



Gen Dobry!

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Editor: William F. “Fred” Hoffman, e-mail: <wfh@langline.com>

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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>>

***** WHAT DO I HAVE IN COMMON WITH A NOBEL PRIZE
WINNER, A VICTIM OF 9/11, ANGELA MERKEL, CHARLES BOYER,
GRETA GRABO, AND KING KONG!? *****

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

So here we go with an interesting quiz. I tried this on my sister because she, too, can be included in this list. It took her a while, but she did come up with the answer.

The common denominator between all of these people is that we have strong connections to Haller's Army. Yes, even the great Kong himself. So to explain.....

Most people who know of my work are aware the history of Haller's Army is very prominent in my life and research. Due to my grandfather, Jan K. Kostrubala, our entire family is made up of descendants of this *Hallerczyk* officer.

As my book on the subject continues to sell, I communicate with many people from all over the world. This was the case with Dr. Frank Wilczek. His grandfather, Jan Wilczek, was also a *Hallerczyk*. Dr. Wilczek won the 2004 Nobel prize in physics.

The link to a tragic victim of 9/11 was provided to me by another descendant of Haller's Army. John Ogonowski, whose grandfather Jan Ogonowski, a *Hallerczyk*, was the American Airlines Flight 11 pilot on that first hijacked flight of the morning of 9/11 when it left Boston for the west coast; and he lost his life due to terrorists.

About a year or so ago, it came out that German Chancellor Angela Merkel's paternal grandfather was Ludwik Marian Kaźmierczak, again, a *Hallerczyk*, but in this case, one who joined up in Europe, most likely from the Prussian Partition of Poland. I believe that was kept under lock and key for quite a while but did make the news in several formats. (For instance, <<http://en.wikipedia.org>>.)

Now you may ask, how do I link up with movie stars and King Kong? Both Boyer and Garbo starred in the 1937 film *Conquest*, the story of Napoleon and his Polish mistress, Countess Marie Walewska. No, she's not the connection—but the author of the story, Waclaw Gąsiorowski, was an officer under General Haller and is often pictured in the uniform of a French officer. As some might say, he wrote the story.

But then there's the great Kong. No, we don't have any *Hallerczycy* in the heart of Africa (not yet at least). But the producer of the classic 1933 film, *King Kong*, was Merian C. Cooper. He was not Polish by birth; but he was willing to join in the fledgling Polish air force fighting alongside (and above) Haller's troops. Born in Jacksonville, Florida, he was a founding member of the Kosciuszko Squadron. His brain child was to put King Kong on film, and to this day, it is one of the most revered motion pictures for setting new trends, production techniques, special effects, and

a great story. To this day, whenever I go to the top of the Empire State Building, I tend to swing at little bugs (imaginary or real, I don't care) and make a few appropriate gorilla noises.

So what is this story all about? When we do genealogy properly, not only do we construct a basic skeleton of the family tree, and flush it out with foliage, but we need to see the adjacent trees, not connected directly, but bearing some great fruit as well.

2017 is the 100th Anniversary of the recruitment of Haller's Army in the USA and Canada. There are plans for commemorations of this important event in Polonia of Erie, PA, Stevens Point, WI, Niagara on the Lake, ONT and others are being formulated. Keep 2017–2021 in your plans to learn more about the centennial of this army and its effects on the rebirth of the Polish Nation.

Editor – You can either write to contact Paul directly at <Hallersarmy@aol.com>, or visit the PolishRoots site and find the section on recommended books, or even go on eBay (just search for “Haller's Army” and Paul's book is the first thing that comes up).

*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: Ancestry and (Shhh!) Eastern Europe

Editor—Dr. Paul Valasek's article in the last issue of *Gen Dobry!* provoked some interesting feedback. Here is one point of view that the author gave me permission to reprint in this issue.

First and foremost, Ancestry is a “for profit” company. I expect little beyond the stated subscription points. They churn for customer numbers. The hint section is predicated on a very few doing the real ancestral investigations and the rest taking a free ride. The DNA follows that progression with great numbers taking the DNA with absolutely NO family tree nor any attempts at creating one but still expecting those who are more accomplished to “share.”

I must admit after four years of having done my DNA, I did get my first two positive hits this April, supported by their family research, although mine was much further along. Also, due to my purchasing a cousin's DNA test, I hooked up with another cousin this July 2016 who was equally accomplished and we exhausted some newly digitized Polish records together. But of the hundreds of 2nd-8th “cousins,” I have got only three strays and two who I submitted as checks on their DNA system.

Lastly, my investigative sources include far more than what Ancestry offers and any researcher worth their “salt” needs to understand that.

Stan Liszka

***** FACING UP TO THE LONG-TERM FUTURE OF YOUR GENEALOGY SOCIETY *****

by Dick Eastman

Editor—Dick Eastman, who puts out *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*, originally published this on March 7, 2012 as a Plus Edition article—that is, you had to be a paid subscriber to EOGN to read it. On August 11 of this year, he re-published it in his Standard Edition so that people could read it without having to pay. He also made a few small changes to update it. He encouraged readers to forward or republish it for non-commercial purposes. It contains Eastman's personal opinions, and not everyone will agree with it. But I think we all can benefit from giving serious thought to what he says.

I travel a lot (I am in Auckland, New Zealand today and going to Singapore on Monday), and I spend a lot of time with officers and members of many genealogy societies. Most everywhere I go, I hear stories of societies that are shrinking in size and even a few stories of societies that are struggling to maintain their existence. Even amongst all this “doom and gloom,” I do hear a few rare stories of genealogy societies that are thriving and growing larger. Not only are they attracting more members, but these few societies are also offering more and more services to their members with each passing year.

Why do the majority of societies flounder while a handful succeed?

I hear all sorts of “reasons” why societies are shrinking these days. I suspect many are not true reasons but are merely “shoot from the hip” excuses offered with no statistics or research to back them up. Common excuses include, “It's competition from the Internet” or, “It's the economy” or, “People just aren't interested anymore.”

To be sure, competition and economic difficulties and even lack of interest exist everywhere. If society members and officers do nothing to offset these factors, inertia sets in, and societies suffer. However, these factors affect all societies. The question persists: why is it that some societies thrive and even expand while others are shrinking?

I think the answer is a combination of many factors. However, some of the causes and perhaps even a few of the solutions become obvious when we look at history. Our ancestors witnessed and perhaps participated in similar problems years ago in other industries. Indeed, in recent years, even those of us alive today have seen similar declines and occasional reversals in a number of business endeavors. Perhaps the answer to the future growth of your genealogy society may be found by first looking back at the history of similar problems in other fields of endeavor.

Here is the first question to ponder: What happened to all the railroads in North America?

In the 1800s the railroad industry in the U.S. was a growth business. In some ways it was like today's Internet businesses. Consumers couldn't get enough of the railroads' "product:" convenient and easy travel. People traveled to places they never visited before, even if only to visit relatives in another state. Corporations also rushed to send their products by rail because it was cost-effective to do so. Farmers sent their products to distant markets that had previously been impossible to reach. The economy improved for farmers and for corporations, and the money then "trickled down" into almost all other businesses. The country flourished, in part because of the railroads.

Most every year, inventors created newer and more efficient locomotives. First it was steam, then it was petrol, then diesel. Times were good, and America had a bright, rail-based future.

So what happened? Why isn't North America blanketed in rail routes today? Why doesn't everyone commute to work on the railroad?

Today, the railroad companies are a shell of what they once were. Why? Because automobiles and trucks came along and ran the railroads into the ground.

Senior managers at railroad companies seemed to believe "we are in the railroad business." In fact, they were really in the transportation business, but few executives realized that. A very few railroads expanded over the years into bus lines, trucking companies, and allied transportation businesses.

One company provides a perfect example: Railway Express. This company specialized in brokering and delivering railroad freight, mostly smaller packages that required much less than a full box car for transportation. This was a "railroad company" that eventually was driven to bankruptcy by a newer company that saw the true business was delivering packages (parcels) by whatever means made sense: United Parcel Service. The new company, usually called "UPS," seems to have done quite well by delivering packages by rail, truck, and airline. In short, the company succeeded nicely by doing exactly what the older company had done except for one major difference: the new company did not limit its services by calling themselves a railroad company, but by calling themselves a freight delivery company and then by doing "whatever it takes" to serve the customers.

The overwhelming majority of railroad companies tried to remain just that: railroad companies. Then they wondered, "What happened to all the customers?"

Let's fast-forward a few years and look at another business: newspapers.

Again, newspapers used to be multi-million dollar businesses that most everyone respected. They were the primary sources of news and information for most citizens. A very common question

was, “Have you seen the paper today?” When was the last time anyone asked you that question?

The newspaper business was almost an exact repeat of the railroad business. New competition arose from radio, television, the Internet, and a host of small electronic devices. Even bloggers are competition to newspapers. Generally speaking, the new competition has been cheaper, faster, and much more flexible, able to change quickly to meet customers’ demands.

The result was predictable: stodgy, old newspaper companies with inflexible management started losing business. Customers abandoned those companies where management said, “We are in the newspaper business.” Yet a few forward-thinking managers said, “We are in the news and information business,” and they survived by adopting the methods of their new competitors. A very small number of newspapers, such as USA Today, adopted modern business methods and built upon their strengths: dozens of reporters, editors, advertising departments, and more. They built multi-media organizations capable of delivering news and entertainment to their customers, wherever and whenever those customers want it.

I will suggest that it makes no difference how a news story is delivered to a customer. One (slow) method is to print it on paper and send it out via overnight trucks to be sold in stores and newsstands. Another is to broadcast the same story on radio and television. Perhaps still better is to place the story on a web site where customers can retrieve it whenever they wish. Another option is to build the story into an RSS newsfeed where customers can access it via a newsreader. Better still, if the customer has a strong interest in some topic (sports, financial news, or most anything else), PUSH that information as it becomes available to the customer’s smart phone that is on his hip or in her purse.

Executives who think they are “in the newspaper business” will fail. In fact, the PRODUCT is news and information, and that is important. The DELIVERY METHOD might be paper or broadcast media or Internet. I will suggest that delivery methods are important, but never as important as the product. The product is INFORMATION, and companies in the information business have a better chance of survival than those companies that believe they are in the newspaper business.

Let’s look at a third example: Computers

This story has a very different ending. Apple started in the computer business 30 years ago at about the same time as did Microsoft and a few dozen other personal computer companies. Some built hardware; a few created software. A very few, including Apple, tried to do both. In fact, Apple floundered for a few years as the company’s managers tried to become the best and most successful computer company in the industry. By most standards of measurement, the Apple executives failed. Sales were down and continued to drop every year. At one time, Apple was close to bankruptcy.

Apple’s board of directors then re-hired Steve Jobs. He was a founder of the company but later

left to pursue other opportunities. Newly-re-hired Steve Jobs was given one objective: turn the company around. He was given a free rein to do whatever he thought was best.

The rest is history.

Even today, Apple does not build as many personal computers as some of its competitors and does not produce as much software as its biggest competitor. Yet Apple is now more profitable than any other company, even more profitable than Microsoft. In fact, Apple now has the highest corporate valuation IN HISTORY.

How is this possible? There are a number of reasons, but the biggest seems to be that Apple stopped being a computer company years ago. Instead, Apple is now the world's leading PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY COMPANY.

To be sure, Apple does make a significant amount of income from sales of personal computers. However, that revenue is not as big as the money derived from the sales of personal music players, cell phones, and tablet devices. Apple also produces devices to stream movies and television programs across the Internet. The same company even manufactures and sells battery chargers. Indeed, this is no longer a computer company.

Apple failed as a personal computer company, but it became wildly successful as a personal technology company.

Better than any other tech company, Apple paid attention to the trends of what consumers want, and they've never been afraid to experiment with other products. Some of those products failed miserably, but others succeeded far beyond anyone's expectations. The result is the most profitable company in the industry with more money in the bank than the gross national products of many countries.

The railroad moguls of days past said, "We're in the railroad business!" when they should have been saying, "We're in the transportation business." Newspaper managers used to say they ran newspaper companies when they should have been managing news and entertainment companies.

Steve Jobs and Apple got this right by saying, "We're not a personal computer company; we're a technology company."

So what does this mean for your genealogy society?

Are they societies, or are they providers of genealogy information and education and other services?

First, let's stop calling them "societies." That is a very narrow term that encourages members and

officers alike to narrow their focus. We need to look at a bigger picture. Perhaps we should call them “genealogy organizations” or invent some other term that better describes the myriad of services possible. Such services can include:

1. Education
2. Publishing (on paper as well as electronic publishing)
3. Travel services to local and distant repositories or even to “the old country”
4. Lobbying services
5. Fraternal organization services, somewhat like the Elks or Lions or Masons or other fraternities and sororities, all working towards common public service goals
6. And perhaps the most important of all: entertainment

Probably not all genealogy organizations need to perform all of these activities, but I will suggest that most organizations need to perform at least several of the above. Like Steve Jobs’ experiences at Apple, some of these services will flounder and become miserable failures. Chalk those up as “learning experiences.” All you want is to make sure that enough of your organization’s efforts succeed and generate enough revenue to help sustain the organization.

Most societies already perform educational activities for members and sometimes for non-members. All we can do is to expand this. Perhaps societies should be holding classes and information sessions for the general public. How about establishing scholarships for local high school seniors planning to pursue studies in history or allied fields?

Publishing is performed by many societies today although often is limited to small booklets that are published only on paper and are not well advertised nationwide. Yet today’s technology allows for electronic publishing at far lower costs than older methods of printing books. Shouldn’t we be placing all genealogy publications online and making them available to anyone and everyone worldwide for a modest fee? Or will we continue to act like newspapers?

Travel services can be a major service for members. How many of your organization’s members have ever visited the state historical society’s library? Or a nearby university’s archives? Organize a trip! A trip doesn’t always have to involve airfare to distant locations; a local visit can be just as valuable for members and non-members alike.

Lobbying is perhaps one of the greatest needs of genealogy organizations today. We are under constant pressure from well-meaning, but ignorant, legislators to limit access to the very records we depend upon. Genealogy organizations need to make sure that legislators understand that identity theft is not a factor when looking at death records from many years ago. In short, we need to lobby!

Speaking of members, do services have to be restricted to members? Why not make all services available to the general public? Sure, you might offer a discount to members, but restricting items “as a benefit of membership” rarely benefits anyone. By restricting services to members,

all the society is doing is locking out potential new members and others who may have a casual interest in genealogy. The best advertising to attract new members is to let non-members use the organization's present services, although perhaps at a slightly higher price than what members pay. Some of these "outsiders" will be motivated to join. The remainder at least will have added to the organization's treasury.

As proven recently by the television networks, genealogy is also "entertainment." Yes, we are in the entertainment business, whether we realize it or not. Let's entertain our members and especially let's entertain our potential future members!

The above list only "scratches the surface." I am sure you and your associates can create a longer list of worthwhile activities. We need to exist, thrive, and even grow in a high tech world of instant communications and collaboration. We cannot sit back and complain of "competition from the Internet." Instead, we need to embrace the Internet and every other form of technology and use all these tools to further our own interests.

My prediction:

Many genealogy societies will continue to shrink and will eventually die. Genealogy "organizations" with a broad outlook and a willingness to experiment with new methods of delivering services will expand and become influencers within the genealogy world.

Where will you and your society fit into all of this?

Editor: The text of this article is available online here:

<https://blog.eogn.com/2016/08/11/facing-up-to-the-long-term-future-of-your-genealogy-society/>.

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

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

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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September 16–18, 2016

**DOŻYNKI / POLISH HARVEST FESTIVAL
Our Lady of Czestochowa Church • 1731 Blalock Road • Houston, TX 77080
10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Polish Food & Polish Beer, Live Music & Dancing, Silent Auction, Variety of Children's Activities.

Entry \$5.00. Free parking

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

[From a post by Debbie Greenlee to the Polish Genius mailing list.]

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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 a while. 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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Saturday, October 8, 2016

11TH ANNUAL FAMILY HISTORY FESTIVAL
SPONSORED BY THE DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY BURTON COLLECTION
5201 Woodward Avenue • Detroit, MI 48202
10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Speakers are Thomas MacEntee and Deborah Abbott. This event is free. PGS-Michigan will have a vendor table on the lower level; come visit!

<<http://www.detroitpubliclibrary.org/event/11th-annual-family-history-festival>>

[From a posting by Valerie Warunek on 20 August 2016 to the Facebook Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan group]

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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 **Identifiers 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.pgscetne.org>

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

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Thursdays – October 27 - November 3, 10, and 17

**The Polish Center for Discovery and Learning
and
The Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts
present**

“Genealogy for Beginners”

Four Part Class - Morning and Afternoon Sessions Available

A series of four (4) 90-120 minute classes on how to research your ancestors will be held this fall at the Polish Center for Discovery and Learning, 33 South Street in Chicopee. Admission is free, but registration is necessary.

Classes will be Thursdays Oct 27, Nov 3, 10, and 17 at 10 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

These classes are for the PGSMA and Polish Center members but open to the public.

Alan Doyle Horbal will present an introduction to genealogy along with helpful hints for conducting your research. You will learn how to use the US Census from 1850-1940 and how to find your family coming in at Ellis Island and to find relatives coming from Europe and making their way in the United States. Alan will also demonstrate international research for Poland, Galicia, Canada, and England. He will also distribute helpful handouts. Bring a notebook and a pen and start your family tree journey!

Requirements: You must be computer literate and have an e-mail address.

About the Instructor

Alan Doyle Horbal has spent over 25 years researching his Ukrainian family that originated in Bartne and doing research at the Polish State Archive in Przemyśl. He was a volunteer archivist at the NARA Pittsfield facility until it closed and also volunteered at the Pittsfield Athenaeum. Alan has taught genealogy classes at Williams College and throughout Massachusetts. Alan first spoke to the PGSMA in October 2003. He organized the Computer Genealogy Lab at Chicopee Public Library and is the founder and editor of the Western Massachusetts Genealogy Newsletter.

These classes are co-sponsored by the [Polish Center for Discovery and Learning](#) and the [Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts](#).

REGISTER FOR EITHER A.M. OR P.M. CLASS BY GOING TO
<<http://www.pgsma.org/events--meetings.html>>

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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 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**.

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 *****

<<http://polishorigins.com/>>

If you haven't visited PolishOrigins.com lately, take a look. They have revamped their website, organizing it around their three main focal points: tours, community and resources, and research. It's a work in progress, but it is awfully nice to see professionals in Poland going to this much trouble to help American researchers. Of course, they want to make an honest dollar, too. Why not? Isn't that the Polish/American way?

<<http://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/12-dos-donts-genealogy-research>>

Gary Mokotoff recommended reading this article in the 21 August 2016 issue of *Nu? What's New?* He recognized that some of the points may be obvious to those who have been doing genealogical research for a while. But he felt anyone can benefit from spending a few minutes looking through the tips and evaluating how well he or she is complying. I agree; sometimes, it pays to review the basics. And there's nothing common about common sense.

<<https://blog.eogn.com/2016/08/03/quest-diagnostics-to-provide-genetic-testing-services-for-ancestrydna/>>

This entry from *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* gives details on the announcement that Quest Diagnostics has agreed to provide genetic test services for AncestryDNA. I've gone to the local Quest Diagnostics office many times to have medical tests done. If this means we will be able to go to the local office and get DNA test kits, that could be a pretty interesting development. We'll see how it all works out.

<<http://www.polin.pl/en/news/2016/08/17/discover-the-jewish-paris-of-the-north-a-new-warsaw-varshe>>

In a post to the JewishGen newsgroup, Jan Meisels Allen mentioned the announcement at the recent 36th Annual IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy that the 2018 conference will be held at the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, in Warsaw, Poland. More information will be published as it becomes available. In the meantime, Jan shared this article about an app that Museum has launched that lets you visit Jewish Warsaw. It is called “Warsaw, Varshe.” You can read more about it at the above URL.

<<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USGPOOFR/subscriber/new>>

Jan Meisels Allen also sent out a notice via the Records-Access-Alerts group that to subscribe to the *Federal Register* or change your subscription, you can go to the above site. She explained: “The U.S. Government Publish Office, on behalf of the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, is using a new e-mail service to distribute the daily Federal Register Table of Contents each morning. The new e-mail service, GovDelivery, replaces the FEDREGTOC-L Listserv that was in place for many years. Although the service has changed, they deliberately kept the name of the Sender similar so that it would be compatible with established rules and spam filter exceptions that you may have configured on your e-mail system. Current subscribers need not do anything as their subscription has been automatically transferred. However, you may wish to add <fedreg@listserv1.access.gpo.gov> as an allowed sender through your e-mail client or through your IT department to ensure our daily e-mails are not marked as spam.” Do you want to know what our government’s up to?

<<http://www.genealogyblog.com/?p=38717>>

This link takes you to an item on the GenealogyBlog, in which Leland Meitzler discusses a *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* article on states giving adult adoptees access to their original birth records. A link to the full article is available at this URL. There’s been quite a bit of talk about this lately; it seems more states are allowing adoptees a hope of obtaining information on their birth. If you search for “adult adoptees birth records,” you can find a lot more on the subject.

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

C Michael Elias-Solomon shared this link on Facebook, to a Russian map site where you can view and download maps online. I know it takes a certain amount of daring to visit Russian websites, since some harbor malware. And this one is in Russian, so it’s a challenge. But I saw a 1927 map of Podolia county; an 1877 relief map of Moscow; and a separate section with maps for Belarus, Ukraine, Lithuania, and so on. If you can read names as spelled in Cyrillic, you may find something of value. How adventurous do you feel?

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

On the GalicaPoland-Ukraine mailing list, Laurence Krupnak posted this link to provide

information on Bieszczady villages, that is, those in far southeastern Poland. It's all in Polish, but don't let that stop you—there's a ton of good content there.

<<https://lamusdworski.wordpress.com/2016/07/30/sand/>>

Valerie Warunek posted this URL with Facebook's Polish Culture, Food and Traditions group, saying, "I found this fantastic blog with fantastic content that I would like to share with everyone." It is an impressive site, with fascinating articles in English and great photos.

<<http://popolskupolsce.edu.pl/>>

Valerie also posted this URL to the Facebook Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan group, saying, "This looks to be a very serious, in-depth program for learning Polish." The URL is to the home page of the site in English. You can choose from the menu options, including "Polish Language Course," "Knowledge Base on Poland," and "Language Bank." It does look promising.

<<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/finding-ancestors-facebook/>>

Valerie also posted this link to an item on the FamilySearch Blog, "Finding Your Ancestors on Facebook." I know many of our readers have no use for Facebook; but the kids have long since deserted it for cooler social networks. There is still plenty of silliness to wade through, but there's also a growing amount of serious content. I'm not sorry I gave it a try!

<<https://www.facebook.com/Ann-Arbor-Polish-Film-Festival-175708451849/>>

And one last link from Valerie, from the Facebook Polish Culture, Food and Traditions group, is this one, for the Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival, November 18-20, 2016, at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The website of the festival is at <<http://www.annarborpolonia.org/filmfestival/home.htm>>.

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

Among some of the searchable sources added to this site recently are an 1876/1877 Austria-Hungary Business Directory, a 1938 Bohemia Business Directory, a 1939 Moravia Business Directory, a 1933 Kraków Business Directory, and a 1911/1912 Danzig and Surroundings Telephone Directory. This is always a site worth exploring.

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