



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

October 2013

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September 24, 2013 Meeting

The UGG was fortunate to have Ron Sorobey, the leading historian on Ukrainian Canadian military history, make a presentation on the life and career of Lev (Leon) Hloba – The Reluctant Hero.

Ron provided a biographical outline of Hloba and his family in Ukraine and their participation in Ukrainian historical events in the years up to the Second World War. He described the historical background of political conditions in Eastern Europe and the outbreak of the Second World War. He mentioned the formation of the Ukrainian auxiliary police units during the German occupation and membership in these units. In some cases, the Ukrainian underground encouraged individual members to join these units to gain military training and access to weapons and ammunition. Among the topics covered were the types and insignia of uniforms worn by the various police and military units in Ukraine at that time.

Ron spoke about the combat operations in Ukraine and in France in the summer of 1944. He discussed the actions of the police battalion and other units in France and the effect of their mutiny in the successful Allied conduct of the war. Ron mentioned their alliance with the French Resistance and their incorporation into the French Foreign Legion. After the war, Hloba lived in a Displaced Persons Camp and eventually made his way to Hamilton, Ontario where he worked as a sports photographer for the newspaper, The Hamilton Spectator.

During his life in Hamilton, Hloba denied that he was a member of this police unit. But after

his death on December 31, 2012, his family found papers in a safety deposit box confirming his identity. This is an example of several Ukrainians who came to Canada after the Second World War who hid their identity for a variety of reasons. This deliberate action complicates research in Ukrainian Canadian family history and can lead to ‘brick walls’ while researching certain individuals and families that had survived the Second World War under particularly difficult circumstances. Ron’s presentation was accompanied by maps and photographs. The presentation was concluded by a question and answer period.

Ron Sorobey had previously researched and written an article on this Ukrainian unit and their mutiny in France entitled, *Ukrainians Fight For France* which can be located at:

<http://forum.ottawa-litopys.org/france/sorobey.htm>

The newspaper article on Hloba in The Hamilton Spectator is located at:

<http://www.thespec.com/news-story/2210581-passages-spec-photographer-had-major-role-in-little-known-second-worl/>



Ron Sorobey presenting at our September meeting

Databases of cemeteries on the web

City of Regina, Online Cemeteries Database
<http://www.regina.ca/residents/cemeteries/cemetery-plot-search/online-cemetery-search/>

Saskatchewan Geo-Memorial Project
<http://www.sasksearch.com/maps/remembrance.php>

City of Kamloops, B.C. Cemetery Interment Search
<http://tempestlivesvr.kamloops.ca/online/cemetery/10-IntermentSearch.cfm>

Kapuskasing, Ontario Cemetery (including First World War Internees)
<http://www.kapuskasingdeathrecords.com/search.asp>

Community Events

October 24, Thursday 7:00 pm

Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Ottawa (UCPBA) hosts an Ottawa Ukrainian Night at the Ukrainian Orthodox Hall, 1000 Byron Ave. Wine and cheese reception.

UCPBA President with summary of the year's activities. Silent Auction with proceeds to 'Cure: blood cancer', the Canadian charity founded by Lesia Maruschak.

Special Community Builder Award to Bill Teron. Music by Markian Pergat. Cash Bar. Event free for UCPBA Ottawa members, SUSK and CUPP students; \$3 for non-members.
<http://www.ucpbaottawa.ca>

October 26, Saturday. 7:00 pm

Yuriy Vynnychuk and Viktor Morozov in Cabaret "Nezazhurene Sertse Batiara" (in Lviv jargon). Many jokes, live songs, Lvivske pyvo, coffee and true Lviv atmosphere (you may bring your favourite food).

Yuriy Vynnychuk's books and Viktor Morozov's CD's will be available for purchase (with autograph if you wish!). St. John Ukrainian Hall, Green Valley Crescent. Tickets \$25 include one beer. Info: 613-726-3389.

October 31 – November 2

The Chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Ottawa, presents the 9th Annual Danyliw Research Seminar on Contemporary Ukraine. Details at:
<http://www.ukrainianstudies.uottawa.ca>

November 2, Saturday 7:00 pm

UKRAINIAN NIGHT 2013 - Dinner and Dance Saturday, November 2, 2013

Saint John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine 952 Green Valley Crescent

Divine Liturgy 4:45pm. Cocktails 6:00pm. Dinner 7:00pm. Entertainment 8:00pm.

Major Benefactor:
Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre

Tickets: \$40.00 per person
For more information contact:
Mike Jaz (613)830-7787
Frank McGoldrick (613)828-7531
Richard Sheffchick (613)731-4453)

Next Meeting

Our next meeting featuring the presentation entitled "*Footsteps of the Cossacks along the Dnieper River*" will be held on Tuesday November 26.

Christine Spearin and André Thouin will present photos and share their experiences from their recent cruise and travels in Ukraine.