



# Gen Dobry!

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Editor: William F. “Fred” Hoffman, e-mail: <[wfh@langline.com](mailto:wfh@langline.com)>

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\*\*\* WELCOME! \*\*\*

to the latest issue of *Gen Dobry!*, the e-zine of PolishRoots®. If you missed previous issues, you can find them here:

<<http://polishroots.org/GenDobry/tabid/60/Default.aspx>>

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### \*\*\* ANCESTRY RETIRING *FAMILY TREE MAKER* SOFTWARE \*\*\*

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

I think the biggest story in genealogy this month was Ancestry's announcement that it is retiring Family Tree Maker software. Since I don't do actual genealogical research, I don't work with the various software programs researchers use, and I have no strong opinion on the matter. From what I've read on mailing lists and on Facebook genealogy groups, however, it's pretty clear this has provoked strong reactions.

As is so often the case, the reactions differ. For instance, Dick Eastman wrote:

This announcement shouldn't surprise anyone ... The fact that Family Tree Maker is being dropped shouldn't be a major problem for anyone. There are numerous alternatives. In fact, if anyone prefers to stick with a desktop or laptop program, there are many good ones available for Windows, Macintosh, and even for Linux.

You can read his remarks here:

<<http://blog.eogn.com/2015/12/08/ancestry-to-retire-family-tree-maker-software/>>

On the other hand, another astute and experienced researcher, Gary Mokotoff, wrote this in the 20 December 2015 issue of *Nu? What's New?*

This is a major blunder on Ancestry's part. They have abandoned a very popular part of their product line and are providing no substitute. Ancestry states that FTM is the "#1 Family History Selling Software." Admittedly offline genealogical software is slowly being replaced by online versions, but today no online version provides the functionality of many of the offline systems. MyHeritage is demonstrating the proper way to go. They are integrating their genealogical software program, Family Tree Builder, with their continual accessing of data. MyHeritage states if new acquisitions might be of interest to an individual researcher, their SmartMatch system will notify the user of the new acquisition. What will Ancestry have 10 or 20 years from now? Just billions and billions of records with no way for veteran users to know whether their new acquisitions are of value to them. There is nothing more frustrating to an intermediate or advanced researcher to go back periodically to sites such as FamilySearch or Ancestry to determine if new data has been acquired that is applicable to their research.

If Dick Eastman and Gary Mokotoff can't agree on what to think about this, I'm not about to stick my nose into the middle of it. For me, the one thing we obviously must recognize is that software changes, and researchers constantly have to cope with those changes, praying they won't be for the worse. I weep for programs I've used in the past that were either "improved" into worthlessness or heartlessly abandoned by their makers. So I can sympathize with those who are sad to hear of Ancestry's decision.

I hope that plenty of other people will recognize the truth in Gary Mokotoff's words and will come up with ways to handle the problem. When lots of people have the same problem, someone usually does find a decent solution. Dick Eastman's article, and the 195 comments posted so far, suggest they're already on the job. The one thing we can probably all agree on is what Dick Eastman wrote in response to one of the comments: "I don't see today's announcement as a 'good thing' or a 'bad thing.' Instead, I see it as an inevitable thing. Change is always uncomfortable. I suspect there will be many uncomfortable changes in the next few years."

With that sad bit of wisdom, I wish you all a splendid (and not too uncomfortable) 2016!

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

Subject: Native Speakers at the WIESCO School Program

*Editor*—This is a press release Robert M. Pine sent me to share with you.

Poland: Native Speaker at Our School Program

WIESCO is pleased to cooperate with the Polish-American Freedom Foundation (PAFF) and the Nidzica Development Foundation (NIDA) in their program to bring native speakers of English to rural schools in Poland. In their words:

There is a great need for native speakers of English among our teachers and pupils. We organize travel and accommodation within Poland and the Native Speakers make presentations and lessons with pupils or/and teachers. We will cover the costs of your accommodation and transportation within Poland for this period. We are also eager to show you interesting regional and local places during your visit.

If it interests you to experience the Poland that lies beyond the major cities and sites, this is an extraordinary program. You will meet and engage with English speaking teachers and students during visits to rural schools to provide them with the opportunity to apply their study of the English language first hand, with an American, in an environment less formal and more spontaneous than their typical class, and for them to learn about the land and culture of their visitor from America. Plus, your hosts are pleased to show you the best their area offers.

To a degree, you are able to tailor your experience:

- You choose the general area of Poland to be visited.
- You determine the duration of your visit, from one to four weeks within the period of late September through early November of 2016.
- You select the level of students to be addressed.
- You design your presentations, with which we can assist.

For the next couple of months we are assisting the Polish organizations in recruiting volunteers for their program. Arrangements for the fall program will be completed by May. For more details, contact Robert M. Pine: <[rmpine@wiesco.org](mailto:rmpine@wiesco.org)> or 630-279-5646 (Chicago area).

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Subject: *Journey To Polonia*, a Novel

*Editor*—Geraldine Prusko sent us a note about a book she has written that may interest our readers.

Dear Sir:

As the editor of the Polish Roots website, here is a book you may wish to add to your recommendations. It is a book of historical fiction about the second great wave of emigration from Poland to the United States. The book is titled, *Journey to Polonia - Book One, The Polish Americans*.

Here's a short synopsis:

Olivia, a teenager, suffers a brutal attack by a distant family member. To help her heal, she begins to investigate her ethnic history. Her grandmother's story of her journey from Poland at the turn of the twentieth century touches her deeply. This causes her to seek the facts of her other ancestors' emigration journeys to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The novel highlights the history of Poland in the 1800's when it existed mainly in the minds of its people since it did not exist as an independent state from 1795 to 1918. Emigrants like Olivia's ancestors found a community in cities across America that they called Polonia. This is the story of how they kept their language, culture and traditions alive in a new land.

The novel is the first in a series. Book Two will be finished shortly.

Please contact me if you would like a copy. It is also available on my website:

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Geraldine Prusko

*Editor*—Geraldine added that if anyone is interested in reviewing the book, she'll be glad to talk to them. If we have any would-be reviewers out there, contact me and I'll give you her e-mail address.

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Subject: Genealogy scams

*Editor*—Thomas Sajwaj sent me this note, and I thought I'd share it with you, so that any of you who wish to comment may do so. I have edited the note he forwarded to remove names and specific data of people; but anyone who wants to know more can write me and I'll forward your note to Tom.

I got this surprising DNA match. And, maybe my mother's line might run into Russia proper. But, please note Alexey's P. S.

Are there scams where individuals fake their genealogy? I guess it would be naive to say there isn't, but are there common ones?

Tom Sajwaj

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On Dec 9, 2015, at 4:10 PM, Alexey wrote:

Good day! Im Alexey from Moscow. I am 30 years old. We have a match with you on Gedmatch!

I know very well a maternal line. Paternal-worse, but I heard that it have a Jewish roots. I gather information about paternal line.

[Deleted: names and dates for specific people]

Today it is all information about my ancestors. But I work and I hope that we will find a general ancestor!

I uploaded my RAW-data to Gedmatch and wait results.

What country and surnames of your ancestors?

P.S. I don't need any benefit. I'm interesting genealogy only.

*Editor*—I told Tom there is undoubtedly fraud in genealogy, as in all human activities. But from what I've heard, it's usually due to people copying data and incorporating it into their family trees without bothering to check and see if it's applicable. Of course, there are crooks who use data to invent or steal identities for their own scams; but they could get, and do get, most of that info without bothering with genealogy (which requires actual work!). That's why so many legislative efforts to restrict

data miss the point; they restrict genealogists without really putting obstacles in the way of the bad guys ... I told Tom I thought Alexey was probably trying to reassure him he had no ulterior motives. When people write you out of the blue, it's natural to have some suspicion, and perhaps Alexey just wanted to assure Tom he was on the level. But I advised a little caution, just in case...

That's my take on this. What's yours?

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

<<http://www.GenTeam.eu>> - approximately 390,000 additional entries online

Vienna, November 8th, 2015

New at GenTeam:

1. Jewish records of Trebitsch/Trebic – approximately 10,600 new records
2. Diocese Passau (Germany) – approximately 71,000 new entries
3. Vienna: index of Catholic Baptisms 1584-1914 – approximately 150,000 new entries
4. Vienna: index of Catholic death records in Vienna– approximately 33,000 new entries
5. Register Indices from Lower and Upper Austria, Burgenland, Bohemia and Moravia – approximately 125,000 new entries

Dear Researchers,

On my own account:

With today's new online records, the 30,400 registered users have immediately 12.7 million entries at their disposal. At this point, I would like to thank all those individuals, who have in the last six 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 free of charge to all researchers. All data at GenTeam is available free of charge. By the way, the use of GenTeam requires no membership fee.

Other developments created parallel to GenTeam is the <<http://www.GenList.at>>, a bilingual mailing list with more than 1,600 members.

Now to the new update.

#### 1. Jewish records (Vital Statistics) of Trebitsch/Trebic, Moravia 1783-1938

At this point I would like to express my heart-felt gratitude by Arthur Spira, who made this important database of a Jewish Community in Southern Moravia.

#### 2. Diocese Passau, Germany – approximately 71,000 new entries

Of the approximate 2.79 million register entries of the Passau Diocese about 440.000 marriages and are complete, about 1.3 million are baptisms, and the remainder are deaths. In this data base you will find parish, volume, page number, surname, given name, date/year of event, not always profession, and place of residence. You will find the parish registers of the dioceses itself online at <<http://www.matricula-online.eu>>. A table of the parishes with reviewed time frames and important tips you will find under Help/information).

The archives of the Diocese of Passau and GenTeam really appreciate transmission of all corrections, as well as all the new records.

At this point I would like to express my heart-felt gratitude by Mrs. Marlies Springer: she alone typed in more than 1.000.000 records of this database!

#### 3. Baptismal Index of Vienna between 1585 and 1914 – approximately 150,000 new records, more than 1 million records still online!

Baptismal records from the following parishes were added (number = district):

01 Sankt Stephan, 01 Sankt Rosalia, 01 Bürgerspital, 02 Sankt Leopold, 03 Landstraße, 04 Sankt Karl Borromäus, 04 Wieden (Paulaner), 05 Sankt Josef Margarethen, 05 Sankt Florian Matzleinsdorf, 07 Schottenfeld, 09 Motivkirche, 10 Sankt Anton, 18 Währing and 19 Grinzing.

You will find a listing of all parishes with updated time frames under Help/info at the database.

At this point I would like to express my heart-felt gratitude by Eva Korbl, Elisabeth Kultscher, Cindy Lindau, Thomas Lobner, Martha Melchart, Suzanne Morris, Dr. Günter Oppitz, Gerda Smodej, Franz Spevacek, Jesko Stampa, Judith Starke, and Walter Thurner as well as to all the individuals, who already work on additional indices which will be put online in the near future.

I also want to invite you, to help with this index. Please, simply contact me at <[kontakt@GenTeam.at](mailto:kontakt@GenTeam.at)>.

#### 4. Index of Catholic Deaths in Vienna – approximately 33,000 new entries

Since the list of the deceased in the Viennese newspaper *Wiener Zeitung* contains vast gaps (even with consideration of Viennese historic borders) on average 40% of the deceased are missing; therefore, we at GenTeam have begun an index of the Catholic Burials.

The following new records were added:

01 Sankt Augustin, 01 Sankt Rosalia, 02 Sankt Josef and 02 Sankt Leopold. Further parish records are already in the works.

You will find an exact listing under help/info at the database.

I would like to express my heart-felt appreciation to Monika Fischer and Marta Melchart.

5. Church records Indices from Lower and Upper Austria, Burgenland, Bohemia and Moravia – approximately 125,000 new entries from Catholic registers have been added. You will find the parishes with updated time frames under Help/info at the database.

Lower Austria: Heidenreichstein, Konradsheim, Maissau, Rodingersdorf, Schrattenberg, Staatz, Stockerau, Traunstein, Waidhofen an der Ybbs, Windhaag, Wolkersdorf, Zell an der Ybbs.

Upper Austria: Maria Neustift

Burgenland: Lockenhaus, Piringsdorf

Bohemia: Reichenau/Rychnov nad Knezou

Moravia: Großtajax/Dyjakovice

At this point I would like to express many thanks to Ursula Baldemaier, Wolfgang Berner, Mag. Fritz Eichler, Franziska Heidrich, Johann Hochstöger, Marta Melchart, Mag. Gabi Rudinger-Ferger, Franz Schönweiler, HR DI Leopold Strenn, Dr. Armin Watzer, Clemens Weidmann, and Theodora Winkler!

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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<<http://www.GenTeam.eu>>

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**\*\*\* THE ROAD HOME: TRIP TO POLAND \*\*\***

**THE ROAD HOME**

A special tour of Poland to reconnect with your roots

with Jonathan Shea and Aleksandra Kacprzak

sponsored by the Polish American Foundation of CT

**May 10, 2016 through May 23, 2016**

The Road Home trip will leave from New York on 5/10/16 and return on 5/23/16.

The trip cost is \$2,995\* per person, double occupancy. There will be an additional \$350 fee for single occupancy. The cost includes airfare between New York JFK and Warsaw, hotels, three meals daily, professional tour guide, private tour bus, and admission for scheduled attractions.

You must sign up for the trip by January 2, 2016 and pay a \$200 deposit at that time. The balance of \$2,795 is due by February 2, 2016. Payment is nonrefundable. You must also include your completed pre-trip questionnaire with your payment.

You must have a valid passport for this trip.

If you are traveling alone, would you want a roommate and save the single supplement charge?

Please let us know if you would like a roommate and we will try to accommodate you.

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

**INDIVIDUAL VILLAGE DAY TRIPS**

There are a limited number of day trips available so you can travel to your ancestral village. There will be an additional cost for this service. The village must be within 75 miles of a city we are visiting. Requests must be submitted by January 2, 2016. We will notify you by January 20, 2016 if your trip is possible and the estimated cost for the trip. Payment for the village trip will happen the day of the trip in Poland.

## DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 – May 10: Depart for Poland

Day 2 – May 11: Warsaw/Ostrołęka

The tour begins at the airport when we board our charter bus for a tour of the Old Town of Warsaw. After lunch at the Magat restaurant we will depart for Ostrołęka.

Day 3 – May 12: Kadzidło/Łomża/Drozdowo

We start the day off learning about the Kurpie culture in Kadzidło. We will visit an outdoor ethnographic museum and attend a workshop on making *wycinanki* (paper cutouts). After lunch we travel to Łomża for a tour of the city and the fort. On our way back to the hotel, we will stop at the nature museum, estate and the cemetery chapel of the Lutosławski family in Drozdowo.

Day 4 – May 13: Pułtusk /Ostrołęka

We start our day out with a visit to Pułtusk. We will tour the city and the local castle, and the archives. In the evening we will go to the Gospoda pod Jemiolami restaurant in Ostrołęka for a special, Kurpian-style festive dinner.

Village trips this day.

Day 5 – May 14: Tykocin/Białystok

We start our day with a visit to Tykocin with a tour of the town and a visit to the museum. We continue on to Białystok. Those interested in doing research at the Archdiocesan Archive can stay at the archive while the rest of the group will tour the city.

Village trips this day.

Day 6 – May 15: Suchowola/Augustów/Paniewo/Suwałki

Our day begins with a visit to Święta Woda and the Hill of Crosses. From there, we make a brief stop at Suchowola, the geographical center of Europe. We continue on to Augustów where we will tour the city and then embark on a boat tour down the Augustów canal.

Day 7 – May 16: Sejny/Wiżajny

Our first stop today is the Basilica in Sejny. From there, we go to the Wigry Monastery, originally built by the Camedulian monks but now open to the public. We finish our day at Wiżajny, the coldest spot in Poland. It is also the point where Russia, Poland, and Lithuania converge.

Village trips this day.

Day 8 – May 17: Giżycko/Olsztyn/Gdańsk

This day is a travel day to Gdańsk. We will make several stops along the way, including the cities of Giżycko and Olsztyn.

Day 9 – May 18: Gdańsk

We spend the entire day exploring the city of Gdańsk, home of the Solidarity movement. Sites we will visit include the Royal Route, Basilica of Saint Mary, Mariacka Street, Neptune Fountain, and the Oliwa Cathedral.

Village trips this day.

Day 10 – May 19: Szymbark/Malbork/Grudziądz

We start the day in Szymbark to visit the Upside Down House. We next go to Malbork Castle for a tour and a festive lunch in the Castle's restaurant. We end the day in Grudziądz, Aleksandra's hometown!

Day 11 – May 20: Toruń/Ciechocinek/Płock

A tour of the Gothic architecture of Toruń is today's first activity. After lunch, we spend the afternoon relaxing at a health spa in Ciechocinek. After dinner, we travel to Płock for the night.

Day 12 – May 21: Płock/Sierpc

The State Archives in Płock is our first stop followed by a city tour. After lunch, we visit the Ethnographic museum in Sierpc.

Village trips this day.

Day 13 – May 22: Warsaw

We spend the entire day exploring the sites of Warsaw. We spend the night at the hotel Atos.

Day 14 – May 23: Warsaw/New York

It is time to return home. After breakfast, we travel to the Warsaw airport for our return to New York.

See <<http://www.paf-ct.org>> for more details. To sign up or more questions e-mail: <[dorena726@yahoo.com](mailto: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

[I should add that when I last contacted Jonathan Shea, there were only a few seats left. I could not get in touch with him today (December 31), so I don't know if there are any openings left. If you do want to reserve a place in this tour, please write <[dorena726@yahoo.com](mailto:dorena726@yahoo.com)> right away!]

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

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

***Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter, Winter 2015 – Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota, 1185 No Concord St, Suite 218, So. St. Paul, MN 55075-1150 <<http://www.pgsmn.org>>***

- Recently at PGS-MN Meetings
- Kartenmeister, Janet Savelkoul Mitchell
- Proving how we're all connected: Jan Bias and her destiny of genealogy, Jillian Kurashima
- IAJGS Records Access Alert Open to All
- Stephanie Niciszewska Mucha: Renowned philanthropist and investor to be subject of book
- Baptismal Practices for Polish Children in Poland and in the U.S. (Includes an analysis of day intervals between birth and baptism), John L. Rys <[john@john.rys.name](mailto:john@john.rys.name)>
- Missing Branches
- New Book: A Guide to Chicago and Midwestern Polish-American Genealogy, by Jason Kruski

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### \*\*\* A TECHIE'S OBITUARY \*\*\*

*Editor*—This is from the 28 December 2015 issue of *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*. I loved it and had to share it.

A Techie's Obituary: "Bill's Application has been Migrated to the Cloud"

This has gone viral on Reddit. William Fink was a life-long techie and lover of computers and all sorts of other assorted modern devices. His obituary in the *Belleville (Illinois) News-Democrat*, written by his bother Matthew, reads (in part):

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William Ralph 'Bill' Fink, 46, encountered an unhandled exception in his core operating system, which prematurely triggered a critical 'STOP' condition on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2015.

Bill was an avid technophile, program developer, and educator, whose master functions were harnessed by Microsoft Corp. as a technical evangelist. Some of Bill's most impactful component subroutines centered around video games, coaching youth sports, building elaborate displays for Halloween, and spending time with family.

Diagnostics indicated multiple cascading hardware failures as the root problem. Though his hardware has been decommissioned, Bill's application has been migrated to the Cloud and has been repurposed to run in a virtual machine on an infinite loop.

<END OF LINE>

NOTE: That last line, "<END OF LINE>," is a reference to the phrase most frequently used in the movie TRON by the Master Control Program, both to address programs inside the computer world and to end conversations with his User, Ed Dillinger.

The full obituary may be found at <<http://goo.gl/2CUHQw>>.

Do you have comments, questions, or corrections to this article? If so, please post your words at the end of this article in the Standard Edition newsletter's web site where everyone can benefit from your words. You might also want to read comments posted by others there. [Below is the link to the item in EOGN.]

<<http://blog.eogn.com/2015/12/23/a-techies-obituary-bills-application-has-been-migrated-to-the-cloud/>>

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

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

**January 16, 2016**

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA  
ANNUAL MEMBERS & ELECTION MEETING  
Gasthof Zur Gemutlichkeit, 22300 University Ave NE, Minneapolis MN 55418**

**11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

\$25 payable at the door, cash or check only!

Please RSVP by **January 10, 2016** to Rick Theisen at 651-739-1490 or <[rftheisen@comcast.net](mailto:rftheisen@comcast.net)>

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**February 21, 2016**

**PGSA MEETING**

**“THE FAMILY TAPESTRY: INTEGRATING PROOF ARGUMENTS INTO THE GENEALOGICAL NARRATIVE” - JEANNE LARZALERE BLOOM**

**Fountaindale Public Library (SW) - 300 W. Briarcliff Rd., Bolingbrook, IL 60440**

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

**Jeanne Larzalere Bloom**, CGSM is a full-time professional researcher specializing in Chicago and Cook County research, forensic genealogy, problem solving, and multi-generational family histories.

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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**March 19, 2016**

**UKRAINIAN HISTORICAL AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER OF NEW JERSEY  
SPRING WORKSHOP -- NASHI PREDKY/OUR ANCESTORS” SERIES**

**Location: Ukrainian Cultural Center, 135 Davidson Road, Somerset, NJ**

**Time: TBA • Cost: TBA**

The Ukrainian Historical and Educational Center of NJ is proud to announce their next event in the “Nashi Predky/Our Ancestors” series. The Spring Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2016 and will feature presentations by the staff members of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). They will present information on wartime and post-war records related to Nazi persecution, forced laborers in Germany, and displaced persons.

As the USHMM has direct access to the database of the International Tracing Service (ITS), they will be bringing their computers so you will be able to do on-site research!

\*\*\* Details for the full-day program will be announced as soon as they are finalized. \*\*\*

International Tracing Service (ITS) Frequently Asked Questions:

<<http://tinyurl.com/o8yyxat>>

[From a post by Michelle Chubenko to the PolandBorderSurnames mailing list]

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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. Call for proposals is now open.

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” —**

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**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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**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<sup>SM</sup> 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/>>.

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

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

In the 7 December 2015 issue of *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter (EOGN)*, Dick Eastman mentioned a web page, <<https://discover.mormon.org/en-us/landings/1/family/001>>, that gives the LDS's explanation of why Mormons are so interested in genealogy. Eastman also gave the above URL, a link to an article by Doug Gibson, "Temple adoptions were part of an LDS evolution toward genealogy work." It gives some historical background into the whole question. I often run into people who wonder why the LDS has invested so much time and effort into genealogical research. Reading these items may clarify the matter.

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<<http://blog.eogn.com/2015/12/11/u-s-2020-census-will-be-done-by-internet/>>

This link takes you to another article in the 14 December 2015 issue of EOGN, about the 2020 census and how it will be conducted primarily online.

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<<https://www.myheritage.com/research/collection-90100/compilation-of-published-sources>>

That same issue of EOGN included this item, an announcement that MyHeritage has made available a huge free collection of digitized books relating to genealogy. Free is good—maybe you'd like to take a look and save yourself some money!

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<<http://tadgromada.wordpress.com/>>

This link takes you to the blog of Thaddeus V. Gromada, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of European History, New Jersey City University, Past President & Exec. Dir. PIASA. Dr. Gromada is an eminent Polish-American historian, and his work deserves attention!

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<<http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/insider/2015/12/01/BestSourcesToFindForYourCzechOrSlovakAncestorsPlaceOfOrigin.aspx>>

This link provides some basic pointers on how to trace the place where Czech or Slovak ancestors came from. It gives you some info, and points you toward a book that will help you go farther: Lisa Alzo's *How to Research Your Czech and Slovak Ancestry*. It also advertised a webinar by Lisa which took place a couple of weeks ago; but apparently you can still buy it as an OnDemand Webinar. The above link connects to the page where you can do so.

While I'm mentioning this, I noticed another Webinar available: "Best Polish Genealogy

Strategies,” by Jonathan Shea and Liza Alzo. I feel sure we mentioned this earlier, but it’s never too late—and these are two genuine experts. If you’re interested, click on this link: <<http://www.shopfamilytree.com/best-polish-genealogy-strategies-ondemand-webinar>>.

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

The 6 December 2015 issue of *Nu? What’s New?* included an article saying only 325 signatures are needed to reach the goal of 10,000 for the Genealogists Declaration of Rights. That figure of 10,000 will make an impression on the legislators who often restrict research out of ignorance, unless someone fills them in!

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<<http://www.polish-texans.com>>

Valerie Warunek posted this link to the Facebook Polish Culture, Food, and Traditions group. I’m not sure I’ve ever visited this page before, and I regret that.

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<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/53/1965/0/str/1/200?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

In a post to the Jewishgen newsgroup, Logan Kleinwaks mentioned that scans of civil vital records from Środa Wielkopolska, including Jews and non-Jews, are available at this URL. Pay attention to the column at far right, “Liczba skanów/Number of scans.” If the number is 0, there’s no point wasting time with it. But if you have roots in that area, you definitely want to look at the Księga urodzeń/Geburts-Neben-Register (birth records), Księga małżeństw/Heirats-Neben-Register (marriage records), and Księga zgonów/Sterbe-Neben-Register (death records).

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<<http://us12.campaign-archive2.com/?u=27be8f25f858c894ffe2648d2&id=bd7f80339a&e=e89568e8b0>>

Michelle Chubenko posted a note to the PBS (PolandBorderSurnames) group urging people to read the first issue of *Наші Предки, Nashi Predky News*. Click on the link above to see it. We should welcome this publication from the Ukrainian Historical and Educational Center of New Jersey. It has the potential to become a very valuable source for folks with roots in former Galicia in particular.

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<<http://polish.typeit.org/>>

I’m sure we’ve mentioned this site before, but it’s worth repeating. It helps many input Polish letters with diacritical marks, so that one can copy and paste text as needed. There are other ways of doing this, of course. But if you only need to do this once in a while, why bother modifying or adding to your system?

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<<http://deklaracja.genealodzy.pl/>>

Ceil Jensen posted a note to Facebook's Polish Genealogy group to let us know the Polskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne (PTG = Polish Genealogical Society) has indexed the names from a 1926 declaration of Polish citizens congratulating the United States on the 150th anniversary of its independence. This document has been available for some time, but now the 13 manuscript volumes are indexed. The above URL will take you to the index, and many thanks to the PTG. It is fascinating just to look through the list of names and then see them handwritten on the appropriate page of the declaration.

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<<http://miplheritage.org/databases/kulwicki/>>

Ceil also posted a note that the Polish Mission has added the Kulwicki Funeral Records to the Michigan Polish Heritage databases. If you have Polish relatives in the Detroit area, this may be worth a look. To search that database, follow the link above. To search all the databases, go to <<http://miplheritage.org/databases/search-databases/>>.

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<<http://www.polishfamily.com/p4e/>>

Debbie Greenlee posted a note to the Poland Roots and other mailing lists, saying, "I have a new home for my transcriptions of cemetery headstones, war memorials and lists of priests in Poland. There is a transcription of Polish graves in the cemetery in Harnes, France as well. My web site will now host my (and others') transcriptions of cemeteries and war memorials all over Poland. I will also have lists priests from various parishes. This is an ongoing project. As I add more transcriptions I will notify the lists. The transcriptions are from photos I took of various cemeteries and war memorials as I traveled around Poland, so check to see what's on my web site ... Click on RECORDS in the little film strip at the top of the page." The above URL takes you to Debbie's site.

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<<http://lithuaniangenealogy.org/files/LTRResearch.pdf>>

This is a list of three Lithuanian researchers from the LGGS (Lithuanian Global Genealogical Society). The list does not endorse these researchers; it just means these researchers submitted info so they could be included. For what it's worth, I have heard good things about all three of these people from researchers. If I needed research done in Lithuania, they're the people I'd contact.

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<<http://forum.polishorigins.com/viewtopic.php?t=3281>>

This topic, on the PolishOrigins Forum, is one many can relate to: "Why didn't they talk about it?" That is, why did so many of our immigrant ancestors resist talking about life in the old country. I know many genealogists ask this question, and there are some really good thoughts presented on the subject here.

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<<http://www.intelligentlifemagazine.com/places/no1-time-travel>>

Chris Cowan posted this link to the Lithuanian Genealogy mailing list. It's a 1914 map showing how many days it took to get from London to various places in the world. Chris wondered if there were similar maps for other time frames, such as 1814 or 1814. I don't know of any; but I think this can give some useful perspectives on travel as of 1914. If anyone knows of similar maps for other ears, please let me know.

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