

American Children See The City In Which They Were Born

(Translation of Walter Family interview on Surgut TV while they traveled on Russian Ties.)

An American family came to Surgut. Twelve-year-old Natalia and 10-year-old Michael Walter(s) (*"Volteri"*, which is Russian plural of Walter, so they think one of you is a Walter, 2 or more are Walters) were born in a Surgut maternity hospital, but now live in America, in the small town of Williamston in the state of Michigan.

The American parents adopted Russian Natalia in 1997. The little daughter was half a year old when they got her from Surgut's MGB-1 (*abbreviation for the hospital, perhaps Maternity Government Hospital (Bolnitsa) Number 1*) and took her to the USA.

Within two years Cindy and Todd Walter(s) decided to get a son. This time they came to Surgut for little Misha, who across the ocean became Michael. Incidentally, in Williamston a few families who also came to Russia for adopted children still live in the neighborhood with them.

The children came to Russia for the first time after their birth. The brother and sister, although not by blood, have known that they are Russian since they were a few years old. The parents never kept this a secret, trying when possible to tell the children about the culture of that country where they were born.

Note: In the video, they also translated into Russian what family members said, and added additional commentary that has not been translated into English.

Sandy Newman, 7/29/09.