

The Ukraine



Types of Ukrainian Women.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

In their latest uprisings against the soviet government, the Ukrainians or "Little Russians" are but justifying anew a reputation as fighters that has stuck to them since the dawn of European history. There is one of the richest sections of the old Russian empire and not only have they been called upon to defend their title many times, but at others they have fared forth against the Poles, the Russians of the North, the Tatars and the Turks, seemingly for the mere joy of fighting.

In recent years the Ukraine has quieted down so that casual students at the time of the Russian revolution hardly realized that there was such a distinctive section left.

The Ukraine has had a troublesome career. The wild Scythians helped to feed ancient Greece and her colonies from its endless steppes. A thousand years ago Kiev was already becoming an important place. When the Saxons still ruled England, in the long ago, the banks of the Dnieper were a meeting-place for many races, drawn thither by commerce. Religious differences had not yet arisen, for all were worshippers of idols. Even then a Slav people were safely established here, sowing and reaping their harvests and sending their surplus grain down this river to the Black sea.

The name Ukraine means "border-marches." For centuries it was the bulwark that protected Poland and Lithuania from the Tatars, Turks, and other migrating Orientals. As a result it has had cruel taskmasters.

The native population was largely Cossacks—a wild and unruly people at that time. They were not originally a tribe, but were men who went forth into the wilderness to find freedom. The vast steppes, covered with grass to the height of a horse, within which a multitude of game lurked, lured them on.

There were Poles and Lithuanians and Russians and even Turks among them. They became marvelous shots, riders, and swimmers; their horses were famous for their swiftness and endurance. Their differences gradually blended in a unity of purpose and principle.

Crude Republican Government.

The name Zaporogians was applied to the community that was the heart and soul of the great Ukraine. Their government was crude, but very republican in form. Each year the old officers laid down their duties in the presence of a general assembly, even in that day called the rada, and new ones were then chosen.

As any member of the tribe could be elevated to the highest office, it permitted each one to aspire to this dignity. The highest official was known as the "hetman." If unpopular, he was sometimes choked to death—an effective, if cruel, displacement.

They carried on an intermittent warfare with Tatars on the east, stealing their cattle and occasionally sacking the unprotected towns. Again, their warring excursions would be directed against the Turks to the southeast, in the Balkans. When tired of this they turned northward to the Slavonic population.

These early Ukrainians were ever at war with somebody and for somebody. They fought with Poland against Russia, with Russia against Poland, with Poland against Turkey, with Turkey against the Tatars. They assisted in placing an unfrocked monk upon the throne at Moscow. They were simply natural warriors who rejoiced in that occupation. The warrior shaved his head except for a wisp on the crown, which was allowed to grow long enough to wind around the ears.

Although professing the Orthodox Greek faith, they were the brigands and the corsairs of Christianity. Though nominally subjects of Poland for a long time, the Ukrainians were constantly involving Poland in trouble with the Tatar and Turkish rulers.

At times they even captured Polish peasants and sold them as slaves to the Tatars, who in turn passed them on to Persians.

Lovers of the Soil.

The Little Russians have worked hard and fought hard, and they have emerged a fairly united and still vigorous people. The population increases more steadily than that of Great Russia, as the people are greatly attached to home and do not care to wander far from their native villages. They are great lovers of the soil and cling to it with a passionate tenacity.

The Ukraine includes old southeastern Russia, with the exception of the province known as Bessarabia, which partakes of the character of the Balkan states and is peopled with Rumanians and Bulgarians. The great seaport of Odessa and the surrounding country were added to it under its new alignment after the break-up of the Russian empire.

The Ukraine does not reach much north of Kiev or east of Kharkov, but it is a large state in itself, about as large as the German empire, with some twenty-five or thirty millions of people living in it.

The largest city of the real Ukraine is Kiev, around which national life centers probably because of the deep religious associations in connection with the shrines and many holy places. It was at one time the capital of all Russia. Kharkov is the leading commercial town in it unless Odessa, on the Black sea, is considered.

There is a lure about the limitless stretches of the steppes in the Ukraine. In wide, level spaces, or in gentle undulations, they reach out until sky and horizon meet in a barely perceptible line. Parts of it remind one very much of our own western prairies. In spring and winter it is an ocean of verdure with the varied shades of green of the growing vegetation interspersed with flowers of many hues; later, in the autumn, after the crops are harvested, it becomes a brown waste of stubble and burned-up pastures; in winter it is a white, glistening expanse of snow.

Windmills in General Use.

Windmills are exceedingly common and dot the landscape on every hillside. Silvery gray they appear from age, as all are built of wood, and they are usually unpainted. Many of them seem ready to fall to pieces from age. The general use of windmills is due not so much to lack of water, for they will be found near streams, but the flatness of the country does not give enough fall to allow the use of water-power. They are used to grind grain.

Kiev is the holy city of the Ukraine and hundreds of thousands of pilgrims visit it each year. The natural landscape is heightened at all times in its pictorial effect by the picturesque groups of pilgrims, strives in hand and wallets on backs, who may be seen clambering up the hills, resting under the shadow of a hill, or reverently bowing the head at the sound of a convent bell.

The pilgrims made it a point to visit the ghastly catacombs in which are rows upon rows of the skulls of reputed monks. Access is had by narrow steps, and then through labyrinthine subterranean passages one descends deeper and deeper into the bowels of the earth, winding hither and thither along a pathway. Finally there begins a series of niches, in which repose the bodies of the saintly recluses.

The pilgrims pass each holy tomb, reverently kissing the shriveled hands laid out by the monks for that purpose. They do not distinguish between the holy and holler, but pay a tribute to each one impartially in order to conciliate all.

Much contagion must be spread by this insular method of homage. No doubt many an infection, and possibly even great pestilences, could be traced directly to this spot where the indiscriminate osculation of church relics is practiced.

THE AMERICAN LEGION

(Copy for This Department Supplied by the American Legion News Service.)

IN ARMY AT THE AGE OF 14

Stephen S. Tillman of Washington Now Sergeant-at-Arms of George Washington Post.

Stephen S. Tillman, Washington, D. C., served as a private in the army during the World war at the mature age of fourteen years. He was regularly enlisted and sworn in and didn't have to lie about his age.

Just before he went to the recruiting office he cut the numerals "18" out of a calendar and pasted them in the heels of his shoes. When the recruiting officer asked him how old he was, Tillman replied: "I'm over eighteen." They swore him in.

Being a trifle smaller than a regulation army rifle, he was detailed as a bugler. He went to the Mexican border with his company, "B" of the Third D. C. Infantry. Coming back from the border as the United States entered the World war, he did guard duty along Conduct road, Washington, where several hundred attractive young women were taking an intensive training course. But he was only sixteen years old then.

Now he is sergeant-at-arms of George Washington Post No. 1 of the American Legion, Washington, the first Legion post organized. His father is a retired cavalry officer.

THE TRAYLOR FAMILY HELPED

Father, Mother, Four Sons and Two Daughters in Uniform During the World War.

When the old question of "who won the war?" comes up, the Traylor family of Trenton, Mo., may step forward and admit that they helped. The commanding officer of the family that was 100 per cent in active service was the father, W. S. Traylor, rank-private.

Mr. Traylor, his wife, four sons and two daughters were all in uniform. When war was declared, Mr. Traylor closed up his general store, donned the uniform of a buck private in the quartermaster corps and did his bit well, despite his fifty-three years. Mother and the sisters were on active duty with the Red Cross.

Of the four sons, Charles was with the Eighty-ninth division and was wounded. Frank was an aviator. Orville served with the adjutant general's department and Roy was with the Thirty-first railway engineers.

JUMPING BEANS FOR GIRLS

Sick and Wounded Veterans in New Mexico Hospitals Are Hungry for Cheer Letters.

Trained to leap through hoops and stand unhit, thousands of genuine Mexican jumping beans are awaiting girls of the United States who will write a little letter of cheer to a disabled soldier. The exchange of letters for jumping beans is being made through Herman G. Baca, Santa Fe, N. M., adjutant of the American Legion of the state.

Five thousand sick and wounded veterans of the World war, recuperating in hospitals in New Mexico, have trained the beans. The young men are terribly lonesome, Mr. Baca writes, and they will send a bean to every girl who will write a letter to them.

The jumping beans are dark brown, somewhat larger than the ordinary bean. The animation of the vegetable is caused by a tiny worm that crawls into the bean and consumes the edible portion. After the worm is dead, the bean keeps on jumping.

Presidents as Military Men.

More than half of the presidents of the United States have held some military rank, according to The American Legion Weekly. Of the whole line of twenty-eight presidents sixteen were military men, and of the succession following the Civil war Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur and Harrison were generals; Roosevelt was a colonel and McKinley was a major.

Unto the End.

"How's this?" asked the lawyer. "You've named six bankers in your will to be pall-bearers. Of course, it's all right, but wouldn't you rather choose some friends with whom you are on better terms?"

"No, judge, that's all right. Those fellows have carried me for so long they might as well finish the job."—American Legion Weekly.

LEGION WORKER IN CONGRESS

Hamilton Fish, Jr., One of Writers of Preamble to Constitution, Seeks Increase in Compensation.



The preamble to the constitution of the American Legion has been called one of the simplest, most effective and beautiful pronouncements in the English language.

Three men wrote it in St. Louis, Mo., in 1919 and it never has been, nor probably never will be, changed. The men were John Greenway of Arizona, Judge Davis of Oregon and Hamilton Fish, Jr., of New York.

Mr. Fish is now in congress helping to put into effect the policies recited by the preamble he helped write. He has a bill pending to increase the compensation from \$20 to \$50 for the nurses of blind, legless, armless and totally disabled ex-soldiers. He is an ardent advocate of reclamation of land through irrigation, to encourage ex-service men to take up farming as a vocation.

At Harvard he was captain of thearsity football team. In France he led a company of negro soldiers in the Fifteenth New York Infantry and received the Croix de Guerre for bravery.

GETS FUNDS FOR CLUBHOUSE

Spokane (Wash.) Girl, Post Historian, Successful in Procuring Cash for Comrades' Headquarters.

When the Legion post of Spokane, Wash., needed help in raising funds for a new clubhouse for the city, it turned to a girl holding the uninspiring job of post historian. Miss Myrtle Wilson thereupon made and wrote post history by securing pledges amounting to \$8,000 for the clubhouse.

In addition to writing history, Miss Wilson is advertising manager of the post newspaper, and was a delegate to the Legion national convention. During the war she served in the navy at the government hospital in San Diego, Cal. In a popular contest in the San Diego Legion post she was chosen queen without opposition.

TRIES TO TRACE ARMY SLANG

"Doughboy," "I'll Tell the World" and "Out of Luck," "Old Stuff," New Yorker Says.

If the American "doughboy" who started "I'll tell the world" as a characteristic expression of the A. E. F. took pride in having coined a new expression he was "out of luck," according to Henry Dwight, Yonkers, N. Y., who has been trying to trace army slang to its source.

In relating his uncertain success and asking the assistance of the demobilized world at large, Mr. Dwight declares that each of the three supposed innovations is time-worn.

Referring to the expressions quoted above, he claims that General Custer, the Indian fighter, used "doughboy" in letters to his wife, and that Arthur Young, writer and traveler, announced himself as being "out of luck" when hunting for mail at Dijon, France, in 1780.

"I'll tell the world" remains untraced. It is thought to be very old and verification of this belief is now sought.

Carrying On With the American Legion

Government controlled institutions are schooling 90,000 former service men and are directed by the veterans' bureau.

"Legion Park," named after the local post in Bucyrus, O., contains a tree in memory of the unknown dead in the war.

Abraham Krotoshinsky, the "Lost Battalion" messenger who was cited for his deed, has gone to Palestine to accept an offered farm.

A building worth \$25,000 and a pledge for \$10,000 for its renovation have been given Lee C. Prentice post of the American Legion by the people of Fairmont, Minn.

Twenty-four lodgers were rescued from the burning Y. M. C. A. at Somerville, Mass., by the American Legion, which clothed and lodged them in the post's club.

The success of the Centralia (Ill.) post of the American Legion last summer in giving outdoor dances has led to a series of indoor dances for the winter. The series is sponsored by the post.

A year elapsed after George Reid, Montevideo, Minn., was discharged before his friends discovered that he had the D. S. C. Reid, an artilleryman of the Rainbow division, continued to fire his piece after being wounded and routed the Germans.

Genuine BAYER ASPIRIN

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Unless you see the name "Bayer" on tablets, you are not getting genuine Aspirin prescribed by physicians over 22 years and proved safe by millions for

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Acceptable Advice.

"You get a great deal of gratuitous advice from your constituents, I dare say."

"Oh, yes," replied Senator Snorts-worthy.

"Ever act on any of it?"

"Occasionally. Some of the most enjoyable vacations I ever had were taken at the suggestion of constituents who thought I was overworked."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

MOTHER, QUICK! GIVE CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP FOR CHILD'S BOWELS

Even a sick child loves the "fruity" taste of "California Fig Syrup." If the little tongue is coated, or if your child is listless, cross, feverish, full of cold, or has colic, a teaspoonful will never fail to open the bowels. In a few hours you can see for yourself how thoroughly it works all the constipation poison, sour bile and waste from the tender, little bowels and gives you a well, playful child again.

Millions of mothers keep "California Fig Syrup" handy. They know a teaspoonful today saves a sick child tomorrow. Ask your druggist for genuine "California Fig Syrup" which has directions for babies and children of all ages printed on bottle. Mother! You must say, "California" or you may get an imitation fig syrup.—Advertisement.

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