



# Ukrainian Genealogy Group National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

April 2014

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## **March 25, 2014 Meeting**

### *With Only a Suitcase*

Ellen Adamsons spoke about her book, *With Only a Suitcase*, the story of her husband's Latvian family and their immigration to Canada after the Second World War. Her husband's family, Adamsons-Lava, played an important role in their local community in Latvia the 1920s and 1930s.



*Ellen Adamsons presenting at our March meeting*

They were caught in the turmoil of the Second World War that included the first Soviet occupation in 1939, the attack of Germany on the Soviet Union in June, 1941 and the second Soviet occupation in 1944-1945. The family fled by ship to Wurzburg, Germany and lived in a Displaced Persons Camp.

After a few years in Germany, the family immigrated to Canada as farm labourers. The family settled in Kars, south of Ottawa where they eventually purchased a farm and lived there for many years. This story was repeated many times by other Latvian immigrants to Canada

including many Ukrainians who fled Ukraine during the Second World War.

The book is divided into two parts: Part I – Family Memories and Part II – Janis and Velta Adamsons Story: Life in Latvia, leaving Latvia, war and new life. Timelines, family events, photographs, letters and documents. Ellen described how she began this project by discovering correspondence with the family and relatives in Latvia in the family barn. Ellen studied this correspondence and benefitted from the assistance of family members to translate these letters from Latvian since she did not speak Latvian. Some of these letters are included in the book.

She began to piece together the story of the Adamsons and related families in Latvia and Canada with the help of documents and photographs. She also interviewed surviving family members both in Canada and later, in Latvia after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The book includes stories about the members of the family that remained in Latvia and lived under Soviet occupation.



*Ellen's display of family keepsakes*

Ellen was able to reconstruct the history of the family and find out what happened to lost relatives. For technical assistance, she was fortunate to obtain the support of friends and acquaintances with previous experience in preparing manuscripts for publication. As a result, this book is a microcosm of the history of Latvians in Canada and a guide to other potential authors of their family history. The UGG purchased a copy of the book for the UGG library.

Further information on Ellen Adamsons and her book is located at:

<http://www.rideautownshiphistory.org/presentation%20apr%202012.htm>

[http://www.lamakraft.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/UL\\_EllenAdamBook.pdf](http://www.lamakraft.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/UL_EllenAdamBook.pdf)

### **DNA of the western Ukrainians**

For those interested in a more scientific study of DNA of Western Ukrainian populations can refer to the following document on the internet: [http://faculty.gvsu.edu/nikitin/HumBiol\\_09.pdf](http://faculty.gvsu.edu/nikitin/HumBiol_09.pdf)

The abstract of this paper is as follows:

*Genetic studies of the distribution of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) haplogroups in human populations residing within the Carpathian Mountain range have been scarce. We present an analysis of mtDNA haplogroup composition of the Boykos, Hutsuls, and Lemkos, three population groups of the Carpathian highlands. In our study Hutsuls had the highest frequency of sub-haplogroup H1 in central and eastern Europe. Lemkos shared the highest frequency of haplogroup I ever reported and the highest frequency of haplogroup M\* in the region. MtDNA haplogroup frequencies in Boykos were different from most modern European populations. We interpreted these unique mtDNA frequencies to be evidence of diverse and dynamic population histories in the Carpathian highland region.*

### **Community Events**

*Apr. 25, Fri. 6:00 pm*

"An Evening with Vasyl Popadiuk." In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the parish, established by Ukrainian immigrants from Bukovyna, Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church hosts a concert by renowned violinist Vasyl Popadiuk. Gourmet dinner catered by The Original La Favorita Ristorante; concert of Ukrainian, Romanian, Hungarian, and Gypsy violin music. At Church Hall, 58 Arthur St. Tickets \$60 at church, 721 Somerset W. (before or after services) or at Favorita Ristorante, 356 Preston St. Info: 613-276-3656 (Nick Shallal).

*May 31 (Saturday)*

Taras Shevchenko monument unveiling event in Quebec City. Bus tickets \$15 p/p (return). Bus leaves Montreal 8:30 a.m. - returns 6pm. Contact [lili\\_mospan@hotmail.com](mailto:lili_mospan@hotmail.com) [www.chevtchenko-qc.ca](http://www.chevtchenko-qc.ca)

### **Genealogy Events**

*Apr. 26, Sat. 9:00 am - 4:30 pm*

2nd Annual Shaking Your Family Tree Family History Conference, Belleville, Ont.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 135 Palmer Road, Belleville, Ont. Various workshops including Lesley Anderson, Ancestry.com \$15.00 early registration til April 15th; \$20.00 after the 15th or at the door. For information contact Joan VanMeer 613-478-2909 or [relics@sympatico.ca](mailto:relics@sympatico.ca)

*Feb 12-14, 2015*

Conference - RootsTech / Federation of Genealogical Societies, Salt Lake City, Utah RootsTech announced that The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) will hold its 2015 National Conference in conjunction with the popular RootsTech conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, February 12-14, 2015.. Website: <https://rootstech.org/>