



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

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913 Carling Avenue Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4E3

Website: UkrainianGenealogyGroup-NCR.org

eMail: uggncr@canada.com

Contact: Myron Momryk (613) 731-1870

Editor: Mike Dowhan (613) 521-3449

September Meeting - Displaced Persons (DPs)

Mike Dowhan gave a presentation on personal identity documents regarding his father that he had received from the Bad Arolsen Archives in Germany. He applied for these documents online and received them within a few months.

Myron Momryk presented identification documents, photographs and travel information for DPs arriving in Canada. It was noted that the information on these documents was included or omitted to identify the bearers as from the pre-war Poland and to ensure that they would not be 'repatriated' to the Soviet Union. The documents trace their movements in Germany in various jobs and in several Displaced Persons Camps and their immigration to Canada.

Myron Momryk received copies of documents regarding his father from the Bad Arolsen Archives in October. Members with parents and grandparents who lived in the Displaced Persons Camps are encouraged to apply for copies of these personal identity documents. The website for Bad Arolsen is: <http://www.its-arolsen.org>

Displaced Persons

The term 'Displaced Persons' has been applied to a wide category of persons who found themselves in western Europe at the end of the Second World War. These included OstArbeiter (Eastern Workers) and forced labourers, prisoners of war, concentration camp prisoners, refugees, political exiles and generally victims of war. Some of these Displaced Persons had fled their countries of origin after the First World War and the Russian Revolution. This term is generally applied to those individuals who refused to return to their countries of origin after 1945-46.

There were 1.2 million who remained in Germany and among these were 200,000 Ukrainians. They lived in DP Camps in West Germany and Austria. About 25-30% lived outside the Camps. Approximately 80 Camps were predominantly Ukrainian. The DP camps were primarily in former military barracks, schools, dormitories and other public buildings. Each Camp held about 2000-5000 persons. Within a short time, the Camps organized elementary, secondary and trade schools. Some residents took university courses at nearby universities. They published newspapers and books. Each

Camp had its own administration and police. There was competition in some Camps among rival political groups for control of these Camps.

Aid was provided by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) until 1947 and thereafter, by the International Refugee Organization (IRO) until 1952.

In 1956, the Canadian government sent Dr. V.J. Kaye (Kysilewsky) to visit the last camps in Germany to investigate if any of these individuals could be allowed to emigrate to Canada.

New Book

Information submitted by Frank Cedar
St Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral,
Edmonton: A History (1902 - 2002) by
Serge Cipko.

An exhaustive and well-researched history, this book follows the St. Josaphat congregation in Edmonton from its earliest days as a congregation of two, through the long process of establishing a cathedral church and, finally, to the present, as the parish home of some 600 families. Published in a single volume, in both Ukrainian and English, it includes snapshots from the church's 100 year history, as well as photos of the original art that adorns its interior. Book is available from St. Josaphat, 1-780-422-3181.

Ukrainian Radio Program - CHIN

Please note that there is a new website for CHIN International Radio station (FM 97.9). On this website there is a PSA, or public service announcement section. When you click on the link it gives you information on

how organizations can submit their announcements. You will find the link on the upper right hand side of the web page. So please feel free to enter your community announcements on the Ottawa CHIN radio web site at www.chinradioottawa.com

Note that the "Ukrainian Hour" is broadcast:
Sundays 6:00pm- 7:00pm
Tuesdays 10:00pm-11:00pm

POW Records in Ukraine

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) gives free access to information on Ukrainian prisoners of war kept in German concentration camps.

Germany's Saxon Memorials in Memory of Political Terror Victims has passed to Ukraine an electronic database on 60,000 World War II Ukrainian prisoners. The ceremony of passing the information was conducted in the hall of declassified archives of the Security Service of Ukraine with the participation of SBU Head Valentyn Nalyvaichenko and German Ambassador to Ukraine Hans-Jurgen Heimsoeth in Kyiv on September 29. The electronic database contains personal record cards kept in concentration camps on prisoners of war during World War II. The cards include personal information on the prisoners, in particular, photos, distinguishing marks, information on what camp they were kept in, if they were treated in hospital and other details. According to the SBU press center, the information received will be passed to everybody requesting it to find data on relatives who were former Soviet prisoners of war and who were imprisoned in concentration camps in Germany.

Information on the procedures to obtain this information will be distributed to members once it is received.