

sa ort. or. a Bucovinei.

Tara Bucovina.

literatul ort. or. al *Nistrului*

Districitul politic

exhib. *94*

Comuna politica

1

CRONE

1859

Certificat de botez.

În condicta născuților a parochiei *ortodox orientala*

pag. *8* se află, precum urmează: *1912*  
*1859*

nte	<i>1912</i>
erii și N-rul casei	<i>Borouti, 95</i>
și ziua născerii	<i>14 Decembrie, 26. Decem</i> <i>na mică din cinci ză</i>
și ziua botezului	<i>17/29. Decembrie</i>
botez al pruncului	<i>Stefan</i> <i>ortodox orientala</i> <i>masculin</i>
legitimă nelegitimă	<i>legitimă</i>
botez și e, starea și maicii	<i>Ioan Leocă, șche</i> <i>rand din Borouti;</i> <i>Vasclena</i>
botez și de familie domiciliul nașilor	<i>Aflandere Tancha,</i> <i>Borouti</i>
botez și de familie lul moșei	<i>Anna Cerulei din</i>
otului, carele au	<i>Gavril Calincus, pa</i>

deverire urmează subscrierea mea proprie și întipărirea sigilului bi

ia de suflete ort. or. *Borouti în ap. Se*

1

CRONE

1859

Sigilul

Acoperământul

maicii

*Georgiu*

ISBN and Bar Code Go Here

DRAFT

Stephan & Anastasia Shewchuk Ukrainian Canadian Pioneers • Their Story • Our History

DRAFT

Stephan  
&  
Anastasia  
Shewchuk

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN PIONEERS  
THEIR STORY • OUR HISTORY

rt. or. a Bucovinei.

Tara Bucovina.

utul ort. or. al *Nistrului*

Districitul politic

ib. *95*

Comuna politica

1

CRONE

1859

Certificat de botez.

În condicta născuților a parochiei *ortodox orientala*

pag. *75* se află, precum urmează:

și N-rul casei	<i>Borouti, 175</i>
luna născerii	<i>22. Aprilie (8. Maiu) 1859</i> <i>optăte cinci ză</i>
luna botezului	<i>26. Aprilie (8. Maiu) 1859</i>
z al pruncului	<i>Anastasia</i> <i>ortodox orientala</i> <i>femeie</i>
gimă legitimă	<i>legitimă</i>
botez și area și maicii	<i>Dim. Fedorean,</i> <i>din Borouti;</i> <i>Magdalena Crance</i>
z și de familie iciul nașilor	<i>Stanelo Gordei, țaran</i> <i>Chirselcu Anna, soț</i> <i>Stefan Mechelnic,</i> <i>din Borouti</i>
z și de familie moșei	<i>Vasclena Calincus din</i>
ni, carele au	<i>Gavril Calincus, faro</i>

erire urmează subscrierea mea proprie și întipărirea sigilului bise

e suflete ort. or. *Borouti în a. 14. Se*

1

CRONE

1859

Sigilul

Acoperământul

maicii

*Georgiu*



# Stephan & Anastasia Shewchuk

Ukrainian Canadian Pioneers

Their Story • Our History



Stephan Shewchuk & Anastasia (Fedorak) Shewchuk  
circa 1910 homestead near Willingdon, Alberta



## Dedicated to the Pioneer Spirit



Back Standing: Stephan Shewchuk (father) on homestead circa 1920. Left to Right: Onufrie (Frank) Shewchuk (son), Mechailo (Mike) Shewchuk (son), Stefan (Steve) M Fedorak (grandson)

**Stephan & Anastasia Shewchuk:**  
**Ukrainian Canadian Pioneers • Their Story • Our History**

ISBN: #-#####-#-#-###

First Edition, First Printing, 2013

**Researchers & Contributing Authors:** Harry F. Shewchuk (*great grandson to Stephan & Anastasia*), Steve M Shewchuk (*grandson to Stephan & Anastasia*), Brian M Huculak (*great grandson to Stephan & Anastasia*), Kathleen (Shewchuk) Huculak (*granddaughter to Stephan & Anastasia*), Olli Megley (*great granddaughter to Stephan & Anastasia*).

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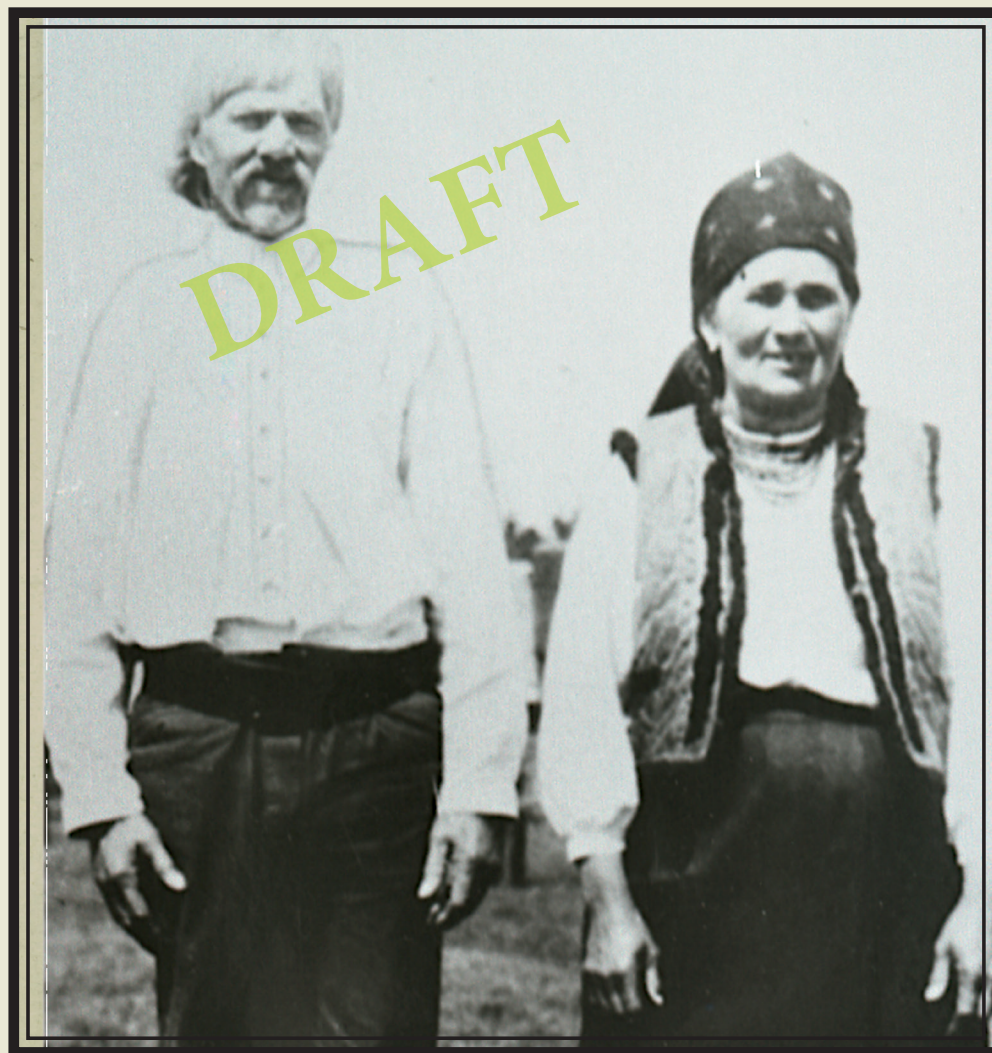


## Stefan & Anastasia Shewchuk ~ Family

A family record is more than names, dates, and places. It's about people! Who we are and who we came from starts with:



Elena (Shewchuk) Fedorak  
b.1880 Borivsti, Bukovina, d.1949



Stefan Shewchuk b. 14 Dec 1854  
Borivsti, Bukovina, d. 1923

Anastasia (Fedorak) Shewchuk b. 2  
Apr 1859, Borivsti, Bukovina, d. 1938



Ivan Shewchuk b.12 Feb 1882  
Borivsti, Bukovina, d. Aug 1972



Georgi S. Shewchuk b. 11 Jul 1883  
Borivsti, Bukovina, d.1972



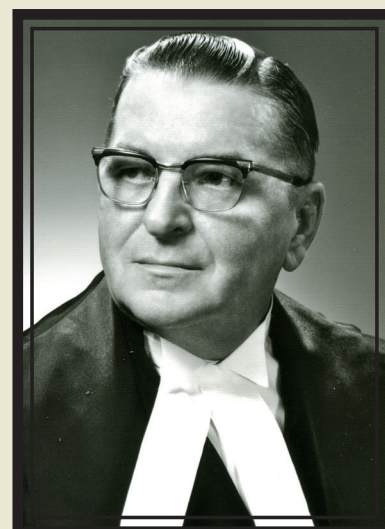
Maria (Shewchuk) Fedorak b. 1893,  
Borivsti, Bukovina, d. Jul 1972



Onofrey Shewchuk b. 14 Aug 1899  
Borivsti, Bukovina, d. 2 Dec 1961,  
Ham., ON



Vasyl Shewchuk b.25 Dec 1895  
Borivstik Bukovina, d. Feb 1974,  
Ham., ON



Nicholai Shewchuk b. 2 Apr 1902,  
Shandro, AB, d. 13 Oct 1968



Mechailo Shewchuk  
b.1898 Borivsti, Bukovina, d. 24  
Aug 1980, Edm., AB



# BEGINNINGS



By Harry F Shewchuk  
(G Grandson to Stefan  
Shewchuk)

When Austria, Russian and Prussia invaded Poland in 1772 during the reigns of Maria Theresa of Austria and Catherine II of Russia, the province of Galicia was taken over by Austria, while the rest of Poland was divided by Russian and Prussia. Three years later in 1775, Austria drove Turkey out of the province of Bukovina and occupied it also.

When Austria occupied Galicia, Austria had not taken away all the power from the Polish landlords. They had the right to maintain an army for its own protection, however, some of the young men they recruited were sent into the Polish guerrilla army. These young men were selectively picked from the surrounding towns and villages over which each landlord dominated.

Two Shewchuk brothers, who lived in the village of Chorney Potik in the province of Galicia, refused to be taken into the landlords army and fled the village. They crossed the Dniester River and proceeded south to live in the province of Bukovina, which was less populated and a much safer place to live. One of the brothers settled in the village of Borivtsi and the other settled in the village of Kitsman, several villages to the south east. The latter Shewchuk brothers' family history is unknown.

The Shewchuk that settled in the village of Borivtsi, Bukovina, Ukraine had two sons, one was Stefan and the name of the other is unknown.

Stefan married the daughter of Ivan Skoreyko and had three daughters and a son Ivan. Stefan lived until he was 93 years old. Stefan Shewchuk's son Ivan married Vasylena Hunchak, daughter of Onufrei Hunchak. They had three sons; Stefan, Petro and Georgi.

Ivan and Vasylena Shewchuk's first son Stefan was born December 14th 1854 in Borivtsi, Bukovina, Ukraine and married Anastasia Fedorak, who was born April 2nd 1859 in Bukovina (*ed. upon which*

*this family record is dedicated and based upon*). Seven children were born in the Ukraine namely: Elena, Ivan, Georgi, Maria, Vasyli, Michael and Onofrey. They immigrated to Canada, sailing on the SS Assyria from Hamburg Germany on May 5th 1900 and arriving in Halifax, Nova Scotia on May 18th 1900. An eighth child, Nicolai was born in Canada. Upon arriving in Halifax they traveled by train to Strathcona, Alberta (now Edmonton), the trip took approximately one week.

On arrival in Edmonton, Alberta, they were to be met by Stefan's brother-in law Ivan Shymko, he misjudged their arrival time and was not there to greet them. Son Ivan Shewchuk, age 17, with friend Ivan Farrus took

off walking along the Victoria Trail following telegraph line to Pakan, Alberta. They met Ivan Shymko along the trail coming into Edmonton by horse and wagon to pick them up and take them to their homestead. They lived for a time with Ivan Shymko on a farm near Andrew, Alberta. Later Ivan Shymko moved to Eagle Hill, AB. Stefan Shewchuk moved to his new homestead in the Whitford, Alberta area.

Stefan filed claim on land SE12-57-15W4, N.W.T. on July 19th 1900, which was the original homestead, and still remains property in the family. Having lived in Canada for three years and having complied with all requirements of the Naturalization Act Stefan Shewchuk and family were naturalized as British subjects in the Dominion of Canada - North West Territories on October 26th 1904. Stefan was thereby granted all political and other rights, powers and privileges entitled to a natural born British subject.



Georgi Shewchuk (brother to Petro  
& Stefan) b. 1865, d. 1919 Borivtsi,  
Bukovina, Ukraine

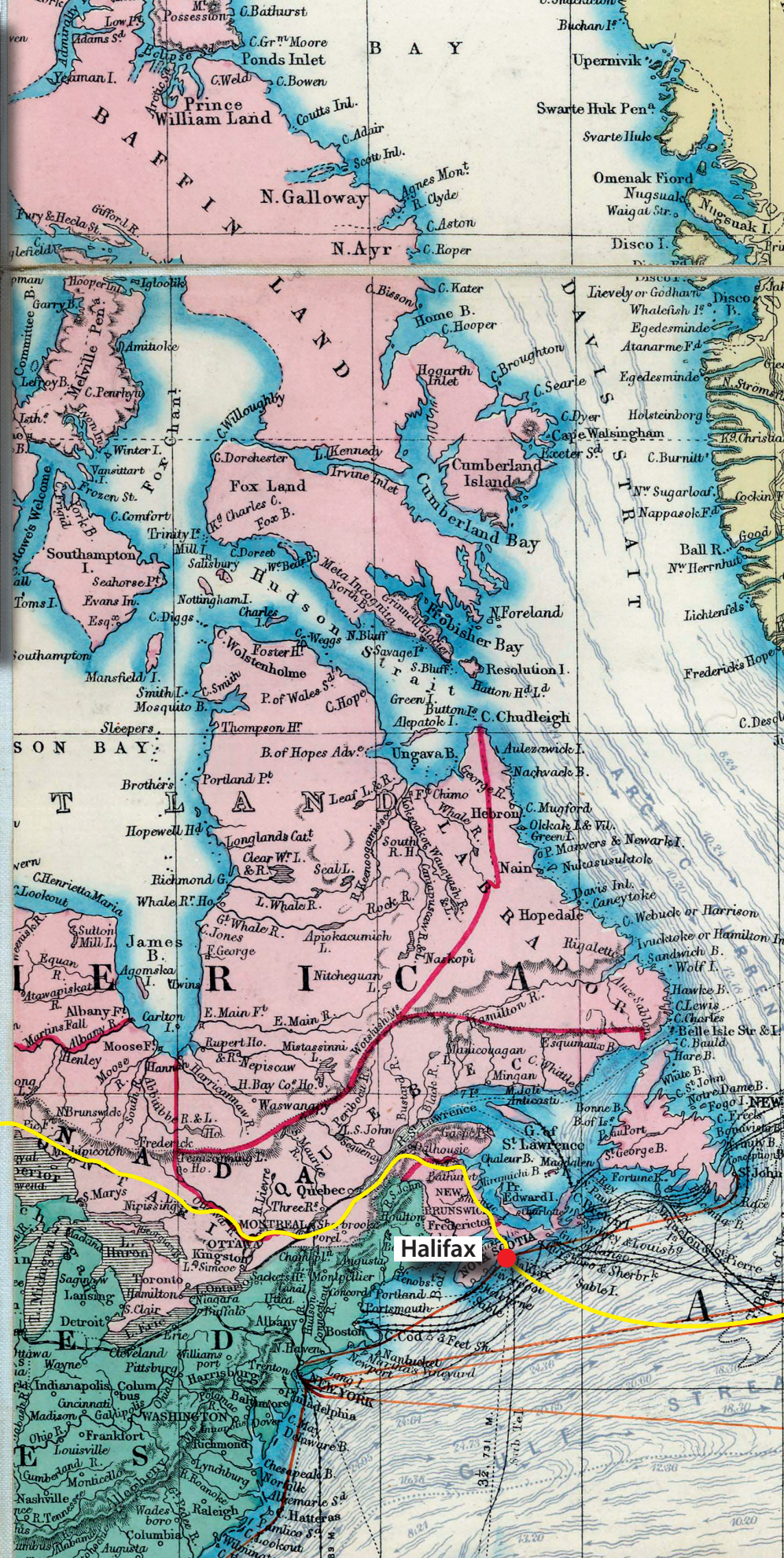
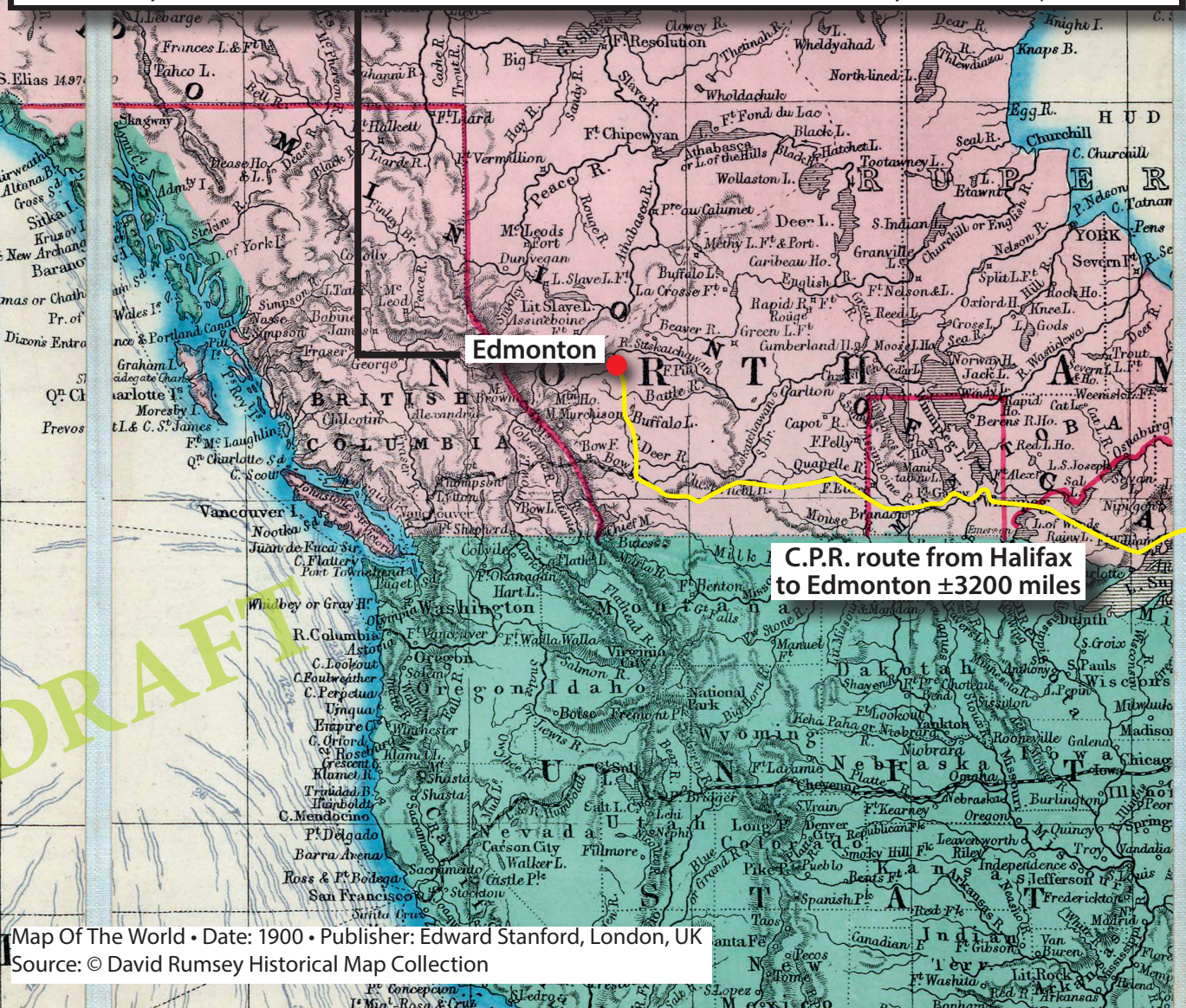


Brothers Petro b. 1860, Borivtsi,  
Bukovina, d. 1931 (left) and Stefan  
Shewchuk (right)

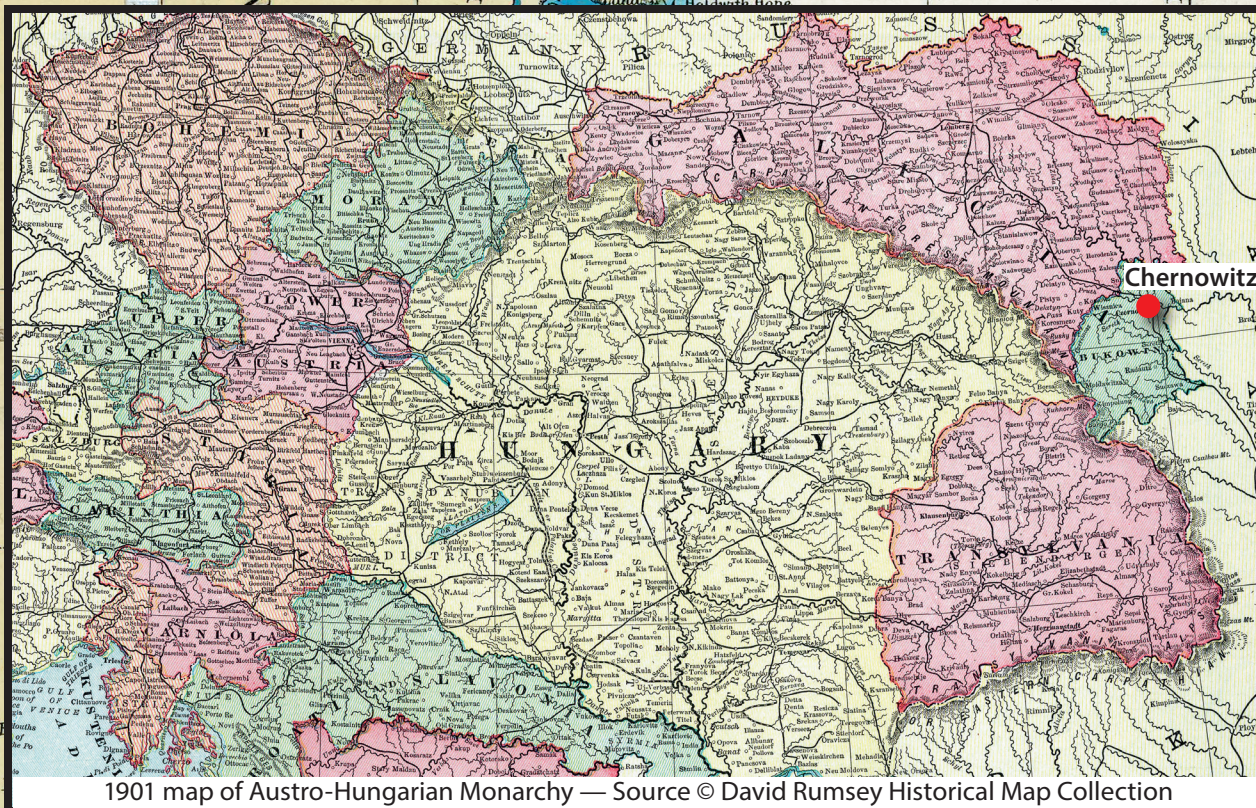
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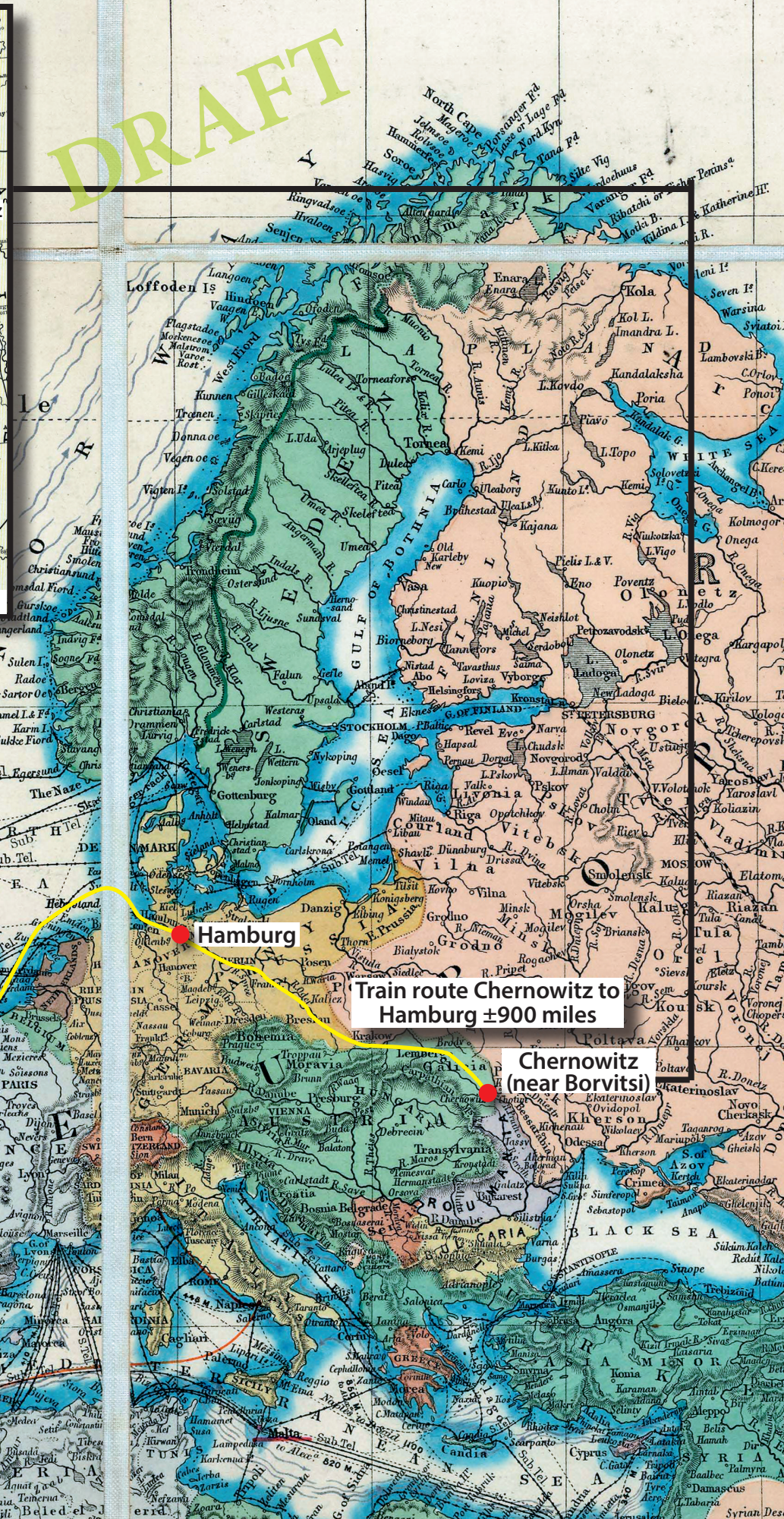
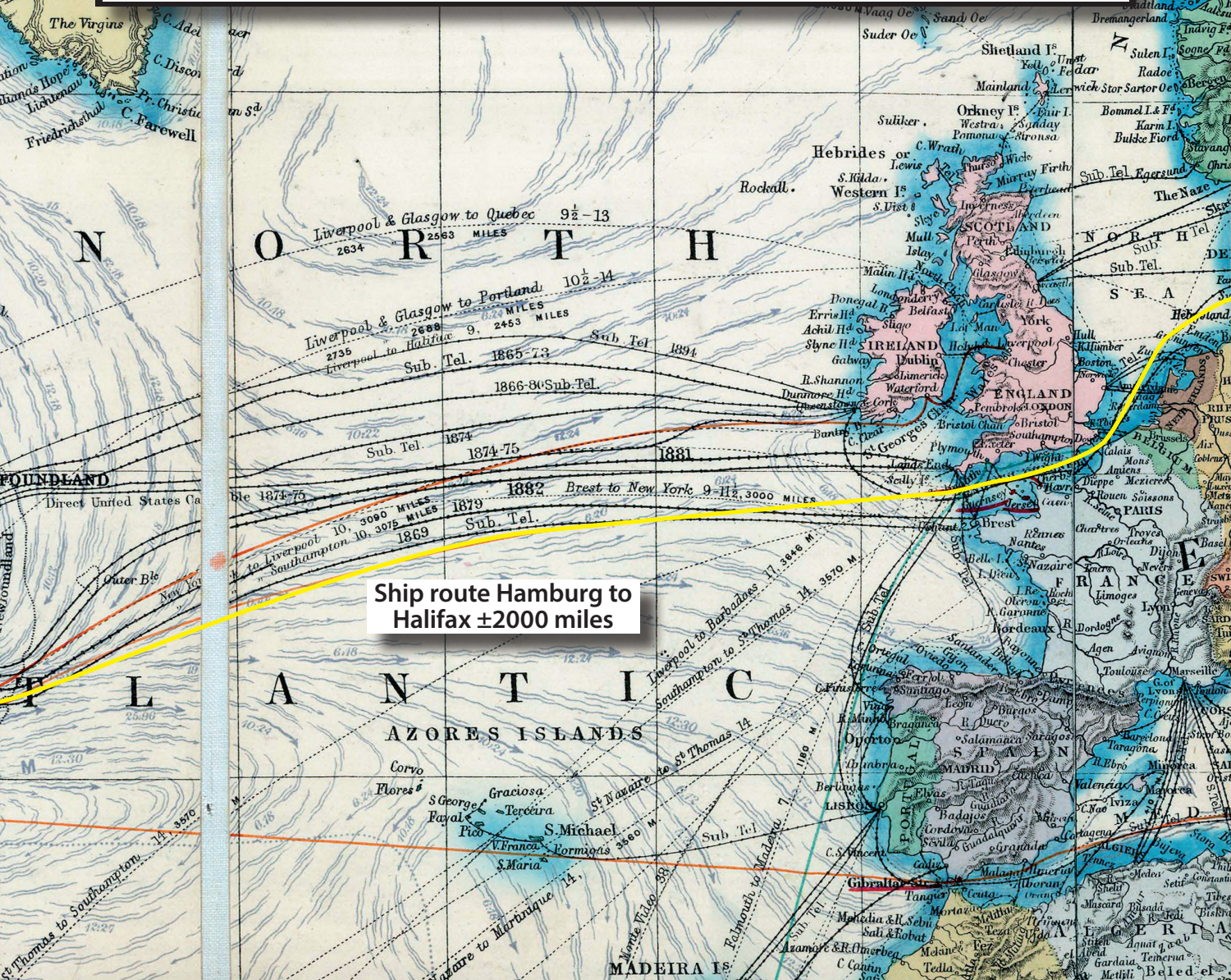








1901 map of Austro-Hungarian Monarchy — Source © David Rumsey Historical Map Collection





# Origin Of Names



By Stefan (Steve) M Shewchuk  
(Grandson to Stefan Shewchuk)

Ukrainian names, their spelling and pronunciation come in various forms as they were influenced by the German, Polish, Russian and Romanian dialects.

The name *Shewchuk* as used today was spelled *Schewchuk* as indicated on *Stefan's* birth certificate. The *ch* is shown as *r* in cryillic form typically used by Romanian clergy.

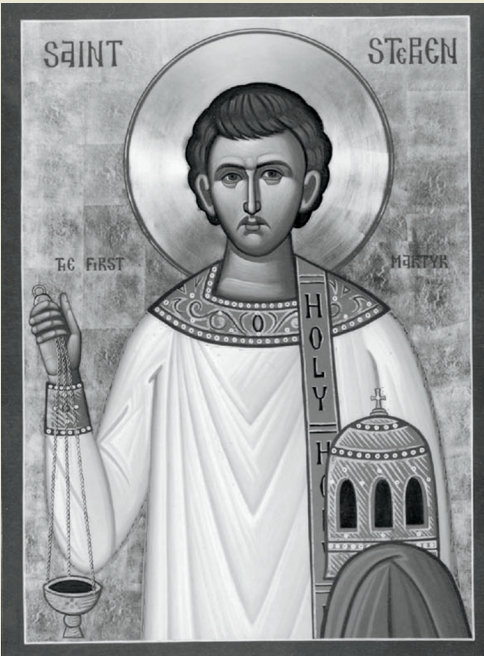
As *Petro Shewchuk* traveled to Poland his passport showed him as *Petro Szewzuk*. In the Ukraine today, translated in English, *Shewchuk* is pronounced and written as *Shevchek*.

It was an old custom with Ukrainians to name children after Saints and historic Christian characters. First names were taken from the birth date of the Patron Saint. For example, *Mykailo (Michael)* was given to the child born closest to November 21st or in memory of a family member of the same name.

Names were also changed, for example, the Ukrainian name *Onopriy* was used as *Onoprey*, *Onufrey* or *Onufrie*. In Canada it was translated to *Humphrey*, *Fred* or *Frank*. The name *Mykola* was used and spelled as *Nicoli*, *Nykola*, *Nykolai*, *Nickolai*, *Nicholas*, *Nickolas* or *Nick*.

Anglicization of Ukrainian names began in the late 1920's. *Stephan* (pronounced *Step'han* in Ukrainian) was *Stefan* and Anglicized to *Steve*, *Stephen* or *Steve*. *Vasyl* and *Wasyl* was Anglicized to *Basil*, *Bill* or *William*. *Anastasia* or *Nastasia* became *Nancy* or *Nettie* when Anglicized. While these were the common Anglicization of names, as is often the case even today, various spellings do occur beyond what we described here.

We did try wherever possible to use the original baptized name or the name the person was known as or Anglicized at present. However unintentional errors, misspellings, and misinterpretations do occur. In the case where corrections are required please pass along the corrections or additional information as described elsewhere in this publication. ~~~



## Certificates of Birth • Translations

Translations of original birth certificates for Stefan and Anastasia from Romanian to English.

|                                                                                                                   |                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Orthodox Archdioceses of: <i>BUCOVINIA</i>                                                                        | County of: <i>BUCOVINIA</i>                                            |
| Deanery of: <i>NISTTULUIC</i>                                                                                     | Political County of: <i>COTMAN</i>                                     |
| Issuing #: <i>94</i>                                                                                              | Community (Village) of: <i>BORIVTSI</i>                                |
| CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH                                                                                              |                                                                        |
| In the records of the new born of the <i>Eastern Orthodox Paris of Borivtsi</i> Vol... the following is recorded: |                                                                        |
| Current #                                                                                                         | Line #11                                                               |
| Place of Birth & Address                                                                                          | Borivsti #95                                                           |
| Year & Date of Birth                                                                                              | <i>December 14, 1854</i> (Eighteen Fifty Four)                         |
| Year & Date of Baptism                                                                                            | <i>17/19 December 1854</i>                                             |
| Name Given @ Baptism                                                                                              | <i>Stefan</i>                                                          |
| Religion                                                                                                          | Eastern Orthodox                                                       |
| Sex                                                                                                               | Male                                                                   |
| Kind of Birth: Legitimate/Out of Wedlock                                                                          | Legitimate                                                             |
| Full Name & Address of: Father / Mother                                                                           | <i>Ivan Shewchuk</i> peasant from Borivtsi<br><i>Wasylena Shewchuk</i> |
| Full Name & Address of: God Parents                                                                               | Aftanase Sanesa peasant from Borivsti                                  |
| Full Name of Midwife:                                                                                             | Anna Crevaluic of Borivsti                                             |
| Name of Officiating Priest:                                                                                       | Gavrail Calvicouic                                                     |
| I hereby sign and place the seal of the church <i>Orthodox Paris of Borivsti</i> Dated <i>2/14 February 1900</i>  |                                                                        |

|                                                                                                                   |                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Orthodox Archdioceses of: <i>BUCOVINIA</i>                                                                        | County of: <i>BUCOVINIA</i>                                                          |
| Deanery of: <i>NISTTULUIC</i>                                                                                     | Political County of: <i>COTMAN</i>                                                   |
| Issuing #: <i>95</i>                                                                                              | Community (Village) of: <i>BORIVTSI</i>                                              |
| CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH                                                                                              |                                                                                      |
| In the records of the new born of the <i>Eastern Orthodox Paris of Borivtsi</i> Vol... the following is recorded: |                                                                                      |
| Current #                                                                                                         | Line 8                                                                               |
| Place of Birth & Address                                                                                          | Borivsti #175                                                                        |
| Year & Date of Birth                                                                                              | <i>April 26, 1859</i> (Eighteen Fifty Nine)                                          |
| Year & Date of Baptism                                                                                            | <i>17/19 December 1854</i>                                                           |
| Name Given @ Baptism                                                                                              | <i>Anastasia</i>                                                                     |
| Religion                                                                                                          | Eastern Orthodox                                                                     |
| Sex                                                                                                               | Female                                                                               |
| Kind of Birth: Legitimate/Out of Wedlock                                                                          | Legitimate                                                                           |
| Full Name & Address of: Father / Mother                                                                           | <i>Dmitri Fedorak</i> peasant from Borivtsi<br><i>Magdalena Fedorak</i>              |
| Full Name & Address of: God Parents                                                                               | Daveli Gordey peasant from Borivsti<br>& Anna wife of Stefan Mechesiac from Borivtsi |
| Full Name of Midwife:                                                                                             | Vasdana Davelic of Borivsti                                                          |



Archidieceasa ort. or. a Bucovinei.  
Protopresviteratul ort. or. al *Nistrului*  
(N-rul exhib. *94*)  
Tara Bucovina. *Cotman*  
Districtul politic: *Borouti*  
Comuna politica: *Borouti*

## Certificat de botez.

În condica născuților a parohiei *ortodox orientale din Borouti*  
pag. *844* se află, precum urmează:

|                                                             |                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| N-rul curinte                                               | <i>Siriu II</i>                                                                          |
| Locul născerii și N-rul casei                               | <i>Borouti, 95</i>                                                                       |
| Anul, luna și ziua născerii                                 | <i>14 decembrie 1854</i>                                                                 |
| Anul, luna și ziua botezului                                | <i>17/29. Decembrie 1854</i>                                                             |
| Numele de botez al pruncului                                | <i>Stefan</i>                                                                            |
| Religiunea                                                  | <i>ortodox orientala</i>                                                                 |
| Sexul                                                       | <i>masculin</i>                                                                          |
| Născerea                                                    | <i>legitimă</i>                                                                          |
| Numele de botez și de familie, starea și domiciliul         | <i>Stefan, fecuț, de la mică sată cincizeci și patru na mică sată cincizeci și patru</i> |
| Numele de botez și de familie, starea și domiciliul nașilor | <i>Ioan, fecuț, de la mică sată cincizeci și patru na mică sată cincizeci și patru</i>   |
| Numele de botez și de familie, starea și domiciliul moașei  | <i>Vasile, fecuț, de la mică sată cincizeci și patru na mică sată cincizeci și patru</i> |
| Numele preotului, carele au botezat                         | <i>Aftanase</i>                                                                          |
| Însemnare                                                   | <i>Borouti</i>                                                                           |

Spre adevărire urmează subscrierea mea proprie și întipărirea sigilului bisericesc.  
Păstoria de suflete ort. or. *Borouti* în 2/14. *Georgiu*



DRAFT

Archidieceasa ort. or. a Bucovinei.  
Protopresviteratul ort. or. al *Nistrului*

(N-rul exhib. *95*)

Tara Bucovina.  
Districtul politic: *Cotman*  
Comuna politica: *Borouti*

## Certificat de botez.

În condica născuților a parohiei *ortodox orientale din Borouti*  
pag. *754* se află, precum urmează:

|                                                             |                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| N-rul curinte                                               | <i>Siriu I</i>                                                                           |
| Locul născerii și N-rul casei                               | <i>Borouti, 175</i>                                                                      |
| Anul, luna și ziua născerii                                 | <i>22. Aprilie (8. Mai) 1859</i>                                                         |
| Anul, luna și ziua botezului                                | <i>26. Aprilie (8. Mai) 1859</i>                                                         |
| Numele de botez al pruncului                                | <i>Anastasia</i>                                                                         |
| Religiunea                                                  | <i>ortodox orientala</i>                                                                 |
| Sexul                                                       | <i>femeie</i>                                                                            |
| Născerea                                                    | <i>legitimă</i>                                                                          |
| Numele de botez și de familie, starea și domiciliul         | <i>Siriu, fecuț, de la mică sată cincizeci și patru na mică sată cincizeci și patru</i>  |
| Numele de botez și de familie, starea și domiciliul nașilor | <i>Ioan, fecuț, de la mică sată cincizeci și patru na mică sată cincizeci și patru</i>   |
| Numele de botez și de familie, starea și domiciliul moașei  | <i>Vasile, fecuț, de la mică sată cincizeci și patru na mică sată cincizeci și patru</i> |
| Numele preotului, carele au botezat                         | <i>Aftanase</i>                                                                          |
| Însemnare                                                   | <i>Borouti</i>                                                                           |

Spre adevărire urmează subscrierea mea proprie și întipărirea sigilului bisericesc.  
Păstoria de suflete ort. or. *Borouti* în 2/14. *Georgiu*





DRAFT



**Above:** An example of posters distributed by the North Atlantic Trading Company throughout various European countries circa 1905. Loosely translated the poster reads:

*"160 Acres Free Homestead Land in Canada 200 Million Acres"*

"Free" was false advertising of the day as pioneers were paying \$10 for the right to start a homestead. In addition to the \$10 of course was money needed for tools, supplies, livestock, and a host of other needs to meet the Dominion of Canada requirements in the hopes of eventually receiving title to the land after three years of back breaking work. In fact there were several debates in Canadian parliament in the early 1900's regarding the practices of the N.A.T.C. & some parliament officials.

(<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/immigrants/021017-2321-e.html>)

**Right:** Typical Canadian Pacific Railroad poster used to promote emigration to Canada circa 1910-1932. Printed in the Cyrillic alphabet, the poster shows a typical steerage sleeping compartment and large dining hall. While the name of the vessel on the poster is unknown, it was typical of steam ships used for travel from Europe to Canada in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Loosely translated the poster reads:

*Save Money & Time*

*Buy Ship Cards (R - To Canada, L - To Home Country)  
and send affidavits through CPR line  
this is the safest*

*and diner and sleeper third class on CPR*

*Fast-Convenient-Safe*

*In case of the need for ship cards, — of employee to job or work*







By Harry F. Shewchuk  
(G Grandson to Stefan  
Shewchuk)

# THE CANADIAN JOURNEY

## Emigration

**C**ome to Canada! Be your own master on your own land! In the last decade of the nineteenth century the call went out throughout Europe. The European peasants were to give up their present life of poverty for a better future in the rich lands of the Canadian West.

For this reason, Clifford Sifton, minister responsible for immigration in the Laurier government, turned to continental Europe, and in particular middle and eastern Europe, in his search for immigrants.

To make the prospect of homesteading attractive, Canada offered 160 acres of land for the nominal sum of ten dollars. The immigrants would have an opportunity for greater prosperity than would ever have been possible in their homelands.

The peasant farmers in the western Ukrainian provinces of Galicia and Bukovina, which were under Austrian rule, heard of the call and lost little time in taking advantage of Canada's offer. The great majority of Ukrainian peasants were born into a life of extreme poverty and oppression, from which there was no prospect of improvement. Canada offered them hope for the future.

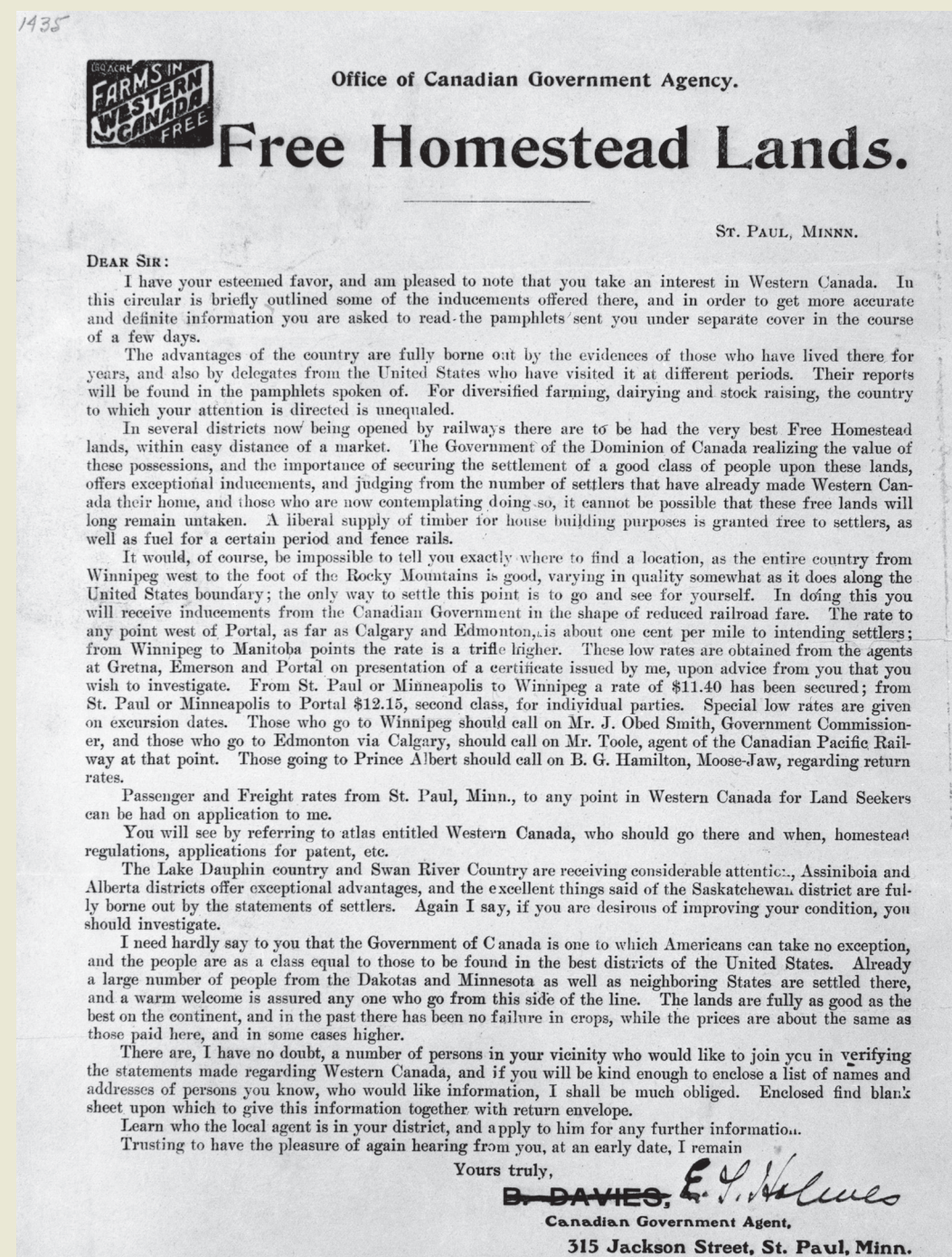
Encouraged by letters from friends who had gone earlier, and by shipping agents commissioned by the Canadian government to recruit immigrants, thousands of Ukrainian peasants decided to make the break with their homeland and seek their fortunes in faraway Canada.

The decision to relocate to a foreign country halfway around the world was not an easy one to make. To break ties with the relatives and friends was a painful step. But the situation at home was hopeless.

*Vasyl Eleniak* and *Ivan Pylypiw*, two men from the village of Nevilius in Galicia, were officially recognized as the first Ukrainian immigrants to Canada. They arrived in Montreal on the ship *Oregon*, in September 1891 and settled in Alberta, *Eleniak* near the present town of Chipman, and *Pylypiw* at Star, Alberta (a hamlet located forty miles east of Edmonton) was the site of the first permanent Ukrainian settlement in Canada.

During the first few years of immigration into Canada and prior to the First World War, Ukrainians were registered under a wide variety of national categories. When registered by citizenship, they were typically called Austrians. When registered by province of origin, they were often referenced as Galicians, Ruthenes, Rusyns or Bukovinians. Many were also recorded as Ruthenians, little Russians or Poles.

Most Ukrainian immigrants came from the western provinces of Galicia and Bukovina, which was swallowed up by the Austro-Hungarian Empire.





As Austrian subjects, all men of Galicia and Bukovina were inducted into the Austrian army for three years at the age of eighteen. To avoid military service, it became common practice for the young men approaching their eighteenth birthdays to emigrate to Canada, usually with their families.

In 1899 thirty-two families from the village of Toporiwtsi, in Bukovina, emigrated to Canada together and settled seventy miles north east of Edmonton. During the decade 1900 to 1910, more families from Ukraine abandoned their villages for Canada.

## Preparing To Leave

Permanent relocation to Canada required extensive preparation. Once the decision to emigrate was made, each family had to find the means to gather significant amounts of money. There were numerous expenses to be met. First, the cost of the journey, by land to the port of departure, usually Hamburg, then by sea, then by land again to the chosen destination in Canada. This traveling expense for a family could easily come to two or three hundred dollars.

In addition, each family had to have at least twenty-five dollars upon landing in Canada. This was insurance to guarantee that none of the immigrants would require immediate assistance from the Canadian government. Immigrants were also encouraged to bring extra cash to tide themselves over until such time as they could establish themselves on their Canadian homesteads.

## The Journey

Stefan and Anastasia Shewchuk and their seven children *Elena, Ivan, Georgi, Maria, Vasyl, Michael* and *Onufrei* (an eighth child, *Nicolai*, was born in Canada) left their village of Borivtsi, Bukovina, Ukraine in the spring for the departure port of Hamburg Germany. On May 5th, 1900 they sailed on the ship *SS Assyria* arriving in Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 18th, 1900.

Immigrant memories of the ocean voyage to Canada were almost always the same. People were crammed into ships in large numbers, the food was inedible, sea sickness was universal and at times deaths occurred on board.

Upon landing in Halifax the immigrants were met by government officials who checked their financial resources and by doctors who examined them for communicable diseases.

Then the second leg of the journey began, the journey by train to the prairies. The train ride of several days ended in Strathcona, Alberta (now Edmonton). The railroad stations were packed with people speaking a wide variety of languages most of which the Ukrainians did not understand. Some immigrants were met at the station by relatives or other countrymen who had come earlier. Others gathered in large immigration halls erected by the government as temporary shelters.

## To The Homestead

The trails to the homestead were rough, often crossing deep pools of water. Sleeping in wagons overcrowded with baggage, or beside campfires. One was fortunate to encounter an earlier settler who would offer lodging for the night.

The land in western Canada was surveyed and divided into townships and sections. Each township consisted of thirty-six sections; a section being a square with sides one mile in length and contained 640 acres. The homesteads that were offered to the new settlers for the fee of \$10.00 were a quarter section of land; one and a half miles square containing 160 acres.



Sod Hut: Typical first home of homesteaders

## Making A Home

During the initial period on the homestead, the settlers were concerned with only one thing: survival. The first 3 to 4 years in the new land were the hardest.



When erecting the first shelter on the homestead the only consideration was speed and ease of construction. The settlers quickly cut down trees and put together a log and sod-brick dugout. The dugout provided shelter from the elements.

Finding food was an ever present problem until some land was cleared and cultivated. During the first summer on the land the settlers began the work that would take many years to complete.



Ivan Fedorak (husband to Maria Shewchuk - daughter of Stefan & Anastasia) on homestead of Stefan & Anastasia circa 1918

Stefan did not need to leave home to seek work as did many other settlers because he had sufficient money to purchase both horses and primary equipment when he first arrived in Canada. Since he already had horses, he could earn additional money by providing transportation and freight-ing services for other local pioneers.

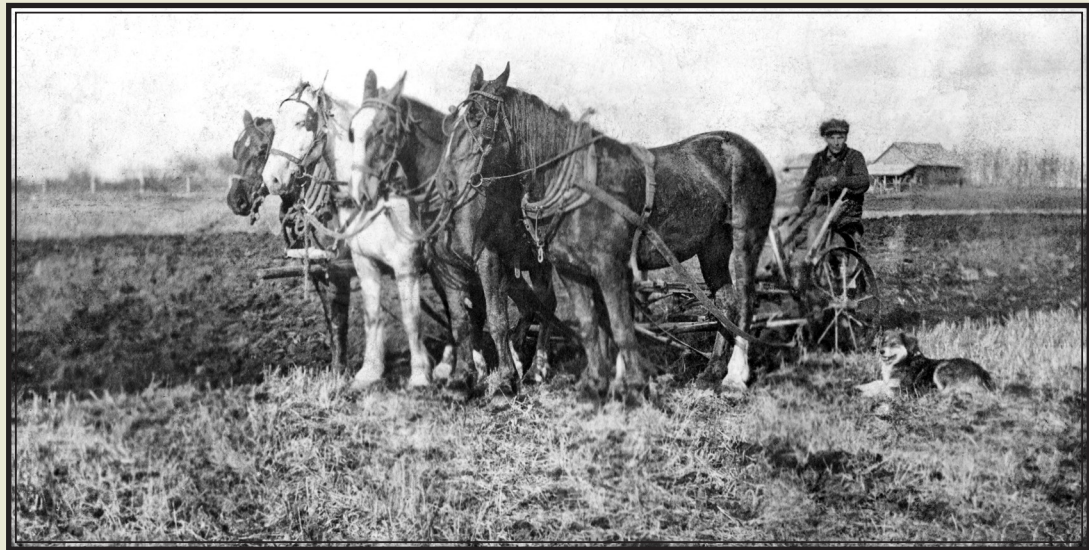
Stefan’s progress was slow and steady, the mammoth job was to clear and cultivate acreage that would take many years to complete. They dug out trees, picked roots, hauled heavy stones and broke virgin soil. With seeds brought over from the old country they planted their vegetable gardens. It would be years before they harvested their first cash crop. Following is an outline of his impressive progress over his first five years:

| Year            | Acres   |               | Animals  |        |      |
|-----------------|---------|---------------|----------|--------|------|
|                 | Cleared | Crop          | Horses   | Cattle | Pigs |
| 1900            | 6       | 0             | 2        | 6      | —    |
| 1901            | 2       | 8             | 2        | 11     | —    |
| 1902            | 6       | 14            | 2        | 12     | —    |
| 1903            | 9.5     | 23.5          | 2        | 20     | —    |
| 1904            | 2       | 25.5          | 2        | 25     | 2    |
| Buildings       |         | Size          | Worth    |        |      |
| Log House       |         | 20 ft x 40 ft | \$200.00 |        |      |
| Log Stable      |         | 14 ft x 14 ft | \$100.00 |        |      |
| Log Granary     |         | 30 ft x 25 ft | \$100.00 |        |      |
| Fenced Property |         | 26 acres      | \$75.00  |        |      |

## Retrospective

This was the background from which Ukrainian immigrants emerged. On their homesteads they set out to recreate the way of life they had known in their native villages. They were in a new world and slowly they began to turn their eyes towards it.

Ukrainian immigrants came to Canada seeking a better life. Some thought they were coming to the Promised Land and were disappointed. But eventually most of their dreams were fulfilled. They came for land, and they got land, more than they ever imagined. They wanted freedom from wars and oppression and a brighter future for their children. Today their grandchildren live in peace, liberty and prosperity. It has taken many years, a great deal of hard work and much suffering, but they got from Canada what they wanted. At the same time, they gave much more.



Ounfrie Shewchuk (son of Stefan & Anastasia) circa 1930



# LOYALTY TO FAMILY



By Stefan (Steve) M Shewchuk  
(Grandson to Stefan Shewchuk)

Stefan and Anastasia Shewchuk followed the old Ukrainian tradition, to ensure the entire family was assisted in establishing a future. Sons had to have land after marriage, daughters and their husbands were all assisted in getting established.

Stefan's oldest son Ivan (John) was of age to own his own land and acquired land north [B] of Stefan's original homestead [A]. He later acquired additional land further north and east of there.

Elena (Helen) Shewchuk, Stefan's oldest daughter, and Michalio (Mike) Fedorak acquired land west

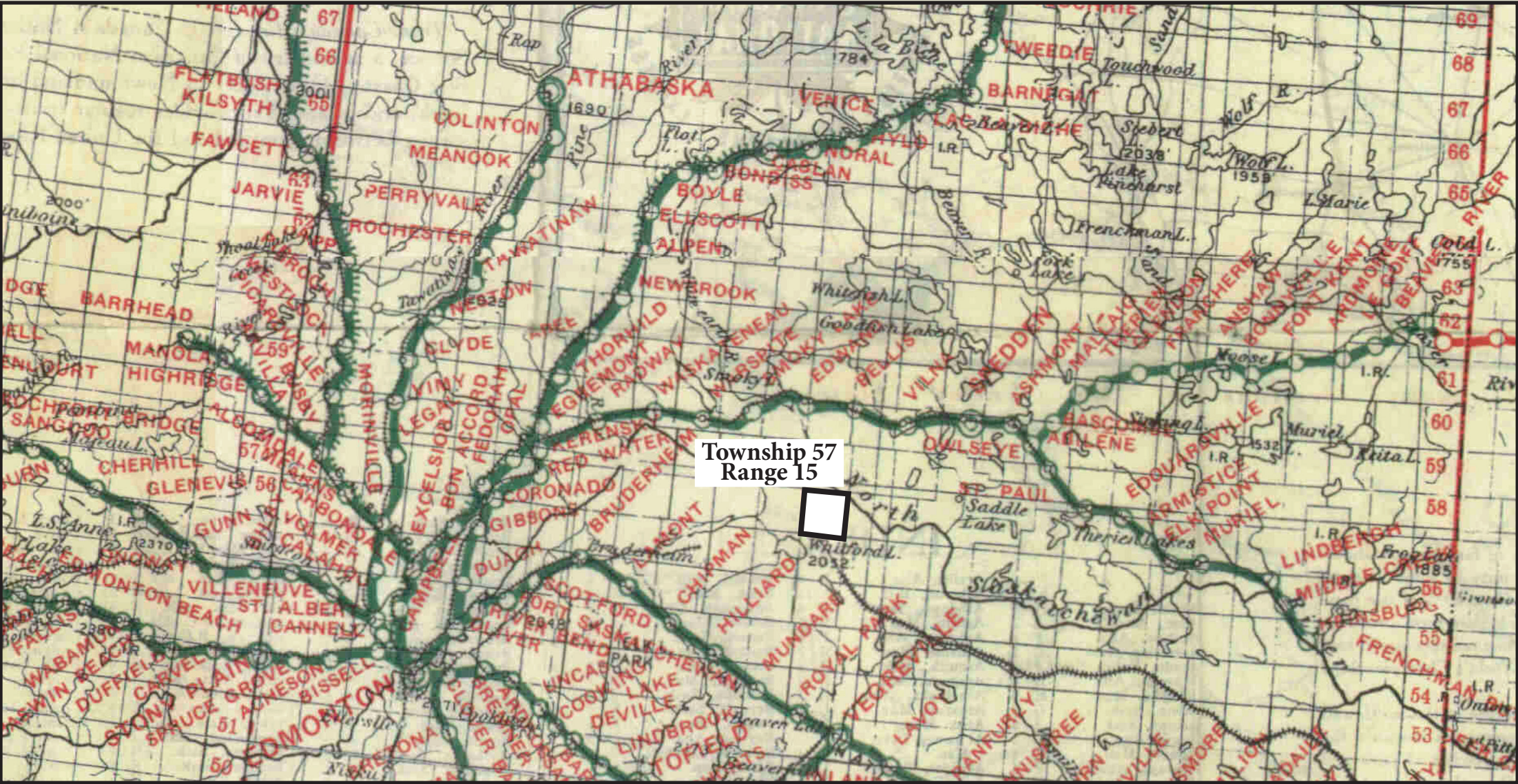
of Stefan's original homestead [C] and later purchased land across the road to the West. John and Maria Fedorak's (Stefan's daughter) original

homestead was east of Ivan's place. They later moved south of Mike Fedorak's west quarter, then to the Boian District before purchasing a half section two miles north of Willingdon, Alberta. The land was sold and a new quarter purchased north of Willingdon where they retired.

George acquired land one half mile east of Willingdon. After farming for some time, he sold the land and purchased a livery barn in Vegerville, AB. This he sold and moved to Lavoy, AB, and took employment with C.N.R. (Canadian National Railroad), working there until retirement.

Vasyl (Bill) farmed a half mile north of the homestead. He sold this land and opened up a barbershop business in Willingdon and Lac La Biche, AB, and later in Hamilton Ontario.

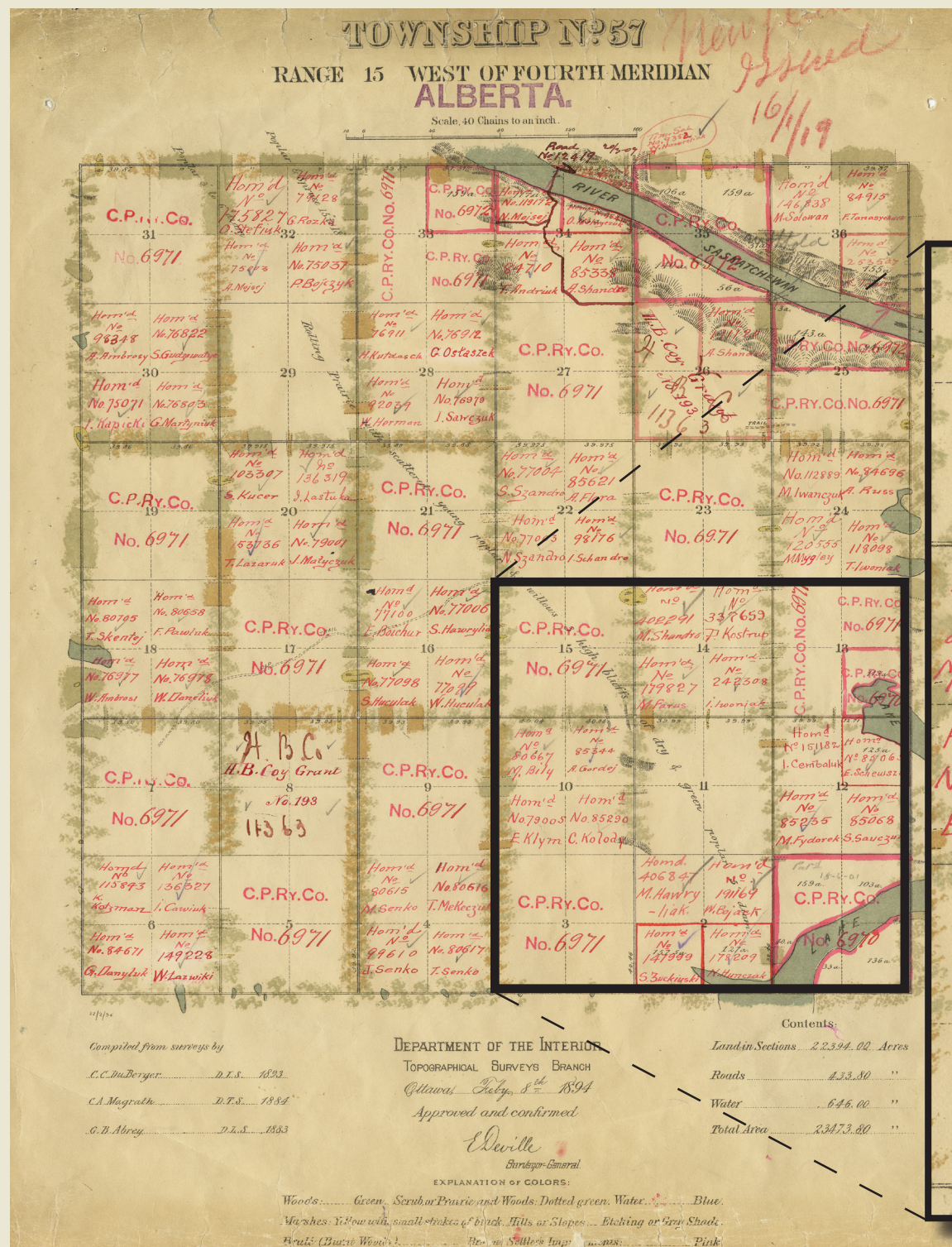
Onufrie's (Frank's) land was two miles west and two and one half miles south of Stefan's original homestead. This he sold and operated an agricultural implement business in Bellis, Alberta. He later moved to Willingdon as an agricultural equipment repairman before moving to



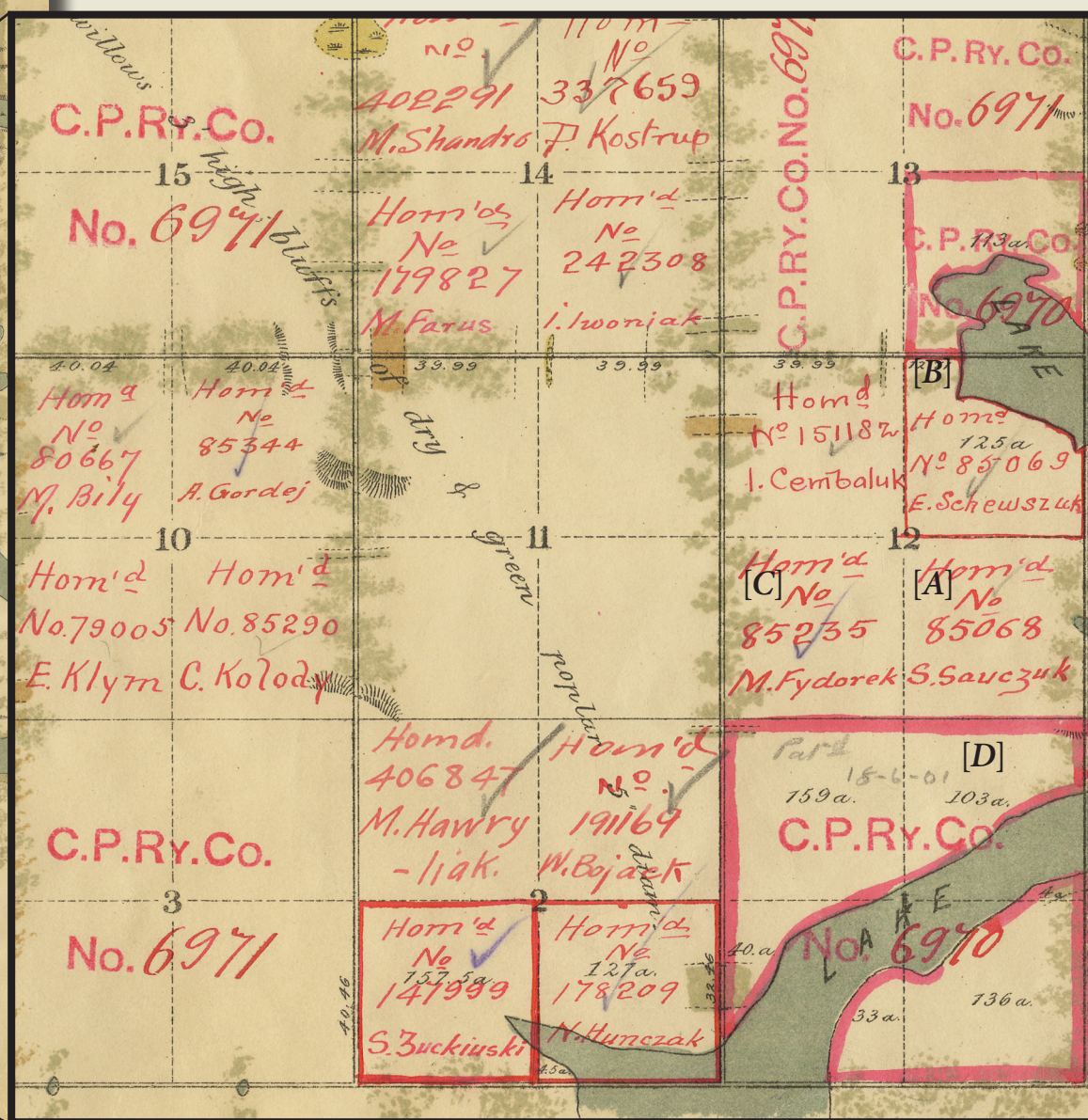


Michael (Mike) was the main family contributor for work on the homestead with his father Stefan. When Stefan passed away in 1923, Mike paid off the value of the farm to the family to inherit his share. He then purchased the adjoining C.P.R. quarter of land [D]. Upon retirement he moved with wife Christina (Huculak) Shewchuk to Willingdon, Alberta; leasing the land to his daughter Lena (Shewchuk) Tatarin and

Nicholai (Nick) owned an agricultural implement business in Willingdon. He was also a grain buyer for several years. He later established *Doris Services*, an agricultural implement dealership, was an agent for the Alberta Treasury Branch and served as Justice of the Peace for the Willingdon District. After retirement he was appointed as Provincial Magistrate for the Vegerville, Smoky Lake District until his passing in 1968 at age 66. ~~~

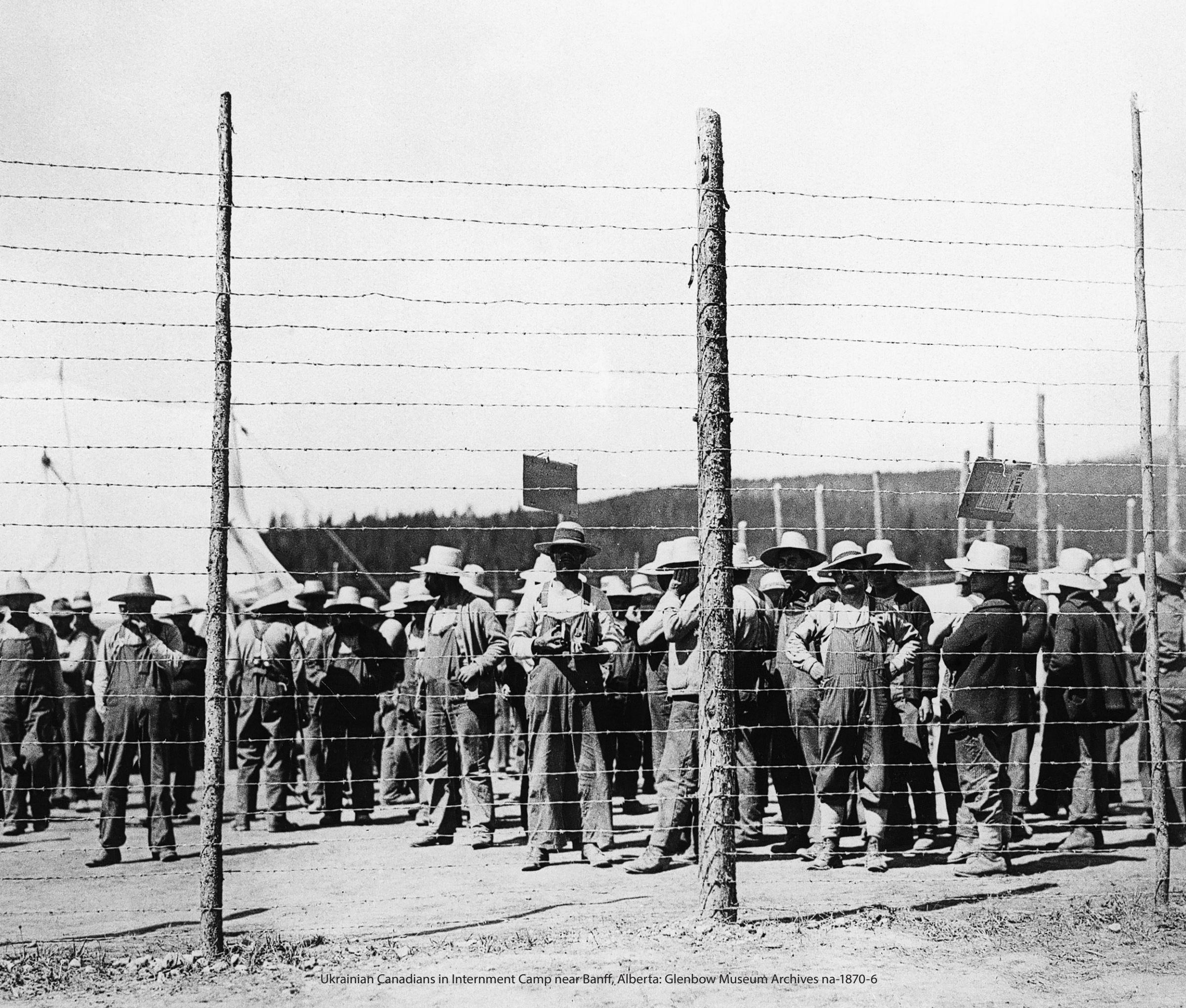


**[A]** SE 1/4 Section 12 Township 57 Range 15 (Original Homestead)  
**[B]** NE 1/4 Section 12 Township 57 Range 15  
**[C]** SW 1/4 Section 12 Township 57 Range 15  
**[D]** NE 1/4 Section 1 Township 57 Range 15



Enlargement: Alberta Provincial Archives GR2004.0214.1082b





Ukrainian Canadians in Internment Camp near Banff, Alberta: Glenbow Museum Archives na-1870-6



# LOYALTY TO COUNTRY



By Stefan (Steve) M  
Shewchuk  
(Grandson to Stefan  
Shewchuk)

Stefan and Anastasia had immigrated to Canada from the Habsburg Austria Crown Land of Bukovana. Their *citizenship*, but not their *nationality* (Ukrainian), was officially described as *Austrian* or *Austro-Hungarian*. Other Austrian ethnics in this category included Croatians, Serbs, Slovaks, Poles, Italians, Bulgarians, Slovenes, Hungarians, Russians, Jews, Romanians and other Europeans. Under the terms of the War Measures Act of World War I (1914), those so categorized were subject to imprisonment in one of the twenty-four receiving stations and concentration camps across Canada. This same

War Measures Act would later be used against Japanese Canadians (1941) and the Quebecquois (1970).



Vasyl G. Shewchuk (grandson of Stefan & Anastasia) - Royal Canadian Air Force circa 1942

Ukrainians and other ethnics were classified as *enemy aliens* and obligated to report regularly to special registrars or to local North West Mounted Police forces. Stefan Shewchuk, together with his friends, Ewoniak, Hawreliak, Semeniuk, Huculak, plus many other neighbours and friends were given identity cards. These registered *enemy aliens* were required to report each month to the Chief of Police, Postmaster or Justice of the Peace at a place of District residence. Those failing to do so could be subjected to arrest, fine or even imprisonment.

Having naturalization papers and being loyal citizens avoided confinement but still required monthly reporting. The loyalty of Ukrainians to Canada was never in doubt and was openly recognized by the British Empire at that time. Sadly this loyalty was not recognized by the Canadian Government at that time. Several memorials were erected to commemorate these loyal and industrious people, one such monument is erected at the Ukrainian Village east of Edmonton Alberta.

Stefan Shewchuk's life ended in an accident involving horses at an age of 69 years. Anastasia passed away at 79 years of age. Both Stefan and Anastasia were founding members of the Shandro Russian Greek Orthodox Church and are buried in the church cemetery in Shandro, north of Willingdon Alberta.

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Myron G. Shewchuk (grandnewpew of Stefan & Anastasia) - Canadian Armed Forces W.W.II







# Back To The Homeland

## Visiting Georgi's Family in the Ukraine

By Stefan (Steve) M. Shewchuk (November 2003)

History shows Stefan Shewchuk had two brothers, Petro and Georgi. Stefan and Petro emigrated to Canada with their families with Georgi and his family remaining in the homeland, the Ukraine. Georgi's son, Sando, came to Canada in 1929 but returned to the Ukraine the following year (1930). The only other contact between these families was by mail which took weeks and often months to make the trip across the ocean.

Georgi's son, Michalio and his wife Elena, wrote regularly to Petro's son Georgi and to Stefan's son Michael (Mike) in Canada. When Michalio passed away, wife Elena continued the correspondence, writing to Mike (until his passing in 1980), Nettie (Shewchuk) Megley and Steve M. Shewchuk to this day.

The first visit by a Canadian of Shewchuk ancestry to the Shewchuk relatives in the Ukraine came in 1959. During her studies in Kiev, Ukraine, Sylvia Shewchuk, daughter of Andy Shewchuk and granddaughter of Petro Shewchuk, made a point of visiting many relatives in Borivsti. After Sylvia's marriage to Ted Gestiv, they made many additional visits. One such visit, along with the daughter Julie, came in 1995 and is shown in the accompanying photographs.

Nick and Lena (Shewchuk) Ewoniak were the second Canadian Shewchuk's to visit the homeland relatives. Nick and Lena tell the story of their having lunch in Vasyl Shewchuk and his daughter Maria (Shewchuk) Stasiuk's home. Vasyl also talked about his Siamese twin sons (Georgi and Sando) who had been successfully separated. Photos here show the young boys standing next to their mother's coffin (Maria (Fedirchuk) Shewchuk).

The third visit from Canadian Shewchuk's to homeland relatives came in 1983 when Metro and Nettie (Shewchuk) Megley visited Elena (Kuzik) Shewchuk, her son Demetro and his wife Ohilia. Photos here show their visit.

Stefan (Steve) M Shewchuk was the most recent Canadian Shewchuk ancestor to visit homeland relatives in 2000. This included visits with Elena Shewchuk who had corresponded regularly with his father Mike Shewchuk and family. Photos here also show Sando Shewchuk and

family including Sando Jr. who has taken his mother's maiden name of Krevulich.

It's hopeful this information will be useful to anyone visiting the Ukraine in the future who wishes to contact family members in the homeland.

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## Chernobyl in my life?

By Chernivetska Oblast  
Kitsmanskij Region,  
Village Borivtsi  
Rakhmistriuk, Natalka G.  
Fourteen years old

*Natalka is Maria Farris' granddaughter. She is almost 22 now. She wrote this in Ukrainian; the English translator is unknown.*

Chernobyl in my life? Lord, what is my lot that awaits me? Can anything kind, good, beautiful, healthy, be waiting for us? Can anything like that cross my way after that cursed accident: It wasn't even an accident, but happened because of those people that had started the reactor ahead of planned opening date, Without taking into account possible shortcomings or faults of their work: Because of that socio-political system that gave birth to such ill prepared people, Chernobyl came like a black plague on the 26th of April, 1986. I don't need to mention this date, it is known by all Ukrainians. This date should be framed in black on the calendar, a black day in the life of the Ukrainian people, a people who have lived through enough suffering.

On that sunny April day I was nine years, one month, and eight days old, and just like all happy children was playing, running around and being happy with the first spring rain showers. Together with the neighborhood kids, I was jumping over the puddles, beneath the radioactive raindrops that were falling on my head. Together with pure rain water, mixed the radioactive isotopes, iodine, and strontium that fell on our land.

The rains were falling: the radioactive rains! I was growing up, to my parents delight, only there was little joy in it; My head was often aching, and even now it is. But if only mine: All the local children's (heads) were affected. My thyroid gland, that balances the hormones in my body, is enlarged just like the glands of other children here- and you can't joke with hormones a bit!

So what kind of fate do I have? I'm only fourteen now, but I have enough health problems for a grandmother. What will I say when I am 25, or



35, or older? What kind of children will I have? When will the day come when we will remember the 26th of April, 1986, Without being afraid of something horrible that can happen as an unknown consequence of ‘the Accident’? I want to live to the day when all will be healthy, joyful, happy, smiling, and so that there will be no more Chernobyls in the lives of people of our earth and the Universe.

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## Georgi Shewchuk, wife Maria Sawchuk

Georgi Shewchuk, brother of Stefan I. Shewchuk married Maria Shawchuk in Borivsti, Bukovina, Ukraine. They had two girls: Maria and Elena, and four boys: Ivan, Sando, Vasil and Michalo.

Maria Sawchuk married Georgi Kurelek in the Ukraine and came to Canada in 1938 with their two year old son Dimetro. Arriving in Winnipeg, MB they stayed with Georgi’s brother (the Kurelek family). They came to Alberta for a short period of time and later settled a home-  
stead in Clayhurst, BC where their daughter Elena (Helen) was born in 1940. Maria died in 1997 and is buried in Clayhurst, BC. Georgi passed in 1997 and is burned in Fort St. John, BC.

Picture of Maria and Georgi Kurelek with 2 year old son Dimetro

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Family ID: 59

## ? Fedorak married ? Kureluk

The Kureluk’s live in the Ukraine and are buried there; their Christian names are unknown. They had two children, a son Metro born in 1884 and a daughter Frosina (Rose) born in 1891. The two children were very young when their mother passed away in 1893 and their aunt, Mrs. Drebit, took over their care.

Metro came to Canada in 1902 at the age of eighteen, and settled in the Andrew, AB, area. He married Mary Gordy in 1909 and settled in the

Desjarlais, AB area. They had four boys: Bill, Mike, John and Frank; and seven girls: Helen, Sophie, Lena, Rose, Nancy, Elizabeth and Ann.

In 1906 Metro brought his then fifteen old sister Rose to Canada. In 1907 Rose married George Kulavich, a widower with one daughter Mary. George passed away in 1912 leaving Rose with three small boys: Jim, John and Bill. Mary went to live with her grandparents, Kulavich.

In 1915 Rose married Karl Lackavesky; later changing his surname to Lackey. Together they had two sons: Roland and Lloyd; and four daughters: Helen, Mary, Rose and Mildred. Rose Lackey passed away in 1956 and is buried in a cemetery in Vancouver, BC. Karl remarried and passed away in 1986 at age 96. Both Karl and his second wife are buried in the Borowich cemetery near Willingdon, AB.

The Kureluk’s (their Christian names are unknown) lived in the Ukraine in the early to mid 1800’s. They had two children, a son Metro born in 1884 and a daughter Frosina (Rose) born in 1891. When their mother passed away in 1893 the two young children fell under the care of Mrs. Drebit who is believed to be one of the three unknown Shewchuk children born to Stefan Shewchuk and his wife who is believed to be Maria Skoreyko.

At age eighteen, Metro immigrated to Canada in 1902, settling in western Canada near Andrew, AB. There he married Mary Gordey in 1909 and they settled in the Desjarlais, AB, then located east of Andrew and northeast of Willingdon, AB. At the time Desjarlais consisted of a small general store, country church, and a post office which closed in circa 1950.

In 1906 Metro brought his fifteen old sister Rose from the Ukraine to Canada. In 1907 Rose married George Kulavich, a widower with one daughter Mary. George passed away in 1912 leaving Rose with three small boys: Jim, John and Bill. Mary went to live with per paternal grandparents of the Kulavich family.

Rose married Karl Lackavesky in 1915; later changing their surname to Lackey. Rose Lackey passed away in 1956 and is buried in a cemetery in Vancouver, BC. Rose was survived by their six children: Roland, Lloyd, Helen, Mary, Rose and Mildred. Karl remarried and passed away in 1986 at age 96. Both Karl and his second wife are buried in the Borowich cemetery near Willingdon, AB.

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