



Gen Dobry!

Volume XIV, No. 9

30 September 2013

ISSN 1555-774X. Copyright © 2013, PolishRoots®, Inc.

Editor: William F. “Fred” Hoffman, e-mail: <wfh@langline.com>

CONTENTS

CCSU To Host Genealogy Conference October 11–12 (PGS-Connecticut/Northeast)

PGS-Michigan’s Annual Seminar October 19

Letters to the Editor

Society of Genealogists Launches a New Prestigious Award for the Genealogical Community

Yahoo Groups and GaliciaPoland-Ukraine

PGSA New Member Fall Promotion

Upcoming Events

More Useful Web Addresses

You May Reprint Articles...

***** 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>>

***** CCSU TO HOST POLISH GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 11–12 (PGS-CONNECTICUT/NORTHEAST) *****

Editor—This is a press release prepared by the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut/the Northeast about their upcoming Conference.

NEW BRITAIN—The 2013 Polish Genealogical Conference will be held in the Student Center at Central Connecticut State University on Friday, October 11, and Saturday, October 12. The conference is sponsored by the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc. and CCSU's Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies. The event is open to the public and free parking is available in campus parking lots.

The conference is of a truly international and multiethnic flavor. Speakers will give lectures on genealogical resources in neighboring nations whose histories are intertwined with that of Poland, including Belarus, Lithuania, Russia, and Ukraine.

Among those speaking are individuals well known in Polish genealogy circles. **Aleksandra Kacprzak**, of Poland, will deliver lectures on lesser known resources in Poland including state and church archives and also on Polish traditions and customs. **Dr. Mieczyslaw B. Biskupski**, Endowed Chair of the Polish and Polish American Studies at Central Connecticut State University, will speak about whether or not a Polish spy created the European Union. **Dr. Shellee Morehead** of Rhode Island will deliver lectures on finding and using alien registration files as well as a lecture on DNA and family history. **Dr. Paul S. Valasek** of Chicago, Illinois will present a talk on the 20th-century immigrant. He will also speak on the topic of postcards and their relationship to your genealogical research. **Thomas Sadauskas** of Virginia will lecture on U.S. military records, what the records contain and how to obtain them. He will also speak about re-emigration to and from Europe. **Matthew Bielawa** and **Jonathan Shea** will speak on research for beginners which will include a discussion of civil and church records and suggest other resources for identifying ancestral villages in Europe, as well as archives in Poland that hold relevant records. All speakers have extensive experience in their respective fields and have been featured at numerous regional and national conferences.

The conference will also display examples of resource books, maps, and other materials. Personal help in translating genealogical documents will also be offered, as will opportunities for informal discussion with the speakers. There will also be exhibit tables.

If postmarked after September 20, the cost for Friday will be \$25, Saturday will be \$65, and both days will be \$90.

Please send registration forms or requests for more information to Diane Szepanski, Conference Chair, 138 Fern Drive, Plantsville, CT 06479. Information and forms are available online at <http://www.pgscctne.org/Conference%202013/List%20of%20Documents.aspx> or by e-mail at Szepanski3@cox.net.

*** PGS-MICHIGAN'S ANNUAL SEMINAR OCTOBER 19 ***

Editor—Since we don't want to play favorites, let's remind everyone that the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan is holding its annual seminar this month, on October 19. This same information appears under "Upcoming Events," but in case anyone overlooked it there, let's repeat it here.

The 2013 Annual PGSM Seminar will be held 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can get detailed information from this page on the PGSM website: <<http://www.pgsm.org/seminarfeatured.htm>>.

The first Speaker will be **Ceil Wendt Jensen**, Certified Genealogist. She presents practical examples and suggestions on how to use records, databases, and archives to start or advance your genealogy research. She dispels the myth that records were destroyed during the World Wars and that language barriers make European research difficult. A lavishly illustrated workbook, *Sto Lat: A Modern Guide for Polish Genealogy*, offers a plan for researching at least one hundred years of family records, and is a compilation of techniques developed over thirty years of research and teaching. These are tried and true techniques used for clients and with patrons at the Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI) on the campus of St. Mary's of Orchard Lake. Both traditional and digital research techniques are presented. Common research questions are answered and suggestions are offered to help novice and advanced researchers find ancestors in North America and Poland.

LECTURE TITLES

Now Boarding: Planning a Research Trip in Poland - This session is based on over 30 years of travel experience leading overseas groups and research in Poland archives. Learn how to plan ahead, get the most for your dollar, travel light, and bring home the research you went for! This session includes examples and suggestions on how to prepare for a trip to Polish archives, parishes, and record repositories. This lecture covers techniques for finding Catholic, Lutheran and Jewish records. Learn to write effective e-mail to ESL speakers and how to hire a photographer, researcher and / or guide.

Behind the Scenes at Polish Repositories — U.S. and Poland

The lecture is based on interviews conducted on site with the directors of repositories in the U.S. and Poland. Learn about the unique materials held throughout Polonia, the regional archives in Poland, and the concentration camp museums of Stutthof and Auschwitz-Birkenau. Lecture outline/summary. Researchers will learn about records, maps, and ephemera held at repositories that go beyond vital records. Learn how to find unique ledgers, documents, and art work to enrich and advance your family history.

Archival Techniques for Family Historians

A survey of current archival standards regarding the care and storage of paper, photographic and digital files which family historians need to know. Learn how to care for the records and ephemera you have collected. This session addresses how to care for the family records, photos and memorabilia you have collected. The use of archival storage materials will be discussed, as well as a workable cataloging system.

The second Speaker will be **Kris Rzepczynski**. Currently a Senior Archivist at the Archives of Michigan, Kris previously worked for 12 years at the Library of Michigan as the Michigan/Genealogy Coordinator. He holds a Masters in Library and Information Science from Wayne State University, a Master of Arts in History from Western Michigan University, and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Michigan. Kris has presented at national, state, and local conferences. In addition, he is an incoming member of the Board of Directors for the Federation of Genealogical Societies and a Past President of the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society.

Topic: Researching Your Family History at the Archives of Michigan

An introduction to the Archives of Michigan, this program will explore the genealogical collections available there, including both original source records and published resources, and how to best maximize your research time there. One of the larger family history collections in the United States, the Archives' holdings emphasize Michigan, the Great Lakes states, New England, the Mid-Atlantic region, as well as Ontario and Quebec. Notable collections include the J. William Gorski Collection of Polish genealogy and history and Michigan naturalization records.

Seminar includes a continental breakfast and a delicious Polish lunch.

The Seminar is held at the American Polish Cultural Center located at 2975 E. Maple Rd. and Dequindre Rd. Please send reservations and check by October 1, 2013 for \$65 and \$100 for couples (\$35 is tax deductible). This will include the Seminar, continental breakfast and a delicious Polish lunch. If you have questions, please contact Valerie Koselka, <vkoselka.pgsm@gmail.com>.

PGSM, Burton Collection
c/o Detroit Public Library
5201 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202-4007

Editor—I've had the pleasure of speaking twice at PGS-Michigan's annual seminar, and also at two of PGS-CT/NE's conferences. I enjoyed these experiences thoroughly, and I would strongly encourage anyone with interest in Polish research to attend. Great as it may be to work in the comfort of your home on the Internet, there's nothing quite like the rush you get when you go to events of this sort and spend time around other people who understand your obsession! And that's not even talking about the leads and tips you get from the speakers. Try it, you'll like it...

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

Subject: Geshher Galicia

Editor—In our last issue, we included an item “Award to Geshher Galicia’s Cadastral Map and Landowner Records Project.” I wrote, “Of course, this project is aimed at helping Jewish researchers—but it is highly appropriate for non-Jews to applaud it also.

As the saying goes, ‘A rising tide lifts all boats.’ The splendid work done by Jewish researchers benefits even those of us with no Jewish ancestry.” I’m pleased to say Pamela Weisberger of Gesher Galicia wrote to tell us more.

Thanks for the nice mention about our projects...

I would suggest that while Gesher Galicia, as a non-profit organization, has a goal to foster Jewish research, the cadastral map and landowner records project is a “community” research project that does not involve religious records at all. Maps are not religion or ethnic-specific. Most (not all) landowner record collections are for the entire community. Same goes for many tax and school records we are also acquiring and indexing. So perhaps the next time you write about GG you will suggest that Polish researchers consider funding town projects as part of our Galician Archival Records Project and start searching our All Galicia Database. So your audience can do much more than just applaud us. They can actually start using our database which, I would hazard a guess to say, has more Polish searchable records than any other database online, save Familysearch.

Pamela Weisberger

Editor—Well said! Thanks for clarifying that.

Subject: Identify a Photo?

I notice that you have access to a number of American Polish newspapers that were printing in 1944. Here’s my story.

My grandfather, Kazimierz Benz, was an officer serving with the Polish Air Force in Britain.

My parents, and indeed the rest of the family, were in Poland, and served with the AK. After the Rising, my grandfather was given the attached scrap of newspaper, ostensibly clipped from a Polish-American newspaper. My mother tells me the person second from the left is my aunt, Jadwiga Danuta Benz. The photo was apparently taken by an American reporter in Warsaw at the time! It is the last known photograph of her. My mother believes it was taken in late September, 1944. My aunt perished sometime after the evening of October 1, 1944, when she volunteered to go back to the Old Town and rescue survivors.



Do you have any suggestions on how I might follow up this lead? I hope to find out which paper may have printed the photo, and with extraordinary luck, get a copy of the photo.

Victor Benz P.Eng. FEC

Editor—Unfortunately, I wasn't able to come up with any useful ideas. But I'm hoping maybe some of you are more inventive than I am. The photo appears above; the caption means "These are the heroic youth of Warsaw in the ranks of the AK" (short for *Armia Krajowa* or Home Army, the largest force of the armed Polish resistance movement against the Nazis). Can you think of any good way to proceed? If so, please write to me at <wfh@langline.com> and I will forward your ideas to Mr. Benz.

Subject: Staying on Good Terms with Archivists

Editor—Ray Marshall sent in this response to the article "A Little Love for Restrictive Archivists," by Alan Kania.

Back in the days before people started stealing priceless records, 1976 or so, I was granted full access to the records of a parish founded in 1883 where three of my four gg-parents were founding members.

I was allowed to copy those record pages. I transcribed them and gave copies back to the parish secretary. She was incredibly grateful since she didn't have to give the original records to most researchers any more.

That applies to lots of records. If you have gone to the effort of transcribing records, be sure to give a copy to the depositories where researchers are likely to be seeking that information. It saves staff and volunteers an incredible amount of time if you have done a good job.

Ray Marshall
Minneapolis, born in Duluth

Editor—Good idea! Thanks for passing it along.

***** SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS LAUNCHES A NEW PRESTIGIOUS
AWARD FOR THE GENEALOGICAL COMMUNITY *****

by Dick Eastman

Editor—The following was published in *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* on 5 September 2013. You can read the original, along with comments, here: <<http://tinyurl.com/my4cp7h>>.

The following announcement was written by the Society of Genealogists, the national genealogy society based in London, England:

<<http://www.sog.org.uk/news/article/society-of-genealogists-launches-a-new-prestigious-award-for-the-genealogic>> or <<http://tinyurl.com/lc7w3mn>>

A special Certificate of Recognition has been newly created by the Society of Genealogists to recognise exceptional contributions to genealogy by individuals and institutions worldwide. In the first year nomination forms were made available to Fellows of the Society for their suggestions and four candidates have been recognised by the newly formed awards panel for the new Certificate in 2013. The successful candidates were:

-- **Dick Eastman** for having the vision to promote family history through the CompuServe Genealogy Forum and by founding and maintaining the daily Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter.

-- **Dr Hugh Kearsley** for actively ensuring a wider availability of materials enabling others to pursue family history in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

-- **Rosemary Cleaver** for her continuous back-room contributions to all aspects of the West Surrey Family History Society over many years.

-- **The Polish Archive of Przemyśl** in recognition of outstanding maintenance of local family records, particularly appertaining to Akcja Wisła*, and in the efforts to making them accessible to researchers from far and wide.

Formal presentations will be arranged over the coming months.

Nominations for 2014 are now open the public and forms (along with nomination guidelines) are available from the Chief Executive, June Perrin at <ceo@sog.org.uk>.

NOTE:

*Akcja Wisła (Operation Vistula) was the code name for the 1947 forced resettlement of post-war Poland's Ukrainian minority carried out by Soviet-controlled Polish communist authorities.

The Polish archives of Przemyśl holds and makes available information on the communities and families affected drawn from identity cards and other documents.

Editor—Dick Eastman does a fine job spreading word about various matters of interest to genealogists, and he deserves all the awards he gets. I do wish someone had bothered to explain to the Society of Genealogists that “The Polish Archive of Przemyśl” really should be rendered “The Polish Archive in Przemyśl,” or even, more accurately, “the Polish State Archives branch in Przemyśl.” Still, no point nitpicking when someone's trying to do right. Congratulations to Dick Eastman, and to the Przemyśl branch of the Polish State Archives!

***** YAHOO AND GALICIA-POLAND-UKRAINE *****

Back on September 3rd, I was sorry to read a note posted to the Polish Genius mailing list by Denise Ney, who wrote: "I noted that the moderator for GaliciaPoland-Ukraine said he did not like, or have time to deal with, the new Yahoo format and its problems. There will be no more activity on that list until further notice." I unsubscribed from that group some time ago because I found I was just overloaded with too many groups to monitor, and I had to drop some. But I still liked to browse through messages posted to it, because some very knowledgeable people have frequented that group.

I just checked its status at <<http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/GaliciaPoland-Ukraine/info>>. The group is still accepting applications to join, but has only had 28 messages in the last week. I joined and looked over those 28 messages, and some older ones. Most of what's appeared recently has to do with changes Yahoo has made to the way its groups work. The moderator, Laurence Krupnak, has found the new procedures, called NEO, unworkable. For a while he did suspend the list, and the notes that have been posted in the last week deal largely with suggestions on good alternatives to Yahoo Groups. I also notice that the Wikipedia page on Yahoo Groups claims nearly half a million group members have dropped out from August 31 to September 6 of this year. It's not just the Galicia group that has been impacted terribly by these changes.

I'm sorry to see this, and frankly had no idea that the new procedures had caused such disgust. But then, I have been devoting most of my time and attention the last two months to the Latin volume of *In Their Words* (which is close to being ready). I guess it's not surprising I overlooked all this.

It's sad; I've been watching people get fed up with changes of this sort since I was on Prodigy back in the early 90s. Prodigy took a good deal and butchered it; I don't think it ever recovered. Yahoo seems intent on doing the same thing. I don't know why so many of these companies keep finding ways to screw up a good thing ... In any case, I'll try to keep up with developments and let you know what I learn. Feel free to let me know what you know, or what you think.

***** PGSA NEW MEMBER FALL PROMOTION *****

October 1-31, 2013

As the leaves and temperatures begin to fall, let your interest in genealogy continue to rise. PGSA can help!

Join now and receive:

- *Rodziny* – award-winning quarterly journal; over 125 pages annually, addressing topics of interest, member experiences, and useful suggestions

- Notebook – monthly e-newsletter keeping you up-to-date on the latest in genealogy circles
- Members Only – PGSA.org website; records and indexes; back issues of the *Rodziny*
- Library-Research assistance – Help in locating villages, obtaining obituaries, Haller’s army and PRCUA records
- Member discounts – On research books, CDs, packets, and the annual conference

Your membership will also support the work of the Society, which is constantly engaged in adding new information and services to assist you.

During this promotion period only, you will receive.....

- Free Translation Packet* with a 1-year membership
- Free Translation Packet* and PGSA tote bag with a 2-year membership

To join is simple. Visit our website, <<http://www.pgsa.org>>, and click on “Membership.” You can sign up online and pay with a credit card, or download the enrollment form and mail it in with a check. Your choice! Mail must be postmarked no later than October 31. To help us, please indicate on your form “Oct. Promotion.”

“Remember, Genealogy not only helps you learn more about your ancestors but, about yourself!”

*Translation Packet offers 25 pages with lists of key words and popular names in the languages of the partitions: Latin, German, Russian, and Polish. Many of us start our research by collecting vital records. If you are a first- or second-generation American, the information in the packet can help you decipher the records. Also, if you are looking to correspond with officials in Poland, sample letters, written in both Polish and English, and forms for requesting specific records are included along with instructions on how to proceed— invaluable information for your Polish research.

**PGSA Tote Bag—Black/red non-woven tote that converts from over-the-shoulder to across-the-body style. PGSA logo on one side, PMA logo on the other. Side mesh pocket for a water bottle. Smaller pockets for pens/pencils.

*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

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

October 5, 2013

BUFFALO, NY CELEBRATES POLISH HERITAGE MONTH

Location:
Broadway Market
999 Broadway
Buffalo, New York

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

- Pierogi making Demonstration 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

- Special Delivery Band playing Polka favorites 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

(Word has it that one of the band members is the editor of the *Polish American Journal*)

- Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble 12:00 p.m.

[From a note posted by Debbie Greenlee to the Polish Genius mailing list]

=====

October 11–12, 2013

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT AND THE NORTHEAST
CONFERENCE**

**Central Connecticut State University - Student Center
1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, Connecticut**

The PGSCTNE Conference is coming up, 11-12 October 2013 at CCSU in New Britain, CT.
Scheduled speakers and topics are as follows:

Matthew Bielawa and Jonathan Shea – Introduction to Polish Research

Dr. Mieczyslaw B. Biskupski – Did A Polish Spy Create the European Union?

Michael Buryk – Uncover Your Roots in the Lemko Region of Southeast Poland

Tim Firkowski – Finding the Family: Problems, Successes and Rewards

Aleksandra Kacprzak – Polish Traditions, Customs and Superstitions *and* Additional, Lesser Known Genealogical Resources in Poland: STATE and CHURCH ARCHIVES and Other Sources

Dr. Shellee Morehead – Finding and Using Alien Registration Files *and* Sex, DNA and Family History

Thomas Sadauskas – U.S. Military Records: What's There and How Do You Get Them? *and* Your Frequent Flyer Ancestors: Re-Emigration To and From Europe

Dr. Paul S. Valasek – Postcards and Genealogy: Much More Than Greetings! *and* Tracing the 20th Century Immigrant

The URL for the conference is <<http://pgsctne.org/Conference%202013/List%20of%20Documents.aspx>>. Visit that page to make appointments to consult with experts, select lectures, and register,

and to get more info.

=====

October 19, 2013

ANNUAL POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN SEMINAR
American Polish Cultural Center
2975 E. Maple Rd. and Dequindre Rd

The 2013 Annual PGSM Seminar will be held 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can get detailed information from this page on the PGSM website: <<http://www.pgsm.org/seminarfeatured.htm>>.

The first Speaker will be **Ceil Wendt Jensen**, Certified Genealogist. She presents practical examples and suggestions on how to use records, databases, and archives to start or advance your genealogy research. She dispels the myth that records were destroyed during the World Wars and that language barriers make European research difficult. A lavishly illustrated workbook, *Sto Lat: A Modern Guide for Polish Genealogy*, offers a plan for researching at least one hundred years of family records, and is a compilation of techniques developed over thirty years of research and teaching. These are tried and true techniques used for clients and with patrons at the Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI) on the campus of St. Mary's of Orchard Lake. Both traditional and digital research techniques are presented. Common research questions are answered and suggestions are offered to help novice and advanced researchers find ancestors in North America and Poland.

LECTURE TITLES

Now Boarding: Planning a Research Trip in Poland - This session is based on over 30 years of travel experience leading overseas groups and research in Poland archives. Learn how to plan ahead, get the most for your dollar, travel light, and bring home the research you went for! This session includes examples and suggestions on how to prepare for a trip to Polish archives, parishes, and record repositories. This lecture covers techniques for finding Catholic, Lutheran and Jewish records. Learn to write effective e-mail to ESL speakers and how to hire a photographer, researcher and / or guide.

Behind the Scenes at Polish Repositories — U.S. and Poland

The lecture is based on interviews conducted on site with the directors of repositories in the U.S. and Poland. Learn about the unique materials held throughout Polonia, the regional archives in Poland, and the concentration camp museums of Stutthof and Auschwitz-Birkenau. Lecture outline/summary. Researchers will learn about records, maps, and ephemera held at repositories that go beyond vital records. Learn how to find unique ledgers, documents, and art work to enrich and advance your family history.

Archival Techniques for Family Historians

A survey of current archival standards regarding the care and storage of paper, photographic and digital files which family historians need to know. Learn how to care for the records and ephemera you have collected. This session addresses how to care for the family records, photos

and memorabilia you have collected. The use of archival storage materials will be discussed, as well as a workable cataloging system.

The second Speaker will be **Kris Rzepczynski**. Currently a Senior Archivist at the Archives of Michigan, Kris previously worked for 12 years at the Library of Michigan as the Michigan/ Genealogy Coordinator. He holds a Masters in Library and Information Science from Wayne State University, a Master of Arts in History from Western Michigan University, and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Michigan. Kris has presented at national, state, and local conferences. In addition, he is an incoming member of the Board of Directors for the Federation of Genealogical Societies and a Past President of the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society.

Topic: Researching Your Family History at the Archives of Michigan

An introduction to the Archives of Michigan, this program will explore the genealogical collections available there, including both original source records and published resources, and how to best maximize your research time there. One of the larger family history collections in the United States, the Archives' holdings emphasize Michigan, the Great Lakes states, New England, the Mid-Atlantic region, as well as Ontario and Quebec. Notable collections include the J. William Gorski Collection of Polish genealogy and history and Michigan naturalization records.

Seminar includes a continental breakfast and a delicious Polish lunch.

The Seminar is held at the American Polish Cultural Center located at 2975 E. Maple Rd. and Dequindre Rd. Please send reservations and check by October 1, 2013 for \$65 and \$100 for couples (\$35 is tax deductible). This will include the Seminar, continental breakfast and a delicious Polish lunch. If you have questions, please contact Valerie Koselka, <vkoselka.pgsm@gmail.com>.

PGSM, Burton Collection
c/o Detroit Public Library
5201 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202-4007

=====

October 23 – 26, 2013

**CZECHOSLOVAK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL
2013 GENEALOGICAL AND CULTURAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) will hold its 14th Genealogical and Cultural Conference at the Westin Lombard Hotel in Lombard, Illinois, October 23–26, 2013. Hotel reservations can now be made for the Conference at the Westin Lombard Hotel in Lombard, Illinois. Click on the Reserve icon when you get to the Hotel page.

The keynote speaker will be our own **Paul S. Valasek**! Other notable speakers are Lisa A. Alzo, Grace DuMelle, Leo Baca, Lou Szucs, and many more.

For more information on the program, see this Web page:

<<http://www.cgsi.org/content/2013-genealogical-and-cultural-conference-program>>

=====

Saturday October 26, 2013

**Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society and the Canadiana Department of
North York Central Library Co-sponsor**

TRACING FORWARD – SEARCHING FOR RELATIVES IN RECENT TIMES

North York Central Library

2nd floor Auditorium

5120 Yonge Street

Toronto, Canada

Join expert speakers and fellow family history enthusiasts for a full day of lectures designed for researchers interested in expanding their family trees to find living relatives. Find out why we all should build “tracing forward” into our family history research, and discover new tools, techniques and strategies for tracing people who are either still alive or recently deceased. Learn how to navigate privacy and access rules and how to connect with “DNA cousins”, pick up tips from professionals who locate people for a living, and prepare to be inspired by stories of how family history mysteries have been solved.

For full program and speaker information and to register online, visit <<http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/TracingForward.html>>. OGS members pay reduced fees, and an additional early-bird discount applies for those who register before 30 September.

Gwyneth Pearce

Secretary – Toronto Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

<publicity@torontofamilyhistory.org>

Now on Facebook and Twitter @TOFamilyHistory

=====

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

**SEARCHING THE ALL-GALICIA DATABASE & GESHER GALICIA MAP ROOM
ONLINE**

New York Public Library, Manhattan

5:30 p.m.

co-sponsored by the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society

Speaker: Pamela Weisberger

The All Galicia Database (AGD) on the Geshher Galicia website has over 230,000 records from 79 data sources from birth, death, marriage and divorce records to directories, school, voter, tax and landowner records from the former Austro-Hungarian province of Galicia, which today covers eastern Poland and western Ukraine. These diverse community resources cover all the ethnic/religious groups from these towns: Jews, Poles, Ukrainians, Ruthenians, Germans, Catholics, Greek Catholic and Orthodox. Geshher Galicia's digital "Cadastral Map Room" has the largest online collection of property maps from the Austrian Empire. These high-resolution maps often show the names of the landowners and shop-owners written onto plots, fields and in market square. Learn about our Galician Archival Records Project and how to use the AGD, in conjunction with the Cadastral Map Room and the GG records inventory, to find your ancestors and link the indexes and maps to the original source documents from overseas archives. There will be a brief overview on the best approach to Galician research presenting examples of unusual 18th – 20th century records which can expand your genealogical research and enhance your knowledge about the lives of your ancestors:

Pamela Weisberger, the 1st V.P. and program chair for the Jewish Genealogical Society Los Angeles, president and research coordinator for Geshher Galicia, Inc., was co-chair of the 2010 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. A professional genealogist, writer, and internationally-known lecturer, she has conducted research in Polish, German Ukrainian, Hungarian, and Austrian archives. She created the Galician Archival Records Project and the Geshher Galicia Cadastral (Virtual) Map Room. One of her specialties is historical newspaper research. She holds a B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis and an M.S. from Boston University.

Location: New York Public Library's Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, South Court Auditorium, Fifth Avenue at 42nd Street, New York, NY. Free of charge.

<<http://www.geshhergalicia.org/meetings/searching-the-all-galicia-database-geshher-galicia-map-room-new-york-public-library/>>

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

<<http://www.stevemorse.org/ssdi/ssdi.html>>

An article dated September 14 from *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* discussed "The Easy (and More Accurate) Method of Searching the SSDI." Basically, he was suggesting the use of this page on Steve Morse's website, devoted to making research easier. If you'd like to read Dick Eastman's article, it's available here: <http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2013/09/the-easy-and-more-accurate-method-of-searching-the-ssdi.html>.

<http://www.masslive.com/entertainment/index.ssf/2013/09/trendy_warsaw_square_shows_pol.html>

Larry Mandeville passed along this link, to an article about Warsaw. The title of the article

is “Trendy Warsaw square shows Poland’s change.” It’s about Plac Zbawiciela, “Savior Square,” and it is a brief, interesting article you might enjoy reading.

<<http://www.polalech.pl/krakowski-ubieranka.htm>>

Ceil Jensen posted this link to the Polish Genealogy page on Facebook, explaining “This site has .pdfs of all kinds of print images...like Polish paper dolls in regional costumes. Free! Enjoy. Ladies, paper dolls are good at any age!”

<<http://blog.myheritage.com/2010/08/the-interview-series-polish-genealogist-rafał-t-prinke/>>

This is a link I happened across, to an English-language translation of an interview in 2010 with Polish researcher Rafał T. Prinke. Rafał was one of the first Poles in recent times to tell his countrymen about the joys of genealogy, and I always enjoy reading what he has to say.

<http://jpass.jstor.org/#j_what_is_jpass_-_plans>

Jan Meisels Allen posted a note to the JewishGen newsgroup about a new plan from JSTOR, “a shared digital library created in 1995 to help university and college libraries to free space on their shelves, save costs, and provide greater levels of access to more content. It’s a not-for-profit, founded to help academic libraries and publishers.” The new plan, called JPASS, allows individuals access to the JSTOR library of 1,500+ academic journals. I have often found myself wishing I could read some of the articles I found through Google that were available only through JSTOR; so I thought we should spread word of this. I know many researchers have no need of this, but perhaps some will find it worth looking into.

<http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=f54_1337075813>

Chris Cowan posted this link on the LithGen mailing list. It takes you to an animated map of Europe from 1000 A.D. to the present. One list member commented it was a nice map but it would be better if there were a legend and some sort of date presented as it ran. There is also another version of this map on LiveLeak, <http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=14d_1348362692>, that includes a date, although there seem to be some synchronization problems. In any case, Mary Ann Evan pointed out, “There is a program that includes the historical narrative, but it isn’t free. It’s called Centennia Historical Atlas (yes, there is no “L” at the end of the first word). You can see a segment for free but need to buy the software (\$59) to get all of the information. It was well worth the cost for me, as I use it all the time, but for occasional use, maybe not.” For more information, see <<http://www.clockwk.com/>>.

<<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2408591/American-ethnicity-map-shows-melting-pot-ethnicities-make-USA-today.html#ixzz2dqtU5S9p>>

On the Polish Genius mailing list, “Kasia” called this “a truly captivating map that shows the ancestry of every one of the 317 million people who call the melting pot of America home can now be seen on a U.S. Census Bureau map.”

<http://eliasz.com/DziennikPolski/DP_search.htm>

On the Facebook page for the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, C. Michael Eliasz-Solomon said “I have added about 2,000 people to the *Dziennik Polski* (Detroit newspaper) database that can be searched” at this URL.

<<http://www.rootsmagic.com/webinars/>>

Brother Joseph Martin mentioned that he really enjoyed the webinar “How to Find Your Family History in Newspapers” by Lisa Louise Cook, available at this URL. He added, “It is about halfway down the second column. It is 72 minutes long.” When I checked just now (on September 29), it was item #39 in the list.

YOU MAY REPRINT articles from *Gen Dobry!*, PROVIDED: (1) the reprint is used for non-commercial, educational purposes; and (2) the following notice appears at the end of the article: Written by [author’s name, e-mail address, and URL, if given]. Previously published by *Gen Dobry!*, Vol. XIV, No. 9, 30 September 2013, PolishRoots®: <<http://www.PolishRoots.org/>>.

If you send *Gen Dobry!* an item for publication and that item contains a previously unpublished item from a third party, please also include permission from that party to reprint the item in *Gen Dobry!* We cannot republish private correspondence or copyrighted material without express permission unless it is already clearly in the public domain. If we do publish such private correspondence or copyrighted materials, your submission of it constitutes your agreement to hold the editor, *Gen Dobry!*, and PolishRoots®, Inc. harmless in the event of a valid claim as a result of such unauthorized publication. Such agreement includes, but is not limited to, all litigation costs.

Copyright 2013, PolishRoots®, Inc. All rights reserved