HISTORY OF ORTHODOX CHURCH IN UHLIA VILLAGE

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Introduction. Major archaeological studies indicate that the population of Transcarpathia, where Uhlia village is situated, has always been closely connected to Eastern Slavic tribes and constituted one of the branches of East Slavic community.

Historical sources tell us that in the second half of 1st millennium AD Transcarpathian area was populated by white Croats, who united along with other Eastern Slavic tribes into a single community during 9th and 10th centuries and adopted a name – Rus.

During the second half of the 11th and 13th centuries, the Hungarian Kingdom used the decline of Kievan Rus as a pretext for occupation of Transcarpathian lands. However, local people firmly adhered to the Orthodox, which was a sign of national identity.

Aim: to study the history of creation and development of the Orthodox Church in Uhlya village on the basis of documentary and archaeological evidence that have remained to this day.

Materials and methods: systematic, historic, cognitive methods, heuristic search, historical and typological comparisons.

Results and discussion. Parish Orthodox church in Uhlia was first mentioned in 1438. This village was also home to one of the first Orthodox monasteries, which according to chronicles was visited by Slavic educators Cyril and Methodius. In the 16th century, Uhlia Orthodox monastery was visited by ambassadors of the Russian Tsar Ivan the Terrible. Upon entering of the Church Union into force, Uhlya village became a fortress of orthodoxy.

Conclusions. This study proved that Uhlya has always been and still is a center of the Orthodox in Transcarpathia. Residents of Uhlia (like all Transcarpathian Rus) have firmly professed Orthodox for centuries and retained their nationality, although their development took place in conditions of foreign economic and spiritual oppression.