



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

May 2013

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April 23, 2013 Meeting

At this meeting, Prof. Pierre Anctil made an interesting presentation on his visit to the village of Korets in Volynia during the summer of 2012. Prof. Anctil, who is a member of the History Department, University of Ottawa, has researched and published in the field of Yiddish literature in Canada.

He is particularly interested in the life and writings of Jacob-Isaac Segal, a Yiddish poet who lived in Montreal. Segal (1896-1954) grew up in the village of Korets, and immigrated to Canada in 1910 before the First World War. Segal later wrote about his youth and felt a deep nostalgia for the Jewish village life in Ukraine as he remembered it. He is considered to be the foremost published Yiddish poet. As an example, Prof. Anctil read in Yiddish from some of Segal's poetry.

During the summer of 2012, Prof. Anctil accompanied a group of tourists from Israel who traced their roots to Korets. They visited the village, their ancestral homes and the local monuments to the victims of the Holocaust. The local Jewish population was destroyed during the Second World War. He noted that there were no signs or historical plaques indicating that, at one time, Korets was a village inhabited mainly by Jews. He also commented on the lack of accommodation and restaurants for tourists in this village and they had to commute over 60 km. west to the closest large city, Rivne.

Prof. Anctil made some perceptive comments on the present situation in Ukraine where both the Ukrainians and the Jews are living with two traditions of historical interpretation. He

mentioned that the local Ukrainians and the visiting Israelis have separate and distinct memories and experiences as victims of history and that the wounds from these destructive experiences have not completely healed.

Prof. Anctil mentioned that several of the revered Jewish Rabbis, whose teachings have led to the creation of distinct Jewish religious followers, are buried in Ukraine and their places of burial are now centres of annual pilgrimage for Jews and Israelis from outside of Ukraine. He commented that these pilgrimages could be an occasion to educate the local Ukrainian population about the Jewish heritage in Ukraine and also, for the Ukrainians, an opportunity to benefit economically from the annual tourist trade.

It should be mentioned that research in the field of Jewish genealogy in what is now Ukraine, is extensive and well developed particularly in western Ukraine.



Prof. Pierre Anctil presenting in April

Meetings

There will be no meetings during June, July and August. This will be an opportunity to continue our own research and writing in the area of Ukrainian family history. The next meeting will be held on September 24, 2013.

Members who wish to discuss their own problems regarding their research, can contact Myron, Mike and Jerry and an appointment may be arranged during the summer.

Annual Report

We will be preparing an Annual Report on our activities during 2012-2013. If members have any material that may be included in this Annual Report, please contact Myron, Mike or Jerry. We are particularly interested in short stories dealing with successful research projects, published family histories and also with sources available on the web dealing with Ukrainian family history.

Genealogical Research at the Przemyśl State Archives, Przemyśl Roman Catholic Archive and Lviv National Archive.

Frank Cedar's "cousin" Maciek now is a full-time genealogist and has set up his own company. He lives in Przemyśl, Poland and has great access to both Archives there.

Here are his co-ordinates if anyone wishes to contact him:

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Boychuk Family Website

Another Ukrainian Family History on the Web (Boychuk family Website) can be found at the following link:

www.boychukfamily.com/immigration.php

Projector

We are planning to purchase a more up-to-date projector for our meetings. If members are aware of any projectors, new or 'slightly' used on sale, please contact Myron, Mike or Jerry.

Community Events

June 2, Sun. 3:00 pm

The Ottawa School of Ukrainian Dance, with the Svitlanok Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, present their end of year concert "Blue Skies" at the Bronson Centre Theatre. Students ages 3 to adult perform.

Tickets \$18, \$22, \$25; children 4 and under free if accompanied by an adult. Tickets, information: K. Baxter 613-241-5682.

June 14, 15, 16 – Folklore 2013 (Kingston, Ont.)

On 14,15,16 June, you can visit the Lviv Ukraine Pavilion in Kingston, Ontario at the Regiopolis Notre Dame Catholic High School, 130 Russell Street, Kingston. Passports \$5.00 at the door.

For information: Ukrainian Canadian Club of Kingston, (613) 549-5060.