



Ukrainian Genealogy Group National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

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January 28, 2014 Meeting

World War Monuments in the Brody Region of Ukraine

Dr. Ostriitchouk began her presentation by introducing herself to the meeting. She is originally from Ternopil, Ukraine and worked and studied in Kyiv. Dr. Ostriitchouk is now at the University of Ottawa with the Chair of Ukrainian Studies. Her main area of research focused on identity issues in Ukraine.

She selected the Brody region because of the demographic changes in the area and events during and since the Second World War. This region had a large Jewish population especially in the city of Brody; Poles who were re-located to Poland after the Second World War and, of course, the majority Ukrainians, who lived mostly in the villages. Her research was based on interviews in 2012 and 2013, visiting museums and the study of local history.



Dr. Ostriitchouk presenting at our January meeting

She mentioned that there are several interpretations of local history: memory of Ukrainian nationalists, Soviet-era memories, Polish memory, and the vanishing memory of the Galician Jewish experience. After the

Ukrainian parliamentary elections in 2012, the local political scene changed in the Brody region and the pro-nationalist Svoboda Party gained prominence. As a result, many of the commemorative events and monuments are initiated by members of this political party. Also, private individuals, both from the region and some from abroad, have sponsored the repair and erection of historical monuments.

Dr. Ostriitchouk presented illustrations of the large number and variety of monuments. Some were simple wooden crosses in the middle of forests to commemorate the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), others were elaborate structures that included names of victims. In other cases, some Soviet-era monuments relating to the Second World War were re-modeled and painted in blue and yellow colours. Other monuments are earth mounds, some dating to the pre-Second World War period.

Several cemeteries have been restored including Polish cemeteries and they are visited by family historians from Poland. The general tendency is to commemorate the civilian victims of the Second World War and not to celebrate heroes. These monuments are a valuable source of information on family and local history. By visiting and studying these monuments, it is possible to locate names of family and relatives and discover their involvement in local historical events.

The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer period.

Documenting Family History

Submitted by Ted Lomatski

This first item is a challenge to write about one of your family every week. The idea is to help focus on an individual and create an interesting narrative for your genealogy:

http://www.examiner.com/article/ancestor-7-pedro-rios-man-of-mystery-disappears-after-raising-two-families?CID=examiner_alerts_article

A relative sent me an obituary that he wrote for himself for comment. Well, he did not like my comments/suggestions. I thought that I would check with FamilySearch.org and they sent me the following as a good guide. Of course there are many others.

<http://www.remembranceprocess.com/content/9/45-writing-an-obituary--a-step-by-step-guide>

Community Events

Wednesday, February 26, 7:30 pm

The Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa cordially invites you to the roundtable "*The Rebellion in Ukraine: Alternative Views*", which will take place on Wednesday, February 26 at 7.30 PM in the Chapel (Labelle Hall, Room 112 of the Tabaret Building, 75 Laurier St. E., on the ground floor.

The roundtable will feature presentations by Halyna Mokrushyna, Doctoral Student in Sociology, affiliated with the Chair; Ivan Katchanovski, Adjunct Professor in Political Science, affiliated with the Chair; and Dominique Arel, Chairholder of the Chair of Ukrainian Studies. The roundtable will seek to encourage debates over the extremely disturbing events that have unfolded in Ukraine and will be chaired by Richard French, Tellier Chair of Public Policy at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

The campus map can be accessed at <http://www.uottawa.ca/maps/>. The Tabaret Building is identified on the map as "TBT"

and is located at the intersection of Waller, and Laurier, and can be accessed by the main entrance facing the Tabaret Lawn, parallel to Cumberland St.

Since seating is limited, people interested in attending the roundtable must register by email (chairukr@gmail.com) as soon as possible. Registration is free. The Chair of Ukrainian Studies can also be contacted by phone at 613 562 5800 ext. 3692.

Thursday, February 27, 7:00 p.m

UNF will hold a General Meeting at the CYM Hall, 911 Carling Ave, 2nd Floor. This meeting will feature guest speaker Oleg Volochay who will provide an eye witness report on MAIDAN MEDICAL AID.

Oleg has recently returned from Kyiv, where he spent close to a week assisting doctors administering medical aid to the wounded and injured. Those assisting were attacked by BERKUT and injured. Oleg himself suffered a concussion from a blow on the head. Q & A period will follow Oleg's presentation.

Everyone is welcome to come either for the guest speaker or to join UNFers for the entire meeting. This meeting is open to everyone. Refreshments served - Voluntary donations welcome

Polish Translation Guide

Submitted by Ted Lomatski

For Anyone With Roots in Poland - Learn to Find, Decipher and Translate Old Polish Vital Records with "*The Guide*" - *A Translation Guide to 19th-Century Polish-Language Civil-Registration Documents (including Birth, Marriage and Death Records)* by Judith R. Frazin

For more information on how to purchase this guide, please refer to:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/theguide.html>