



In May 2013, Carol Grosh and Elaine and Michael Kipp went on a journey to the Ukraine. The trip began with a river cruise along the Dnieper and ended with a trip through their past. Carol and Elaine's grandparents from all sides came from the Ukraine to Canada around 1920. None of the family had been back to the towns where they lived for probably hundreds of years. Of course our grandparents always said they came from Russia but today it is Ukraine. This is Pogrebishche!



Pogrebische is the town our Grosh relatives came from. It is in the Vinnytsya region of the Ukraine. The decorations on eggs and houses in various regions change depending on the region. Pogrebische is the blue area.





Pogrebishche means cellar or coffin. Here is some History of the Jews of Pogrebishche: In the 16th century Jews came to the area to work the lands which were owned by Polish barons. In 1649 Liberation by the Cossaks and local synagogue destroyed. They were ruled by Russia until 1991. In the 17th century the famous wooden synagogue of Pogrebishche was built and renovated in 1898. It was destroyed in 1918.





The town has a lake and some hills. It is a poor community with a market place in town.



We walked around and looked for cemeteries and Mass Graves, using some advance research from the Internet to guide us. Graves surrounded by fences and houses with fences seems to be the style here.

We first searched for a Hasidic grave from 1942 at 109 Khmel'nitskogo Str. This grave is hard to find. The comment from a local when we asked directions was 'why would you want to see that?' We eventually did find it thanks to the fortitude of our guide. Turns out it was not actually on the street but was behind a car repair shop and next to gardens. In fact, there was no way to view this from any street, only by going behind the garages.

Here is the corner we turned at to go down the street.



Here is the property we entered to first ask and then go around behind in order to find this grave:



We were directed to go left just before the garage building and round to the back. It was there.



This is the actual grave site:



And here is a closeup of the stone marking it.



The second grave site we found was at E Molodegnaya St. There were other graves around, some Jewish others not and holes dug in front of some graves that appeared to have some bricks underground. This site had lots of trash around.

This is what we believe is the mass Jewish grave. It was not marked and even had a cross at the head, but we believe this was the spot.



Here are some other graves at this site, showing the holes dug down and some of the trash







The third cemetery we found is the large one on a hill over a ravine. The front gate is covered with shrubs and we went in at the back over the hill. We could not find the entrance and our guides asked the locals who walked us up the lane shown here and pointed to where we were to climb the ridge and go into the woods to see the graves.

There are many graves in these woods. Many appear to be in good condition. The overgrown shrubbery made it hard to see too much of it. We were not prepared for the large trees, bugs and poison ivy all around. I would have liked to record more of the graves, we could not see the end of them. They appeared to cover the whole side of the ravine.







The road out of Pogrebishche was an old Roman road made of stones. The vibrations were incredible on the car. It was like this for many miles. We could not take a picture because it was too bumpy!..

Our father was in the Grain business in Canada so we had great interest in seeing the treatment of grain in the Ukraine, so we looked for grain elevators on our way home. Unlike the Canadian prairies, we did not see any single silo grain elevators but only huge groups like these. This one says: ' Glory to those who work here''



I need to end with this house which sported the satellite dish. Most houses had wells in the yard where they got their water. Bet there was internet in this one.



Thanks Bubby and Zeda for getting us to America!