

UKRAINIAN GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES IN TORONTO AREA (PART ONE)

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PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Metropolitan Toronto was composed of six cities and the encompassing Metropolitan Government. Therefore, there were seven library systems within our area. These library systems have now slowly become one system. I sit at my computer with my list of wanted books and connect to the Toronto library modem for information on their holdings. Some books are available to be sent to my local library on interlibrary loan, but most genealogical books are reference only, so I end up with a list of books I will look at when visiting that particular library next.

All large library branches also have a MultiCat computer, which lists the holdings of all systems, and you can access all the Metro libraries from one computer at once rather than by modem from home. Local libraries are very co-operative about interloan, and I was able to read microfilms of old newspapers from the 1920s from Alberta, which were borrowed for me on interloan, great for those obituaries. They will also borrow microfilms from the Canadian Archives on your behalf. There are genealogy collections also in the main branches of the Cities of Mississauga (west) and Richmond Hill (north).

The Richmond Hill Public Library has a computer with the LDS software on it and some Mormon microfiche are available at Canadiana Library.

GENEALOGY IN METRO TORONTO REFERENCE LIBRARY

Metropolitan Reference Library has an extensive History collection, which must be visited. It is located in downtown Toronto and is reference only. Many ethnic newsletters and general genealogy books for countries around the world are available on their shelves for browsing. I was even able to photocopy pages of South African genealogies for my husband's family. The Baldwin Room, for Canadian history and genealogy, has microfilms of voting lists from the 1940s on. For those of us whose families immigrated to Canada after the censuses which are open (1901), these lists are of great benefit to establish families in rural areas. Many old Canadian City directories are also on microfiche, and I was able to track a great uncle's family in Edmonton.

Mormon Church CD-ROMS are available on the History Floor on one computer. Phone for an appointment for 1 hour on the machine. World-View computers are located all over the library. Check out the genealogy section. "Who's your Uncle, Eh?"

The Toronto Star Newspaper Room has recently been expanded and re-opened in the basement and houses microfilms of all the Toronto newspapers from the 1840s. Full digital copies of all copies of The Toronto Star are available on computers in the room.

NORTH YORK CENTRAL LIBRARY

The North York Central Library has a **Canadiana Department**, located in **Mel Lastman Square**, which is also a reference library, but all of its library is now housed in open shelves rather than in closed stacks. What is still behind the scenes in closed stacks are the libraries of the Ontario Genealogical Society, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada, and smaller collections of the York Pioneer and other local historical societies. More about the two Societies later.

Canadiana houses some Mormon Church microfiche and microfilms, and also Canadian Archives films. You can now access the Canadian Archives immigration films from 1870 to about 1935 for Canadian ports. When I was originally looking for the films On my father's arrival to Canada in 1907, I had to do it through interloan at my local library, one film at a time on loan for 3 weeks, but they are now available in Toronto at Canadiana. I did eventually find the film, and it was certainly exciting—it seems they were from Galicia and officially going to Winnipeg. You can try for the 1901 census returns if your family was in Canada, but sometimes they were reluctant to have their names appear anywhere in print just shortly after they arrived in Canada. Canadiana has some finding aids to military records to 1917. There is also the LI-RA-MA Russian Consular collection on microfilm.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

York University is located in suburban Toronto, and I made one trip there years ago, mainly because the one series of maps I was interested in, *Ubersichtsblatt zur Generalkarte van Mitteleuropa 1:200,000*, was available for eastern Europe at their **Scott Library**. I was able to photocopy portions of interest to me of Galicia, now in Poland, and Volynia, now in Ukraine.

The University of Toronto has in its **Robarts Library**, the **Petro Jacyk Central and East European Resource Centre**, which is primarily Ukrainian but, has portions of other ethnic resources as well. The Robarts Library has a number of books on Ukrainian and Polish research.

The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press, which is located in the University of Toronto, is the largest publisher of English-language material about Ukraine, but its main stock of books is located at the University of Alberta. Send away for its catalogue to either University. I spent one day researching at the Jacyk Centre.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

The two main societies in Ontario of interest to eastern European genealogists are the **Ontario Genealogical Society** and the **Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto)**.

The Jewish Society holds monthly meetings at a synagogue in North Toronto, publishes a quarterly periodical, "**Shem Tov**", and houses its library at the North York Canadiana Library. Its meetings were of interest to me, because its ancestors came from the same areas in which I was interested, namely Poland and Ukraine, and its speakers were conversant with these areas. Miriam Wiener of NJ spoke about her trips to Ukrainian Archives with her portable photocopier before it became popular to go there. Others have spoken on translations of official Polish documents and brought copies of books published by themselves.

The **Ontario Genealogical Society** has 30 branches throughout the Province, roughly equivalent in size to our Counties. Each branch publishes a newsletter at least quarterly, maintains a genealogical library and holds monthly meetings. OGS holds an annual Convention of about 3 days. The main OGS library has a number of books on our area of interest, and their periodical collection is beginning to reflect our varied backgrounds. They carry periodicals from around the world, from Poland, the Anglo-German Society, 2 Polish American societies, 4 German American societies, 2 Jewish societies, all the provinces and most of our neighbouring states. All periodicals received are reviewed in a column in **Newsleaf**, one of the quarterly periodicals, placed in the library located at Canadiana and available for viewing at the Library. The Library also houses cemetery transcriptions from across the Province transcribed over the years by volunteers.

The Society further publishes **Families** quarterly, which features scholarly articles on Ontario genealogies. Other projects conducted by the Society are the **Places of Worship Records Inventory**. First the locations of religious denominations have been ascertained and now information on location and years of their records is being gathered. The Index to the 1811 census has also been published by this Society.

Both Society libraries, which are housed at the **Canadiana Library**, are accessed through separate card catalogues and are not shown on the Toronto Public Library computer catalogue. The OGS Library catalogue will soon be solely on its own computer terminal.

OGS have had 2 workshops on Eastern Europe, one from a speaker from Alberta on the Ukrainian Pioneer Village, and the other given by the writer.

Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, as well as all other branches, is coordinating the transcription of cemetery monuments within the previous City to Toronto, and some have been published and are available for sale through the Branch. There are also copies available in the Society's holdings at the Canadiana Room. Cyrillic inscriptions of Macedonians and Ukrainians have been transliterated and translated into English. The Branch has a master index of names in published cemetery transcriptions and some places of worship, which can be searched for a small fee if one contacts the Branch.

The Toronto Branch offers 8-week family history courses for beginners and 4 to 8 week specialty courses.

The Multicultural History Society of Ontario publishes the journal **Polyphony** from time to time, which contains articles about Ontario's different ethnic groups. It has a library which is run by volunteers and open to the public by appointment, and its collection is primarily minute books and records of fraternal and cultural societies of multiethnic groups in the Province.

CULTURAL GROUPS

Toronto has many enclaves of different ethnic groups. Most of them have cultural halls either singly or attached to a church, or a synagogue, and many have libraries within the halls, but they do not advertise their library's contents outside their community. I have attended Caravan celebrations in June, when many halls are open to show the public their costumes and crafts, where you can sample their foods and drinks and you see concerts of their dances and songs. I have walked past well-stocked libraries, which were very carefully locked, and I do not know what the accessibility would be to the public. We have Albanians, Armenians, Austrians, Croats, Czechs, Estonians, Finns, Germans from Russia, Greeks, Hungarians, Latvians, Lithuanians, Macedonians, Poles, Russians, Serbs, Slovaks, all with their own halls. I have been in some of these libraries and will comment on them.

The **Donau-Schwabian Centre** has a seniors home and large hall, with a library. They put up an extensive display of the wanderings of the Donau-Schwabians from Schwabia, Germany to the Danube in Ukraine, across Europe to the new world, primarily Lutheran and Mennonites.

The St. Clair O'Connor Mennonite Centre is also a seniors home, craft store, hall and library. The librarian had a long talk with me about his primarily Mennonite library, with information on the first Dutch who fled to Germany, then Poland, Ukraine, Siberia, Kazakstan, or the new world, or the Swiss who took the same route. He proudly showed me his own published genealogy and reminisced about group bus trips taken to the Ukraine in search of his ancestors.

The Polish Association of Toronto, has an extensive library on its premises, a large hall which is rented out for functions, but its caretaker could not tell me how a researcher could access it, or if anyone had catalogued it.

Ukrainian Cultural Centre has had a trilingual school, English, French and Ukrainian, so has a library for its school. I do not know what the accessibility would be for the public.

Ukrainian Museum of Canada, St. Vladimir Institute has a large library. Check out the series of "Istor:ia Mist i Sil Ukrainskoi RSR", a comprehensive series of the history of cities and towns of Ukraine, published in 1979, with information of its populations at

different times of its existence, its manufacturing, wars and disputes, castles, etc. The **Tor:onto Ukrainian Genealogy Group** library is also housed at St. Vladimir Institute, but is non-circulating.

The Ukrainian National Federation Community Centre had 2 students working on cataloguing its library over the summer. It also has Ukrainian and English language books, which can be circulated. The UNF has moved its headquarters to Etobicoke, and its new library has not as yet opened.

Macedonian Place is another seniors retirement home with a reference library. I spoke to its historian some time ago in connection with Macedonian burials from the early 1900s in the Necropolis Cemetery in Toronto.

The Przmyshl Galicia Society, now in Poland, is purported to have meetings in Toronto, but I have not been able to ascertain anything about it.
