

Leeleva Online Map

Коммінка

Russian (Каменка, Kamenka)

Ukrainian (Кам'янка, Кам'уанка)

Polish (Kamjanka)

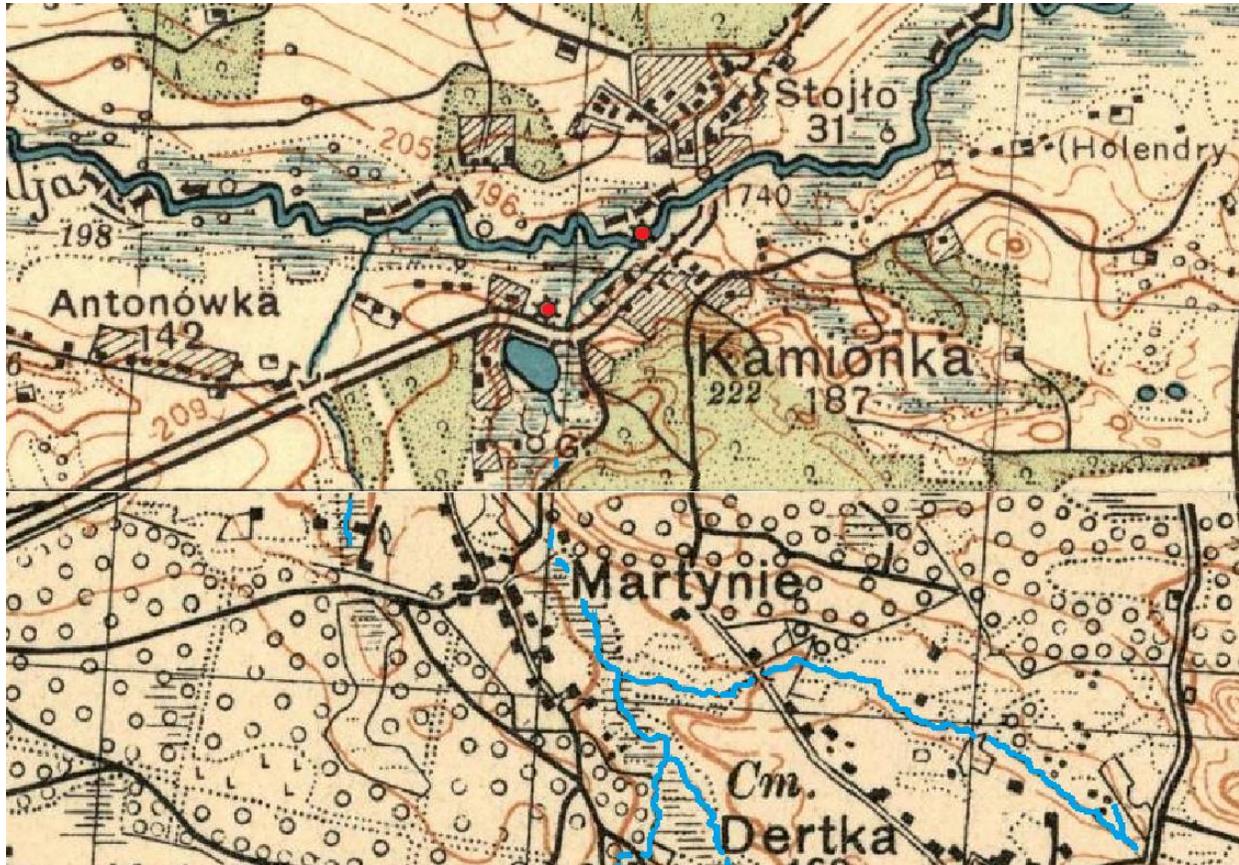
The village of Komminka sits on the south bank of the Vilna River along the highway running southwest out of Ostrog. Antonovka is to the west and Ostrog to the east. From Komminka, a road runs south towards Lesna. The tiny village of Stolle was directly north across the Vilna from Komminka.

The village of Komminka was established in the 15th Century. The village was property of Polish nobility; initially to the Malińskich Family, and later to the Jabłonowski Family. After the Partitions of Poland, the village was owned by local Ukrainian landowners¹. The villagers learned early to exploit nearby sandstone deposits as a source of revenue. Stone masons in the village began carving in the 16th Century; occupied primarily by producing cemetery stones and stone carvings for churches in Ostrog as well as the Mezerich Monastery. There was also a carriage factory in the village and other residents worked as wheelwrights².

The stone quarry employed many miners, known as Górników (Polish for miner), from the surrounding villages. The stone carving factory which was established in the 19th Century, continued the production of headstones and carvings for churches as well as making millstones for grain mills. Peak production was reached in the late 19th Century. Stone masons produced chimney tops, stairs, benches, troughs, obelisks and other monuments. Unworked stone mined from the quarry was sold to the Jews of Ostrog for their own monument production as well as to other locals for production of roads, foundations, and wells. People from as far away as Rowno bought headstones from the skilled masons in Komminka. Specialized chisels and crowbars were crafted by the village smiths. In the 1960s, the art of masonry began dying out as molded concrete began to take the place of carved stone³.

An alcohol distillery and 2 flour mills were also located in this village by the early 20th Century. In 1906, the village was populated by 269 people in 41 houses⁴, predominantly of Polish nationality. The name of the village, Komminka (or more correctly Kamionka), is based on the Polish for "Stoneware". Many of the Polish inhabitants were evicted by the Soviets in the 1930s and the name of the village was changed to a more suitable Russian name; Viytovyna (Війтовина). In 1946 the name Komminka was restored⁵.

This map shows Komminka (Kamionka) in the early 1920s. Note the presence of two flour mills (marked by red dots). The river running across the northern portion of the map is the Vilna River and the stream joining the Vilna at Komminka from the south and east is the Ustya (Устя)^{6,7}, elsewhere known as the Złuże⁸.



Komminka in the early 1920s

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¹ Geographical Dictionary of the Polish Kingdom and Other Slavic Countries

² Cynkalowsky, Prof. Alexander, Ancient Volyn and Volhynian Polissia

³ Romanchuck, Alexander [Романчук О.], “Górnik -The Village of Kam’yanka...”

⁴ List of the Settlements in Volyn Gubernia

⁵ Yesyunin, Sergey [Єсюнін, Сергій], “Administrative-Territorial Divisions of Zaslavschyny...”

⁶ P47 S43 (alt. A47 B43) Ostróg

⁷ P48 S43 (alt. A48 B43) Zasław

⁸ “Osztroh”, A Monarchia III. Katonai Felmérése