



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>>

*** REMARKS ON THE PGSA FALL CONFERENCE ***

by *Debbie Greenlee* <daveg@airmail.net>

Editor—Debbie posted these comments on the recent Fall Conference of the Polish Genealogical Society of America to the Polish Genius mailing list. I thought those of our readers who aren't on that list might enjoy them, so I asked Debbie for permission to repeat them here. While I'm at it, let me say to all Polish genealogical societies, we'll be glad to publish comments on your events, as well! While I have a long association with PGSA, there are lots of other societies whose events we're glad to publicize!

I am a firm believer that everyone doing Polish genealogical research should join a Polish genealogical society either in the city where their ancestors settled, stopped for a while, or where you live now. If there isn't a society in any of those cities, then joining the Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA, headquartered in Chicago) is the way to go.

I also firmly believe that anyone who is a member of a society also needs to be on a Polish genealogical e-mail list—at least one. While societies certainly serve a purpose, members can't get the attention they need for their own research. And that's where e-mail lists, such as Polish Genius, come into play. Almost everyone I came in contact with heard this, and I told folks how to join our list.

The first day of the conference included a bus tour of Chicago's south side. This was one area where Polish immigrants settled. We visited churches that used to be Polish, areas where the immigrants worked, including the Chicago Stockyards, and drove through the old neighborhoods where you could still see an occasional Polish store.

There were two busloads of people! We ate our lunch (arranged by PGSA prior to the conference) **inside** one of the churches. I'd never done that before!

A great souvenir of the bus tour was a booklet published by PGSA for this conference, *Chicago's South Side Polonia Bus Tour Highlights and Guidebook*, complete with photos, dates, maps, and information.

Early in the day I was assigned the task of taking photographs for the society. I always have my camera (not a phone) so I suppose I stood out in the crowd. Photos will be published in a future issue of *Rodziny*.

Though most of my family was not from the south side of Chicago (they lived on the north side) I really enjoyed the tour. I also enjoyed hearing various taped radio ads from the 1960s during the bus tour. I was surprised that I still remembered them and could sing along. I found out from the conference chair, Margie LaCerra, that the ads are on YouTube! Go ahead and do a search of the local radio station (from "back then") and see what comes up.

The actual conference was on Saturday, three speakers and four sessions. One of the speakers was Dr. Dominic Pacyga, who was a featured contributor to the DVD, *The Fourth Partition*,

Polish Immigrants at the Dawn of the 20th Century. That DVD was mentioned on this list some time ago. It is well worth the price.

Other speakers: **Ellie Carlson** explained how to recognize people in photographs by facial characteristics and how to date a photograph based on the clothes and accessories worn. Believe it or not, there are books that show the various styles of dress, hats and hair-dos worn during the decades. Of course, if your family photos are from the old country, this information wouldn't necessarily apply.

Ola Heska presented two in-depth sessions on how to use three Polish websites: the Polish Civil Archives, Geneteka (Polish Genealogical Society [in Poland]), database of indexed records and Metryki where we learned how to obtain digitized vital records.

<<http://searcharchives.pl>>

<<http://www.geneteka.genealodzy.pl>>

<<http://www.metryki.genealodzy.pl>>

Ola translates Polish into English and transliterates Russian Cyrillic into Polish for a fee. She is very good.

Ginger Frere suggested resources in which to find family information beyond the usual census, naturalization papers, passenger arrival records and so on.

The president of PGSA, **David Lewandowski**, rolled-out the new PGSA website:

<<http://pgsa.org>>

Dave also spoke about PGSA's involvement in having previously unrecorded Polish records digitized (mostly from southern Poland) through the help of people in Poland. This initiative came about as a result of several PGSA members, including myself, encouraging PGSA to undertake this project. LDS was not allowed to photograph records in most, if not all, of the diocesan archives in southern Poland. Diocesan archives are where LDS films their Polish church records, so not having access has really slowed down our research. The indexes (and perhaps the actual images) will only be available to PGSA members and not the general public. That might be reason enough to join PGSA!

<<http://pgsa.org/2014-polish-parish-records/>>

<<http://pgsa.org/compendium-of-polish-digital-web-sites/>>

PGSA has just finished digitizing all of the Polish Chicago newspaper, *Dziennik Chicagoski*. These were previously on microfilm, which is deteriorating. One of the worthwhile searches of this newspaper is the obituary sections, which are indexed on the PGSA website and in a published book of four volumes, *Index to the Obituaries and Death Notices Appearing in the Dziennik Chicagoski 1900-1929*. These indexes include 80,000 names of everyone mentioned in an obituary, not just the deceased.

To see what PGSA has online: <<http://pgsa.org/research-directory/>>

A special treat was having two Polish radio DJ's perform their show after lunch. The DJ's had an audience participation segment. Guess who was pulled from the audience of 120+ attendees? Yep, me. I don't think I made a fool of myself **after** I uttered the English word for *gówno*. LOL

During a conversation I had with David Lewandowski, president of PGSA, he mentioned reading that interest in genealogy skips a generation; our grandchildren are more likely to take up the cause rather than our children. I commented that it is probably because our kids have had it "up to here" with our obsession. So, now is the time to involve the grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. Start them out with coloring pictures of famous Poles, buy them a Polish flag, take them to a *pisanki* or *wycinanki* class, both of you learn to make pierogi, have them make their own abbreviated family tree. Contact me for more ideas/samples. Remember, October is Polish-American Heritage Month. Promote pride in your heritage.

After dinner on Friday and Saturday nights and during conference breaks, I helped people sitting near me to find their ancestral villages, parishes, gminas, powiats and so on. The conversations we had were very enjoyable. I appreciate Jim Krysiak's input during one dinner get-together.

The above experience solidified my gut instinct that a lot of the people who attend a Polish genealogical conference really need individual attention/help. Time does not allow for volunteers at the conference to help all these folks. In fact, I don't think most of the people who needed help knew how to get it! I started many conversations with "Where did your ancestors live in Poland? Have you located the village and parish?" This opened things up and at least a few folks left the conference with enough information to finally get them going.

So, if you know of people who are trying to research their Polish family, encourage them to join an e-mail list.

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

Subject: Americans Teaching in Poland during the Summer

About five years ago I was skeptical about a program for Americans going to Poland to teach during the summer. Now for some reason I would like to revisit the program and its benefits.

Would you mind giving me any information on this program or similar ones?

Larry Mandeville <LarryMandeville@msn.com>

Editor—Actually, I haven't heard any more on the subject. I remember a gentleman had written a piece on that program for *Gen Dobry!*. He was surprised when you pointed out its loss of no-profit status. He looked into it, and notified us that the

problem had been solved. He thanked you for bringing the matter to his attention, so the organization could get it fixed. But as best I recall, that's the last I heard of the program. So folks, Mr. Mandeville and I would love to hear from anybody who can update us.

Subject: Teolin parish records

Editor—This request was sent to me by one of our readers. She did not indicate whether she wanted her name to appear, so I am publishing it anonymously. If you have any suggestions for her, write me at <wfh@langline.com> and I will forward them.

Is it possible to obtain birth records from Teolin parish from 1895? I've been searching for my Mother's birth record and so far the most promising clue is she was probably baptized at Teolin. Researchers and an acquaintance in Białystok tell me it is unlikely there are any existing records from that period from Teolin because of wars and occupations. Can you help? Many thanks.

Subject: Volunteer Translators for Family Book Creator

Editor—This note was sent to Don Szumowski, PolishRoots president. We thought the best way to help was to include it in Gen Dobry! If you think you might be able to help, contact Mr. Harms at the address given below.

My name is Stefan Harms and I'm the author of *Family Book Creator*. *Family Book Creator* is a plugin for Family Tree Maker which turns research results into detailed personalized books with just a few clicks. Different book types and languages are supported.

I'm looking for somebody who uses Family Tree Maker (Version 2012 or 2014) and is able to read and write in Polish language, because I'm planning to enable Family Book Creator to create output in Polish language as well.

Currently I'm looking for volunteers who may want to help with the translation. Do you know somebody who may want to help with this project? Please let me know.

Thanks,

Stefan Harms, Hamburg, Germany
<sharms@familybookcreator.com>
<<http://www.familybookcreator.com/en/>>

***** REST IN PEACE, PAMELA WEISBERGER *****

You may not know the name of Pamela Weisberger. Her efforts were particularly prominent in the field of Jewish genealogy, especially the Gesher Galicia site. Most non-Jews probably

had never had occasion to learn of her work. Yet we should know her name as well, because she worked long and hard to benefit to anyone with roots in the former Crownland of Galicia, regardless of religion. She even contributed one or two pieces to *Gen Dobry!* on the cadastral maps and other resources of Gesher Galicia because she wanted everyone to know of and benefit from these resources.

It was a great shock to everyone when Pamela passed away on Friday morning, 25 September 2015, after a brief illness. Jan Meisels Allen kindly sent me an announcement of her death from Sandy Malek, president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles, because Jan knew I had dealt with Pamela before, and appreciated her work.

Information about her life and work appeared in numerous genealogical publications, including *Eastman's* Online Genealogy Newsletter. I think perhaps the best and most appropriate tribute is here, on the pages of Gesher Galicia:

<<http://www.geshergalicia.org/about-gesher-galicia/pamela-weisberger-in-memoriam/>>

Another, more personal and detailed article appears on *Avotaynu Online*:

<<http://www.avotaynuonline.com/2015/09/the-living-legacy-of-pamela-weisberger-zl/>>

I believe and hope it is appropriate for Gentiles like me to join the many Jews who say, “May her memory be a blessing.”

*** ***MORE MAIORUM*** ***

On Facebook, C. Michael Eliaz-Solomon quoted an invitation to read “the September issue of the journal genealogical *More maiorum*, which falls under the auspices of the largest real historical Historia.org.pl. For the September issue was included in a special supplement ‘Identity cards and envelopes of evidence.’ The 30-page article, p. Isabella Heropolitański in an accessible way she described the history of identity cards, the contents of the envelopes of evidence and mode of access to them....”

You can see and download the September issue, and the special supplement on identity cards, at the link below. It’s all in Polish, of course, which makes it a lot harder for non-Poles to read. Still, *More Maiorum* proudly calls itself “Pierwszy polski periodyk genealogiczny online,” the first Polish genealogy periodical online.” (I have no problem with this; *Gen Dobry!* doesn’t count in this regard, because it’s in English, not Polish.) I think *More Maiorum* deserves attention—and both the issue and the supplement are worth looking through, if only for the pictures! Besides, they might just motivate you to get serious about learning to read a little Polish...

<<http://www.moremaiorum.pl/aktualny-numer/>>

***** STOLEN BOOKS: THE JULIUS STREICHER COLLECTION *****

Editor—Dr. Felix Gundacker of GenTeam.eu sent this note to numerous people on 6 September 2015. I realize there may have been numerous responses, given that this was over three weeks ago. Still, I have heard nothing more; and it seems reasonable to spread the word of this as far as possible, since you never know who might be interested.

Vienna, September 6, 2015

Dear Research Family:

Today I am asking you for your valuable assistance:

The Jewish Community (IKG) Nuremberg is in possession of the so-called “Stürmer or Streicher Library,” a collection of approximately 10,000 books, robbed by the Nazis. Restitution of this library to its legal successors is a special concern for the Jewish Community.

You will find a listing of robbed victims as well as pictures of images of inscriptions or book notes here:

<http://www.genteam.at/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=149&Itemid=149&lang=en>

It can be viewed complete free; no registration is necessary.

Since provenance research is mainly family research, I ask YOU for your help in this important matter.

Attached below you will find a letter from Magister Leibl Rosenberg, representative of the city of Nuremberg, and I ask you to contact him directly with your research results and questions:

<leibl.rosenberg@stadt.nuernberg.de>

Please, send this information to other interested people as well as to mailing-lists and groups. Thank you!

Felix Gundacker

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

Looted Publications From Austria In The Collection Of The Jewish Community

On March 12, 1938 Nazi Germany brought Austria home into the Reich (realm) by annexing

the country. With it began a terrible history of suffering for the victims of the Nazis: Jewish people, Freemasons, Sinti and Roma, priests and believers of diverse Christian domination, representatives and exponents of the labor movement. They were disenfranchised, humiliated, persecuted, arrested, robbed, expelled, and assassinated. Favored objects of the new masters' desires were the properties and cultural commodities of any kind: paintings, sculptures, images, manuscripts, writings, archival materials, art wares, tools and instruments, stocks, motor vehicles, furniture and usable items of any kind. One does not go wrong in the assumption that there had to have been about 600,000 art works and millions of publications from all over Europe.

Between 1933 and 1945, a portion of the stolen books reached by still obscure ways the ownership of the infamous *Gauleiter* (head of a Nazi administrative district) and so-called *Frankenführer* (Franconian leader) Julius Streicher in Nuremberg. Remnants of the books remain to this day in the collection Jewish Community (previously also known as the Stürmer or Streicher Library) in the Nuremberg city library. This collection of nearly 10,000 books is the property of the Jewish Community in Nuremberg and was given on permanent loan years ago to the city library. The Jewish Community, owners and proprietors of the collection, saw and see themselves as custodians, and they have begun with great effort the tedious task of finding the former owners and the restitution of the writings to their legal successors. So far approximately 500 writings were returned to approximately 150 persons or entities in nine different countries.

The research of the provenance references in the writings in 25 languages has resulted in over 2,200 former owners from 550 places of origins in Europe and Overseas. Three geographical focal areas have been crystalized: Nuremberg, Franconia; Strasbourg, Alsace-Lorraine; and Vienna, Austria. The restitution of robbed cultural goods requires provenance research, yet it cannot be successfully featured without family research. The acting representative of the city of Nuremberg for the collection of the Jewish Community therefore turns today to the genealogist and historians from the contributors and user circle at www.GenTeam.eu to request instructions, reference information, and research result for locating the former Austrian owners and their heirs or legal successors. Despite our greatest efforts, the published listing still contains so many inaccuracies and misattributions, many traces and fragments. It is a document of mass robbery that often led to mass murder—how could it be any different? To get a better idea of the previous owners, pictures of the provenance entries were added to the search list.

Many years, actually decades, have passed since this terrific raid; but it does not alter the iniquity and the suffering of the affected. Please examine whether you can shed some light in the dark so that in this way the victims will befall a just a little justice. In advance, I would like to extend a whole-hearted thank you for your efforts and labor.

Leibl Rosenberg, M.A.
Beauftragter der Stadt Nürnberg für die Sammlung IKG
In der Stadtbibliothek im Bildungscampus Nürnberg
Egidienplatz 23, Zimmer 207
90403 Nürnberg

(0049)-(0)911- 231-22588

<leibl.rosenberg@stadt.nuernberg.de>

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

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

Friday & Saturday, October 2-3, 2015

2015 Polish Genealogical Conference

**sponsored by the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast
and
Central Connecticut State University's Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair
Polish and Polish American Studies**

When: October 2 and October 3

Where: Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT

The conference provides an opportunity to learn strategies for tracing your Polish-American and Eastern European roots. The speakers are well known in Polish genealogy circles and their discussions will enable attendees to fill in the missing pieces of their family history. All speakers have extensive experience in their respective fields and have been featured at numerous regional, national and international conferences.

Featured speakers will be Lisa Alzo, Matthew Bielawa, Tomasz Pilat, John Righetti, Kris Rzepczynski, and Jonathan Shea.

Tadeusz Pilat, from Tarnobrzeg, Poland will present lectures on “Notary Records with an Emphasis on Records in the 19th Century” and “Galician Maps in Poland.” Both topics are wonderful additions to Polish genealogy research.

Pilat was born in Silesia, Poland and currently resides in eastern Poland and Germany. He pursued Library Studies at the University of Maria Curie-Skłodowska in Lublin, Poland and focused on the history of books and old documents. In 1999, he was granted the degree of Master of Library and Information Science. In 2003, Tadeusz became an Accredited Genealogist specializing in Polish research in all partitions of the former Commonwealth of Poland. He has traveled extensively to many countries and is fluent in Polish, German and English.

A two-part seminar, “Introduction to Polish Research” is designed for both beginners and intermediate Polish genealogy researchers.

Some of the other lectures are “Digital News: Utilizing Online Newspapers in Your Genealogy Research, Pennsylvania’s Coal Mines, Pennsylvania Resources for Polish Genealogists and Changed by Thalerhof - An Anniversary Documentary” which explains Europe’s first concentration camp located in the Galician section of Poland from 1914-1917.

The conference will display the following Exhibitors: Connecticut State Library; The Polish Center of Discovery and Learning (College of Our Lady of the Elms), Chicopee, MA; Central Connecticut State University’s Elihu Burritt Library, Polish Studies; Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. and the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast. Please see our website at <<http://pgsctne.org/ConferencesEvents.aspx>> for Registration forms including the conference schedule, biographies of speakers, lecture summaries and Exhibitor descriptions. There is also information about our one-on-one consultation appointments with speakers. Only a limited number of appointments are available.

Throughout the conference, a collection of books, maps and other materials will be available for consultation and officers of the Society will be present to answer questions.

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

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October 10, 2015

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS
SPEND A DAY OF GENEALOGY WITH STEVE MORSE

8:30 am to 4 pm

Elms College, Mary Dooley Campus Center
291 Springfield St., Chicopee, MA 01013

The Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts, in collaboration with the **Polish Center of discovery & learning** and the **Chicopee Cultural Council** is pleased to announce that a renowned genealogist and computer professional is coming to Chicopee to present a full day of talks.

STEPHEN MORSE, PH.D. is the creator of the One-Step Website, for which he has received both the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Outstanding Contribution Award from the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, Award of Merit from the National Genealogical Society, first-ever Excellence Award from the Association of Professional Genealogists, and two awards that he cannot pronounce from Polish genealogical societies!

In his other life Morse is a computer professional with a doctorate degree in electrical engineering. He has held various research, development, and teaching positions, authored numerous technical papers, written four textbooks, and holds four patents. He is best known as the architect of the Intel 8086 (the granddaddy of today’s Pentium processor), which sparked the PC revolution 30 years ago.

Scheduled Talks:

- One-Step Webpages: A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools
- One-Step Webpages: A Hodgepodge of Lesser-Known Gems
- From DNA to Genetic Genealogy: Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask
- Genealogy Beyond the Y Chromosome: Autosomes Exposed

Tickets are just \$20, but must be purchased in advance. To find out more and register go to:

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

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.

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October 15, 2015

POLISH GENEALOGY WITH OLA HESKA

Riverside Public Library, Riverside Illinois

7 p.m.

The Czech and Slovak American Genealogy Society of Illinois [CSAGSI] presents: Polish Genealogy with Ola Heska In the Public Meeting Room of the Riverside Public Library This class is primarily for people who are just starting to research their Polish ancestors. A short overview of recent Polish history will be given and you will have a chance to learn how to find where your Polish ancestors came from, how and where to look for records and what to expect once you find them.

Ola Heska has been researching her family roots for over 14 years. She received her M.A. in Russian Philology from Lodz University, Poland and currently works as a genealogist, translator, as well as volunteers at the Naperville Family History Center.

<<http://townconnection.com/riverside-illinois/events/polish-genealogy-with-ola-heska/>>

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October 21–22, 2015

U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES 2015 VIRTUAL GENEALOGY FAIR

[From a post to JewishGen by Jan Meisels Allen]

For the past several years the (US) National Archives has held a Virtual Genealogy Fair. This year the dates are October 21-22, 2015. The theme is Find your Past. It is broadcast live on YouTube. For more information on the 2015 Virtual Genealogy Fair see:

<http://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair/>

To watch/participate you go to YouTube station at:

<http://tinyurl.com/p8s2umu>

Original URL:

<https://www.youtube.com/course?list=ECC641EF0E3F8AFDF9&feature=plcp>

Via YouTube you will be able to watch live or at a later date.

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October 24, 2015

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN
ANNUAL SEMINAR**

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

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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October 24, 2015

**“NASHI PREDKY” – OUR ANCESTORS
FALL 2015 GENEALOGY CONFERENCE
Ukrainian Cultural Center • 135 Davidson Avenue • Somerset, New Jersey**

Join fellow genealogists for the second annual full-day conference of the Family History Group.

Expert speakers Justin Houser, Kirill Chashchin, Shelly Morehead, Gail Hahn, and Michael Andrec will present talks on a variety of topics related to Ukrainian and Eastern European genealogy from the introductory to the advanced. Topics will cover a wide range of time and geography, including deportations of Lemkos from Poland, the US Federal Census, understanding DNA testing, and (for the first time) an in-depth presentation on researching Central and Eastern Ukrainian ancestors!

The program will include:

Finding Ukrainian Relatives Deported from Southeastern Poland 1944-1947 – Justin Houser

In previous Nashi Predky events, we have had talks about the ethnic Ukrainians in Poland who were forcibly relocated within the country after World War II (Akcja “Wisła”). This talk will consider the other forced migration of this period: the many ethnic Ukrainians who were deported into Soviet Ukraine. Justin will describe records that have recently become available documenting those deported and where they were “resettled”.

Tracing heirs through Ukrainian archives: Detective stories of metrical records and censuses – Kirill Chashchin

Kirill will discuss researching ancestors in Central and Eastern Ukraine through vital records and the Russian Imperial Census of 1897.

It’s Like Velcro: DNA Testing for Genealogy – Shelly Morehead

Have you taken a DNA test but aren’t sure what you’re results mean or how to use them? While using DNA for genealogy is a great tool, it’s also important to understand the results of the tests you’ve taken. This lecture describes the three major testing companies’ results, how they differ and what third party tools you can use to find others who used a different testing company.

20th Century Census - Clues to Your Ancestors – Gail Hahn

Gail will present search strategies and information gathering from the 1900-1940 US Federal Census records, with illustrative examples using Ukrainian and Hungarian families.

A Practical Introduction to Archival Science for Genealogists – Michael Andrec

Virtually all family historians have made use of records housed in archival repositories either directly or indirectly. But most genealogists have at some point probably been intimidated or

confused by how archives work and why they're organized the way they are. This talk will give an introduction to the principles that govern the work of archives professionals in the United States and in countries with which it shares an archival tradition (e.g., Great Britain, Canada, and Australia). The talk will focus on those aspects that are most relevant to family historians, such as how to search for relevant collections and how to read and understand archival finding aids. If time permits, he will consider some of the differences between archival methodology in the US and Ukraine.

For more information, visit <<https://www.ukrhec.org/civicrm/event/info?id=22&reset=1>>

[From a note posted to PolandBorderSurnames mailing list by Michelle Tucker Chubenko]

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November 15, 2015

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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 *****

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqHse4aKg8I>>

Ewa Wierzbicka posted a note to the Facebook page of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, explaining that this link leads to an instructional video on how to make out the information included in a Polish marriage certificate without having to read the language. I feel certain some of our readers can find this helpful.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1ErdUL0Acc&list=PL_2Z7aYVjFERNH1yCXelvnwUkymL9zBRl>

Ewa also posted this link, which helps you make out the pertinent info from a Russian-language birth/baptismal certificate. Researchers with roots in the Russian partition of Poland may find this helpful

<<https://support.google.com/docs/answer/4492226>>

On 2 September 2015, *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* [EOGN] had an article by Dick Eastman about a free alternative to dictation software. Google offers a cloud-based service that can do this for you; and because it's cloud-based, the work is done by high-powered servers in the cloud, not on your computer—in theory, at least, that should produce superior results. As I get older and my typing worsens, I'd love to be able to dictate more of my work to a computer program that would turn it into text. I've tried to use Dragon's Naturally Speaking software for years, but it's never worked well enough for me to rely on it more than occasionally. I think I'll give Google's voice typing a try. You can read more about it at the link above. Incidentally, Polish is one of the languages supported!

<<http://blog.eogn.com/2015/09/09/how-one-person-can-make-a-difference-litigation-against-the-nyc-municipal-archives-using-freedom-of-information-law/>>

On 9 September, Eastman published an article of potential interest to anyone researching ancestors in the U.S., and this link will take you to it. It tells of genealogist Brooke Schreier Ganz's petition for records from the New York City Municipal Archives. The story is very interesting, both in terms of how she's trying to gain access to records and as an illustration that one person doesn't have to lie down and take moronic bureaucratic decisions. You may find it inspiring! ... I should add that this morning (30 September) I got a note from Jan Meisels Allen saying that Brooke's petition was successful! If you want to get involved, the URL for "Reclaim the Records" is <<http://www.reclaimtherecords.org/>>.

<<http://blog.eogn.com/2015/09/21/how-to-make-a-book-available-to-everyone/>>

This link is to an article "How to Make a Book Available to Everyone" that appeared in EOGN on 21 September. I've often heard researchers ask how to make an out-of-copyright genealogy book or family history book readily available to people who might benefit from it. Eastman provides information on how Archive.org can help you at no charge. I have downloaded or referred to a number of good sources on Archive.org, but it never really occurred to me that one could use its services this way.

<<http://culture.pl/en/article/a-foreigners-guide-to-polish-names>>

Valerie Warunek posted a note to Facebook's Polish Culture, Food and Traditions group, providing this link to a foreigners' guide to Polish given names. I think we may have mentioned this before, but it's well worth repeating, especially for folks who have subscribed recently. The article provides a nice selection of info in English.

<<http://acienciala.faculty.ku.edu/hist557/>>

In a post to the Polish Genius mailing list, Karl von Loewe recommended the lectures of the late Prof. Anna Cienciala on Poland's history. He said, "Her Kansas University lectures on East European history are on the Internet in well-packed but digestible pieces" at the above link. Roman Kałużniacki said in a follow-up note that one can read "the Kansas University tribute to Professor Cienciala, recipient of the Polish Cross of Merit in 2000, available at <<http://news.ku.edu/2014/12/29/ku-community-mourns-anna-cienciala>>.

<<https://scholar.google.com/intl/en-US/scholar/help.html>>

In a post to JewishGen digest, Jan Meisels Allen talked about Google Scholar, which I must admit is a new one to me! This site is for searching scholarly literature—articles, theses, books, abstracts, court opinions and more. As such, it is not the same as Google Newspapers <<http://news.google.com/archivesearch>> and Google International newspapers <<http://news.google.com/newspapers>>. You can use it to search for the name of your ancestral town or village, and the matches you get are rather different from the usual search results. You can search at the above link, or read more here: <<https://scholar.google.com/intl/en-US/scholar/about.html>>.

<<http://tinyurl.com/qyn4wlu>>

Joan Balon Kennedy and Valerie Warunek posted a note on the Facebook page of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, suggesting many would enjoy this article by Lisa A. Alzo, a prominent researcher and speaker at numerous events, including past conferences of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast. "Ten Genealogy Lessons I Learned from My Father" was a Father's Day tribute to her late dad, and I wished I had known about it sooner so I could have shared it with you sooner. But thanks to Joan and Valerie for spreading the word! And for those of you who'd like to hear Lisa speak, she will be speaking again at the PG SCTNE conference—see the listing under "Upcoming Events," October 2-3.

<<http://tinyurl.com/kypon42>>

Valerie also posted this link to a PDF from the 2015 Family History Workshop at the Baltimore Maryland Family History Center. It is a good summary of information vital for getting off to a good start with Polish research. The original link is <<http://www.baltimorefamilyhistoryworkshop.org/assets/189/FHC%20Workshop%20Syllabus%20-%20Polish%20Research%202015.pdf>>.

<http://wtg-gniazdo.org/upload/opracowania/Zawody_i_statusy_niemieckie.pdf>

Marcel Elias posted a note from Avis Genealogy's Facebook page with a link to this PDF, available for download from the Wielkopolskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne "Gniazdo" (Gniazdo Great Poland Genealogical Society). The PDF was authored by Liliana Molenda, and it shows you German terms for occupations and status designations in the old *Kurrent* script, their spellings in modern German print, and translations into Polish. Between the Polish and German versions, you stand a fighting chance of being able to figure out what the words meant—much better than if all you had to work with was the old German handwriting!

<<http://historykpress.com/whatsnew.htm>>

The latest publication of Historyk Press is *A Testament to Faith: The First Polish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Christ the Lord*. Thomas L. Hollowak, 2015. 277 pages, illustrated, index, paper. \$25.00 [ISBN 978-1-887124-46-1]. You can learn more, and order the book, on this page.

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