



Ukrainian Genealogy Group National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

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March Meeting

Borys Gengalo gave an informative and interesting presentation on the various Ukrainian and other underground groups that operated on what is today Ukraine during the Second World War and after.

He began his presentation with a general introduction to the political and social events in Ukraine as a result of the First World War and the Soviet Revolution. He focused on events in Halychyna under Polish administration until 1939. He described the evolution of the Ukrainian Military Organization (YBO) into the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OYH) and the division of this organization into two factions in 1939: Melnyk and Bandera.

With the outbreak of the Second World War in September, 1939, the Bandera and Melnyk groups attempted to influence political and military events to promote the independence of Ukraine. By the end of 1941, armed resistance groups began to form which opposed the occupation of Ukraine. Eventually large units of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army were organized and operated in forest areas of northwestern Ukraine and in the Carpathian mountains.

In addition to Ukrainian nationalist units, there were Soviet, Jewish, Polish and other units operating in western Ukraine. In 1944, the Soviets advanced into western Ukraine and the Soviet occupation was

opposed by the Ukrainian Insurgent Army. This conflict continued into the 1950's.

Borys concluded his presentation with a discussion of the various published sources in English on this subject. Unfortunately there are few books in English which provide a general description of events in Ukraine during these years. This period in Ukrainian history is still the subject of controversy among participants and historians. Since the underground organizations operated in secrecy, few records were kept and most participants used aliases and 'noms de guerre' which makes it difficult to trace individuals for purposes of genealogical research.

With the opening of Soviet-era archives, it is now possible to shed some light on this period in Ukrainian history.

Forthcoming book of interest to our members

Far, far away : postcards from pre-revolutionary Ukraine. -- Saskatoon, Sask. : Heritage Press, 2007.
Curator and author of introduction: Bohdan S. Kordan.

Co-published by: Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage. Catalogue of an exhibition held at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask., May 7-June 22, 2007

New Genealogy Site in Ukraine

<http://www.genealogy.kiev.ua>

Any members who may have contacted this site are encouraged to submit their evaluations and impressions.

Ottawa Library - Genealogy Courses

Members who wish to receive an introduction to general genealogy may contact the Ottawa Public Library regarding these sessions. Those who are interested must register.

Main Library 120 Metcalfe

Genealogy Appointments: One-on-one assistance in getting started in genealogy or resolving a roadblock. Registration: 613-580-2424 ext. 32139 Tuesdays, May 1-29, June 5-19; 2 p.m. (1 hour)

Genealogy and the Internet: Experienced internet users will explore the many excellent genealogical research resources available online Friday May 18, 9:30 a.m. (2 hours)

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How to use Ancestry Library: Genealogy librarian, Diana Hall, will discuss how to trace your family tree with this popular database, free at OPL; Monday, May 14, 7 p.m. (1.5 hours)

Gov. General Ramon Hnatyshyn Documentary

The documentary 'A Man for All Seasons' will be broadcast on television channel Omni 1 (local cable channel 16) on April 28th 10pm in Ukrainian and on May 27th 9:00 p.m. in English. This is a documentary on the life and career of Governor General Hnatyshyn. See the following link:

<http://www.omnitv.ca/ontario/tv/docs/episodes/hnatyshyn/>

Thanks to Stan Klosevych, this documentary was previewed at one of our earlier meetings.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2007. The tentative topic will be Sources on Internet for Ukrainian Genealogy. This will be the last meeting before summer break and our meetings will resume in September. However, we may hold a special meeting in June depending on the availability of the speaker.