



# 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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### \*\*\* GOOGLE TRANSLATE: FETUS FARMS AND SWANKY OXEN \*\*\*

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

I've been doing a lot of translating this last month, and it has reminded me of my ambivalent feelings toward Google Translate. I know I've discussed this before; but I keep seeing people online relying on translating software, and especially Translate, because it's the most convenient one around. I cannot in good conscience recommend that researchers place too much reliance on any translating software. Yet it's clearly unfair to say you should never ever rely on any of these programs. They have their uses.

You may be thinking, "This guy's a translator. Of course, he doesn't like computer translations!" There's a lot of justice to that objection. No human wants to admit a machine can do his job better than he can; it's natural for us to resist saying so until we no longer have any choice. I remember when chess masters laughed at the notion computers could beat them. But for two decades now, there's been no laughter; the best computer programs routinely destroy the best human players. There are things machines can do better than we can; as the years go by, the list of those things will probably grow longer.

I can honestly say, however, I have that much of a vested interest in this, because I don't usually do much translating for pay anymore. Between editing periodicals, writing books, and publishing, I don't have the time. When I do translate, it's usually material I plan to use in one of the publications I work on. This last month, for instance, I have spent quite a bit of time translating two Polish-language texts: a chapter from Jan Słomka's book, *Pamiętniki włościanina* (Memoirs of a Peasant), and the entry for Galicia in the massive Polish-language gazetteer *Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego* (SGKP, Geographical Dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland). Both feature Polish that dates from at least a century ago.

So let me confess: I frequently check my rendering versus Google Translate! Occasionally, the program will recognize a word or phrase I'm not familiar with, or will find exactly the right word that eluded me. As long as I don't spend too much time on it and use good judgment in following the software's suggestions, Translate provides modest help in producing good results.

I do need to use good judgment, however, because much of the time, Translate produces gibberish. Experience reading Polish is what helps one spot inaccurate or downright wrong translations. I typically do my version first, then check to see if Translate can improve on anything I said. When Translate comes up with a word or phrase better than my first choice, I'm not too proud to use it.

It's odd, though. Translate will handle two or three sentences just fine, yielding perfectly comprehensible English. Then, suddenly, it will go completely off the rails and botch a phrase a student in Polish 101 would get right. It's never wise to simply copy and paste anything Translate produces.

Something else I've noticed is of great importance for genealogical researchers. Again and again, Translate simply cannot deal with older terminology. This should be no great surprise, really.

Translating software is designed mainly for use in modern communications, especially in a business or conversational context. There isn't much of a market for verbiage that sounds straight out of Charles Dickens. Unfortunately, much of what researchers need translated is archaic. Nineteenth-century parish records and even historical articles used plenty of words that puzzle modern-day Poles just as much as they do Americans.

Let me share a few mistranslations I found amusing and memorable.

In Jan Słomka's memoirs, he included several paragraphs about a brickyard he set up on his land. He wrote:

*Więc wziąłem się stanowczo do wyrobu cegły ... i od roku 1876 przez 30 lat cegielnia ta była ciągle w ruchu. Wypalało się w niej przeciętnie po 150.000 cegieł rocznie, w latach zaś, kiedy odbył na cegłę był najlepszy, wypalałem przez lato 10 pieców po 22.000....*

I translated it: "So I took to making bricks on a regular basis ... for 30 years, since 1876, that brickyard was constantly in operation. It fired an average of 150,000 bricks annually; and in years when the market for brick was best, I operated ten kilns a year, 22,000 bricks apiece."

Here's how Google Translate handled that:

"So I took a firm for the manufacture of bricks ... and since 1876, 30 years brickyard was constantly on the move. It burned in the average of 150,000 bricks per year, while in the years when the anus brick was the best, burned by the summer 10 furnaces at 22,000."

When I compared Translate's version to mine, I was amused at the mental image of that brickyard always on the move. It's not a huge blunder to render *ciągle w ruchu* as "constantly on the move," instead of "constantly running" or "constantly in operation." But I collapsed in laughter when I read about the superior quality of anus brick!

Where on earth did that come from? Well, I checked a really good Polish dictionary from 1902, and it showed that the word *odbyt*, for which "anus" is the first translation these days, could also mean "sales" or "outlet," in the sense of goods going out the door. That's clearly how Słomka meant it. I don't think a Pole would use the term that way these days; but I guess it was OK back then.

This is precisely the sort of error humans catch, but computers miss. It's also the sort of error you never, ever want to make!

I also got a kick out of this one. The Polish original said, *Grunt był wprawdzie dawniej tani, ale zato o pieniądze było bardzo trudno*. That means, "It's true, land used to be cheap, but money was very hard to come by." I ran the sentence by Google Translate, to see if it had any suggestions I should heed. It came out with this: "Although the ground was formerly cheap, but sinus money was very difficult."

Sinus money? What, is there a bounty on sinuses now? No, actually. Translate didn't recognize the word *zato* (more often spelled *za to*), which means "however, whereas." The software apparently decided *zato* is short for *zatoka*, which means "sinus" (also "gulf, bay; recess"). Well, what the hell, one word's as good as another – unless you're a human being who doesn't want readers laughing out loud at what you write....

Translating can be dry work, so I wasn't entirely sorry for the laughs. Finally, I had finished the Słomka text, and moved on to the Galicia entry from the SGKP. All was going well until I got to this paragraph:

*Po płodach gospodarskich rolnych najważniejszym artykułem wywozu jest bydło i produkta z chowu zwierząt otrzymywane. Wywożą więc za granice konie (1000 sztuk rocznie), woły wypasione (100000 sztuk) ....*

This means, "After agricultural products, the most important article of export is cattle and products from animal husbandry. And so, horses are exported (1,000 yearly), fattened oxen (100,000 head)," etc.

Here's what Translate turned that into: "After fetuses farm agricultural exports is the most important article cattle and produkta of animal husbandry received. Deport so abroad horses (1,000 per year), oxen swanky (100,000 units) ...."

Fetus farms are bad enough (sounds like something out of *The Matrix*); and I got a chuckle out of deporting horses (build a border wall, damn it!) But the swanky oxen sent me into convulsions.

I realized *wypasiony* means "pastured, fed," so it made sense that the oxen had been fattened for the market; that's how the author had used the word. But a little checking told me *wypasiony* can be used in modern colloquial Polish as a synonym for *fajny*, meaning something along the lines of "fine, cool." I guess Translate decided to be hip and gave us the image of oxen pimped out and ready to ride dirty—although these days, it would be more appropriate to say they were "swaggy," not "swanky." Maybe the next updates will change that.

Now, in all honesty, it is unfair for me to cherry-pick Translate's errors and ignore the many instances it does an adequate job. You could do the same thing with the work I've produced, and come up with some pretty embarrassing blunders!

My point is, language can be tricky, full of imaginative twists and turns. Until software reaches a point where it can mimic the activity of a human brain, it will make mistakes like this. If Translate makes these mistakes turning Polish into English, how does it handle English to Polish? (Hint: not well.) You need to know that before you write your Polish relatives a note translated into Polish by Google Translate and full of references to anus brick, fetus farms, and swanky oxen.

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

Subject: Trip to Kashubia in 2017.

*Editor*—This is a note the author sent me and a number of other folks active in the Polish genealogical community. He wanted us to share the information, and I'm glad to do so. The poster he refers to appears on page 5. Let me know if you'd like a copy to forward to others.

Greetings, my fellow Kashubs. I am planning a trip to the Kashub homeland of Kashubia in the spring of 2017 – June 19 to July 3.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining some Canadian Kashubs on this tour, please make contact with me.

I have attached an ad that you can post or forward to your friends.

If you have any questions, please call me, 613-756-1743, or e-mail me, <[johnnykashub@kashub.com](mailto:johnnykashub@kashub.com)>.

*Wiedno Kaszebe i na wiedno Kaszebi!*

David Shulist / Johnny Kashub • Wilno, Ontario, Canada

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**\*\*\* NOW AVAILABLE — *GETTING STARTED IN JEWISH GENEALOGY: 2016–2017 EDITION* \*\*\***

*by Gary Mokotff*

*Editor*—While we do not have huge numbers of Jewish readers, I know we have at least a few, including Polish Christians who discover they have Jewish members in their family tree. So I like to include material that may benefit them. This item is reprinted with permission from the *Nu? What's New*, the e-zine of Avotaynu.com. The book it talks about is reasonably priced and a splendid introduction to Jewish genealogy.

The 2016–2017 version of *Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy* is now in print. The book is normally updated annually since 2010 because of the dynamic growth of Jewish genealogy research. But, as the author, I concluded that prior to now, there wasn't sufficient new material to create an updated edition.

All sections have been reevaluated to confirm they are current. Significant additions include Avotaynu Online, Jewish Genealogy Portal on Facebook and the Encyclopedia of Jewish

Genealogy website. The My Heritage description has been updated to reflect the additional functionality of the site.

*Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy* is the most popular of the more than 70 books Avotaynu has published since 1991. More than 3,000 copies have been sold. It is not a beginner's guide, but a primer to demonstrate that there is a world of records and resources to trace your Jewish family history. The book is only 104 pages, making it quick reading, yet it holds a wealth of information.

Additional information, including the Table of Contents, is available at <<http://www.avotaynu.com/books/GettingStarted.htm>>. The price is \$16.50 plus shipping. Avotaynu offers the book to Jewish genealogical societies at half price when at least 20 copies are ordered. Some societies distribute the book at no charge to new members who are starting to research their Jewish roots. Others use it as part of beginners' workshops.

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**\*\*\* *THE MASKA DRAMATIC CIRCLE: POLISH-AMERICAN THEATER IN SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK (1933-1942)* BY PHYLLIS ZYCH BUDKA \*\*\***

*Editor*—This and the following article are reprinted, with permission, from the October 2016 issue of *Project to Discover Schenectady County's Eastern European Roots Newsletter*. This article is about Phyllis Zych Budka's new book, which I think readers of *Gen Dobry!* would like to know about. The next article is a few words from Phyllis about the book and about self-publishing.

My very first book has just been published! A description from the Moonrise Press Blogspot is found below. Hard copy and e-book format can be ordered from lulu.com. The book will be available on Amazon.com after mid-November.

<<https://www.lulu.com/shop/search.ep?keyWords=phyllis+zych+budka&type=>>

From the Moonrise Press Blogspot:

<<http://moonrisepress.blogspot.com/2016/05/the-mask-dramatic-circle-by-phyllis.html>>

*The Maska Dramatic Circle* by Phyllis Zych Budka Documents Polonian Culture

ISBN 978-0-9963981-4-5 (paperback), \$30, x plus 254 pages

ISBN 978-0-9963981-5-2 (eBook – PDF format), \$10 download

Moonrise Press announces a new publication in the series dedicated to Polish and Polish American culture:

*The Maska Dramatic Circle: Polish American Theater in Schenectady, New York (1933-1943)* by Phyllis Zych Budka appeared in May 2016 in a large format (8 1/2 by 11 in), to accommodate its many facsimile of hitherto unknown historical documents. Instead of a E-Pub format, the e-book is issued as a PDF, due to the large number of scans and examples.

Designed initially as a family history and based on documents found in an attic, the book was inspired by the involvement of the author's parents Stanley Zych and Sophie Korycinski Zych in the Maska Dramatic Circle in the 1930s and 1940s. While researching this project, Ms. Budka realized that:

“...No one has told the story of the Maska Dramatic Circle, this unique group of young people, mostly first generation Polish Americans, who contributed so much to the cultural life of their community in Schenectady, New York, between 1933 and 1942. The Maska members were multitalented, hardworking and full of fun. Their world was completely bilingual, with plays in Polish, a newsletter in both English and Polish, and newspaper articles in both the local English newspapers as well as the Polish ones.”

In ten years, they staged at least 51 plays, complete with costumes, stage settings, music, and dancing. The book documents these performances on the basis of a scrapbook of photos, Maska Buletyns, and press clippings, and thus fills in an enormous gap in the history of one of the Polish immigrant communities in America.

Ms. Budka explains further: “While I’ve approached the Maska book as a family memoir and a local history, I am coming to realize that it is very relevant to current concerns in the wider community about the disappearance of the Polish American immigrant experience. I am also very proud of the writing and pictures in our *Project to Discover Schenectady County’s Eastern European Roots* newsletter. Pascucci’s PhD thesis on the Italian and Polish immigrants in Schenectady in 1880 – 1920 (1989), is the only project that comes close to an in-depth analysis of the local population, filled with statistical data, but lacking the personal touch.”

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**\*\*\* SPEAKING OF SELF-PUBLISHING \*\*\***

by *Phyllis Zych Budka* <[abudka@nycap.rr.com](mailto:abudka@nycap.rr.com)>

*Editor*—Those of you considering publishing your own book might find this interesting. It comes from the same newsletter cited in the preceding article.

Publication of the *Maska* book was made possible with the help of Dr. Maja Trochimczyk of Moonrise Press. Although we have never met in person, I cannot say enough about Maja’s invaluable editorial role in the process of preserving this story.

Along the way, Maja introduced me to Lulu.com and its self-publishing functions. If you have



questions about doing the same, send me an e-mail: <[abudka@nycap.rr.com](mailto:abudka@nycap.rr.com)>.

I am grateful to Seena and Joe Drapala for the two Maska stage pictures in my book. Seena, also a Schenectady native, has also just published a family book using Lulu.com. I am privileged to have a copy of the beautiful *Poems and Life of Karen Valborg Sofie Rasmussen*, by Seena Karen Rasmussen Drapala. The book is available here:

<<https://www.lulu.com/shop/search.ep?keyWords=seena+rasmussen+drapala&type=>>

As my friend Bernice Izzo said in the title of an article for our latest newsletter, “Jump In!”

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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.

***Project to Discover Schenectady County’s Eastern European Roots Newsletter, October 2016, Vol. 3, No. 4,*** <<http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eer/index.html>> contact Phyllis Zych Budka <[abudka@nycap.rr.com](mailto:abudka@nycap.rr.com)>

- Naturalization Records Index – A Great Resource
- Aunt Rose Giniiecki, a Witness to the First Home TV Reception: Schenectady, 13 January 1928, Carole McCarthy
- Celebrate Genealogy Month – Jump In!, Bernice Izzo
- Although the Ages Separate Us, A Passion for Learning Links Us—Dziela Nas Wieki, Łaczy Pasja Poznania, Part Two, Krystyna Pawłowska-Bernacka, edited by cousin Phyllis Zych Budka
- Byster Family History, Continued, Marty Byster
- Class of Over 400 Children Confirmed at Polish Church, *Gazette*, May 2, 1930, Page 24, Courtesy of Brianna Guckemus
- *The Maska Dramatic Circle: Polish-American Theater in Schenectady, New York (1933–1942)*, Phyllis Zych Budka
- Speaking of Self-Publishing, Phyllis Zych Budka

***Rodziny, Fall 2016, Volume XXIX, No. 4. Polish Genealogical Society of America*** <<http://pgsa.org>>

- The Archive Straty.pl, Iwona Dakiniewicz
- A Look Back at PGSA’s Workshop, September 24, 2016, Eileen Carter
- ProjektPodlasie, Ola Heska
- Finding Grandfather’s Birthplace: on the Page, on the Ground, and from the Air, Larry B. Bell
- † Betty Iwanski †
- † Teresa Mroczyńska née Sworska †

- Rising from the Ashes: The Rebuilding of Warsaw in the Wake of the Holocaust, Margaret S. Guzek
- The Dorschkes of Silesia—Ethnic Poles Who Fought for the Germans, Brian Paul Kaess
- Memoirs of a Peasant, Chapter Nine, Jan Słomka, translated by William F. Hoffman
- From the *Słownik geograficzny*: Stare Miasto (Konin powiat) and Węglówka (Wieliczka powiat), translated by William F. Hoffman

**Avotaynu, Summer 2016, Vol. XXXII, No. 2**, Avotaynu, Inc., 794 Edgewood Ave., New Haven, CT 06515, <<http://www.avotaynu.com>>.

- Launching the Converso Genealogy Project: Tracking the Diaspora of the New Christians, Genie Milgron with Abraham Gross
- Can You Help Me Find My Cousins? Understanding Autosomal DNS, Mary Kathryn Kozy
- Seven Lean Cows or Seven Fat Cows? Social Media's Challenges and Opportunities for Genealogists, Dani Haski
- The Yearbooks of Yore, Harry D. Boonin
- From Germany to North America in the 19th Century: The Bavarian Example, Ekkehard Hübschmann
- Westward Ho, with an Irish Stopover, Stuart Rosenblatt
- Create a Family Digital Archive, Marlis Glaser Humphrey
- Searching for Relatives and Ancestors in Argentina with Online Resources, Robert S. Weisskirch

**East European Genealogist, Summer 2016, Vol. 24, No. 4**, East European Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 2536, Winnipeg MB R3C 4A7, Canada, <<http://www.eegsociety.org>>.

- From the *Słownik geograficzny*: Galicia, by Bronisław Gustawicz, Part I
- Hidden Jewels Inside the Chernivtsi Archives, Gabrielle Witts

**Polish Eaglet, Fall 2016, Vol. 36, No. 3**, Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, c/o Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48202-4007, <<http://www.pgsm.org>>.

- Śliwice: The Homeland of Our Ancestors, Dariusz Rząska
- Two Small Villages: Śliwice, Poland and Parisville, Michigan, Located 4,300 Miles Apart, Become Intimately Connected, Charles Ciechanowski Chinoski Chase
- Biography of Ambrose Ciechanowski; A Founder of Parisville, Michigan, Charles Ciechanowski Chinoski Chase
- Paris Township; When Did the Poles Make Their First Land Purchase?, Charles Ciechanowski Chinoski Chase
- Thank You Sir Alexander Fleming, Norma Glaza Novick
- The Fires of Huron County, Michigan, Norma Glaza Novick
- Martin Kalszewski, Kristin Peltier
- My Aunt Was An Only Child, Pat McCormick
- Rybczynski Family - Polish or German; A Prussian Immigrant's Journey, William J. Krul
- Seminar 2016 Wrapup, Valerie Koselka

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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.*

**November 4–5, 2016**

**3RD ANNUAL NASHI PREDKY FALL CONFERENCE  
RESEARCH ESSENTIALS: COMBINING THE BASICS WITH 21ST CENTURY  
TECHNOLOGY**

**Ukrainian Cultural Center  
135 Davidson Ave. • Somerset, NJ 08873**

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

The **3rd Annual Nashi Predky Fall Conference - Research Essentials: Combining the Basics with 21st century Technology** - will be held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, located at 135 Davidson Avenue in Somerset, NJ. The event features nationally known experts in Eastern European genealogy, and will span two days, including a Cyrillic handwriting workshop, opportunity for document translations, and nine lectures.

On Friday evening, November 4th, participants can register from a choice of three options: a hands-on workshop on Cyrillic handwriting led by **Prof. Jonathan Shea, AG**; a presentation on DNA entitled “Which atDNA test is right for you?” by **Shellee Morehead, CG**; or an appointment for assistance with document translation(s). Space is limited for the Workshop (20 seats) and the Translation Desk (16 appointments).

The main day of the conference will be on Saturday, November 5th. Registration opens at 8 a.m. and a light continental breakfast will be available. The morning sessions start off with the presentation “I Found my Village! Now What?” by **Julie Szczepankiewicz** where she will suggest resources and strategies to help researchers find their ancestral village. “Now I Found It! What Does It Say?”, a linguistic overview by **Prof. Jonathan Shea, AG**, examines various phonetic and grammatical features of the languages encountered in Eastern European research and attendees will work through the translations of sample documents.

After a buffet luncheon featuring ethnic food, the afternoon sessions offer a dual-track option to participants.

**New to the conference in 2016!**

The Nashi Predky Family History Group is proud to offer a dual-track afternoon of presentations. For those wanting to strengthen their research skills, the Basics Track offers “**US Alien**

**Registration Files” by Shellee Morehead, CG; “How to Locate Those Elusive Military Records for Ancestors Who Served in the Austro-Hungarian Army” by Carl Kotlarchik; and “Finding Uncle Frank: Confirming the Identity of a U.S. Soldier Buried Under the Wrong Name” by Julie Szczepankiewicz.**

The Technology Track features three presentations for those researchers wanting to add tools to their Genealogy Toolbox: **“Using Polish Language Websites for Genealogical Research in Galicia (Halychyna)” by Prof. Jonathan Shea, AG; “Genetic Genealogy (DNA) Tools” by Shellee Morehead, CG; and “UAGenealogy: Discovering Online Genealogy Resources” by Michelle Chubenko.**

Please feel free to forward to anyone who might be interested.

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\* About the Family History Group at the Ukrainian Historical & Education Center \*

Family History Group programming is coordinated by Mike Buryk, Michelle Tucker Chubenko, and Justin Houser, with the help of the Center’s archivist Michael Andrec and museum director Natalia Honcharenko. The goal is to help promote genealogical research and create an interest in ancestry and heritage in the former areas of the Province of Galicia, Ruthenia, Sub-Carpathian Rus and Russian Empire guberniyas which became Ukraine SSR, including descendants of ethnic groups Boykos, German-Bohemian (Bohmisch), Hutsuls, Lemkos, Moravian, Rusyns, and those of Jewish ancestry. The FHG holds two annual events which offer opportunities for researchers to get advice on preserving family records and learn about tracing their ancestry in both Ukrainian and Polish archives.

For more information, visit:

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

[From a note posted by Michelle Chubenko to various mailing lists.]

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**Saturday, November 5, 2016**

**WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY’S FALL SEMINAR  
*CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE GENEALOGICAL KIND: What All Good Genealogists  
Need To Know***

**Livonia Civic Center Library**

**32777 Five Mile Rd. • Livonia MI 58154 • 734-366-2491**

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Registration opens at 9:00 a.m.

Speaker: **William J. Priest**

The titles of the topics to be covered are:

- Genealogy Standards: What They Are and Why We Need Them?
- Using Notes and Events to Their Greatest Potential
- Organizing Your Paper and/or Electronic Records
- Planning a Successful Genealogy Research Trip

\$30.00. Box lunch, \$10.00

See website for registration form: <<http://wwcgs.org/>>

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**November 6, 2016**

**THE POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA (PACIM)**

**Annual Polish Soup Festival**

**Kolbe Hall • 1630 4th Street NE, Minneapolis MN** (*behind Holy Cross Catholic Church*)

3:00 – 7 p.m.

Poland is famous for soups and PACIM's SoupFest boasts having all of *babcia's* favorites. Join us for the 28th Annual PACIM Soup Festival. Sample favorites such as *zupa grzybowa* (mushroom soup) and *zupa ogórkowa* (dill pickle soup). This event will feature a variety of soups for everyone, including vegetarian soups. Taste PACIM's *żurek* soup as featured on Esquire TV's Best Bars of America: Minneapolis.

Celebrate classic Polish soup made by PACIM members under the direction of chefs Peter Pawlowski and Marta Pachnik. Polish vendors will be showcasing cultural and contemporary artisan gifts.

All ages welcome!

[*From an e-mail sent to me*]

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**November 19, 2016**

**INDIAN RIVER GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**“FINDING THE MISSING PIECES OF YOUR POLISH AMERICAN FAMILY HISTORY”—JONATHAN SHEA**

**Indian River County Main Library • Vero Beach, FL**

**1 p.m.**

**Jonathan Shea** will present a workshop entitled “Finding the Missing Pieces of Your Polish American Family History” for the Indian River Genealogical Society at the Indian River County Main Library in Vero Beach FL at 1 p.m.

**For further details, see:**

<<http://www.irgs.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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**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.ggsminn.org/>>.

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

<[https://orthodoxwiki.org/Union\\_of\\_Brest](https://orthodoxwiki.org/Union_of_Brest)>

Researchers who know their families came from “Poland” are often perplexed when they try to deal with the complex history of that whole region. One historical phenomenon

of enormous importance to anyone with roots in eastern Poland, or points farther east, was the Union of Brest, which created the Ruthenian Catholic or Greek Catholic Church. On the GaliciaPoland-Ukraine mailing list, Laurence Krupnak posted this link, with a good introduction to the subject. He added a link to a translation of the actual treaty: <<http://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1595brest.asp>>, which I found fascinating.

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<<https://www.xoom.com/>>

Researchers are constantly looking for secure ways to send money abroad without paying outrageous fees. Personal checks and other means of paying may cost nothing on our end, but often cannot be cashed in Europe without charges that often exceed the value of the money transferred. Payment by wire transfer is typically the best way—the Polish State Archives will not accept any other method; but some companies' fees are ridiculous. I have heard many praise Xoom for its services and reasonable fees. PayPal acquired Xoom last year—somehow I missed the news, or forgot it. I have often used PayPal to transfer money to and from Canada, and I would have no misgivings using Xoom to send money to Europe, now that it's a PayPal service. If you need a service of this sort, it wouldn't hurt to look into Xoom.

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

Roger Lustig posted a note to the JewishGen newsgroup, saying that Ancestry.com has a large trove of records relevant to East Prussia. He said they're in a collection called "Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1519-1969." It can be difficult to find material from former East Prussia, and those who are members of Ancestry might find this helpful.

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<<https://blog.eogn.com/2016/10/21/are-you-missing-most-of-the-available-genealogy-information/>>

This link takes you to an article from *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* [EOGN] in which Dick Eastman explains why researchers make a mistake when they rely *only* on material available online. There is a lot of splendid material online, no question about it; and it's increasingly constantly. But researchers who spend a lot of time visiting actual archives and other repositories of information usually discover much of the best stuff is not online, and probably won't be any time soon. Use online sources for all they're worth, and be grateful for them; but don't limit yourself needlessly!

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<<https://www.ancestry.com/academy/course/citation-sources-genealogy>>

The 30 October 2016 issue of *Nu? What's New?* mentioned this four-minute presentation on the importance of documentation. Thomas W. Jones, a highly regarded genealogist, produced it for Ancestry.

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<<http://polishorigins.com/galician-cadastre/>>

More and more researchers are recognizing the value of cadastral records. Gesher Galicia

has taken the lead in making all kinds of maps online for Galicia online. Gregg Legutki Walter posted a note to the Facebook group Polish Genealogy, pointing out that PolishOrigins has a nice overview of Galician cadastral records at the above URL, with special emphasis on how to use <<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/>> to find scanned villages. This can be a tricky subject; finding the records you need and learning to understand them can be challenging. It's great to see PolishOrigins, as well as Geshet Galicia, giving us a hand.

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<<http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/365/39/0/2/2548#tabSkany>>

Speaking of Szukajwarchiwach, Valerie Warunek posted a note to the Facebook group Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, saying, "While using [szukajwarchiwach.pl](http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl) this morning, I found a listing of some men who were part of Haller's Army. There are three different collections to look at but this link takes you to the list of recruits from Buffalo, New York. I found a man whose papers I sent away for years ago but I did not find anything else just yet." I ran this by THE expert on Haller's Army, Paul S. Valasek, and he was delighted with the information he found there.

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