



# Gen Dobry!

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## CONTENTS

Welcome!

Farewell to Microfilm!

Letters to the Editor

100th Anniversary of the Formation of the Polish Army in France, 1917–2017

PolishOrigins: Translation Threads

Polish Translation of a Book on the Jews of Piła

An Overview of Recent Periodicals

Upcoming Events

More Useful Web Addresses

You May Reprint Articles...

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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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**\*\*\* FAREWELL TO MICROFILM! \*\*\***

by *William F. Hoffman* <[wfh@langline.com](mailto:wfh@langline.com)>

I think the genealogy news item that prompted the most reaction this month was the announcement from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints that the Family History Library is discontinuing use of microfilm. I suspect many of you know about this already, but it can't hurt to make sure all of you are aware of the coming changes.

First, let me repeat the actual announcement from the LDS, which I copied from here:

<[https://www.lds.org/callings/temple-and-family-history/familysearch-microfilm-discontinuation?lang=eng&\\_r=1](https://www.lds.org/callings/temple-and-family-history/familysearch-microfilm-discontinuation?lang=eng&_r=1)>

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On September 1, 2017, FamilySearch will discontinue its microfilm distribution services. (The last day to order microfilm will be on August 31, 2017.)

The change is the result of significant progress made in FamilySearch's microfilm digitization efforts and the obsolescence of microfilm technology.

- Online access to digital images of records allows FamilySearch to reach many more people, faster and more efficiently.
- FamilySearch is a global leader in historic records preservation and access, with billions of the world's genealogical records in its collections.
- Over 1.5 million microfilms (ca. 1.5 billion images) have been digitized by FamilySearch, including the most requested collections based on microfilm loan records worldwide.
- The remaining microfilms should be digitized by the end of 2020, and all new records from its ongoing global efforts are already using digital camera equipment.
- Family history centers will continue to provide access to relevant technology, premium subscription services, and digital records, including restricted content not available at home.

Digital images of historical records can be accessed today in 3 places on FamilySearch.org under Search.

- Records include historical records indexed by name or organized with an image browse.
- Books include digital copies of books from the Family History Library and other libraries.

- Catalog includes a description of genealogical materials (including books, online materials, microfilm, microfiche, etc.) in the FamilySearch collection.

When approved by priesthood leaders, centers may continue to maintain microfilm collections already on loan from FamilySearch after microfilm ordering ends. Centers have the option to return microfilm that is available online or otherwise not needed. As more images are published online, centers may reevaluate whether to retain microfilm holdings.

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I think a key sentence in the announcement is the following: “The last day to order microfilm will be on **August 31, 2017.**” So you have roughly a month to prepare for the change. The microfilms you have on permanent hold are not going to turn into pumpkins tomorrow. There is time to talk to the staff at the local Family History Center and discuss what can be done to replace or preserve the films you’ve relied on.

I’ve seen quite a few people online who are miserable about this decision, and I can’t blame them. I remember laughing when I saw the movie *Men in Black*, and Agent Kay was showing Agent Jay technology acquired from alien visitors. Agent Kay holds up a tiny disk and says, “It’s gonna replace CD’s soon; guess I’ll have to buy the White Album again...” I laughed and groaned when I heard that, because I sympathized so completely. As we all transitioned from vinyl albums to cassette decks to cassette tapes to CDs to MP3s to iTunes or whatever, we couldn’t help but think, “For crying out loud, folks, pick a format and stick with it!”

Microfilm was a wonderful idea in its day, the first affordable way to share records on a vast scale. It was not too expensive or too involved, and it meant information locked up in dusty books a world away did not have to remain inaccessible to everyone but world travelers. It showed us records can be accessed and shared; and for that, we owe it a fond farewell.

But it also shared the same kinds of flaws that made many of us give up on vinyl records and other technologies long ago. Every time you used a microfilm, or a record, or a videotape, or a floppy disk, it was degraded. The material itself was worn slightly by the very action of reading it, and eventually it became unusable/unplayable. As better technology came along, we knew the old would eventually give way to something easy to use, easy to share, and impervious to wear. I remember rejoicing when CDs came along, because I hoped I would never have to listen to turntable rumble and scratches and skips again.

The one thing I hope we all keep in mind is that even digital media are not going to last forever. The 0’s and 1’s don’t change, but the media we save them on, and the method we use to read them, will. There is legitimate concern, for instance about how long CDs and DVDs will remain viable. Today’s snazzy miracle will be tomorrow’s joke for the kids. We’ll have to find a way to update and upgrade as we go, transferring the bytes from one form to another. It won’t be easy,

it won't be automatic, and we'll feel like we lost something every time we move on to the next shiny new toy and dump the item that seemed so cool just a few years ago. The whole approach "Use it, dump it, and on to the next thing!" reminds me of another movie from some years back, 1982's *Koyaanisqatsi: Life Out of Balance*. This film was not everybody's cup of tea, but I enjoyed it, even though the implications of it disturbed me.

It's easy to say we'll just go online to access data. If we have power, that is ... But if we don't, I guess lost access to genealogical records will be the least of our problems.

It is more than a little ironic that, in many cases, those old registers full of paper pages filmed by the LDS are still around, persisting century after century, while we go from microfilm to digital libraries to whatever comes next. You can't help wondering if we shouldn't have just stuck with paper. But then reality intrudes: those books were already falling apart and decaying. Making digital images of them will help save the books from wear and will preserve and disseminate the information they contain. Just don't kid yourself: the measures we take today to preserve that information will have to be repeated, using new technology, somewhere down the line. Otherwise, it will be lost.

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

*Subject:* Recommending Maciej Orzechowski

*Editor* – We're always pleased to pass along recommendations researchers have for Polish professionals who have assisted them. In this note, a reader has glowing praise for Maciej Orzechowski.

I have had the extreme pleasure of working with Maciej Orzechowski for the past two years. Maciej and his wife, Anna helped me build my family tree back to the late 1700s in Galicia. That was something I never thought I could do and I know that if I traveled to Poland I would not have been successful in locating the all the information myself.

Maciej also helped me locate my paternal grandfather's death certificate. It took a bit of time but Maciej kept after the archives and I now hold the certificate of his death. My father was only 13 months old at his death, so this information filled a huge void for me

Based on this research and my DNA matches, I've been able to contact some of the matches and share my findings. In one instance, my DNA cousin had Maciej research her tree with great satisfaction. We think we found the common ancestor!

Most recently, Maciej and his brother, Marek have done outstanding work on my husband's ancestry. Since his family records are from the Russian partition, reading the actual records is nearly impossible for us. Maciej and Marek have diligently worked to help us build a tree going back at least 6 generations.

Maciej Orzechowski receives my recommendation of a great contact to help anyone looking for help in growing their family tree. I will continue to work with Maciej!

Regards,

Andrea Hendrzak Swierzy

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*Subject:* More Links for Info on the *Kresy*

Further to your article, “The *Kresy* Are Becoming More Accessible,” here are links to online information for *Gen Dobry!*

<<http://www.kami.net.pl/kresy/>>

Search for places in Kresy

<<http://www.wolyn-metryki.pl/joomla/English>>

19th Century metrical data

<<http://kresy.genealodzy.pl/index.html>>

A mass of links for information for Kresy and Lithuania, particularly parish metrical data.

Henry Szot

*Editor* – Thank you for providing more links to help researchers. I did not know about these resources, and I’m glad you chose to share them with our readers.

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*Subject:* Research on German Jewish Soldiers Who Died in World War I

*Editor* – This is a note sent to PolishRoots president Don Szumowski, and I wanted to pass it along to you.

My name is Eric Feinstein and I am writing from Clifton, New Jersey.

I am working on a comprehensive work about the German Jewish soldiers that fell in WWI. I have used the list of the 12,000 that fell in the war and so far mapped burial places for some 4800 of them. I would be happy to share any part of my work.

I saw your file about Posen online:

<[http://www.polishroots.org/Portals/0/GenDobry/GenDobry\\_X\\_6.pdf?ver=2015-06-20-224108-510](http://www.polishroots.org/Portals/0/GenDobry/GenDobry_X_6.pdf?ver=2015-06-20-224108-510)>

In it there is a mention of this periodical:

Herzberg, Isidor, "Die Posener Juden als Soldaten," *Posener Heimatblätter*, Heinrich Kurtzig, ed., Berlin: Ernst Sigfried Mittler, Vol. 4, No. 5, February 1930, pp. 35-37. Many names

Is there any way to get a copy of this article? I would be happy to pay or make a donation. Please let me know.

*Editor* – I helped Eric contact the author of the article in question, Edward David Luft, who kindly responded with all the information he could provide. I also asked Eric if he would like us to mention his work in *Gen Dobry!*, because you never know what researchers out there might benefit from hearing about a resource. If you wish to contact Eric, let me know and I'll put him in touch with you.

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### **\*\*\* 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE POLISH ARMY in FRANCE 1917–2017 \*\*\***

*by Jim Jaczkowski*

*Editor* – Paul S. Valasek received this note from Jim Jaczkowski, and forwarded it to me because he felt we might wish to print it in *Gen Dobry!* I agreed, and Mr. Jaczkowski kindly gave his permission to publish it. It's sad that more people don't realize just how important a role Haller's Army played in Poland's victory during the Polish-Soviet War—a pivotal event in modern European history.

This past week I was honored with an invitation to carry and place a wreath at the centennial celebration of the formation of the Polish Army in France, also known as Haller's Army or the Blue Army. One hundred years ago, on October 29, 1917, my grandfather, Franciszek Jaczkowski, enlisted in this group of Polish freedom fighters. As a descendant of a man who enlisted in this army, I was contacted early this year to participate in this historic event.

The memorial service started with singing of the national anthems of the United States, Poland, Canada and France followed by the celebration of Holy Mass. Wreaths were laid at the shrine of the Polish soldiers and then a formal procession to the town square began. Speeches by ambassadors from Poland, France, and the United States were followed by the playing of taps and a twenty-one gun salute.

2017 marks the 100th Anniversary of the official formation of the Polish Army in France. It is also the 100th anniversary of the United States entering the Great War. Polish men from across America volunteered to leave their new homeland and serve in the Polish Army in France to regain Poland's independence during World War One. These recruits were financed by France, with the full support of England and the United States. They were trained by Canadian officers at Camp Kosciuszko in Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario, Canada. These brave Polish American and



*These are some of the photos of the memorial service that the author shared with us.*



Polish Canadian volunteers would soon return to Europe and fight in the struggle against Germany and the Austro-Hungarian armies. Their success would recreate the country of Poland and place it back on the map of Europe after 123 years of foreign occupation.

The Polish troops filled Camp Kosciuszko starting in October 1917. Over 23,000 men enlisted, and the greater majority passed basic training and left for France via New York City. During the great Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918, forty-one men succumbed to the disease, and twenty-seven were buried at St. Vincent DePaul cemetery. Their shrine stands today graced with a Polish flag waving night and day. This plot of land was officially deeded to Poland and thus, it is Polish territory.

The name “Blue Army,” in Polish “*Błękitna Armia*,” came from the blue French military uniforms worn by the soldiers. They were commanded by General Józef Haller von Hallenburg, who organized the Polish Legions fighting in Western Europe. The Blue Army was formed on 4 June 1917 and was composed of Polish volunteers serving alongside the allied forces in France. After fighting on the Western Front during World War One, the army was transferred to Poland, where it joined other Polish military formations fighting to regain Poland’s independence. Haller’s Army changed the balance of power in Eastern Europe!

- The Blue Army played a pivotal role in ensuring Polish victory in the Polish-Ukrainian War. Their arrival allowed the Poles to repel the Ukrainians and establish a boundary line at the river Zbruch on 4 May 1919.
- In July 1919, the Blue Army was transferred to the border with Germany in Silesia, where it prepared defensive positions against a possible German invasion of Poland from the west.
- Haller’s troops subsequently took part in Poland’s defeat of the advancing Bolshevik forces during the Polish–Soviet War. The Blue Army was equipped by the Western Allies, and supported by experienced French officers specifically ordered to fight against the Bolsheviks. Haller’s well-trained and highly-motivated troops, equipped with British-built reconnaissance planes, Italian-made fighter planes, and French tanks, played a significant role in the Polish-Bolshevik War. On 10 August 1920, Russian Communist units crossed the Vistula River, planning to take Warsaw. The Soviet attack was repulsed. The British military historian J. F. C. Fuller ranks the battle of Warsaw in 1920 and the Polish victory in the war, as one of the most decisive victories in history because it prevented Communist expansion and influence from spreading to the borders of Poland, Germany, Hungary and Romania.
- Supported by governments of the United States, Canada, England and France and blessed with God’s grace, Polish American patriots secured the Polish Republic as a free and independent nation.

*“Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła, kiedy my żyjemy.”*

“Poland has not yet perished, so long as we still live.”



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## \*\*\* POLISHORIGINS: TRANSLATION THREADS \*\*\*

by *Zenon Znamirovski*

*Editor* – PolishOrigins.com regularly sends e-mails with lots of interesting info on the group’s projects. This item was sent out on 1 June 2017, and I felt I should repeat it here so people could know more about the help available on the various translation threads of the PolishOrigins forum. There are some great volunteers there—and I’m not just saying that because Zenon complimented Jonathan Shea and me on our *In Their Words* series of translation guides!

The opening messages on our Forum <<https://forum.polishorigins.com/>> were posted in 2007. Among the first posts there appeared requests for translations of records in Polish and Russian.

In 2009 the Russian Records Translations thread was created <<https://forum.polishorigins.com/viewtopic.php?t=3525>>. It was possible thanks to the generous help of Ryszard, “Staripolak64”.

Soon after we created Polish Records Translations thread <<https://forum.polishorigins.com/viewtopic.php?t=1814>>. After that followed Latin Records Translations <<https://forum.polishorigins.com/viewtopic.php?t=1759>>, and the most recent thread is German Records Translations <<https://forum.polishorigins.com/viewtopic.php?t=3263>>.

The translations became the most popular sections in our Forum through these years. There is a handful of volunteers who are actively engaged in helping others by sharing their time and precious knowledge. Without them, the translation sections wouldn’t exist at all.

On top of that, sometimes volunteers who do the translations use their experience and knowledge to provide context and historical background to the dry facts we learn from records. The best example are posts written by Dave Nowicki ‘dnowicki’. Aga recently gathered some of the most interesting articles written by Dave and created the blog post: “Not all priests are saints. Or What I have learned from Latin records translations.” <<https://goo.gl/XbnaE3>>.

A number of translation requests is continually growing which means more work for translators. I want to remind that CONTRIBUTORS ARE NOT FINANCIALLY REWARDED for sharing their time and knowledge. They help because they want to.

Together with all the active and former translators we recently discussed current problems they are facing. The result of the discussion is set of rules regarding translation threads we decided to introduce.

Our goal is to propose some standards and improve the whole workflow regarding translations process. We hope that thanks to following the guidelines the whole experience will be more efficient and pleasant for everyone. Translators’ work will be better used and a bigger number of people will have the opportunity to use their help without burdening them with additional work.

Of course, all constructive suggestions and remarks are welcome.

## Records Translations Guidelines

1. Check first if you can do the translation by yourself. It may turn out to that it is not that difficult! And the process of deciphering old handwriting describing life events of your ancestors by yourself may bring great satisfaction and joy.

There are handouts tools helping in doing translations of Polish, German, Latin and even Russian records. Examples:

Polish: <<http://forum.polishorigins.com/viewtopic.php?p=27950#27950>>, <[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Polish\\_Word\\_List](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Polish_Word_List)>.

Russian. A very useful manual prepared by a lady who taught herself reading Russian records:

<<https://zofiafederowicz.com/akta-metrykalne/records/>>

birth: <<https://zofiafederowicz.com/akta-metrykalne/records/birth/>>

marriage: <<https://zofiafederowicz.com/akta-metrykalne/records/marriage/>>

death: <<https://zofiafederowicz.com/akta-metrykalne/records/death/>>.

Also: <[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Russia\\_Online\\_Genealogy\\_Records](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Russia_Online_Genealogy_Records)>, <[https://www.sggee.org/research/rus\\_translate/nap\\_documents.html](https://www.sggee.org/research/rus_translate/nap_documents.html)>.

Latin: <[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Latin\\_Genealogical\\_Word\\_List](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List)>.

German: <[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/German\\_Word\\_List](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/German_Word_List)>.

And of course, series of great textbooks by Fred Hoffman and Jonathan Shea: *In Their Words*

<<http://www.langline.com/Publications.htm>>

2. If you managed to decipher only a few words ask for assistance in understanding the remaining part of the record. Even if you didn't manage to read a single word by yourself, provide ALL the information that you already know from the document (who, what, where, when, name of the parish the record was found, religion, etc.), especially if it's been indexed. Also, include any anecdotal information – this may provide some clues and some kind of a starting point for 'hunting' records.

3. If not providing a URL/link, then crop the image down so that the record can be as readable as possible for our volunteers.

4. Unless somebody specifically asks for a full translation, translators will translate the essential facts (Date of event, Names and ages, Place and parish, any other useful information included e.g. name of first wife or husband if it is a second marriage, place of birth, names of parents for marriages.)

5. Be patient. If it is only possible, your records will be translated. Don't hurry up translators.

6. If you wait long check in the history of your thread if your record was translated. It might happen that you didn't notice the post with your translation.
7. Don't upload again records your already uploaded! See points 5 and 6 above.
8. Upload your images in a vertical way (not horizontal or upside down!).
9. Don't post your query in multiple genealogy forums simultaneously (e.g. in PolishOrigins Forum and in one or more of the FB groups). It's discourteous to have people spending time doing the same translation without being aware of someone else already did it and their time was misused.
10. Please confirm that you saw the post with translation made for you. One of the volunteers dedicated their time and knowledge to do this and simple reaffirmation that you read it makes them aware that their time was well used.
11. Post no more than 5 translation requests a month and no more than 25 a year in given language.
12. If you need larger number of translations please contact us at <[translations@polishorigins.com](mailto:translations@polishorigins.com)>. We will check internally how we (translators) can help in your specific request.

The guidelines are also available on our website: <<http://polishorigins.com/records-translations-guidelines/>>

Zenon and the PolishOrigins Community

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**\*\*\* POLISH TRANSLATION OF A BOOK ON THE JEWS OF PIŁA \*\*\***

*Editor* – Peter Simonstein Cullman, the author of a book on the Jews of Piła, Poland, sent me this information, and I'm glad to pass it along. We published Edward David Luft's reviews of both Mr. Cullman's books, *History of the Jewish community of Schneidemühl: 1641 to the Holocaust* and *History of the Jewish Community of Schönlanke: 1736 – 1940: A Memorial to the Vanished*, in previous issues of *Gen Dobry!*

The formal launch and promotion of the Polish version of *History of the Jewish Community of Schneidemühl: 1641 to the Holocaust*, by Peter Simonstein Cullman, was held on 29 June 2017 in Piła, Poland (*Schneidemühl* was the German name for this city). The Polish version bears the title *Historia Gminy Żydowskiej z Piły od roku 1641 do Holokaustu*, and it was translated by Agnieszka Kin. The publication of the Polish version has been planned for the past five years by various entities and an NGO in the city of Piła, and the book's launch was to be accompanied with a photographic exhibition. Both were scheduled to be held under the joint title "Historia Żydów w Piłę" (The History of Jews in Piła) at the Młodzieżowy Dom Kultury, or Youth Culture Center, in Piła.

The English original version of the book can be purchased at <<http://www.avotaynu.com/books/Cullman.htm>>. That page also gives information on the book, including the Table of Contents.

For more information on Piła's Jewish community, and on the book, visit: <<http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/pila/>>

Here is a translation of comments made on the subject of this book and the history of Jews in Piła by Artur Łazowy, on behalf of and the Effata Association (which has a Facebook page).

### **History of the Jews in Piła**

We invite you to promote the book and to open an exhibition of photographs under the common title History of Jews in Piła.

The event will take place on June 29 / Thursday / 2017, at 7 p.m. at the Youth Cultural Center in Piła, Stefan Okrzei 9 Street.

With great joy, we offer to you the Polish translation of a book / a little more than a book, by Mr. Peter Cullman. *History of the Jewish Community of Schneidemühl - 1641 to the Holocaust* - translated by Agnieszka Kin.

The original book, published in Washington in 2006, I had received from Ms. Marjan Kampmeijer-Piller from Amsterdam during a visit to Piła on her 65th birthday in April 2013. For the first time in my life, I had the opportunity to meet a Jewish descendant of our city. It was a wonderful moment for me, which made me even more convinced that it was worth taking a closer look at the history of the town and the history of pilgrims of the Jews. Correspondingly I asked the author of the book, Peter Simonstein Cullman, currently living in Canada (now 76) for permission to translate and publish a book in Poland. The author was delighted with this idea, which was a great prognosis for this venture.

In the popular awareness of Poles, the image of the Jewish people is dominated by its tragic fate during the Second World War. School books devote a little space to this topic, or address almost exclusively in the context of the tragedy of the Holocaust. Meanwhile, for centuries, Jews have been an important part of our society.

The original book titled "The History of the Jewish Community of Schneidemühl - 1641 to the Holocaust" counts 390 pages. The author worked on it for 15 years, collecting memories of the surviving emigrant and analyzing Jewish collections from of Polish, German, Israeli and American archives and research institutions. As a result of the study, the author was able to trace the fate of most members of the Jewish community that existed in Piła.

Mrs. Agnieszka Kin, who I was looking for exactly seven months, agreed to voluntarily translate the book. This publication is intended to remind us of Jewish culture and tradition. It is the only compendium of knowledge about the Jewish community in Piła, against the background of the history of Europe. It reminds in six chapters and epilogue of the card of the common history of the city – Polish, Jewish and German history. It contains rich iconographic and source material (maps, photographs, documents, lists of persons, biographies, activities of Jewish institutions and organizations, architectural descriptions). All in all, please forgive us for the way and quality of the book, we are only passionate. We tried to work with the author and translator to get the best out of them, but – as Mr. Cullman himself wrote – there will most likely never be an “perfect” book, especially when so many names and dates have to be verified. I appreciate the translator’s sharp eye and her pursuit of precision all the more.

Knowing history, especially the difficult Jewish one, is the best way to counter anti-Semitic, racist and xenophobic attitudes. I hope that the realization of the task will “dissolve” the commonly functioning stereotype of the Jews. Our project will allow for an intense cultural experience, based on tolerance and respect for other nations, different religious and religious views.

In Piła, the population of Jewish origin lived for 400 years, constituting an essential part of multinational society, bringing diversity and originality. There was a Jewish community, Jewish school, associations and organizations: Chewra Kadisza, Israeli Women’s Union, Society for Health Care, Salo-Adler Loge Union, Salo Adler Loge, Jewish Youth Union, German Youth Union, Central Union. The synagogue – a miracle of architecture – was in the Jewish quarter, in the city center. It was demolished during the so-called “crystal night” in 1938. Today nothing is left of the material culture. Only a fragment of the brick cemetery wall (in the courtyard of Konopnicka street) and the alley, and the home of the entire Jewish community and each one of them, their history and achievements, are only memories. Memory is important today, for us, because it allows us to know our own history, in which we find the identity, the roots of our behavior, the way we think and feel.

The Society of Social Initiatives EFFATA has been active in the Jewish community since the very beginning. Together with the Society of Friendship of Polish Israeli Culture in Piła, in the early nineties, whose president was Zygmunt Kufel, Member of the Polish Parliament, President of the Society, organized numerous cultural and social events related to the Jewish community in the region. Today we entrust to you this book in the hope that it will leave a lasting, good trace and a rich source of many valuable industries.

EFFATA, which means: Open up! — with due respect, with the book in hand,

for EFFATA Association,

Artur Łazowy, Piła

If you'd like to learn more, you may visit these links:

<<https://www.facebook.com/pilska.tv/videos/1336841136411007/?pnref=story>> (this is a 50-minute video in Polish of the meeting of Poland's Chief Rabbi, Michael Schudrich, with young people in Piła)

<<https://goo.gl/bgHxkn>> (this is a shortened URL for a Facebook page on the event)

<<http://koszalin.gosc.pl/doc/3990233.po-co-pamietac>> (in Polish)

<<http://koszalin.gosc.pl/gal/pokaz/3990252.michael-schudrich-w-pile/15#gt>> (also in Polish, on Poland's Chief Rabbi and his presence at the ceremony)

Here is information on ordering the book:

We invite you to purchase the book titled *Historia Żydów w Pile* / price 30 Zł /. available at the Księgarnia Pana Jana Lusa in Piła, ul. 14 Lutego, ul. Bydgoska, IBI center.  
Orders with delivery / price 30 ZŁ + cost of consignment /  
Address: Księgarnia Dom Księgarski MJL, ul. 14 Lutego 2, 64-920 Piła, Poland  
Phone orders: 672156353.  
Orders by e-mail: <[Janlus@btinternet.com](mailto:Janlus@btinternet.com)>

Information: Tel. 601970679, e-mail: <[Effata@wp.pl](mailto:Effata@wp.pl)>

Congratulations to Mr. Cullman on a splendid achievement, and a form of recognition not often awarded to English-speaking authors of works on Poland!

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

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

***Polish Eaglet*, Summer 2017, Vol. 37, No. 2**, Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, c/o Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48202-4007, <<http://www.pgsm.org>>.

- Poles to the Plains: Nebraska and the PRCUA, Donald Szymanski
- Poles Will Always Survive, Donald Szymanski
- Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Paplin, Howard County, Nebraska, Jan S. Zaleski
- Godziszewo Parish Surnames 1840-1880, (Tczew District, Gdańsk Province), Jan S. Zaleski
- The Decline of a Detroit Neighborhood: Poletown vs. General Motors and the City of Detroit, John J. Bukowczyk (reprint, from 1984)
- A Day with Grandma/"Busia," William J. Krul

- The Family Reunion, Linda Bailey
- Anton Kusznicki's Short Story and the Many Husbands of Augusta Dehring, Linda Bailey
- Jerome F. Wasik Funeral Home: Child Burials, 1927-1929, Part 2, extracted by Roger S. Laske
- Why Do You Care?, Mike Maslauskas (reprinted from the blog of PolishOrigins.com)
- A Small Michigan Polish Enclave, Roger S. Laske
- Member Obituaries, Roger S. Laske

***The Galitzianer*, June 2017, the Quarterly Research Journal of Gesher Galicia, <<https://www.geshergalicia.org/>>**

- From the Editor's Desk, Andrew Zalewski
- Research Corner, Tony Kahane
- How to Index Records, Mark Jacobson
- Legal Evolution of Vital Records, Andrew Zalewski
- Progressive Synagogue in Lwow (final part), Julian Bussgang
- Pre-War Lwow in the Interview with Julian Bussgang
- Return to Strzelbice, Howard Nenner
- Walking Through Your Galician Town, Matan Shefi
- Map Corner, Jay Osborn
- Introducing the Advisory Board Member: Matan Shefi

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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.*

**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/>>.

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**August 12–13, 2017**

### **103RD LITHUANIAN DAYS**

**Annunciation Hall in Frackville. 7 S Broad Mountain Ave., Frackville, Pennsylvania**

The Knights of Lithuania Council 144 voted unanimously to host the Lithuanian Days Festival on Saturday, August 12, and Sunday, August 13 in 2017.

For more details, see the Knights' Facebook page:

<<https://www.facebook.com/knightsoflithuania144/>>

[Based mainly on a note posted by Millie Helt to the Lithuanian Genealogy mailing list.]

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**August 30 – September 2, 2017**

**FGS 2017 NATIONAL CONFERENCE – BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE PAST  
David L. Lawrence Convention Center • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

The Federation of Genealogical Societies, along with local host Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, will hold its 2017 Conference at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh.

For more information, including program and activities, exhibits and sponsors, and so, visit <<https://www.fgsconference.org/>>.

To register, go to <<https://www.fgsconference.org/registration/>>

Note that the **Early Registration Discount** ends Saturday, **1 July 2017** at 5 p.m. CDT.

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**September 15-17, 2017**

**FAMILY TREE UNIVERSITY – 2017 FALL VIRTUAL GENEALOGY  
CONFERENCE**

My grandmother was fond of saying, “The Devil’s in the details.” I’m not sure about the devil’s current residence, but I do know that even the smallest details can add up to a really big picture. As genealogists, we’re all hunting for even the tiniest facts and features that will bring that picture into clear focus.

This year, the 2017 Fall Virtual Conference (September 15-17) aims to help you discover and apply all those little details to your family history. With fifteen presentations ranging from DNA testing to research strategies, technology and preservation tools and everything in between,



you'll gain a host of tricks for understanding your ancestors' lives better, whether it's learning what information can be found in a specific record set (Marriage Records, Naturalization Records), to integrating those details into your research (Proof Positive, Time Travel Technology, Resources for Visual Storytelling).

Tying it all together is GenealogyGems' Lisa Louise Cooke, who will be offering up a live keynote, Big Pictures in Little Details, on Sunday, September 17. After the presentation, she'll have time for a brief Q&A.

The best part about our virtual conference weekend: Not only can you participate from the comfort of your own home, but you won't have to choose between presentations occurring at the same time. They're all available to stream and download - so you can keep them and refer back long after the conference is over. Even our live keynote and Q&As will be recorded, so you won't have to miss a thing!

If you sign up by August 11, you can save using our Early Bird pricing code FALLVCEARLY.

Come join me for a fun-filled three days at the 2017 Fall Virtual Conference. I look forward to seeing you there!

Learn More: <<https://goo.gl/Ro3zwi>>

Vanessa Wieland  
Dean of Students  
Family Tree University

*Editor* – As you'll see if you click on the above link, the price for the conference is \$199.99. I don't know how much you save if you use the Early Bird pricing code FALLVCEARLY, but please note, you must sign up by August 11. If any of you decide to give this a try, I'd love to hear what you think so I can share that with our readers.

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**October 6-7, 2017**

**4TH ANNUAL NASHI PREDKY FALL CONFERENCE: UNLOCK YOUR HERITAGE**

**Ukrainian Cultural Center • 135 Davidson Avenue • Somerset, NJ**

We are very excited to announce the speakers for this year's seminar on October 28, 2017 at the American Polish Cultural Center. The 4th Annual Nashi Predky Fall Conference - Unlock Your Heritage: Discover Your Ancestry - will be held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center located at 135 Davidson Avenue in Somerset, NJ on October 6-7, 2017. The event features internationally known experts in Eastern European genealogy, and will span two days, including a full-day

dedicated to DNA along with Saturday's workshop on Using Cadastral Maps, opportunity for networking, and the choice of seven lectures.

New to the conference in 2017!

The Nashi Predky Family History Group is proud to offer a two full days of programming. Participants may register for either Friday or Saturday, or the full two-day conference at reduced pricing. In addition to the presentations, the event will have vendors and cultural display areas.

On Friday, October 6th, DNA Day offers participants three lectures, Q&A Panel open discussion and dinner. Registration opens at 2 p.m. and a light dinner will be available. The presentations by Melissa Johnson, CG are: Genetic Genealogy: A Beginner's Guide, Diving Deeper into Genetic Genealogy, and Using Autosomal DNA in Genealogy. The DNA Panel Discussion will be hosted by: Melissa Johnson, CG, Natalie Asikainen, Bruce Romanchuk, an Administrator of the Facebook group "Lemko Ancestry & DNA", and Prof. Volodymyr Bodnar, the leader of the FamilyTreeDNA group "Ukrainian DNA Genealogy - Український ДНК-родовід".

On Saturday, October 7th, the second day of the "Unlock Your Heritage: Discover Your Ancestry" opens with registration at 8 a.m. with a light continental breakfast. At 9 a.m., the morning sessions start off with the presentation "Galicia: An Ethnic and Religious Melting Pot" by Zbigniew Stettner where he will describe ethnic and religious mixture in Galicia and show how this knowledge can help you trace your ancestors.

After the opening session, a dual-track day begins with presentations by Rhoda Miller, CG, "Finding Families in Russian Era Ukraine: Census Records and More", and by Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak, "Ukrainian Catholics in America: A History."

Participants will be offered a buffet luncheon featuring ethnic food and networking time during the lunch break.

The afternoon sessions continue the dual-track offerings: "1920s-1940s Polish State Archives Records for Lemkos" by Zbigniew Stettner; "Ten Ways to Jumpstart Your Eastern European Research" by Lisa Alzo; "Did My Great-Grandmother Have a Family?: A Problem Solving Case Study" by Rhoda Miller, CG; and "Immigrant Cluster Communities: Past, Present and Future" by Lisa Alzo. An optional workshop, "Using 19th century Cadastral Maps to Trace Our Galician Ancestors," hosted by Zbigniew Stettner, will show how to find the records in archives, interpret them, and teach how to compare cadastral maps with current maps using various software and websites.

The two-day event concludes with the door-prize drawings at 4:30 p.m.

Registration is now OPEN!

<<http://ukrhec.org/nashi-predky-conference-2017>>

Take advantage of the early-bird pricing through August 31st!!

Michelle Chubenko

“Our Ancestors -- Наші предки / Ukrainian Genealogy”

<<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NashiPredky/>>

<<https://plus.google.com/u/0/communities/107238252771720982783>>

Co-Coordinator, Family History Group

Ukrainian Historical & Educational Center of NJ

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

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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/>>

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

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

<[https://www.thekf.org/kf/our\\_impact/new-kf-american-english-polish-dictionary/](https://www.thekf.org/kf/our_impact/new-kf-american-english-polish-dictionary/)>

I noticed an interesting announcement in the July 2017 issue of *Polish American Journal*. It began, “The Kosciuszko Foundation launched applications of its New Polish-English, English-Polish Dictionary, available for Android and Apple smartphones and tablets, as well as for Windows 10 personal computers.” It also said, “The app is available at a discounted price

of \$9.99 (plus applicable taxes) till August 31, 2017. After that day, it will cost \$12.99. All proceeds from the sale of the dictionary apps will be used to further the Kosciuszko Foundation's educational and cultural programs and activities." I bought the last edition of the dictionary years ago (for considerably more than \$9.99) and use it almost every day. So I was happy for the chance to buy this app. I got the Windows 10 version for use on my desktop; but of course, it is also available from the App Store and Google Play. You can learn more at the above URL.

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<<https://goo.gl/P1wsAa>>

A lot of online attention went recently to the Library of Congress's Sanborn Maps Collection <<https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/about-this-collection/>>, which provides huge amounts of information on places in numerous states. If you'd like to know more about how to use these maps, the Goo.gl link above takes you to an article on the GenealogyInsider site where Diane Haddad walks you through the procedure.

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<<https://blog.eogn.com/2017/06/14/transform-any-document-into-a-searchable-pdf-with-adobes-new-free-scan-app/>>

*Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* (EOGN) pays a lot of attention to software that genealogists may find useful. This article, posted on 14 June 2017, may be worth bringing to your notice, if you don't read EOGN regularly. It discusses a free app from Adobe that lets you scan a document and create a searchable PDF from it. I get the impression a lot of people would find this app handy. Read the article to learn more about it. (But remember: like any consumer OCR product, it's meant for use with printed material; it will not work well with handwritten text.)

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<<https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-record-number-data-breach-notices-2016>>

In a note sent to subscribers to the mailing list Records-Access-Alerts, Jan Meisels Allen note that legislators all over the world have been deceived into thinking that limiting access to vital records will prevent identity theft. "The true causes of identity theft are data breaches and hacking into databases of banks, data collectors, government agencies, merchants, etc. It is our collective responsibility to educate our elected officials as to the true problem." The press release cited above comes from New York State Attorney General Schneidermann and deals with data breaches in New York State for 2016. "There was nothing in the report that mentioned genealogists, genealogy or family history by a word search." Jan concluded, "We can add this report to our growing arsenal of documents that address the problem of identity theft and data breaches without evidence it has anything to do with genealogy."

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<<https://blog.eogn.com/2017/06/26/huge-genealogical-database-of-ukrainians-born-in-1650-1920-is-now-online/>>

This article from EOGN discusses a huge database covering people born within the

territory of modern Ukraine over the period 1650 to 1920. The database itself is at <<https://pra.in.ua/>>, but be warned: when I clicked the link, the site it was down for technical work. And I've seen a few people online explaining it's hard to use if you aren't familiar with the Cyrillic alphabet. An article from *Euromaidan Press, News and Views from Ukraine*. <<http://bit.ly/2tbqm9k>>, says: "The sources of data are manifold: birth registers, fiscal and parish censuses, lists of nobility, voters, the military, and victims of repressions, address directories, and other documents produced under the Tsardom of Muscovy, Russian and Habsburg Empires, Poland and the Soviet Union. A Roman-letter version of the data index is reportedly to be enabled in the coming months." To sum up, for now, unless you are fluent in Ukrainian, you probably don't want to visit (even if the technical work ends and it's back up again.) But people with roots in Ukraine will want to keep an eye on this, especially if the promised "Roman-letter" version of the index does come online.

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<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teLzwKphAcQ>>

In a post to the JewishGen newsgroup, Nolan Altman announced the latest video of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island, "How Using Maps Can Help Your Family Research." It can be viewed on YouTube at the above URL. The video is described thus: "Maps can be a great way to make sense of place name information from documents you find in your research. They can also be useful in providing clues to where you might find additional information on your family. This video will provide some ideas on how using maps can help your research." You may find this clip, less than six minutes long, very helpful. I do wish the narrator had been told that the word is "cadastral," not "cadestral," and that "plat map" is not pronounced "plate map." But that's nit-picking. The content of the video outweighs such minor errors.

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