



# Gen Dobry!

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

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

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

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## **\*\*\* EPIDEMIOLOGY AND GENEALOGY: LIFE AND DEATH WALKING HAND-IN-HAND \*\*\***

by Paul S. Valasek, DDS <[hallersarmy@aol.com](mailto:hallersarmy@aol.com)>

OK. Got your attention, I hope! Big words for many people, Epidemiology and Genealogy, but both go hand-in-hand and one can't survive without the other. I have always stated that genealogy is the single best teacher of almost anything one can imagine; and recently for me, it addresses epidemiology, the study of epidemics.

Many readers may be, or by now should be, aware of the great Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918. This single illness caused more deaths than the four years of World War I. Estimates of deaths go as high as 50,000,000 worldwide; the last I heard, it may have started by an American soldier returning to his home state of Kansas.

Well, I recently came across another epidemic in my research, one that, until now, I had no idea of its existence. Upon researching my family history, I soon found it had some devastating effects on certain lines of my family.

I made mention a few issues ago that the Brno (Southern Moravian) archives of the Czech Republic were going online. My Czech ancestral village of Blatnice has many (but not all) records online from 1620 through 1902. Even with a few decades of records yet to be posted, I have been diligently working the books, adding over 1,000 new members to my tree in the past six months.

As I go through linking families and households, I get a better and more complete image of the town, which I have visited five times over the years—the first time (1974) with my paternal grandfather, Joseph Valasek, who immigrated to the U.S. in 1921 along with his future wife, Marie Budinkova, my grandmother. Over the years, I have realized that an estimated 150+ immigrants came to the Chicago area alone from this town, with an approximate population of 2,000 souls. Even today, the population is holding fairly steady, but most likely is growing slowly.

A few weeks ago, I started linking individuals using the birth, marriage, and death records I can view at home. That is one key to this whole article. One needs to spend extensive time going over town records before one starts to pick out historical parts and pieces that could easily be overlooked. I happened to be going over death records, picking out family names and house numbers which I know to be in my tree, when a revelation came to me.

I came across one relative, Pavel Hanacek, from house # 219, who died on August 7, 1866 at the age of 72. I entered the information and looked at other names on the page. Well, just above his listing I was surprised to find his wife, Anna Bogar Hanacek, from the same house, # 219, dying at the age of 66. On the next set of pages, I found a daughter-in-law, Katerina Hanacek, from the same house, # 219, aged 27, dying on August 14, 1866, only a week later. I also noted that of the nine deaths listed on Katerina's page, the ages were 45, 62, 57, 1, 54, 56, 30, 44, and 27, an average age of 42. This is not the usual infant and child mortality that I see year after year. These deaths were predominantly adults who survived childhood illnesses and yet were targets of something new.

Now unfortunately, in today's society, when we hear of a mother, father, and adult child all dying together, we think of a house fire, car accident, or something as horrible as multiple murders. Well, Blatnice is made up of stone, brick, and stucco homes. In 1866, the only vehicles up and down the street were one, maybe two horse-powered wagons—not usually enough to wipe out three adult family members. And let's face it, murders were not at all that common in those days as today. So what caused these deaths?

I quickly thought of war and armies coming through town, shooting and slaughtering the town's people. But I knew of no active wars in town around 1866. Then I opened my eyes, something we have to do after staring with tunnel vision for names and dates, and I looked at the cause of death; Austrian records usually list this in a separate column; Russian records may have it written within the text. There it was, the nasty word CHOLERA! Well, to a health professional, there are few words that echo so loudly and cause such chills. Cholera, typhus, yellow fever, influenza, TB, AIDS (though the first five have been with man for centuries, while the last one is rather new and quite prominent in the media today)—all of these are communicable diseases, so anyone is capable of contracting them.

So, I looked at all of the causes of death on the page, and all nine were cholera. I looked at the facing page, and again, every one of the causes of death of the 10 listed was cholera. I turned the page and again; every cause of death on the next pages was cholera. This was indeed an epidemic! I took the observations further and did a minor epidemiological study for cholera in Blatnice in the year 1866. I looked at the years 1861 through the first half of 1866 and not one cholera death showed up; the first cholera death is listed on July 31, 1866. After that, the next 121 deaths in a row were exclusively cholera. After a break of this string by two non-cholera deaths, cholera again was listed, followed again by two non-cholera deaths, followed by two more cholera deaths—and then, surprisingly, there was no more cholera for the rest of that year and the next. It appears the disease arrived, ravaged the populace, and left just as quickly. From July 31 through October 6, 1866, a total of 121 deaths out of 129 were caused by cholera. That is a frightening number for anywhere, let alone a town of, say, 2,000.

I took it another step. Let's see how this number of deaths stacks up with a "normal" year. For this, I decided to include the years 1860-1870. Fortunately, the priest kept a running total of deaths for any given year, so I looked at the last death for the year and located the total for that year's deceased members of town. Here are the numbers:

1860	45 deaths	1866	167 deaths !!!
1861	55 deaths	1867	47 deaths
1862	68 deaths	1868	56 deaths
1863	56 deaths	1869	49 deaths
1864	66 deaths	1870	56 deaths
1865	35 deaths		

We can easily see that the year 1866 stands out as a distinct year of death for the town, more than doubling the next largest yearly total. So what's going on?

After realizing what I had just discovered, I said, "What can I find out about this epidemic?" Well,

there is this thing called Google, and I quickly Googled “1866 cholera.” Many sites came up, but the first was Wikipedia, which I find of great use, fairly accurate, a place where I can start my searching and continue on with additional research as needed.

I soon found out that the Fourth Cholera Pandemic took place between the years 1863 and 1875 and covered both the Russian and Austrian Empires. Blatnice was in the middle of the Austrian Empire, so there it was, some answers to my ancestral town’s epidemic. The following is listed on the Wikipedia site:

1863-1875—**Fourth cholera pandemic** spread mostly in Europe and Africa. At least 30,000 of the 90,000 Mecca pilgrims fell victim to the disease. Cholera claimed 90,000 lives in Russia in 1866. The epidemic of cholera that spread with the Austro-Prussian War (1866) is estimated to have claimed 165,000 lives in the Austrian Empire. Hungary and Belgium both lost 30,000 people and in the Netherlands 20,000 perished. In 1867, Italy lost 113,000 lives.

So, now that I see a reference to the Austro-Prussian War, and its returning soldiers, I also looked up that reference, as some of my family members were involved in the Austrian army, possibly the Russian army on my Polish side.

<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austro-Prussian\\_War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austro-Prussian_War)>

And that is why I bring this up to our PolishRoots readers. 165,000 casualties in Austria will easily include people from Galicia, where many of our Polish ancestors came from. And then anything to do with Russia could easily mean those parts of the Russian Empire which were populated primarily by Poles. I have yet to find any breakdown or localization of fatalities from this disease, other than that which I discovered from my town of Blatnice. But anytime you get 121 deaths in just a little over two months, wiping out over 5% of a population without a shot being fired, that has to provide quite awakening to the researching mind.

Here is an interesting chart of pandemics that gives some details for others to look at. Sure enough, my 1866 Cholera is there, along with many others.

<<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/myadel/Pandemics.htm>>

Has anyone else seen effects of this cholera epidemic (or any other) in their research of villages and towns in Poland, or any other places where these epidemics took hold, even in the U.S. and England? Check your records and be suspicious of any deaths in the year 1866. If you find information, please share your research to better understand what our ancestors went through in their “normal daily lives.”

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

Subject: East European Genealogical Society on Facebook

We are happy to announce that our Society (EEGS) is now on Facebook. We have created an East European Genealogical Society page and we would like you to go and take a look. It is hoped that we can promote our events (such as our upcoming Galicia Seminar on October 2nd), new discoveries, old discoveries, interesting EE topics, research tips, etc.

When you go to the page, please click on the “Like” button at the top of the page to show your support and then click on the link “Suggest to Friends” in the upper left corner. Select your friends so they can take a look as well. We encourage you to suggest the page to ALL your friends because you never know who might be interested in it.

The link to our Facebook page is:

<<http://tinyurl.com/EEGS-Facebook>>

Thanks for your continuing support and we hope this will be an exciting new tool for our communications.

Best regards,  
EEGS

*Editor*—More and more genealogical organizations are getting on Facebook, to reach out to people who can benefit from their expertise. I notice recently Avotaynu got its own page as well:

<<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Avotaynu/128084757202831>>

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Subject: Need a good translator in the Kraków area?

Need a guide, driver, or translator in the Kraków area? Please consider Marta and Czesław Chmielowski. They are great! And their rates are not much more than renting a car yourself. Marta was tireless—she drove the six-hour round-trip journey to the parish in Dębowiec, and made all the right connections for us. She met with the major of Zarzecze so we could find House 91 where my grandmother was born. She even helped PBS travel writer Rick Steves when he was in Poland!

Their Website is here:

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

Ceil Jensen

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Subject: Two amazing people

*Editor*—This is a note Jean Conser sent in answer to my comment about how we'd probably like it if TV shows like *Who Do You Think You Are?* added a little grit to the glitz.

Grit work is good for the genealogist. It provides information about your family and also knowledge of Poland. For 25 years I have been looking for my husband's Polish family. Most work was done by me viewing microfilm. But when you reach the brick wall, you need assistance. I found two amazing people that have helped us find our family and relatives in Poland. One was Ola Heska; her help doing translations in Polish or Cyrillic was amazing. She is Polish-born, cares about you, and often lectures on genealogy. She can be reached at <[ola@hwwd.com](mailto:ola@hwwd.com)>. Another I found through *Gen Dobry!*, Michał J. Marciniak, who is in Poland. He provided me with information that was not attainable in the United States. I received more recent information such as documentation in the 1900s, almost 100 pictures of the Polish villages my husbands family lived in, as well as the names and addresses of relatives in Poland. He delivers. He can be reached at <[office@polgenresearch.com](mailto:office@polgenresearch.com)>. Fees for both are extremely reasonable for what is delivered. At last we know our Polish family and are now looking forward to meeting them.

Jean Conser <[jeancons@gmail.com](mailto:jeancons@gmail.com)>

*Editor*—I've had the pleasure of meeting Ola Heska, and often recommend her to people who need help translating Polish and Russian. I've never met Mr. Marciniak, but I can honestly say I've heard nothing but praise for his work. I'm glad you are so happy with their services. I know if I needed help, I wouldn't hesitate to turn to either of them.

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Subject: A New Website

Greetings,

My name is Phil Hayes. I found your contact info on a Genealogy / Historical Society web site. If you are not affiliated, please accept my apologies, You will not hear from me again.

I am hoping that you might consider letting your membership know about our new Genealogy / History Research Website called Sirius Genealogy 2.0. Below is a press release that we will be distributing next week to the media. It tells you about what we have to offer. We think you will enjoy it.

Thanks for your time.

Phil Hayes

<[Phil@siriusgenealogy.com](mailto:Phil@siriusgenealogy.com)>

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September 16, 2010

## **SIRIUS GENEALOGY... AN ONLINE COMMUNITY FOR PEOPLE INTERESTED IN FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH**

*This is the first of many exciting announcements we plan to make over the next several weeks.*

Greetings... My name is Philip Hayes .Genealogy 2.0 (SG2) is pleased to announce that we have completed our transformation from a simple blog, into a complete online community for Amateur & Professional Genealogists. The old blog has been shut down and a new membership site has been launched and is publicly available. Membership is **FREE!** In addition to the general community atmosphere, SG2 has developed numerous Google Gadgets, Web Tools and other services to assist genealogists in their mission. Many more eliciting tools are on their way! We would like to take this opportunity to invite you back to our site to look at the many changes we have made and encourage you to give us your feedback. Although most of the content areas do not require a membership to view, we hope you will consider joining our community so that you can participate in its development and take advantage of the many member only features. Sirius Genealogy is a site for Genealogists by Genealogists.

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

### **New or Improved Features:**

- Articles, Article and more Articles (Member contributions encouraged).
- Headline News: Links to related news stories from around the world.
- Message Forums: Read what members are saying.
- Speaker Bureau: A place to find speakers for your next genealogy or history related event.
- Events Calendar: A place to find conferences and educational opportunities.
- File Library: Forms, genealogies and more.
- Word Of The Day: A new genealogy related word to challenge you each day!
- Abbreviation Of The Day: A new abbreviation to challenge you each day!
- Web Tools: Cousin calculators, age calculators, Soundex calculators and more.
- Google Gadgets for iGoogle and your web pages.
- Social Activity Monitors: See what genealogists are posting on twitter.
- Marketplace: Look for a growing number of products for this area.

### **Member Only Features**

- Contributions: Get your articles, stories, events and speaker profiles posted.
- Comment and Rate: Comment and Rate just about any page in the site.
- Shoutouts: Post your quick genealogical thoughts to the entire community!
- My Account: A place to manage your membership.
- Message Forums: Meet, greet, share ideas and success stories in the forums!

So, we hope to see you in our new community. Please sure to stop in at the forums to tell us what you would like to see in the future.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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*Editor*—I certainly don't mind passing this word along to our readers, as we like to keep them informed of any new development in genealogy. At the same time, I should make clear I know nothing about this site other than what I saw during a quick visit. I would welcome input from readers who try it and would like to tell us what they think.

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### \*\*\* STRATEGIZING AND PLANNING NON-CHURCH-RELATED RESEARCH \*\*\*

*by Alan Kania*

*Editor*—For some time now, experts have been trying to get people to realize Polish archives have a lot more than just parish records to offer genealogists. I wanted to share this note with you, posted by researcher Alan Kania to the Polish Genius list in response to a question from a member named Sandy, because it illustrates the point so well. Think outside the church!

Sandy, you asked what file or folio Iwona [Dakiniewicz, a Polish professional] was researching when she came across the information at the archives in Kraków. Keep in mind that these are searches that are particularly focused on my family search in the area of Buczkowice and Łodygowice, villages south of Bielsko-Biała. I am having Iwona research information other than just church records. If you are using a Polish researcher (or know the language well enough to maneuver through the archive catalogues), I strongly recommend that you look into what additional holdings the Polish archives may have. Here's how we strategized the search.

First, I provided Iwona with some family stories—one described my great-grandfather as a sheriff in Buczkowice and the other described him as the postman. Either job would have been a government job. I also know that members of my extended family were involved with the development of the school in Buczkowice. And I knew several families were prominent farmers in Buczkowice. These were unsubstantiated tidbits learned from talking with older members of my family, and by the occasional references in church records (i.e., “the marriage of peasant farmers so-and-so”). **RESEARCH TIPS:** Never discard any information, even if it is undocumented or known to be in error. Also, when looking for records, try not to accept transcriptions but seek a copy of the actual document. Sometimes there is a little pearl of information that the transcriber did not think was important enough to include with the transcription.



With the information I provided, Iwona was able to find that the Administrative records of Biała county were in the Kraków Archives branch on Grodzka Street. These records included:

- Fond 210: 579 sets of documents (1783-1939)
- Fond 1208: 6 items about the inspection of workers (1928-1938)
- Fond 422: 6 items of school records (1904-1917)
- Fond 282: 14 items of land records (1920-1921), index of farmers who owned more than 6 *morgas*
- Fond 464: 250 items of land records (1753-1880)
- Fond 448: 90 items of county court records (1884-1911)

In the Oświęcim archives, there are 274 items of School records from Biała County (1883-1932).

There were lots of other records of guild members from 18th-19th-century unions, societies, etc:

- Potters (year 1639)
- Wheel makers (1814)
- Blacksmiths (1621-1867)
- Tailors (1562-1839)
- Furriers (1584-1841)
- Millers (1801-1861)
- Bakers (1600-1950)
- Shearers of clothes (?) (1748-1855)
- Saddlers (1790)
- Builders (1764-1943)
- Carpenters (1780-1930)
- Clothiers (1576-1895, 1747-1945)
- Shoemakers (1832-1845, 1747-1945)
- Locksmiths (1663-1875)
- Butchers (1793-1843)

In the Bielsko archives, there were notary records of several people.

She was also able to find an interesting source: *Galician Schematism from 1781-1913*, with surname indexes of all who worked in state positions—from ministers to local authorities, employees of courts, railways, schools, etc. The annual volumes EACH contain 400-1000 pages of information, depending upon the year.

She also found a Galician calendar (1834-1917) which included funeral chronicles. Index of participants of the November Uprising 1830-31 in Galicia. An index of victims killed in the January Uprising 1863-64. And an index of officers in Galicia from 1916.

As you can see, family history research is much more than collecting names, dates and places from church records. I **STRONGLY** recommend that you develop a budget and have a

professional researcher explore the resources of the archival system in Poland. I don't speak or read the language, so the online catalogues are of very little use to me. I prefer to spend the money and hire a professional who IS familiar with the archive system.

Even though Iwona is based in Łódź, she has been extremely effective in helping me find information about my family in southern Poland (where there is a definite lack of “good” researchers familiar with parish churches, local repositories, and state archives). Instead of going blindly into an archives, she strategizes the searches to determine my priorities and what are the chances of success for finding information that would be relevant to my family history research. Not all searches are successful, but because of her understanding of the archives, she always comes up with some great stuff. This is the advantage of knowing what you're looking for, and having a foundation of documented research to base the new research upon. The key is **PLANNING** and **STRATEGY!**

Iwona Dakiniewicz can be contacted at <[geneology@pro.onet.pl](mailto:geneology@pro.onet.pl)>. She also conducts custom-tours throughout Poland.

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### **\*\*\* HOW DO BABIES LEARN TO SPEAK POLISH? \*\*\***

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

The answer to this question is, of course, the same way babies learn to speak English! They get bombarded with it, day in and day out, and after a while they start to pick some up in self-defense. Babies feel powerless over their environment, until they notice that making certain sounds gets their parents' attention. In fact, making the right sounds can reduce all the adults in the vicinity to a pile of quivering goo. Power! That's what gives them incentive to learn more words—raw baby lust for power.

These are not, of course, particularly original observations. But I was reminded of them recently when I read an e-mail from my friend, Rafał Prinke, of Poznań. Rafał was one of the first Poles I know to become interested in genealogy. I actually met him in person back in the 80s, when we were both speaking at a conference of the Polish Genealogical Society in Chicago, and I enjoyed conversing with him very much. We've stayed in touch since then, and I've even had the privilege of working with him on a few projects. So I felt rather old when Rafał mentioned that I could see a video of his grandson, Tymek, on YouTube. The title is “Nietoperz,” which means “bat” in Polish—the flying animal, not the piece of wood.

I'm not one of those people inclined to go all gooey over home movies of babies, but I must admit that little Tymek has star power. See for yourself:

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0GJvC486Ho&NR=1>>

What's so cool about the video is that you actually get to see this little Polish baby making an

attempt to say the Polish word for “camera,” which is *aparāt*. It’s amazing enough to see any baby start speaking; there’s something especially impressive about a baby making progress before your eyes in mastering what seems, to us, a very difficult language.

You’ll notice, it doesn’t hurt that his mother has excellent diction. I’m not terribly good at understand spoken Polish, because I don’t get enough practice; but I was able to pick out quite a few of the words she used to describe the little pond they were visiting. Rafał explained later, “My daughter-in-law is an interpreter at the European Parliament and does simultaneous translations to and from English, German and French—that is why she speaks so clearly and distinctly.” Still, I kept wanting to ask her to slow down just a little bit; Tymek may be keeping up with her, but I can’t, quite. It’s sort of like when Groucho Marx said, “Why a four-year-old child could understand this report. Run out and find me a four-year-old child. I can’t make head nor tail out of it.”

Anyway, I asked Rafał if he’d mind if I share this video with our readers. He replied, “Of course, you may include the link—it will make Tymek a celebrity :-). And it is on YouTube anyway, so no restrictions apply.”

So take a look—you may enjoy it. If so, here are two others Rafał thought you might like. In one, Tymek decides it’s not fair for his dad to hog all the cool toys, and fights with him for control of the laptop:

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrnmKJV3d7o>>

And this most recent one shows him starting to walk, just before his first birthday:

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=df-23u1nBy0>>

I must add, it tickles me to realize that Tymek’s parents wouldn’t know me from Adam, yet here I am on the other side of the Atlantic, agreeing with them that they have one cute kid!

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\*\*\* “THE GREATEST EVER” CHRONICLED IN NEW BASEBALL FILM \*\*\*

*as told by Raymond Rolak, Detroit, Michigan*

*Editor*—R. J. Rolak sent me this story, as he sent stories the last couple of months. They’re always interesting, even though I’m not big on baseball; and they feature Polish-Americans. So I figure you will enjoy them, too—and if not, you’ll tell me!

It was more like a Grand Slam. The movie preview, that is. It was the first showing of the short documentary, “The Legend of Pinky Deras: The Greatest Little-Leaguer There Ever Was.” Players from the 1959 Hamtramck Little League National Champions and the 1961 Hamtramck Pony League National Champions were celebrated. These were mostly second-generation Polish-

Americans and Pinky carried the load for both of these championship teams.

Former Major Leaguer, Tom Paciorek highlighted the film with his great praise for Deras. The statistics back him up and then some. During that 1959 summer, Deras hit .641 with 33 home runs and 112 RBI's. "When Deras pitched, you couldn't see the ball," said Paciorek. "And when he hit, well, you had better walk him or it was a home run." Most remember Paciorek as the longtime Chicago White Sox broadcaster.

Paciorek should know. Besides broadcasting baseball, he has the pedigree. He was an 18-year MLB veteran, and was an "All-Star" in 1981 with Seattle.

The evening was supposed to be about celebrating Art "Pinky" Deras. He wouldn't hear of it as he shared the spotlight with his former teammates. The players in attendance received a standing ovation. "That's Pinky," said Robert Miller, a 1961 Pony League Championship teammate. "He was humble then and he is humble now."

One of the great anecdotes of the evening was when Deras recalled his professional California League playing days; he went out for dinner one night with Tom and John Paciorek. "I think we were in Modesto, which was pretty heady stuff for three kids from Hamtramck. That was the 60s and I was probably a bit too free-spirited. I really looked up to John. He was a great player." John Paciorek has a special footnote in baseball history, as he has the listing for the highest batting average in the *Baseball Register*. Another lost-to-history detail was that the Deras family name had originally been spelled Darasz.

The movie presentation had rare footage of the 1959 Championship game between Auburn, California and Hamtramck. Kevin Deras (Art's son) located the "lost" 16-millimeter film at the Little League archives in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Mark Modich, another longtime teammate said, "We were good as a team, but Pinky just had that much more talent."

Deras kept shifting the spotlight from himself. "Don't forget Sid Cline pitched a great second game," said the tall pitcher. "Hawaii had just become a State so there was a lot of excitement." "I was big for my age, everyone caught up," he added smiling. In the 1959 Finals, Hamtramck won three straight, Puerto Rico, Honolulu and Auburn. It was on Aug. 29, 1959 when Deras pitched that championship game, a 12-0 shutout. In all, Hamtramck won 13 straight games in their journey. The mostly Polish-American community of Hamtramck went wild. Their native son's were Little League National Champions.

In the preview there were scenes from the nationally televised, "The Lawrence Welk Show" that the players appeared on and never before seen shots of the 1961 Pony League Championship from Washington, Pennsylvania. One of the players even danced with the prominent "Champagne Ladies." Dodge of Chrysler Motors was a national sponsor for the Welk show and, because there was a Dodge-Main (factory) connection to Hamtramck, the advertising agency pulled it all together.

Deceased and heralded educator Joe Piasecki was remembered fondly for being such a great teammate. Also, the other catcher, Greg Pniewski said, "I had to catch those fastballs and Pinky threw the equivalent of over 100 miles per hour."

The evening was sponsored by the Hamtramck Recreation Department and high praise went out to former Director Frank Wysoki, who was instrumental in the achievements of the Hamtramck baseball programs.

Deras emphasized how successful the Hamtramck High School baseball teams were in the old Twin Valley Conference, and former Detroit Tiger, Ike Blessitt, who was in attendance, agreed wholeheartedly.

The writers and directors of the movie were present and moderated a spirited question and answer session. Buddy Moorehouse and Brian Kruger introduced narrator, Oliver Darrow. The large crowd gave the film makers another standing ovation. "We are still editing and will make a few more tweaks," said Kruger, President of stunt3-multimedia.

The movie also highlighted the special recognition award the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame gave to the 1959 Hamtramck Little League National Champions. "I didn't save many mementos, but I have my photo with Stan Musial from when I was at spring training with the St. Louis Cardinals," said Deras.

Deras retired recently after spending 30 years as a Warren Public Safety Officer. Paciorek reiterated, "Pinky was the best 12-year-old baseball player ever and he was the best 14-year-old baseball player ever. I have seen many and he was the best. We had the support of the whole community."

The film was previewed on ABC-TV affiliates and in Detroit before the **ABC-ESPN** presentation of the 2010 Little League World Series.

Copies of the DVD, which is expected to be 42 minutes long, will be available at <<http://www.stunt3.com>>.

**The 1959 Hamtramck Little League National Champions were:**

John Chester, Charles Cline, Sid Cline, Richard Dembeck, Art Deras, Reginald Ferree, William Heald, Kenneth Jones, Steven Lepkowski, Michael Milewski, Mark Modich, Joseph Piasecki, Eugene Pionkowski, James Polich, Gregory Pniewski, Matthew Przytoysz and Mark Scott

**(Raymond Rolak was a scout for the St. Louis Cardinals)**

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

**October 1 – 2, 2010**

**PGSA'S 32ND ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE**

The Polish Genealogical Society of America's next conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 1 & 2, at the Hilton Hotel in Oak Lawn, Illinois. The hotel is located at 9333 S. Cicero Avenue.

The Hilton Hotel and Conference center is a well-known venue for events on the south side of Chicago. It is located three miles south of Midway Airport and is accessible to major highways and expressways, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Orange Line, and the Metro Train station. It provides easy access to much of the city and Chicago's downtown and the many attractions they provide. A scheduled complimentary shuttle is also available.

The theme is:

**19<sup>th</sup> Century Research using 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology**

Changes and improvements in technology are constantly providing us with new tools to use to re-think and re-evaluate our research. Here are just a few examples of presentations that can reinvigorate yours.

“Discovering the Treasures of 19th Century Polish Language Records” - You may not speak the language, but you can still mine the records for what they can tell you.

“You're Not in Kansas Anymore: Essential Resources for Urban Area Research” - Have you used the latest tools available for this challenging topic?

“Searching Electronic Databases” - Controlled vocabulary can help you find information on line that you didn't realize existed.

“A Novice's Approach to Using the Polish Archives: - Proving that even if you aren't an expert, the right techniques will allow you to use these records.

“Lost Children: Orphans, Vagrants, Delinquents, Half-Orphans, Dependents, Surrendered, Adopted” - Unusual challenges may not be where you think they are. Get directions from an expert.

Please check our Web site for future up-dates: <<http://www.pgsa.org/index.php#conference>>

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**October 2, 2010**

**EEGS SEMINAR — GALICIA: MULTI-ETHNIC ROOTS IN UKRAINE AND POLAND**

Red River College, Princess Street Campus

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Featuring speakers **Matthew Bielawa** and **Brian J. Lenius**

Cost: EEGS Member \$55.00; Non-Member \$65.00

The lecture theatre seating is limited to 140 people, and most seats are taken -- so if you wish to attend, don't delay!

This full-day seminar will include various topics on Galicia, including a description of Galicia, record keeping, locating records, reading and analyzing records, languages (including Cyrillic), among other topics. **Ukrainian and Polish roots will be covered in depth, and groups with German, Jewish, Mennonite, Armenian, or Czech roots in Galicia will be covered according to attendance.**

**Matthew Bielawa** (Stratford, Connecticut, USA) has specialized in western Ukraine and eastern Galicia, about which he has extensively lectured, written articles for various genealogical journals; he has created a Website, *Genealogy of Halychyna / Eastern Galicia*, at <<http://www.halgai.com>>. Matthew has conducted research trips to Ukraine, Poland and Russia numerous times, including a semester of studies at Leningrad State University. Matthew earned a B.A. degree in Slavic and East European Studies from the University of Connecticut and a M.A. degree in Slavic Languages and Literature from New York University.

**Brian J. Lenius** (Selkirk, Manitoba) has conducted East European research specializing in the former Austrian province of Galicia for over 25 years. Brian is author and publisher of the *Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia: Expanded Data Edition*, as well as numerous articles on Galician and Austrian research published in various Polish, eastern European, and other genealogical periodicals. He has presented research-oriented lectures to numerous genealogical societies in Canada, USA, and Germany. Brian has undertaken 15 extended research trips in Poland, Ukraine, Austria, Czech Republic, and Germany greatly expanding resources available to North American genealogical researchers.

**Do consider attending this exceptional event!**

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

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**October 16, 2010**

**The Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan**  
invites you to the **Annual Polish Heritage Seminar**

**CONNECTING WITH POLAND**

**9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**American Polish Cultural Center**

The annual seminar of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan will take place on Saturday, October 16, 2010. Tomasz Nitsch, noted genealogist from Poland, will be the featured speaker. He will discuss connecting with Poland's past (in all three partitions) and present, as well as

genealogy in Poland today. The day's activities will include a continental breakfast and full course Polish lunch. Bring your laptop—free Wi-Fi service available! The information will be useful for anyone interested in family history, from beginners to expert.

The fee is \$65 for early registration and \$75 after September 15.

The program will be held at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan and will begin with registration packet pick-up at 8:30 a.m. The program begins 9 a.m. and continues to 4 p.m. It includes a continental breakfast and a full course Polish lunch.

In addition, on Friday, October 15, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan and The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools will be offering research help at the Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI), and on Sunday, October 17, Mass at the Orchard Lake Seminary Shrine Chapel, exhibit of the Polish Panorama, and use of the PARI library. More information is on the Society's Website, <[www.pgsm.org](http://www.pgsm.org)>, or call (248) 683-0323. Tickets may be purchased online at <<http://www.pgsm.eventbrite.com>>.

2975 East Maple Road • Troy, Michigan 48083 • (248) 689-3636

[From an e-mail note sent by Valerie Koselka]

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**Sunday, October 17, 2010**

**THE FILM *MODJESKA – WOMAN TRIUMPHANT*  
SAN FRANCISCO PREMIERE**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Delancey Street Screening Room**  
600 The Embarcadero, San Francisco

Free and Open to the Public -- For more info, download the poster:

<<http://www.polishclubsf.org/Final%20Poster.pdf>>

[From an e-mail sent by Maureen Mroczek Morris]

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**October 20, 2010**

**MEETING OF THE EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
WINNIPEG, MB, CANADA**



Time: 07:00-09:30 p.m.

Location: University of Winnipeg, 515 Portage Ave. Winnipeg Mb. Room 5L24 Lockhart Hall. 5L24 translates into Room 24 on the fifth floor of Lockhart Hall. If you take the elevator in Lockhart Hall (from the Ellice Ave. entrance) to the fifth floor, turn to your right as you exit and the room will be the first on the left down the geography corridor. From Portage Ave. proceed between Wesley Hall (castle like bldg) and Bryce Hall and enter Centennial Hall from the South door, proceed up escalator to 5<sup>th</sup> floor (top of escalators) continue straight ahead into Lockhart Hall, turn left on Geography corridor, 5L24, (room 24) first door on your left. (Plenty of street parking available or in the IM-Park lot north of the Holiday Inn (old bus depot).

Presenter: Dr. John Lehr

Title: Ukrainian Immigration to Canada

Description: Emigrant recruiting and propaganda in Western Ukraine before 1914 and during the interwar period and how the nature of the emigration process affected settlement behavior and helped shape the pattern of settlement across the prairies.

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**November 14, 2010**

**Meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of America**

**“Finding Grandma’s Ancestors,” a presentation by Steve Szabados.**

Mr. Szabados now has over 17,000 names of his ancestors (and he started in 2004!). He is a member of the Czech & Slovak American Genealogy Society of Illinois, Polish Genealogical Society of America, Illinois State Genealogical Society, and the National Genealogical Society. His roots are Polish and Hungarian, and he has researched German, Irish, English, Scottish, Slovenian, and Bohemian records.

His presentation will focus on how to find the vital records for your ancestors in the “old country.” Steve will discuss how he found the Polish records for his grandmother’s ancestors and tips he used to translate them. Steve will also discuss sources for the records for a few other countries.

Steve will also share some resources that go beyond the traditional documents that has enabled him to gather documents, pictures and information that has enriched his understanding and knowledge of his heritage.

The presentation will be applicable for researchers of all European backgrounds and not just those of Steve’s ancestry.

*[From an e-mail note sent out by Harry Kurek]*

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**November 17, 2010**

**MEETING OF THE EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
WINNIPEG, MB, CANADA**

Date: November 17, 2010

Time: 07:00-09:30 p.m.

Location: University of Winnipeg, 515 Portage Ave. Winnipeg Mb., Bryce Hall, Room 2B22. Bryce Hall is to the east of the 'castle like' building (Wesley Hall) that faces Portage Ave. Entrance through doors facing Wesley Hall in passageway between the two buildings. (Plenty of street parking available or in the IM-Park lot north of the Holiday Inn (old bus depot).

Presenter: Alexander Freund

Title: German Immigration to Canada 1947-1960. Survey, Sources, Methods.

Description: In the two decades after World War Two, a quarter of a million Germans immigrated to Canada. In this presentation, I focus on three points: First, I survey the scope, development, and demographic composition of this migration. Second, I talk about some of the problems we encounter in terms of definitions (who is a German?) and statistics (who is counted as a German, as an emigrant/immigrant?) when it comes to postwar German immigration. Third, I talk about the use of oral history as a research method for studying German immigration to Canada.

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

<http://www.stareatelier.pl/start.html>

Paul S. Valasek showed me this site, a collection of old photographs, and not exclusively in Poland. The Katalog page shows photos taken in Paris, Vienna, Leipzig, Munich, and so on.

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<http://cemetery.jewish.org.pl/>

Paul also pointed this site out to me, an Internet database of the Warsaw Jewish Cemetery.

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<http://www.archive.org/web/web.php>

While I knew about the Wayback Machine at this site, I'd forgotten how handy it can be. But recently, on the LithuanianGenealogy list, one researcher was looking to find a Lithuanian

Letter-Writing Guide. One of the members replied by giving the URL to a site originally hosted by Nichole Yakstis. The site is defunct now, but lives on in the Wayback Machine. If you're interested, here is the link to the page in question:

<http://web.archive.org/web/20070829161539/http://www.yakstis.net/genealogy/lith.htm>

This just serves as a reminder how useful the Wayback Machine can be.

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<http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Manifests/>

Paul S. Valasek reminded me of this site, "A Guide to Interpreting Passenger List Annotations." I think we mentioned it before, but it's one of those people should be reminded of frequently. It was written by Marian L. Smith, Historian, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, with the assistance of Elise Friedman, Flora Gursky, and Eleanor Bien. This is just one of many fine articles Marian L. Smith has written—any serious researchers needs to know that name!

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<http://www.netflix.com/Movie/Stealth/70100306?trkid=226870>

On the Poland-Roots list, Patty Milich wrote, "I stumbled upon a fictional film that some may find of interest. It's about a man who discovers he's Polish and goes in search of his roots (kind of). There are scene or two in the Warsaw Archives, with an incredible coincidence, that might be interesting to those who haven't been. Here's the link to the film as listed on Netflix: [given above]. I have to confess that I gave it only 3 stars, but the subject matter was interesting to this avid family historian." I can't say I'm familiar with this film, *Stealth*, but I'll bet some of you would like to know more.

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<http://www.genealogija.org/lt/features-mainmenu-27/privats-genealogai>

On the LithuanianGenealogy mailing list, Mary Guler mentioned this site, which lists genealogists who do Lithuanian research. The site is in Lithuanian, but you could certainly try writing them in English with questions about their rates. Anyone who doesn't reply, you wouldn't want to hire anyway. Those who do reply will give you something to work with.

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<http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/V11N16.htm>

For those interested in the continuing problems between Jews and the LDS Church, which keeps promising not to baptize Holocaust victims but can't seem to keep the promise, there is an update in the 2 September 2010 issue of *Nu? What's New?*, which you can read at the above URL.

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<http://www.petergen.com/indexe.htm>

On the Lithuania mailing list, Michael Klinosky suggested visiting this site for those who'd like info on doing research in Russia. In a follow-up note, David Zincavage said

he found the page listed as “How to Search in Russia” interesting for the light it shed on Lithuanian history. Stanislaw Exemplarow’s “Searching the nobles of former Great Principality of Lithuania”—or as we call it in English, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania—is probably what David was referring to, and it does give useful historical background info for those with roots in Lithuania and the Russian partition of Poland.

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<[http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/fh/catalog/supermainframeset.asp?display=titledetails&titleno=748241&disp=Passenger\\_lists\\_Holland-America\\_Line\\_190&columns=\\*,180,0](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/fh/catalog/supermainframeset.asp?display=titledetails&titleno=748241&disp=Passenger_lists_Holland-America_Line_190&columns=*,180,0)>

On the LithuanianGenealogy list, Tom Sadauskas pointed out that for ancestors who left Europe through the port of Rotterdam (1900-1940), there is a resource worth checking. “The Family History Library in Salt Lake City has 1,053 microfiche for passenger departures from Rotterdam to America covering 3 May 1900 to 26 April 1940. The title of this record is: ‘Passenger lists Holland-America Line 1900-1940,’ author: Holland-Amerikalijn (Rotterdam). These microfiche can be ordered for viewing (for a small fee) from local Family History Centers. This Web link will take you to the listing for these records in the online version of the Family History Library Catalog ... I accessed these microfiche last night and was able to uncover new information including where my ancestors purchased their tickets as well as their final destination.”

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<[http://www.amazon.com/dp/030010586X?tag=schildnet0c&link\\_code=as3&creativeASIN=030010586X&creative=373489&camp=211189](http://www.amazon.com/dp/030010586X?tag=schildnet0c&link_code=as3&creativeASIN=030010586X&creative=373489&camp=211189)>

On the LithuanianGenealogy list, Chris responded to a note stressing how important it is for genealogists to find sources that explain the basics of history in the areas their ancestors came from. “For depth, however, nothing beats a book. One that I have read and like: *The Reconstruction of Nations: Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, 1569-1999*, by Timothy Synder. Yale University Press. ISBN 978-0-300-10586-5.” Amazon.com sells the book for \$23.76 at this page. I think I may have to get a copy, and thanks for the recommendation, Chris!

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<<http://www.polishamericancenter.org/heritmo.htm>>

On the Polish Genius list, Debbie Greenlee posted her annual reminder that October is Polish American Heritage Month. She suggested visiting this site: “There are pages on the above site you can print and give to your children or grandchildren to color. While they’re coloring you can tell the story behind the pictures!”

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