

Maksymetz reunion



Mary Onofryton, 77, with Justin Dutchyshen, 2 months.

province of Halachyna, in the Ukraine, which at that time was under Austria.

Jacob, his wife Pauline and young family arrived in Canada in 1898 and purchased a homestead in the Venlaw district for \$10. Jacob acquired 7 quarters of land throughout the years, and all but one of the farms still remains in the Maksymetz family.

Jacob and Pauline raised a family of 10: Luke, John, Max, Nick, Mary, Steve, Mike, Alex, Harry, and Rose.

Peter arrived in Canada in 1904 and after working for the CNR for a number of years, returned to the Ukraine to bring his wife Nellie and five children back to Canada in 1912.

Their first homestead was in the Zoria district. They settled in the Mink Creek area in 1931. Peter and Nellie were also blessed with 10: John, Mike, Eva, Mary, Steve, William, Harry, Nick, Pearl, and Alex.

The reunion began with a church service on Sat. July 24, at St. Michael's Ukr. Cath. Church in Venlaw with Father M. Klymchak officiating. Jacob Maksymetz was one of the pioneer organizers responsible for the construction of the church.

A dinner and dance followed at the Ukr. Orth. Auditorium in Dauphin with Walter J. Maksymetz acting as master of ceremonies. The Lord's Prayer was led by Kenneth Paskaruk. Mike J. Maksymetz offered his thanks to all those who helped organize the reunion on behalf of the executive. Nan Pulak, Wes Maksymetz, Victoria Paskaruk, and Ken Paskaruk recalled memories of their grandfathers and great-grandfather. Nadia Maksymetz spoke on behalf of the Maksymetz in-laws. Linda Brown read a poem composed by her mother Olga Lukey, a tribute to her grandfather Jacob. A short talent program followed the dinner. Charlotte Maksymetz played a piano selection, "The Homecoming"; Ryan Ratushniak performed a Ukrainian dance; and Deborah Krilyk entertained with a vocal solo. The Maksymetz choir consisting of 20 family members concluded with two Ukrainian selections.

The oldest family member attending the reunion was Mary Onofryton, 77, of Phoenix, Arizona, the eldest daughter of Jacob. The youngest in attendance was 2-month-old Justin Dutchyshen of Gilbert Plains, a fifth generation descendant of Jacob. Also introduced was the youngest member carrying the Maksymetz name, Robert Maksymetz, 10 months, of Grande Prairie, Alberta.

Recognition was given to the oldest and youngest descendants from Peter's family; his son Mike of Mink Creek, 78, and Julie Rose Herman, 15 months, of Invermere, B.C. who were both unable to attend.

The oldest married couple in attendance were Steve J. & Mary Maksymetz of Gilbert Plains

who celebrated their 50th wedding anniv. in '81.

A book, "Maksymetz Memoirs" containing the history of the Maksymetz family from 1865-1982 was published and each family member received a copy as well as souvenir cups and plates.

On Sun. July 25, Kenneth Paskaruk, great grandson of Peter, was ordained as a deacon at St. Peter & Paul Ukr. Cath. Church at Ethelbert.

The original homesteads were visited in the afternoon and a picnic at the Gilbert Plains Centennial Park concluded the reunion.