



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

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913 Carling Avenue Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4E3

Website: www.UkrainianGenealogyGroup-NCR.org

eMail: uggncr1@gmail.com

Contact: Myron Momryk (613) 731-1870

Editor: Mike Dowhan (613) 822-7293

November 28 2017 Meeting

The contribution of The Fedak Clan to the Canadian World War II effort

Stuart Fedak has devoted much time and effort in researching his family history and at this meeting, he made an impressive presentation based on this research entitled, *The contribution of The Fedak Clan to the Canadian World War II effort*.



Stuart Fedak - November 2017 Presenter

Stuart began his presentation with the story of his grandparents, Andrew and Annie Fedak, who settled in Brooklands near Winnipeg. Stuart is fortunate that there already existed a typed version of the family history by Olga Fedak (Skromeda) entitled, *The Fedak Clan* (1964). The family originated in Hovylyv Velykyi in the Terebowla region of western Ukraine. In Canada, the family was active in the

Prosvita Society known as the Taras Shevchenko Institute. The family ran a grocery store and a lumber yard business. Like many Ukrainians, Andrew Fedak worked at the CPR shops, then the major employer in Winnipeg.

Information on the early years of the family was located in the 1921 census records, birth, baptismal, marriage and death records from Manitoba. Stuart employed an original method to obtain historical information on his family in Ukraine. Through amateur radio contacts, he was able to communicate with other amateur radio operators in Ternopil and request that they visit the ancestral village and take photographs of parish records. He also contacted professional genealogists in Lviv and in this way, confirmed the information received from the grandparents.

Stuart described the involvement of his family in the Second World War. He presented biographical information on family and friends that served in the Canadian military. Stephen Skromeda, who married Olga Fedak, enlisted in September, 1939 and was killed in action in 1942 in the Dieppe Raid. Another member, Andrew Fedak served in the RCAF. Michael Fedak served in the Lake Superior Regiment. He was stationed in Glasgow, Scotland and it was there that he met Stuart's mother, Vera McGeoch, who was working as a 'Bomb Girl'. They were married in 1945 in Glasgow and Vera arrived in Canada through Pier 21 in Halifax as a 'War Bride'.

Michael (Mike) Fedak published the book, *Letters to Leah* (2012) based on his correspondence of over 200 letters with his

granddaughter, Leah. In this book, he describes his war experiences.

Stuart also brought some maps of the ancestral village that he obtained on the internet. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period.

George Fedak Awarded Medal

Dr. George Fedak Research Scientist at Agriculture Canada, has been awarded the Vernadskyi Gold Medal by Ukraine's Academy of Sciences.

According to the citation: Dr. Fedak is..."a world renowned scientist who made an invaluable contribution to the world treasury of scientific research on leading cereals - barley and wheat." The citation goes on to note his extensive international research and publication record as well as Dr. Fedak's extensive work with Ukrainian scientists in his field.

For more information, please visit the Facebook page via link below:
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/uccOttawa/posts>

Congratulations from members of the Ukrainian Genealogy Group

Future Meeting – Military Uniforms

In the past, there have been a number of questions dealing with old family photographs that included individuals in various military uniforms. Plans have been made to hold a meeting dealing with the identification of these uniforms. Borys Gengalo has kindly agreed to identify the uniforms and lead the discussion on this subject.

Members that have old photographs are encouraged to scan them and forward them by e-mail to uggncr1@gmail.com. These photographs will then be forwarded to Borys who will identify the uniforms at the proposed meeting.

Upcoming Conferences/Meetings

RootsTech 2018, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
RootsTech is the largest genealogy conference in North America. Runs from February 28 to March 3, 2018. Official Website:
<https://www.rootstech.org/>

BIFHSGO DNA Special Interest Group
Saturday March 3 9:30 am to 12:00 pm
Room 115, City of Ottawa Archives,
100 Tallwood Drive, Ottawa, Ontario
<https://bifhsgo.ca/eventListings.php?nm=127>

Community Events

January 26, Friday. 7:00 pm

Perogies with the Pros Night. UCPBA Ottawa presents an evening of Ukrainian perogies and a Canadian investment seminar. Several speakers will make presentations on investment topics.

More details will be available on UCPBA Ottawa website. www.ucpbaottawa.ca.

1000 Byron Avenue. Info 613-324-5409

January 31, Wednesday 7:00 pm

Ukrainian National Federation (UNF-OG) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the main foyer, City of Ottawa Archives, James Bartleman Centre, 100 Tallwood Drive, Centrepointe. 2018 executive to be elected. Free parking and entry from back of the building. Everyone welcome.

Special guest speaker Commander of the Canadian Army and Operation Unifier, Lt-Gen Paul Wynnyk, CMM, MSM, CD. Q & A to follow. Refreshments will be served. For information, Vicki Karpiak, vkarpia@rogers.com or (613) 596-8188