



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

February 2004

913 Carling Avenue Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4E3

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Events Calendar at: <http://calendar.yahoo.ca/uggncr>

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Summary of Presentation at the January Meeting

Due to illness, the scheduled speaker, Suzie Holyck Hunchuck was unable to make her presentation, Researching Ukrainians in Ottawa. Myron Momryk substituted and this is a summary of the main points of his presentation.

The history of the Ukrainian community in Ottawa parallels the history of Ukrainians in Canada. There were four main waves of immigration: First wave: 1891-1914; Second wave: 1920-1939; Third wave: 1946-1953; Fourth wave: 1980- today.

In the 1890's, the first Ukrainians traveled through Ottawa on their way to homesteads in western Canada. It was only in 1904 there is mention of the first Ukrainians in Ottawa. At that time they were known as Ruthenians, Bukovinians, Galicians, Russians and Poles which confuses efforts at research during this early period. The term 'Ukrainian' became popular only after the 1921 census. It should be mentioned that this first wave consisted almost exclusively of farmers from what is now western Ukraine including those who first settled in Ottawa. They were mainly concerned with establishing themselves economically. This also included the second wave of immigration.

Within the first decade, a few community organizations were created and any references to individual members are found in whatever records that survived from this period. By the end of the 1930's, there were two churches and several secular organizations. The community was divided into three components: Ukrainian Catholic, Bukovinian

Orthodox and Ukrainian Labour Temple. These components reflected basic religious/political differences which dominated community life until recently. It was the rare occasion when there was any interaction among these components. There was a fourth component, those who did not belong to any association and research on these individuals is very difficult. However, records in these churches and organizations were not kept in any detail during this period and only the most basic information can be found in these records. It should be remembered that their knowledge of English was limited and most had only a basic education in Ukrainian or Polish.

Some information on the local Ukrainian community may be located in the local English-language press and in the City Directories. The press tended to mention the more negative experiences in the community such as confrontations with the law enforcement authorities. There is mention of individual residents in the City Directories but names are often misspelled. Researchers may also contact the local cemeteries for 'tomb stone' information. Property records also provide some limited information on individual families. Researchers interested in family members who worked in the Public Service or were members of the RCMP or Canadian Armed Forces may make inquiries about their personnel files. However, proof of death for a period of twenty years or more is required.

The Second World War and the increase in the public service attracted a large number of young Ukrainians from western Canada and this influx gave new life to the community. After the war, the third wave of Ukrainian immigration to Ottawa included several

refugees and political exiles who were fortunate to receive a post-secondary education in Europe. They established new organizations and in a few cases they began to research and write about the local community. Annual reports, newsletters and Ukrainian newspaper articles that have survived are a good source of information. Correspondence which would describe their life in Ottawa is rare because copies were rarely kept in Ottawa. It is still possible to interview some of these immigrants to Ottawa but memory should rarely be used as a primary source of information. Oral interviews should be used to double check information and should be used with caution. Published memoirs such as the recent book by Gen. Joseph Romanow are a 'gold mine' of information on local social history.

The presentation did not include the fourth wave of immigration since Prof. W. Isajiw will give a lecture on this subject on March 19, 2004 at the University of Ottawa.

To provide basic information for any community history, members are encouraged to write their own memoirs and family histories which will form the 'building blocks' of any future history. In addition to the regular family history information, it would be useful for future generations if information is included on the day-to-day experiences in the family, organizations and community. In addition to the 'tomb stone' information such as birth, marriage and death dates, this information provides an insight into the personality and the 'soul' of the individual.

Speaker at the February Meeting

Borys Sirskyj grew up in Kitchener-Waterloo and graduated from universities in Waterloo and Hamilton, Ontario. In Ottawa, he worked for many years as the Executive Assistant to Senator Paul Yuzyk. Borys is an active member of the Ukrainian community in Ottawa and has served on the executives of several community organizations. The topic is 'Ukrainians in the Second World War'.

Those members who are interested in a brief summary of events in Ukraine during the Second World War are encouraged to check the site, *World War II in Ukraine* by Andrew Gregorovich at www.infoukes.com/history/ww2/

Another site is entitled, *Abridged History of Ukraine, World War II and Aftermath (1939-1945)* by George Skoryk at www.users.bigpond.com/kyroks/ukrhist8.html

Information submitted by Alexandra Opar:

- 1) The World War I United States draft registration cards are now online at www.ancestry.com.
- 2) The Ottawa branch of the Mormon Family History Centre has decided to make microfilm #1921625 (inventory for the Greek Catholic Consistory of Lviv Collection) part of their permanent collection. The microfilm is kept in drawer I12 and is labeled:
"Europe
Austria, Poland, Ukraine
Greek Catholic/Orthodox Parish Registers
Finding Aid"

I have deposited a copy of the article "The Greek Catholic Collection in the Central State Historical Archive in Lviv Ukraine: LDS microfilms (Part 2)" from the East European Genealogist to be used as an aid in conjunction with the microfilm.

- 3) An inventory of Poland's State Archives including the Zabuzanski collection in Warsaw is available in English online at

www.archiwa.gov.pl/index.eng.html.

Click on "Databases" then click on "Pradziad Database". I tried this 2 years ago and then again just recently and received different results. This must mean this database has been updated in the recent past. I found I needed to enter both the village name and the parish name that the village belonged to.

- 4) The following is a short book report:

Lesia's Dream by Laura Langston, 2003

In early 1914, Lesia Magus and her family dream of a life filled with plenty of food, wood and respect. So they leave their 3 morgs of land in Western Ukraine and the local landowner and arrive on the Canadian prairie, only to find that hunger, discrimination and war have followed them to Manitoba. Lesia fights to survive on their 160 acres of uncleared prairie.

Many years later, Lesia narrates her story to her great-granddaughter who was named for her and who must now do a report on her roots for school.

This book, written for teens, poignantly recalls the conditions prevalent in Ukraine for Ukrainian peasants at the end of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the initially bitter struggle pioneers endured to survive in Canada.

A note from Bud Budzinski

The number of microfilm reels available from the Lviv Greek Catholic Consistory at the Family History Centre (Mormons) has gone up considerably from 268 reels to over 400 since he last checked the list.

The LDS website is at <http://www.familysearch.org/>

Hamburg Emigration Database

The Hamburg Emigration Database can be found at <http://international.hamburg.de/>.

Click on 'English' then scroll down to 'Link to your roots'. Please note that a payment for information is required. If any member is interested in pursuing this source, please let us know if this site is useful.

Genealogists say the funniest things

These quotes are from copies of actual correspondence received by the Family History Department of the LDS Church:

- We are sending you 5 children in a separate envelope.
- My Grandfather died at the age of 3.
- Will you please send me the name of my first wife? I have forgotten her name.
- We lost our Grandmother, will you please send us a copy?
- The wife of #22 could not be found. Somebody suggested that she might have been stillborn - what do you think?
- Will you send me a list of all the Dripps in your library?
- Further research will be necessary to eliminate one of the parents.
- He and his daughter are listed as not being born.
- I would like to find out if I have any living relatives or dead relatives or ancestors in my family.
- A 14-year-old boy wrote: "I do not want you to do my research for me. Will you please send me all of the material on the Welch line, in the US, England and Scotland countries? I will do the research.

Web Site on Alberta History

The University of Calgary has been putting together an excellent digital collection of materials on Alberta history. There is a good selection of Alberta and local histories, newspapers, aerial photos, art, etc. Many books and newspapers have been scanned in, which make it a particularly valuable resource for researchers outside the province who might be interested in Alberta history but do not have access to those materials in their area. The web address is:

<http://www.ourfutureourpast.ca/home.htm>.

Surname Navigator Ukraine

<http://www.rat.de/kuijsten/navigator/ukraine/index.html>

A simple one input-form mega search engine for surnames and "cross-border" emigration research. You can search simultaneous in up to 10 different genealogical databases or forums. Researchers can save many hours using mega search engines such as these. Some have reported excellent results. For Ukraine included: LDS Ukraine (all databases), Geneanet Ukraine, Google genealogy Ukraine, Google News Genealogy Ukraine, Rootsweb message Board Ukraine, RSL Ukraine, Ukrainian passengers New York 1892-1924 (Ellis Island), Genforum Ukraine, US/UK/CAN census (Born in Ukraine), E-mail finder Ukraine.

Next Meeting of the Ottawa Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

Lianna Brittain will speak on Genealogy for Children, Room 156 Library and Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, March 16, 2004, 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Peter Martin at 731-7700 or check <http://www.ogsottawa.ca/>
Open to all.

Next UGG Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 23, 2004.