

## **TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CEMETERY**

### **Ninilchik, Alaska**

The Transfiguration of Our Lord Russian Orthodox Cemetery in Ninilchik, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska is located next to the Transfiguration of Our Lord Chapel. The road accessing it is between mile 134 and 135 on the Sterling Highway. Coming from Soldotna, turn right immediately after the yellow blinking caution light just before the Ninilchik River Scenic Outlook Alaska State Park that is on the left. The cemetery is located on Coal Road. Coal Road is unsigned.

The crosses, unless otherwise noted, are Russian Orthodox crosses. The cross is at the head of the grave and the marker is at the foot of grave so that when the person is raised they will be facing the cross. A Russian Orthodox cross has a slanted foot piece with the left side raised in remembrance of the thief who was forgiven by Jesus and therefore went to heaven.

The pages in parenthesis, following a name, indicate the page on which that person is found in the book *Agrafena's Children: the Old Families of Ninilchik, Alaska* edited by Wayne Leman. The edition used was published in 1993 and is found in the Kenai Community Library, Kenai, Alaska call number ALASKA 929.3798 AGR This cemetery was last read April 20, 2002. Additional information provided January 23, 2003.

From: CEMETERY INSCRIPTIONS AND AREA MEMORIALS IN ALASKA'S KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH – Published 2004 by Kenai Totem Tracers Genealogical Society. Used with permission.

### **ROW 1 (Behind the church)**

1. Memory Eternal

Beloved Servant of God

The Reverend Father

**Michael Garassim Oskolkoff**

Nov 14, 1893 - Jul 14, 1981

(Agrafena page 444, 446)

2. Memory Eternal

Beloved Mother

**Matushka Zoya Oskolkoff**

wife of Rev. Father Michael

May 14, 1902 - Oct 14, 1984

(Agrafena page 446)

3. **Simeon G. Oskolkoff**

Church Starosta 30 yrs.

May 10, 1901 - Jan 8, 1968

"Remember Us O Lord When Thou

Comest Unto Thy Kingdom"

(Simeon Oskolkoff was the church

starosta (pronounced STAR-osta).

This is equivalent to a caretaker and

grounds keeper, responsible for

keeping the fire going, the bell in

ringing condition and preparing the

church for services when the Priest is

coming. He was the people's contact

with the Priest and assumed a lot of

responsibilities for the church and its

operation. Agrafena page 470, 477)

### **ROW 2 (Nearest the side of the church)**

4. **Ralph Reuben Cooper**

Jul 15, 1941 - Sep 20, 1958

Loving brother & son.

All who knew him loved him

(Agrafena page 315)  
In Loving Memory of  
Reuben Cooper  
1941 - 1958  
Ninilchik High School & Friends  
(The above marker was in place in  
1983 and was replaced by the above)  
5. Fenced grave with cross  
(Identified as a sister or aunt of Irene  
Leman.)  
6. Beloved Mother

**Irene C. Leman**

March 19, 1895 - June 22, 1985  
(Agrafena page 352)

**7. Mae Leman**

(Unmarked. Identified by resident.  
Died as an infant about 1918 of)  
influenza. Small fenced grave with  
cross. Agrafena page 352)

**8. Simeon Kvasnikoff**

Aug 11, 1965

80 years old

(Mortuary Marker

Agrafena page 292, 293)

**GROUP** (Grouped together near the  
American Legion Cemetery.)

**9. Grassim Oskolkoff**

PFC US Army

World War II

Oct. 14, 1926 - May 26, 1998

(Posted American Legion marker.

Grassim is the marker spelling. This is  
a variance from the spelling of his  
father's middle name "Garassim" on  
grave number 1. Agrafena page 446,  
454 )

**10. Ralph Michael Oskolkoff**

Sep 29, 1935 - Dec 4, 1995

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they  
shall see God. Matt. 5:8

(Agrafena page 447)

**10a Michael Michael Oskolkoff**

Jul 19, 1931 – Sep 3, 2001

Age 70

(Mortuary marker. Agrafena page 447)

11. Remembered Forever

**Allen Alexander Oskolkoff**

Mar. 12, 1941 - Oct 8, 1982

(Agrafena page 447, 462)

**12. Gus M. Oskolkoff**

US Army World War II

Jun 2, 1925 - Feb 12, 1995

(Posted American Legion marker.

Agrafena 446, 453)

13. Memory Eternal

**Wayne John Woodhead**

Jun 21, 1928 - Aug 27, 1994

Beloved husband, Father &  
Grandfather

Gone Fishing

(Agrafena page 450)

**14. Frank William Reifsnyder**

Lt Col US Air Force

World War II Korea Vietnam

Mar 24, 1924 - Oct 31, 1987

(Posted American Legion marker

Agrafena page 457)

**ROW 3** (Begins near the gate at the front of  
the church)

**14a. Fedora Mae Encelewski**

May 9, 1919 - Sep 10, 2002

Beloved mother

**15. Katherine J. Culhane** (Katya)

Jan 27, 1978 - Dec 9, 1993

Holy Mother of God Pray for us

Most loved daughter sister friend

Dancing with angels

(Agrafena page 310a, 310b)

**16. Gift of God**

**Matthew Troy Encelewski**

Apr 5, 1975 - May 27, 1992

(Copyright Agrafena page, 312)

**17. Jamie Lynn Encelewski**

Jul 27, 1980 - Feb. 24, 1981

(Agrafena page 310b)

**18. Cindy Lou Encelewski**

January 18, 1957

(Daughter of Ned and Fedora  
Encelewski, who died at the age of  
five days. Agrafena page 307)

**19. Clyde Oskolkoff**

September 11, 1942

(Baby son of Larry and Fedora  
Oskolkoff. Agrafena page 307)

**20. In Loving Memory**

**Frank Cooper**

Jul 4, 1889 - May 28, 1956

Life is not forever love is

(Agrafena page 126, 138)

21. Small fenced gravesite with cross

22. Small fenced gravesite with cross

23. Small fenced gravesite with cross and  
pastel flowers.

24. Father

**Ralph Cooper**

Feb 24, 1915 - Sep 6, 1948

(Agrafena page 138)

25. In Loving Memory

**Barbara Cooper**

1893 - 1930

Mother

(Agrafena page 138)

27. **Matrona**

b. Apr. 3, 1894 - d. Jun 26, 1928

(Identified as **Matrona (Cooper)**

**Resoff** wife of Mike Resoff. Agrafena  
page 126)

28. Cross with lavender flowers

29. Cross

30. Cross

31. Cross near bush

32. Cross near bush

33. Cross

**ROW 4** (Begins near the fence at the front of  
the church)

34. **Harry Leman**

Sgt. US Army Air Forces

World War II

Oct. 11, 1922 - Dec. 1, 1999

(Posted American Legion marker.

Agrafena page 352, 395)

35. **Isaac Cooper**

(Unmarked. Identified by resident. Son  
of Frank and Barbara Cooper. Broken  
cross. Agrafena page 138, 143)

36. **Alfred Joseph Cooper**

**(Innokenty)**

May 22, 1897 - Mar. 15, 1980

(Innokenty is Alfred's Russian

Orthodox baptismal name. Agrafena  
page 177)

37. **Betty (Cooper) Hester**

(Unmarked. Identified by resident.

George Cooper's sister. Fenced grave  
site with cross and pink flowers.

Agrafena page 138, 146)

38. **George Cooper**

1913 – 1973

(Posted American Legion marker.

Agrafena page 138)

39. In Memory of

**Michael Resoff**

1889 – 1938

(Agrafena page 507)

40. In Loving Memory

**Elizabeth Cooper Churkin**

1872 - 1937

Grandmother

(Agrafena page 126)

PATH

41. Cross

42. Cross with a green base

43. Cross with wooden fan at the bottom

44. Short cross

**ROW 5** Begins near the fence with a double  
grave surrounded by a lattice fence.

45. **Dwayne Perry Hatton**

(Unmarked. Identified by resident.

Died in February 2001 at the age of 41. Lattice fenced plot. Agrafena page 479)

46. **Wendell Scott "Scotty" Arneson**

(Unmarked. Identified by resident. Died in December 2000 at the age of 31. Lattice fenced plot. Dwayne and Wendell were half brothers.)

47. **Emil Kvasnikoff**

Jan 29, 1936 – June 2, 2000  
(Lettering on cross. Agrafena page 490)

48. **Malina Curtis**

(Unmarked. Identified as Emil Kvasnikoff's mother. Yellow flowers on the cross Agrafena page 471, 489, 492)

**BIG SPACE BEFORE THE TREE**

48a. Mound near the tree Identified by residents as a grave.

49. Cross leaning against a tree

50. "Loving Dad"

**Walter Jackinsky Sr.**

1891 – 1950

(Agrafena page 216)

51 **Adolph Jackinsky**

1924 - 1940

Loving son & brother

(Agrafena page 217)

52. Mother

**Mary Oskolkoff**

1897 - 1932

(Unmarked. Formerly identified by a resident as Mary (Oskolkoff) Jackinsky Linstrang. Next to her is her sister Effie. They are in a double grave surrounded by a single fence.

Agrafena page 216, 470)

53. Loving Memory of Mother"

**Effie Demidoff**

1900 – 1932

(Agrafena page 470, 474)

**PATH**

54. Cross with flowers at the base

55. Cross with trefoils at the ends of the cross pieces.

56. Very short cross

**SMALL TREE**

57. Slender cross with treated wood at the base

58. Small fenced grave with cross

59. Cross with a wreath hanging on the top piece

60. Cross with a wreath that matches number 59.

(Could be **Gerasim Alekseich**

**Oskolkoff and Anastasia**

**(Kalashnikoff) Oskolkoff** the parents  
of Father Michael Garassim  
Oskolkoff. Agrafena page 444)

61. Cross

62. Cross with poinsettias tied to it.

**ROW 6** (Begins near the center of the  
cemetery near the path between cross with  
yellow flowers and Effie Demidoff's double  
grave.)

63. Give rest, O Lord, Where all thy Saints  
Repose

Apr 9, 1877 - Aug 17, 1963

Loving Babushka

**Matrona B. Oskolkoff**

Memory Eternal

(Agrafena page 470)

PATH

64. Cross with slanted base piece

65. Fenced with flowers at the top of the  
cross

66. Small fenced grave with cross

66a. Cross with moss on the cross bar

FLAGGED REBAR STAKE

67. \_\_\_\_\_ **Oskolkoff**

(Spirit house with cross. Known as  
Uncle Oskolkoff)

68. Cross

69. Cross with poinsettias tied on

70. Tall slender cross

71. Cross

72. Cross

73. Very tall cross

**ROW 7** (Begins near the fence in front of the  
church with a fenced double grave.)

74. Greater Love Hath no Man Than This

**Stanley R. Steik**

Loving father and brother

US Marine Corp

Jan 30, 1937 - Aug 19, 1974

(Posted American Legion marker.

Agrafena pages 523, 536)

75. **Paula Michelle Steik**

Loving daughter and sister

Nov 8, 1962 - Aug 19, 1974

(Paula Steik was swimming in a local  
lake. When she began to drown, her  
father, Stanley, left another daughter  
on the beach to save her but they both  
drowned. They are buried in a double  
fenced gravesite. Agrafena page 536)

76. **Julia Steik**

1903 Mother 1969

(Agrafena pages 52, 207)

77. **Christopher Steik**

1902 Father 1967

Together Forever  
(Julia and Christopher are on a double  
marker. Agrafena page 522.)

78.. In Memory of

**Christine Bloom**

A very special lady

Mar 19, 1951 - Mar 6, 1996

(The small metal marker is inside the  
same fence with her parents Julia and  
Christopher Steik. Agrafena page 524)

79. Cross with broken fence and concrete  
foot piece

(Thought to be two **Steik** children  
buried here.)

80. **Charles T. Curtis**

(Unmarked. Identified by resident.

Born Nov. 11, 1893. Died Sep 15,

1955. Cross with flowers attached  
with small bare wood Latin cross in  
front. Agrafena page 471, 489)

81. Cross with plastic heart and lavender  
flowers.

82. Cross with plastic heart and yellow  
flowers

PATH

83. **Fedora (Kompkoff) Crawford**

(Unmarked. Identified as wife of  
Michael Crawford. Small fenced  
gravesite with pink flowers on the  
cross. Pink plastic "Grandma" inside  
the fence. Agrafena pages 90, 207)

PATH

84. Cross is lying against a flagged rebar  
stake

85. Cross with flagged rebar stake at the  
cross base.

87. Cross

88. Small fenced grave with cross and  
yellow flowers

89. Small fenced grave with cross and  
yellow flowers in a vase

90. Small fenced grave with a cross

**ROW 8** (Begins near the fence in front of the  
church)

91. **Irene K. Kraskoff**

1906 - 1981

(Known as "Mrs. Sam.")

92. **Sam Kraskoff**

Apr 17, 1889 - Oct 5, 1964

93. Grave with cross bordered with wood  
and filled with wood chips

(Posted American Legion marker.

Thought to be **Ernest Matson**.

Agrafena page 418)

94. Grave with cross bordered with wood  
and filled with wood chips.

(Could be **Larry Matson** the brother of Ernest. Agrafena page 417)

95. **Dennis Earl Matson**

Loving Son & Brother

Aug 24, 1955 - Oct 31, 1963

(Agrafena page 169)

96. **Charlie J. Cooper**

1892 - 1956

Father

(Agrafena page 158)

97. **Peter Cooper**

1920 - 1955

"Beyond the gate a loved one finds  
happiness and rest And there is  
comfort in the thought That a Loving  
God knows best"

(Plate attached to the cross.

Agrafena page 158)

98. **Alexandria Cooper**

1902 - 1948

Mother

(Agrafena page 158)

99. Loving mother & sister

**Jeanne Cooper**

Apr. 22, 1928 - Sept. 11, 1992

(Jeanne Cooper married a Matson.

Agrafena pages 159, 168)

PATH

100. Lilies fastened to the cross

101. White plastic crucifix on the cross with  
red flowers

102. Broken cross

103. Purple wreath hanging on the cross

(102 & 103 are a double grave)

104. **Ilya Kvasnikoff**

1908 - 1909

(Small fenced grave. Identified by

Bobbie Oskolkoff)

105. **Vera**

(Cross. Identified by Bobbie Oskolkoff)

106. **Matrona**

(Cross with poinsettias. Identified by

Bobbie Oskolkoff)

107. **Sophie Dayou Kvasnikoff**

(Broken cross pieces next to flagged

rebar. Identified by Bobbie Oskolkoff)

108. **Larry Kvasnikoff**

(Cross missing its top cross piece.

Identified by Bobbie Oskolkoff.)

**ROW 9** (Begins near the fence in front of the  
church)

109. Beloved Brother, Father & Uncle

**Grady Eugene Matson**

June 18, 1947 - March 19, 1998

(Posted American Legion marker.

Agrafena page 168)

110. Cross with fenced grave filled with wood chips.

111. **Charlie J. Cooper, Jr.**

Apr 15, 1931 - Sep 3, 1974

(Agrafena page 159)

112. **Martin Cooper**

1922 - 1973

(Posted American Legion marker.

Agrafena page 158)

113. **Ronnie M. Cooper**

1944 - 1972

(Agrafena page 166)

114. **Sally Ann Carter**

1924 - 1968

(Agrafena page 158)

115. **Arthur Richardson**

Son of Sally Ann Carter

(Mortuary type marker. Agrafena page 160)

116. Cross with hanging blue flowers

117. "Gronia"

**Agrippina Kvasnikoff Cook**

1910 Mom 1929

(Agrafena pages 325, 329)

118. **Lloyd Cook**

1929 Son 1998

(Agrippina and Lloyd are on a double stone. Agrafena page 329)

119. "Beloved Mother"

**Fekla Kvasnikoff**

1907 - 1925

(Agrafena page 325)

120. **Alexander Kvasnikoff**

Aug 1881 - Feb 16, 1925

(Agrafena page 298)

121. Leaning cross with blue flowers

122. **Fred Kvasnikoff**

(Unmarked. Identified by resident.

Died in the 1940s about the same

time as John Astrogin. May be

Agrafena page 294)

123. Stake next to flagged rebar

124. **John Astrogin**

(Unmarked. Identified by resident

aka Ostrogin who died in the 1940s.

Cross with a plastic crucifix and red and yellow flowers at the base.

Agrafena page 24)

125. **Elmer Kelly**

(Unmarked. Identified as son of

James and Irene Kelly. Concrete slab

Agrafena page 266, 272)

126. **James Robert Kelly**

Father

1850 - 1932

(Agrafena page 266)

127. **Irene Kelly**

Mother

1882 - 1945

The Lord is my Shepherd

(Double stone with Russian Orthodox crosses on each side. Agrafena page 266)

128. "In Loving Memory"

**Martha Kelly Mills**

1911 – 1994

(After copyright Agrafena page,

Agrafena page 267, 285)

129. **Victor James Kelly**

T Sgt US Army

World War II

Oct. 5, 1908 - Oct 18, 2000

(Agrafena page 266)

130. Cross with trefoils

131. Cross with trefoils

132. Cross with trefoils. Top broken, bright pink flowers

**ROW 10** (Begins in the front corner of the cemetery with two small Latin crosses)

133. **Kenneth Seymour**

(Unmarked. Identified by resident.

Worked for the road department. Latin cross.)

134. **Lars Odman**

(Identified by resident. Died in the 40s.

It is not remembered which man is in which grave. Latin cross with large bush growing on the grave.

Agrafena page 210)

135. **Victor V. Cooper**

Nov. 3, 1942 - Aug 5, 1977

(Posted American Legion marker.

Agrafena page 159)

136. **Andrew C. Cooper**

Oct 24, 1938 - Apr 14, 1976

(Agrafena page 159)

137. **Leroy Cooper**

Sep 28, 1946 - Apr 16, 1976

(Posted American Legion marker.

Agrafena page 166)

138. **Katherine (Kvasnikoff) Cooper Kvasnikoff**

(Unmarked. Identified by resident. Her first husband was Martin Cooper. She then married a Kvasnikoff. Cross with purple flowers. Agrafena page 489)

139. **Eleanor Mae Cooper**

1925-1998

Memory Eternal

(Agrafena page 177)

140. **Melvin Don Cooper**

June 12, 1948 - April 10, 1996

Loving husband, father, brother & son  
"Christ has Risen from the Dead  
trampling down Death by Death  
and upon those in the tombs  
Bestowing life."

(Posted American Legion marker.  
Agrafena page 316)

141. **Mike Kvasnikoff**

CPL US Army

Korea

1929 - 1991

(Posted American Legion marker.

Agrafena page 299)

PATH

142. **Fred Kvasnikoff**

Apr 23, 1909 – Nov 4, 1974

(Agrafena page 298)

143. Loving Memory of Mother

**Mary Kvasnikoff**

1893 – 1973

(Agrafena page 298)

144. **Abraham Kvasnikoff**

Jan 28, 1921 – Jul 8, 1972

(Posted American Legion marker.

Agrafena page 299)

145. Cross with plastic crucifix and red  
flowers. Small fenced grave with  
green tipped pickets.

146. In Loving Memory

Son

**Adam M. Demidoff**

Nov. 1962 - July 1990

"Blessed are the Pure in Heart for they  
shall see God. Matt 5:8"

(Agrafena page 476)

**ROW 11** (First graves to the right of the path  
nearest the Coal Road gate)

146a. **Nadia K. Oskolkoff**

Oct. 8, 1911 – Mar. 9, 2003

(Information from her obituary

Peninsula Clarion March 20, 2003)

147. In Loving Memory

**Dorothy E. O'Brien**

May 29, 1915 - Oct 22, 1985

Beloved wife of Tom R. O'Brien

(Agrafena page 281)

148. Loving Daughter & Sister

**Sylvia J. Liebenthal**

Apr 26, 1952 - Feb 14, 1993

"Blessed are the poor in spirit for  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matt  
5:3"

(Agrafena page 316, 317)

149. **Susie Liebenthal**

May 29, 1923 - Nov. 3, 1994

Loving Wife and Mother

"Mine was a garden of hope that good  
fruits I may bring to God's great  
harvesting"

(Agrafena page 315)

150. **Edward W. Liebenthal**

Dec 10, 1918 – Jan 23, 2003