Genealogy of the Bucovinian Pioneers of Lennard Manitoba: the Voloca Church Records

by Jim Ungrin

Introduction

Most people who attempted to do genealogical research on their ancestors from Bucovina before ~2002 often hit a very difficult stumbling block. Very little information was available other than that obtained by word of mouth from their ancestors, many of whom emigrated to Canada in the 1899-1912 era. Many of the ancestors could neither read nor write and until the more modern era little emphasis had ever been placed on birthdates, accurate ages etc.

Starting in 2002, however, an enormous store of genealogical information from Bucovina began to become available. The Church of the Latter Day Saints (LDS) (The Mormons) were able to visit many villages in Bucovina and were able to microfilm the original church records or copies deposited in other repositories. These records cover births, marriages and deaths recorded by the churches. The LDS has graciously made these microfilms available for all to view at their Family History Centers across North America and many researchers have benefited greatly from their efforts.

As of September 2010, almost all records from 1800 to ~1920 have been made available. The only exceptions for Voloca are births between 1832 and 1839 and marriages before 1840. These records are the original handwritten ones and are not readily computer-searchable. They must be individually read in the original handwriting. Some may be transcribed by researchers over time and be published but that is not the case at present.

The website www.familysearch.org is the starting point for this source of information. Under the Library Catalogue tab on the homepage one can find the information that has been filmed for Voloca and for many other villages in Bucovina.

Examples of Records

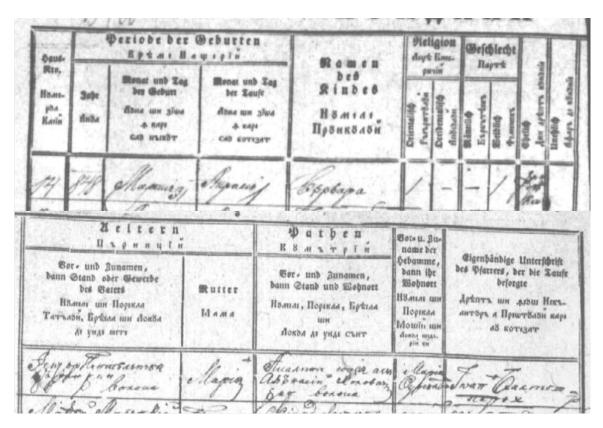
Our interests have been largely limited to Voloca and we will expand on the records from there. Bucovina was annexed by the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1775. The Austrians had a great reputation for accurate record keeping and set up an excellent system.

The houses or family holdings were numbered and records were carefully recorded at the churches. Many of the early records are recorded in Cyrillic (Russian alphabet) and present a bit of a challenge to read. Dates are recorded on the Julian Calendar that was used in that era. Spellings for a specific family vary greatly with time and with the era and the capabilities of the church recorder. The spellings used in this document are one possible choice. Other spellings should be regarded as equally valid. (The practice of shortening and altering names carried on in Canada as well, at

least until more recently when they have become more fixed by computerized government records.)

Births

The records for the church were recorded by hand on two facing pages, each of which had a printed heading. The heading changed slightly as a function of time and the language changed from Russian and German to Romanian as time went on. The writing started in Cyrillic around 1800 and ended in Roman by 1890 but was a combination in between. Two sets of headings and examples are shown, one early and one later.



This set is an example of the two page headings from 1848. Starting in the upper one the columns on page one are for:

1) House number, 2) year, 3) month and date of birth, 4) month and date of baptism and 5) first name. Next comes religion, 6) Greek Orthodox or, 7) Roman Catholic followed by sex, 8) male or 9) female. The final two columns indicate the birth was, 9) within-marriage or 10) illegitimate.

In our example:

House 14, on 1848 March 31, Varvara was born. (baptized April 1). She was Orthodox, female and born within-marriage.

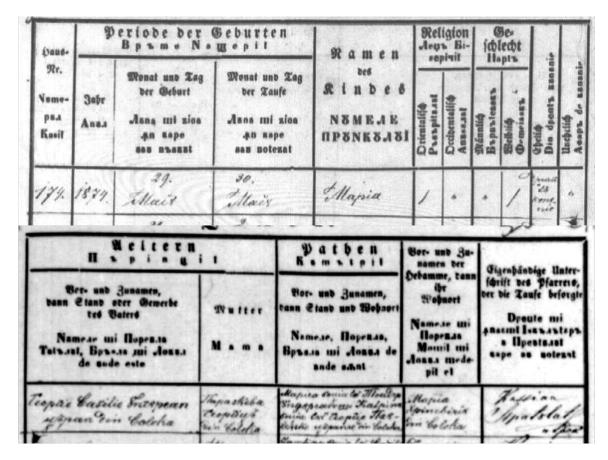
Page two follows with 11) full name of father and village, 12) name of mother, 13) name(s) of godparents, 14) name of mid-wife and finally 14) name of baptizing official.

In our example:

Father was Teodor Penteliciuc of Voloca, mother Maria, Godparent Akelina, sotia (wife of) Aftanasi Holovach, mid-wife Maria Onufreiciuc (unclear) and priest Ioan Hackman (again unclear).

Some of the challenges of reading the handwriting are evident here!!

This second example from 1874 shows some changes.



The columns ask for the same information, but now more Romanian is evident in the titles. The writing is now more Roman as well.

On page one of our example we now have:

House 174, 1874 May 29 Maria, Orthodox, female and legitimate was born (baptized on May 30.)

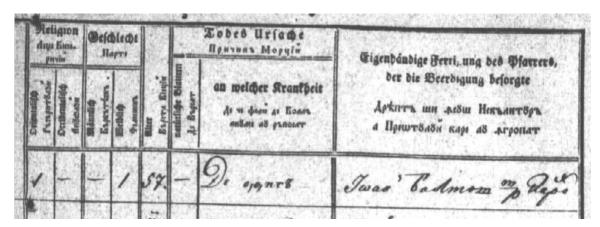
Page two tells us:

Father Georgi, son of Vasilie, Ungurean from Voloca and mother Parascheva Guraliuk also of Voloca. Godparents were Marica, sotia (wife of) Teodor Ungurean and Katrina daughter of Georgi Paulenko, both from Voloca. Midwife was Maria Hrincivici of Voloca and the priest was Cassian Stratulat.

We have a bit more information here about the mother as well as easier-to-read handwriting.

Deaths

Two sets of headings and examples are shown, one early and one later. Beit bes 21bfterbens Beime Praocrein Saus. Bor - und Buname bee Derftorbenen Mrø. Ronat und Ronat und und beffen Wohnort Lag bes Tag ber Hams Sabr Mbfterbene Beerbigung Ивмили ши Порикла Ръпосатвлен, ши Abna min glwa dona um siwa finba Katin A RAPE A MAPE Локва де унде шете, AS PEROLAT CAS APPONAT



This set is an example of the two page headings from 1848. Starting in the upper one the columns on page one are for:

1) House number, 2) year, 3) month and date of death, 4) month and date of burial and 5) name (including village). The final column is for place of death.

In our example:

House 127, on 1848 March 21 Anna, sotia (wife of) Nicholai Onufreiciuc, resident of Voloca, died. She died in Voloca. She was buried March 23.

Page two follows with:

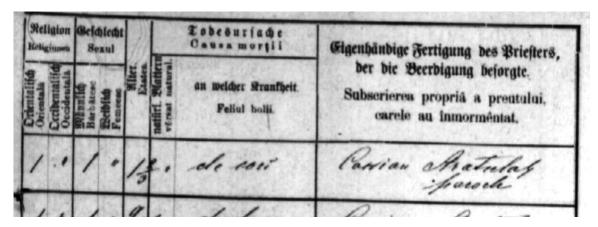
Religion, column 7) Greek Orthodox or, 8) Roman Catholic followed by sex, 9) male or 10) female and 11) age. Column 12) is used to indicate "natural cause", followed by 13) giving death cause and finally 14) clergy for funeral.

In our example:

Anna was Orthodox, female and 57 years old. Cause was natural and "of the cough". The clergy is believed to read "Ioan Hackman".

This second example from 1885 shows some changes.

Pans- Ar. Numë- rul casei.	36.1	it bes Abi	terbens u arii	Tauf- und Buname bes Berftorbenen	Stanb	
	Jahr. Anul.	Monat und Tag des Absterbens. Luna și diua repausării.	Monat unb Tag ber Beerdigung. Luna și diua Inmormentării	nud deffen Rohnort. Num ele de botezu și de familiă al repăusatului și domiciliul lui.	ober Sewerbe. Starca séu meseria,	
120	1883	11	13 mit	His find aly Varilie	faroni	



The columns ask for the same information, but now more Romanian is evident in the titles.

On page one of our example we now have:

House 120, 1885 March 11 Elie, son of Vasilie, (in turn) son of Dumitru, Paulenco of Voloca. He died in Voloca and was buried March 13.

Page two tells us:

Elie was Orthodox, male 1 and 2/3 years old and died of "cori" (translation unknown). Clergy for the funeral was Cassian Stratulat.

We have a bit more information here about the person's father.

Marriages

Two sets of headings and examples are shown, one early and one later.



This set is an example of the two page headings from 1845. Starting in the upper one the columns on page one are for:

1) House numbers (top for groom lower for bride), 2) 3) and 4) month and date of bans in church, 5) month and date of marriage 6) year, 7 name of groom (including village), 8) nationality, 9) and 10) Greek Orthodox or Roman Catholic, 11) age and 12) bachelor or 13) widower.

In our example in page 1:

Houses (of couple) 127 and 60. On 16, 23 and 30 September 1845 bans were announced and marriage on September 30 for the union of Ioan, son of Vasilie Holovach, Orthodox, 23 years old and bachelor and

On page two the information given is:

Column 14) Brides name, 15) nationality 16) Greek Orthodox or, 17)Roman Catholic 18) age, 19) single or 20) widow, 21) witness for the wedding, 22) nationality and finally 23) clergy for marriage.

In our example:

Parasheva, daughter of Dumitru Sausiuc, was Orthodox, 22 years of age and single. Witness was Simeon (?) Paulenko and his wife Parasheva of Voloca. Clergy was 'loan ??".

This second example from 1884 shows some changes.

	Hans-	Periode Timpul				No.	Brantigam Mirele					
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Numë- Numë rul rul curinte casci		Monat und Tag der geschehenen Auf- fündigung Luna zi diua, in care s'au vestit 1. 2. 3.		Tranung. 3ahr.		Stand ober Gewerbe und Bohnort. Numele de hotezu și de familia, starea seu meseria și domicilial.	Orientalia Orientalia Occibentalia Occibentalia		Alter Etatea.	Lebig Holtein.	Bittmer Vedur	
26.	408	14.	21.	26.	Is. Velom	1884	Svann fürlu alui Pricopie Georgibia tia Dompichei Trearin Fiaranu Ini Volcea	,	*	21.	/	

Brant Hir	rées	*	Bengen Hunt!			
Tauf- und Zuname, bann Stand oder Gewerbe und Wohnort. Numele de boteau și de familia, starea său meneria și domicilial.		Etstea.	Sebig Pats.	Bittipe Veduva.	Zauf- und Zuname, bann Stand oder Gewerbe und Wohnort. Numele de botenu și de familia, starea sóu meseria și domiciliul.	Unterschrift bes Briesters, ber bie Trauung besorgte Subsorierea pro- pris a preutului, carole au cununat
Iftima fine aleci Franci Alepina si a Marici dala kom herana Vin Volvea	, .	0	1	٠	The Guraline, en A tra ta Enfinion Siarani dini Voloca	Cassian, that lad,

The columns ask for similar information, but now more Romanian is evident in the titles. The first column now indicates that this was the 26th marriage of the year.

On page one of our example we now have:

For Houses 408 and 414, banns were announced October 14, 21 and 26 with marriage on October 1884 between Ioan, the son of Pricopi Georgetts and Domnica Tokaru of Voloca (Ioan was Orthodox, 21 years of age and single) and

Page two tells us:

Iftima, the daughter of Ioan Hlopina and Marica Salohor of Voloca. (Iftima was Orthodox, 18 years of age and single). Witnesses for the wedding were Elie Guraliuc and his wife Eustafia of Voloca and the clergy was Cassian Stratulat.

We have a bit more information here about the parents as well as easier-to-read handwriting.

The format of the records is largely unchanged over the period from 1840 to 1920.

St Elijah District Families from Voloca

By following the House Number (Numero de casei) and the sequence of names which often lists the father as well as the grandfather, one can work back in time for a given family. Our particular interests followed my four grandparents' families: the Ungurian family from House 340, the Hlopina Family from House 276, and the Onufreiciuc House from House 171 and the Penteliciuc Family from House 400.

During the extended search for these family details on the microfilms (many hundreds of hours), there were many incidental findings as well for other families who emigrated to the Lennard-Shell Valley-McNutt area. Because there are many families of the same last name, however, it is necessary to find some supplemental information to zero-in on the relevant family. There are particularly many Onufreiciuc, Penteliciuc, Gorda, Ungurian and Holovach families, for example. No cross-links between some of them has been found going back to 1800.

The excellent book *Once upon a Century*, put out by the R.M. of Boulton in 1984 has been of enormous help. Also over the years many individual family histories have been written and have provided valuable dates and information.

Using the microfilms and these sources, information has been found on the following families listed below in alphabetic order. Many details have been collected but will be of interest to only a smaller sub-set of people. Anyone having an interest may contact the author of this note at the contact point listed at the end of the article.

The names are listed as connected to the known family member or members who came to Canada.

Antosh Family

The ancestry of Dumitru or Metro Antosh has been traced back to House 197 and Simeon Antosh who was born ~1782.

Burla Family

The ancestry of Georgi and Eli Burla has been traced back to House 279 and Vasilie Burla who was born ~1790.

Ceuca Family

The ancestor of the Pricopi and Tanasi Ceuca has been traced back to House 77 and Andrei Ceuca who was born ~1795.

Gorda Family

The ancestry of Ekaterina Gorda (later Mrs Ioan Onufreiciuc), Maria Gorda (later Mrs Ted Guraliuk), Eli and Tanasi Gorda, as well as Pentelei Gorda and his sons Gavriil, Georgi and Florea has been traced back to House 110 and Vasilie Gorda who was born 1803.

Gorlick Families (2)

The ancestry of Grigory and Pricopi Guraliuk has been traced back to House 388 and Georgi Guraliuk who was born ~1810.

Similarly, the family of Teodor Guraliuk has been traced to Stefan Guraliuk (born ~1790) of House 334.

No link has been found between the two families.

Gudz (Goods) Family

The ancestry of Teodor, Alexca and Anna (later Mrs Pentelei Gorda) has been traced back to House 96 and Dumitru Gudz who was born ~1770.

Holovach Families (2)

The ancestry of Tanasi, Nicholai and Pricopi Holovach has been traced back to House 232 and Grigori Holovach who was born ~1789.

The ancestry of Pentelei Holovach has been traced back to Ioan Holovach of House 127.

No link has been found between the two families.

Hlopina Family

The ancestry of Mihai and Nestor Hlopina has been traced back to Simeon Hlopina of House 276 who was born ~1803.

Holunga Family

The ancestry of Jacob, Nestor and Vasilie Holunga has been traced back to House 236 and Vasilie Holunga who was born ~1804.

Mintencu Family

The ancestry of Nicholai, Petrea, Domnica (later Paulencu) and Constantin Mintencu has been traced back to House 162 and Teodor Mintencu who was born ~1755.

Onufreiciuc Families (4)

The ancestry of Ioan Onufreiciuc and his extended family (Paul, Eli, Isidor, Bill, Louis, Saveta (later Hlopina), Maria (later Manial) and Varvara (later Savliuk) has been traced to House 171 and Ioan Onufreiciuc who was born ~1781.

The ancestry of Magdalena Onufreiciuc (later Mrs Eli Dohie) has been traced back to House 53 and Vasilie Onufreiciuc who was born ~1769.

The ancestry of Nestor Onufreiciuc has been traced back to House 92 and Grigori Onufreiciuc who was born ~1765.

The ancestry of Pricopi Onufreiciuc and his children Elsie (later Cohan), Angelina (later Burlack), Nick, and Dora (later German) has been traced back to House 131 and Aftanasi Onufreiciuc who was born ~1797.

No connection has been found between these four families.

Paulencu Family

The ancestry of John and George Paulencu and their mother Domnica (nee Mintencu) has been traced to House 153 and Teodor Paulencu who was born ~1760. The families of Elie Ilie and Marco Zilisky as well as that of Pricopi Axcenti are closely tied into this one.

Penteliciuc Family

The ancestry of Nicholai Penteliciuc has been traced back to House 32 and Ioan Penteliciuc who was born ~1775.

Savliuk Family

The family of Nestor Savliuk has been traced to House 279 and Anton Savliuk who was born ~1805.

Sadoway Family

The ancestry of Nistor Sadoway has been traced back to House 39 and Mihail Sodovei who was born ~1785.

Ungurean Family

The ancestry of Dumitru Ungurean (later Ungrin) has been traced back to House 340 (also earlier 189) and Pentelei Ungurean who was born 1819. Some, but fewer details have been collected on other families in the district. Many of these would need additional information from family members to confirm that they are the persons who emigrated to Canada.

19 September 2010. Jim Ungrin ungrinjr@gmail.com