



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

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March Meeting

Stephan Telka gave an informative and interesting presentation based on his M.A. thesis at Carleton University entitled, Ukrainian Labourers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945. Stephan became interested in this topic through his own family history. This subject remains part of the hidden history of the Second World War and of Ukrainian history. He used archival material in German at the Bundesarchiv in Berlin, the Library and Archives Canada, the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, personal memoirs and family documents. He was able to obtain some documents from the Red Cross Tracing Service in Germany.

Stephan explained that there was a long tradition of using labourers from eastern Europe to work in Germany on farms especially during the harvest seasons. During the First World War, Russian and other POW's were used successfully in agricultural labour. With the outbreak of the Second World War, Polish POW's were used as labourers. There were 420,000 Polish POWs and among them were 85,000 Ukrainians. After the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union, Soviet POW's were also used as labourers. The use of this labour was determined to a large extent by Nazi racial policies and plans to create German colonies in Ukraine. The Germans had their own ranking of national and ethnocultural groups with the Ukrainians near the bottom. The long-term goal was to eliminate the Ukrainian population and settle Ukraine with German settlers. The German administration made a distinction between Ukrainians from Poland and those from the Soviet Union and treated them accordingly. After their defeat at Stalingrad and increasing battle casualties, the Germans began to have serious manpower shortages and civilians were recruited or compelled to work in

Germany. However, the poor living and working conditions in Germany discouraged voluntary workers and obliged the increasing conscription of labour from Ukraine. By 1944, one-third of the workers were foreign labourers and there were two million Ukrainians in Germany. After the end of the Second World War, many of the Ukrainians in Germany refused to return to Soviet Ukraine and formed the bulk of the 30,000 Displaced Persons who arrived in Canada as the third wave of Ukrainian immigration.

May Meeting

Arrangements are being made to invite a speaker on the history of Mennonites in Ukraine. Most settled in southern Ukraine after 1775 and lived in colonies until the Russian Revolution when large numbers were obliged to immigrate mostly to Canada, the United States and other countries. This will also be our last meeting before the summer break until the September meeting.

Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery

Many of Montreal's Ukrainian Catholic community's deceased members are buried at the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery. The cemetery's website includes a map of the cemetery as well as access to a database of deceased persons:

<http://www.cimetierenotredamedesneiges.ca/en/>

By selecting "Locating a Deceased Person", you can search by name or concession to find burial information about the deceased. Ukrainian graves are largely located in Section "W".

Ukrainians in Quebec

There are only a few publications in English on the Ukrainians in Quebec. These are some of the titles:

Alexander Biega and Myroslaw Diakowsky (eds.),
The Ukrainian Experience in Quebec (collection of articles)
Toronto : Basilian Press, 1994.
xvi, 312 p., [13] leaves of plates : ill., ports.

Yarema Gregory Kelebay,
The ideological and intellectual baggage of three fragments of Ukrainian immigrants [microform]: a contribution to the history of Ukrainians in Quebec, 1910-1960, (PhD Dissertation)
Ottawa : National Library of Canada =
Bibliothèque nationale du Canada, 1994.

Saint Michel (Ruthenes)

The first Ukrainian Catholic Church in Montreal was Saint Michael and the parish register is available on-line at the Library and Archives Canada. To access this register, it is necessary to enter the Ancestry website at <http://www.ancestryinstitution.com>

Scroll down to - 'More Collections' and click on 'See all databases'

In the section, 'Filter by location' click on 'Canada'

Click on 'Quebec Vital and Church Record 1621-1967' (Drouin Collection) - Birth, Marriage and Death

Browse this collection:

Location letter: Click on 'M' (for Montreal)

Location or Parish - Scroll to 'Montreal (Saint Michel Ruthenes)

Year or Year Range: Select year from 1913 to 1941.

Please note that the information for the first years is entered in French and is handwritten.

Pictorial History of the Divizia Halychyna Online

Those who are interested in the history of the Second World War on the Eastern Front can now examine a pictorial history of the Divizia Halychyna at <http://www.voiakudg.com/>

"Find-a-Grave" Website

Submitted by Mike Dowhan

www.findagrave.com is a free website which advertises access to 60 million grave records. Frequently, biographies and photos of the deceased as well as contact information for contributors are included in their on-line records. Although I've scanned this site periodically in the past finding many instances of my family surnames - I invariably could not find any connections to my family.

Recently while surfing the net I came across this site, decided to try again and quickly met with success! Not only was I able to connect to a previously unknown branch of the family in Indiana, I was also able to confirm some details of my grandfather's family that had been puzzling me over the years.

I am now considering being a contributor to websites like this, as a means of allowing other genealogists on the web researching my surnames to potentially reach me. And for websites like this that are constantly growing, it is often worthwhile to search them periodically as records are being added.

"Russian" Facebook (В Контакте)

Submitted by Mike Dowhan

Although Facebook is now becoming popular in Eastern Europe (e.g. several of our relatives in Ukraine & Poland now communicate with us over Facebook), another similar website also seems to be prevalent in Ukraine & Russia (<http://vkontakte.ru/>).

To use its full capabilities, you must be a member (which I am not) which requires an invitation from an existing member. However it is still useful for those of us who are curious to know if there are people with our family surnames in Ukraine/Russia (particularly in our ancestral towns).

Using a search engine such as Google, enter criteria in the following format to return possible matches:

surname town site:vkontakte.ru

Although there is some English on the site, it is more effective if you can type your surnames and/or town in Cyrillic. Using this site, I have found a collection of photos from my grandfather's home town - as well as various instances of our family surnames. At this point, I haven't yet determined how to contact *vkontakte* members without being a member myself. And like Facebook .. it is used mostly by younger people with often juvenile content.