



A celebration honoring our ancestors and their families who lived and worked for over 150 years in the German Colony, Münchenthal, (now Muzhylovychi, L'viv, Ukraine)

The Roman Catholic cemetery in Muzhylovychi is the eternal resting place for more than two thousand colonists, the first of whom arrived in 1783. The previously hallowed ground was desecrated during the Second World War and remained in a state of ruin for over 70 years. Generous donations from the descendants of colonists have provided the means to restore and conserve the ground. Local villagers were hired to clear the cemetery of trees, bushes, and tall grass. A large stone monument featuring a hand-sculpted image of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the surnames of those interred (if known) was erected in the center of the cemetery. (See the attached photos.)

Arrangements to conduct a blessing of the cemetery and blessing and dedication of the monument by a Roman Catholic priest have been made with the Curia of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of L'viv, Ukraine.

You are cordially invited

to the

Blessing and Dedication

of the

*Münchenthal German Colony
Cemetery and Monument*

20 September 2018

Muzhylovychi, L'viv, Ukraine

R.S.V.P to Brian Lenius

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We hope to bring together as many family members and interested people, including present-day villagers, as possible on this special day in September. It will be an opportunity to unite families, make new friends, and walk the same ground that those dear colonists, your family members, trod in past centuries.

Efforts are ongoing to preserve and improve the present condition of the cemetery - to limit the overgrowth and maintain a clean appearance. Donations for the cemetery will be gratefully accepted by Brian J. Lenius, chairman of the *Münchenthal German Colony Cemetery Committee*.

In addition to the ceremonies in the cemetery, there will be several other opportunities to explore your ancestral village.

Village highlights:

- **Walk along the old *Mährische Seite* (Moravian Side) and *Deutsch Dorf* (German Village) roads.** While the original German houses no longer stand, the yards are the same and the Ukrainian villagers are just as friendly as when our families lived in the community.
- **See the ruins of the still standing Roman Catholic church.** This was the site of the happiest events in your family members' lives when newborn children were baptized and when young people married and set out on a life of their own.
- **Walk the route your family members took from the church to the cemetery during those sorrowful times when loved ones had passed on.**
- **See the new chapel to St. Anthony erected in 2016 by a Ukrainian family in the village to remember our German families.** This family knew that historically the German colonists prayed at a small chapel in the same place by the name of St. Anthony. The chapel is marked on the map from 1853 but was destroyed during a battle in the village during WWII.
- **See the historic wooden Greek Catholic church built in the year 1600 from large timbers of oak.** Massive trees such as these are no longer to be found anywhere in the area. Earliest mention in documented sources indicate the village existed at least by the 1300's.
- **Examine a full-sized cadastral land map from the year 1853 including the Austrian land records that recorded all the families living in the community at that time.** The map and records make it possible to locate the exact plots of your family homes and fields. The map displays houses, barns, gardens, roads, churches, cemeteries, etc. It also identifies the neighbors of your families.
- **Socialize in the company of fellow German colony descendants and experience unique Ukrainian village hospitality.** Although most villagers today do not remember the German colonists, they heard stories from their parents. We are hoping to host our visitors with a Ukrainian style meal in the village where there will be lots of time to celebrate our homecoming.

While staying in L'viv, Ukraine, you can tour the spectacular the "Old City" of Lemberg, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We can provide ...

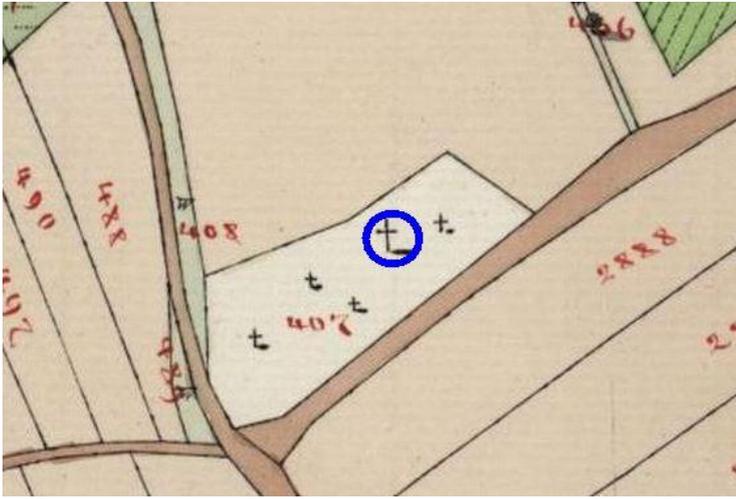
- advice about flights, accommodations, and driver/interpreters.
- family history information.
- answers to questions about the former German colony, the current village, and other nearby German colonies where related families lived.
- tourist information about L'viv (Lemberg) and surrounding area.

Please consider this once in a lifetime opportunity and pass this announcement and invitation to all family members and interested parties.

For further information or if you have questions, please contact:

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Mużyłowice Kolonia (Münchenthal) Cemetery in 1853. Notice this early cadastral map shows a large cross in the center of the cemetery. (*TsDIAL_186-1-290*)



Muzhylovychi German Colony Cemetery Today. The white dot in the center of the cemetery is the new monument located in almost the same spot as the large cross in 1853. (*GoogleEarth*)



Monument Erected in Muzhylovychi German Colony Cemetery. The monument stands four meters in height and rests on a small earth mound in the centre of the cemetery. (photo by *Brian J. Lenius*)



Photo taken from south-west corner of cemetery in June 2017. (photo by *Brian J. Lenius*)