

12. Cappon

Saint Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Cappon, a sparsely populated agricultural community suited for dryland farming, first saw Ukrainian settlers arrive around 1914. Many of these pioneers were farmers relocating from the Stuartburn, Tolstoi, and Zhoda districts in southern Manitoba. Anton Kulyk, one of the early settlers, noted that some of these pioneers were Roman Catholic Ukrainians from Eastern Galicia. They were heavily influenced by Polish culture but retained distinct Ukrainian customs.

Initially, the community received spiritual care from visiting Roman Catholic priests. However, with the establishment of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada (UGOC) between 1918 and 1920, many local Greek and Roman Catholic Ukrainians supported joining this new Saskatoon-based church. Ivan Kowalchuk, a key pioneer, influenced the founding of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Brotherhood of St. Volodymyr in 1919, attracting over 30 members.

In 1918, the community purchased two acres of land from Sam Holoida for \$32 to establish a cemetery. It was fenced, grassed, and marked with a cross. Fr. Ivan Kusey, the first UGOC priest to visit Cappon, conducted services beginning in 1920. During this period, priests traveled by train to Lanfine or Buffalo and were transported to the settlement by local residents. Services were often held in private homes.

By 1925, the Brotherhood built a Narodnyi Dim (Prosvita Hall), which was used for worship and cultural activities. The first church meeting in the hall occurred on February 7, 1926. That same year, the community formally requested four annual services. In 1933, the Brotherhood purchased an unused Norwegian church and relocated it to the cemetery, transforming it into

St. Volodymyr's Orthodox sanctuary. The congregation was officially incorporated under the UGOC charter in 1935.

The Great Depression brought significant challenges. Letters to the Consistory reveal long gaps between priest visits due to economic struggles and the UGOC's clergy shortage. By 1939, the congregation expressed frustration over being neglected, warning that members might turn to clergy from other denominations.

Despite sporadic services and continued appeals, the community's situation did not significantly improve. Correspondence from 1950 shows ongoing efforts to secure pastoral care, with suggestions to contact priests from nearby cities. The congregation remained resilient. However, nearby Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Oyen, established in 1949, began drawing members away due to improved roads and accessibility.

In 1955, the Brotherhood sold the National Home and used the funds to renovate St. Volodymyr's. Though formal meetings ceased in 1964, sporadic services continued. By 1978, the church was reportedly still used annually. However, in 1974, the congregation was officially declared defunct, with most members having joined the Oyen church.



Cappon: Saint Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Priests

Fr. I. Kusey (1920–1922)
Fr. V. Kudryk
Fr. S. Hrebeniuk
Fr. E. Olendy
Fr. D. Volokhatiuk
Fr. I. Mayba
Fr. T. Horbay
Fr. M. Fyk (1938)



Location and Feast Day

Some 35 miles southeast of Oyen, in the Municipal District of Acadia No. 34. Eventually absorbed by Oyen, with most members joining Sts. Peter and Paul Church.

Founding Members

S. Bodnaruk	W. Klym
I. Bzovey	A. Kulyk
M. Danylchuk	J. Kulyk
K.L. Drewniak	N. Malyckiy
P. Drewniak	S. Lupuliak
W. Dziatkewich	M. Snyr
I. Firtash	
S. Holoida (Holiday)	

Cemetery

Established in 1919 and consecrated by Fr. I. Kusey on May 14, 1922.

