



# Ukrainian Genealogy Group National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

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## **April Meeting**

Borys Sirskyj gave an interesting and informative presentation on 'Operation Wisla'. The purpose of this campaign was to remove the Ukrainian population from the border areas with Ukraine and settle them in northern and western Poland. It was conducted by the Polish government and began in April and ended in July, 1947.

Borys emphasized that very little is known about this campaign and it is rarely mentioned in published English-language history texts. He provided the historical background to these events which dated back to the First World War. The inter-war period (1918-1939) was marked by the rise of Ukrainian nationalism and resistance to Polish administration in Halychyna. To the Polish governments before and after the Second World War, this was the 'Ukrainian problem'.

In July, 1944, the border between Soviet Ukraine and Poland was defined and action was taken to settle the 'Ukrainian problem' in Poland by an exchange of populations. In late 1944, 742,000 Poles who lived on the Ukrainian side were sent to Poland and 482,000 Ukrainians on the Polish side were sent to Ukraine. However 150,000 Ukrainians chose to stay in Poland. This population was the victims of Operation Wisla.

Another reason for the deportation of the Ukrainians was the military actions of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) who were supported by the local Ukrainian population. Operation Wisla was

conducted by Polish military and security units and resulted in loss of personal and community property, churches and institutions some dating back for centuries. Many innocent people including women and children were victims of this campaign.

This event is still a subject of controversy between the Polish and Ukrainian governments and left a bitter memory among those who were displaced. These transfers of population have added to the challenge of researching and documenting Ukrainian family history in the border regions.

However it is now possible to visit local archives in Poland and Ukraine and locate historical information on the local populations. In some cases, tourists may visit the local villages and cemeteries however many have not been maintained

## **Preserving Our Cultural Heritage - Learning the Art of Ukrainian Embroidery**

*From the Resurrection Newsletter /Ukrainian Orthodox Church/ May 13, 2007*

If you or someone you know would like to give or take lessons in the art of Ukrainian embroidery, please call (613) 722-1372 and leave a message.

## **Prudentopolis, Parana, Brazil**

Serhii Cipko, who gave a presentation last November on Ukrainians in South America, informs us about a seven-minute video about Prudentopolis (in Portuguese). The video can be viewed at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCj6CYohail>

## **Return to the Source: Folk Costumes and Folk Arts Study Tour of Ukraine with specialist Orysia Tracz, August 5-20, 2008.**

This tour will visit Kyiv, Kamianets-Podilsky, Kolomyia, villages in the Carpathian Mountains, Ivano-Frankivske, Lviv, (overnight in Vienna on return). Excursions, museum visits and lectures in Kyiv, Kosiv, Kolomyia and Lviv. Visits with master folk artists; excellent shopping opportunities for new and antique folk items. Traditional Ukrainian food and hospitality.

Tour is limited to 28 registrants. Detailed itinerary in late 2007. Preliminary estimated price: \$4000. Final price in Fall, 2007. For details, contact Orysia Tracz at [dorohy@gmail.com](mailto:dorohy@gmail.com)

## **DP Camp Lyssenko**

*Submitted by Alexandra T. Gibson (via Jim Onyschuk)*

I am travelling to Hannover, Germany to the place of my birth, Camp Lyssenko to plant a tree (maple) and memorial plaque in honour of my father who disappeared from the camp.

If you have any contacts that are from the camp, I would be happy to search or enquire on their behalf if they have any questions etc.

So if anyone is from Hannover area, camp Lyssenko they can write to me with their thoughts or requests and I would be more than happy to help.

Alexandra T. Gibson  
[agibson7497@rogers.com](mailto:agibson7497@rogers.com)

## **June Meeting**

This will be a special meeting of the Ukrainian Genealogy Group and the last meeting before the summer break.

Jars Balan, who will be visiting Ottawa from Edmonton, has agreed to give a presentation on Wednesday, June 13, 2007, on *Kalyna Country - Then and Now*. This meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the St John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine Hall.

Kalyna Country is the Ukrainian block settlement northeast of Edmonton and the earliest area of Ukrainian block settlement in Canada. Jars Balan has worked, researched and written on Kalyna Country for many years and is responsible for the production of the tourist guide to Kalyna Country