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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*** ENGLISH IS A LOT EASIER IF YOU GROW UP SPEAKING IT! ***

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

One of the interesting things about being a linguist—aside from trying to figure out how the hell you're going to earn a living—is the insight it gives you into how people express themselves. For instance, you learn that some languages don't even have a counterpart to the verb *to be*, undoubtedly the verb most used in English. Russian, for instance, does not have it in the present tense. You don't say "I am an American" in Russian, you say, "I—American." Yet they do have this verb in the past tense!? Or consider the original Hebrew text of Genesis: when God created light, it doesn't say, "And God saw that the light was good." The Hebrew, translated literally, says, "And saw God the light that good." It's a bit of a mind-blower to realize that some people find this verb—which we can barely go a sentence without using—totally unnecessary!

I get a particular kick out of it when I see an English sentence and it suddenly strikes me how hard that sentence would be for a non-native speaker to understand. One example was a headline I saw recently on Yahoo News, "Expelled Nazis Paid Millions in Social Security" (<**http://news. yahoo.com/expelled-nazis-paid-millions-social-security-010341906.html**>). You and I understand instantly what it means; but that's because we are thoroughly used to the rhythms and shortcuts of idiomatic English. To a person who didn't grow up speaking this language, it could be horribly confusing. "Expelled"—where were the Nazis expelled from, and by whom? Or is it past tense, somebody expelled them? And when it says "paid millions," does that mean they *paid* millions into the system, and then got thrown out of the country and lost that money? Or does it mean they *were paid* millions?

Of course, anyone familiar with the recent history of this country knows damned well what it has to mean: Uncle Sugar leaks money in all directions, of course the money was paid **_to_** the Nazis. In fact, the story tells of Nazis who were thrown out of the United States but have lived comfortably in other countries on Social Security payments.

Still, analyzed logically, the sentence "Expelled Nazis Paid Millions in Social Security" is ambiguous. For fun, I tried several online translation services to see how they turned this into Polish. First, I tried Google Translate, and it gave me "Wydalony naziści zapłacił miliony w ZUS." *Wydalony*, because of its ending, has to refer to one male. *Naziści* is a plural nominative form, and connects to nothing else in the sentence. *Zapłacił* is a past tense verb form that can only refer to a single male, "[he] paid." *ZUS* is an acronym for a Polish government agency that performs services much like the Social Security Administration does in the U.S. (See <**http:// en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zak%C5%82ad_Ubezpiecze%C5%84_Spo%C5%82ecznych**>). It's comparable to Social Security; but it's not Social Security, and should not be used that way. When Poles refer to our Social Security program, they may use the English words "Social Security," and add whatever explanation seems required; for instance, see <**http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_ Security**>. Or else they translate it literally, but add some kind of explanatory note to clarify that they're referring to an American federal program.

So I guess you'd say the Polish sentence Google Translate produced means "The expelled one– Nazis!–paid millions in the Polish government agency Zakład Ubezpieczeń Społecznych." As an

accurate translation of the English sentence, it really doesn't get the job done.

Other translators didn't do any better. Bing came up with "Wydalony nazistów wypłacone milionów w ZUS," which is a kind of garbled mess meaning something like "The expelled one of the Nazis, were paid of millions in Zakład Ubezpieczeń Społecznych." The first two words have nothing to do with the rest of the sentence. Fail!

Poltran confidently said "Wypędzani (wydalony) Naziści Zapłacili Miliony w Socjalnej Bezpieczności." Not totally worthless, except it has the Nazis paying millions in Social Security, not being paid. I think we'd agree the distinction matters.

Babylon translated it "Wydalony miliony Niemców wypłaconych w dziedzinie zabezpieczenia społecznego." That comes out roughly "The expelled one, millions of Germans paid out in the field of social insurance." Even if the grammar wasn't crappy, how can you trust a translator that arbitrarily decides Germans and Nazis are synonymous?

ImTranslator thought hard and delivered, "Wydalony nazistów wypłacone milionów w ZUS." Sorry, that didn't work when Bing tried it, and it won't work here.

I tried another translation site, <**http://www.systranet.com/translate**>, and got "Wydalał Nazis płacących millions w ubezpieczeniu społecznym"—"He expelled Nazis paying millions in social security." No points go to anyone who can't even be bothered to translate "Nazis" or "millions."

Not one translator I tried produced a comprehensible, accurate Polish version of the headline. That's seven words! But it's probably not fair blaming the translation algorithms. It just proves again, idiomatic English—the language as we speak it in everyday life—just does not submit tamely to translation by machines. Factor in some of the charming idiosyncrasies of Polish—a language that calls a nutcracker *dziadek do orzechów*, a "grandfather for nuts"—and you can understand why the machines often fail to serve us adequately.

The only reason I wanted to mention all this is because I sometimes see people online saying they tried using Google Translate to translate personal letters into Polish, and they're baffled when people in Poland respond with hysterical laughter. When turning Polish into English, Google Translate and Bing and the others don't get a passing grade; but they often perform well enough to give you at least a decent idea of what's being said. English to Polish, however—don't try it. You'll be sorry!

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*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: PBS *Finding Your Roots*, and Research Problems

Editor—The article I wrote for the last issue about the PBS series *Finding Your Roots* brought this response.

Dear Fred,

Just have a few comments and things to get off my "chest"--

I agree with you on the PBS show, but would go one or two steps further and hope that someday, someone will put on an interesting "show" that does more to help the home genealogist. The moderator gets a few (?) perks that the ordinary person does not. It is much more difficult for the amateur genealogist to get to the sources he does.

On another note, last fall I wrote to you for help in finding a professional in Poland to help me with my quandaries. You suggested I contact a very experienced American for recommendations. She gave me the name of a source. I contacted this source, got her started, sent her some money, and am now in the position of not being able to contact her—either she has quit or is unable to help. I am getting no responses to my e-mails. She did send me some material, earlier this year; unfortunately, I already had the info, from LDS files and films. Apparently she was relying on the same sources that I had been using. I had sent her the info I had. The last I heard from her she said she was waiting for more films (from LDS, I assume). I asked her to send me the numbers, since she had waited several months. Since that request, I have been unable to make contact with her. I guess I will have to accept the fact that I did not get my money's worth. (Just need to blow off steam).

Do you have any suggestions as to how I can go about using a different route? I read the forum each day, hoping someone has the same dilemma I have but so far no such luck. Since my husband's parents came to this country without family and each single, all of the research I need is back in Poland. My mother in law came with one married sister, but she died in 1933 and her children are deceased.

I was successful several years ago using Ancestral Angels (?) but they did not respond when I went back to them last year. They did a wonderful job and I was able to get much info on my father-in-law's ancestry.

I am looking for someone who lives in Poland and would be able to go to the church and get the original records in the small town where my mother-in-law came from. Any opinions?

Thanks for all your previous help, hope you have some more ideas!

    Vivian Guzniczak

       Editor—I hate to hear of a researcher having problems, especially after hiring someone recommended by a reputable person! That person is trying to help straighten this mess out, and she and I both shared some suggestions with Vivian. If any of you have good ideas, write me and I'll pass them along to Vivian.

Subject: Jewish Metrical Books for Warsaw 1858-1912, and Ksiege-parafialne.pl.

Warsaw archives just put on Szukajwarchiwach, the official program for on-line archives in Poland, all the Jewish metrical books they have for Warsaw 1858-1912. Here is a direct link:

<**http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/72/200/0/?q=%22Akta+stanu+cywilnego+wyznania+moj%C5%BCe szowego+w+Warszawie%22&rpp=100&wynik=243&rpp=100&page=3#tabZespol**>.

Or if you prefer, search for the collection header, "72/200/0 Akta stanu cywilnego wyznania mojżeszowego w Warszawie."

This is new information from a couple of weeks ago (this collection had nearly no scans on-line till early October).

It seems that 1826-1857 are coming soon.

The Polish Archives are putting new data on a regular basis, but I think this one was worth mentioning. Unfortunately most registers have no index and the records themselves no titles, but at least most Russian texts (not all) contain a transcription of the names in polish. Apparently they have mostly been indexed by Jewishgen.org.

By the way, there was a post last January about <**http://www.ksiegi-parafialne.pl/index. php?option=com_content&view=article&id=245&ltemid=337**>, "Information on indexed parish records in Wielkopolskie województwo." In fact I am not sure that message captured the full extent of the root site <**http://www.ksiegi-parafialne.pl**>.

This website does the same job across all Poland and as well in the ancient *Kresy* from the east! Lots of references are to PTG indexation project but this seems a unique attempt at regrouping all information on records and indexes present on-line - it even corrects the parish name when Familysearch indexed it wrong!

A last one, still in its infancy, <**http://www.archivesportaleurope.net**>, is an attempt at centralizing archives description units from all European public archives. Poland is heavily participating (just type "ksiegi metrykalne" or "Akta stanu cywilnego" in the search field).

Keep up the good work!

    Philippe Christol

      Editor—Many thanks, Philippe! I know very well I only scratch the surface of all the great resources available out there. I really appreciate hearing from generous people like you, willing to share knowledge with our readers.

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*** MORE ON POLES AND INDIA! ***

by Janice Sellers

Editor—Janice Sellers sent me three links to interesting articles about Poles and India, and I included them in the previous issue. Janice wrote me again:

I have another couple of links about India and Poles for you!

I blogged two years ago about a resolution to name a square in Warsaw after a maharajah who sheltered Polish children during World War II:

<**http://ancestraldiscoveries.blogspot.com/2012/06/indian-maharajah-who-helped-save-polish.html**>

And a monument has now been unveiled in the square, which was dedicated in 2013 (I missed an announcement about that):

<**http://www.thenews.pl/1/10/Artykul/186154,Warsaw-monument-unveiled-for-maharaja-who-saved-Poles**>

The recent story also includes a link to a story about Polish children who were given asylum in New Zealand and mentions that some children went to Africa.

Editor—Thank you! Fascinating stuff!

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*** FALL 2014 *POLISH EAGLET* PUBLISHED***

The Fall 2014 issue of the *Polish Eaglet,* the official journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, should be arriving soon in mailboxes. The editor, Roger S. Laske, is kind enough to send me a digital version of each issue so I can include a list of articles in *Rodziny*. The idea is to help people outside the Society learn of articles that may interest them. If something here attracts your attention and seems worth following up, you can visit PGS-Michigan's website, <**http://www.pgsm.org**>, and see about joining up so you can receive a copy.

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*** SCHENECTADY COUNTY'S EASTERN EUROPEAN ROOTS ***

Editor—Phyllis Zych Budka, one of the editors of the **Project to Discover Schenectady County's Eastern European Roots Newsletter**, sent out a note to friends and subscribers. It read as follows:

Dear Friends,

The Project is now one year old! The next deadline is January 1st. There is no newsletter without your input.

Regards,

Phyllis Budka <*abudka@nycap.rr.com*>, Bernice Izzo, and Carole McCarthy

Editor—For those interested, let's print the table of contents from the most recent issue, September 2014:

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*** NEW AT GENTEAM.EU ***

by Felix Gundacker

Editor—Every so often, GenTeam.eu mails out updates on its latest efforts. I like to share these with you, because their work covers many areas of interest to Polish researchers. This is too valuable a resource to ignore!

New At GenTeam:

1. Diocese Passau: Corrections and approximately 140,000 new entries

2. Citizen Rolls from Bratislava/Preßburg - Project has been completed – approximately 10,300 entries

3. Marriage Index for Vienna beginning with 1542 to approximately 1860, about 4,000 new entries

4. Index of the Roman Catholic Baptisms from Vienna: approximately 80,000 new entries

5. Registry-Indices from Lower and Upper Austria as well as Moravia: approximately 70,500 new data bases

6. New Data Base: *Familianten* **in Prague**

7. Jewish Indices of Prague for the years 1784-1804

Dear Colleagues!

On my own account:

With today's new online databases, the 26,00 registered users have immediately 11 million entries at their disposal. At this point, I would like to thank all those individuals, who have furnished GenTeam within the last 4 ½ years with vital information, all those who work on long-term projects, but also all those who have worked behind the scenes to ensure that GenTeam functions properly and continues to expand.

GenTeam is a European platform, through which historians and genealogists who work independently or as a team on databases can furnish this data free of charge to all researchers. All data at GenTeam is available free of charge and there is no membership fee. Other developments which were created parallel to GenTeam are the <**http://www.GenList.at**> with more than 1,600 members, as well as the genealogical link collection found at <**http://www.GenLink.at**>.

Facebook: both in German, only

Mrs. Mireille Trauner maintains our GenTeam-Website found under <**http://www.facebook. com/GenTeam.Die.genealogische.Datenbank**>. There you will find all past updates. You are also cordially invited to an exchange of information in the field of genealogy on our newly established Facebook Page **AiOeU** - Ahnenforschung in Österreich-Ungarn (Family Research in Austria and Hungary). The link below will take you to the website: <**https://www.facebook.com/ Ahnenforschung.in.Oesterreich.Ungarn**>

At <**http://www.AiOeU.eu**> you will also find many curiosities collected from various research.

Now to the new update:

1. Diocese Passau: approximately 140,000 new entries

Of the approximately 2.3 million register entries of the Passau diocese, about 440,000 are Marriages and are complete, about 1,1 million are Baptisms, and the remainder are Deaths. In this data base you will find parish, volume, page number, surname, given name, date / year of event, not always profession, and place of residence. You will find the parish registers of the dioceses itself online under <**http://www.matricula-online.eu**>. A table of the parishes with reviewed time frames and important tips you will find under (Help/Information).

The Diocese of Passau and GenTeam really appreciate the transmission of all corrections, as well as all the new records.

2. Citizen Rolls of the Bratislava/Preßburg: approximately 10,300 entries

Most books of the Citizen Rolls of Bratislava between 1630 – 1871 are still preserved. These registers contain besides surname, given name, in part also profession, city of origin, confession and age.

These records indicate from the outset that many Protestant exiles from Lower Austria settled in Bratislava and also remained there, and that they maintained a continuous close affiliation with the Protestant parishes in Bratislava as well as a strong connection with the mostly Catholic parishes in Austria. Surprisingly though you will also find baptized Turkish individuals (1706: Oszmann Ziermin) as well as baptized Jews (1851: Marcus Schey) in this liberal-minded city.

Under Help/Information, you will find the exact dates of the individual books in most of the databases all listed at GenTeam.

By kind permission of the City Archives of Bratislava.

I also would like to thank Mr. DI Leopold Strenn for his collaboration.

3. Marriage Index for Vienna 1542 - ca. 1860: approximately 4,000 new entries, in total over 846,000.

The marriages of 16 Neulerchenfeld 1721 – 1741, the records of the field superior between 1883 – 1899 as well as the newly found marriage registers of the Parish Mariahilf for the years of 1750 – 1783 were newly indexed and added to the already existing index.

4. Baptismal Index for Vienna between 1585 and 1900: approximately 80,000 additional new records to the 630,000 entries already online.

Entries were added from the following parishes: 01 Franciscan, 01 St. Augustin, 01 St. Augustin Protestant, 01 St. Elisabeth, 02 the Punitive House, 03 St. Marx, 04 Wieden (Paulaner), 05 St. Josef (Margarethen), 05 St. Florian (Matzleinsdorf), 06 Mariahilf, 07 Schottenfeld, 08 Mariatreu (Piarists), and the Lower Austria Birthing Institute in the Alser Suburb.

At this point, I would like to express my appreciation to Helga Hörman, Marta Melchart, Andrea Reiter, Gerda Smodej, Judith Starke, Dr. Günter Oppitz, as well as to all those who already work on additional indices that will be put online in the near future.

In the 19th century, approximately 3.5 million people from all the countries of the Habsburg Monarchy (and beyond) moved to Vienna. In 1910, Vienna's population was approximately 2.1 million; Vienna was then the sixth largest city in the world. Almost all families in the Monarchy had family connections to the city of Vienna.

Unfortunately, to date there still is no central birth registry for Vienna besides the Jewish Birth Registry already published on <**http://www.GenTeam.at**>.

Thus, I invite you all to participate in this fascinating project to create a complete general index of all baptisms. No travel or visits to parish offices are required; the indices can be furnished in digital form or they can be found partially on <**http://www.matricula-online.eu**>. Since there are only a few typed indices, fewer beautifully handwritten and some not so beautifully handwritten indices available, I am sure interested collaborators will find some part to help.

5. Register Indices – New Entries: approximately 160,000 entries extracted from Roman Catholic registers from Lower and Upper Austria, Burgenland, Bohemia, and Moravia were added. You will find the parishes with reviewed time tables at GenTeam under Hilfestufe (Help).

Lower Austria:
Arbesbach, Bischofstetten, Dobersberg, Grafenschlag, Großebersdorf , Heidenreichstein, Obermeisling, Rappottenstein, Schleinbach, Schrems, Waldenstein, and Wolkersdorf

Upper Austria:
Maria Neustift, St. Ulrich bei Steyr

Burgenland:
Lockenhaus

Bohemia:
Bukownik/Bukovnik, Schönbrunn/Jedlova

Moravia:
Althart/Stare Hobzi, Zlabings/Slavonice

At this point I would like to extend my gratitude to Ursula Baldemaier, Johann Hochstöger, John Kittenberger, Marta Melchart, Alexander Miksch, Konny Pommer, Franz Schönweiler, Franz Spevacek, Ursula Stiermayr, Clemens Weidman, and Theodora Winkler.

6. New Database: *Familianten* in Prague
In this valuable database for Jewish genealogy of Prague, *Familianten* [members of Jewish families] are cited up to 1848. By referring to Familianten IDs, their spouses can be clearly assigned to individual Familianten.

Note: Familianten Laws were laws restricting the number of Jewish Families in Bohemia.

This database was furnished by DI Georg Gaugush.

7. Jewish Indices of The City of Prague 1784 – 1804

DI Gaugusch indexed Jewish Marriages of Prague between the years 1784-1804. Many thanks for this database!

This year alone, about 4,000 new users registered at <**http://www.GenTeam.eu**>, while during that same period, approximately three million new records were added.

We would be more than happy if you, too, would like to play a part with GenTeam by creating a database or furnishing an already completed database. However, should you only have questions, please contact me anytime.

Felix Gundacker
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E-mail: <*kontakt@GenTeam.at*>
Databases: <**http://www.GenTeam.eu**>
Link Collections: <**http://www.GenLink.at**>
Mailing List: <**http://www.GenList.at**>

"Connecting genealogists"

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*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

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

Sunday, December 7, 2014

AMERICAN POLISH ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE
"Poland's Emerging Role in Shaping Global Security & the US - Polish Partnership"

Yale University, New Haven CT
<**http://www.apacouncil.info/workshop.php**>

The American Polish Advisory Council is pleased to announce its 2014 annual conference, which will take place on Sunday, December 7th at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

This year's conference, entitled "Poland's Emerging Role in Shaping Global Security & the US - Polish Partnership," will focus on Poland's role in addressing new security challenges including the conflict in Ukraine as well as the strategic relationship between Poland and the US in the areas of trade, economic and military cooperation. Special attention will be paid to the role of diasporas in strengthening this partnership.

The 2014 APAC conference will feature an outstanding lineup of diplomats, elected officials and business professionals with vast expertise in US - Polish relations including the Honorable Bogusław Winid - Poland's Ambassador to the United Nations as keynote speaker and panelist Jarosław Stróżyk - Poland's Defense Attaché in Washington.

The annual APAC conference is one of the most prominent events on the Polish American political calendar. It is designed to address the most pressing Polish-American political issues while fostering dialogue and relationships between the political, business and cultural communities.

Check back soon for a complete program and list of speakers: <**http://www.apacouncil.info/ workshop.php**>

Registration: <**http://goo.gl/GptF1i**>

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January 12–16, 2015

SALT LAKE INSTITUTE OF GENEALOGY (SLIG)
Salt Lake City, Utah

[The following announcement was written by the organizers of the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, and appeared in Dick Eastman's *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*.]

The **Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy** (SLIG) will be held January 12-16, 2015. All courses and events will be held at the Hilton Salt Lake City Center Hotel. Labs, if applicable, and research facilities will be available at the Family History Library.

Registration: <**http://www.infouga.org/aem.php?lv=r&eid=12**>

Early-bird registration ends on October 31, 2014. If you log in as a member first your information will be populated and you will be automatically charged the reduced rate. If you are a non-UGA member you may purchase a membership, register as a non-member, and be refunded the difference. If you have questions please call the main UGA phone number at (801) 259-4172 or e-mail <*sligdirector@ugagenealogy.org*>. You will be given the option to pay by credit card using PayPal (you do not have to have a PayPal account) or by sending a check.

Tuition is $375 for UGA members and $425 for non-members (a $50 savings). You MUST be logged in to the member's area of the website prior to registering to receive the member discount. **These tuition prices are applicable through October 31, 2014 when early-bird**

registration expires. (After October 31, 2014, tuition is $425 for UGA members and $475 for non-members). Two payment options are available: pay online with your credit card via PayPal or pay via check through the mail. Your place in the course is reserved upon checkout.

Accommodations: <http://www.infouga.org/aem.php?eid=12>

We recommend staying at the conference hotel, the Hilton Salt Lake City Center in order to obtain the full institute experience and have access to special events and networking with the instructors and other attendees. SLIG's reduced rate is $129/night (reduced from $269/night). This rate is set for up to four people in a room. The rooms are spacious and a two-queen room can comfortably accommodate four people.

2015 Tracks

In 2015, SLIG is offering twelve tracks. The foremost experts in the field for each subject provide students with at least twenty hours of in-depth instruction on their topic. The format allows coordinators and instructors to build on the understanding gained from each lecture, building a foundation rather than giving scattered information. Students leave with a much deeper understanding of the topic. The following four tracks still have seats remaining:

Beyond the Library: Research in Original Source Repositories (John Colletta, Ph.D., FUGA)

This course explores repositories of original historical sources: archives, courthouses and manuscript collections. The purpose of this course is to take the mystery and trepidation out of using original source repositories.

Finding Immigrant Origins (David Ouimette, CG)

This course covers the key historical sources and research methodologies for family historians tracing immigrant origins. We explore chain migration, ethnic migration paths, surname localization, DNA evidence, cluster genealogy, and other tools to help find your immigrant's ancestral village.

Advanced Research Tools: Post-War Military Records (Craig R. Scott, CG, FUGA)

Wars by their nature create records; however records are created in the aftermath of war also. There is the pension application file(s) or a bounty land application file(s). But there is so much more in addition to these records. There is pension law, payment ledgers, payment vouchers, public and private claims, correspondence, state claims, soldiers homes, and burial records. This course will cover these topics in-depth.

Resources and Strategies for US Research, Part I (Paula Stuart-Warren, CG, FUGA, FMGS)

This course provides in-depth study of 19th-21st century U.S. resources and methodologies for utilizing them. Analyze content, origin, location, and develop tools and strategies to interpret records.

We look forward to seeing you at SLIG in January 2015!

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February 11–14, 2015

FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES 2015 CONFERENCE
Salt Lake City, Utah

Registration is now open for the FGS 2015 national conference scheduled for February 11–14 in Salt Lake City, Utah. This highly anticipated genealogy event puts the FGS and RootsTech conferences under one roof at the Salt Palace Convention Center (SPCC).

Registration opens with a special early bird price of $139 for a full FGS conference registration. That pricing is available through **September 12, 2014** [*Editor*—in other words, too late now]. Attend only FGS or add-on a full RootsTech pass for an additional $39. Register now at: <**http://FGSconference.org/2015**>, and visit that site for more information.

[*From an e-mail sent out by FGS*]

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*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***

<**http://cosmopolitanreview.com/2014-the-year-of-anniversaries/**>
        This link takes you to a nice online article from *Cosmopolitan Review*, looking at some of the 2014 anniversaries of significance for Poland. The article has nice photos, and reminds us a number of different events worth commemorating. For more fine articles in the latest issue, Fall-Winter 2014, go to <**http://cosmopolitanreview.com/2014-fall-winter/**>.

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<**http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/**>
        Jan Meisels Allen posted a note to the JewishGen newsgroup, explaining a new feature of the United States Geological Survey: the Historical Topographic Map Explorer. "There are 178,000 of the USGS's maps some dating back to 1884. Go to the city of your choice and then click on the place to see its historical maps and on the bottom the time line of available maps. Maps are also downloadable. On the left side there is a slider where you can drag/drop the map on the current map."

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<**http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Military_Service_in_Russia**>
        People with roots in the Russian Empire often wonder how onerous military service really was there. We often hear that our ancestors left Russian Poland to escape it. This entry from the *YIVO Encyclopedia*, written by Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern, focuses on how military service in Russia affected Jews. Obviously, much of what is said there deals only with Jews; but the author discusses regulations that affected non-Jews as well, especially when he details the differences between how Jews and Christians were treated.

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<<http://www.kirchen.net/upload/53432_Tipps_Familienforscher_UEberarbeitung_2012.pdf>>

Petra posted a note to the German-language Posen-L, answering a question about symbols a researcher encountered in genealogical records. She gave this link to a PDF that gives tips for family history researchers in Austria. It is all in German, and most of it is specific to Austria in its current borders; so it is of limited value to most Polish researchers. But the section on parish register entries, beginning on page 81, can probably be rendered decently by cutting and pasting into Google Translate, and it is useful. The list of genealogical symbols on page 86 is not hard at all to make out. The section on Fraktur print and German handwriting, beginning on page 87, may also prove useful. You can find all this material elsewhere on the web, but you find it handy to have it all in one PDF.

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

The latest newsletter from PolishOrigins has a link to this article by Zbigniew Stettner, which tells you about cadastral records for Galicia. These maps are a fabulous resource, and anyone with roots in Galicia should see if maps are available for their areas of interest. Zbigniew talks about their uses in research, and gives details on how to find and access them. If your village is not available yet, be patient—these efforts are just getting started!

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<<http://blog.eogn.com/2014/11/13/how-to-find-a-lot-of-personal-information-about-anyone/>>

The 17 November 2014 issue of *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* [EOGN] included the story available at this link, and it's somewhat unsettling. I know it's getting easier and easier to find information on individuals on the Internet. Accessing free sites will turn up a lot. But Dick Eastman checked out a for-pay site, InstantCheckmate.com, and found that $22.86 allowed him to dig up all sorts of things about himself that he hadn't known were available publicly. His article discusses the service, including its rather odd pricing scheme. If you want to find info on people, it appears this service will give you a ton of it at a pretty reasonable price. Then you realize, this ain't necessarily a good thing....

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<<https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Photoduplication_Services>>

The 24 November 2014 issue of EOGN included a story taken from this link, explaining that FamilySearch is discontinuing its photo duplication services as of December 5, 2014. If you have used these services, or had plans to, you'll want to read about what's happening.

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<<http://www.npr.org/2014/11/16/364051174/family-film-offers-glimpse-of-three-minutes-in-poland-before-holocaust>>

The same issue of EOGN spoke of this story, about a film "Three Minutes in Poland," taken from old family films of Jews in Nasielsk, Poland. It gives us a glimpse of Jewish life in Poland just a year before World War II began. Jan Meisels Allen also posted a link to JewishGen that shows you the schedule of the nationwide tour of "Rescuing the Evidence: Three Minutes in Poland": <<http://www.ushmm.org/online/calendar/>>.

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<http://www.breakingnews.ie/showbiz/monty-python-track-tops-funeral-charts-651879.html>

The same issue quoted this story, which claims that Monty Python's "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life," from the movie *The Life of Brian*, is the most popular of pop songs played at funerals in the United Kingdom. Of course, traditional hymns are not forgotten; but there is a trend toward playing pop classics. Frank Sinatra's "My Way" used to be the most common choice, but the Python classic has dethroned it. The story includes a link to a video clip of the song from the movie — although if you're one of those who believe that movie was making fun of Jesus, maybe you should watch your blood pressure and avoid it. I've never thought that's what the movie was about, but opinions on this differ.

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