Ukrainian Genealogy Group
National Capital Region

September Meeting

Ted Lomatski gave a detailed and informative presentation on the topic: *My Journey: A family tree in just 30 years*. He described his research and writing on his family history that stretched over many years and began when he had to provide personal information to obtain a security clearance. He has researched both his paternal and maternal family lines.

He began his research in the pre-computer days by using Family Group Sheets and the genealogical resources at the local Family History Centre. He interviewed family members to obtain additional information. Ted was one of the first researchers to use computers when they came on the market. As various databases were made available on the internet such as the Ellis Island Immigration Records to the United States, he searched them for information on his family. He was able to contact and meet with relatives in the United States and throughout Canada.

He also travelled on research trips to Ukraine and established contacts with Ivan Svarnyk, an archivist at the Lviv Archives. With Svarnyk's assistance, Ted was able to trace his family to 1723 in what is now Ukraine. Ted suggested that researchers planning to visit the Archives in Ukraine should write ahead to the Archives with information about their research projects and duration of their stay in Ukraine.

He also travelled to the United States and to Argentina in search of information on his family history. During his trips and from home, he relied heavily on the use of e-mails and when necessary on Skype to establish and maintain contacts. To communicate with contacts and relatives in Ukraine, he also used the translation sites on the web (ImTranslator.com) to translate from English to Ukrainian and then back again to verify the accuracy of the translated messages. He made regular use of the information available on www.Ancestry.com and www.familysearch.org .

Ted was able to publish his family history and this publication is preserved at the Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa.

Edward T. Lomatski, *The Kulbabas : from Skalat to Sand Hill*, Orleans, Ont. : Genealogical Consulting Service, 1997. xxx, 106 p. : ill., maps, ports. ; 28 cm.

Public Lecture

The Friends of Art History will be presenting a lecture by Suzie Holyck Hunchuck entitled "*Rushnyky in the Built Environment: A New Interpretation of an Old Art Form*".

This lecture will be held on Friday, December 2, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. in 412 St. Patrick Building at Carleton University. There is free admission and all are welcome.

Community Events

On Saturday, October 29, 7 pm. The Lysenko Choir from The Netherlands. Sponsored by Vesnivka, UCC, Ontario Provincial Council;

At the Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, Green Valley Crescent. Tickets: $20 adults; $15 seniors, students; group rates. Call (613) 723.1673

Future Meetings

For our November meeting, Marthe Seguin-Muntz, from the Library and Archives Canada, will speak on the resources and services available at the Genealogy Centre.

Frank Cedar has kindly volunteered to make a presentation on his research and writing in the new year.

Suzie Holyk Hunchuck is preparing a presentation on the military service of her father and two uncles in the Canadian Army during the Second World War.

We are always ready to schedule a meeting for any of our members who wish to make a presentation on their own research and writing and discuss any of their research problems and successes. If necessary, several members can make a presentation on this topic.

On-line Genealogy Courses

Various on-line genealogy courses are available from the Family History Center at the following link:

https://www.familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html

These courses cover a variety of topics and geographical locations. Among the courses of interest to Eastern European genealogical research are:

- Introduction to Polish Research
- Advanced Polish Research
- Polish Displaced Persons
- Reading Polish Handwritten Records
- Reading Russian Handwritten Records
- Russian History, Geography, Records and Resources
- Key Words and Phrases in Latin Records

As well, there are general genealogy courses with titles such as "Getting Started with Family History Research" and "Genealogy Boot Camp" and "Messages from the Grave: Listening to your Ancestor's Tombstone"

The format of these on-line courses is Videos, Slides, and Interactive slides. And these courses are free!

Geographical Dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland

Submitted by Mike Dowhan

A comprehensive Polish Language gazetteer entitled *Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich* (in English meaning *Geographical Dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland and other Slavic Countries)* is available online at the following link:

http://dir.icm.edu.pl/pl/Slownik_geograficzny/

Despite the fact that this 15 volume work is entirely in the Polish language, it can provide a unique historical description of many of our Polish and Ukrainian ancestral towns. This gazetteer was published between 1880 and 1902.

Each volume or "Tom" (Polish for volume) lists towns and villages in alphabetical order. The first challenge is to determine whether your town is in fact contained in the gazetteer. The simplest way is to use their search Engine – entering the name of your town in the box entitled "Wyszukiwanie" (Search for). Note that the correct Polish spelling is required, including Polish special characters. For example two of my ancestral towns (Nastasów, and Skałat) only yield results if the proper Polish accented characters are typed.

Alternately one can use a brute force approach using the lower search box ("Idź do" or "Go to") by selecting the Tom (volume) and Strona (page) - and through repetitive trial-and-error scanning which volume/page would contain your town.

If you have found your ancestral town, the next challenge is of course translating the Polish text into English. The Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA), has a site which contains English translations for some of the towns:

http://www.pgsa.org/Towns/townindex.php

I have also found other translations on the Internet, such as a translation for the town of Nastasow at:

http://stephendanko.com/blog/1583