

The Trip of a Lifetime

Touring ten European countries in thirty-seven days! How's that for a rugged travel agenda? That was the experience of Roland, Eleanor, Art and Pat Bergthold last summer. These two couples (the guys are brothers), (Art/Pat be 7.3114311; and Roland/Eleanor be 7.3114312) followed the ancestral trails of family-related surnames (Eymann, Franz, Miller, and, of course, Bergthold.) Following visits to the villages of their German Mennonite ancestors from Prussia and Poland, they flew to Lviv (formerly Lvov/Lemberg), Ukraine. Lifted from Eleanor's notes, "After some hassles in the airport (paperwork, lost luggage, etc.) we were relieved to see Andrew Tooziak, the guide Gary Bergthold helped us find - - Andrew also took Gary to the Bergthold village (Rosenberg) several years ago." Upon checking into the Lviv Grand Hotel and resting a bit, Andrew and his helpers left to purchase the items (computer, CD/Tape boom box, TV, printer cartridges, 1-year Internet/e-mail service and soccer balls) with the \$1610 US the Galician Descendants groups contributed for this purpose. Incidentally, a huge Thanks to all these contributors!

The next day was devoted to visiting School No. 2 in Shchyrets and presenting these gift items. Eleanor's notes continue, "At the school we were greeted by about 30-40 adults and children --. Three girls in brightly embroidered native dresses were standing at the doorway holding a decorated large round loaf of homemade bread, on top of which was a little container of salt." Fortunately, Gary had explained to us that this was a welcoming custom and we were expected to tear off a piece of bread, dip it in the salt and eat it if we came in peace. After all the gift items were installed, Roland gave a short

speech. In part, he said, "It is a great pleasure for us to be here today in the homeland of our grandparents. About twenty descendants of the German Mennonite families who lived here during the 1700 and 1800's donated the money that was used to purchase the items we brought today. Next we walked downstairs to where a long table had been lavishly set with native Ukraine foods prepared by teachers and parents.

Then it was time to visit the villages where Bergthold ancestors had lived. Our first stop was at Falkenstein, The cemetery was in very poor condition and most stones were Unreadable. From Falkenstein we walked the short distance to Rosenberg. We found the house Gary is quite certain belonged to Daniel Bergthold (our mutual grandfather).

Next we drove to nearby Einsiedel where we checked out their well in the middle of the main street. We also visited the old former Linscheid house and viewed the inscription carved into a basement stone Peter Linscheid 1827. The Bergthold cemetery in Horozanna was next on our agenda. Years of neglect were very apparent. Art's 65th birthday anniversary was observed the following day.

Our final day in Lviv was upon us as we checked in for our return flight to Warsaw, and then on to other travel adventures.

Returning home (Reedley and Roseville, CA) did not quite bring their memorable trip to an end. On the afternoon of October 29th, 2000, the historic Reedley Opera House hosted a large group of relatives who shared in, and enjoyed their report. Among the guests was the GG Editor making his first visit to central California. Art and Pat manage the Opera House (that is, until their retirement at year-end). This is a marvelous

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facility, should readers visit Reedley, CA.

Editor's Note: This travel report has been severely edited to fit available space. Roland's address is: 1929 Audrey Way, Roseville, CA 95661-4403, or contact the GG editor for a larger account of this fantastic trip!