



Gen Dobry!

Volume XVI, No. 4

30 April 2015

ISSN 1555-774X. Copyright © 2015, PolishRoots®, Inc.
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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>>

*** A BOOK ON POLISH SURNAMES IN ENGLISH ***

by *Fred Hoffman* <wfh@langline.com>

Those of you who read the title of this article and know I wrote a book in English about Polish surnames will assume I'm trying to hawk my wares. But in fact, I'm talking about a completely different book on the subject—as far as I know, the only other one in English.

Recently, Jan Cesarczyk posted to Polish Genius this URL for a book in English about Polish surnames that might interest some readers:

<http://rcin.org.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=19187&from=&dirids=1&ver_id=&lp=19&Ql=>

As is so often the case with items from European digital libraries, the book is available as images viewable with the DjVu browser plugin, which is free and easy to download and install. The home of this plugin changes from time to time; as of now, it can be downloaded here:

<<https://www.cuminas.jp/en/downloads/download?pid=1>>

Now, as to the book itself, it is called *The Surname as a Cultural Value and an Ethnic Heritage: Tracing Your Polish Roots*. It was written by a distinguished Polish scholar and professor, Zofia Kaleta, and published in 1997. I have a copy of it, and it was one of the sources I used for my book. It was never terribly easy to get hold of, so I'm pleased to see it is now available online.

Especially interesting for Polish Americans is Chapter V, “The Surnames of Polish Americans – An Ethnic Heritage and Value, or Anti-Value?” It goes into the dilemma of Polish immigrants to a country where people couldn't help mangling their names. It talks about how Poles dealt with that, some of the changes typically made, and also how a return to the proper Polish forms has developed. While it was written by a scholar, and one whose English occasionally falters a little (although the fact she wrote it in English at all is impressive!), it's interesting reading. It does not operate only on the level of asking about names, but reflects on deeper matters, such as the value of their heritage to Polish Americans.

Of course, Chapter VI, “Tracing Your Polish Roots,” is also something a researcher will want to look at. The rest of the book is devoted to a dictionary of the oldest Polish surnames ending in *-ski*, which gives insights into the date and place of origin for numerous specific surnames.

Dr. Kaleta knows her stuff, and is especially strong on surnames derived from place names. I'm glad to see her book become available to more readers, as it is well worth reading. I don't consider her “competition,” because we approach the subject from different angles. She's a true Polish scholar, and what she says is grounded in lots of hands-on experience. I'm just a guy who can read Polish and enjoys passing along what the experts say, trying to put it in terms my fellow Americans can understand. The depth of my knowledge, however, does not approach hers.

The one thing I would add is that she emphasizes the importance of surnames, and stresses that family pride and identity were wrapped up in those names. I would not dream of arguing with her; yet research experience shows surname spellings and forms were often maddeningly

inconsistent, which doesn't seem compatible with her argument. If people as stubborn as Poles placed such value on their surnames, wouldn't they resist ferociously any misspelling or misunderstanding of those names?

I think, however, we are looking at two sides of the same coin. Many families, especially noble ones, valued their names and insisted people get them right. Other families had other priorities. The truth is, when you talk about millions of people, exposed (not always willingly) to different languages and cultures, and how their language and customs changed and adapted over the course of centuries, no blanket statement is going to suffice. There will always be exceptions, and plenty of them, to any generalization you utter. That doesn't mean you abandon rules, or abandon telling people what you've learned about them. You just learn to apply them with a certain flexibility and tolerance.

So if you're interested in consulting an English-language book that will give you insights into Polish surnames, and the culture and history connected with them, this book is one you should take a look at. You might wish to download it, look through it, and print out relevant portions. Once you install the DjVu plugin to your browser—which is usually easy and painless for most folks—you can view the individual pages and print them out. You can't beat that!

The only thing is, if you decide you'd like to see a larger selection of names, or more discussion of them from an American's viewpoint, my book might be worth looking into. It, however, is not online, nor is it free—and if I have anything to say about it, that won't change any time soon.

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

Subject: Updates on sources by Kendler and Vasmer

Editor—In the April 2011 issue of *Gen Dobry!*, we published an article by Edward David Luft on how to access Josef and Carl von Kendler's *Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon von Oesterreich-Ungarn* online. The work is an excellent source for information on places in former Austria-Hungary. Edward sent me an update I should pass along.

The new website for the Kendler book is <http://vsff.rivido.de/lb/Inhalt_en.html>. The English is not good but is understandable. The old URL no longer functions and does not direct a researcher to the new URL.

Edward David Luft

Editor—Edward also asked me to mention that the Spring 2015 issue of *Rodziny* has a modified version of the article he wrote for the January 2015 *Gen Dobry!* on Vasmer's *Russisches geographisches Namenbuch*. Among the changes to the version that appeared here is a discussion of how to use the Slavic Reference Service if one does not have access to a copy of the *Namenbuch*. Briefly, this free service, at <<http://www.library.illinois.edu/spx/srs.htm>> is for finding information about any Slavic issue. For more

details, see Luft, Edward David, "Slavic Reference Service Provides Copies of Articles," *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*, Teaneck, New Jersey, Volume XXI, No. 1, Spring 2005, p. 63. Thanks for all the information, Edward!

*** APPLAUSE FOR LOU SZUCS ***

Dick Eastman wanted to write a tribute to researcher Loretto "Lou" Szucs, who is retiring, for his blog and newsletter, *EOGN*. But then he found one written by Kristie Wells in the Ancestry Blog, and felt he couldn't do any better. So he urged all to read it:

<<http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2015/03/31/ancestrys-employee-number-one-retires-ode-to-lou-szucs/>>

Megan Smolenyak also wrote a heartfelt tribute to Lou, which you can read at <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/megan-smolenyak-smolenyak/lou-szucs-genealogical-hero_b_6977924.html>.

Given what a giant Lou has been in the field of genealogy, I have to agree. Her accomplishments — including writing books such as *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*, and speaking at countless genealogical events — have earned her all the credit she's getting.

*** HOW TO ACCESS POLISH DIGITIZED RECORDS ON THE INTERNET ***

by Jan Cesarczyk

Editor—On the Polish Genius mailing list, Ben Kman (with Debbie Greenlee's help) uploaded an article with instructions on how to access Polish digitized records on the Internet, focusing on <<http://Metryki.GenBaza.pl>>. If you join the Polish Genius list, you can see that article as a Microsoft Word file, *Metryki Article.docx*, on the page <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/polish_genius/files>. Jan Cesarczyk wrote and posted to the list a follow-up that summarized other sources. Most of you may be familiar with them, but a summary like this may be helpful. So I asked Jan if we could reprint it, and he said yes.

Thank you, Ben, for writing the excellent set of instructions for accessing the scanned records on GenBaza and thank you for the acknowledgement. I would just like to add for the benefit of those who might not know that GenBaza is just one of the websites where you can find scans of Polish records. The other main sites that I know about are:

Genealodzy - Metryki - The website of the Polish Genealogical Society
<<http://metryki.genealodzy.pl/>>

Here you will find records from 926 parishes.

<<http://poczekalnia.genealodzy.pl/>>

This is a temporary storage area where you can find another 1,588,230 files which are awaiting renaming and classification before they are moved to the main area.

Szukaj w Archiwach (Search in the Archives) - The online interface to the Polish State Archives.

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

As of last October there were over 13 million files accessible - not all are BDMs. You can find a list of what is available at:

<http://www.nac.gov.pl/files/import_10-2014.pdf>

Family Search

<<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list#page=1>>

Specific records for Poland can be studied at <<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list#page=1&countryId=1927187>>

AGAD

<<http://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/testy.html>>

These mainly cover areas which were previously in Poland but which are now in Ukraine. There are, however, also records from the RC diocese of Przemyśl. Instructions for accessing these can be found at <<https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/images/7/7e/AGAD.pdf>>.

Lithuanian Archives

<<http://www.epaveldas.lt/vbspi/content/about.jsp>>.

There are parishes currently in Lithuania and Belarus. The easiest way to access these is via the links on the following page: <http://kresy.genealodzy.pl/gub_wil_87/ap_litwa.html>. See the further links at the bottom of that page.

*** A USEFUL WEBSITE FOR WORLD WAR II-ERA ARMY ENLISTMENT INFORMATION ***

by *Edward David Luft* <luft1111@hotmail.com>

The following website is a useful source for genealogical information:

<<http://www.ww2enlistment.org>>

The site, an archive, searchable either alphabetically or by exact name, holds World War II-era Army enlistment records. It generally spans the years 1938 to 1946 and holds nearly 8.5 million records of U.S. Army soldiers, reservists—officers as well as enlisted men and women, foreign scouts and nationals, and more. The archive relies on data available through United States government archives and other public resources, such as the National Archives and Records

Administration (NARA), the former War Department, and the United States Bureau of the Census. More information about the data appears in the series description from NARA at <<http://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-description.jsp?s=3360>>.

Two related search sites include a website that lists World War II prisoners of war (POW) and another that offers information on Vietnam War casualties. The POW website, <<http://ww2pow.info>>, features records of 143,374 United States servicemen and civilians held captive by Germany and Japan during World War II. VietnamWarCasualties.org includes records of more than 58,000 United States servicemen killed during the Vietnam War, either in action or in non-combative circumstances.

Editor—Note that a complete list of Edward David Luft’s publications appears at <<https://sites.google.com/site/edwarddavidluftbibliography/>>.

*** SCHENECTADY COUNTY’S EASTERN EUROPEAN ROOTS ***

Editor—The April 2015 issue of the Newsletter for the Project to Discover Schenectady County’s Eastern European Roots has been published. We like to give a quick mention of the contents, for those readers who might like to take a closer look. For past issues, see <<http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eer/index.html>>.

Schenectady’s Digital History Archive – Project Newsletters On-line, *Phyllis Zych Budka*
Pani Katarzyna Kornacka – Part 1: Going Home, *Martin Byster*
Who Are These Women and What Is the Organization?, *Bernice Izzo*
Ciocia Jean Budka Gajewska Kowalczyk’s Babka Recipe, *Phyllis Zych Budka*
All Saints Day in Poland – A Tradition That Didn’t Cross the Ocean, *Phyllis Zych Budka*
“The Tatra Eagle” – A Surprise 68 Years Later, *Phyllis Zych Budka*
Tatra Highlander Folk Culture in Poland and America – Collected Essays from “The Tatra Eagle,” *Thaddeus V. Gromada*
Schenectady County Historical Society Exhibit Features Schenectady’s Immigrant Heritage – Including OURS!, *Phyllis Zych Budka*

Note: The next deadline for the newsletter is July 1, 2015. To submit an article, or ask questions, contact Phyllis Zych Budka <abudka@nycap.rr.com>.

*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

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

May 3, 2015

CELEBRATE POLAND'S CONSTITUTION (MAY 3) AND THE FEAST OF OUR HOLY MOTHER, QUEEN OF POLAND

St. Peter Apostle Church • 2907 Woodall Rogers Freeway • Dallas, Texas

12:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Festivities include:

- Fold dancing;
- Traditional Polish picnic-style food including sausages, stew, and pierogis;
- Vendor tables selling Polish souvenirs;
- “Spirit of History” game for students of the Jan Karski School in Dallas.

[*From a posting by Debbie Greenlee to various Polish mailing lists.*]

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May 12, 2015

GERMAN STUDIES: UNDERSTANDING GERMAN RECORDS AND METHODOLOGY

offered by the St. Louis Genealogical Society

If you've got Germanic roots, you'll want to attend the NGS 2015 pre-conference event titled **German Studies: Understanding German Records and Methodology** offered by the St. Louis Genealogical Society. This all-day program 12 May 2015, starting at 8:30 a.m., will offer helpful hints and suggestions to enrich your research. All speakers have an extensive German background and their biographies are available in the NGS 2015 conference brochure.

- *Finding a Town of Origin*, Baerbel Johnson, AG
- *German Historical Maps and Territories*, Warren Bittner, CG
- *Finding the Correct German Archives*, Carol Whitton, CG
- *Strategies for Solving German Research Problems*, Baerbel Johnson, AG
- *German History Makes a Difference*, Warren Bittner, CG

The registration fee of \$110 includes a special German syllabus, all sessions, plus lunch.

NGS 2015 conference registration is not required to participate in this event. Further details are available at <<http://stlgs.org/NGS-German-Day>>.

[*From <<http://blog.dearmyrtle.com/2015/03/german-studies-understanding-german.html>>.]*

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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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Sunday, May 17, 2015

**POLISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF AMERICA
QUARTERLY MEETING**

Fountaindale Public Library • 300 W Briarcliff Rd. • Bolingbrook, IL
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

A Brief History of the Russian Partition – Ola Heska

In 1795 Poland disappeared from world maps and endured 123 years of foreign domination. The country was divided by and occupied by Germany, Russia, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This presentation is an overview of the causes and results of this occupation focusing on the Russian Partition.

Ola Heska is a native of Poland, fluent in Russian and English (and Polish, of course), with decades of experience in genealogical and archival research and translation. She is a PGSA member and has volunteered as a translator at our annual conferences. She is also a member of the Polish Genealogical Society in Warsaw (PTG) and is involved in their efforts to index church and civil records if the former Russian Partition.

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Thursday, June 18, 2015

POLISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS

Chicopee Public Library
449 Front Street
Chicopee Massachusetts 01023

6:30 p.m.

“Leaving Dobrzechów: Immigration from a Galician Village” — Presented by Patricia Yocum

Mrs. Patricia Yocum will speak on her published work, “Leaving from a Galician Village” and the immigrants that came to work in the mills of Chicopee and Ware, including a discussion of her research techniques.

Free admission, please bring a friend.

For more information, please visit our website: <<http://www.PGSMA.org>>.

[From an e-mail announcement sent out by Joseph Kielec of PGS-MA].

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Saturday, August 1, 2015

**2015 INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR OF THE
EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGY SOCIETY**

Ancestral Evidence – Names, Places, and Documents

The East European Genealogical Society is holding its 2015 International Seminar, celebrating 25 years, under the title “Ancestral Evidence – Names, Places, and Documents.” The speakers will be **Matthew Bielawa**, **William F. Hoffman**, and **John Pihach**. Bielawa will speak on analyzing vital records of the Austrian, Prussian, and Russian Empires. Hoffman will speak on given names and place names of east Europe; and Pihach will speak on going beyond vital records to discover Galician documents of genealogical value. For more information, visit the Society’s website, <<http://eegsociety.org/Seminar2015.aspx>>.

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Sunday, August 9, 2015

POLISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF AMERICA QUARTERLY MEETING

Algonquin Area Public Library • 2600 Harnish Dr. • Algonquin, IL
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Drilling Down for DNA – Jeffrey A. Bockman

Mr. Bockman explores a variety of methods to discover the distant cousins whose DNA test results might help to get past a brick wall. He will discuss how DNA tests and DNA projects can help to overcome tough research problems. Based upon his article in *Everton’s Genealogical Helper* September/October 2007.

Jeffrey A. Bockman is an experienced genealogy lecturer, author, and writer. He has applied his engineering, management, computer, and organizational development skills to help with the analyzing, problem solving, and organization of records necessary for genealogical research. He has been doing genealogical research since 1987 and has been active in societies, society management, classes, and presenting lectures since 1994.

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Friday & Saturday, October 2-3, 2015

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA CHICAGO’S SOUTH SIDE POLONIA BUS TOUR & CONFERENCE

“Historic Scenes Through Mobile Means” – Friday, Sept. 25, 2015

The Homan Square Foundation has opened the historic original Sears Water Tower (now called the Nichols Tower) where we will get a bird’s eye view of the City of Chicago from the 14th floor. In addition to Homan Square, bus stops will include:

- inside tours of 3 Roman Catholic Churches established for and by Polish immigrants
- an in-depth look at the grounds of the US Steel South works property

- a drive through of the newly designated Pullman National Monument

Conference: “Research Before and Beyond the Internet” – Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015

Renowned lecturer, professor, and author, **Dominic Pacyga** will be our Keynote Speaker. In addition:

- **Ola Heska** will demonstrate, with step-by-step instructions, how to obtain vital records from the Polish State Archives and other Internet databases.
- **Ellie Carlson**, costume curator of the Winnetka Historical Society, will help you identify photographs that now occupy boxes in your closet.

Registration will begin in spring for the bus tour itself or combined with the conference. Reserve your \$99 room as of March 5, 2015 at the:

Chicago Marriott Midway
6520 S. Cicero Avenue
Chicago, IL 60638
(708)594-5500

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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.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE		
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2015		
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 Piłat	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
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015		
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.

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 three research guides with William F. Hoffman, *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

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, *PGSA Notebook*, and *Rodziny* prior to the meeting.

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

*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***

<<http://blog.eogn.com/2015/04/02/have-polish-ancestry-you-may-be-able-to-obtain-polish-and-european-union-citizenship/>>

Dick Eastman posted this article to his *EOGN* blog (*Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*) back on April 2. It always catches my attention when one of the major genealogical publications actually mentions something about Polish or east European genealogy — I often wonder if mainstream genealogy thinks the world ends at the eastern border of Germany! In any case, this is a short item explaining how people of Polish descent might be able to obtain citizenship in Poland and the European Union. You can read Eastman's article here, or go directly to the original article that inspired it, from the 30 March 2015 issue of *Australian Times*: <<http://goo.gl/Sqrl0N>>.

<<http://goo.gl/nf5l1c>>

In another item posted to the *EOGN* blog on 30 March 2015, Eastman takes time to fight the myth that will not die: that ancestors' names were changed at Ellis Island. He gives this link, which takes you to an hour-long interview (after the obligatory commercial and an interval with muzak) by Bernice Bennett with a researcher named Kenneth A. Bravo, JD: "Your Family Name Was Not Changed at Ellis Island." Bravo found about half a dozen obituaries in the *New York Times* with similar erroneous Ellis Island stories. Through research, he was able to establish the original names for each of them. I figure not only can this help us avoid major errors; the basic tools Bravo used can surely benefit any serious researcher.

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

Researcher Debbie Greenlee visits Poland quite often, and she typically posts daily accounts of her trip to the Polish Genius mailing list. Readers love these reports; they're the next best thing to being there, and they're usually full of insights that anyone going to Poland can benefit from. Well, she went to Poland in March of this year to attend a baptism. For her trip report, go to this site, click on "My Trips," then "Poland - March 2015 (The Baptism)." For photos of this trip click on BAPTISM on the left side of the home page.

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/29/89/0/2#tabJednostki>>

Jan Cesarczyk posted a note to the Polish Genius mailing list with this URL for the Kraków 1900 census. He wrote, "It is really beautifully written and very easy to read. The thing that struck me most is the small number of people who were actually born in Kraków. Most people were born in various towns and villages of Galicia, both east and west; but there were also people from the Prussia, Prussian Silesia, Lithuania, Russian Poland, the Czech lands ...I think that this could be a valuable resource for anyone who is researching a less common surname and who does not know in which town or village to look. If you find someone with that name in this census, the place of birth of that person could possibly be a useful clue."

<<http://edizioni.sns.it/it/testi-online/pdf-scaricabile-282.html>>

In a post to JewishGen, Pamela Weisberger explained she and Jay Osborn participated in a conference in Pisa, Italy back in the fall of 2013. The conference was called “Cartography and Cadastral Maps: Visions from the Past for a Vision of Our Future” and was sponsored by ICARUS: the International Centre for Archival Research. Pamela wanted to announce that the catalog of conference proceedings is now online, edited by Benedetto Benedetti, Charles Farrugia, Beatrice Romiti, and Andras Sipos. The papers can be viewed online and/or downloaded for free at the above URL; click on the author’s name and program title to view them. Pamela spoke on “Gesher Galicia’s Cadastral Map & Landowner Records Project: A Virtual Recreation of a Vanished Province.” That’s probably the one of greatest interest to our readers, though quite a few of the other presentations look very intriguing, as well.

<<http://laliny.mazowsze.pl>>

Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz posted a note to the Facebook Polish Genealogy group about a website she happened to discover that she felt was “of particular interest to any group members researching Laliny in Garwolin County, Mazowieckie, and of general interest to anyone researching Mazovian roots. The site contains some genealogical information and family albums, but also some great articles on the history, social life, cultural practices, family activities, crops and livestock, rural crafts, etc., in addition to a lovely collection of historical paintings by Polish artists.” Click on the above URL to visit the site—which is, of course, all in Polish. But it has links such as those in the section *Genealogia rodzin*, including *Genealogia rodzin*, or “Genealogy of families”; *W wyszukiwarce archiwum parafii*, or “search of the archives of [Latowicz] parish”; *historię tworzenia nazwisk*, “history of the creation of surnames”; and *księgi parafialne*, “parish registers.” If you have roots in the area, it might be worth learning a little Polish to access that kind of info! And as Julie says, there are lots of other subjects in addition to genealogy.

<<http://www.jewishgen.org/education>>

The April 19 issue of *Nu? What’s New?* mentioned that Phyllis Kramer, Vice President-Education of JewishGen, has created five-minute webcast videos about aspects of JewishGen and of research in general. You can see the selection of videos at the above URL, as well as online interactive courses offered by JewishGen. Most of the courses listed have already been completed; but this is a site worth visiting often.

<<http://staropolska.pl/ang/index.html>>

Valerie Warunek posted a notice to the Facebook group for Polish Culture, Food and Traditions, giving this URL as “a source for old Polish literature.” Note that the items brought up on this specific site are in English. One I want to read is “Middle Ages,” by Michael J. Mikoś, Ph.D., an eminent scholar, translator, and Department Chair of Foreign Languages and Literature at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The essay is divided into three sections: “Historical Background,” “Cultural Background,” and “Literary Background.”

<<http://jasloiregion.pl>>

Valerie also posted a note to Facebook's Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan group suggesting people with roots in the Jasło area should investigate this site. It's in Polish, but come on, you're not going to let a little thing like that stop you!

<http://slavic.lss.wisc.edu/new_web/?q=node/278>

If you'd like to spend much of the summer in intensive study of Russian in Madison, Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Slavic Languages and Literature is offering a program running June 15 – August 15. It covers first, second, and third year study of Russian. Details are available at the above URL. Since most of those reading this are presumably not students at UW-Madison, you must enroll at least a month before courses start. This page will help you get started: <<http://www.dcs.wisc.edu/info/applySpecial.htm>>.

<http://37.28.154.108/kruszyn_nmp/>

Debbie Greenlee posted about this site to the Polish Genius mailing list. It's a page on the parish site for Kruszyn, in the gmina and powiat of Włocławek. It has a drawing of the cemetery, and allows you to type in a surname and find names of people, with dates of birth and death. Click on an individual's name and it shows you exactly where he or she is buried on the map, along with names and other info of people buried in the same grave. A little camera icon at the top of the page lets you see a photo of the actual grave! This is great news for anyone with roots in that parish. But Debbie pointed out the larger lesson: check your ancestral parish website frequently. This info was not available on the website when Debbie tried it a few years ago. Things change, and sometimes for the better! But you have to seek or you will not find...

<<http://www.punemirror.in/entertainment/unwind/The-Polish-connection/articleshow/46032702.cms>>

Janice Sellers sent this link to a story with information on *A Little Poland in India*, a documentary made about Polish children in India. Anu Radha, who made the documentary, said, "It was not so much about the Polish refugees, but how an Indian maharaja of Gujarat gave protection to children from war-torn Europe is what really interested me. He risked his life to welcome the innocent Polish youngsters orphaned by war." It's a fascinating story, and thanks for the lead, Janice!

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