Ukraine Genealogy Group (UGG)

of Edmonton and Area Society, Alberta

December 2026 Update



UGG Edmonton 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 and Romanian settlers to Alberta due to no one else locally covering this region involving genealogy. We are also adding researching on Lemkos, Hutsuls, and Boyko's etc. We invite people from all of the Eastern European countries to participate in our meetings.

There are no membership requirements to this genealogy group to receive this monthly newsletter. Our main focus at this time is on Western Canada and the former regions of Galicia and Bukovina in Western Ukraine and Poland.

Ukraine Genealogy Group – Edmonton and Area Society website.
https://ukrainegenealogygroup-alberta.blogspot.com/

We are asking interested researchers to **share their family surnames and villages plus location**. Your contact info will be kept private and only released if you agree for it to be shared. Only Elaine has access to the UGG distribution list.

For example:



Name: Elaine Kalynchuk
Location: Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Surnames: Kalynchuk, Stetsko, Pawliuk and Tkachuk
Villages: Strilkivtsi, Borschiv district, Galicia and Malyatyntsi, Kitsman district, Bukovina

If you need **professional translations**:

> **Association of Translators and Interpreters of Alberta** (ATIA)
> https://www.atia.ab.ca/

Here is the current 2026 schedule for the UGG Edmonton and Area Society:



Ukraine Genealogy Group – Research Club Meeting
Saturday, Dec. 5, 2026, 11 am - 2 pm, Zoom session only. To register:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/U7kduLkeQimWWGjde2Se1Q

The Research Club is an open genealogy research session organized by the Ukraine Genealogy Group of Edmonton and Area Society. The purpose of the meeting is to provide members and other interested individuals with an opportunity to share their family-history research, discuss the challenges they are encountering, and receive ideas, suggestions, and assistance from others with similar research interests.

Participants are encouraged to bring questions about their Ukrainian and Eastern European family history, including research into ancestors, villages and towns of origin, church and civil records, immigration and settlement, family connections, surnames, and other genealogical

resources. Attendees will have the opportunity to explain what they are currently researching, identify areas where they need assistance, and learn from the experiences and research methods of other participants.

The meeting will be an informal, collaborative and welcoming environment where participants can exchange information, resources, research leads and ideas. It is intended for people at various levels of genealogical experience, from those who are just beginning their family research to experienced researchers working on more complex family-history questions.

If you have a difficult inquiry, you are welcome to email Elaine in advance to see if she can help you a bit.

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, Canada 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 at 26,670 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).

Inquiry from Ukraine:

PIDBEREZH (Podbereż) village, near Bolekhiv, Dolyna district, Galicia. **Vasyl Hoshovskyi** is researching the village history and his family names: Hoshovsky (also Hoszowski, Hoshowsky, Holdysh-Hoshovsky), Kulak and Rozhniatovsky (Rożniatowski). The Ukrainian paper Svitlo (1944-47) mentions Hoshovsky families in Armstrong and Vernon, BC, and Rozhniatovskys in Transcona, Winnipeg. Would like to hear from anyone with roots in Pidberezh, Bolekhiv, Hoshiv, Huziiv or nearby villages in the Dolyna district. Happy to share a draft index of the Pidberezh Greek Catholic parish registers for 1835-1865. Contact: goshovskyj.v.i@gmail.com

Inquiry from Germany:

Andrey Donets is a German citizen living in Dortmund, Germany and his family roots go back to Ukraine. According to his family history, his ancestors were Cossacks from the Poltava region.

I am researching my great-grandfather, Vasily (Wasyl/Vasili) Emelyanovich Malukha. According to family information, he was born in 1877 in the village of Yeremeyevka, Zolotonosha district, Poltava Governorate, Russian Empire. However, travel documents list his year of birth as 1879, so I am considering both dates.

According to our family history, our ancestors originated in the Poltava region and were forcibly deported to Siberia sometime between 1888 and 1900, to the village of Kamenka in the Irbeysky district of Krasnoyarsk Krai.

In 1912, the entire family emigrated to Brazil as part of a resettlement programme organized by the Brazilian government. My grandmother, Tatyana Vasilyevna Malukha, was only one year old at the time. Some relatives remained in Brazil, including Natalia, my great-grandfather Vasily's sister. As I recently discovered, descendants and relatives of this branch of the family still live in Campina das Missões, Brazil.

However, my great-grandfather's wife, Anna Andreevna Malukha, and their daughter Tatyana returned from Brazil to Europe before 1919 and subsequently ended up back in Siberia. My grandmother, Tatyana Vasilyevna Malukha, was born in Siberia in 1911.

According to my grandmother Tatyana's recollections, her father, Vasily Emelyanovich Malukha, later emigrated to Canada. She remembered that the family had waited a long time for a ship, apparently intending to travel to North

America, possibly to Canada or the United States. Later, Vasily maintained contact with his family and wrote letters that reached his relatives in Siberia. According to my grandmother's recollections, he also worked driving cattle from Canada across lakes into the United States.

Before she passed away, my grandmother Tanya regretted that she had never been able to see her father again. This recollection has stayed deeply with me and is one of the reasons I continue searching, hoping to learn more about his life and fate.

Unfortunately, the letters themselves have not survived, and I have so far been unable to find documentary evidence of his emigration, his work, or his subsequent whereabouts.

I am searching under several variations of the surname, including Malukha, Malucha, Maluka, Malucka and Maloucha.

I would be very grateful for any information, suggestions or clues from members of your genealogy group. Perhaps someone has come across this surname, or a similar spelling, in Canadian immigration records, archival documents, railway records, agricultural records, livestock-related records, or other historical sources.
Andrey Donets donets1@web.de

Note: Andrey has sent me additional information and if you are interested in helping him, I can forward his email with his documents to you. He does not want to be contacted by any paid researchers. Elaine at kalyna@outlook.com

Local (Alberta) Events:

The Alberta Genealogical Society and Edmonton Branch offices and library now is open with different hours, so you need to check their calendar at https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/calendar

Renew your AGS membership before November 30th, 2026, to earn a chance to win your 2027 membership! It takes seconds to renew your AGS Membership! And there's a renewal contest. Visit the AGS website or call the office before November 30th and renew to be entered. https://www.abgenealogy.ca/renew-your-membership

Alberta Genealogical Society, Edmonton Branch, online catalogue to their library holdings. The AGS Edmonton Branch Library holds a unique collection of genealogy research resources that are often not found in other public genealogy collections. Our catalogue includes many specific family histories and local history books to aid your research. Our library volunteers are also active family history researchers and look forward to assisting you with your research. https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/library-catalogue and an important find is https://16282.rmwebopac.com/

Christmas Cultures and Traditions from our Ancestral Origins, open session, Dec. 2, WE Seniors Boardroom, 1 pm to 3 pm, $3 drop-in fee, 9629 – 176 Street, Edmonton. We are planning this meeting as an open session and welcome everyone's input and contributions. One component of the meeting will be "Christmas Cultures and Traditions from our Ancestral Origins" and Paul welcomes members to introduce traditions their ancestors may have celebrated at Christmas time – foods, dress, activities etc. Also, Paul welcomes members to share with the group any genealogy creations they have made as a result of their interest in genealogy. This could be posters, pictures, books, scrapbooks, stories, etc. that they can share. https://weseniors.ca/whats_new/genealogy-drop-in-class/

ACUA's Christmas Market, an ACUA holiday event, Dec. 5, 4 pm – 8 pm, Unit 100, 10554 – 110 Street, Edmonton. See you Saturday Dec. 5 at Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts for our annual Christmas Market. This season we're doing another night version of our popular Holiday event. Members shop exclusively from 3:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., then the doors open for everyone until 8:00 p.m. Parking is free on the north side of the building with paid parking on the street. Our Boutique will also be open with a wide variety of gifts starting at under $5 to under $500 for everyone on your list. https://acuarts.ca/whats-on/acuas-christmas-market-2/

Revisit old matches, organize findings, and develop a DNA research plan with Ellen Thompson-Jennings, Jan. 20, 7 pm, Zoom online, DNA SIG, Edmonton Branch, Alberta Genealogical Society. https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/dna-sig-2

Write and Publish Your Nonfiction Book, or Genealogy Basics, 24 hours, 6 weeks, Gale Courses. You can sign up for free with your Edmonton Public Library card. The categories include Accounting & Finance, Business, College Readiness, Computer Applications, Design & Composition, Healthcare & Medical, Languages & Arts, Law & Legal, Personal Development, Teaching & Education, Technology and, Writing & Publishing. Note that I (Elaine) will be taking some courses on fundraising and grant writing. https://www.epl.ca/ then "search" and these are the ones that say, "Access online through Gale Courses". These courses include a final exam.

Ukrainian Family History in Alberta, Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council. A digital archive of historical books and publications documenting Ukrainian communities, family histories, and heritage across Alberta. (More books are being added so check back.) https://www.uccab.ca/alberta-ukrainian-history/

Other Genealogy Sessions:

How to Share Your Ancestry Family Tree (Without Overwhelming Your Family) with Crista Cowan, Dec. 2, 11 am MST. Ancestry Academy virtual event. https://www.ancestry.com/c/discover/education

Meet GAIA: Your New AI Research Assistant on MyHeritage with Daniel Horowitz, Dec. 7, 1 pm GMT-7, Legacy Family Tree Webinars. Discover GAIA, MyHeritage's groundbreaking new Genealogy AI Agent! Daniel Horowitz shows how this collaborative tool conducts multi-step research using your own words. Watch GAIA search MyHeritage records and the web, cross-reference your tree, evaluate evidence, and suggest next steps — letting you add verified discoveries in just a few clicks. https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/meet-gaia-your-new-ai-research-assistant-on-myheritage

Ancestry Search Tips and Tricks with Crista Cowan, Dec. 9, 11 am MST. Ancestry Academy virtual event. https://www.ancestry.com/c/discover/education

Let's Discuss It! By John Ware, Dec. 9, 10 am – 11:30 am CDT, Tennessee Genealogical Society. Join our popular discussion group and learn what is trending in Genealogy. https://tngs.org/event-6581096/Registration

Social History and Material Culture: A Genealogist's Tool to Enhance Family Stories by Cynthia Guffey, Dec. 12, 10 am CST. Tennessee Genealogical Society. Family heirlooms, letters, diaries, photos, personal articles, and other family ephemera often hold stories that genealogists may have overlooked. Three vignettes will illustrate researching photos, articles, and items to add to the timeline and social history of an ancestor.
Register for event: https://tngs.org/event-6865559

Preserve Your Family Memories Through Personal Digital Archiving with Lori DiBella Wallach, Dec. 13, 2-4 pm, Jewish Genealogical Society of New York. Are you the memory keeper for yourself and the people in your life? Feeling overwhelmed with all the photos, documents, letters, home movies and other treasures you've accumulated? Wondering how to organize these items and make sure they survive to be passed down to future generations? Join archivist Lori DiBella Wallach for a fun exploration of how to use digital solutions to organize, preserve and share your family memories to ensure they remain accessible in the future. Come with questions and puzzles from your own experiences! All attendees will receive a free digital brochure on preserving photos and home movies, courtesy of Queens Memory. Contact program@jgsny.org for Zoom link.
https://jgsny.org/programs-civi/icalrepeat.detail/2026/12/13/164/-/preserve-your-family-memories-through-personal-digital-archiving

Left Behind Dead or Alive: Finding Answers from Those Who Remained with Jan Joyce, Dec. 15, 6 pm MST, Legacy Family Tree Webinar. When our ancestors packed their bags and crossed an ocean or state line, someone always stayed behind—and those people may hold the keys to a family's story. It may be FAM Club members such as a sister who never

left the old country, a grandfather buried in the hometown cemetery, or descendants of relatives still living in an ancestral community. Or it could be FAN Club members such as witnesses, sponsors, and neighbors. Those "left behind" create a rich paper trail of records, relationships, and perhaps even memories.
https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/left-behind-dead-or-alive-finding-answers-from-those-who-remained

Advanced Topics in DNA 5 of 5: Advanced Ethnicity and Traits with Blaine Bettinger, Dec. 16, 12 pm MST, Legacy Family Tree Webinar. Delve into how genetic testing reveals insights into our traits and predispositions beyond ancestry. This lecture will explore how specific genetic markers can indicate tendencies like athletic ability, caffeine metabolism, and risk-taking behavior. We will also dive into the science behind AncestryDNA's Genetic Communities (and groups at 23andMe and MyHeritage) and how they differ from traditional ethnicity analyses.
https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/advanced-topics-in-dna-5-of-5-advanced-ethnicity-and-traits

Connecting with our Roots: How Family Stories Shape our Lives with Tara Shymanski, Jan. 4, Bite-size, Bruce Stevens tells us about his RCAF Ancestor. Kelowna & District Genealogical Society, Registration is required. Attendance is free for KDGS members. Non-members are welcome and pay a $10 fee per meeting. info@kdgs.ca, https://kdgs.ca/updates/events/

Utilizing Ukrainian Genealogy Tools with Hailey Thompson and guest speaker Alex Krakovsky. Jan. 10, 1 pm Pacific time. 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. Ukrainian research can be complicated due to record loss, record access issues, language barriers, and more. This class will use a case study to show not only what resources to use, but how and when to apply them to your Ukrainian Jewish research. Attendees will be equipped with a deeper understanding of the research process, as well as specific tools and resources for finding documents and interpreting them. The class will include a focus on the collections provided by Alex Krakovsky. Study materials will be available a few weeks before the presentation. Alex Krakovsky shares the Ukrainian Archives Project Updates, recently scanned collections, towns, districts, and regions for which additional material has become available; the effect of the war on archives, preservation, and access; and priorities and plans for the next stages of the project.
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=6J3XWXDVFTUW6

DNA Evidence & Analysis with AI with Nicole Elder Dyer. Feb. 01, Bite-size, Carol Winston, "White Knuckles, Time Travel and AI: Unlocking a 1932 Family Road Trip". Kelowna & District Genealogical Society, Registration is required. Attendance is free for KDGS members. Non-members are welcome and pay a $10 fee per meeting. info@kdgs.ca, https://kdgs.ca/updates/events/

More Than Just Browsing: Best Practices In Using A Chromosome Browser with Dr. Adina Newman, Feb. 7, 1 pm Pacific, (Santa Cruz) Global Jewish Genealogy Society. Non-members pay $5.00. Zoom link will be sent the week of the event. Topics will include the purpose of a chromosome browser, how to utilize it at the major commercial testing and third-party sites, when to use it, and best chromosome browser practices in your genealogical research.
https://globaljgs.org/upcoming-events/

AI and Old Records: From Scan to Verified News with Margaret Schneider. Feb. 21, 2 pm Central Time. Cost $15 US. Building on the last AI webinar and the article in the Fall Rodziny will discuss how AI can speed up work with Polish records from before 1920, BUT ONLY IF we know where it fails, misleads or hallucinates, and how to check every result plus minimize their occurance. To illustrate these points, Margaret will employ live AI demonstrations.
https://pgsa.org/product/ai-and-old-records-from-scan-to-verified-notes/

Permissions made Simple" (navigating copyright for genealogists) with Andrea Lister, March 01, Bite-size, Claire Smith-Burns will guide you through making your own Family History Display Board. Kelowna & District Genealogical Society, Registration is required. Attendance is free for KDGS members. Non-members are welcome and pay a $10 fee per meeting. info@kdgs.ca, https://kdgs.ca/updates/events/

DNA Painter: Strategies to Enhance Your Genealogical Research with Dr. Adina Newman. March 14, 2 pm to 4 pm (New York time). The Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. of New York. Contact program@jgsny.org to register. https://jgsny.org/programs-civi/icalrepeat.detail/2027/03/14/170/-/dna-painter-strategies-to-enhance-your-genealogical-research

RootsTech 2027. Registration is now open! Three days of inspiring speakers and engaging classes to grow your family history skills. March 4-6, 2027. Join online for free or attend in person in Salt Lake City. https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/ and https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration

Genealogy Cruise to Alaska, Aug. 31 – Sept. 7, 2027. Kelowna & District Genealogical Society. On the beautiful Emerald Princess, leaving from and returning to Vancouver, BC! Our featured speaker will be Mark Thompson, co-host of the "Family History AI Show" and manager of the "Making Family History" blog: https://makingfamilyhistory.com/ . Claire Smith-Burns will also be a presenter. Be sure to register soon as spaces are limited! Hope you can join us! https://kdgs.ca/2027-genealogy-cruise/

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, $29 US, (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, Grammer 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

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*).

Articles, videos, publications, websites, Facebook groups, etc.:

New database makes finding Ukrainian genealogy records more user-friendly in English by Vera Miller, posted on Nov. 21. Baba's Village is the newest go-to site for locating Orthodox, Jewish, Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic, and civil registry (communist-era birth, marriage, and death) records for Ukrainian genealogy research. https://lostrussianfamily.wordpress.com/2026/11/21/new-database-makes-finding-ukrainian-genealogy-records-more-user-friendly-in-english/

The War Crimes Unit, The Passionate Eye, CBC Gem. Since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, Ukraine has officically filed over 240,000 alleged war crimes. The War Crimes Unit offers unprecedented access to the ongoing fight for justice during a period of existential crisis for international law. Note: CBC Gem is not available outside of Canada. https://gem.cbc.ca/the-war-crimes-unit

Ukraine's Archival Landscape: Remote Access and Research Opportunities, Webinar series, recorded sessions https://sites.google.com/view/ukraines-archival-landscape?pli=1&authuser=0

New Have Questions? Get Answers for Research in Galicia blog, Michelle Chubenko has posted many important articles here. Way too many to list here! It is really worth checking out. https://galicianancestry.substack.com/

Five Genealogical Myths That Could Be Holding Back Your Research in Galicia by Michelle Chubenko. Separating family lore from historical fact and discovering how a fresh perspective can open new doors in your ancestral research. https://galicianancestry.substack.com/p/five-genealogical-myths-that-could

Read the Formula, Not the Language by Rootmere, offered to FEEFHS, dated October 2026. You don't need to speak Russian, German, or Latin to read 19th-century genealogical vital records. Because nineteenth-century civil and parish records were filled out using rigid, legally mandated templates, identifying the structure that was use can help you translate the records more easily. Read Rootmere's full guide on decoding foreign records using this method. https://feefhs.org/general-information/rootmere

Writing a New Narrative: Turning Genealogical Details into Family Stories by Aryn S. Youngless, Family Tree Magazine. Turn details from genealogy records into vivid, memorable family stories with these strategies. https://familytreemagazine.com/storytelling/writing/writing-a-new-narrative-turning-genealogical-details-into-family-stories/

A Close Reading: Best Practices for Analyzing Records by Cheri Hudson Passey, Family Tree Magazine. Analyze records—and fulfill your ancestral quest—by understanding these key (sometimes contradicting) best practices. https://familytreemagazine.com/strategies/a-close-reading-best-practices-for-analyzing-records/

365 Genealogy Tasks: Your Day-by-Day 2026 Research Plan by Lisa A. Alzo, Family Tree Magazine. These simple genealogy tips will help you organize your search and make 2026 your best research year yet. https://familytreemagazine.com/strategies/genealogy-day-by-day

Scraps of History: Scrapbooking Family History by Sunny Jane Morton, Family Tree Magazine. An old hobby is making a comeback—and this time it's more about stories than stickers. Discover how to scrapbook your family history. https://familytreemagazine.com/projects/scraps-of-history-scrapbooking-family-history/

Quick Tips for Interviewing Family Members About Historic Events by Maureen A. Taylor, Family Tree Magazine. Interested in interviewing someone in your family about the historic events they've experienced? Be sure to check out these tips! https://familytreemagazine.com/storytelling/interviewing/interviewing-family-members-historic-events/

6 Tips for Writing Your Life Story by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, Family Tree Magazine. Nobody can tell your own story as well as you. Here's how to get started transforming your memories into memoirs. https://familytreemagazine.com/storytelling/writing/writing-your-life-story/

5 classic mistakes to avoid when starting your family tree by Jean-Yves, Geneanet. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people embark on a quest to trace their ancestors. Yet, going back in time is no easy feat: between namesakes, incomplete records, and family legends, it's easy to get lost at the beginning of your research. Here's a list of 5 classic mistakes to avoid when starting your family tree! https://en.geneanet.org/genealogyblog/post/2026/11/5-classic-mistakes-to-avoid-when-starting-your-family-tree

5 Ideas to Get to Know the Females in Your Family Tree by Sunny Jane Morton, Family Tree Magazine. It often takes extra effort to identify and trace women throughout their entire lives. Try these 5 tasks to get to know the females on your family tree. https://familytreemagazine.com/female-ancestors/ideas-get-to-know-female-ancestors/

5 Genealogy Filing Systems to Get You Organized by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, Family Tree Magazine. These five genealogical filing systems will slim down your weighty piles of paper and quicken your steps to research success. https://familytreemagazine.com/organization/5-genealogy-filing-systems/

Planning Family Reunions: Why Communication Matters (and How to Get the Word Out) by Melina Papadopoulos, Family Tree Magazine. Effective communication plays a major role in ensuring a fun, memorable reunion. Here are the types of communication you will want to use. https://familytreemagazine.com/reunions/planning-family-reunions-why-communication-matters/

Aerial Photographs and Ancestral Home Towns by Maureen A. Taylor, Family Tree Magazine. Learn about aerial photography and how to find images of ancestral home towns. https://familytreemagazine.com/photos/aerial-photographs-and-ancestral-home-towns/

21 Search Tips for Google, Ancestry and Other Genealogy Websites by David A. Fryxell, Family Tree Magazine. Think your ancestors are a lost cause? Not with our search tips for finding your family history online on Google, Ancestry and other websites. https://familytreemagazine.com/strategies/online-search-strategies/

Family History Writing Prompts (Over 40!) by the Editors of Family Tree Magazine. These genealogy writing prompts challenge you to imagine your family's history in a whole new way. Pick a prompt that inspires you and get writing! https://familytreemagazine.com/storytelling/writing/family-history-writing-prompts/

Comparing the Five Major Newspaper Websites for Genealogy by Sunny Jane Morton, Family Tree Magazine. Looking for digitized newspapers? We've got the scoop on five newspaper giants: Newspapers.com, GenealogyBank, NewspaperArchive, Chronicling America and Fulton History. Here's how they compare. https://familytreemagazine.com/websites/historical-newspaper-websites-compared/

Turning Genealogy Records into Compelling Stories by the Editors of Family Tree Magazine. In this interview, writer and genealogist Aryn S. Youngless offers tips for turning genealogy records into stories worth telling. https://familytreemagazine.com/podcasts/turning-genealogy-records-into-compelling-stories-with-aryn-s-youngle/

Writing On: 5 Family History Activities to Do in November by Ashlee Peck, Family Tree Magazine. November is a great time to focus on family storytelling! These five activities can help you tell your family's story in a creative, compelling way. https://familytreemagazine.com/projects/5-genealogy-activities-november/

How to Make a Basic Family History Binder by the Editors of Family Tree Magazine. Binders are a great tool for organizing and sharing family history research. Learn how to create your own family history binder with our comprehensive guide. https://familytreemagazine.com/projects/how-to-make-family-history-binder/

Tools for Cluster Research: How to Add Non-Relatives to Your Family Tree by Andrew Koch, Family Tree Magazine. Document your ancestors' friends, associate, neighbors, and more to break through genealogical brick walls. https://familytreemagazine.com/research/cluster-research-nonrelatives-family-tree/

Reverse Genealogy: 5 Reasons to Trace Family Forward in Time by Maureen A. Taylor, Family Tree Magazine. Think tracing your tree back in time is the only way to go? Guess again. We got some unconventional researchers to share their reverse genealogy secrets. https://familytreemagazine.com/research/using-reverse-genealogy-to-overcome-brick-walls/

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/

How to Fill Out a Family Tree Chart Template by Allison Dolan, Family Tree Magazine. Learn how to make a family tree that's accurate and thorough with this guide. Learn best practices, as well as how to use traditional charts and forms. https://familytreemagazine.com/strategies/how-to-fill-out-family-tree-template/

Every Idea Has Ancestors by Steve Little at Vibe Genealogy. My AI reinvented a feature someone else built first, and I didn't know. What I owed, and a free skill that finds who your work should credit.
https://vibegenealogy.ai/p/every-idea-has-ancestors-credit-review-skill

Work Backward Before You Work Forward: The Foundation of Successful Descendancy Research by Diane Henriks on Know Who Wears the Genes In Your Family. One of the biggest mistakes I see in descendancy research is trying to build the branches of the family tree before establishing a solid trunk. It's understandable. Once we discover an interesting ancestor, it's tempting to immediately begin researching every child, grandchild, cousin, and descendant we can find. But over the years, I've learned that taking a more structured approach leads to stronger, more accurate research. https://www.knowwhowearsthegenesinyourfamily.com/blog/work-backward-before-you-work-forward-the-foundation-of-successful-descendancy-research

Conflated Identities: When One Ancestor in an Online Tree Is Several People by the author of Genera Genealogical Services. Anyone with a tree on Ancestry knows the little green leaf, and most of us have clicked Yes on more of them than we should have. Many of those leaves point to real records for the right person (a census page, a marriage register, a draft card), but many others point to other people's trees, and some of those trees contain a person who was put together from several different people with the same name. Ancestry then offers that combined person to everyone else researching the name. https://generaggs.substack.com/p/conflated-identities-when-one-ancestor

Step-By-Step Guide to Analyzing Your Ancestral Regions: Part 2 by Diana Elder on Family Locket. In this second post in our series on Ancestry DNA , we'll look at how to save, record, and analyze your own 2026 Ancestral Regions results, with my father, Ellis Guiles, as the example.
https://familylocket.com/step-by-step-guide-to-analyzing-your-ancestral-regions-part-2/

Why you should use WikiTree by Saphyre on Family Roots. WikiTree is a free public "One" tree with features for every genealogist. https://saphyre.substack.com/p/why-you-should-use-wikitree

The AI Brief for Family Historians: November 2026 by Denyse Allen on Chronicle Makers. A scam list for the Thanksgiving table, what historians are doing with AI, and the new personal agents.
https://denyseallen.substack.com/p/ai-brief-family-historians-november-2026

Tip Roundup for November 2026 by Deborah Carl on Mission: Genealogy. If you're doing family research, you have experiences and knowledge worth sharing. https://missiongenealogy.substack.com/p/tip-roundup-for-november-2026

7 Things I'd Do Differently If I Started Genealogy Today by Lisa Lisson on Are You My Cousin? Genealogy has changed considerably since I started. We have access to more historical records, better search tools, DNA and now artificial intelligence (AI) that can help us approach research problems in entirely new ways.
https://lisalisson.com/7-things-id-do-differently-if-i-started-genealogy-today/

Find the surnames and ancestors your DNA matches share by Dan Maloney on Genealogy Assistant. Plus faster fact entry on Ancestry, seven new tools for FamilySearch and keyboard shortcuts on every DNA site.
https://genealogyassistant.substack.com/p/new-features-november-2026

Breaking Through Brick Walls Using Y-DNA and Mitochondrial DNA by Roberta Estes on DNAeXplained -- Genetic Genealogy.
https://dna-explained.com/2026/11/02/focus-step-3-breaking-through-brick-walls-using-y-dna-and-mitochondrial-dna/

Free Website Makes You a Genealogy Genius by DiAnn Iamarino Ohama on Fortify Your Family Tree. Last week I scolded those who give up at the sight of a foreign-language genealogy document. My goal was to encourage you to learn. I won't accept "I can't" from anyone who won't make the effort. This week I'll show you a way to learn what you need to know—with very little effort. https://family-tree-advice.blogspot.com/2026/11/catalog.html

Introducing GAIA, MyHeritage's Groundbreaking Genealogy AI Agent by Daniella Levy on MyHeritage Blog. Enter GAIA, the new Genealogy AI Agent from MyHeritage. GAIA brings the power of agentic AI to family history research, marking an important step forward for genealogy. While technology has long helped genealogists find and access information, GAIA takes this a step further by actively conducting multi-step research in collaboration with you.
https://blog.myheritage.com/2026/11/introducing-gaia-myheritages-groundbreaking-genealogy-ai-agent/

One Place Study Getting Started - What I've Been Up To Lately! by Kyla Bayang on Genealogy Roundup. Random thoughts, links and HAZA!!! Moments. https://rootsquadroundup.substack.com/p/one-place-study-getting-started-what

Is Traditional Genealogy Dead? by Lex Knowlton on Knext Gen Genealogy. These companies have built extensive databases, brimming with records. In the past, gathering this evidence would have taken a genealogist years or even a lifetime. This makes genealogy sites a powerful tool. Still, just as a carpenter cannot build a table with only a hammer, a genealogist should not rely only on online records. Building family trees requires more.
https://knextgengenealogy.substack.com/p/is-traditional-genealogy-dead

What to Do When a Record Disappears by N.P. Maling on Sea Genes Family History & Genealogy Research.
https://seagenes.substack.com/p/what-to-do-when-a-record-disappears

Trying Out Research Like a Pro with AI Genealogy Workbook, Parts 6 & 7 by Linda Stufflebean on Empty Branches On the Family Tree. https://emptybranchesonthefamilytree.com/2026/11/trying-out-research-like-a-pro-with-ai-genealogy-workbook-part-6-7/

AI ALERT: Genealogists need to be aware of AI shrinkflation and subsidies by Kathereine on GPT For the Family Tree.
https://gptfamilytree.blogspot.com/2026/11/ai-alert-genealogists-need-to-be-aware.html

From Historical Newspapers to Infographics: Using Gemini Notebook and ChatGPT Together by Heidi Buck on The Technical Genealogist. https://www.technicalgenealogist.com/blog/from-newspapers-to-infographics

Meet GAIA: MyHeritage's New AI Genealogy Research Agent by Diane Henriks on Know Who Wears the Genes In Your Family. MyHeritage has just introduced GAIA (Genealogy AI Agent), a new AI-powered research tool designed to help genealogists investigate family history questions, search historical records, evaluate evidence, and uncover potential new leads.
https://www.knowwhowearsthegenesinyourfamily.com/blog/meet-gaia-myheritages-new-ai-genealogy-research-agent

How to Talk Family History Without Losing the Room by Aryn Youngless on Genealogy By Aryn. Genealogy Basics: Holiday Edition. https://genealogybyaryn.substack.com/p/how-to-talk-family-history-without

Create a Family History Book With Your Virtual Team by DiAnn Iamarino Ohama on Fortify Your Family Tree. https://family-tree-advice.blogspot.com/2026/11/yourbook.html

What To Do With My Genealogy Library? by Donna Phillips on Eastern Washington Genealogical Society Blog. https://ewgs-spokane.blogspot.com/2026/11/what-to-do-with-my-genealogy-library.html

Taking a look at gaia by Natalie Webb on Family Tree Technology. Gaia is an AI Agent, a small genealogy-specific AI program built inside of MyHeritage. To use Gaia, you'll need a MyHeritage account, but not necessarily a paid one (at least at first). MyHeritage has given every account some free Gaia time to try it out. Paid Omni-level accounts get additional Gaia usage as part of their ongoing subscription.
https://familytreetech.com/2026/11/10/taking-a-look-at-gaia/

Daily Ancestor: Free Genealogy Lessons, Record Guides, and Tools by Doris Kenney on A Tree With No Name. https://atreewithnoname.blogspot.com/2026/11/daily-ancestor-free-genealogy-lessons.html

Using LiDAR and Fable 5.2 to identify ancestral homesites by Katherine Norges on GPT for the Family Tree. https://gptfamilytree.blogspot.com/2026/11/using-lidar-and-fable-52-to-identify.html

Breaking Through a Genealogy Brick Wall: Ten Fresh-Eyes Strategies by a writer on Genealogy Foundations. To break through a genealogy brick wall, look at your problem with fresh eyes: recheck what you think you know, widen your search to siblings and neighbors, change how you search, and invite another perspective. Ten strategies follow, and most can be tried in a single evening. One of them is likely to give you a new lead.
https://genealogyfoundation.com/genealogy/breaking-through-a-genealogy-brick-wall-ten-fresh-eyes-strategies/

Why Segments Are Important Keys to Identifying Your Ancestor by Roberta Esteso on DNAeXplained - Genetic Genealogy. In this article, we'll cover the importance of segments, how to find yours at the various vendors that provide that information, and an amazing tool called DNAPainter to keep track of it all.
https://dna-explained.com/2026/11/12/focus-step-4-why-segments-are-important-keys-to-identifying-your-ancestor/

When Genealogy is Like Housecleaning by Jacqi Stevens on A Family Tapestry. My goal today was to review the public Olejniczak family lines at FamilySearch, comparing that with my own tree at Ancestry.com, to see if the powerful search engine system at that website—to say nothing of the volunteers worldwide who are building their own trees there—has turned up anything new. My hope is that, eventually along the line, someone from a recent generation will connect with a real family member who can claim that entry at FamilySearch as, say, a grandparent. I want to find living people who can explain what happened in those gaping holes in the history of my Polish family.
https://afamilytapestry.blogspot.com/2026/11/when-genealogy-is-like-housecleaning.html

Fun Prompt Friday: "Fable, Make Something Incredible" by Steve Little on Vibe Genealogy. This week, Anthropic released Fable 5.2, the newest advance in its Claude family of AI models. It is their largest, strongest publicly released model. It is also expensive. So I had one question: is Fable 5.2 worth twice the price of Opus 5.5, the very capable favorite? https://vibegenealogy.ai/p/fun-prompt-friday-fable-make-something-incredible-kinfolk-observatory

Ancestry's new DNA by Grandparent by John Newmark on TransylvanianDutch. Ancestry is now offering an ethnicity breakdown, not just by Parent, but by Grandparent. This has not yet been rolled out to all tests.For some it will say "Coming Soon." https://blog.transylvaniandutch.com/2026/11/ancestrys-new-dna-by-grandparent.html

A Close Reading: Best Practices for Analyzing Records by Cheri Hudson Passey, Family Tree Magazine. Analyze records—and fulfill your ancestral quest—by understanding these key (sometimes contradicting) best practices.

https://familytreemagazine.com/strategies/a-close-reading-best-practices-for-analyzing-records/

Fact or Science Fiction? Putting DNA Rumors to the Test by Diahan Southard, Family Tree Magazine. There is a lot of misinformation and half-truths floating around about taking a DNA test. Before you spit or swab, discover the truth behind 6 common genetic genealogy myths and figure out how DNA testing really fits into your family tree search. https://familytreemagazine.com/dna/dna-fact-or-science-fiction/

A Plat Maps Guide: How to Trace Land, Your Ancestors and Historical Communities by Andrew Koch, Family Tree Magazine. Gaze into your ancestor's past with plat maps, which show the divisions of land in your ancestor's neighborhood. https://familytreemagazine.com/records/maps/historical-research-plat-maps/

6 Steps to Start Genealogy in Religious Records by David A. Fryxell, Family Tree Magazine. Find your family's church records, and you'll be counting your genealogical blessings. These six steps will help you uncover the ancestral revelations in religious documents. https://familytreemagazine.com/records/church/faiths-rewards/

13 Genealogy Myths and Misconceptions by Nick D'Alto, Family Tree Magazine. We expose the truth behind 13 genealogy falsehoods and fallacies that could sabotage your family tree.
https://familytreemagazine.com/general-genealogy/genealogy-myths/

Too Many Family Snapshots? Here's What to Keep, Scan, and Toss by Maureen Taylor, The Photo Detective News. Five practical steps for tackling your collection of printed family photographs.
https://photodetective.substack.com/p/too-many-family-snapshots-heres-what

Family History Home: Saving Family Traditions by Denise May Levenick, Family Tree Magazine. Discover how to preserve family traditions and create lasting memories.
https://familytreemagazine.com/preservation/family-history-home-saving-family-traditions/

Family Papers: What to Keep and What to Trash by Lisa A. Alzo, Family Tree Magazine. Declutter your genealogy life with these three steps for determining what papers to keep and what to trash.
https://familytreemagazine.com/preservation/family-papers-what-to-keep/

Counting Black Sheep: Case Study on Handling Shocking Stories in Your Family Tree by Stephen Wendt, MLIS, Family Tree Magazine. A shocking discovery highlights what to do with (and how to find) the unsavory "black sheep" in your family tree. https://familytreemagazine.com/case-studies/counting-black-sheep-case-study-on-handling-shocking-stories-in-your-family-tree/

DNA Q&A: 6 Things to Do When Your DNA Match Doesn't Have a Tree by Diahan Southard, Family Tree Magazine. Yes, you still can use your DNA matches even if there's no tree or genealogy information attached. Here are six ways to make no-tree matches work for you. https://familytreemagazine.com/dna/no-tree-dna-matches/

Finding Your Family in the Holodomor Records by Genera Genealogical Services. A Step-by-Step Guide to Death Registers, Memory Books, and Archives Across Ukraine. Every November, families with roots in Ukraine ask what happened to one person during the Holodomor.
https://generaggs.substack.com/p/finding-your-family-in-the-holodomor

Google Search Strategies for Hard-to-Find Ancestors by Lisa Louise Cooke. In the new Genealogy Gems Podcast episode, I'll explain why searches can go sideways and what to do when they do. If you've ever closed a browser tab thinking, "I guess there's nothing out there," this episode is for you!
https://lisalouisecooke.com/2026/11/18/google-search-strategies-genealogy/

Why You Should Pay Attention to Your AncestryDNA Journeys by Diahan Southard, Family Tree Magazine. Learn three reasons why you should be putting your AncestryDNA Journeys (and MyHeritage Communities) first when looking for clues about your ancestors.
https://familytreemagazine.com/dna/why-you-should-pay-attention-to-your-ancestrydna-journeys/

Testing ChatGPT Work: Can It Turn an Ancestor Profile into a Finished Biography? by Diane Henriks on Know Who Wears the Genes In Your Family. I've experimented with AI-generated ancestor biographies before, so this wasn't really a test of whether ChatGPT could write about an ancestor. I wanted to know something different: Could I give it an ancestor profile and have it create the actual finished biographical narrative document?
https://www.knowwhowearsthegenesinyourfamily.com/blog/testing-chatgpt-work-can-it-turn-an-ancestor-profile-into-a-finished-biography

Same Person, Five Spellings: A Guide to Matching Records with Inconsistent Names by the writer on Genealogy Foundation. Five spellings can still be one person. To match records with inconsistent names, compare more than the name: check age, birthplace, occupation, family members, and neighbors, and ask whether the whole picture fits. Build a short list of variants, test each against your evidence, and write down why you accepted or rejected each match.
https://genealogyfoundation.com/research-techniques/same-person-five-spellings-a-guide-to-matching-records-with-inconsistent-names/

The Connected World for Genealogists by Wayne Shepheard on Discover Genealogy. Years ago, I grumbled that in Canada (and elsewhere in the world?) we were often disconnected from data in our ancestral old-world countries and with other family historians there. Researching in Britain and Europe was difficult and time-consuming. There was no quick access to information that was hidden in archives and church parishes and dioceses. Over time…
https://discovergenealogy.blogspot.com/2026/11/the-connected-world-for-genealogists.html

Every Idea Has Ancestors by Steve Little on Vibe Genealogy. My AI reinvented a feature someone else built first, and I didn't know. What I owed, and a free skill that finds who your work should credit.
https://vibegenealogy.ai/p/every-idea-has-ancestors-credit-review-skill

Fun Prompt Friday: 34 Free AI Genealogy Tools by Steve Little on Vibe Genealogy. OpenAI retires Custom GPTs on December 11. Here's where you'll find mine, now and afterward.
https://vibegenealogy.ai/p/fun-prompt-friday-free-ai-genealogy

Creating an Ancestor Spreadsheet with ChatGPT by Marcia Crawford Philbrick on Heartland Genealogy.
https://www.heartlandgenealogy.org/2026/11/spreadsheet.html

How I Use AI in Genealogy—and Where I Draw the Line by Doris Kenney on A Tree With No Name. As you probably already know, I've embraced AI for tasks I feel it can help me with in my genealogy journey. I use AI for many non-genealogy tasks as well. But, I certainly don't rely on it for everything. I'm aware it can make errors (and I take this into account when deciding how and when to use it). I know it has potential drawbacks. But I also know it's not going anywhere. https://atreewithnoname.blogspot.com/2026/11/how-i-use-ai-in-genealogyand-where-i.html

From Indentured Servant to Research Assistant: My Journey with AI by Lori Samuelson on GenealogyAtHeart.com. When people ask how I use AI in genealogy, they often assume I simply type a question and accept whatever answer appears on the screen. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our relationship didn't begin with trust. It began with skepticism. https://www.genealogyatheart.com/?p=3940

Unlocking the Past: A Guide to Vetted and Verified Genealogy by N.P. Maling on Sea Genes Family History & Genealogy Research. For beginner and intermediate researchers alike, learning how to carefully review, test, and validate these existing records transforms a borrowed family tree into an authentic, defensible historical account.
https://seagenes.substack.com/p/unlocking-the-past-a-guide-to-vetted

Interested in Accreditation or Strengthening Your Genealogy Research Skills? by Alice Childs on AliceChilds.com. Earning the Accredited Genealogist® credential with the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen) provides opportunities to demonstrate research proficiency in a chosen region. Benefits include strengthened research skills, confidence in performing client work, and respect in the genealogy community. https://alicechilds.com/interested-in-accreditation-or-strengthening-your-genealogy-research-skills/

Best Genealogy Software 2026 by Martin Roe Eidhammer on Norwegian Genealogy and then some... The best genealogy software for beginners, experienced researchers, source-based genealogy, online research, and keeping control of your family history. If you're searching for up-to-date recommendations, this guide will help you. Choosing genealogy software is rather like choosing a good pair of walking boots. https://martinroe.com/blog/best-genealogy-software-2026/

Our Family Atlas by Jenny MacKay on Jenealogy Scrapbook of Family History Stories. The prompt was the easy part. An interactive page that opens in any web browser. Working in collaboration with Carole McCulloch and using Steve Little's advice, this is how I constructed the atlas. https://jennymackay.substack.com/p/our-family-atlas

The Rise of the Agents: Field Notes from My AI Agency by Carole McCulloch on Essential Genealogy. Three agents (Fable, Astra and Antigravity), three projects, one rulebook — and what each of them discovered in my family archive. https://essentialgenealogy.substack.com/p/the-rise-of-the-agents-field-notes

"Fable, Make Something Incredible": Migration Across Four Centuries by Lisa Rex on Ancestor Audit. Fable turned my 7,823-person tree into an atlas and an ancestor audit. I audited it back. https://ancestoraudit.substack.com/p/fable-make-something-incredible-migration

What's New in Genealogy by Miles Meyer on Miles' Genealogy Tips. Fold3, FamilySearch, MyHeritage, Ancestry, NewspaperAchive.com, Newspapers.com, GenealogyBank, Mondays with Myrt, https://milesgenealogy.blogspot.com/2026/11/whats-new-in-genealogy.html

Why inherited trauma might be affecting your mental health and what you can do to break the cycle. Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine. How finding out more about your family history can help you with mental health issues. https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/feature/intergenerational-trauma

How to find First World War records. Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine. Discover how to trace your ancestor's service record from the First World War on these websites. https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/feature/12-best-websites-for-tracing-british-first-world-war-soldiers

Episode 21 – Bringing the Story Home by Erka Hanchar. Bringing The Story Home is the final installment of the Granddaughter of Immigrants podcast. In this extended follow up episode, a family reunion brings the story home to Thunder Bay, Ontario and to the CBC Radio One studios, where Erika joins Amy Hadley in an interview about the podcast, family history research and local connections bookends the podcast mini-series. https://erikanhanchar.substack.com/p/episode-21-bringing-the-story-home-718f5b33

Ukrainians Abroad: News and Views #170, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta. Contact Serge Cipko, Coordinator, Ukrainian Diaspora Studies Initiative, CIUS scipko@ualberta.ca to be added to their mailing list. https://www.ualberta.ca/en/canadian-institute-of-ukrainian-studies/media-library/publications-and-resources/ukrainians-abroad/ukrainians-abroad-170.pdf

On a side note:

December includes major holidays such as Christmas Eve (Dec. 24), Christmas Day (Dec. 25), Boxing Day (Dec. 26), and New Years Eve (Dec. 31), along with numerous cultural, religious and awareness observances. Human Rights Day is on Dec. 10. The Winter Solstice is on Dec. 21 and the start of winter. And International Volunteer Day is on Dec. 5.

GivingTuesday is December 1st.
GivingTuesday is a day to celebrate generosity and the many ways we can make a difference. Whether you're giving, volunteering, sharing, or showing up for your community, there's no one way to participate. Find your way to get involved this December 1. https://www.givingtuesday.org/ and
https://www.canadahelps.org/en/forcharities/resources/givingtuesday-forcharities/

On the morning of December 25 there is a special greeting: «Христос народився!» – Christ is Born! To which the response is «Славімо його!» – "Let us glorify Him!"

10 Ukrainian Christmas Traditions and Symbols, Speak Ukrainian team
https://speakua.com/blog/10-ukrainian-christmas-traditions-and-symbols_1

When is Christmas in Ukraine, Official Website of Ukraine
https://ukraine.ua/visit/christmas-in-ukraine/

Ukrainian Christmas Traditions Decoded | Food, Carols & the Customs That Survived, Ukraine Unfiltered
Join us as we explore the enduring spirit of Ukrainian customs, especially during Christmas in Ukraine. Despite centuries of external pressures, these traditional Christmas celebrations and spiritual rituals have not only survived but thrived. Discover the beauty of Ukrainian Christmas through ancient practices that connect generations and highlight the deep family heritage and cultural significance of these cherished holidays.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxOliGlNVw4

Polish Christmas Traditions (+ Christmas vocabulary!), Polish Girl Next Door
Christmas traditions in Poland are unique and practiced by Poles all around the world. From the "rózga" to the "gwiazdka," join me in exploring these special Polish Christmas traditions.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=foo885D6LHs





Participants perform Christmas Carols during the Christmas Stars Festival outside Taras Shevchenko monument, on the Orthodox second day of Christmas, in Lviv, Ukraine, on Jan. 8, 2023. (Artur Widak/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images)
https://kyivindependent.com/explaining-ukraine-vertep-a-ukrainian-christmas-tradition/

Michigan Polonia – A new find:
https://www.mipolonia.net/ and
https://www.mipolonia.net/resources/

FB Polish Genealogy Group Aid – Another new find:
https://sites.google.com/view/polishgenealogygroup



Мені снилась бабуся. Що вона ще жива.
Підійшла як у церкві. Засвітила слова.
І свят-вечір у хаті, і з медом кутя.
Всі зайці ще вухаті, і я ще дитя.
Стіни білі-пребілі, і натоплена піч.
Інкрустований місяць в заворожену ніч.
Ліна Костенко

I dreamed of my grandmother. That she is still alive.
She came over as if from the church. She lit the words.
And a holiday evening in the house, and kutya with honey.
All the bunnies are still ear-flap, and I am still a child.
The walls are white and gray, and the stove is lit.
The moon is inlaid in a bewitched night.
Lina Kostenko

Mariia Gutman posted on Facebook on November 15, 2026, at the Ліна Костенко.Вірші public group,
https://www.facebook.com/groups/254339611369412/
https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1082341671507481&set=gm.4122578511212150&idorvanity=254339611369412

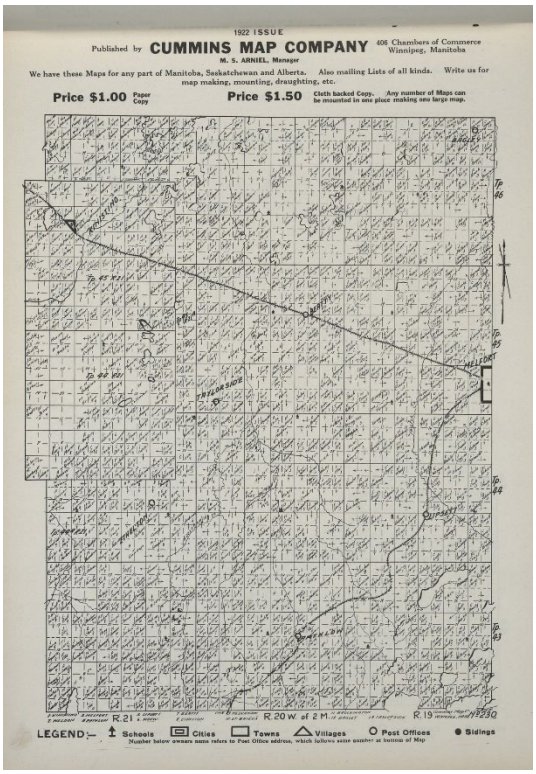
The Kule Folklore Centre at the University of Alberta is pleased to launch the "**Edmonton Southwest Region**" series — a series of posts covering the research and fieldwork conducted this summer by two archival assistants at the Bohdan Medwidsky Ukrainian Folklore Archives, Illia Pokotylo and Jonathan Grossman, under the supervision of the BMUFA archivist, Nataliia Yesypenko.

Together, they worked on KuFC's contribution to an archival project of the South West Ukrainian Canadian Historical Society (SWUCHS). The initial stage involved creating a finding guide for the Medwidsky Archives — mapping archival collections related to the Ukrainian community in the southwest region of Edmonton, focusing on the areas surrounding Nisku, Leduc, Thorsby, and Calmar. Besides archival work, the project took Illia and Jonathan directly into the communities as they explored the region. The results of this fieldwork included "then and now" photographs, contrasting historical archival images taken by Harry (Hryhory) Yopyk in the Spring of 1978 (currently held in the BMUFA) with contemporary views.

Visit the KuFC website to read more about the project, view the finding guides, and stay tuned for the subsequent posts! Read more about the project here: https://www.ualberta.ca/en/kule-folklore-centre/news-and-events/news/2026/october/edmonton-southwest-region.html

Follow the link to see resources in the BMUFA related to the Ukrainian Communities Southwest of Edmonton:
https://www.ualberta.ca/.../subject-guides/swuchs/index.html

The Cummins Maps only cover 1918 - 1927.
A huge thank you to Wally Lee on Facebook who posted at Historic Saskatchewan on October 31, 2026, the following.
https://www.facebook.com/groups/472456403800111/ and https://www.facebook.com/marty.lee.902819



While researching my family history, I recently revisited a website I had seen years ago that provides downloadable maps covering the three prairie provinces showing the owner's name on each quarter section.

These maps were produced by the Cummins Map Company of Winnipeg in various years.

The maps that I downloaded are of eastern Saskatchewan and were issued in 1922; one hundred and four years ago.
This particular map covers portions of the districts of Weldon, Kinistino, Crystal Springs, Birch Hills, Invergordon, Crescent Hill, Brancpeth, Meskanaw, St. Brieux, etc.

Although this map doesn't show my father's (Oliver Lee's) property, which he and his brother Severt Lee homesteaded. it shows many family names I recognize from my childhood in the 1950s on a farm 5 miles north of Weldon, and from the years I lived and went to school in Kinistino in the 1960s.

Some of the family names on this map that I remember hearing, or recognize, from my childhood are:

Shannon, Weir, Simpso, Leland, Pringle, Larsen, Njaa, Olsen, Taylor, Falk, Christoferson, Hanson, Welch, Bacon, Jackson, Gesdahl, Manson, Hendrickson, Ellis, McCloy, Poncelet, Warbis, Arn, Meyers, Freeman, Trippanier, Leonard, Beecher, Hovedebo, Lamont, etc., etc.

How to access the map website:
Google: “Internet Archive” then Google: “Cummins Maps”
https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=2317014672456227&set=gm.1809836790062059&idorvanity=472456403800111

Cummins Western Saskatchewan rural directory
https://archive.org/details/N029901

Cummins Eastern Saskatchewan rural directory maps
https://archive.org/details/N029902

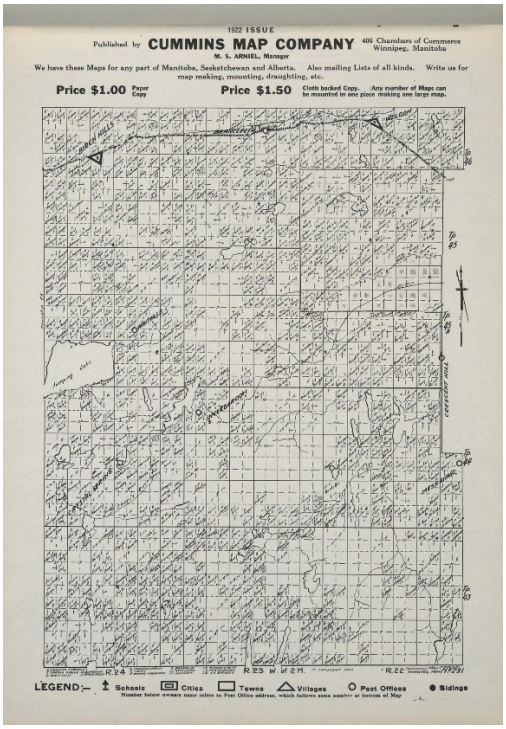
Cummins Alberta rural directory maps
https://archive.org/details/N029900

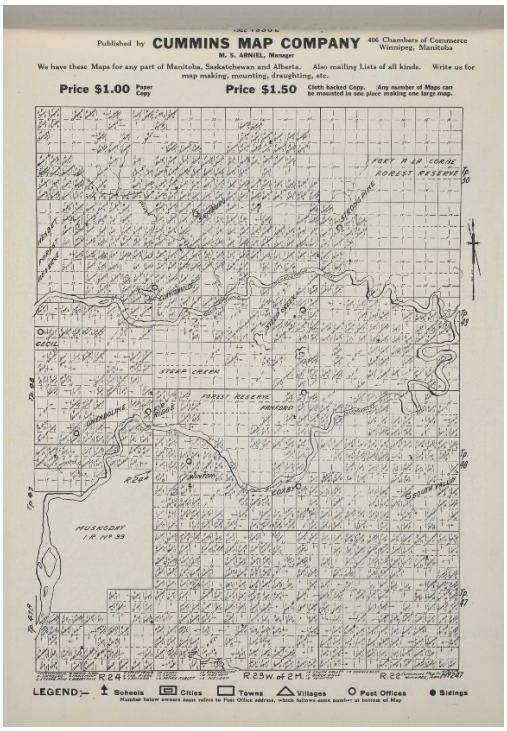
Cummins Manitoba rural directory maps
https://archive.org/details/N029903



Cummins Rural Directory Maps (University of Calgary), Canadian Prairie Provinces | 1918 to 1927
This index provides access to Cummins Rural Directory Maps — also known as homestead maps — covering parts of the Canadian Prairies between 1918 and 1927. The maps show the names of rural landowners, along with features such as

the locations of schools, post offices, sidings, villages, and towns. These maps are part of the historical maps collection from Spatial and Numeric Data Services (SANDS) at the University of Calgary.
https://sands.ucalgary.ca/App/CumminsRuralMaps/





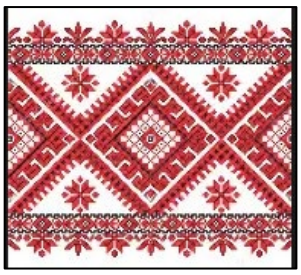
Explore other related resources:

- **Homestead Index** (Alberta Genealogical Society)
  https://www.abgenealogy.ca/alberta-homestead-index

- **Dominion Land Grants Database** (Library and Archives Canada)
  https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/home/record?idnumber=1335710&app=fonandcol

- **Western Land Grants** (Library and Archives Canada), 1870-1930
  https://www.canada.ca/en/library-archives/collection/research-help/genealogy-family-history/land-records/western-land-grants.html

- **Digital Historical Maps Collection** (SANDS, UCalgary)
  https://digitalcollections.ucalgary.ca/maps?FR_=1&W=1592&H=742



Resources – Forgotten Alberta
https://forgottenalberta.com/resources/

Historical Maps (University of Calgary)
https://digitalcollections.ucalgary.ca/maps

Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, Canada, Homestead Grant Registers, 1872-1930 (Ancestry.ca)
https://www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/9209

Back to the Land: A Genealogical Guide to Finding Farms on the Canadian Prairies by Dave Obee, 2003
This new edition of Back to the Land includes: An expanded summary of land descriptions as determined by the Dominion Land Survey; maps showing townships, communities and census districts on the three Prairie provinces; an index of townships on the Prairies, providing a quick reference to the proper enumeration areas in the 1901 census, and the corresponding microfilm numbers. https://www.daveobee.com/resources/land2014.pdf

---

Before the Homestead: What the Archives of Galicia and Bukovina Kept About Families Who Left for Canada, 1891–1914, by Vadym Ratynskyi

Two men from Nebyliv

In September 1891 two farmers from the village of Nebyliv in Galicia, Ivan Pylypiw (also spelled Pylypow) and Wasyl Eleniak, came ashore in Canada. They are usually counted as the first Ukrainian immigrants. By the outbreak of war in 1914, about 170,000 Ukrainians had followed them, according to the most common estimate. Most came from two Austrian crown lands, Galicia and Bukovina, and most went to the Prairies.

Many of their descendants know only "Galicia" or "Austria" and a village name that someone wrote down by ear. That name is the most valuable fact the family has.

The village name is the key

Canadian records seldom say "Ukraine". Your ancestor may appear as Galician, Bukovinian, Ruthenian, Austrian, Polish or even Russian. The village has to be found on the Canadian side first. Places worth checking:

• Homestead files. The Provincial Archives of Alberta describes them as recording the applicant's age, place of birth and former place of residence. Naturalization papers are sometimes filed with them.
• Passenger lists for Canadian ports, 1865–1935, held by Library and Archives Canada, and its database Ukrainian Immigrants, 1891–1930. That database holds nearly 15,000 names. It is a useful sample, not a complete list.
• Naturalization records, Canadian church registers, obituaries and family papers.

Then come the traps. The same village can be written in Polish, German, Ukrainian or Latin form. Many village names repeat across Galicia. The Lviv archive's own catalogue adds the deanery to some entries precisely to tell same-named villages apart. So note the Austrian district (Bezirk, Polish powiat) together with the village. And take the district from a document of the right year, not from a modern map. Borders and names changed several times in the twentieth century, and archives are arranged by the old units. The Lviv catalogue of Greek Catholic registers, for example, lists every village under its Polish county as of 1933.

What survived in Ukraine

Parish registers. From the late eighteenth century Austrian rules required births, marriages and deaths to be entered in ruled columns. For Greek Catholic parishes of the Lviv archeparchy, the largest body of registers is in the Central State Historical Archive in Lviv. Regional archives, such as the one in Ternopil, hold further registers. A significant share of the registers kept in Galicia is now in Poland. The Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw holds Greek Catholic registers from the Lviv, Przemyśl and Stanislaviv dioceses and Roman Catholic registers from the Lviv archdiocese. The State Archive in Przemyśl holds further Greek Catholic material.

Collections are uneven. The Lviv archive's catalogue calls its own Greek Catholic collection a "mosaic", fragmentary in places. One parish's books may be split between several archives. Some books still sit in civil registry offices or in parishes. A gap in one archive is therefore not the end of the search. Until the catalogues have been checked, "it did not survive" is a guess, not a finding.

House and parish lists. Besides the registers, some parishes kept lists of parishioners house by house (status animarum). Where they survive, they show a whole household at once.

Austrian land surveys. The Josephine survey, begun in 1785, and the Franciscan survey of about 1819–1820 recorded landholders together with house numbers. Both are held in Lviv. Later cadastral maps survive for many villages, and more than 150 of them have been put online by Gesher Galicia. Their field sketches show the house numbers that also appear in parish registers.

Bukovina was its own crown land from 1849, with its capital at Czernowitz (Chernivtsi). Most Bukovinian settlers were Orthodox; most Galicians were Greek Catholic. Its registers can carry German and Romanian headings, with text in Cyrillic or Latin script that changes over the decades. The northern half is now the Chernivtsi region of Ukraine and has its own state archive. FamilySearch has filmed many Bukovinian registers. For a village now in Romania, the search moves to Romanian archives.

The emigration trail

If your family sailed from Hamburg, you are lucky. The Hamburg emigrant lists survive for 1850–1934, apart from the first half of 1853 and the years 1915–1919, and each entry has a column for the emigrant's previous place of residence. Most lists from Bremen were destroyed. On arrival, the Canadian passenger list and the homestead file add their own versions. Read them side by side: two independent spellings of the same village are far more reliable than one.

What you can reach from abroad

A good deal is available at home:

• The FamilySearch catalogue. Search by the old village name. A large number of Galician Greek Catholic registers were microfilmed, and many can be viewed online. Some films can be seen only at a FamilySearch centre or library.
• The Polish State Archives' online portal, which publishes scans, including Galician registers from the Warsaw archive. Geneteka, the Polish index, covers some parishes of former eastern Galicia.
• Inventories that Ukrainian archives publish online. They tell you which books exist for which years before anyone opens a page.
• The Gesher Galicia Map Room for cadastral maps.

Other things remain on the spot: books never filmed, land files not digitized, and the village itself, with its church, its cemetery and the plot where your family's numbered house once stood.

Reading what you find

The registers are in Latin, Polish, Ukrainian and sometimes German. Column headings are often in Latin, so a short word list goes a long way. First names were usually latinized: Ivan becomes Joannes, Illia becomes Elias. Surnames shift with the writer: Nahorny, Nahirny and Nagórny can be one family.

Three habits help:

• Follow the house number. Village families seldom moved, so it ties generations together.
• Read the whole entry. Birth entries often name the grandparents. Godparents and witnesses may be relatives and can point to the next family to search.
• Check both rites. Marriages between Greek and Roman Catholics were common. The usual rule was that sons followed the father's rite and daughters the mother's, so siblings can appear in different registers. A marriage is usually recorded in the bride's parish.



Five things to gather first

1. The name at birth, in every spelling the family has used.
2. An approximate year of birth.
3. The religion: Greek Catholic, Orthodox or Roman Catholic.
4. The village and district, in any spelling that exists.
5. The parents' first names.

Dr. Vadym Ratynskyi is an archival researcher in Ternopil, Ukraine, and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists https://www.apgen.org/users/vadym-ratynskyi , business website, https://ukrainianhomecoming.com/ and his non-profit society, https://memoryfuture.org/en/

Jews and Ukrainians: A Millennium of Co-Existence. This award-winning book explores the relationship between two of Ukraine's most historically significant peoples over the centuries.

In its second edition, the book tells the story of Ukrainians and Jews in twelve thematic chapters. Among the themes discussed are geography, history, economic life, traditional culture, religion, language and publications, literature and theater, architecture and art, music, the diaspora, and contemporary Ukraine before Russia's criminal invasion of the country in 2022.

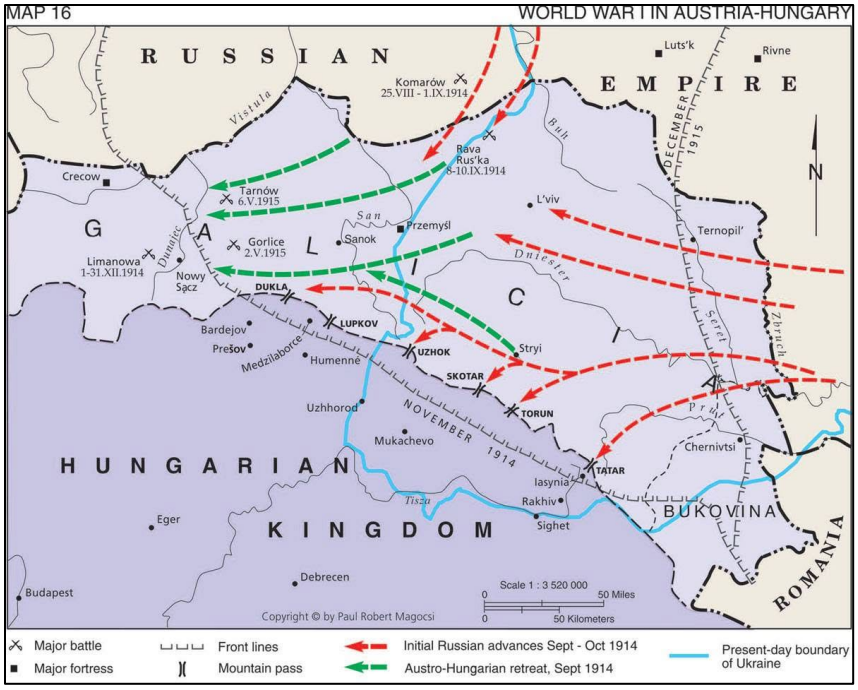
The book addresses many of the distorted stereotypes, misperceptions, and biases that Ukrainians and Jews have had of each other and sheds new light on highly controversial moments of Ukrainian-Jewish relations. It argues that the historical experience in Ukraine not only divided ethnic Ukrainians and Jews but also brought them together.
The narrative is enhanced by 335 full-color illustrations, 29 maps, and several text inserts that explain specific phenomena or address controversial issues.

The volume is co-authored by Paul Robert Magocsi, Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Toronto, and Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern, Crown Family Professor of Jewish Studies and Professor of History at Northwestern University. The Ukrainian Jewish Encounter sponsored the publication with the support of the Government of Canada.

The map (below) is World War I in Austria-Hungary in this book. Text, maps, photos are available in the link. Thanks to Irmgard Hein Ellingson who posted this information on the Bukovina Interest Group Facebook group on Nov. 8/26.
https://ukrainianjewishencounter.org/en/chapter-2-2-jews-and-ukrainians-a-millennium-of-co-existence/
https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=4042379322387866 2&set=gm.3337528583124213&idorvanity=338320083045093





Beyond the ocean in search of a better fate: how and why Bukovinians emigrated en masse at the beginning of the 20th century. Today, traveling abroad is a matter of a few hours on a plane. But do you know what our compatriots had to go through a little more than 100 years ago?

At the end of the 19th - the beginning of the 20th century, Bukovina (which was then part of Austria-Hungary) experienced the first mass wave of labor emigration. Thousands of people were forced to leave their native homes and set out into the unknown - across the ocean.

Why did the flourishing Bukovinian region become a point of no return for many families? There were several harsh reasons for this:

📌 Land hunger and poverty. After the 1848 reform, the lordship and other feudal obligations were abolished, but the peasants were left with meager supplies - just enough to simply not die of hunger. More than 70% of Bukovinian peasants did not even have a subsistence minimum. There was not enough land, the farms were devastated, and due to the weak development of the region's industry, the last labor force available in the village could not absorb all the labor released to the countryside.

📌 Fear of a major war. The air was already "smelling of gunpowder". Austria-Hungary was preparing for a future war: taxes were rising, and young men of conscription age were constantly being taken away for exhausting military training. Emigration became the only way for many to avoid the army.

🎏 "Hunting for people". In the western Ukrainian lands. In particular, in the villages, up to 6 thousand agents of steamboat companies worked. They massively campaigned to get people to move there with beautiful brochures and stories about the "golden mountains" in America. And they did it not without charge. The newspaper "Bukovina" for 1899 wrote that for every man recruited, the agent received $5 (that was 25 krona at the time), for a woman – $2, for a child – $1. Later, these bonuses only increased.

🌊 Letters from across the ocean and a big dream. The main incentive was letters from those who had already left. They wrote about the realization of a lifelong dream of a Bukovinian - his own land. Faraway Canada or the USA promised unheard of large land areas and a bright future.

The path to the New World was a real challenge. First, you had to overcome more than 1500 km of land to the ports of Hamburg, Bremen or Rotterdam. And then - 7-8 thousand kilometers of the stormy Atlantic Ocean. Those who traveled to Brazil or Argentina through the Adriatic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and through the Atlantic to South America overcame more than 10,000 km in extremely difficult conditions.

This emigration changed the face of Bukovina, but at the same time gave the world a powerful Ukrainian diaspora, which still preserves our traditions on the other side of the planet.

Chaika G. V. Emigration from Bukovina (60s - early 20s): PhD in history: 07.00.01. Chernivtsi, 2008. 237 p.
English translation. Posted on Facebook at the Chernivtsi Plus group on Nov. 1, 2026.
https://www.facebook.com/Chernivtsiplus
https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1018017157982789&set=a.117939951323852













The Forced Deportation of Ukrainians, 1944–1947

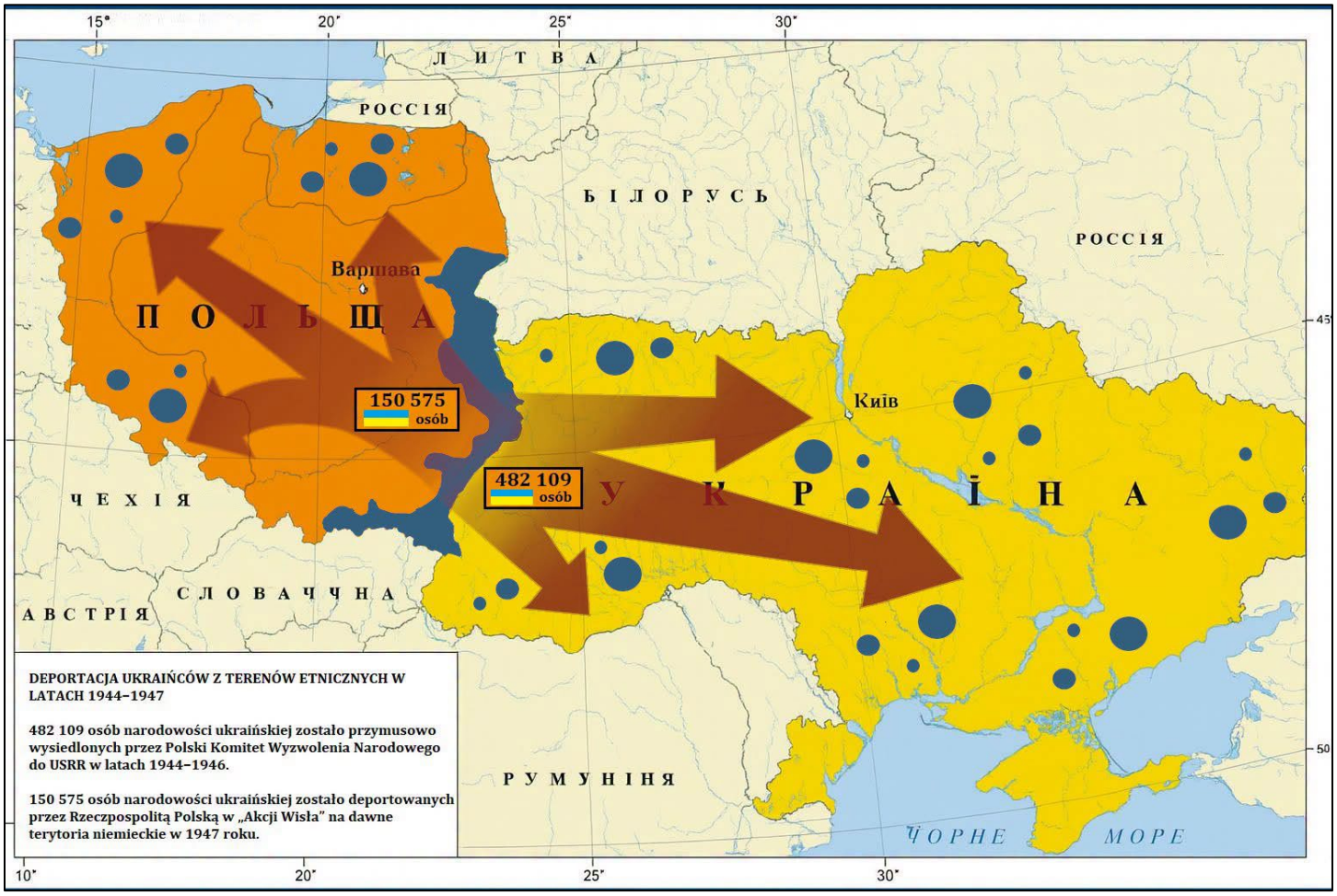
In the aftermath of World War II, hundreds of thousands of ethnic Ukrainians were forcibly displaced as Poland's eastern borders shifted westward.

Between 1944 and 1946, approximately 482,109 Ukrainians were resettled from southeastern Poland to Soviet Ukraine under population-transfer agreements. Although officially presented as resettlement, the process increasingly involved coercion.

In 1947, Operation Vistula saw another 150,575 Ukrainians deported to Poland's western and northern territories, formerly part of Germany. Families were dispersed to weaken Ukrainian communities and prevent support for insurgent groups.

The map illustrates one of the largest episodes of forced population displacement in postwar Central and Eastern Europe.

Maps, History & Geography, posted on Nov. 20, 2026, https://www.facebook.com/Uyghursbookshelf



Source: Historical map of Ukrainian deportations, 1944–1947.
https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1613896903873082&set=a.527495192513264

We're more than halfway through Family History Month, and I have a question for you: **When was the last time you backed up your genealogy research?**

I know, I know. Backing up files isn't nearly as exciting as finding a new ancestor or finally breaking through a brick wall. But it's one of those things we all know we should do, and somehow it keeps getting pushed to the bottom of the list.

Think about how much research you've collected over the years. Family trees, photographs, records, notes, and maybe a few folders on your computer that you keep meaning to organize. (We've all got those, right?)

Now, imagine losing access to all of it. And here's something worth remembering: Just because your research is online doesn't mean it's automatically preserved forever. Websites change, accounts can become inaccessible, and technology doesn't always cooperate.

The good news is that protecting your research doesn't have to be complicated. You don't need to be a technology expert, and you certainly don't need to spend the rest of Family History Month organizing every file you've ever downloaded.

In my article, I share some practical ways to preserve the family history you've worked so hard to uncover.
Read it here: https://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/preserve-genealogy-research/
https://www.facebook.com/AmyJohnsonCrow Thank you to Amy Johnson Crow on Facebook page for posting this.

A proper **Polish Winter Tea (Herbata Zimowa)** demands one rule: never stir honey into boiling water. Brew robust black tea first, let the steam settle, then blend. This lets tart lemon juice mingle smoothly with thick raspberry syrup and a warming splash of vodka. It is the ultimate remedy for chilled hands on a frosty winter evening.



1 cup of black tea
2 T of raspberry syrup
1 shot of vodka
1 t. of lemon juice
1 t. of honey
https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1784649097003822&set=a.700313078770768

Please note that Ukraine Genealogy Group – Edmonton and Area Society does not control the content of any of the websites listed above or below, 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.



