>December 1937                                                                       | Ten years; released 19 November 1945.<br>Rehabilitated 6 January 1958. Wife<br>Февронья Филипповна; one child |

Two brothers of Cossack stock, both working at a forestry enterprise, both taken on the same day. It is worth including them in any family record even though no relationship is established, because they are the answer to the question "what would have happened if they had stayed?" — and because if a Tokmakov branch did remain in Transbaikalia, this is where its trace surfaces.

## XVII. The descendants

### LANGUAGE LOSS • NAME CHANGE • WHAT THE CENSUS SHOWS

The story ends, as migration stories do, in arithmetic. The 1986 Australian census counted 46,400 people of Russian ancestry, 21,600 who spoke Russian at home, 15,200 born in Russia or the USSR, and 34,200 with a father born there.

That set of ratios is the sharpest available evidence of what happened to the language. Fewer than half of those claiming Russian ancestry still spoke Russian at home, while three-quarters had a Russian-born father. Language was lost within roughly one generation of arrival.

| Census | Russian ancestry | Born in Russia / USSR | Russian spoken at home                       |
|--------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1986   | 46,400           | 15,200                | 21,600                                       |
| 2006   | 67,055           | 15,354                | —                                            |
| 2011   | 98,112           | —                     | —                                            |
| 2021   | 98,107           | 23,864                | 54,883 Russian-speaking<br>(broader measure) |

In 2021 the Russian-ancestry population was distributed 37.0 per cent in New South Wales, 29.1 per cent in Victoria, 16.4 per cent in Queensland and 8.7 per cent in Western Australia. Of the Russia-born, 32.6 per cent arrived before 2000, 27.5 per cent between 2001 and 2010, and 37.0 per cent between 2011 and 2020 — which means the modern Russia-born population of Australia is overwhelmingly a post-Soviet migration and not the China cohort at all.

The gap between 98,107 people claiming Russian ancestry and 23,864 born in Russia is the demographic shape of exactly this family's story: a large Australian-born descendant population whose immigrant generation has largely died, plus a separate and much more recent arrival stream that has nothing to do with Harbin or Trekhrechye.



A village schoolroom.



A village chapel, lit for a service.

## What happened to the names

The -ов / -ев endings were rendered -off or -eff in the Australian record, and the pattern is visible in the Northern Territory street names themselves: Tokmakoff, Ivanoff, Kriloff, Sergeef, Byerezovsky, Jegorow, Egoroff, Antonieff, Shabasheff, Chuproff. That convention came out of pre-revolutionary and French-influenced transliteration used in Manchuria and on Chinese-issued travel documents, and was carried straight into Australian shipping lists, naturalisation files and electoral rolls.

Beyond spelling, given names anglicised — Ivan became John, Yevgeniy became Eugene, Grigoriy became Gregory, Ksenia became Jenny — and surnames were shortened for Australian workplaces. A single person can therefore appear as Иван Петрович Токмаков in a BREM file, Ivan Tokmakoff on a ship's manifest, John Tokmakov on a naturalisation certificate, and J. Tok on an electoral roll. All four are the same man, and a search that assumes otherwise will lose him.

## A note on continuity

Elizabeth Ivanov's essay makes an observation worth carrying forward. Australian Russians, she writes, maintained traditions "that have disappeared, or, perhaps, never even existed in America" — the lavish feasts, the two-day weddings, the less formal etiquette — because the community was small, geographically isolated and slow to change: "In a country from which Europe, America and Russia are over twenty hours away by plane, change comes slowly."

It is an unexpected consolation for a family historian. The distance that scattered these people is the same distance that preserved what they carried.

## XVIII. The name in the world today

WHERE THE SURNAME WENT • AND WHO CARRIES IT NOW



*What usually survives a migration: a bundle of papers and two photographs. Artist's reconstruction.*

This section answers the question everyone asks eventually: are there Tokmakovs still out there, and could any of them be family? It has to open with two warnings, because without them the rest of the section will mislead.

### TWO RULES THIS SECTION WORKS BY

**FIRST** — nobody named here is a known relative of yours. The surname is polygenetic: it formed independently, many times, from the ordinary Russian word токмак. Sharing it establishes nothing at all. Where the public record gives any hint of a Far-Eastern, Harbin or Cossack origin, that is stated; where it does not — which is most of the time — that is stated too.

**SECOND** — only people who have deliberately put themselves in the public domain appear here: academics with a university staff page, published authors, athletes with a federation profile, officers named in an organisation's own material. Nothing is listed but name, city and the public role that makes them findable. No addresses, contacts, dates of birth, family details or anything from people-search sites — those were not used at all. Private individuals are not listed.

### Where the surname actually went

The global picture, assembled from surname-distribution databases and from national records in six languages, is narrower than the family story would suggest — and the narrowness is itself informative.

| Country or region         | What is documented                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Status     |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Russia — Zabaykalsky Krai | Joint largest concentration in Russia. New repression-record entries are all Onon-basin, Akshinsky uезд: Avvakum Vasilyevich (b. 1897, Chindant), Alexander Pavlovich (b. 1871, Tsasuchey), Dmitry Nikolaevich (b. 1875, Tsasuchey), plus Olovnyanninsky district. Still nothing on the Argun line. | DOCUMENTED |

| Country or region                             | What is documented                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Status                   |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Russia — Kursk oblast                         | The other joint-largest concentration. Unrelated to the Siberian line.                                                                                                                                                                                           | DOCUMENTED, unquantified |
| Russia — Kirov / Vyatka                       | Known on the Vyatka since the 18th century; two families in Khlynov by 1747; homeland around Stroykovo and Astafyeva Gora, Luzsky district. A separate northern, non-Cossack line.                                                                               | DOCUMENTED               |
| Russia — Perm Krai                            | Bearers tagged to Cherdyn.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | DOCUMENTED, weak         |
| Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan                  | Presence confirmed by surname databases; no figures. One Kazakhstani public figure could not be verified.                                                                                                                                                        | DOCUMENTED, unquantified |
| China — pre-revolutionary                     | The Moscow merchant Ivan Fyodorovich Tokmakov; his firm Tokmakov, Shevelov & Co, later Tokmakov, Molotkov & Co, opened at Hankou in 1886 and was among the largest Russian tea houses in China. NOT a Cossack line — flag it so it is never wired into the tree. | DOCUMENTED               |
| China — émigré era                            | Alexander Matveyevich (d. Harbin 1944) and Alexander Konstantinovich (Hankow, 1919–23), both already in section IV. No Tokmakov found among Harbin-born victims of the 1937–38 "Harbin operation", and none traced in Trekhrehye today.                          | DOCUMENTED / NOT FOUND   |
| Australia                                     | The Northern Territory family and the Adelaide founder — see section XV.                                                                                                                                                                                         | DOCUMENTED               |
| United States                                 | One clearly Far-Eastern line: the Tientsin-born George Basilus Tokmakoff, below.                                                                                                                                                                                 | DOCUMENTED               |
| New Zealand                                   | Nothing, under any spelling, including ROCOR New Zealand material.                                                                                                                                                                                               | NOT FOUND                |
| Canada                                        | Nothing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | NOT FOUND                |
| Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Uruguay | Nothing, in Portuguese or Spanish, across the whole velhos crentes / viejos creyentes literature and the White Russian émigré material.                                                                                                                          | NOT FOUND — all five     |
| Bulgaria                                      | Tokmakov / Tokmakova exists as an independent Bulgarian surname from the same Turkic root, with no Russian involvement whatever.                                                                                                                                 | DOCUMENTED               |
| Germany, United Kingdom                       | A thin, recent post-Soviet presence. No historical Manchurian link.                                                                                                                                                                                              | DOCUMENTED, small        |
| Israel, France, the Baltic states, Moldova    | Nothing as residents.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | NOT FOUND                |

## The negative finding that matters most

There is no Tokmakov anywhere in the Old Believer chain migration. Not in Woodburn, Oregon; not in Nikolaevsk, Alaska; not in Brazil, Bolivia, Uruguay or Argentina. That chain — Xinjiang and Manchuria, then Hong Kong, then Brazil and Argentina in 1958–60, then Oregon in 1964, then Alaska in 1968 — moved a fairly closed set of clans: Kalugin, Basargin, Fefelov, Reutov, Martushev, Kuzmin, Ovchinnikov, Anufriev, Yakunin. Tokmakov is not among them, and the search for it across the Oregon, Alaskan and academic Old Believer literature came back empty.

Set that beside the Transbaikal evidence in section IV — Host service, regimental postings, eight holders of the St George Cross, officers commissioned through the cadet corps — and the two point the same way. Section VII said that establishing whether the family was Orthodox or Old Believer determines which records exist, and called it an open question. This is the first real evidence bearing on it, and it points to Orthodox. That is still an inference, and only a BREM confession field will settle it, but it is worth acting on: search the ordinary parish metric books first.

## The one line with a documented Far-Eastern origin

Of every living bearer of the name found anywhere in the world, exactly one has a well-founded connection to the Russian Far East, and it runs through a man already mentioned in section XVI.

**George Basilus Tokmakoff (1928-1997)** was born in Tientsin to Russian émigré parents, came from China to the United States in 1947, studied at the University of Washington, took his doctorate at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies in London, and was professor of Russian history at California State University, Sacramento until 1991. His book on Stolypin and the Third Duma appeared in 1981. His obituary in *Slavic Review* records that he was survived by two children, **Andrei and Larisa**. His papers, covering 1891 to 1996, are in a public archival collection.

### A CHAIN WORTH CHECKING, CAREFULLY

Andrei Tokmakoff is Henry G. Gale Distinguished Service Professor of Chemistry at the University of Chicago. His published CV gives a BS from California State University, Sacramento, in 1988 — the campus where George Basilus Tokmakoff taught until 1991, and whose obituary names a son Andrei.

That is a strong inference, not a documented fact: nothing on his own pages says it. But if it holds, it means the Tientsin-born line of this surname continues today in Chicago — and it is the only branch anywhere outside Australia with a demonstrable Manchurian origin.

Whether it connects to your family is an entirely separate question, and there is no evidence either way. What makes it worth pursuing is not the surname. It is that both lines came out of the same small Russian world in north-east China, two decades apart.

## Living bearers with a public professional profile

Listed by country, with the public role that makes each of them findable. Read the "Far-Eastern origin" column carefully: for all but one it says nothing found, and that is the honest answer.

| Name             | City and country       | Public role                                               | Far-Eastern origin?             |
|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Andrei Tokmakoff | Chicago, United States | Professor of Chemistry, University of Chicago             | INFERRED, strongly — see above  |
| Andrew Tokmakoff | Adelaide, Australia    | Associate Director, TERN AusPlots, University of Adelaide | INFERRED, weakly — context only |

| Name                             | City and country           | Public role                                                                        | Far-Eastern origin?                                   |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Pavel Tokmakov                   | California, United States  | Senior research scientist in computer vision, Toyota Research Institute            | No indication — recent post-Soviet academic migration |
| Kirill Tokmakov                  | Birmingham, United Kingdom | Senior Research Fellow, Aston Institute of Photonic Technologies, Aston University | No indication                                         |
| Mariya Tokmakova                 | Plovdiv, Bulgaria          | Professor of cardiology and Vice-Rector, Medical University of Plovdiv             | Explicitly not — a Bulgarian line                     |
| Yegor Tokmakov                   | Berlin, Germany            | Senior solutions architect, Amazon Web Services                                    | No indication                                         |
| Kamil Tokmakov                   | Stuttgart, Germany         | Computer science researcher, High Performance Computing Center Stuttgart           | No indication                                         |
| Vladimir Nikolaevich Tokmakov    | Barnaul, Russia            | Writer, poet and journalist; profiled by Altai State University                    | No indication — Siberian, but Altai, not Transbaikai  |
| Ulyana Tokmakova                 | Russia                     | Rated chess player, FIDE profile                                                   | No indication                                         |
| Olga Tokmakova · Alexey Tokmakov | Russia                     | Dancesport athletes, World DanceSport Federation profiles                          | No indication                                         |

Countries in which no living bearer with a qualifying public profile could be found: New Zealand, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Uruguay, Israel, France, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus and China. Kazakhstan has one lead that could not be verified.

## Two traps to avoid

- **Tukmakov is not Tokmakov.** The Ukrainian chess grandmaster Vladimir Tukmakov surfaces constantly in searches — in Hebrew sources especially, because Hebrew collapses o and y, and Latin-script search engines auto-correct the same way. Тукмаков is a different surname. Discard every hit.
- **The toponyms poison keyword searches.** Tokmok in Kyrgyzstan, Tokmak in Zaporizhzhia and Tokmak in Uzbekistan all share the root and will flood any search with place-name results. None of them is surname evidence, as section II explained.

## Bulgaria — the cleanest proof of the point

If you ever need to explain to a relative why a shared surname proves nothing, use Bulgaria. Tokmakov and Tokmakova exist there as a native Bulgarian surname, formed from Ottoman Turkish tokmak — the same word, the same meaning, the same wooden mallet — with no Russian involvement at any point in its history. A Bulgarian Tokmakova and a Transbaikai Tokmakov are not distant cousins. They are two entirely unrelated families who were each, independently, named after a tool.

## What this means for your family

The diaspora this surname actually produced looks nothing like the shape the family story implies. There is no South American branch, no Old Believer branch, no Canadian or New Zealand branch. The Manchurian Tokmakovs went to two places and essentially nowhere else that leaves a public trace: to Australia — Katherine in the Northern Territory by 1930, Adelaide by the late 1960s — and to California, by way of Tientsin in 1947.

That is a small enough field to be searched exhaustively by one person. It is much better news than a name scattered across forty countries would have been.

## Two additions to what section XV already records

Further research has turned up two details that sit alongside the Northern Territory and Adelaide findings without altering either.

- **Alexander Tokmakoff arrived in Australia in 1930.** The community record states that he lived in China after the revolution and reached Australia in 1930, three years before taking up the Katherine River land. That firmly places him in the interwar China-transit migration and not in the 1957-65 intake — right region, wrong decade, exactly as section XV says. A separate recollection, by a Katherine resident of 1971-73, lists the Russian families of the district as Zimin, Smirnov, Kriloff, Ivanets, and Tokmakov and his wife Lea.
- **A date discrepancy in Adelaide.** The South Australian state history places the founding of the Russian Community Centre shortly after the consecration of St Nicholas in 1969, with Ieva Tokmakoff among its founding officers. The Centre's own website dates itself to 1949 and names no founders. Both are recorded here without resolving them; whoever writes to the Centre should ask which is right, since the answer changes which decade the Tokmakoff in question arrived.

## If you decide to write to someone

Three of the people named in this section could conceivably be connected to your family, and one of them — the Chicago line — is a real possibility. A few things make that kind of letter land well rather than badly.

1. Write to a professional address, once, and say plainly why you are writing: that you are researching a Transbaikal Cossack family of the same surname and are not assuming any relationship.
2. Lead with what you can offer, not what you want. This document is the offer. Most people with a rare Russian surname have wondered where it came from and have never had thirty pages on it handed to them.
3. Say explicitly that you understand the surname is polygenetic and that you may well be unrelated. It signals that you are a serious researcher rather than someone building a family tree out of search results.
4. Do not follow up more than once. A person who wants to reply will reply.

## XIX. Twenty Tokmakovs

THE MOST ACCOMPLISHED BEARERS OF THE NAME, 20TH AND 21ST CENTURIES



This is the section to read aloud at a family gathering. It is also the section most likely to be misused, so the same rule as before applies twice over: not one person here is a known relative of yours. The surname is polygenetic. What follows is a portrait of what people called Tokmakov have done in the last hundred years — no more, and no less.

The picture that emerges is unexpectedly sharp. The surname's real distinction is concentrated in three places and almost nowhere else: Soviet children's literature, wartime military valour, and — entirely outside Russia — American physical chemistry. There is no famous Tokmakov athlete, no academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, no composer or conductor of national standing, no minister, governor or big-city mayor, and no post-Soviet business figure of any scale. Those are all confirmed absences, not gaps in the search.



*A cart track and a roadside cross on the autumn steppe. Artist's reconstruction in the nineteenth-century Russian manner.*

### The list

Ranked on overall accomplishment and public standing. L = living, D = deceased.

| # | Name                                           | Dates         | Field                    | Why                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | L/<br>D |
|---|------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Ирина Петровна<br>Токмакова Irina<br>Tokmakova | 1929–<br>2018 | Children's<br>literature | The most widely read bearer of the name in any language. Debut collection Деревья (1962); Аля, Клясич и буква «А» (1968); translator of Carroll, Milne, Barrie, Tove Jansson, Lindgren and Beatrix Potter into Russian. State Prize of the Russian Federation. NOTE: Tokmakova by marriage only — born Manukova, of an Armenian father from Akhaltsikhe. | D       |

| #  | Name                                         | Dates          | Field                   | Why                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | L/<br>D |
|----|----------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 2  | Andrei Tokmakoff                             | b. c. 1966     | Physical chemistry, USA | By hard credentials the most decorated bearer alive anywhere: National Academy of Sciences (2022), American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2018), Zewail Award (2016), Lippincott Award (2014), Plyler Prize (2012). Henry G. Gale Distinguished Service Professor, University of Chicago.                    | L       |
| 3  | Лев Алексеевич<br>Токмаков Lev Tokmakov      | 1928–<br>2010  | Book illustration       | People's Artist of Russia (1998); gold medal, Bratislava Biennial (1985); work in the Tretyakov Gallery and the Pushkin Museum. Illustrated Rodari, Lindgren's Pippi Longstocking, Preussler — and his wife Irina's books. Born in Sverdlovsk; his father, a physician, was arrested in 1937.                | D       |
| 4  | Евгений Петрович<br>Токмаков Evgeny Tokmakov | 1916–<br>2010  | Military aviation       | HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION, 13 April 1944. Pe-2 reconnaissance pilot; 164 combat sorties; had photographed 11,729 km² by late 1943; his squadron was the first to photograph Berlin. Order of Lenin, Order of Alexander Nevsky, three Orders of the Red Banner. BORN IN CHITA — a street there bears his name. | D       |
| 5  | Пётр Михайлович<br>Токмаков Pyotr Tokmakov   | d. 1921        | Peasant rising          | Commander-in-chief of the Tambov rebellion of 1920–21, the largest armed rising against Bolshevik power, and chairman of the Union of Toiling Peasantry. A full St George Cavalier of the First World War. Died of wounds; his grave has never been found.                                                   | D       |
| 6  | Яков Герасимович<br>Токмаков Yakov Tokmakov  | 1913–<br>1966  | Military                | HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION, 29 June 1945, for the Berlin offensive. Order of Lenin; two Orders of the Red Star. Born at Orekhovo-Zuevo, Moscow oblast.                                                                                                                                                         | D       |
| 7  | George Basilus<br>Tokmakoff                  | 1928–<br>1997  | History, USA            | Professor of Russian history at California State University, Sacramento for thirty years. P. A. Stolypin and the Third Duma (1981). Papers at the Hoover Institution. BORN IN TIENTSIN, CHINA — the only fully documented notable Tokmakov of the Russia-in-China diaspora.                                  | D       |
| 8  | Иван Фёдорович<br>Токмаков (merchant)        | 1838–<br>1908  | Tea trade               | Moscow merchant of the first guild and philanthropist. His firm — Tokmakov, Shevelov & Co, later Tokmakov, Molotkov & Co — opened at Hankou in 1886 and became one of the largest Russian tea houses in China. NOT a Cossack line: see the warning below.                                                    | D       |
| 9  | Мария Токмакова<br>Mariya Tokmakova          | living         | Cardiology,<br>Bulgaria | Professor of cardiology and Vice-Rector, Medical University of Plovdiv; President of the Bulgarian Society of Cardiology 2018–20; board of the ESC Heart Failure Association 2022–24. A BULGARIAN line, unrelated to any Russian one.                                                                        | L       |
| 10 | Иван Фёдорович<br>Токмаков (historian)       | 1856–<br>1922? | Archaeography           | Director of the Moscow Main Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1877–1902; some 128 historical-statistical descriptions of Russian towns, monasteries and churches. Contemporaries accused him of compilation — the sources say so themselves.                                                       | D       |

| #  | Name                                                  | Dates         | Field                        | Why                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | L/<br>D |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 11 | Александр Иванович<br>Токмаков Alexander<br>Tokmakov  | 1949–<br>2001 | Folk music                   | Honoured Artist of Russia (1999). Singer and choirmaster of the Voronezh State Russian Folk Choir 1974–83; founded the ensemble «Кольцовский край» in 1983. Songs in the golden fund of Soviet radio. Two annual festivals and a monument commemorate him. | D       |
| 12 | Владимир Николаевич<br>Токмаков Vladimir<br>Tokmakov  | b. 1968       | Literature and<br>media      | Poet, novelist, journalist and television presenter. Union of Russian Writers (2004), Russian PEN Centre (2012); Rossiyskaya Gazeta; presenter on Katun 24. BORN IN BARNAUL — the only nationally listed Tokmakov writer with a Siberian birthplace.       | L       |
| 13 | Владимир Георгиевич<br>Токмаков Vladimir<br>Tokmakov  | b. 1960       | Diplomacy                    | Career diplomat; Minister-Counsellor in Venezuela and Brazil; Consul-General of Russia in Rio de Janeiro 2016–22 and in São Paulo from 2022. Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, 1st Class.                                                           | L       |
| 14 | Александр Матвеевич<br>Токмаков Alexander<br>Tokmakov | 1867–<br>1944 | Military and<br>municipal    | Lieutenant-colonel of the Transbaikalian Cossack Host; CITY HEAD OF CHITA 1920–21; died in Harbin. Placed here on relevance to this family rather than national fame — see the note below.                                                                 | D       |
| 15 | Олег Иванович<br>Токмаков Oleg<br>Tokmakov            | b. 1940       | Painting                     | Member of the Union of Artists of the Russian Federation; graduated the Mukhina School with distinction, 1971. A work in the State Russian Museum. Survived the Siege of Leningrad as a child.                                                             | L       |
| 16 | Евгений Алексеевич<br>Токмаков Evgeny<br>Tokmakov     | 1884–<br>1964 | Theatre                      | People's Artist of the Chuvash ASSR. The primary biography could not be read during this research — verify before repeating.                                                                                                                               | D       |
| 17 | Василий Львович<br>Токмаков Vasily<br>Tokmakov        | 1954–<br>2010 | Children's<br>literature     | Son of Lev and Irina; published children's author (Лесная неперераба, 1988, illustrated by his father). He died the day after his father.                                                                                                                  | D       |
| 18 | Andrew Tokmakoff                                      | living        | Ecoinformatics,<br>Australia | Associate Director and Technical Lead, TERN AusPlots, University of Adelaide; national environmental research infrastructure. The Australian thread — see section XVIII.                                                                                   | L       |
| 19 | Валерий Николаевич<br>Токмаков Valery<br>Tokmakov     | 1962–<br>2014 | Translation                  | Literary translator, listed in the Russian reference literature. Details could not be verified in this research.                                                                                                                                           | D       |
| 20 | Валерий Афанасьевич<br>Токмаков Valery<br>Tokmakov    | unknown       | Bandy, Irkutsk               | A figure in Irkutsk bandy with a Russian reference entry. Both sources were unreadable during this research; included to represent sport at all, and flagged accordingly. EASTERN SIBERIA — worth a second look for that reason alone.                     | ?       |

## How solid is this list?

Honestly graded, because a list of twenty forced out of a surname this size will always have a soft tail.

- **Positions 1-8 are solid.** Every one would be defensible in a reference work: two Heroes of the Soviet Union, a National Academy of Sciences member, a

State Prize laureate, a People's Artist, a rebellion commander and a merchant house that traded across an empire.

- **Positions 9-14 are respectable but narrower** — regional, professional or field-specific standing rather than national fame.
- **Positions 15-20 are the tail.** Two could not be verified from the available sources, and one is a living private professional whose only public standing is his job. They are marked as such rather than dressed up.

### Three names that matter to this family more than their ranking suggests

#### EVGENY PETROVICH TOKMAKOV (1916-2010) — THE CHITA CONNECTION

Of every notable bearer of this surname anywhere in the world, exactly one was born in Chita. Evgeny Petrovich Tokmakov was born there on 29 September 1916, flew 164 reconnaissance sorties in the Great Patriotic War, was made a Hero of the Soviet Union in April 1944, and led the squadron that first photographed Berlin. He settled afterwards in Lvov, where he died in 2010. A street in Chita carries his name.

For this file he is not a curiosity but a lead. A man born in Chita in 1916 had a father — a Пётр Токмаков — living in Chita in the 1910s: precisely the city, and precisely the generation, of the Onon-basin St George holders of section IV and of Alexander Matveyevich Tokmakov, city head of Chita in 1920-21. That birth would have been entered in a Chita parish register, and those registers are in ГАЗК фонд 282.

No source reached in this research names his parents or gives his estate. That is exactly the kind of question an archive answers cheaply. It belongs in the research plan.

#### TWO TRAPS THIS LIST SETS — READ BEFORE CONNECTING ANYTHING

THE TEA HOUSE. Ivan Fyodorovich Tokmakov's firm opened at Hankou in 1886. Alexander Konstantinovich Tokmakov, the Transbaikal esaul, ran security for the Russian colony at that same city in 1919-23. Two entirely unrelated Tokmakov strands in one Chinese treaty port, thirty years apart. The coincidence is seductive and it means nothing. Never wire the Moscow tea dynasty into a Cossack tree.

THE ST GEORGE CROSSES. Pyotr Mikhailovich Tokmakov of Tambov was a full St George Cavalier — all four crosses — exactly the decoration held by the eight Transbaikal Tokmakov Cossacks of section IV. It is a coincidence of a common award. Tambov is five thousand kilometres from the Onon, and the surname is polygenetic. Say so out loud whenever anyone notices, because they will.

### And one name the list cannot rank

Alexander Matveyevich Tokmakov sits at fourteen on merit and first on relevance. He was a lieutenant-colonel of the Transbaikal Cossack Host, city head of Chita during the Far Eastern Republic, and he died in Harbin on 15 October 1944 — ten months before the Soviet army arrived. Chita to Harbin is the exact hinge on which this family's working hypothesis turns, and he walked it in person. No encyclopaedia will ever call him famous. For your purposes he may be the most important name in this section.



*A country fair: carts, tethered horses, penned sheep.*



*A rope ferry taking a cart and horses across.*

## XX. What we know and what we do not

### THE EVIDENCE TABLE

This is the page to keep. Everything above is summarised here with its evidential status, so that nothing in this brief gets quoted back at you later as something it never was.

| Claim                                                                                                                                                | Status                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Токмаков derives from токмак, a wooden mallet — a Turkic loanword — via a nickname for a stubborn or pugnacious man                                  | DOCUMENTED                                                    |
| The surname arose independently many times; there is no single Tokmakov family                                                                       | DOCUMENTED as etymology; INFERRED in application              |
| The princely Tokmakov-Zvenigorodskys descend from Ivan Vasilyevich Tokmak, first named 1538, Rurikids via the Zvenigorodsky and Nozdrovaty lines     | DOCUMENTED                                                    |
| Your family is not connected to the princes                                                                                                          | INFERRED — strong, and safe to state                          |
| Zabaykalsky Krai is one of the two main concentrations of the surname in Russia today                                                                | DOCUMENTED                                                    |
| Токмаковы are a recognised «забайкальская фамилия»                                                                                                   | DOCUMENTED                                                    |
| Tokmakovs were Transbaikalian Cossacks of the 1st Chindantskaya and Durulguevskaya stanitsas and of Верхний Цасучей — the Onon basin, Akshinsky uезд | DOCUMENTED                                                    |
| Eight Tokmakov Cossacks decorated with the 3ОБО in the China campaign, 1900–01; six Tokmakov officers of the Host to 1920                            | DOCUMENTED                                                    |
| Three of those eight were brothers or close kin serving in the same sotnya                                                                           | INFERRED from consecutive award numbers — testable            |
| Tokmakovs on the Argun-line stanitsas (Tsurukhaitui, Olochi, Duroi, Chalbuchi, Klyuchevskaya)                                                        | NOT FOUND — a genuine gap, and the key open question          |
| Tokmakovs descend from Nerchinsk mining peasants enrolled as Cossacks in 1851                                                                        | NOT FOUND — a plausible mechanism only                        |
| Tokmakovs in the Russian emigration in China — Harbin, Hankow, Tianjin                                                                               | DOCUMENTED                                                    |
| Tokmakovs in Trekhnerechye specifically                                                                                                              | NOT FOUND in any accessible source. BREM is not digitised     |
| A Tokmakov among the 1929 Trekhnerechye raid victims                                                                                                 | NOT FOUND — but the published lists are explicitly incomplete |

| Claim                                                                                                                                 | Status                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tokmakoff Road, Cossack NT, named for Alexander Tokmakov, Russian Cossack farmer                                                      | DOCUMENTED (two independent sources)                                                            |
| Alexander Tokmakov held land on the Katherine River 1933–59; wife Liya; children Irina, Viktor, Pyotr, Veronika; came from near Chita | DOCUMENTED (single community source — worth corroborating)                                      |
| Alexander Tokmakov of the NT is connected to a Trekhrechy family                                                                      | NOT ESTABLISHED — wrong decade; a lead only, though a strong one                                |
| Ieva Tokmakoff, founding executive committee, Russian Community Centre, Adelaide, 1969                                                | DOCUMENTED                                                                                      |
| South Australian Russians came mainly from Harbin and Trekhrechy                                                                      | DOCUMENTED                                                                                      |
| Tokmakoffs in Sydney or Brisbane records, Trove, naturalisation files                                                                 | NOT SEARCHED — those sources block automated access. Unresolved, not negative                   |
| "Tok" as an Australian abbreviation of Tokmakov                                                                                       | NOT FOUND — no evidence of any kind. Family testimony only, if it exists                        |
| Trekhrechy people concentrated specifically in Queensland and western Sydney                                                          | NOT ESTABLISHED — plausible, but unmapped in the literature                                     |
| About a quarter of the male population of Trekhrechy was deported to the Gulag after August 1945                                      | DOCUMENTED — two independent sources                                                            |
| A specific 1955–57 forced clearance order for Trekhrechy                                                                              | NOT FOUND — the evictions and the year-by-year departures are documented; a single order is not |

## XXI. Where to look next

### A WORKING RESEARCH PLAN, IN ORDER OF EXPECTED YIELD

This section is the practical half of the brief. It is ordered by what will tell you most for the least effort and money, not by chronology. Steps 1 to 3 are free and can be done this week.

### Step 1 — The two University of Sydney datasets (free, immediate)

Sheila Fitzpatrick's ARC project produced two open-access datasets that link the Manchurian and Australian ends of exactly this journey. The second was compiled from both the BREM files in Khabarovsk and Australian records. Download both and search for Tokmak.

List of "Russian" migrants arriving to Australia via the China route (Fitzpatrick) <https://hdl.handle.net/2123/31761>

Counting "China" Russians: dataset of Russian migration from China to Australia, 1946–54 (Greenwood)  
<https://hdl.handle.net/2123/31755>

Both are Open Access under CC BY-ND 4.0. This is the highest-yield single action available and it costs nothing. Note that the name list is published as A-L; an M-Z file is referenced by its title but was not on the repository page, so it is worth writing to the repository or to the project to ask for it.

### Step 2 — The BREM online index at Khabarovsk (free)

The State Archive of Khabarovsk Krai publishes an electronic alphabetical catalogue of the BREM personal files. Browse the letter T block and record every Токмаков and Токмакова entry with its exact name, date of birth, birthplace, estate, confession, document dates and leaf count.

ГАХК — Российские эмигранты в Маньчжурии (BREM index) <https://gakhk.khabkrai.ru/projects/brem/>

The index is browsable by first letter and paginated. It is an index only — the images are not published — but it gives you the exact identification you need to order the file. This step could not be completed here because the archive site blocks automated access; it is a manual job, and it is the one most likely to break the case open.

### Step 3 — National Archives of Australia (free, mostly digitised)

RecordSearch offers free name searching, and a large share of immigration and naturalisation files are already digitised and viewable at no cost. Search every variant, and note that NAA uses both "naturalisation" and "naturalization" spellings.

NAA RecordSearch <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/>

### Which pathway applies

Two quite different intakes exist and it matters which one you search. The 1947–53 Displaced Persons dossiers cover people who came from Europe under the IRO agreement and are filed in one NAA series per ship voyage — A11772 (per General Stuart Heintzelman, Bremerhaven, 30 October 1947), A11938 (per General Stewart, Bremerhaven, 13 January 1948) and A12522 are confirmed examples. A Trekhrechye family almost certainly did NOT come this way. They came in the 1957–65 "Russians

from Red China" intake, staged through Hong Kong, whose paperwork sits in the general migrant selection series and the Hong Kong post files.

| Series                      | What it is                                                                                            | Dates       |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| A2478                       | Non-British European migrant selection documents                                                      | 1951–65     |
| A2559                       | Non-British European migrant selection documents — assisted passage schemes                           | 1966–73     |
| A12569                      | Professional non-British migrant selection documents, Form ES35A                                      | 1954–65     |
| A1630 / A2495               | Migration case files, Hong Kong post — MOST LIKELY FOR THIS FAMILY                                    | post-war    |
| A1, A659, A435, A446        | Naturalisation correspondence files: 1903–38, 1939–43, 1944–50, 1953 onward                           | various     |
| A1652, A3907                | Naturalisation name-index cards (1911–56; Europeans 1945–64)                                          | various     |
| A2571                       | Name index cards, migrants registration, Bonegilla                                                    | 1947–56     |
| C1115 / C3109 / C1492       | Sydney: inwards ships passenger lists; ship index 1923–51; IRO nominal rolls 1947–55                  | 1923–66     |
| BP319/2, J715–J733, BP264/1 | Brisbane and Queensland inwards passenger lists and registers                                         | 1924–65     |
| A6119 / A6122 / A6126       | ASIO personal files, subject files, and microfilm copies — Russian émigrés were routinely of interest | 1949 onward |

A migrant selection document records name, nationality, date and place of birth, spouse, names of children, and a trade or occupation summary — and often a photograph, next-of-kin details, shipping details and medical records. For a Harbin or Trekhrechye family it is frequently the only document that states the Russian birthplace in Latin script. A Bonegilla card in A2571 records the aliens registration number, photograph, name, nationality, date of arrival, ship, date of departure, destination, trade, standard of education, next-of-kin address, physical description and a history of the migrant's stay.

Two cautions on series numbers: A12030 as a DP selection series and A11916 as a naturalisation series could not be verified and should be checked in RecordSearch before being cited. The state-specific alien registration series numbers for New South Wales and Queensland also could not be verified — use the NAA fact sheets for the relevant office rather than guessing.

#### Step 4 — Trove, Ryerson and the BDM indexes (free)

- Trove digitised newspapers — <https://trove.nla.gov.au/search/category/newspapers>. Use wildcards: Tokmak\*, Tokm\*. Trove's OCR handles Russian names badly, so also search given name plus suburb plus "Russian".

- Ryerson Index — <https://www.ryersonindex.org/>. About 10.1 million death, funeral, probate and obituary notices from 530 Australian papers, including over 5 million from the last thirty years that are not on state BDM sites.
- NSW BDM historical index — <https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/family-history-search>. Births over 100 years, marriages over 50, deaths over 30.
- Queensland BDM — <https://www.familyhistory.bdm.qld.gov.au/>. Births 1829–1926, marriages 1829–1951, deaths 1829–1996.
- Electoral rolls from 1903 — name, address and occupation (occupation dropped after 1983). Via Ancestry Library Edition and Findmypast, free in libraries.
- Cemeteries — Rookwood Necropolis in Sydney has a Russian Orthodox section; Brisbane City Council runs a memorial search at <https://brisbane.discovereverafter.com/>.

## Step 5 — The two named Tokmakov threads (free, and time-sensitive)

### The Northern Territory family

Alexander Tokmakov farmed on the Katherine River from 1933 to 1959 with his wife Liya and four children — Irina, Viktor, Pyotr and Veronika — and came from near Chita. Search all six names in the Northern Territory and Queensland registries, the Commonwealth electoral rolls, Trove and the Ryerson Index; request his naturalisation and alien registration files from the NAA; and write to the Katherine Museum and the Katherine Historical Society about land and lease records for the Cossack locality. The children, if born in the 1920s to 1940s, may have descendants alive now.

### The Adelaide thread

Ieva Tokmakoff sat on a committee in 1969. People who knew that person are alive. Write to the Russian Community Centre at Portrush Road, Norwood, and to the ROCOR parish of St Nicholas, Adelaide, and ask about the founding committee and about the Tokmakoff family. Ask the parish for a register lookup. This is the kind of lead that evaporates, and it should be chased before anything that involves an archive.

## Step 6 — Order the BREM file (paid, slow, decisive)

5. Identify the person precisely in the online BREM index from step 2.
6. Send a тематический or генеалогический запрос to the archive by email, in Russian, quoting фонд P-830, the full name, date of birth and birthplace exactly as indexed, and asking for electronic copies of the личное дело.
7. Genealogical searches are a paid service. Expect thirty days minimum and often much longer. Payment from Australia to a Russian budget institution is the real bottleneck — this is where hiring a Russia-based researcher through [forum.vgd.ru](http://forum.vgd.ru) is usually worth the money.

ГАХК: 680000, г. Хабаровск, ул. Дмитрия Нагишкина, 4а. Telephone +7 (4212) 30-51-15. Email [gakhk@archiv.khv.ru](mailto:gakhk@archiv.khv.ru). Paid services and price list at <https://gakhk.khabkrai.ru/services/platnye-uslugi/genealogicheskie-zaprosy/>.

Other ГАХК fonds worth naming in the same request, though not confirmed against the archive's own guide: Ф. Р-829, Союз казаков на Дальнем Востоке (Cossack Union membership lists), and Ф. Р-832, resettlement and registration lists.

## Step 7 — Transbaikalia, once you have the stanitsa

The BREM form or the migrant selection document will give you a birthplace. That birthplace is the key to the pre-emigration generations, held at the State Archive of Zabaikalsky Krai in Chita.

- Ф. 282 — Церкви Забайкальской области, 1722–1934. Metric books, исповедные ведомости (confession lists, the best household-by-household census substitute) and брачные обыски (pre-marriage examinations naming parents and witnesses). Records run mainly 1818–1923.
- Ф. 8 — Забайкальская духовная консистория, the diocesan copies and clergy records.
- Ф. 210 — Нерчинское горное правление; опись 3 holds personal files of mining officials and workers. Relevant because of the 1851 enrolment of mining peasants as Cossacks.
- Ф. Р-62 — Забайкальское областное статистическое бюро, 1922–26: household and surname lists by settlement — a post-revolutionary snapshot taken just before the flight to Trekhrechye.
- The Host fonds — Войсковое хозяйственное правление ЗКВ and the military-department fonds — holding послужные списки (service records) and станичные посемейные списки (stanitsa family lists). Cossacks were not covered by the ordinary revision tales in the same way as peasants, so ask for the посемейные списки instead. Browse by name in the regional catalogue at <https://zabarchives.ru/funds> rather than guessing fond numbers.

ГАЗК genealogy instructions:  
<http://www.gku-gazk.ru/index.php/zaprosy/issledovatelyam-rodoslovnoj>. Email [gu-gazk@mail.ru](mailto:gu-gazk@mail.ru).

## Step 8 — Free Russian databases worth running now

| Resource                                  | What it gives you                                                                                                                                                                                                      | URL                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| ВГД — Всероссийское генеалогическое древо | The central Russian genealogy forum. Threads on Transbaikal Cossacks, Harbin sources, emigration from Harbin, Russian émigrés in Manchuria. Post your own family thread — Russian researchers find each other this way | <a href="http://forum.vgd.ru">forum.vgd.ru</a>         |
| Открытый список                           | Wiki database of victims of Soviet political repression, 3.35 million records, wildcard search                                                                                                                         | <a href="http://ru.openlist.wiki">ru.openlist.wiki</a> |
| Мемориал                                  | The consolidated repression database, including the 1937–38 "Harbin operation" against returnees from Manchuria under NKVD order No. 00593                                                                             | <a href="http://lists.memo.ru">lists.memo.ru</a>       |
| Familio                                   | Surname distribution, 1.98 million historical settlements, archive guides. Its China guide is genuinely useful                                                                                                         | <a href="http://familio.org">familio.org</a>           |

| Resource                | What it gives you                                                                                                                                                                      | URL               |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Яндекс Поиск по архивам | AI handwriting recognition over scanned metric books — you can search a surname inside handwritten parish registers. Zabaikalye is not yet a participating archive; check periodically | yandex.ru/archive |
| Энциклопедия Забайкалья | Regional encyclopedia: stanitsas, the Host, Trekhrechye                                                                                                                                | ez.chita.ru       |
| ria1914.info            | Imperial Russian Army officers, including the Transbaikalian Host                                                                                                                      | ria1914.info      |

One published index is worth buying if the search stalls: Кирилл В. Чашин, Русские в Китае: генеалогический индекс, 1926–1946 (New York, 2014), a name index compiled from Harbin and Shanghai directories and church and community records. Whether Tokmakov appears in it has not been checked.

## Step 9 — DNA

Do this in parallel with everything above, and start now rather than later.

- **Test the oldest living relatives first, and urgently.** An aunt or great-uncle born in Harbin or Trekhrechye carries roughly twice as much of the relevant ancestral DNA as their grandchildren, and their matches will be one to two generations closer to the Transbaikalian cousins.
- **AncestryDNA** has by far the strongest Australian coverage and is the best chance of matching Australian-born descendants of collateral Tokmakov lines. It is weak inside Russia.
- **MyHeritage** is the strongest of the majors for Eastern European and post-Soviet matches, and accepts free uploads of raw data from other companies.
- **FamilyTreeDNA** is the only one offering serious Y-DNA testing (Big Y-700, Y-111). Test at least one male-line Tokmakov. Surname plus Y-haplogroup is the only tool that can distinguish an Argun-line Cossack Tokmakov from the several unrelated Tokmakov families elsewhere in Russia. Join the Cossack-DNA and Russia-Slavic DNA projects.
- **GEDmatch** (free) — upload raw data from all of them, so Australian-tested and Russian-tested relatives can actually meet.

One warning specific to this population. Cossack stanitsas intermarried heavily within a handful of settlements, and Elizabeth Ivanov's "everyone is related in one way or another" is literally true of the Australian community too. Endogamy inflates shared centimorgans, so treat relationship predictions cautiously — a predicted third cousin may be a fifth cousin twice over.

## Step 10 — Practical rules to work by

- **Patronymics are free genealogy.** Russian records give фамилия, имя, отчество. Иван Петрович Токмаков is Ivan, son of Pyotr. Every document hands you the father's given name.
- **Tokmakov and Tokmakova are the same surname.** Female forms take -а/-ова, and the patronymic -овна/-евна. Australian indexes routinely treat them as different names.

- **Mind the calendar.** Imperial Russia used the Julian calendar until 1918. Add twelve days for 19th-century dates and thirteen for 20th-century dates to convert Old Style to New. A person born 20 December 1899 Old Style was born 1 January 1900 New Style and may appear with two different birth years. Record both; never silently "correct" one.
- **Establish Orthodox or Old Believer before searching parish records.** Old Believers were outside the state church registration system until 1905; their vital events may be missing, in a separate section, or in police-kept раскольничьи metric books, and their marriages were legally invalid, so children can appear as illegitimate. After 1905 look for общинные метрические книги of the specific concord. The БРЕМ вероисповедание field settles this in one line.
- **Search every spelling, every time.** Tokmakov, Tokmakoff, Tokmakow, Tokmacoff, Tokmakof, Tockmakoff, Tokmokov, Tokmakova — and Tok. In Cyrillic also try Токмаковъ with the pre-reform hard sign, and Токманов as an OCR soundalike.

## XXII. Timeline

### THE WHOLE STORY, IN ORDER

| Date           | Event                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1538           | Prince Ivan Vasilyevich Tokmak Zvenigorodsky first mentioned — origin of the princely Tokmakovs, unrelated to this family                                                                                                   |
| 1689           | Treaty of Nerchinsk fixes the Russo-Chinese frontier; Nerchinsk becomes the administrative anchor of Transbaikalia                                                                                                          |
| 1747           | Two Tokmakov families recorded in the town of Khlynov, Vyatka — a separate northern cluster                                                                                                                                 |
| 18th c.        | The Nerchinsk silver mines tie a large peasant population to the state as горнозаводские крестьяне                                                                                                                          |
| 1851, 17 March | The Transbaikal Cossack Host is created. Nerchinsk mining peasants are permanently enrolled as Cossacks                                                                                                                     |
| 1870–1900      | First Russian заимки and hamlets on the Chinese bank: Ivanovka 1870, Yernishnaya 1875, Chernousikha 1885, Manerka 1890. Dubovaya and Shchuchye 1880, Klyuchevaya 1885, Verkh-Kuli and Karagany c. 1890, Dragotsenka 1880–82 |
| 1897 onward    | The Chinese Eastern Railway is built; Harbin and Hailar become Russian centres in Manchuria                                                                                                                                 |
| 1900–1902      | The China campaign. Eight Tokmakov Cossacks of the Transbaikal Host are decorated with the 3ОБО on Manchurian soil                                                                                                          |
| 1914–1918      | First World War. Owners of Chinese-side farmsteads stop returning home and bring their families across permanently                                                                                                          |
| 1917–1922      | Revolution and Civil War. Semyonov's and Kolchak's forces are broken; Cossacks cross the Argun with families, livestock and property. Shchuchye is the gate                                                                 |
| 1920           | Alexander Matveyevich Tokmakov is city head of Chita (to 1921), then emigrates to Harbin                                                                                                                                    |
| 1921           | The Cossack estate is abolished by the Far Eastern Republic constitution                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1925–1926      | First proper homesteads at Dubovaya. Chinese traders arrive in Trekhrechye. Verkh-Kuli takes up farming                                                                                                                     |
| 1923–1934      | Russian Cossacks settle in Queensland: 66 Ural Cossacks arrive 4 November 1923; stanitsas at Cordalba and Talli. Alexander Tokmakov farms peanuts near Katherine, NT                                                        |
| 1928           | Trekhrechye: 2,130 Russians. The Russian Club of Brisbane is founded                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1929, Sept–Oct | Soviet punitive raids under S. I. Tolstokulakov burn out the Khaul settlements. Over 140 killed, over 600 carried into the USSR. Survivors flee to the Derbul and the Gan                                                   |
| 1930s          | The тридцатники — families fleeing collectivisation — swell the population to 5,519 by 1933. Arable farming overtakes stock-raising                                                                                         |
| 1932           | Manchukuo proclaimed. Trekhrechye becomes South Argun province; Japanese garrison and administration at Dragotsenka                                                                                                         |
| 1934           | BREM established. Registration becomes compulsory for every Russian adult in Manchuria — creating the archive that survives today                                                                                           |

| Date              | Event                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1944, end of year | 9,050 Russians recorded in Trekhrehye: 4,739 men, 4,311 women                                                                                                                       |
| 1945, 9 August    | The Soviet Transbaikal Front invades Manchuria through the Hailar sector. SMERSH follows                                                                                            |
| 1945, Aug–Sept    | 2,249 political arrests recorded across Manchuria, including 75 BREM figures. About a QUARTER OF THE MALE POPULATION of Trekhrehye is deported to the Gulag; livestock confiscated  |
| 1946, December    | The ROCOR Diocese of Australia and New Zealand is established                                                                                                                       |
| 1947, July        | Australia signs its agreement with the IRO. 170,000 displaced persons arrive by 1952, about 20,000 of them Russians — but from Europe, not China                                    |
| 1948              | Bishop Theodore arrives in Brisbane. 5 November: St Nicholas, Woolloongabba, consecrated as Australia's first Russian Orthodox cathedral                                            |
| 1949              | The People's Republic of China is founded. Tubabao camp opens in the Philippines for the Shanghai evacuation — c. 5,500 people; c. 1,500 go to Australia. Wacol opens in Queensland |
| 1950, December    | Единение founded in Melbourne                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1953, December    | Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral, Strathfield, consecrated                                                                                                                           |
| 1954, 18 April    | The Soviet Virgin Lands campaign is announced. Recruitment among the Russians of China begins                                                                                       |
| 1955              | Evictions begin at Verkh-Kuli, Dragotsenka and Barzhakon. Trekhrehye is down to about 3,000 Russians. "They left very unwillingly; many went to Australia"                          |
| 1955–1957         | The settlements empty one by one. Narmakchi's whole Russian population is deported to the USSR in 1956                                                                              |
| 1956              | The Sino-Soviet divergence begins; PRC policy towards the White Russians softens. The ROCOR Diocesan Refugee Committee is founded in Sydney and assists about 4,000 people          |
| 1957–1959         | The peak of the Australian intake: 3,672 arrivals, about a quarter of the whole scheme. The Anking sails 12 November 1957 with 302 migrants                                         |
| 1962              | The Chinese government grants general permission to emigrate to third countries. Most remaining Russians leave for Australia or Latin America                                       |
| 1968              | The last Russian families leave Trekhrehye for Kazakhstan                                                                                                                           |
| 1969              | St Nicholas consecrated in Adelaide; the Russian Community Centre is founded with IEVA TOKMAKOFF on its inaugural executive committee                                               |
| 1972              | Twenty-three Russians remain in Trekhrehye                                                                                                                                          |
| 1986              | Australian census: 46,400 of Russian ancestry, 21,600 speaking Russian at home                                                                                                      |
| 1994              | Австралиада — русская летопись begins publication; the Russian Historical Society in Australia is established                                                                       |
| 2021              | Australian census: 98,107 of Russian ancestry, 23,864 born in Russia                                                                                                                |

## XXIII. Sources

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ГАХК — genealogical enquiries (paid service) <https://gakhk.khabkrai.ru/services/platnye-uslugi/genealogicheskie-zaprosy/>

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Архивы Забайкальского края — fond catalogue <https://zabarchives.ru/funds>

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## The name in the world today (section XVIII)

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Aston University research portal — Kirill Tokmakov <https://research.aston.ac.uk/en/persons/kirill-tokmakov/>

Altai State University literary club — Vladimir Tokmakov [https://www.asu.ru/university\\_life/culture/litclub/tokmakov/](https://www.asu.ru/university_life/culture/litclub/tokmakov/)

Tea-Terra — the Tokmakov tea firm at Hankou, 1886 <https://www.tea-terra.ru/2017/11/18/30118/>

Единение — Russians of the Northern Territory (Alexander Tokmakoff, arrival 1930)  
<https://www.unification.com.au/articles/1599719472/>

Russian Community Centre Adelaide — our history (the 1949 dating)  
<https://www.russiancommunitycentreadelaide.com.au/index.php/our-history/>

University of Oregon — Old Believers in North America (searched; no Tokmakov) <https://glossary.uoregon.edu/old-believers>

## About the illustrations

Every illustration in this edition was generated with a generative model specifically for this brief. They are artist's reconstructions, not archival photographs: they depict typical scenes and settings of the places and years described, not particular people, buildings or events. They should not be reproduced as historical evidence or entered into the family tree as documentary material.

This applies with particular force to the human figures. Every face in this document is invented. None of them is an ancestor, none is drawn from a surviving photograph, and none should ever be captioned with a family name. They exist to show how people of that place and generation dressed, worked and stood — nothing more. The floral border and page ornaments were drawn as vector artwork for this edition.

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*This brief is a research framework. Every claim about a named individual should be verified against the record before it enters the family tree.*