



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

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January Meeting

Myron Momryk gave a presentation on the Ukrainian Community in Val D'Or, Quebec. The presentation began with a description of the first Ukrainians who arrived in the 1930's to work in the newly-opened mines.

Within a short time community organizations were established. Most of the Ukrainians were recent immigrants to Canada who arrived in the late 1920's and worked in mines in northern Ontario before arriving in Val D'Or. Some stayed only a short time and moved to larger centers while others stayed and established their families. The mines were one of the few places in Canada during the Depression where there was a demand for workers.

As in other communities, the Ukrainian community was divided into the left-wing and right-wing groups and each had their own hall with their annual cycle of events and activities. The arrival of the Ukrainian Displaced Persons after the Second World War to work as miners strengthened the right-wing group. They were responsible for establishing a Ukrainian Catholic parish and helped to build the Church.

However, soon after they became established, many decided to move to larger centers in search of work in factories. This movement was encouraged by the heavy physical labour in the mines which became more difficult as the miners reached their 40's and 50's. The community began to decline in numbers and

those who left were not replaced. Also the youth who left to attend post-secondary schools did not return.

By the 1990's there were few families left in Val D'Or. This pattern of the evolution of an ethnocultural community in a one-industry town was repeated across northern Quebec, Ontario and into northern Manitoba.

Published information on the Ukrainian communities in small centers can be found in a variety of sources. The Ukrainian Catholic Church has published anniversary publications which provide basic information on community activities.

Also the various political organizations published anniversary publications which can be used to study the community. The local newspapers are another source including the French-language press. In some cases, these newspapers are indexed which helps greatly with research. These newspapers can be found on microfilm at the Library and Archives Canada or borrowed through the inter-library loan system.

Local histories and the local historical society usually have some information on the ethnocultural groups including photographs. Information on individuals may be found by requesting their military records from the Second World War at the Library and Archives Canada or their naturalization applications.

Other sources of interesting information are the Coroner's Reports which can be located by

contacting the Provincial Archives. A search of other historical institutions can sometimes provide useful information, for example, oral interviews of a few residents of Val D'Or but found in the Multicultural History Society of Ontario which is located in Toronto.

Oral history interviews are a valuable resource but interviews should be made only after basic historical research is made to provide a context to the interviews.

Local history is important because these kinds of studies provide a 'building block' to the research and writing of national histories and Canadian history.

Guide on How to Use the Polish Geographical Dictionary

Submitted by Jim Onyschuk

Eva Zuber has prepared a guide on how to use the on-line Polish Geographical Dictionary, a gazetteer.

The gazetteer *Słownik Geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich* - was published between 1880 and 1902 under the direction of Filip Sulimierski. The title can be roughly translated as "The Geographical Dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland and other Slavic Countries".

It is an excellent gazetteer for locating places in the areas of Poland, both present and past. Coverage includes all localities in the former Polish provinces of Russia, most localities in the former Austrian province of Galicia (now divided between Poland and the Ukraine), Belarusian provinces of the Russian Empire (now in the Republic of Belarus), and also contains significant localities in other Slavic and eastern European nations. The dictionary is written in Polish and comes in 15 volumes of almost 1000 pages each.

You will need a special browser plug-in called Djvu (pronounced exactly like French déjà vu) to read the actual pages. Usually, the plug-in is already installed in the latest browsers, but if it

is not on your system, you can download it for free here: <http://www.lizardtech.com/download/>

Make sure you've downloaded the correct version for your system (Win, Mac, Linux) and the type of your browser (IE, Firefox, etc.).

You can view the guide at:
<http://www.torugg.org/>

Scroll down to the URL "The Geographical Dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland and other Slavic Countries".

You will need the free Adobe Acrobat Reader plug-in to view this pdf document. If you do not already have a PDF reader installed, click on the icon below.

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

The Austrian State Archives - War Archives

Submitted by Ted Lomatski

As many of our ancestors are former citizens of Halychyna (Galicia) - Bukovina province of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, you will be pleased to know that there are many military records available which can fill in much information on your relatives. You may or not be aware, but the Empire had mandatory conscription so most young men spent 3 years in the military. The following link describes some of these records.

<http://www.genealogienetz.de/reg/AUT/krainfe.htm#g1>

As in the case of many archives, they do not have an eMail address available to the general public, and you must contact them by phone or snail mail. I suspect that if you call, they will refer you to a researcher.

I will be writing shortly to get the records of my grandfather and will let you know what progress I have made.

LI-RA-MA database completed

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is pleased to announce the completion of the database of the Likacheff-Ragosine-Mathers (LI-RA-MA) collection.

Created between 1898 and 1922 by the consular offices of the Tsarist Russian Empire in Canada, the approximately 11,400 files pertain to Jewish, Ukrainian and Finnish immigrants who came to Canada from many locations within the Russian Empire. The files include passport applications, identity papers and questionnaires containing general information.

Since the initial release of the database in October 2006, 35,000 digitized images have been added, bringing the total number of images to 55,000.

The LI-RA-MA collection is located at:

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/li-ra-ma/index-e.html>

Click the "Search" link on the left to search the database.

The LI-RA-MA database is one of several launched recently as part of LAC's "Moving Here, Staying Here" project. You are invited to visit the site at:

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/immigrants..>

Next Meetings

We will return to our regular schedule of holding meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

On March 27, 2007, Borys Gengalo will give a presentation on the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and on April 24, 2007, Borys Sirskyj will give a presentation on 'Operation Wisla'.

Suggestions for topics and speakers for future meetings are very welcome

Membership

The Ukrainian Genealogical Group operates on the annual calendar year, that is, from January to December. Meetings are not held during the summer months - June, July and August - and also meetings are not held in December.

Dues are \$15.00 per member or for a married couple. Donations are also accepted. Members who make a presentation during the year are not required to pay dues for that year. The funds are used for coffee and donuts at each meeting and also to pay for the printing of the Annual Report and other related expenses.

If there are any questions about membership, please contact Myron Momryk, Mike Dowhan or Bud Budzinski.