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2 February, 1994

Dr. Mathew Meselson,
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Dear Mathew,

I have been cogitating over your comments about Galina & Andrei Poleshaev. They and the "other" Poleshaev ... Andrei Pavlovich Poleshaev whom we found buried in Cemetery #14 ... the confusions of the time and the failure to clean up hospital and clinic case lists after an epidemic will produce occasions like this. In fact I am amazed how accurate overall the 'H' lists are. In my experience, there is seldom such concordance.

The older Poleshaev is epidemiologically neither fish, fowl, nor good red herring. At this time there is the possibility he was a true anthrax case [the great majority in that cemetery area are so]. His placing suggests that he died on or around the 9th April, which puts him before the overt recognition of cause, but his inclusion in area #14 indicates that a doctor considered it likely that he had anthrax. Obviously his death generated enough interest for him to be so considered. That we can still read his gravestone would indicate that his family thought enough of him to spend the necessary funds and that he probably had family in Sverdlovsk at that time. His absence from Lev's "Other Dead Russians" list indicates that he probably didn't die in Hospital No.40 [his presumed date of death would exclude this anyway] but he may have missed autopsy altogether, many did even in normal times. If he is an anthrax case, he is probably one of the very early cases from the chaotic "viral pneumonia" series, like the other first cases missing from the Michustina lists that died on the 4th April and on immediately subsequent days.

Some questions: [a] What are Fedulov's names/initials? [b] Galina Poleshaeva's occupation? [c] Did you ask the Poleshaev's about their pig and what did they tell you?

Best wishes,

Martin
Martin Hugh-Jones