



# 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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**\*\*\* SUPPORT PTG'S EFFORTS! \*\*\***

*by Ola Heska (member of PGSA and PTG)*

*Editor*—Ola posted a note to the Facebook page of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, urging genealogists to contribute to the Polskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne or Polish Genealogical Society (not to be confused with the various Polish genealogical societies in this country). I thought this sounded like something our readers might want to support. I asked her to provide a little more info that I could publish in *Rodziny* and in *Gen Dobry!* She kindly agreed, and this is what she sent me.

PTG—Polskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne, The Polish Genealogical Society, with its headquarters in Warsaw—has been working with some Polish State Archives on digitizing their vital records. PTG signs an agreement with an archive to digitize the records and places digitized copies online free of charge. Many of these records have already been indexed. These can be searched online and are linked to scans that can be downloaded for free by one click of a mouse. If your parish has been digitized, you can now do your research from the comfort of your home.

PTG administers two databases: Metryki (<<http://www.metryki.genealodzy.pl>>) and Geneteka (<<http://www.geneteka.genealodzy.pl>>).

Metryki is a database of digitized records and a large number of indexed records with links to scans. If records from a particular parish have been indexed, a search function enables users to find the desired copy. In cases when parishes have not been indexed, one can manually look through records online.

Geneteka is a database of indexes mainly, although many of them are linked to digitized records, as in Metryki. In cases when records are not available online, it is possible to find the number of the desired record and contact an archive to request a copy.

All the work is done by volunteers. Some spend their time travelling to archives to digitize (photograph) the records. Others index the records and verify the indices for accuracy. Yet others administer databases. The number of indexed records continues to grow weekly. Although none of the volunteers are compensated for their work, there is financial need to run the project. Funds are needed to pay for servers, to purchase equipment (cameras, laptops, external drives), and to repair what breaks. We can continue these projects only with the help of donors.

If you find our projects useful, please consider making a donation by going to <<http://www.geneszukacz.genealodzy.pl/donate-eng>>. You can make your donation via bank transfer, credit card, or—to save on bank transfer fees—via PayPal.

Thank you for your support.

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

Subject: The Chicken Song and Dance

*Editor*—In the November issue of *Gen Dobry!*, Dianne Zak asked about “the chicken song and dance” that her aunt performed in the early 1940s. I printed a couple of responses in the last issue, and I’ve received several more notes since then. I thought I’d share them with you, as this topic obviously interests quite a few people.

The “Chicken Dance” has been de rigueur at every one of the many Polish wedding I have attended over the years. It is overwhelmingly performed by women and young girls. It either precedes or follows the Hokie Pokie. But no one could ever tell me why they do it, other than it is a lot of fun.

RMPine, Chicago

*Editor*—I’m sure you’re right; but I think this is not the same Chicken Song and Dance that Dianne was talking about. She said her aunt did this song and dance in the early 1940s at St. Florian in Hamtramck, Michigan (taught by the Felician Sisters). These are the words she remembered: “Cheep cheep cheep kureczki bardzo was prosze czubate koguty.” She might be referring to a dance and song no longer remembered, replaced by the Chicken Dance many of us know. Here’s another note on the subject:

I’ve been reading with interest the letters and inquiries for the “Chicken” dance. To this I can only add, I’m of Polish descent, but due to the dearth of Polish events and the wealth of German festivals, I’ve gone to quite a few German “Octoberfests,” Wurstfests, and other events, both in the US and in Germany. Based on that, the Germans, at every festival I’ve attended, have sooner or later danced the “Chicken.” They’ve got to be close, possibly related, just because of the countries’ two proximities. Fun to watch, period! (especially when you’ve got a bunch of pijaks on the floor).

However, all that said, the video I watched when written in last *Gen Dobry!* shows a markedly different dance from the German version. The German one is carried out like a polka.

Ed Mucha

*Editor*—The video Ed refers to is here: <[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzWcArx\\_Oh4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzWcArx_Oh4)>. And now one more note:

I read with interest the thread on a mysterious Chicken Song from the 1940s in *Gen Dobry!* The latest YouTube video posted in a reply could not be the one, since the melody the kids are dancing to is very recent (1990s). In my opinion, the most likely candidate is the children song “Trzy Kurki,” a popular tune since the 19th century. I remember singing it in my preschool, and my grandma sang it as well. Here is a link to the version of it:

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0MQtMR6Ex4>>

Roman Sakowicz

*Editor*—Who knew there were so many chicken dances? This song is the one Google points to when you search for “Chicken Dance.” It was originally French; it has the same melody as “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,” with words in Polish translated from French by Karol Hubert Rostworowski, available here: <[http://www.tekstowo.pl/piosenka,karol\\_hubert\\_rostworowski,trzy\\_kurki.html](http://www.tekstowo.pl/piosenka,karol_hubert_rostworowski,trzy_kurki.html)>. Meanwhile, here’s another note on this subject:

Dzień dobry!

My mother told me once of the person responsible for the popular version of the chicken song and dance. I am a fourth-generation Polish-American that grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I traced my ancestors from Gniew.

This is the link where one may find the information:

<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob\\_Kames](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Kames)>

Orlowskia

*Editor*—It will be interesting to see if any of these rings a bell for Dianne. Isn’t it amazing that a question can seem so simple, and yet turn out to be complicated? Of course, there’s no reason the song and dance Dianne’s talking about had to be widespread or popular. There could be any number of Chicken Dances out there, each with its own set of fans. But I have to admit, my interest is piqued. I’d love it if we could nail down the right one for Dianne!

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Subject: Secretary of Defense Finds His Polish Roots—With Help!

Łukasz Bielecki [of the Poznań Project] just sent me these news articles from Poznań. Earlier this month we documented Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel’s Polish ancestry, and he is visiting his ancestral parish tomorrow ;-)

Ceil Jensen

*Editor*—Ceil sent me this note on January 30. Let me quote excerpts from the articles Łukasz sent Ceil, which she refers to.

Sent: Mon, 14 Jan 2013

Dear Ceil,

They wrote about Katie and Chuck in the Poznań edition of the leading Polish daily, *Gazeta Wyborcza*:

<[http://poznan.gazeta.pl/poznan/1,36037,13194172,\\_Katie\\_\\_Konkolewski\\_\\_polska\\_krew\\_\\_sekretarza\\_obrony.html](http://poznan.gazeta.pl/poznan/1,36037,13194172,_Katie__Konkolewski__polska_krew__sekretarza_obrony.html)> or <<http://tinyurl.com/kpo9n52>>

They mentioned you helping finding out about the American history of the Konkolewski family.

Best wishes,  
Łukasz

Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:09 AM

Dear Ceil,

As a follow-up to your finding of last January, Chuck Hagel is going to visit his Kąkolewski ancestral parish tomorrow:

<[http://poznan.gazeta.pl/poznan/1,36001,15361243,Gmina\\_Kiskowo\\_szykuje\\_sie\\_na\\_wizyte\\_sekretarza\\_obrony.html](http://poznan.gazeta.pl/poznan/1,36001,15361243,Gmina_Kiskowo_szykuje_sie_na_wizyte_sekretarza_obrony.html)> or <<http://tinyurl.com/mozyyqg>>

I do not think they would mention to him, however, that he owes this roots tour to you and the Poznań Project :)

Best wishes,  
Łukasz

*Editor*—OK, folks, don't give Ceil any lip, or you might get a drone up your nose! Congratulations to Łukasz and to Ceil, whom the Poznań paper describes as *Cecile Jensen z Detroit, zasłużona badaczka dziejów Polonii amerykańskiej*, “Cecile Jensen of Detroit, an eminent researcher of the annals of America’s Polonia.” The more Polish-Americans who speak truth to power, the better.

By the way, when I looked at that second article, I had to laugh at some of the comments readers had added. One wrote, “Aby w USA potomek niepiśmiennego parobek został ministrem potrzeba czterech pokoleń. U nas możliwe jest to w jednym” [In the United States, for a descendant of an illiterate farmhand to become a minister takes four generations. With us, that’s possible in one.] Hmm, who’s he referring to?

Another wrote, “Ej tam, ja chciałbym aby przyjechał z Bieńkowską. Ona umie po angielsku (“sorry”) , mogła by nauczyć Hegela chicken dance!” [Hey there, I wish he’d arrived with Bieńkowska, she speaks English (“sorry) and could teach Hegel the chicken dance!]. I assume this refers to Deputy Prime Minister Elżbieta Bieńkowska. She was recently asked about two trains on the Przemyśl-Szczecin run that were stuck on the tracks for hours on tracks due to icing. She provoked a furor in Poland when she replied, “Pasażerom można tylko powiedzieć: Sorry, taki mamy klimat” [We can only tell the

passengers, “Sorry, but that’s the sort of climate we have.”] In Poland, politics is at least as rough a game as in the United States!

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**\*\*\* SSDI ACCESS IS NOW LIMITED \*\*\***

*by Richard W. Eastman*

*Editor*—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://www.eogn.com>.

Judy Russell, author of *The Legal Genealogist* blog, has written about the new restrictions now in place on the Security Death Master File — also known as the Social Security Death Index (SSDI). Her article is available at <<http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/2013/12/30/ssdi-access-now-limited/>>.

There is both bad news and good news:

Bad News: there are new restrictions on what was public domain information that can be useful to genealogists.

Good News: the restrictions apply only for records of individuals who died within the past three calendar years. I don’t like that but suspect most genealogists can live with the restriction.

You can read more at the above URL.

Do you have comments, questions, or corrections to this article? If so, please post your words at the end of this article in the Standard Edition newsletter’s web site where everyone can benefit from your words.

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**\*\*\* NET NEUTRALITY? WHAT DOES IT MEAN? \*\*\***

I saw a flurry of articles recently about court rulings that jeopardize Net Neutrality. I have to admit, I didn’t really know enough about the subject to form an opinion. A couple of blog entries by Michael J. Leclerc, however, suggest we can’t afford such ignorance. One entry is “Imagine a World Without Cyndi’s List, FindAGrave & NEHGS,” which you can read at <<http://blog.mocavo.com/2014/01/net-neutrality-genealogists>>. He also posted an item on January 28, “What You Can Do to Save Net Neutrality,” at <<http://blog.mocavo.com/author/michael>>.

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### \*\*\* ALTERNATIVE SITES FOR JEWISH RECORDS ONLINE \*\*\*

*Editor*—Edward Luft brought to our attention a note posted by Roger Lustig to the German SIG of JewishGen.org, which read as follows.

There are many records at <<http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/>>, the Polish State Archives' main imaging web site. Many were originally filmed by the Mormons, but there are many new items as well. The residence registration cards from Posen/Poznań and Danzig/Gdańsk are being done now--Danzig's up to letter H; Posen, to M. See the SIG list archives for more details.

But not all archives are using this site. <<http://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/Mojz300x.html#idm1354832>> leads one to scans of Jewish records from AGAD's Fond 300—their large collection of Galician vital records.

Wroclaw has put up the—alas, fragmentary—1889-1910 civil registers for the city of Breslau/Wroclaw (registry office I only, to date) on <<http://atom.ap.wroc.pl/>>.

<[http://ahnenforscher.pl/?page\\_id=42](http://ahnenforscher.pl/?page_id=42)> is a handy portal.

<<http://www.genezukacz.genealodzy.pl/>> from PTG, the Polish Genealogical Society, is indexing parish and civil registers. In many places that will include some Jewish records.

Does anyone here have experience with this site? <<http://archiwaonline.pl/en/>> Seems to be focusing on Radom; and their Links page points to still more sites connected to one or another Polish State Archive.

Reports of further sites of this kind will be most welcome!”

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### \*\*\* GRIPITT AND FGS \*\*\*

*by Cecile Wendt Jensen, MA, CG*

*Editor*—Ceil passed along this info, and I felt sure many of you would like to know about it.

The Polish Mission will be at United Polish Genealogical Societies conference in Salt Lake City in early May, and at two activities during August. The Polish Mission is hosting The Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh “On the Road” August 3-8 on campus, and sponsoring a Polish track at the Federation of Genealogical Societies conference August 27-30 in San Antonio, featuring a trip to visit Panna Maria, Texas, the oldest Polish community in America.

#### **GRIPitt**

Looking for an in depth genealogy experience this summer? Here are two opportunities to consider, one in Pittsburgh, PA, the other at St. Mary's of Orchard Lake, MI. The Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh will host week-long courses July 20-25, 2014 in Pittsburgh



and August 3-8 in Orchard Lake. Some of these popular courses sell out within minutes of registration being opened. Clearly there is a demand for quality courses from nationally known instructors such as including Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., CG, CGL, D. Joshua Taylor, Paula Stuart-Warren, CG, Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, Rick Sayre, CG, CGL, J. Mark Lowe, CG, Dr. Deborah Abbott, Debbie Parker Wayne, CG, CGL, CeCe Moore, Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., JD, Ceil Wendt Jensen, MA, CG, and Dr. Hal Learman.

GRIP is proud to be invited to take “GRIP on the Road” and conduct an institute in conjunction with PARI (Polonica Americana Research Institute) located on the beautiful campus of the Polish Mission in Orchard Lake, just north of Detroit. This additional unique opportunity to provide four courses, including “Advancing Your Polish Genealogy: 300 Years of Records” will make this type of education available to a wider audience. Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI), the Polish Mission’s genealogy center, is part of the Orchard Lake Schools which was founded in 1885 by Polish immigrants as a center to preserve Polish-American culture and history. PARI was founded in 2008 by Cecile Wendt Jensen, MA, CG, with the support of Polish Mission Director Marcin Chumiecki. PARI’s Co-Director is Dr. Hal Learman, who will also instruct this summer.

Please find the list of courses and noted faculty for both locations at <<http://www.gripitt.org>>.

Registration opens for GRIP on February 12 for Pittsburgh, and Feb. 25, 2014 for Orchard Lake at noon Eastern for both.

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**\*\*\* MATT URBAN MEMORIAL COMMITTEE \*\*\***

*by Cecile Wendt Jensen, MA, CG*

*Editor*—Here’s another item Ceil asked me to share with our readers.

The Polish Mission / PARI is working with the committee to document Matthew Urban(owicz)’s Polish heritage. Please sign and support this effort to add his name to the “notable grave sites” at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Matt Urban Memorial Committee asks for your support in getting the name of Lieutenant Colonel Matt Urban added to the list of “notable grave sites” at Arlington National Cemetery. The list is provided to Arlington visitors so they may easily locate the gravesite of this American Hero and learn about his remarkable combat service for our country.

Lt. Colonel Matt Urban, America’s most decorated infantry officer of World War II. President Jimmy Carter at the Medal of Honor Award ceremony on July 19, 1980 described him as “the greatest soldier in America’s history”. LTC Urban was born Matthew Louis Urbanowicz, the son of Polish immigrants. He lived from August 25, 1919 to March 4, 1995. Born in Buffalo, New York, he lived his post war life in Michigan.



<<http://matturbanmemorialcommittee.us/>>

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**\*\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS \*\*\***

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

**February 6 – 8, 2014**

**ROOTSTECH CONFERENCE  
Salt Palace Convention Center  
Salt Lake City, Utah**

I'm guessing it may be a little late to be trying to attend this conference, given that it starts on February 6. But in the January 12, 2014 issue of *Nu? What's New?*, editor Gary Mokotoff mentioned that the Rootstech Conference will offer live streaming of selected lectures to those who cannot attend the event but want to view lectures at no cost through live streaming. He added, "Last year's conference had 6,770 registered attendees and more than 13,000 people tuned in to watch the live streaming sessions."

For more information, visit the home page at <<http://rootstech.org>>.

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**February 9, 2014**

**MEETING OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
"50 Photoshop Speed Techniques"  
Social Hall of The Polish Museum of America  
984 N. Milwaukee Ave.  
Chicago, Illinois  
2 p.m.**

For those of you interested in how to improve old photographs yourself OR looking for someone to do it for you, presenter Eric Basir can help.

Eric owns a photo retouching studio, Photo Grafix, in Evanston, IL, which he launched in 1999. Using a combination of photographic, illustration, and computer skills acquired through formal education and professional experience, he has served hundreds of genealogists throughout the United States with high-quality restoration of their photographic collections since 2001. He also has an extensive portfolio of work with advertising agencies, book and magazine publishers, and professional photographers.

Eric serves the genealogical community as a teacher and author of two books and a video course about digital photo preservation and restoration. He is also a member of the Genealogical Speakers Guild.

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**Tuesday, February 11, 2014**

**THE TORONTO UKRAINIAN GENEALOGY GROUP (TUGG)  
invites you to the Book Launch of:**

***A Promise Kept: A Tribute to a Mother's Love***

**7:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

**St. Vladimir's Institute  
620 Spadina Avenue  
Toronto, Canada**

This book will be unveiled by Toronto author Andriy J. Semotiuk, the launch to take place on Tuesday, February 11th, 2014. Also featured will be a few rare historical artifacts from 20th century Eastern Europe from the author's collection.

The book is a family memoir focused on the life story of Salomea Drozdowska, the author's mother, who was born in Western Ukraine and grew up under pre-World War II Poland. Losing her hearing as a young girl, the author's mother becomes a silent witness to the atrocities of Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union during World War II before fleeing to Canada at the end of the war as one of the first refugees arriving on the prairies in 1948. Just when her life appeared to have settled, unexpected hardships greet her on the farms of Alberta ultimately driving her to Edmonton where she gives birth to a son, the author. The story continues with how the author's mother, along with her Los Angeles-resident sister, raised the author in North America.

Mr. Semotiuk is a Toronto immigration lawyer and a former United Nations correspondent. His articles on various immigration and human rights themes appeared in several former Southam newspapers in Canada. This is Mr. Semotiuk's second book. His first book, entitled *The Young Professional*, was published by Cengage Publishers in Boston, Massachusetts.

Following the reading the author will be available to autograph copies of the book.

For more information please contact Jim Onyschuk at (905) 841-6707 of the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogical Group, Lidia Smilka at St. Vladimir's Institute at 416-923-3318 Extension 104, or Ann Semotiuk at 416-233-9200 - email <[Ann.Semotiuk@gmail.com](mailto:Ann.Semotiuk@gmail.com)>.

[From the GaliciaPoland-Ukraine mailing list]

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**Friday, March 28, 2014**

**FAIRFAX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S (FXGS) ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE  
Fairfax, Virginia**

Among the presentations will be this one by Tom Sadauskas:

**Your Frequent Flyer Ancestors – Re-Emigration To & From Europe – Tom Sadauskas.**

One little-known immigration phenomena is that of multiple passages of immigrants to America and their return to the Old Country. Anywhere from one-fourth to one-third of the immigrants that came to America ultimately returned to their native homeland. One of the reasons researchers often fail to find “missing ancestors” is that these ancestors lived in America for a brief time and then returned permanently to the Old Country. This presentation looks at why these frequent flyers chose re-emigration as well as ways for finding them.

For more information, visit this website:

<<http://www.fxgs.org/cpage.php?pt=20>>

[From Tom Sadauskas]

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**May 2–5, 2014**

**UNITED POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES (UPGS) CONFERENCE  
Salt Lake City**

Plaza Hotel in downtown Salt Lake City (steps away from the world-renowned Family History Library and historic Temple Square).

122 West South Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101  
(800) 366-3684

While looking for information about Salt Lake City recently, I found a brochure which calls the city “The Genealogy Capital of the World.” That may sound like bragging but it is a true statement when just a visit to one of its buildings -- the Family History Library -- can provide

access to a long list of U.S. records and indexes: census, passenger lists, naturalizations . . . the list is endless! And, of course, it doesn't stop at the U.S. border but flows on and on to include Canada, Europe, Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Under one roof you have the ability to reference enough information to trace many lifetimes. The data is in various forms -- not just the books and periodicals you would find in most libraries -- but microfilm, microfiche, and best of all in recent years, digital format.

But having the material is just part of this genealogy miracle. There is equipment to read and copy your findings and, most importantly, the library is staffed by people willing to help you and with the skills to do so; whether it is finding or reading a record or providing translation help, if it is in another language (Polish Maybe?).

If you've never been to the Family History Library or have some brick walls to climb in your own research, a trip to Salt Lake City should be something you put on your "To-Do" list. Life is short! But the list of resources at the Family History Library grows longer each day. Put them to work for you now!

P.S. Many of your fellow Polish Researchers will be there. Make joining them the research highlight of 2014. If you're a PGSA member, the Winter 2014 issue of *Rodziny* will contain details on the schedule, topics, speakers, etc. If you're not, the PGSA website <<http://www.pgsa.org>> and the Notebook will continue to post details.—Rosalie Lindberg

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Plaza Hotel (next door to the Library)  
122 West South Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101  
(800) 366-3684

Discounted Room Rate in effect - \$85. for single or double, good for the shoulder dates as well.  
Please use the full title "United Polish Genealogical Societies Conference" when applying for special rate, no abbreviations.

[From the January 2014 issue of PGSA Notebook]

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**May 3, 2014**  
**WASHINGTON DC FAMILY HISTORY CENTER GENEALOGY CONFERENCE**  
**Kensington, Maryland**

Among the events at this conference will be two presentations by Tom Sadauskas. Here are his descriptions of their contents.

**How Your Ancestors Came to America and Tips for Finding Their Records (1890-1950)**  
Tom Sadauskas

Every family with immigrant ancestors has stories of how their family first arrived in America. Many of these stories contain grains of truth as well as unsubstantiated myths. This presentation looks at the immigration process as well as: factors that cause emigration; emigration routes and means of travel; dispelling the “names were changed at Ellis Island” myth; locating an ancestral village; record sources including those for displaced persons.

### **Your Frequent Flier Ancestors**

Tom Sadauskas

One-little known immigration phenomenon is that of multiple passages to and from the “old country.” Anywhere from one-fourth to one-third of immigrants ultimately returned to their native homeland. One reason researchers fail to find “missing ancestors” is that they lived in America for a brief time and then returned “home.” This presentation looks at why these frequent flyers chose re-emigration and ways of finding them.

For more information on the conference, visit the website:

<<http://www.wdcfhc.org/conf2014/index.php>>

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**July 27 – August 1, 2014**

### **34TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY Hilton Center Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah**

For more information on this event, which is one of the annual highlights of the entire genealogical calendar, visit the website:

<<http://www.iajgs2014.org/>>

Note that the December 29, 2013 issue of *Nu? What's New* said, “For the second year, for those who cannot attend the conference, selected lectures will be streamed live on the Internet. These broadcasts will be accessible on a computer, smart phone, or tablet via Internet connection ... Cost for this form of registration, which is called ‘IAJGS 2014 LIVE,’ is \$149.” You can learn more at the Conference website.

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**August 12–15, 2014**

### **FEEFHS Annual Eastern European Research Workshop Salt Lake City, Utah**

This annual workshop focuses on the records, tools, and methodologies needed to conduct research in Eastern European records, online, in microfilm, and on site. Additional Research

Essentials track provides skills and background. Country tracks to include Germany, Poland, Russia, and more. Opens with an orientation of the Family History Library; closes with a banquet and keynote speaker. Includes individual consultation. Call for presentations soon going out. Full details on schedule and registration to be posted by Feb 1, 2014.

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

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

On the PGS-Michigan Facebook page, Valerie Warunek asked if anyone had ever used this site. She said, "I have not but it seems like an easy enough tool to determine place locations. Will have to work with it. Let me know what you think." The page says it is a collaborative work of the Interactive Encyclopedia of Villages and Regions, and claims, "This is the best place to get to know Polish villages and regions." It offers the opportunity to establish a free Web page for a specific village and promote it. It also has a list of *Najciekawsze wsie* or "Most Interesting Villages." You can click on the button that says *Aktualny spis wsi EWIR* to get a current list of villages in the Interactive Encyclopedia, or go directly to <<http://www.wsiepolskie.pl/wies/aktywne>>. For each village listed, you can choose to sign up as a *mieszkaniec*, "resident," a *sympatyk*, "a well-wisher," or a *były mieszkaniec*, a former resident. There are various features such as a *Galeria zdjęć*, "Photo gallery," an *Opis i historia wsi*, "Description and history of the village," etc.; but each village's page varies in terms of how many of these features have actually been set up so far ... The site is not terribly easy to use if you don't read Polish. But if it means you can make contact with people who live in or know about your ancestral village, surely it's worth a try!

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<[http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/urzedowy\\_wykaz\\_nazw\\_miejscowosci\\_2013.pdf](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/urzedowy_wykaz_nazw_miejscowosci_2013.pdf)>

If you'd like a PDF containing the official names of all localities in Poland, this is the link for you. It's on the website of KSNG, the Komisja Standaryzacji Nazw Geograficznych poza Granicami Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej [Commission for Standardization of Geographic Names]. You can also search for specific place names in the databases of the Główny Urząd Statystyczny (Central Statistical Office) at this site: <<http://www.stat.gov.pl/broker/access/index.jspa>>. There's info in English on TERYT, the National Official Register of the Territorial Division of the Country, at <[http://www.stat.gov.pl/bjp/36\\_ENG\\_HTML.htm](http://www.stat.gov.pl/bjp/36_ENG_HTML.htm)>.

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<<http://www.google.com/alerts>>

Various researchers have mentioned before that they find Google Alerts useful, and a recent article in *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* [EOGN] discussed the matter. You can go to the above URL and investigate using Google Alerts to see how it works. And you can read the EOGN article at <[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2014/01/google-alerts-a-great-tool-for-genealogists.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2014/01/google-alerts-a-great-tool-for-genealogists.html)>.

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<[http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/01/10/stop-asking-me-for-my-email-address/?\\_php=true&\\_type=blogs&\\_r=0](http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/01/10/stop-asking-me-for-my-email-address/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=0)>

Another article in *EOGN* was called “Stop Asking Me for My Email Address,” citing a blog entry with that title written by Nicole Perlroth. You can read it at the above URL. Eastman discussed the article and suggested using a “disposable email address” to avoid the security problems that make many reluctant to give their addresses. You can read his article at <[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2014/01/stop-asking-me-for-my-email-address.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2014/01/stop-asking-me-for-my-email-address.html)>.

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<[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/images/8/86/Russian\\_Word\\_List.pdf](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/images/8/86/Russian_Word_List.pdf)>

People who need help translating documents in Russian are, of course, waiting impatiently for Jonathan Shea and me to get our Russian volume of the *In Their Words* series back in print. (We are perhaps a month away from being able to sell it again.) In the meantime, Mary Ann Evan helped out someone on the LithGen mailing list who was struggling with Russian. She recommended this Russian Word List from the Family History Library. It’s a nice piece of work, and somewhat more concise than our 500-page monster.

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<[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2014/01/szukajwarchiwachpl-a-polish-website-for-online-genealogy-research.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2014/01/szukajwarchiwachpl-a-polish-website-for-online-genealogy-research.html)>

“Mainstream” genealogy publications don’t seem to pay too much attention to Poland or anywhere else in eastern Europe. So it was kind of nice to see *Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter* with a brief article on using Szukajwarchiwach.pl. There are also some interesting comments added by readers. Maybe you’d like to add a few! Or, if you’re not familiar with the Szukajwarchiwach site, this article might serve as a good starting point.

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<<http://io9.com/the-strangest-tradition-of-the-victorian-era-post-mort-472772709>>

Ceil Jensen commented on this site with a note on the Facebook page of Polish Genealogy. It shows samples of post-mortem photography. She wrote, “I actually am very attached to this genre. It was a way for families, separated by an ocean, to share tender moments. As others pointed out, it may have been the last chance to capture an image of a loved one. In Detroit, there were families where brothers held interlaced jobs including casket-maker, undertaker, notary, and photographer. When international families reunite after a century, these photos may be found in the vintage family album. The Polish Mission is exploring the possibility of a photo exhibition this summer that will include a call for post-mortem photos.” With some of them, I can’t decide if they’re tender or just creepy!

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<<http://tinyurl.com/l5oz35x>>

On the Posen mailing list, Uwe Krickhahn (who brings us the excellent source <<http://www.kartenmeister.com>>) mentioned that the State Archives in Kraków has begun digitizing the Galician Cadastre, “a collection of maps and plans highly popular [among] historians, ethnographers, conservators, archaeologists, surveyors.” It will apparently be the end of the year before we start getting access to this info, but it’s great news. If you want to learn more, you can



go to the URL listed above and use Google Translate to render it in comprehensible English. If the TinyURL doesn't work, try this: <<http://dzieje.pl/dziedzictwo-kulturowe/w-archiwum-narodowym-w-krakowie-rozpoczeto-digitalizacje-katastru-galicyjskieg>>.

Now, the interesting thing is, on the GaliciaPoland-Ukraine list, Sandra mentioned a daily digest of Polish Archives news you can have sent to you on the website <<http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/en>>. And she said a recent issue reported on digitizing cadastral maps for a restricted area of Galicia. "By the end of March, you will be able to see copies of these documents at the Przemyśl archives, and online from about June. They appear to have finished with the list of towns they are working on, from letters A to N. O to Ż will become available 'this year.' The former province of Rzeszów and 29 localities now in Ukraine are currently more or less done." Sure enough, if you go to <<http://tinyurl.com/n3ym5qs>>, it brings up a story on this.

I'm still trying to figure out what the difference is between the Kraków project and the one in Przemyśl—but either way, these are developments to keep an eye on!

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<[http://www.galiziengermansdescendants.org/Plat\\_Maps.htm](http://www.galiziengermansdescendants.org/Plat_Maps.htm)>

Along similar lines, Valerie Warunek mentioned this site in a note on the Facebook page of PGS-Michigan. The maps show a street layout of various Galician villages, along with such info as house numbers and names of residents, if known.

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<<http://www.transparent.com/word-of-the-day/today/polish.html>>

On the Polish Genius list, Barb Romanczuk suggested this site may be helpful in learning Polish vocabulary. Debbie Greenlee has been posting "Polish Words for the Day," an interesting and useful feature. But this site has the advantage of pronouncing words for you, giving you the part of speech, and using the word in a sentence.

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

Logan Kleinwaks posted a note to JewishGen's Belarus SIC, explaining that the Mogilev Gubernia Commemorative Books for 14 years have been added to the full-text search engine at this site. The search results "link directly to corresponding images on the Russian State Library's website or to downloadable PDFs from the Belarusian State Library." Of course, if you don't have roots in Belarus, especially the Mogilev area, this may not be so useful. But if you do have roots there, this is definitely worth a look—as is Logan's entire site. For instance, he also recently added numerous address calendars and homeowner directories for Warsaw from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. You can subscribe to the weekly mailing list, which announces all the updates to the site, at <<http://genealogyindexer.org/news>>.

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<<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=121516>>

Jan Meisels Allen posted a note to the JewishGen newsgroup about the Department of Defense's plans to digitize and provide access to hundreds of thousands of historical images. You can learn more from the article at the above URL, or sample the holding at <<http://www.defenseimagery.mil/imagery.html>>. Jan thanked Martin Kaminer for telling her about this.

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<<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~polwgv/namelist.html>>

In a recent post to Polish Genius, “immi1912” copied a list of given names and name days available at this site. It’s a decent list—not exhaustive, but it covers a lot of the given names you’ll run into. The only thing is, keep in mind that a lot of names were borne by more than one saint; so your ancestor named Franciszek might have been named for Francis de Sales rather than St. Francis of Assisi. A saint who was well known in Poland, or who was venerated by a specific group in a specific area, might not be the best-known saint by that name. But this isn’t a bad place to start. If you want more info, you can always look to see if someone has written a book with a name along the lines of, oh, say, *First Names of the Polish Commonwealth*...

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<<http://www.genealogyblog.com/?p=30394>>

The January 26, 2014 issue of *The Genealogy News* included a link to this page, a review of *Map Guide to German Parish Registers – Vol. 44 – West Prussia I (RB Danzig)*. The review gives you an idea how and why this can be helpful, and lists the places covered.

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<<http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/gifts.html>>

The January 25 issue of *Nu? What’s New?* had information I did not know: that the Library of Congress encourages family historians to send in copies of family histories. You can learn more at the link above.

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<[http://www.ksiegi-parafialne.pl/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=245&Itemid=337](http://www.ksiegi-parafialne.pl/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=245&Itemid=337)>

This link gives information on indexed parish records in Wielkopolskie województwo. Valerie Warunek posted a note about it on the Facebook page of PGS-Michigan, but says she got it from the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast. I love to see this—different groups sharing information for the benefit of all, and acknowledging their sources. Bravo!

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