

Questions Submitted during Webinar

NOTE: A technical issue caused us to lose some user comments and shorten the Q&A segment. Below are questions received prior to the issue. Michael's answers are in red. Additional notes from UGG-NCR are in blue.

Attendee 1

- Do you know if much of the artefacts which belonged to the nobility and the Rurikovychy Dynasty of Kievan-Rus' were taken by the Communist Regime or were they taken to Russia before ...under Imperial Russia's perhaps? Any idea? **I'm sorry, I have no idea.**
- Is there a book on Ukrainian nobility? **I'm sorry, as I mentioned, this is any area that I have not really focused on yet. If I find out that there is, I will pass it on to you. But -- fair warning -- it may be in Ukrainian.**

Attendee 2

- If a priest entered a seminary near Lviv, would he be in a clergy record? **Absolutely.**

Attendee 3

- What kind of software would you recommend to use for genealogical research? **I use what you saw -- familysearch.org -- basically, because (a) it's free, and (b) it's the same site as the LDS metrical records, so it's really convenient to link found records into the tree - same place. I did try a commercial application a few years ago, but was not impressed, so I wouldn't recommend it.**

Attendee 4

- Duzhe diakujemo! This was an amazing presentation, with fabulous visuals.
- When will this presentation be available online? I would like to share it with others. Thanks for your work organizing this! **(Note from UGG: link to the recording is now available to our members on our [website](#)). Very kind of you, and you are welcome!**

Attendee 5

- Can you share the links to the websites? **(Note from UGG: the document with the links is now available to our UGG members on our [website](#)) OK**

Attendee 6

- Thank you! this has been very informative for me in my search for my forbearers! **OK that's great**

Attendee 7

- My great-grandfather on my mother's side, a priest (of lower szlachta background) in Zhytomyrska oblast, was transferred to Western Polissya around 1910. The latter location ended up as Polish territory after the First World War, and all contact with family in Soviet territory was lost, and we don't know what happened to them. Would the Central Registry have that kind of information? **It should, for sure. If you send everything you know, I can maybe point you in the right direction.**

Attendee 8

- What advice you may have for researchers who do not have knowledge of Ukrainian, Russian or Polish, but wish to examine archival documents in these languages? Besides finding or hiring a translator in Canada or a guide when visiting eastern Europe, what other suggestions can you provide based on your experiences? **I think I answered this question before the link went down.**
- What is your definition of sh'lakh'ta and boyars? Are these terms equivalent to the 'gentry' or 'lesser nobility' in France and England? **That is my definition, yes. The difference, I would say (and I'm not a historian) is that there were widely varying percentages of people who were nobles, in different countries. In the Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth, it was high, maybe 5-10% of the population. In Russia it was a lot lower, like 2-3%. This caused big problems upon annexation and a lot of lower nobles were dispossessed in ways that caused a lot of upheaval. I can't tell you what the percentages were in France and England - the same, or much different.**
- Can you recommend a company for DNA analysis - for example, Ancestry, My Heritage, others? **I have done several, and in my opinion 23andme is significantly better than the others. That said, they all use their own algorithms and all of the algorithms are (a) quite flawed (are based on questionnaires answered by control groups in that area about their ancestry - just imagine how error-prone that is!) and (b) actually change over time, so your ethnicity results will change over time as the "rules" change. You might be, say, Polish one day, and Ukrainian two years after that. This is not second hand knowledge - this has happened with me. So beware of DNA tools.**