



# 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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**\*\*\* THE YOUNG SHUN FACEBOOK – BREAKING NEWS (NOT!) \*\*\***

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

I had to laugh recently when I saw an article online—and later appearing in the newspaper—breathlessly announcing that young folks are abandoning Facebook in greater and greater numbers. I scratched my head and thought, “Is this their idea of news?” I half expected to see an article on the same page about Vesuvius wiping out a town called Pompeii.

Anyone who’s been alive and in America during the last, oh, sixty years (at least) know that by the time adults discover a phenomenon, it has long since been adopted and then abandoned by the youth of America. I cringe every time I hear a reporter or a talking head on TV use an expression and add “as the kids say.” Count on it, by the time that happens, the kids have long since moved on to something else (and they’d be snickering at the old guy trying to be cool, except kids don’t watch TV any more, except via YouTube, Netflix, or Hulu).

I guess there was a time when the young discovered and liked Facebook, but that was eons ago in Youth Standard Time. They flocked to it for a brief while; then, like devouring locusts, moved on to fresh, unplundered territories. I asked one of my granddaughters the other day what social media she was on—I hadn’t heard of any of them. Now that I have, they’ll disappear soon. Only young people can deal with the pace at which this stuff pops up and disappears.

So let’s face it, Facebook is increasingly dominated by old farts. (I number myself among them, naturally.) That said, there’s a reason people who are, shall we say, mature, are finding Facebook interesting. Obviously, there’s no shortage of news—the fun part is figuring out which items are on the level and which were approved by dear old Vladimir Putin. There are also way too many glimpses into people’s lives that will only interest immediate family and friends. Some huge percentage of the posts I see are forgotten within two or three days, and rightly so.

But if you’re picky about where you go on Facebook, and you look closely, you’ll find a lot of good stuff going on. I know I’ve written about this before, but genealogy is flourishing on Facebook, and I’m seeing something I never thought I’d see. People are signing up, joining groups like Polish Genealogy, <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/50089808265/>>, posting their research problems—and getting answers, sometimes within minutes! It’s amazing how many members willingly read these posts, check digital archives and libraries they know about (of which newbies know nothing), and minutes later post links, saying “Here you can see your great-grandfather’s birth certificate.” And the amazing thing is, they’re usually right! There are some mistakes, but not as many as I would expect.

The process started earlier, with newsgroups and mailing lists. And they still can be really helpful. But there’s something about the immediacy of Facebook that blows me away. I honestly never thought I’d live to see a time when people with questions would get good answers so quickly.

And no, it doesn't make me long for the good old days when you had to suffer and persevere. I don't think misery creates character (although it may create characters). If people are willing and able to help and help quickly, good for them! Besides, we all know perfectly well that there's still a need for patience and discipline. There's a limit to how much help anyone can offer. But the great thing is that you have a real shot at receiving insights into your toughest questions, and often so quickly it boggles the mind. No guarantees, mind you; but there's a decent chance.

Actually, some folks are getting spoiled. Besides the Polish Genealogy group, I monitor the Genealogy Translations group <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/genealogytranslation/>>, and sometimes offer help with documents in German, Latin, Polish, and Russian. The group has actually been swamped lately with new members, and has had to change its rules so that members can only post one document a day. People are actually getting impatient if their document isn't translated within 24 hours! When folks gripe about the delay, I'm tempted to say, "Look, friend, even translators have lives, you know."

Another aspect of Facebook I didn't expect to see is the number of Poles who have joined, and the specialized Polish groups that have formed. Let me tell you, you're missing a bet if you don't check to see whether there's a group for your ancestral town or village! And if you're looking for people who can shed light on your surname, by all means, search the member list to see if there's a likely match. These days, you may very well find a Pole who bears the name you're seeking and may actually welcome a chance to share info with an American. If nothing else, it gives them a chance to practice their English (because they know Americans sure as hell aren't going to learn Polish!). Besides, these Poles are often proud of their home town and welcome a chance to tell others about its charms.

For the adventurous who actually do read a bit of Polish, there is also <<https://nk.pl/>>. The NK is short for Nasza Klasa, "our class," and it's designed to help Poles find and keep up with classmates. You can even log in via Facebook—in the home page, under "Logowanie," there's a big blue *f* and the option "Zaloguj się Facebookiem." (If you can't figure out what that means, don't even bother!). This is one more resource social media offers.

I'm not paid by Facebook to recruit members. I'm sure there will come a time when I'll say "Enough of this" and log off for good. But *Gen Dobry!* is all about online ways to help you connect with Polish ancestors, family, and friends. I figure I really ought to encourage you to try Facebook, if you have even half a notion to. You don't have to let it eat up your life, or reduce you to a slobbering addict. You can Facebook and live—you may even find some benefit in it.

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

*Subject:* Heirloom revisited.

*Editor* – You may recall a note in the November 2017 issue of *Gen Dobry!* about a gentleman named George Hawryluk who needed help returning an heirloom, a soup

tureen, to relatives of its former owner. In the December 2017 issue, we included a note from Roger Laske, editor of the *Polish Eaglet*, explaining how he and the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan had succeeded in tracking down two descendants. Not long after, Roger sent me another note with a link to an online article in the *Detroit Free Press* about the whole story. I meant to share it with you, but somehow overlooked it till now. Let me try to make amends by showing you Roger's note and the link to the story.

There is an article in today's edition of the *Detroit Free Press*, about an heirloom and how I helped find a descendant of Felix Lemke. The article mentions PGSM and me:

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/2018/01/01/man-searches-antique-tureen-owner/890783001/>

Roger Laske

*Editor* – This is just a good story all the way around. Thanks for sharing it with us, for helping George Hawryluk do a good deed, and for showing in general that genealogy can be useful as well as fascinating.

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**\*\*\* SERIES OF TALKS ON CAMP KOSCIUSZKO \*\*\***

*submitted by Paul S. Valasek* <[Hallersarmy@aol.com](mailto:Hallersarmy@aol.com)>

*Editor* – Paul shared with us this info on a series of talks to be held by the Niagara Historical Society & Museum at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada. Notice who's speaking on April 19!

The lectures will be held on the third Thursday of each month from March to September. Lectures start at 7:30 p.m. This year's series focuses on the unique story of Camp Kosciuszko, the Polish training camp in Niagara-on-the-Lake during the First World War.

March 15 | Piotr Wrobel – A long way to freedom: Poland before 1918

April 19 | Paul Valasek – Haller's Army at 100: End of WWI, Beginning of Polish-Soviet War

May 17 | Richard Merritt – Camp Kosciuszko: Why Colonel Butler would be spinning in his grave

June 21 | Stan Skrzyszewski – Everyday Life at Camp Kosciuszko with Elizabeth Ascher

July 19 | Sarah Kaufman – The Spanish Flu and Niagara Camp

August 16 | Roman Baraneicki – Title TBA

September 20 | Anthony Adamsky – Falcons of Freedom

Tickets are \$10 for the general public or free for Niagara Historical Society Members. Reservations required as seating is limited.

For more information, visit <<http://niagarahistorical.museum/about/index.html>>

Also, from that website is this information about the exhibit. You can read more here:

<<http://niagarahistorical.museum/exhibitions/current.html>>

**Camp Kosciuszko: The Polish Army at Niagara Camp, 1917-1919  
November, 2017- November, 2018**

An exhibition commemorating the 100th anniversary of the opening of Camp Kosciuszko, where thousands of soldiers of Polish descent trained before being shipped off to free Poland from 123 years of occupation.

Every community has a First World War story to tell. Most focus on the local soldiers who enlisted during the war and the impact that their absence may have had on the community. Niagara-on-the-Lake also has these stories to tell. However, 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the opening of Kosciuszko Camp where thousands of soldiers of Polish descent, from the United States and parts of Canada, trained for several weeks prior to being shipped off to Europe to free Poland from 123 years of occupation. These soldiers lived in our community for several weeks, some were unable to speak English and others, during the sweep of the Influenza of 1918, never left, being buried at a special cemetery at St. Vincent de Paul church.

Who were these men? What was their life like here? How did they arrive? What did their training entail? What did they do during their leisure hours? How did the community respond to hosting these young men? We will attempt to answer these questions with this exhibition.

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**\*\*\* HELP WITH SURNAMES \*\*\***

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

This seems to be a month when I'm mostly repeating things I've written about in the past. But that's not necessarily a bad thing. Subscribers come and go. Some of you probably weren't members when I talked about these things before.

Anyway, I had occasion to visit the forums on PolishOrigins.com recently, and I was reminded that they welcome questions about Polish surnames' origins. The PolishOrigins team, along with other participants in the forum, are quite comfortable receiving and answering questions in English, if you're wondering about that. There is no charge involved. You can visit the "Origins of surnames" at <<https://forum.polishorigins.com/viewforum.php?f=19>>.

Now, I've been answering similar questions for some 25 years now, first on the old Prodigy service, and more recently on PolishRoots. I still answer these questions when I have the time. But publications are eating up more and more of my time these days. Much as I enjoy

researching and talking about names, I'm afraid there are times I just can't get to the requests sent in. I fall behind, and once that happens, it is a bear trying to catch up again!

So, I want to make sure you know about the help PolishOrigins offers. I've looked through a number of the posts on their forum, and they consult the same sources I do. I'm flattered that they sometimes even quote me! When possible, however, they get their answers from research works written by Polish scholars, and that's as it should be.

One big advantage to asking them, however, is that their researchers may be in a position to help you get hold of original sources in Poland—old records, works by local historians, that sort of thing. They are, after all, in Poland, and travel throughout the country frequently, leading research tours or helping clients. The truth is, they can get to sources to which I have no access.

While I'm on the subject, I should add that Robert Strybel, correspondent for the *Polish American Journal* and residing in Poland, offers to do custom-researched analysis of the meaning and origin of Polish surnames, for a fee. His ad in the PAJ reads as follows:

A custom-researched analysis of the meaning and origin of a Polish surname will make an unusual and memorable gift for a loved one (or yourself). It will explain the name's meaning, how it originated, how many people share it, where they are from and whether a noble coat of arms accompanies it. If one is found, its image and the story behind it will be provided.

If interested, kindly airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding \$13 for each additional surname you wish to have researched) to Polonia's long-standing Warsaw correspondent and name researcher: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

You will also be able to check your family records in Poland, track down ancestral homesteads and graves or possibly even turn up long-lost relatives thanks to a helpful genealogical contact sheet included with each order. For more information please contact <[research60@gmail.com](mailto:research60@gmail.com)>.

So you have two good choices: free analysis from PolishOrigins, or a paid analysis by Rob Strybel, whom I know to be a very knowledgeable person. To the best of my knowledge, both PolishOrigins and Rob are honest and reliable.

There was a time when I may have been the most convenient source of this kind of info available for most English speakers. I will still answer questions about name origins, as best I can. But it's only right to let you know you have other options these days—and they may be able to serve you better than I can.

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### \*\*\* UPDATES ON RECORD INDEXES \*\*\*

by *Waldemar Chorążewicz*

*Editor*—In the lead article, I talk about good things you can find on Facebook. Among them are the lists Waldemar Chorążewicz periodically posts to the Polish Genealogy group <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/50089808265/>>, lists of recent indexes to Polish records. I mentioned them in the last issue, but I thought I'd repeat a few more, so that Waldemar's kindness reaches as many people as possible. A sampling of these lists may encourage you to look into the indexes; and I've learned that once Google scans issues of *Gen Dobry!*, results often show up Google searches, and may help people who don't even subscribe.

U = *Urodzenia* – Births; M = *Małżeństwa* – Marriages; Z = *Zgony* – Deaths

#### **Projekt. podlasie.pl** – New indexes:

Czyżew M 1746-1752 - Michał Cymbalak

Czyżew M 1755-1765 - Michał Cymbalak

Czyżew M 1771-1780 - Jarosław Biały

Płonka Kościelna U 1669-1689, indeksy autorstwa Wojtka Stypułkowskiego - [Indexed by Wojtek Stypułkowski]

Zambrów M 1822b.- Stanisław Tarnowski

Zambrów M 1835-1838 - Stanisław Tarnowski

Zambrów U 1818 - Wojtek Jankowski

Zambrów U 1843-1848 - Zbyszek Żukowski

Parafia Knychówek, akta małżeństw 1886-1900, autor: Barbara Raniewicz

Nowogród Married 1808-1825 author Michał Kazimierz

Księgi grodzkiej wieczystej nurskiej z lat 1731-1735 będącej w zasobie AGAD. [Nur property records from 1731–1735 in the holdings of the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw]

Author Marcin Radziszewski

Szczepankowo BMD 1845-1847 author Marta Wojciechowska

Kobylin B 1730-1777 author Bożena Misiak.

#### **Geneteka new indexes**

05-02-2018

Bytom Miechowice św.Krzyża (SL) — M 1897-1933, indeksowali GTG\_Silius\_Radicum

Będzin Trójcy Przenajświętszej (SL) — M 1826-31, indeksował Jacek Florek

Golasowice - Gollasowitz (ewang.) (SL) — M 1769-1936, indeksowali GTG\_Silius\_Radicum

Staw (pow. kaliski) (WP) — U 1769-95 M 1754-66, 69-96, 98-99, indeksował Sebastian Gąsiorek

Szydłów (SK) — UMZ 1892-94, indeksował Edward Jabłoński

04-02-2018

Bolmin (SK) — U 1708, indeksował Oskar Brożek  
Cierno (SK) — M 1815, indeksował Oskar Brożek  
Romany (PL) — M 1920-1930, indeksował Dariusz Kasiorkiewicz  
Uniejów (MP) — UMZ 1912-15, indeksowała Renata Majewska

03-02-2018

Bolmin (SK) — M 1660-1727, indeksował Oskar Brożek  
Błenna (KP) — UMZ 1891-1900, indeksowała Anna Frąckowiak  
Chrobierz (SK) — UMZ 1821, indeksowała Agnieszka Jarczok  
Kleszczele (PL) — M 1919-22, indeksował Walenty Adamiec  
Kowal (KP) — SkM 1885-1910, indeksował Michał Golubiński  
Strzygi (KP) — SkM 1904-05, indeksował Michał Golubiński  
Suwałki (PL) — M 1816, indeksował Michał Sienkiewicz  
Szumowo (PL) — M 1857-59, indeksował ARN  
Wistka Szlachecka (KP) — M 1823-37, indeksował Michał Golubiński

02-02-2018

Andrzejewo (MZ) — M 1834 (aktualizacja), indeksował Arnel  
Chwalibożyce-Frauenhain USC (DS) — M 1899-1900, 02, 04, 06, indeksował Michael  
Schaetzlein  
Górno-Łowisko (PK) — U 1889-1905, indeksował Richard Pakula  
Hoża (BR) — UMZ 1797-1801, indeksowała Alicja Rybałko  
Kraków - Pleszów (MP) — M 1797-1824, indeksowała Dagmara Kulig  
Kłóbka (KP) — SkM 1875-76, 98-1901, indeksował Michał Golubiński  
Puchały (PL) — UMZ 1912, indeksowała Ewa Marczevska  
Rutki-Kossaki (PL) — UMZ 1850-66 (z lukami), indeksowali Mariola Postępska, Róża Kruza,  
Anna Brodowska, weryf. projektpodlasie.pl  
Stary Lubotyń (MZ) — U 1895, Z 1897 (aktualizacja), indeksował Arnel  
Suwałki (PL) — M 1817, 1820, indeksował Michał Sienkiewicz

01-02-2018

Chorzele (MZ) — M 1860, indeksował Rafał Zadrożny  
Cierno (SK) — M 1677-80,88-1767, indeksował Oskar Brożek  
Gliwice św.Bartłomieja (SL) — U 1900-4 , indeksowała Barbara Wiechuła  
Jedwabne (PL) — M 1920, indeksował Grzegorz Nowik  
Kraków - Pleszów (MP) — U 1797-1838, indeksowała Dagmara Kulig  
Krynki (PL) — 1824-1836, 39-60, indeksował Arek Bereza  
Kuczyn (PL) — M 1930-36, indeksował Zbigniew Żukowski

Lubochnia (LD) — U 1808-25, Z 1712-32, indeksowała Danuta Danecka  
Odrzywół (MZ) — U 1891-95, indeksował Marian Niemirski  
Odrzywół (MZ) — Z 1901-10, indeksował Marian Niemirski, weryfikacja Goška  
Wieczfnia Kościelna (MZ) — U 1754-1807 (aktualizacja), indeksował Arnel  
Zagnańsk (SK) — Z 1743,47-51,53- 1810 -71 (aktualizacja) ,72-80, indeksował Henryk Korus

31-01-2018

Bukówno (MZ) — U 1868-1913, indeksowała Aleksandra Piętał  
Gąsewo (MZ) — U 1853-58, indeksował Robert Pawłowski  
Jałowicze (UK) — U 1860-1912 (daty skrajne), indeksowała Danuta Wojtowicz  
Kozicznynek (MZ) — U 1839-74, 1884-86, indeksował Wawrzyniec Myśliński  
Mokobody (MZ) — M 1868-85, indeksowała Anna Poprawa  
Obrazów (SK) — U 1881-90, indeksowała Joalanta Prokopiuk-Bathelt  
Odrzywół (MZ) — U 1886-90, indeksował Marian Niemirski  
Poręba-Kocęby (MZ) — U 1782-1800, indeksowała Joanna Maślanek  
Sieciechów-Opactwo (MZ) — SkU 1917, indeksował Krzysztof Zochniak  
Sieluń (MZ) — U 1827, 1835-42, M 1828-42, indeksowała Viola AP  
Siennica (MZ) — Z 1848-57 (rozszerzenie), M 1882-92, indeksowała Marta Walczak  
Sypniewo (MZ) — M 1915 (aktualizacja), indeksował Marek Białobrzęski  
Szadek (LD) — M 1809,20,24-25,28-33,35-38,40-44, indeksowała Elżbieta Nejman  
Tursko (WP) — U 1795-1810, indeksował Rafał Albiński  
Warszawa ASC Cyrkuł I (WA) — U 1816, indeksowała Katarzyna Marchlińska  
Warszawa-Służew św. Katarzyna (WA) — U 1836-40, indeksował Włodzimierz Macewicz  
Wiskitki (ewang.) (MZ) — M 1893-95, indeksowała Katarzyna Pasik  
Wolbórz (LD) — U 1858-59, Z 1870-71, indeksowała Bożena Kaźmierczak

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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.

***Lithuanian Heritage, January/February 2018, Vol. 6 (S1)***, Lithuanian Catholic Press Society, 4545 W. 63rd St., Chicago, IL 60629-5532. <<http://www.draugas.org/news>>.

- Vincas Kudirka, Herald of the Modern Lithuanian Nation, Militiades Varvounis
- Juozas Urbšys and the Occupation, Arūnas Banionis
- Tragic Events of the Summer of 1941, Pranas Jurkus
- On the Third Day of March: A Search for Family Roots, Edward J. Rogan
- A Gem Sparkles Once Again, Rima Kasuba Binder and Barbara Stodola (about the Lithuanian gardens of the Friendship Botanic Gardens in Michigan City, Indiana)

***Wilno Heritage Society, News from the Wilno Heritage Society, Fall/Winter 2017, Vol. 16, No. 2***, 1112 Wilno Road North, Wilno ON K0J 2N0, CANADA, <<http://www.wilno.org>>

- Kashub Day 2017
- Unveiling of Four New Heritage Homestead Stones in 2017
- Local Polish Soldiers Remembered in Exhibit at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Shirley Mask Connolly
- News & Project Report from Zosia's Kashubian Embroidery Club, Theresa Prince

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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.*

**March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2018, Tuesdays**

**HANDS-ON GENEALOGY** with *Alan Doyle Horbal*, professional genealogist, with Cathi Iuliano and Susan Bedard.

**Berkshire Athenaeum • Wendell Avenue • Pittsfield, MA 01201**

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

Classes at 2:00 p.m. and 5:15 p.m..The 2:00 pm class is for those who are able to attend classes during the day. The 5:15 pm class is set up for those people who work and can only attend evening classes.

All students must have an email account and be computer literate. We ask that you attend all four classes. You may bring your own laptop or use one provided by the library.

All classes are open to the public. Please sign up for the sessions by registering at <<http://www.Pittsfieldlibrary.org>> and clicking on "Calendar of Events" or call (413) 499-9480 ext. 6. Class is limited to 12, with a waiting list after that.

*[From an e-mail sent out by Western Massachusetts Roots Events]*

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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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**April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2018, Tuesdays**

**HANDS-ON GENEALOGY** with *Alan Doyle Horbal*, professional genealogist, with Cathi Iuliano and Susan Bedard.

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[From an e-mail sent out by Western Massachusetts Roots Events]

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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

[Note: *the deadline for registering for this trip has passed.* But it seemed worthwhile to present

this information again, just in case anyone has questions or wants to check on their status.]

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**May 20, 2018**

**QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA**

**“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 program at the library is open to the public. It 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 Store tab, then clicking on the “Webinars” tab and following instructions. Mail-in registrations will not be accepted.

*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 thirty years, with the last nine as a professional genealogist and lecturer. He 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. Upon leaving police work, he 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”. He has published two books through Schiffer Publishing, *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 \*\*\*

<<https://blog.eogn.com/2018/02/20/rootsfinder-delivers-powerful-new-tools-to-genealogists-for-free/>>

In a recent blog entry for *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter [EOGN]*, Dick Eastman printed an announcement about a new service, RootsFinder, <<https://www.rootsfinder.com>>. Eastman commented, "I suspect this is going to be a major tool for all genealogists. The following announcement describes the latest project by several people, including Dallan Quass, a well-known software developer who has produced several excellent genealogy products in the past ... **RootsFinder** tries to be a great tree for supporting genealogy researchers at all levels, but especially new genealogy researchers. It also focuses heavily on pictures, stories, and videos to make things more interesting for a younger audience." Eastman strikes me as a pretty sharp fellow, and if he thinks this has potential to be a major tool for all genealogists, I figure it's surely worth mentioning to you.

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<<http://bit.ly/2nMxm0N>>

In another *EOGN* blog entry, Eastman mentioned a company called Transcription Services that specializes in deciphering historical documents that most people find impossible to read. Eastman gave this link to an article in the *Atlas Obscura* by Sarah Laskow, in case you'd like to learn more. There is a fee for this service, of course, and I'm not sure how well this company would fare with languages other than English. Still, indecipherable documents are the bane of the genealogist's existence. It may be worthwhile to investigate a company that transcribes such documents.

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<<http://bit.ly/2FUgZgm>>

Another Eastman entry included this link to an article by Alexandria Neason in the *Columbia Journalism Review*. The article is about Tom Tryniski, the man behind <<http://FultonHistory.com>>, a site with a collection of 27 million newspaper pages available to all at no charge. I'm sure we've mentioned this site before, but this is a resource researchers should be reminded of frequently, as its usefulness to you may be limited only by your ingenuity.

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<<https://www.hongkiat.com/blog/see-shortened-urls-without-opening-them/>>

A recent issue of *Genealogy News* included a link to this article, which savvy computer

users may want to read. I prefer to print complete URLs in *Gen Dobry!* precisely because seeing the link often gives you a notion where you're going if you click on it. It's just one more way to protect yourself online. The problem is, long links often get broken or rendered invalid. Shortened URLs serve a useful purpose because they're more likely to remain intact. Unfortunately, looking at them tells you nothing about where you're going if you click on them. This article discusses ways you can preview such links so you're not clicking blindly and hoping for the best.

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

Recent additions to this site include a long list of address and business directories for Germany for the 1800s and 1900s; similar directories for Königsberg, East Prussia through much of the second half of the 19th century; similar directories for Danzig (Gdańsk) and Köslin (Koszalin) through much of the 1800s and early 1900s; plus Silesia Agricultural Directories for 1886, 1894, 1898, 1902, 1909, 1917, and 1937. I have sometimes found information on families by simply entering the name and any other relevant info, then just searching the site.

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<<https://suwalkigermans.wordpress.com/>>

In a note posted to the Lithuanian Genealogy newsgroup, Benjamin Kman mentioned discovering this site, devoted to ethnic Germans in the Suwałki area. This is not the easiest area in the world to find information on, so I thought I should mention it.

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