



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

October 2005

913 Carling Avenue Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4E3

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

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September Meeting

The topic of the meeting held on September 27 was the 1911 federal census. To access this database, enter www.collectionscanada.ca/ Click on 'Database' and under Census, click on 'Census of Canada, 1911'.

The microfilm reels are now available in the self-serve microfilm room on the third floor of the Library and Archives Building (395 Wellington Street). The reel numbers are from T-20306 to T-20460. There is a published index to this data base which is also available in the self-serve microfilm room.

Report on Research Trip by Frank Cedar

This summer Frank Cedar took a trip around the Great Lakes with visiting relatives from Poland and Ukraine. Fortunately this was Alberta and Saskatchewan's 100th anniversaries.

In Saskatchewan many Rural Municipalities issued historical homestead maps for each of their regions. Frank found his great grandparents names on the RM of Cana ... which included the homesteads around Melville. So Frank and his guests visited the "old homestead" where his father was born and grandfather helped break the land. The current farmer who owned the land was most helpful. They also visited several gravesites.

In Melville, found a BRATUS headstone over Kataryna nee Wojtowicz Bratus's grave site. It was in Cyrillic (Ukrainian) and translates to:

"Here rests family Bratus. Wife: Katarnya Age: 30 Children: Pazia Age: 10, Maria Age: 4, Michaelo Age: 2. Died in a fire on 21 January 1917."

There were new granite stones on each of the children's graves ... recently placed there by St Henry's RC church.

It appears that many churches as a 100th anniversary project cleaned up and put in order many of the rural cemeteries. All the cemeteries they visited were in excellent order for the centennial of the province. They visited four cemetery sites in and around Ituna and Hubbard, Saskatchewan. Many were located using the new RM maps. Local church records indicated that relatives were buried in these cemeteries but no headstones or grave markers could be found.

In Yorkton, the large Ukrainian Catholic Church, St Mary's, was visited. Frank and his visitors were well received and entertained by two priests there. Over coffee, Frank asked the church clerk to check the old records for Wojtowicz names. Surprise! Surprise! The baptismal records of his father and two uncles (Karol and Joseph) were found. So his grandfather may have followed the old tradition ... his sons were baptized in the faith of the father (Ukrainian Catholic) and the daughters

were baptized in the faith of the mother (Roman Catholic). [Frank had previously located his aunts' baptismal records in Roman Catholic churches in Melville and in Ituna, SK.] A great trip down history lane!

Travel diaries to Ukraine

The Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group (TUGG) is asking you to post your travel diaries to Ukraine. Most of us want to make that trip to search out our roots. Some will be fortunate to make the trip. Others may have to forgo it due to health or financial reasons.

In any case, reading your trip diary will help inspire both those who are planning their trip and those who cannot go, for whatever reason. Myron Masnyk and Judith Hrynenko have posted their diaries at:

http://www.torugg.org/Travelling%20To%20Ukraine/trip_diaries.html

Both are wonderful reads and we're sure they will encourage you to make that trip if you can.

If you have a diary to Ukraine you wish to share or know of any, which have been published, please let us know. The Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group is planning a genealogy research tour for next May/June, 2006. See:

http://www.torugg.org/TUGG%20Projects/trip_to_ukraine.html

We will update this page as the itinerary and details become known.

Various Informative Links on the WWW

Census Links:

<http://automatedgenealogy.com/census/index.html>

<http://www.ontarioroots.com/>

Cemetery Link (Nutana Pioneer Cemetery near Saskatoon, Saskatchewan):

www.city.saskatoon.sk.ca/org/parks/cemetery/index.grp

Some sites compiled by Olga Kaczmar:

- WW II in Oslawica (in old Galicia)

<http://home.earthlink.net/~okaczmar/oslawica.html>

- Lemko map, costumes and discussions

<http://home.earthlink.net/~okaczmar/lemkoma.html>

- Poland-Ukr trip

<http://home.earthlink.net/~okaczmar/pol-ukr-trip.html>

- Icon route in Galicia

<http://www.dpcamps.org/dpcamps/iconroute.htm>

- Operation Vistula: Evacuation of Pzemysl

<http://home.earthlink.net/~okaczmar/przemysl.html>

- Operation Vistula: Evacuation of Bortne

<http://home.earthlink.net/~okaczmar/bortne.html>

Alexis Kochan

October 29, Saturday, 8 p.m.

Alexis Kochan (Paris to Kyiv), whose singing combines Ukrainian folk with pre-Christian ritual songs, medieval chant, and modern influences. Canadian Museum of Civilization Theatre. In partnership with the Outaouais Sacred Music Festival.

Tickets: \$20 from (819)776-7000 or the Sacred Music Festival (819)771-5329.

Celtic Origins

(Submitted by Alexandra Opar)

I have found a bit more information on the Celtic mummies found in Western China which I recently wrote up for the newsletter. This information comes from the book "Genes, Peoples and Languages" by Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza (2000). This book can be found in the OPL 599.938C377.

The first part reiterates what I wrote up before but the 2nd half ties this in with genetic testing that was performed on the mummies. "Huge cemeteries full of northern Europeans in the westernmost part of China, in Xinjiang Province, show that the path (later named the Silk Road) is quite ancient. This very dry desert region near the ancient basin of Tarim has thoroughly desiccated and preserved scores of bodies, especially those who, having died during the winter, were effectively freeze-dried.

Some of these mummies have unmistakably blue eyes and blond hair. Their mtDNA confirms what can be observed with the naked eye. In addition, their equally well-preserved clothing seems to suggest a northern or central European origin. A fabric similar to modern Scottish tartan, which at that time was also made in Austria and Switzerland, was found on one body. Radiocarbon dates show that these people lived at least 3800 years ago. They probably spoke the now extinct Indo-European language Tocharian, of which some writings in an ancient Indian script still survive.

A fresco in China dating from the seventh century A.D. also shows elegantly dressed northern Europeans with blond and red hair ... Northern European peoples probably disappeared from this region as a result of Mongol expansions, although several genes of European origin persist in Xinjiang, the westernmost province of China. The Uighurs who live there are a population characterized by a great variety of complexions and show an approximately 3:1 ratio of Mongol to European mixture."

Yet More Ukrainian Folklore Materials Online

Prof. Natalie Kononenko announces yet more Ukrainian folklore materials on line. Prof. Kononenko and her team have recently completed a set of revisions to the University of Alberta, Ukrainian Folklore Centre webpage. You can find this page at <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/~ukrfolk/>

You can explore the materials under the heading RESEARCH. Look under Multimedia Resources. They offer a large set of photographs in a searchable database.

There is a presentation of a wedding in Western Ukraine complete with description of the stages of the wedding, photographs, and short video clips. Ukrainian Canadian parallels are also provided.

As always, your feedback is most welcome. Please contact Prof. Kononenko at nataliek@UALBERTA.CA or the web master, Andriy Chernevych at andriyc@ualberta.ca.

Canadian Health Obituaries

The Osler Library at McGill University has, for many years, maintained an "obituary file" of Canadian medical obituaries and death notices. This file is an INDEX which refers researchers to the full obituary. This file does not contain the actual obituary. If you want to look at the these obituaries, please go to your library. Search by: Last Name - First Name - Title/Volume Number - Year of Publication

<http://www.health.library.mcgill.ca/osler/cfstand/chobit.htm>

Russian Orthodox Church

The Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia Directory of Parishes and Clergy

<http://www.directory.sjpk.org/parishes.php>

Acres of Dreams

The Canadian Museum of Civilization, in collaboration with the Library and Archives Canada, has prepared an exhibit, Acres of Dreams, Settling the Canadian Prairies from October 28, 2005 to January 29, 2006. The exhibit reviews the trials and triumphs of settlers and the campaign to attract them to Canada. The exhibit also celebrates the centenary of Saskatchewan and Alberta

Saskatchewan Homesteaders

Saskatchewan Homesteaders The Saskatchewan Archives has posted a database online on October 21 that will give history buffs access to records of the province's original homesteaders in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The site, www.saskhomesteads.com, contains 360,000 references to people who homesteaded between 1872 and 1930 under the Dominion Lands Act.

The records include men's and women's names, as well as those who sold or bought Metis or South African veteran scrip or received soldier grants after serving in the First World War.

The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society and the Saskatchewan Archives Board have worked since 2003 to get the information online. It will also be available on CD-ROM.

Previously, people who wanted to view homesteading records would have to travel to Regina or Saskatoon to review the index or the files.

Galicia Revisited

Ukraine Trip Will Pioneer Multicultural Understanding

Ukraine has attracted nostalgic visits from three different ethnic groups with an ancestral link in recent years. Ukrainians, Poles and Jews have come to see the hometowns of their families but seldom crossed paths.

Shimon Redlich plans to change that this summer when he leads a multicultural group to

his native town of Berezhany and other towns in the Galician region of Ukraine. For the first time a group of Ukrainians, Jews and Polish expatriates will form a joint group that looks at their shared history.

As a child Redlich survived Nazi persecution when he was befriended by Polish and Ukrainian families. He settled in Israel and became a historian of Eastern Europe and the author of the book "Together and Apart" - Poles, Jews and Ukrainians in Berezhany. His book combined personal memories, interviews and scholarly research to present a refreshing look at the "big picture" of Ukrainian-Jewish-Polish coexistence.

"Families usually only pass down from generation to generation the history of their own ethnic group. So Jews, Ukrainians and Poles are often unaware of how intertwined their history was. They also often harbor stereotypes and inaccurate perceptions. By bringing together historians and community members, we hope to pave the way for understanding among future generations," said Prof. Redlich.

Bernard Dichek, a Canadian-Israeli filmmaker plans on making a documentary film about the encounter.

Individuals or groups interested in being part of the trip scheduled for the early part of the summer in 2006 should contact: Bernard Dichek dichek@netvision.net.il

November Meeting

The next meeting will be held on November 22. If all goes well, we plan to obtain a half-hour documentary entitled, Remembering Community: Local Culture and Diversity on the Prairies.

This documentary was prepared by Prof. Andriy Nahachewsky, Director of the Ukrainian Folklore Centre at the University of Alberta, and will deal with the oral history of the north-central area of Alberta (the Ukrainian block settlements).