

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



UGG Edmonton and Area Society continues to provide information and suggestions to its members whose interests that include the geographic areas of East Galicia (Ukraine), West Galicia (Poland), Bukovina (Ukraine and Romania), Volhynia, and the West Russian Empire (Ukraine and Poland), and all of Ukraine. We have decided to expand this group to include Polish 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. Our main focus at this time is on Western Canada and the former regions of Galicia and Bukovina in Western Ukraine and Poland. Whenever possible the presentation or the handouts are shared with the participants who attend the Zoom meetings and in-person workshops. The Zoom sessions are recorded with permission from the guest speaker, in advance. At some point, we will be putting the recorded sessions on a new UGG Edmonton website or YouTube channel.

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

The Ukraine Genealogy Group – Edmonton and Area Society is **entering a period of organizational transition**. At present, the Society does not have sufficient board representation to sustain operations. As I have been responsible for the majority of administrative and program-related duties, it has become necessary to reassess what can be reasonably managed without additional board support.

We currently have several **board vacancies for our upcoming fiscal year**. Individuals with an interest in Ukrainian genealogy and a willingness to contribute to the Society's governance are invited to contact me, Elaine, at kalyna@outlook.com. Your involvement would play a meaningful role in ensuring the continued success and stability of our community. I would like to begin recruiting qualified members to fill those vacancies now but **must live in Alberta**.

Plans for future expansion and larger initiatives will be placed on hold temporarily. Should we be able to recruit additional volunteers who are prepared to share responsibilities and participate in organizational development, then these plans can be revisited and considered at a later date.

My priority is to preserve a manageable level of activity that supports our members and maintains the continuity of the group. However, if no volunteers come forward, I will be required to evaluate the possibility of dissolving this Society and going back to an informal Ukraine Genealogy Group which is scaled back.

Before we continue, I'd appreciate it if you could **be respectful and kind** toward me. I've recently dealt with a painful disappointment from some people I considered friends. I'm doing my best to move forward, but I'd be grateful for a bit of understanding. I am looking forward to better days ahead! Like Dolly Parton said, “I was born with a happy heart!”





Ukraine Genealogy Group – Research Club Meeting

Tuesdays, Sept. 01 and Oct. 06, 6 pm to 8 pm, 2 hours, in-person only

Riverbend Edmonton Public Library, 460 Riverbend Sq NW, Edmonton AB

\$3 suggested donation to help cover room rental and light refreshments

Please register in advance at kalya@outlook.com as room capacity is limited to 40 participants

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.

The event will be advertised in advance to members of the Ukraine Genealogy Group and will be open to anyone interested in Ukrainian and Eastern European genealogy and family history.

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 20,040 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:

The Alberta Genealogical Society and Edmonton Branch offices and library will be closed temporarily effective August 7, 2026. For updates go to <https://www.abgenealogy.ca/edmonton> to see if it is still closed.

Active Aging Series: Genealogy & Historical Edmonton, Sept 10, 1:45 pm to 4:30 pm, West Edmonton Seniors Centre, Community Cafe, 9629 – 176 St NW, Edmonton, Cost: \$3.00. Please pay at the door. They have asked that a representative from our Genealogy Group speak for approximately 45 minutes, including Q&A, on the topic of genealogy and the activities of our group. They will also provide us with a table where we can connect with attendees and share materials during the break. <https://weseniors.ca/wsac-calendar/active-aging-series-genealogy-historic-edmonton/>

Books2Buy, Sept. 11 – 13, Edmonton Public Library, Stanley A. Milner location. One reader's finished book could be someone else's great find. Donate your gently used books, records, or video games to support Books2Buy. Donations are

accepted year-round and donating sooner helps stock the shelves for the next Books2Buy sale on Friday, Sept. 11 to Sunday, Sept. 13. Thank you for helping items find a second life. Learn more about giving: <https://www.give.epl.ca/used-book-donations> and <https://www.epl.ca/books2buy/>

Harvest of the Past, Sept. 12, Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village. They are open less than two weeks to explore our roads to the past! Their summer season is nearing its end – the last regular day to visit the Ukrainian Village this summer is Monday, September 7. They will open for one final special event on Sat., Sept. 12 – Harvest of the Past. If you're looking to squeeze a little more out of this summer, plan your visit today. <https://www.ukrainianvillage.ca/>

The View From Alberta: Films by Tom Radford. Sept. 18, Doors 6pm, Show 6:30pm, Metro Cinema at the Garneau Theatre. Admission is free. Seating is limited and available until theatre capacity is reached. Join the Provincial Archives of Alberta for its 38th Annual Film Night on Friday, September 18 at Metro Cinema in Edmonton. This year's program features a selection of documentary films by acclaimed Alberta filmmaker, producer, and Member of the Order of Canada Tom Radford, whose documentaries have captured the people, places, and stories of this province for decades. Drawn from the records donated by Radford to the Provincial Archives of Alberta, these films were produced between 1970 and 2000 and offer a historical perspective on Alberta's people, communities, and landscapes. The evening will conclude with a special Q&A with Tom Radford. Learn more about the Tom Radford fonds:

<https://searchprovincialarchives.alberta.ca/tom-radford-fonds>. Christian Zyp from Moving Radio interviews Braden Cannon, Private Records Archivist from the Provincial Archives of Alberta, about the 38th annual Film Night event, The View From Alberta: Films by Tom Radford. <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/the-view-from-alberta-films-of-tom-radford-braden/id572757049?i=1000785948997>

Family Roots 2026 Genealogy Conference. The 3 Rs of Genealogy: Relationships, Research and Resources, presented by Alberta Family Histories Society, October 17, Hotel Blackfoot, Calgary, Alberta. Four wonderful speakers, Sara Cochran (Skeleton Whisperer), Rhonda Lauritzen (Evalogue Life) and AFHS' own Ron Gilmore and Christine Hayes will bring stories of Relationships, tips and tricks of Research and ideas for Resources. Alberta Family Histories Society is ready to take registrations for this exciting event. \$90 AFHS members | \$100 for non-members (includes: 4 Sessions (6 presentations with choices for two of the sessions), Continental Breakfast, Buffet Lunch & Digital Syllabus). For all the details and how to register, please see our conference webpage <https://afhs.ab.ca/event/family-roots-2026/>. If you have any questions, please email our conference chairperson (familyroots@afhs.ab.ca)

How to Research Homesteads from Home with Ms. Céleste Zurbrigg, Oct. 20, 7 pm MST, online (Zoom) and in person at the SGNO Centre - Room 102, 8627 91 St, Edmonton. French Special Interest Group, Edmonton Branch, AGS. <https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/french-sig>

Recentering the Humanities: Ukraine and the World International Symposium, Oct. 28 – 30, Edmonton, celebrating 50 years of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta (CIUS). The symposium will (re)consider the place of Ukraine, Ukrainians worldwide, and Ukrainian studies in a rapidly changing global order, particularly in the context of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. It will examine the conceptual and epistemic shifts in scholarly discourse prompted by Ukraine's heightened geopolitical and cultural visibility. Bringing together internationally recognized scholars, experts, and thought leaders and connecting several major international initiatives, this symposium will serve as a vital forum for critical debate on Ukraine's role in shaping contemporary understandings of global history, society, and the humanities. Registration is now open. Find out more at <https://www.cius-50.ca/>

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.

ACUA's Christmas Market, an ACUA holiday event, December 5, Unit 100, 10554 – 110 Street, Edmonton, details coming. <https://acuarts.ca/whats-on/acuas-christmas-market-2/>

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

Other Genealogy Sessions:

A Woman's Place: Researching Women in the Workforce with Rhonda R. McClure, **August 27**, 3 pm – 4 pm, ET, American Ancestors. Learn about key resources that can help you uncover the occupations of your women ancestors, including employment records, city directories, newspapers, and more. Join us as we shine a light on this often-overlooked aspect of family history and uncover the stories of the working women in your family tree! <https://www.americanancestors.org/events/womans-place-researching-women-workforce>

Remote Access and Research Opportunities: Ukrainian archives amid the ongoing war. Speaker: Maryna Paliienko. Ukraine Art Aid Center, **August 28**, 16:00 Kyiv / 15:00 Berlin / 09:00 Bloomington (7 am MST, Edmonton) · Zoom. We begin Ukraine's Archival Landscape with an opening keynote by Prof. Dr. Maryna Paliienko (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv; editor-in-chief of Archives of Ukraine), moderated by Dr. Nataliia Zalietok.

This first session maps the whole terrain: how Ukraine's archival system is structured, how the central state archives are safeguarding the nation's documentary heritage, and how they keep working under Russia's full-scale war — wartime losses, institutional resilience, and international cooperation to protect cultural heritage. It also introduces the practical side you'll need as a researcher: how archives are arranged and described, the rules for accessing documents, and — a strategic priority for the sector — digitisation, including the ARCHIUM information system, the Inter-Archival Search Portal, and the electronic services that open holdings to remote access.

Welcome remarks by Dr. Anatolii Khromov (Head of the State Archival Service of Ukraine), Dr. Johannes Nathan (President of the Ukraine Art Aid Center), Dr. Susann Worschech (Scientific Coordinator of the KIU Competence Network) and Prof. Dr. Robert Kindler (Head of the History Department of the Institute for East European Studies at Freie Universität Berlin).

Every session runs with simultaneous Ukrainian – English interpretation and ends with an open Q&A. Free · registration required. Register via the link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ivhAig7oSzKR6fqAZxOnjQ#/registration>
A few days before the session, we'll email you the join link.

Genealogical Myths: Legends, Lies and Lineage with Michael Traynor. Sept. 1, 2:30 – 3:30 pm ET, The Genealogy Center, Allen County Public Library. Where do family history myths come from, and why do they persist so stubbornly? This presentation explores the rich human origins of genealogical mythmaking and dismantles some of the most common family legends, from specious claims of Ellis Island name changes and vague royal ancestry to false narratives about powerless women and untraceable roots. Through rigorous, evidence-based research guided by curiosity and compassion, we can uncover more nuanced and compelling personal truths beneath these enduring stories. <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/17120821>

Using AI to Answer the Big Three: What, Where, and Why of Ancestor Locations with Diana Elder, Sept. 2, 8 am MDT, Legacy Family Tree Webinars. This presentation demonstrates how you can utilize artificial intelligence tools to enhance the traditional locality research framework, which involves investigating "What is Happening," "Where is it Happening," and "Why is it Happening" in your ancestors' communities. You'll learn practical applications such as timeline analysis, identifying migration patterns, summarizing historical content, and organizing jurisdictional information using Custom GPTs and effective prompting techniques. <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/using-ai-to-answer-the-big-three-what-where-and-why-of-ancestor-locations>

Top 5 AI Tools for Transcribing Handwritten Historical Documents with Nicole Elder Dyer, Sept. 2, 9:30 am MDT, Legacy Family Tree Webinars. Learn essential genealogical principles for creating accurate historical document transcriptions, then discover which AI tools excel at following these established standards. We'll examine the top 5 AI-powered transcription tools—including ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Archive Studio, and Handwriting OCR—evaluating how effectively each can be guided to produce transcriptions that meet genealogical best practices. Discover prompting strategies that help AI models identify potential errors, flag uncertainties, and facilitate human review and correction.
<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/top-5-ai-tools-for-transcribing-handwritten-historical-documents>

Using AI to Analyze Land Records and Reconstruct Family Narratives with Thomas MacEntee, Sept. 2, 11 am MDT, Legacy Family Tree Webinars. Designed for genealogists seeking innovative ways to uncover ancestral stories, discover how artificial intelligence can streamline research, enhance accuracy, and reveal hidden connections in land and property court records. Learn practical strategies to leverage AI-powered tools for interpreting complex historical documents, mapping family migrations, and reconstructing compelling family narratives.
<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/using-ai-to-analyze-land-records-and-reconstruct-family-narratives>

Finding Educational Clues in Records on Ancestry® with Crista Cowan, Sept. 2, 11 am MDT, Ancestry, Curiosity Center/Education. It's back to school season — which has us wondering: how much schooling did your ancestors actually have? Could they read? Could they write, or just sign an X where their name should go?
https://events.zoom.us/j/8tMu3guKjxCKAIW6FYiBFD2kyW9OlypRYc_YisfzGGXfcocX2fPM~AoP-SkiZAUrz74V4BsN-feUBAJIQUITu_gBMHEU--jrUxh1gl3afy5fbA or <https://www.ancestry.com/c/discover/education>

Getting Started With FamilySearch with Allison DePrey, Sept 8, 2:30 – 3:30 pm ET, The Genealogy Center, Allen County Public Library. FamilySearch is a free resource that can help you explore your family history, build a family tree, and discover historical records. This introductory presentation will cover the basics of creating an account, navigating the website, searching records, and using the Family Tree to begin organizing your research.
<https://acpl.libnet.info/event/17132339>

Genealogy Jumpstart: International Research with Katie Stilp, Sept. 8, 2 pm – 3:30 pm Central Time, Appleton Public Library. Your family tree starts here! Join our Local History Librarian for a monthly genealogy series. Participants can attend in person at the library or virtually via Zoom. At some point, your ancestors came to the United States, and tracing your family history may take you beyond U.S. borders. How can you research your ancestors abroad without traveling the globe? Join us to learn where to start, no matter which country your family came from! Organizer: Katie kstilp@apl.org
<https://appleton-wi.whofi.com/calendar/event/1347122>

Have Questions? Get Answers for Genealogy in Galicia, Austria Hungary with Michelle Chubenko, Sept. 8, 8 pm ET (6 pm MST) Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/qiSD5JAuSMGM43VmDYq-fw>

Ancestry® Search Tips and Tricks with Crista Cowan, Sept. 9, 11 am MDT, Ancestry, Curiosity Center/Education. Whether you just started exploring your family tree or you've been at it for a while and have hit the proverbial genealogy brick wall, this webinar will give you practical tools to dig deeper and make meaningful discoveries in your family tree. From simple but effective searches to more advanced tips and tricks, we'll help you track down census records, birth certificates, immigration documents, and more. You'll be telling your ancestors' stories in no time!
https://events.zoom.us/j/8tMu3guKjxCKAIW6FYiBFD2kyW9OlypRYc_YisfzGGXfcocX2fPM~AoP-SkiZAUrz74V4BsN-feUBAJIQUITu_gBMHEU--jrUxh1gl3afy5fbA or <https://www.ancestry.com/c/discover/education>

Beyond the Census Record: Finding Your Ancestor in Federal (USA) Records by Sandy Rumble, Sept. 9, 10 am – 11:30 am CDT, Tennessee Genealogical Society. One of the first record collections new genealogists access is the U.S. Federal Census. It identifies family units, residence, occupation, family relationships, home ownership, and marital status. What more could you want? Hidden in the vaults of the National Archives are first person, narrative, detail rich packets about our ancestors in the military, land, Congressional, State Department, and court records. The National Archives publishes

finding aids (indexes) providing a way to easily identify our ancestors. Join us to explore these finding aids and look at examples of what can be found by asking NARA for these paper records. <https://tngs.org/event-6584422/Registration> And <https://tngs.org/event-6584422>

Find Your Canadian Roots: A Beginner's Guide to Online Research, rebroadcast, Sept. 9, 7 pm ET, \$49.99 US. Want to trace your family tree back to the Great White North? Join Rick Crume for this webinar and explore the top websites for Canadian genealogy. Whether your ancestors were French pioneers, Loyalists escaping the American Revolution, or recent immigrants from Ukraine or beyond, we'll guide you through the best online resources to uncover your Canadian heritage. Register at: <https://store.familytreemagazine.com/collections/rebroadcasts/products/find-your-canadian-roots-a-beginners-guide-to-online-research-july-2026>

Why We Talk Funny: The Real Story Behind Our Accents with Valerie Fridland, American Ancestors, Sept. 9, 6-7 pm ET. What is the enduring power of people, families, and communities that sound different? Linguist Valerie Fridland will unlock many secrets in this fun and surprising event focused on her new book, and the past, present and future of accents. <https://www.americanancestors.org/events/why-we-talk-funny-real-story-behind-our-accents-valerie-fridland>

Beyond the Wayback Machine: Using Internet Archive for Genealogy with Allison DePrey, Sept. 15, 2:30 – 3:30 pm ET, The Genealogy Center, Allen County Public Library. Internet Archive is much more than a place to explore old websites. Its vast digital collections include millions of books, directories, county histories, genealogies, newspapers, government publications, yearbooks, maps, and other materials that can help uncover your family's story. In this program, learn how to search Internet Archive effectively, discover hard-to-find resources, navigate digitized books, and use its tools to locate names and places within historical materials. Whether you are searching for an elusive ancestor or looking to add context to your family history, discover how Internet Archive can become an essential part of your genealogy research toolkit. <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/17206023>

Organizing Your Research - Part 1, Sept. 15, 2 – 3:30 pm, Central Time, Appleton Public Library. Your family tree starts here! Join our Local History Librarian for a monthly genealogy series. Participants can attend in person at the library or virtually via Zoom. All your genealogy research has to go somewhere! Whether you want to organize it electronically, use paper files, or a combination of both, come learn tips and tricks on how to organize everything you've found before you get buried under all the piles of research you've accumulated. In this first of two sessions, we'll focus on organizing physical materials. Organizer: Katie kstlp@apl.org and <https://appleton-wi.whofi.com/calendar/event/1299448>

Nashi Predky Virtual Office Hours, Sept. 15, 7 pm Eastern time. Join the Nashi Predky team as they answer your genealogy questions online. Among the topics of discussion during this session will be researching WWII Displaced Persons records. Send your questions, documents, photos, or other materials to genealogy@UkrHEC.org by September 1, 2026. If feasible, your questions may be discussed online. Register: <https://www.ukrhec.org/events/nashipredkyhome-virtual-office-hours-17>

Fresh Tools for Smarter Genealogy on MyHeritage with Daniel Horowitz, Sept. 16, 12:30 pm MDT, Legacy Family Tree Magazine. MyHeritage is constantly pushing the boundaries of genealogy technology, introducing powerful new features to enhance your research. In this dynamic session, Daniel will guide you through the most recent tools and innovations from MyHeritage and show you how to make the most of them. You'll get a behind-the-scenes peek at how these features were developed and learn practical strategies to integrate them into your own research. Whether you're a seasoned MyHeritage user or just getting started, this lecture will give you a fresh look at what's possible — and what's coming next — on this cutting-edge platform. <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/a-myheritage-webinar-8>

Learn From My Mistakes by Nancy Walczyk, Sept. 16, 10 am – 11:30 am CDT, Tennessee Genealogical Society. Genealogy presentations are full of tips, reminders to “do this, don't do that.” But I have found I learn best through case studies and examples. In this presentation, I'll share mistakes I've made researching my own family tree, why that likely happened, and what I could have done differently. <https://tngs.org/event-6763021/Registration> and <https://tngs.org/event-6763021>

Ancestry Search and Trees: Confusion to Confidence. Live 3-hour course, Sept. 16, 3 pm ET, \$125 US. Ancestry is the go-to tool for family historians, boasting over 71 billion global records and cutting-edge DNA testing. But are you truly maximizing your subscription? Most users only scratch the surface. This course dives deep into Ancestry's advanced record collections and family tree tools, taking you far beyond casual searches. Join us to unlock expert tips, break through research brick walls, and get the full value of your membership.

<https://store.familytreemagazine.com/collections/instructor-led-classes/products/the-basics-and-beyond-ancestry-search-and-trees-september-2026>

Before the Boat: Exploring the practicalities of tickets, train travel, ports and the shipping industry at the turn of the 20th century with Joe Gayetsky, Sept. 16, 6 – 8 pm MDT, East European Genealogical Society, need to be a member of EEGS in Winnipeg. With Great-Grandparents of Slovak, Rusyn and Hungarian origin he has been able to compare and contrast the many different routes of travel taken by his ancestors in leaving their villages and venturing to America. After planning visits to his ancestral villages throughout Slovakia, Joe began to think of their journey in an entirely different way. He required a smartphone, translator, GPS and rental car so how did they undertake theirs? Instead of thinking of their journey beginning with a boat ride he couldn't help but ask myself, "How did they get to the boat?" This talk will examine the structures and systems that made it feasible for so many immigrants to leave their remote villages for America mainly looking at ticket agents, train routes, emigrant halls and changes in the shipping industry.

<https://eegsociety.org/events>

Migration Pathways between Canada and the United States you have not considered yet with Kathryn Lake Hogan, Sept. 19, 11 am – 12 pm (Ontario time), Eastern Europe SIG, Ontario Genealogical Society, Kathryn Lake Hogan will be giving as a talk on various migration pathways that our ancestors could have taken. Migration between Canada and the U.S. wasn't always a straightforward process. She will explore the lesser known cross border movements, from New England Planters to Black Loyalists, lumber workers and depression era families. Learn how to track them through the records in both countries. Register at : https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/4_mDIro_TPekuqDq0vDCXQ

<https://easterneurope.ogs.on.ca/noteworthy-events/>

MyHeritage Family Trees: A Guide to All Features with James Tanner, Sept. 22, 12 pm MDT, Legacy Family Tree Webinars. Few of those who begin their MyHeritage family tree understand all the features. Come and learn the extensive features of all MyHeritage family trees.

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/myheritage-family-trees-a-guide-to-all-features>

Beyond the Name: Discovering Records with FamilySearch Full-Text Search, Sept. 22, 2:30 – 3:30 pm ET, The Genealogy Center, Allen County Public Library. Go beyond traditional name searches with FamilySearch Full Text Search. Through step-by-step, live demonstrations and real-world case studies, learn how to search effectively, discover what types of records are available, and use tips and strategies to get the most from this powerful tool.

<https://acpl.libnet.info/event/17206153>

Genealogy Jumpstart: Organizing Your Research - Part 2, Sept. 19, 2 pm – 3:30 pm, Central Time, Appleton Public Library. Your family tree starts here! Join our Local History Librarian for a monthly genealogy series. Participants can attend in person at the library or virtually via Zoom. All your genealogy research has to go somewhere! Whether you want to organize it electronically, use paper files, or a combination of both, come learn tips and tricks on how to organize everything you've found before you get buried under all the piles of research you've accumulated. Organizer: Katie

kstlip@apl.org and <https://appleton-wi.whofi.com/calendar/event/1299449>

Unraveling Family History with AI: Leveraging AI to Trace an Ancestor's Journey with Diane Henriks, (no Bite-size due to AGM), October 5, 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/>

Organizing and Preserving Old and New Photographs by Melissa Barker, Oct. 8, 6 pm – 7:30 pm CDT, Tennessee Genealogical Society. Many of us have them, boxes and albums of photographs, photo slides, negatives and even those

countless digital photographs that we still haven't removed from our phones. Photographs are precious family history records and preserving them should be high on our priority list. Learn from a seasoned genealogist and archivist how to organize and preserve your original photographs, whether they are sitting in dusty boxes or hanging out on your digital device, so future generations can enjoy them. <https://tngs.org/event-6584444/Registration> and <https://tngs.org/event-6584444>

Genealogy Jumpstart: Using Your DNA for Genealogy – Part 1, Oct. 27, 2 – 3:30 pm Central Time, Appleton Public Library. Your family tree starts here! Join our Local History Librarian for a monthly genealogy series. Participants can attend in person at the library or virtually via Zoom. Have you wondered how DNA can help uncover your family history? In this first of two sessions, join us for an introduction to using your DNA for genealogy, including how DNA testing works and an overview of the major companies that offer DNA tests for family history research. Then, on Tuesday, November 3, return for Part 2 as we explore how to interpret your results and use them to further your family history research. Organizer: Katie kstilp@apl.org, <https://appleton-wi.whofi.com/calendar/event/1299451>

Researching Your Canadian World War II Ancestors with Ken McKinlay, Nov. 2, Bite-size, Joan Kirkbride tells us about the research she's done on Louis King, WW II Commando. 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/>

Genealogy Jumpstart: Using Your DNA for Genealogy – Part 2, Nov. 3, 2 – 3:30 pm Central Time, Appleton Public Library. Your family tree starts here! Join our Local History Librarian for a monthly genealogy series. Participants can attend in person at the library or virtually via Zoom. Have you taken a DNA test with one of the genealogy companies? In these second of two DNA sessions, you'll learn how to use your DNA results to further your family history research. Organizer: Katie kstilp@apl.org and <https://appleton-wi.whofi.com/calendar/event/1299452>

Have Questions? Get Answers for Genealogy in Galicia, Austria Hungary with Michelle Chubenko, Nov. 3, 8 pm ET (7 pm MST) Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/gGOF46BUS9qDmCg5Ru9BBw>

Writing Personal and Family Histories with Lorene Coe, Nov. 14, 12 pm noon, Mountain Time. Idaho Genealogical Society. This class will introduce you to how to begin by gathering your family tree information. We'll explore websites and other sources for finding memories. We will discuss options to help you decide what style you want to write and the differences between compiling a personal and family history. You'll learn tools that are useful for writing and publishing your history. We'll then have some fun using AI and creative activities with a short demonstration. We'll wrap up with questions and answers. Non-members may request the Zoom link during the week each meeting is held by sending an email to IdahoGenSociety@gmail.com. Zoom requests must be received no later than 9:00 a.m. (Mountain Time) on the day of the meeting. <https://idahogenealogy.org/monthly-meeting-details/>

Genealogy Jumpstart: Preserving Family Stories, Nov. 17, 2 – 3:30 pm Central Time, Appleton Public Library. Your family tree starts here! Join our Local History Librarian for a monthly genealogy series. Participants can attend in person at the library or virtually via Zoom. Have you written down any of the family stories that have been passed down to you? Have you talked with other relatives to learn what they know about your family history and recorded it? In this session, you'll learn how to interview relatives — and yourself — as well as explore practical options for recording and preserving these precious family memories for future generations. Organizer: Katie kstilp@apl.org and <https://appleton-wi.whofi.com/calendar/event/1299452>

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>

Connecting with our Roots: How Family Stories Shape our Lives with Tara Shymanski, January 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/>

DNA Evidence & Analysis with AI with Nicole Elder Dyer. February 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/>

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/>

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, 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

Legacy Family Tree Webinars, Upcoming Webinars

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

Family Tree Magazine has free resources and newsletters at <https://familytreemagazine.com/newsletter-signup/> and <https://university.familytreemagazine.com/collections> (*cost money to take*) and <https://store.familytreemagazine.com/learn/> (*various costs per session*).

Genealogy Conferences, January to July 2026, Family Search Blog, includes Culturally Focused Conferences <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/genealogy-conferences-2026>

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

Granddaughter of Immigrants is a podcast mini-series by Erika Hanchar that examines how personal and collective histories shape us. “Viscerally Resonant; So relatable, touching and healing.” Join me, as I discover hidden stories, people and secrets of the past that affect the current timeline. Unpacking themes of family, ancestral trauma, and reconciliation all while processing my own “forever identity crisis” set against the backdrop of my ancestral history and homeland. Trailer and 20 episodes. <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/granddaughter-of-immigrants/id1884159180>

Where are you from? by Lauren Kalinowski, Edify magazine, July-August issue, pg. 46-52. When the answer is ‘Ukraine,’ the timing of the arrival matters as much as the dot on the map — and the person you are asking. In Edmonton, the question comes early, and it comes often. “Where are you from?” a stranger asks at the counter of a hardware store. A new colleague asks on the first morning of a new job. A friend of a friend asks at a dinner party. The asking is not malicious. It is human. We hear an accent and we want to be told the rest. It is also, for the person being asked, exhausting. “One of the girls here jokes that she wants a button that says, ‘Don’t ask me about the war,’” Janice Krissa tells me. <https://edifyedmonton.com/urban/community/where-are-you-from/> and <https://www.laurenkalinowski.com/>

Ukrainian Canadian Research & Documentation Centre (UCRDC) has launched a Substack account in which we will experiment with new ways of sharing UCRDC archival content in varied interesting formats. Sharing our first introductory post. To learn more, please subscribe via the link below. Subscribing is free, but if you’d like to support us, donations are gratefully accepted. We look forward to your feedback and support. English language Substack <https://dokucentreucrdc.substack.com/> and Ukrainian language Substack <https://dokucentreukr.substack.com/>

Finding Your Roots. Season 13 is coming! I’m thrilled to share the incredible lineup of guests joining me on a new season of #FindingYourRoots. Season 13 premieres January 12, 2027, only on PBS! Read the People article to learn more: <https://people.com/finding-your-roots-season-13-lineup-exclusive-12060402>

The “Ukrainians Abroad” newsletter, published by Dr. Serge Cipko and the Kule Ukrainian Canadian Studies Centre at CIUS, is a window into the global Ukrainian diaspora and modern community life. Did you know there's an extensive archive to explore? The Ukrainians Abroad digital back catalogue is packed with insights and stories dating from 2007 on. Check out the latest issue, or take a step back a decade or two: <https://www.ualberta.ca/en/canadian-institute-of-ukrainian-studies/centres-and-programs/kule-centre/projects/ukrainians-abroad1/ukrainians-abroad.html>

New on MyHeritage: Trace Your Paternal Line Back Thousands of Years with Y-DNA by Daniella, posted on August 17, MyHeritage Blog. Your father inherited it from his father, who inherited it from his father, stretching back in an unbroken chain all the way back through history. Your Y-DNA carries the story of your direct paternal line — and now, for the first time, you can start perusing that story as part of your MyHeritage DNA results. <https://blog.myheritage.com/2026/08/new-on-myheritage-trace-your-paternal-line-back-thousands-of-years-with-y-dna/>

3 Family History Book Ideas (and How to Create Them) by Shelley K. Bishop, Family Tree Magazine. Share your genealogical discoveries—and preserve your work for future generations— with these DIY family history book projects. <https://familytreemagazine.com/projects/open-book-creating-family-history-books/>

How to Form Effective Genealogy Research Questions by Melina Papadopoulos, Family Tree Magazine. Great research questions can guide you in making amazing discoveries about your ancestors. Here's a guide to help you create questions that propel you forward. <https://familytreemagazine.com/research/how-to-form-effective-genealogy-research-questions/>

6 Details to Include in Your Genealogy Research Log by Kerry Scott, Family Tree Magazine. Stellar genealogy research logs will save you valuable time and effort. Make sure yours includes these six key pieces of information. <https://familytreemagazine.com/research/6-details-genealogy-research-log/>

What Is My Ancestor's Maiden Name? 5 Tips for Finding Out by Editors of Family Tree Magazine. Finding the maiden names of your female ancestors can be a real challenge. We've assembled five tips to help you track them down. <https://familytreemagazine.com/female-ancestors/research-maiden-names-tips/>

DNA Q&A: Creating a Genetic Genealogy Testing Strategy by Diahan Southard, Family Tree Magazine. You've got a limited DNA testing budget but lots of relatives. How do you decide who should be next to test? We'll show you two ways to create your genetic genealogy testing strategy. <https://familytreemagazine.com/dna/your-dna-testing-strategy/>

How to Use AncestryDNA Shared Matches by Shannon Combs Bennett, Family Tree Magazine. Learn how to make the most of AncestryDNA matches with these tips. <https://familytreemagazine.com/websites/ancestry-help/ancestry-dna-shared-matches-tutorial/>

How to Preserve Old Letters by Denise May Levenick, Family Tree Magazine. Old letters are precious family heirlooms. Here are a few easy steps you can take to preserve them for future generations. <https://familytreemagazine.com/preservation/heirlooms/preserving-old-letters/>

A Simple File-naming System for Digital Images by Denise May Levenick, Family Tree Magazine. If you're aiming to get organized, having a file-naming system is key. Check out Denise Levenick's best practices for managing your photo collection. <https://familytreemagazine.com/photos/simple-file-naming-system/>

Ancestry.com for Free: 8 Ways To Use It With No Subscription by Nancy Hendrickson, Family Tree Magazine. Here are eight techniques you can use to research for free on Ancestry.com, no subscription required! <https://familytreemagazine.com/websites/ancestry-com-free/>

Who Owns My Content When I Post It on a Genealogy Website? By Sunny Jane Morton, Family Tree Magazine. When uploading images of ancestors or providing family history online, it's important to understand the copyright laws involved. Here's what you need to know. <https://familytreemagazine.com/websites/understanding-website-copyright-laws/>

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/>

How to Request Genealogy Records (Plus Sample Letters) by Editors of Family Tree Magazine. Sometimes, you have to take your research offline. Check out these useful tips for ordering records from brick-and-mortar institutions like archives and libraries. <https://familytreemagazine.com/libraries-archives/ordering-records-archives/>

Breaking Brick Walls in Genealogy – An Overview with Andrew Koch by Editors of Family Tree Magazine. In this episode of the Family Tree Magazine podcast, editor Andrew Koch offers strategies for breaking through brick walls as you conduct genealogy research.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/podcasts/breaking-brick-walls-in-genealogy-an-overview-with-andrew-koch/>

6 Steps for Breaking Down Genealogy Brick Walls by Rick Crume, Family Tree Magazine. Find your footing and scale your highest research brick walls: missing ancestors, burned records, same-named people, and more.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/strategies/genealogy-brick-walls/>

What Not to Preserve in Your Family History Collection by Denise May Levenick, Family Tree Magazine. When it comes to family history, our instinct is to preserve everything. But, knowing what not to keep is just as important as knowing what to save. <https://familytreemagazine.com/preservation/what-not-to-preserve-in-your-family-history-collection/>

Transcribing and Analyzing Records Using MyHeritage's Scribe AI by Katharine Andrew, Family Tree Magazine. MyHeritage's Scribe AI uses artificial intelligence (AI) to analyze historical images and records, then provides insights about them. Learn how this new tool works and how genealogists can properly use it. <https://familytreemagazine.com/websites/myheritage/transcribing-and-analyzing-records-using-myheritages-scribe-ai/>

New in MyStories: AI Editor, Audio Story Playback, and More by Daniella, Aug. 13, MyHeritage Blog. Since we introduced MyStories, people around the world have been capturing their memories in a keepsake book their families will treasure. Today we're excited to share several new updates that make MyStories even more rewarding for storytellers and readers alike.

<https://blog.myheritage.com/2026/08/new-in-mystories-ai-editor-audio-story-playback-and-more/>

New Records on FamilySearch – August 2026, posted on August 12, FamilySearch adds millions of free historical records in August 2026. See new records from the Philippines, Ukraine, Italy, and elsewhere! Includes 5 million church and tax records from Ukraine. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/new-records-august-2026>

Galicia Research Roundtable August 2026 with Michelle Chubenko, video <https://galicianancestry.substack.com/p/august-2026galicia-research-roundtable>

Galician Genealogy Glossary: Key Terms You Should Know by Michelle Chubenko

To help you feel more confident navigating records, maps, and correspondence, here are eleven military terms every Galician researcher should know about. How many have you utilized for your research?

Category: Military

- Grundbuchblätter: personnel sheets
- Honvéd: Hungarian territorial army
- Konskription: Military conscription
- Landwehr: Territorial defense force
- Militärmatriken: Military parish registers
- Musterlisten: Muster rolls
- Stammrolle: Military service register
- Standestabellen: Formation tables)
- Kriegsarchiv Wien: War Archive in Vienna
- k.k. [kaiserlich-königlich (Imperial-Royal)]: Austrian-only or pre-1867 institutions
- k.u.k. [kaiserlich und königlich (Imperial and Royal)]: joint institutions of the dual Austro-Hungarian Empire

See the growing Glossary we've been compiling: <https://genealogy.chubenko.us/glossary>

On a side note:

September marks the start of Alberta Culture Days, a month-long celebration of arts, culture, food, history and community across the province. More than 120 organizations are offering free events that highlight local artists, cultural traditions and heritage experiences that reflect who we are as Canadians. On Sept. 26 and 27, free admission to 20 provincial museums, historic sites and archives offers a chance to experience these important Canadian cultural spaces firsthand. <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-culture-days> and <https://culturedays.ca/en/ab>

September 7 – Labour Day, a day to celebrate the achievements of the labour movement, specifically the rise of unions, fair pay and reasonable working conditions. It is a statutory national holiday celebrated across Canada.

September 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day – Every Child Matters.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-day-truth-reconciliation.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Day_for_Truth_and_Reconciliation

September Equinox - There are two equinoxes every year: one in September and one in March. In September, the Sun crosses the equator from north to south. This happens on September 22, 23, or 24 in most years.



The main ethnographic groups of Western Ukraine

Group	Ukrainian	Main historic area	General location today
Lemkos	Лемки	Lemko Region, western Carpathians	Lviv/Transcarpathia, Poland, Slovakia
Boykos (Boikos)	Бойки	Boykivshchyna	Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Transcarpathia
Hutsuls	Гуцули	Hutsulshchyna	Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi, Transcarpathia
Pokutians	Покутяни	Pokuttia	Southeastern Ivano-Frankivsk
Opillians	Ополяни	Opillia	Lviv, Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk
Galicians/Halychany	Галичани	Galicja	Lviv, Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk
Volhynians	Волиняни	Volhynia	Volyn, Rivne and surrounding areas
Polishchuks / Poleshuks	Поліщуки	Polissia	Northern Volyn and Rivne
Bukovynians	Буковинці	Bukovyna	Chernivtsi region
Transcarpathian/Uzhans	Закарпатці / Ужани	Transcarpathia	Zakarpattia
Dolynians	Долиняни	Lowlands of Transcarpathia	Zakarpattia
Verkhovyntsi	Верховинці	Highland Transcarpathia/Carpathians	Zakarpattia and Carpathian areas

The Lemko–Boyko–Hutsul division is particularly well established. Traditional Ukrainian ethnography describes the Carpathian highlanders as three major groups: Lemkos in the west, Boykos in the middle, and Hutsuls farther east.

There are also smaller/local groups

This is where it gets interesting for genealogy, because older records may describe people by a local ethnographic identity that doesn't necessarily appear as a modern nationality.

Some of the additional names you may encounter include:

- Zamishany (Замішанці) — a small group historically associated with the area north of Krosno in what is now southeastern Poland.
- Nadsianina / Nadsiany — people associated with the San River region.
- Dnistrovians (Дністряни) — communities along the Dniester.
- Pokutians (Покутяни) — inhabitants of Pokuttia, particularly around Kolomyia, Sniatyn and the southeastern part of Galicia.
- Opillians (Ополяни) — inhabitants of Opillia, west of the Dniester.
- Dolynians (Долиняни) — inhabitants of the Transcarpathian lowlands; historically related particularly to the Boyko population.
- Verkhovyntsi (Верховинці) — literally "highlanders"; the term has been used for mountain populations and, in particular contexts, for Boykos and other Carpathian peoples.
- Uzhans (Ужани) — inhabitants of the Uzh River area of Transcarpathia.
- Marmarosh/Maramureş groups — communities in the historic Maramureş region, now divided between Ukraine and Romania.

There are also broader Ukrainian regional identities such as Galicians, Bukovynians and Volhynians, which overlap with smaller ethnographic groups.

Carpathian region

1. Lemkos
2. Boykos
3. Hutsuls
4. Dolynians
5. Verkhovyntsi
6. Uzhans
7. Maramureş/Marmarosh communities

Galicia

8. Galicians/Halychany
9. Pokutians
10. Opillians
11. Dnistrovians
12. Nadsianians
13. other localized Carpathian foothill groups

Volhynia/Polissia

14. Volhynians
15. Poleshchuks/Polishchuks
16. Pinchuks

Bukovyna

17. Bukovynians
18. Hutsul-Bukovynian communities
19. other localized Bukovynian populations

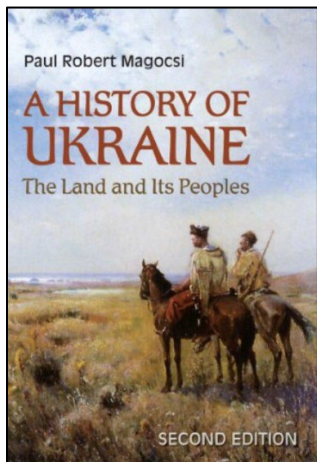
Source: ChatGPT, "What are all of the small ethnic groups in Western Ukraine, like the Lemkos, Hustuls, Boykos etc?"



The best overall Histories (books) of Ukraine (August 9 was National Book Lovers Day)

The Gates of Europe by Serhii Plokhy, revised in 2021. The most cited modern history of Ukraine, covering Kyivan Rus to the present with exceptional clarity. Plokhy's central argument is that Ukraine's history cannot be understood simply as part of Russian history. Ukraine has been a crossroads—or "gate"—between Europe and the Eurasian steppe, with its territory and people influenced by Byzantium, Poland-Lithuania, the Ottoman Empire, the Habsburgs and Russia.

Ukraine: A History by Orest Subtelny, 4th edition, 2009. A classic 888-page scholarly survey, frequently used in academic settings. Comprehensive and detailed. Subtelny's book was specifically designed as a textbook for students and teachers in history, political science, religious history, geography and Slavic/East European studies. It is organized chronologically into ten major sections, with chapter summaries, maps, tables, documentary excerpts and an extensive bibliography.

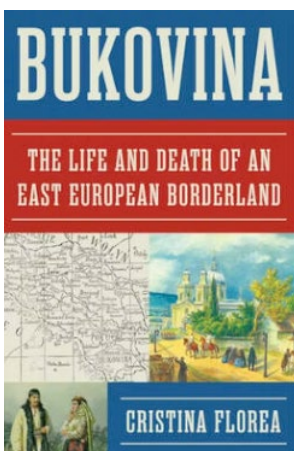


A History of Ukraine: The Land and Its Peoples by Paul Robert Magocsi, 2nd revised edition, 2010. Another authoritative academic history, rich with maps, illustrations, and cultural context. The most important thing to understand about Magocsi is that he deliberately looks at the history of the territory and all the peoples who have lived there, rather than presenting Ukrainian history solely as the history of the Ukrainian nation. He examines the Ukrainian lands as a crossroads involving Ukrainians, Russians, Poles, Jews, Crimean Tatars, Armenians, Greeks, Germans, Romanians, Hungarians, Slovaks, Czechs and others. He also discusses Ukraine's diaspora. The second edition specifically expanded its treatment of Ukraine's multicultural character and its peoples.

Ukraine: An Illustrated History by Paul Robert Magocsi, 2007, paperback edition in 2014. Richly visual, excellent for newcomers. The book is essentially a shorter, highly visual version of Ukrainian history. It contains 46 chapters, and each chapter is framed by a historical map.

It also includes more than 300 photographs, drawings, portraits and reproductions of artwork and historical documents. That makes it much easier to follow than a large academic history.

Borderland: A Journey through the History of Ukraine by Anna Reid, updated last in 2022/23. Reid is a British journalist and historian who lived and worked in Ukraine. That personal experience is an important part of the book: she combines historical research with observations about Ukrainian places, people and society. The title *Borderland* reflects Reid's central theme: Ukraine has historically been a meeting place—and often a battleground—between different civilizations, empires and peoples. This book is described as “history through the eyes of a traveller and journalist”.



Bukovina: The Life and Death of an East European Borderland by Cristina Florea, 2025. Princeton University Press. A sweeping 200-year history of Bukovina from its creation in the late 18th century to its disappearance after WWII. Florea integrates rural and urban voices, multiethnic communities (Ukrainians/Ruthenians, Romanians, Jews, Germans, Poles), and successive imperial projects. This is widely regarded as the most ambitious, “total history” of the region. <https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691276809/bukovina>

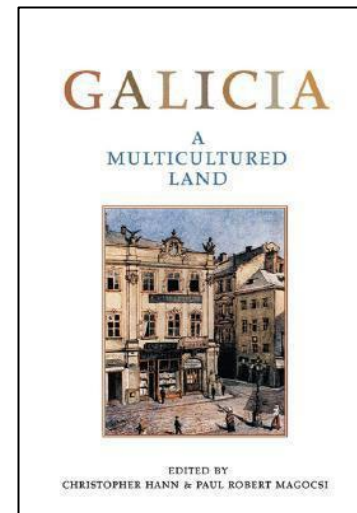
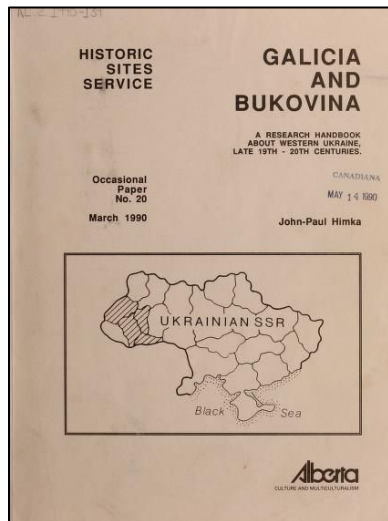
The Idea of Galicia: History and Fantasy in Habsburg Political Culture by Larry Wolff, April 2010. The best intellectual and cultural history of Galicia's place in the Habsburg imagination. Wolff examines the creation of Galicia as a political and cultural concept after the Habsburg Empire acquired large parts of what is now western Ukraine and southeastern Poland in the First Partition of Poland in 1772. The book explores how Galicia was portrayed by Habsburg officials, intellectuals, writers, travellers and political thinkers.

<https://www.sup.org/books/history/idea-galicia>

Galicia: A Multicultural Land, Edited by Christopher Hann and Paul Robert Magocsi, 2005. Contains essays on ethnic groups, politics and culture. This is a useful book for understanding Galicia as a multicultural historical region, particularly

if you are studying Ukrainian history, identity, migration, and the relationship between Ukrainians, Poles, Jews, Germans, and other communities. <https://www.degruyterbrill.com/document/doi/10.3138/9781442675148/html#contents> or <https://utppublishing.com/doi/book/10.3138/9780802037817>

Galicia and Bukovina: A Research Handbook about Western Ukraine by John Paul Himka, 1990. Essential for archival and administrative context. Not a narrative history but an indispensable guide to archives, administrative structures, periodicals, and local institutions in both crownlands. Essential if you want to dig deeper into primary sources or regional studies. For your interests in Ukrainian genealogy and historical research, I would consider it one of the most practically useful books in your collection. One caution: it was published in 1990, so some archival addresses, institutional names and research procedures are now outdated. The historical information remains useful, but I would supplement its archival information with current sources. <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/historic-site-services-occasional-paper-20> or <https://archive.org/details/galiciabukovinar00himk/mode/2up>



The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy

One empire... dozens of cultures, languages, and identities

This map showcases the powerful Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, a major force in Central Europe before World War I

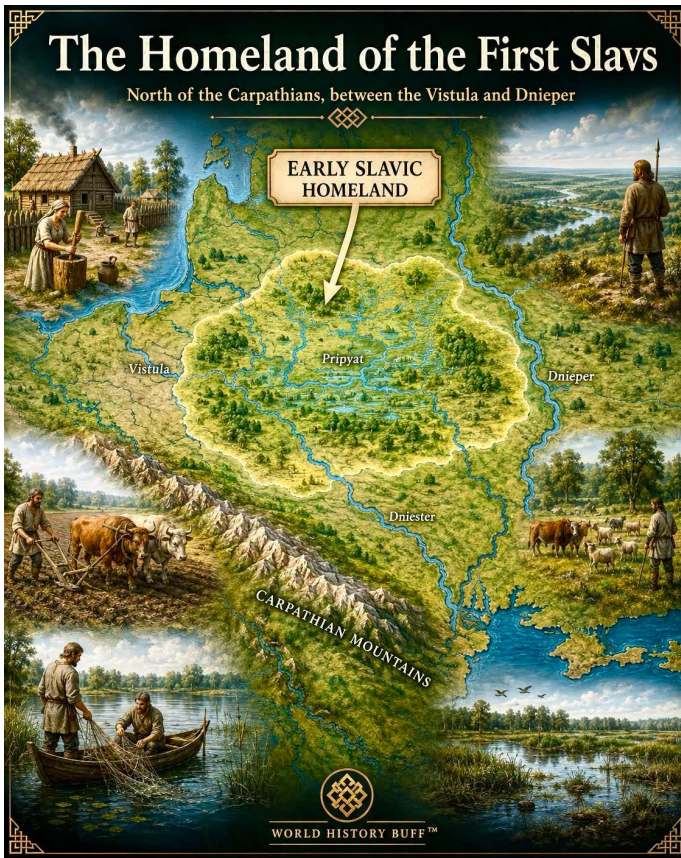
From Vienna to Budapest, and from Bohemia to Bosnia — this empire ruled over a massive and incredibly diverse population

A political giant whose influence shaped the future of Europe for generations

Source: Geofacts on Facebook,

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=122129048535169082&set=a.122104479939169082>

The Homeland of the First Slavs



The first Slavs did not emerge from one city, kingdom, or modern country. Their earliest homeland remains debated, but many historians place the center of Slavic ethnogenesis in the broad region north of the Carpathian Mountains, between the Vistula River in the west and the middle Dnieper River in the east. This territory included parts of present-day eastern Poland, western and northern Ukraine, and southern Belarus.

The forests, rivers, wetlands, and fertile clearings around the Pripjat basin formed part of this world. Early communities lived in small settlements, cultivated grain, raised livestock, fished, hunted, and moved between river valleys. They were not yet divided into Russians, Poles, Ukrainians, Serbs, Czechs, or other modern nations. They spoke regional forms of a language that developed into Proto Slavic, the ancestor of today's Slavic languages.

Archaeology suggests that by the fifth and sixth centuries, cultures associated with early Slavic populations stretched from the Dnieper Valley to the eastern Carpathians. Scholars commonly discuss the Prague Korchak, Penkovka, and Kolochin cultures when examining this early Slavic world, although archaeological objects alone cannot prove the exact identity of every community.

The earliest clear written descriptions appeared in Byzantine records during the sixth century. Writers referred to groups called the Sclaveni and Antes. The Sclaveni were associated mainly with lands toward the upper Vistula, Dniester, and Lower Danube, while the Antes occupied territories farther east in the forest steppe north of the Black Sea.

During the sixth and seventh centuries, Slavic speaking communities expanded rapidly. Some moved west toward the Elbe and central Europe. Others traveled south across the Danube into the Balkans, while additional groups moved north and east through the forests of eastern Europe.

This expansion did not involve one enormous Slavic army replacing everyone in its path. It included migration, settlement, warfare, alliance, intermarriage, and the gradual adoption of Slavic languages by different populations. The first Slavic homeland therefore belongs to no single modern nation. It was a shared frontier of rivers, forests, and farming communities from which one of Europe's largest linguistic and cultural families eventually emerged.

Sources and References

- Florin Curta, *The Making of the Slavs*
- Paul M. Barford, *The Early Slavs*
- *The New Cambridge Medieval History*
- *Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Slavs and Early Ukrainian History*

Source: World History Buff, on Facebook, posted on July 30, 2026, at 9:29 pm.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=855754434284631&set=a.123760270817388>

The Slavic Migrations: How the Slavs Spread Across Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe



Between the sixth and eighth centuries, Slavic speaking communities expanded across an enormous part of Europe. They settled from the Baltic and the Elbe in the north to the Adriatic, Aegean, and Black Sea regions in the south, helping transform the linguistic and political landscape of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe.

The Slavic migrations were not one invasion directed by a single king. They unfolded through countless movements of farming families, warriors, traders, refugees, and tribal communities. Some groups crossed into abandoned or weakened frontier regions. Others raided Byzantine territory before establishing permanent settlements. Many eventually mixed with the populations already living there.

The word Slav did not originally describe one unified nation or race. Early medieval writers used names such as Sclavenes and Antes for communities living mainly north of the Danube and around the forest and steppe regions of Eastern Europe. Much of the surviving written evidence came from Byzantine authors who viewed these peoples from across an imperial frontier, meaning their descriptions were incomplete and sometimes hostile.

Historians still debate exactly where the earliest Slavic identity formed. Some theories place an ancestral homeland around the Pripet marshes and neighboring regions of modern Ukraine, Belarus, and Poland. Other scholars argue that a broader Slavic identity developed during the sixth century through interaction among frontier communities, Byzantine observers, and the political world of the lower Danube.

The Changing World of Eastern Europe

The migrations occurred during a period of enormous instability.

The western Roman Empire had collapsed, while Germanic peoples such as the Goths, Vandals, and Lombards had moved into former Roman territories. The Hunnic Empire had risen and fallen, leaving political space across Eastern and Central Europe. The Byzantine Empire still controlled much of the Balkans, but its armies were also fighting Persians, Germanic kingdoms, and internal rebellions.

During the sixth century, Slavic groups began appearing regularly along the Byzantine frontier. Byzantine historian Procopius described repeated attacks by Sclavenes and Antes during the reign of Emperor Justinian. These communities crossed the Danube, raided Thrace, Greece, and Illyria, and sometimes returned north with captives and wealth.

The arrival of the Avars changed the balance of power. The Avars were a steppe people who established a powerful khaganate in the Carpathian Basin. Some Slavic communities fought alongside them, paid tribute to them, or served in their armies. Others resisted Avar control or acted independently.

Together, Avar and Slavic forces placed enormous pressure on the Byzantine Danube frontier. Sirmium fell to the Avars in 582, while repeated attacks reached deep into the Balkans. By the early seventh century, much of the old Roman defensive system along the Danube had collapsed.

Settlement in the Balkans

As Byzantine authority weakened, Slavic communities began establishing permanent villages south of the Danube. They settled in parts of modern Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Greece, and neighboring regions. The movement permanently altered the population and languages of Central and Southeastern Europe.

The newcomers did not enter empty lands. The Balkans contained Greek speakers, Latin speaking communities, descendants of ancient Illyrians and Thracians, Romanized provincial populations, and many other groups. Some inhabitants fled toward fortified coastal cities, mountain regions, or Byzantine controlled territories. Others remained and mixed with Slavic settlers. Over generations, many communities adopted Slavic languages while preserving elements of older Balkan ancestry, agriculture, religion, and local culture.

The transformation was therefore not complete population replacement. It involved migration, warfare, intermarriage, language change, political reorganization, and cultural exchange.

Slavic communities often lived in small agricultural settlements and were organized through families, clans, local chiefs, and assemblies. They cultivated grain, raised livestock, fished, hunted, and traded with neighboring peoples. Early Slavic political organization was generally decentralized, although stronger leaders appeared during warfare and migration.

Expansion Across Central and Eastern Europe

Slavic speaking communities also expanded westward and northward.

They settled across regions that later became Poland, the Czech lands, Slovakia, eastern Germany, and parts of Austria. Some reached as far west as Holstein. Communities including the Sorbs remained in areas west of the Oder River even after later German expansion.

Farther east, Slavic settlements spread across the forest and river systems of present day Ukraine, Belarus, and European Russia. Rivers such as the Dnieper, Dniester, Volga, and western Dvina became important routes for trade, migration, and political expansion.

The Slavic world gradually developed into three broad linguistic branches.

West Slavic languages include Polish, Czech, Slovak, Upper Sorbian, and Lower Sorbian.

East Slavic languages include Ukrainian, Belarusian, and Russian.

South Slavic languages include Slovenian, Croatian, Bosnian, Serbian, Montenegrin, Macedonian, and Bulgarian.

These divisions developed gradually through geography, political separation, contact with neighboring peoples, and centuries of linguistic change. They should not be imagined as three organized tribes that separated during one single event.

The Rise of Slavic States

As the migrations slowed, stronger political states began to emerge.

In Central Europe, Slavic rulers created principalities and confederations that competed with the Franks, Avars, and later Magyars. Great Moravia became an important ninth century power covering parts of modern Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and surrounding regions.

In the Balkans, Turkic Bulgars established a state south of the Danube in the seventh century. The Bulgar ruling elite governed a population containing many Slavic speaking communities. Over time, the Bulgars adopted the language of the Slavic majority, helping create the medieval Bulgarian people and state.

Serbian, Croatian, and other South Slavic principalities also developed between the Adriatic coast and the Balkan interior. These societies formed through the mixture of Slavic settlers, local populations, regional aristocracies, and Byzantine and Frankish political influence.

In Eastern Europe, Slavic communities interacted with Baltic, Finnic, steppe, and Scandinavian peoples. Norse traders and warriors known as Varangians traveled along the great rivers linking the Baltic with the Black Sea and Constantinople.

From this multicultural environment emerged the state known as Rus. Its population was largely Slavic and Finnic, while its early ruling and trading networks included Scandinavian elements. Kyiv became the center of a powerful medieval realm whose cultural inheritance would later influence Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia.

Christianity and the Birth of Slavic Literature

The conversion of Slavic peoples to Christianity transformed their political and cultural development.

Western Slavic rulers generally entered the Latin Christian world connected to Rome and the Frankish kingdoms. Many South and East Slavic communities entered the Byzantine Orthodox tradition centered on Constantinople.

In 862 or 863, the Byzantine emperor sent the brothers Constantine, later known as Cyril, and Methodius to Great Moravia after its ruler requested missionaries able to preach in a Slavic language. Their mission produced the earliest major written tradition in Slavic.

Cyril is generally credited with creating the Glagolitic alphabet so Christian texts could be translated into a language understood by Slavic worshippers. After the death of Methodius, several disciples moved into Bulgaria, where Slavic literacy and religious translation received royal support.

The Cyrillic script developed within this Bulgarian cultural environment and was named in honor of Cyril. It later spread through Bulgaria, Serbia, Rus, and other Orthodox Slavic lands.

Christianity connected the Slavic states to larger political worlds. Latin Christianity linked Poland, Bohemia, Croatia, and neighboring territories to Western Europe. Byzantine Christianity connected Bulgaria, Serbia, and Rus to Constantinople and the Orthodox cultural tradition.

A History of Migration and Mixture

Modern Slavic peoples are not the descendants of one biologically isolated ancient tribe.

The early migrants mixed with many populations, including Romanized Balkan peoples, Greeks, Illyrian and Thracian descendants, Germanic communities, Balts, Finnic peoples, Avars, Bulgars, Magyars, Scandinavians, and steppe populations.

Slavic identity spread partly through migration and partly through language, political organization, intermarriage, and cultural assimilation. In some places, Slavic settlers were numerous. In others, local populations gradually adopted Slavic languages under new social and political conditions.

Over time, the shared Slavic language developed into many distinct cultures. Poles, Czechs, Slovaks, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Russians, Slovenes, Croats, Bosniaks, Serbs, Montenegrins, Macedonians, Bulgarians, and Sorbs created their own histories, religions, states, and identities.

The Slavic migrations transformed Europe, but they did not create one united Slavic nation.

They created a vast family of related peoples whose languages now stretch from Central Europe to the Pacific coast of Eurasia and from the Baltic Sea to the Balkans.

Their story is one of movement, settlement, warfare, adaptation, state building, conversion, and cultural survival across more than a thousand years.

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Source: World History Buff, on Facebook, posted on July 30, 2026, at 4:31 PM.

(And what is better is to look at the comments related to this post for more information.)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100095502465673>

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1,990 cultural heritage sites in Ukraine have been damaged or destroyed as a result of Russia's war against Ukraine, as of the end of July 2026. This was reported by Ukraine's Ministry of Culture. The list grew by 90 sites over the past month. In July, new damage was recorded at a site in the historic center of Odesa, which is on the UNESCO World Heritage List, as well as at cultural heritage sites in Kyiv and in the Sumy, Kharkiv, and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.

The Ministry of Culture noted a trend of repeated strikes targeting buildings that had already been damaged. "We are documenting the losses while strengthening emergency response efforts and working to attract resources for reconstruction," said Minister of Culture Tetiana Berezhna.

The following cultural institutions have also been affected by the hostilities and shelling:

- 906 libraries (228 destroyed);
- 196 arts education institutions (25 destroyed);
- 141 museums and galleries (20 destroyed);
- 56 theaters, cinemas, and philharmonic halls (4 destroyed);
- 13 parks and zoos (2 destroyed);
- 9 nature reserves, 3 circuses, and a film studio in Kyiv.

Source: UkraineWorld, posted on August 7, 2026, at 5:27 pm.

<https://www.facebook.com/ukraineworld.org>

Damaged cultural sites in Ukraine verified by UNESCO. Last updated 30 July 2026. As of 29 July 2026, 545 cultural sites have been confirmed as damaged (156 religious sites, 281 buildings of historical and/or artistic interest, 43 museums, 33 monuments, 22 libraries, 5 archaeological sites, 5 archives).

<https://www.unesco.org/en/ukraine-war/damaged-cultural-sites>

Rebuilding Memory: Restoring Ukraine's Destroyed Archives and Museums, updated 30 May 2025. Lviv Herald. In war it is not only buildings, bridges, and bodies that are destroyed. The past is also a target. In Ukraine, as missiles fall and territories are contested, archives burn, museums are looted, and cultural memory is erased —not as collateral damage, but as a strategy. Since the full-scale invasion in 2022 Russia has targeted not just infrastructure, but Ukrainian identity itself — her history, her symbols and her collective memory. Yet amidst the ruins, Ukraine's curators, archivists and cultural defenders are undertaking one of the war's most ambitious acts of resistance: restoring memory.

<https://www.lvivherald.com/post/rebuilding-memory-restoring-ukraine-s-destroyed-archives-and-museums>

War & Sanctions: Nearly 360,000 Archival Documents Illegally Removed from Kherson by Occupiers. 24 April 2025. Defence Intelligence of Ukraine. Since 2014, over 5 million documents belonging to Ukraine's National Archival Fund (NAF) — an essential part of national and global cultural heritage — have fallen under Russian occupation. A substantial portion of these archives has been illegally removed from temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories, including Crimea, parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and the Kherson region. <https://gur.gov.ua/en/content/warsanctions-okupanty-vyvezly-maizhe-360-tysyach-arkhivnykh-dokumentiv-z-khersona>



Edmonton, 'Jasper Avenue', 1898, Alberta Hometown Memories, posted on August 13, 2026, <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1464666302351323&set=a.459639609520669>

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