



# Ukrainian Genealogy Group

## National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

April 2022

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### **March 22<sup>nd</sup> UGG-NCR Webinar**

*“Found in a Suitcase: the Story of my Parents' Journey from Ukraine to Canada, 1944-1948”*

In this presentation, Christine Habrowych described how her family left Zabolotiv, Ukraine in 1944 as refugees during the Second World War in advance of the Soviet front, traveled to Germany and eventually arrived in Canada in 1948. When her parents left Ukraine, they took their personal identification documents with them. These included photographs, marriage records, evacuation permits, and related documents. Other documents were acquired as they fled through Hungary, what is now the Czech Republic and Germany.



*March speaker: Christine Habrowych*

Her parents received an ‘Arbeitsbuch fur Auslander’ from the German authorities which was an identity document to work during the war. In June, 1945, they found refuge in a displaced persons camp in Ingolstadt, Germany, where her father began to work for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration which later became the International Refugee Organization. All these

documents were kept in a small suitcase and were in Ukrainian, German, Polish, Russian and English languages.

Her mother later wrote her memoirs and Christine was able to use this information to trace the route of their escape from Ukraine. In the memoirs, her mother described many emergencies and dangerous encounters that threatened their search for refuge. The personal identification and travel documents provided information about the dates and locations mentioned in the memoirs. Based on the documents, Christine briefly described life in the displaced persons camp with a hospital, youth and cultural associations, choirs and Ukrainian schools including trade schools that awarded certificates, which are also in the suitcase.

Her parents were able to contact a relative in Regina, Saskatchewan and he agreed to sponsor their emigration to Canada in December, 1948. They sailed from the port of Bremen-Haven on the ship ‘Scythia’ to Halifax. Her mother’s memoirs ends with their departure but her father kept a diary in a small notebook where he describes the voyage by ship across the Atlantic Ocean until they arrived in Halifax to Pier 21 on December 20, 1948. From Halifax, they travelled by train until they reached Regina. Christine then described their arrival in Regina and eventually their move to Hamilton where her father found work and her parents became active in the Ukrainian community.

This presentation demonstrated the value of personal, travel and identification documents in reconstructing historical events in a family’s history that was shared by many other Ukrainians that fled Ukraine during the Second World War.

**Play for Ukraine (Thursday, April 28, 19:00)**

Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre | 355  
Cooper St, Ottawa, ON

Ottawa Chamberfest is proud to team up with Carleton University's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Ottawa Branch, for a concert in support of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

The Gryphon Trio joins Chamberfest Artistic Director Carissa Klopoushak and many others in a program celebrating Ukrainian music and culture, featuring Ukrainian chamber music, choral music, folk singing, and poetry.

**In place of an admission fee, we are collecting donations for the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.** Volunteers from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress will be onsite at the concert to accept donations before and after the performance. You may also donate at any time [here](#).

Please give what you can to help those in need. Donations by cheque (payable to Canada-Ukraine Foundation) or credit card will receive a tax receipt from the Canada-Ukraine Foundation. Cash donations will not be eligible for a tax receipt. We thank you for your generosity.

This concert is co-presented and supported by Jonathan Krehm and [Canzona Chamber Players](#). This concert will be in-person and livestreamed.

**In-person seating is limited. Please register in advance for a ticket. You will not be admitted without a ticket. Vaccines and masking required, as per Carleton University regulations.**

**Volunteers needed for varenyky/pierogi preparation (Apr 27/28)**

*Submitted by Helen Bednarek*

***Wednesday, April 27th -Thursday, April 28th from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.***

One more round of preparing varenyky/pierogi stuffed with mashed potatoes, cheddar cheese and onions is being held at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 1000 Byron Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario.

The Almonte Community is having a Fund Raiser for Ukraine Relief being held in the Old Town House, Almonte, Ontario. Sunday, May 1st beginning at 1 p.m. serving refreshments, tea, coffee, desserts followed by a Ukrainian Choir and traditional dancing.

Volunteers are asked to telephone Helen Bednarek, 613-727-7237 to register their name for participation in pierogi/varenyky preparation. Date of their choice:

- Wednesday, April 27, peeling potatoes and onions, or
- Thursday, April 28, pinching and packaging,

Kindly bring an apron, your favorite potato peeler, be vaccinated against COVID and a smile.

Many hands make light work.

In prayer we have hope, in hope we have motivation.