



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

May 2014

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April 22, 2014 Meeting

'Writing a Family Story'

At the April 22, 2014 meeting, Mary Borsky gave a presentation entitled, *Writing a Family Story*. Mary has published several books and many articles in the field of children's, young adult and adult literature and she is well known among Canadian short story writers. Mary was invited to speak to our members and encourage them to write their family history.

She began her presentation with a short description of her Ukrainian family experiences living in northern Alberta. Mary mentioned that, like many other authors, she has based some of her stories on examples from her own family. Regarding the inclusion of family secrets in a family history, Mary advised that this depends on the planned audience for the family history and the sensitivity of the author to the possible reactions from other family members.

When writing a family history, she stated that it may be a good idea to include details about family members such as personal habits, odd mannerisms, anecdotes, hobbies, and other details that can bring these individuals to life. These personal details are usually lost after the individuals have passed away including those family members that remembered them. Mary mentioned that it is possible to write family stories but only for the benefit of the author and not show them to anyone. Complex family stories can be written as short stories in segments and not necessarily in chronological order.

Once all the segments have been written, it may be possible to find a common theme to unite the stories. Stories may be written by hand, by typewriter or by computer depending on the preferences and skill of the author. A family history may also be written in the form of letters. Again, Mary stressed the importance of details to make a story interesting. She also mentioned some of the options when planning to publish a family history.



Mary Borsky presenting at our April meeting

Mary distributed an information sheet with writing tips and possible writing assignments. This information sheet will be included in the Annual Report. The meeting concluded with Mary answering questions from the members.

Ukrainian Genealogy Community

Submitted by Mike Buryk

Michelle Chubenko and I have established a new Ukrainian genealogy community on Google+. Our Ancestors - Nashi Predky promotes genealogical research and interest in ancestry in the former areas of the Austro-Hungarian Province of Galicia, Russian Empire guberniyas which became Ukrainian SSR (now Ukraine), Ruthenia, and Sub-Carpathian Rus including descendants of ethnic groups Boykos, Hutsuls, Lemkos, Moravian, Rusyn, and those of Jewish ancestry. Everyone, from beginner to professional family researcher, is encouraged to join.

<https://plus.google.com/communities/107238252771720982783?cfem=1>

Also, Michelle has set up a new Ukrainian genealogy group on Facebook. It is focused on helping anyone seeking assistance with researching their family tree. Again, all are encouraged to join and post there.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NashiPredky/?fref=nf>

We hope you'll enjoy these new online offerings and consider them your special place to share ideas, information, resources, and research strategies.

Mike Buryk
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Surname distribution maps

Sometimes it is possible to guess where a surname originated through surname distribution maps. These maps graphically display locations where surnames occurred at different periods in time. This strategy provides genealogists with a starting point for research in the birth country, when that information cannot be discovered through sources recorded in the new country of settlement. It works particularly well for less-common surnames and among families that have stayed in the same European locations for

centuries. On this site, information can be located in Canada, Poland, the Czech Republic and many other countries.

http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Surname_Distribution_Maps

Name Changes Indexed by Original Name

This is a list of original names including many of Ukrainian origin, changed to more 'Canadian' names. This database originates from Saskatchewan.

http://www.saskgenealogy.com/databases/Gazette/Gazette_2008.htm

Annual Report

The Annual Report will be prepared during the summer and members are encouraged to submit information on Ukrainian family research and history. In particular, information on databases available (preferably for free) on the internet, tips on research and sources, stories about successful research, publications on Ukrainian family history and related material will be appreciated.

Community Events

May 28, Wed. 7:00 pm

"Nebesna Sotnia" Book Presentation - a collection of poems of EuroMaidan at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine Hall, 952 Green Valley Crescent. All profits of the book will be donated to the Fallen Heroes of the Maidan Families Fund (Nebesna Sotnia). Buduchnist Credit Union is the exclusive sponsor of the "Nebesna Sotnia" book. Please come and support the families of those who gave their lives on the EuroMaidan.

May 31 (Saturday)

Taras Shevchenko monument unveiling event in Quebec City. Bus tickets \$15 p/p (return). Bus leaves Montreal 8:30 a.m. - returns 6pm. Contact lili_mospan@hotmail.com
www.chevtchenko-qc.ca