



Project Portfolio

Munchenthal Memorial Projects – Update 2005

Brian J. Lenius and Dr. Edward F. Rozylowicz originally produced this portfolio in 2002. At that time, it was sent to a handful of researchers interested in the colony of Münchenthal and other nearby surrounding German Catholic colonies to obtain feedback and suggestions regarding the proposed *Münchenthal Church Restoration Project*. This portfolio was intended to be an information package and that is still its primary purpose.

In 2002, both men felt that the Church restoration project should be the first project to be undertaken. The reason was that it was in the greatest danger of further irreversible deterioration. This priority was stated boldly on the page titled “The Partnership Visions”.

The feedback received to the portfolio was that the project was very worthwhile, the information was well presented in the portfolio, and the *West Ukraine Restoration Institute* was seen as competent. However, the responses also were unanimous in stating that the funds required for the whole project seemed very high and probably unattainable. So the church restoration project was put on hold. The church building continues to sit abandoned and deteriorating at a rapid rate.

In 2003, in Münchenthal, the Ukrainian priest in the village suggested that the first project should be to restore the German cemetery and then decide later what could be done to the German church. He said, “*After all, the cemetery is sacred ground where your people and family are buried.*” This was somewhat of an epiphany. His suggestion was taken to heart. The result is the current ***Münchenthal German Catholic Cemetery Memorial Project***.

No attempt has been made to edit this 2002 original portfolio beyond this update page. Reading this 2002 portfolio please realize that some of the statements about priorities etc. are dated. Many discussions and meetings have taken place in Ukraine, Germany, Canada, and the USA since then. The plans have evolved and our attention is now focused on completing the cemetery project. We are providing this outdated portfolio to you in the hope that you find the included photos, historical write-ups, and information of interest.

The binding of this portfolio can be easily disassembled to allow the addition of the new materials pertaining to the Cemetery restoration.

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Muzhylovychi (Münchenthal) Church Restoration Project

The aim of the *Muzhylovychi (Münchenthal) Church Restoration Project* is to restore the former German Roman Catholic Church building in the village of Muzhylovychi, Yavoriv Region, L'viv, Ukraine. Once restored, the building will serve as a monument and memorial to our family members who were born, played, married, worked, and died in the German colonies of the former Austrian Crown land of Galizien. As a museum and heritage centre, it will house artefacts as well as copies of documents, books, photographs, maps, and other items relevant to the German Catholic colonies located within the L'viv region of today. Official state historical site designation has already been obtained for the church structure and the associated cemetery by the district of Yavoriv.

This heritage centre will become an attraction for descendants of German colonists revisiting their family homelands in western Ukraine. It is further intended that this completed project will spawn an organization dedicated to the restoration of other important monuments, cemeteries, and buildings in the nearby associated colonies. The project will also provide much needed economic benefit to the people of Muzhylovychi and the L'viv region during the restoration and on an ongoing basis.

This church was originally built from the stone of the former Jesuit monastery complex dating to the 1600's (see section titled *A Short History...*). It was one of very few Catholic parishes established specifically by German colonists in Galizien. It was built by the hard work of our ancestors. Most other German Catholic colonies were annexed to existing Polish Catholic parishes (i.e. Gródek). The church in Münchenthal was the victim of arson during World War II and further deteriorated under the Soviet Regime while being used for fertilizer and grain storage. The restored church building will become the most identifiable German Catholic heritage building in Muzhylovychi and will figure prominently in the province of L'viv as a whole.

Münchenthal was a vibrant German Catholic colony. It was established in 1783 and thrived until the sad and reluctant departure of the colonists during World War II. For over a

150-year history, many men and women intermarried between Münchenthal and the other Catholic colonies in the region. Burgthal, Brunndorf, Ebenau, Fehlbach, Ottenhausen, Weißenberg, Wiesenberg and other colonies were all absolutely linked with Münchenthal in this way. For this reason this project is not only of the families of Münchenthalers but also the families of all the other colonies as well.

It is essential that the historical holdings and the memory of the lives of all of these colonies are housed in the museum and promoted in many other ways by those involved in this project. It is also essential that eventually other key historical German buildings, cemeteries, and monuments be identified and preserved for our children and their children.

Many families from Münchenthal and surrounding Catholic colonies had already immigrated to Canada, USA, Austria, and other countries prior to World War I. It is our intention to reach their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren now to transform what is already a curiosity about their fading or non-existent memories about their origins into enthusiasm and zeal to preserve their heritage. As a result of World War II, all remaining German families left the village – today there are none remaining. Often the events of the war are very painful to those who had to leave the villages. The heartbreak of leaving one's home and suffering the tragic loss of family and friends in war is enough to make many former colonists wish to forget the past. However, somewhere buried inside their hearts and their children's hearts, must be a desire to remember and embrace the happier days from before the war.

We must comfort them in their loss. We must acknowledge and record those tragedies by creating memorial walls in the church, cemetery monuments with names, web pages, and other ways. We must also rekindle joyous memories in their homeland and celebrate them in the same way. All descendants of these colonies will be called upon to renew these good memories with knowledge of the past. By becoming involved in the church restoration project, the establishment of an organization, and creation of a museum in the building, we can all help to preserve our heritage.



Panoramic view of the church in present-day Muzhylovychi as it would have been seen by many of the German colonists from their homes

Münchenthal – where in the world is it?

Officially known as **Muzyłowice**, prior to WWI, **Münchenthal** was part of the Austrian crown land of Galizien (Galicia). Between WWI and WWII, it was part of Poland. Today the former colony of Münchenthal is known by its Ukrainian name **Muzhylovychi** and is located in western Ukraine. The village has not moved but the national borders & the countries that controlled it have changed. ➔

The village of Muzhylovychi (blue dot), Ukraine (formerly Münchenthal) is approximately 40 km (25 miles) west-northwest of the historic city of L'viv. It is located half way between L'viv and the Polish border. Archives in Przemyśl and Lubaczów (Poland) as well as the Central State Archive in L'viv hold documents and records for Münchenthal and all the surrounding German colonies. Visits to the archives and spectacular views of historic L'viv are possible by those returning to their homeland for a heritage experience. ➔

Münchenthal (red dot) is a centrally located colony in the cluster of other former German Catholic colonies (blue dots) of the area. District centres (pentagons) also had German residents. The close proximity of these German Catholic villages to each other created ideal opportunities to inter-marry and socially engage. Over time, these colonies became closely knit and tracing the genealogy of most families shows intermarriages between the colonies. In Ed Rozyłowicz's ancestry for example, Peter Kammer (Weißenberg) married Ludovica Dreher (Ottenhausen) in 1821 and Peter Bäcker (Brunndorf) married Apolonia Lautsch (Münchenthal) in 1901. On another occasion, the Lenius family celebrated a double wedding in Gródek in 1835. Josef Schnerch (Münchenthal) married Susana Lenius (Ebenau) and Nikolaus Lenius (Ebenau) married Elisabetha Kundermann (Weißenberg). These are only a few examples of family intermarriages between villages. ➔



Short History of Münchenthal (Muzyłowice) and the Roman Catholic Church

The village of Muzyłowice was bestowed upon the brothers Herbert and Frydrysz Fullenstein on July 22, 1386. Muzyłowice remained in the hands of this family until the late 16th century. In 1604, Staniusław Stadnicki bequeathed Muzyłowice to a Jesuit collegiate in Lwów. Muzyłowice belonged to the parish of Bruchnal, but at the same time, it became an important economic, administrative, and religious centre of the Jesuit Society. The Jesuit chapel in Muzyłowice existed from at least 1649 and was found on the upper floor of the wooden Jesuit manor house. In 1761, a new chapel was built in front of the manor house. It was a small brick structure, covered with white roofing tile, decorated with a bell tower. The *Lwów Collegium* was officially closed by the Austrian Crown in 1773, and with it the Jesuit estate of Muzyłowice.

The first group of German colonists to Muzyłowice included families from *Mähren* (Moravia) who settled along a road called "*Mährisch Seite*." This name even today is still used by the Ukrainians in the village over 60 years after the last German family left! Austrian Emperor Josef II officially established a colony of German Roman Catholic settlers in 1783-1784 on the land of the former Jesuit estate. The new colony was officially called *Muzyłowice Kolonia*, but was always known as *Münchenthal* to the colonists. Including the original 10 families, it now totalled 40 families who were given land totalling 660 Joch or about 20 acres per family. In the first few years, a school and a Roman Catholic Church were erected with a German teacher and pastor.

Although the church in Muzyłowice belonged to the parish of Bruchnal, as of 1784 separate Roman Catholic registers were kept for Muzyłowice. In 1785 and 1787, two successive bishops devised separate plans to reorganize the diocese and establish Muzyłowice as a new parish, but neither plan was implemented at the time. Diocesan records from 1814 mention a brick church, still found in good condition. The Muzyłowice place of

worship under the invocation of St. Anthony of Padua was confirmed in 1846. Its modest furnishings consisted of: old altar, few paintings, baptismal font, pulpit, pews and a chalice originating from Jaworów.

In 1849, the present day church building was financed and erected by our ancestors and bore the invocation of "St. Anthony of Padua." The name was changed to the "Visitation of our Blessed Mary" during the consecration of the church building in 1854. The parishioners funded the altar in 1871. It was not until 1887 that the Muzyłowice chaplainry was finally transformed into a parish. The tower was repaired in 1891. Towards the end of 1914, the occupying Russian army plundered the church and the presbytery property. The priest had earlier hidden valuable church objects and documents. In the years 1916 and 1917, the bells were removed for the needs of the Austrian army. The colonists purchased two replacement bells in 1925. The roof was also repaired in the late 1920's. Visits from other surrounding German

Catholic colonies were commonplace. One of many examples was reported in the December 29, 1929 edition of *Deutsches Volksblatt für Galizien* newspaper (*inset*).

"Many of our faith had come to Münchenthal from the neighbouring towns of Weißenberg, Ottenhausen, Burgthal, Brunnndorf, Ebenau, and Vorderberg to participate in the prayer week and to gain strength and faith for their everyday lives."

With very short notice, most of the German colonists left the village in January 1940 and were repatriated to central Poland. Those remaining left during the next few years. In 1943, the parish books were confiscated by the German authorities and delivered to the *Archivamt* in Lwów. In 1944, a small band of Ukrainian Insurgent Army (*UPA*) burnt the now Polish-only parish church and on April 15, 1945 the last pastor left the church for good. Ornaments of the church were deposited in the church at Rodatycze. After the war under the Soviet Regime, the church served as a warehouse for grain, and later as a depository of artificial fertilizers that contributed greatly to the deterioration the church building. Today, it has been transformed from a curiosity to a source of hope for the Ukrainian villagers that live there.

The Church – what it was ...

At their own initiative and with a labour of love, our ancestors, the German colonists, financed and built this church in 1849. The church was sturdy and massive in appearance with thick walls. It had an attached side vestry and two steeples, of which the taller was a bell tower rising to 26.7 m. (90 ft.) with 2 bells, each weighing 100 kg. (220 lbs.). The building showed some classical architecture with a definite western-style facade in a land filled with eastern-style churches. The church is located on the highest elevation in the village. ➔



The Church – what it is ...

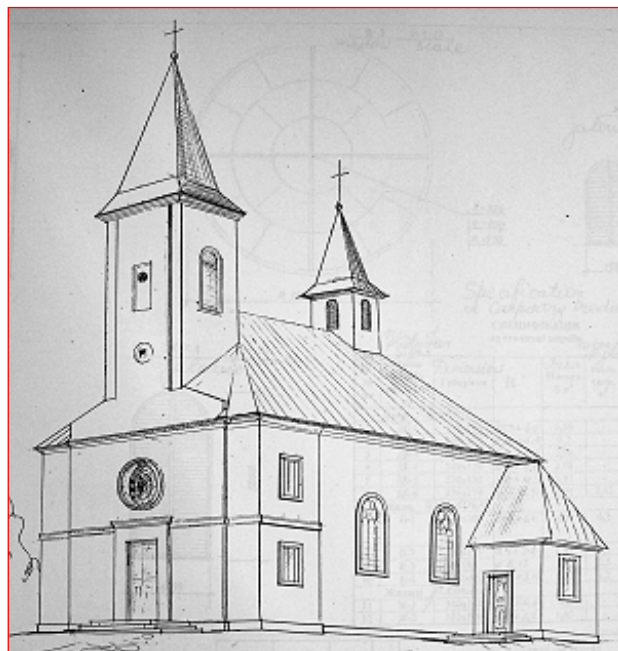
The church (in 2002) is a building in very poor condition. It has suffered the effects of over 50 years of neglect and abuse. It was used for grain and fertilizer storage under the Soviet Regime. The acids from the fertilizer coupled with the now missing roof caused most of the damage sustained by the brickwork. In places the 0.82 m. (2.8 ft.) thick walls are missing bricks due to corrosion and weakened or missing mortar. The windows are partially bricked-up and the steeples and original roof is missing due to the fire in 1944. With all this abuse, the building still stands - defiant and straight. ➔



The Church – what it may be ...

The Western Ukraine Restoration Institute's final report produced full historical studies, architectural plans, comprehensive material lists, and detailed costs necessary to restore our church building. A section of an original floor tile was found under the thick layer of rubble and vegetation. The artist's conception of the restored church was produced by the Institute's architect.

Many of our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and even their parents were baptized or married in this church. Family and friends met here to worship and socialize. Will the bells of *Münchenthal* toll again as they did on these and other important occasions? Only, our collective will and a concerted effort by all of us can make this happen. ➔



The Muzhylovychi Village Participation

We made a total of five combined trips from North America to Muzhylovychi to research and document the project particulars. During the 2001 and 2002 visitations, meetings were held with the village officials (below) who



were advised of this partnership's intentions and the project direction. Both the Mayor and the Head of the Collective (the authority for this property) indicated that once the restoration has started, the ownership of the church property would be legally transferred to a managing institution. They signed a letter of agreement. The partnership would choose an official State Museum or some other institution to preserve, promote, and maintain the history and culture of the former German Catholic colonies of the area. The ongoing maintenance, care taking, and management of the restored church will then officially be transferred to that institution.

Villagers, such as Teodosiy Demus (below), are genuinely interested in the history of Muzhylovychi including the German colony of Münchenthal. He has shared many details of the village history.



His mother salvaged a crucifix (right) out of the smouldering ashes of the Roman Catholic Church when it burnt in 1944 and the family has preserved it for almost 60 years. It hangs in Teodosiy's house. Under the existing floor rubble the Institute has located a partial floor tile (below).



How many more artefacts will come to light from other villagers as their trust of this restoration increases? Will more artefacts be found when the thick layer of rubble is removed from the interior of the church floor?

The people of Muzhylovychi are genuinely pleased to have the descendants of their parents and grandparent's neighbours visit the village. For most of their lives, they have heard tales and stories of what it was like before the war when the Germans lived in the village. A visit to Muzhylovychi will give the visitor a brand new definition of hospitality. All of the stories we have heard are based on warm memories. They talk of how all the house yards of the Germans were meticulously kept with many fruit trees, bounteous colourful flower gardens, always-fresh whitewashed houses, and white picket fences. The stories continue. This is quite a stark contrast from what they have inherited from the Soviet era.

Many of the men of Muzhylovychi are also excited at the prospects of obtaining some paid work as a spin-off from this project.

The Ukraine Restoration Institute

The *Ukrainian Regional Scientific-Restoration Institute* (Institute) is responsible to the *State Committee of Architecture and Housing of Ukraine*. The Institute has executed many large restoration projects including Cathedrals and other historic buildings in L'viv and appears from all perspectives to be professional and competent. Comprehensive information and full colour brochures in the form of images may be provided to demonstrate the Institute's range of projects.

Fortified with sufficient data, interest, and village support, we arranged a meeting with the Institute (below).



At the Institute (left to right):

Ed Rozylowicz, Vitaliy Rogozov (Institute Architect), Brian Lenius, Olesya Boyko (Partnership Representative in L'viv), Ivan R. Mohytych (Institute Director)

The purpose of the meeting was to determine if the Institute would be willing to work with us on a project of such small physical scale but immense historic importance to the region. Bolstered by the Institute's reputation, capability, enthusiasm, and encouragement, we wrote and submitted a contract for a full feasibility study of this restoration. The Institute accepted this partnership-funded contract in late 2001. Further in-person meetings with the Institute in the spring of 2002 resulted in the Institute producing an extensive and comprehensive final report that summer. The report was complete with architectural plans, construction and renovation details, step-by-step work plans divided into phases and cost breakdowns for all facets of the restoration project, including labour and bills of materials.

Concurrent with this report we were advised that the church building has been designated an official historic site at the local government (*raion*) level.



On site:
Vitaliy Rogozov and Ivan Mohytych
inside the church, discussing roof details



On site:
Maralyn (Wellauer) Lenius, Brian Lenius and Vitaliy Rogozov
reviewing preliminary architectural plans.



On site:
Local villagers joining the discussion

The Restoration Projections

As the initial two partnership principals, we solely funded the first phase of the restoration project that included the Institute's archival research, engineering studies, full restoration plans, and estimates. The work on this phase was conducted by the Institute starting early in 2002. When we arrived for meetings with the Institute and the village officials in April 2002, the report was still in progress. We were shown all the preliminary work that was done up to that date.

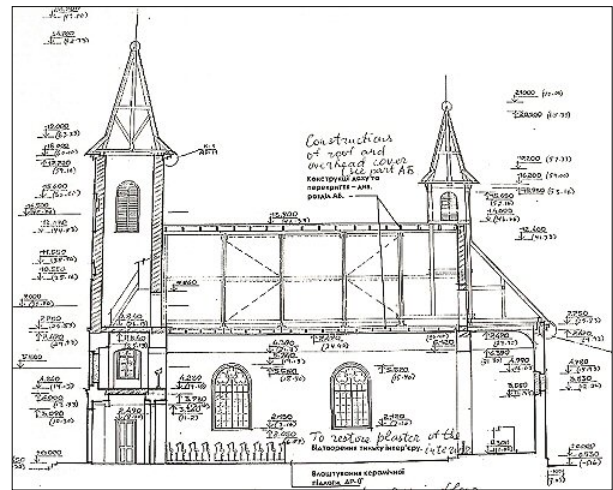
The work and documentation was completed by mid-summer 2002. The report was a package of 6 volumes bound with report covers and signed by the proper Ukrainian authorities. Three copies were submitted.

The report included written details and large folded architectural drawings (examples on right) matching what one would expect to find in a similar project in North America. Our partnership representative in L'viv met with the Institute on numerous occasions with follow-up questions from the partnership in North America. Local translators in L'viv were hired to provide translations from Ukrainian to English of all the materials submitted.

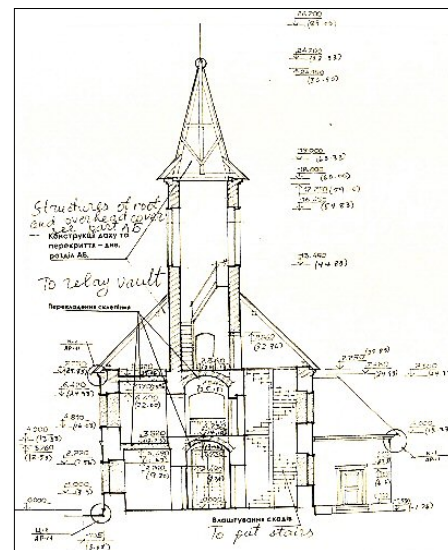
The summary of the report indicates that the restoration work is extremely feasible but will be moderately costly, as restorations go. The Institute has broken the restoration work into two major phases with separate costs for each.

The sum total for all restoration work projected, with all labour, materials, and supervision by the Institute, taxes, and fees included are 865,000 UAH (Ukraine Hryvnias). Based on the current exchange (July 2003) rate this would be \$167,000 USD or 142,000 € (Euro). These costs were as of the report date of 28 June 2002 and valid for one year. Beyond the first year, an inflation rate should be applied (typically 8-10 percent annually).

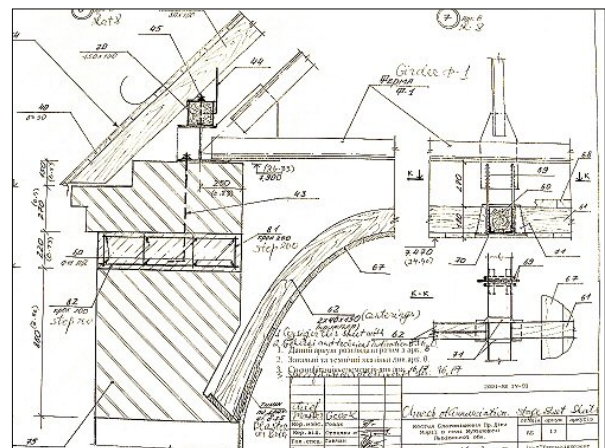
This sum total is based on two major construction phases and a third item for other costs. The detailed costing of these two construction phases and "other" costs total 22 pages (271 line items) of description of work units, price per unit, totals, etc.



Example: side elevation



Example: front elevation



Example: beamed roof detail

The Restoration Projections Summary

Project Work Projections	UAH (H)	USD (\$)	EUR (€)
Completed Work			
Phase 1 – (archive studies, drawings, estimates, expenses)	33.600 H	\$ 6,500	5.500 €
Remaining Work			
Phase 2 – (1 st construction phase)	407.000 H	\$ 79,000	67.000 €
Phase 3 – (2 nd construction phase)	220.000 H	\$ 42,000	36.000 €
Other – (restoration supervision, taxes, fees)	238.000 H	\$ 46,000	39.000 €
Total Remaining (as estimated by Institute)	865.000 H	\$ 167,000	142.000 €

Costs based on conversion rate as of July 1, 2003

Descriptions of the major items included in the line items above:

Phase1 – includes on-site testing and engineering observations, architectural drawings, detailed work unit tables, detailed labour and cost of materials tables, and partnership out of pocket expenses. This phase is completed.

Phase 2 – includes, but not limited to:

Preparatory work – clearing site and removal of overburden from interior of building (app. 60 cubic metres) including concrete stub walls that had been used for grain and fertilizer storage.

Brickwork – restore bricklaying of walls, windows, doors, arches, profiled tower cornices, and bell tower.

Vaulted Ceilings – place overhead beams, boards, and collars that form the vaulted ceiling.

Roofs – place metal girders, wooden beams, rafters, boards, galvanized roof coverings. Also wooden structures of towers and metalwork on profiled tower cornices including drainage pipes.

Vestry – Soil work, foundations, bricklaying of walls, profiled cornice, ceiling, roof structures and galvanized roof coverings.

Roof Drainage and Other work – drainage pipes, return flow pipes. Also, includes constructing and removing large amounts of scaffolding at heights of 10, 15, 20 and 25 m. (app. 75 ft.).

Phase 3 – includes, but not limited to:

Window and Door finishing – restore metal window frames, install and glaze clear and stained glass in windows. Install and finish oak (or other wood) doorframes.

Floors – Prepare ground below floor with multi-layers of sand, "bitumen mastic" with "hydro isolation" (bitumen is understood to be like asphalt but more substantial with an end product that is super moisture proof). Install ceramic floor tiles (100 sq. m.).

Interior finishing – remove old plaster where required and restore plaster over entire surface of curved and straight walls. Restore plaster on wooden and brick ceiling vaults. Paint walls and ceiling vaults.

Exterior finishing – remove plaster where required, restore plaster on smooth and rustic wall surfaces, windows, and door. Restore plaster and paint profiled framings and cornices. Paint facade walls.

Other expenses – includes temporary buildings and structures, technical on-site supervision (by Institute), partnership service support, costs to cover construction participants, taxes, etc.

The Partnership Visions

The restoration of the church building in Münchenthal is the primary objective of the partnership. However, the mission does not end there. While this restoration will be the most challenging, particularly regarding fundraising, it is clearly only one of many goals envisioned by the partnership. Most of these visions are already being considered or worked on by many of those receiving this material.

We anticipate that during the course of this restoration project some trips by descendants to the restoration site will provide an opportunity to visit the other colonies. We foresee that some progress toward many of the points below may be made simultaneously with the restoration project. Initial progress has already been made by the partners ... particularly in Ebenau, Ottenhausen, Weißenberg and Fehlbach.

Therefore, the focus of this partnership will remain with the first two visions listed below, namely - the formation of an organization and the undertaking of the restoration of the Münchenthal church. Only after the first vision has been accomplished and the second is well on the road to becoming a reality should any significant focus shift toward the other very important visions.

The visions are:

1. Formation of a multi-national, non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of the former Roman Catholic Church in Münchenthal and the preservation of the German Heritage in the region including all former German Colonies.
2. Münchenthal church becoming a museum and heritage centre for the German Catholic colonies of the region. It will become a repository of artefacts and copies of all available documents related to the history of the German Catholic colonies.
3. A complete inventory of all physical things "German" in all of the colonies included in the realm of the organization's interest including churches, cemeteries, houses, monuments, schools, wells and other isolated structures, and artefacts.
4. Document all physical structures inventoried in the point above including photographs, drawings, measurements, mapping, notes from present and past residents.
5. Restoration of the cemetery in Münchenthal and construction of a monument, or series of monuments, with the names and relevant dates of the colonists who are buried there.
6. Construction of similar monuments in the other German cemeteries.
7. Construction of special monuments dedicated to the memory of the colonies that no longer exist, even as Ukrainian villages (e.g. Bruckenthal).
8. Ongoing identification, copying and depositing in the heritage centre in Muzhylovychi all documents relating to the German Catholic colonies including but not limited to copies of:
 - parish registers of birth, marriage, and death;
 - books about the German colonies;
 - diaries, chronicles, and other personal historical writings about the colonies;
 - photographs of villages and life in the former Galizien colonies;
 - photographs of colonists and descendants both in the colonies and in the new lands where the descendants live today;
 - current and historical newspaper articles about the colonies and the residents both in the colonies and the places to which they migrated;
 - family history books about families from the colonies;
 - genealogies of all families;
 - local and regional history books relevant to the colonies;
 - land records;
 - maps of villages;
 - house and building plans;
 - others
9. Publishing of books, periodicals and web sites about the colonies. Information about the collections that are deposited at the heritage centre (detailed in point 8 above), including indexes, would be available to researchers and descendants.

In Conclusion ... the Challenges, Urgency, and Your Response

The Challenges ... We envision many challenges during the Münchenthal church restoration project. The project will only succeed if additional people become actively involved with ideas, actions, and support. We are seeking opinions from you on many diverse and varied issues regarding the direction of this project. We hope you will provide some initial response now and perhaps more in the future. It is apparent that an international non-profit organization, larger than the current partnership, needs to be created to focus on all aspects of the project, a few of which are:

- ❑ Coordinating efforts across multi-national borders and languages to reach the many descendents of these German Colonies,
- ❑ Delivering the restoration message with a broad appeal to the conscience and heart of the descendants,
- ❑ Establishing effective and successful restoration fundraising efforts,
- ❑ Managing a project of such significance from abroad,
- ❑ "Money managing" the resources so that the restoration is completed within budgeted projections.

Additionally, many specific ideas will need to be considered. Below are a few, but we trust you will offer many others as they come to your mind:

- ❑ Could audio-visual material, such as slide shows and DVDs that play on television, about the church, Münchenthal, L'viv, and the other nearby colonies serve as fundraising inspiration?
- ❑ Would a guided "heritage trip" to the village of Münchenthal and the other nearby colonies inspire you to join this organization? Could these trips be incorporated into fundraising?
- ❑ Would you favour some sort of recognition for the many levels of donors such as a "Donor Wall"? Do you visualize other ways of recognizing significant contributors?
- ❑ Do you have any suggestions on who should manage the church and future heritage centre after the restoration?

Urgency ... The Institute has estimated that from the date of commencement, the physical restoration of the building will take 2 to 2½ years. This assumes construction would not take place during the colder months due to the harsh winter conditions in Ukraine.

The church has suffered further deterioration between 1999 (when the idea of the restoration was conceived) and 2002 (when the Institute confirmed that the building was still restorable). Today it is ever closer to the brink of passing the point of restorability. Due to the physical condition of the church, this project must concentrate on its first priority -- the restoration of the structure itself before it is lost. Subsequent important work on establishing the museum or heritage centre and restoration of other buildings, cemeteries or sites in Münchenthal and the other colonies will wait until the Münchenthal church building is saved.

Time is of the essence and a sense of urgency is present. We are seeking assistance from individuals who are emotionally, spiritually or physically attracted to a project of this significance and value. This is a project of heritage and historical preservation.

Your Response ... We look forward to a speedy response from you to the questions below and any other thoughts you wish to share at this time. We need to quickly determine the level of interest resulting from this appeal.

- ❑ Is our project of interest to you? Is it viable? Does it have value in your opinion?
- ❑ Do you believe that our stated plans and objectives are sound? How can the current plans be improved?
- ❑ Would you be willing to help us identify and enlist additional individuals or organizations that may be qualified and interested in joining this project in an active role?

Please direct your responses and further inquiries to:

Brian J. Lenius brian@lenius.ca
Dr. Edward F. Rozyłowicz edward@rozylowicz.com

or fill out the response form provided and mail it to one of the addresses given.

Additional Documents ...

- 1 Biographies
- 2 Münchenthal
(Poem suitable for framing)
- 3 Photos from the Former
German Catholic Colonies
- 4 Response Form

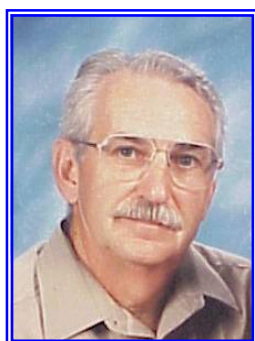
Biographies

Brian J. Lenius ...



Age 50, born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, Brian is a lifelong resident of Manitoba and is currently employed by *The Manitoba Museum*. He has been engaged in Galizien genealogical research for 20 years. His grandfather, John Lenius, immigrated to Winnipeg from Münchenthal in 1902. Brian also had ancestors who lived in the colonies of Burgthal, Brunndorf, Ebenau, and Fehlbach. Brian has spent a combined 14 weeks, over the past 9 years, researching in five archives in Poland and Ukraine and on numerous occasions, explored the colonies of Münchenthal, Ebenau, Ottenhausen and Weissenberg, including the nearby cities of Lemberg (L'viv) and Gródek. He is the author and publisher of the *Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia*, a voluminous reference book that has become a standard for Galician genealogy. Brian's articles on Galician research have been published in numerous genealogical periodicals. Brian was a co-founder of the *Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS)* and the *East European Genealogical Society (EEGS)* holding the positions of President and Journal Editor. He has also been involved in *German Galizien Descendants* since its founding and has presented research-oriented lectures at many conferences in Canada and the USA during the past 10 years. As an archaeologist for many of the past 30 years, Brian conducted field excavations, site reconnaissance, laboratory analysis, and curatorial services. His published works include a major academic paper redefining a significant part of Manitoba's pre-contact period (1000 AD – 1750 AD). Brian and his wife, Maralyn A. Wellauer-Lenius, live in Selkirk, Manitoba, Canada.

Edward F. Rozyłowicz ...



Age 64, born in Zimna Woda, Poland (near present-day L'viv, Ukraine). Ed's interest in genealogy began in 1999 and to date he has been able to trace his ancestral lineage to Münchenthal (about 1793) and Ebenau (about 1806). His heritage has deep roots in Galicia with links to ancestral villages of Weißenberg (Białagóra, Bilahora), Stryj, Kałush (Kalush), Czerniowice (Chernovits), Targowica (Torhovytsia), Ottynja, Kolomyja (Kolomyia), Gródek Jagielloński (Horodok), Lemberg (Lwów, L'viv), Rudno, and Zimna Woda (Zymna Woda). Ed immigrated to the United States in 1949 by way of Czechoslovakia (1945) and Germany (1946). His education includes B.S.E.E. (Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering), M.B.A. (Masters in Business Administration - Marketing), and Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy – Business) degrees. Prior to retirement Ed's career involved the integration of research, engineering, product development, sales, marketing, strategic planning, and managerial positions as Vice President and Director in technology-based companies. An avid photographer, Ed and his wife, Dolores, live in Las Cruces, New Mexico, USA.

Münchenthal, My Home

*There, where the white homes stand in the sunlight,
The gardens' flowers give off such aromas,
Where faith dwells in humble hearts,
Where noble thoughts and German tears abound,
There, where hymns emanate from Holy Writ.*

*This is my Münchenthal, my home.
This is my Münchenthal, my home.*

*Where God protects pastures and farms,
Where the crops prosper in the fields,
Where the sickle courses through the fields of grain,
And the harvester for the call of the harvest,
Nowhere on earth is more dear to me.*

*This is my Münchenthal, my home.
This is my Münchenthal, my home.*

*Oh, my dear God, bless this dear place,
Where I was a little child, learning the German language,
Where the love of a good mother watched over me,
And where my father's industry taught me.
Oh, bless this place forever, Lord,*

*This is my Münchenthal, my home.
This is my Münchenthal, my home.*

-- Josef Massinger

Photos from the Former German Catholic Colonies

A visual tour of some surviving features and structures of the former German Colonies.

The German cemetery in **Münchenthal** is now overgrown with shrubs with only a few tombstones showing. It is likely that more stones are buried just under the ground surface. The tombstone of Johan Rostek (b.1824, d.1890) is one of those still above the surface. →



Brunndorf, Burgthal, Ebenau, Voderberg and other villages attended the parish church in **Gródek Jagiellonski**. Today it has been reopened as a Polish Catholic Church. ↓



One of 4 surviving German colonist houses in **Fehlbach** (in Poland, near the Ukraine border.) ↓



House #1 in **Ebenau**, the home of the Jahnsohn family (ancestor of Ed Rozyłowicz) which was later a Lenius family home. ↓



The Ukrainians used the German cemetery in **Ebenau** after WWII to "save" it from Soviet destruction. ↓



The Catholic Church in **Weißenberg**, also attended by **Ottenhausen**. It now functions as a Ukrainian Orthodox church. Note: a cupola, characteristic of an eastern rite church, has replaced the steeple. ↓



Before WWII this bell rang twice a day for prayers in the centre of **Ebenau**.

During the war the Ukrainian villagers hid the bell. It was brought out after the fall of the Soviet regime.

Today it stands in the Ebenau (now Stodulki) cemetery. ➔



One of many surviving German colonist houses in **Ottenhausen**. ↓



This village is exceptional as most colonies have few, if any, original German colonist houses remaining. Most of the village of Ottenhausen burned to the ground during WWI, but it was rebuilt. Many of those houses still stand today, almost 90 years later.

The cemetery in **Ottenhausen** has many tombstones still standing and readable ↓



The **Münchenthal** German Club building was used as a hospital during WWII to treat wounded soldiers from all sides (German, Russian, Ukrainian, Polish). After the war, and until recently, it was used as a library. ↓



The former German colony school in **Weißenberg** has been modified considerably and is now a residence but it still stands next to the former Catholic Church. ↓



The school in **Ebenau**, built at the time of Emperor Franz Josef. ↓

