

Ukrainian Genealogy by John D. Pihach, published by Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press, ©2007 (submitted by Xenia Stanford, Coordinator, Ukrainian SIG)

The author states his intention is to cover Ukrainian genealogy in Eastern Europe, not this continent, but the most important piece of information one needs to begin research is determining the ancestral village of the immigrant generation. So the author includes what records in North America might establish the location of our ancestors' home abroad. These records include passenger and other immigration lists, naturalization and citizenship sources, census, homestead and other land records.

Armed with the name of the village, the next task is to find it on the map. This sounds easy, but it is the greatest challenge in Ukrainian research. I know because I once faced that hurdle. What was it called and to what country did it belong during the time periods we need? Was it part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Poland, Hungary, Romania or the USSR? To help us determine that, Pihach includes historical information, geographical divisions and maps.

Pihach then explains the record keeping practices across the many nations involved during various time periods. He details the availability and location of records today. Since he has personally visited archives across Central and Eastern Europe, he knows where and how to access the ones we need. He gives addresses and suggestions for visiting archives in Ukraine. He includes a request letter guide and the alphabets of several East European languages to help us decipher the records once we find them.

Discussing this book with a researcher who has known the author of the book for many decades, I was not surprised to learn this was Pihach's life's work. Yet he also keeps us current through listing of websites that will help us with our research. I was surprised though that he subtitles this book a beginner's guide. The volume of information is overwhelming and it will take some time to read each packed chapter. So far I have only reviewed the Table of Contents, read the introduction and skimmed through the book looking for highlights. I don't consider myself a beginner, but I have only begun to try to dig into the book to find the tools to reveal my next generation back.

John D. Pihach is a scientist, artist, weather observer and library chairperson of the East European Genealogical Society in Winnipeg.

The book may be ordered from the following for a discount of \$10. The cost is \$30 (no GST as is not for profit org.) plus \$5 S&H = \$35. Make payment by cheque or money order to UGHS and mail to

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