

Dear Brother Kuzmich,

Its Sister Roitsina from Kiev. And I am happy to tell you the following. I found those of your relatives that had lived in Snielniza before 1945 and I visited those of them that live in the village of Maximilianovka, Maryinka district, Donetsk Region. I am very grateful to you, brother John, that you gave me that opportunity to feel a great joy after a successful search, the joy to serve a neighbor and a happiness to serve the Lord.

Now, I will write a detailed account of what I have found out about Kuzmichs. (Sis. Lyubarets note: All the names are given according to the rules of Ukrainian language and spelling. I must tell you again that according to national traditions we have names in such an order - first name, father s name (for men ending in -ich, for women - in vna), Taft or family' name. It is wery helpful to have father s name It is easy to know who was a persons 'father. In case with your relatives: when I write Ivan Petrovich it means that I write about Peter s son. When I write about Ivan Ivanovich it means that I write about Ivan s son. Ivan corresponds English name John. There are two Ivans (Johns) among your relatives. First one is Ivan Petrovich (John, Peter s son) and second - Ivan Ivanovich (John, the son of previously mentioned John, he is alive now.)).

I had to gather information about Peter Fedorovich Kuzmich s family, and his son s, Ivan Petrovich Kuzmich, family that came from Poland (Snielniza, Gorkits distr, Krakow Region) to Donetsk Region, Ukraine, in June 1945. Due to the materials that I found in Kiev I found out that in December 1948 Ivan Petrovich Kuzmich lived in Maryinka district, Donetsk Region.

I found a list of Ivan Petrovich Kuzmich s family members that had moved to Donetsk Region (it was done just in time, because the reorganization of The Ministry where the archives about those moves from other countries were kept should have been reorganized in a while and it would be difficult to find them again).

When I came to Maryinka those people that I asked about your relatives told me they have no information, they have no address directory, no list of citizens and they could not help me. Only after my visit to the Head of Militia Department and my strong request he went to ask his colleagues and could find the tracks of 2 of Kuzmichs -Eva Stepanovna Kuzmich and Ivan Ivanovich Kuzmich that had lived or lived in the village of Maximilianovka, Maryinka district. There was a name of the street on that paper and no house number. So, only my presence and insistence were needed to find Kuzmichs. And of course the list that I had already had was very helpful.

Here I am in Maximilianovka, Shevchenko street. Again questions... Finally, a success! First I am talking with Maxim Petrovich Kuzmich s widow (Shevchenko str. # 184), then with Ivan Ivanovich Kuzmich (Shevchenko str. # 293) and his wife, and finally, with Anatoly Ivanovich Kuzmich (Shevchenko str. # 291) and his family.

Then three days of questions and visiting, searching of pictures, photos, new questions and so on. I found out everything I could, wrote down and cleared up.

Now I can add to the list that I could find in Kiev archives.

1. Ivan Petrovich Kuzmich 1904- May 9, 1968
2. Eva Stepanovna Kuzmich (Kanuk) 1910 - August 21, 1979
3. Ivan Ivanovich Kuzmich October 10, 1930 (alive)
4. Yaroslav Ivanovich Kuzmich August 1933 - May 2, 1988
5. Maria Ivanovna Kuzmich May 2, 1936 - April 1993
- 6 Anna Ivanovna Kuzmich January 1, 1939 (alive)
7. Peter Ivanovich Kuzmich April 1941 (alive)
8. Marta Kondratievna Kuzmich 1884 - 1965
9. Vadimir Petrovich Kuzmich April 1930 (alive)
10. Semen Petrovich Kuzmich 1901 - unknown
11. Maxim Petrovich Kuzmich Aug 21, 1910 -July 28, 1984

In Maximilianovka 2 more sons were born to Ivan Petrovich Kuzmich and his wife:

1. Vasily Ivanovich. Kuzmich March 1946 - Sept 11, 1966
2. Anatoly Ivanovich Kuzmich Aug 24, 1953 - living now

Two of Ivan Petrovich's sons were not married -- Yaroslav and Peter. Yaroslav died as a single though he had a woman. Their relations lasted for 15 years. Peter lives in Rostov-Don, Russia now. Though he had many women he is not married. His current address: Viatskaya str. #47/107, apt. 615, Rostov-Don, Russia

Vladimir Perovich Kuzmich's address: Hutor Zirka, Stary Komar, Donetsk Region, Ukraine.

Ivan Ivanovich Kuzmich's address: Shevchenko str. #293, Maximilianovka, Maryinka distr., Donetsk Region, Ukraine 342505.

Anatoly Ivanovich Kuzmich's address: Shevchenko str. #291, Maximilianovka, Maryinka distr., Donetsk Region, Ukraine 342505.

Maxim Petrovich Kuzmich's widow's address: Shevchenko str. #184, Maximilianovka, Maryinka distr., Donetsk Region, Ukraine 342505.

Ivan Ivanovich Kuzmich's daughter-- Olga Ivanovna Chernikova (Kuzmich)-- address: Charivne, Bobrinets distr., Kirovograd Region, Ukraine 317243

Anna Ivanovna Kuzmich got married with Yaroslav Dmitrievich Voitovich. He moved from Poland, too. Their son, Vladimir Yaroslavovich Voitovich lives in Simpheropol, Crimea, Ukraine. There are some more Kuzmichs in the neighboring towns -- in Georgiyevka and Kurahovo, Maryinka distr. Donetsk Region.

There is no need to go to Lugansk Region. There are no your direct relatives there. Some words about Semen (Simon) Petrovich Kuzmich and Feodosia (Theodoska) Petrovna Matiychak (Kuzmich). He went back to Poland very soon after their arrival to Ukraine. As it became known from their friends letters he came back to Snietniza. He himself couldn't write letters because he was illiterate. His Ukrainian relatives do not know anything about him. From what Ivan Ivanovich has told me I know that Semen couldn't hear well and his right leg was wounded. When they lived in Poland he was sick with an anthrax on his leg. Feodosia got married when she lived in Poland. Her husband's last name was Matiychak. Very soon after marriage her husband left her and went to America. They say she was a kind of strange in her behavior. She was a little mentally disabled and couldn't hear well. After their arrival to Ukraine and especially after Semen's departure, she started asking them to let her go back to Poland. (She was a firstborn of Peter Fedorovich Kuzmich in his first marriage). Her brothers Ivan Petrovich and Maxim Petrovich took her to the railway station in Donetsk and left her there. Nobody knows of her since that time. Maxim Petrovich's wife told me that she would often reproach Maxim that they left her in

•Donetsk. Probably, they were tortured by their conscience for Feodosia.

After my arrival to Kiev I went to Archives again to find Feodosia Matiychak in the list of people that were moved from Poland. But I failed to find her. Probably she left Poland without any registration. When I found Kuzmichs, Ivan Ivanovich told me the story of those people that were moved from Poland to Ukraine, a part of the Soviet Union.

After the end of war in May 1945, Ukrainians and Russians that lived in Poland were told to move voluntarily. In that case they could take everything they wanted to take with them. If not, they would be forced to move but without any property.

Ivan Petrovich's family, his brothers Vladimir, Semen and Maxim, his sister Feodosia, decided to move voluntarily. Though they lived in Sniethniza they moved from the neighboring village Brunary on June 18, 1945. The date is taken from Archives. They took with them: 2 cows, a wagon, some potatoes, grain, flour and everything they could carry. For the property that they left in Poland they received a big money compensation in 1948. I saw that paper with Ivan's signature in the Archives.

First they moved to Krasnogorovka city but then they were distributed to the village of Maximilianovka. Because only one truck was given to take things of newcomers to the place of destination Ivan Petrovich used his own wagon yoked by cows to take their things (about 40-45 km). They were given a house and all of them began to work in the collective farms. Then they were given a better house which Ivan Petrovich bought for their property in 1952. I saw the paper certifying the purchase. Now this house is remodelled and rebuilt. The youngest son of Ivan Petrovich -- Anatoly Petrovich -- lives in it. He was born in the house on August 24, 1953. A kind of small apartment was attached to their house. It belonged to Yaroslav Ivanovich. Peter moved to Rostov-Don, Russia. Ivan Ivanovich built his house on the next site. Now they are houses #291 and 293 in Shevchenko street.

Ivan Petrovich was a very kind and good person. He was a good husband and father. He loved his family and took care of everyone. People loved him. Anatoly tells that many people used to come to his father, and also their friends from Luhansk Region. He was very hospitable. Anatoly was very young at that time, he was not interested in their conversations, he does not remember those people.

Ivan Petrovich worked as a stableman in a collective farm. The cows that they were owners of were of great help. They had cows before 1961. Not those that they brought from Sniethniza. Then after Khrushchev's decree all the cows were taken to collective farms. It was done so that the USSR could "Reach and overcome" USA in meat and milk per capita. Those who kept their cows at home wouldn't be allowed to work. His daughter, Maria Ivanovna was warned that she would be fired from her position of an accountant because her father, Ivan Petrovich still kept his cow. It was very hard but they did it...

People were taught not to keep cows at home. Now, in 1997 they can have cows, but people do not want to do that because they can't take care of and because of their laziness.

Ivan Petrovich died in the night of May 8-9, 1968 (not in 1973) because of cancer. He was suggested a surgery but he refused saying he didn't want to be cut. He was buried at the graveyard in Maximilianovka. Now at that cemetery there are graves of six Kuzmichs. All the graves are in one line. I visited that cemetery and saw the graves. There are photos on all the gravestones. I have written down all the information from the gravestones.

1. Ivan Petrovich Kuzmich - only picture, no information
2. Eva Stepanovna Kuzmich - only picture, no information
3. Vasily Ivanovich Kuzmich, March 1946 - September 11, 1966
4. Marta Petrovna Kuzmich, 1883 - 1962 (such information is written on the gravestone, though the Archives documents state she is Marta Kondratievna Kuzmich, and Ivan Ivanovich says she died in 1965)
5. Maxim Petrovich Kuzmich, August 25, 1910 - July 28, 1984
6. Yaroslav Ivanovich Kuzmich, August 25, 1933 - March 2, 1988

One more person from Peter Fedorovich Kuzmich's family died by this time - Maria Ivanovna Pugach (Kuzmich). But she is buried at the cemetery of the neighboring village, Georgiyevka. She lived in that village after her marriage. Her daughter, Elena Ivanovna Pugach and her husband (Maria's), Ivan Sviridovich Pugach, live in that village in Maria's house.

Ivan Petrovich grieved a lot because of his before last son, Vasily. Vasily was kicked by a motorcycle and he got under a car and was run across and died.

The next day I was planning to have a meeting with "grandma Shura" -- Alexandra Yefimovna Kuzmich (maiden name - Kulish), a widow of Maxim Petrovich Kuzmich. When I came there I was lucky to meet and to talk with Yaroslav Dmitriyevich Voitovich, Nickolay Maximovich Kuzmich, Sergey Nickolayevich Pugach and to gather information about their families. Maxim Petrovich Kuzmich is the fourth child of Peter Fedorovich Kuzmich and his first wife. Unfortunately nobody in Maximilianovka knows his first wife's name.

Maxim Petrovich was born on August 25, 1910 in Snietniza. Germans occupied Poland in 1939.. Maxim was adult. I don't know exactly when, in 1939 or in 1941, 1942, Maxim, according to Ivan Ivanovich's words, went to work in Germany voluntarily. From there he got into Austria (the village of Nurish near Vienna). There he met a Ukrainian girl from Sumi Region, Ukraine. Her name is Alexandra Yefimovna Kulish. They fell in love. They became husband and wife without being officially married. Their first daughter, Maria was born there, on May 11, 1943. Their landlords were good. Maria was christened for the first time in Vienna. The landlords' wife insisted on that. She was christened for the second time in Russian orthodox church in Ukraine. Before his daughter was born, Maxim had vacations and was able to go to Poland. His father, Peter Fedorovich Kuzmich, was alive at that time. And when he returned home after war his father was dead. Ivan Ivanovich states that Peter died in 1943 soon after Maxim's departure back to Austria. According to the Archives documents I only know that on June 18, 1945 his third wife, Marta Kondratiyevna, was registered as a widow.

So, when after the war Maxim Petrovich came back home to Snietniza he had to move to Ukraine together with his family. As soon as he settled in Maximilianovka, he wrote a letter to Alexandra's mother and told his address. By that time, Alexandra (or Shura as they call her) came back to her mother, too. First they wrote letters to each other, then Maxim brought Alexandra and their daughter to Maximilianovka. On

October 14, 1947 their son, Nickolay, was born. I met him. He came to his mother to help her to gather potatoes. I asked him some questions, too. Maxim Petrovich and Alexandra Yefimovna were officially married only in May 1954. They were a good family. They lived in peace and understanding. Alexandra told many good things about her husband. He was very careful about her needs, very helpful, very kind, loved to work. He worked as a stableman in a collective farm. He loved horses and died because of a horse. A horse beat him with a hoof upon his ribs. Three of the ribs were broken. A small piece of the bone injured his lungs. Maxim refused a surgery and it turned to a cancer. And he died.

Ivan Ivanovich told me about Yaroslav Ivanovich Kuzmich. As I already mentioned, he was a single. He had one woman for 15 years though. But they were not married. He worked at the coalmine. And he earned a very good pension. He had several heart attacks, was paralysed, spent a week in the hospital and died. He was a very cheerful and kind person.

Ivan Ivanovich Kuzmich is the oldest son of Ivan Petrovich Kuzmich. He is a very shortsighted from his birth. In Poland the doctor promised that his eyes would be alright after he wore three pairs of special glasses. But he managed to wear only one pair of glasses. The war began and they stopped his treatment. He is still shortsighted and wears glasses. Now it is even worse because he has a cataract. Doctors say he is not ready for a surgery. And the surgery costs a lot of money. Approximately 180-200 dollars which is much for us. He is an invalid of the first category. His pension is 30 dollars a month. His wife, Anna Alexandrovna, has 28 dollars of pension. But because of the economic difficulties even pensioners do not get their pension in time. And if they are paid they get 60%. Fortunately, they have a vegetable garden, a goat, chicken. They bake bread themselves. It is

expensive to buy bread for them. They sell some vegetables from their garden and buy what is the most necessary. They live bad. He can't see well, she can't hear well. She wears a deaf-aid which is very bad she says. They have the only daughter, Olga. She was born on September 11, 1960 in Maximilianovka. She graduated from the institute in Bila Tserkva, Kiev Region. She is a veterinarian. But she didn't work much according to her profession. Because there no conditions to work and the responsibilities for cattle is very high. So she decided to work as an accountant. She got married with Victor Dmitriyevich Chernikov. He is a driver. They went to work according to the institute distribution to the village of Charivne, Kirovograd Region. They have 2 daughters, Elena (born July 2, 1984) and Natalia (born July 5, 1988). She comes once a year to visit parents in Maximilianovka. This year she spent a week right before my coming.

Ivan Ivanovich worked as a cattle-farm worker. He can't carry heavy things because of his shortsightedness. But he had to. To feed cattle he had to carry food which is very heavy. Then he had some other jobs. Then he was prohibited to work and he was given a first category of invalid.

His brother, Anatoly Ivanivich Kuzmich, lives next to him. His family: his wife, Natalia, and 2 daughters, Tatiana and Margarita (Rita). Tatiana graduated from a secondary school with a gold medal. She wanted to, study foreign languages, it means to enter the university of foreign languages. But she failed. They were told to pay a bribe of 3,000 dollars. And now the education is payable. After consideration Anatoly decided that he cannot pay so much money. They decided she would enter the institute (American college) of light industry to study management. They pay for education but less than for languages. Both girls are very good. They are very close to one another and all of them love to work. Each of them have their own responsibilities in the house and in the garden. They have a very big garden with fruit trees and vegetables. It is very helpful because they can have a food supply. They also have ducks, pigs, geese, chicken, bees. They bake bread as most of people in the villages do. They work in the former collective farm which is now called a cooperative farming. Anatoly's wife, Natalia, works at a pig-farm. Anatoly works as a bee-master.

He keeps his own bees with the farm bees. So they are supplied with honey.

Anatoly is a very good master. He can do everything. He is a helicopter mechanic. While serving in the army he was an air-plane mechanic. (In our country every healthy man must serve in the army for 2 years.) When he came back from the army he worked as an agriculture machines mechanic in their collective farm. Then he studied at the school of welders. Then he was a collective farm storage keeper.

Two last years he works as a bee-master.

He made many of his home equipments himself. He has a steam-boiler for heating. He can do many things. That is why he is more wealthy than his brother, Ivan Ivanovich. He spent all his life in this village, Maximilianovka. Exception is two years in the army when he served in the Far East.

Ivan Ivanovich remembers Snietniza and their life there. He was 15 when they left Poland. And he remembers very well that they had a big farm, a mill, fields, a forest, pastures... In the Archives I found the list of what they left in Snietniza. It proves that they were wealthy. They had 11 hectares of land. 6 of those 11 hectares were used to grow grains. Before 1932 all the family including Peter Fedorovich's family lived in a big old house. In 1932 they built an outhouse. The total size was 510 sq. m. It was built of wood with a tiled roof. In 1924- 1925 some storages were built in the yard. In 1934 they built a mill. Everything was new and firm. By the way, Ivan Ivanovich is interested to know what's happened to their house. Do you know anything about their house. Who lives there or what is in it? Did you see it when you were in Snietniza last year. Of course, they had horses. But Germans took horses from them during the war. Two of the cows were brought to Ukraine. And a cart. Even Anatoly remembers that cart. It stood in the yard for a long time. In Maximilianovka, Shevchenko street, # 291. Probably when Ivan Perovich was alive they used a cart to bring hay, cattle food and so on.

So all members of the family worked for the common welfare and they liked their life style.

In Snietniza there were two churches -- Greek-catholic and Russian orthodox. Kuzmichs are Ukrainians by nationality. They say this and this nationality is mentioned in their passports. So they attended Russian orthodox church. All the family, every Sunday. Now only Ivan Ivanovich and his wife visit a church once in a while on big church holidays. Ivan keeps telling of Snietniza like of something very beautiful and wonderful. They would love to visit Snietniza again. Ivan Ivanovich and Yaroslav Voitovich, Anna Ivanovna s husband, a daughter of Ivan Petrovich. But hey need money for that trip. Which they do not have now. They need \$60 for a foreign passport plus at least \$200 per each person to go there. There is only one privilege -Ukrainians do not need visas to go to Poland.

-I have some pictures of Kuzmichs. Ivan Ivanovich and Anatoly Ivanovich, Maxim Petrovich, Vladimir Petrovich (He reminds his mother very much), Yaroslav Ivanovich, Nickolay Maximovich, Yaroslav Dmitriyevich Voitovich (Anna Ivanovna s husband), Anna Ivanovna, Maria Ivanovna, Anna Ivanovna s daughter, Irina (She teaches music at school. Her father learned music in Poland), Ivan Ivanovich s daughter - Olga, Anatoly s wife - Natalia. All the Kuzmichs are not very tall, apr. 170 sm. Ivan Ivanovich is 168 sm. They have dark-blond hair and blue eyes. I told them of you, brother John. About what I ve learned from your faxes. I read them some of the passages from your letters where you write about you and a family.They, Kuzmichs were surprised to know about a relative in America. Then they found out that you are a cousin of Ivan Ivanovich and Anatoly Ivanovich. They will be glad to meet you when you come to them. According to photos you and Ivan Ivanovich remind each other by appearance.

Thank you once more for the opportunity to be helpful to you. And not only you, I thank all Kuzmich that are gone, those that are alive and moved from Snietniza to Ukraine.

Best regards,

Sister Olga Roitsina

PS. Those Kuzmichs that moved to Lugansk Region are not your relatives. I mean people that I mentioned in my previous report.

P.PS. Dear Brother Kuzmich,

I am expecting payment for another 35 hours of my searching of your relatives, which was done before and after my visit of Kuzmichs.

1. Writing and sending requests to district archives in Donetsk Region - 10 hours
2. Work in the Archives in Kiev - 10 hours
3. Writing a report - 10 hours
4. Completion of Family Group Records - 5 hours

I counted at the minimum.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Olga Roitsina