

# 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](http://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.

Haus- No., Но- м- е- р- а Като	Periode der Geburten Врѣмѣ Начетіи		Namen des Kindes Имя Проклада	Religion Аукт. Ко- н- тин		Geschlecht Полъ		Ausg. d. Geburt Исходъ	Anmerkungen Замѣтки
	Jahr Годъ	Monat und Tag der Geburt Мѣсяцъ и число дней		Monat und Tag der Taufe Мѣсяцъ и число дней	Orthodox Православн.	Römisch Католик.	Männlich Мужской		
14	1848	31. März	1. April	Varvara	Orthodox	Female	Within-marriage		

  

Vater Отецъ		Mutter Мать		Vorn- u. Zunamen der Hebammen, dann ihr Wohnort Имя и Почина Можетъ и дочери, или сынъ		Eigenhändige Unterschrift des Pfarrers, der die Taufe besorgte Аукт. и число Нех- отдохъ а Проклада на днъ	
[Handwritten]		[Handwritten]		[Handwritten]		[Handwritten Signature]	

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.

Haus- Nr.  Name- post Kostl	Periode der Geburten Врѣмѣ Нѣгѣтїи			Namen des Kindeſ  НѢМЕЛК ПРѢНѢСАБИ	Religion Аггѣ Бї- сепїтїи		Ge- schlecht Платьї		Ursach Die dїeſeſe kranke Ursach Аггѣ de kranke
	Jahr Аннѣ	Monat und Tag der Geburt Аннѣ мї зїон ѣн кепѣ сѣн нѣнѣтї	Monat und Tag der Taufe Аннѣ мї зїон ѣн кепѣ сѣн нѣнѣтї		Orientaliſch Рѣспїтїанскї	Occidentaliſch Аннѣскї	Männlich Брѣтїанскї	Weiblich Фѣмїанскї	
174	1874	29. März	30. März	Maria	/				

  

Weiter Нѣспїтїи		Vater Кѣмѣтїи		Vor- und Zu- namen der Gebamme, dann ihr Wohnort		Eigenhändige Unter- schrift des Pfarrers, der die Taufe besorgte	
Vor- und Zunamen, dann Stand oder Gewerbe des Vaters  Name, so mї Нѣрѣнѣ Тѣтѣскї, Брѣтїанскї мї Аннѣскї de unde este		Mutter		Vor- und Zunamen, dann Stand und Wohnort  Name, so, Нѣрѣнѣ, Брѣтїанскї мї Аннѣскї de unde este		Name, so mї Нѣрѣнѣ, Мѣтїи мї Аннѣскї де unde este	
Teodor Basilie Ungurean sotian din Voloca		Marica sotia din Voloca		Marica sotia din Voloca		Cassian Stratulat	

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. Mid-wife was Maria Hincivici 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.

Gauß- Nro.	Zeit des Absterbens Время Родоизрѣн			Vor- und Suname des Verstorbenen und dessen Wohnort Имя и Покла Родоизрѣдѣн, и Мѣста де ундѣ метѣ.	Stand oder Gewerbe Станъ сво Рѣчѣн
	Haar- pfa- Kath	Jahr Годъ	Monat und Tag des Absterbens Мѣсяцъ и число дѣнъ въ мѣсяцѣ		
127.848.		21	22	Anna Logiz sowa Onufreiciuc Григоріевна Волоча	Убогъ

Religion Аннѣ Като- лическѣ	Geschlecht Полъ		Alter Вѣкъ	Todes Ursache Причина Смерти an welcher Krankheit де въ мѣсяцѣ де Конецъ мѣсяцъ въ мѣсяцѣ	Eigendändige Fertigung des Pfarrers, der die Beerdigung besorgte Архидѣя и деши Нѣкѣлѣнтѣрѣ а Протоѣрѣнъ Кѣри де Архидѣя
	Семейство Религіозно Семейство Грѣко- Католическѣ	Мужской Женской Феминин			
1	—	1	57	De 1978	Ioan Hackman p. Pape

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.

Haus- Nr. Numărul casei.	Zeit des Absterbens Timpul repausării		Tauf- und Zuname des Verstorbenen und dessen Wohnort. Num ele de botezu și de familie al repăusatului și domiciliul lui.	Stand oder Gewerbe. Starea său meșeria.
	Jahr. Anul.	Monat und Tag des Absterbens. Luna și ziua repausării.		
120	1885	11 März	Elie fiul alți Vasilie Dumitric Paulenco din Voloca	Saracu

Religion Religiunea	Geschlecht Sexul	Todesursache Cauza morții		Eigenhändige Fertigung des Priesters, der die Beerdigung besorgte. Subscrierea propriă a preotului, carele au inmormental.
Orthodox Orientalis	Männlich Härblic	an welcher Krankheit. Feliul bolii.	natürl. Sterben veroat natural.	
1	1	13	de cori	Cassian Stratulat paroch

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.



This second example from 1884 shows some changes.

Post-Nr.	Haus-Nr.	Periode Timpul					Bräutigam Nirele											
		der Aufkündigung Vestirilor			der Trauung Canonic		Tauf- und Zuname, dann Stand oder Gewerbe und Wohnort.	Religion			Alter	Gebig	Ehltimer	Veduvoiu.				
		Monat und Tag der geschehenen Aufkündigung			Monat und Tag der Trauung	Jahr.		Religiona	Occidentalisch	Occidentalisch								
		Luna și ziua, în care s'au vestit	1.	2.	3.	Luna și ziua, în care s'au cununat.	Anul.	Numele de botezu și de familia, starea și meseria și domiciliul.	Orientalisch	Occidentalisch	Occidentalisch	Alter	Ehltimer	Gebig	Hohereu.	Ehltimer	Veduvoiu.	
	26. 408	14.	21.	26.	23.	1884		Ioan fiu al lui Pricopi Georgietts și a Domnichei Tokaru siarani din Voloca	1					21.	1			
	414	Nedonore			Vedonore													

Brant Nireea					Zeugen Nunt			Eigehändige Unterschrift des Priesters, der die Trauung besorgte. Subscrierea propriă a preutului, carele au cununat.
Tauf- und Zuname, dann Stand oder Gewerbe und Wohnort.		Religion			Tauf- und Zuname, dann Stand oder Gewerbe und Wohnort.			
Numele de botezu și de familia, starea și meseria și domiciliul.		Orientalisch	Occidentalisch	Occidentalisch	Alter	Ehltimer	Gebig	Veduvoiu.
Numele de botezu și de familia, starea și meseria și domiciliul.		Orientalisch	Occidentalisch	Occidentalisch	Alter	Ehltimer	Gebig	Veduvoiu.
Iftima fiica al lui Ioan Hlopina și a Marici Salahor siarani din Voloca		1			19	1		
Elie Guraliuc și Eustafia siarani din Voloca								
								Cassian Stratulat

The columns ask for similar information, but now more Romanian is evident in the titles. The first column now indicates that this was the 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### **Cohan Family**

The ancestry of Vasilie Cohan and his two sons, Constantin and Artemon has been traced back to House 214 and Grigori Cohan, who was born about 1785.

#### **Georgetts**

The ancestry of Leonti Georgetts and his family has been traced back to House 29 and Antonin Georgetts, who was born about 1772.

#### **German Family**

The ancestry of Artemon German has been traced back to House 49 and Ioan German, who was born around 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/Goodes) 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.

**Manial Family**

The ancestry of Ioan Manial has been traced back to House 4 and Axcenti Manial, who was born about 1790.

**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.

### **Strutz Family**

The ancestry of Grigori Strutz (2<sup>nd</sup> husband of Domnica Paulencu nee Mintencu), his sister, Macrima (mother of Ionica Mintencu) and their cousin Zamphira Strutz, (1<sup>st</sup> wife of Ioan Onufreiciuc and mother of Varvara, Eli and Paul Onufreiciuc) has been traced to House 169 and an earlier Grigori Strutz, who was born about 1781.

### **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.

### **Ursulak Family**

The ancestry of Stefan Ursulak has been traced back to House 107 and Tanasi Ursulak, who was born about 1775.

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Jim Ungrin [ungrinjr@gmail.com](mailto:ungrinjr@gmail.com)

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\*Addendum – 6 family names, May 2011. Over the past year, I have worked through what I strongly suspect are the last Lennard, Mantioba and area families for which I will be able to find clues that allow us to trace a path back to origins in Voloca, Bucovina.

NOTE: Much of the data assembled here has been incidental to the searches for data on the author's own family. It has been separated and assembled here for the enjoyment of others and is being released to avoid having other people spending countless hours poring over the same data. Enjoy and pass it on.

Anyone feeling they have gained substantially from this data can show their appreciation via a donation to the St. Elijah Museum and Cemetery Fund. [www.stelijahpioneermuseum.ca/donate.php](http://www.stelijahpioneermuseum.ca/donate.php)