

Why Ukraine Is So Different? *I Did My Family History There Before History Changed It!!!*

There have been dozens of wars in the almost 80 years since World War II ended. But even after Russia invades Ukraine, it will be different from almost all of them. It will be another sign that the world may be entering an alarming new era in which authoritarianism is on the rise. This posting is not a political presentation. For a good overview of this controversial topic, go to this recent New York Times article at <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/21/briefing/ukraine-russia-war-pax-americana.html>

Today, my dear Ukrainian friends and relatives are in grave danger. Fortunately, I visited Ukraine in 1996, 2001 and 2012 to meet relatives and friends and equally more important to meet them after 100 year absence between my family in America and their families who were forced out of Poland in 1947 because the Russian occupancy of Poland was even worse than the German occupancy. Then, I photographed my historical roots that can't be revisited again as the landscape has permanently changed drastically even after the Russia-Ukraine invasion is over. Where my relatives presently live very near Donetsk in Eastern Ukraine which is Russia today, the 2014-2022 war has already destroyed the entire city of 2 million people of its buildings and historical past. Their brand-new 2012 airport is now useless as indicated in the photos below.



For a brief overview of my precious Eastern European roots in Poland, Slovenia and Ukraine, go to: http://kuzmich4.com/KUZMICH%20360VP_SLO_POL_UKR/Kuzmich_Genealogy_Europe_Ancestors.html. There are thirty-eight 360 degree virtual panorama photos to view which have extremely personal memories of heritage in those countries. For directions of how to maximize these photos taken by our faithful follower, President Ivan Majc of Slovenia, there is a good description below of how to enjoy these "keepsake" memories that can't replicated in today's world of political intolerance.



Click on the icon above for 360 degree Virtual Tour

As you click on the icon above, a Google Earth presentation featuring a [360 degree virtual tour](#) with a personal audio commentary opening up a virtual odyssey tour of my Eastern European roots in Poland, Slovenia and Ukraine. This virtual tour can be displayed on computers, tablets and smartphones which makes it compatible like O+ blood with multimedia attributes of interactive Google maps, historical video clips and photo galleries, background music, annotated notes as well as customized virtual panorama connectivity and more!! Thus, making it a "keepsake" presentation for my family, grandchildren and future generations.

1. Click on the country icons at the top of the opening screen and there's an index to peruse each photograph for each country.
2. For each virtual photo, there is a Google Earth map provided for your convenience in viewing the geographical location from roof top to outer space.
3. On each photo you will find icons for individual photos and/or red balls as hot links to other nearby virtual photographs.
4. Once a still photo is displayed within each virtual photo, click on it and the still photograph will appear in the center and then click on the "I" icon on the tool bar if it is unshaded.
5. By clicking on the "I", a commentary about each photograph will be displayed.

Presently some of my relatives are presently in makeshift bomb shelters. Some have just recovered from COVID and can't physically travel to another country. Some have had to already leave their families and cross the border into Poland. Here are

a photos of who they are. And yet others are still unaccountable because their phone and Internet services are down. Never play chess with my uncle in the military uniform photo below. He literally destroyed me in 2012 in just a few minutes. My son, Quinn, played "paint ball" with one who was an ex-Russian-Ukrainian army military officer and believe me he was awesome in his aggressive military tactics which even scared Quinn then in his 20's at that time who is 6:6 feet and formidable in his physical stature to personally know that quality Russian-Ukrainian military officers can be a serious match for anybody.

Closing Comments

Can't imagine beginning my Ukraine family history today with the state of affairs taking place. There's a real-story behind that man standing next to me at the Kiev Temple at <https://jalbum.net/en/browse/user/album/1171688> of how he protected my family on a very dangerous 16-hour train trip to Eastern Ukraine (Now part of Russia today), particularly with my daughter at the train station in Kiev that my wife can describe vividly!

Below are photos of the 2012 brand new Donetsk airport that hosted the European Football Soccer tournament that year and now what it looks like today. There is a beautiful photo of the Kiev temple which had to close officially last Friday. Plus photos of relatives and a map of countries surrounding Ukraine. And lastly a photo of friends and of Donetsk which had beautiful parks including one of President Majc standing next to a giant egg that does not exist anymore! My entire family has been viewing the latest news about Ukraine and is very, very upset about these current events taking place. Now you more fully know my love and admiration for my ancestors in Eastern Europe and particularly in Ukraine at this time who are fighting a war where they are completely disadvantaged and out-gunned except for the love of their homeland, families and freedom.



Mykola Wilbovets with John Kuzmich Jr
September 7, 2017

Dear brother John! Congratulations on your birthday! May the Lord bless you with good health, happiness, love and give you many years of life, creative inspiration, prosperity and prosperity. The Lord has blessed you with a big and loving heart. I am grateful to Him that we met you on this earth. You have done a lot for us and our daughter. I thank the Lord very much for you, your wonderful wife and wonderful children, for your support and kindness. You deserve great blessing... See more



Always good to see Mykola Velboverts with his friends in Ukraine! **Best wishes** with good health and longevity. He is outlined in the red square box.

