



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>>

*** PROJEKT PODLASIE ***

by *Ola Heska* <ola@hwwd.com>

Editor—Ola Heska, a Chicago-area translator and volunteer, has often posted online regarding on the importance of Polskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne (The Polish Genealogical Society) and its efforts indexing records, including Metryki and Geneteka. She asked me to include this appeal in *Gen Dobry!*, and I'm glad to comply.

I would like to share a short video from digitalization of vital records registers from the parish of Tykocin that took place in January of this year. This particular video shows volunteers of the ProjektPodlasie group working on the 1665-1684 baptismal register:

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPS7gaGKagE&feature=youtu.be>>

ProjektPodlasie is a private venture under the leadership of Tomasz Dąbrowski and now consists of 25 volunteers. The group's goal is to digitize and preserve vital records registers from the Podlasie region. Most of the registers from this area are still held in individual parishes, and many are damaged and deteriorating. As many of us know, clergy from this region are reluctant to allow access to their records. Tomasz began working with his ancestral parish of Dąbrowa Wielka, the records from which have now been digitized and indexing is almost done.

As we say, "a drop hollows the rock" and Tomasz managed to convince other pastors from the area to agree to the same process. He is hoping to complete 10 parishes this year: Tykocin, Dąbrowa Wielka, Dąbrówka Kościelna, Wyszonki Kościelne, Zuzele, Ostrożany, Pobikry, Wysokie Mazowieckie, Jabłonka Kościelna, and Czyżew.

The initial step is to digitize the records. The next step is conservation, during which registers will be sent to a company specializing in working with archival materials to remove dust and mold, and to preserve the registers. Tomasz also is hoping to purchase archival boxes to hold the registers, to prevent further damage. Ideally, in the future, there would be enough funds to allow restoration of damaged materials. Once all registers are digitized, scans will be given to the individual parishes. Digitized records will be indexed and indexes will be available at the ProjektPodlasie.pl website, <<http://www.projektpodlasie.pl/>>, and in Geneteka. Now, the question, will we ever be able to obtain scans of our ancestors' records?

As I mentioned, clergy from Podlasie are reluctant to allow public access to their records. They agreed to have their records digitized but gave no publication rights. However, at my suggestion, Tomasz talked to the Tykocin pastor who agreed to send by e-mail scans of records discovered from the indexes at a small cost per scan. Given the situation, I think this is a good solution. Hopefully, other parishes will follow.

I decided that this project is worth supporting and, although I'm not a member of

ProjektPodlasie, I volunteered to help them with fund-raising. For this specific purpose, Fr. Jarosław, Pastor of the Tykocin parish, opened a separate bank account and, at my request, to save overseas donors high wire transfer fees, also opened a dedicated PayPal account. I am asking members of this group to make a donation to help save the vital records registers from Tykocin (we will be conducting fund-raisers for other parishes when/if needed). Every amount counts. Thank you very much for your generosity.

<<http://darowizna.projektpodlasie.pl/en/17-2/>>

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

Subject: *Dziennik Polski* Webinar

Editor—Ceil Jensen sent me this item to pass along to you.

Thank you for publishing our announcement for the March webinar series. It was a success. In fact, we had to change programs to allow for more attendees. While we will schedule new topics for the month of May, we are offering a complimentary webinar about the databases on our website “Michigan Polish Heritage” and the first batch of scans (1980-1985) of Detroit’s community newspaper *Dziennik Polski*. The scans are complemented by the obituary database, which has over 25,000 names and currently includes the years 1940-1980.

The scanning has been funded by generous contributions.

Orchard Lake, Michigan - Complimentary Webinar

Please register for the complimentary *Dziennik Polski* Webinar on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 1:00 PM EDT at:

<<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/1363208974529593860>>

The *Dziennik Polski* webinar will introduce you to our genealogy site “Michigan Polish Heritage.” We will focus on two databases of interest: sample scans of metro Detroit’s *Dziennik Polski* (1904 and 1919) and the related obituary database created by our volunteers; and scans for 1980-1985. The obituary database has over 25,000 names and currently includes the years 1940-1980.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the webinar.

Cecile Wendt Jensen, MA
Director of PARI

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Subject: Plagiarism is Alive and Well!

Editor—Back in January, Edward David Luft sent me this note about a publication of the Saskatoon Branch of SGS.

Yesterday at the Library of Congress, a friend and staff member discovered <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sksgs/Armchair_Genealogist_58.pdf>, which I never knew about before because the poster stripped out my name from my article, which appears on pp. 5-7. I do not think that is ethical; also I realize that the article was published in 2008. I also believe that the posting violates *Gen Dobry!*'s stated policy of requiring credit to *Gen Dobry!* when articles there are reprinted. I am most disappointed that my name was stripped out and that *Gen Dobry!* was not given proper credit.

Have you any way to remonstrate with the republisher of my article without my name and credit to *Gen Dobry!*? Can you make it known that I am most upset by the publisher's conduct in accepting for publication any article that I wrote with my name stripped out of it. I think that both of us are owed a major printed apology in the *Armchair Genealogist* and a promise never to print that way again from its current editor. The publisher needs to adopt a written policy never to republish without proper credit to the author and first publisher.

Thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,
Edward

Editor—I wrote what I thought was a very civilized note asking SBSGS to make this right. I sent it to the only e-mail addresses I could find that seemed current, <info@genealogysaskatoon.org>, and that of René Stock, who was listed as the head of the group in the most recent info I could find. It appears this organization is on Facebook, <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4970777987/>>, but I found no contact info there.

I've heard nothing for nearly two months. Does anyone out there know a better way to contact them so we could discuss this? I'd hate to conclude they think it's OK to take someone's work, strip away all identification, and pass it off as their own. If that's not plagiarism, I guess I don't know what the word means.

***** A NOTE ON THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PRZEMYŚL *****

by Debbie Greenlee

Editor—Debbie posted this on March 14 to the Polish Genius mailing list. I thought it might be worth passing on to others with interest in the Przemyśl area, and Debbie gave me permission to publish it here. Note that she is talking about Roman Catholic records; Paul S. Valasek reports Greek Catholic records for the Przemyśl area are held by the state archives and are not difficult to access.

Heads-up to anyone considering photographing record books in the archdiocese of Przemyśl. If you approach an individual parish priest about photographing his records (en masse) and he says he has to check with the bishop, just say, “Dziękuję,” and walk away. The bishop will not allow it.

This is not good news for researchers or those of us who think the church’s records should be protected and digitally archived. It is very difficult to gain access to the church records in Przemyśl. You must hire a researcher to get you in the door or who will do the research for you. Hiring a researcher is not necessarily a bad thing but it does limit how much one can accomplish.

Many churches in this archdiocese do not turn over their records to the archdiocesan archive according to the church’s timetable. This of course can be good for researchers because it is usually easier to see the records if they are in the parish. The downside is they are subject to fire and water damage, bugs, and general mishandling.

***** 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.

Forum, Spring 2016, Volume 28, No. 1, Federation of Genealogical Societies <<http://www.fgs.org>>

- Researching in Libraries & Archives: The Dos & Dont’s, by Melissa Barker
- Breaking Through Brick Walls: 10 Strategies to Find Your African American Ancestors, by Janice Lovelace, PhD
- A Look Back at PAST FGS Conferences, by Paula Stuart-Warren
- Ethics & Standards—Not So Very Different, by Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL
- Next Generation—The Importance of Self-Editing, by Shannon Combs-Bennett
- Forensic Genealogy—Forensic Genealogist versus Traditional Family Historian, Michael S. Ramage, JD, CG

- Beyond Boxes & Binders—Be the Ancestor Your Descendants Will Appreciate, by Linda Coffin
- Records Preservation & Access—Preservation Projects, Online Records & More, by Linda McCleary, MLS
- Reviews, by Melissa Barker (including a review of Rosemary A. Chorzempa's *Genealogy at a Glance: Polish Genealogy Research*)

*** † **MARIA BULDRINI** † ***

We were saddened to hear that Maria Budrini, the wife of Guido Buldrini, died on February 23, 2016. Guido has long been a selfless assistant to those interested in Polish and other genealogy; for instance, he provided help with Italian names on <<http://www.behindthename.com>>, and has coordinated Rafał's Surname List for years (a list of over 37,000 surnames begun by historian Rafał T. Prinke of Poznań). We offer Guido our sincere condolences, and encourage people to view the memento of his wife here.

<<http://www.webalice.it/buldrini/Mix/Memento.pdf>>

*** **UPCOMING EVENTS** ***

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

April 6, 2016

***DZIENNIK POLSKI* WEBINAR**

Orchard Lake, Michigan - Complimentary Webinar

Please register for the complimentary *Dziennik Polski Webinar* on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 1:00 PM EDT at:

<<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1363208974529593860>>

The *Dziennik Polski* webinar will introduce you to our genealogy site, "Michigan Polish Heritage." We will focus on two databases of interest: sample scans of metro Detroit's *Dziennik Polski* (1904 and 1919) and the related obituary database created by our volunteers; and scans for 1980-1985. The obituary database has over 25,000 names and currently includes the years 1940-1980. After registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the webinar.

[From an e-mail sent by Ceil Jensen to the editor]

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Tuesday, May 17

POLISH GENEALOGY RESEARCH: A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE RUSSIAN PARTITION

**Algonquin Area Public Library • 2600 Harnish Drive • Algonquin, Illinois
7 p.m.**

Another chance to catch **Ola Heska**'s well received presentation "Polish Genealogy Research: A Brief History of the Russian Partition." In 1795 Poland disappeared from the world maps and endured 123 years of foreign occupation. The country was divided and occupied by its three neighbors—Russia, Prussia, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This presentation is an overview of the causes and the results of the occupation, focusing on the Russian partition. Online sources of digitized materials and indexes will also be discussed.

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May 10–23, 2016

THE ROAD HOME: TRIP TO POLAND

A special tour of Poland to reconnect with your roots

with Jonathan Shea and Aleksandra Kacprzak

sponsored by the Polish American Foundation of CT

See <<http://www.paf-ct.org/www/a-special-tour-of-poland/>> for more details. To sign up or more questions e-mail: <dorena726@yahoo.com>.

Check us out on Facebook:

The Road Home-Polish American Foundation.
POLISH AMERICAN FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT
P.O. BOX 1525
New Britain, CT 06050-1525

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May 15, 2016

PGSA QUARTERLY MEETING

**“FINDING YOUR IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS’ ARRIVAL RECORDS ONLINE” —
MIKE KARSEN**

**Schaumburg Township District Library (NW), 130 S. Roselle Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60193
2:00 to 4 p.m.**

A professional speaker, **Mike Karsen** is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), the Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG), and is Past President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois.

This event will be held as a Webinar. For more information as it becomes available, visit the PGSA Website <<http://pgsa.org/calendar/>>.

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August 7 – 12, 2016

36TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

Seattle Sheraton in Seattle, Washington

The 36th annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held in Seattle, Washington, August 7–12, 2016. The focus for the 2016 conference is *The Wandering Jew*. Registration will begin January 3, 2016, with early-bird discounts applying through April 30, 2016.

For more information visit the website:

<<http://www.iajgs2016.org/>>

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August 14, 2016

PGSA QUARTERLY MEETING

**“POLISH IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA: WHEN, WHERE, WHY AND HOW” —
STEVE SZABADOS**

**Arlington Heights (NW) Memorial Library, 500 N. Dunton Ave., Arlington Hts., IL 60004
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

Steve Szabados is a genealogy lecturer and author. He has traced his ancestors back to 1600s New England and 1730s in Poland, Germany, Bohemia and Slovenia. His goal is to share his passion for Family History and he has given numerous presentations to genealogical groups and libraries.

This event will be held as a Webinar. For more information as it becomes available, visit the PGSA Website <<http://pgsa.org/calendar/>>.

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August 31 – September 3, 2016

**THE FGS 2016 CONFERENCE
TIME TRAVEL: CENTURIES OF MEMORIES
A Conference for the Nation's Genealogists
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

FGS and local host the Illinois State Genealogical Society invite you to join genealogists and family historians from throughout the world for some innovative time traveling experiences in Springfield, IL! Learn from exceptional speakers, network with other researchers, stroll through a large exhibit hall filled to the brim with vendors, and take in the amazing sights and sounds of Illinois' capital city.

(The November 23, 2015 issue of *EOGN* included the announcement that hotel reservations are open for this event. For more information visit the FGS Website.)

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

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October 9–19, 2016

POLISH ORIGINS TOUR OF GALICIA

PolishOrigins.com has been conducting tours to the former region of Galicia for four years, and the response has been extraordinary. This year, their September tour is already booked up, but they will conduct another tour in October. You can see the itinerary and learn more here:

http://polishorigins.com/document/galicia_tour

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November 20, 2016

**PGSA QUARTERLY MEETING
“HOLY COW! WHERE ARE MY POLISH CHICAGO CATHOLICS NOW?” —
TERESA STEINKAMP MCMILLIN, CG
Algonquin Public Library (NW), 2600 Harnish Dr., Algonquin, IL 60102
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

Teresa Steinkamp McMillin is a Certified Genealogist who specializes in German-American and Midwest research, as well as reading German script. She has been interested in genealogy

since she was a child and currently has many pleased clients. She presents quality genealogical lectures for local societies and national conferences.

This event will be held as a Webinar. For more information as it becomes available, visit the PGSA Website <<http://pgsa.org/calendar/>>.

*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***

<<http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2016/03/02/family-tree-maker-is-updated-and-ready-to-ship/>>

On 2 March 2016, *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* [EOGN] featured an article saying Family Tree Maker is updated and ready to ship. The above URL takes you to the Ancestry blog with more details.

<<http://blog.rootsmagic.com/?p=2668>>

Another EOGN item on 8 March announced that RootsMagic has added the capability of directly importing FTM databases without using GEDCOM. If you're interested, more info is available at this link.

<<http://blog.eogn.com/2016/03/10/announcing-the-register-of-qualified-genealogists/>>

EOGN had an article on March 10 about the Register of Qualified Genealogists. Among other things, the article said this "It means that it will now be possible to create a Register of those in our local and international communities who have advanced qualifications relevant to the field. It will also provide recognition for those holders of qualifications irrespective of the specialist areas in which they practice, whether they be archivists, family tree developers, probate researchers, legal advisors, media commentators, authors, teachers, paleographers, heraldic specialists or exponents in any other area where genealogical and family history expertise is needed. They will be identified by the post-nominal – QG."

<<http://blog.eogn.com/2016/03/28/ancestry-concedes-defeat-as-it-is-unable-to-restore-all-of-the-rootsweb-site/>>

This item, from March 28, quotes a statement from Ancestry that it has the RootsWeb site up and running again, but a lot of the site's data has been lost! "Specifically, we were unable to retrieve content from FreePages added after the summer of 2015. We understand these pages are important to you and are very sorry that we are not able to recover the data that was lost as a result of the hardware failure." You can read a bit more at the above link.

<<http://genealodzy.pl/index.php?name=PNphpBB2&file=viewtopic&p=318048#318048>>

On Facebook's Polish Genealogy group, Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz shared a tip from Waldemar Chorążewicz about a new collection of military data on conscripts and reservists in the Warsaw area, roughly 1848-1915. Follow the link—don't be discouraged that it's all in Polish—and go to the last post, by Włodzimierz Sroczyński, which lists the individual items and gives the link to see the records. There is a lot of good information there, and Julie, Waldemar, and Włodzimierz all deserve credit for spreading the word about it.

<<http://tinyurl.com/BSGanz2>>

The March 27 issue of *Nu? What's New?* included an item on the latest efforts of Reclaim the Records to make information available. This particular item deals with a petition to make the index to all New York City marriage records, 1930-2105 public. You can read about all of the requests Reclaim the Records has filed, including Missouri's birth index, 1910-2015, and Missouri's death index, 1910-2015, at <<https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/records-request/>>.

<<http://polishorigins.com/tour/genealogy-tour-preparation.pdf>>

This link lets you download a PDF from the PolishOrigins site on how to prepare for a genealogy tour in Poland.

<<http://tinyurl.com/WDYTYAApril2016>>

The March 6 issue of *Nu? What's New?* said the new season of *Who Do You Think You Are?* will begin on The Learning Channel on April 3. You can learn more at the TinyURL above, which *Nu?* included in its article.

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

The same issue of *Nu?* pointed out that Cyndi's List is 20 years old! As Gary Mokotoff said, this “free jumping-off point and a catalog for the immense genealogical collection that is the Internet ... is all done not by software, but by a live human being.” Whether you're new to genealogy or an old pro, Cyndi Ingle's list is a valuable resource we should all use—and that includes notifying Cyndi of broken links, to help her keep it current!

<<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/genealogicalproofstandardpart1/>>

The March 13 issue of *Nu?* suggested reading this article, about the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS), used by genealogist to demonstrate the minimum standards genealogists must meet for their work to be credible. This is all part of the efforts promoted by genealogists to improve the quality of our research, and therefore, its reliability and usefulness for others. You don't want to do all that work, only to have it prove useless, do you?

<<http://grandeguerre.icrc.org/>>

Jan Meisels Allen posted a note to the IA JGS Public Records Access Alert list, saying that lists of people captured and sent to detention camps during World War I were provided to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which filled out an index card for each one. There are five million, and now they are searchable at this address.

<<http://www.geneabloggers.com/six-reasons-human-better-google-translate-genealogy-documents/>>

Nick Gombash cited this entry in the Facebook group Genealogy Translations because he loved what it tells us about the limitations of Google Translate. I shudder when I see people say they wrote something in Polish or Russian, using Google Translate, and then sent it to someone. Google Translate can be helpful going from another language to English, as long as you're cautious about taking the results as Gospel. But going from English to another language—well, I really can't recommend that.

<<http://www.kdejsme.cz/>>

If you want some info on a Czech given name or surname, and are not intimidated by a website in the Czech language, this site gives data on each name's frequency and distribution in the Czech Republic for the last few years. As with similar Polish sites, entries for the most common names are not much help; searching Novák or its feminine form Nováková will tell you it's the most common surname in the Czech Republic, just as Nowak is in Poland. The name of the site is Czech for "Where are we?" Incidentally, Paul S. Valasek visited the site and found that using the correct diacriticals in spelling the names made a huge difference in results.

<<http://www.bociany.edu.pl/>>

For those who enjoy watching storks in their nests in Poland, it's that time of year. The first stork has arrived at the nest in Ustroń, and you can watch developments at this link. There are, of course, many other live cameras showing stork nests in Poland. Just Google "bociany online" and pick one.

<<https://www.xoom.com/poland/send-money>>

In a post to the Polish Genius mailing list, Ben Kman noted that PayPal has apparently acquired Xoom, which money people use to send money to Poland and other foreign countries. Xoom's rates are generally far more reasonable than what banks to transfer money to foreign accounts. If you need to send money to Poland, and have the recipient's bank account number, you might want to take a look at Xoom.

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