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Isidore Goresky

Isidore Goresky was born in the village of Barbiwtsi, county of Vashkiwtsi, province of Bukovyna, Austria, on November 25, 1902. His parents were Basil and Victoria (nee Eustafiewich) Goruk. Basil changed his name to Goresky because he was a journeyman blacksmith who had to travel to obtain work and the change in name indicated that he was at least distantly related to gentry which might make it easier to obtain some position. He travelled throughout Bukovyna and across the Russian border into Bessarabia. In order to illustrate the many changes in the many changes in name since the family came to Canada it is only necessary to report that Barbiwtsi has now become Brutsnytia, the county name is now Kitsman in their nomenclature, Kitsmanky rayon, and there is no province of Bukovyna but instead Chernivetska oblast. The country of course, is now Ukraine. The part of Bessarabia where Isidore's father travelled across the Russian border is now part of the same oblast. The country of course, is now Ukraine. The part of Bessarabia where Isidore's father travelled across the Russian border is now part of the same oblast. Realizing he could never improve his position in Austria or Russia, Basil emigrated to Canada in 1905 where a brother-in-law had gone a year earlier. His wife and their two sons, Isidore and Victor followed in the spring of 1906 and the family settled in Stony Mountain where Basil worked first as a common laborer in the limestone quarry and was later to become a blacksmith. In 1918 he purchased a farm six miles north west of Stony Mountain in what was known as Victoria school district and moved the family there. Isidore left home in that year.

Isidore completed elementary school and grade nine in Stony Mountain, his grade ten in Central Collegiate in Winnipeg, and grade eleven in Stonewall. His high school standing was not particularly good partly because he interrupted his education to work for farmers and elsewhere and also because he hoped to get into the army in 1917 or 1918. In the fall of 1918 he began teaching on a permit spending four months in a school north-east of Arborg and one and one half years in southern Manitoba at Rosa, about twelve miles east of Arnaud. In 1920 he returned to the University of Manitoba. He came back to teach a time in the spring at the same school in 1921. He married Anne Paley that same spring. Next fall he attended Normal School in Brandon, graduating with a Second Class Certificate in 1922. During the next four years he continued teaching in Baskerville School in Rosa, Happy Thought School in Sarto. At the Normal School he graduated with distinction and for the first time he realized that he had ability. Accordingly, he made arrangements with the University of Manitoba to continue his studies extra-murally and through summer schools. While in East Selkirk he also attended evening and Saturday morning classes so that he not only completed his Bachelor's degree in 1926 but also obtained a First Class Collegiate Certificate. He obtained his B.A. degree with majors in English and History.

In 1926 he moved to Alberta to become a principal at Smoky Lake. He tried to enroll with the University of Manitoba to continue his studies for a Master's degree, but found it impossible to obtain either books or documents for this purpose and did not

resume his extramural studies until 1927 when he registered with the University of Alberta to specialize in history under Professor Burt who later moved to the University of Minnesota. He obtained his M.A. Degree in 1929. In the next year he was elected to the provincial legislature but was defeated in 1935 and moved to Edmonton. During the next ten years he was to become a rector of the Ukrainian M. Hrushewsky Institute for a year, a teacher in the Edmonton Public School for four years, a school superintendent in Consort, Alberta, and an officer of the R.C.A.F.. He had started working on a Master's of Education degree in 1936 but had not been able to complete his thesis. He completed the thesis after his discharge from the R.C.A.F. in 1945. He had some thought of continuing his education to obtain a doctorate but gave up the idea because he had his thesis to complete and because he had already spent too much time away from his family. There was also another reason; to join the R.C.A.F. he had to resign his position with the Department of Education. While he was reasonably certain to come back to the same position, he was not certain how the government would view an application for a leave of absence for two years.

After remaining in Consort for two more years, he was transferred to Thorhild School Division where he remained as superintendent until he was appointed to the position of Associate Director of Curriculum in 1966. While holding this post he was involved in very interesting work as a member of the Elementary Reading Chairman of the High School Committee on Ukrainian. As a member of the latter committee, he was able to persuade his school board to obtain language laboratories, and his schools were almost certainly the first in Canada to experiment with these aids to language teaching. The transfer to Edmonton was a very welcome one because Isidore was having trouble with his chest - constant dust in a country village continually stirred up by car travel tended to aggravate it.

Since his retirement he has returned to work for short periods for two years, and also travelled to some extent, but most of his work followed from his historical interests which manifested itself in both high school and university. His thesis for the M.Ed. degree was on the early history of education in the province of Alberta. When the Ukrainian Pioneers' Association of Alberta requested him to help in the publication of their first book, "Ukrainian Pioneers of Alberta," he immediately became interested. Though almost all the material had been collected for publication, he was able to help in editing the material and adding his own contribution of news about Ukrainians from 1907 to 1921 from the Vegreville Observer.

Through correspondence he also established contact with Dr. Kaye (Kysilewsky) of Ottawa who's many years researching Ukrainian immigration was brought to the attention of Ukrainians everywhere as well as others by three of Isidore's students, Stephen Pawliuk, the late John Stogrin, and Fred Ternoway. Through the cooperation of the Ukrainian Research Organization organized by them and the Ukrainian Pioneers of Alberta to agreement was made to publish the records of Ukrainians coming to Alberta between 1891 and 1900. The list passed through Isidore's hands and he attempted to add the villages and areas of origin of those immigrants who had not reported this on entering Canada. After Dr. Kaye passed away, he continued this work by correspondence with Mrs. Grace Kaye. During this period he also translated

Stechishin's "History of Ukrainian Settlement in Canada" which should be published in the not too near future. He also continued to collect biographies most of which revealed something of the settlements in which the people lived and might be a welcome addition to anyone writing a history of the region where Ukrainians settled. He also helped in the publication of the second book published by the Ukrainian Pioneers of Alberta, "Ukrainians in Alberta" which was published in 1975.

His health has improved markedly if his many allergies are not included. He was fortunate in ridding himself of the nagging chest condition from which he suffered for many years. He hopes that his eyes will continue to serve as well as they have in the past.

Isidore Goresky and his wife Anna now lived in happy but busy retirement in Edmonton.

