



# 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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## \*\*\* GENEALOGY AND TECHNOLOGY – WHAT IS IT WE’RE AFTER? \*\*\*

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

*Editor*—I’m pleased to say an article in the last issue, “Ancestry Retiring *Family Tree Maker* Software,” brought these comments from PolishRoots Vice President Paul S. Valasek, and I’m happy to share them with you.

In the last issue of *Gen Dobry!*, Fred Hoffman wrote about how Ancestry.com is dropping production of the Family Tree Maker program and now encouraging us to store all our trees and research in “the cloud.” (Hmm, with or without rainbows and unicorns??!)

I have been using Family Tree Maker since I formally started my tree in or about 1995 (along with my first computer). I use it every day and continue to build up the tree steadily. I have just gone over 13,700 members, with at least another 5,000 easily obtainable from Czech online sources.

I am quite comfortable using this program and find little fault with the design, as my main purpose is to use it as a *tool*, not the end of the quest. Let’s face it, we want to do genealogy, not to be techies. Yes, they can go hand in hand; but what is more important, what we turn out in the form of a family tree and history, or how we got to that point? My opinion is that we are after the tree and data and stories, *not* the means of getting these vital facts. What is more important? Seeing the page of a birth record from the 17th century, or the fact that we store it in a version 3.789 and we can fade it, color it, doctor it, edit it, shrink it, grow it, etc., etc. No, I want to see the original document and tell the story. What if all of those ancestral records were originally saved in the cloud, and we lost the technology to retrieve it? I’ll take a hard copy all day long. (But I also want as many back-ups as I may need).

So why are all these companies so excited about new technology? Well, that’s really simple: control and profits. My tree, becoming more and more extensive, is worth very little in dollars and cents (some may even say no sense). Who’s going to buy it? One of my cousins? Maybe, but they would want only the half of the tree which they are located on. So where’s the money in tens of thousands of hours of research, deciphering, entering and storing? Not to me, nor, really, to anyone else. But, how we store it or where we store it can make a difference to companies and individuals.

Reinventing technology is a great game companies play to have you buy and upgrade the latest versions, which basically do the same job, or nearly the same, as before. But what happens after people have the latest version and sales go down? Well, it’s simple and often done: you remove access to the old technology and force-feed consumers only the new. They have to use it—what other choice do they have? (If you’re wondering, I can still play phonograph records during power outages from recordings made 100+ years ago on a Victrola!)

Also, when the info is stored in a cloud, how much true security and access does one have over their data? I don't particularly like to fly; but when I'm looking at the clouds, I haven't seen one with my name on it, or a built-in lock for the key in my pocket. Once it's in the clouds, it's out of your hands, presumably protected. (But one only has to watch the news to find out how secure anything is on the internet).

No, I prefer to keep my tree in my hands, with all of its good news and the sordid bits of info gathered in research that many people may not want published. Alcoholism, prison time, pedophilia, illegitimate children, affairs, embezzlements, etc., can be found in many trees after collecting enough subjects. So if we do our job correctly and gather both the good and the bad for our trees, do we want the info to be available to either hackers, or hosts of corporate storage facilities? Not I.

For those who wish to use the cloud, go for it! For those who wish to keep control of their work and allow it out when the time or situation is of their choosing, better yet. Why should we lose control over our work to those who have nothing but profit and gain behind them? Who cares if a 17th century ancestor was illegitimate? I may find it of historical interest ... and even a need for DNA testing ... but to raise profits from? Not going to happen!

As long as my Family Tree Maker program continues to work and I gather more and more information and members of my tree, that is what genealogy is all about. The bottom line is the information in our family trees is there as you wish to share it, NOT the process of how we store it, gather it, and view it. Those are only techie tools to get to the final line.

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

Subject: PolishOrigins—Still Very Active!

*Editor*—Zenon Znamirovski, the Team Leader of PolishOrigins.com, sent me this note, and kindly gave me permission to pass it along to you.

Hello Fred,

It's been a while since we were in touch last time. I have noticed that you still read our newsletters and forum as you quote from time to time some of their content to your *Gen Dobry!* readers. I appreciate and thank you for that.

I can assure you that we do not slow down our pace. Just the opposite, thanks to our growing team we are capable to provide even more genealogy and history tours as well as research services. Soon, we will also make available our new website including more details.

I wanted to draw your attention to a few stories published recently on our Blog <<http://blog>.

[polishorigins.com](http://polishorigins.com)> whose authors are our tours' guests. They are also featured in our latest newsletter:

<[http://blog.polishorigins.com/?wysija-page=1&controller=email&action=view&email\\_id=31&wysijap=subscriptions](http://blog.polishorigins.com/?wysija-page=1&controller=email&action=view&email_id=31&wysijap=subscriptions)>

The stories are written by:

– Abraham, professional journalist: “Looking for Great-Grandpa Ludwik”  
<<http://blog.polishorigins.com/2016/01/21/looking-for-great-grandpa-ludwik-part-2-we-return-with-mom-to-discover-even-more/>>

– Mike, professional genealogist: “2015 Poland Trip”  
<<http://blog.polishorigins.com/2016/01/26/2015-poland-trip-part-1-the-itinerary-plane-ticket-glitch-and-cancellations-oh-my/>>

- Alex, traveler and blogger: “A Very Rigid Search”  
<<http://blog.polishorigins.com/2015/12/16/a-very-rigid-search/>>

– Karen, local politician: “Now I know where I got my hospitality gene from.”  
<<http://blog.polishorigins.com/2016/01/04/now-i-know-where-i-got-my-hospitality-gene-from/>>

.

- and for dessert, a film made by Alysse, professional film maker:  
<[http://blog.polishorigins.com/2015/05/28/poland\\_discoveries\\_in\\_the\\_motherland/](http://blog.polishorigins.com/2015/05/28/poland_discoveries_in_the_motherland/)>

I thought this is what might interest readers of *Gen Dobry!* and/or *Rodziny* :-).

Thank you and best regards from Poland!

Zenon, Team Leader

PolishOrigins  
Uncovering your roots in Poland  
<<http://tours.polishorigins.com>>  
<<http://polishorigins.com/surnames>>  
<<http://polishorigins.com/places>>  
<<http://forum.polishorigins.com/>>

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Subject: Genealogical scams

*Editor*—In our last issue, we printed a Letter to the Editor from Tom Sajwaj, who had his doubts about the motives of “Alexey from Moscow,” a man who contacted him and wanted to share family info. Debbie Greenlee, whose experience in all aspects of Polish genealogical research dwarfs mine, had some comments, and allowed me to share them.

I think it is common for us to be suspicious when we are contacted by people who claim to be related to us. I always proceed with caution; however, chances are “Alexey from Moscow” is on the up and up. Now, if Alexey started asking for money or gifts, then I guess Tom would know things aren’t right and would end the correspondence. I would suggest that Tom not share too much with Alexey; sort of drag things on to make sure Alexey is really interested in genealogy, asking for photos or copies of documents.

This situation reminds me of how Poles respond to us when we say we are related to them. Their first reaction is suspicion, thinking we want their land. We have to convince them that all we want is family.

Debbie Greenlee

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### **\*\*\* THE ROAD HOME: TRIP TO POLAND \*\*\***

#### **THE ROAD HOME**

A special tour of Poland to reconnect with your roots

with Jonathan Shea and Aleksandra Kacprzak

sponsored by the Polish American Foundation of CT

**May 10, 2016 through May 23, 2016**

The Road Home trip will leave from New York on 5/10/16 and return on 5/23/16.

The trip cost is \$2,995\* per person, double occupancy. There will be an additional \$350 fee for single occupancy. The cost includes airfare between New York JFK and Warsaw, hotels, three meals daily, professional tour guide, private tour bus, and admission for scheduled attractions.

You must sign up for the trip by January 2, 2016 and pay a \$200 deposit at that time. The balance of \$2,795 is due by February 2, 2016. Payment is nonrefundable. You must also include your completed pre-trip questionnaire with your payment.

You must have a valid passport for this trip.

If you are traveling alone, would you want a roommate and save the single supplement charge?

Please let us know if you would like a roommate and we will try to accommodate you.

***\*Price Subject to change due to change in exchange rates or airline fees.***

## INDIVIDUAL VILLAGE DAY TRIPS

There are a limited number of day trips available so you can travel to your ancestral village. There will be an additional cost for this service. The village must be within 75 miles of a city we are visiting. Requests must be submitted by January 2, 2016. We will notify you by January 20, 2016 if your trip is possible and the estimated cost for the trip. Payment for the village trip will happen the day of the trip in Poland.

## DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 – May 10: Depart for Poland

Day 2 – May 11: Warsaw/Ostrołęka

The tour begins at the airport when we board our charter bus for a tour of the Old Town of Warsaw. After lunch at the Magat restaurant we will depart for Ostrołęka.

Day 3 – May 12: Kadzidło/Łomża/Drozdowo

We start the day off learning about the Kurpie culture in Kadzidło. We will visit an outdoor ethnographic museum and attend a workshop on making *wycinanki* (paper cutouts). After lunch we travel to Łomża for a tour of the city and the fort. On our way back to the hotel, we will stop at the nature museum, estate and the cemetery chapel of the Lutosławski family in Drozdowo.

Day 4 – May 13: Pułtusk /Ostrołęka

We start our day out with a visit to Pułtusk. We will tour the city and the local castle, and the archives. In the evening we will go to the Gospoda pod Jemiołami restaurant in Ostrołęka for a special, Kurpian-style festive dinner.

Village trips this day.

Day 5 – May 14: Tykocin/Białystok

We start our day with a visit to Tykocin with a tour of the town and a visit to the museum. We continue on to Białystok. Those interested in doing research at the Archdiocesan Archive can stay at the archive while the rest of the group will tour the city.

Village trips this day.

Day 6 – May 15: Suchowola/Augustów/Paniewo/Suwałki

Our day begins with a visit to Święta Woda and the Hill of Crosses. From there, we make a brief stop at Suchowola, the geographical center of Europe. We continue on to Augustów where we will tour the city and then embark on a boat tour down the Augustów canal.

Day 7 – May 16: Sejny/Wizajny

Our first stop today is the Basilica in Sejny. From there, we go to the Wigry Monastery, originally built by the Camedulian monks but now open to the public. We finish our day at Wizajny, the coldest spot in Poland. It is also the point where Russia, Poland, and Lithuania converge.

Village trips this day.

Day 8 – May 17: Giżycko/Olsztyn/Gdańsk

This day is a travel day to Gdańsk. We will make several stops along the way, including the cities of Giżycko and Olsztyn.

Day 9 – May 18: Gdańsk

We spend the entire day exploring the city of Gdańsk, home of the Solidarity movement. Sites we will visit include the Royal Route, Basilica of Saint Mary, Mariacka Street, Neptune Fountain, and the Oliwa Cathedral.

Village trips this day.

Day 10 – May 19: Szymbark/Malbork/Grudziądz

We start the day in Szymbark to visit the Upside Down House. We next go to Malbork Castle for a tour and a festive lunch in the Castle's restaurant. We end the day in Grudziądz, Aleksandra's hometown!

Day 11 – May 20: Toruń/Ciechocinek/Płock

A tour of the Gothic architecture of Toruń is today's first activity. After lunch, we spend the afternoon relaxing at a health spa in Ciechocinek. After dinner, we travel to Płock for the night.

Day 12 – May 21: Płock/Sierpc

The State Archives in Płock is our first stop followed by a city tour. After lunch, we visit the Ethnographic museum in Sierpc.

Village trips this day.

Day 13 – May 22: Warsaw

We spend the entire day exploring the sites of Warsaw. We spend the night at the hotel Atos.

Day 14 – May 23: Warsaw/New York

It is time to return home. After breakfast, we travel to the Warsaw airport for our return to New York.

See <<http://www.paf-ct.org>> for more details. To sign up or more questions e-mail: <[dorena726@yahoo.com](mailto:dorena726@yahoo.com)>.

Check us out on Facebook: The Road Home-Polish American Foundation.

POLISH AMERICAN FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT

P.O. BOX 1525

New Britain, CT 06050-1525

[I should add that when I last contacted Jonathan Shea, there were only a few seats left. I could not get in touch with him today (December 31), so I don't know if there are any openings left. If you do want to reserve a place in this tour, please write <[dorena726@yahoo.com](mailto:dorena726@yahoo.com)> right away!]

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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*, Spring 2016, Volume 36, Number 1 – PGSM, c/o Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Ave., Detroit MI 48202-4007 <<http://www.pgsm.org>>**

- Brief History of the Tartars in Poland and Lithuania, Roger S. Laske
- Poland's New Tartar Trail, Katarzyna Jarecka-Stępień
- Muslims in Poland, North America, and Hamtramck, Roger S. Laske
- Tartars in Poland: Links, Kamila Mazurek
- Grampa Jo Nighbor, Patricia Ibbitson
- The Journey to America: Korbus/Marszewski, Rose Marie Poslusny
- Finding a Distant Cousin, James J. Tye
- The Life of Jadwiga Karolina Bazia Gavin—An Amazing Story, Arthur Gavin



- Trip Diary—Poland, Valerie Koselka
- Book Review: *Into No Man's Land—A Historical Memoir*, by Irene Miller, reviewed by William J. Krul

***Rodziny*, Winter 2016, Volume 39, Number 1 – Polish Genealogical Society of America, 984 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago IL 60642-4101 <<http://www.pgsa.org>>**

- From Our Correspondent in Poland: The Gloger Collection, Iwona Dakiniewicz
- The Insider's Guide to Geneteka, Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz and Maciej Adam Markowski
- Vital Records: Discovering a Different Approach, Larry B. Bell
- Genealogist's Bookshelf—*Chicago: A Biography*, by Dominic Pacyga, reviewed by Chet Szerlag
- Genealogist's Bookshelf—*Stop Thief! The True Story of Abraham Greenthal*, by Edward David Luft, reviewed by Martin Edwin Andersen
- PGSA's November 2015 Meeting: America's Forgotten Ally—Poland in the Second World War, presented by James S. Pula, reported by Andrew Podraza
- Memoirs of a Peasant: From Serfdom to Today, Chapter Six, Jan Słomka

***Schenectady County's Eastern European Roots Newsletter*, January 2016, Volume 3, Number 1 – Schenectady County's Eastern European Roots <<http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eer/>>, contact Phyllis Budka <[abudka@nycap.rr.com](mailto:abudka@nycap.rr.com)>**

- Hunting Mushrooms, Robert Yunick
- Mushrooming, Marge Norris Brophy
- Ewa Bartkowski Gajewski, Brianna (Gajewski) Guckemus
- Survival in Poland during World War II – How the Tys Family Survived the Nazi Invasion and Occupation of Poland, Carole Lynn (Tys-Giniecki) Groncki-McCarthy
- The Korycinski Family, Phyllis Zych Budka and first cousin Jane Korycinski Smith
- DNA Results, Phyllis Zych Budka
- DNA Results, Carole McCarthy
- Timeline: Schenectady Sojourn (1901–1925) of Julianna nee Polek Jakubczak – Middle Years (1913–1918), Leonard F. Jakubczak, Ph.D.
- Schenectady County Historical Society Presentation March 26th – Schooling the Children of Schenectady's Italian and Polish Immigrants, 1900–1930, Robert R. Pascucci, Ph.D.

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**\*\*\* UPDATE FROM GENTEAM.EU \*\*\***

*Editor*—Every so often, Felix Gundacker sends out an update of recent additions to the site <<http://www.GenTeam.eu>>. This site is potentially a very valuable resource for our readers, so we're always pleased to pass along the latest.

<<http://www.GenTeam.eu>> – approximately 186,000 additional entries online

Vienna, January 15, 2016

**New at GenTeam:**

1. Diocese Passau: Approximately 13,000 new entries
2. Seigniorial entries from Lower Austria and Upper Austria
3. Vienna: Index of Catholic Baptisms in Vienna for the years, 1584-1915 – Approximately 67,000 new entries
4. Vienna: Index of Catholic death in Vienna – Approximately 26,000 new entries
5. Churchbook Registry-Indices of Lower Austria, Upper Austria and Styria – Approximately 78,000 new entries

And the beginning of recording church registers of the two capitals, Linz and Graz. Reference to the auto-complete search routine, new query possibilities: by crownland

Dear Researchers!

On my own account:

Exactly six years ago GenTeam began its success story. In the beginning there were only 1.3 million entries at your disposal; today there are already more than 12.8 million. Alone in 2015, more than 31,000 registered users have visited GenTeam more than 2.6 million times to make inquiries. And now GenTeam provides again approximately 186,000 more entries for its users.

At this point, I would like to thank all those individuals, who have furnished GenTeam over the last 6 years with vital information, all those who work on long-term projects, but also all those who have worked behind the scenes to ensure that GenTeam functions properly and continues to expand.

GenTeam is a European platform, through which historians and genealogists, who work independently or as a team on databases, can furnish this data to all researchers. All data at GenTeam is available free of charge. **The use of GenTeam also requires no membership fee.**

Other developments created parallel to GenTeam are <<http://www.GenList.at>>, a bilingual mailing list with more than 1,600 members, as well as the genealogical link collection found at <<http://www.GenLink.at>>.

And Now To The Actual Update:

### **1. Passau Diocese: Approximately 13,000 new entries**

Of the now approximately 2.8 million church records from Passau Diocese, about 440,000 are marriages and are complete, about 1.3 million are baptisms, and the remainder are deaths.

In this database you will find parish, volumes, page numbers, surnames, Christian names, Date/Year or records, many times but not always profession, as well as address /place. You will find the church registers of Passau Diocese at <<http://www.matricula-online.eu>>. You will find a table listing all parishes with updated time frames and important tips under Hilfe/Info (Help / Information).

The Archive of the Dioceses Passau and GenTeam would like to thank cordially for the transmitted corrections as well as for all new records.

### **2. Seigniorial entries from Lower Austria and Upper Austria**

The oldest usufructuary book of the dominion Rappottenstein (Lower Austria) 1612-1649 was updated by Magister Ingrid Schuster. Mrs. Karin Scharrer provided GenTeam an index of seigniorial sources (inventories, sales, certificates of inheritances, etc.) of Kreuzen (Upper Austria).

### **3. Vienna: Index of Catholic Baptisms in Vienna for the years, 1584-1915 – approximately 67,000 new Entries, more than 1 million already online!**

Entries from the following parishes were added: 01 Sankt Stephan, 01 Schotten, 02 Sankt Leopold, 05 Sankt Florian (Matzleinsdorf), 07 Schottenfeld, 09 Motivkirche, 09 Lichtenthal, 10 Sankt Johann Evangelist, 18 Währing, 19 Grinzing, and 21 Leopoldau.

You will find a listing of all parishes with updated time frames under Help (Hilfestufe).

At this point I would like to take the opportunity to cordially thank Eva Korbl, Eli Kultscher, Cindy Lindau, Georg Marlovits, Lisi Maxa, Dr. Günter Oppitz, Angelika Panzer, Jesko Stampa, Judith Starke, Heidi Sugden, and Margarethe Tetzl, as well to all those, who already are working on other indices, which will be posted online in the near future.

I also would like to invite you to collaborate on this project. Please contact me at <[kontakt@GenTeam.at](mailto:kontakt@GenTeam.at)>.

### **4. Vienna: Index of Catholic death in Vienna – Approximately 26,000 New Entries**

Since the list of the deceased in the *Viennese Newspaper* contains vast gaps (even with consideration of Viennese historic borders, as well as the interesting fact that on average

approximately 40% entries of deceased children, age one and under, are missing); therefore, we at GenTeam have begun an index of Catholic Burials.

Approximately 26,000 new entries were added today of the following parishes: 01 Bürgerspital (St. Augustin), 01 Sankt Michael, and 21 Leopoldau. Again, you will find a listing of all parishes with updated time frames under “Help” (Hilfestufe).

I would like to express my warmest thanks to Monika Fischer, Marta Melchart, and Georg Marlovits.

### **5. Churchbook Registry-Indices of Lower Austria, Upper Austria and Styria – Approximately 78,000 new entries were added from Catholic Church records.**

At GenTeam you will find the complete list of parishes with updated time frames under Help (Hilfestufe).

Lower Austria:  
Windhaag

Upper Austria:  
Linz-Urfahr

Styria:  
Graz Dom, Graz Mariä Himmelfahrt, Graz Maria Trost, Graz Münzgraben, Graz Sankt Peter, Graz Sankt Veit, Graz Straßgang.

Courtesy of the diocesan archives of the Diocese Graz-Seckau, the existing indexes, created due to the duplicates of baptismal records for the time frame of 1835-1889 are scanned, checked, and corrected by OCR conversion.

At this point I would like to cordially thank the Archive of the Dioceses Graz-Seckau, Franziska Heidrich, and the new teams of Linz and Graz. If you would like to also participate, please just contact me at <[kontakt@GenTeam.at](mailto:kontakt@GenTeam.at)>. My special calling applies solely to Graz and Linz researchers, these cities are so important to expand general indexes.

### **Comments:**

We have programmed a new indices query possibility—Catholic indices: as of now, you can choose the crownland.

The ingenious Auto-complete function will help you to solve orthographic problems, for example by choosing certain regions or names. For example, if you only want to inquire about the church records from Graz, you will enter in the parish search field <Graz>. If you search for

example for the city Kleinpertenschlag, of which you don't know whether it was entered as Klein Pertenschlag, Klein-Pertenschlag, or Kleinpertenschlag, then you enter in the search field only <pertenschlag>. Though this will increase the number of hits, but it also will heighten the chance to find the entry. The often so annoying wildcards become herewith superfluous — they are not intended by GenTeam.

You can also enter parts of names to improve your rate of hits.

We would be more than happy if you too would like to play a part with GenTeam by creating a database or furnishing an already completed database. However, should you only have questions, please contact me anytime.

Sincerely yours,

Felix Gundacker  
Pantzergasse 30/8  
A-1190 Wien

Telephone: 0043 676 40 11 059  
Email: <[kontakt@GenTeam.at](mailto:kontakt@GenTeam.at)>  
Databases: <<http://www.GenTeam.eu>>  
Mailing List: <<http://www.GenList.at>>

“Connecting genealogists”

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

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

**February 21, 2016**

**PGSA MEETING**

**“THE FAMILY TAPESTRY: INTEGRATING PROOF ARGUMENTS INTO THE GENEALOGICAL NARRATIVE” - JEANNE LARZALERE BLOOM**

**Fountaindale Public Library (SW) - 300 W. Briarcliff Rd., Bolingbrook, IL 60440**

**2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Jeanne Larzalere Bloom**, CGSM is a full-time professional researcher specializing in Chicago and Cook County research, forensic genealogy, problem solving, and multi-generational family histories.

This event will be held as a Webinar. For more information as it becomes available, visit the PGSA Website <<http://pgsa.org/calendar/>>.

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**March 19, 2016**

**UKRAINIAN HISTORICAL AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER OF NEW JERSEY  
SPRING WORKSHOP -- NASHI PREDKY/OUR ANCESTORS" SERIES**

**Location: Ukrainian Cultural Center, 135 Davidson Road, Somerset, NJ**

Time: TBA • Cost: TBA

The Ukrainian Historical and Educational Center of NJ is proud to announce their next event in the "Nashi Predky/Our Ancestors" series. The Spring Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2016 and will feature presentations by the staff members of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). They will present information on wartime and post-war records related to Nazi persecution, forced laborers in Germany, and displaced persons.

As the USHMM has direct access to the database of the International Tracing Service (ITS), they will be bringing their computers so you will be able to do on-site research!

\*\*\* Details for the full-day program will be announced as soon as they are finalized. \*\*\*

International Tracing Service (ITS) Frequently Asked Questions:

<<http://tinyurl.com/o8yyxat>>

[From a post by Michelle Chubenko to the PolandBorderSurnames mailing list]

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**March 24, 2016**

**Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts (PGSMA)  
SPRING 2016 MEETING**

**Chicopee Library, 449 Front St, Chicopee MA.**

**6:30 p.m.**

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

Polish Genealogical Society of MA. Spring meeting at Chicopee Library, 449 Front Street, Chicopee, MA. *The Mills of Greater Chicopee and the Polish Immigrant experience.* **Stephen Jendrysik**, retired History teacher and lifelong local historian of Chicopee, will share his knowledge of the mills and manufacturing plants of Chicopee including the Polish immigrants who worked there during the first half of the 20th century.

Some of the mills that will be noted are: Lyman Company (rags), Dwight Mills (sheeting), Chicopee Mfg. (gauze & bandages), Fisk (tires), Moore Drop Forge (wrenches) and others. Question and answer period to follow. The public is welcome to attend at no charge. Bring a friend too!

We will also be presenting our large maps of Poland and Galicia which denote the Ancestral Villages of our members and guests and invite meeting participants to join us and add their ancestors to our project.

You can add your ancestors to our project by doing a little research to locate and document their relevant information and bringing this to our meetings, entering this on our log sheets and placing their pins onto the maps.

The information needed about your immigrant ancestors is:

- Surname (family name)
- Given Name
- Village
- County (or region, if known)
- Partition (Austrian, Prussian or Russian)
- Year of Immigration
- Your Family Name
- Your Given Name
- Your current residence city and state

Please confirm as best that you can the spelling of village names, write this all down, bring it to the meeting, join the project and see how your family fits into the big picture of Polish emigration.

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**March 26, 2016**

**“SCHOOLING THE CHILDREN OF SCHENECTADY’S ITALIAN AND POLISH IMMIGRANTS, 1900–1930,” ROBERT R. PASCUCCI, PH.D.**

**Schenectady County Historical Society • 32 Washington Ave • Schenectady NY 12305**

**2:00 p.m.**

**\$5.00 Admission – Free for SCHS Members**

Dr. Pascucci will discuss the impact that the large influx of Italian and Polish immigrant families had on the Schenectady schools. He will also examine the extent to which the schools helped assimilate the children and analyze both the achievement and failures of the educational system during these years.

Dr. Pascucci is a retired educator who received his Ph.D. in history at the University at Albany.

His doctoral dissertation is entitled: *Electric City Immigrants: Italians and Poles of Schenectady, N.Y., 1880-1930*.

For more information, please call 518-374-0263 or email <[librarian@schenectadyhistorical.org](mailto:librarian@schenectadyhistorical.org)>. The Schenectady Historical Society is wheelchair accessible, with off-street parking behind the building and overflow parking next door at the YWCA.

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**May 15, 2016**

**PGSA QUARTERLY MEETING**

**“FINDING YOUR IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS’ ARRIVAL RECORDS ONLINE” —  
MIKE KARSEN**

**Schaumburg Township District Library (NW), 130 S. Roselle Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60193  
2:00 to 4 p.m.**

A professional speaker, **Mike Karsen** is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), the Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG), and is Past President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois.

This event will be held as a Webinar. For more information as it becomes available, visit the PGSA Website <<http://pgsa.org/calendar/>>.

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**August 7 – 12, 2016**

**36TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY**

**Seattle Sheraton in Seattle, Washington**

The 36th annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held in Seattle, Washington, August 7–12, 2016. The focus for the 2016 conference is *The Wandering Jew*. Registration will begin January 3, 2016, with early-bird discounts applying through April 30, 2016. Call for proposals is now open.

For more information visit the website:

<<http://www.iajgs2016.org/>>

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**August 14, 2016**



**PGSA QUARTERLY MEETING**

**“POLISH IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA: WHEN, WHERE, WHY AND HOW” —  
STEVE SZABADOS**

**Arlington Heights (NW) Memorial Library, 500 N. Dunton Ave., Arlington Hts., IL 60004  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Steve Szabados** is a genealogy lecturer and author. He has traced his ancestors back to 1600s New England and 1730s in Poland, Germany, Bohemia and Slovenia. His goal is to share his passion for Family History and he has given numerous presentations to genealogical groups and libraries.

This event will be held as a Webinar. For more information as it becomes available, visit the PGSA Website <<http://pgsa.org/calendar/>>.

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**August 31 – September 3, 2016**

**THE FGS 2016 CONFERENCE  
TIME TRAVEL: CENTURIES OF MEMORIES  
A Conference for the Nation’s Genealogists  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

FGS and local host the Illinois State Genealogical Society invite you to join genealogists and family historians from throughout the world for some innovative time traveling experiences in Springfield, IL! Learn from exceptional speakers, network with other researchers, stroll through a large exhibit hall filled to the brim with vendors, and take in the amazing sights and sounds of Illinois’ capital city.

(The November 23, 2015 issue of *EOGN* included the announcement that hotel reservations are open for this event. For more information visit the FGS Website.)

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

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**November 20, 2016**

**PGSA QUARTERLY MEETING  
“HOLY COW! WHERE ARE MY POLISH CHICAGO CATHOLICS NOW?” —  
TERESA STEINKAMP MCMILLIN, CG**

**Algonquin Public Library (NW), 2600 Harnish Dr., Algonquin, IL 60102  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Teresa Steinkamp McMillin** is a Certified Genealogist who specializes in German-American and Midwest research, as well as reading German script. She has been interested in genealogy

since she was a child and currently has many pleased clients. She presents quality genealogical lectures for local societies and national conferences.

This event will be held as a Webinar. For more information as it becomes available, visit the PGSA Website <<http://pgsa.org/calendar/>>.

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

<<https://blog.malwarebytes.org/security-threat/2016/01/when-url-shorteners-and-ransomware-collide/>>

Malwarebytes.org produces Malwarebytes Anti-Malware, a free program highly recommended by experts for securing your computer. They publish a blog with useful and informative posts on how to avoid problems. This particular article struck me as especially worthwhile, because it talks about URL shortening services and the problems they cause. I love to use TinyURL or other shortening services because they take long, incomprehensible URLs and produce something nice and short, easy to use. But, as with any tool offering convenience, bleeping bleep-holes have found a way to exploit something useful. One particularly nasty trick is to hijack your computer with “ransomware,” which takes your system and data hostage until you pay to get it back. This article discusses the problem, and offers some solutions, including the service [checkshorturl\(dot\)com](http://checkshorturl.com) [typed that way to keep it from being an active link—just replace the (dot) with a period], which will unshorten a URL and show you exactly where it will take you. If it’s a server in Russia or Nigeria, for instance, you might want to watch your step. The better we all know how to protect ourselves, the less we expose others, however inadvertently, to threats.

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<<http://gentod.com/A.mv?Y=8-23321&xz=EM2009-3>>

The 3 January 2016 issue of *The Genealogy News* included this link to an article in *Family History Daily*, “How to Fail at Family History Research in 10 Simple Steps.” The article is ironic, of course, meant to remind us of bad habits we can all fall into, habits which will doom our research. It never hurts to read something like this and make sure you’re not sabotaging your own efforts. We humans easily fall into that trap, and anyone who helps us avoid it is a friend!

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<<http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/insider/2016/01/19/FiveImportantDatesInEasternEuropeanGenealogy.aspx>>

The Genealogy Insider blog, by Diane Haddad, might qualify as one of the few “mainstream” genealogical publications that realizes there is such a place as Eastern Europe. The historical info in this posting from 19 January 2016 is pretty basic, and every Polish researcher should know it by heart. But I suspect not everyone does. Do yourself a favor and remind yourself of these pivotal dates that defined many aspects of our ancestors’ lives!

<[http://www.ilgensoc.org/upload/newsletters/ISGS\\_Newsletter\\_JanFeb2016.pdf](http://www.ilgensoc.org/upload/newsletters/ISGS_Newsletter_JanFeb2016.pdf)>

Thomas MacEntee posted a message on Facebook to let us know we could download a free issue of the January/February 2016 issue of the Illinois State Genealogical Society's newsletter at this URL. I was a member of ISGS for a few years, and even edited their journal for a while. Both the society and its publications impressed me as serious resources for genealogists with Illinois connections—and let's face it, that's a lot of us!

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<<http://nazwiska-polskie.pl>>

The name of this site means "Polish surnames." It lets you search for individual surnames and tells you where in Poland the largest numbers of people by those names live. While it's much easier to use if you read Polish, the main links use the same phrases over and over, for instance, "Maca – najwięcej osób o tym nazwisku mieszka w: Oświęcim, Chełmek, Babice," which means "Maca – the most people with this name live in Oświęcim, Chełmek, Babice." Clicking on the link brings up a color map that illustrates the data. You can also add comments under "Dodaj komentarz," putting your first and last name in the box marked "Imię i nazwisko" and your remarks in the box marked "Komentarz." I'm not sure how much practical use this site is, but it may help some folks; and it may become more useful as time passes.

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<<http://www.stankiewicz.e.pl/index.php?kat=44>>

This site also offers surname info, this time with brief comments on etymology by Polish scholar Ewa Szczoduch, largely based on the work of Kazimierz Rymut, Maria Malec, Zofia Kaleta and others. It's all in Polish; the list of names is arranged in a rather weird version of alphabetical order; and the pages can be hard to copy from. But the brief etymologies Ewa Szczoduch gives rely on solid research; and translating them may be within the capacity of Google Translate, if you don't demand too much. For instance, here's the entry for the surname Abraham: "od imienia Abraham, dawniej też Abram. Imię biblijne, pochodzenia może akadyjskiego od Aba- am- ra- am 'kochaj ojca'. W Starym Testamencie występują Abraham i Abram. W Polsce w średniowieczu imię częste, notowane od XIII wieku w formach Abram, Abraam, Abraham, Habraam, Habraham, Habram, Habream, Jabram." Google turns this into "from the name of Abraham, formerly Abram. Name biblical origin may Akkadian from lampshade am- RA am 'loving father'. In the Old Testament, Abraham and Abram there. In Poland frequent name in the Middle Ages, quoted from the thirteenth century in the forms Abram, Abra, Abraham, Habraam, Habraham, Habr, Habream, Jabra." Except for the lampshade, it's not too far off. (Maybe it confused "Aba" with Polish *abażur*, which means "lampshade.")

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<<http://www.ciscra.org/mat/>>

In a post to the Jewishgen newsgroup, Rose Feldman suggested this URL may be a useful tool when dealing with websites in languages we don't know. It helps with archival terminology in numerous languages, including Belarusian, French, German, Polish, and Russian.

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

Jan Meisels Allen posted a note to the Jewishgen newsgroup, explaining that a webinar about choosing a family tree software program is available at this URL. It was produced by the New England History Genealogical Society; it runs 45 minutes, is presented by Rhonda McClure, and is free. Given the way software makers are dropping support of older programs, as discussed by Paul Valasek in our lead article, this webinar may be of use in deciding which software, if any, you wish to change to.

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<<https://www.rootstech.org/streaming-schedule?lang=eng>>

In another post to Jewishgen, Jan noted that sessions of the RootsTech conference, to be held February 3–6 in Salt Lake City, will be live-streamed for those who cannot attend in person. If you are interested, you can view the schedule here. Note that the times listed are Mountain time. Handouts are also available for many sessions, and you can learn more on the home page of RootsTech, <<https://www.rootstech.org/>>.

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<[http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/poznan/Jews\\_of\\_Posen.html](http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/poznan/Jews_of_Posen.html)>

Edward David Luft announced that this link allows online full-text access to his book *The Jews of Posen Province in the Nineteenth Century*. The book is also now included in the Library of Congress; see this URL <<https://catalog.loc.gov/vwebv/holdingsInfo?searchId=4324&ecCount=25&recPointer=0&bibId=18844643>>. Edward says he worked on the book for 28 years, and “it will appear on the shelf in 4 bindings, Vols. 1, 2a, 2b, and 3. Two book reviews are in process and I may be speaking about it at the Library of Congress.” Congratulations to him on having this major work readily available to researchers who can use and appreciate it!

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<<http://search.ancestry.de/search/db.aspx?dbid=61007>>

Ute Brandenburg posted a note to Facebook’s Genealogy Translations group on 23 January, saying “Lots of German Lutheran records went live on Ancestry yesterday.” The above is one of three URLs she mentioned. The other two are the same except for the final two digits in the number at the end. Replace 61007 with 61013 in one case and 61023 in the other. Note that these URLs take you to Ancestry.de, the German version; but the page will take you to the equivalent English pages if you want.

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<<http://miphheritage.org/databases/search-databases/>>

Ceil Jensen posted a note to the Facebook Polish Genealogy group saying, “The Polish Mission of The Orchard Lake Schools just posted their extensive collection of Jubilee Books. This is a huge collection of almost 25,000 pages from various Catholic churches throughout the U.S. Definitely worth a look.” You can visit the database page at the above URL.

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<<http://www.etomesto.ru/shubert/>>

Laurence Krupnak posted a note to the GaliciaPoland-Ukraine mailing list speaking of the detailed topographic maps of the western 19th-century Russian Empire at this site. He said, “The maps cover the western parts of the Russian Empire and small parts of adjacent territory which were part of Austria-Hungary. Basically, the maps go to just east of Warsaw to Lemberg (Lvov) to Stanisławów (Ivano-Frankivsk) to areas west of Odessa on the Black Sea.” You will have to deal with Cyrillic forms of place names; but don’t let that scare you. Do a little exploring; I don’t think it takes too long to get oriented.

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<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SK1MtYn6c4>>

Valerie Warunek posted this YouTube link to the Facebook Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan group. It’s a video helping you learn the Cyrillic alphabet, actually letting you see how to form each letter and hear the sound it usually represents. Cyrillic isn’t really that hard—give yourself a chance and you can master it!

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<<https://www.facebook.com/download/448670625329547/Geneteka.pdf>>

Valerie also posted a note to the same group with a link to Ola Heska’s instructions for using Geneteka.pl. I don’t know if you can download the file if you’re not registered with Facebook. But it may be worth a try. Ola knows her stuff, and when I previewed the file, I thought it was very helpful. Of course, I also have to mention there’s an article on Geneteka.pl in the Winter 2016 issue of *Rodziny*, by Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz and Maciej Adam Markowski, and I think it’s pretty good, too!

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