

Dump no memorial complex. How villagers will put a comma?



In Saturday, March 26, around ten villagers gathered at the old German cemetery for spring cleaning in Pidhaichyky (in 1784 - 1939 German village Unterwalden was a part of Pidhaichyky). All day there was saw noise, spit mowed grass and shrubs, - villagers implementing project "UNTERWALDEN: dump or memorial complex?"

After the second partition of Poland, Galicia became part of Austrian empire. In 1784 Pidhaichyky (Ukraine, Lviv region, Zolochiv district (in 1939 - Przemyslany district)), like many other Galician villages became a place, which came German colonists. The Germans were ground of the monastery, which was liquidated before. In that time in Unterwalden was around 50 families

They lived there until 1939, they had church, school, village council, cemetery. Most of Germans knew crafts, they had many fields.

Three German generations was change in Unterwalden. In 1939 they were relocated to Germany, but not all.

Oldest villagers in Pidhaichyky say, that Germans were very good neighbours, but there were no mixed marriages.

Germans teach Ukrainians new technologies of tillage. Many Ukrainians knew German language.

It seems that until 2016 did not survive anything from German property of Unterwalden. Maybe only some houses, that have wooden porch or stone walls.

And cemetery of course... Some parts of it.

Many people in past tried to clean and restore this cemetery, but not successfully. Now still only 40 monuments mainly from sandstone. There are several granite slabs white there. The whole cemetery is covered with bushes and tall trees.

But how can be this? - say the woman, who lives not far from cemetery, - today I come in because I respect the memory of Germans, who lived, died and buried there.



We have a common past and by means of such small matters we show that we are ready to be responsible for our common future in big European family, - say Olena Yaremchishyn, participant of cleaning.

And people like Olena are very many not only in Pidhaichyky, but in Ukraine in general. Youth, for example, young people in Pidhaichyky began the changing when start to implement the project "UNTERWALDEN : dump or memorial complex?"

They plan for two year completely clean the cemetery, restore all the monuments and create in this place memorial complex. Simultaneously they find historical materials about Unterwalden, photographed houses and cemetery, find a support in German communities in Ukraine and want to create historical and art exhibition in Pidhaichyky, because not every village has such rich history.

In cleaning participated descendant of Unterwaldens germans Nazar Krahenbield, who lived in Lemberg in Ukraine. "We honor the memory of those, who buried in the Ukrainian land" - after cleaning activists set posters with brief information about Unterwalden. In the evening candles shone on the graves.

Young people do not stop on attained.

Project coordinator

Stanislav Klosovskyi,

80726, Ukraine, Lviv region, Zolochiv district, v.Pidhaichyky, Schastya str, 21a

+38 (093) 48 67 406

klosovskyi@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/klosovskyi

