



# 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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**\*\*\* HURRAY FOR TAKING RESPONSIBILITY! \*\*\***

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

In the March 2016 issue of *Gen Dobry!*, we printed a letter from Edward David Luft saying that a publication called *Armchair Genealogist*, published by the Saskatoon Branch of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (SBSGS), had republished an article he wrote that appeared in the September 2008 issue of *Gen Dobry!*, and had done so without credit to him as author or to *Gen Dobry!* In a comment to his letter, I explained I had tried to contact SBSGS to discuss this, but had received no reply.

On 5 April 2016, I heard from the current editor of *Armchair Genealogist*, Bonnie Lymer:

I am the current editor of the *Armchair Genealogist*, the newsletter of the Saskatoon Branch Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (SBSGS).

I was not the editor in 2008, but our organization is concerned about the plagiarism issue discussed in your recent newsletter.

At this time, I am not sure how to make this situation right, with the exception of possibly issuing a public apology to Edward Luft and to *Gen Dobry!* with regard to these concerns. I cannot offer any type of explanation as to how this may have occurred, but you are correct in stating that at no time is plagiarism acceptable.

I do not know Edward's e-mail address, but would appreciate if you could either forward this e-mail to him, or if you could provide his e-mail address to me so that I may contact him directly.

My intention is to publish an apology in the next newsletter, which is tentatively scheduled for publication at the end of April.

Thank you. I appreciate the fact that you have brought this matter to our attention.

I was pleased to receive this note. I knew it was unlikely the publication is still edited by the same person who published that article without attribution. As I know from experience, only a crazy person goes on editing the same publication year after year ... Anyway, I felt Ms. Lymer had done the only thing she could do, really, and I thanked her. Then I waited to see if anything would come of it.

I heard from her again on 25 May, as follows:

I am attaching a copy of the newest publication of the *Armchair Genealogist*, the newsletter of the Saskatoon Branch Saskatchewan Genealogical Society. An apology to *Gen Dobry!* and Edward Luft appears on page three.

Sure enough, this appeared prominently on page three:

*APOLOGY TO GEN DOBRY!*

Dear Reader:

It has recently been brought to our attention that an article entitled “The Rich Ones Rode in Third-Class Railway Cars to Hamburg or Le Havre” written by Edward David Luft, published in Issue 58 of *The Armchair Genealogist*, Nov-Dec 2008, initially was published in the *Gen Dobry!*, Volume IX, No. 9 30 September 2008, ISSN 1555-774X publication.

The article was re-published without proper acknowledgement, as outlined in the *Gen Dobry!* Publication, as follows:

YOU MAY REPRINT articles from *Gen Dobry!*, PROVIDED: (1) the reprint is used for non-commercial, educational purposes; and (2) the following notice appears at the end of the article: Written by [author’s name, e-mail address, and URL, if given]. Previously published by *Gen Dobry!*, Vol. IX, No. 9, 30 September 2008, PolishRoots®: <<http://www.PolishRoots.org/>>.

We have contacted the editor of the *Armchair Genealogist* at the time, who has indicated that the source document was probably provided to him, as he has not read the original publication.

We regret that no acknowledgement of the source was provided, and will impress upon current and future editors of the *Armchair Genealogist* the need to verify reprinting policy and proper attribution where requested.

- René Stock, President, Saskatoon Branch Saskatchewan Genealogical Society

Ideally, I would have liked to see the apology directed specifically to Mr. Luft as well as *Gen Dobry!* As an author myself, I profoundly disapprove of reprinting a writer’s work without bothering to give him or her credit.

Still, Mr. Stock has gone on record as taking responsibility and requiring greater care in proper attribution. This was the right thing to do, and I appreciate his action. I criticized SBSGS publicly before, so I felt it was right to give credit publicly for this action.

It can be a real pain in the neck to track down the author and first publisher of an article; and I can understand quite well how a failure in the process might occur without any intention of plagiarizing. This is especially true in these days of blogs and mailing lists and social media, when it is so very easy to take someone else’s work and pass it off as your own.

Many, many genealogical publications operate on small or nonexistent budgets, and the temptation to cut corners can be overwhelming. But we have to resist it. Otherwise, things will get to the point where you simply cannot believe anything anyone says. Hell, we may be there already! I know I try very hard never to believe anything I read until I have found at least some corroboration. For that matter, I do what I can to verify what we publish in *Gen Dobry!* But let's face it, you can only do so much. The ruling principle is still *Caveat lector* (Let the reader beware!).

The plus side of taking a stand, as SBSGS has done, is that it increases credibility. Before this happened, I knew nothing about the Saskatoon Branch of SGS, website <<http://genealogysaskatoon.ca/>>. Now I know their president has made a public commitment to responsible behavior in source attribution. I also know that when a former editor made a mistake, the society did not evade responsibility; it took proper action. It's more than I know about a lot of other organizations; and I now have a certain amount of respect for SBSGS.

I thought I should pass the info along.

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

Subject: Polish genealogy groups on Long Island?

*Editor*—I received this question, and could not help. So I thought I'd see if any of our readers could step forward with a bit of assistance.

I am looking for a Polish Genie group working on Long Island, N.Y. While there are many Polish families, descendants of immigrants who farmed, purchased land, and made their New World homes here, I can't seem to find a genealogy group. Can you help with this? I live in Riverhead, N.Y.

Also, do you know where I can obtain birth records from the R.C. church in Teolin? I would be most grateful for any help you can provide.

Joan Zaniskey (original name spelling is Zaniewski)

*Editor*—The closest groups I know of are the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State (PGSNYS), which is in the Buffalo area, and PGSCTNE, in the New Britain, Connecticut area. Both are quite a long way from Long Island! Can anyone offer Mrs. Zaniskey some information? If so, please write to me <[wfh@langline.com](mailto:wfh@langline.com)> and I'll pass it along.

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**\*\*\* ADDITIONS TO PGSTNE'S POLISH AMERICAN MARRIAGE DATABASE \*\*\***

*Editor*—Diane Szepanski of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast asked me to include this notice, and I am delighted to do so.

The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast has added 6,660 names to its Polish American Marriage Database with the completion of the segments for Hartford, Connecticut and Jersey City, NJ.

Our total amount of names on this database, at this time, has gone from 34,753 to 41,810. Take a look and see if you can find your grandparents' wedding date!

Please note that some entries have two dates of marriage or two different first names due to conflicting information in original records. Some surnames are also not uniform for the same reason.

We are now proceeding to process the town of New Britain, CT.

The PGSTNE's Polish American Marriage database can be viewed at:

<[http://www.pgsctne.org/Marriage\\_Database/All%20States%20Database.aspx](http://www.pgsctne.org/Marriage_Database/All%20States%20Database.aspx)>

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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.*

**Wednesday, June 15, 2016**

**WEBINAR: USING VINTAGE & CURRENT NEWSPAPERS TO ADVANCE POLISH RESEARCH**

**Ceil Jensen  
3 p.m. EDT**

Ceil writes: I am pleased to accept the invitation to present another webinar for the Family History Library (Salt Lake City, Utah).

Synopsis: Using Vintage & Current Newspapers to Advance Polish Research

Webinar for FamilySearch – Wednesday, June 15 @ 3 p.m. EDT

Newspapers are a great resource for information on the life and times of your ancestors. Follow a family for three generations in their community, regional, and international newspapers. Ideas are included on how to use current global newspapers to obtain information. If you can't wait, you may want to try some of the featured databases today!

The Library of Congress' Chronicling America <<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>>

The Paperboy.com <<http://www.thepaperboy.com/poland/newspapers/country.cfm>>

Małopolska Digital Library <<http://mbc.malopolska.pl/dlibra>>

The URL for the webinar has not been established yet. You can check the Michigan Polonia Facebook page <<https://www.facebook.com/mipolonia/>>, check <<http://www.mipolonia.net>>, or contact Ceil at <[cjensen@mipolonia.net](mailto:cjensen@mipolonia.net)>.

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**June 26, 2016**

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS PRESENTS  
WORCESTER 'POWIAT': POLONIA IN CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS  
by Barbara Proko**

Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish Hall • 34 Ward Street • Worcester, MA 01610  
2 p.m.

Event registration: <<http://www.eventbrite.com/o/polish-genealogical-society-of-massachusetts-8158664657>>

Today more than 50,000 people in Worcester County self-identify as Polish Americans, the majority descending from immigrants who settled in Central Massachusetts a century or more ago. These ethnic Poles came not from a sovereign nation called Poland but from the German, Austrian, and Russian empires. Overlooking their disparate places of origin, they bonded to create a vibrant web of relationships in their new shared county—Worcester powiat, as it might be called in Polish.

In Clinton, Dudley, Gardner, Southbridge, Webster, West Warren, and Worcester, they organized Polish parishes. In other towns with significant Polish populations, such as Fitchburg, Gilbertville, South Grafton, and Uxbridge, they founded Polish homes and Pilsudski clubs. And they traveled countywide to support and celebrate their shared ethnic heritage at a broad range of religious, social, athletic, and cultural activities.

What do we know today of their lives a century ago? How can we trace our own Polish families back from Central Massachusetts to Europe? This program will consider the chain migration that brought the immigrants from their places of origin through European and American ports to

their ultimate settlement in Massachusetts, focusing on the myriad organizations and events that unified them here. Finally, it will identify a variety of helpful resources for documenting these Polish lives in Worcester County.

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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*.

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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**September 24, 2016**

**PGSA GENEALOGICAL WORKSHOP**

**Taft High School, 6530 West Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago, Illinois 60631**

**10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

The mission of PGSA is to assist members with their own genealogical research by providing books, newsletters, bulletins, printed information, regular meetings, and an annual conference/workshop.

This year we are offering a one-day workshop to help those new to genealogy as well as those who have been engaged in the current #1 hobby for some time.

We will provide an opportunity for all to meet people, learn research skills, and perhaps connect with close and distant family members.

More information will be provided as it becomes available, in upcoming issues of *Rodziny*, in the *Genealogy Notebook*, and on PGSA's website:

<<http://pgsa.org/calendar/>>

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**October 9–19, 2016**

**POLISH ORIGINS TOUR OF GALICIA**

PolishOrigins.com has been conducting tours to the former region of Galicia for four years, and the response has been extraordinary. This year, their September tour is already booked up, but they will conduct another tour in October. You can see the itinerary and learn more here:

<[http://polishorigins.com/document/galicia\\_tour](http://polishorigins.com/document/galicia_tour)>

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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.ggsmn.org/>>.

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

<<https://blog.eogn.com/2016/05/12/the-social-security-death-index-ssdi-is-still-available/>>

Dick Eastman published an article in his *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* [EOGN] on 12 May 2016, explaining that, contrary to what many believe, the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) is still available. Due to concerns of identity theft, the Social Security Administration stopped issuing updates a few years ago, and the index was deleted from a number of sites. But the original database is in the public domain and can still be accessed; it's just that death records for the past three years are not available. Ancestry, Steve Morse's One Step Genealogy site, and others still provide access. You can learn more if you visit the above link.

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

A May 17th posting to EOGN discussed “Locate My Name,” a website that promises to help find distribution of names across countries and regions. The EOGN article is at <<https://blog.eogn.com/2016/05/17/locate-my-name-a-distribution-of-names-across-regions/>>. Or, you can simply visit the Locate My Name site at the above URL and experiment with it for

yourself. Poland is one of the countries covered. I searched for Hoffman, and the data was very interesting—but what they say about the name’s meaning is not necessarily reliable. It says, “Name Hoffman means One with influence.” Yeah, right...

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<<http://blog.dearmyrtle.com/2016/04/are-look-ups-copyright-violation.html>>

In view of the lead article in this issue, with its emphasis on respecting intellectual property, this brief piece is worth reading. DearMYRTLE has some sensible things to say about “free look ups.”

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<<http://www.genealogyblog.com/?p=37931>>

This post, from the GenealogyBlog, discusses Roger P. Minert’s *German Census Records, 1816-1916: The When, Where, and How of a Valuable Genealogical Resource*, published 2016; 261 pp; 8.5×11; Softbound; ISBN: 9781628590777. It is available with a 15% pre-pub discount at the above site. It does include census in East and West Prussia, Pomerania, Posen, and Silesia—so Polish researchers may want to take a look. This note is an update to one posted on 24 April 2016, and the earlier note includes the table of contents; so you may want to view it as well: <<http://www.genealogyblog.com/?p=37810>>. Roger P. Minert has a proven record as a fine researcher and educator; I would not hesitate to buy anything he writes.

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<<http://www.genprof.net>>

On 4 May 2016, DearMYRTLE published a note received from Michal J. Leclerc, GGSM, about GenealogyProfessor, a website at the above URL. They intend to offer Genealogy MasterClasses as well as Self-Paced course. This enterprise appears to be in the early stages, so I have no way of knowing how useful it will be. But it may be worth your attention.

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

The 17 May 2016 issue of *Nu? What’s New?* included a note on the lecture Edward David Luft gave at the Library of Congress on March 21, on the subject of the Jews of Posen province. You can view the lecture at the above URL; or if it does not work, try <[http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature\\_wdesc.php?rec=7239&loclr=eanw](http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=7239&loclr=eanw)>. You can also learn more about Luft’s book *The Naturalized Jews of the Grand Duchy of Posen in 1834 and 1835: Revised Edition* at <<http://www.avotaynu.com/books/posen.htm>>.

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<<https://mikeeliasz.wordpress.com/2016/05/19/romanov-russian-royalty-redux/>>

I came across this blog entry, and thought it extremely interesting, though not directly Polish in content. It’s all about the death of the Romanovs and attempts to prove their bodies can be identified with genetics.

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<<http://en.odleglosci.pl/>>

In a post to the Facebook group Polish Culture, Food and Traditions, Valerie Warunek mentioned this website, Tourism in Polish, which is in English. By clicking on the map, you can focus on specific towns and cities.

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

Logan Kleinwaks continues to add resources to the GenealogyIndexer site. Among the recent additions are: 1942 Polish Territory Annexed by Germany Business Directory; 1930 Poland and Danzig Business Directory (Copy 2); 1929 Poland and Danzig Business Directory (Copy 2); 1922 Poland Business Directory; and 1937 Elbing Telephone Directory. There is a bit of a learning curve associated with using the site, but the things you can find there make it more than worthwhile for serious researchers.

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<[http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/urzedowe\\_nazwy\\_miejscowosci.php](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/urzedowe_nazwy_miejscowosci.php)>

Kathy Krysiak posted a note to the Polish Genealogy note on Facebook, asking “Has anyone spent time on this website before? Mid-page down on this link, you’ll find a link to an Excel file with the names of towns and villages in Poland in 2012. What is wonderful about it is that because it is in Excel you can sort and filter it by village name, district (gmina), county (powiat), województwo (state), and declined names of the village. This is pretty darn handy for those of us who are trying to locate ancestral villages.”

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<<https://www.familytreeuniversity.com/courses/polish-genealogy-research-methods-201>>

Alan Kania posted a note to the Polish Genius mailing list, saying he had been looking at online workshops offered by the Family Tree University. He said he was not familiar with the classes, but wanted to pass the information along for anyone who might wish to look into them. The “Polish Genealogy 101” has already started, but I noticed “Polish Genealogy Research Methods 201” is available, running 27 June through 22 July 2016. I clicked on “Instructor” and saw that the course is Lisa Alzo. If Lisa’s involved, that’s good enough for me!

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

In a post to the JewishGen newsgroup, Jan Meisels Allen mentioned that Southern California Genealogical Society’s (SCGS) Jamboree has announced its free livestreaming schedule. Courses are free and are scheduled for June 3–5, 2016. They courses are apparently free, but you do have to register. Visit the above site for more, or register at <<http://streaming.webcastandbeyond.com/jamboree/>>.

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