



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

April 2012

913 Carling Avenue Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4E3

Website: www.UkrainianGenealogyGroup-NCR.org

eMail: uggncr1@gmail.com

Contact: Myron Momryk (613) 731-1870

Editor: Mike Dowhan (613) 521-3449

March Meeting

"St. Michael's and the Icon of Ponass Lakes"
by Prof. Stephen Fai

Prof. Fai spoke about the Ukrainian Catholic Church of St. Michael the Archangel that is located in a wheat field near the Ponass Lakes, approximately 250 kilometers north-east of Regina, Saskatchewan and 17 kilometers west of the village of Fosston. In 1992, it was recognized as a municipal heritage site. The church was built in 1910, from local logs assembled with traditional construction methods brought to Canada by Ukrainian immigrants from the Lemko region. The St. Michael Church was the first religious building in the area and served Ukrainian Catholics and, on occasion, Roman Catholics, Orthodox and Protestant Christians. The church had three frame additions to the core log structure - a narthex, an apse, and a sacristy - that were constructed soon after the log structure was built. A short time after these additions, the exterior of the building was covered with a milled siding and the interior finished with tongue and groove pine. These interior and exterior finishes make it difficult to recognize this as a log building.

Five men are named in a local history as the 'architects' of the St. Michael Church. One of these men donated 0.8 hectares for the church and similar log buildings can be seen at his nearby homestead. This individual was a Ukrainian Orthodox but had married a Ukrainian Catholic. His decision caused a rift in the family that was never healed. This is an example of the differences between the two Ukrainian churches that divided the Ukrainian community in Saskatchewan for many years. Plans were made

to build a Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the area but the building was never completed. The St. Michael Church continued to serve as a place of worship until 1975 when regular services were suspended and moved four kilometres east to the larger Babulynci Church. The St. Michael Church was used occasionally for weddings and funerals until 1999 when a near disaster gave new life to the small building. A lightning strike started a fire that threatened to consume the structure. Miraculously - a term sanctioned by the Archbishop of the Diocese - the flames stopped after melting a frame holding an image of the Virgin. The paper was charred, but the image of Mary was unblemished and the building saved. This fragile, inexpensive print is now considered an icon and served as the focus for an annual pilgrimage to the site. The building is well maintained and receives occasional visitors from around the world.

Prof. Fai discussed the tangible links with the country of origin expressed by the Lemko log construction and adaptation to Canadian conditions demonstrated by the milled lumber applied to the exterior and interior of the structure. The presentation included a computer-generated illustration of the church based on measurements taken of the building on site. He also discussed the Icon of the St. Michael Church and the hope she offers for the future of this building.

(The description of this presentation is based on the information in the program of the conference, Traditions of Ingenuity held by the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia on May 26-29, 2010 where this presentation was also made).

Members may be interested in examining the information regarding the Spiritual Heritage Documentation Project that is part of the Research Program on Religion and Culture at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies

(CIUS) at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta.

<http://www.ualberta.ca/CIUS/religion-culture/c-sanctuary.htm>



Prof. Stephen Fai presenting "St. Michael's and the Icon of Ponass Lakes" at our March 2012 meeting

Sources on the Web

Ukrainian Saskatchewan Genealogy Roots

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cansk/Saskatchewan/ethnic/ukrainian-saskatchewan.html>

Saskatchewan Cemetery Index

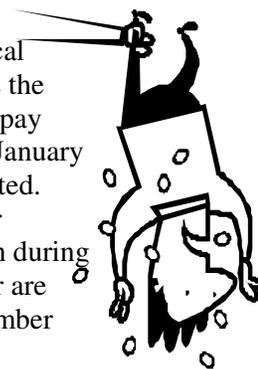
<http://www.saskgenealogy.com/saskcemindexintropage.html#>

The 1940 United States Census

The US National Archives released the 1940 national census online on April 2, 2012. Researchers can access this information on <http://1940census.archives.gov/> through the internet. There are 3.9 million digitally scanned pages of census records and they can be viewed through a search function based on location. At present, there are over 300,000 volunteers that are building a database that will make it possible to search the census by name as well. We would like to know if any of our members were able to locate information on their family members in the United States on this census.

Membership Dues

Membership in the Ukrainian Genealogical Group – National Capital Region follows the calendar year. Members are requested to pay their dues or renew their membership in January or shortly after. Donations are also accepted. The dues are \$15.00 per individual or per couple. If a member makes a presentation during the year, their dues for the following year are exempted. Also, anyone who is not a member but makes a presentation to the UGG automatically becomes a member for a year.



Paid members receive the Newsletter, Annual Report and any additional information and also will be allowed to borrow periodicals, publications and other resource material from the library.

Film: The Odynsky Story - A 15 Year Fight - Was it worth it?

May 16, Wed. 7 pm. Villa Marconi. \$10/person by Olya Grod, daughter of Wasyl Odynsky, acquitted of Nazi War Crimes.
Info: Vicki Karpiak (613) 596-8188, or vkarpiak@rogers.com