

Ukraine Genealogy Group (UGG)

of Edmonton and Area Society, Alberta

December 2025 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 kalya@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 2025 schedule for the “Ukraine Genealogy Group of Edmonton and Area”:



Recovering Relations: Ukrainian Settlers and Indigenous Communities, Dec. 11, 7 pm to 9 pm, MST, with Pamela Trischuk. Zoom only. This session explores the complex and often overlooked relationships between Ukrainian settlers and Indigenous Peoples in east central Alberta. We trace the colonial policies that shaped settlement, examine how Ukrainians both benefited from and contributed to these systems, and uncover stories through “breadcrumbs” in local histories, family narratives, and community teachings.

Participants will gain insight into why these early interactions were limited but meaningful, how attitudes shifted over time, and why neither Ukrainian nor Indigenous experiences were monolithic. Join us as we reflect on how to tell these stories today - acknowledging complexity, avoiding romanticized myths, and committing to the ongoing work of recovering good relations.

Pamela Trischuk has been part of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village team for over 20 years, where she currently serves as Head of Education and Interpretation. With a personal connection to her Ukrainian roots and a deep appreciation for what the stories of the past can teach us, Pamela has led the development of award-winning programs and exhibits that explore the complex histories of Ukrainian settlement in Alberta. In recent years, her work has focused on ensuring that the stories and programs of the UCHV remain relevant and accessible to diverse audiences in an evolving societal landscape. She has also been exploring the nuanced relationships between Ukrainian settlers and Indigenous communities and integrating those stories into the UCHV’s interpretive content - an area she continues to research and reflect on with care. Pamela brings both professional insight and personal curiosity to her presentations and is always eager to learn alongside others.



Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, <https://ukrainianvillage.ca/>
Friends of the Ukrainian Village Society, <https://fouvs.shop/>



This December 11th Zoom session is FREE. Zoom link to register:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/jxLIYu7T7ugzm6DiSIOVA>



Genealogy Group, Strathcona County Library, Sherwood Park, Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 7:00 - 8:30 pm, “Intro to Ukrainian Genealogy” is my (Elaine) presentation. I will be taking various books for people to look through and binders for me to do lookups. <https://sclibrary.ca/>

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 12,700 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:

2026 Alberta Genealogical Society membership is available now. Renew your membership before November 30, 2025, midnight and have your name entered in a draw to win back your membership payment amount! Go to <https://www.abgenealogy.ca/renew-your-membership>

Using Foreign Language Websites with Confidence, Nov. 27, 7 pm start, in person and online Zoom. General Meeting of the Edmonton Branch, Alberta Genealogical Society. Vera Miller is the guest speaker. Discussed in this presentation: How to use several free databases for research in Ukraine, Poland, and Germany with the help of Google Translate. Her presentation will also cover nationwide efforts to modernize Ukrainian archives and the effect the Russian-Ukrainian war is having on genealogy research. <https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/general-meeting>

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Genealogy with Jean-Yves Vanier-Verbeek. Wed., Dec. 3, 1-3 pm. \$3.00 drop-in fee, WSAC Boardroom, Westend Seniors Activity Centre, 9629 – 176 Street, Edmonton. Will be speaking on the topic of Artificial Intelligence and its growing impact on our society. We will learn about the background and overview of AI, how it has influenced our lives today, and what might be expected of AI in the world ahead. Don Bowling, our member, will provide a demonstration on some of the AI agent programmes such as ChatGPT and how they can be used in genealogical research. Paul Rose will conclude the meeting with some discussion on how AI will influence the future of genealogy and genealogical research, and finally some guidelines and recommendations when using AI generated information. https://weseniors.ca/whats_new/genealogy-drop-in-class/

Helpful Genealogy Websites, Westend Seniors Activity Centre, (includes lots of good General, Canadian and Polish weblinks). https://weseniors.ca/whats_new/genealogy-drop-in-class-genealogy-websites/

How to Build a Family Tree, Active Aging Series: Genealogy & Historical Edmonton, Westend Seniors Activity Centre. https://weseniors.ca/whats_new/how-to-build-a-family-tree/



Alberta Council for Ukrainian Arts (ACUA) Christmas Market is on Dec. 6, 4 pm – 8 pm at 10554 – 110 Street, Edmonton <https://acuarts.ca/whats-on/christmas-market-online-pre-order/> and other events of ACUA are listed here: <https://acuarts.ca/projects-events/>

Ukrainian Winter Celebrations: Who Brings Presents to Ukrainian Children? By Daria Antsybor. Dec. 12, 10 am MST. Zoom online only. This lecture will explore the transformation of winter holiday traditions in Ukraine. It will trace the roles of magical gift-givers such as St. Nicholas (Mykolai) and Grandfather Frost (Did Moroz), examining their origins, the impact of the Soviet era, and their use as political symbols. In the context of the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, the talk will also reflect on how Ukrainian society is re-evaluating these figures in its pursuit of cultural decolonization and authentic expression. https://ualberta-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_acyZGnTeRz-g9jz-lkVQpQ#/registration and <https://www.ualberta.ca/en/kule-folklore-centre/events.html>

Christmas Carol Sing-a-long workshop by Olga Zaitseva-Herz, Dec. 13, 1 – 3 pm MST, in person event, Strathcona Community League Hall, 10139 87 Avenue NW Edmonton. A family-friendly sing-a-long event led by Olga Zaitseva-Herz. Come join us for this festive event and sing-along to popular Ukrainian Christmas Carols. Ukrainian-Canadian pastries will be served. <https://www.ualberta.ca/en/kule-folklore-centre/events.html>

Naturalization Records & Googling for Grandma. 1. Naturalization Records – What are They and How can they help with Genealogical Research? Thea Hawryluk will be presenting on the topic of Canadian Naturalization records – what are they, what value do they play in genealogical research, and where can we find them. Canadian Records go back as far as the 1820s through to the 1950s and can provide additional insight into our ancestors' origins, residence, occupation, age and other valuable information. 2. Googling for Grandma. Ashley Rother will present on the topic of "Googling for Grandma" as developed by Cyndi Ingle, the creator and innovator behind the award-winning and globally recognized CyndisList.com. In a webinar presented by Cyndi she provides the following insight "Chances are that you are using Google on a daily basis. Chances are even better that you aren't using it to its full potential. Learn about Google's advance search options, and several more tools offered by Google that will enhance your research." Wed., Jan. 14, 1-3 pm. \$3.00 drop-in fee, WSAC Boardroom, Westend Seniors Activity Centre, 9629 – 176 Street, Edmonton. https://weseniors.ca/whats_new/genealogy-drop-in-class/

Cemeteries and Family Research & Homestead Records. 1. Cemeteries and Family Research. The value of information found in cemeteries and cemetery records goes unsaid. Thea Hawryluk will be presenting on the sources available using cemetery records to research your ancestors. These records provide a fascinating insight into the story of our family above and beyond just names and dates. 2. Homestead Records. Hazel Elborne will be presenting on the use and role of Homestead Records as part of genealogical research. Homestead records are useful in genealogical research because they contain both land and biographical information about the applicant such as age, place of birth, former place of residence, date of entry on the land, marital status and naturalization record if available. Wed., March 4, 1.3 pm, \$3.00 drop-in fee, WSAC Boardroom, Westend Seniors Activity Centre, 9629 – 176 Street, Edmonton. https://weseniors.ca/whats_new/genealogy-drop-in-class/

Fort Edmonton Park. Have you been to the Indigenous Peoples Experience before? We welcome you to join us and learn from the voices of Indigenous Peoples across Treaty 6, whose stories of kinship, resilience, and connection remind us that understanding starts with presence. Experience it this winter. Open weekends from 12–4 PM at Fort Edmonton Park. <https://www.fortedmontonpark.ca/plan-your-visit/fallandwinterhours>

РЕТРОСПЕКТИВ – 10 Years of Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts Gallery and Boutique, Nov. 6 – Dec. 24, 2025, 64 alumni Signature Artists have submitted a piece, marking their involvement with ACUA and this special occasion. Please join us in celebrating as we also look forward to a bright future of thriving Ukrainian art and the growth of our community. <https://www.uccab.ca/event/retro%1%81%d0%bf%d0%b5%d0%bative-10-years-of-alberta-council-for-the-ukrainian-arts-gallery-and-boutique/>

Other Genealogy Sessions:

Historic Vital Statistics across Canada: What's Online? With Claire Smith-Burns, **Nov. 25**, 6:30 pm Pacific, Kelowna & District Genealogical Society. Looking for a Canadian Birth, Marriage or Death Certificate for your ancestors? Come on this guided tour across Canada to discover what is available (or not) online! Each province is responsible to record their own Vital Statistics; therefore, the start dates vary and also the privacy protection laws. Availability online also differs widely from province to province. Zoom registration required. <https://orl.libcal.com/event/3895582> and <https://kdgs.ca/updates/events/>

Develop and Digitize Your Family Archives with Anderson Archival, Tues., Dec. 2, 2:30 – 3:30 pm ET, Allen County Public Library. Have you ever wondered how to turn boxes of photos, letters, and family documents into a meaningful, usable archive—one that won't overwhelm you now or frustrate future generations? This beginner-friendly program offers practical guidance for getting started with intention and clarity. <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/15111164>

Unlocking the X-Factor: Key Tips for Using X-DNA in Your Research with Michelle Leonard, Dec. 3, 12 MST, Legacy Family Tree Webinar, free to watch but have to be a member to receive the Syllabus. X-chromosome DNA is often one of the hidden gems of the genetic genealogy world especially when used in conjunction with autosomal DNA. This webinar will present an overview of the unique inheritance patterns of X-DNA and set out how and why X-DNA matching differs from atDNA matching. <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/unlocking-the-x-factor-key-tips-for-using-x-dna-in-your-research/>

Order in the Court! Thurs., Dec. 4, 11 am (GMT-7), with Julia A. Anderson. An Introduction to U.S. Court Records: From lawsuits to divorces to guardianships, U.S. court records can provide exciting details about your ancestors and how they interacted with others in their communities. This class will introduce the history and background of court records in the United States, describe their genealogical value, and demonstrate ways you can locate and use these interesting records in your research. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/session/order-in-the-court>

~~**Arolsen Archives: History Exploration & Online Access** with Serafima Velkovich, PhD, Sunday, Dec. 7, 11 am Pacific, Global Jewish Genealogy Society. Non-members pay \$5.00 Zoom link will be sent the week of the event. Members automatically receive a Zoom link. <https://www.globaljgs.org/upcoming-events/> **Cancelled.**~~

Latest MyHeritage Technologies for Genealogy, with Daniel Horowitz, Sunday, Dec. 7, 2 – 4 pm, Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. (JGS) of New York. MyHeritage is constantly introducing new features and content to help users take their research to the next level. In this session, Daniel will give a detailed walkthrough of the latest features, show you how to make the most of them, and give a peek behind the scenes at how they were developed. <https://jgsny.org/programs-civi/icalrepeat.detail/2025/12/07/150/-/latest-myheritage-technologies-for-genealogy>

New and Upcoming Features at MyHeritage, Dec. 9, 12 pm MST, Legacy Family Tree Webinars. MyHeritage is constantly introducing new and exciting features to help users take their research to the next level. In this session, Itay will give a detailed walkthrough of the latest innovations designed to make building and improving your family tree easier than ever. Learn how to use a new wizard to quickly add close relatives, utilize updated views to easily spot and fill in missing facts on profile pages and your tree, and explore the new, intuitive “Spider” for simple individual additions. Subscribers will also see the new photo widget on the homepage, highlighting MyHeritage’s powerful photo features. Itay will show you how to make the most of these new tools and give a peek behind the scenes at how they were developed. <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/new-and-upcoming-features-at-myheritage/>

Finding My Way: Researching Your Ancestor in the City with Jessica Fontana, Tues., Dec. 9, 2:30 – 3:30 pm ET, Allen County Public Library. Focuses on record sources which help genealogists follow people in urban environments (city directories, land records, Sanborn and other urban maps, building permits, and censuses). With an emphasis on using a research journal to correlate data and resolve same-named people. <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/15069311>

Have Questions? Get Answers on Galicia, Zoom session with Michelle Tucker Chubenko, Tuesday, Dec. 9, 6 pm MST and to register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/luLHUS6RaQwJcJSwpty4Q#/registration>

Unlock the Power of Genetic Genealogy. Live 2-Hour Course at 2 PM ET on Dec. 9. Family Tree University. \$125 USD. Learn how to turn confusing match lists into meaningful discoveries in this immersive course presented by Shannon Combs-Bennett. Whether you've been staring at your Ancestry or 23andMe results, wondering what they mean, or you're ready to break through genealogical brick walls using DNA evidence, this immersive course demystifies genetic genealogy with a practical, hands-on approach. You'll learn the fundamentals without getting bogged down in complex science, then apply your knowledge through interactive case studies that mirror real-world research challenges. <https://store.familytreemagazine.com/products/unlock-the-power-of-genetic-genealogy-december-2025>

Scattered Leaves: Reconnecting family branches with DNA with Fiona Brooker, Dec. 10, 6 pm MST, Legacy Family Tree Webinars. When our families scattered across the globe, they often left close family behind. The family connections were lost over the subsequent generations. Now through family history research and DNA we are reconnecting with the branches of our family tree as shown in these case studies. <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/scattered-leaves-reconnecting-family-branches-with-dna/>

Ancestry® Search Tips and Tricks, by Ancestry, Dec. 10, 11 am MST, <https://www.ancestry.com/c/discover/education>

"Paradise Acres: The Stry-Ker Family Saga" book by Molly Anne Warring. Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies (CUCS) at the University of Manitoba. CUCS Reading Club. In December, we will be discussing chapters 35–79. We look forward to an engaging discussion on these chapters and hearing your thoughts! The session will take place on Thurs., Dec. 11, at 12:00 PM CST (11 am MST), online via Zoom. This is a historical novel that follows the Ukrainian immigrant family of Evan and Tanka Stracher (later Stry-Ker) through their struggles and traditions as they build a new life on the Canadian prairies and the broader historical events of the 20th century. <https://umanitoba.zoom.us/meeting/register/llk21ovTSJ2dgA6B4yn87Q>

Christmas Ideas to Celebrate Your Family History with Sharlene Habermeyer, live webinar, Thursday, Dec. 11, 11 am GMT-7, Discover how Christmas and holiday traditions from around the world connect us to our family history and heritage. This festive livestream explores global Christmas celebrations, foods, music, and stories passed down through generations. You'll walk away with creative ways you and your family can celebrate your ancestors and heritage—from ancestor-themed ornaments to advent calendars with ancestral recipes. Experience the light of this holiday season by intentionally honoring family and creating new memories with loved ones. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/session/christmas-ideas-to-celebrate-your-family-history>

Find Your Ancestors: Plan Your Work and Work Your Plan: The Key to Thorough Research, by Cheri Hudson Passey. Dec. 13, 2 – 4 pm Central Time, Appleton Public Library, In-person and Zoom. Thorough research is one of the elements of the Genealogical Proof Standards. How do you know if you've done enough? A research plan is the key. From creating to working through your plan, learn how to use this tool to keep you on track and be as thorough as possible. <https://appleton-wi.whofi.com/calendar/event/1260162?method=embed>

Preserving Your New York Story: Ukrainian Genealogy, Dec. 16, 12:00 - 12:45 pm EST, in-person and online, presented by Michelle Tucker Chubenko and the NYG&B Team, New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. Family history is a fascinating and personal way for everyone to better understand who they are and how our past has shaped us. Genealogy also helps to reveal and strengthen connections between individuals and communities. But how do you get started? This is a free program, but registration is required (and quickly filling up). <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/events/preserving-your-new-york-story-ukrainian-genealogy>

Revealing the RootsTech 2026 Theme with Global Emcees, Wed., Dec. 17, 12 pm (GMT-7), with Nicole Luz. Join us as we introduce our incredible global emcees—dynamic storytellers from around the world who will guide us through the

RootsTech by FamilySearch experience March 5–7, 2026. In this special livestream, discover how these hosts will bring the theme to life and make RootsTech 2026 an experience you won't forget.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/session/meet-the-2026-global-emcees-theme-reveal>

The Best Uses of AI for Genealogists with Steve Little, Fri., Dec. 19, 12 pm MST, for members only, Legacy Family Tree Webinars. Learn how to use artificial intelligence to help find important family information, understand old documents, and craft compelling family stories to support your family history research. This webinar will introduce you to the best uses of AI in genealogy today and give a peek behind the curtain of what genealogists can look forward to from AI advancements in 2026. <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/the-best-uses-of-ai-for-genealogists/>

Prison & Court Records presented by Andrea Lister. Jan. 5, 7:30 – 9 pm (BC Time), Kelowna & District Genealogical Society. All are welcome to these FREE Zoom presentations, but pre-registration is required through the ORL's Events Calendar. Prison and court records can tell you a lot about your ancestors and their lives. Whether documenting legal battles or criminal activity these records will provide a wide variety of color and detail. We will look at records on everything from petty theft to illegal poaching to declaring someone's husband dead. The scope includes Ireland, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and North America. <https://kdgs.ca/updates/events/>

January 6, 2026: **Polish Genealogy 101** by Ben Kman

February 3, 2026: **Locating Vital Records from Poland Online** by Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz

March 3, 2026: **Forged in Work: Polish Immigrants in Cleveland's Mills, Factories and Neighborhood Businesses** by Thomas Kaschalk

Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland, <https://pgsgc.org/schedule-of-presentations/> (watch for more details).

Find Your Ancestors: Polish Genealogy - Finding Their Polish Records with Steve Szabados, Jan. 10, 2 – 3:30 pm, Appleton Public Library, must register in advance for Zoom. This presentation simplifies the confusing elements of Polish research, particularly border changes the often lead to confusion about where our ancestors were born. Logical steps are provided on how to search for, locate, and translate Polish documents. This material will jump-start your research and help you enjoy your Polish heritage. <https://appleton-wi.whofi.com/calendar/event/1273280?method=embed>

Death Research: The Final Analysis, with Rhoda Miller, Sunday, Jan. 11, 1 pm Pacific, Global Jewish Genealogy Society. Non-members pay \$5.00, Zoom link will be sent the week of the event. Need to learn more about a person's life? Try looking into their death! Death records are often the key that unlocks family connections, origins, and stories long forgotten. In this presentation, Rhoda Miller will explore the many sources available for death research—including civil certificates, cemeteries, landsmanshaft, synagogue records, gravestones, obituaries and more. Learn how to interpret Hebrew inscriptions, navigate related databases, and uncover hidden details about your ancestors' lives and communities. Whether you're just starting out or refining your family tree, this session will provide practical strategies and resources to enrich your genealogy research. Mini case studies will be utilized to demonstrate the process of following the trail to using common and less common resources. <https://www.globaljgs.org/upcoming-events/> and https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=KEMKSJ6BT8WGN

Organize with Purpose, A Family Tree University Master Class, starts Jan. 12 to March 01, Through this Master Class, you'll learn how to cut through all of that clutter by streamlining your research and organizing your files. By the end, you'll be able to clearly document your progress and create a research plan for the coming year.

<https://university.familytreemagazine.com/courses/master-class-organize-with-purpose-2026>

Source Citations for Successful Genealogy, A Family Tree University Master Class, starts Jan. 20 to Feb. 16, In this online course, learn how to cite sources successfully and practice the whole source documentation process for genealogy, as well as study examples of different types of sources.

<https://university.familytreemagazine.com/courses/source-citations-for-successful-genealogy-january-2026>

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

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

Click Into Ukraine: Online Resources for Tracing Your Ancestry, Roots Tech 2026, March 5-7, Michelle Chubenko will be presenting a live webinar, <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/rootstech-2026-registration> <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration/?cid=CR-00052105>

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>

Workbook for Research in Galicia, Austria-Hungary – Digital Only, \$40US, (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>

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

December Live Discussions, Family Search.org

December Webinars

Dec 4, 11:00 AM MST
Christmas Ideas to Celebrate Your Family History

Dec 11, 11:00 AM MST
Order In the Court!



<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/events/december-live-webinars>

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.:

AncestryDNA sale, 50% off until Dec. 2 at 11:59 p.m. ET. Excludes taxes and shipping. Regular price is \$129 and sale price is \$64. <https://www.ancestry.ca/c/dna/offer>

Kyler Zeleny: Collective Identity, Personal Memory and Arriving at the Ukrainian-Canadian Homeplace, Kule Folklore Centre, posted on Nov. 13. In his work he traces a decade-long exploration of the Canadian Prairies through his trilogy—Out West (2014), Crown Ditch & The Prairie Castle (2020), and the culminating Bury Me in the Back Forty (2025).

Centering on his hometown of Mundare, Alberta—a Ukrainian-settler community in transition—the talk considers how photographs and interwoven texts can honor complexity without nostalgia or caricature on the Canadian Prairies.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGZatyMUgHM>

Turn Family History Into Stories: How to Spark Holiday Conversations (*Thanks Michelle Chubenko*)

<https://www.ancestry.com/c/discover/education/history-into-stories>

How I Use Holiday Traditions for Genealogy Research with Lisa Lisson (*Thanks Michelle Chubenko*)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHHeFeWcWcs>

Holiday Heritage Hunt: 12 Days of Fascinating Genealogical Treasures by Lisa Lisson

<https://lalisson.com/4-types-of-holiday-genealogy-records/>

Christmas Traditions and Genealogy, Ancestral Findings Blog with Will

<https://ancestralfindings.com/christmas-traditions-and-genealogy/>

Holiday Traditions and Genealogy: Connecting the Dots by Jackie Ehler

(*Elaine likes the section on Document Family Recipes & Food Traditions*)

<https://jackiesgenealogy.com/2025/06/19/holiday-traditions-and-genealogy-connecting-the-dots/>

Seasonal and Cultural Traditions: How Celebrations and Holidays Reflect Ancestral Roots

<https://genealogyfoundation.com/genealogy-resources/seasonal-and-cultural-traditions-how-celebrations-and-holidays-reflect-ancestral-roots/>

Genealogical Holiday Sayings for the Season, Family Tree blog

<https://www.familytree.com/blog/genealogical-holiday-sayings-for-the-season/>

Writing Your Family History and Memoirs, Family Tree Magazine. 9 tips for getting started on writing your family history.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/writing-family-history-memoirs/> (various articles) and

<https://familytreemagazine.com/storytelling/tips-getting-started-writing-family-history/>



***Story writing ideas and resources – memoir or family history**, Evalogue Life. Practical tools including story-boarding, questions to spark memories, downloadable printables, prompts geared for personal history and family history.

<https://evalogue.life/tools-and-resources-overview/resources-for-memoir-and-family-history-writers/>

***National Life Writing Month Activity Page**. Life Writing Month in November. Senior Living Media. Simple, accessible activities and ideas for life writing — designed for older adults in community or family settings.

<https://activities.seniorlivingmedia.com/national-life-writing-month-activity-page/> (*Thanks Thomas MacEntee)

Genealogy vs. Family History | Definitions and Examples of Each by Andrew Koch, Family Tree Magazine.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/general-genealogy/what-is-genealogy-family-history/>

How (and Why) to Include Ancestral Places in Family Stories, Family Tree Magazine. Tell the stories of not just people, but also their communities. This guide to writing about places will help you captivate your readers.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/storytelling/ancestral-places-family-stories/>

Organizing Family History Writing Projects – An Interview with Rhonda Lauritzen by Lisa Cooke and Family Tree Editors. Family Tree Magazine. In this episode of the Family Tree Magazine podcast, Rhonda Lauritzen offers practical tips for organizing your family history writing projects.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/podcasts/organizing-family-history-writing-projects/>

How to Self-Publish Your Family History Book by Maureen A. Taylor, Family Tree Magazine. Itching to write your family history? Learn the pros and cons of the various methods for publishing your genealogy here.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/storytelling/writing/publishing-your-family-history/>

30 Daily Tips to Jumpstart Your Family History Writing Project by Ashlee Peck. Family Tree Magazine. It's November, which means it's time for our annual Family History Writing Challenge! Inspired by NaNoWriMo, we'll be sharing tips and tricks throughout the month to help genealogists write their family's story.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/storytelling/writing/daily-tips-family-history-writing-project/>

Using Local Libraries for Genealogy Research by Anna Rose Johnson, Family Tree Magazine. You don't have to travel far to find valuable genealogy resources. You may be able to find some at your local library. Here are some research tips to help. <https://familytreemagazine.com/libraries-archives/using-local-libraries-for-genealogy-research/>

Best Resolutions for Scanned Photos and Documents by Allison Dolan, Family Tree Magazine. Anyone undertaking a genealogy scanning project or just scanning a single old picture for to share on social media, might have wondered what resolution is best for the particular thing about to be scanned.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/photos/resolution-rules-of-thumb-for-scanning-old-family-photos-and-documents/>

Case Study: 6 Steps for Handling Surprises in Your DNA Results by Jenni Clark Dickens, Family Tree Magazine. How do you handle shocking news about your DNA? One woman shares how she worked through the complex emotions of discovering she was conceived via a sperm donor.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/birth-families/case-study-handling-dna-surprises/>

12 Steps to Reducing Your Genealogy Paper Clutter by Denise May Levenick, Family Tree Magazine. Cutting your paper clutter will sharpen your focus on your family history. Get started with these 12 less-paper strategies and genealogy organization tips. <https://familytreemagazine.com/organization/end-the-genealogy-paper-trail/>

How (and Why) to Make a Genealogy Timeline by Shelley K. Bishop, Family Tree Magazine. Timelines help you organize your research and put your ancestor's life in context. Use this advice to build the perfect timeline template.

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

Genealogist's Guide to Protecting Online Privacy by Dana McCullough, Family Tree Magazine. You might be wearing a welcome sign to online hackers and trackers without even realizing it. Protect your online privacy with these 10 tips.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/websites/protect-your-online-privacy/>

DNA Q&A: What Exactly Is a Segment? By Diahan Southard, Family Tree Magazine. What is a segment, anyway? And what do they tell you about your relationships to your DNA matches? Our expert has the answers.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/dna/dna-qa-what-exactly-is-a-segment>

Organize Your Genealogy Research Space Like the Pros by Denise May Levenick, Family Tree Magazine. Overwhelmed by clutter? Get ideas to organize with our look inside the workspaces and best practices of six professional genealogists.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/organization/organize-your-genealogy-space/>

Printable Family Tree Templates - PDF, DOC, Family Tree Templates, <https://freefamilytreetemplates.com/>

Heritage on the Table: Food and Ukrainian Identity with Yevhen Klopotenko. Yevhen Klopotenko is a Ukrainian chef, restaurateur, and culinary activist. He rose to fame after winning MasterChef Ukraine in 2015 and later studied at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris. Klopotenko is best known for modernizing and reviving Ukrainian cuisine. Recorded lecture is now available on their YouTube channel. Kule Folklore Centre. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dsTLPJ75A>

The Ukrainian Alphabet, page 3 of 20, Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland

https://www.sggee.org/research/rus_translate/Cyrillic_Handouts.pdf

Genealogy Translation Guides (books), Langline, (especially for Polish research), <https://langline.com/books/>

Who to Test First? A Budget-Smart Family DNA Testing Strategy by Yan Sandler, posted on Nov. 13. MyHeritage Blog. This guide lays out a practical, budget-smart strategy you can apply to any DNA mystery in your family tree.

<https://blog.myheritage.com/2025/11/who-to-test-first-a-budget-smart-family-dna-testing-strategy/>

Top tips for researching Ukrainian and Russian immigrants on Canada's free national archives portal, by Vera Miller, Nov. 15 posted, Lost Russian Family blog, <https://lostrussianfamily.wordpress.com/2025/11/15/top-tips-for-researching-ukrainian-and-russian-immigrants-on-canadas-free-national-archives-portal/>

ChatGPT Update: Why Genealogists Should Turn Off the Memory Feature for Accurate Research,

by Thomas MacEntee, Nov. 14 posted, Genealogy Bargains blog,

<https://genealogybargains.com/chatgpt-update/>



10 Diseases on Death Certificates That Don't Exist Anymore (And What They Really Were) by

Marc McDermott, Nov. 12 posted, Genealogy Explained blog, <https://www.genealogyexplained.com/blog/10-diseases-on-death-certificates-that-dont-exist-anymore-and-what-they-really-were/>

Why Your Ancestor's Age Changes in Every Document (And No, It's Not Just Bad Handwriting) by Marc McDermott,

Nov. 10 posted, Genealogy Explained blog, <https://www.genealogyexplained.com/blog/why-your-ancestors-age-changes-in-every-document-and-no-its-not-just-bad-handwriting/>

Why Your Great-Great-Grandmother Took Photos of Dead Relatives (And Why It Wasn't Weird) by Marc McDermott,

Nov. 7 posted, Genealogy Explained blog, <https://www.genealogyexplained.com/blog/why-your-great-great-grandmother-took-photos-of-dead-relatives-and-why-it-wasnt-weird/>

The best websites for DNA family history research by Jonathan Scott, posted on Oct. 31, Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine, Low-cost DNA tests have changed the landscape for genealogists. Now anyone with an interest in their family history can add DNA to their arsenal of research tools. There's a lot of hype about the possibilities of DNA family history,

but for beginners, it can be hard to know where to start. <https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/getting-started/the-14-best-websites-for-dna-family-history-research>

Twice the Support: A Lasting Legacy of Understanding Ukraine. Help expand the world's most comprehensive English-language resource on Ukraine: The Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine (IEU). Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, posted on Nov. 17. About the project and how to donate. <https://www.ualberta.ca/en/canadian-institute-of-ukrainian-studies/news-and-events/news-at-the-cius/2025/twice-the-support-ieu.html>

Top tips for researching Ukrainian and Russian immigrants on Canada's free national archives portal, by Vera Miller, posted on Nov. 15, <https://lostrussianfamily.wordpress.com/2025/11/15/top-tips-for-researching-ukrainian-and-russian-immigrants-on-canadas-free-national-archives-portal/>

Polish Databases, Polish Family Information. The goal of this website is to develop resources (mostly indexes) for genealogists doing research on Polish ancestors here and abroad. <https://polishfamily.info/subscriber-databases>

Ukraine family history research page, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/places/europe/ukraine/>

Ukraine Genealogy, FamilySearch Wiki, https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Ukraine_Genealogy

The best DNA tests in 2025, as rated by DNA expert Debbie Kennett, Who do you think you are magazine? <https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/feature/which-dna-test-should-i-take>

Best DNA Test (2024) by Ada Sandoval, Know your DNA, <https://knowyourdna.com/which-dna-test-is-the-most-accurate/>

On a side note:

National days in December 2025. Get into the holiday spirit with cookie baking, gingerbread decorating, coca drinking, chestnut roasting, candle lighting, eggnog drinking, sending Christmas cards and wearing an ugly Christmas sweater. Have even more fun by making cut-out snowflakes, eating fruitcake, looking for an evergreen, playing cards and games, and drinking champagne! <https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/dec/>

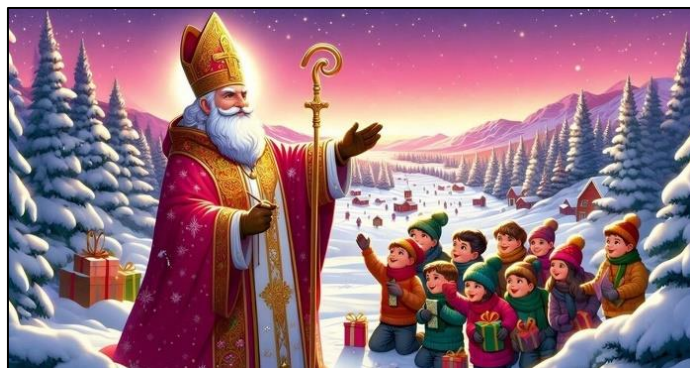
Dec. 19, Saint Nicholas' Day, known as "Svyatogo Mykolaya" or "Den' Svyatogo Mykolaya" in Ukrainian. This festive occasion is unique in Ukrainian culture, blending religious significance with cherished folk traditions and modern observances. (Dec. 19 is based on using the old church calendar). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Nicholas_Day

Dec. 21, Winter Solstice, marks the shortest day and longest night of the year.

Dec. 22, Hanukkah begins at sundown and ends at sundown on Dec. 30, a Jewish festival commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

Dec. 25, Christmas Day, celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

Dec. 31, New Year's Eve, the last day of the year, often celebrated with parties and fireworks.



First photo was posted on Facebook by Inna Inna, on Nov. 15, 2025, at 3 ароматом кави. Second photo is a Google Image (forgot to note).
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/377323106152728>

Christmas clip art used (free for non-commercial use) in this newsletter is from: <https://clipart-library.com/>



Source: Your Family Genealogist, Therese Lynch



10 Genealogy / Family History Blogs for your Christmas holiday reading, Therese Lynch, Your Family Genealogist
<https://www.yourfamilygenealogist.com/single-post/2018/12/22/10-Genealogy-Family-History-Blogs-for-your-Christmas-holiday-reading>

What are your favorite blogs? Also, 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

