

## Organizing Your Family History with Details and Infrastructure Part 1: Cemetery Headstones

The more family history you do, the more information and materials you collect. How do you find a place for everything, and keep everything in its place? [Habits of Highly Organized Genealogists](#) by Family Tree Magazine offers 27 different ways that could be just what you need. This article provides great tips on managing paper, going digital, getting into a organization routine, and more. Also check out [Goal 1](#) in Project 4: Discover for additional ideas on getting and staying organized with your family history. ([See all tips.](#)) The more information along with documents, it can be easy to misplace this information. Handling massive amounts of data: original correspondences with letters, photos, original documents and all of its statistical information can be a chore over the years. After doing genealogy for 50+ years, I have an incredible number of findings. Storing phones in shoe boxes will not be an asset for everybody. In my 50+ years in actively doing genealogy pursuits, I have accumulated maps, photos, original documents with memories, audio and video recordings and even more memorabilia.



Most recently when my cousin escaped the brutal bombings in Eastern Ukraine. It was a wakeup call for me and I immediately got motivated to share the historical photos of my Ukrainian ancestors with my niece for positive photo identifications since they still had Internet connections. By using Zoom and email with links to these online photo albums, I was able to share several web albums posted with these original keepsake photos that I had acquired on my previous trips to Ukraine but had never really had taken the opportunity to identify the photos because of the Russian language difficulties. Fortunately, my niece and cousin in Ukraine were able to identify a large number of them, but there were also two cemeteries of beautiful headstones with many beautiful pictures engraved. By having these 2012 cemetery photos readily available on the Internet, everybody concerned was able to confirm who these deceased relatives were which have greatly added to my family tree in Ancestry.com. Unfortunately, these recent bombings have completely destroyed all of these local cemeteries as well so my photos are absolutely priceless in the course of my Ukrainian family history. And all headstones have now been translated to English since they are in Cyrillic by my living Ukrainian descendants. To illustrate how badly the damages are in Ukraine, compare the beautiful brand-new 2012 Donetsk airport photo below with recent photos of today! I can't image living there right now even if your homes/apartments were still livable. Notice the captions on each of the cemetery photos now which are so important for future generations.



See below for some sample photos from one of the cemeteries: **Heorkvka, Ukraine Cemetery**. It is an attractive cemetery in the middle of farmland near Maxilliankova, Ukraine. Photos by Ivan Majc of Slovenia who is my official Eastern European photographer, friend and genealogy colleague. Part 2 in this Facebook Group series will focus on online web albums with many readily available for free where you can save precious family history memories with photos and videos conveniently for future sharing much like mine that I was so fortunate to have done since 2011.

