



*In Loving Memory
of*



IWAN IWANCIURA

6th December 1922 - 7th October 2020



ЯК УМРУ, ТО ПОХОВАЙТЕ

*Як умру, то поховайте
Мене на могилі,
Серед степу широкого,
На Вкраїні милій,
Щоб лани широкополі,
І Дніпро, і кручі
Було видно, було чути,
Як реве ревучий.
Як понесе з України
У синєє море
Кров ворожу... отойді я
І лани і гори —
Все покину, і долину
До самого Бога
Молитися... а до того
Я не знаю Бога.
Поховайте та вставайте,
Кайдани порвіте
І вражою злою кров'ю
Волю окропіте.
І мене в сем'ї великій,
В сем'ї вольній, новій,
Не забудьте пом'янути
Незлим тихим словом.*

TESTAMENT

*When I die, then make my grave
High on an ancient mound,
In my own beloved Ukraine,
In steppeland without bound:
Whence one may see wide-skirted wheatland,
Dnipro's steep-cliffed shore,
There whence one may hear the blustering
River wildly roar.*

*Till from Ukraine to the blue sea
It bears in fierce endeavour
The blood of foemen - then I'll leave
Wheatland and hills forever:
Leave all behind, soar up until
Before the throne of God
I'll make my prayer. For till that hour
I shall know naught of God.*

*Make my grave there - and arise,
Sundering your chains,
Bless your freedom with the blood
Of foemen's evil veins!
Then in that great family,
A family new and free,
Do not forget, with good intent
Speak quietly of me.*

*Taras Shevchenko
(1814-1861)*



*ANNOUNCEMENT OF
THE DEATH OF IWAN IWANCIURA
by Mrs Anna Hunder,
History Lecturer at The Dobrohostiw School
and
Curator at the Dobrohostiw Museum*

IWAN IWANCIURA

1922-2020

Iwan Iwanciura was born 6th December 1922 in Dobrohostiw, Drohobych, Ukraine. He was one of twelve children born to Mykola and Anastasia Iwanciura. Of the twelve children, six died in infancy and six survived, Iwan being the youngest. He had the most wonderful memories of his childhood, growing up in a beautiful village and being part of a very Christian, Patriotic and Loving family.

However, this was to be shattered. During World War 2, when Germany and Russia invaded Ukraine, many people suffered great persecution. The family's farms were burnt to the ground, Iwan's elderly parents and sisters left homeless. His brother, Mykola, a partisan, was murdered. In 1943 Iwan, aged 21, signed up to fight in the war whilst his four sisters, all seamstresses, were banished from their homeland and sent to the frozen depths of Siberia.

In 1947, Iwan had the good fortune, along with thousands of other Ukrainians, to be accepted by the United Kingdom as a War Refugee. For this, he was forever grateful to the country that had given him a second home. Iwan first worked on the land in Lincolnshire and then on the building of many Power Stations throughout the United Kingdom where he quickly rose to the rank of Foreman. He later started his own Building Company, Prospect Builders, which he ran successfully well into his old age.

Iwan was a founder of the Ukrainian Community in Nottingham and actively participated in its many organisations, nationally and internationally, throughout his long life.

In 1955, Iwan again had the good fortune to marry a lovely Irish/American lady, called Josephine Hennessy and had one daughter, Maria Anastasia, the following year. He and Josephine lived a long and happy life together becoming Grandparents to Nadia and Ivana.

With the fall of the Berlin Wall, Iwan, after 50 years, was able to return back to his homeland and was finally reunited with his four sisters. Elated at Ukraine gaining independence, he was heartbroken to realise that all traces of his and past generations had been destroyed by the Russians, even the WWI War Memorial had been flattened to the ground.

To this end he built a new family home in Ukraine. He organised hundreds of Ukrainian books to be sent, from England, to libraries throughout the whole of Ukraine. He himself wrote six books which are studied in their schools and universities. His first book, a factual historical account of his village, he gave a copy to each family in the village, so they would know the true facts of their history and not the corrupt version that was forced upon them by their Russian aggressors. He donated many items to The Dobrohostiw Museum and worked closely, for many years, with the Museum's Curator. He funded and organised the building of 'The Pantheon of Glory', a large marble chapel erected to commemorate past generations who had fallen in the fight for the Glory of Ukraine.

In 2015, Iwan lost his dear wife Josephine. However, he was content in his old age to know that he had become a Great-Grandfather to Kieran and Nadia's daughter Grace Orla, and that Ivana had found happiness with her boyfriend Shaun. Iwan lived at home to the end of his days with his daughter Maria and granddaughter Ivana.

Amazingly, Iwan's mind, memory and spirit were as sharp and agile as when he was a young man. He said, that although his body was so weak, he still felt very much alive. In his mind he was reliving all the extraordinary chapters of his very long life.

In honour of a truly wise, kind, old gentleman Mr Iwan Iwanciura.



*Letter written to Iwan Iwanciura
from
Wolodymyr Demkiv,
Editor-in-Chief
of
The Editorial Staff of Sobornist*

Friday 30th October 2020
Today, Iwan will be reunited with Josephine



My father often said to me: “Who would have thought that a little boy born in a rural village in Ukraine and a little girl born in New York would ever meet and spend their lives together.”

Maria Iwanciura-Gresko and family would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support at this time.



A.W. LYMN

*The Family Funeral Service**

Robin Hood House
Robin Hood Street
Nottingham
NG3 1GF

www.lymn.co.uk

CCLI Copyright Licence No. 508305