



# 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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### \*\*\* ANOTHER SURNAME RESOURCE: LOCATE MY NAME \*\*\*

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

Given my interest in surnames, and especially Polish surnames, I'm always interested when another source of information on the subject becomes available. Recently, several folks online have shared word of a website "Locate My Name," which has a section devoted to Polish names:

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

The site is easy to use. For one thing, it's in English. For another, the procedure is very straightforward. You go to the home page, and near the top left is a box labeled "Type in what name you are looking for." You type in the name, click "Go," and there you are. Or you can look a few lines down and select the first letter of the name, which takes you to a screen where you select the second letter. At that point, you start getting individual pages listing all the names in the database; you work your way through them till you find the one you want. For each individual name, you get a breakdown by voivodeship, illustrated by a color map to the right, and then a global breakdown, showing countries where the name appears, a popularity ranking in Poland and worldwide, and a list of popular first names that go along with that surname.

There is a lot to like about this approach. One is its simplicity. You don't have to deal with the complications of Polish diacriticals, worrying whether the name is spelled with plain S or accented Ś, plain E or nasal Ę, and so on. Also, it gives you a rather nice selection of different kinds of data—not just how many have this name in Poland, but an indication of other countries where it appears, and where it is most common. The selection of given names is also kind of interesting, since it apparently comes from names of individuals actually in records.

But I notice the web authors don't tell us the source of their data, and that's worrisome. Their FAQ says the databases they need are "Electoral rolls, birth records, census, etc." They make it very clear you should check back with them later, because "the site is constantly updated with new data." I also notice that when you search for individual Polish names, they present a number labeled "our records" and an "estimation." So for the most common Polish surname, *Nowak* <<http://www.locatemyname.com/poland/Nowak>>, for Poland, "Our Records" gives =40,846; "Estimation" has a total of 197,398.

According to the 2002 PESEL data Prof. Kazimierz Rymut used in his CD compilation of surname data, there were 208,026 Nowaks. It seems unlikely 10,000 people named Nowak have disappeared or died off, especially when you consider new ones are always being born. So the estimation is, well, in the ballpark—but off by more than 10,000. I like my data a little more precise than that.

I thought I'd check a few more surnames, just to see what showed up. In the list below, the first listing is the proper Polish spelling and the 2002 data; after a dash, —, the "our records" number is followed by a slash / and the "estimation" number. I didn't attempt to make this a statistically significant analysis; I just grabbed a few names that were handy.

Surname: 2002 data — “Our records” / “Estimation”

Skorupińska: 722	— 135 / 652
Skorupiński: 705	— 162 / 783
Skorus: 359	— 94 / 454
Skoruś 18	— not found
Skora: 284	— 1665 / 8,048 [compare Skóra: 8,303]
Skory: 233	— 45 / 217
Skorza: 65	— 75 / 362
Skorza: 370	— not found
Skorzyńska: 18	— 74 / 357 [compare Skórzyńska: 256]
Skorzyński: 16	— 59 / 285 [compare Skórzyński: 243]
Skowron: 12,002	— 2,422 / 11,707
Skowroń 292	— not found

As you can see, for many of the names, the “estimation” is reasonably close. But ignoring the diacriticals, while simplifying use of the site, sometimes blows the data up pretty bad. The name *Skory*, which is adjectival in form and thus is *Skory* for males and *Skora* for females, comes from a word meaning “swift, rapid, willing.” But *Skóra* comes from a separate noun meaning “skin, hide.” You can see how this confusion affects the numbers for *Skora*. There were 284 Polish females by that name in 2002; this site shows 8,048—which only makes sense if you throw the *Skóras* into the pot as well. As for *Skorza*, it doesn’t even show up, perhaps dumped in with the *Skoras* and *Skóras*.

Consider this, also: if the numbers aren’t terribly accurate, it stands to reason many rare names will simply not show up. I checked, and this is true: there are thousands and thousands of surnames borne only by less than 50 Poles, all the way down to just 1 Pole, and this website doesn’t do too well with them.

I went back to the FAQ and read the section, “How reliable are these statistics?”

It all depends on the name popularity and on the country.  
There is good data about: USA, Canada and many European countries.

There is poor to no data about: China, Iran, India and most of African countries.  
Also for names very popular (like Smith) or very rare, the stats may be inaccurate. For the names with mid-range popularity, the stats are very reliable.

Also, I read the section, “What’s with the estimation I see in charts?”

An estimation is something like this:

Let’s say we have information about 40% of UK citizens.  
There are 10 records of name Blaexample.  
We’ll estimate the total number of people named Blaexample in UK is 25.  $10 \times 100 / 40$

That's pretty honest. They don't really go out of their way to point out the deficiencies of their data; but they freely admit they're still growing and developing, so you need to be reasonable with your expectations. I can live with that.

So how useful this site will be? It depends on what you want from it. If you just want a "ballpark" figure, an idea how common a name is in Poland, it will often oblige you—but you **MUST** take into account cases where the Polish letters (*ą ć ę ł ń ó ś ź ż*) may throw things out of whack. If those letters are not a factor in the name you're looking for, this site will give you a decent notion how common the name is, where it shows up most often in Poland, and what other countries of the world you can find it in. For many researchers, especially beginners, that will be really useful!

But if you're a little farther along, and you need accurate data, I wouldn't rely on this site. Or if you do use it, use it as one sampling, then proceed to check it against the other sites with data on Polish surnames, <<http://www.herby.com.pl/indexslo.html>> and <<http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/>>. Both have their flaws and idiosyncracies; and both are in Polish. So using them is a bit of a challenge. I wrote an article on the first one in the 30 November 2006 issue of *Gen Dobry!*, which you can download here: <<http://polishroots.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ADgkK5o93BU%3d&tabid=60&mid=377>>. With the passage of time, much of the info in that article has become outdated, and I suppose I need to revise it soon. But as far as how to use that site is concerned, it's still accurate.

To sum up: the Locate My Name site has its uses. I suggest visiting it and seeing what it says, if only for the perspective it gives on other countries where names, Polish and otherwise, can be found. And if your Polish name has no special Polish characters in it, the numbers will be in the ballpark. But I strongly advise following it up with a check of the data on either the Herby.com.pl or Moikrewni sites!

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

Subject: Correction to Daniel Bućko's e-mail address

*Editor*—Curt Bajak sent a note I published in the last issue, singing the praise of Polish researcher Daniel Bućko. There was one thing Curt wanted to clarify.

I received an e-mail this morning from Daniel Bućko in which he thanked me for the reference in *Gen Dobry!* (apparently a friend had sent him a copy) but indicated that his e-mail address in the article was incorrect.

That is doubtless my fault: although I thought that e-mail addresses were not case-sensitive, I should, more properly, have given his e-mail address as <[danielbucko@o2.pl](mailto:danielbucko@o2.pl)>. By capitalizing the O, I may have made it look like a zero. Is there a way in which that could be corrected in the next journal? So sorry to have caused more work...

Curt

*Editor*—Thanks for taking the time to clarify this, Curt. I have to share in the blame. I should have realized the uppercase O was unnecessary and could be misread. I've heard nothing but good things about Daniel, so let's take this opportunity to make sure everyone knows how to reach him!

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**\*\*\* A BLOG AND SOME DUTCH WEBSITES OF VALUE \*\*\***

by *Edward David Luft* <[luft1111@hotmail.com](mailto:luft1111@hotmail.com)>

*Editor*—Edward Luft has contributed numerous thoughtful, well-researched articles to a variety of publications, ours among them, fortunately. He asked me if I would like to publish this one. He pointed out that only the first item is directly applicable to genealogy; but I felt it was worthwhile to include the rest. The information on Delpher newspapers and books and so on may not be terribly helpful to many researchers of Polish culture. But I've learned it's a good idea to cast your net as wide as possible; you really never can tell what bit of information may turn out to be useful!

1. Jewish Gem's Genealogy: Mining for Your Elusive Ancestors, <<http://yourjewishgem.blogspot.com>>. Blogger Marilyn Robinson has a multifaceted blog with literally hundreds of topics and still growing. Check on the left-hand side of the page for topics of interest and then explore. In some cases, websites not in English can be translated using Google Translate or some other online translator, but the main blog is in English and provides a wide variety of topics.

The following two websites, although in Dutch, are available in English by using Google Translate or some other online translator. To best use Google Translate, simply copy the URL for the desired website, open Google Translate, insert the URL into the left-hand box, select the language to be translated from in the left box and English (or some other desired language) in the right-hand box, and click on the "Translate" button on the right. It is also possible to set Google Translate to automatically translate any given page into a designated language. See the last paragraph in this article on how to translate all items that are in Dutch.

2. Everyone Has a History <<https://www.wiewaswie.nl/>>

This is a standard website for searching for ancestors but for free. It also allows building a family tree online with a few clicks. Although it is designed for Dutch searches, it can be used for all countries and has an "Advanced search" page. A very few terms do not translate. One needs to know that "Zoek op person" means to search for a person by name. It is commonly acknowledged that the Dutch are among the most complete when it comes to searching genealogical resources, and this website includes both the Dutch East and West Indies as well as other former Dutch colonies. Some United States resources may also be retrieved from the website. To see if something is available, just enter the item in the search box at the upper right, where it says "Zoek."

3. Delpher Newspapers <<http://kranten.delpher.nl/>>

Researchers may use this website to search for books, newspapers, journals (magazines), and digitized radio bulletins. Each has its own separate button for the relevant search. Again, use Google Translate or some other online translator to translate the entire website into English, as explained above.

## **Delpher Books**

Delpher Books provides access to the digitized books of the KB [Royal Dutch Library], the University Libraries and other (heritage) institutions. A distinction is made between the books that come from national digitization projects, such as Early English Books Online and Metamorfoze (Delpher Books Basic Collection) and the books that Google has digitized the KB (Delpher Google Books Collection). Eventually all digitized books will be integrated into a single digital collection, but due to technical limitations, the Google Books Collection is offered separately for the time being.

Currently, Delpher Books Basic Collection mainly consists of the collection of Early English Books Online (EDBO). That means full-text access to more than two million pages from more than 11,000 books from the period 1781-1800, from the collections of the Royal Library and the university libraries of Amsterdam (UvA) and Leiden. Additionally, Delpher contains a selection of Dutch publications from the period 1913-1929 from the collection of the Royal Library, which under Metamorfoze has been digitized.

Delpher Books Basic collection will be expanded to other digitized books. In time, the books from the period 1840-1940 will be included. For example, the researcher can now search the Delpher Basic Books Collection for the special collections of the university libraries of Leiden and Amsterdam (UvA) and the Royal Library. There are over two million pages from more than 11,000 old prints from the Dutch-speaking region from the period 1781-1800 and the period 1913-1929, primarily historical, political, theological, and literary works.

Delpher Google Books Collection also makes the digitized books searchable from the collaboration of the Royal Library and Google. In July 2010, the Royal Library partnered with Google to offer 160,000 digitized royalty-free KB books for the period 1700 - 1870. These digitized books are findable via Delpher, but also via Google Books. This project is not yet completed, and new digitized works are added regularly.

## **Delpher Newspapers**

Explore the past with old newspapers from the Netherlands, Dutch East Indies, Suriname, the Netherlands Antilles, and the United States, the news of the past in more than nine million pages of newspapers from the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, including newspapers from World War II. View thousands of newspaper articles, news, advertisements and family announcements.

### About Delpher Newspapers

Delpher Newspapers offers a selection of Dutch newspapers, from the oldest surviving Dutch

newspaper from 1618 to national and local newspapers from 1995. The selection includes not only newspapers from the Netherlands, but also newspapers of the West Indies, from Suriname, the Dutch East Indies, the Southern Netherlands and the Dutch community in the United States. The core of this digital collection was created in the project, Databank Digital Daily Newspapers of the Royal Library. This project ran from 2006 to 2012. Within the project, more than eight million historical newspaper pages were digitized and posted on the Internet. This makes it one of the largest newspaper digitization projects in the world.

The collection of digital historical newspapers will be enhanced in the coming years, including through digitization under Metamorfoze, the national program for the preservation of paper heritage.

Available newspapers--Delpher

The current selection of newspapers on this website covers less than 10% of all newspapers that have ever been published in the Netherlands. The website contains an overview of available newspaper titles (pdf), listed alphabetically, and an overview of collections that will be added to Delpher (in the future pdf).

### **Delpher Magazines**

Search the full text of 1.5 million pages from 80 old journal titles that have appeared in the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. There is much new information in general, cultural, literary, religious, scientific, political, sporting and economic journals. There are magazines for the general public, such as Dutch revues and other magazines, and there are professional journals, including the *Journal Marine* and *Advocatenblad* (a journal for lawyers).

Not all magazines from the selection were held in the KB. Similar heritage institutions hold other journals made available to complement the selection. Just follow the settings on the partner page.

The holdings in Delpher Magazines will expand over time. Several collections of magazines, and other resources not yet available via the Dutch national program Metamorfoze are being digitized and will eventually be offered in Delpher.

Digitized historical journals in Delpher are available in Delpher. For a list of available magazines, see <<http://www.delpher.nl/nl/tijdschriften/results?query=tijdschriften&coll=dts>>

### **Delpher Radio Bulletins**

Finally, for radio bulletins, Delpher Radio Bulletins includes about 1.8 million individual sheets of typed texts of bulletins from the archives of the ANP agency. The material dates from 1937, the year when the news bulletins were heard for the first time on Dutch radio, until 1989, the year in which the ANP bulletins were prepared for the first time digitally. Material from the beginning of the 1940s to the moment when the radio broadcasts were stopped by order of the occupying

forces, remains at the Dutch Institute for War Documentation in Amsterdam and the ANP. The material from the first post-war years shows large gaps, but for the remaining period, the material is nearly complete. Some of the bulletins are directly from the English news agency Reuters but published originally in Dutch. By clicking on the “Text” button on the right of the page of the selected item, one can see the translation of the bulletin into the language specified in Google Translate.

The material was discovered when a villa which once housed Radio Newswires ANP was emptied. In the basement of this building was a huge amount of typed texts of radio news bulletins. With the mediation of staff of the Film and Science Foundation (SFW) in Amsterdam contact was made with ANP Foundation, the formal owner of the radio bulletins. The material was, through the intercession of SFW, housed in the depot of the Royal Library in The Hague. On the initiative of the KB in 2006 it was decided to digitize the historical material and make it available online.

Delpher Radio Bulletins includes about 1.8 million individual sheets of typed texts of bulletins from the archives of the ANP. The material dates from 1937, the year when the news bulletins were to be heard for the first time on Dutch radio, until 1989, the year in which the ANP-bulletins were prepared for the first time digitally.

### **Other Delpher Sources and Resources**

On the left-hand side of the page, the website also offers links to other resources for Dutch literature of various kinds and has a Question and Answer page to give guidance on the use of all resources on the website. The Dutch are particularly well-organized in terms of setting forth clear instructions on how to use the website. At every turn, instructions appear on how to make the best use of the materials, usually in the form of pdfs on the right-hand side of the page. Setting up GoogleTranslate to automatically translate from Dutch to any of the other languages available on the GoogleTranslate website should yield the instructions in the desired language. Simply set the translator to always translate from Dutch into the desired language and click on the relevant page.

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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.*

**Saturday, March 14, 2015, 1 p.m.**

**POLISH AMERICAN FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT  
27 GROVE HILL • NEW BRITAIN, CT**

**Prof. Jonathan Shea** A.G. of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast and **Aleksandra Kacprzak** of <<http://genoroots.com/>> will present a lecture on Polish websites



and digitized records of genealogical value available on line. The presenters will also provide instruction as to how to translate and understand the records once found in the digital collections. The lecture will take place at the Polish American Foundation of Connecticut, 27 Grove Hill, New Britain, CT. For further information contact <[pgsctne@yahoo.com](mailto:pgsctne@yahoo.com)>.

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**March 19, 2015**

## **POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS EVENT**

### **LOCATING VITAL RECORDS IN POLAND USING ONLINE RESOURCES, OR, “I FOUND MY VILLAGE! NOW WHAT?” - BY JULIE ROBERTS SZCZEPANKIEWICZ**

**Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front Street, Chicopee MA 01013, 6:30 p.m.**

Finding vital records for one’s family in Poland is a critical step in exploring our Polish ancestry, but can sometimes be confusing. **Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz** will be our Spring 2015 meeting speaker and she will help both beginners and experienced researchers eliminate that confusion!

After a brief overview of the Polish partitions to introduce beginners to the history and geography of Poland, Julie will illustrate the use of church records, passenger manifests, naturalization records, and other documents to determine one’s ancestral village, and will review the various websites that are instrumental in finding some of these documents online.

Finding the name of the village is only the first step, however. The next step is to determine where the records for that village are kept, which often requires one to know the parish. Experienced researchers, who already know the name of an ancestral village, will benefit from her introduction to some of the gazetteers and indexes that have come online in recent years, including the *Skorowidz Królestwa Polskiego*. Julie will also explore the options for locating Polish vital records online using websites such as Geneteka, Metryki.GenBaza, Metryki. Genealodzy.pl, and BaSIA.

#### **About the speaker:**

Julie’s family history research began in 1992, with her first recorded interview with an older relative. In 1998, she moved beyond the “shoebox phase” when her husband gave her Family Tree Maker software for Christmas. She has been actively researching her Polish and German roots since then, in addition to raising her four children. Julie’s academic background includes a B.A. in biological sciences and a Master’s degree in endocrinology. This training as a scientist is reflected in Julie’s approach to genealogical research, as she formulates her research questions in terms of hypotheses which can be supported or rejected using documentation.

Julie’s areas of interest include villages in all three partitions (Prussian, Russian and Austrian) and she reads records in Latin, Polish, and Russian. She volunteers as an Administrator and

regular contributor to the Facebook group, Polish Genealogy. This Polish Genealogy group includes members from around the world, ranging in experience from beginners to professionals, and provides assistance with all aspects of Polish genealogy research, including analyzing group members' research puzzles and suggesting new strategies, providing assistance in locating documents, and offering translation assistance. All of this takes place in a friendly forum that has been compared to a genealogical society meeting that is taking place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The group can be found at <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/50089808265>>, and new members are always welcome.

In addition to her work on Facebook, Julie is a member of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State, the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, and the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts. A native of Buffalo, New York, Julie currently resides in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, with her husband, Bruce, and their children.

Free admission—please bring a friend!

[From a Facebook event page <<https://www.facebook.com/events/763543213728356/>> as of 31 Dec 2014, with additional input from Joe Kielec. See also the website <<http://www.pgsm.org>>.]

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**Thursday, April 12, 2015**

**NIAGARA HISTORICAL MUSEUM AT NIAGARA ON THE LAKE, ONTARIO**

**Paul S. Valasek**

**“Haller’s Polish Army in France: From the US, through Canada, to France and Poland”**

This lecture is scheduled for Thursday April 16th at the Niagara Historical Museum at Niagara on the Lake, Ontario. Copies of Paul’s book will be available as well as limited research into names of recruits.

For more information, contact:

**Amy Klassen, Society Administrator**

Niagara Historical Society & Museum

43 Castlereagh St, PO Box 208

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0

<[amyklassen@niagarahistorical.museum](mailto:amyklassen@niagarahistorical.museum)>

<<http://www.niagarahistorical.museum>>

ph: 905-468-3912 - f: 905-468-1728

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**May 13–16, 2015**

**2015 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE**

## **CROSSROADS OF AMERICA**

### **St. Charles, Missouri**

[The following article is from *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* and is copyright 2014 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <<http://blog.eogn.com/>>.]

Registration is now open for the National Genealogical Society's thirty-seventh annual family history conference, Crossroads of America, which will be held 13–16 May 2015 at the St. Charles Convention Center in St. Charles, Missouri. Conference highlights include a choice of more than 150 lectures, given by nationally known speakers and subject matter experts on a broad array of topics. The conference will open with *The Tales of Pioneer Paths: Rivers, Roads & Rails* given by J. Mark Lowe, CG, FUGA, a full-time professional researcher and educator, and former APG president.

Continuing NGS's goal of providing quality educational opportunities to its participants, the conference will feature a variety of lectures for all skill levels from beginner to advanced. Lecture topics covered at the conference will include: researching in many Midwestern states; national and regional migration paths; land, military, immigration, and naturalization records; ethnic and religious groups including African American, German, Irish, Jewish, Native American, Polish, and Scots-Irish; methodology, analysis, and problem solving; and the use of technology including genetics, mobile devices, and websites useful in genealogical research. The Board for Certification of Genealogists' Skillbuilding track will again be an integral part of the conference and presented over the four days of the event.

Registration is currently open. To register online, visit the NGS website at <<http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/event-registration/>> and complete the registration form.

The online searchable program is available at <<http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/agenda/>> and the PDF brochure is available at <<http://goo.gl/x92kAg>>. The brochure includes an overview of the sessions, tours, pre-conference events, registration times, and rates, as well as general conference and hotel details. Attendees are urged to visit the conference blog, which will feature tips on local and regional research facilities as well as things to do in and around St. Charles and updated information on hotel availability and local restaurants.

Founded in 1903, the National Genealogical Society is dedicated to genealogy education, high research standards, and the preservation of genealogical records. The Arlington, Virginia-based nonprofit is the premier national society for everyone, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian seeking excellence in publications, educational offerings, research guidance, and opportunities to interact with other genealogists.

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**Friday & Saturday, October 2-3, 2015**

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT AND THE  
NORTHEAST CONFERENCE**

**Central Connecticut State University • 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT**

[The schedule given here is taken from info provided for the next issue of *Pathways & Passages*. Obviously, there may be changes; check the PGSCTNE website page <<http://pgsctne.org/ConferencesEvents.aspx>> for forthcoming information.

<b>CONFERENCE SCHEDULE</b>		
<b>FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2015</b>		
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Registration	
5:15 - 5:30 p.m.	Opening Remarks - Alumni Hall	
TIME	SPEAKER	LECTURE TITLE
5:45 - 7:00 p.m.	Tadeusz Pilat	Galician Maps in Poland: A Great Source for Family Research
5:45 - 7:00 p.m.	Matthew Bielawa and Jonathan Shea	Introduction to Polish Research: Part I
7:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Refreshments and View Exhibits	
7:45 - 9:00 p.m.	Kris Rzepczynski	Stuck? Research Strategies for Those Brick Wall Ancestors
7:45 - 9:00 p.m.	Matthew Bielawa and Jonathan Shea	Introduction to Polish Research: Part II
<b>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015</b>		
7:30 - 8:45 a.m.	Registration	
8:45 - 9:15 a.m.	Opening Remarks - Alumni Hall	
TIME	SPEAKER	LECTURE TITLE
9:30 - 10:45 a.m.	Kris Rzepczynski	Digital News: Utilizing Online Newspapers in Your Genealogy Research
9:30 - 10:45 a.m.	John Righetti	Changed by Thalerhof - An Anniversary Documentary
11:00 - 12:15 p.m.	TBA	TBA
11:00 - 12:15 p.m.	Lisa Alzo	Pennsylvania Resources For Polish Genealogists
12:15 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch and View Exhibits	
1:45 - 3:00 p.m.	John Righetti	A Life in Darkness: Slavs in Pennsylvania's Coal Mines

1:45 - 3:00 p.m.	Lisa Alzo	Packrat or Genealogist? Effective Methods for Organizing Your Family History Research
3:15 - 4:30 p.m.	Tadeusz Pilat	Notary Records in Poland (With Emphasis on the Notary Records of the 19th Century)
3:15 - 4:30 p.m.	View Conference Research Center and Exhibits	
4:40 - 5:30 p.m.	Consultations	

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**October 24, 2015**

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN  
ANNUAL SEMINAR**

**9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 East Maple Road, Troy, MI 48083**

*Please note this date is one week later than usual.*

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**October 24, 2015**

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN  
ANNUAL SEMINAR**

**9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 East Maple Road, Troy, MI 48083**

*Please note this date is one week later than usual.*

PGS-Michigan has announced that Jonathan D. Shea and Steve Szabados will speak at their annual seminar this year. Details will be given as they become available.

Jonathan D. Shea is the author of *Going Home: A Guide to Doing Polish American Family Research* and President of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and Northeast. He has co-authored with William F. Hoffman on three research guides; *In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish German, Latin and Russian Documents, Volumes 1-3*.

Stephen Szabados authored several books including *Polish Genealogy: 4 Steps to Success*, is the genealogy columnist for the Pol-Am Journal and blogs. Details of their presentations and registration will follow.

American Polish Center, 248-689-3636  
<<http://www.americanpolishcenter.com/>>

[From the PGSM website, <<http://www.pgsm.org>>. I haven't had the pleasure of hearing Steve Szabados speak, but I can tell you from personal experience, Jonathan Shea is a great speaker and teacher! If you get a chance, try to attend!]

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**November 15, 2015**

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
CROSSROADS OF AMERICA  
St. Charles, Missouri**

**Location** – Arlington Heights Memorial Library, 500 N. Dunton Ave., Arlington Heights., Illinois

**Topic** – *Poland in WWII*. Poland was the first nation to fight German aggression in World War II. It supplied the fourth largest Allied armed forces behind those of the United States, United Kingdom and the Soviet Union. In addition, it organized the largest resistance movement of the war and made other substantial contributions to the Allied victory. This illustrated PowerPoint presentation will highlight the many contributions Poland and its people made to the ultimate destruction of Nazism.

**Bio** – James S. Pula is Professor of History at Purdue University. He has authored more than a dozen books and is the editor of *The Polish American Encyclopedia* and the academic journal *Polish American Studies*.

This presentation will be offered as a Webinar. Additional information will be posted on the PGSA Home Page [www.pgsa.org](http://www.pgsa.org), *PGSA Notebook*, and *Rodziny* prior to the meeting.

For details as they become available, check PGSA's website, <<http://www.pgsa.org>>.

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

<<http://blog.eogn.com/2015/02/01/where-to-donate-records-to-make-them-available-to-everyone/>>

I have often heard from people who have done lots of research and would like to make sure the info doesn't die with them. If you feel that way, this article, from *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter (EOGN)* is well worth reading.

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<<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-eastland-disaster-footage-met-20150208-story.html>>

The February 15 issue of *Genealogy News* included a link to an item on <<http://www.genealogyblog.com/?p=34007>> with the title "1915 SS *Eastland* Disaster Film Footage Surfaces." That item linked to this story in the *Chicago Tribune*. I remember we ran an article on the *Eastland* in the PGSA newsletter once, with a list of the Poles or Polish-Americans who died in

that disaster. It seems likely at least some of our readers had relatives on the *Eastland* who might want to know about this; so I'm passing the info along.

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<<https://support.google.com/maps/answer/68384?hl=en>>

The February 1 issue of *Nu? What's New?* said that this link has been established by Google to let people see areas of the world where Google Map's street view lets you take a virtual walk along the streets of towns and villages. The map is available at this URL, and shows that Poland is covered, as well as parts of western Ukraine and western Belarus formerly within the borders of Poland. The page gives you instructions to help you use this feature. I've actually used this feature to look around villages in Poland when I was translating *Słownik geograficzny* entries about them, to help me be sure I had my bearings right and to check on church descriptions.

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<<http://www.polishfamily.com/p4e/>>

Debbie Greenlee's faithful gene-valet (and husband) Dave finished uploading the photos Debbie took during their trip to Poland in April and May of last year. She says, "I added a total of 55 new villages to the list and photos from a First Communion we attended in Sanok, Poland ... Scroll through the village list on the left side of the page. All new villages are flagged and 'old' villages that have new photos are also flagged. The First Communion has its own section. If you're interested in reading about some of MY TRIPS, click on the link on the home page." If you want to feel like you've visited your ancestral villages, check to see if Debbie has been there. If she has, I think you will enjoy the photos!

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<[http://www.mapywig.org/m\\_documents/PL/ZESTAWIENIE\\_ZNAKOW\\_TOPOGRAFICZNYCH\\_MAP\\_AUSTRIACKICH\\_NIEMIECKICH\\_i\\_ROSYJSKICH\\_WIG\\_1925.pdf](http://www.mapywig.org/m_documents/PL/ZESTAWIENIE_ZNAKOW_TOPOGRAFICZNYCH_MAP_AUSTRIACKICH_NIEMIECKICH_i_ROSYJSKICH_WIG_1925.pdf)>

Those of us who love to use the detailed maps of Poland available at the site <<http://mappywig.org>> often wish we could have access to a guide that tells us what all those terms and symbols stand for. On the Polish Genius mailing list, Roman Kałużniacki generously shared this link. He explained, "You are not likely to find an explanation of such use in map legends. However, just for the record, the WIG has published a Register of Topographic Symbols for Austrian, German and Russian Maps (Zestawienie Znaków Topograficznych) which provides you with a detailed list of symbols and their meanings." The URL above will allow you to download and save this file. If that rather lengthy link doesn't work for you, try this one: <<http://tinyurl.com/ojaywp7>> ... Roman also pointed out that this publication and others can be found at <[http://polski.mapywig.org/viewpage.php?page\\_id=18](http://polski.mapywig.org/viewpage.php?page_id=18)> Thanks, Roman! This is not easy material to use, but for those who aren't afraid to try, the rewards are great!

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<<http://www.belarusguide.com/images/maps/Kokosha/POLonia&Lituania-1799.jpg>>

As long as we're talking about the Polish Genius list, maps, and helpful gentlemen named Roman, RomanS posted this link to "A Map of The Kingdom of Poland and Grand Duchy of Lithuania including Samogitia and Curland, Divided according to THEIR DISMEMBERMENTS" published in London, England in 1799. RomanS explained, "The original border of Poland is shown in red. The three Partitions are shown in Blue (Prussian),

Yellow (Russian) and Green (Imperial - Austrian) ... View it at full magnification.” I’ve seen a number of maps that present this same info, but I especially like this one because you can zoom in, locate a specific area, and see which partition it was in.

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<[http://mapire.eu/en/map/mkf\\_gal/#zoom=7&lat=48.94986&lon=22.75135?zoom=7&lat=48.94986&lon=22.75135](http://mapire.eu/en/map/mkf_gal/#zoom=7&lat=48.94986&lon=22.75135?zoom=7&lat=48.94986&lon=22.75135)>

Yet another post to Polish Genius on the subject of maps, this time for Galicia, came from Jan Cesarczyk. “For those of you who have connections to, or are interested in, the areas of Poland that were part of the Austrian partition, there is an Austrian website which has maps from that period superimposed on current Google maps. You can vary the opacity of the superimposed map so that you can see any combination of the two maps that you choose ... I suggest that you play with the opacity slider first to see how it works and then zoom in to the area that you are interested in.” I seem to recall we’ve mentioned this site before, but I think it may be valuable to readers who’ve joined us since then.

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<<https://medium.com/medium-eng/the-curious-case-of-disappearing-polish-s-fa398313d4df>>

Tom Flis sent me this interesting article on the problems you can have trying to input Polish characters complete with their diacritical marks. For years I used the Polish keyboard, before I finally realized the Programmer’s board was much, much better! If you’ve dealt with problems trying to input Polish letters, you may find this story and analysis worth reading.

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<[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Auvfb54PA05wZvamfeKsWM9oFBzBUI5M\\_qMamPWxqUM/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Auvfb54PA05wZvamfeKsWM9oFBzBUI5M_qMamPWxqUM/edit)>

Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz, head of the Facebook Polish Genealogy group, posted a document with links to online translation aids. If you’re on Facebook, you can download it from <<https://www.facebook.com/download/625479967582527/Online%20Translation%20Aids.docx>>. But Julie realized some folks not on Facebook might like the chance to look at the file, so she created a link via Google Docs, and it appears above. It can be helpful—and I’d think so even if she hadn’t said such nice things about the *In Their Words* series Jonathan Shea and I are producing!

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<[https://www.facebook.com/pages/poloniahsv/109719569060620?sk=info&tab=page\\_info](https://www.facebook.com/pages/poloniahsv/109719569060620?sk=info&tab=page_info)>

Something a little out of the ordinary on Facebook is this group for the Polish-American Community in Hunstville, Alabama. Valerie Warunek mentioned it on PGS-Michigan’s Facebook page, If you are on Facebook, take a look! Or visit the website, <<http://www.poloniahsv.net/>>.

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<<https://secure.ushmm.org/individual-research//Glossary.pdf>>

On the JewishGen newsgroup, Pamela Weisberger mentioned this link to a free English glossary of terms and abbreviations found in the archive of the International Tracing Service. The site itself says the most current version of the glossary is available at <<http://itsrequest.ushmm.org/its/Glossary.pdf>>, but that URL re-directs to this one. In any case, researcher Tom Sadauskas



speaks in glowing terms of what a wonderful source ITS was for his research, and it's probably something more people should make use.

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<<http://maps.geshergalicia.org/cadastral/rzeszow-1849/>>

Pamela also posted a notice that an 1849 cadastral map for Rzeszów is now available on the Gesher Galicia Map Room. The complete map room inventory is at <<http://maps.geshergalicia.org/>>. If you're lucky enough to have ancestors from areas covered by these maps, they are a splendid resource!

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

The latest updates to the Genealogy Indexer site include Posen (City) Address and Business Directories for 1886, 1888, 1889, and 1907; Jasło Gymnasium Reports for various years in the early 1900s; and similar reports for Kraków and Rzeszów in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

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<<http://blog.polishorigins.com/2015/02/26/what-my-ancestors-ate-and-drank-in-middle-ages/>>

PolishOrigins has another fascinating item on its blog, "What My Ancestors Ate and Drank in Middle Ages," by Bogusz Pawiński. It's not only informative—some of the info may surprise you and shake some preconceived notions!

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<<http://www.jwdupon.net/genealogy/psur.htm>>

Jean Dupon posted a note to the Poland-Roots mailing list about parishes for which he has transcribed marriage indexes in the general area of Ruże parish (Golub-Dobrzyń). His website describes it as "Listing of 9,000+ Polish Surnames, notably Wisniewski, Kaminski, Sławinski, Napiorski, Staskowski, Smuzewski, Galaszewski and many others from the central Mazovian region of Poland, emigrating to Jersey City and Bayonne, NJ." If you have any roots in that general area, you really want to look through his surname index!

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<<http://www.timescolonist.com/rick-steves-historic-gdansk-was-birthplace-of-solidarity-1.1762930>>

Researcher Larry Mandeville sent out a note to various recipients who might be interested in this article by Rick Steves on Gdańsk. I felt it was definitely worth passing along.

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