



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

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February 24, 2015 Meeting

Ukrainians in Canada and the United States, Similarities and Differences

Some researchers in Ukrainian family history have encountered the problem of relatives living in the United States or moving there and in some instances have lost contact or were unable to locate information on these individuals. This has been due, in part, to the different history and evolution of the Ukrainian community in the United States. Fr. Peter Galadza was able to provide some insights which may assist in family history research in the United States.

Fr. Galadza was born in Servickley, Pennsylvania and lived in the United States until he was 15 years old. He has lived, studied and taught in Canada, United States and in Ukraine for various periods. He obtained his Canadian Citizenship in 1992. He is presently a Professor of Liturgy at the Sheptytsky Institute at St. Paul University. Fr. Galadza spoke about his own education and his observations on Ukrainian community life in Canada and the United States.

A few examples:

- immigration from what is now Ukraine to the United States began earlier than to Canada and, as a result many of the early Ukrainians, at first, identified with their areas of origin such as Russian, Polish, Austrian, Slovak, Rusyn, or Galician, Bukovinian and maintained this self-identification for several generations. Ukrainian immigration to Canada began in the 1890s but, by the 1920s, immigrants tended to identify themselves as 'Ukrainian'.
- immigration to the United States was directed towards settlement in industrial and resource areas whereas immigration to Canada was

directed to the settlement of the prairies in western Canada; Ukrainian farmers lived in Ukrainian rural communities that helped to preserve customs and traditions. Also Ukrainians settled in 'bloc settlements' and were able to exert some political influence during elections at the federal and local levels. As a result, Ukrainians were elected as Members of Parliament but this was not possible in the United States due to different patterns of settlement. In Canada, there was a Ukrainian Canadian Governor General.



Fr. Galadza presenting at our February meeting

- the 'melting pot' approach in the United States shaped the evolution of the Ukrainian community; in Canada, the multiculturalism policy assisted to preserve Ukrainian language and culture.
- the total population of the United States is approximately ten times of the Canadian population and, therefore, this 'critical mass' tended to promote assimilation whereas in Canada, there was less pressure to assimilate. It was not unusual for the first Ukrainians in the United States to 'anglicize' their names and become 'American'.

- The military draft in the United States in the period 1940-1975 influenced the assimilation, career choices, education and identity of Ukrainians; In Canada there was no military conscription after the Second World War.
- In Canada, the Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic Churches observed the Julian Calendar and maintained this distinction whereas, in the United States, the Gregorian Calendar (i.e. Christmas on December 25) is observed.
- In the United States, Ukrainian Catholic parishes maintained parochial schools but these schools were absent in Canada except in a few cities.
- In the United States, communities maintained 'bars' as social centers whereas community halls tended to be more prevalent in Canada.
- due to McCarthyism in the United States, the political 'left' among Ukrainians disappeared in the 1950s whereas this part of the Ukrainian community in Canada endured due to the existence of the CCF/NDP as official political parties.

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

Canadian Prairie Towns (Old Photos)

Submitted by Frank Cedar

Click on the town you want and original photos appear for certain years.

<http://www.prairie-towns.com/index.html>

Upcoming Genealogy Conferences

Saturday Aug 1 EEGS 2015 Seminar

The East European Genealogical Society's 2015 Seminar takes place in Winnipeg on Saturday Aug 1. For more info: info@eegsociety.org or <http://eegsociety.org/Seminar2015.aspx>

Aug 6 to 9 SGGEE Conference (Gatineau)

The Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (SGGEE) will hold their 2015 Convention in Gatineau, Quebec August 6-9 at the Ramada Plaza Manoir du Casino. For info: https://www.sggee.org/convention/convention_news.html

Capital Ukrainian Festival (July 24-26)

Ottawa's first Ukrainian summer Festival is taking place on July 24, 25th and 26th 2015. <http://www.capitalukrainianfestival.com/>

To volunteer or to support the festival, please contact Jane Kolbe at kolbejane@gmail.com.

Community Events

Sunday, March 29, 11am

St. John the Baptist Shrine will be holding its pre-Easter Yarmarok (fair), Baked goods, Easter breads, Easter eggs, and a light lunch will be available

Sunday, March 29, noon to 2:30pm

A Ukrainian Easter Bazaar (Yarmarok) will take place at the Ukrainian Orthodox Hall, 1000 Byron Avenue. Over 15 Ukrainian vendors. Frozen food (pyrohy and holubtsi), paskas. There will be a hot lunch served. Borscht by Raissa, holubtsi and varenyky - Women's League. Coffee, beverages, and desserts.

Sunday, March 29, 5pm to 6pm

The Ottawa Ukrainian Hour radio program on 97.9 FM features an interview with Dr. Lada Roslycky, Strategic Communications Director for 'Ukraine Today' (uatoday.tv). It is also streamed on <http://chinradioottawa.com> and then the program is podcast for four weeks at <http://chinradioottawa.com/index.php/podcast/ukrainian>

April 14 - 2 June 2

Ukrainian Classes - 8 lessons of Ukrainian Language, 2 hours of instructions per lesson, from 7pm until 9pm. Day of lecture is selected by the majority of the students, usually either Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday evenings. Materials provided by instructor. Price is \$100 for the whole session. A single lecture is \$15. At 1000 Byron Ave. Ukrainian Hall. Instructor Oleh Belkin, tel. 613 842-4782 or olever@bell.net.