

Josef, Helena and Taras  
Kolomijczuk  
Ukrainian Displaced People by  
Daughter Lesia Levytsky  
General W.C. Langfitt  
May 20, 1950



Josef, Helena, and Taras Kolomijczuk  
(Artem, Olena and Taras Kolomijchuk)



Olena Budnyk was born in the village of Ilynci, Ukraine and on July 21, 1942 when Olena was 15 years old, she was taken to Germany to work on a farm. When the war ended on May 8, 1945 word got around that there were Ukrainians living at Biberach. Olena left for Biberach in October of 1945 which was only 3 kilometers from the farm. There was a DP camp at Biberach, but Olena did not want to live in the DP camp and was fortunate to find work in the city for exchange for room and board. In Biberach, she was involved in the Ukrainian Community and danced in a Ukrainian dance group.

Artem Kolomijchuk was born in the city of Berezne, Rivne Oblast, Ukraine. In May 1943, Artem was training to be a tailor when the Germans came in and took the whole tailoring school to work in Germany. Artem worked for a farmer in Germany and later as a cook for the French. After the war he found his way to Biberach as well. Artem arrived in Biberach in April, 1946 and immediately signed up for work as he also did not want to live in the DP camp. It was his intention to remain in Germany and wait to return to a free Ukraine. He did not want to live anywhere else.





Olena and Artem met in Biberach in November 1946 during a Ukrainian dance rehearsal. In July 1947 they were married in a civil ceremony. Olena embroidered Artem's shirt for the wedding but had borrowed a wedding dress. Both Olena and Artem were able to live privately in the city for most of their stay in Biberach. It was only the last 3 weeks before the journey to Canada that they stayed in the barracks (leaguer).

Their first child, and first son, Taras (Peter, Paul,) was born in June 1948 in Biberach. Life was very difficult in Germany after the war and the foreigners

and displaced people started to leave for Canada, the USA, Brazil and so on.

In May 1950, Olena, Artem, and Taras left for Canada. They signed up for a two-year 'Sugar Beet family' contract for bulk labour to pay their passage to Canada. They chose Canada because Canada took DP's with children more readily than the USA. They waited as long as they could before leaving, while many DP's left much earlier in 1947, and 1948.

They did not want to leave, believing they would yet return to a free and independent Ukraine, but that was not to be. They waited 3 weeks in a DP camp at Brenenhaven, a German port, from where they were to sail.

Artem along with other Ukrainian

men collected money to buy material to sew a Ukrainian flag. They wanted to wave the flag when they arrived in Halifax, so the Ukrainians in Canada would know they arrived and were Ukrainians. They had this conception that many fellow Ukrainians would greet them. They had no



relatives or knew no one in Canada and this connection with other Ukrainians was very important. The ship they sailed on was called General Langfitt. They departed on May 8, 1950. Artem hung the Ukrainian flag as soon as they sailed but was told that was not allowed. Artem questioned why there were other flags. Taras was only two years old, and was a handful to watch over. Olena was always afraid he would fall off the ship. On the General Lungwit, the men slept downstairs, and the women and children slept upstairs, Artem worked on the ship, painting it. They wanted to hire him to stay on, but because he had a family he did not accept the offer. The journey was 8 days, and on May 20, 1950, Artem, Olena, and Taras arrived in Canada, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. That same day they left by train to Lethbridge, Alberta. Their first impression of Canada was that it was very cloudy and many seagulls were flying. On the train ride to Lethbridge they stopped in Montreal and Winnipeg.



They arrived in Lethbridge, Alberta on May 24, 1950. The journey by train was 4 days, from Halifax to Lethbridge. They worked for 3 years on the sugar beet farms in the towns of Lethbridge, Picture Butte, and Diamond City. First they worked on a farm in Shaugnessy and when winter arrived they lived in the town of Shaugnessy, where Artem also worked in the coal mine. The next farm was in Picture Butte. Then they worked on a farm in Diamond City. In March 1953 they moved to Calgary and lived in many rented places. Olena worked in a laundry factory and later cleaning offices in the evenings. Artem got work with the City, in parks, later in water and waste collection. In December 1955, they bought their first home. In the summer of 1994, Olena and Artem visited Ukraine and saw their native land for the first time in 52 years.

As of May 2010, Artem and Olena are blessed with three sons Taras (Vera), Ihor (Jackie) and Jerry (Irene) and one daughter Lesia (Marco). One other son (George) died shortly after birth. They have 4 grandsons Yarema (Charlene), Bohdan (Holly), Paul and Andrew and 2 granddaughters Christine (Kelly) and Stefania, and one great granddaughter Chelsea and one great grandson Tyler. Another great

grandchild is expected in November 2010. Since their arrival in Halifax in 1950, their son Ihor and daughter Lesia have visited Pier 21.

Photographs from the Displaced Person's Camp in Germany



# International Refugee Organization Documents

889, 890 Serial N° 225540

888 Serial N° 225539


Issued at NEUENBURG

**CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMMIGRATION TO CANADA**

1. The holder of this Certificate is the concern of International Refugee Organization.

2. This Certificate is issued by the International Refugee Organization with the approval of the Allied authorities of Occupation in Germany and Austria to Refugees and Displaced Persons recommended for emigration to CANADA. It is issued without prejudice to and in no way affects the holder's nationality.

This Certificate is NOT valid for travel unless it bears the signature of the I.R.O. certifying officer AND the appropriate military exit permit has been granted.



FAMILY NAME CHRISTIAN

NAME KOLOMIJCZUK NAMES Josef

MAIDEN NAME (where applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH 25.10.25 SEX M DP NO. 164.736 C

PLACE AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH Rowno, Poland

NATIONALITY Ukrainian

OCCUPATION agriculturer

FATHER'S NAME KOLOMIJCZUK Iwan

MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME MAZEPA Oxena

Signature of Applicant: *Josef Kolomijczuk*

Signature of I.R.O. Certifying Officer: *[Signature]*

Height 160 cm Weight \_\_\_\_\_ kg

Hair chestnut

Eyes blue-gray

Nose \_\_\_\_\_

Shape of Face \_\_\_\_\_

Special Characteristics none

Children up to 16 years accompanying holder. (Dependents over 16 years of age must have separate document).

NAMN	SEX	PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Place Neuenburg

Exit Permit Visa No. \_\_\_\_\_

dated \_\_\_\_\_ issued \_\_\_\_\_

For insertion of \_\_\_\_\_ visa

788038 *Passed*

*Rejzick*

HEALTH AND INSURANCE  
APR 1950  
CANADA

889, 890 Serial N° 225540

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FAMILY NAME: KOLOMIJCZUK  
 CHRISTIAN NAMES: Helena  
 RESIDEN NAME (where applicable): BUDNYK  
 DATE OF BIRTH: 16.7.27 SEX: F DP NO.: 164.736.C  
 PLACE AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH: Ilince, Poland  
 NATIONALITY: Ukrainian  
 OCCUPATION: housewife  
 FATHER'S NAME: BUDNYK Wasył  
 MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME: BORKYLA Anastazja

*Helena Kolomijczuk*

Height: 145 cm Weight: Kg  
 Hair: brown  
 Eyes: chestnut  
 Nose:  
 Shape of Face:  
 Special Characteristics: none

Children up to 16 years accompanying holder. (Dependents over 16 years of age must have separate document).

NAME	SEX	PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH
KOLOMIJCZUK Taras	M	29.6.48 Biberach/Germ



*R. PADEL*  
 OFFICER IN CHARGE  
 (Signature and Position of I.R.O. Certifying Officer)  
 Date: 3.4.50  
 Place: Neuenburg

Exit Permit Visa No. For insertion of visa dated issued



788039  
788041  
*Passes*

8K-111391