



# Ukrainian Genealogy Group

## National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

February 2022

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### **January 25<sup>th</sup> UGG-NCR Webinar**

On January 25, Michael Lang gave a very informative talk entitled, *Otsi, Pani Matky and the Lower Szlachta; Sharing tips from my genealogical research on clergy and the lower nobility ancestors in Galicia and Kiev Gubernia.*

Michael inherited his interest in family history from his father, who was an amateur genealogist, and in the pre-internet years, he conducted his research through the mails and by visits to the LDS Family History Centre, libraries and archives. Michael accompanied his father on visits to Polish and German ancestral villages on research trips.



*January speaker: Michael Lang*

He continued this research and now wished to share his experience and knowledge with members of UGG. He began his talk with a discussion of a 'fan chart' that presented the direct lineage on both sides of his family that included Greek Catholic and Orthodox clergy. Michael focused this presentation on his mother's side of the 'fan chart'. He conducted research on the internet and was able to locate records preserved in archives and registry office

relating to Pluhiv (Pluchow) in Galicia, and Rosisky (Rososzki) and Pohrebishe (Pogrebiszczce) in the Kiev region.

Using baptism records, he located additional information on grandparents and great grandparents. Michael visited L'viv, Ukraine in April, 2018 and Kiev in September, 2019 to further his metrical record research. In Ukraine, he was able to examine the baptismal record of his mother and he explained in detail the family history information found in these documents. He also visited cemeteries where his ancestors were buried.

Thanks to the internet, Michael was able to correspond with the Central State Archives in Kiev and he used 'Google Translate' to communicate in Ukrainian in preparation for these trips. Michael illustrated his talk with maps, photos and videos of his visits to the cemeteries and to St. Michael's Orthodox Church where his clergy ancestor was the parish priest. Michael explained that researchers with Greek Catholic or Orthodox clergy as ancestors were fortunate because it is possible to trace their family history further into the past through church records. He also gave examples of church records and periodicals that included information on clergy, their education and assignments in various parishes.

Michael explained that a large percentage of Ukrainian Greek Catholic and Orthodox clergy were descended from the lesser nobility known as the 'Szlachta' dating to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Poland, Russian Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He was able to locate references in Google on the internet to family names in publications dealing with the

Polish nobility that included illustrations of Coats-of-Arms. Since members of the 'Szlachta' were generally literate and concerned about preserving their titles, privileges and property, they paid particular attention to documenting their family history. If a researcher is able to locate a member of the clergy in his or her family tree, this can be considered as a 'golden nugget' in their research.

Michael concluded his talk with references to publications on the history of Ukraine that assisted him in his research, for example, Paul Robert Magocsi, *A History of Ukraine*, University of Toronto Press, 1996; Orest Subtelny, *Ukraine, A History*, University of Toronto Press, 1988 and the *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, University of Toronto Press, /five volumes (1983-1994). He has continued his research interest in related genealogical topics including the 'Szlachta'. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

Michael is a member of the East European Genealogical Society (EEGS), and he has published an article on his research, *Ukrainian Priestly Genealogy in Austrian Galicia a (Greek Catholic) and the Russian Empire (Orthodox) in East European Genealogist*, Volume 29, number 2, Winter 2020.

A video recording of Michael's Webinar presentation can be found on the UGG-NCR website at: <http://ukrainiangenealogygroup-ncr.org/WebinarRecordings.html>

Michael prepared a summary of the main on-line links discussed in the Webinar including written responses to some of the questions submitted during the Webinar also available on this site.

## Next UGG-NCR Webinar

Our next webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22, 2022. The presentation is entitled: **"Found in a Suitcase: the Story of my Parents' Journey from Ukraine to Canada, 1944-1948"** by **Christine Habrowych**.

This presentation is summarized as follows:

*A suitcase filled with yellowed documents, old photo albums brought from Ukraine, a memoir written by her mother, and a diary kept by her father helped Christine reconstruct the journey her parents made to reach Canada. It was a journey made by wagon, by train, on foot, and by ship and took four years to complete*

Registration information will be available in the coming days. Please check our [website](#).

## Preventive Conservation Workshop - Mar 2

*Submitted by Maryna Chernyavska (Kule Folklore Centre, University of Alberta)*

We are pleased to invite you to the Preventive Conservation workshop to be held online on March 2nd, 2022 (9am to noon MST) organized by the Sustainable Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Program at the Kule Folklore Centre, University of Alberta in collaboration with the UCC National Archives Committee.

The workshop will be instructed by the Provincial Archives of Alberta team led by Alison Freake, Conservator. It will include a presentation followed by a hands on demonstration and a Q&A session.

If you ever wondered what you should do to prevent deterioration of paper records, photographs, audiovisual materials in your care, how to store them, how to handle fragile materials, etc. to ensure they are preserved into the future, this is a great opportunity to find answers to your questions.

The event is free but the number of participants is limited. For more info, please contact: [suchnetwork@ualberta.ca](mailto:suchnetwork@ualberta.ca)