



# Ukrainian Genealogy Group

## National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

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### **November 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 Meeting**

Col. Viktor Siromakha made a presentation entitled: "*Будь Козаком - Be a Cossack: My Cossack Ancestry*". He explained the origin of his family name 'Siromakha' that dates to the early years of the Zaporizhian Sich, the Cossack military headquarters. This name is found in various early Ukrainian publications and was shared by several prominent Ukrainian Cossacks.



*Col. Viktor Siromakha - our November speaker*

He explained that the Ukrainian Remembrance Day is held annually on October 14, the Church holy day of Pokrova, an important tradition among Cossacks and the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Col. Siromakha described his family's Cossack roots and presented photographs of his military ancestors. He outlined his military

career, service in foreign countries and responsibilities as the Defence Attaché with the Ukrainian Embassy of Canada in Ottawa.

This presentation also included information on the modern Ukrainian military. He explained that although the Ukrainian Armed Forces continue the Cossack tradition of defending Ukraine, one important difference is the modern enlistment of women that was forbidden in the Zaporizhian Sich.

In answer to questions, Col. Siromakha described the revival of Cossack traditions and customs, membership in voluntary Cossack organizations in Ukraine including membership as a 'Registered Cossack' in Canada. Before the independence of Ukraine in 1991, family history research was discouraged by the authorities so many Ukrainian families are only now beginning to research their Cossack origins through visits to Church archives and documenting oral history in Ukraine. Members are cautioned that although certain family names may appear in various Cossack documents and registers from the 17th and 18th centuries, much more information is required to establish a family connection with contemporary Ukrainian families.

It should be mentioned that thanks to Dr. George Fedak, acorns from the legendary Zaporizhian Oak in Ukraine were successfully planted and grow near the Taras Shevchenko monument next to the Ukrainian Catholic Shrine in Ottawa and in a few other locations

### **January Book Launch**

Our January Webinar will feature a Virtual Launch of Myron Momryk's new book "**The Cold War in Val-d'Or, a History of the Ukrainian Community in Val-d'Or, Quebec**".

To purchase Myron's book, you can order a copy from the Publisher's website: <http://www.mosaic-press.com/> . At a later time, it is also expected to be available through local bookstores (e.g. Chapters / Indigo). As well, an e-book version is in the plans.

### **Rootstech Connect – Free Online Conference**

The RootsTech Conference is presented by FamilySearch International. It is the goal of FamilySearch to help everyone discover, gather and connect families past, present and future. Normally the RootsTech conference is a 4-day event held annually in Salt Lake City, Utah, dedicated to celebrating family, discovering family histories, and connecting the living to their ancestors and each other.

For the first time ever, the world's largest family celebration event will be entirely virtual and completely free. Get ready to celebrate shared connections with people from around the world. Connect with friends, your family, your past, and your heritage and homelands—all from the comfort of your home and in your browser. This conference will take place from 25 - 27 February, 2021.

For more information and to register, refer to this link: <https://www.rootstech.org/>

### **Recordings of UGG Webinars**

For those who might have missed any of our live webinars, recordings of these presentations are available on our website at this page:

<http://ukrainiangenealogygroup-ncr.org/WebinarRecordings.html>

### **1942 NFB Film on Ukrainian Christmas**

During the war years, the National Film Board produced various cultural documentaries. It was an attempt by the federal government to include groups such as the Ukrainian community as part of the 'Canadian family' and as 'new' Canadians .. so that Ukrainians could do their duty and enlist in the military. It was an early version of the multiculturalism policy.

To view a Film on Ukrainian Christmas, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=gvahbiQ4kUw>

### **Ancestry.com at the Ottawa Public Library**

The "library edition" of Ancestry.com normally available at any branch of the Ottawa Public Library, can be accessed during the pandemic from home. All that is required is a valid Library membership.

At this time, home access has been extended to March 21, 2021.

### **UGG-NCR Memberships and Donations**

This year we have instituted an e-transfer capability to allow our members to forward us their voluntary annual membership fees (*suggested amount of \$20 per person/couple*) or donations from the comfort of home. We are a not-for-profit organization and use this revenue to defray our operating costs.

The e-transfer procedure is as follows:

- Log onto to your Bank or Credit Union's online or mobile banking app and select the account your dues/donation are to be paid "from".
- Choose or Add the **UGG Treasurer** and the email address: **uggncr1@gmail.com**
- Enter the amount (\$20.00 for annual memberships dues or any amount for donation). Note: This is an Autodeposit eTransfer!
- Click "Send". An email acknowledgement will be sent to you.

If you still wish to pay/donate by cheque or other means, please send us an email at [uggncr1@gmail.com](mailto:uggncr1@gmail.com) .