



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>>

***** VOLUNTEER AND DO YOURSELF SOME GOOD *****

by *Fred Hoffman* <wfh@langline.com>

I believe some of you know I have been associated with the Polish Genealogical Society of America for over 30 years, and have been editing the Society's periodicals—these days, the quarterly *Rodziny*—since 1993. Except for the years 2000–2006, I've never been close enough to Chicago to even consider going to meetings or participating actively as an officer or Board member. I don't feel too bad about it; I figure if I do a proper job of editing *Rodziny*, I've done my part.

I do know over the years, PGSA has seen its share of leaders, some better than others. I also know that for some time now, its leaders have been begging more members to participate in the Society's work, either as volunteers with databasing, indexing, and the like, or as members of the Board or officers. If you are a member and receive *Rodziny*, you've seen occasional invitations to help the Society.

I know that there are those who think the leaders have been doing a fine job, and there are others who offer legitimate criticism of the Society's activities. That is to be expected; a society where no one disagrees with anyone else can exist only in a graveyard!

But what's interesting these days is that the leaders and the critics are both agreeing: PGSA needs new blood! Important posts have remained empty for a long time simply because no one stepped forward and offered to help. The Society could do so much more if it had more volunteers. But the people serving now are already overburdened. They really can't take on much more.

I also know this situation is not exclusive to PGSA. As more and more resources have come online, more and more researchers think there's no need for genealogical societies. Why bother going to a meeting when you can get everything you want from the comfort and privacy of your home?

Only problem is, that's not true. A ton of great info is available online—but most of it needs a certain amount of expertise to use properly. You may need to be able to deal with multiple languages. You may need to deal with websites that are not always easy to use. Now more than ever, there is a need for the assistance that comes only when people with similar interests get together and make good things happen.

So I'm putting in a word to urge you to consider taking part in Society activities. It doesn't have to be PGSA. There's probably a group near you that what love to have your help. Plus, I have found repeatedly over the years that volunteering to assist others is the best way to gain skills in your own research! Dealing with others' questions almost always improves your ability to deal with your own. You don't have to volunteer out of generosity. You can do it strictly out of intelligent self-interest. But ***do it!!***

As for PGSA, here's their list of qualifications:

If you have been a PGSA member for two years, you are eligible to complete and submit a Board Candidate Qualification form. To download a form go to <<http://pgsa.org/about-pgsa/pgsa-bylaws/>>, scroll down to Article V, Nominations and Elections - Section 2a, and click on "PGSA Board Candidate Qualification Form," Mail to: Attn: Andrew Podraza, PGSA, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642-4101. **Deadline: July 1, 2016.**

*** THE LATEST FROM POLISHORIGINS ***

Editor—Here's the latest from PolishOrigins, for those of you who aren't signed up to receive their newsletter.

How excited we are this April at PolishOrigins! We have two very important reasons.

First: the new Touring season is coming and we cannot wait to meet all of our wonderful guests, to drive all those kilometers and hear the family stories that are waiting to be discovered. So far we already have 22 different tours planned for this season!

Where will we go? To begin the new season, **Zenon** will travel to Tarnów, Pstrągowa, and the Strzyżów area. It will almost be a family trip for him, since he was born in Strzyżów and his mother in Pstrągowa! Of course, we cannot miss the usual tourist gems such as Kraków and Zakopane. Imagine how beautiful and green it will be in May!

Zbigniew will travel to the northern part of Poland, to research in the Kujawy area and in the villages of Lubstów and Izbica. Our guests will discover the beautiful cities of Toruń, Gniezno, Poznań, and Gdańsk. They will also visit the recently opened "Emigration Museum" in Gdynia. The end of their trip will be to the far eastern border of Poland, toward the Belarusian border and the Białowieża National Park!

Danuta will be travelling to Włocławek in central Poland, to uncover more family history of our guests whose ancestors were Lutherans.

We will have many journeys through the length and breadth of Poland. From Truskolas near Szczecin through Suwałki, Augustów, and many villages in Lithuania. We will visit Miłówka in the Beskidy Mountains, Szafłary in Podhale, and Giełczyce, Kłodzko, and Nysa in Lower Silesia. Our guides will also be in Lublin and Gdańsk on several occasions. In addition to all of these places, we still offer our Galicia Tours and Kingdom of Poland Tour.

Our real pleasure will be to host our returning guests. In July we organized a family reunion meeting in Pułtusk, for a family that we met in 2014. Virginia, who we met in 2012 during

the first PO Galicia Tour, will return to visit Southern Poland, and discover the mysteries and decadent atmosphere of the Bieszczady Mountains. You can read her blog here:

<<http://blog.polishorigins.com/category/the-three-sisters-trip/>>

What new surprises will be revealed to our guests on their new tour? Well, we will soon find out.

Recently we found a video that significantly increases our excitement. How lucky we are to live in such a beautiful country! Watch “Holiday in Poland” by Jacek Drofiak and his film production company:

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekz6i58kVpI>>

If, after seeing it, you will want to drop everything and come to Poland, you can check our tours offer: <<http://tours.polishorigins.com/>>.

There are still openings for our Galicia Tour and Kingdom of Poland Tour. And of course you are always welcome for Genealogy Tours, Family Reunions, and other tailor-made tours. Do not wait, our calendar is filling up!

The second reason that keeps us so busy is our **new website**. We hope this will be launched soon. We’ve been planning this for years, and the last few months were marked by our intensive work on the graphics, content, and functionality.

Our main goals were to make it more contemporary, more visual and more organized. The new website will be adapted to mobile devices (smart phones, tablets...). It will have plenty of space for our future projects and it will make research of our resources easier and more effective.

We would love to share with you all the feelings that accompany our guests while they uncover Poland and their family history. They often admit that these are their trips of a lifetime. That is why you will see more pictures and videos. Blogs, where many of you have shared your genealogy adventures, will also get a new look.

We hope that you will be able to check it out very soon!

As always, we encourage you to share this e-mail. We would appreciate if you forward our mail to anyone you think might be interested in Polish genealogy and tours.

Greetings from Poland!

Aga, PolishOrigins Team

***** NEW AT GENTTEAM *****

by Felix Gundacker

Editor—We also like to pass along the latest info from GenTeam.eu, which typically offers all kinds of resources from central and eastern Europe.

1. **NEW:** Tenantry Registers of Moravia – approximately 190,000 entries
2. **NEW:** Proselyte in Vienna, (back) movements to Jewish Community – approximately 6,300 entries
3. **NEW:** Eisenstadt (Burgenland), old Jewish Cemetery – approximately 1,100 grave stones
4. Nuremberg (Germany) Index of Civil Records 1810-1983 – approximately 650,000 new entries, now over 1.6 Million
5. Dioceses Passau (Germany) – approximately 155,000 new entries
6. Vienna: Index of Catholic baptisms in Vienna for the years 1984-1915 – approximately 41,000 new entries
7. Vienna: Index of Catholic deaths in Vienna
8. Vienna: Index of Catholic marriages – approximately 55,000 new entries - now more than 900,000 total
9. Church book Registry-Indices of Lower Austria, Upper Austria, and Bohemia – approximately 195,000 new entries

Dear Researchers!

On my own account:

With today's new online records, the **32,500 registered users** have immediately **14 million entries** at their disposal. At this point, I would like to thank all those individuals, who have in the last 6 years furnished GenTeam with vital information, all those who work on long-term projects, but also all those who have worked behind the scenes to ensure that GenTeam functions properly and continues to expand.

GenTeam is a 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.**

Other developments created parallel to GenTeam are <<http://www.GenList.at>>, a bilingual

mailing list with more than 1,700 members, as well as the genealogical link collection found at <<http://www.GenLink.at>>.

And Now To The Actual Update:

1. Tenantry Registries (Dominion) of Moravia -- Approximately 190,000 Entries

Due to an already 1657 completed recording of tenant registers, an additional subject directory of Moravia was indexed by three authors, namely by Magistrate Kotačka, Magistrate Josef Peterka, and PhD Ivo Sperát with enhancements of territorial municipalities.

An Index consisting of surname, given name, and manor was posted online at GenTeam. In the Index are almost all subjects of all confessions listed.

Both comprehensive volumes (2,252 pages) with additional information like localities and professions can be ordered directly from Dr. Sperát at:

<<http://www.sperat.cz/nakladatelstvi/vydane-knihy/books/>>

2. Proselyte in Vienna -- approximately 6,300 entries

The Index Proselyten, created by Univ. Doz. Dr. Anna Staudacher, refers to the double volume recently published by Publishing House Peter Lang: *Proselyten und Rückkehr (Proselyten und Rückkehr - der Übertritt zum Judentum in Wien 1868-1914*, Peter Lang Edition, ISBN 978-3-631-60683-4) - an inventory, the date of birth was added for the more detailed identification of the persons. Part 1 - 569 pages - contains introductions to the sources and the topic in German and English as well as a marriage list of those who converted with the date of conversion (pages 217 - 563). Part 2 - 827 pages - contains the data of the proselyte protocols in editorial form with a multitude of supplemental sources to the spouses, parents with their occupations and children, to rescissions, now and then also to changes of names—with a bilingual user guide.

3. Eisenstadt (Burgenland, Austria), old Jewish Cemetery -- approximately 1.100 gravestones

This database was created by Mag. Johannes Reiss and his team at OJM (Austrian Jewish Museum) <<http://www.ojm.at>> (in German only). On 1,082 gravestones, 1,105 last names are to be found. Via QR you can find each grave. The oldest stone is from the year 1679 (Hirz Kamen).

4. Nürnberg/Nuremberg (Germany) -- Approximately 650,000 new entries, now 1.65 Million

At the end of 2010, GenTeam furnished an online index of civil records for the city of Nuremberg for the time frame of 1810 – 1879 with approximately 990,000 entries.

Now GenTeam has added an additional 650,000 entries to this index. Each entry contains surname, given name and, for records before 1920, confessions of faith. Also an order number is given for additional information that can be acquired for a fee from the City Archive at the following link:

<<https://www.nuernberg.de/internet/stadtarchiv/>>

5. Dioceses Passau (Germany) – approximately 154,000 new entries

Of the now approximately 2,95 million church records from the Dioceses Passau about 440,000 are marriages and are complete, about 1,4 million are baptisms, and the remainder are deaths.

In this database you will find parish, volumes, page numbers, surnames, Christian names, Date/Year or records, many times but not always profession, as well as address /place. You will find the church registers of the Dioceses Passau at <<http://www.matricula-online.eu>>. You will find a table listing all parishes with updated time frames and important tips under Hilfe/Info (Help/Information).

The Archive of the Dioceses Passau and GenTeam would like to thank cordially for the transmitted corrections as well as for all new records.

6. Baptismal Index Vienna between 1585 and 1915 – approximately 41,000 new Databases, more than 1 million already online!

Entries from the following parishes were added: 01 Schotten, 01 Sankt Stephan, 03 Erdberg, 05 Sankt Florian (Matzleinsdorf), 05 Sankt Josef Margarethen, 07 Sankt Ulrich, 07 Schottenfeld and 10 Sankt Johann Evangelist (the numbers are the districts).

You will find a listing of all parishes with updated time frames under Help ([Hilfestufe](#)).

At this point I would like to take the opportunity to cordially thank Elisabeth Kultscher, Alexander Masak, Lisi Maxa, Dr. Günter Oppitz, Gerda Smodej, Judith Starke, and Wolfgang Sturm as well to all those, who already are working on other indices, which will be posted online in the near future.

I also would like to invite you to collaborate on this project. Please contact me:

<kontakt@GenTeam.at>.

7. Index of Catholic Deaths in Vienna

Since the list of the deceased in the Viennese 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, age one year and under, are missing); therefore,

we at GenTeam have begun an index of Catholic Burials.

New entries were added today of the following parishes: 01 Sankt Michael and 01 Schotten.

Again, you will find a listing of all parishes with updated time frames under “Help” (Hilfestufe).

I would like to express my warmest thanks to Monika Fischer.

8. Vienna: Index of Catholic Marriages -- approximately 55.000 new entries - in total now over 900.000

The index of Catholic marriages of Vienna created a few years ago (1542 to appr. 1860; including the ever-present military in Vienna), will now be extended to the year 1938.

Additional entries are added from the 09 Votivkirche, 10 Sankt Anton (now complete), 17 Hernals and 21 Leopoldau.

You will find a listing of all parishes with updated time frames under Help.

I would like to express my heart-felt gratitude to Claudia Heres, Georg Marlovics, Franz Spevacek, Dipl.-Ing. Leopold Strenn, and Jesko Stampa for their valuable help.

9. Church Records Indices from Lower Austria, Upper Austria, and Bohemia -- Approximately 195,000 entries from Catholic Church Records were added.

At GenTeam you will find the complete list of Parishes with updated time frames under Help (Hilfestufe).

Lower Austria:

Allhartsberg, Ameis, Eibenstein, Groß, Großnondorf, Großpertholz, Kleinzell, Kottes, Krumau am Kamp, Mittergrabern, Schwarzenbach in der Buckligen Welt, Senftenberg, Stockerau und Straning.

Upper Austria:

Linz-Urfahr, Wartberg ob der Aist

Bohemia:

Reichenau/Rychnov nad Knezou

At this point I would like to cordially thank Dominik Bichlmayer, Min.Rat.iR. Johann Frank, Franziska Heidrich, Elisabeth Kultscher, Theodora Winkler, Clemens Weidmann, Leo Pum, Mag. Gabi Rudinger-Ferger, Anna and Franz Schübl, as well as the small team of Linz.

My special calling applies solely to Graz and Linz researchers, these cities are so important to expand general indexes.

Comments:

The ingenious Auto-complete function will help you to solve orthographic problems, for example by choosing certain regions or names. For example, if you only want to inquire about the church records from Graz, you will enter in the parish search field <Graz>. If you search for example for the city Kleinpertenschlag, of which you don't know whether it was entered as Klein Pertenschlag, Klein-Pertenschlag, or Kleinpertenschlag, then you enter in the search field only <pertenschlag>. Though this will increase the number of hits, but it also will heighten the chance to find the entry. The often so annoying wild cards become herewith superfluous — they are not intended by GenTeam.

You can also enter parts of names to improve your rate of hits.

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, should you only have questions, please contact me anytime.

Sincerely yours,
Felix Gundacker

Pantzergasse 30/8
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Telephone: 0043 676 40 11 059

E-mail: <kontakt@GenTeam.at>
Databases: <<http://www.GenTeam.eu>>
Mailing List: <<http://www.GenList.at>>

“Connecting genealogists”

***** 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, April 2016, Volume 3, No. 2. <<http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eer/>>

- More About Mushrooms, Jurate Malinauskiene

- April 30, 1950 *Albany Times Union*: “Schenectady Polish Groups to Mark Triple Anniversary in City Today – Banquet Tonight to be Feature of Program,” submitted by Brianna Guckemus
- The Urbanski Family, John Urbanski
- The Budka Trumpeters, Phyllis Zych Budka
- Timeline: Schenectady Sojourn (1901-1925) of Julianna nee Polek Jakubczak—Later Years (1918-1925), Leonard F. Jakubczak, Ph.D.
- The Kornackis – Part IV, Martin Byster

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<<http://pgsa.org>>

- Old Polish Proverbs, Iwona Dakiniewicz
- PGSA Financial Statement for 2015, David Lewandowski
- ProjektPodlasie, Ola Heska
- Short Story about the Origin of the Family Names Radzimski and Radziemski, Zbigniew Radzimski and Leon Radziemski
- Memoirs of a Peasant, Chapter Seven, Jan Słomka, translated by William F. Hoffman
- From the *Słownik geograficzny*: Mielecka Wola, Piątkowice, and Zalesie (Borszczów powiat), translated by William F. Hoffman
- Review: *Slaughterhouse: Chicago’s Union Stock Yard and the World It Made*, by Dominic Pacyga, reviewed by Rosalie Lindberg

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

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

May 1, 2016

POLISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS AND JEWISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF BOSTON JOINT MEETING

**Books of Residents & Other Valuable Polish Records -- Fay and Julian Busgang
Goodnow Library • 21 Concord Road • Sudbury, MA 01776
2 p.m.**

There are many valuable genealogical resources in Poland beyond vital records, some of which are now available online. The most informative are Books of Residents (Księgi Ludności). These are 19th–20th century municipal registration books that have survived for many towns. They contain detailed information about all the inhabitants in each household who had their legal residence in that community. Other useful documents include business directories, passport and I.D. applications, notary records, deportation to Siberia records, professional and military

records. Fay and Julian Bussgang will show examples of data from these sources and explain how to access them. This talk will focus on documents that are not connected to any particular religious group but apply to all who have roots in Poland.

Admission is free, please bring a friend.

About the Speakers

Fay Bussgang has authored over 20 articles on genealogy, as well as the chapter “Russian Poland” in the *Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy*. Fay and her husband, Julian, have done extensive genealogical research during 14 trips to Poland. Fay served as co-president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston in 1998–2000.

Julian Bussgang, born in Lwów, Poland, fled with his family in September 1939 to Romania and then to Palestine. There he joined the Polish 2nd Corps (Anders Army) and fought in the Italian campaign. After the fall of communism, he served in Warsaw and Krakow as a volunteer with the International Executive Service Corps. In 2011, he received the Knight’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland for his activities promoting Polish-Jewish dialogue.

[from an e-mail sent by Joe Kielec]

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May 5, 2016

WEBINAR OF THE POLONICA-AMERICANA RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PARI)

This is Women’s Work – Midwifery

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Explore the records, traditions, and superstitions that accompanied our ancestors’ births. This session explores the role of midwives in the 19th and early 20th century in Poland and ethnic communities in America. Ledgers, licensing, and newspaper accounts document the important role of the midwives.

If you have any questions about our new webinar series, please call (248) 683-0323 or e-mail <afollbaum@orchardlakeschools.com>.

To register: <<http://miplheritage.org/home/webinars/>>

Hope to see you online soon!

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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 11, 2016

WEBINAR OF THE POLONICA-AMERICANA RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PARI)

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

An In-Depth Look at the Prussian Partition

The Polish provinces of that make up this partition include East Prussia, known in German as Ostpreußen and West Prussia, known in German as Westpreußen. Additionally, the Province of Posen (German: Provinz Posen) will be listed in Polish documents as Prowincja Poznańska; Silesia (German: Provinz Schlesien) is Prowincja Śląska in Polish; part of the Province of Pomerania (German: Provinz Pommern) became Poland's Województwo Pomorskie after World War II. Ancestors may have cited their place of birth as one of the larger cities such as Poznan, Września, Gniezno, Luboń, or Kalisz. They are more likely to have come from small villages or shtetls such as Tulce, Bnin, Rogalinek, or Świątniki. Join us and explore the records, maps, and history of this ancestral area.

If you have any questions about our new webinar series, please call (248) 683-0323 or e-mail <afollbaum@orchardlakeschools.com>.

To register: <<http://miplheritage.org/home/webinars/>>

Hope to see you online soon!

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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/>>.

SIGN UP AT <<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/49616935335564036>>

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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 18, 2016

WEBINAR OF THE POLONICA-AMERICANA RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PARI) 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

An In-Depth Look at Russian Poland

Russian Poland was also known as Congress Poland or the Kingdom of Poland. This area of Poland was under Russian imperial rule from 1772-1918. Its population increased to 6.1 million in 1870 and 10 million in 1900. Ancestors might cite their place of birth as one of the larger cities in such as Płock, Łomża, Białystok, Warsaw, or Lublin. They are more likely to have come from shtetls or small villages such as Kuczbork, Posadów, or Ilza. Explore with us the history,

maps, and records of this ancestral area.

If you have any questions about our new webinar series, please call (248) 683-0323 or e-mail <afollbaum@orchardlakeschools.com>.

To register: <<http://miplheritage.org/home/webinars/>>

Hope to see you online soon!

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May 25, 2016

WEBINAR OF THE POLONICA-AMERICANA RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PARI)

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

An In-Depth Look at Galicia

Not to be confused with a region of the same name located on the Iberian peninsula in Spain, Galicia was a historical region once part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, covering territory currently divided between southern Poland and Ukraine. The name changes slightly with regional languages: Galicja in Polish, Galizien in German, and Galytsye in Yiddish. Ethnic Polish ancestors coming from this region may be listed as “Austrian” in stateside records. Additionally, they may provide their birthplace as one of the major cities such as Lviv (Polish: Lwów, German: Lemberg), Kraków (German: Krakau, Yiddish: Kruke), or Przemyśl (Ukrainian: Peremyshl, German: Prömsel). However, in most cases, they were from outlying villages. The Polish Galician region had a varied ethnic mix: Poles, Ruthenians (Ukrainians), Germans, Armenians, Jews, Hungarians, and Romanians. Explore with us the records, maps, and history of this ancestral area.

If you have any questions about our new webinar series, please call (248) 683-0323 or e-mail <afollbaum@orchardlakeschools.com>.

To register: <<http://miplheritage.org/home/webinars/>>

Hope to see you online soon!

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June 1, 2016

WEBINAR OF THE POLONICA-AMERICANA RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PARI)

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Immigration Agents

During the time period 1840s–1900, many states in the Union competed for immigrants and settlers. Learn how state agents, working with shipping lines, recruited future citizens both at U.S. ports and in villages and towns in Europe; and learn about the record sets they created.

If you have any questions about our new webinar series, please call (248) 683-0323 or e-mail afollbaum@orchardlakeschools.com.

To register: <http://miplheritage.org/home/webinars/>

Hope to see you online soon!

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June 1, 2016

POLISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS

“Worcester ‘Powiat’: Polonia in Central Massachusetts” – Barbara Proko

Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish Hall • 34 Ward Street • Worcester, MA 01610

2 p.m.

Admission is free but please register at:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/o/polish-genealogical-society-of-massachusetts-8158664657>

Today more than 50,000 people in Worcester County self-identify as Polish Americans, the majority descending from immigrants who settled in Central Massachusetts a century or more ago. These ethnic Poles came not from a sovereign nation called Poland but from the German, Austrian, and Russian empires. Overlooking their disparate places of origin, they bonded to create a vibrant web of relationships in their new shared county—Worcester powiat, as it might be called in Polish.

In Clinton, Dudley, Gardner, Southbridge, Webster, West Warren, and Worcester, they organized Polish parishes. In other towns with significant Polish populations, such as Gilbertville, South Grafton, and Uxbridge, they founded Polish homes and Pilsudski clubs. And they traveled countywide to support and celebrate their shared ethnic heritage at a broad range of religious, social, athletic, and cultural activities.

What do we know today of their lives a century ago? How can we trace our own Polish families back from Central Massachusetts to Europe? This program will consider the chain migration that brought the immigrants from their places of origin through European and American ports to their ultimate settlement in Massachusetts, focusing on the myriad organizations and events that unified them here. Finally, it will identify a variety of helpful resources for documenting these Polish lives in Worcester County.

Bio

The granddaughter of Polish immigrants, Barbara Proko grew up in Worcester and graduated from St. Mary’s High School (New England’s only co-ed Polish secondary school). Over the past two decades, she has traced her ancestral Polish lines back to the 1700s, largely through

microfilmed Latin, Polish, and Russian records of Roman Catholic parishes in the Lida region. Some of her family history research appears online in her blog, *Basia's Polish Family: From Wilno to Worcester* <<http://www.wilnoworcester.blogspot.com>>.

A graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Barbara has enjoyed a long career in journalism, reporting and editing at Maine newspapers; in public relations for nonprofit organizations; in e-book publishing; and in academic magazine editing. She served as the project manager and lead coauthor of three Arcadia Publishing books, and has appeared as a speaker and workshop presenter at a variety of genealogical society, library, community, and historical association events.

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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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September 24, 2016

**PGSA GENEALOGICAL WORKSHOP
Taft High School, 6530 West Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago, Illinois 60631
10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

The mission of PGSA is to assist members with their own genealogical research by providing books, newsletters, bulletins, printed information, regular meetings, and an annual conference/workshop.

This year we are offering a one-day workshop to help those new to genealogy as well as those who have been engaged in the current #1 hobby for some time.

We will provide an opportunity for all to meet people, learn research skills, and perhaps connect with close and distant family members.

More information will be provided as it becomes available, in upcoming issues of *Rodziny*, in the *Genealogy Notebook*, and on PGSA's website:

<http://pgsa.org/calendar/>

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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://uptranslators.wix.com/polishmedia>>

Debbie Greenlee posted a note to the Polish Genius mailing list, saying “English students at Jagiellonian University in Kraków are translating Polish news articles into English for those who don’t read Polish ... Read about the new Polish president, the controversy about Lech Wałęsa, Poland’s stand on its own immigration problem, Poles saving Jews in Markowa, why Brits like immigrants but hate immigration, the future of Ukraine, and much more.” Above is the URL she gave.

<<http://jri-poland.org/psa/lodz-registration-card-scans.htm>>

In an announcement posted to the JewishGen newsgroup, Stanley Diamond, head of Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-Poland), explained that the JRI-Poland website has links to digital images of Łódź Registration Cards 1916-1921. He said these cards “contain name of head of household and his/her occupation, religion, birth place and birth date and where they lived before. They also include name of the spouse and where born, and names of children and their birth place and birth date. There are also addresses where they lived and changes of address are also recorded.” The URL above tells more about the cards and links to the images by

alphabetical groupings of surnames. While this source will probably be of particular benefit to Jewish researchers, anyone with Łódź roots should at least take a look.

<<https://germanscriptexperts.com/2016/04/18/making-the-case-for-seeing-the-bigger-picture/>>

Ute Brandenburg is a gifted translator of German documents, owner of the Website <<https://germanscriptexperts.com>>. This is a blog entry she posted on April 18th, and it should be required reading for people who have to deal with records not in English. She explains clearly how and why more is better. Don't give a translator a tiny fragment of a page and expect him or her to produce brilliant insights. Give larger samples, or better yet, a link where the whole page can be studied, along with pages before and after. The more context a translator has, the better the results. This also applies to you when you are trying to make sense of records without professional help. Take a look at the big picture, not just the one entry you're concentrating on. It can really pay off.

<<https://vimeo.com/161812566?ref=fb-share&1>>

Ceil Jensen shared this link on Facebook. "Here is the recording of our Polish Mission webinar featuring our genealogy website 'Michigan Polish Heritage' and our latest project, digitizing the community newspaper *Dziennik Polski*. The lecture runs 45 minutes followed by a Q&A."

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qq8leJ6XLbl>>

This has nothing to do with genealogy, and only an indirect connection with Poland via Chopin. Monika Monza Grulkowski shared this YouTube link with the Facebook group Polish Culture, Food and Traditions back on 12 April 2016. It features the beginning of the first movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony done in the style of Chopin. I couldn't imagine what this would sound like, but after listening to it, I'm a fan!

<<http://www.culinary-heritage.com/recipes.asp>>

Valerie Warunek mentioned this site in a post to the same Facebook group. It lets you search various parts of Europe, including Poland, for recipes. I think I can do without the Czernina (Duck Blood Soup) from Kujawy i Pomorze, Poland, or the Stuffed Squid from Split-Dalmatia, Croatia. But for a lot of folks, food is an integral part of their heritage; and this site may help you make a pleasant connection.

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

In a post to the Polish Genius mailing list, Roman Kałużniacki—who does not make a habit of posting links to items of interest (as he said, "there is way too much of that stuff on Facebook")—thought this Wikipedia article was of real value to anyone researching families in

eastern Galicia, that is, the part that is now western Ukraine. If Roman thinks it's worth sharing, that's good enough for me. (But I took a look anyway, and I want to go back and read the whole thing carefully when I have time.)

<http://www.thenews.pl/>

In another post to Polish Genius, "Paul in Florida" explained that when he lived in Germany, he found it useful to read an English-language newspaper, then listen to news in German on the radio. He found it helped him improve his understanding of German. He suggests doing the same thing with Polish. The URL above has news in English and Polish as well as a "Listen live" button. Paul also likes to use *The Krakow Post* <http://www.krakowpost.com/>, <http://lodzpost.com/>, and <http://www.tvn24.pl/>. He's definitely on to something; I've found I understand spoken Polish better when I watch news in Polish on stories I know something about. It helps me assimilate the speaking patterns, the use of endings and other aspects of grammar, and tendencies in modern colloquial Polish. If you have a chance, give it a try!

http://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/before-ellis-island-existed-castle-garden-welcomed-houdini-and-typhoid-mary?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=jstor

Alan Kania posted this link to the Polish Genius mailing list. "It's a short history of Castle Gardens, the immigration check-point that was replaced by Ellis Island. The website address is long, so I advise copying and pasting the ENTIRE address ... It's always nice to have a little history behind the information we gather about our ancestors. There are a few other related stories on Atlas Obscura's web-page."

<http://bazy.oss.wroc.pl/kzc/index2.php>

In a post to the JewishGen newsgroup, Logan Kleinwaks encouraged researchers to explore the digitized holdings of the Ossolineum at this URL. You can search for towns (using Polish spelling with diacritical marks), magnates, keywords, etc. Google "Ossolineum" if you're not familiar with this major institution. Logan also offers sources mentioning Jews in a number of Galician towns at <http://genealogyindexer.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=5163>. The towns are: Busk, Dobromil, Folwarki Wielki near Brody, Gwoździec, Horożanka, Jazłowiec, Jezierzany, Leszniów, Leżajsk, Lipsko, Magierów, Nawaria, Niżniów, Sassów, Sokołów, Sokołówka, Stanisławczyk, Tartaków, Tłumacz, Toporów, Touste, Turka, Turka Średnia, Ulanów, Wielki Oczy, Winniki, and Zborów.

<http://www.nypl.org/blog/2016/03/25/introducing-pic>

In a post to the Polish Genius mailing list, "Polish Dragon" gave this URL for the New York Public Library's new online catalog of photographers since its beginning. "An ambitious undertaking to be sure. There are over 400 listed for Poland. The database lists those with Polish origins based in other countries and other nationalities working in Poland. A huge and somewhat

cumbersome database to work with, but obviously helpful if you have photos to ID or ancestors who were in the business. Database goes up into the 20th century. They welcome additions or corrections.”

<<http://www.loecsen.com/travel/audioworldmap.html>>

Edward Luft pointed this site out to me. It displays a map of the earth, and allows you to click on a variety of individual countries and then hear how the names of many places in that country are pronounced. Poland is one of them, and this map can give you useful assistance in pronouncing the names of its major towns and cities correctly. No more calling Łódź “Loads,” or calling Kraków “Crack-ow.” There was a time people had an excuse for mispronouncing unfamiliar place names, but that time has passed!

<<http://sktranslations.com/ten-tips-deciphering-old-german-handwriting>>

Those who have trouble deciphering German handwriting in documents can get some good tips here.

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