

Causes of Death (Carpatho-Rusyn Cyrillic)

found in

*Parish Records of the
Munkacs Greek Catholic Diocese*

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Introduction

The former Munkacs Greek Catholic diocese encompassed the Transcarpathian region covered by the Ung, Bereg, Maramáros, Zemplen, Szatmár and Szabolcs counties of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. As a result of the border changes following the first and second world wars, the towns within the former diocese are now distributed between the Zakarpattya region in Ukraine, Eastern Slovakia, North-Eastern Hungary and North-Western Romania.

While the majority of the nineteenth century parish records for this area found in the archives are written in Hungarian (and sometimes Latin), there are many cases where the priest has written in Cyrillic. This is usually as a result of the ethnic origin and education of the individual priest, and the language predominantly used in the local area. The language of the Carpatho-Ruthenian ethnic population in Transcarpathia was Rusyn. There are a number of dialects spoken in the Transcarpathian oblast of Ukraine: Dolinian Rusyn, Sub-Carpathian Rusyn and Hutsul. The Rusyn language developed independently from Old East Slavic. It contains many words and phrases adopted from the surrounding ethnic groups. Written forms of Rusyn were developed much earlier than modern Ukrainian.

Politically, the Ukraine government regards Rusyn as a dialect of Ukrainian. Rusyn scholars disagree with this proposal and argue that modern Ukrainian is a fairly recent codified literary form of a few of the Eastern & Central Ukrainian dialects that was developed by Kievan intellectuals and writers in the latter half of the nineteenth century. This form of written (and spoken) Ukrainian did not become widespread until the twentieth century. Up to this point there was a mosaic of different local dialects, many of them very dissimilar. In contrast to the position of the Ukrainian government, Rusyn has been recognized as a distinct language in Russia, Slovakia and Serbia.¹ Pannonian Rusyn spoken in Voivodina (Serbia) has been well characterized and there is a dictionary available.²

Interpreting handwritten records written in Cyrillic can be challenging for the English-speaking researcher. The majority of the information on Cyrillic writing that is readily available deals with the Russian Cyrillic script and language. However Ukraine (incl. Carpatho-Rusyn), Bulgaria, Serbia and Romania also used Cyrillic scripts. Cyrillic cursive has different forms to Cyrillic print. Furthermore there have been several revisions to the alphabet and researchers may come across various letters that are now archaic. The current guides to Cyrillic cursive script tend to demonstrate classically neat letters that bear little resemblance to the variations of handwriting styles you will find in parish

records. Genealogy-specific word lists for Cyrillic languages other than Russian are virtually non-existent.

The genesis of this paper was the discovery of a comprehensive necrology list of Greek Catholic priests in the archived records of Nyirpaszony (Szabolcs v.m.). The list was written in Hungarian and Cyrillic. The Cyrillic portion of the material covered the decade 1857-1868. The information that I could locate on causes of death in Russian or Ukrainian were modern era terms and of little use.

The aim of this paper is both to present a Carpatho-Rusyn word list of terms taken directly from the parish records for causes of death and a visual guide for interpreting Cyrillic handwriting. Where possible we have tried to demonstrate different handwriting styles and spelling using both superseded and more current letter forms. In these cases there will be repetition of some of the Cyrillic phrases. The word list is by no means comprehensive. The majority of terms relate to causes of death in later life or old age as a result of the source material used. Obvious omissions include childhood diseases, still births and post-partum causes.

The sources of the material are from the Nyirpaszony miscellaneous parish documents found in LDS film 601677 as indicated above, and miscellaneous other fragments of parish records written in Cyrillic from my collection. My collaborator, Maxim Averin, has also provided a list of cause of death terms he has noted in from his researches in the Uzhorod archives. Many of these terms appear to have been transcribed verbatim from the villager's descriptions.

We hope you will find this material a useful addition to the genealogy resources for the Transcarpathian region of Eastern Europe.

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rusyn_language (accessed 08Aug2013)
2. <http://rusyndictionary.com/>

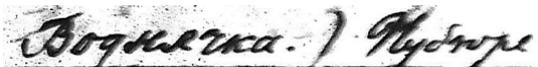





The Authors

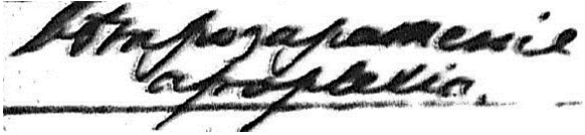
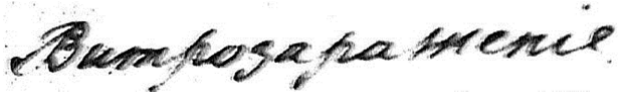


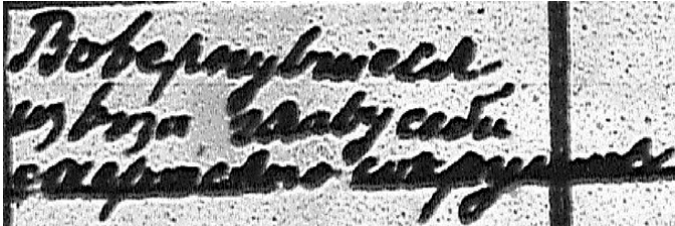
Maxim Averin is a professional genealogical researcher based in Uzhorod, Ukraine. (<http://transcarpathia-research.com>)


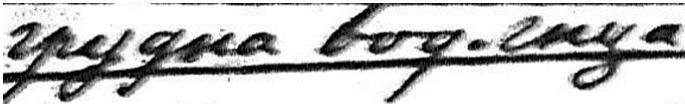
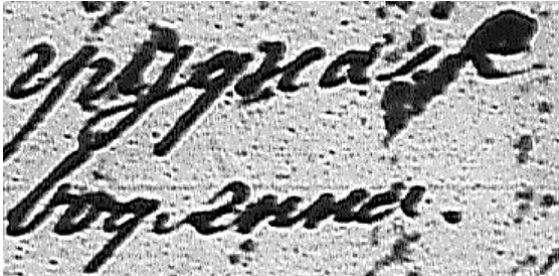


Catherine Rowland is an amateur genealogist with a specific interest in the Zakarpattia region of Ukraine. She is also the administrator of the website www.carpathianreflections.com.



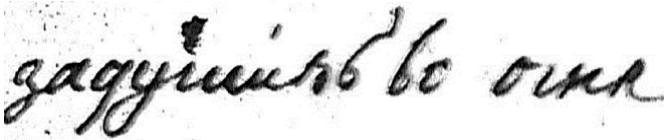
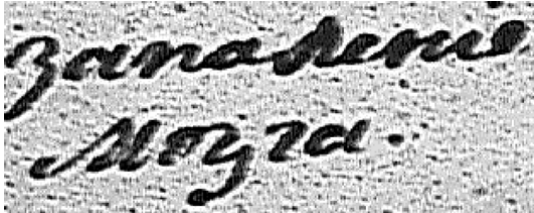
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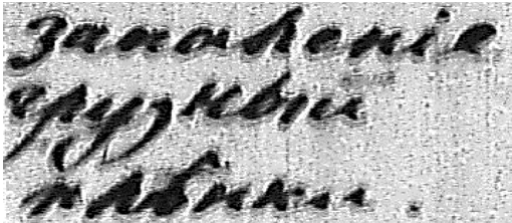

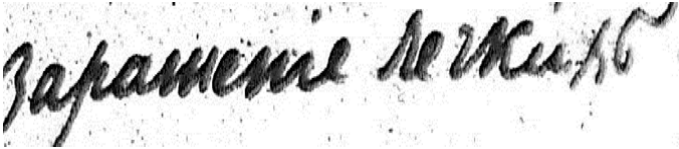
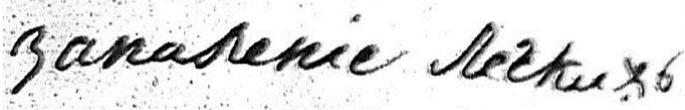
Causes of Death in Munkacs Diocese Correspondence (with Examples)

Date of Record	Handwriting Image	Cyrillic	Transliteration	English & Notes
1857		Воднячка	Vodnjachka	Dropsy, swelling, oedema
1858		воднячка	vodnjachka	
1860		воднячка	vodnjachka	Dropsy, swelling, oedema
1865		воднячка	vodnjachka	(Hydrope in Latin)
1862		водянца	vodjantsa	Dropsy, swelling, oedema
1868		водянка	vodjanka	Dropsy, swelling, oedema


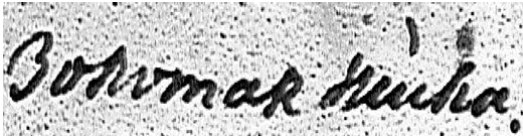
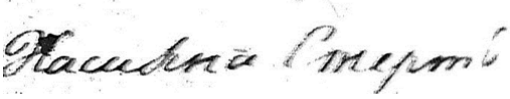


Date of Record	Handwriting Image	Cyrillic	Transliteration	English & Notes
1858		ветрозараженіе апролексія	vetrozarazhenie apoplexia	Flu/apoplexy
1859		витрозараженіе	vitrozarazhenie	
1859		Ветрозараженіе	vetrozarazhenie	Flu (Influenza)
1860		ветрозараженіе	vetrozarazhenie	
1863		повернувшись из воза главу себе сакрушил	vovernuvshesja iz voza glavu sebi sokrushil	Falling from cart, he broke his head

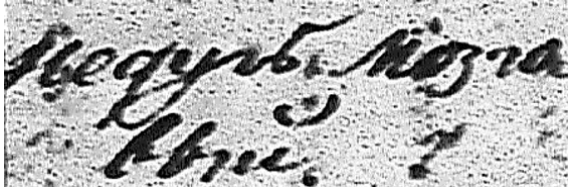
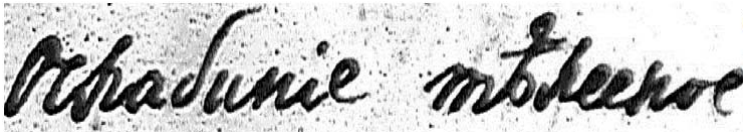


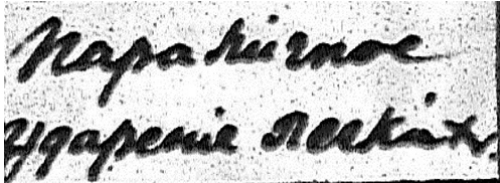
Date of Record	Handwriting Image	Cyrillic	Transliteration	English & Notes
1860		гортанная болѣзнь	gortannaya bolezn'	Laryngeal disease
1862		Грудна водянца	Grudna vodjanka	
1867		грудная водянка	grudnaja vodjanka	Chest dropsy, swelling or oedema [Alternative: pectoral dropsy]
1858		Глушкана	glushkana	Typhus
1862		горячка	gorjachtsa	Fever





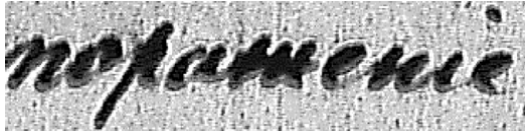
Date of Record	Handwriting Image	Cyrillic	Transliteration	English & Notes
1863		горачка	gorjachka	Fever
1867, 1868		горячка	gorjachka	
1862		задушивъ во огне	zadushiv vo ogne	Suffocated in fire
1864		Запаление мозга	zapalenie mozga	Inflammation of the brain (encephalitis)

Date of Record	Handwriting Image	Cyrillic	Transliteration	English & Notes
1857		Запаление селезенки	Zapalenie selezenki	Inflammation of the spleen
1868		Запаление грудной ? пленки ?	zapalenie grudnyj ? plenki	Inflammation of chest ? film
1860		Запаление зубы	Zapalenie zuby	Inflammation of teeth
1860		Заражение легких	Zapalenie legkih	Pneumonia
1862		Запаление легких	Zapalenie legkih	

Date of Record	Handwriting Image	Cyrillic	Transliteration	English & Notes
1863		Запаленіє легких	Zapalenie legkih	Pneumonia
1863		Запаленіє легких	Zapalenie legkih	
1857		Запаленіє легкаго	Zapalenie legkago	Pneumonia
1863		Запаленіє легкое	Zapalenie legkoe	Pneumonia
1859		Захъ внутренностей	Zah vnutrennostej	Twisted bowels






Date of Record	Handwriting Image	Cyrillic	Transliteration	English & Notes
1864		Зімячка / Зімежка	zimechka	Flu, cold
1865		золотая жижа	Zolotaja zhizha	Diarrhea
1859		Насильна смерть	Nasil'na smert'	Violent death
1863		Насильственная смерть	Nasil'stvennaja smert'	Violent death
1858		незнаема	neznaema	Unknown

Date of Record	Handwriting Image	Cyrillic	Transliteration	English & Notes
1867		Недугъ мозга	Nedug mozga	Disease of brain
1857		ослабленіе тѣлесное	oslablenie telesnoe	Weakness of the body
1858		ослабленіе	oslablenie	Weakness
1860		ослабленіе	oslablenie	
1863		Паралитическое ударение легких	Paralichnoe udarenie legkih	Paralytic lung stroke

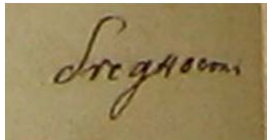
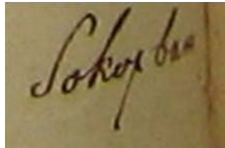
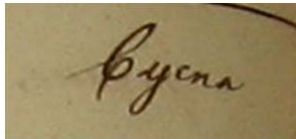
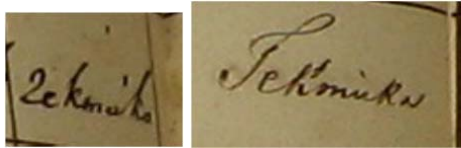
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1862		Параличная болѣзнь довга	Paralichnaja bolezhn' dovga	Long paralytic disease
1862		Параличь	paralich	
1863		параличь	paralich	Paralysis [possibly due to stroke]
1865		Параличь	paralich	
1868		пораженіе	porazhenie	Paralysis [possibly due to stroke]

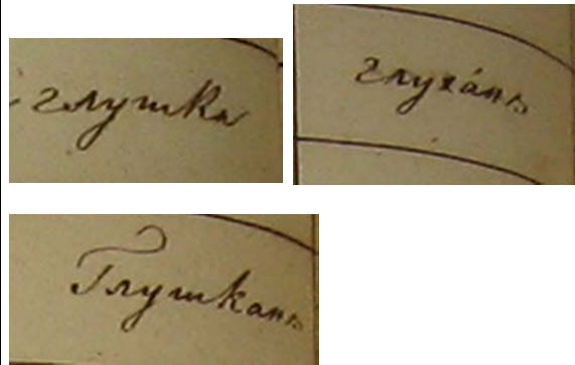
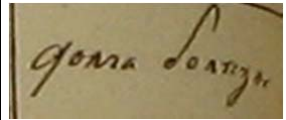
Date of Record	Handwriting Image	Cyrillic	Transliteration	English & Notes
1867		Староватая слабость	Starovataja slabost'	
1868		староватая слабость	starovataja slabost'	Senile weakness
1868		староватая слабость	Starovataja slabost'	
1868		староватая слабость	starovataja slabost'	
1867		староватая слабость	starovataja slabost'	Senile weakness

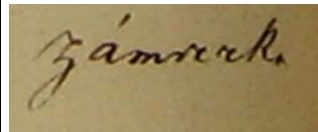
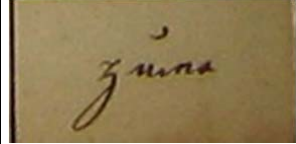
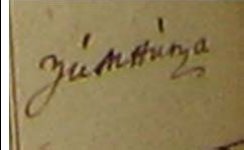
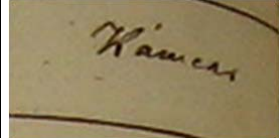
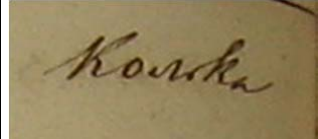
Date of Record	Handwriting Image	Cyrillic	Transliteration	English & Notes
1865		Старость	starost'	Old age, senility
1863		Старость	starost'	
1865 1865		слабость внутренностей	slabost' vnutrennostej	Weakness of entrails
1864		сухота	suhota	Tuberculosis, phthisis, consumption

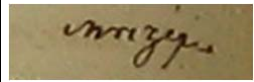
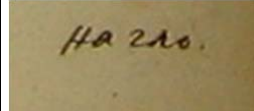
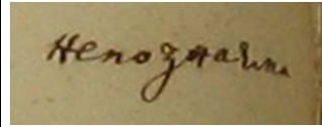
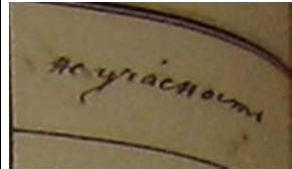
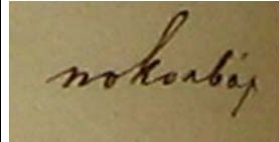
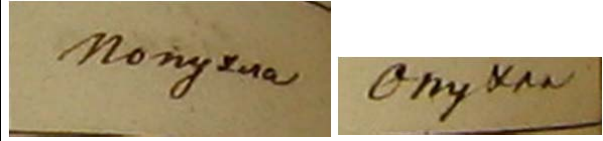
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1868		Телізний удар	Teliznyj udar	Bodily stroke
1859		холера	holera	Cholera
1857		чахотка	chahotka	
1858		чахотка	chahotka	Consumption, (Phthisis, Tuberculosis)
1860		чахотка	chahotka	

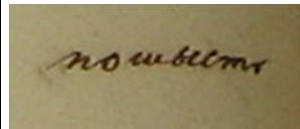
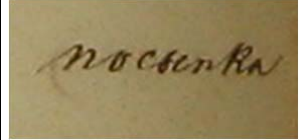
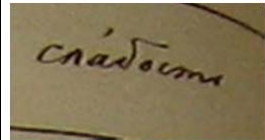
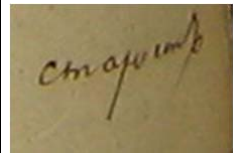
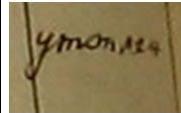
Causes of Death noted in Parish Registers (1853-1862) for some Zakarpattya villages

Text Image	Cyrillic	Transliteration	English & Notes
	бедность	bednost'	Poverty
	бокорван	bokorvan	Anthrax
	вуспа	vuspa	Smallpox
	Гектика	gektika	Consumption, tuberculosis, phthisis <i>[Note similarity to Hungarian 'hektika' for tuberculosis.]</i>

Text Image	Cyrillic	Transliteration	English & Notes
	<p>глушкана / глушкан / глушканя / глушка / глухань</p>	<p>glushkana / glushkan/ glushkanja / glushka / gluhan'</p>	<p>Typhus</p>
	<p>голод</p>	<p>golod</p>	<p>Hunger</p>
	<p>долга болизнь</p>	<p>dolga bolizn'</p>	<p>Long disease</p>
	<p>задавка</p>	<p>zadavka</p>	<p>Asphyxia</p>

Text Image	Cyrillic	Transliteration	English & Notes
	затичка	zatyckha	Constipation
	зима	zima	Winter
	ЗИМНИЦЯ	zimnytsja	Flu, cold
	кашель	kashel'	Cough
	колика	kolika	Colic

Text Image	Cyrillic	Transliteration	English & Notes
	мизерія	mizeria	Poverty
	нагло	naglo	Violently
	непознаема / незнаема	nepoznaema / neznaema	Unknown, not indicated
	неучасность	neuchasnost'	Premature birth
	поколвар	pokolvar	Anthrax [Derived from Hungarian]
	попухла / опухла	popuhla / opuhla	Swelled, from hunger

Text Image	Cyrillic	Transliteration	English & Notes
	ПОШЫСТЬ	poshyst'	Epidemic
	ПОСЫПКА	posypka	Rash
	слабость	slabost'	Weakness
	старость	starost'	Senility
	утоплен	utoplen	Drowned

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