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My competition entry was about...

...my grandfather's family history. I especially investigated my grandfather's and great-grandfather's encounters with different ruling powers and how these powers affected their actions, lives and destinies.



* 1998

Topic of history competition:

An Individual at the Crossroads of History

Year of participation:

2016

Title of your competition entry:

» Life Stories of my Grandfather's Family Members in the course of Latvia's History «



How did you decide on your topic ?

I chose this topic because I believe that in order to start getting to know history, one has to begin with his or her own history. Therefore, I wanted to learn more about the history of my family and how different authorities have affected the life stories of my family members.



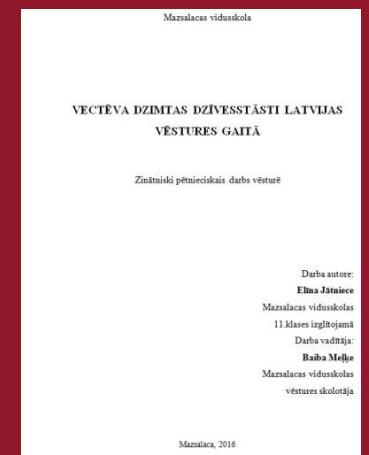
How did you react when you came upon surprising points during your research?

I was surprised how many documents regarding my great-grandfather were available in the archive due to the fact that he has been interrogated by the Cheka. It was very time-consuming to prove the kinship because many documents were required; however, in the end I was able to obtain them rather easily. The materials from interrogations and other documents from the Soviet period were in Russian. Since I cannot speak Russian, my tutor helped me a lot.



Did the research affect you personally?

The whole research was about my grandfather's family and, thus, the whole process was very emotional and significant for me. In addition, I was the first member of my family (except my great-grandfather himself) who has seen my great-grandfather's original birth certificate, because it was kept in my great-grandfather's file in the State Archives of Latvia. I realized that, despite being forced to live under the Soviet regime, my great-grandfather was a true patriot and never lost hope that Latvia will regain its independence some day.



I based my research

- ...on source material
- ...on interviews
- ...on family history
- ...on literature
- ...on the internet



» Motherland will always be in your heart «