



# Ukrainian Genealogy Group

## National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

October 2020

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### **September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020 Meeting**

*“Introduction to the Rus’ and Archeology,  
Archeological Investigation of Scandinavian  
Rus’ Settlement Sites”*

William Pidzamecky is a member of the Centre for the Study of the Viking Age at the University of Nottingham and a PhD student at this university in England. The presentation by William dealt with the very beginnings of what is now Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.



*William Pidzamecky - our September speaker*

During this pre-historic period, few if any written records were created and survived. Archeology continues to be the best method of discovering the history and traditions of this period.

The first towns and cities were founded along the trade and transportation routes, lakes and rivers and trace their development from this period. Some towns began as trading posts, forts and places of refuge in time of conflict and their population reflected the various origins of people in eastern Europe, in addition to the

Scandinavians and Slavs, there were Greeks, Jews and Arabs. Some of these settlements have disappeared over time and it is through archeological explorations that we can learn more about this history.

William began his presentation with a description of Viking migrations and a summary of the evidence. He outlined the textual evidence and use of archaeological discoveries. He gave examples of runestones as evidence of contacts and travel to what is now Ukraine. He discussed the various routes from Scandinavia to the Black and Caspian Seas and the Middle East.

He described excavations in various sites including Vypovziv and how archeology methods both British and Ukrainian, are used to interpret some of the discoveries. William illustrated and described some of the objects found and their uses and origins. In William’s presentation, there is a reference to the Normandist controversy, that is, the role of the Normans (another name for Vikings) in the founding of the Kievan state. There are various interpretations of this debate and this may be the subject of another presentation.

This was certainly an original and interesting presentation and members were invited to e-mail any questions. Members can view the presentation at:

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

Members may also wish to also read the blog by Emma Rayner:

<https://blogs.nottingham.ac.uk/newsroom/2019/08/29/viking-treasure-unearthed-in-ukraine-by-nottingham-archaeologists/>

## A Canadian War Story, November 6, 2020

Members are invited to watch the documentary, *A Canadian War Story* by John Paskievich.

The documentary includes stories of Ukrainian Canadians serving in the Canadian Armed Forces during the Second World War. For information:

<https://ucctoronto.ca/events/digital-premiere-of-a-canadian-war-story>

## UGG-NCR Board of Directors

As many of you know, for many years our UGG-NCR organization has been run by a dedicated Board of Directors consisting of Myron Momryk, Mike Dowhan, and Jerry Fikis. It has been an honour and privilege to serve our members in this capacity and to have had dealings with so many talented people in the Genealogy and Ukrainian communities.

To ensure transparent operations, we decided this year to formally bring two motions to our September meeting for a membership vote:

1. *Motion to ratify the 3 incumbent members of the Management team for the 2020/2021 term (27 agree, 0 disagree)*
2. *Motion to initiate annual nomination/voting for Management Team positions starting with the 2021/2022 term: (28 agree, 0 disagree)*

As such, the Board will continue in its current form for the 2020/2021 term, with the next annual vote to be held next September.

We encourage any member who wishes become involved in the UGG either as a Board member or even to take on a small role .. to contact us at: [uggncr1@gmail.com](mailto:uggncr1@gmail.com) .

Although Myron, Mike & Jerry have no desire to step down anytime soon, organizations always benefit with the addition of new blood.

## UGG-NCR Memberships and Donations

We have recently 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! If required, use any Security Q/A/
- 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) .

## Podcast Interview regarding the UGG-NCR

Noted Ukrainian/Lemko genealogist Mike Buryk from the USA, recently recorded an interview with Mike Dowhan of our UGG Board regarding the history and activities of our UGG-NCR organization. This interview can be heard at: <https://soundcloud.com/krynytsya/uggncr>

This interview is part of Mike Buryk's *Krynytsya (the Well)* podcast series <https://soundcloud.com/krynytsya> which focuses on the activities of Ukrainians around the world. He also produces another podcast series *Made in Ukraine Tech Startup Edition* <https://soundcloud.com/ukrainetech>, which covers the efforts of Ukrainian tech companies to go global.