



# 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>>

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## \*\*\* AN ENCOURAGING FIND: THE FAMILY HISTORY GUIDE WEBSITE \*\*\*

by *Fred Hoffman* <[wfh@langline.com](mailto:wfh@langline.com)>

It's fascinating how you can get online, just start looking around, and find all kinds of interesting and useful sites you never knew about. As an example, I was trying to come up with something to write about, and I happened to stumble across this:

<<https://www.thefhguide.com/project-9-poland.html>>

It's one of many pages on the Family History Guide website. I don't recall hearing about this site before; but its Intro page is dated 18 July 2017. So, in Internet terms, it's all of six months old! Hardly a newcomer....

The page on Poland intrigued me, so I started looking around at the other items on this site. I like what I see. Their mission statement is as follows: "Our mission is to greatly increase the number of people actively involved in family history worldwide, and to make everyone's family history journey easier, more efficient, and more enjoyable." The site is independent from FamilySearch and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but is approved by them; and it links to all sorts of pages on the FamilySearch site, as well as, Ancestry, MyHeritage, and Findmypast sites.

The Family History Guide site is free and does not accept advertising, although it links to some commercial sites to highlight free resources there. It does not contain genealogical records; but it "helps you learn how to use the vast record sources at FamilySearch, Ancestry, Findmypast, MyHeritage, etc. You can use a number of links in The Family History Guide to go directly to popular search pages by location or record type."

Perhaps the most attractive feature of the site is how clearly everything is presented, in a manner easy to follow and use. The guide offers newcomers to genealogy a clean, uncluttered overview of many different aspects of research; and you can click on numerous links that let you follow each lead.

It's especially good for Polish genealogy because the "Countries" tab at the top of the page lets you find and access pages on different countries quickly and easily. Given that Polish research requires learning something about Germany, Russia, Ukraine, Austria-Hungary, Lithuania, etc., this sort of easy access is encouraging.

I also like the specific goals laid out, and the links that take you to sites where you can learn more. On the Poland page, for instance, these are the goals:

Goal 1: Learn about Poland research and records.

- Goal 2: Learn about Poland archives and libraries.
- Goal 3: Learn about Poland census and vital records.
- Goal 4: Learn to use Poland church and cemetery records.
- Goal 5: Learn about Poland emigration and immigration.
- Goal 6: Learn about Poland maps.
- Goal 7: Learn about Polish newspapers.
- Goal 8: Explore additional websites for research.
- Goal 9: Search records from Poland.
- Goal 10: Get Help with your Poland research.

Each goal is followed by a list of choices, specific steps you can take toward attaining that goal, with links to web resources designed to help in that task. For instance, under Goal 1, The sixth option is “Learn about online Polish genealogy databases.” You click on it, and it takes you to <<https://www.thoughtco.com/polish-genealogy-databases-online-1422285>>. That page presents brief descriptions and links to twenty different online databases, from PGSA to Geneteka to JewishGen Poland to the Poznań Marriage Indexing Project to Rzeszów Vital Records, plus fifteen more.

I could go on and on, but why do that when you can go evaluate it for yourself? See if you agree with me that this is a great site for beginners; but even experienced researchers may visit it frequently because it organizes and links to so many useful resources.

I’m really pleased to see a sort of “one-stop” site devoted to genealogy in its many different aspects. If you can’t start with this site and get rolling quickly, maybe you should consider another hobby.

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

*Subject:* Translator Karol Jarzyński recommended

I would very much appreciate it if could put this recommendation in the next issue of *Rodziny* and *Gen Dobry!*? I feel very passionate about this translator in Poland. His name is Karol Jarzyński; he lives and works in Poland.

I first met him through Polish Origins, when I posted ten documents that I thought were Polish. It turned out two were in Russian. The documents were vital church records, birth, marriage, death records, and they belong to my distant cousin in the United States. She has been trying to get them translated word for word, not an overall description. Karol translated the documents in less than two days. I sent them to my cousin and she couldn't believe what a great job Karol did, she was so happy! I paid Karol for his work as a present to my cousin. And, let me tell you, it was very, very, inexpensive.

Karol could use the translation work. Please join me in helping a very nice translator continue in the love of his life, translating. His contact information is:

Karol Jarzyński <[karolpolishorigins@gmail.com](mailto:karolpolishorigins@gmail.com)>

Dziękuję,

Larry Mandeville

*Editor* – People are always looking for good translators whose rates are reasonable. I'm glad to pass the word along to our readers.

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**\*\*\* UPDATE ON *KRONIKA BUKOWSKO* \*\*\***

by *Debbie Greenlee* <[daveg@airmail.net](mailto:daveg@airmail.net)>

*Editor*—We mentioned this CD in previous issues, so I thought it advisable to publish this update. I hope you don't mind if I revisit this subject. This project strikes me as one worthy of support.

Due to the recent postal increase, I have had to increase the price of the CD, *Kronika Bukowsko*.

Regular price = \$23.50 – \$20.00 will be given to the Bukowsko kindergarten.

Indexing Volunteers = \$18.50 – \$15.00 will be given to the Bukowsko kindergarten.

After years of work on a translation of a Bukowsko school diary (started during Akcja Wisła), the *Kronika Bukowsko* is ready and for sale on a CD. You will certainly be moved when reading this chronicle/diary.

### **Background Information**

Several years ago, on one of my research trips to Bukowsko, I was given part of a diary or chronicle of the school in Bukowsko written during the end of World War II and Akcja Wisła by Kazimiera Kochańska. It was in Polish, and my limited ability in that language was insufficient to read most of it. But I was so moved by the part that I could figure out that I felt compelled

to have the chronicle translated into English. Kochańska's heartfelt writings needed to be made public to the English-speaking world. This undertaking turned out to be no small feat. Aside from trips to Poland, over 400 hours was invested in this project, and several other people helped.

Kazimiera Kochańska was a teacher, school principal, and civic advocate who was beloved by all. A memorial plaque in her honor was placed on the elementary school in Bukowsko several years ago and she was again honored in June 2016 (see my Trip Diary June 2016 at <<http://www.polishfamily.com>>).

The CD contains images of the original text, a transcription in Polish, an English translation, and photos.

My hope is that those who read this *Kronika* will gain a better understanding of what life was like for the Polish residents in Bukowsko and neighboring villages, especially right after World War II, when Poles and UPA (*banderowcy*) were fighting for dominance in the region. My hopes for this project, however, would have never seen fruition were it not for the untiring efforts and exceptional expertise of Roman Kałużniacki in translating and organizing this work. I also have to thank my gene-valet, Dave Greenlee, for his support and computer help.

Copies of the CD cost \$23.50, which includes the CD and postage. People who transcribed or indexed 50 pages of records or 50 cemetery headstones for my previous projects will receive a \$5.00 discount (\$18.50).

Please contact me privately to order. If, by chance, you have my NEW address, please include a note stating how you heard about the book.

Debbie <[daveg@airmail.net](mailto:daveg@airmail.net)>

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**\*\*\* GENETEKĄ – NEW INDEXES \*\*\***

*by Waldemar Chorązewicz*

*Editor*—If you are on Facebook, the Polish Genealogy group is worth investigating: <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/50089808265/>>. One particularly valuable contributor, Waldemar Chorązewicz, frequently posts updates on new indexes at Geneteka. His primary language is Polish, but his postings are easy to read. The abbreviation U is for births, M is for marriages, and Z is for deaths. Unless I'm very much mistaken, the abbreviations in parentheses after the place names specify which province that province is in (because so many place names are used for more than one locality): KP for Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Ld for Łódzkie, MP for Małopolskie, MZ for Mazowieckie, PK for Podkarpackie, PL for Podlaskie, SK for Świętokrzyskie, SL for Śląskie or Silesia, WP for Wielkopolskie, and so on. (You can see the standard two-letter

abbreviations here: <[https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Powiaty\\_w\\_Polsce](https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Powiaty_w_Polsce)>). The name following *indeksował* or *indeksowała* or *indeksowali* is that of the person or organization who did the indexing. He lists the indexes by date. Here's a sample.

21-01-2018

Katowice Niepokalanego Poczęcia NMP (SL) -- Z 1869-74, indeksowała Barbara Wiechula  
Kraków - Pleszów (MP) -- U 1868-70, indeksowała Dagmara Kulig  
Miastkowo (PL) -- M 1819b-20a (aktualizacja), indeksował Michał Kazimierz  
Mikołów św. Jana (ewang) (SL) -- Z 1886-88, indeksowała Barbara Sznober  
Sokoły (PL) -- U 1774b-85a, indeksował Marek Raciborski

20-01-2018

Będków (LD) -- M 1844-67, indeksowała Małgorzata Berendzik  
Czermno (SK) -- MZ 1920-29, indeksowała Jolanta Bugajska  
Kleszczele (PL) -- Z 1934-41, indeksował Walenty Adamiec  
Kraków - Pleszów (MP) -- Z 1797-1839, indeksowała Dagmara Kulig  
Nowogród (PL) -- M 1808-17, indeksował Michał Kazimierz  
Różanystok (PL) -- U 1811-19, indeksował Albin Kozuchowski  
Sokoły (PL) -- U 1785-1801, indeksował Marek Raciborski  
Topczewo (PL) -- U 1781-93, indeksował Jan Mamaj  
Wieluń (LD) -- UMZ 1896, indeksowała Danuta Mieżyńska

19-01-2018

Cerekiew (MZ) -- U 1906-07, indeksował Mikołaj Wilk  
Drobin (MZ) -- Z 1878-89, indeksował Radosław Frączak  
Krasne (MZ) -- Z 1808, indeksowała Katarzyna Rzeczycka  
Krasnosielc-Sielc (MZ) -- U 1847-53, indeksował RoPson  
Mokobody (MZ) -- U 1861-67, indeksowała Anna Poprawa  
Obrazów (SK) -- U 1871-80, indeksowała Jolanta Prokopiuk - Bathelt  
Odrzywół (MZ) -- U 1875-80, indeksował Marian Niemirski  
Pałuki (MZ) -- U 1868, 1874-77, Z 1872-80, M 1875-76, indeksowała Barbara Staniak  
Poręba-Kocęby (MZ) -- U 1642-1781, M 1681-1808, Z 1695-1784 (z lukami [with gaps]),  
indeksowała Joanna Maślanek  
Rembertów (MZ) -- UZ 1906-16, indeksował Longin Komorowski  
Wodynie (MZ) -- M 1846-55, indeksowała Hanna Kołodziejska  
Wyszyny (MZ) -- MZ 1917-35, indeksowała Olga Gąsiorowska, weryfikacja Waldemar  
Chorażewicz

18-01-2018

Borszewice (LD) -- U 1591-1801 (lata skrajne), M 1634-1718 (lata skrajne), Z 1796,  
indeksowała Danuta Danecka  
Borzykowa (LD) -- U 1819-25, indeksowała Jolanta Janowiec  
Cierno (SK) -- M 1779-1810, indeksował Oskar Brożek  
Czarna (SK) -- Z 1895-1912, indeksował Wojciech Liśkiewicz  
Korytnica pow. Węgrów (MZ) -- UZ 1838-50 (aktualizacja), indeksowała Bożena Turek

Łęki Kościelne (LD) -- UMZ 1894, indeksowała Hanna Ostoja-Świerczyńska  
Piotrków Tryb. (ewang.) (LD) -- Z 1913-18, indeksował bogdan030  
Suserz (MZ) -- UMZ 1877, indeksowała Barbara Raniewicz  
Tarnowskie Góry św. Ap. Piotra i Pawła (SL) -- M 1868-69, indeksowali GTG\_Silius\_Radicum  
Wieluń (LD) -- UMZ 18 63-70, indeksował Janusz Kucharczyk  
Zwoleń (MZ) -- M 1927-35 UMZ 1810-25, indeksował Bartłomiej Zieliński

17-01-2018

Będzin Trójca Przenajświętsza (SL) -- M 1861, indeksował Jacek Florek  
Chojnata (LD) -- M 1814-15, indeksował Tomasz Przygodziński  
Jeruzal pow. skierniewicki (LD) -- M 1879-80, SkM 1881-86, indeksował Tomasz Przygodziński  
Katowice Niepokalanego Poczęcia NMP (SL) -- U 1860-61,63-74, indeksowała Barbara  
Wiechuła  
Krasocin (SK) -- UMZ 1884-85, indeksowali Oskar Brożek i Przemysław Semik  
Krasocin (SK) -- UMZ 1886-89, indeksowali Oskar Brożek i Przemysław Semik  
Mieronice (SK) -- U 1780-92, indeksowała Renata Majewska  
Proszowice (MP) -- M 1904-14, indeksował Jerzy Koprowski  
Stara Rawa (LD) -- U 1871,80-82, SkU 1883-84, indeksował Tomasz Przygodziński

16-01-2018

Będków (LD) -- M 1826-43, indeksowała Małgorzata Berendzik  
Kramsk (WP) -- M 1886, indeksował 62\_610  
Osjaków (LD) -- UMZ 1820-22, indeksował Robert1202  
Przegonia (MP) -- M 1901-10, indeksował Karol Szotek  
Siennów (PK) -- M 1888-94, indeksował Krzysztof Gruszka  
Warszawa św. Jan (WA) -- M 1890 (rozszerz.), indeksował Krzysztof Zochniak  
Warszawa-Służew św. Katarzyna (WA) -- U 1831-35 Z 1836-40, indeksował Włodzimierz  
Macewicz  
Żnin-wsie U SC (KP) -- UMZ 1874-1910, indeksowała Katarzyna Żugaj

15-01-2018

Borzykowa (LD) -- M 1884-1910, indeksowała Jolanta Janowiec  
Dmenin (LD) -- U 1831-67, indeksowała Elżbieta Misiewicz  
Drużbice (LD) -- UMZ 1879-82, indeksowała Ilona Gieras  
Grabów (LD) -- M 1795-1810, indeksowała Danuta Danecka  
Janów (PL) -- UMZ 1808-20 (z lukami) [with gaps], indeksował Radosław Karabowicz  
Łomża (PL) -- M 1885, indeksował Krzysztof Piaszczyński  
Łódź św. Anna (LD) -- MZ 1916, indeksowała Urszula Gałkiewicz  
Łęczyca (LD) -- Z 1824, indeksował Józef Dębowski  
Łęki Kościelne (LD) -- UMZ 1890-93, indeksowała Hanna Ostoja-Świerczyńska  
Milejów (LD) -- UMZ 1808-16, indeksowała Marita Kafar  
Narew (PL) -- M 1833-34, indeksował Walenty Adamiec  
Osjaków (LD) -- Z 1928, indeksował Tomasz Skolimowski  
Poddębice (LD) -- Z 1748-73, indeksowała Danuta Danecka  
Rutki-Kossaki (PL) -- U 1817-24, indeksowała Bożena Misiak, wer. Waldemar Chorążewicz

Rychłocice (LD) -- U 1885-87, indeksował Tomasz Skolimowski  
Suserz (MZ) -- UMZ 1876, indeksowała Barbara Raniewicz  
Suwałki (PL) -- U 1864 (aktualizacja), indeksował Marek Rozmysłowski  
Szydłów (SK) -- UMZ 1881-83, indeksował Edward Jabłoński  
Warta (LD) -- M 1813-14, indeksowała Maria Mazur  
Wielgomłyny (LD) -- M 1920-30, indeksował Rafał Albiński

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### \*\*\* WHAT ARE YOUR GENEALOGY GOALS FOR 2018? \*\*\*

*by Aga and the PolishOrigins Team* <[info@polishorigins.com](mailto:info@polishorigins.com)>

*Editor*—As usual, here is the latest mailing from the team at PolishOrigins.com. They have a lot of good things to offer English-speaking researchers!

What are your genealogy goals for 2018?

Are you a good planner? Are you setting your goals and making a task list from time to time? Of course, reality sometimes ruins our plans brutally, but it is always better to know what you want to achieve. This is also true in genealogy.

It is easier to have clear, precise goals in front of you and to achieve them step by step.

Here are some small tips that might help you to pick out what is the most important for you in your family history research, and to focus on it.

**Before setting your goal, summarize what you have.** Maybe it is a briefcase of loose documents and you do not know what to do with them. Maybe you need to create a basic genealogy tree (you can use Ancestry, MyHeritage or any other free and paid applications). Maybe you need to meet with your aunt, grandparents, any other relatives, talk with them and learn what they know. If you have been researching for many years, you may only need to sum up what you have achieved so far, and determine what is stopping you from moving forward. Or, maybe you already had some goals set, that are still waiting for action.

**Choose one, small segment you want to research.** Pick one of your grandparents, one village, one family branch.

**Split your goal into smaller actions** – prepare the list of tasks.

**Set the time frames.** For example, one small task per week.

And here is the last one, that for me works the best: **Share your goals with others.** Maybe you know someone who is also interested in genealogy? Let's do it together: you can motivate, check

and compete or share with each other. Achieving your goals might be your small game. And when you reveal your goals it is harder to resign.

If you do not know of such a person, join our Forum <<https://forum.polishorigins.com/>> or any other social website, and there you should find some motivation and support.

On our website, you can create a personal page with your goals and basic information about your genealogy search. You can focus on one village or parish. There is a section “Villages and towns of our ancestor’s origins” <<https://forum.polishorigins.com/viewforum.php?f=28>>. Create a post there and gather as much information, along with photos, as you possibly can.

You can also focus on one person from your tree. Post in section “In search of relatives / Poszukiwani krewni” <<https://forum.polishorigins.com/viewforum.php?f=23>>.

Recently we have prepared a simple manual for all our new members <<https://forum.polishorigins.com/viewtopic.php?t=7100>>. For now, there are three basic parts:

1. How to Register
2. Posting Your First Message
3. Creating Your Personal Page

On PolishOrigins website, we have several tools and possibilities that can help you with your goals. Most of all do not miss our databases for Surnames <<https://polishorigins.com/surnames/>> and Places <<https://polishorigins.com/places/>>. They are based on all of the personal pages of our users (mentioned above); currently, we have 16,617 surnames and 11,092 places in our database. In the database, you can easily find other Forum members interested in “your” surnames and places, and connect with them. Try it now! Maybe you will find some connection or a person who could share your goals.

Another useful tool is the search tool on our website. It can be found in the top right corner on our home page.

At the search results you will see all users mentioning requested surnames and places (this is also based on personal pages), but also all Forum posts, and articles published on our website. This is very easy and fast, but who knows what you can find. Our forum has existed for over 10 years, so there are tons of information available to you.

Will you accept this challenge? What are your genealogy goals in 2018?

Let us know!

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### \*\*\* AN OVERVIEW OF RECENT PERIODICALS \*\*\*

*Editor*—This is an ongoing feature, meant to inform you of articles published recently in newsletters and journals that may interest you.

**Avotaynu, Fall 2017, Vol. XXXIII, No. 3**, Avotaynu, Inc., 794 Edgwood Ave., New Haven, CT 06515, <<http://www.avotaynu.com>>.

- Pseudo-Sephardic Surnames from Italy, Alexander Beider
- How to Get the Most Out of Post-1892 U.S. Passenger Manifests, Edward David Luft
- Reclaim the Records Shows Progress, Brooke Schreier Ganz
- Report on the Orlando Conference, Kenneth Bravo
- Warsaw to Host First IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Eastern Europe, Robinn Magid
- Visiting Poland: Everything You Need to Know Before Coming to Your Ancestral Town, Witold Wrzosinski
- Traveling in Belarus: A New Frontier for Jewish Genealogists, Robinn Magid
- Push and Pull Genealogy: A Method for Finding Deeper Roots, Werner L. Frank
- Polish Jewish Refugees in the USSR During World War II, Serafima Velkovich
- Medieval Migration Led to the Rise of Small Jewish Communities in Central Europe, Vaclav Fred Chvatal

**PGS-CA E-Newsletter, December 2017 – January 2018**, Polish Genealogical Society of California, P.O. Box 307, Buena Park CA 90621-0307, <<http://www.pgscsca.org>>.

- January Meeting, January 27, 2018 – Speaker: Annette Gathright, Online Databases and Index for Polish Genealogical Research
- Dziękuję i Pożegnali, Gregg Legutki
- Upcoming Calendar
- Annual Donation Los Angeles FamilySearch Library
- Learning to Speak Polish: It's Not as Difficult as You May Think, Joyce Sharifi
- Florence Lepianka – Patriot, Part Two, Joyce Sharifi

**Polish Eaglet, Fall 2017, Vol. 37, No. 3**, Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, c/o Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48202-4007, <<http://www.pgsm.org>>.

- Parishes in Michigan's Upper Peninsula with Polish Roots, Roger S. Laske & J. Wm. Gorski
- "Lest We Forget," Reprinted from St. Stanislaus Diamond Jubilee Book
- Early Surnames in St. Stanislaus Parish: Goetzville Michigan, compiled by Roger S. Laske
- Surnames in St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Goetzville Michigan, Roger S. Laske
- The Galarowicz/Galarowic Family in Goetzville, Chippewa County, Michigan, Roger S. Laske
- The Butryn Family Story of Sacred Heart Parish, Schaffer, Delat County, Michigan, Kim Bellisle & Bonnie Butryn
- Joseph Schemansky, Denise Lotan

- Jews in Suwałki, Grzegorz Krepiński
- Vincent Kaptur, Sr.: Artist, Designer and Stylist, Joseph F. Martin

**Project to Discover Schenectady County's Eastern European Roots Newsletter, January 2018, Vol. 5, No. 1**, <<http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eer>>, contact Phyllis Zych Budka <[abudka@nycap.rr.com](mailto:abudka@nycap.rr.com)>

- Seeking Family Connections
- 1901 Gazette – A Sad Article – Is This Your Family?, Courtesy of Robert Sullivan
- Living in the Front Street (Third Ward) Area During the 1920s and 1930s, Sandy Chmielinski Dimke
- Family History – An Ongoing Process, Bernice Izzo
- The Archaeology in My Spit, Phyllis Zych Budka
- Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany Record Access, Amy Andrews, Archivist
- The Kornacki Family, Part 11 – The Thirties Come to a Close, Martin Byster

**Rodziny, Winter 2018, Volume XLI, No. 1. Polish Genealogical Society of America** <<http://pgsa.org>>

- *From Our Correspondent in Poland: The Akt Uszanowania* or Act of Respect, Iwona Dakiniewicz
- *Letters to the Editor* – The Year of Kościuszko: Thaddeus Kosciuszko Park, Dublin, Ohio, Larry Less
- Polish State Archives to Remain Open Next Summer, William F. Hoffman
- O Boże! Was My Great-Grandfather an Illegal Alien?, Jay M. Orbik, Ed.D.
- Myths, Misconceptions, and Memory, Virginia Witucke
- *Memoirs of a Peasant: From Serfdom to Today*, Chapter Eleven, Part Four, Jan Słomka
- From the *Słownik geograficzny*: Dąbie (now part of Kraków), and Poznachowice Dolne and Górne (Wieliczka county)

**Tatrzanski Orzeł, Winter, Vol. 70, No. 4. Tatra Eagle Press**, 31 Madison Ave, Hasbrouck Heights NJ 07604, e-mail <[jkedron@gmail.com](mailto:jkedron@gmail.com)> or <[thadgromada@gmail.com](mailto:thadgromada@gmail.com)>

- “Opowieść wigilijna starego górala” [A Winter Tale of an Old Góral], by Bogdan Weron under the title “Dzisiok juz wilio je inkso,” supplemented with archival photos from Roman Petrycki;
- “Historia kolędy i pastorałki na Podhalu” [History of Carols and Pastoral Songs in Podhale];
- “Pastuskowie mali” [Little Shepherds], Franciszek Łojas-Kośla;
- “Zła Zima” [A Bad Winter], Władysław Orkan;
- “Na obiedzie u Papieża” [At dinner with the Pope], Rev. Tadeusz Wincenciak;
- “Zakopane: A Perennial Attraction,” Prof. Tadeusz Gromada (in English).

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\*\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS \*\*\*

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

**February 1, 8, 15, 22, 2018, Thursdays**

**BASIC HANDS-ON GENEALOGY**

*with Alan Doyle Horbal, Professional Genealogist, assisted by Cathi Iuliano and Susan Bedard.*  
**North Adams Public Library • 74 Church Street • North Adams, MA 01247.**  
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Outline and instruction on researching the 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 and 1940 U.S. Census. Discover how to find your ancestors' emigration to the U.S. using the <<https://stevemorse.org/>> website and the Ellis Island website, <<https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/>>, along with several other databases. Learn how to search for family members outside of the U.S. using <<https://www.familysearch.org/>>.

We will explore England, Canada, Poland and other countries. All students must have an email account and be computer literate. *Limited space*, please sign up for sessions. *We ask that you attend all four classes.* You may bring your own laptop or use one of the library's.

Register at North Adams Public Library (413) 662-3133. Class is limited to 12 with a waiting list after that.

*From an e-mail of Western Massachusetts Roots Events sent to the editor. The website is at <<https://wmarootsevents.com/>>*

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**February 18, 2018**

**PGSA MEETING: HALLER'S POLISH ARMY IN FRANCE**

**Speaker: Paul S. Valasek, D.D.S.**

**Fountaindale Public Library District • 300 W. Briarcliff Road • Bolingbrook, IL 60440**  
**2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

Attendance at the library is free and open to members and non-members.

The presentation will also be offered as a free Webinar to members. To defray costs, non-members will be charged a \$10 fee. Webinar registration for members and non-members can be made at the PGSA website <<http://www.pgsa.org>> by clicking on the PGSA Bookstore tab, then clicking on the "Webinars" tab and following instructions. Mail-in registrations will not be accepted.

**Topic Summary** – An in-depth discussion of this fighting force of over 23,000 men with origins

in Pittsburgh, recruited from North America, trained by the Canadians, outfitted by the French, to serve alongside the French Army in World War I, and later to establish Poland's eastern borders in the Polish-Soviet War of 1919-1920.

**Bio** – Paul S. Valasek is a three-time graduate of Loyola University of Chicago, earning his Doctorate in Dentistry in 1984. Born and raised in Chicago, he and his wife Andrea have always been interested in their ancestries and where their families came from in Europe. Paul's first of numerous trips to Europe was in 1974 with his immigrant grandfather Joseph Valasek, a major turning point in his life.

Dr. Valasek has written numerous articles for genealogical publications, as well as being an international lecturer. He completed his first book, *Haller's Polish Army in France* (2006) which makes available long-lost and obscure material detailing the formation of this fighting force of over 23,000 Polish Americans in World War I and the subsequent Polish Soviet War of 1919-1921. He also has the most complete database of the army, with over three million facts accumulated to date.

Formal participation in genealogy began with his Presidency of the Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA). He was founder and treasurer/editor of the Czech and Slovak American Genealogical Society of Illinois (CSAGSI), a founding member of the Moravian Historical Society, and a founding member of the popular Polish American website, <<http://www.PolishRoots.org>>. He has also served as a Director and Second Vice-president on the Illinois State Genealogical Society's Board as well as sitting for multiple terms on the board of the Polish Museum of America. He has served as Vice-president and editor for the Czechoslovak Heritage Museum of Illinois and as a Board Director of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI).

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**February 28 – March 3, 2018**

**Roots Tech February 28 - March 3, 2018 - "Connect/Belong"**

For those who agree that the future of family history lies in technology and innovation, this event is probably a must. The program will highlight leading technologies and products from around the world. Registration is already open. For more information go to: <<https://www.rootstech.org>>.

[From the October 2017 issue of *PGSA Notebook*]

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**March 17, 2018**

**Ukrainian History and Education Center First-Ever Virtual Conference for Ukrainian Genealogy**

The *Ukrainian History and Education Center* (UHEC) is proud to announce the first-ever virtual event for Ukrainian genealogy. *Nashi Predky* (Our Ancestors), the family history group of the UHEC, will be hosting their 2018 Spring Workshop virtually on Saturday, March 17th.

Since the group's formation in 2013, all of the workshops and annual conferences have been held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Somerset, New Jersey. This year, the committee is excited to offer this event to fellow researchers who may not be able to travel for an in-person event.

The one-day event will begin at 9 a.m. with welcoming remarks from the event Chairperson Justin Houser, and the UHEC Archivist Michael Andrec. The workshop agenda includes four presentations with Question & Answer periods as well as breaks between sessions.

Attendees will watch presenters from around United States and Poland speak on the following topics:

- *Greek Catholics in Poland and Family Research* by Tadeusz Piłat (Poland)
- *Introduction to Ukrainian Genealogy* by Justin Houser (Pennsylvania)
- *Introduction to DNA and Genetic Genealogy* by Paul Woodbury (Utah)
- *A Historical Overview of Ukraine* by Michael Andrec (New Jersey)

Using the *GoToWebinar* online conferencing platform, attendees can view the presentations from anywhere in the world on their own computer or mobile device with an Internet connection. Those attending the live sessions can also actively participate in the talks and ask questions through a special chat feature. Presentations will be archived for a 72-hour period after the event ends.

To learn more about the event, including lecture descriptions and speaker bios, and to complete the online registration, please visit the event page:

<<https://www.ukrhec.org/nashi-predky-online-workshop-2018>>

Don't hesitate! There are fewer than 100 spaces available for the online event.

#### **About Nashi Predky:**

*Nashi Predky, the family history group of the Ukrainian History and Education Center, has been helping families discover their Ukrainian ancestral roots since 2013. They hold two genealogical events annually, including a multi-day Fall Conference.*

[*Per an e-mail from Michelle Chubenko of Nashi Predky.*]

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May 7 – 20, 2018

## THE ROAD HOME

### A genealogy oriented trip to Poland and Ukraine.

*With certified American and Polish genealogists Professor Jonathan Shea and Aleksandra Kacprzak.*

*The trip includes opportunities to visit your ancestral village.*

The Road Home trip will leave from New York on 5/7/18 and return on 5/20/18.

The trip cost is \$2,995\* per person, double occupancy if you sign up by November 1, 2017.

After November 1, 2017 the trip cost is \$3,195\* per person, double occupancy. There will be an additional \$450 fee for single occupancy. The cost includes airfare between New York JFK and Kraków, hotels, three meals daily, professional tour guide, private tour bus, and admission to scheduled attractions.

You must sign up for the trip by December 20, 2017 and submit a \$300 non-refundable deposit and fill out the pre-trip questionnaire.

You must pay for your trip in full (non-refundable) by February 1, 2018. You must have a valid passport for this trip.

If you are traveling alone, would you want a roommate and save the single supplement charge? Please let us know if you would like a roommate and we will try to accommodate you.

***\*Price Subject to change due to change in exchange rates or airline fees.***

#### DAILY ITINERARY

May 7: Depart from New York

May 8: Kraków

May 9: Auschwitz/ Częstochowa May 10: Wadowice/Żywiec Brewery

May 11: Zakopane

May 12: Sanok/Solin/Polańczyk

May 13: Bieszczady/Przemyśl

May 14: Przemyśl/Depart for Ukraine

May 15: Lwów in Ukraine

May 16: Various towns in Ukraine

May 17: Zamość/Sandomierz

May 18: Krzyztopor Palace/Wieliczka Salt Mine May 19: Kraków/Wawel Castle

May 20: Depart to New York

## INDIVIDUAL VILLAGE DAY TRIPS

There are a limited number of day trips available so you can travel to your ancestral village. There will be an additional cost for this service. The village must be within 75 miles of a city we are visiting. Requests must be submitted by January 2, 2018. We will notify you by January 31, 2018 if your trip is possible and the estimated cost for the trip. Payment for the village trip will happen the day of the trip in Poland.

Check us out on Facebook: The Road Home-Polish American Foundation.

To sign up or more questions e-mail: <[dorena726@yahoo.com](mailto:dorena726@yahoo.com)>

## POLISH AMERICAN FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT

27 Grove Hill Street New Britain, CT

<<http://www.PAF-CT.org>>

Bring your family tree to life

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May 20, 2018

### PGSA MEETING

**Topic: NAVIGATING THE COOK COUNTY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT ARCHIVES – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

**Speaker: Ray Johnson**

**Location: Arlington Heights Memorial Library • 500 N. Dunton Avenue • Arlington Heights, IL 60004**

**2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

This presentation is open to the public and will also be offered as a Webinar to members and non-members. Additional Webinar registration information will be posted on the PGSA Home Page <<http://www.pgsa.org>>, *PGSA Notebook*, and *Rodziny* in advance of the meeting.

*Topic Summary* – The Circuit Court Archives are a great, often overlooked resource. This class concentrates on a very practical approach to on-site court research including, civil, law and chancery cases, divorces, wills and probates, county naturalizations, declarations of intentions, criminal cases and burnt records.

*Speaker's Bio* – Ray was born in Chicago and has been a life-long resident of the Chicagoland area. He is also a life-long enthusiast of Chicago history, legends, and folklore. He has been actively involved in genealogical research for over 30 years with the last 9 as a professional genealogist and lecturer and is a former Chicago Area Chapter Representative and current member of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

He is a former gang/narcotics investigator and police instructor with the West Chicago Police Department in Du Page County and upon leaving police work, started his own historical and genealogical research company at <<http://www.historycop.com>> where he provides research services for other authors, television shows, researchers, attorneys and family historians.

Ray is a Chicago history blogger on ChicagoNow (owned by the Chicago Tribune) under the name Chicago History Cop and has published two books through Schiffer Publishing entitled *Chicago's Haunt Detective* (2011) and *Chicago History: The Stranger Side* (2014) Both books look at the stranger side of Chicago history from an investigator and historian's perspective.

He has taught classes in Genealogical research for the LaGrange Park District, Lyons Township Adult Education and for Lyons Township High School Life Skills Classes. He was also a police instructor with the Northeast Multi Regional Training Corporation and taught classes at College of DuPage under the criminal justice curriculum.

Ray is currently a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, The Jackson Park Advisory Council and runs a 501c3 called Friends of The White City which educates the public on the historical significance of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition.

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### \*\*\* MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES \*\*\*

<<http://www.genealogyintime.com/tools/genealogy-search-engine.html>>

The 18 January 2018 issue of *Nu? What's New?* mentioned a genealogical search engine I had not heard of, Genealogy in Time, available at the above URL. Gary Mokotoff suggested it is well worth trying because it may include links you overlooked on websites you've visited before and overlooked. Among the sites it searches are Genealogical Index, FindAGrave, and JewishGen. Just out of curiosity, I tried a search for Dąbrowa Białostocka (without the diacritical marks) and found several sites I expected, including JewishGen results – but also obituaries for people from Bridgeport and Derby, Connecticut, as well as a link to Geneteka results for birth, marriage, and death records from Wizajny parish in Podlaskie, Poland! A search using the diacritical marks returned most of the same results, but added a few new ones. I'd say serious researchers need to take a look at this.

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<<http://jewua.info/jewish-genealogy-search-at-ukraine/>>

The 7 January 2018 issue of *Nu? What's New?* mentioned that an index to heads of Jewish households in Kyiv gubernia found in the 1897 Russian Census has been placed online. The project is the work of professional genealogist Sarah Nadia Lipes, and is a work in progress. It was funded by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., who hosts *Finding Your Roots*. It is free, and the search is done using letters of the Roman alphabet, not Cyrillic.

<<http://wapo.st/2FSyUoM>>

The 22 January 2018 issue of *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* [EOGN] included an article with the title "The Health 202: NIH wants 1 million Americans to contribute to a new pool of gene data." EOGN gave this link to the article, which appeared in the *Washington Post*. Very interesting – you may want to look into this.

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<<http://www.qualifiedgenealogists.org/ojs/index.php/JGFH>>

The same issue of EOGN mentioned that the first edition of *The Journal of Genealogy and Family History* has been published. This is a peer-reviewed, scholarly publication that exists only online. You can download articles from the first issue or learn how to submit an article at the above URL. I have to admit I'm not impressed by the first issue. I suppose the key words "peer-reviewed" and "scholarly" should have warned me what to expect (yawns a-plenty, and certainly no hint that any such place as central or eastern Europe even exists). But maybe one of our readers will write and submit an article that gets published and is not a cure for insomnia! (I can dream, can't I?)

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<<http://gentod.com/A.mv?Y=8-25714&xz=EM2589-1>>

The 28 January 2018 issue of *Genealogy News* included this link to a story in the *Family History Daily*, "The Vast Majority of Genealogy Records Still Can't Be Found Online: Here's How to Locate Them." There are still many misguided souls who think "It's all online," and they are doomed to frustration. If you know the truth up front, you won't get disappointed and give up when you discover genealogy may require more than clicking your mouse a few times.

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<<https://familytreewebinars.com/BCG>>

Jan Meisels Allen posted a note to the JewishGen newsgroup, explaining that the Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG) is offering a series of free webinars through Legacy Family Tree Webinars. They are held at 8 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. They are free at the time they are held and for seven days afterward; after that, there is a moderate fee to access them. The list of webinars can be viewed at the above link. They look interesting; you might want to try viewing one or two.

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<<http://genealogyindexer.org/>>

Genealogy Indexer has added a long list of address and business directories for German cities, too many to list here. More than a dozen for Polish cities formerly in German territory include 1927 for Allenstein [Olsztyn]; several different years for Elbing [Elbląg]; 1943 for Goldberg (Schlesien) [Złotoryja]; 1936 for Greifenberg (Pommern) [Gryfice]; 1913 and 1938/1940 for Küstrin [Kostrzyn nad Odrą]; 1931 for Landsberg (Warthe) [Gorzów Wielkopolski]; and 1936 for Leobschütz [Głubczyce]. Logan Kleinwaks, the webmaster, added that very few of the images require the DjVu plugin now; most are PDFs or JPEGs.

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<<https://thediscoverblog.com/2018/01/24/a-new-way-to-search-the-library-and-archives-canada-collections/>>

The 28 January 2018 issue of *Nu? What's New?* mentioned that Library and Archives Canada (LAC) has just released its newest search tool, Collection SearchBETA. It's a beta version and the public is invited to try it and submit reactions. This search engine, upon completion, will let users to search all the collections available to the public at LAC from one starting point. The announcement can be read at the above URL.

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