



# Gen Dobry!

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

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

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

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**\*\*\* THE ROAD HOME: A UNIQUE TOUR TO POLAND IN 2014 \*\*\***

*Editor*—Jonathan Shea sent me and others this press release, and I'm happy to pass along the information. Every year, there are people on this continent who want to visit the land of their ancestors; but they want to be sure they're dealing with reputable guides. Given the track record of the folks involved with this tour, I think it's as close to a sure bet as you're going to find.

The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast is pleased to announce a special and unique excursion to Poland for those who are searching for their roots. Slated to depart on May 3, 2014 and return on May 15, 2014, the tour will, like most tours, visit cultural and tourist attractions in Poland's administrative capital, Warsaw, its cultural capital, Kraków, and its spiritual capital, Częstochowa. However the tour will travel to localities that tour buses rarely go, such as Łomża and Przemyśl. The less-often-visited places were selected based on the places of origin of many thousands of our immigrant ancestors who crossed the ocean in search of a better life over a century ago.

Another unique feature of the tour are two specially designated "village days" on which tour participants can make arrangements to spend the day visiting the places their grandparents and other ancestors were born, seeing the parish church where generations before them were baptized and married, and viewing the graves of their ancestors in a parish cemetery. Participants can also visit living relatives and walk in the footsteps and fields where their forefathers toiled for centuries. Visits to archives in Łomża and Przemyśl are also scheduled, and persons who descend from these areas can avail themselves of the available records to trace their roots. For those not wishing to participate in doing research, alternative tourist activities will be available.

Included in the tour are visits to Białystok, the Wieliczka salt mine, the Nazi concentration camp at Oświęcim (Auschwitz), and Zamość.

The tour will be accompanied by **Prof. Jonathan Shea** of New Britain, Connecticut, an accredited genealogist; **Aleksandra Kacprzak**, a professional Polish genealogical researcher from Grudziądz; and **Dorena Wasik** of Wallingford, CT of the Polish American Foundation of Connecticut.

For further information please contact <[pgsctne@yahoo.com](mailto:pgsctne@yahoo.com)> or <[dorena726@yahoo.com](mailto:dorena726@yahoo.com)>.

**Deposits must be received by January 10, 2014.**

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

Subject: Finding info on great-grandfathers' service in the Polish Army

*Editor*—I received the following note, which was also directed to various archives and institutions (the original was in Polish). I don't know for sure how to help, but I

thought it would do no harm to share this information and see if any of you have ideas that might be useful. If you do, please contact me at <[wfh@langline.com](mailto:wfh@langline.com)> and I'll pass the information along.

Hello! At present, I am living in Belarus. I would like to find documents to confirm that my two great-grandfathers served in the Polish Army. I have no information, however, on where they served. All I know is as follows:

1. Kozuchowski Cyryl (son of Wasil), lived in Bereza Kartuska, powiat of Prużany, province of Poliske (Silesia), served in the Polish Army from 1920 to the 1930s.

2. Kołos Fiodor (son of Anton), born in 1910, lived in Bereza Kartuska, powiat Prużany, Poliske voivodeship (Silesia), served in the Polish Army from 1930 to 1939.

Is there any chance of getting information on this subject?

Inna Kasjan

*Editor*—I have to point out, Bereza Kartuska was in the powiat of Prużany, Polesie (not Poliske) voivodeship, territory now in Belarus; it was never in Silesia! I'm not sure how this confusion arose; but if I do pass along any information to Inna, I will explain this.

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Subject: Polish POW's during World War II

You may know of this already, but I came upon this Polish website that lets you search for former Polish POW's during World War II. It was very useful and I found out some information I never had about my granddad and other family members. <<http://www.straty.pl/>>. Hope this helps others.

Greetings from Australia  
Michal Pyrchla

*Editor*—I think we have mentioned this site before, but that's no reason we shouldn't mention it again. Long-time readers might appreciate a reminder; and folks who subscribed recently may not know about this resource. So I'm glad to print your note!

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**\*\*\* ANCESTRY ADDS CONNECTICUT MILITARY RECORDS \*\*\***

*by Tom Sadauskas*

*Editor*—Tom did a presentation on military records at the recent PGSCCTNE conference. This is an excerpt from his syllabus regarding two Connecticut resources of which many researchers are unaware.

If you have ancestors who lived in Connecticut during the period of World War I, Ancestry.com has a recent addition to its military records collection that you might find useful. It's the Connecticut Military Census that was taken in 1917 at the direction of the Connecticut General Assembly. The intent was primarily to help the state assess the manpower available within the state in the event of war. The census also included surveys regarding agricultural and factory resources and even automobiles but they are not included in the Ancestry.com collection. Some 10,000 census takers were used to collect information on more than 500,000 individuals (mostly men) living in the state. The census was supposed to be for ALL MEN ages twenty to thirty years of age, but most towns expanded the range to include males from ages 16 to 60. There are also records for some women who were in occupations that could be helpful during wartime such as nursing or who had previously served in the military. The search engine used for the military census does not include a field for gender, but I found a few hits when just typing in a common female given name (e.g., Mary).

According to Ancestry.com:

The census was much more than a simple name count, and these questionnaires asked for details in a number of areas:

- name
- post office address
- trade or profession
- age
- marital status
- number of dependents
- citizenship
- military service
- physical disability

They also asked men to report on various skills, including whether they could ride a horse or drive a team, ride a motorcycle, operate a wireless, handle a steam engine or a boat, or swim well.

As with many Eastern European surname spellings on U.S. documents, be prepared for the various misspellings you'll find in the military census. If you do not already have at least five different spellings of your ancestor's surname (and given name) that you've found on U.S. documents, you have not looked enough. I was able to find who I was looking for—listed as “Charles Stephens, an Alien from Lithuania.”

Copies of the military census are also available at the Connecticut State Library (<<http://www.connecticutgenealogysearch.com/>>).

Another Connecticut resource is a list of more than 66,00 men and women of Connecticut who served in the U.S. military during World War I. The list was published in 1941 by the State of Connecticut in a three volume set of more than 3,300 pages. The names of the veterans are

arranged alphabetically by town, beginning with the town of Andover and ending with the town of Woodstock. Information about each veteran listed includes address at the time they entered the military, age, birthplace, the date of entry into the military and discharge date, as well as the military unit in which they served. All three volumes are available on the Internet.

Volume 1 contains a 22 page list of abbreviations used in the three volumes and starts with Andover with partial listing of Hartford veterans.

<<http://archive.org/stream/servicerecordsco01offi#page/n10/mode/1up>>

Volume 2 begins with Hartford veterans and ends with Plainfield.

<<http://archive.org/stream/servicerecordsco02offi#page/n3/mode/2up>>

Volume 3 completes the Plainfield list of veterans and ends with the town of Woodstock and contains an alphabetical index of the 66,000+ veterans listed in the three volumes.

<<http://archive.org/stream/servicerecordsco03unse#page/n2/mode/1up>>

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### **\*\*\* MAJOR MIGRATION MILESTONE COMING FOR NEW. FAMILYSEARCH.ORG \*\*\***

*by Ron Tanner [from the FamilySearch Blog]*

In the next step of a series of milestones to fully implement FamilySearch Family Tree on FamilySearch.org, new.FamilySearch.org, <<https://new.familysearch.org/>>, is scheduled for Read-only status at the end of this year.

“We view this process, coupled with the wonderful new features that are being rolled out on FamilySearch.org, as the next step to giving our patrons the best online experience possible,” said Ron Tanner, Family Tree product manager. “With the capabilities the Family Tree has, we are excited to migrate all of our users to this unified, collaborative platform. There are so many advantages for users to make the move to Family Tree, it makes sense for everyone.”

Users will still be able to view information on new.FamilySearch.org after the change, but users will no longer be able to edit or change information.

There are many reasons new.FamilySearch.org users would want to move to FamilySearch Family Tree:

- Family Tree has expanded and enhanced search, pedigree and notification features.
- The ability to add photos and stories to persons in Family Tree.
- The ability to correct the information about your ancestors and relationships in Family Tree.

- FamilySearch will find valuable sources for you on any ancestor right from their person page.
- Adding sources to your Family Tree with a few simple mouse clicks.
- Printable family group records and colorful seven-generation fan charts.

The transition to Family Tree is scheduled to conclude with the closure of new.FamilySearch.org at the end of the year 2014.

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**\*\*\* ANOTHER RECOMMENDED POLISH RESEARCHER \*\*\***

Debbie Greenlee wrote to mention that she has added another name to the list she keeps of researchers in Poland. “Kasia lives in Warsaw but is from Poznań. She will travel all of Poland to do research. You can get more details and contact info from Debbie, <[daveg@airmail.net](mailto:daveg@airmail.net)>.

Incidentally, if you’re not a member of the Polish Genealogical Society of America and don’t receive their journal, *Rodziny*, you might be interested to know a lengthy article by Debbie appears in the Fall 2013 issue. She writes about what she’s learned through trial and error about photographing records in Poland. It’s very interesting, and I think a lot of folks could benefit from her experience.

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**\*\*\* GESHER GALICIA’S NEW VIDEO PORTAL \*\*\***

by Pamela Weisberger <[pweisberger@gmail.com](mailto:pweisberger@gmail.com)>

*Editor*—This note was posted to the JewishGen discussion group. Given all the information Geshher Galicia offers anyone with Galician routes, this new video portal has great potential.

Geshher Galicia is pleased to announce our new video portal which can be accessed from our home page, <<http://www.geshhergalicia.org>>, or directly through this link:

<<http://www.geshhergalicia.org/videos/>>

This page is the new home for Galician research and historical videos, including presentations at conferences and JGS meetings worldwide on Galician research topics. The first video we have posted is a presentation by Brooke Schreier Ganz, which took place on August 5, 2013 at the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Boston. The title is “Using the New Geshher Galicia Website to Research Towns and Families,” and you can view it streaming or download the video to your computer. Running time is about 75 minutes.

This video provides a magical genealogical tour of Geshher Galicia’s newly re-designed website, which debuted in January 2013. The site is a one-stop resource for people interested in researching their families and ancestral towns from the former Austro-Hungarian province of Galicia, which

is today split up between southeastern Poland and western Ukraine. The site features new content and resources for 400+ Galician towns and 2,700+ Jewish Galician families. It also has nearly 100 searchable online articles and 50+ full PDF issues from almost two decades of *The Galitzianer*, Geshet Galicia's long-running quarterly publication about Galician Jewish life. Learn how to do productive searches on our All Galicia Database, which has 243,166 records from 87 different data sources, covering birth, death, marriage and divorce records to phonebooks, school and landowner records and explore our archival records inventory page of 1,700+ maps, landowner and tax records from Galician towns, now being transcribed and put online for free searches.

We hope to add a variety of videos to this site over the coming months, including those in our "Voices of the Shoah" project. In the meantime, if you are curious about the ins and outs of navigating the site, which was designed by Brooke, this video tour should help get you started.

Enjoy!

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

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

**November 10, 2013**

**PGSA MEETING: DAN NIEMIEC SPEAKS**  
**Sunday, November 10, 2013 - 2 P. M.**  
**Wheaton Public Library - McCormick Room**  
**225 N. Cross Street, Wheaton, IL**

Dan Niemiec is the genealogy correspondent of *Fra Noi*. He has given presentations to many local and national genealogy conferences and societies. His Italian ancestral lines go back to the mid-late-1600s, and his Polish lines go back to the mid 1700s. By tracing descendant lines for 23 years, he has found over 70,000 relatives, and has worked extensively with Chicago vital and parish records.

If you are of Polish descent, and your family spent time in Chicago, you will be dealing with Catholic Sacramental records. Dan will take away some of the mystery surrounding Chicago's Catholic parish records. "Can I read them if they are in Latin?" "What records are available?" "Did they all burn in the 1871 fire?" "How useful are they?" "Are the records online?" Dan answers these and many other questions.

**! JOIN US !**

[From the PGSA website]

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**November 23, 2013**

**DO'S AND DONT'S OF CEMETERY RESEARCH**

**St. Clair Shores Public Library  
22500 Eleven Mile Rd  
St. Clair Shores MI 48081-1399  
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

Join us on Saturday November 23, 2013 from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the St. Clair Shores Public Library to hear **Gail Hershenson** speak about the Do's and Don'ts of Cemetery Research. She authored two books for Arcadia Publishing, one on Woodmere Cemetery and the other on Michigan Memorial Park. She will bring her books with her if you are interested in purchasing them. Please note the date change and the time; we have a little bit longer in case anyone wants to stay.

*Posted by Valerie Warunek on PGS-Michigan's Facebook page, <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/84920869072/>>. See also the Library's website, <<http://www.scslibrary.org/>>*

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**November 23, 2013**

**PGS-CA MEETING**

**Los Angeles Family History Library (LAFHL)  
10741 Santa Monica Blvd  
Los Angeles, California**

Research Assistance: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

1 p.m. Class: **Pamela Weisberger** – “Exploring the Archives: Unique & Unusual Resources in Galician Research”

(In this digital age, we need to remember that not everything is online. Learn about the exciting (and unusual) treasures available in archives and libraries in Vienna, Ternopil, Lviv and Krakow which relate to Galician and Polish genealogical research. This talk will provide a tour of overseas repositories, explain the archival research experience, showing examples from a range of documents dating from the late 1700s through the interwar years, like the Lviv family registration books, 1920s and 30s voter lists, cadastral maps, taxpayer records, Lwow (Lviv/Lemberg) and Jagiellonian University student records and magnate landowner records).

2:30 p.m. General Meeting — Election of PGS-CA Officers

Speaker: **Pamela Weisberger** – “Using the Gesher Galicia Database & the Galician Archival Records Project Online”

(Galician (Austrian, Polish and Ukrainian) cadastral, property, school and voting records are valuable genealogical resources, especially when vital records are sparse. Historical maps show locations of synagogues, cemeteries, and schools, often with the names of landowners written onto the plots. Using Gesher Galicia’s database and interactive mapping portal, you can chart a family over several generations. Landowner records show property valuation/ inheritance patterns and voter records document the residents of a single dwelling, showing ages, occupations and place of birth. This presentation will cover their relevance as an alternative source of genealogical/community information and will also highlight other unique records that are now part of the “Galician Archival Records Project,” such as “people who suffered during the war” and magnate records -- documents can to bring your ancestors to life).

[From the PGS-CA website]

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**May 2–4, 2014**

**UNITED POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES (UPGS) CONFERENCE  
Salt Lake City**

**More information will be provided as it becomes available. But it’s not too soon to mark these dates on your calendar!**

[From the October 2013 issue of PGSA Notebook]

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

<<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1333895/Christopher-Columbus-Polish-Portuguese-claim-historians.html>>

Valerie Warunek posted a note to the Facebook page for the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, referring to this article. She said she knew this isn’t really news, “but I just liked seeing his name spelled as Colombowicz.” This claim that Columbus was of Polish descent has been getting a lot of attention in recent years, and this story is as good an introduction to the question as I have read. Note that you can learn more at this website: <[http://www.colombo.bz/english/first\\_note.htm](http://www.colombo.bz/english/first_note.htm)>. It includes a link to buying Manuel Rosa’s book on the subject in Portuguese, Spanish, and Polish. It says the book has been translated into English and they’re looking for a publisher. I hope they find one!

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

On the Polish Genealogy Facebook page, Ceil Jensen gave this link to casting for the PBS series *Genealogy Roadshow*, and added “Send in your Polish story for 2014!” Well, why not?

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<<http://blog.hornblower.com/heartbreakandhope>>

The October 28 issue of *Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter* [EOGN] included news of a blog that’s been launched to tell the stories of the immigrants who came to the United States through Ellis Island. “Anyone with an Ellis Island story is welcome to submit their story through the blog for publication.” You can visit the site at the above URL.

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

We’ve surely mentioned the Association of Professional Genealogists before, but it’s worth mentioning again. At the above website, you can find a professional by name, location, research specialty, or geo specialty; or you can find a specialist by category. In the October 13, 2013 issue of *Nu? What’s New*, Gary Mokotoff mentions, “For example, if I know specific records exist in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, I will hire someone who lives in the area to get the records. It is less time consuming and probably less costly than having the microfilms sent to a local Family History Center.” He adds that APG has a process for resolving disputes between client and professional, which could prove useful. If you’re going to spend money and would like some assurance you’re dealing with a reputable pro, this site is well worth consulting.

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<<http://www.genealogia.okiem.pl/foto2/wyszukiwarkagrobow.php>>

Anna Tys posted a note to the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan Facebook group, giving this site for “Archiwum Fotografii, 60,000 pictures of the gravestones in the Eastern Borderlands (today’s W Ukraine, W Belarus, E Lithuania) ... Hopefully, somebody will find it helpful.” I feel it’s definitely worth bringing to your attention.

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<[http://www.amazon.com/Polish-Fairy-Tales-ebook/dp/B005CDX5J8/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1382544607&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Polish-Fairy-Tales-ebook/dp/B005CDX5J8/ref=sr_1_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1382544607&sr=1-1)>

John Guzowski posted a note to Facebook’s Polish American Writers and Editors group, saying, “A free Kindle book of Polish Fairy Tales! I’ve downloaded it on my iPad but haven’t looked at it. But it’s free and in English! Here’s the link to Amazon for this Kindle.”

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

In the October 27, 2013 issue of *Nu? What’s New?*, Gary Mokotoff suggested, “The agreement between FamilySearch and MyHeritage may become the most meaningful development in record access for family historians in many years.” He feels MyHeritage is the most technologically advanced of the major genealogy sites. He pointed out that a lot of others feel the same way, and cited an article from *Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter* on the

matter. The above URL should take you to the *EOGN* article.

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<<http://genealogyindexer.org/view/1939Ptel/1>>

A new addition to Logan Kleinwaks's website is a 1939 telephone directory for Poland (the whole country except for Warsaw, which is covered separately by directories already available on the site). The directory can be viewed and searched at the above URL. You can also subscribe to a weekly mailing list of all the sources being added to Logan's search index here: <<http://genealogyindexer.org/news>>.

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<<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/poland-download-theme>>

Ceil Jensen posted a note to Facebook's Polish Genealogy group with this link and the explanation, "A treat for your PC computer. Windows has five sets of Polish themes for your computer. I use the one with buildings." The Wieliczka one is also pretty impressive. Not a particularly valuable genealogical tip, granted; but anything that makes your day a little nicer, and a little more Polish, is worth sharing!

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