



**The BGS Library is closed and all BGS meetings and programs remain cancelled until further notice.**

## Digging Into Our Family Histories

by Catherine Dulzo, BGS Vice President

I hope this edition of our newsletter finds you and your loved ones well during this difficult time. Now more than ever, I am grateful to live in this beautiful place, where I can get outdoors when I feel the the need. Other times, though, I'm just as happy to have the extra time at home to work on my genealogy projects.

How about you? Have you been working on your family history? We'd love to know! Email us a brief description of what you've been doing genealogy-wise and we'll publish it in the next newsletter. ([bgs@bendbroadband.com](mailto:bgs@bendbroadband.com).) Here's what your BGS Board members have been up to:

Maggy Wilcox embarked on a female connection and discovered a very distant Indiana cousin who told her that she has a Mayflower ancestor. With help from the Mayflower Society's "silver books," she confirmed the news and subsequently learned that she has another Revolutionary War patriot ancestor, as well as connecting with Richard Warren of the Mayflower.

Gary Putnam has been primarily using his genealogy-available time to catch up on entering already discovered information into his private database and his Ancestry family tree. He's also been doing some original research and exchanging information with DNA matches and fellow researchers in the U.S. and abroad regarding common lines.

Judith Whitehead has been busy working to finish a book edit for a client. However, she admits to hearing the siren call of her family photo box. She plans to sort the contents using expert advice, such as: (1) Look at one photo at a time. (2) IF you can name who's in the picture, keep it. (3) IF you can identify where the photo was taken, keep it. Pretty much all others — discard. (Sounds ruthless doesn't it?)

Sandy Thompson has been researching Alex, the husband of her mother's sister. She says the FamilySearch Catalog was instrumental in helping her identify not only his exact birthplace, but other interesting details about his family. (Read the complete story beginning on page 2.)

I put together a large binder full of clippings, stories, and pictures for one of my father's lines. While he enjoys the bare-bones data I've found, he really wants to know more about who the people were and what their lives were like. I'd always envisioned putting these things together for him in a more elegant way, but I've let go of that for now; I know he'll enjoy it no matter the presentation.

We miss you all, and look forward to seeing you later this year. Until then, please do share how you've been digging into your family history!

### INSIDE

**PAGE 2**

• Finding Alex

**PAGE 4**

• Oregon Happenings

**PAGE 5**

• Around the Web

**PAGE 6**

• Supporting BGS  
• BGS Board Members

# Finding Alex: How the FamilySearch Catalog Took Me Through Eastern Europe and Home Again

by Sandy Thompson

Recently, I've been researching Alex, the husband of my mother's older sister. He came to the United States from Canada, but the story was he was born in Europe, maybe Ukraine. Of course, first thing I did was research everything I could find about Alex in the U.S., e.g., census records, city directories, etc. U.S./Canada Border Crossing Cards turned out to be the key that led to his birthplace, which unindexed church records found in the FamilySearch catalog confirmed.



Alex and my mother's sister.  
Detroit, Michigan, 1943

According to the Border Crossing Cards, in 1938 Alex went to Canada to visit his father, Wasyl, whose name, address, and relationship to Alex were listed on the card as his purpose for travel to Canada. Alex also reported that he spoke English and Ukrainian; was born in Sarafince, Poland; and his race was Ruthenian. Fascinating! Ruthenians are a distinct ethnic group that lived primarily in and around the Carpathian Mountains in Eastern Europe (identified as Galicia/Galizien at times), which could be southern Poland, the eastern part

of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, or today's western Ukraine.

Since Alex reported he spoke Ukrainian, I concentrated on searching for villages in the western Ukrainian part of Galicia. Using old maps and gazetteers for place names, I found Serafińce (close to Alex's spelling), a small village on the eastern side of Carpathians. It would have been ruled by Poland at the time, so Alex could have thought of himself as Polish.

But I still needed to prove Alex was *born* in Serafińce, so, fingers crossed, off I went to the FamilySearch catalog to look for Greek Orthodox church records in Serafińce (Ruthenians were not usually Roman Catholics). I searched by Place for Serafince, and there were two suggestions: *Austria, Galizien, Serafińce (Horodenka)* and *Poland, Stanisławów, Serafińce (Horodenka)*. Both links took me to the same place, the Metrical books (births, marriages and deaths), 1857-1925 for the Greek Catholic Church in Serafińce. Though the records are in Latin, Ukrainian and Russian, I was able to translate them using [Google Translate](#) and [FamilySearch Wiki's foreign language Genealogical Word Lists](#).

Luckily, the three microfilms in the Serafińce record set had been digitized. Unluckily, the records have not been *indexed*. Occasionally, a church book will have a handwritten index at the beginning or end of the book, but these did not. So, I had to find an appropriate record range for births in the digitized microfilms, and then, scroll through them screen by screen looking for a baby boy named Alex with the father's name Wasyl, born on the birthdate known by his family, or at least close to it. *Continued, p. 3*

*Location of Serafińce shown in the western Ukrainian region known as Galicia, which was ruled at times in the past by Poland or the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Today, it is part of the modern country of Ukraine.*



# Finding Alex

Continued from p. 2

It took me about an hour and a half of scrolling to find Alex's birth record. The church record had the birth date that the family knew as his birthday. The baby boy's given name was Alexius, a Latin version of Alexis or Alexander. His father's name was Basilius, an ancient Greek version of the Ukrainian name, Wasyl, which was the name on the Border Crossing Card; and I learned his mother's name was Anna Kaban. Eureka! (The website, Behind the Name, [www.BehindtheName.com](http://www.BehindtheName.com), can help you find what a first name is in various languages.)

Church birth records are usually recorded in date order of baptism, and that works well if the baptism occurs soon after the date of birth. But sometimes the records jump around if baptism occurs well after the birth, or if the priest forgets to record a baptism, and puts it in at the end of a month, or even at the end of a year. Sometimes you have to scroll through a lot of church book pages

hunting for a good one.

By leafing through more church book pages looking for the parents' names, I found most of the birth records of Alex's siblings, and even the parents' marriage record and father's birth record, all in Serafińce. I wouldn't be surprised if more of their FAN club (family, friends and associates) emigrated to Canada as well, and now I know where to look for them in the Serafińce church records when I discover more names.

If you haven't tried looking for unindexed records in FamilySearch, it could be well worth your time to check if any are available for the birthplace of one of your ancestors. FamilySearch has been gathering records from around the world for many, many years. Lots of them have not been indexed yet. I got lucky finding Alex's birth record in a small village in today's western Ukraine. You might get lucky, too, with the unindexed records in FamilySearch.

Стор. 34  
Pag. 34

Метрика уроджених. — Liber natorum.

Рік Annus 1905		Місяць Mensis		Ім'я Nomen	Віроч. катола. Religio catholica	Пол Sexus		Дожа Thorii	Родичі Parentes		Родичі хрестні! Patrini	
Число поряд. Nrus posit.	Роджен. Natus	Хр. і шпр. Всп. et conif.	Число дому Nrus domus			Хлопець Puer	Дівчина Puella		Праворо Legitimi	Неправоро Illegitimi	Ім'я і зване Nomen et conditio	
50	4	6	05	Alexius Obiechris Anna Babij z Wasyl					Basilius Petrus + Anna Petrus Kaban et Mariae Kaban Serafińce	M. Anna Petrus Maria Emiliani Bacynski apostolicus		

The BGS Library is closed and all BGS meetings and programs remain cancelled until further notice.  
Please feel free to contact us for any reason via phone or email.  
(541) 317-9553 • [bgs@bendbroadband.com](mailto:bgs@bendbroadband.com)



# OREGON HAPPENINGS

Genealogy Events Around the State

**Monday, July 20, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

## Genealogy Boot Camp

with Laurel Smith

Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Portland

Join Laurel Smith at the GFO for a day of beginning genealogy. There will be sessions about the census, vital records, discussions about genealogy software and database use, organizing your research, using Ancestry.com, and more — all geared toward beginners — but basic computer skills are a prerequisite.

All communications are done via email, and you must be able to download and print the class notes. Bring a sack lunch, snacks, and a beverage so you can keep going as the class does.

Walk-ins are unavailable, so member or not, please let us know if you plan to attend, and REGISTER ONLINE. Registration begins mid-June. Two very short assignments will be emailed, the first on the 28th. You will receive an email with a link to the class notes when you complete the two assignments.

Free for members; \$20 for non-members. View the GFO flyer [HERE](#). Registration will begin in mid-June.

## ADGD

(Attention Deficit Genealogy Disorder)

It's when you start researching one ancestor, but get distracted by another ancestor, which causes you to bounce around different ancestors only to end up doing a lot of work with very little to show for it!

Teach Me Genealogy

**RESCHEDULED! Saturday & Sunday, August 8 & 9**

## Solve Puzzles with DNA

with Karen Stanbary, CG

Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Portland

**Saturday, August 8, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

### Tips to Manage Conversations about Unexpected DNA Results

Trained in advanced psychotherapy techniques, and with 30 years of clinical practice, Karen helps people manage negative emotions upon receiving unexpected news.

### The DNA You Need — Elements of Creating a Testing Plan: Who to Test and Why

Targeted testing is far more efficient to solve genealogical problems than simply “fishing in the cousin pond.”

### Avoiding Common Mistakes When Working with atDNA

Concepts include segment size, pedigree evaluation, blind trust, reasonably exhaustive research, confirmation bias, the myth of the triangulated segment and more.

### Spit and You Shall Find! Autosomal DNA Identifies a Charming Scoundrel

This entertaining lecture is a case study integrating traditional documentary research and analysis of atDNA and X-DNA test results to identify the biological father of Karen's paternal great-grandmother.

**Sunday, August 9, 9:30 a.m. – noon**

### Rafael Arriaga, A Mexican Father in Michigan: Autosomal DNA Helps Identify Paternity

This case study illustrates the dynamic research process, gradually narrowing the possibilities until the evidence points to just one answer. This case was published in the June 2016 issue of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly and won the 2016 NGSQ Award for Excellence.

### A BIG Research Project—The Dalton Case

Learn how Karen and a colleague work to solve a long-standing genealogical problem set in 18th-century Birmingham, England. Karen will illustrate the creation of a speculative descendant tree using DNA matches across five countries

Additional details, fees, and registration information [HERE](#).





## Bend Genealogical Society Board of Directors

### Elected Officers

**President:** Vacant  
**Vice President:**  
 Catherine Dulzo  
**Secretary:**  
 Maggy Wilcox  
**Treasurer:**  
 Sandy Thompson  
**Director at Large #1:**  
 Judith Whitehead  
**Director at Large #2:**  
 Gary Putnam  
**Past President:**  
 Glen Roberts

### Appointed Positions

**Parliamentarian:** Glen Roberts  
**Membership Committee:**  
 Judith Whitehead  
**Hospitality Committee:**  
 Barbara McGee  
**Librarians:**  
 Linda Martin & Sandy Thompson  
**Education Committee:** Vacant  
**Records Preservation:**  
 Eileen Krueger  
**Publicity:** Sandy Thompson  
**Newsletter:** Catherine Dulzo  
**Finance Committee:**  
 Sharon Freeman

## BGS Financial Status

*Year-to-Date (YTD) as of 15 March 2020*

Dues Income (121 paid members)	\$ 2,189.00
Other Income	\$ 2,679.66
<b>YTD Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 4,858.66</b>
<b>YTD Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,551.89</b>

## Contact Us

To reach any of the BGS officers or committee chairpersons, send an email to our general email box, or call and leave a message at the BGS office/library.

**BGS Email**  
 bgs@bendbroadband.com

**BGS Phone**  
 (541) 317-9553

## BGS FUNDRAISERS

*Help support your Bend Genealogical Society when you shop!*



Link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Bend Genealogical Society, scan it every time you shop, and earn donations for BGS. To link your Rewards Card, click [HERE](#). If you do not have a Rewards Card, you can sign up for one at the Customer Service Desk of any Fred Meyer store. *NOTE: Occasionally Fred Meyer may require that you select your charity of choice again. If you do NOT see Bend Genealogical Society at the bottom of a receipt, please select us again on the Fred Meyer Rewards website.*



When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the same low prices, selection, and shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to BGS. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, select BGS as your charitable organization. Click [HERE](#) to get started.



GoodShop offers online shopping deals, "the best on the Internet," they say. Every purchase you make using GoodShop generates donations to BGS. GoodSearch automatically donates to BGS as you search the web. Sign up [HERE](#), select BGS as your charity of choice, click the "Adopt This Cause" button, and you're good to go. *NOTE: Amazon purchases made through GoodShop do NOT generate a donation to BGS. Please use AmazonSmile.*

"Distant Voices" is the official newsletter of the Bend Genealogical Society (BGS). BGS is incorporated as a non-profit organization in the state of Oregon, and is an approved charitable and tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 8254, Bend, OR 97708-8254 • Phone: (541) 317-9553 • Email: bgs@bendbroadband.com  
 Website: [www.orgenweb.org/deschutes/bend-gs](http://www.orgenweb.org/deschutes/bend-gs)