



# Ukrainian Genealogy Group

## National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

September 2004

913 Carling Avenue Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4E3

Website: [www.geocities.com/uggncr/](http://www.geocities.com/uggncr/) eMail: [uggncr@canada.com](mailto:uggncr@canada.com)

Events Calendar at: <http://calendar.yahoo.ca/uggncr>

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### Michael Ewanchuk

*From the Winnipeg Free Press, August 29, 2004*

Michael Ewanchuk passed away in Winnipeg on August 26, 2004. Michael was born March 14, 1908 in Gimli, the fourth child of Ukrainian pioneers Wasyl and Paraskeva Ewanchuk, who arrived in Canada in 1902 from Kopychentsi, Western Ukraine. He grew up on a farm two miles west of town, attended Dnister School and entered Gimli High School at the age of fourteen.

Following high school, Michael worked for the Winnipeg Electric Railway, and the Ford factory in Detroit. By working on the midnight shift, he was thus able to attend daytime classes at the Detroit Institute of Technology and at Detroit City College now Wayne State University. In 1930 Michael returned to Canada and attended Wesley (United) College and Provincial Normal School in Winnipeg.

Michael is survived by nephews Bob Bohonos, Walter Bohonos, Peter Bohonos; nieces Joni Evanchuk-Kind, Claudia Kafer and Darcy Ewanchuk. He was predeceased by his wife Muriel 1997, father Wasyl 1948, mother Paraskeva 1953, infant sister Mary 1904, brother John 1981, sister Nettie 1998, brother Peter 1994, brother Alexander 1958 and nephew Billy 1962. After graduation, Michael's first position as teacher was at Beckett (Svoboda) School near Stuartburn. He later accepted principalships at

Happy Thought High School in East Selkirk, and at North Springfield. It was at North Springfield that Michael met Muriel Smith, the primary teacher whom he married. Michael and Muriel moved to Cartwright where he had accepted the principalship of the high school.

While in Cartwright he enlisted in the R.C.A.F. where he served as instructor of navigation and as Officer in Charge of Airmanship. As an instructor he had various Canadian postings: Saskatoon, Regina, Rivers, Rockcliffe, Moncton and Dartmouth. He also served as a personnel counsellor to the retiring servicemen. His last assignment was as an instructor in mathematics and English with the C.V.T. Michael retired with the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

While teaching, Michael also continued his own education, attaining his B.A., B.Ed. degrees, and M.Ed. from the University of Manitoba.

Following his retirement from the R.C.A.F. Michael became the first Ukrainian Manitoban to receive a permanent appointment as Inspector of Schools. He served in the Roblin-Grandview-Gilbert Plains inspectoral area and, after several years, he transferred to Carman and later to Winnipeg, where he served for twenty years as inspector of elementary and high schools, evaluating, in particular, instruction in science and mathematics at the senior grade level.

In 1964 Premier D. Roblin appointed him chair of a curriculum committee to prepare the first Ukrainian program of studies, and to select appropriate textbooks for the teaching of Ukrainian in Manitoba high schools. In 1973 Michael Ewanchuk retired as Inspector of Schools and began devoting his time to his avocation of writing.

A lifelong supporter of the Ukrainian community, as a student, he was secretary of a Ukrainian students' club, member of the International Students' Club of the YMCA and member of the Ukrainian National Association. While at Normal School, Michael was a member of the P. Mohyla Institute where he served as assistant to the rector, was president of the Student Club Prometheus, and was active in the debating club. He was active in the Ukrainian Teachers' Society. This interest was shown in writing about Ukrainian settlement and Ukrainians who have contributed to Canadian society. Through the years he contributed articles to the Ukrainian Voice and American Svoboda.

Then he began to research and write on Ukrainian Canadian pioneers. He visited and researched in various archives in Manitoba, in the Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa, the United States Archives in Washington, D.C., and the Hawaiian Archives in Hilo and Honolulu. Mr. Ewanchuk has produced 16 books, and with two volumes still in preparation. Among his publications are the books:

- Spruce, swamp and stone: a history of the pioneer Ukrainian settlements in the Gimli area (1977);
- Pioneer profiles: Ukrainian settlers in Manitoba (1981);
- Vita: a Ukrainian community (1977);
- Hawaiian ordeal: Ukrainian contract workers 1897-1910 (1986);
- Pioneer settlers: Ukrainians in the Dauphin area, 1896-1926 (1988);
- The Duck Mountain Pioneer (1975);
- East of the Red: early Ukrainian settlements 1896-1930 (1998);
- Growing up on a bush homestead: pioneer life as seen through the eyes of the children (2002).

Mr. Ewanchuk was awarded a certificate, Hramota and a medal of recognition by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, and received a certificate of recognition from the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences in June 2000. For his many books he has received the Margaret McWilliams award from the Manitoba Historical Society. For his contribution to education he was awarded a Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Winnipeg and a Doctor of Canon Law degree from St. John's College of the University of Manitoba.

In his historical work he was encouraged and assisted by his wife, Muriel. He called her his primary editor and proofreader. The couple celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1991. In 1992, Muriel encouraged Michael to visit his ancestral village in Ukraine. Even though she had been ill at home with diabetes since 1980, Michael took care of Muriel at their home until her death on February 21, 1997. Panakhyda service was held on Sunday, August 29, at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 1175 Main Street, with funeral service on Monday, August 30, at 10:00 a.m. also at Holy Trinity Cathedral.

### **Militaria**

*Manitoba World War II Fatal Casualties with no known next of kin.*

If you have information regarding next-of-kin, please call Gerald Holm at (204) 945-1798, Manitoba Geographical Names Program. A Commemorative Name Certificate is provided to the eldest next-of-kin and detailed information regarding the location of the names geographical feature in Manitoba.

- Pte. Frank Edward Antoniak, Community: Volga, Date of death: 1944/07/27; Served with the Royal Canadian Army Supply Corps, Buried at Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, Feature name: Antoniak Lake
- Gnr. Elle Antonyszyn, Community: Rorketon, Date of death: 1944/07/15; Served with the Royal Canadian Artillery, 8th Light, Buried at Holten Canadian War Cemetery, Holland, Feature name: Antonyszyn Lake

*For Information on Burial Location:*

Commonwealth War Graves Commission,  
Canadian Agency  
Suite 1706 - 66 Slater Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0P4  
<http://www.cwgc.org/>

*Medals: (Entitlements, Replacements and Citations)*

Honours and Awards Section  
Veterans Affairs Canada  
66 Slater Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0P4  
<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=collections/cmdp/mainmenu>

Telephone (613) 995-5003  
Fax: (613) 947-3421

*Book of Remembrance (Reproductions of Pages)*

Family members may request a reproduction of the page where names appear for those killed in service.

Sergeant-At-Arms' Office  
RM 238N Centre Block  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/books/remember.htm>

*Other Sources:*

Canadian Virtual War memorial  
<http://www.virtualmemorial.gc.ca>

**Genealogy Courses**

City of Ottawa: Heron Road Community Centre  
1480 Heron Road, Ottawa  
(613) 247-4808  
heroncentre.org  
Researching Your Family History on the Computer - Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - noon  
Sept.18 to November 6 - \$75.00 / 8 weeks

Researching Your Family Tree - Level 2 -  
Fridays, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
Sept.17 - Oct.21 - \$65.00 / 6 weeks

For further information, please contact the instructor, Lesley Anderson (613) 247-4808

**Adult Ukrainian Language Lessons**

These language classes are intended for adults and teenagers. For further information, phone the School Director, Lidia Cormier at 591-0915 or see [www.ottawaukeschool.org](http://www.ottawaukeschool.org)

**Friends of the Library and Archives Canada**

The Friends of Library and Archives Canada will have their Annual Used Book Sale on October 1, 2 and 3, 2004 at Carlingwood Shopping Centre. In previous years, there were books dealing with Canadian immigration history.

**Sources on Germans from Galicia**

This is an internet source on Galizien German Descendants:  
<http://www.galiziengermansdescendants.org/>

**The Cinema of Ukraine**

The Canadian Film Institute will present the following Ukrainian films:

Thursday, October 14, 2004 - 19:00 hrs; Golden Fever: A story about the Soviet/modern period in Ukrainian history.

Thursday, October 14, 21:00 hrs; The Voice of Herbs: A story about magic powers and “witches”.

The films will be shown in the auditorium of the Library and Archives Canada.

Admission: Members \$6.00; Non-members \$9.00

For more information, phone 232-6727 or see [www.cfi-icf.ca](http://www.cfi-icf.ca)

### **Myths and Legends - The Ukrainian Connection**

*(From the Globe and Mail, January 31, 2001 /Social Studies/)*

The Declaration of Arbroath of 1320, viewed by many Scots to be their Declaration of Independence, and signed by Robert the Bruce and forty other Scottish nobles, declared that the Scots came from greater Scythia. According to the Royal Ontario Museum, there are a number of similarities between the Scythians, who wandered the Ukrainian steppes during the eighth to third centuries B.C. and the medieval inhabitants of Scotland.

### **1901 Canadian Census Being Indexed**

A group of volunteers is currently indexing the 1901 Canadian census. They currently have more than 4 million entries completed. The site is located at

<http://automatedgenealogy.com/census/NationalSummary.jsp>. Once you locate a person by using the surname index on that page, it is possible to display all the transcribed entries from the census page.

### **Conference -Workshop "Understanding the Transformation of Ukraine: Assessing What Has Been Learned, Devising a Research Agenda".**

October 15-16, 2004: Friday-Saturday: Sponsored by the Chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Ottawa, with the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, and The Institute for European and Russian Studies, Carleton University.

Workshops Friday 9-5, Saturday 9-12:30. Conference Friday evening (Keynote Address), and Saturday afternoon (Round Table Discussion).

Location: University of Ottawa campus.  
Confirmed participants: Mark von Hagen, Andrew Wilson, Frank Sysyn, Zenon Kohut, Oleh Havrylyshyn, Yaroslav Hrytsak, Paul Robert Magocsi, Olena Nikolayenko, Paul D'Anieri, Natalie Mychajlyszyn, Nancy Popson, Lowell Barrington, Wsevolod Isajiw, Cathy Wanner, Sarah Phillips, Jessica Allina-Pisano.

Contact: Irena Bell, Coordinator, Chair of Ukrainian Studies, 562-5800 x3692, [ukrain@uottawa.ca](mailto:ukrain@uottawa.ca)

### **Next Meeting**

The speaker for the meeting to be held on October 26, 2004 will be Suzanne Holyck Hunchuck who will give a presentation on the Ottawa Ukrainian Labour Temple. Part of a large network of Ukrainian ‘halls’ across Canada, the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Ottawa was a center for political activism, education and cultural activities for the Ukrainian and larger Canadian community in Ottawa in the years 1923-1967.

The building was located on 523 Arlington Avenue in a modest workers’ house in what was then a thriving residential neighborhood of Rochesterville, near Preston Street and today’s Queensway. Suzanne will examine the social and architectural history of the Ukrainian Labour Temple and also discuss the various research problems she encountered in the course of her research and writing.

Please note that we may be receiving a visit from the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group for the October meeting. They will be visiting the Library and Archives Canada on October 27, 2004.

We are always interested to learn about possible topics and speakers for future meetings.