

Ukraine Genealogy Group (UGG) of Edmonton and Area Society, Alberta February 2026 Update



UGG Edmonton and Area Society continues to provide information and suggestions to its members whose interests that include the geographic areas of East Galicia (Ukraine), West Galicia (Poland), Bukovina (Ukraine and Romania), Volhynia, and the West Russian Empire (Ukraine and Poland), and all of Ukraine. We have decided to expand this group to include Polish settlers to Alberta due to no one else locally covering this region involving genealogy. We invite people from all of the Eastern European countries to participate in our meetings.

There are no membership requirements to this genealogy group. Our main focus at this time is on Western Canada and the former regions of Galicia and Bukovina in Western Ukraine and Poland. Whenever possible the presentation or the handouts are shared with the participants who attend the Zoom meetings and in-person workshops. The Zoom sessions are recorded with permission from the guest speaker, in advance. At some point, we will be putting the recorded sessions on a new UGG Edmonton website or YouTube channel.

Would you be interested in forming a **Research Club** within our society? The idea is to meet in person once a month—or every other month—to share our latest genealogical discoveries, research tips, and stories from the field. Together, we can explore new avenues of research, exchange valuable insights, and support one another in our family history journeys. If interested, please contact Elaine at kalyna@outlook.com

UGG Edmonton is looking for more volunteers to assist us with creating a website, finding guest speakers (mainly who do not charge), providing content input for our monthly newsletters, updates and Facebook page, creating a YouTube channel, coordinating Research Club meetings, and/or assist with our Zoom sessions, etc.

Here is the current 2026 schedule for the “Ukraine Genealogy Group of Edmonton and Area”:

The UGG Edmonton board has decided that we will not be hosting guest speakers—either on Zoom or in person—this year. While we recognize the value these sessions have offered in the past, a number of factors led us to pause them for the time being. We will, however, continue to share our monthly newsletters with everyone on our distribution list so we can stay connected and keep you informed about our activities and other genealogy sessions and resources.



Watch for the February issue of the *Relatively Speaking* journal from the Alberta Genealogical Society as Elaine has submitted an article on family reunions. The theme for February is **Rekindling Family Connections**. Note that the theme for May is Connections to the Land, August is Family Heirlooms and Important Places and November is Sports. AGS is always looking for more volunteers to submit an article. <https://www.abgenealogy.ca/relatively-speaking-journal>

Family Heritage Day. Join us on Family Day long weekend for a perfect opportunity to showcase your family heritage roots through food, education, entertainment, art and more. Monday, Feb. 16, 2 pm to 6 pm, Allied Arts Centre, Elk Point, Alberta. Elaine will have a display table at this event on Ukrainian Genealogy. If in the area, check her out.

Family Tree Trackers: Intro to Ukrainian Genealogy, Thurs., March 12, 7 – 8:30 pm, Strathcona County Library, 401 Festival Lane, Sherwood Park, AB. I will be taking various books for people to look through and binders for me to do lookups. <https://sclibrary.ca/> and <https://scl.bibliocommons.com/events/692536f70d45944c9e67f569>

We have created a “**Ukraine Genealogy Group – Edmonton and Area Society**”, a private Facebook group. This is a Ukraine genealogy group which is based in Edmonton, Alberta but collaborates with family researchers from Western

Canada. And in all of the regions of the former Galicia and Bukovina under the Austro-Hungarian Empire, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/429397856414849/>

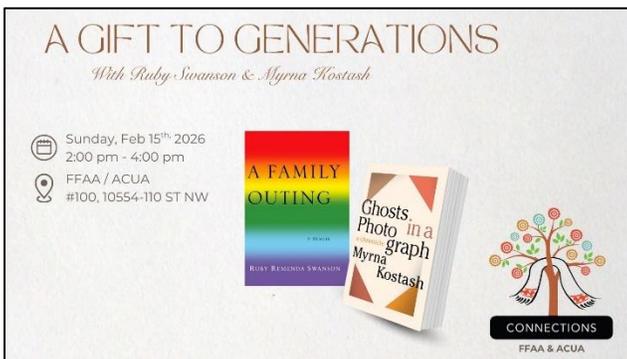
Elaine's blog, **Trace Your Roots – Ukrainian Canadian Genealogy**® is <https://ukrainiancanadiangenealogy.blogspot.com/>
Note that this blog is now over 14,590 visitors and was launched in June of 2023. She will start again adding new articles to this blog and focusing on her researching out of Europe, Poland and Ukraine (once she catches up on other tasks). Latest article is "Visiting the Musée St. Paul Museum and their Ukrainian Exhibit" posted on Nov. 9th, 2025.

Local (Alberta) Events:

From Where the Grain Itself Can Speak, Jan. 16 – March 28, Lars Haukaness, William Kurelek, Morgan Possberg, Åsa Sonjasdotter, and Slinko. Curated by Carolyn Jervis and Theo Donovan, MacEwan Mitchell Art Gallery, Room 11-121, Allard Hall, 11110 – 104 Ave., Edmonton. Features artwork, historical and contemporary, that gives voice to the plant, human, and interspecies relationships that persist through and despite agricultural methods. The work of local and international artists featured here personalize the complex histories, politics, and ideologies embedded in industrial wheat farming. Their stories demonstrate the failure of monocultures of the mind to eradicate alternatives they make more difficult to thrive, as if pesticide-resistant weeds or the relentless reproduction of gophers in a field. <https://mitchellartgallery.macewan.ca/from-where-the-grain>

Volya Presents: Korinnya (Roots) - One Tree, Four Seasons, Endless Stories, Fri • Feb 13 • 7:30 PM, Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, Edmonton, AB, Volya Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, <https://www.ticketmaster.ca/volya-presents-korinnya-one-tree-four-edmonton-alberta-02-13-2026/event/11006381C4EEA6BA>

A Gift to Generations, Sunday, Feb. 15, 2-4 pm, Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts (ACUA) & FFAA workshop.



Thinking of writing a family story or even a family history? Perhaps you have already made a start – sorted out old family photographs, had a conversation with the oldest relative, done some searching online – or perhaps you are just starting to think about it.

Join Edmonton writers Myrna Kostash and Ruby Swanson, authors of their own families' histories, as they share the process and what they have learned from the experience. This workshop includes a Q & A session. \$65, to register:

<https://acuarts.ca/whats-on/a-gift-to-generations-workshop-with-ruby-swanson-and-myrna-kostash/>
<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/7YY0ADB0A89B7/checkout/TJX2SMHUH2VNOJSH6KTBLLU>

Researching Land Titles in Genealogy, Wed, March 4, 1 - 3 pm, \$3.00 drop-in fee, WSAC Boardroom, Westend Seniors Activity Centre, 9629 – 176 Street, Edmonton. Paul Rose will take us on a journey through the history of land ownership in the Prairies, from the days when it was known as Rupert's Land under the administration of the Hudson's Bay Company, through the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), and the subsequent distribution of land holdings by the railway and the government. Topics will include the different types of land ownership records in Alberta, where to find these records, and what information they can provide. https://weseniors.ca/whats_new/genealogy-drop-in-class/

DNA Mysteries & Case Studies (No tech overload), with Ellen Thompson-Jennings, DNA Special Interest Group, Edmonton Branch, AGS. Wed. March 18, 7-9 pm, Online (Zoom), <https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/dna-sig-2>

ACUA Easter Market, March 28, 11 am to 3 pm, ACUA members 10 am, 10554 – 110 Street, Edmonton. <https://acuarts.ca/whats-on/acuas-easter-market/>

Ukrainian Music on the Prairies exhibit curated by Larisa Sembaliuk Cheladyn in Spring, 2026, Kubasonics will play two shows on Saturday April 25 at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at ArtsHub Ortona on 9722 102 Street. Be the first to experience Larisa's new exhibit while enjoying Kubasonics' signature sound. ACUA Special Event
<https://acuarts.ca/whats-on/kubasonics-play-ukrainian-music-on-the-prairies/>
<https://acuarts.ca/whats-on/evening-kubasonics-play-ukrainian-music-on-the-prairies/>

DNA Cool Tools with Ellen Thompson-Jennings, Wed. May 20, 7-9 pm MST, DNA Special Interest Group, Edmonton Branch, AGS, Online (Zoom), <https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/dna-sig-3>

UFest returns to Borden Park, May 29-30, save the date. Free Entry, <https://ufest.ca/>

Fifty Years of All of Baba's Children: A Symposium, July 11, MacEwan University, Celebrating Myrna Kostash, Save the date, more details soon! <https://www.facebook.com/MUURDC>

The **AHSGR - Edmonton Chapter has a new website**. We also have a link on our library page: hosted libraries. American Historical Society of Germans from Russia. <https://hsgpv.org/library/ahsgr-edmonton-chapter/>

Other Genealogy Sessions:

7-Day Galicia Research Challenge, Feb. 1-7, with a bonus LIVE recap session on Feb. 9th. \$11 US. Michelle Chubenko. Do you have ancestors from the historic region of Galicia, Austria-Hungary but feel overwhelmed about where to begin? Over the course of a week, you will receive a daily email containing a Domestic or International task relating to one ancestor or ancestral couple/location. These short, practical assignments (20–30 minutes) are designed to build momentum and confidence in your genealogical journey. <https://genealogy.chubenko.us/7-day-challenge-february2026>

Broad Context; How to Find it and Use it! presented by Jill Mirelli, Feb. 2, Free Zoom but pre-registration is required. Kelowna & District Genealogical Society. By understanding the broad context of our geographic area and the era we can interpret the evidence more accurately and thereby understand the decision-making of our ancestors more clearly. We sometimes view context as just the historical events that affected our ancestor. We will broaden that definition and explain the difference between it and social history. Examples clarify meaning and illustrate how this is a project long process and not effort applied at the end. <https://kdgs.ca/updates/events/>

Have Questions? Get Answers, zoom session, Tues, Feb. 3, 8 pm ET, (6 pm Edmonton), Michelle Chubenko, she has transitioned to quarterly FREE Zoom sessions, are not recorded but can download the session chat, to register, https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/INVF54EmQ0WF85wU_m2kPA?utm_source=podia&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2889763#/registration

Discovering your Eastern European Ancestors on MyHeritage with James Tanner, Legacy Family Tree Webinars, Tue. Feb. 10, 12 pm MST. free to register and watch but if there is a handout then you must be a member. <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/discovering-your-eastern-european-ancestors-on-myheritage/>

AncestryDNA 101, Feb. 11, 11 am MST, Ancestry Academy, <https://www.ancestry.com/c/discover/education>

Writing Your Family History SIG, Wed. Feb. 11, May 13, Aug. 12 & Nov. 4, 10 am – 12 pm CST, Carla Maitland, Tennessee Genealogical Society. Member virtual sessions. Join us for four workshops this year in our GoToMeeting platform as we meet together, face-to-face, and discuss, share, and critique each other's family history writing. Whether you choose journals, blogs, newsletters, books, or some other form of writing, we can all use the input of others. These sessions will be led by a facilitator, who will not directly teach, but who will guide the discussions, ensuring the involvement of everyone. Bring your pen, pencil, computer or whatever you use to write, and join the sessions with ideas to share with others as well! These sessions are currently scheduled for one Wednesday morning every three months at 10:00 a.m.

(CST) and will last approximately 1 1/2 to 2 hours each session. YOU MUST REGISTER FOR EACH DATE SEPARATELY!

<https://tngs.org/event-6467069> and <https://snoislegenealogy.org/eventListings.php?nm=76>

A Fun Look at Fashion: What Did Your Ancestors Wear? Thurs, Feb. 12, 6:30 – 7:30 pm ET, with Stacie Murry, Allen County Public Library. Take a fun trip through the fashion choices of the last couple hundred years. You will learn how to recognize the styles of the various eras and see how they tie into the history of the time. You will discover what your ancestors wore and why and learn to identify clues to date pictures. <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/15525831>

Reimagining Family History Storytelling in a World - Transformed by Data, Tues, Feb. 17, 2:30 – 3:30 pm ET, with Barbara, Allen County Public Library. Every family historian and genealogist sweats over the facts. We dig into the stuff our ancestors left behind to gather more facts and more context. Stories help us make sense of the data we find, what we're told, and what doesn't add up. Sometimes logic closes the gap, and sometimes we leap to conclusions. Stories introduce subjectivity, but without them, the data can be hollow. Narratives let us explore context, deduce reasoning, and connect decisions. This talk will focus on family history storytelling in a modern context. In a world where AI and DNA innovations have transformed our access to data and new storytelling forms are invented overnight, it's time we re-invent how we look at family storytelling, update how we capture and preserve what we've learned, and visualize where it can go from here. <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/15551991>

Genealogy Jumpstart: Court Records, Tues., Feb. 17, 1 – 2:30 pm MST, Katie Stilp, Appleton Public Library. Court isn't just for the black sheep of the family. You may be surprised to find even your well-behaved ancestors in various court records! In this session we'll discuss the different types of court records and how to locate them. Note that probate records will be discussed separately during the March 24th session. Register in advance:

<https://appleton-wi.whofi.com/calendar/event/1299435> and

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vu32gBuTRkqk8Dic5Rcjw#/registration

From Church Archives to KGB Archives, Thurs, Feb. 19, 6:30 – 7:30 pm ET, with Carolyn Schott, Allen County Public Library. Follow the tale of a German family that immigrated to Russia. After years of peaceful prosperity, the fate of two branches of the family diverge. One branch immigrates to the U.S. while the other suffers under the Soviet regime, losing their homes and, for some, their lives. We'll blend historical events and records used to document the story of this family. <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/15525898>

Two-Sibling Visual Phasing with DNA Painter, with John Motzi, Feb. 22, 1 pm Pacific, Global Jewish Genealogy Society. Non-members pay \$5.00, Zoom link will be sent the week of the event. Visual Phasing can be performed using just two siblings! This methodology uses DNA Painter Chromosome Maps of known matches, combined with inferred segments & traditional visual phasing techniques. It identifies DNA segments shared among siblings and cousins to determine which segments were inherited from which grandparents, even without parent testing. <https://www.globaljgs.org/upcoming-events/> and https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=K3BLXE6K4R3BS

From Poltava by Open Wagon, to a New Life on Unfamiliar Land by David Chernushenko, Tues, Feb. 24, 7:30 pm Eastern, Ukrainian Genealogy Group – National Capital Region (Ottawa), <https://uggncr.org/next-webinar/>

Researching Ships and Maritime History in Genealogy: ShipIndex.org and Much More, Wed., Feb. 25, 6 pm EST, Peter McCracken, New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. Free online webinar but registration is required. Ships play a critical role in genealogical research—not only as a means by which our ancestors emigrated, but also as places where they worked, served, played, or traveled. Researching vessels can lead to meaningful insights into our ancestors' lives: learning the history of a naval ship on which an ancestor served—even if the ancestor is not mentioned by name—can reveal important details about their experiences. <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/events/researching-ships-and-maritime-history-genealogy-shipindexorg-and-much-more>

Genealogical research in Ukraine: what and where look for sources? Roots Tech 2026, March 5, 9:30 am (GMT-7), Olena Vladyka will be presenting a live webinar. If one of your ancestors came from Ukraine and you want to uncover more

about your family's past — this session is for you. I'll walk you through the key types of records that hold valuable family details and show you how to access them. We'll look at both online resources and strategies for working directly with Ukrainian archives. This session will help you fill in the missing pages of your family story.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/session/genealogical-research-in-ukraine-what-and-where-look-for-sources>

Click Into Ukraine: Online Resources for Tracing Your Ancestry, Roots Tech 2026, March 7, 8 am (GMT-7), Michelle Chubenko will be presenting a live webinar. Participants will learn how to trace their Ukrainian ancestry using the best online resources available for genealogical research. This session guides attendees through websites offering access to metrical records, maps, newspapers, and gazetteers covering Galicia, Imperial Russia, Interwar Poland, and modern Ukraine. Discover how to navigate digitized archival collections from Ukrainian and Polish archives, use diaspora organization websites for research support, and connect with other researchers through message boards and online communities. Attendees will gain practical tools and clear steps to advance their Ukrainian family history research from anywhere in the world.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/session/click-into-ukraine-online-resources-for-tracing-your-ancestry>

Searching for Your Jewish Family from Belarus with Joe Everett, March 8, 1 pm Pacific, Global Jewish Genealogy Society. Non-members pay \$5.00, Zoom link will be sent the week of the event. Tracing your Jewish family in Belarus has many challenges. The history is complex, with many border changes in a land that has been a battle ground for centuries. The Holocaust devastated Belarusian shtetls and urban Jewish communities. <https://www.globaljgs.org/upcoming-events/> and https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=7U2L9CUKUNKX2

Notarial Records in Poland: Treasure Troves of Family History, Roots Tech 2026, March 5-7, Dawid Walendowski and Anna Wiernicka, <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/schedule>

2026 Class Preview. You can get a sneak peek at all of the new sessions coming to **RootsTech in 2026**. This list changes frequently, so come back often and plan to start building your schedule in January.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/schedule/preview>

Plan Your RootsTech 2026 Schedule by Annie Lincoln, posted Jan. 8, FamilySearch Blog

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/rootstech-2026-schedule>

In-Depth Study: Migrations of our Ancestors and the History of Yiddish, with Alexander Beider, Sunday, March 22, 1 pm Pacific. Global Jewish Genealogy Society. Non-members pay \$5.00, Zoom link will be sent the week of the event. Come study the origins of Yiddish as a tool to unravel the history of the Jewish people and how it relates to our ancestral research. Several alternative theories exist about the origins of Eastern European Jews. It shows us the importance of migrations from Central Europe, implying that ancestors of East European Ashkenazim lived in the Middle Ages primarily in two regions: West German provinces and the Czech lands. The study of the development of Yiddish allows us to critically evaluate some of these theories. This was the main aim of Beider's work in "Origins of Yiddish Dialects" (Oxford University Press, 2015). <https://www.globaljgs.org/upcoming-events/> and

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=3TJ8QW3JFY5R2

RootsTech 2026 Recap: MyHeritage's Announcements, with Daniel Horowitz, Tues, March 24, 12 pm MDT, Legacy Family Tree Webinars, free to register and watch but if there is a handout then you must be a member.

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/rootstech-2026-recap-myheritages-announcements/>

Genealogy Jumpstart: Probate Records, Tues., March 24, 1-2:30 pm MST, with Katie Stilp, Appleton Public Library. What happened to your ancestor's possessions after their death? What happened if they didn't have a will? Join us to learn more about probate records, how to locate them, and what information they may contain to help you put together the pieces of your family tree. Must register in advance. <https://appleton-wi.whofi.com/calendar/event/1299436>

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EZ5uJB5YTmGZuLh9XP3-3w#/registration

Getting Started in Family History Research, March 28, 1-2 on ET, (cost \$15 US) with Melanie McComb, American Ancestors. Anyone can do family history research! In this one-hour lecture, you will learn about key resources, strategies, and first steps to discovering and recording your family history. We will also demonstrate how to use important organizational tools, such as the multi-generational chart, family group sheet, and research log. And you will learn how to create a solid research plan. Note: same session again on May 23. <https://my.americanancestors.org/2748/3423>

Using AI to Research Documents & Letters presented by Mark Thompson. May 4, Free Zoom but pre-registration is required. Kelowna & District Genealogical Society. Do you have old family letters and documents waiting to be explored? In this beginner-friendly session, learn how artificial intelligence can assist you in analyzing and researching your family's personal archives. From summarizing key points to quickly identifying names and relationships, AI tools like ChatGPT, Gemini, and Claude can help you speed up your research. You'll also learn how to responsibly use some of the amazing, but riskier, aspects of AI like transcription and translation. Join Mark Thompson to learn how AI can lighten the load and help you reveal the rich history hidden in your family archive! <https://kdgs.ca/updates/events/>

Work, Craft, and Calling: Understanding Ancestral Occupations, Fri., May 15 to Sat. May 16, various speakers, online live event. New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. Bringing our ancestors to life means going beyond their names and dates for births, marriages, and deaths. What were their lives really like? Occupations are often included in census records, but how can we flesh out details about our ancestors' work lives? Please join the NYG&B for an online two-day seminar on ancestral occupations. Experts will lead sessions about professions ranging from apprenticeships to blacksmithing to the performing arts. Dive into eight different professional paths, and learn about available resources and how to locate and interpret key records. <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/events/work-craft-and-calling-understanding-ancestral-occupations>

Landscape of Dreams: Jewish Genealogy in Canada, Sunday, May 17, 2 – 4 pm (double check time zone), with Kaye Prince-Hollenberg. JGS of New York. Contact: program@jgsny.org for Zoom link. The landscape of Canada is extensive, and so are our genealogy resources! This session will look at accessing some of the most common Canadian genealogy documents available online including census, immigration, military, and vital records. We'll also explore the abundant number of Canadian Jewish specific resources including archives and heritage organizations, newspapers, and digitized books. <https://jgsny.org/programs-civilrepeat.detail/2026/05/17/158/-/landscape-of-dreams-jewish-genealogy-in-canada>

The **PastPort Guide: Galician Genealogy** is your essential research companion, designed to help you uncover, document, and understand your family's Galician heritage. Sign-up for the waitlist, Michelle Chubenko, <https://genealogy.chubenko.us/pastport-guide-galician-genealogy>

Workbook for Research in Galicia, Austria-Hungary – Digital Only, \$25US, (a hardcopy is in the works). The Workbook for Research in Galicia, Austria-Hungary was created to be your companion for exploring and documenting your ancestral roots in the historical crownland of Galicia. Designed with both beginning and experienced researchers in mind, this workbook provides essential strategies, instructional content, and hands-on exercises to support your progress. <https://genealogy.chubenko.us/workbook-archives-galicia>

Stuck in Galicia. What to do when metrical records don't exit. Michelle Chubenko. Download PDF file at <https://genealogy.chubenko.us/what-to-do-metrical-records>

Metro Continuing Education, Edmonton Public Schools, Adult Online Learning

Includes but not limited to, Write Your Life Story, Beginners Guide to Getting Published, The Keys to Effective Editing, Write and Publish Your Nonfiction Book, Photography Suite, Creative Writing Value Suite, Beginning Writers Workshop, Writing Essentials, Discover Digital Photography, Grammar Refresher etc. Instructor-moderated and self-guided options. <https://www.metrocontinuingeducation.ca/adult-continuing-education/online-learning/>
<https://www.ed2go.com/metro/SearchResults.aspx#SearchBar>

FamilySearch Library Webinars, Ongoing and repeated sessions, <https://www.facebook.com/familysearchlibrary>

FamilySearch Library Classes and Webinars (archives and not current info.), note the links to webinars on YouTube and handout links. (was updated in May then in Sept.)

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/FamilySearch_Library_Classes_and_Webinars

February Live Discussions, Family Search.org

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/events/>

Legacy Family Tree Webinars, Upcoming Webinars

<https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars/> and in their Webinar Library, you can choose from 2,325 classes at <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar-library/>

Family Tree Magazine has free resources and newsletters at <https://familytreemagazine.com/newsletter-signup/> and

<https://university.familytreemagazine.com/collections> (*cost money to take*) and

<https://store.familytreemagazine.com/learn/> (*various costs per session*).

Genealogy Conferences, to Spring 2026, Family Search Blog, includes Culturally Focused Conferences

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/genealogy-conferences-2025>

Articles, videos, publications, etc.:

Himka, John-Paul. "**Galicia and Bukovina: A Research Handbook About Western Ukraine, Late 19th - 20th Centuries**". Edmonton, Alberta: Alberta Culture & Multiculturalism, 1990.

<https://dn790003.ca.archive.org/0/items/galiciabukovinar00himk/galiciabukovinar00himk.pdf>

Books: Recommended Resource Materials, Ukrainian Genealogy Group – National Capital Region (Ottawa)

<https://uggncr.org/books/>

Ukrainian Genealogy: A Beginner's Guide, John D. Pihach, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press, 2007

<https://diasporiana.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/books/24499/file.pdf>

<https://archive.org/details/ukrainiangenealo00piha>

Ukraine, Western Ukraine, Catholic Church Book Duplicates, 1600-1937, Indexes of baptisms through 1900 and images of baptisms, marriages, and deaths for Catholics living in the parishes of Eastern Galicia (Galizien), a province of the Austrian Empire, now located in western Ukraine. The records are duplicates created by priests for the civil authorities. Austrian place names are used in the browse because the records pre-date the period when the area belonged to Ukraine. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1910265>

How to Find Old Family Records in Ukraine, Ukraine Roots, <https://www.ukraineroots.com/genealogy/finding-records>

Ancestral Towns' Facebook Groups, Lara's Jewnealogy blog, posted on Jan. 19. You may belong to a Facebook group that covers your neighborhood or town. Most of what's discussed probably isn't of interest to people not currently living there--you'll see items for local sale, complaints about traffic or roads, and similar things. There are usually similar groups for your towns of origin, and I encourage you to join them, because amongst those posts that won't be of interest to you, you might find genealogical gems that you might not have found otherwise. These aren't those genealogy-specific groups (which are great resources as well) but rather the groups that cover people's day-to-day lives.

<https://larasgenealogy.blogspot.com/2026/01/ancestral-towns-facebook-groups.html>

Is MyHeritage Worth It for Genealogy Research? A Look at Features, DNA, and Value, by Will at Ancestral Findings blog

<https://ancestralfindings.com/is-myheritage-com-worth-the-money-for-your-genealogy-research/>

When the Records Begin Speaking Again, by Will at Ancestral Findings blog, posted on Jan. 16.

<https://ancestralfindings.com/when-the-records-begin-speaking-again/>

The Years the Records Forgot, by Will at Ancestral Findings blog, posted on Jan. 14.

<https://ancestralfindings.com/the-years-the-records-forgot/>

Confessions of a Genealogist: Why I Cannot Stop Digging, by Will at Ancestral Findings blog, posted on Jan. 12

<https://ancestralfindings.com/why-i-love-genealogy/>

No Records, No Problem, by Will at Ancestral Findings blog, posted on Jan. 07.

<https://ancestralfindings.com/no-records-no-problem/>

The One Line on Death Records That Genealogists Always Check (And You're Probably Ignoring), by Marc McDermott, Genealogy Explained Blog, posted on Jan. 15, <https://www.genealogyexplained.com/blog/the-one-line-on-death-records-that-genealogists-always-check-and-youre-probably-ignoring/>

IAP Career College: Investigating Its Genealogist Certificate Program, by Thomas MacEntee. Genealogists are an inquisitive bunch by nature – we know here to dig for facts. So when an online school called IAP Career College offers a “Professional Genealogist Certificate” for only \$149 and promises a quick path to your dream career, my scam radar starts buzzing. <https://genealogybargains.com/iap-career-college/>

Whose Prompt Is It Anyway? Navigating AI, Copyright Law, and Prompt Plagiarism, by Thomas MacEntee. If you have spent any time in the genealogy community lately, you have noticed that AI prompts have become the new hot commodity. Prompt libraries, prompt packs, prompt optimization services. Everyone seems to be using them, sharing them, or arguing about whether someone stole theirs. The questions are piling up faster than unprocessed census images. <https://genealogybargains.com/whose-prompt-is-it-anyway/>

The Naked Truth About Citations: Stripped Bare Guide to Citing and Using History Sources, by Thomas MacEntee. If you can't prove where you found that 1840 birth record, or if you can't lead another researcher back to that exact same digital image on a microfilm of an original ledger, your hard work might as well be written in sand. This is why I am a fierce advocate for the work of Elizabeth Shown Mills. She didn't just write the book on citations; she defined the standard that keeps our family histories from being dismissed as fiction.

<https://genealogybargains.com/the-naked-truth-about-citations/>

4 Ways to Jog Your Memories for Recording Your Own History, by Sunny Jane Morton, Family Tree Magazine. Struggling to remember part of your past? Check out these four quick ways to spark memories from the author of a workbook on capturing stories of a lifetime.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/storytelling/4-ways-to-jog-your-memories-preserve-your-history/>

22 Online Historical Photo Databases, by Maureen A. Taylor, Family Tree Magazine. Includes the Library and Archives Canada. Step into your ancestors' world with the historical photos in these 22 free online archives.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/photos/online-historical-photo-databases/>

Find Genealogy Clues in Old Home Movies, by Maureen A. Taylor, Family Tree Magazine. Your old home movies are filled with family history. Learn how to preserve these treasures and mine them for research clues.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/preservation/genealogy-home-movies/>

Your 2026 Genealogy Research Plan (Organized By Month), by Sunny Jane Morton, Family Tree Magazine. If you're like me, as each new year settles in, you fill the blank pages of your calendar quickly—too quickly. But this year, elevate your family history research to a priority worthy of its own spot in your schedule. Whether you mark off 15 minutes a day, an hour a week, or a weekend binge every month is up to you.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/research/genealogy-research-plan/>

An Alternative Way to Research Your Ancestors' Immigration to the US, by Yan Sandler, posted Jan. 18, MyHeritage Blog
Consequently, when we look for documentation, we instinctively focus on inbound traffic. We search through Ellis Island New York Passenger Lists, U.S. Customs manifests, and various immigration and naturalization records. While these records are foundational, they represent only the "arrival" side of a much larger story. Focusing solely on inbound records is like reading the final chapter of a book without ever seeing the beginning. To get the full picture of an ancestor's journey, we must look at the "flip side" of the Atlantic: the records of their departure.

<https://blog.myheritage.com/2026/01/an-alternative-way-to-research-your-ancestors-immigration-to-the-us/>

Genetic Mutations That Turned Into Common Human Traits by David Ridd, posted on Jan. 14, MyHeritage Blog.

If you've ever needed glasses, were popular for being double-jointed on the playground, or wondered why some people can roll their tongues while others can't, you've brushed up against genetic mutation — even if you've never thought of it that way. Most of us grow up hearing the word "mutation" in extreme terms, often linked to disease, extreme rarity, or the X-Men. In reality, many of the traits we consider normal, inconvenient, or even mildly useful began as small genetic changes. Over time, some of those changes stuck, spreading through populations and becoming part of everyday human variation. Understanding how genetic mutations turn into common traits offers a different way to think about ancestry and helps to connect your personal quirks to a deep human history.

<https://blog.myheritage.com/2026/01/genetic-mutations-that-turned-into-common-human-traits/>

On a side note:

February 2 is **Groundhog Shadow Day**, involves the tradition of a groundhog predicting the weather, with roots in ancient customs and folklore. If it does not see its shadow, an early spring is expected. If it does see its shadow, it will retreat back, indicating six more weeks of winter.

February 16 is **Family Day** in Alberta, Canada. This day is designed to give employees time to spend with their families and falls between New Year's Day and Good Friday.

The first week of February 1st to 7th is **Shape up with Pickles Time**.

<https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/shape-up-with-pickles-time/>



February 14 is **Valentine's Day** in Canada and Ukraine, and February 24 in Ukraine is the **National Day of Prayer**.

Valentine's Day can be traced back to a story of St Valentine, a Roman priest who was martyred on or around February 14 in the year 270 CE. How he became the patron saint of lovers remains a mystery but one theory is that the church used the day of St Valentine's martyrdom to Christianize the old Roman Lupercalia, a pagan festival held around the middle of February. It is believed that part of a relic belonging to St Valentine was in Ukraine during the 1900s and is now kept in a church in Sambir, western Ukraine. Source: <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/ukraine/valentine-day>

The month of February is **National Embroidery Month**.

<https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/national-embroidery-month/>

Did you know? (per Genealogy in Galicia, January 2026, Michelle Chubenkno)

Official Name: Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria

Date of Annexation: 5 August 1772

Population: about 2.2 million, including Polish nobles, Ruthenian/Ukrainian and Polish peasants, and substantial Jewish communities.

Administrative Districts: Initially 6 districts (cyrkuły/Kreise), by 1782 there were 18 districts.

Official Language: German was the principal official and administrative language

First Map: First Military Survey by the Austrian General Quartermaster Staff cartographers under direction of Lieutenant Colonel Friedrich von Mieg. Mapping was completed in 1783.

<https://maps.arcanum.com/en/map/europe-18century-firstsurvey/>



The newest release of Alberta's Vital Statistics has officially been transferred to Provincial Archives of Alberta to prepare to make them publicly accessible. Vital Statistics, the official birth, marriage and death registrations for the province of Alberta are the most frequently accessed records in our entire collection. They are a key resource for genealogists, family historians and anyone tracing the stories woven through Alberta's past.

For 2026, we can now begin preparing access to:

- 1905 Births
- 1950 Marriages
- 1975 Deaths

Although the records are now in the building, the real work begins here. Processing these records takes many hands, many steps, coordination, teamwork and a great deal of care before they can be made available public order online. Over the next several weeks, we'll keep you posted in "reel" time as we move through these steps and stages including unboxing, assessing the condition of the records, preparing the records for scanning, preservation and listing these highly anticipated records for public access.

Stay tuned and follow along as we take you behind the scenes of this enormous and exciting archival undertaking that we embark on each new year! To learn more about Vital Statistics visit:

Source: posted on Jan. 16, to the Provincial Archives of Alberta, Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/www.provincialarchivesofalberta> and
<https://provincialarchives.alberta.ca/how-to/find-birth-marriage-and-death-records>

Hello to all genealogy researchers! 😊 My name is Katarzyna Rodacka, I'm from Poland and I'm currently writing a non-fiction book about searching for roots in Poland. 📖 This will be my second book; the first was a historical reportage about Poles in Iran during World War II. The book was published in Polish by ZNAK Publishing House in April 2025. I also have experience writing in-depth articles on social issues and human rights.

🗨️ I'm writing this post because I'm looking for interviewees for my book. So if:

- Your ancestors are from Poland
- They come from a religious, ethnic, or national minority and lived in Poland (this is a key aspect for me)
- You are conducting your own genealogical research, perhaps even planning a trip to Poland to visit places connected with your ancestors and you would like to share your family history and the history of your research for the book, let me know! 😊 I'd be happy to arrange an online meeting and talk about your story.

I have to say that "participation" in my book project does not involve remuneration. If this is your story and the story of your ancestors waiting to be told, please send me an email: k.rodacka@gmail.com ✉️ Of course, I'm happy to answer any questions you may have about this project (by email it will be faster than here on FB 😊). As an illustration, I include a photo of me working on my previous book. Source: GALICIAN Cousins and Ancestors - help, searches, our trees and news Facebook page by Katarzyna Rodacka, Jan. 9, 2026. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1684589002330849/>

Things I have learnt so far reading Greek Catholic records - the Ukrainian names are Latinised or Polonised so you need to find the corresponding name. Single mothers could be judged or marginalised. Families married into other "friendship" families sometimes for generations.

They were semi-arranged marriages but you could refuse. House numbers matter in the church books not just because it was the literal house number but because that's the order they followed to record the families so even if the village wasn't noted the house number patterns give you clues.

Godparents could be kin, or friends. Children with questioned parentage or no guardians could be registered as being at a stable household to give them a number instead of leaving it blank. Multiple repeated names in one family - it was an honour not just if someone had passed away.

Common surnames existed as did the repeated first names so to differentiate between families looking at their profession, friendship/marriage group, godparents and house numbers is key.

Not all records are complete, many aren't digitised. If they're not even scanned online a Ukrainian archive is your next best bet. Be prepared to read a lot of handwriting ranging from "beautiful copperplate" "spider ink" "was this priest drunk and late for dinner"

If you read this far, I hope you found it useful. Feel free to add your own observations or tips and happy new year

Source: Ukrainian Family Tree, Facebook page, Melanie Kowal, posted on Dec. 31, 2025.

How in the XVIII century read the status of Ukrainian without words?

If you want to understand who Ukrainians were centuries ago, look beyond the documents - look at a woman who goes to church on Sunday.

Her clothes were more than just nice.

He told everything: from which family she came from, whether she was rich, married, able to work, or has generational strength.

The status was not hidden back then. He was carried in the open.

- A shirt is a thing for life!

Ukrainian shirt of the XVIII century was not bought. She was created for months: sewing threads, weaving canvas, embroidered in the evenings under the light of the lamp.

White embroidery on white was considered the most difficult. The blue threads were a rarity. Such a shirt cost dearly - sometimes like good cattle.

The zamnoï girl in the chest could have had several dozens of shirts.

This was her supply for life: a dowry, a guarantee for the future, an inheritance for children.

The shirt wasn't out of fashion and wasn't znečinuvalasâ. She was protected, sewn and passed on.

- A necklace that spoke louder than words!

The neck of the Ukrainian woman was a language open account.

Corals - real, brought from afar - cost very much. One number could have equated to a cow. And if there were many, everyone understood: the family has plenty.

Salbi with coins rang when walking. It wasn't just a noise — it was a warning: in front of you, a woman of weight in the community.

Zgardi - crosses on chains - combined beauty and faith. And the glass beads from Venice showed: even in the village people knew the world and had access to it.

- Dukac is a sign of respect!

Dukach - a large coin with ornament - was special.

It wasn't just bought. It was given to a woman who could keep a home, work and be a support for the family.

A woman with a dukacem attracted respect.

You could live without him.

With him, you were seen differently.

- The hair and the honor!

Everything was clear in those days.

The wreath and braids meant: the girl is free.

Handkerchief meant: woman married.

Married to show hair - it was a great shame. Hence and the word "shame away" - literally show what shouldn't have been shown.

- Why it's important to remember!

We were taught for a long time that Ukrainians were poor and simple. This is not true. We appreciated beauty, difficult work, gold, symbols. Even in difficult times, we didn't give up on dignity. Ukrainian style is not just embroidery. This is a language. The language of abundance, honor and self-respect. Conclusion: people who are used to living beautifully and dignified, will never agree to live around. Source: Ми Українці Facebook page, posted on Jan. 21, original in Ukrainian and translated to English via Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ukrainians2021>



What are your favorite websites? Elaine is in the process of creating a website for UGG Edmonton and is interested in your input. What would you like to see on our UGG Edmonton website? Email your suggestions to her at kalyna@outlook.com



Please note that Ukraine Genealogy Group – Edmonton and Area Society does not control the content of any of the websites listed above and has no commercial ties to them, except for Trace Your Roots – Ukrainian Canadian Genealogy®, blog, our affiliate partner. If you choose to visit or interact with these external sites, you do so at your own discretion.