



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

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September 23 Meeting

'Ukrainian DNA'

Before Myron Momryk began the presentation, he cautioned the members that this information was still in an experimental stage and based on various scientific theories which may conflict. He used the results from his DNA test as the example in this presentation.

The presentation began with a short 'clip' prepared by Mike Dowhan from National Geographic Genographic Project DVD which was received with the DNA sample kit. It explained the purpose of the DNA project and also showed how to take a sample using the swab provided in the kit.

Various terms used in this project were briefly defined. For example, DNA is a combination of genes that give us our physical traits - eye colour, height, hair colour, etc. There are mutations known as 'markers' which are passed from father to son for thousands of years. Geneticists use markers to trace lineages on the family tree. Haplogroup is defined by a series of markers that are shared by other men who carry the same mutations.

One of the goals of the five-year Genographic Project is to build a large database. Now 100,000 DNA samples worldwide are being collected.

In this particular case, the markers showed that the origins began in east central Africa about 60,000 years ago, then the ancestors migrated north to the Middle East about 45,000 years ago, and to the southern Balkans about 20,000 years ago. Finally about 15,000 years ago, the ancestors began colonizing eastern Europe and what is now Ukraine as the last Ice Age receded.

There was some discussion why individuals in Great Britain have the same markers as east Europeans.

Books to read on pre-history of Ukraine:

David W, Anthony
*The Horse, the Wheel and Language,
How Bronze Age Riders from the
Eurasian Steppes shaped the modern
world*
Princeton University Press, 2007 (553
pages)
(This book can be ordered from Chapters
online.)

Mykhailo Hrushevsky
*History of Ukraine-Rus, Volume One,
from Pre-History to the Eleventh Century*
University of Toronto Press/CIUS, 1997

If any member is interested in obtaining further information on the DNA project, please contact:

Family Tree DNA - Genealogy by Genetics Ltd.
1919 North Loop West
Suite 432 Houston, Texas 77008, USA

e-mail: info@familytreedna.com

Good Lake, Saskatchewan

Sent by Larry Wiwchar, Cobalt, Ontario

The following is web page for the Rural Municipality of Good Lake, Saskatchewan. It has a Genealogy section (on the left) and this includes a List of Death Certificates and photographs of cemeteries in the area including information on Doukhobor cemeteries.

<http://www.goodlakerm.com/>

Kosiv and Hutsulshchyna

There is an interesting bilingual website on the Carpathian region of Hutsulshchyna and the city of Kosiv found at:

<http://www.kosivart.com/eng/>

This site contains much information about the region, its traditions, and modern-day tourism. Particularly interesting are the photoalbum – including panoramic photos of the town of Kosiv:

<http://www.kosivart.com/eng/index.cfm/do/panorama.main/>

And there are several maps including a tourist map of western Ukraine found at:

<http://www.kosivart.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/maps.main/m/5/>

Polish Genealogical Society of America

The following information was submitted by Ted Lomatski from the electronic newsletter of the Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA).

i) 1907 Galizien Gazetteer Available Online

Matthew Bielawa was a speaker at the recent PGSA 2008 conference and it was literally standing room only in his lecture on gazetteers.

The Gazetteer of the Crown Lands and Territories Represented in the Imperial Council, Volume 12: Galizien (Galicia), Vienna, 1907 (Family History Library microfilm number 1187928) is now available through the online collection of Brigham Young University library. The gazetteer is broken down by district (powiat / povit). Matthew's website has a link to the gazetteer, translations of the headings, and directions on how to find information: <http://www.halgal.com/gemeindelexikon.html>.

The actual address of the gazetteer is: <http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/EuropeanGa&CISOPTR=5240&REC=12>

Once you get there, either directly or through Matthew's website, you'll want to make it a bookmark!

ii) NARA Access to Archives Databases

<http://aad.archives.gov/aad/index.jsp>

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in the United States provides online access and public searching to records of about 475 databases through Access to Archives Databases (AAD).

AAD was recently redesigned to make it easier to search. It's best to start by reading the "Getting Started Guide" found at the top of the page.

AAD databases cover a wide array of areas and there are a few that would be of interest to those seeking their East European roots including:

- Germans to America 1850-1897
- Russians to America 1834-1897
- World War II Army Enlistment Records ca. 1938-1946

The Importance of Using Gazetteers

Jim Onyschuk of the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group recently published an article on how to use "Gazetteers" in your Family History Research.

This article mentions that Gazetteers can help you in pinpointing your ancestral villages (in the case where there are several villages with the same name), provide Ukrainian & Polish naming variations, the locations of Churches serving the village, and other information as diverse as demographic breakdowns and local history.

He profiles the information that 4 different Gazetteers were able to provide for his father's ancestral village of Shydlyvtsi. Part 1 of this article can be found at the following link:

<http://torugg.org/tugg/?p=80>

An upcoming Part Two of this article will show how this Gazetteer information was used to construct a description of Shydlyvtsi.

Displaced Persons (DP) Camps

Submitted by Mike Dowhan

Some tips on tracking down historical information on Displaced Persons Camps were recently provided to me by Chris Reshitnyk whose Mother was at the same Displaced Persons Camp as my Father after WWII (in Aschaffenburg, Germany).

The Red Cross Int'l Tracing Service is a good starting point for confirming relatives' dates at the camp. Information on how to apply can be found at: <https://www.drk-suchdienst.eu/content/categoryshow.php?CaID=2&lang=en>

A very comprehensive website for information on DP camps throughout Europe is at <http://www.dpcamps.org/>. This website contains links to other pages which describe individual DP camps as well as a host of other useful information.

For a description of life in a DP camp, an excellent reference is Katherine Hulme's memoir *The Wild Place* that the dpcamps.org site talks about. It is difficult to track down these days – but a scanned version of the book is on-line at <http://thewildplace.netfirms.com/>.

And lastly, much information can be found through discussion groups such as: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Galicia_Poland-Ukraine/ as well as on the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy group site: <http://www.torugg.org/>