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My competition entry was about...

...the deportation of my great-grandmother and her family by Soviet authorities to Siberia in 1949. My ancestors lived and worked there in terrible conditions for eight years. Fortunately, they survived and came back to Latvia. For my research paper, I interviewed my 97 years old great-grandmother and enquired family documents related to this period.



*1998

Topic of history competition:

An Individual at the Crossroad of History

Year of participation:

2016

Title of your competition entry:

» The history of the Klancberg Family in exile in Siberia and related material. Testimony and memories. «



I based my research

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



How did you decide on your topic ?

Since I am interested in the past of my ancestors and in the history of my country, it was obvious to me for which topic to decide. Latvians commemorate victims of deportations; practically in every Latvian family people suffered from banishments.



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

I was surprised that victims of deportation who suffered from severe life conditions, do not bear hate towards the Soviet Union and Russians. Another surprise was that Latvians in exile managed to preserve their traditions and language and taught their children to love their motherland, though some of them had never seen it.



Did the research affect you personally?

My grandmother is a racy storyteller, so it was compelling to interview her. Thanks to her, I learnt a lot about our family's history. After discovering my ancestor's past, I am even prouder of my family and my roots than before.

» Bless your future – study your past«

