



Gen Dobry!

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***** WELCOME! *****

to the latest issue of *Gen Dobry!*, the e-zine of PolishRoots®. If you missed previous issues, you can find them here:

<<http://polishroots.org/GenDobry/tabid/60/Default.aspx>>

*** A LITTLE LOVE FOR RESTRICTIVE ARCHIVISTS ***

by Alan Kania <ajk.colorado@gmail.com>

Editor—In recent issues of *Gen Dobry!*, we've talked of the need for constructive action to pry records from the grasp of archivists, especially parish and diocesan clergy, who refuse to let us see them. An especially large number of researchers have called shenanigans on Rev. dr. Henryk Borcz, Archivist of the Przemyśl Archdiocese. We're still trying to verify rumors his car has a bumper sticker saying "Możesz zabrać moje księgi metrykalne kiedy je wyrwasz z mojej zimnej, martwej ręki." [You can have my metrical registers when you pry them from my cold, dead hand.] (Proszę Polaków wybaczyć moje błędy!)

Alan Kania felt it would be constructive to stop a moment and ponder why archivists can be so reluctant to let us "handle their goodies," so to speak. Alan posted this note to the Poland-Roots list, and I felt it was worth repeating, just to hear the other side of the story. If we want to make any headway in complaining, we need to be sure it doesn't sound like we're griping because Rev. dr. Borcz, or any other archivist, is merely doing his job well! Alan will explain this better than I can.

While I cannot condone the hoarding of records with unrealistic restraints on what should be considered public records, there are a few things that Prof. Borcz is doing that actually qualify as good archival protection.

A time restriction is probably due to a reduction in archival librarian hiring. At the Denver Public Library, the Special Collections area doesn't have a time limit, but there is a library staff member who periodically is monitoring your actions to make sure that documents don't walk out the door, are intentionally (or unintentionally defaced) with an ink pen, et. al. The Massachusetts State Archives once had four archival librarians; now they have one archival librarian and a few internists from the local colleges who are studying library sciences. Poland is no exception to the economic setbacks experienced by economic problems throughout the world.

A ban on photographing records is a throw-back to the day when flash-bulbs could explode. Even electronic flashes can harm paper documents if the documents are exposed enough times to the flash. Coral reefs are harmed by snorkelers and SCUBA divers with underwater flash cameras. An archive that is concerned with flash photography should recognize that digital cameras are now capable of ISO levels up to 6400 that can photograph a document (without flash) illuminated only by existing room light. This restriction should be updated.

Placing restrictions on bringing anything into a reading room is standard operating procedures for most archives. There are many thieves who have successfully modified overcoats, briefcases, purses, etc. with sewn-in pockets large enough to slip an original archival document and then sell them on the black-market. I believe it was *60 Minutes* in the U.S. who did a segment on an archive thief who was eventually caught. Some archives will provide a few sheets of paper and pencils. I've had some archives go through an inventory check of everything that was delivered to my table to make sure the same documents were returned to the librarian in the same condition they were delivered to me.

A simple check of eBay will show lots of maps and chapters of books that have been razor-cut out of books—some privately owned books that the owners chose to cannibalize and sell off in chapters. Others have been cut out of library books.

When I do research at libraries (I'm the author of more than six published books), I bring a portable flatbed scanner. It's carefully examined by the head librarian to make sure that no moving parts are exposed that could catch a document or photograph and tear the original. Documents are restricted to photographic copying only—but only after I can demonstrate that my camera can record images without flash and without damage to tightly bound books. This relationship with archivists has taken many years to develop, and I always go to new archives with a folio of letters of recommendation from other archivists I have worked with in other archives.

It may be completely inefficient when you have a limited amount of time to research something in a foreign country, but that's your problem for not budgeting sufficient time to research one-of-a-kind documents from a special collection. Some Polish and Lithuanian records have been "black-listed"—too fragile for even professional researchers to handle even once. That alone begs the discussion about why archives are not digitally preserving their records.

Eastern Europe needs to do a much better job in preserving their paper heritage. I have lost access to one branch of my family when the priest kept the church books at his home "to protect them." His house burned to the ground.

Many restrictions on archival records have been put in place because of amateur researchers who are in too much of a hurry to respect the fragility of the records. Sometimes we're our own enemy to fragile records and our names should be added to list of reasons why archives are more stringent about protecting their records.

Editor—A winning strategy might be to kill the priests with kindness (oh, yes, the good father is doing his job with great dedication and care), but point out that sooner or later, paper is going to burn, or fade, or be eaten by bugs, no matter how diligently it is preserved. Let's try to get (non-Mormon) pros with good credentials who know how to handle records, let them photograph the records once, give DVDs to the priests involved for their own use—and then agree to leave the actual records off limits from then on. If done right, this could minimize the workload of the priests and archivists.

There is no guarantee that will work. But if we present ourselves as committed benefactors to the archivists, rather than their enemies, we have a better chance.

A number of people wrote to the Polish Genealogical Society of America and asked that an initiative to record off-limits records be discussed at the most recent Board meeting. The Board did discuss the matter, and a committee has been set up to examine the problem and figure out how PGSA could best use resources at its disposal to play a positive role in finding a solution. This may sound like a stall, but I don't think it is. Boards of Directors don't usually move lightning-quick. It's natural for them to wait, take stock of the situation, and look for the best possible answer. I advise a little patience so we can see what PGSA comes up with.

***** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *****

Subject: Recommendation of a researcher in Poland

This is a website of a very good friend (Maciej Orzechowski) and genealogy researcher in Poland. If you ever need a researcher and/or consultant, please contact him. He is very good and honest!

<<http://www.polishdocuments.com/>>

Facebook: <<https://www.facebook.com/polishrecords>>

Larry Mandeville

Editor—I believe we've mentioned Maciej before, but I'm glad to mention him again, especially since I know people are always looking for someone reliable to locate documents.

***** ACCREDITED GENEALOGIST NAMED DIRECTOR OF FHL *****

Numerous sources dedicated to genealogy, including *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* and the e-zine *Nu? What's New?*, included an announcement from FamilySearch that Diane C. Loosle is the new director of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. You can read more about this at the following page on the EOGN site: <<http://goo.gl/APQ6Ma>>.

You can also read a number of other interesting announcements from FamilySearch on this page:

<<http://tinyurl.com/EOGNNauta>>

Given how important the Family History Library is to all genealogists, we'd like to congratulate Ms. Loosle and wish her unprecedented success!

***** SUMMER IN POLISHORIGINS *****

by The PolishOrigins Team

Editor—For those who don't get the newsletter from PolishOrigins, I wanted to pass along what Zenon and the team have been up to lately.

We have been working hard but with a great pleasure in helping our guests in uncovering their roots and living families in Poland. Thanks to great collaboration of many people, mainly

inhabitants of small Polish villages who almost always are very hospitable and willing to help, as of today all (no exceptions!) Genealogy Tours in 2013 ended up with finding living relatives of our guests! That's the greatest reward and the deepest experience for all of us...

We are looking forward to the remaining months of the year. It will be even more intense time for us filled with genealogy, tailor-made tourist tours and the October Galicia Tour. We will report you more about these adventures at the end of the year.

Now please look what we have to share with you.

Galicia Tour for the first time

“Wow, we did it! My two sisters and I (all seniors) traveled to Poland after contacting PolishOrigins and combining the Galicia Tour with two extra days for genealogy research. It was the best thing we ever did together! (...) choices on this tour showed us magnificent scenery, castles, manor homes, a fun raft ride down a river, shopping and even a folk art festival.” — Gerre Klosek (one of the first Galicia Tour participants), see: <http://polishorigins.com/document/fft_testimonials#gerre>

We invite you to see the photo album <<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10151873949283900.1073741827.256154928899&type=3>> and recently added videos on our Youtube Channel from the July Galicia Tour <<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQF0Fms1pWheEj1LtPNBDw>>.

After this first wonderful tour, we are now looking forward to the Galicia Tour in October. There are still 4 last openings available for the tour in term 6-15.10.2013. For the details of the itinerary and reservation form visit <<http://galicia.polishorigins.com>>.

News from Forum and Blog

“Some illusions die hard. Most people I talk to say visiting Poland would be depressing. But I'm seeing things that show me how much Poland has changed...(...)”

Read the article about Lou Binik's tour in south eastern Poland in June 2013: “Poland - better than I ever thought it would be.”

<<http://blog.polishorigins.com/2013/07/08/poland-better-than-i-ever-thought-it-would-be>>

(It was originally published on Lou Binik's website: <<http://foxwear.net/2013/06/poland-better-than-i-ever-thought-it-would-be/>>)

“There is a saying I keep by my computer that says... “Don't let anyone tell you the sky's the limit. Remember there are footprints on the moon”. I'm not sure who said this but this is where my journey to find my sister started...”

Just a few weeks ago we have witnessed the amazing story of finding relatives. Read whole

story by Nelly Markowski, “Finding Barbara”: <<http://blog.polishorigins.com/2013/07/30/finding-barbara>>

Michał Greim’s photographs - the exhibition in Kraków <<http://polishorigins.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=2000>>

Copies of old pictures from an unusual exhibition in Kraków: “A dim light. The photographs of Michał Greim (1828-1911)”. The exhibition is in Ethnographic Museum in Kraków and we will visit it on our October Galicia Tour.

Wooden treasures of southern Poland <<http://polishorigins.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=1972>>

We would like to recommend you the wooden architecture sites in Poland. We believe that this is the very special element of our landscape and history. If only we have chance we will show you personally some of these amazing places!

Thank you for all your compliments, support and inspiring comments and remarks! Thanks to you our web sites are a living community. Of course you are always welcome to share your wishes, suggestions and the topics that you are interested in.

(Note from Zenon: Those of you who have recently sent me emails to my private account and didn’t get my response yet, please forgive my delay. I just came back home for a few days before the next Tour and I will try to reply you, one after another.)

If you think you know someone who might be interested in the topics covered here, please help us to spread the news and forward this email.

Greetings from Poland!

PolishOrigins Team

***** POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES IN CONNECTICUT *****

Editor—This note was posted to the Polish Genius mailing list on August 5th, posted by “dorena726,” and I wanted to pass it along.

The Polish American Foundation of Connecticut (located in New Britain, CT) is hosting Polish Language Lessons at its headquarters in New Britain. The classes are on Monday nights: beginner at 6:00-7:30 and intermediate 7:30-9:00. They begin on **September 16, 2013**—8 weeks for \$100. Check the PAF website for information.

<<http://www.paf-ct.org/>>

***** AWARD TO GESHER GALICIA’S CADASTRAL MAP AND**

LANDOWNER RECORDS PROJECT ***

A post by Renee Steinig on the JewishGen newsgroup listed winners of the 2013 IAJGS Achievement Awards at the recent Jewish genealogy conference in Boston. All those who received awards deserve a lot of credit; but there was one in particular I felt we should mention. The award for Outstanding Programming or Project that Advances the Objective of Jewish Genealogy went to the Geshher Galicia Cadastral Map and Landowner Records Project, which can be seen at <<http://www.geshhergalicia.org/projects/cadastral-map-and-landowner-records>>. The award was given because it “has provided groundbreaking content for genealogical researchers.”

Renee went on to say this:

Through the funding of Geshher Galicia and individual contributors, 19th-century Austrian land maps and landowner records are copied at archives in Eastern Europe. These extraordinary maps, which show such details as market squares, houses, synagogues, cemeteries, roads, and rivers, enable family historians to visualize where and how their ancestors lived; and the landowner records, too, capture details of everyday lives not found in traditional sources. Maps are shared in Geshher Galicia’s unique online Map Room <<http://maps.geshhergalicia.org>>, which also features historical town, provincial, and regional maps, Holocaust and ghetto maps, and specialty maps. Indexed data is made available to researchers in the free online All Galicia Database <<http://search.geshhergalicia.org>>. In many cases these maps and records provide the only available documentary evidence of a family’s life in a town.

Of course, this project is aimed at helping Jewish researchers—but it is highly appropriate for non-Jews to applaud it also. As the saying goes, “A rising tide lifts all boats.” The splendid work done by Jewish researchers benefits even those of us with no Jewish ancestry. (And, by the way, don’t be too sure you have no Jewish branches in your family tree. If you extend your research far enough, odds are you’ll lose that bet!)

*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

Note: see also <<http://www.eogn.com/calendar/>> for a large selection of upcoming events in the world of genealogy.

September 7, 2013

**AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FALL SEMINAR
Triumphant Love Lutheran Church, 9508 Great Hills Trail, Austin Texas 78759**

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

If you will be in the Austin, TX area, you may be interested in this seminar, which features Lisa Alzo, M.F.A., a very popular speaker.

For more info and sign-up, go to <<http://austintxgensoc.org/>>. You can also visit the Austin Genealogical Society page on Facebook, <<https://www.facebook.com/AustinGenealogicalSociety>>.

[From a note posted by Chris Cowan to the LithGen mailing list]

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September 13 – 14, 2013

**“GROWING YOUR RESEARCH SOURCES”
POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA CONFERENCE
Hilton Lisle, Naperville, Illinois**

The 35th Annual PGSA Conference will be held September 13–14 at the Hilton Lisle in Naperville, Illinois. For more info visit the PGSA website: <<http://pgsa.org/>>.

We invite you to join us September 13 and 14 at our anniversary conference held at the Hilton Hotel in Lisle and share in the fruits of the seeds our founders planted 35 years ago. The program is structured to satisfy the skilled researcher as well as the novice and to explain the use of some of the amazing tools that technology now offers. Speakers’ topics and schedule are now on our website so you can review them and decide which subjects fulfill your needs: research in Poland—Thomas Nitsch, technological wonders—Thomas MacEntee, the impact of history on your ancestors’ lives—Ola Heska or hands-on guidance in pursuing information on the internet—Ceil Jensen.

But the conference is not just what you can glean from lectures. It offers Ask Us, a question/answer panel, translation help and, possibly just as important, what you learn from the expertise of your fellow researchers. And don’t forget the offerings of the Vendor room with material and representatives from: Fun Stuff for Genealogists, Michiana History Publication, The Polish Museum of America, CAGGNI, PhotoGraphics, Stitched For You and, of course PGSA and others. Then there is lunch with a choice of 3 entrées and the opportunity to share ideas and stories with table-mates. Finally, everyone’s favorite wrap-up at lunch is the excitement generated by a colorful Polish dance troupe.

Sign up today or at least before August 2nd to take advantage of early bird pricing. Register at Eventbrite. Speakers’ information, including biographies as well as specific conference detail and a printable mail-in registration form are on our website.

PGSA has spent 35 years “Growing Your Research Resources”! Take advantage of them at its 35th Anniversary conference.

Go to <<http://www.pgsa.org>> to download a registration form, or register online at <<http://www.2013pgsaconf-es2.eventbrite.com>>.

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September 18, 2013

EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING

7:00 to 9:00 pm

Thomson Funeral Home, 669 Broadway, Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA.

Presenter is **Orysia Tracz**, “Going Home to a Place You’ve Never Been—Traveling to Ukraine with Orysia Tracz.” Orysia has lead a cultural tour to Ukraine 16 times since 1993, with travelers from all over the world. In addition to visiting the usual spots in Ukraine, ancestral villages are part of the tour. For more information, visit <<http://www.eegsociety.org/MonthlyEvents.aspx?NextMeeting=True>>.

[From Genealogical Tips, an e-mail sent out by the East European Genealogical Society, <<http://www.eegsociety.org>>]

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September 23, 2013

“GENEALOGY ROADSHOW” PREMIERES ON PBS

The August 27 issue of *Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter* had a reminder that this new show, based on a successful Irish show of the same name, will premiere at 9:00 p.m. Eastern time on Monday, September 23. You can read the PBS press release about the show here:

<<http://www.pbs.org/about/news/archive/2013/genealogy-roadshow-natl/>>

Incidentally, there is some confusion about the time it airs. EOGN said 8 p.m., but the press released referred to above says 9:00 p.m. Eastern, which would, of course, be 8 p.m. Central. The smart move would be to check your local listings on the 23rd and be sure when the show is on in your area.

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October 11–12, 2013

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT AND THE NORTHEAST CONFERENCE

**Central Connecticut State University - Student Center
1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, Connecticut**

The PGSCCTNE Conference is coming up, 11-12 October 2013 at CCSU in New Britain, CT. Scheduled speakers and topics are as follows:

Matthew Bielawa and Jonathan Shea – Introduction to Polish Research

Dr. Mieczyslaw B. Biskupski – Did A Polish Spy Create the European Union?

Michael Buryk – Uncover Your Roots in the Lemko Region of Southeast Poland

Tim Firkowski – Finding the Family: Problems, Successes and Rewards

Aleksandra Kacprzak – Polish Traditions, Customs and Superstitions *and* Additional, Lesser Known Genealogical Resources in Poland: STATE and CHURCH ARCHIVES and Other Sources

Dr. Shellee Morehead – Finding and Using Alien Registration Files *and* Sex, DNA and Family History

Thomas Sadauskas – U.S. Military Records: What's There and How Do You Get Them? *and* Your Frequent Flyer Ancestors: Re-Emigration To and From Europe

Dr. Paul S. Valasek – Postcards and Genealogy: Much More Than Greetings! *and* Tracing the 20th Century Immigrant

The URL for the conference is <<http://pgsctne.org/EventsConferences.aspx>>. Visit that page to make appointments to consult with experts, select lectures, and register, and to get more info.

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October 19, 2013

ANNUAL POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN SEMINAR
American Polish Cultural Center
2975 E. Maple Rd. and Dequindre Rd

The 2013 Annual PGSM Seminar will be held 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can get detailed information from this page on the PGSM website: <<http://www.pgsm.org/seminarfeatured.htm>>.

The first Speaker will be **Ceil Wendt Jensen**, Certified Genealogist. She presents practical examples and suggestions on how to use records, databases, and archives to start or advance your genealogy research. She dispels the myth that records were destroyed during the World Wars and that language barriers make European research difficult. A lavishly illustrated workbook, *Sto Lat: A Modern Guide for Polish Genealogy*, offers a plan for researching at least one hundred years of family records, and is a compilation of techniques developed over thirty years of research and teaching. These are tried and true techniques used for clients and with patrons at the Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI) on the campus of St. Mary's of Orchard Lake. Both traditional and digital research techniques are presented. Common research questions are answered and suggestions are offered to help novice and advanced researchers find ancestors in North America and Poland.

LECTURE TITLES

Now Boarding: Planning a Research Trip in Poland - This session is based on over 30 years of travel experience leading overseas groups and research in Poland archives. Learn how to plan ahead, get the most for your dollar, travel light, and bring home the research you went for! This session includes examples and suggestions on how to prepare for a trip to Polish archives, parishes, and record repositories. This lecture covers techniques for finding Catholic, Lutheran and Jewish records. Learn to write effective e-mail to ESL speakers and how to hire a photographer, researcher and / or guide.

Behind the Scenes at Polish Repositories — U.S. and Poland

The lecture is based on interviews conducted on site with the directors of repositories in the U.S. and Poland. Learn about the unique materials held throughout Polonia, the regional archives in Poland, and the concentration camp museums of Stutthof and Auschwitz-Birkenau. Lecture outline/summary. Researchers will learn about records, maps, and ephemera held at repositories that go beyond vital records. Learn how to find unique ledgers, documents, and art work to enrich and advance your family history.

Archival Techniques for Family Historians

A survey of current archival standards regarding the care and storage of paper, photographic and digital files which family historians need to know. Learn how to care for the records and ephemera you have collected. This session addresses how to care for the family records, photos and memorabilia you have collected. The use of archival storage materials will be discussed, as well as a workable cataloging system.

The second Speaker will be **Kris Rzepczynski**. Currently a Senior Archivist at the Archives of Michigan, Kris previously worked for 12 years at the Library of Michigan as the Michigan/ Genealogy Coordinator. He holds a Masters in Library and Information Science from Wayne State University, a Master of Arts in History from Western Michigan University, and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Michigan. Kris has presented at national, state, and local conferences. In addition, he is an incoming member of the Board of Directors for the Federation of Genealogical Societies and a Past President of the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society.

Topic: Researching Your Family History at the Archives of Michigan

An introduction to the Archives of Michigan, this program will explore the genealogical collections available there, including both original source records and published resources, and how to best maximize your research time there. One of the larger family history collections in the United States, the Archives' holdings emphasize Michigan, the Great Lakes states, New England, the Mid-Atlantic region, as well as Ontario and Quebec. Notable collections include the J. William Gorski Collection of Polish genealogy and history and Michigan naturalization records.

Seminar includes a continental breakfast and a delicious Polish lunch.

The Seminar is held at the American Polish Cultural Center located at 2975 E. Maple Rd. and Dequindre Rd. Please send reservations and check by October 1, 2013 for \$65 and \$100 for couples (\$35 is tax deductible). This will include the Seminar, continental breakfast and a delicious Polish lunch. If you have questions, please contact Valerie Koselka, <vkoselka.pgsm@

[gmail.com](mailto:pgsm@detpublib.org)>.

PGSM, Burton Collection
c/o Detroit Public Library
5201 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202-4007

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October 23 – 26, 2013

**CZECHOSLOVAK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL
2013 GENEALOGICAL AND CULTURAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) will hold its 14th Genealogical and Cultural Conference at the Westin Lombard Hotel in Lombard, Illinois, October 23–26, 2013. Hotel reservations can now be made for the Conference at the Westin Lombard Hotel in Lombard, Illinois. Click on the Reserve icon when you get to the Hotel page.

The keynote speaker will be our own **Paul S. Valasek!** Other notable speakers are Lisa A. Alzo, Grace DuMelle, Leo Baca, Lou Szucs, and many more.

For more information on the program, see this Web page:

<<http://www.cgsi.org/content/2013-genealogical-and-cultural-conference-program>>

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Saturday October 26, 2013

**Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society and the Canadiana Department of
North York Central Library Co-sponsor**

TRACING FORWARD – SEARCHING FOR RELATIVES IN RECENT TIMES

North York Central Library
2nd floor Auditorium
5120 Yonge Street
Toronto, Canada

Join expert speakers and fellow family history enthusiasts for a full day of lectures designed for researchers interested in expanding their family trees to find living relatives. Find out why we all should build “tracing forward” into our family history research, and discover new tools, techniques and strategies for tracing people who are either still alive or recently deceased. Learn how to navigate privacy and access rules and how to connect with “DNA cousins”, pick up tips from professionals who locate people for a living, and prepare to be inspired by stories of how family history mysteries have been solved.

For full program and speaker information and to register online, visit <<http://www.>

torontofamilyhistory.org/TracingForward.html>. OGS members pay reduced fees, and an additional early-bird discount applies for those who register before 30 September.

Gwyneth Pearce
Secretary – Toronto Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society
<publicity@torontofamilyhistory.org>
Now on Facebook and Twitter @TOFamilyHistory

***** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES *****

<<http://internet-genealogy.com/Books.htm>>

Maralyn Wellauer was among several who shared word about a new issue in the *Tracing Your Ancestors* series to be published in September, *Tracing Your Eastern European Ancestors*. The above site is where you can get more information. The announcement sent out by Family Chronicle and Internet Genealogy said this: “Family Chronicle and Internet Genealogy are pleased to announce our latest special issue in our continuing *Tracing Your Ancestors* series. If you are researching your ancestors in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Russian and Ukraine, our expert authors have provided up-to-date and information on resources that will assist you in your research. The issue includes: Ten Ways to Jumpstart Your Research, Top Sites for Polish Research, Eastern European Maps, Getting Started on Your Czech Research, Online Sources for Slovak Genealogy, Hungarian Research (including online resources, censuses and directories), Russian Research and Ukrainian research. Plus, there is additional material covering Eastern European Genealogical Societies, MyHeritage.com’s Record Match technology and more! 84-pages. Magazine format. \$9.95 + \$4.50 shipping.”

I should add that I don’t know anything more about this publication, and the information sent out so far doesn’t say who wrote these articles. So I have no idea how good they will be. But it’s not terribly expensive. You might want to investigate it, or to look for reaction or reviews once it comes out. I’m hoping it will be a fine piece of work.

<<https://www.facebook.com/groups/50089808265/>>

Somehow—I don’t know quite how—I managed to remain unaware of the existence of the Facebook group devoted to Polish genealogy! John Guzowski mentioned it in a post to the Facebook group The Way Back--Unknown Stories of World War II Poland. I took a look and realized, as usual, I was a day late and a dollar short. I joined immediately, and I suggest you take a look and consider joining, if you haven’t already.

<<http://tinyurl.com/qdcrh45>>

This link takes you to an item on the Huffington Post site about a Polish cultural salon in New York City, under the auspices of the Barbara Plawińska Foundation. I found it very interesting. It almost makes me regret no longer living within driving distance of New York City. Almost...

<<http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records/genealogy-fair>>

The August 27 issue of *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* mentioned that the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration is going to host a virtual Genealogy Fair, with live lectures and chat, on September 3rd and 4th. *EONGN* said you can learn more at the above URL.

<<http://blog.genealogybank.com/how-to-spot-and-avoid-9-common-genealogy-mistakes-errors.html>>

The August 11th issue of *The Genealogy News* cited this article, which sheds light on some mistakes even a seasoned veteran might make occasionally.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/megan-smolenyak-smolenyak/5-reasons-hbo-needs-to-re_b_3727719.html>

That same issue of *The Genealogy News* also cited this *Huffington Post* item by Megan Smolenyak. If you didn't catch any of the episodes of HBO's show *Family Tree*, I hope you get another chance. With all the brain-dead crap pumped out for our supposed entertainment, it's a treat to find something that doesn't telegraph the laughs and treats the viewer like an adult.

<<http://www.genealogyblog.com/?p=28278>>

The August 11th issue also had this item, which I had overlooked, "The History of the Polish Panorama." It not only talks about a new book by that name compiled by Ceil Jensen, but also about the Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools.

<<http://onomast.com>>

On a mailing list for teachers of Slavic languages, one member posted the URL <<http://imya.com>> for a site to help with Russian first names and diminutive forms. At the top right, there is a British flag that serves as a link to an English version, <<http://onomast.com/>>. This site covers an enormous number of first names, not just Russian. It may be of some use, especially in checking for rare names. For more common names, I find <<http://www.behindthename.com>> useful; and for Polish given names, the Polish Wikipedia site generally has useful entries, which Google Translate may or may not handle decently.

<<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2013/08/13/discussing-the-40-maps-that-explain-the-world/>>

Annamarie Utroska told me about this site, thinking I would find it interesting; and she was right! It shows 40 maps that "explain the world," that is, illustrate global attitudes of some importance, on racial intolerance, comparative global popularity of the U.S. and China, and so on. This is all quite oversimplified, of course; but it does make you think. I noticed on the map

of “Best and worst places to be born,” Canada, Norway, Sweden, and Australia are a darker blue than the United States, meaning they rank higher than the United States. Western and central Europe is mostly bluish; and Poland is on the edge between western countries good to live in, and eastern countries not so good. Poland’s kind of a light purple, wanting to to turn bluish. Let’s hope they make it!

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