

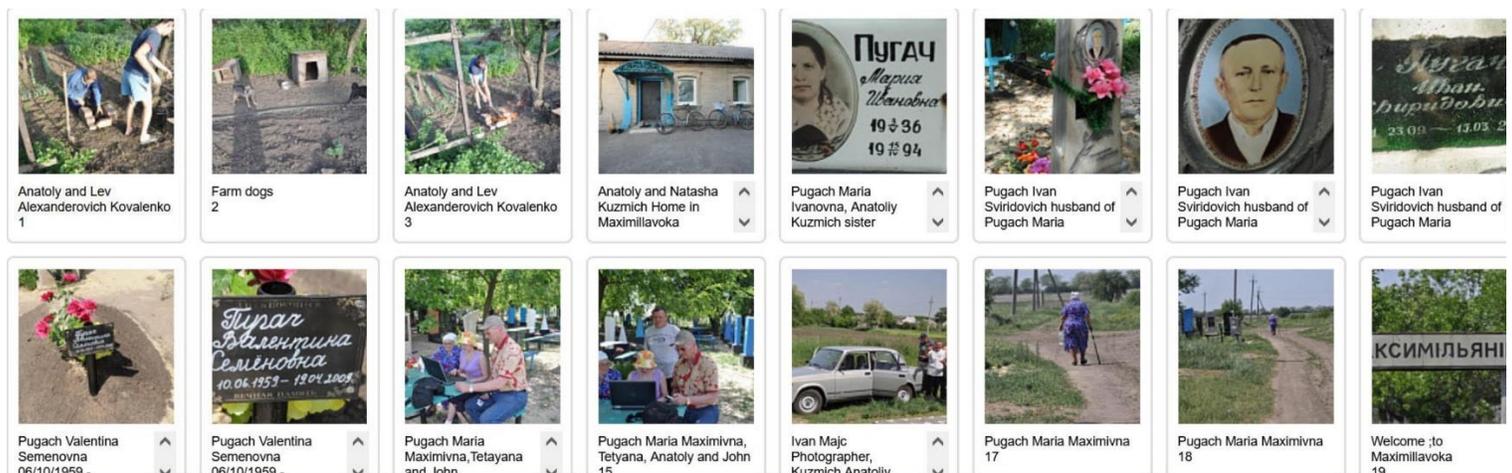
Ukrainian Genealogy Is Still Possible Today Because. . . !: Be prepared for the next level of excitement if you do your homework?! (reads better click [here](#))

Who said that doing genealogy was boring?! Here's a small scenario of my Ukrainian relative's most recent success story. Now it is unrealistic travel to visit my relatives because **NONE of them are living where their homesteads were before the 2014-Russian-Ukrainian War of today**. Especially is this true with my relatives on the 'Donetsk side (eastern side) of Ukrainian where the Russia army is so aggressive with massive destructions. Fortunately, all of my relatives have mobile phones. An added blessing of helping us was that I sponsored a niece to immigrate to America in that she is very much in touch with her parents living in Western Ukraine today and can easily translate for me. My uncle was dramatically rescued at the very, very last minute when his home was blown up. If he would have stepped out of his neighbor's basement (bunker) 30 seconds earlier, he would have died instantly. Here are photos of his home and that of his son in-law's home in absolute rubble. His youngest daughter then miraculously hired a private driver after their homestead was blown up to pick up my uncle in the middle of an active war-zone to drive him 11 hours over 550 km away to join their family in western Ukraine in reuniting his wife, daughter and son in-law and grandchildren after almost one year of being separated because of this war. How do you buy gas for a car in Ukraine must be quite a feat to accomplish? Now they are all living together in one room, three generations together with only a few hours a day of electricity along with a minimum of heat during a cold Ukrainian winter much like in Colorado. But if a bomb were to hit their house, we could easily lose three generations.

Photos of my uncle's and his son in-law's homes in rubble. Click any photos to view larger images.



Fortunately, I was recently able to Zoom with my uncle on his cell phone with his immigrated daughter translating for us all. During this Zoom conference she obtained important genealogical names for many of their ancestral photos cited below as captions. Here's a partial example below out of 141 "keepsake" photos. If you desire to see all of these landmark photos along with captions, go to <http://jalbum.net/a/1171668>. My niece is also working on some other "keepsake" photo captions in other web posted photo galleries for us as well.



My niece's husband, recently informed me that PayPal has eliminated all money transfers to people living in Ukraine along with no banking fees from my US bank and PayPal. Donating money to a Ukrainian banking

account is extremely unsafe because Italy and Argentina are recent examples that their governments suddenly taking depositor's money away illegally. And there are also very high banking fees associated with international electronic banking transactions such as S.W.I.F.T - 'Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Communications' in a country full of corruption.

Believe it or not, PayPal is now allowing individuals to donate money directly to people living in Ukraine who have a PayPal account and cell phone with no charges which is guaranteed safe money without ever using any banks. All that is needed is for you to know the individual's name with either their email address or phone number and that both the individual and donor must have their own PayPal accounts. My local bank did not add any charges as well. But my bank did call me and quizzed me about this PayPal transaction. In the PayPal comment section, I stated that the **"Money is for relief from the Russian – Ukraine War"**. Here's a message from niece's husband about donating money to Ukrainian relatives. Yes, the donation actually got there and was posted with no fees that very same week.

My niece's husband says it is best to only send them small amounts of money since they may be tempted to spend it too quickly. In the spring, they will decide if they are going to relocate elsewhere in Ukraine and begin farming again and maybe raising bees as well. My wife and I will be donating \$20 a week so they can buy essentials such as food and clothing. My children will be doing likewise and we do not need to donate much but the thought of helping them is critical at this time when they have lost everything, including their homes and worldly possessions. But they are all alive and finally living together again after many, many desperate and scary months of separation!!!

We are so blessed to live outside of Ukraine at this time. My wife gives piano lessons weekly to my niece and her sons so we are in good contact with them and our relatives in Ukraine.

Closing Comments

Had I not traveled to Ukraine before the 2014 Russian-Ukrainian War, none of these photos could have been taken. With Zoom technology on a cell phone and the relationship with my niece, the captions of these photos would have remained all blank forever! Originally, I procrastinated in obtaining these captions from 2012 on and now these photos are priceless because their cemeteries and homes are no longer in existence any more following all the bombings taking place. Zoom technology has made a huge difference for my family to share these precious memories and hopefully motivate you to not take things for granted when the opportunities for unique family history fellowshipping that still might still be so readily available as a part of your genealogical pursuits with cell phones being so popular world-wide. My entire family is so grateful and lucky for these once in-a-lifetime experiences that we can all share them with our extended families and future generations. Yes, miracles are possible in today's crazy – mixed up world through 1) prayer, 2) fasting and 3) faith in your efforts!!! But you have to make those efforts.



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MAP OF UKRAINE BEFORE THE CRIMEAN WAR

Today's Ukrainian Landscape

