



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

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March UGG-NCR Webinar

The presentation on March 28, 2023 was made by Greg Nelson on 'Digitizing Efforts in War-torn Ukraine'. Greg is the Content Strategy specialist for East Europe at FamilySearch with experience in Ukraine.



Greg Nelson, our March Speaker

Greg began his presentation by describing Image Capture (microfilming) operations in Ukraine during the years 1994-2011. All operations began with contract negotiations and cooperation agreements with the State Archival Service of Ukraine. In some cases, contracts were also made with regional and local archives including certain parishes. He explained the terms of the contracts and the multi-step procedures from identifying archival institutions with relevant genealogical information to camera projects to viewing the microfilms online once these projects were

completed. Copying was done on equipment provided by FamilySearch by LDS missionary couples, contractors and archive employees.

He gave examples of the metrical books, census records and revision lists that were filmed at that time. All microfilm copies made are available for viewing at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah and at local Family History Centres across Canada.

From 2011 until 2020, there was an interruption in the filming of archival documents due to government political and religious policy reasons. Also, in most cases, only records prior to 1920 were made available for copying for privacy restrictions. During this period, FamilySearch began to automatically digitize the microfilm made in previous years. New contracts with the State Archival Service were made or renewed in 2020. Greg described the Current Image Capture Strategy in Ukraine and illustrated examples of the copying equipment used at the approximately thirty-five camera stations in Ukraine.

More recently, some Soviet-era documents were made available for copying due to the Repressive Bodies Law (Law no. 2540 On Access to the Archives of Repressive Bodies of the Communist Totalitarian Regime from 1917-1991). These included Repatriation files of Ukrainians who were forced labourers in Germany during the Second World War and returned to Soviet Ukraine. The files include German work documents and life histories.

However, he also spoke about the effect of the Russian invasion of Ukraine since February, 2022 and the bombing of cities that obliged the

curtaining and, in some cases, the cessation of the digitizing projects.

During his presentation, Greg provided maps of Ukraine that indicated the cities where copying projects were undertaken and plans for recent projects. Procedures are being developed to provide access to the genealogical records online so that researchers can access this information from home. The presentation was followed by a Question-and-Answer period.

A recording of Greg's presentation (as well as the meeting introduction and Q&A segment) can be found at our UGG website at: <http://ukrainiangenealogygroup-ncr.org/WebinarRecordings.html>.

In the coming days, we will post additional information expected from Greg on that page. This includes written responses to some of the questions posed by our March Webinar attendees as well as a PDF version of his presentation.

Community & Genealogy Events

Sunday, April 30 @ 12:00 pm.

Thank You for Standing with Ukraine Borsch Fest.

The event is to share our gratitude with everyone for their support of Ukraine and Ukrainians, and to share the Ukrainian culture and giving spirit.

Where: Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral,
1000 Byron Ave.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/242571741546143>

Sat, May 13, 2023 9:00am-2:30pm EDT NashiPredky Online Spring Conference

Join fellow family history enthusiasts for the UHEC's annual spring Nashi Predky/Our Ancestors genealogy conference. This year's event will include 4 online talks with experts from Poland and the United States.

The conference will include a virtual networking and discussion break!

For more information (i.e. full conference schedule, talk descriptions, and speaker biographies) and to register, click [here](#).

Sunday, June 25 @ 6:00 – 10:00 pm Fundraising gala “Ukraine – Heritage, Spirit and Future”.

The Hnatyshyn Foundation announces a fundraising gala “Ukraine – Heritage, Spirit and Future”. Funds raised will be dedicated to rebuilding an arts facility in Ukraine.

Where: Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre, 355 Cooper St.

For tickets and information, <https://www.rjhfgala.com/>