



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>>

*** ANCESTRY AND (SHHH!) EASTERN EUROPE! ***

by Paul S. Valasek DDS <Hallersarmy@aol.com>

Once again, it seems Ancestry.com is a bit over itself and making more, in my opinion, poor choices. Back in the January edition of *Gen Dobry!*, I wrote a commentary on Ancestry's recent move to discontinue Family Tree Maker in place of embellishing their "cloud" storage facility. A poor choice to me—and after many individuals, members of genealogy groups, protested, the life of the Family Tree Maker appears to have been saved and resurrected.

Now Ancestry has done it again. For the past few months, probably closer to a year, we see commercials for signing up to Ancestry.com to "discover" one's roots. Fine and good, but the choice of advertising scenarios is leaving much to be desired. How long do I have to hear about the middle-aged man who all his life was "German" (complete with lederhosen, bratwurst, and oompah bands—none of which I have any problem with) but now, thanks to Ancestry.com, finds out he's really Scottish! Really? It took a commercial company to correct the seemingly blatant mistake made by his family who, for 50+ years, told him one story and only to find out it's not true? Yes, I know, this has happened to many others. The only ones I blame are the ancestors who never knew the story themselves nor took the time to tell their children the proper family lore.

But what irks me the most is that after an entire life of being "German," he now must drop the garb and assume kilts and bagpipes. What becomes of a lifetime of mingling and sharing life's ups and downs with "other" Germans? And now we must assume our new identity and center on being Scottish! Conjure up the vision of covering those lederhosen with a kilt?

If that wasn't bad enough, there has been a subsequent commercial in that venue which irritates me more and in the trend of 21st century politically correctness: I'm offended!

In this Ancestry commercial, we have a husband and wife standing in a more or less empty room talking about his ancestry, which he always assumed was Italian. (Time out for beaming on both faces....) The smiles go down and he concludes that he is not as much Italian as he thought. His wife hesitates and states in a quieter, almost embarrassed voice, whispers hesitantly, "He's ... (pause ... shhh!) He's EASTERN EUROPEAN! And she follows it up again with the hesitant "EASTERN EUROPEAN"! Wow. What a traumatic moment that discovery must have been for both of them!

All your life you were raised to follow one country through high and low (they didn't specify Northern or Southern Italian; that may have offended one side over the other, but Ellis Island made that difference for a number of years). Now you have to be one of a gazillion ethnic races, religions, origins, minorities, speaking untold languages, some not connected to any other language nearby, or even on this planet, with multiple alphabets. And thanks to Ancestry.com, he is now a member of, geographically, half of Europe. How's that for educating the public?

Not only did Ancestry.com make it worse for the man, BUT he and his wife have to be embarrassed stating so. If you look carefully and quickly, when he's accepted the title of being either EASTERN EUROPEAN, i.e. Finnish, Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Rusyn, Estonian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Polish, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian, Romanian, Bulgarian, Macedonian, Dalmatian, Greek, Turkish, Serbian, Armenian, Bosnian, Croatian, Slovenian, Volga Deutsch.... on and on... not to mention that now he has been grouped with the largest source of Jewish people this world has ever seen ... and the added potential for Christians (both Eastern and Western) Muslims, Mongols, Tartars, Gypsies (I don't use that derogatorily either, you can't beat their music and dance!) ... wait, I'm coming back to my point.... When he states he is now Eastern European, a small snippet of his ancestral chart shows up behind him on screen. I believe that one of the small flags is that of Croatia. It has a red and white checkered emblem on a blue background. The only other ethnic symbol I am aware of which has a red and white checkered pattern is the body of the Moravian eagle (which is half of MY family history as told to me by my father and his parents and my aunts and uncles and a whole town of family back in (shhh! ... (dramatic pause ...hesitantly) ...

EASTERN EUROPE!

Actually, Moravia is in Central Europe, well, Eastern Central Europe; Eastern Central Slavic Europe; on the eastern half of the current Czech Republic; formally the middle of Czechoslovakia; a Margravate in the Austrian half of the Austro-Hungarian Empire; but not to be confused and grouped in with “those” Northern Moravians, as mine inhabit a region called Slovacko or Moravian Slovakia because it lies on the border (forget political lines on a map) between Moravia, i.e., Czech Republic, i.e., Czechoslovakia, i.e., Czecho-Slovakia (yes, the hyphen DID make a difference and had to be wrangled away in Parliament), i.e., the Austrian Empire ... and Slovakia ... i.e., Upper Hungary ... i.e. Hungarian Empire!

And yes, one could take any of their ancestral homes, not just (shhh! ... dramatic pause ... EASTERN EUROPE), and illustrate how not to group any one person along with half a continent!

So after many decades of excellent contributions to genealogy, Ancestry.com (watched very closely by the Family History Centers), has stepped in the primordial ooze and got their shoes stuck in 21st century “political correctness.” I prefer the ooze; at least that can be cleaned off.

If you're wondering, Yes, I'm offended—and I just saw this commercial again today (on the 4th of July holiday). And can say that since its first appearance, it has been “edited” from the original, but ... wait for it (shhh!) ... the EASTERN EUROPEAN faux pas is still in there!

Wait, wait! I just thought of it. I can use French, as after the Thirty Years War, 1618–1648, the landscape around my Moravian ancestral home was devastated and the vineyards had to be repaired by imported French vineyard workers and many French names still exist in the area. And who planted those grapes....wait for it... LOUDLY with BEAMING ... the ITALIANS, the

Roman Garrisons from the Roman Empire's northern expanse. Hmm, maybe I'm Italian more than I thought!

*** † IWO CYPRIAN POGONOWSKI † ***

Valerie Warunek posted a notice to the Facebook group "Polish Culture, Food and Traditions" that Prof. Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski, author, lecturer, and Polish activist, had died at the age of 94. I was very sorry to hear it, as I have often referred to works Prof. Pogonowski wrote, including his *Poland: A Historical Atlas*, and his *Polish-English Standard Dictionary*, published by Hippocrene Books and notable for the phonetic pronunciations he provided. You can read his bio at this page on his website:

<http://www.pogonowski.com/?page_id=2005>

Cześć jego pamięci!

*** WE COME OUT OF THE SHADOW***

by Aga, Polish Origins team

Editor—PolishOrigins.com sent out an interesting note on June 30, just after I had already mailed out the June issue of *Gen Dobry!* I loved the way it told us about the members of the group, and wanted to pass it along to you. Some photos were included with the note, and you can see them in the online version of this note at <<http://polishorigins.com/our-team/>>.

Thank you for being a part of our community!

No matter if you are a forum member or one of our former guests, or maybe you are helping others with their genealogical problems or you are just a beginner and you are being guided by our wonderful volunteers...

Without you, PolishOrigins would not be the same.

But do you know who is standing behind the scene? Probably you've heard about Zenon, PolishOrigins founder and genealogy guide, and you might have been in touch with our tour managers and met our guides during our tours or you read about them on our blog and in testimonials... Today it is time to present to you our core team.

Zenon – CEO and Founder of PolishOrigins, sometimes still one of our genealogy guides. Zenon started his adventure with genealogy in 2004, and that is when his idea of "PolishOrigins"

was born. Since that time, Zenon is constantly working, thinking, reading and looking for ideas for its continuing development... well maybe apart from the genealogy tours or when he is completely absorbed in a particular family history. And yes, he still likes good Polish beer!

Magdalena, Tour Manager

Magdalena is our good spirit of orderliness. Her watchful eyes care about every detail of the itineraries for our guests. She also cares about our whole team, so that we could work together flawlessly. Her bobbin laces and tattings are works of art!

Aga, Tour Manager

Although Aga used to be a mountain guide, IT consultant, intern at the museum, and studied cultural anthropology, she thinks that her real fate was to end up with PolishOrigins. Apart from working as a tour manager, Aga prepares and shares with you the articles, videos, and other content for our social media.

Anna, Tour Manager

No, Michael Jackson was not on our team, but Anna, who is leading him by the hand in the picture, also sings and dances beautifully. As the Tour Manager, Anna pays great attention to details, in order for you to have a carefully organized tour and to experience those unforgettable moments.

Our guides:

Zbigniew, Chief Genealogy Guide

Be careful, Zbigniew's eyes light up when the old, old books are opened! He readily admits, the first family tree in his life was drawn shortly after he learned to write. Zbyszek has a degree in psychology, and we believe that this helps him to work well with people, especially to break the barriers in parish and state archives. Our guests practice Polish pronunciation with his name... or sometimes they give up and call him Mr. Z.

Lucjan, Galicia Genealogy Guide

Lucek is living in Przemyśl, and is an expert in the research of the Galicia area. As a dad and a former English teacher, he has developed a huge amount of patience – which are very useful in laborious and meticulous genealogy research. His kindness and friendliness will make you feel right at home.

Paweł, Chief Tourist Guide

Paweł is our tourist guide from Kraków. He traveled the length and breadth of Europe, but he thinks there's no place like home – for sure, you will hear it in his stories, as he radiates pride in his homeland. He is a real raconteur and his stories will be settled in your memory for a long time! Although Paweł is a very good driver, his greatest fascination is with trams.

Katarzyna, Multilingual Tourist Guide

Kasia is a volcano of energy, her broad smile, sense of humor and her passion for Polish culture makes her the perfect travel companion. She guides groups and individual tourists in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

There was one more important member of our team, **Danuta**. She was a genealogist and a guide with 30+ years of experience who shared with us and our guest not only her extensive knowledge but also bright smile and joyous spirit. Danuta unexpectedly passed away a few days ago... We will miss you, Danusia...

Greetings from Poland,

Aga, PolishOrigins Team

***** LATEST GENTTEAM.EU UPDATE *****

<<http://www.GenTeam.eu>> – approximately 200,000 additional entries online

Vienna, July 10th, 2016

New at GenTeam:

1. Vienna: index of Catholic baptisms in Vienna for the years 1584-1915 – approximately 36,000 new entries
2. Vienna: index of Catholic deaths in Vienna – approximately 53,000 new entries
3. Churchbook Registry-Indices of Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Burgenland, Tirol and Poland – approximately 111,000 new entries

Dear Researchers!

On my own account:

With today's new online records, the 33,400 registered users have immediately 14,4 million entries at their disposal. At this point, I would like to thank all those individuals, who have in the last 6,5 years furnished GenTeam 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 the www.GenList.at, a bilingual mailing list with more than 1,700 members as well as the genealogical link collection found at www.GenLink.at.

And Now to the Actual Update:

1. Baptismal Index Vienna between 1585 and 1915 –
Approximately 36,000 new Databases, more than 1.2 million already online!

Entries from the following parishes were added: 01 Sankt Stephan, 05 Sankt Florian (Matzleinsdorf), 05 Sankt Josef Margarethen, 07 Sankt Ulrich, 10 Sankt Johann Evangelist, 18 Währing and 19 Grinzing (the numbers are the districts).

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, Cindy Lindau, Lisi Maxa, Dr. Günter Oppitz, Gerda Smodej, and Judith Starke, 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 under [<kontakt@GenTeam.at>](mailto:kontakt@GenTeam.at).

2. Index of Catholic Deaths in Vienna – approximately 53,000 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, 1-year and under, are missing); therefore, we at GenTeam have begun an index of Catholic Burials.

New entries were added today of the following parishes: 01 Schotten and 10 Sankt Anton von Padua.

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 and Franz Spevacek.

3. Church Records Indices from Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Burgenland, Tirol and Poland –
Approximately 111,000 entries of Catholic Church Records were added.

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

Lower Austria:

Allhartsberg, Ameis, Ardagger Stift, Gettsdorf, Haugsdorf, Kirchsschlag, Mailberg, Nappersdorf, Neunkirchen, Pfaffendorf, Sankt Georgen in der Klaus, Sankt Leonhard am Walde, Staatz, Stockerau, Straning, Wullersdorf, Ybbsitz, Zistersdorf.

Upper Austria: Gutau, Mitterkirchen, Sankt Radegund.

Burgenland: Großhöflein

Tirol: Matri am Brenner, Sankt Jodok am Brenner

Poland: Wietrzychowice Gmina

At this point I would like to cordially thank Ursula Baldemaier, Wolfgang Berner, Robert Datz, Mag. Fritz Eichler, Gabi Rudinger Ferger, Ingrid Fleischer, Minist.Rat iR. Dr. Johann Frank, Martina Gelbmann, Franziska Heidrich, Elisabeth Kultscher, Günther Pethers, and Katharina Staudacher.

Comments:

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 hereby 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

E-mail: <kontakt@GenTeam.at>

Databases: <<http://www.GenTeam.eu>>

Mailing List: <<http://www.GenList.at>>

“Connecting genealogists”

***** AN OVERVIEW OF RECENT PERIODICALS *****

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

Rodziny, Summer 2016, Volume XXXIX, No. 3. <<http://www.pgsa.org>>

- Upcoming PGSA Meetings—Save These Dates!
- From Our Correspondent in Poland: Raftsmen on the Wisła, Iwona Dakiniewicz
- Help! We Need Volunteers!, Eileen Carter
- Apolonia Lewicka and the Priest, Joseph F. Martin
- Understand Our Ancestors—Possibly Understand Ourselves, Steve Szabados
- Strategies to Identify People in Old Photos, Harry Kurek
- *Memoirs of a Peasant: From Serfdom to Today*, Chapter Eight, Jan Słomka, translated by William F. Hoffman
- From the *Słownik geograficzny: Łubno (Rzeszów powiat)*

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

- Genealogy Words in Eight Languages, Carole McCarthy
- The Polish Fair, Robert Sullivan
- Brozyna Family History—From Galicia to Schenectady, Jeff Brozyna
- Ciocia Stasia’s Scrapbook, Phyllis Zych Budka
- Although the Ages Separate Us, A Passion for Learning Links Us—Dzielił Nas Wieki, Łączy Pasja Poznania, Krystyna Pawłowska-Bernacka
- Pani Katarzyna Kornacka, Martin Byster

Polish Eaglet, Summer 2016, Vol. 36, No. 2, Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, c/o Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48202-4007, <<http://www.pgsm.org>>.

- The Different Groups of People in Galicia
- Researching in Ukraine

- Tips for Finding Online Parish Records in Galicia
- Digging Into Lemko and Ukrainian Family History in Galicia
- Hutsuls of Carpathia Region
- The Land and Culture of the Boyko People
- Who Are the Rusyns?
- The Kurpie People
- Family Immigrants
- Book Review: “Stolen Childhood” by author Fr. Lucjan Krolikowski O.F.M

***** UPCOMING EVENTS *****

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

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 8 – 12, 2016

FEEFHS 23RD ANNUAL FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

Plaza Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah

For more details, go to the conference website:

<<http://feefhsworkshop.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 12-16, 2016

**2016 EUROPEAN FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE
Church History Museum Theater (directly north of the Family History Library)**

The Family History Library and the Research Specialists of the European Reference team invite you to a free, never before offered, week-long conference focused exclusively on European research. The conference, which will be held September 12th - 16th, 2016, is perfect for beginning and intermediate genealogists interested in learning about records of European localities, and Family History Library collections.

Come and spend a week at the world renowned Family History Library learning from our expert staff of genealogists as well as experienced guest genealogists. Learn how to effectively use historical records, and how to do research in several European countries. Explore such topics

as census, church, immigration, and vital records. Learn more about German, Swiss, Russian, and Polish research. And discover new techniques, strategies, and methodology to apply to your genealogical research problems.

For more information, visit:

<https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/2016_European_Family_History_Conference>

[*Thanks to Mavis Menzies, who sent a note on this to a number of researchers.*]

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Saturday, September 24, 2016

PGSA GENEALOGICAL WORKSHOP – A PRIMER

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

10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Mission of PGSA is to help individuals find and use genealogical information. This year, the Society is offering researchers and others interested in this #1 hobby the opportunity to participate in a one-day Workshop. We've developed our program to provide answers for those just getting started as well as those of you who have been at it awhile. We think there will be something for everyone!

This event will offer two knowledgeable speakers, round-table discussions at lunch, and a wrap-up with a Q & A session.

For more information and to download a Registration Form, go to PGSA's website:

<<http://pgsa.org/2016-workshop/>>

Any last minute details will be covered in the monthly newsletter "Genealogy Notebook" or on our website.

We hope you'll join us!

[*From a note sent by Eileen Carter of PGSA*]

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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/tours/galicia-tour/>>

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October 15, 2016

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

2016 ANNUAL GENEALOGY SEMINAR

American Polish Cultural Center • 2975 E Maple Rd (15 Mile Rd) at Dequindre Rd • Troy Michigan 48083

9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This year, we are very happy to have Tim Firkowski, the Genealogy Assistant, and a return visit from Kamila Mazurek. Details are on the home page, calendar, and registration portion of the website. For more info, visit:

<<http://www.pgsm.org/index.php>>

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October 20, 2016

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS

CSI Meets Roots: Meet a Forensic Genealogist!

Chicopee Public Library • 449 Front Street • Chicopee, MA

The Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts and the Chicopee Public Library, along with a grant from The Chicopee Cultural Council (part of The Massachusetts Cultural Council), are pleased to present an exciting program on Forensic Genealogy by hosting well-known and world famous Colleen Fitzpatrick on October 20, 2016 at the Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front Street, Chicopee, MA.

Admission is free but pre-registration is requested to ensure that there is adequate space for everyone who is interested. Please visit our website for registration information:

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

Forensic Scientists and Genealogists share the same goal – to find out who was who, and who did what and when. In explaining how to analyze photographs, to mine databases, and to use DNA analysis to reveal family history, Dr. Fitzpatrick will focus on how forensic genealogy can and has been used to solve mysteries from our family's past.

Colleen will give two talks, one at 2 p.m. and a second at 6:30 p.m. Here are summaries of them.

2:00 p.m.: Forensic Genealogy:” The Database Detective” and “Not Just the Facts, Ma’am, Give me the Big Picture!”

Colleen has combined several of her talks into this one comprehensive lecture for us on the fundamentals of forensic genealogy and several examples of results!

Birth, marriage, and death indexes are three kinds of data familiar to even casual genealogists. But have you ever considered using Amazon or eBay to solve a genealogical mystery? And once you have found the facts you are searching for, how do you “connect the dots” to create a much more meaningful picture of your ancestors’ lives?

Individual facts only give bits of a story. For best results, it is critical to know how to knit those facts into what we call “information”. Knowing where to look something up is only the first step; knowing how to look at what you find is the real key to success.

And what about very large databases? Is there any sense in looking at a mountain of birth records if all you need is one or two? How can you harness the power of that large amount of data to reveal interesting background information on how your ancestors lived and died?

As an example of how to you can get the most out of your data, I take one photograph of a scene, and starting from easily recognized details in it, I gradually build a coherent story that gives insight about the “big picture.” I explain how facts, or small bits of information that individually may not seem important, can be fit together like a jigsaw puzzle, to create a picture that is much more meaningful than its individual parts.

Forensic Genealogy has used database mining to solve some of the most compelling mysteries of modern genealogy. It offers much insight on how to use data that genealogists often take for granted. Forensic genealogy will not only show you where to look for information, but more importantly how to look at it.

6:30 p.m.: “The Secrets of Abraham Lincoln’s DNA”

It has been suspected that Abraham Lincoln may have suffered from a variety of genetic disorders including a rare cancer called MEN2B. However, it is only recently that DNA testing has become available that could confirm these suspicions that until now have been based solely on Lincoln’s physical appearance and historical reports about the condition of his health.

The Abraham Lincoln DNA project is one of the first in the area of Bio-Historical research—the study of how the genetics of historical figures may have influenced the course of world history.

Our efforts to obtain a sample of Lincoln’s genome to DNA test have caused us to deal with a large variety of issues, from the ethics of genetic testing an American icon who died over a century ago, to the question of whether Lincoln could have been adopted or illegitimate. There are further issues relating to establishing the provenance of Lincoln relics that could yield the President’s nuclear DNA. To authenticate the relic, the DNA obtained must be shown to be Lincoln’s and not to have come from contamination from others handling it over the decades. This would normally be done by comparing the mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) found on a relic to the mtDNA of a member of the extended Lincoln family who is maternally linked to the President. But this is not easy, considering Abraham Lincoln has no known living descendants, his brother and his sister died without issue, and no one knows the origins of his mother Nancy Hanks; her family has never been conclusively identified.

This talk will discuss the how we are addressing these issues, and the fascinating secrets that we have so far unlocked about Abraham Lincoln’s DNA.

PGSMA will conduct a short business meeting at 6:30 p.m., prior to the beginning of the evening lecture.

“This program is supported in part by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural council, a state agency.”

[From a note sent by Joe Kielec of PGSMA]

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October 22, 2016

SEMINAR

**presented by The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc.
and
The Endowed Chair of the Polish and Polish American Studies,
Central Connecticut State University**

You are cordially invited to attend a seminar for **ALL RESEARCHERS** to learn about *forensic genealogy and the latest innovations in DNA analysis*.

DATE: Saturday, October 22, 2016

PLACE: Institute of Technology, Business and Development

Central Connecticut State University
100 Main Street - 3rd floor, New Britain, CT

REGISTRATION: 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

LECTURE: A Different Kind of DNA Talk - 1:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

REFRESHMENTS: 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

FEE: \$20.00 - Refreshments will be served

Free parking is available in the municipal garage adjacent to the lecture venue. Directions can be found at <<http://www.ccsu.edu/itbd/directions.html>>

LECTURE: Genealogy and the Six Degrees of Separation - How to Find Anyone in the World - 3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD, is an internationally recognized forensic genealogist, the founder of **Identifinders International**. As a world traveler and multi-lingual, Colleen specializes in **international cases**. She has researched in over 50 countries, assists nonprofits, military organizations, attorneys, and law enforcement with **cold case work, forensic identification, and with *locating hard-to-find individuals***. Colleen has appeared in hundreds of domestic and international newspapers and magazines and on international radio and television programs.

**** Please note this event is taking place at CCSU's ***downtown campus*** and ***not*** the main campus.

To view the Lectures, Colleen Fitzpatrick's biography, and Registration form, please visit

<www.pgscctne.org>

For more information, please e-mail Diane Szepanski, Seminar Chair, at <Szepanski3@cox.net>.

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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 Cyrillic handwriting workshop 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 8am 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**.

Take advantage of Early Bird pricing and save \$10. Discount ends September 30th!

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, (Rusyn), 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.

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

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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/>>.

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

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKsE93X1Sbk>>

Andrew Golebiowski posted a note to Facebook's group "Polish Culture, Food and Traditions" recommending this video put together by a young Polish-American, "WYD Krakow 2016 English-Polish Version." It's Michael Cygan's version of the World Youth Day 2016 theme song in Polish and English. While his singing voice is not the greatest ever, the spirit behind his performance makes it a very nice song nonetheless. Michael's comment on YouTube is "I just finished a semester in Franciscan University's study abroad program. Today, I'm flying out to France to begin the Santiago de Compostela. In August, I'm set to be a volunteer for World Youth day in Krakow, Poland. This year will be a block buster and filled with grace and mercy!"

<<http://feefhsworkshop.org/>>

The July 11 issue of *EOGN* [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter] mentioned that FEEFHS, the Foundation for East European Family History Studies, is holding a workshop on 8–12 August 2016 at the Plaza Hotel in Salt Lake City. It will have a full three-day track on German research and extended tracks for Polish, Russian, and Austro-Hungarian research. *EOGN* gave the above URL for more information.

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

Kathleen Ann LaBudie Szakall posted a note on 28 July to the Facebook group Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, saying that this surname locator site had proved to be right on for the Polish surnames she ran. I can't recall if we have mentioned this one before, but it never hurts to mention this sort of site several times, as it is one many researchers may wish to try.

<<http://www.jri-poland.org/jriplweb.htm>>

Mark Halpern announced in a posting to the JewishGen newsgroup that Jewish Records Indexing-Poland, or JRI-Poland, has added record indices for a number of towns in Galicia to their online database at this URL, including Jaworów, Kołomyja, Kozłów, Mielnica, Sambor, Tartaków, and Trembowla.

<<http://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/2016/06/01/biggest-mistake-reading-old-handwriting/>>

I know many researchers have a terrible time reading old handwriting, even when it's in English. The advice given here is really helpful.

<<http://www.altdeutsche-schrift.de/adsschreiben.php#schriftfeld>>

While we're on the subject of handwriting, I know the old German cursive is perhaps the worst offender for most researchers with roots in Europe. In Facebook's group Genealogy

Translations, “Genealogie Baden” (Andreas Zipfel-Waag) posted this link, saying, “This website generates old German writing (Sütterlin and Kurrent scripts) from your input.” It can be very helpful; choose the style you want to see, type in the text, and you’ll get a very good idea of what it will look like.

<<http://www.polandww2.com/>>

John Guzłowski posted a note to Facebook’s “Polish” group explaining that this is the site for Aquila Polonica, “a publishing house devoted to telling the story of Poland’s heroic struggle against Nazi Germany.”

<<http://www.geshergalicia.org/projects/josephine-and-franciscan-surveys-project/>>

This site is always worth visiting for anyone with roots in Galicia, and we can share news of additional records practically every issue. Andrew Zalewski, editor of *Gesher Galicia*, posted a note to the JewishGen newsgroup about indices and records relating to the Josephine and Franciscan Surveys Project — to learn more, visit the above URL.

<<http://tinyurl.com/jn5qzm2>>

This URL takes you to a brief notice of the passing of Polish genealogist **Danuta Jampolska**, who died in Warsaw on June 13. Eric Feinstein posted a note to the JewishGen newsgroup, saying, “Danuta lived in Warsaw and was of great assistance to countless people researching their Jewish roots in that country. I had a close working relationship with her since 2010. Her mind and her eyes were always working, constantly thinking and pursuing new avenues of research. Danuta translated for us literally hundreds of Polish and Russian language records that we researched through the JRI-Poland indexes—mostly from Russian or Congress Poland. Her knowledge of Polish, Russian, and Jewish history and traditions was fantastic and she used it with great expertise in translating these ‘novellas.’” *Cześć jej pamięci!*

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

A question that comes up again and again is how to pay the Polish State Archives, given that they won’t accept personal checks, credit cards, or PayPal, and many companies that will transfer funds to Polish bank accounts charge exorbitant fees. Xoom is one company I’ve heard good things about; and in a note to the Facebook group “Polish Genealogy,” researcher Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz spoke of a good experience with them sending money to the Konin archives. She wrote, “Although the page for recipient information is set up for transfers to individuals, I found nothing in their rules prohibiting the transfer of funds to businesses. So I used ‘Archiwum’ in the ‘First Name’ box and ‘Panstwowe w Poznaniu’ in the ‘Last Name’ box, and had no problem. :) (Note that it doesn’t accept the name if you use Polish diacritics.) It cost a total of \$11.64 to send 45 zlotys, including Xoom’s fee, which seemed very reasonable to me. So if you’ve been holding back from writing to the archives because you’re worried that making payment will be a headache, get writing!”

<<http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/>>

Chris Cowan posted a note to the LithGen mailing list, saying, “It appears that the Suwałki archive has digitized records now online. As you know, during the late 1800s, many of the parishes in SW Lithuania were in the Suwałki diocese. Sejny was another important center for administration of the Catholic Church.” The link appears above. Chris also gave a specific link to records for Berzniki parish, <<http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/63/150/0/1/121/str/1/10/15/ri-vxqcvVXcRpkJO7AsQ6w/#tabSkany>>. I’ve heard frustrated researchers complain for years about being ping-ponged back and forth between the Suwałki State Archives and the Lithuanian State Archives, with both claiming the other has such-and-such records. As these come online, perhaps we will finally be able to find out who does have what records, and access them without being jerked around.

<<http://wolyn.ovh.org/miejsca/ksiegi.html>>

Valerie Warunek posted a note to Facebook’s group “Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan” hoping this link will help someone with his or her research. It’s in Polish, but the format makes the information easy to understand. It’s a list of information from Poland’s Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych, of selected parish registers from the area of Wołyń or Volhynia that are available. If you have roots in Wołyń, you definitely should take a look!

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