



# Ukrainian Genealogy Group

## National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

November 2011

913 Carling Avenue Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4E3

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### October Meeting

Borys Gengalo made an informative and interesting presentation on the history of Cossacks in Ukraine. He began with several definitions of the term 'Cossacks' and their origins. He traced their origins to the period of the Tatar and Lithuanian domination of what is now Ukraine. This period was characterized by loose and undefined borders and the need to defend these borders against Polish, Russian, Tatar and Turkish encroachment. Fortified garrisons called 'Sich' were established along the Dnipro River which became centres of Cossack activity.

The history of the Cossacks was influenced by east European economic developments, the Counter-Reformation by the Roman Catholic Church and the preservation and growth of the Orthodox Church. The Cossacks functioned as a state signing treaties and conducting military operations against the Tatars and Turks as far as Turkey. Over time several Cossack entities developed, some under the influence of the Poles and others, such as the Zaporizhian Cossacks, were independent. The Poles attempted to control the number of Cossacks by instituting a Cossack Register. This and other similar registers are perhaps among the first documents that listed the names of ordinary individuals in European history.

Borys spoke about the Union of Brest in 1596, the role of Bohdan Khmelnytsky as Hetman of Ukraine in 1654 and also about Hetman Ivan Mazepa and his alliance with the Swedes in their invasion of Russia and Ukraine in 1708-09. Borys mentioned that after the defeat of Mazepa in 1709, the Russian Czars began to integrate the Cossack settlements into the administration of the Russian Empire. This period was characterized by the growing class conflict among the Cossacks and rivalry among the various

groups of Cossacks. The growth of the Russian Empire and the successful wars against the Turks resulted in the conquest of Crimea in 1775, the final dissolution of the Sich and the abolition of the Hetmanate in 1780. Many of the Cossack officers were offered positions in the Russian Imperial administration and military while serfdom was extended into Ukrainian lands. Borys concluded by stating that the Cossack era provided the first evidence of a modern Ukrainian state. This period had a profound influence on Ukrainian history, identity and literature.

Ron Sorobey provided additional information on the history of the Cossacks based on his own research and writing. He also brought some items to illustrate his remarks. Ron mentioned the growth of the modern Cossack Movement in Ukraine. For those who are interested, you can check the website: <http://www.kozatstvo.org.ua/en/index.php>

Myron Momryk spoke briefly on the Cossack Register of 1648 and its possible uses for genealogical research. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period.

Learn more about the origins and the early history of the Ukrainian Cossacks by visiting: <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/featuredentry.asp>

### New Family History

Congratulations to Hazel Johnson on the publication in July, 2011 of her family history, *My Roots from Prairie Pioneers*. The book describes the immigration of her grandparents, the Panasiewiches and the Gulkas, from the Hryhoriw area in what is now western Ukraine to the Hryhoriw area (near Preeceville) in Saskatchewan.

This is a publication of 140 pages with photographs, maps, family trees, and copies of documents. Hazel describes the story of several generations of her family and concludes with information on family reunions. A copy of this family history has been deposited with Library and Archives Canada.

### **Webpages by Stephen P. Morse**

[www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org)

This is a very useful website for researchers interested in Eastern Europe. These webpages have been organized and access to specific data bases simplified by Stephen Morse. It includes access to the following information as you scroll down:

- Ellis Island Search Form and Arrival
- Other Ports of Entry in the United States
- United States Census
- Canadian and British Census.

Of special interest to our members is the section on the Holocaust and Eastern Europe with information on:

- Soviet Gulags (1935-55)
- Russia's Fallen (1941-1945)

Please note that these are only partial lists of those who served sentences in the Gulags and also of casualties from the Soviet Armed Forces.

In both of these sections, Steve Morse has included a method to transliterate the English spelling of names into Russian so that researchers may conduct a search.

Information from these sites in Russian can be translated into English by using the 'cut and paste' method at the following free translation site:  
<http://translation2.paralink.com/>

### **Millennium of Christianity Plaque (1988-1988)**

During the first week in October, a tri-lingual bronze plaque was installed before an oak tree planted in 1988 in the Dow's Lake Park as part of the celebrations to commemorate the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine. The original plaque, installed in 1988, was a temporary one and it had disintegrated.

The bronze replica plaque, made in Toronto, was installed in a professional manner by Maurice Dulepka. The plaque and oak tree are located approximately fifteen metres north of the Air India monument. This is one of the few plaques relating to Ukrainian history in Ottawa and we hope that over

time other plaques will be erected to commemorate historical events in Ukrainian and Ukrainian Canadian history.

### **Local History Book Index**

This Local History Book Index contains 222,205 entries from 324 local history books. There are literally hundreds of these books about Alberta communities with many thousands of personal and family histories. These histories often include the names of all family members, dates and places of birth, places of origin, maiden names, marriages, etc. giving the genealogist an invaluable resource. There is a name index and a book index.

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canab/lhb/index.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canab/lhb/index.html)

### **Community Events**

**November 24, Thursday**, 7:30 pm. '*Christmas with the Kyiv Chamber Choir*'. The internationally renowned Kyiv Chamber Choir returns to perform Ukrainian Christmas music at Dominion-Chalmers United Church, 355 Cooper Street.

Tickets: \$40 [www.ticketweb.ca](http://www.ticketweb.ca) or call PCI toll-free 1-877-266-2557, or 613-733-7000 .

Information: <http://www.platinumconcerts.com> or 1-877-266-2557, or Andrew Witer 1-877-266-2557, or E. McCullough 416-292-0206

**November 26, Saturday**, 2:30 pm. A dedication, with a short program, candle lighting, and *laying of a wreath for the victims of genocide* at the Tribute to Human Rights Statue on Elgin at Lisgar. At 7:32 p.m. pause for a moment of silence to honour the memory of the victims of the Holodomor. Light a candle of remembrance in your home.

**November 27, Sunday**; *Memorial Holodomor services* will be held in the Ottawa Ukrainian parishes.

**December 2, Friday** Please note that the talk at Carleton University by S. Holyck Hunchuck has been cancelled.

**December 4, Sunday**, 12:00 noon; *Christmas bazaar* at the St. John Ukrainian Catholic parish, Green Valley Crescent.

**December 8, Thursday** 7:00pm; *The Holy See and the Holodomor*, Public Reading by Prof. Lubomyr Luciuk. 911 Carling Avenue, Free Admission

**December 18, Sunday**; *Pyrohy and Koliady evening* at 1000 Byron Avenue. Contact: [mj.reshtnyk@gmail.com](mailto:mj.reshtnyk@gmail.com)