



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

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Sep 28th 2021 Meeting

Canada vs. the U.S.: A comparison of Ukrainian immigration from the earliest days to the present

This was a co-presentation by the [Ukrainian Genealogy Group](#) and [Nashi Predky](#).

Michael Andrec, historian and archivist at the Ukrainian Heritage and Education Center in Somerset, New Jersey, introduced the two presenters. Myron Momryk (Ukrainian Genealogy Group - National Capital Region) presented a short description about Ukrainian immigration to Canada and Michael Buryk (Nashi Predky, Somerset, N.J.), the story of Ukrainian immigration to the United States.

The two presenters discussed how the two communities have evolved until the present and the similarities and differences regarding settlement patterns and their influence on community politics in the two countries.



Sept speakers: Mike Buryk & Myron Momryk

Myron Momryk titled his presentation, *Selected Stories from Ukrainian Immigration to Canada, 1891 to 2021*. Myron began his presentation with an outline of population statistics on Ukrainians in Canada. In 2016, there were 1,359,655 persons of full or partial Ukrainian

origin and most lived in the large urban centres across Canada. He outlined the history of Ukrainian immigration through the five waves of immigration.

The first wave, 1891-1914, was composed of approximately 170,000 Ukrainian settlers from Halychyna (Galicia) and Bukovyna that settled mostly on the Canadian prairies. Immigration was interrupted by the First World War (1914-1918) and this war had a significant impact on the Ukrainian community. About 5,000 Ukrainians, who recently arrived from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, were interned as 'enemy aliens' and after 1918, others were interned as 'radical aliens'. The struggle for the independence of Ukraine after 1917 and other revolutionary events in eastern Europe had divided the Ukrainian community in Canada along political lines and this division endured until 1991.

The second wave of Ukrainian immigration (1920-1939) included about 68,000 immigrants from Halychyna and Bukovyna and they settled in western and central Canada and also on the industrial frontier in northern Ontario and Quebec. The Depression of 1929-1939 significantly reduced further Ukrainian immigration to Canada.

The third wave began after the Second World War in 1945 and continued until 1952. Most were Ukrainian refugees from the Displaced Persons Camps in Germany who refused to return to Ukraine under Soviet occupation. Most settled in eastern Canada in the large urban centres. They revived many existing Ukrainian community organizations and created new associations, parishes and newspapers.

There were further waves of immigration from Poland in the 1950s to 1980s; after the independence of Ukraine in 1991; and in recent years from Ukraine in 2000 to the present. Most settled in the large urban centres across Canada.

Due to Ukrainian settlements patterns and their perceived role in federal and provincial elections, they were able to exercise political influence that was not possible among Ukrainians in the United States. Among the more important political developments were the creation of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee (Congress) in 1940 with the assistance of the federal government, the policy of multiculturalism declared in 1971 and Canadian government recognition when Ukraine declared independence in 1991. Ukrainian Canadians served in the Canadian diplomatic service in Ukraine since 1990 and are active in Canadian federal politics. In Canada, Ukrainians are able to elect Ukrainian Members of Federal and Provincial parliaments to represent their interests in Canada and abroad.

The topic of Michael Buryk's presentation was '*A History of Ukrainians in the United States*'. Michael is a co-founder of Nashi Predky and has been active in this organization since 2012.

He began his presentation with statistical information on Ukrainians in the United States. In 2006, there were 961,113 Americans of Ukrainian origin most living in the traditional areas of settlement on the US east coast in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and in the large urban centers - New York City, Philadelphia and also in Chicago.

There were settlers arriving in the United States since the colonial years from approximately 1600 and anecdotal evidence suggests individuals with Ukrainian names participated in the American Revolution and the Civil War. Mass migration began during the years from 1875 until 1914, mainly to the coal mining regions of Pennsylvania.

The First Wave of immigration came from Galicia, Bukovyna and Lemkivschyna and were known as Ruthenians and Poles. In 1899, there

were approximately 200,000 Ruthenians in the United States. Some Ukrainians from the Russian Empire settled on farms in North Dakota. There is evidence that Ukrainian Kozaks lived in what is now Alaska during the period of the Russian Empire until 1867 and along the US west coast and were identified as Russians.

Michael gave biographical information regarding prominent Ukrainians such as Fr. Ahapius Honcharenko in California, Myron Surmach in New York City and Nicholas Barvinchak.

The Second Wave of Ukrainian immigration was seriously limited by US immigration regulations that allowed only small numbers to enter the United States during 1924-1939. During this period, many former Ruthenians began to identify as 'Ukrainians' in the census statistics. By 1945, there were 15,000 Ukrainians in the United States.

The Third Wave arrived after the Second World War and approximately 8,500 Ukrainians settled in the United States. Most arrived from the Displaced Persons Camps in Germany and were political and economic immigrants. They settled in the major urban centres and worked in factories and service industries.

The Fourth Wave, also known as the 'Nova Khvyliya', arrived after the independence of Ukraine in 1991 and about 170,000 arrived between 1991 and 2002. The United States remain attractive to immigrants from Ukraine because of the more varied economic opportunities. They became active in the technical industries and are well represented in Silicon Valley enterprises in California. In various cities across the United States, politically active Ukrainians also take part in community organizations including political protests concerning the fate of Ukraine. Today, there are approximately 1,000,000 Ukrainians in the United States.

Michael concluded his presentation with references to various sites that may interest our members:

Ukrainian Heritage Educational Centre –
<https://www.ukrhec.org>

Facebook –
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1385723818339063>

The Well - <https://soundcloud.com/krynytsya>

Emerging Europe - <https://emerging-europe.com/author/michaelbuyrk/>

Michael Andrec concluded this presentation with a question-and-answer period.

UGG-NCR Memberships and Donations

Note: The UGG “Year” and voluntary annual memberships span the period starting September to the following August.

Last year we instituted an e-transfer capability to allow our members to forward us their voluntary annual membership fees (*suggested amount of \$20 per person/couple*) or donations from the comfort of home. We are a not-for-profit organization and use this revenue to defray our operating costs.

The e-transfer procedure is as follows:

- Log onto to your Bank or Credit Union’s online or mobile banking app and select the account your dues/donation are to be paid “from”.
- Choose or Add the **UGG Treasurer** and the email address: **uggncr1@gmail.com**
- Enter the amount (\$20.00 for annual memberships dues or any amount for donation). Note: This is an Autodeposit eTransfer!
- Click “Send”. An email acknowledgement will be sent to you.

If you still wish to pay/donate by cheque or other means, please send us an email at uggncr1@gmail.com .

Community Events

Oct 28, Thu. 7:30 pm

The Shevchenko Scientific Society of Canada presents “Paris 1925 : Ukrainian Theatre Arts : Shaping International Modernism”.

an illustrated lecture by Dr. Irena Makaryk, University of Ottawa. The work of Ukrainian theatre artists and designers on display at the 1925 Paris Exposition internationale des arts decoratifs et industriels astonished the world. In Ukrainian, free.

To join: click on the link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85687942304> or go to the website www.ntsh.ca

Weekly .. Sundays at 6:00pm

The Ukrainian Hour radio program

This radio program airs every Sunday on 97.9 FM from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Podcasts can be heard at

<https://www.chinradio.com/ukrainian>

Upcoming

Capital Ukrainian Festival

The Capital Ukrainian Festival is excited to announce its continued celebration of Ukrainian culture by holding a series of online workshops, which will run from Oct. 2021 to Feb. 2022. More information to follow on the Festival’s [website](#) and social media.