



# 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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### \*\*\* GERMAN DEATH CAMPS \*\*\*

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

One recent development that's drawn quite a bit of attention involves efforts to emphasize that World War II concentration camps were founded and staffed by Germans. The purpose of these efforts is to destroy the notion some have that the camps located in Poland were "Polish."

Bronwyn Klimach posted a note to the Polish Genius mailing list on January 24 about a film commissioned by the Polish embassy in Washington. The story she referred to can be read here:

<<http://thenews.pl/1/10/Artykul/290291>>

I saw quite a bit about the film in the next few days, and it can be viewed on YouTube here:

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDpTcXQ8Na0&feature=youtu.be>>

Bronwyn's note attracted a follow-up from Cynthia Lock, who stated, "Excellent further reading is *Wearing the Letter P: Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945*, by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab." As a fan of Sophie's books, I was pleased to see someone made this connection and acknowledged her latest. (The book is available on Amazon.com.)

Then, in a post to the Records-Access-Alerts Digest mailing list, Jan Meisels Allen cited a BBC story on Poland's putting online the names of the Nazi SS commanders and guards at the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. The database includes name, place and date of birth, nationality, military service, and in some cases, photographs. The 9,000 names listed are almost all German. This, too, is meant to remind people that this camp may have been located in Polish territory, but it was established and run by Germans.

Jan's post said you could search the list at this URL:

<<http://pamiec.pl/pa/form/60,Zaloga-SS-KL-Auschwitz.html>>

This appears to be the English version of the site:

<<http://truthaboutcamps.eu/>>

But if I'm reading it correctly, that Polish page mentioned by Jan is where you actually search the database. The search page gives translations of the fields in English, Polish, and German. "Filtruj" means "filter" and "Usuń filtry" means "remove filter."

English readers might also want to read the Editor's Note:

<<http://truthaboutcamps.eu/th/zaloga-ss-kl-auschwitz/documentation-en/16818,Editors-Note.html>>

I know that referring to death camps as Polish is usually just a sloppy shorthand for "death camps in Poland," and most people mean no harm by it. But I can't blame Poles for gritting their

teeth when someone does this. Millions of Polish citizens, Jews and Christians, were murdered in those camps. Anything that obscures that truth needs to be exposed. Call me a dirty elitist intellectual if you wish, but I agree that words matter, and being lazy and sloppy about mass murder is not OK.

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

Subject: Book on Niwiska and the Grabiec Family

*Editor*—Donna Gawell sent me this note, asking if I would spread the word about this, and I am happy to comply.

Hello Fred,

I am one of your loyal subscribers and first want to thank you for your efforts to educate those of us who are interested in Polish genealogy. I wanted to inform you of my recent labor of love.

I am in possession of a wonderful family history book that was gifted to me by Larry Bender. He wrote *The Michael Grabiec Family* about eighteen years ago and it includes many privately-published histories of a small village in Poland, and the Letters of Anna Grabiec. The stories give the reader details of life during the time periods from 1850 through World War II, when Niwiska was evacuated by the Nazis for top secret V-1 and V-2 missile testing. The letters of a local teacher and Polish Army underground courier, Anna Grabiec, are amazing. It occurred to me that this information was not readily available to the genealogy and history folks, so I called Larry and asked for his permission to put his work on my website. I have his enthusiastic permission (“Donna, do anything you want with this information”) because he knows we share a love of Poland and Niwiska.

One of my goals is to document the heroic stories of our ancestors and their families. The stories from World War II are an insight into the struggles and sacrifices of the Roman Catholic population that suffered alongside the Jews as part of the Holocaust.

So, I have been recopying the work and most of it is now available on my website, <<http://www.donnagawell.com>>. There is a menu tab at the top, “The history of Niwiska and the Letters of Anna Grabiec.” I have added photos from Niwiska that I took during my visit in May 2016. Here are the titles of the articles thus far:

- A Galician Farm: The House and Farm of Michal Grabiec (Anna Grabiec’s grandfather)
- Anna Grabiec’s Biography: A Gold Cross of Merit Recipient
- The Amazing Story of Anna Grabiec Undelivered Letter
- Michal Grabiec: Born 1850, Husband of three, father of 24, grandfather of 56, great grandfather of 225+

- Niwiska During World War II
- Niwiska and Blizna during World War II
- A War Memory by Anna Grabiec
- Memories of Anna Grabiec
- Niwiska: A Settlement Amidst the Forest
- History of Niwiska by Anna Grabiec
- Polish Flowers: A Poem by Anna Grabiec
- The Letters of Anna Grabiec

Would you please post my website so that your readers can have access to this information?  
Thank you so much.

BTW – this history has been viewed thousands of readers in the USA, Canada, Australia, Poland, Ukraine, India, Brazil, etc. It makes me especially happy that the people of Poland are interested!

Thank you.

Donna Gawell <[dgawell@wideopenwest.com](mailto:dgawell@wideopenwest.com)>

*Editor*—Splendid! I intend to print this letter in *Rodziny* as well as in *Gen Dobry!*, in hopes of helping more people find out about this resource.

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**\*\*\* REST IN PEACE, HOWARD MARGOL \*\*\***

On February 15, *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* reprinted an obituary from *Nu? What's Nu?* for Howard Margol, who died on February 9, 2017 at the age of 92. Gary Mokotoff wrote the obituary, which began with the memorable sentence, "Mr. Litvak has died." Mokotoff called Howard Margol by this nickname because Margol "likely did more to advance Lithuanian-Jewish genealogical research than any other person." He organized annual trips to Lithuania for family history research from 1994 to 2015, and frequently shared information on advancements in the field of Lithuanian-Jewish genealogy. The value of his work for Jewish researchers is beyond dispute; but non-Jews can also be grateful for his efforts to foster research in a part of Europe that traditionally has not welcomed genealogists.

You can read the obituary here:

<<https://blog.eogn.com/2017/02/15/howard-margol-1924-2017-r-i-p/>>

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**\*\*\* BOOK REVIEW \*\*\***

***History of the Jewish Community of Schönlanke: 1736-1940: A Memorial to the Vanished* by Peter Simonstein Cullman \*\*\***

*Reviewed by Edward David Luft*

Published by Avotaynu Inc., New Haven Connecticut, 2016, 474 pp., including bibliographical references, pp. 424-429; 3 appendices, pp. 349-423; glossary, pp. 430-438; photographs, illustrations and maps, pp. 441-462, with identification of photographs, pp. 463-465; and index, pp. 466-474. ISBN 9780983697589 (alk. paper); DS134.66.T795 C85 2016, available at <<http://www.avotaynu.com/books/Schoenlanke.htm>>, \$46.00.

I reviewed Peter Simonstein Cullman's earlier work on Schneidemühl/Piła in *Gen Dobry!* [Book review: "A Remarkable Piece of Research on a Town Now on the Fringes," *Gen Dobry!*, Volume VII, No. 7, 31 July 2006, pp. 8-10; <[http://www.polishroots.org/Portals/0/GenDobry/GenDobry\\_VII\\_7.pdf?ver=2015-06-20-224108-510](http://www.polishroots.org/Portals/0/GenDobry/GenDobry_VII_7.pdf?ver=2015-06-20-224108-510)>; for Cullman, Peter Simonstein, *History of the Jewish Community of Schneidemühl: 1641 to the Holocaust.*], I offered to review his Schönlanke book as well. Today the town is Polish and known as Trzcianka in Piła County. Rather than repeat the same things here, I refer the reader to the book review of the Schneidemühl/Piła book because many of the same comments are relevant with respect to this book, especially about the continuing discovery of old records; military service and the *Provinziallandtag*, the then provincial legislature for Posen Province; the interrelationship of Jews and Gentiles; the Prussian/German civil service; and compulsory military service.

As in his previous Schneidemühl book, Cullman's dedication to research is clearly intense. His book is structured chronologically with a plethora of names in every chapter. What he does not list in those chapters is made up for in the extensive appendices, again set in chronological order. While the first 229 pages of narrative, replete with names, contains only one list of names on page 90, that of men naturalized in 1835, from page 233 onward the book is largely made up of names. The first list is of victims and survivors of Nazi extermination, pp. 233-347, including short biographies for each person; Appendix I, containing a partial list of emigrants from Schönlanke, Schönlanke's Jewish participants and fatalities during World War I, the Schönlanke census for 1774, the Schönlanke Jewish population registers for 1831/1832, Schönlanke family name adoption list for 1836 to 1846, and a supplemental family name adoption list for Schönlanke village. Appendix II contains a list of the rabbis of Schönlanke, a discussion of Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem Michael Solomon Alexander's ancestry and some of his descendants, a history of Schönlanke's street names through 200 years, and a list of the congregation's elders from 1785 to 1911, Appendix III contains a listing of Schönlanke Jewish births, taken from the congregational registers for 1815-1835, marriages from 1817-1834, and deaths from 1816-1834. All of this documentation is augmented by 1,311 footnotes for the entire book. The index shows that the author has an extensive command of Jewish history throughout the world with references to Jews and non-Jews throughout time and place. It is thus obvious

that the book has been extensively researched and very valuable for genealogical research for Schönlanke/Trzcianka. The book will be of great value for anyone researching Schönlanke's Jews and will even help to some extent in researching Schönlanke's other residents. It is valuable to read Cullman's book even if you have no interest in Schönlanke but only want to know how the Prussians organized things, such as records of all types. Other researchers would do well to emulate Cullman's research in the production of similar books.

Two quibbles: Although the book is fully understandable as it is, some of the sentence structure seems unusual for English; and the book could have been better proofread. There are a number of errors that more proofreading would have caught; they can be jarring but not fatal to understanding the content.

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**\*\*\* SUMMER SCHOOL FOR RUSYN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE \*\*\***

*Editor*—Associate Professor Dr. Patricia Krafcik posted this note to SEELANGS, a mailing list for teachers of East European languages. I checked the website she cites and there is more information there. I wanted to repeat this for anyone who might be interested.

The Carpatho-Rusyn Research Center affiliate of ASEES and the Institute for Rusyn Language and Culture at Prešov University in Prešov, Slovakia, announce the eighth annual three-week Studium Carpatho-Ruthenorum International Summer School for Rusyn Language and Culture (June 4-24, 2017). The cost of the program, including tuition, university dormitory accommodations, all meals, and all excursions is \$1,350.

The Studium offers a unique experience to Slavic scholars and students interested in exploring the history, culture, and language of an East Slavic people located on the border between East and West Slavic linguistic and cultural worlds.

Participants receive intensive daily language study on the beginning and intermediate/advanced levels; lectures in Carpatho-Rusyn history and folklore, with parallel instruction offered in English and Rusyn; pysanky, folksong, and folk dance workshops; excursions to the famous Carpathian wooden churches, museums, the Svidník folk festival, the Lemko Rusyn region in Poland, the early 14th-century village of Topol'a, birthplace of the Carpatho-Rusyn national awakener, Aleksander Dukhnovych, and to the adjacent Poloniny National Park with its primeval Carpathian beech forests of the (a UNESCO World Heritage Site).

Scholarship aid is available for students registered in a North American college or university, and Prešov University offers a certificate which students can present to their home institutions to earn credits for the program. For further detailed information and an application, visit: <<https://www.c-rrc.org/studium-carpatho-ruthenorum-2017/>> (Carpatho-Rusyn Research Center).

Applications should be sent to the head of the Department of Rusyn Language and Culture by April 1, 2017, as directed on the application form. Letters requesting financial aid may be e-mailed to Professor Patricia Krafcik along with a copy of your application. Please contact Pat (faculty at The Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington) off-list with any questions at <[krafcikp@evergreen.edu](mailto:krafcikp@evergreen.edu)>.

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

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

**Rodziny, Winter 2017, Volume XL, No. 1. Polish Genealogical Society of America** <<http://pgsa.org>>

- Factual Material on Jews in the Light of Administrative Documentation of the City of Łódź, 1800–1870, *Iwona Dakiniewicz*
- Meet the 2017–2018 Board Members
- When You Know Where the Bodies Are Buried, *John Gavel, USAF, PDRL*
- PGSA’s Meeting on 20 November 2016
- Consider Lifetime Membership!
- Memoirs of a Peasant, Chapter Ten, Jan Słomka, *translated by William F. Hoffman*
- From the *Słownik geograficzny*: Róża and Wiewiórka (Pilzno powiat), *translated by William F. Hoffman*

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

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

**March 3 – 5, 2017**

#### **2017 WINTER VIRTUAL CONFERENCE Family Tree University**

This sounds like a potentially fascinating experience: a virtual conference, with a selection of talks in many different subjects that you can attend without leaving your house! Granted, you will miss out on the in-person excitement and enthusiasm of a standard conference. But the set-up allows enormous convenience; and it could very well make possible a line-up of speakers that would be hard to match. I don’t have a crystal ball, so I can’t say whether this will be a rewarding experience or a total flop. But I think it might be an idea whose time has come.



The price is \$199.99. You can learn much more, and enroll, at this website:

<<https://www.familytreeuniversity.com/courses/2017-winter-virtual-conference-family-tree-university>>

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**Saturday, March 4, 2017**

**LDS FAMILY HISTORY CENTER, ARLINGTON, TEXAS**

**“Basic Polish Research”**

LDS Family History Center • 3809 Curt Drive • Arlington, Texas 76016 • 817-446-7088

Packets for pre-registration can be pick up beginning at 8 a.m. Talks begin at 9 a.m.

**Presented by: Debbie Greenlee**

**Description:** Debbie Greenlee will be giving a presentation on Basic Polish Research at the Arlington, TX Annual Family History Seminar sponsored by LDS on March 4, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.

Early registration is preferred but same day registration begins at 8:00 a.m. on March 4, 2017. Lunches are available if paid for in advance.

For more information, including a schedule of speakers and their presentations, see here:

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

*[From an e-mail submitted by Debbie Greenlee]*

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**Saturday, March 4, 2017**

**MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS**

**“I FOUND MY VILLAGE! NOW WHAT?” Locating Vital Records in Poland Using Online Resources**

Worcester Public Library • 3 Salem St. • Worcester, Massachusetts

10 a.m.

**Presented by: Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz**

**Description:** Finding vital records for one’s family in Poland is a critical step in exploring our Polish ancestry, but can sometimes be confusing. After a brief overview of the Polish partitions to introduce beginners to the history and geography of Poland, Julie will illustrate the use of church records, passenger manifests, naturalization records, and other documents from U.S.



sources, to determine one's ancestral village accurately. She'll suggest resources and strategies to help you decipher misspelled place names, and discuss the next steps in your research: determining the parish and civil registry office using gazetteers, and obtaining birth, marriage and death records. Julie will rely heavily on online sources throughout her presentation, and show how you can trace your Polish ancestry without having to cross the ocean.

[From a post by Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz to Facebook's Polish Genealogy]

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**March 6–31, 2017**

**POLISH GENEALOGY 101**

**“EXPLORE YOUR POLISH FAMILY HISTORY” –Lisa A. Alzo**

**Online Course from Family Tree University**

Price: \$99.00

What do you know about your Polish ancestry? Develop the tools to begin researching your Polish family history, from navigating through shifting political and geographical boundaries to discovering the most useful records and websites online. In this course, you'll learn how to track your ancestry back from your immigrant ancestors as well as the historical context that affected their lives. By the end of the four weeks, you'll have a great foundation for researching your Polish ancestors and their journey.

**WHAT YOU'LL LEARN**

The history of Polish immigration—and what it means for your research

What records to search for in North America for Polish genealogy

How to research in Polish records

How to contact a Polish repository or archive

Tips for translating foreign records

Best websites for Polish genealogy

Supplemental Reading: *The Family Tree Polish, Czech and Slovak Genealogy Guide*, by Lisa Alzo.

For more information on this course, or to enroll, visit this site:

<<https://www.familytreeuniversity.com/courses/polish-genealogy-101>>

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**Thursday, March 23, 2017**

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS SPRING MEETING**

**“ORGANIZING YOUR GENEALOGY” – HILLARY SCHAU**

**Chicopee Public Library**

6:30 p.m.

Presentation by Hillary Schau, Professional Genealogist

Whether you work solely with paper to manage your genealogy findings, (storing it all in folders, binders or even piles), or whether you love your computer and strive to digitize everything you discover, (using your computer, websites, and genealogy programs), all of us sometimes struggle to locate that one piece of information that we know is there somewhere or we start seeing double as we encounter documents in our collection that are also somewhere else in our files. In her presentation, Hillary Schau will be providing tips and tricks for both paper and digital genealogists to help better control the vast collection of material that they have been gathering on their family history. She will address both approaches for paper organizing (using files and folders) and for electronic organizing, helping those to settle on a management strategy that makes sense, and is easy to use, and is more efficient in the long run.

### **About the Speaker**

Hillary Schau is professional genealogist from western Massachusetts who has been helping people with their research and individual brick walls for many years. She presents classes on Organizing Genealogy and on RootsMagic (a computer program to manage genealogical information) that generate waiting lists for her next class. She is a 2015 graduate of the Boston University “Genealogical Research Certificate Program” and has been volunteering at the nearby Family Search Affiliate Library (Chicopee Library) for the past few years. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society. Although she is now a full-time genealogist, she comes from careers in engineering, education, and computer databases. These give her a uniquely analytical approach to problem solving and patient style for instruction, benefiting the researcher who often needs to look at things from a new perspective.

[For more information: <<http://pgsma.org>>]

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**Thursdays, March 30 – April 6 – April 13 – April 20, 2017**

### **THE POLISH CENTER FOR DISCOVERY AND LEARNING AND THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS “GENEALOGY FOR BEGINNERS”**

**Polish Center for Discovery and Learning • 33 South St • Chicopee, Massachusetts**

A series of four (4) 90-120 minute classes on how to research your ancestors will be held this fall at the Polish Center for Discovery and Learning, 33 South Street in Chicopee. Admission is free, but registration is necessary.

Classes will be Thursdays: March 30, April 6, 13 and 20 at 10 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Admission is free but registration is required. Please see <<http://www.pgsma.org>> for more details and registration.

Alan Doyle Horbal will present an introduction to genealogy along with helpful hints for conducting your research. You will learn how to use the US Census from 1850-1940 and how to find your family coming in at Ellis Island and to find relatives coming from Europe and making their way in the United States. Alan will also demonstrate international research for Poland, Galicia, Canada, and England. He will also distribute helpful handouts. Bring a notebook and a pen and start your family tree journey!

Requirements: You must be computer literate and have an e-mail address.

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**Saturday, May 6, 2017**

**NASHI PREDKY – OUR ANCESTORS UKRAINIAN GENEALOGY WORKSHOP  
“REDISCOVERING YOUR FAMILY SECRETS”**

**Ukrainian American Citizens’ Club • 302 Mansfield Boulevard • Carnegie, PA 15106**

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Featured topics

- The Basics of Ukrainian Genealogy
- Finding and Using Ukrainian Church Records
- The Aliens Are Coming: USCIS Record Sets
- History of Lemkos, Boykos, and Hutsuls
- Using Gazetteers, Directories & Schematisms for Eastern European Research

Featured speakers: Justin Houser, Rich Venezia, Michael Buryk, and Michelle Chubenko

Informative talks, answers to your questions from recognized experts, time to network with fellow genealogists (who may have family from the same region or village as you), as well as breakfast and lunch.

Register online: <<http://www.NashiPredky.org/workshop>>

Save \$10 if you register before March 31st!

Michelle Chubenko

“Our Ancestors – Наші Предки / Ukrainian Genealogy”

Co-Coordinator, Family History Group

Ukrainian Historical & Educational Center of NJ

<<http://www.ukrhec.org/family-history-group>>

[From a post by Michelle Chubenko to various mailing lists]

*Editor* – For more info, you can read this item in EOGN:

<<https://blog.eogn.com/2017/01/26/announcing-the-2017-ukrainian-genealogy-workshop-rediscovering-your-family-stories/>>

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**Saturday, May 20, 2017**

**PGSA WORKSHOP – “THE POLISH CONNECTION”**  
**NIU Naperville Meeting and Conference Center – Room 260**  
**1120 E. Diehl Road • Naperville, Illinois**

The Polish Genealogical Society of America is presenting two speakers at this workshop. The first, Tadeusz Piłat, will broadcast live from Warsaw, Poland; the second Jason Kruski, will be at NIU. Before, in between, and after the presentations, we will have translators available to help interpret documents and our “Ask Us” team to answer genealogical questions.

Tadeusz Piłat will discuss:

- Notary records in Poland, often ignored as a source of genealogical information. These include last wills (testaments), inheritances, deeds, cessions, sales and purchases of all kind, as well as premarital contracts: data that cannot be found in parish books or civil registers.
- Cadastral maps – The result of land surveys which likewise contain details that cannot be found in any of the church records.

Speaker Jason Kruski will present “**Technological Advances in Polish-American Genealogy: How to get one’s family tree back to Poland and find the village of origin using technology**” He will include the latest updates from various archives within Poland, including Przemyśl, Włocławek, Poznań, and more, along with the national and archival efforts to digitize records. Mr. Kruski will also examine the latest collections of American records available online. An overview of how to find one’s ancestral parish utilizing the online gazetteer *Słownik Geograficzny* will also be included.

**REGISTRATION FEES:**

NIU attendees – members/non . . . . . \$15/\$20

Online seminar attendees – members/non . . . . \$20/\$25

Registration for either is online only. Mail-ins/walk-ins not accepted. To register, go to: <<http://pgsa.org/product-category/seminars/>> and follow instructions.

**NIU attendance - limited to 50 people – Registration ends May 10, 2017.**

**Webinar – unlimited – no registration deadline. No refunds issued for cancellations.**

Any additional details will be posted on our website or in the *PGSA Notebook*.

[From the *PGSA Genealogy Notebook*, 1 February 2017]

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**June 16 – 18, 2017**

## **POLISH FEST**

**Henry W. Maier Festival Park • Summerfest Grounds • Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

For more information, visit the website:

[<http://www.polishfest.org/>](http://www.polishfest.org/)

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**July 28–29, 2017**

### **2017 INTERNATIONAL GERMANIC GENEALOGY CONFERENCE Minneapolis, Minnesota**

This is expected to be a unique conference, organized through an international partnership of societies across the United States and Europe. Given how many people of Polish descent came from areas ruled by Germany from 1815 to 1918, this event may be worth your attention even if your ethnic identity is not primarily German.

For more developments, keep an eye on the website: [<http://www.ggsmn.org/>](http://www.ggsmn.org/).

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**October 28, 2017**

### **POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN’S ANNUAL SEMINAR American Polish Cultural Center**

We are very excited to announce the speakers for this year’s seminar on October 28, 2017 at the American Polish Cultural Center.

**Sophie Hodorowicz Knab**, author of several books about Polish culture and traditions, will speak to us about the different customs as well as present a personal family story which resulted in the book, *Wearing the Letter P: Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945*.

**Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz** offers two presentations. The first one is called, “I Found My Village! Now What?” Julie will discuss the different documents that can be found online which will help us in our research. Her other presentation is called, “The Ins and Outs of Geneteka: How it Works and How to Use It Most Effectively.”

For more information as it becomes available, visit the PGSM website:

[<http://pgsm.org/>](http://pgsm.org/)

[From a post by Valerie Warunek to the Facebook page of the PGSM]

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

<<https://goo.gl/Kz5ODH>>

Earlier this month, *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* had an article about the accuracy of DNA kits used for testing ancestry. It explained that the television program *Inside Edition* checked test kits from 23andMe, FamilyTree DNA, and Ancestry DNA for accuracy, using two sets of identical triplets and one set of identical quintuplets. Eastman said, "The results are surprising. The medical experts were confused and disappointed because of the varied results." He then gave this link where you can watch the tests and results.

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<[http://familytreewebinars.com/presenter\\_details.php?presenter\\_id=46](http://familytreewebinars.com/presenter_details.php?presenter_id=46)>

Valerie Warunek posted a note to the Facebook group for the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, saying, "Judy Russell is a renowned genealogist who happens to be a lawyer. She speaks at many national conferences. If you are not able to attend them, she has a blog called Legal Genealogist and has done webinars for Family Tree." Above is the link for the webinars.

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<[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obsolete\\_Polish\\_units\\_of\\_measurement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obsolete_Polish_units_of_measurement)>

James Tye posted a note to the Polish Genealogy group on Facebook, asking, "Do you know of any sites which have dated or obsolete units of measure i.e. Sazni?" Valerie Warunek suggested the above Wikipedia page, which I have often consulted when I needed assistance. Also, Krzysztof Jeżewski posted this link: <<http://polskiedzieje.pl/tablice-historyczne/miary-w-dawnej-polsce.html>>. It's all in Polish, but the data is presented in tabular form and is not difficult to deal with. It covers a lot of terms I've seldom run into. *Miary długości* are measures of length; *Miary objętości – ciała sypkie* are measures of volume, dry goods; *Miary objętości – ciała płynne* are measures of volume, liquids; *Miary powierzchni* are measures of surface or area; *Miary ciężaru* are measures of weight.

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<<http://genealogyindexer.org/>>

Among the sources added to the Genealogy Indexer site this month were the 1922 Danzig and Suburbs Address and Business Directory, and the 1906 Pomerania, Posen, East Prussia, West Prussia, and Silesia Business Directory.

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<<https://fromshepherdsandshoemakers.wordpress.com/2017/02/18/why-my-name-wasnt-changed-at-ellis-island-and-neither-was-yours/>>

Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz continues to write excellent entries in her blog "From Shepherds and Shoemakers." This one deals with the myth that will not die, that names were changed at Ellis Island. It made my blood boil when she tried to enlighten a teacher at her children's school who insisted names were changed. The teacher dismissed her by saying, "You're arguing with History." I would have replied, "No, I'm arguing with a close-minded jackass!"

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<<http://scriptores.pl/elexicon/pl/#>>

I just happened to be looking through posts to the Genealodzy (PL) group on Facebook, when I noticed that a gentleman named Marek Klara answered a note about the meaning of a Latin term by citing this online “Electronic dictionary of medieval Latin in Poland.” The dictionary also has English as an interface language, although I found the Polish more precise. The above URL takes you to the Polish page; but if you look at the top left, after “eLexicon Mediae et Infimae Latinitatis,” you’ll see “pl” and an arrow. Click on the arrow to choose English, German, or French as the interface language.

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<<http://culture.pl/en/article/slavic-first-names-explained>>

This URL links to an article explaining some of the more common Slavic first names, with the focus on the Polish versions. Each name is accompanied by an audio file helping you pronounce it correctly. The only aspect of the article I would criticize is the interpretation of some of the names’ meanings. They got the roots right, in most cases, but should have noted that the majority of these names come from when the Slavs were pagans, and no written sources survive to tell us what folks back then thought the names meant. As a result, we are not sure how people understood them. The article interprets *Bronisław*, for instance, as “he who will defend his fame.” Perhaps so; but “glorious defender” or “famed defender” are also plausible interpretations. Still, I’m probably nitpicking. The article, on the whole, is definitely worth reading if you’re interested in Slavic given names.

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<<http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/pse.htm>>

In a post to the JewishGen newsgroup, Alan Shuchat mentioned that he had asked earlier about websites to help identify photography studios in the Russian Empire. He wanted to share information about this exhibit, “Photographic Studios of Eastern Europe,” on the Museum of Family History site. “The exhibit discusses the history of photography, and gives examples of different kinds of studio portraits and the cards on which they were printed, the designs printed on the backs of the cards, and translations of typical Russian inscriptions.”

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<<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-38828042>>

In another post to the JewishGen newsgroup, Barbara Hershey gave this link to an article from BBC America. It tells of Peruvian artist and photographer Christian Fuchs and his, shall we say, unique approach to making genealogy come to life. Fascinating (and just a tiny bit creepy).

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<<http://www.wdl.org/en/search/?q=Poland>>

Valerie Warunek posted this link to the Facebook group Polish Genealogy, saying that the World Digital Library has a lot of info on Poland, as well as other countries. The link lets you search for items relating to Poland.



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<<http://fbc.pionier.net.pl/pro/zrodla/>>

Valerie also posted this link to a list of different digital libraries in Poland by province.

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<<http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/collection/a0245>>

Finally, Valerie posted this link for the National Digital Library of Poland. In case you can't tell, I am a big fan of digital libraries!

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