

## CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF UKRAINIAN HERITAGE

Emigration/immigration is a result of combined push-pull factors. For the Ukrainians, was it only their personal economic circumstances, the hardships of living in poverty, insufficient farmland, expropriation of owned land due to debt in Western Galicia that pushed them to seek the opposite, that being, the attraction of free land, self-sufficiency, self-determination and freedom from the yoke of masters?

Was it not Canada's immediate need to populate the vast barren interior which served as the impetus at the time of Prime Minister John A. MacDonald (PC) and most significantly, Sir. Wilfred Laurier (Lib.) and to resolve the major dilemma of peopling the prairies?

In retrospect, the federal policies that supported immigration were mutually satisfactory to both the immigrants and the host country.

This perfect timing for Ukrainian tillers of the soil and others from Eastern Europe resulted in millions of acres of raw land being converted into productive prairie farms. Canada gambled on Pylipiw, Eleniak, Oleskiw, Genik, Sifton, 170,000 Ukrainian peasant farmers and won.

Although the early pioneers are not individually and prominently recorded in Canadian history books, their back breaking work and sweat of the brow that built the country we live in today is most visible when we enter rural Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta.

Combined with the freedom Canada offered, personal frugality and persistent ingenuity, the blessings of economic opportunities fell upon the children and descendants of the first wave of Ukrainian immigrants, (1891-1914). Many became skilled workers, tradesmen, teachers, businessmen, lawyers, priests, postmasters, school trustees, artists, writers, editors of newspapers, leaders and elected officials to all levels of Canadian government and loyal citizens.

Most importantly, they loved Canada, "*nash novyj krayj*." (Our new homeland)

In commemorating the 125 anniversary of Iwan Pylipiw and Wasyl Eleniak's first steps on the Canadian steppe, it is important to acknowledge and honor the



View of Gretna in 1889, south along Seventh Street towards U.S. border. Note first Queen's Hotel, Presbyterian Church, Winkler lumberyard and stables. P#217

foundation they laid for the second (1922-39), third (1945-69), fourth (1970s-1991) and fifth (1991-present) wave of Ukrainians settling in Canada.

It is necessary to acknowledge the circumstances with the events which bonded the Mennonite and Ukrainian friends in the Old Country and reunited them once again in Canada.

The permanent footprints of both cultures have shaped and impacted the economy, culture and heritage not only of Manitoba, but Canada.

It is to them that homage is due. Two men-one vision.

*Vichna yim slava, Vichna yim pamyat!*

Primary and secondary Ukrainian and English sources used.

Manitoba Vital Statistics registration of live birth.\*2016

Gretna Window on the Northwest by F. G. Enns

Research by Gaile Whelan Enns 1987

### З РІЗДВОМ ХРИСТОВИМ І НОВИМ РОКОМ!



Щиросеречно вітаємо всіх наших  
Вельмишановних Членів Читальні  
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Рідношкільну Дітвору та Молодь, їхніх  
Родичів та бажаємо всім доброго здоров'я,  
щастя, успіхів у житті!

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Please do not send pictures from newspaper clippings, computer print outs or photocopies, as these take a great deal of time to prepare for publication and rarely render a good image when printed in the paper. High resolution digital pictures are also acceptable.

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— Editor

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