

**Review of the 19th Pupils' History Competition for the Academic Year 2017/2018  
Organised by the Estonian History and Civics Teachers' Association  
for the Prizes of the President of the Republic of Estonia**

***„A Hundred Years of Estonian Statehood“***

Kersti Kaljulaid, the President of the Republic of Estonia:

*“It is so powerful to think that our lives of today are put together by all the actions and failures of our forefathers.”*



*The patron of the competition, the President of the Republic of Estonia, Kersti Kaljulaid and participants with their tutors and parents in front of the hall of Ministry of Education and Research in Tartu at the final conference on 4 May 2018 (photographer Aldo Luud)*

On 4 May 2018 in Tartu, the 19th Pupils' History Research Competition was concluded with 72 studies (18 in middle school category, 41 in high school category and 13 in the creative category). This year there were no studies written in Russian.

Jury representative Anu Raudsepp said that this year's topic "A Hundred Years of Estonian Statehood" was very wide in terms of both the state and people, offering a variety of opportunities for writing: gaining independence and building up our own country, losing independence and living under occupation, independence and building up our own country again. Most studies were written about people known or unknown, who all have helped to create and build our own small and unique state of Estonia. The purpose of doing personalised research was to study and capture the story of how great grandparents coped with life, how the impact of other people and different events affected their wellbeing. A lot of attention was also paid to the places of residence of Estonian inhabitants: cities, villages, farmsteads, streets.

One way or another, the attempts to acquire practical research skills were made known. In several studies very interesting private collections were used but the knowledge of using the valuable information was not yet learned.

The results of the studies were very even and as Anu Raudsepp said there was no weak study. Opportunities in the free country of Estonia and understanding our responsibility were evaluated, for example, the future depends on us, youth; youth cannot agree with injustice and can find the courage to stand against it.

Secondly, the necessity of knowledge of our origins was emphasised: *the more fragile the awareness of personal origin is, the more shocking it is; my roots are important to me.*

And thirdly the positive values were expressed: *working together in a family business has brought the family closer together and made them better, more caring and more alert towards each other; the conversations that were necessary for the research brought the writes and parents closer.*

The research works were judged by the following jurors: chairman **Eero Medijainen** (Professor of New History in the University of Tartu), **Anu Järs** (Estonian National Museum researcher-curator), **Anu Raudsepp** (Associate Professor at the University of Tartu's History of Didactics) and **Birgit Kibal** (National Archives Advisor).

Creative works were judged by a jury including Pille Rohtla (Audentes School, history teacher) and Sigrít Peets (art teacher). Prizes for creative works were given by The Party of Education and Science and the Union of Estonian Teachers of History and Political Science.

**The best among middle school students were:**

- I. **Robin Põdra** (Gymnasium of Väike-Maarja, tutor Kristi Põdra) "The family story of Jaan Vilbain 1944-1946";
- II. **Eeva Helga Kupits** (Middle School of Valjala, tutor Ester Vaiksaar) "The people of Vahtraaagu farm within the winds of Estonia's history";
- III. **Roosi Hallik** (Gymnasium of Tammsalu, tutor Maie Nõmmik) "The story of Hallik's family firm Hagar".

**The best among secondary students were:**

- I. **Hans Markus Kalmer** (Pärnu Sütevaka Humanitaargümnaasium, tutor Epp Pavelts) "Estonian man in the midst of World War II";
- II. **Annemari Riisimäe** (Tallinn Secondary School of Science, tutor Madis Somelar) "The sailing ship Tormilind"
- III. **Siim Liinat** (Tallinn Secondary School of Science, tutor Tiia Luuk) "Military activities and forced evacuation on the peninsula of Sõrve at the end of World War II".

**The best in the category of creative studies:**

**Mari Karjus** (Tallinn France Lyceum, tutor Katrin Kroosmann) "My grandmother Mall Valk. Life and creation" (issued as a book)

**Uku Freiberg and Hades Prans** (Middle School of Lüllemäe, tutors Rolf Saarna and Kaido Kama) "Recovering the bunkers of legendary forest brother Alfred Käärman".

From gymnasium (high school), the best awarded participant was **Janelle Laukse** (Gymnasium of Väike-Maarja, tutors Kristi Põdra and Marju Metsma) (DVD) “Thoughts of Estonian life and state from century ago”.

**Kristi Põdra** from the Gymnasium on Väike-Maarja was awarded best tutor.

In addition to monetary prizes and diplomas by the president of the Republic of Estonia, there were special prizes by Estonian National Museum and Estonian History Archives, Art Museum of Estonia, Estonian Sports and Olympic Museum.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2018 we would like to give the go ahead for the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> competition with the topic “FREEDOM”.

Coordinators of the competition

Evelin Tiiter

Karolina Antons