



# Ukrainian Genealogy Group

## National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

November 2003

913 Carling Avenue Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4E3

Website: [www.geocities.com/uggncr/](http://www.geocities.com/uggncr/) eMail: [uggncr@canada.com](mailto:uggncr@canada.com)

Events Calendar at: <http://calendar.yahoo.ca/uggncr>

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### Articles in the latest issue of East European Genealogist, Vol. 12, No. 1, (Fall, 2003)

Thomas M. Prymak, Identifying Slavic Surnames.

Friedrich Swart and Richard Breyer (translated by Dr. Edward R. Branch), The German Ethnic Group in The Polish State.

### Talk by Ron Sorobey on Filip Konowal

Ron Sorobey gave an interesting talk on October 28, 2003 on his research and writing regarding the life and career of Filip Konowal. Ron described Konowal's immigration to Canada after his discharge from the Russian Army in Vladivostok. Konowal entered Canada through Vancouver however there are no records of his entry. He made his way to the Ottawa area where he worked in the lumber industry and when the First World War broke out he enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces. Konowal won the Victoria Cross in France during the First World War but was seriously wounded which affected his later life and career. Konowal also served in the Siberian Expeditionary Force in Siberia. Ron spoke about Konowal's court case when he was accused of murder during a dispute in Hull with a Ukrainian bootlegger. Konowal was acquitted in self defense but he had to enter a mental institution due to the severity of his war wounds which affected his mental health. While he was in the hospital there were attempts to deport Konowal to the Soviet Union because he was not yet naturalized, that is, a Canadian citizen. Ron described Konowal's life after his release from the hospital and his work on Parliament Hill as a janitor and later as a commissionaire.

There was some discussion about the fate of the Victoria Cross which was sold by Konowal's widow to the Canadian

War Museum. It seems that this medal is missing from the Museum collection. Ron spoke of the attempts to locate the grave of Filip Konowal at the Notre Dame Cemetery in Vanier. He also mentioned the community effort to obtain a military tombstone. He spoke about the assistance from the survivors of the Konowal family to obtain his hospital records. Institutional records are also an important source of genealogical information however, many of these records are closed or heavily restricted due to privacy concerns. In the case, Ron was able to obtain the authorization from a member of the Konowal family to obtain a copy of his hospital file.

Researchers interested in searching for personnel record files of Canadian soldiers who served in the Canadian Armed Forces during the First World War can search the National Archives of Canada web page: [www.archives.ca](http://www.archives.ca)

Click on the following:

ArchiviaNet: On-Line Research Tool

Soldiers of the First World War (1914-1918)

Search the Database

Since conscription was introduced towards the end of the First World War, it is possible to locate files on Ukrainian Canadians who were born in Canada until 1900. Most were conscripted and began their military training however the War ended in November, 1918 before they saw active service overseas.

For those who are interested in reading about Konowal's career, the following publication may be of interest:

Lubomyr Y. Luciuk and Ron Sorobey, *Konowal, A Canadian Hero*, The Kashtan Press, Kingston, Ontario, 2000.

### **Free Talks - British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa**

December 13, 2003: Great Moments in Genealogy; Volunteer members will share their experiences - good and bad, successful and unsuccessful - in conducting their family research.

10:00 a.m. at the Montgomery Branch, Royal Canadian Legion, 330 Kent Street, (corner of Kent and MacLaren), Ottawa.

### **Links to Cemeteries in Saskatchewan**

Transcription of graves in Petrofka Cemetery near Blaine Lake; predominantly Doukhobor with some Ukrainian.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~sksaskat/cemetery/Petrofka.html>

Transcription of graves in Borschiw (also spelt Borshchiw) Cemetery near Prudhomme which is down the road from St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~sksaskat/cemetery/Borschiw.html>

Transcription of graves in St. Demetrius Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery near Krydor. Cemetery is located on the hill near town. The church burnt down but the belfry is still there.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~sksaskat/cemetery/Kry.html>

Transcription of graves in the Sacred Heart Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery near Prudhomme, predominantly Ukrainian.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~sksaskat/cemetery/SacredHeart.html>

### **November Meeting Speaker: Frank Cedar**

Frank Cedar has been a active member of the Ukrainian Genealogy Group since the Group was founded. He is one of those fortunate researchers who has visited archives, churches and villages in both Poland and Ukraine. Through his knowledge, experience and enthusiasm, he has made a significant contribution to the Group. He had made an earlier presentation on his family history research. His most recent visit to Poland and Ukraine was in September, 2003 and he will speak on his research and comment on the archival sources he was able to access at the Central State Historical

Archives in Lviv, Ukraine. He also visited churches and institutions in Poland.

### **Community Events**

#### December 2, 2003

The Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa presents Yulia Tymoshenko and other Ukrainian politicians. This event will take place on Tuesday evening at the University of Ottawa. More information will be made available.

#### November 30, 2003

Ukrainian Orthodox Church Christmas Bazaar on Sunday.

#### December 7, 2003

Ukrainian Catholic Shrine Christmas Bazaar on Sunday.

#### December 14, 2003

Perohy and Koliady; Dinner 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Concert at 7:00 p.m. Adults \$13.00, Students/Seniors \$11.00, Children 10 years and under \$7.00. Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral Hall, 1000 Byron Avenue. Contact Fr. Ihor Okhrymchouk at 788-0856 or Mike Reshitnyk at 728-4923.

### **Ukrainian Radio Programme**

Regular programming, with music, interviews and local news should begin in a few weeks' time. In the meantime, you can listen to end-to-end Ukrainian music in the established time slot of 8:00 to 9:00 A.M. Saturdays, repeating Sundays, on CHIN Radio at 97.9 FM.

### **Film Documentary**

Recently a film documentary, *Between Hitler and Stalin*, was produced and released in Toronto by the Ukrainian Research and Documentation Centre at St. Vladimir's Institute. This film deals with Ukraine during the Second World War and is narrated by Jack Palance. Plans are being made to show this film in February, 2004, in the auditorium of the National Archives. More information will be provided in the January newsletter.