



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>>

***** BOOKS: TO E OR NOT TO E? *****

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

Sorry about the lame pun; but the question is one I've been pondering lately. As work proceeds on the German volume of the *In Their Words* series, I'm facing a dilemma. Using records gathered by my coauthor, Jonathan Shea, and me, I put together a first draft I was very proud of. Then I mentioned to Jonathan that it ran some 750 pages, and he asked me, in a very polite and friendly way, if I was out of my freaking mind?

Well, duh, yes. Leaving that question aside, his reaction confirmed my own suspicions: by and large, people are not interested in buying books that long. Time to start hacking away—and every cut feels like I'm chopping off a body part I really don't want to lose.

Jonathan's reaction reminded me of one of my favorite Sherlock Holmes quotations, from *The Valley of Fear*. Holmes and Watson are trying to figure out a cipher message, which they believe cites a passage in a book. Holmes observes:

“The cipher message begins with a large 534, does it not? We may take it as a working hypothesis that 534 is the particular page to which the cipher refers. So our book has already become a large book which is surely something gained. What other indications have we as to the nature of this large book? The next sign is C2. What do you make of that, Watson?”

“Chapter the second, no doubt.”

“Hardly that, Watson. You will, I am sure, agree with me that if the page be given, the number of the chapter is immaterial. Also that if page 534 finds us only in the second chapter, the length of the first one must have been really intolerable.”

I have to remind myself, we'll be trying to sell this thing to Americans and other English speakers, not Germans. No doubt, the sensible move is to produce a print version that doesn't resemble the New York City phone book (for those of you who remember what a phone book was). And we will do so. But I am toying with an idea. People have been asking for years if we could offer the books in digital form. My standard response has been, “Let us get the damned things done first, then we'll deal with that.” But if my luck and my health hold out, the books will be done by July or thereabouts. It will be time to face this question.

I am seriously considering the option of offering a digital version of the German book, and it might as well be my original elephantine 750-pager. With digital books, size and weight are much less of an issue. There may be those who think, “The more, the merrier.”

In a related development, I also recently learned that the Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore, Maryland, publisher of numerous genealogical books—including Rosemary Chorzempa's *Polish Roots*—has opened a store specifically for buying their publications in e-book form. You can visit here:

<<http://library.genealogical.com/>>

I signed up and bought copies of two works I really wanted in digital form, Ernest Thode's *German-English Genealogical Dictionary* and George F. Jones' *German-American Surnames*. I have both in print form, somewhere. But when I'm slogging away, there are times I like being able to access a reference work on my computer immediately, without getting up and digging through my bookcases. We've moved often enough that I frequently remember exactly where a given book was three houses and fifteen years ago, but no clue where it is in this house now.

I don't know if any of Genealogical Publishing Company's books run more than 500 pages. The very fact that they are exploring e-sales does, however, does tell me that there's more and more interest in e-books. Surely the option is worth looking into.

Granted, there are still technical problems formatting books like ours, with large illustrations and non-standard fonts, to reproduce reliably on various book-reading devices. One also has to ask how we deter the unscrupulous from just copying and distributing pages at will. Still, there are surely ways to deal with these problems.

Many folks have a great fondness for printed books, and have no intention of abandoning them. I'm among them; there are quite a few books I've held onto for years, and I intend to keep them. I cannot deny, however, that I am going digital more and more often. I constantly use hard-to-find reference works now available at no cost from digital libraries in Europe. It's also really handy to find mention of a specific work I really want to read or consult, and within minutes it's on my computer or Kindle or tablet, ready to use. These are not minor advantages.

Any readers who would like to share their thoughts on e-books are welcome to write me, and I'll include their notes in the next issue. Am I a traitor even to consider producing an e-book version as well as print books? Or do you find, like me, that each form has its merits, and one can use both?

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

Subject: Upcoming Concert by a Polish Virtuoso Organist

Editor—This is a note sent to PolishRoots, and we're glad to spread word of this upcoming event.

Dear Polish Roots,

My name is Cristiano Rizzotto. I am the Organist and Choirmaster at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Golden Valley, MN. I would like to inform you that we are hosting a concert by the Polish virtuoso organist Gedymin Grubba on Tuesday, February 28, at 6:30 PM, which will be part of our new International Concert Series. All concerts are FREE.

Please pass the message to the Polish community in Minnesota. Thank you kindly.

The Good Shepherd International Concert Series seeks to present captivating music to the people of the Minneapolis- Saint Paul metropolitan area, played by some of the brightest rising stars of the international scenery. We believe that musical expression is necessary for the culture of our community to thrive. As God’s grace and love toward humanity is reflected through musical creativity, we can tangibly witness Him “making all things new.”

All concerts are open to the public with no admission charge. A free-will offering will be taken to help cover our expenses. Each concert is followed by a reception where the audience may enjoy refreshments and fellowship and an opportunity to greet the performers.

Upcoming performances in 2017 will include artists from Poland, Brazil, Bulgaria, the United States, and Italy.

Good Shepherd Catholic Church is located on 145 Jersey Avenue South Golden Valley, MN 55426. Parking is available.

<<http://www.goodshepherdgy.org/Concerts>>

Cordially,
Cristiano Rizzotto, MM
Organist & Choirmaster
Good Shepherd Catholic Church
145 Jersey Avenue South
Golden Valley, MN 55426 763.544.0416, ext. 853
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<<http://www.cristianorizzotto.com>>

***** UPDATE FROM GENTTEAM.EU *****

by Felix Gundacker

<<http://www.GenTeam.eu>> – 233,000 additional entries online

Vienna, January 22nd, 2017

New at GenTeam:

- on my own account
– in total, 15.7 million entries online at GenTeam!

1. NEW: IKG Nuremberg – marriages
2. NEW: IKG Vienna – divorces 1870-1942
3. Military: Casualty lists 1914-1919 Austria-Hungary
4. Vienna: Catholic baptisms – additional records
5. Vienna: Catholic deaths – additional records
6. Index of Dominion Records of Lower Austria – additional records
7. Index of “Wer einmal war L-R,” Georg Gaugusch
8. Indices of Catholic registers from Lower and Upper Austria, Burgenland, Styria, Tyrol, and Austrian Silesia

Dear Researcher and Genealogist,

On my own account:

With today’s online data, **approximately 15.7 million entries** are now available for the currently 34,500 registered users.

At this point, I would like to thank all individuals who have furnished GenTeam over the last 7 years with vital information, all those who work on long-term projects, but also all those who work behind the scenes to ensure that GenTeam functions properly and continues to expand.

GenTeam is an European platform through which historians and genealogists, who work independently or as a team on databases, can furnish this data to all researchers. **All data at GenTeam is available free of charge.** The use of GenTeam also requires **no membership fee.**

Additional developments created parallel to GenTeam are the <<http://www.GenList.at>>, a bilingual mailing list with more than 1,700 members, as well as the genealogical link collection at <<http://www.GenLink.at>>.

And now to the Actual update:

1. New: Jewish Community Nuremberg, Germany: Marriages 1906-1942

As if by miracle, the marriage book of the Nuremberg Jewish Community of 1906-1942 survived the horror of the Third Reich. A complete database of this book is now available on GenTeam. At this point, I would like to express my warmest gratitude to Mag. Leibl Rosenberg.

2. New: Jewish Community Vienna: Divorces 1870-1942

A database of all divorces of the Jewish Community Vienna between 1870 and 1942 could be added to GenTeam now. I would like to thank Traude Triebel.

3. New: Military Casualty Lists, Austrian-Hungary World War 1

In the Casualty Lists you will find the wounded, prisoners of war, and the fallen from all member countries of the Habsburg Monarchy. In total, there will be approximately 3 to 3,5 million entries. You will find officers, one-year volunteers, and, naturally, the whole gang with all

confessions, this, also Jewish, Muslim and Protestant soldiers.

We find: Last Name and First Name, nobilization and academic degree, charge, body of troop, sub-branch, home country, district and homeland affiliation, year of birth, type of casualty (deceased, wounded or captured), in exchange back, etc.), and number of the list, numbers of additions and corrections, date of the list, page, and a link to Anno.

All the casualty lists are online; however, the originals are not in a good printing quality, so that a full-text search often does not yield a positive result. After completion, we will install expanded search functions, so that you can search for casualties in a certain hometown – for example.

The following excerpts of a total of over 720 lists are already online on GenTeam now: 1-13, 84, 99, 101, 102, 104, 108, 109, 129, 137, 140, 191, 194, 215, 232, 686. Approximately additional 280 lists are in progress.

At this point, I would like to thank Heinz Adamec, Kurt Ahne, Rudolf Gugerbauer, Leopold Gugerel Robert Kaiser, Harald Lohauß, Martin Loidolt, Leo Mittringer, Anton Müllner, Sabine Pichler, Gerald Pribas, Wolfgang Schwarz, Henriette Steiner as well as Frank Raschka, as well as all who already work on additional lists which will soon go online.

I invite you cordially to participate in this fascinating project. We gladly send you a compilation and organize the number of your list. Please, contact the project manager, Frank Raschka (many thanks, Frank!) at <verlustliste@gmail.com> or <kontakt@GenTeam.at>.

4. Vienna – Baptism Index between 1585 and 1915

Entries from the parishes 02 Sankt Johann Nepomuk, 03 Landstraße, 04 Wieden (Paulaner), 05 Sankt Josef Margareten, 07 Sankt Ulrich, 08 Alservorstadt Pfarre, 09 Lichtental, 10 Sankt Johann Evangelist were added (i.e 02 = district 2).

You will find a table listing all parishes with updated time frames under Hilfestufe/Help.

At this point, I would like to thank Gabi Koller, Elisabeth Kultscher, Lisi Maxa, Angelika Panser, Marco Pühr, Gerda Smodej, Judith Starke, and Wolfgang Strnad, as well as all who already work on various indices with will soon go online.

I would like to invite to participate on this Index. Simply contact me at <kontakt@GenTeam.at>.

5. Vienna: Index of Catholic deaths

Since the list of deaths in the Vienna Newspaper contains vast gaps (even with consideration of Viennese historic borders, as well as the interesting fact that on average approximately 40% entries of deceased children 1-year and under are missing); therefore, we at GenTeam have begun an index of Catholic burials.

ne [*sic*] entries were added today of the parish of 01 Schotten. You will find a table listing all parishes with updated time frames under Hilfestufe/Help. I would like to thank Monika Fischer.

6. Index of Dominion records of Lower Austria

We added indices of the dominions Brunn am Walde and Drosendorf. I would like to thank Dr. Günter Oppitz and Christine Sinhuber.

7. Georg Gaugusch: “Wer einmal war” (“Those who once were”), Part II: L–R

Vienna’s Upper Class Jewish Society 1800-1938, part 2, was published in November 2016. Now we put the index of part 2 online.

1. part A-K, Amalthea, ISBN 978-3-85002-750-2
2. part L-R, Amalthea, ISBN 978-3-85002-773-1

8. Register Indices from Lower and Upper Austria, Burgenland, Styria, Tyrol, Bohemia and kuk Silesia

Registers of the following Roman Catholic parishes were added:

Lower Austria:

Aschbach, Drosendorf, Gösing, Hagenberg, Mönichkirchen, Wilhelmsburg

Upper Austria:

Sigharting

Burgenland:

Stoob

Tyrol:

Steinach am Brenner

Styria:

Bad Aussee

Austrian Silesia:

Liebenthal/Liptan

You will find a complete listing of parishes with updated time frames under Hilfestufe/Help.

At this point, I would like to thank Ursula Baldemaier, Mag. Fritz Eichler, Ingrid Fleischer, Monika Hauser, Franziska Heidrich, Alois Kallinger, Elisabeth Kultscher, Dr. Günter Oppitz, Bernhard Siegl, and Silvia Swoboda.

If you too would like to participate, please, contact me directly at <kontakt@GenTeam.at>.

We would be more than happy if you too would like to play a part with GenTeam by creating a database or furnishing an already completed database. However, if you only have questions, please, contact me anytime.

Now I wish you much joy and success with your research with GenTeam and the new entries.

Sincerely yours,
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<<http://www.FelixGundacker.at>>

“connecting genealogists”

***** KRAKÓW VITAL RECORD SCANS ONLINE *****

by Logan Kleinwaks

Editor—Logan Kleinwaks, the man behind <<http://genealogyindexer.org/>>, often posts notes to the JewishGen newsgroup about online resources. This is a note he posted on 10 January 2017 about Kraków vital records online. The specific collection he cites here is for Jewish records; but the procedure he describes can be valuable for anyone working with records from Szukajwarchiwach.pl. He gave permission to reprint his note here, and I feel some of our readers may benefit from it.

Scans of many Kraków vital records are viewable online, including records not yet in the searchable databases of either JRI-Poland or Dan Hirschberg’s site (<<https://www.ics.uci.edu/~dan/genealogy/Krakow>>). These images are also different from the ones already viewable on Dan’s site. Among the scans are births 1890-1914, marriages 1889-1914, and deaths 1890-1914, with legible handwritten indices for each year, and deaths 1798-1808 (pre-surname). There are other years, too, but these seem to have the least overlap with what is otherwise online.

To view the scans, first go to the list of groups of records at:

<<http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/29/1472/0/str/1/1000?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Note the last column on the right, Number of Scans/Liczba Skanów. If that is 0, there are no scans available for the group of records.

For the births 1890-1914, marriages 1889-1914, and deaths 1890-1914, there are typically two rows in this list for each year, one for scans of the records and the other for scans of the handwritten indices. The indices are easy to use and a good starting point, even if you already know the date of an event. Each index is organized by first letter of the surname and shows the name of the child/groom/decedent, page number, and record number.

Clicking the title of a group of records (e.g., [Księga urodzeń z 1912 r.]) will bring up an overview page, with a red tab at the top. Click the link to the right of the red tab, Scans/Skany. This will lead to a group of thumbnail images, 15 per page by default.

Clicking on a thumbnail will enlarge it (but not fully). On the enlarged image, page numbers are usually typewritten in the top left and right (corresponding to the page numbers in the handwritten index). If you compiled a list of page numbers from the index, you can quickly find the page of interest. Near the bottom right of the enlarged image is an icon that looks like a white rectangle on a black circle -- clicking that will open a new window to display a high-resolution image. Because of the size of the high-resolution image, it might not be fully visible on your screen, but you can click, hold, and drag it with your mouse to change the visible region. To save a high-resolution image to your computer, click the Download/Pobierz link below the image, in the bottom center.

I hope this is useful to Kraków researchers, but regret that I am not able to offer individual assistance.

***** POLISHORIGINS THEME TOURS *****

by Aga Pawlus, PolishOrigins

Editor—We always like to pass along information from PolishOrigins because we know many readers have used them and found them most helpful.

Apart from our well-known Genealogy Tours, our regular Galicia Tour and the Kingdom of Poland Tour, we have been preparing for several years, the private “Theme Tours” in Poland.

These are ready-made itineraries designed for 2, 3 or more people travelling together. They have no specific dates – so you can take them during your stay. They are private – so you can modify it and combine it with our other tours.

We would like you to know and understand Poland and all it has to offer for tourists. This is why we would like to present to you the best, newly-opened museums, to meet the best local guides, and very often to take you off the beaten path, just to show you how much is still waiting to be discovered!

Here are our three (very different) proposals. All of them are based on our earlier experiences and talks with our former guests:

Tastes of Poland Tour

Based on our more than a decade experience in organizing tailor-made tours we invite you to try a new Theme Tour - Tastes of Poland Tour in the region which you are interested in most.

Polish cuisine is much more than *schabowy* and *kielbasa*: meat prepared in various ways, smoked cheese, all kinds of pierogi (dumplings), *goląbki*, Polish delicious soups, and cakes ... Add to this local differences of regional cuisines, such as German influences in Silesia or Russian and Ukrainian tastes in Eastern part of Poland or simple and modest Górale (Highlanders) food.

Imagine eating fresh, natural food, prepared from local, seasonal products, cooked by local people from the recipes known and passed from one generation to another.

And ... imagine learning to cook some of the dishes yourself!

We have prepared for you an example of Tastes of Kraków Region, including culinary attractions from Kraków, Podhale, and the Beskidy mountains.

Wooden Treasures of Southern Poland Tour

Wooden architecture is something that we believe is unique in this part of Europe. It has always made a big impression on the people who visit this southern region of Poland. This is not the new tour in our offer, but this year we have changed the itinerary and made several improvements.

During this 3-day trip from Kraków, you will visit wooden churches on the UNESCO heritage list, unique wooden architecture styles from the Małopolska region. We will show you characteristic spa architecture in Krynica Zdrój, and you will have a guided tour in the regional Skansen-Sądecki Ethnographic Park, where you can compare the different styles from the area. The beautiful shapes, perfectly balanced proportions of the buildings, and the intricate woodcarvings are admired by all.

And there is something more ... the very special aroma of the old wood, and the nice coolness you encounter when you enter the building on a hot day. The tour takes place in the province of Małopolska (Lesser Poland). During the tour we will travel through the Podhale region, with its beautiful views of the Tatra Mountains. We will ride through the Pieniny National Park, which extends between the Polish and Slovak border. We will also visit the eastern part of Małopolska, the Lower Beskids, the gate to the eastern culture.

Communist Poland Tour

This tour is for those of you who would like to know more about Poland’s “Road to Freedom,” and everyday life behind the Iron Curtain.” We are sure you’ve followed those events with bated breath and felt a strong bond with this land of your ancestors.

But what was real, everyday life like behind the Iron Curtain? How did the big politics and economy affect the daily struggle of everyone’s life? What was the role of the Catholic Church in that time? What has changed after the 1989 fall of Communism and what impact has this long period in our history had on Poland and the Polish people today?

We invite you to take this 3-day journey through Poland. Starting in Nowa Huta in the 1950s, and finishing in Gdańsk in the 1980s, we will try to tell you about our history, our people, and the culture of those years. Of course, the whole communist era had its different periods. There was much difference with everyday life, just after World War II, during the “Bright 70s,” the so-called “Gierek’s Decade,” and in the economic crisis and martial law of the Bo’s. We would like to immerse you in the reality of that time. We will not avoid difficult questions, although we know there are no simple answers.

For information on all these tours, and more, visit this site:

<<http://polishorigins.com/tours/theme-tours/>>

*** 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.

Project to Discover Schenectady County’s Eastern European Roots Newsletter, January 2017, Vol. 4, No. 1, <<http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eer/index.html>> contact Phyllis Zych Budka <abudka@nycap.rr.com>

- Holy Name of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church, Pearl Street, Schenectady, Phyllis Zych Budka, Father James Konicki and Paul Jendzeizyk
- “Pazura” (The Claw) - A Maska Dramatic Circle Play by Schenectady, New York, Playwright Zygmunt Brzozowski, Phyllis Zych Budka
- Publishing Your Family’s History, with Phyllis Zych Budka and Seena Karen Rasmussen Drapala, Schenectady County Historical Society Event (Saturday, February 18, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Ave., Schenectady NY 12305)
- Pani Katarzyna Kornacka Part 7 – The “Roaring Twenties” (continued), Martin Byster

*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

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

February 8 – 11, 2017

ROOTSTECH GENEALOGY CONFERENCE **Salt Palace Convention Center • Salt Lake City**

RootsTech, the largest genealogy conference in North America, will be held in Salt Lake City, UT February 8-11, 2017. For those not able to attend, selected sessions will be streamed on the home page of RootsTech.org. This is a free opportunity, and includes the general keynote sessions. Following the conference, these session recordings will be posted for a limited time on their website.

To see which sessions will be live-streamed go to:

<<https://www.rootstech.org/live-stream-schedule>>

[From a post by Jan Meisels Allen to the JewishGen newsgroup]

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February 18, 2017

SCHENECTADY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENT

Publishing Your Family's History

Schenectady County Historical Society • 32 Washington Ave. • Schenectady NY 12305
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

A presentation by Phyllis Zych Budka and Seena Karen Rasmussen Drapala

Phyllis Zych Budka recently published her book *The Maska Dramatic Circle: Polish American Theater in Schenectady, New York (1933–1942)* on Lulu.com. A Schenectady native, Phyllis wished to tell the story of Schenectadians of Polish heritage through a drama group called the “Maska Dramatic Circle.” Budka’s parents, Stanley Jacob Zych and Sophie Victoria Korycinski Zych, were both involved with Maska. Her father, Stanley, started a Maska scrapbook, which was continued by her mother after their marriage in 1940. Phyllis used the scrapbook as the basis for the book.

Seena Karen Rasmussen Drapala published *The Poems and Life of Karen Valborg Sofie Rasmussen* on Lulu.com. This book details the history of Seena’s grandmother, Karen Valborg Sofie Rasmussen. Karen emigrated from Denmark to Schenectady in 1906 and worked as a seamstress, was a founding member of the Danish Sisterhood Society Lodge #142, and

encouraged the assimilation of many young immigrant Americans. This book features poems from Karen as well as Seena's memories of her beloved Grandma Val. Seena will be joining us through Skype as she is not local to Schenectady.

For more information, contact Michael Maloney, Librarian/Archivist at the Schenectady County Historical Society, by phone at 518-374-0263, or by e-mail at <librarian@schenectadyhistorical.org>.

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February 19, 2017

QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Location – Algonquin Public Library (NW) • 2600 Harnish Dr. • Algonquin IL 60102

Topic – *Guess Who's Polish? Distinguished/Famous People of Polish/Polish-American Origin.* The United States has been characterized as “the Great Melting Pot.” In a melting pot the identity of individual ingredients is lost in the new product that is created. In this same way, the contributions of Poles and Polish Americans to the development of the country has often vanished. This presentation will highlight people of Polish ancestry who made contributions to American culture, or those who invented well-known products, whose Polish ancestry is often unknown or overlooked.

Speaker – **James S. Pula** is Professor of History at Purdue University. He has authored more than a dozen books and is the editor of the *Polish American Encyclopedia* and the former editor of the academic journal *Polish American Studies*.

The presentation is open to the public, and will be offered as a Webinar to members and non-members. Additional information will be posted on the PGSA website <<http://www.pgsa.org>>, in *PGSA Notebook*, and *Rodziny* in advance of the meeting. Members and non-members are invited to attend.

[From the PGSA quarterly journal *Rodziny*]

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March 3 – 5, 2017

2017 WINTER VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
Family Tree University

This sounds like a potentially fascinating experience: a virtual conference, with a selection of talks in many different subjects that you can attend without leaving your house! Granted, you will miss out on the in-person excitement and enthusiasm of a standard conference. But the set-up allows enormous convenience; and it could very well make possible a line-up of speakers that would be hard to match. I don't have a crystal ball, so I can't say whether this will be a rewarding experience or a total flop. But I think it might be an idea whose time has come.

The price is \$199.99. You can learn much more, and enroll, at this website:

<<https://www.familytreeuniversity.com/courses/2017-winter-virtual-conference-family-tree-university>>

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Saturday, March 4, 2017

LDS FAMILY HISTORY CENTER, ARLINGTON, TEXAS

“Basic Polish Research”

LDS Family History Center • 3809 Curt Drive • Arlington, Texas 76016 • 817-446-7088

9 a.m.

Presented by: Debbie Greenlee

Description: Debbie Greenlee will be giving a presentation on Basic Polish Research at the Arlington, TX Annual Family History Seminar sponsored by LDS on March 4, 2017, at 9:00 am.

Early registration is preferred but same day registration begins at 8:00 a.m. on March 4, 2017.

Lunches are available if paid for in advance.

[From an e-mail submitted by Debbie Greenlee]

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Saturday, March 4, 2017

MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

“I FOUND MY VILLAGE! NOW WHAT?” Locating Vital Records in Poland Using Online Resources

Worcester Public Library • 3 Salem St. • Worcester, Massachusetts

10 a.m.

Presented by: Jule Roberts Szczepankiewicz

Description: Finding vital records for one's family in Poland is a critical step in exploring our Polish ancestry, but can sometimes be confusing. After a brief overview of the Polish partitions

to introduce beginners to the history and geography of Poland, Julie will illustrate the use of church records, passenger manifests, naturalization records, and other documents from U.S. sources, to determine one's ancestral village accurately. She'll suggest resources and strategies to help you decipher misspelled place names, and discuss the next steps in your research: determining the parish and civil registry office using gazetteers, and obtaining birth, marriage and death records. Julie will rely heavily on online sources throughout her presentation, and show how you can trace your Polish ancestry without having to cross the ocean.

[From a post by Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz to Facebook's Polish Genealogy]

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Thursday, March 23, 2017

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS SPRING MEETING
"ORGANIZING YOUR GENEALOGY" – HILLARY SCHAU**

Chicopee Public Library

6:30 p.m.

Presentation by Hillary Schau, Professional Genealogist

Whether you work solely with paper to manage your genealogy findings, (storing it all in folders, binders or even piles), or whether you love your computer and strive to digitize everything you discover, (using your computer, websites, and genealogy programs), all of us sometimes struggle to locate that one piece of information that we know is there somewhere or we start seeing double as we encounter documents in our collection that are also somewhere else in our files. In her presentation, Hillary Schau will be providing tips and tricks for both paper and digital genealogists to help better control the vast collection of material that they have been gathering on their family history. She will address both approaches for paper organizing (using files and folders) and for electronic organizing, helping those to settle on a management strategy that makes sense, and is easy to use, and is more efficient in the long run.

About the Speaker

Hillary Schau is professional genealogist from western Mass who has been helping people with their research and individual brick walls for many years. She presents classes on Organizing Genealogy and on RootsMagic (a computer program to manage genealogical information) that generate waiting lists for her next class. She is a 2015 graduate of the Boston University "Genealogical Research Certificate Program" and has been volunteering at the nearby Family Search Affiliate Library (Chicopee Library) for the past few years. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society. Although she is now a full-time genealogist, she comes from careers in engineering, education, and computer databases. These give her a uniquely analytical approach to problem solving and patient style for instruction, benefiting the researcher who often needs to look at things from a new perspective.

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Saturday, May 6, 2017

**NASHI PREDKY – OUR ANCESTORS UKRAINIAN GENEALOGY WORKSHOP
“REDISCOVERING YOUR FAMILY SECRETS”**

Ukrainian American Citizens’ Club • 302 Mansfield Boulevard • Carnegie, PA 15106

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Featured topics

- The Basics of Ukrainian Genealogy
- Finding and Using Ukrainian Church Records
- The Aliens Are Coming: USCIS Record Sets
- History of Lemkos, Boykos, and Hutsuls
- Using Gazetteers, Directories & Schematisms for Eastern European Research

Featured speakers: Justin Houser, Rich Venezia, Michael Buryk, and Michelle Chubenko

Informative talks, answers to your questions from recognized experts, time to network with fellow genealogists (who may have family from the same region or village as you), as well as breakfast and lunch.

Register online: <<http://www.NashiPredky.org/workshop>>

Save \$10 if you register before March 31st!

Michelle Chubenko

“Our Ancestors – Наші Предки / Ukrainian Genealogy”

Co-Coordinator, Family History Group

Ukrainian Historical & Educational Center of NJ

<<http://www.ukrhec.org/family-history-group>>

[From a post by Michelle Chubenko to various mailing lists]

Editor – For more info, you can read this item in EOGN:

<<https://blog.eogn.com/2017/01/26/announcing-the-2017-ukrainian-genealogy-workshop-rediscovering-your-family-stories/>>

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June 16 – 18, 2017

POLISH FEST

Henry W. Maier Festival Park • Summerfest Grounds • Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Gen Dobry!, Vol. XVIII, No. 1, January 2017 — 16

For more information, visit the website:

<<http://www.polishfest.org/>>

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July 28–29, 2017

**2017 INTERNATIONAL GERMANIC GENEALOGY CONFERENCE
Minneapolis, Minnesota**

This is expected to be a unique conference, organized through an international partnership of societies across the United States and Europe. Given how many people of Polish descent came from areas ruled by Germany from 1815 to 1918, this event may be worth your attention even if your ethnic identity is not primarily German.

For more developments, keep an eye on the website: <<http://www.ggsmn.org/>>.

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October 28, 2017

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN'S ANNUAL SEMINAR
American Polish Cultural Center**

We are very excited to announce the speakers for this year's seminar on October 28, 2017 at the American Polish Cultural Center.

Sophie Hodorowicz Knab, author of several books about Polish culture and traditions, will speak to us about the different customs as well as present a personal family story which resulted in the book, "Wearing the Letter P: Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945."

Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz offers two presentations. The first one is called, "I Found My Village! Now What?" Julie will discuss the different documents that can be found online which will help us in our research. Her other presentation is called, "The Ins and Outs of Geneteka: How it Works and How to Use it Most Effectively."

For more information as it becomes available, visit the PGSM website:

<<http://pgsm.org/>>

[From a post by Valerie Warunek to the Facebook page of the PGSM]

*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***

<<http://goo.gl/imCrA2>>

Maciej Róg posted a note to the Facebook group Genealodzy (PL) giving a link to this page on the Polish State Archives site, an article with the title “Porozumienie o współpracy pomiędzy Naczelnym Dyrektorem Archiwów Państwowych a Kościołem Ewangelicko - Augsburskim w Polsce” (Agreement for Cooperation between the General Director of the State Archives and the Evangelical-Augsburg Church in Poland). The brief article is in Polish, but Google Translate gets most of it right—except for turning the name of Bishop Jerzy Samiec into “Bishop George A male.” (Hey, at least when Translate isn’t correct, it is often amusing.)

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nly9XVjAuEw>>

Andrew Gołębiowski posted a note on Facebook’s Polish Culture, Food and Traditions group, describing this video clip as “A very well-done report of Polish WWII connections in London.”

<<http://www.polishnewsseattle.org/info/PolskieLitery.htm>>

Andrew also posted a note to Facebook’s Polish Genealogy group that suggested using this link to enable Polish characters on a PC keyboard.

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

Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz continues to post fascinating and valuable entries to her blog. Two especially good recent items are “Grandma said she was from Poznań’: Decoding Stories About Ancestors from Poland” and “Those Infamous Border Changes: A Crash Course in Polish History.” In a perfect world, the latter would be required reading for **everyone** who is starting to study Polish family history.

<<http://easteurotopo.org/>>

Julie also posted a note to the Facebook group Polish Genealogy about this site. She said, “Hap Ponedel, the site owner, has gathered quite a nice collection of maps and links to maps that are of interest to anyone doing research in historically Polish lands. If your ancestors were Jewish, he’s also got some great articles that might be helpful to you.” I think we’ve mentioned this site before, but it does have a splendid selection of maps, and links in other categories.

<http://www.brantfordpolishhall.com/htdoc/polish_proverbs.html>

In a post to the Facebook group Polish Culture, Food and Traditions, Valerie Warunek wrote, “If you are interested in Polish proverbs, it is best to use Polish sites for authenticity. This is one of many besides some books.”

<<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Szlachta>>

In a post to the Lithuanian Genealogy mailing list, Siga Pliodzinskas answered a question about what nobles represented in Lithuanian culture by suggesting a look at this link. I had not seen it before; and while one should never assume everything in Wikipedia is absolutely accurate, this struck me as worth reading. The authors tried to give good information on what the nobility were all about, in Poland, in Lithuania, and in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. If you don't know much about the subject, this is a good start. (If you do know a lot about the subject, maybe you should contribute to what's written there!)

<<http://poland.pl/economy/investments-projects/bullish-trade-china-shop/>>

Valerie Warunek posted this link to the Facebook group Polish Culture, Food and Traditions. It leads to an article by Szymon Babuchowski with the title "History of Porcelain Street in Katowice." Very interesting stuff!

<https://familysearch.org/locations/library_tips>

Valerie also posted this link to the Facebook page of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, saying, "For me, one of the ultimate genealogical trips is to visit Salt Lake City and highly recommend it. The tips on the FamilySearch website would apply to any research trip or facility." Checking out tips from the FamilySearch site is exactly the sort of obvious step we often overlook!

<<http://www.ipgs.us/poloniaindex/patilist0.html>>

Another post by Valerie Warunek (she's a busy lady!), this time of the Facebook group Polish Genealogy, cited this page on the iPGS site, saying, "Here is another website that could be useful as you research your families. Check out their surname list and add your own." We have mentioned iPGS before, but I'm not sure we've ever pointed out this particular feature.

<<https://www.its-arolsen.org/en/archives/overview-of-the-archival-holdings/general-inventory/>>

Jan Meisels Allen posted a note to the Records-Access-Alerts mailing list, explaining the International Tracing Service (ITS) has published its entire inventory on the Internet, and this is the link to it. "The inventory will assist researchers of the contents of the ITS holdings. Information includes information on the sub-collections, which entails the title, size, access number and a brief description of the contents. It is available in both English and German. The indexing project is not yet complete, and includes only partially completed indexed holdings." I have often seen researchers praise ITS as a superb source of information, and serious researchers will want to keep up with developments as they occur.

<<http://studyabroad.ku.edu/language-institute-lviv-ukraine>>

Lisa Guillian, Outreach Coordinator for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies, University of Kansas, posted a note to the SEELANGS mailing list (for teachers of Slavic languages) to announce that “the University of Kansas is once again offering its summer study abroad program in L’viv, Ukraine. Our 6-week intensive Ukrainian language program, run in partnership with the Ivan Franko National University of L’viv, is eligible for FLAS and other federal programs. KU is the only accredited U.S. university with a summer study abroad program in Ukraine. The KU Ukrainian Studies program was founded shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the first KU Language Institute in L’viv was held in 1994.” If you know of anyone interested, pass the word along.

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