

Ukraine Genealogy Group (UGG) of Edmonton and Area Society, Alberta March 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.

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. Instead, we will focus more on the Research Club and building a website.



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 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/>

Trace Your Roots – Ukrainian Canadian Genealogy® Elaine’s blog is <https://ukrainiancanadiangenealogy.blogspot.com/> Note that this blog is now over 15,250 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.

Elaine is currently working on the second volume of the Stetsko Family History book. Her great grandmother was Anastasia Stetsko who married Elko Kalynchuk on February 26, 1888, in the village of Strilkivci, Borschiv district, Galicia. The in-laws include: Antoniychuk, Rybylo, Palinka, Bcyk, Chawrun, Ferbey, Lesyk, Matlock, Evasiuk, Libich, Skakun, Jurak, Lukash, Kalynchuk, Wispinski and Banas.

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>

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/

The Russo-Ukrainian War through a Historian's Eyes with Serhii Plokyh, March 6, 6:30 pm, In-person and Zoom registrations, Engineering Teaching & Learning Complex (ETLC E1-001) (Ground Floor), 9120 116 St NW, Edmonton, AB University of Alberta. Join us as we welcome the well-known historian and author Serhii Plokyh from Harvard University, who will deliver the 60th Shevchenko Lecture. <https://www.ualberta.ca/en/canadian-institute-of-ukrainian-studies/news-and-events/annual-lectures/shevchenko-lecture/2026-shevchenko-lecture.html>

Publishing Your Family Story, Sat., March 7, 10 am – 12 noon, in-person, Alberta Genealogical Society, Edmonton Library, 162, 14315 – 118 Ave., Edmonton. A panel will present ideas for formatting and publishing your Family History story. Examine the many examples that will be on hand.

<https://www.abgenealogy.ca/discovery-series-publishing-your-family-story-event>

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>

AI for Genealogy - Risks and Benefits with Kelcey Carlisle, Technology for Genealogy SIG, Edmonton Branch, AGS. Thurs. March 19, online (Zoom), Planned Topics:

- AI (Artificial Intelligence) overview
- Risks and challenges of AI use
- Genealogy related AI use cases
- Practical examples
- Group discussion - AI successes and failures <https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/technology-for-genealogy-sig>

Genealogy: An Introduction to DNA and Genealogy with Kathleen Rae, March 20, 1 – 4 pm, 9350 – 82 Street, Edmonton, in-person only, member of SEESA fee is \$60 and non-member session fee is \$70. Curious about DNA testing for genealogy? This beginner workshop with genealogist Kathleen Rae uses her own DNA results to show what's possible. Learn about major testing sites, how to use your results, key strategies, ethical concerns, and how companies handle your data. Manual included in fee. <https://seesa.ca/product/genealogy-an-introduction-to-dna-and-genealogy/>

ACUA Easter Market, March 28, 11 am to 3 pm, ACUA members 10 am, 10554 – 110 Street, Edmonton. Note: confirmed vendors so far are listed on this web link at <https://acuarts.ca/whats-on/acuas-easter-market/>

Visit the Alberta Provincial Archives, Wed, April 1, Westend Seniors Activity Centre. We are off-site visiting the Alberta Provincial Archives at 8555 Roper Rd. NW, Edmonton for an afternoon of research in their Research Library. Arrival is at

1:00 PM with access to closing at 4:30 PM. Pre-registration is required, please contact Paul at prose0849@gmail.com for details. Visitors are to provide their own transportation to the Archives.

https://weseniors.ca/whats_new/genealogy-drop-in-class/

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/>

<https://acuarts.ca/whats-on/ukrainian-music-on-the-prairies/>

Googling for Grandma, Wed. May 6, 1 - 3 pm, \$3.00 drop-in fee, WSAC Boardroom, Westend Seniors Activity Centre, 9629 – 176 Street, Edmonton. Facilitated by Ashley Rother on the topic of "Googling for Grandma". The presentation will look at the Power of Google when researching, places to find a woman's maiden name, and understanding the cousin DNA relationship chart to discover one's most recent common ancestors.

https://weseniors.ca/whats_new/genealogy-drop-in-class/

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/>

What to do with My Family History? Wed., June 3, 1 - 3 pm, \$3.00 drop-in fee, WSAC Boardroom, Westend Seniors Activity Centre, 9629 – 176 Street, Edmonton. Jean-Yves Vanier-Verbeek will speak on the topic of "What To Do with My Family History?". He will provide insight into the various options that we have to perpetuate the records and history of our family for future generations. This is a much-discussed issue for family historians and one that should offer some options and suggestions. https://weseniors.ca/whats_new/genealogy-drop-in-class/

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:

Reconstructing Invisible Lives: A Genealogical Case Study in Evidence, Method, and Stubbornness with Linda Yip, March 2, 7 pm Pacific, KDGS members free, non-members \$10. Kelowna & District Genealogical Society. A one-hour case study on what to do when the records aren't there. Using a central BC research problem, this talk shows how a woman who barely appears in traditional sources can be rediscovered through tax rolls, court files, and business records. It explores why women, especially racialized women, are often missing from the historical record, and how methods can turn absence into evidence. Attendees will see practical strategies for using local records, legal documents, and negative evidence to solve complex cases. The presentation offers fresh perspectives for experienced researchers and usable techniques for those still building their skills. If you've ever hit a brick wall and wondered where the women went, this case study shows how it could be done. <https://kdgs.ca/2026/march-general-meeting/>

Exploring German Genealogy, March 2 – 29, Family Tree University. In this 4-week course (56 lessons), join Stephen Wendt as he helps you track your German ancestors, starting in the United States, heading across the Atlantic, and landing in their village of origin in their home country.

<https://university.familytreemagazine.com/courses/exploring-german-genealogy-march-2026>

Learning Your Family History, Tues., March 3, 2:30 – 3:30 pm ET, Allen County Public Library. What will be covered: Practical steps to help you explore your family history sharing tools and resources to aid in your genealogy research. Janice Smithers passion for genealogy began at a young age, sparked by the stories her grandmother shared — stories that often held just a kernel of truth. Those tales did lead her down path though of exploring my family's stories of military heroism, workers' rights, westward migration, tragic crimes, and the effect of past pandemics. The hallmark of her research approach is ensuring that events and stories are supported by multiple, reliable sources. Information can be recorded, transcribed, or handed down imperfectly — reconciling those inconsistencies is her favorite part of her work, backed by over 20 years of experience as an analyst. To register: <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/15848089>

Women's History Month Kickoff: Exploring Women's Stories in America 250, Ancestry Virtual Event Series, March 4, 11 am MST. With Crista Cowan. As America marks its 250th year, Women's History Month offers a powerful opportunity to explore the lives of the women who shaped your family's story. In this session, Crista Cowan highlights the records, research strategies, and historical context that can help you uncover the experiences of the women in your family tree. You'll learn how to bring their often-overlooked stories into focus and understand their contributions within the broader arc of American history. You'll leave inspired to honor the women who influenced your family's journey across generations. https://events.zoom.us/j/ArLFPU7qWBVHPpVaPcR162tO-o23GmxXJoTeE46cc34hoRmJqS1v~Agp5wtF3n7sbhKn76kgvUcrFCRC01FBg9qU4dfCF_zTgp4i1GQPbW08-sQ

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>

The Magic of Recording a Voice, a Story and a Family History, Tues., March 10, 2:30 – 3:30 pm ET. Presented by Joe Collins, Allen County Public Library. You can create time travel. I remember the expectation I had in 2006 when I popped a simple audio cassette tape into a player and hit "play." What followed was pure magic, the actual voice of my beloved Grandma Bir. It was like music to me. In 1979 my cousins sat down with grandma and asked her all sorts of questions about her life, her marriage, her kids. The stories she told were golden and full of emotion and humor, and suddenly, I had a deeper understanding of the beauty, the struggles and the victories that made up her life as she and grandpa had raised seven children during the great depression. Grandma died the next year.

To Register: <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/15905474>

Ancestry Search Tips and Tricks, March 11, 11 am MDT, with Crista Cowan. Whether you just started exploring your family tree or you've been at it for a while and have hit the proverbial genealogy brick wall, this webinar will give you practical tools to dig deeper and make meaningful discoveries in your family tree. From simple but effective searches to more advanced tips and tricks, we'll help you track down recent census records, birth certificates, immigration documents, and more. You'll be telling our ancestors' stories in no time!

<https://events.zoom.us/j/8z13gcSdt9pLmct8A~AgqZm0HqhM5UYkT-mKsKnnX4Qsvxuv5c3hfLHzP2bsqdQuTQ-vRnqRo95A>

Romania: More than Dracula with Vicki Albu, March 14, 11 am Eastern Time, Eastern Europe SIG, Ontario Genealogical Society. Vicki is a co-founder and past president of Romanian Genealogy Society of Minnesota. When people think of Romania, many immediately mention Dracula. Learn the real story of Vlad Tepeş and his connection to Bram Stoker's famous vampire, then explore the rich history, culture, and genealogy resources Romania offers. The presenter will share experiences from a 2016 visit, including hiring professional genealogists and tour guides and a visit to a branch of the National Archives of Romania. This session is ideal for anyone interested in Romania, whether or not they have Romanian ancestry. <https://easterneurope.ogs.on.ca/noteworthy-events/>

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

Workshop: Beginning Research in Galicia, March 22, 10 am – 2 pm, Zoom, \$97 US. Take the guesswork out of research in Galicia. In this interactive workshop, you'll learn how to confidently research ancestors from the historic region of Galicia using proven strategies, practical tools, and step-by-step guidance from an expert genealogist.

<https://genealogy.chubenko.us/workshop-beginning-research-in-galicia-march>

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>

Organizing AI Research: Saving and Searching Your Best Genealogy Chats with Peggy Jude, Legacy Family Tree Webinar, Tues., March 31, 7 pm MDT, register for free but need a membership if there is a handout. AI chatbots are transforming genealogy, but how do you make sure your most important discoveries aren't lost in a sea of conversations? This practical session will show you how to collect, organize, search, and future-proof your best LLM (Large Language Model) chats—across platforms like ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini. You'll learn step-by-step workflows, smart tagging and annotation, and automated tools to find and preserve your key research insights. Ensure your most important chats don't get lost, forgotten, or accidentally deleted.

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/organizing-ai-research-saving-and-searching-your-best-genealogy-chats/>

DNA Matches: Getting Answers from Unresponsive Cousins with Kate Penney Howard, Legacy Family Tree Webinar, Wed. April 1, 10:45 am MDT, register for free but need a membership if there is a handout. Near the top of your match list, you've got this mystery match that just might be the key to your research. The only problem is: they don't have a visible tree and they didn't respond to the message you sent two years ago. But that doesn't mean that you should give up! This class will give users of every skill level more tools to crack that difficult case.

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/dna-matches-getting-answers-from-unresponsive-cousins/>

Cluster and Collateral Research with Lisa A. Alzo, April 6 – May 3, Family Tree University, 45 lessons. Looking for new ways to search for your ancestors and add to your family tree? Collateral research focuses on indirect and distant relatives and cluster research looks at those who don't share blood but may have lived nearby.

<https://university.familytreemagazine.com/courses/cluster-and-collateral-research-april-2026>

Using Timelines to Focus Your Research, with Susan Ball, Wed., April 8, 10 – 11:30 am CDT, Tennessee Genealogical Society. Virtual via GoToWebinar. The most important tool you can use to research your ancestor is a timeline. Learn how to construct a timeline for your ancestor and use it to uncover previously overlooked avenues for research.

To register: <https://tngs.org/event-6574818>

Unlock Hidden Family Records with FamilySearch's Cutting Edge Artificial Intelligence Technology with Todd Knowles, Sunday, April 12, 1 pm Pacific, Global Jewish Genealogy Society. Non-members pay \$5.00, Zoom link will be sent the week of the event. This NEW AI-Powered Full-Text Search is a genealogy game changer. Todd Knowles will dive into FamilySearch's powerful new AI Full-Text Search feature- and show you exactly how to use it to uncover records you never knew existed. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned family historian, this tool can help you break through brick walls by searching the entire contents of historical documents — not just the indexed parts but unindexed documents too.

<https://globaljigs.org/upcoming-events/> and

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=7KCTCSMBDHKUA

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/>

Google Earth for Genealogists with Lisa Louise Cooke, May 4-31, Family Tree University. Travel in your ancestors' footsteps with Google Earth. This tool for genealogists will help you pinpoint the starting location of your immigrant ancestors and experience faraway locations to bring depth and a new perspective to your family history.
<https://university.familytreemagazine.com/courses/google-earth-for-genealogists-may-2026>

Have Questions? Get Answers, next zoom sessions are on May 5, Sept. 8 and Nov. 3. (6 pm Edmonton), Michelle Chubenko, she has transitioned to quarterly FREE Zoom sessions, are not recorded but can download the session chat. There will be more details in her monthly e-newsletters. You can sign-up for May at <https://genealogy.chubenko.us/>

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>

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>

Research Plan Consultation, coaching session, \$125 US, Michelle Chubenko, Unlock the Secrets of Your Family's Past with Personalized Genealogical Research. Are you ready to discover the rich stories hidden in your family tree? Whether you're starting from scratch, stuck on a challenging research problem, or seeking to expand your knowledge, a one-on-one consultation with a professional genealogist can open the door to your family's unique history.
<https://genealogy.chubenko.us/research-plan-consultation>

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, January to July 2026, Family Search Blog, includes Culturally Focused Conferences

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/genealogy-conferences-2026>

Articles, videos, publications, etc.:

Relatives at RootsTech 2026: Find Out Who You Are Related To! By David Nielsen, posted Feb. 13, RootsTech by FamilySearch. Do you know what a 3rd cousin 2 times removed is? RootsTech 2026 is a great place to learn about ancestors and an equally great place to find living relatives. Last year, more than 660,000 participants, globally, viewed 6.6 million ancestral relationships through the Relatives at RootsTech web and mobile app experience. That's a lot of family connections! During the conference, use the Relatives at RootsTech 2026 feature to explore your family tree and find relatives you didn't even know existed. You'll be able to use this feature from both the FamilySearch Family Tree app and the FamilySearch website. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/relatives-at-rootstech-2026>

Canada Census, 1921. The enumerator asked participants 35 questions including: name, birth year and place, gender, marital status, languages spoken, occupation, education, relationship to head of household, nationality, religion, address, family members, and more. The Northwest Territories had a different form with less questions. The original records are held at the Library and Archives Canada. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/5000285>

A 3000-Year-Old Story, posted on Feb. 21, (Andriy) Dorosh Heritage Tours. Recently, we have been working on a genealogy project in the village of Hadynkivtsi in Ternopil Province, Ukraine, researching local history for a client. During this work, we learned about the local archaeological excavations carried out by Professor Mykola Bandirivskiy and the archaeological expedition of the I. Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. This post focuses on a particularly fascinating discovery they made in another village of Ternopil Province—Petrykiv. <https://doroshheritagetours.com/a-3000-year-old-story/>

Serfdom in the Austrian Empire, by Michelle Chubenko, posted Feb. 17. The abolition of serfdom in the Austrian Empire in 1848 was a landmark event that marked a significant step towards social and economic reform.

<https://galicianancestry.substack.com/p/serfdom-in-the-austrian-empire>

The House of Habsburg: Uncovering the Legacy of Europe's "Imperial House" by Yan Sandler, MyHeritage Blog, posted on Feb. 23. Tracing your heritage is an exciting journey of discovery that could lead to the doorsteps of history's most powerful families. While the Romanovs captured the imagination of the East, the House of Habsburg, often called the "House of Austria," was one of the most influential dynasties in Central and Western Europe for several centuries.

<https://blog.myheritage.com/2026/02/the-house-of-habsburg-uncovering-the-legacy-of-europes-imperial-house/>

Vast database tracking Ukrainian archives going online improves with search engine, by Vera Miller, posted on Feb. 7, Keeping track of the Ukrainian archive cases going online is an overwhelming task. Thankfully, Inspector Duck continues to crawl on the sites with those records to post the links to find them. Now, the incredible database has a search engine to find the archive record cases you have been waiting to find online. No other database exists that can compare to Inspector Duck for finding archive case descriptions and taking you to the location of where the scanned cases are sitting online. Just from FamilySearch, Inspector Duck has listings of almost 1.8 million cases. The database also links users to records posted on Alex Krakovsky's database, Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center, archive websites, and other sites.
<https://lostrussianfamily.wordpress.com/>

Best Tips for Using the Search Engine on Inspector Duck Without Knowing Ukrainian by Find Lost Russian & Ukrainian Family, Vera Ivanova Miller © 2026, <https://lostrussianfamily.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/flruf-inspector-duck-step-by-step-search-instructions.pdf>

I Was Told My Grandfather Was an Orphan. A DNA Match Revealed a Different Story by Debra DeZarn, posted on Feb. 22, MyHeritage Blog. This is a photo of the paternal grandfather I never knew. I grew up with his absence as a given, and never expected to know more about him. I was born in California in 1950, when my father was 50 and my mother was 37. By then, he was already gone, and we thought we knew everything there was to be known about his life.
<https://blog.myheritage.com/2026/02/i-was-told-my-grandfather-was-an-orphan-a-dna-match-revealed-a-different-story/>

The Sideways Search Method That Breaks Brick Walls by Will at Ancestral Findings blog, posted on Feb. 23. If your genealogy research feels stuck, the problem may not be missing records. It may be that you are asking the right questions in the wrong direction. Some of the most revealing information about your ancestors does not appear in their own records at all, but in the lives of the people who lived beside them. Learning to research sideways can change how you read records you already have and open paths you may not have considered before.
<https://ancestralfindings.com/the-sideways-search-method-that-breaks-brick-walls/>

Is Genealogy Worth It If Everyone Forgets You? By Will at Ancestral Findings blog, posted on Feb. 18. Someone asked me a hard question once, and I think a lot of people have asked it in their own minds, even if they never say it out loud. They said, "Is genealogy really worth doing? After you die, hardly anybody will remember you anyway. Your friends will be gone. Their friends will be gone. Your family might not even care. You can give your research to your kids, but what if they don't keep it? What if you donate it to a museum and they discard it, or the building burns down? Is this just a hobby to keep you busy, or is it a waste of time?" That question hits two fears at once. The first is that we will be forgotten. The second is that our work will disappear. Both fears are real because time does erase things.
<https://ancestralfindings.com/is-genealogy-worth-it/>

I'm Done Being Mad at Genealogy by Will at Ancestral Findings blog, posted on Feb. 2. ... Once I stopped being mad, I started seeing patterns I'd been missing. <https://ancestralfindings.com/im-done-being-mad-at-genealogy/>

Gregorian Calendar Day: What Every Genealogist Needs to Know About February 24th, posted by Thomas MacEntee on Feb. 24. Genealogists have a reason to pause and say, "Thank you, Pope Gregory"—or maybe curse him a little, depending on what kind of date headaches you've been dealing with lately. Because on February 24, 1582, Pope Gregory XIII signed the papal bull Inter gravissimas, and the world of calendar-keeping changed forever. The world of genealogy research got a whole lot more complicated along with it. <https://genealogybargains.com/gregorian-calendar-day/>

They Came in Ships: The One Book Every Genealogist Researching Immigrant Ancestors Needs, posted by Thomas MacEntee on Feb. 23. If you've ever stared at a brick wall trying to trace an immigrant ancestor back to their homeland, you know the particular frustration that comes with it. You know the name. You know the approximate arrival date. Maybe you even know the port. But finding the actual arrival record, understanding what it contains, and knowing how to use it to push your research further? That's where so many of us get stuck.
<https://genealogybargains.com/they-came-in-ships/>

25 Forgotten Meals That Got Your Ancestors Through the Coldest Winters by Sarah Levy, Genealogy Explained, posted Feb. 11. Your ancestors didn't have central heating. Let that sink in. They had a wood stove in the kitchen, maybe a fireplace in the front room, and bedrooms so cold you could see your breath. The windows had frost on the inside. The wind didn't knock — it moved in... The human body burns through 3,000 to 4,000 calories a day just trying to stay warm in those conditions. So, when Grandma said a meal needed to “stick to your ribs,” she wasn't being folksy. She was talking about survival. <https://www.genealogyexplained.com/blog/25-forgotten-meals-that-got-your-ancestors-through-the-coldest-winters/>

Olga Drozd's Ukrainian Classic Kitchen: <https://www.ukrainianclassickitchen.ca/>

The Taste of Ukraine: <https://thetasteofukraine.com/>

Mom Knows Recipes – Traditional Ukrainian Collection: <https://momknowsrecipes.com/ukrainian-recipes/>

Nummy Recipes – Authentic Ukrainian Recipes: <https://nummyrecipes.com/ukrainian-recipes/>

Matusya's Kitchen – Traditional Ukrainian Recipes: <https://www.matusyaskitchen.com/>

On a side note:

March 1 is **Zero Discrimination Day**, promoting equality and inclusion globally.

March 8 is **International Women's Day**, celebrating women's achievements.

March 20 is **International Day of Happiness**, promoting well-being and mental health awareness.

Lent in Ukraine is a period of reflection, fasting, and preparation for the celebration of Easter. It begins with Masnytsia (Syropusny Week), a week-long (Feb. 16-22) celebration that includes various rituals and customs. During this time, Ukrainians abstain from meat, dairy products, and eggs, focusing instead on simple plant-based meals. The final week before Easter, known as Holy Week, is marked by Palm Sunday (March 29), where willow branches are used to commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. This week is also significant for its spiritual and physical cleansing, with rituals like clean Thursday and the blessing of paska, a traditional sweet bread. The culmination of Lent is the celebration of Easter, which includes various customs such as the blessing of Easter eggs and the performance of spring rituals.

The history and significance of Maslenitsa in Ukraine

The origins of the holiday date back to the pre-Christian era and are closely linked to sun worship and the agricultural calendar. Our ancestors celebrated the symbolic boundary between the winter cold and the spring awakening of the earth. The cult of ancestors also played a significant role: during these days, people honored the memory of deceased relatives by leaving ritual food for them. After the baptism of Rus-Ukraine, the holiday became an integral part of Christian tradition. Syropust week became the last period in which it was allowed to consume dairy products, eggs, and fish before the long fast. That is why it was called Syropust — the week after which cheese and other dairy dishes were “released” (allowed). Another ancient Ukrainian name — Kolodiy — comes from the ritual of attaching a log to unmarried young men and women, jokingly urging them to start a family.

<https://visitukraine.today/blog/7874/maslenitsa-2026-in-ukraine-dates-traditions-and-significance-of-each-day-of-the-week#maslenitsa-week-by-day-names-and-rituals>



A giant motanka –

a symbol of family warmth and spring renewal.

Motankas (Мотанка) are ancient Ukrainian family talismans. They are the symbol of prosperity, goodness and hope. Then first knotted dolls appeared about 5,000 years ago and represented the unity of the family and deep connection between multiple generations.

The name "motanka" comes from the word “motaty” (to wind) ie to make a knotted doll out of fabric, without using a needle and scissors. Motanka served as a talisman of human destiny and our

ancestors believed that destiny cannot be pierced or cut. Generally, dolls were in the shape of a human figure, usually a woman or a child, and were made from pieces of fabric from old clothes of family members connected by knots.

Each doll was unique and made with only good intentions and sincerity as it was believed that it has power and will act as a protector of a household and its inhabitants.

Motankas differ from ordinary dolls by "empty" faces. Our ancestors believed that giving the doll a face could tie a person's soul to it. Therefore, faces have no facial features and instead the Motanka dolls have multicoloured threads laid out in a cross shape across the face instead. The cross is a pagan symbol of the Sun where horizontal lines meant feminine, and vertical - masculine.

Image: <https://gotokyiv.com/en/vdng-zaprosuje-na-sviato-masnici>

Article: <https://ukieology.com/blogs/news/the-history-of-motanka-a-traditional-ukrainian-guardian-doll>



<https://www.amazingukraine.pro/events/masnytsia-2019-de-sviatkuvatv-v-kyievi/>

How Food Stayed Fresh Before Refrigerators by Гаманюк Анна on Facebook at Ukraine Roots Illuminated with Dorosh private group, posted on Feb. 16. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ukrainerootswithdorosh/>

Before electricity, Ukrainians used nature and sharp practical knowledge to preserve food. Hunters and fishermen removed the entrails from game and fish and stuffed the carcasses with nettles, which kept the meat fresh for several days without spoiling.

Wells often served as natural refrigerators: during summer heat, food was lowered into the cool shaft on a rope. A Ukrainian homestead cannot be imagined without a cellar. Vegetables, fruit, jams, and pickles were stored there for months or even years. Vegetables were fermented in oak barrels with generous amounts of salt to keep them firm and juicy. Meat was preserved by sealing it in melted fat inside barrels or by smoking it, a method that added flavor while extending life.

In harsh winters, ice was cut from rivers and ponds and stored in l'odivni — ice houses, often built inside cellars and insulated with straw and sawdust. Until the 1940s, many Ukrainian towns even had a special profession for this: the l'odobii — an ice cutter.



Note that February 24, 2026 was the Fourth Anniversary of the Beginning of Russia’s Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine. Per Ukraine’s President Zelenskyy:

"Today marks exactly four years since Putin started his three-day push to take Kyiv. And that, in fact, says a great deal about our resistance, about how Ukraine has fought all this time. Behind those words stand millions of our people. Behind those words stand immense courage, incredibly hard work, endurance, and the long path Ukraine has been pursuing since February 24.

Remembering the beginning of the invasion and looking at today, we have every right to say: we defended our independence, we preserved our statehood, and Putin failed to achieve his goals. He did not break the Ukrainian people. He did not win this war. We saved Ukraine, and we will do everything possible to achieve peace and justice. Glory to Ukraine!"



The Alberta Legislature Grounds: 24.02.2026
posted on Facebook by Taras Lupul



A village in West Galicia, late 1890s – 1930s
posted on Facebook at Galician Cousins & Ancestors

Recollections about the Life of the First Ukrainian Settlers in Canada (William A. Czumer), Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Edmonton, 1981, <https://diasporiana.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/books/14501/file.pdf>



Quick Guide to Finding Vital Records in the Romanian Archives

<https://consultantaistorica.ro/en/vital-records-in-the-romanian-archives/>

How to Obtain a Document from the Romanian Archives

<https://consultantaistorica.ro/en/how-to-obtain-a-document-from-the-romanian-archives/>

Above two articles links were posted on Feb. 19 on Facebook private group “Eastern Europe Genealogy Research Community”. Dumitru Lăcătușu is a historian and genealogist from Romania. Since there are members of this group who have ancestors originating from Romania, you will find two articles that may help you identify and obtain documents from the Romanian Archives. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EasternEuropeGenealogyResearchCommunity/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1586240471620043/user/100001041607465/>
<https://www.facebook.com/dumitru.f.lacatusu/>

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