



# Ukrainian Genealogy Group

## National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

November 2016

913 Carling Avenue Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4E3

Website: [www.UkrainianGenealogyGroup-NCR.org](http://www.UkrainianGenealogyGroup-NCR.org)  
Contact: Myron Momryk (613) 731-1870

eMail: [uggncr1@gmail.com](mailto:uggncr1@gmail.com)  
Editor: Mike Dowhan (613) 822-7293

### **Oct 25 2016 Meeting**

*From Rosthern, Saskatchewan to Stalag Luft III, the Bill Markowsky Story*

At the October meeting, we viewed the illustrated presentation, *From Rosthern, Saskatchewan to Stalag Luft III, the Bill Markowsky Story*. An earlier version of this presentation was prepared by Jars Balan and was viewed at a conference in Calgary in May, 2016. This story dealt with the life and career of Bill Markowsky in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) during the Second World War.



*Bill Markowsky - ready to take flight in his trainer*

It documents his early years in the Ukrainian community in Saskatchewan, his enlistment in the RCAF and his pilot training. The story continues with photos of his service in North Africa. His bomber was shot down over the Mediterranean Sea and he was taken as a Prisoner of War (POW)

to Italy, Germany and finally to Stalag Luft III in occupied Poland. It was at this POW Camp that the Great Escape took place but Bill was not part of this escape plan. Daily life in the POW Camp was illustrated with drawings and Bill kept notes on the Camp routine, food and contents of Red Cross parcels. He survived the war and returned to Saskatchewan where he married and raised his family.

This presentation is important for family history researchers with relatives who were POWs because it mentions various correspondence and organizations that documented the experiences of Canadian POWs during the Second World War. Telegrams from Ottawa to families of POWs, Christmas greetings from the Prime Minister to the POWs, official correspondence and related material provide a chronology that may assist in the research and writing of the experiences of a Canadian POW during the Second World War. The fact that the Markowsky family kept these documents since the war make them especially valuable and they should be preserved in an archives.

Emma Nahaylo, Bill Markowsky's granddaughter, who flew in from Saskatchewan, attended this meeting and saw this presentation for the first time. She later visited the Canadian War Museum and the Canadian Aviation Museum to view exhibits about the RCAF and the Second World War.

## **Orysia Tracz**

Orysia Paszczak Tracz was born on September 8, 1945 in a displaced person's camp in Berchtesgaden, Bavaria. She was raised in New Jersey, and made her family home in Winnipeg. Orysia met her husband Myroslaw in New York State and they married in 1967. They moved to Winnipeg in 1968.

Orysia's love and knowledge of Ukrainian traditions, ethnography, and song, were central to her life and career. She was a writer, researcher, lecturer, translator, and storyteller, and her activities spanned the globe, from Australia, throughout Canada, the US and Ukraine. Orysia visited Ottawa and made a presentation to the Ukrainian Genealogy Group on May 26, 2009, entitled, "*Songs Your Mother Should Never Have Taught You*".

For several years, she guided group tours to Ukraine where she assisted Ukrainian Canadians to visit their ancestral villages, conduct genealogical research and meet Ukrainian folk artists. Last year, she published "The First Star I See Tonight", a collection of her articles on Ukrainian Christmas traditions - the first of what was to be many books on why Ukrainians do "The Things We Do." She left a legacy of Ukrainian stories, songs, rituals, and traditions. Orysia passed away on November 10, 2016 in Winnipeg.

A larger version of this obituary was published in the Winnipeg Free Press on November 14, 2016.

## **Bud Semchuk**

Bohdan (Bud) Carl Semchuk passed away on October 12, 2016. Bud attended several meetings of the Ukrainian Genealogy Group in previous years. His ancestors came from the Brody region of Ukraine and he had traveled to Ukraine. He was an active member of the Knights of Columbus and the St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Parish.

His obituary was published in the Ottawa Citizen, October 15, 2016.

## **Lecture: Back to Basics "Genetic Genealogy"**

*Saturday Nov 26 10:30am to 12pm*  
City of Ottawa Archives, 100 Tallwood Drive  
(Room 115)

The Ontario Genealogical Society – Ottawa Branch presents '*Genealogy: Back to Basics*', a short lecture followed by a Q & A session with branch members. This event is FREE, all are welcome. For details visit: <http://ogsottawa.on.ca>

## **Ukrainians in Ontario**

*From the "East European Genealogical Society" Facebook Page*

Those with Ukrainian ancestors who settled in Ontario might be interested in reading, "Ukrainians in Ontario" available online at the OurRoots website. See the link below:

<http://www.ourroots.ca/toc.aspx?id=9233&qryID=78b5a358-ecdf-49d9-a2dd-72f3778c1735>

## **Community Events**

*Nov. 26, Saturday. 1 pm.*

UCPBA Ottawa dedicates a Remembrance day for the victims of the Holodomor. At St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, at the Taras Shevchenko Monument. Prayers. Short summary of the Holodomor. Wreath laying. Symbolic bread from Embassy of Ukraine.

*Nov. 27, Sun. After the Liturgy.*

Panakhya in memory of Victims of Holodomor After the Panakhya -- Film "Living " in the parish hall. 1000 Byron Ave, Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral.

*December 3, Saturday; 10:00 to 2:30 pm*

Annual Ukrainian Christmas Bazaar. Traditional food available for eat-in and for take-out: pyrohy, cabbage rolls, borshch, desserts. Bazaar also includes crafts, art, handicrafts, baked goods, and Granny's Attic. 952 Green Valley Crescent.