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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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*Gen Dobry!*, Vol. XVIII, No. 9, September 2017 — 1
Well, I hope I caught your attention on this one. This article is dealing with discovery, research, results, and hanging questions. As in all things genealogical, when you find an answer, then ten other questions come forward.

Every so often, one gets to view new materials in one’s research. Also, many times, we need to revisit our previous research for clues missed due to a lack of understanding of the item when researched earlier. After gathering more and more information regarding an items’ provenance, we find new answers to old questions. Such is the case here.

These photos have been in my family ever since they were taken 65+ years ago. Storage has been far from great due to a fire in the home in the 1950s. But they are still with us and quite restorable.

**Figure 1:**
*Unknown young lady and Bart J. Kostrubala*

Figure 1 is that of a young couple possibly out on a date. When one finds such a photo, immediately we need to ask, Who, Where, When, Why, What. These are the building blocks to good research.

In this case, I know one of the two Who’s. The young man pictured is my uncle, Bart J. Kostrubala (1929 – 2013). By the appearance of his age, I am guessing this photo was taken 1949 – 1951. I place the cut-offs due to graduating high school in 1947, and entering the navy a few years later. So he is a definite Who.

But what of the young lady? I have other photos of her with my uncle, but she was not my eventual aunt. It was always said that Uncle Bart dated good looking ladies. And in this case, unknown. Also where is this photo taken? I have one person’s ID and an approximate date. But what about Where? And Why? And What?

Both of these subjects grew up in Chicago or were present here for many years and occasions. They are standing in front of a large body of water, so this fits Chicago, as we have a large lakeshore.
with Lake Michigan. But at this moment, it is only another educated guess.

We now have another photo taken the same day.

*Figure 2:*

_Same young lady next to a seated statue._

Here we have the young lady, same day, appears by the sky to be a short time between photos. She is posing before a statue of a man seated on a pedestal. His head is cut-off, but the base yields two bits of information. The surname Scott and 1910. By the graffiti, it appears Bill (?) and Dolly (?) had been there before.

Judging by the young lady’s apparel, and bright mittens, we may assume its early spring or late fall, not winter nor summer. And the location is cool to cold, and judging by the lack of any trees and by a large body of water, probably windy as well.

I looked at this statue but do not recognize it as one standing in Chicago. But since statues can move (and they should NOT), we might assume that this may still be Chicago.

Now for the strange but true view. This third photo, *Figure 3*, taken again the same day with the same two subjects now has a very interesting backdrop.

*Figure 3: Young lady and Bart J. Kostrubala in front of the submarine*

It is a submarine, and at first glance, I thought a German U-Boat. Even this wild conjecture is possible in Chicago as we have the U-505 on display at the Museum of Science and Industry. One of the very few U-Boats left to visit and walk through in
the world. As it was brought to Chicago after World War II, came into Lake Michigan, docked near the Museum on Chicago’s south side, hauled out of the water, and carried on land across South Shore Drive to its eventual resting place at the rear of the museum, all of this could fit the parameters of the photos. A date to the lake front, early spring or late fall, on a bright sunny day to view something of interest. But further investigation needed to be done.

Upon closer scrutiny of the submarine, there is what appears to be an eagle on its conning tower. But a strange silhouetted eagle. Could it be a German Reich’s eagle, which appears to have been distorted? And what of the boat’s numbers? It is definitely the number 8 at the end of the sequence, with possibly a 9 or another 8 next to it. And again possibly, a third number which would give it a 3-digit ID number, but NOT the 505 needed for Chicago’s U-Boat. We need to dig deeper.

Now at the same time of scrutinizing these images, my nephew, David Malinowski also was viewing them. He too was caught up in the mystery of discovery and decided to try his luck at getting further with the answers, of Who, Where, When, Why, What.

He worked with what he had available, the statue of a man seated with the name of Scott and 1910. Googling just Scott Statue 1910, and looking at images, you come up with the following

![Figure 4: Photo of statue](https://www.belleisleconservancy.org/belle-isle-park-history)

Here is the same statue that the mystery lady had her photo taken in front.

So, now we know Where these photos were taken, on Belle Isle in the Detroit River, an island for entertainment and nature extending back to the Civil War. Looking up Belle Isle, you can find additional views and stories of the zoo, the casino, the lagoons and parks, the golf course, aquarium, the band shell and boat house, all parts of a nature park with some amenities for children but most likely designed for adults and family outings and picnics. The image of the statue looks much more weathered in the family snapshot. But what about the submarine?

David also found on the site, a mention of a submarine, the USS Tambor, stationed there from April 1947 until being scrapped in September 1959. Again, we have the proper time frame for these photos. And the Tambor’s number was 198,
again a great match for the ’98 in the family photo. Now if one Googles USS Tambor, additional photos and history may be found.

<http://submarinesailor.com/Boats/Reserve/Reserve.asp#198>

So let us return to the start of this article where we discuss the main questions of any genealogical search:

Who, Where, When, Why, What.?????

• Who? Bart Kostrubala and a young lady!

• Where? Belle Isle, Detroit Michigan

• When? After 1947, within a few years.

• Why? Possibly a date, or visiting relatives, (he had aunts, uncles, and cousins living in Detroit at that time). The young lady may have had family connections to Detroit as well. Also, since Bart Kostrubala was soon to join the US Navy, he may have started his naval career as a reservist with a visit to Belle Isle and the USS Tambor. Only the discovery of a letter or personal record of the trip will pinpoint the exact reason for the visit.

• What? His impending career in the US Navy and interest in all of its aspects.

So from three simple images, we can look into the past of our ancestors and determine a moment in their lives. I guess the points to be made here are:

Save, recover, maintain, and explore one’s family’s heirlooms, souvenirs, and mementos. Do not get into the current attitude of all things disposable. Just watch the movie adapted from H.G. Wells, The Time Machine, 1960, and watch the reaction of the Eloi when Wells asks, “Do you have books?”

Use common and methodical search techniques to define something in your possession. Even if you know its heritage, explore what these items may lead to. After viewing three photos taken on Belle Isle, web pages abound with additional information. From this, you may be able to in turn help these websites with additional information to expand their stories as well as gathering more information about the world around us.

Whenever one takes a picture, consider composition and layout of the image. Just don’t take a photo of a person standing in front of say, a tree. No one will ever know where this tree was, and thus where the person was standing. Without something of interest within the photo, we have a lovely image of an ancestor which could have been taken in front of a tree in their yard, or in the yard of the White House! It’s all in the details. And keep selfies to a minimum as I’m tired of seeing faces.
too close to the lens and all of the imperfections of teeth and complexions. If you want a nice close-up photo of an individual, consider taking it at a studio located further than at the end of one’s arm.

Figure 5: Close-up of the young lady

Last point. Does anyone recognize the young lady in the photo? My guess at this point is someone born 1929 – 1934. Has connections to Chicago, possibly Detroit. Probably comes from a Polish background exhibiting style of middle class to higher. Perhaps she is still with us, or if not, her children, grandchildren or others who may have known her will recognize her. Seeing that I have photos of her, maybe she has photos or letters from my family laying in a box in the attic or basement.

Also, let PolishRoots hear from anyone who has any Polish connections to Belle Isle. Since we know it is in Detroit, that shouldn’t be difficult to locate.

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*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: Comments on the Russisches geographisches Namenbuch and the online version of Meyers Orts-Lexikon

To the Editor of Gen Dobry!,

You have previously published articles that I have written about using Max Vasmer’s Russisches geographisches Namenbuch to find any location in the Russian Empire and in the Soviet Union to 1962. Now the Library of Congress has just acquired a complete set, for the first time, of all 11 volumes + the atlas, a brand new printing directly from the publisher. This copy is in the European Division while the old, partial copy remains in the Geography and Map Division of the Library. Although the work is in German and Russian, because only names and sources are involved, it is relatively easy to identify desired locations. My previous articles on the subject, including a reference to contacting the Slavic Reference Service for free help, are:

The *Namenbuch* is still in copyright and will not be available online for a long time.

A similar work for Germany, the *Meyers Orts-Lexikon*—which I discussed in my article entitled, “Map Resources for the Genealogist at the U. S. Library of Congress,” *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*, Teaneck, New Jersey, Volume VII, Number 4, Winter 1991, pp. 43-46. Reprinted with emendations in Jorgenson, Delores, ed., *Naše Rodina, “Our Family”*: Newsletter of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, St. Paul, MN, in three parts, Volume 4, No. 3, Summer 1992, pp. 59-61; Volume 4, No. 4, Fall 1992, pp. 87-89; Reynolds, Pat, ed., Volume 5, No. 1, Winter 1993, pp. 3-7. WMLC 93/1444;—is now online at [https://www.meyersgaz.org/](https://www.meyersgaz.org/) and offers a large array of information from the original hard copy version, including a reproduction of the original entry (in German Gothic print), an explanation of the terms used and a fairly complete discussion in English of the information as it appeared in the original German as well as a map to locate the place of interest. I did, however, note some misspellings, such as “capitol” when “capital” is meant, and an erroneous labeling of a county seat as a “capitol.”

Sincerely,

Edward David Luft

[For a complete bibliography, consult [https://sites.google.com/site/edwarddavidluftbibliography/home/edward-david-luft-bibliography](https://sites.google.com/site/edwarddavidluftbibliography/home/edward-david-luft-bibliography)]

*Editor* – It’s always a pleasure to print information from Edward David Luft because he is a very meticulous researcher. I can add that there has been a version of the Meyers gazetteer online for some time; but I think most researchers not fluent in German and not experienced in using that resource will find the new site mentioned above more user-friendly.

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**Subject:** Settlers of Polishtown, West Point, and Port Richmond

*Editor* – Tom Hollowak is the manager of Historyk Press, and I’m always pleased to pass along word of his latest projects.

I have started on my next article/book project a history of the small community in Virginia my
grandparents emigrated to in 1917/18. It was known as Polishtown and there were only a handful of Polish immigrants who settled there beginning in 1917. I’ve been gathering the available records that I can locate using Ancestry.com. Eventually I want to expand my project to include the contiguous communities of West Point and Port Richmond, Virginia. Would it be possible to put a plug in your newsletter asking if anyone who is a descendant of these settlers would be willing to share information and/or photographs to contact me by e-mail?

Tom Hollowak

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Subject: Reprint of the article on Google Translate and “Swanky Oxen”

Editor – Janice M. Sellers kindly sent me the following note:

Dear Fred,

You may recall that in November 2016 I reprinted your article on Google Translate in ZichronNote. I was asked in 2016 to become the new editor for The California Nugget, published by the California Genealogical Society, and I thought they also would appreciate your take on machine translation. So I included the article in the Fall 2017 issue of the Nugget, with the same “swanky” ox. I included the text that you list at the bottom of the Gen Dobry! newsletter (again at the beginning, though, not at the end). Attached is an electronic copy of the newsletter for you.

Janice

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Janice M. Sellers, Editor
The California Nugget
<nugget@californiaancestors.org>

Editor – The California Nugget is an impressive publication, and it was gratifying to see my article from Gen Dobry! (October 2016) reprinted there. The article was nicely laid out, visually attractive – and the photo of the “swanky ox” was as delightful as ever. You can learn more about the organization and its journal at <https://californiaancestors.org/>.

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Subject: Help Finding Missing Records

My name is George Blazak (Jerzy Błażak). I have been following Gen Dobry! for a little while to help me with my Genealogy search. I am a member of the Queensland Family History society which is in Brisbane, Australia. We have various groups in our club, one of which is a Central European group (they mainly do Germany). DNA shows I am 96% eastern European so this group is not quite what I want as Polish problems may be different from German research.

I came to Australia with my parents in 1949 from a DP camp in Germany. My father was born
(1917) in a small place called Mamlicz, which is below Bydgoszcz. From microfilm which I obtained from LDS, I have the records of births of all his brothers and sisters and only the deaths in the early 1900s. In these, my grandfather died in 1925 when 65 and grandfather’s first wife died in 1904 aged 37 (neither of these death records showed their parents). Working backwards, approximate birth dates can be determined. However, LDS records do not show anything. Similarly grandfather remarried (my father’s mother) in 1905 but there is no record. I have looked at records in other parishes etc., around there but nothing. My Polish is manageable, so I have visited some of my cousins twice and one of them made enquiries at the church in Mamlicz and it appears that the records do not go back very far.

My dilemma is, why can’t I find these missing records? Is it because Poland did not officially exist before World War I or the wars wiped a lot of the records? Also, If I got this right, the Urząd Stanu Cywilnego in Barcin says their birth records go back 100 years and marriages only 80 years. They suggested seeking records from the archives in Bydgoszcz which I had already done through LDS. Can you offer any advice, please?

Regards,
George Blazak

Editor – I told George I don’t do genealogical research, so I can’t really advise him. But my hope is that some of our readers have encountered similar problems and can offer some good advice. If you have ideas for George, please send them to me at <wfh@langline.com> and I will forward them to him.

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*** BUKOWSKO SCHOOL DIARY TRANSLATED ***

by Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net>

Editor – Debbie sent word of this project that deserves attention and support.

After years of working on a translation of a Bukowsko school diary (started during Akcja Wisła), the Kronika Bukowsko is ready and for sale on a CD.

Background Information:

Several years ago, on one of my research trips to Bukowsko, I was given part of a diary or chronicle of the school in Bukowsko written during the end of World War II and Akcja Wisła by Kazimier Kochańska. It was in Polish, and my limited ability in that language was insufficient to read most of it. But I was so moved by the part that I could figure out that I felt compelled to have the chronicle translated into English. Kochańska’s heartfelt writings needed to be made public to the English-speaking world. This undertaking turned out to be no small feat. Aside from trips to Poland, over 400 hours was invested in this project, and several other people helped.
Kazimiera Kochańska was a teacher, school principal, and civic advocate who was beloved by all. A memorial plaque in her honor was placed on the elementary school in Bukowsko several years ago, and she was again honored in June 2016 (see my Trip Diary June 2016, <http://www.polishfamily.com>). The CD contains images of the original text, a transcription in Polish, an English translation, and photos.

My hope is that those who read this Kronika will gain a better understanding of what life was like for the Polish residents in Bukowsko and neighboring villages, especially right after World War II, when Poles and UPA (banderowcy) were fighting for dominance in the region. My hopes for this project, however, would have never seen fruition were it not for the untiring efforts and exceptional expertise of Roman Kałużniacki in translating and organizing this work. I also have to thank my gene-valet, Dave Greenlee, for his support and computer help.

Copies of the CD cost $23.15, which includes the CD and postage. People who transcribed or indexed 50 pages of records or 50 cemetery headstones for my previous projects will receive a $5.00 discount ($18.15).

ALL proceeds will be donated to the kindergarten school in Bukowsko.

Please contact me privately to order.

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*** GORLICE SCHOOL RECORDS ***

by Russ Maurer <rrmmaur@gmail.com>

Editor – This is a notice posted by Russ Maurer to the JewishGen newsgroup, and he kindly gave me permission to repeat it here. If you have roots in the Gorlice area, this is worth looking into!

Every researcher with roots in Gorlice (located about 25 miles south of Tarnów) knows the frustration of having few records to work with. I recently noticed that the Przemyśl branch of the Polish State Archives posted some records of Gorlice schools which no one seems to have remarked on, and wondered if these could possibly have genealogical significance. When I looked into it, I was astounded to find a treasure trove: nearly 40,000 images of individual student report cards extending over a generation (school years from 1893-1894 to 1924-1925, and years of birth from roughly 1880 to World War I). I have strategically examined some of these records and created a spreadsheet that I think includes most of the Jewish students, at least once. It can be downloaded from my Google drive using this URL: <http://goo.gl/E8ro3b>. Or anyone interested can contact me directly, as well. The spreadsheet includes links to the individual images, which are in Polish. Please review the “read me” tab on the spreadsheet for details of what I did.
Here is some more basic information. The report cards come from four schools: Szkoła Podstawowa Czteroklasowa Męska w Gorlicach, 1911-1925 (Gorlice four-year primary school for boys); Szkoła Podstawowa 4-klasowa Żeńska w Gorlicach, 1903-1925 (Gorlice four-year primary school for girls); Szkoła Podstawowa nr 1 w Gorlicach, 1893-1925 (Gorlice primary school #1; this was a 6-year school for boys); and Szkoła Podstawowa nr 2 w Gorlicach, 1893-1925 (Gorlice primary school #2; this was a 6-year school for girls). All four schools were attended by a mixture of Jews and Gentiles. As a rough estimate, about one-third of the students were Jewish. In addition to the academic report, the report card typically includes the student’s full name, date of birth, place of birth, and religion, and the name/place/occupation of at least one parent or guardian. Students would typically have been about age 7-13 while attending these schools.

The spreadsheet I have created includes about 3,500 lines, but some of them are duplicates, largely due to students who repeated first grade (sometimes several times). The exact number of non-duplicate records is uncertain, but a reasonable guess would be 2,000-2,500. In many cases, it is possible to reconstruct a sibship by linking same surname and same parent name. It is also possible to infer some information about marriages in the parental generation. It appears that many or most Gorlice researchers on the JewishGen Family Finder will find their family names in this spreadsheet.

For anyone wishing to browse the records, they can be accessed from the Przemyśl archive search page, <http://www.przemysl.ap.gov.pl/skany/>. On the search form, ignore all the boxes except the second one, nazwa zespołu. Clicking on that box opens a drop-down menu. The schools are near the bottom. Pick the one you want, then click search (“Szukaj”). In the page that opens up, any file title that starts with “Katalog główny” or “Katalog klasowy” will take you to the student records for the indicated school year. Within the file, which might contain 500 or so scans, they are organized by grade – first grade, followed by second, third, etc. In some years in some schools, there were two classrooms for a grade, in which case first one class is shown, followed by the other. There is no rhyme or reason as to how students were assigned to the two sections, as far as I can tell. Within each class, the records are more or less alphabetical by the student surname, but there are exceptions and there were usually a few late registrants inserted at the end of the class listing.

Russ Maurer
Pepper Pike, OH
researching RIEGER in Gorlice

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**** AN OVERVIEW OF RECENT PERIODICALS ***

Editor—This is an ongoing feature, meant to inform you of articles published recently in newsletters and journals that may interest you.
Forum, Fall 2017, Vol. 29, No. 3 • Federation of Genealogical Societies, PO Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940 • <http://fgs.org>.

• Blueprint for Success: Building a Genealogy Education Plan, Julie Cahill Tarr
• FGS 2017 in Pictures
• Discover Genealogical Treasures Among Scrap Paper & Orphan Documents, Melissa Barker
• Fort Wayne, Indiana: Your Destination for FGS 2018, Allison DePrey Singleton & Visit Fort Wayne Staff
• Future-Proof Your Society Publications, Denise Barrett Olson
• FGS 2017 Awards
• Next Generation: Millenials—Ready & Willing, Shannon Combs-Bennett
• Beyond Boxes & Binders—Interviewing Grandma: Collecting the Stories, Part 1, Linda Coffin
• Ethics & Standards—‘For Every Soul a Story, a Family, a Name,’ Judy G. Russell, JD, CGT, CZGL


• Obituary: Keith Edward Cooper, 1935 - 2017
• Traveling to Poland: Oh, the Possibilities – Part 2, Joyce Sharifi


• Poles to the Plains: Nebraska and the PRCUA, Donald Szymanski
• Poles Will Always Survive, Donald Szymanski
• Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Paplin, Howard County, Nebraska, Jan S. Zaleski
• Godziszewo Parish Surnames 1840–1880 (Tczew District, Gdańsk Province), Jan S. Zaleski
• The Decline of a Detroit Neighborhood: Poletown vs. General Motors and the City of Detroit, John J. Bukowczyk, reprint, from 1984
• A Day with Grandma/“Busia,” William J. Krul
• The Family Reunion, Linda Bailey
• Anton Kusznicki’s Short Story and the Many Husbands of Augusta Dehring, Linda Bailey
• Jerome F. Wasik Funeral Home: Child Burials, 1927–1929, Part 2, extracted by Roger S. Laske
• Why Do You Care?, Mike Maslauskas
• A Small Polish Enclave, Roger S. Laske
• Member Obituaries, Member Queries, Surname Index, compiled by Roger S. Laske

Tatrzański Orzeł – The Tatra Eagle, Volume 70, Number 3, Tatra Eagle Press, 31 Madison Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604 (this publication is bilingual)
• Rev. Józef Tischner, A Man for All Seasons, Prof. Tadeusz Gromada
• By Podhale było Podhalem, Prof. Julian S. Dobrowolski (1981)
• Jan Władysław Gromada, moralnym przywódcą Podhala amerykańskiego [Jan Władysław Gromada, Moral Leader of the American Podhale], Prof. Anna Brzozowska-Krajka

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*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

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

October 6-7, 2017

4TH ANNUAL NASHI PREDKY FALL CONFERENCE: UNLOCK YOUR HERITAGE
Ukrainian Cultural Center • 135 Davidson Avenue • Somerset, NJ

We are very excited to announce the speakers for this year’s seminar on October 28, 2017 at the American Polish Cultural Center. The 4th Annual Nashi Predky Fall Conference - Unlock Your Heritage: Discover Your Ancestry - will be held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center located at 135 Davidson Avenue in Somerset, NJ on October 6-7, 2017. The event features internationally known experts in Eastern European genealogy, and will span two days, including a full-day dedicated to DNA along with Saturday’s workshop on Using Cadastral Maps, opportunity for networking, and the choice of seven lectures.

New to the conference in 2017!

The Nashi Predky Family History Group is proud to offer two full days of programming. Participants may register for either Friday or Saturday, or the full two-day conference at reduced pricing. In addition to the presentations, the event will have vendors and cultural display areas.

On Friday, October 6th, DNA Day offers participants three lectures, Q&A Panel open discussion and dinner. Registration opens at 2 p.m. and a light dinner will be available. The presentations by Melissa Johnson, CG are: Genetic Genealogy: A Beginner’s Guide, Diving Deeper into Genetic Genealogy, and Using Autosomal DNA in Genealogy. The DNA Panel Discussion will be hosted by: Melissa Johnson, CG, Natalie Asikainen, Bruce Romanchuk, an Administrator of the Facebook group “Lemko Ancestry & DNA”, and Prof. Volodymyr Bodnar, the leader of the FamilyTreeDNA group “Ukrainian DNA Genealogy - Український ДНК-родовід”.

On Saturday, October 7th, the second day of the “Unlock Your Heritage: Discover Your Ancestry” opens with registration at 8 a.m. with a light continental breakfast. At 9 a.m., the morning sessions start off with the presentation “Galicia: An Ethnic and Religious Melting Pot” by Zbigniew Stettner where he will describe ethnic and religious mixture in Galicia and show how this knowledge can help you trace your ancestors.
After the opening session, a dual-track day begins with presentations by Rhoda Miller, CG, “Finding Families in Russian Era Ukraine: Census Records and More”, and by Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak, “Ukrainian Catholics in America: A History.”

Participants will be offered a buffet luncheon featuring ethnic food and networking time during the lunch break.

The afternoon sessions continue the dual-track offerings: “1920s-1940s Polish State Archives Records for Lemkos” by Zbigniew Stettner; “Ten Ways to Jumpstart Your Eastern European Research” by Lisa Alzo; “Did My Great-Grandmother Have a Family? A Problem-Solving Case Study” by Rhoda Miller, CG; and “Immigrant Cluster Communities: Past, Present and Future” by Lisa Alzo. An optional workshop, “Using 19th century Cadastral Maps to Trace Our Galician Ancestors,” hosted by Zbigniew Stettner, will show how to find the records in archives, interpret them, and teach how to compare cadastral maps with current maps using various software and websites.

The two-day event concludes with the door-prize drawings at 4:30 p.m.

Registration is now OPEN!

Michelle Chubenko
“Our Ancestors -- Наші предки / Ukrainian Genealogy”

Co-Coordinator, Family History Group
Ukrainian Historical & Educational Center of NJ

Friday, October 13, and Saturday, October 14, 2017

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT AND THE NORTHEAST
and
THE S. A. BLEJWAS ENDOWED CHAIR OF POLISH AND POLISH AMERICAN STUDIES, CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

cordially invite you to attend the 2017 GENEALOGY CONFERENCE to learn the strategies for tracing your Polish-American and Eastern European roots.

It will be held at the Institute of Technology, Business and Development, Downtown campus of
Central Connecticut State University, 185 Main Street, New Britain, CT on Friday, October 13, 2017 and Saturday, October 14, 2017.

Featured speakers will be:

Matthew Bielawa (Vice-President, PGSCTNE)
Dr. Mieczyslaw B. Biskupski (Endowed Chair, Polish and Polish-American Studies, CCSU)
Michelle Chubenko (New Jersey)
David Ouimette (Utah)
Tadeusz H. Piłat, A.G. (Tarnobrzeg, Poland)
Thomas Sadauskas (Virginia)
Jonathan Shea, A.G. (President, PGSCTNE)
Julie Szczepankiewicz (Massachusetts).

A two-part seminar will be presented on “Introduction to Polish and Eastern European Family History.” Among the lectures scheduled are:

“Did Piłsudski Raise a Polish Army in America?”
“Jersey Roots: Touring the Garden State”
“Genealogy in Ukraine: Discover Online Resources”
“The Story of Polish Immigrant Millworkers”
“Europe’s World War II Displaced Persons: Their Little-Known Story” (Thomas Sadauskas) and “The Ins and Outs of Geneteka: How it Works and How to Use it Most Effectively.”

Tadeus Piłat will speak on “Greek Catholics in Poland and Family Research” and “Military Conscription Lists in the Kingdom of Poland and Genealogical Research.”

For more information, please see our website at <http://www.pgsctne.org/Conference%202017/List%20of%20hyperlinks.aspx>

It includes our conference schedule, speakers’ biographies, and lecture summaries. There are also information and forms about our one-on-one consultation appointments with the speakers (a limited number are available), registration and lecture selections. Throughout the day, a collection of books, maps and other materials will be available to all attendees for consultation. 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 27–28, 2017

ILLINOIS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FALL CONFERENCE
“Build Your Family Tree: DNA, Research, & Writing”
The 2017 Fall Conference of the ISGS will be held Friday, October 27, through Saturday, October 28, at the iWireless Center in Moline, Illinois. For more information as it is posted, see this page on the ISGS Website: <https://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=536>.

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October 28, 2017

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN’S ANNUAL SEMINAR
American Polish Cultural Center

We are very excited to announce the speakers for this year’s seminar on October 28, 2017 at the American Polish Cultural Center.

Sophie Hodorowicz Knab, author of several books about Polish culture and traditions, will speak about the different customs and present a personal family story that resulted in the book, *Wearing the Letter P: Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945*.

Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz offers two presentations. The first one is called, “I Found My Village! Now What?” Julie will discuss the different documents that can be found online which will help us in our research. Her other presentation is called, “The Ins and Outs of Geneteka: How it Works and How to Use It Most Effectively.”

For more information as it becomes available, visit the PGSM website:

<http://pgsm.org/>

*[From a post by Valerie Warunek to the Facebook page of the PGSM]*

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Saturday, October 28, 2017

CROSSING THE OCEAN: RESEARCHING FAMILY HISTORY IN THE POLISH ARCHIVES – Professor Jonathan Shea
Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

This Presentation will examine the record keeping practices in all three partitions (Austrian, Prussian and Russian) and show frequently encountered formats of sample vital records of birth, death and marriage. Additional record types will also be discussed such as parish censuses, military draft lists, inventories, and cemetery research. Polish websites which contain indexes and digitized records will also be presented. The location of archival materials and access policies to collections will be discussed as well.
Jonathan Shea is a professional genealogist specializing in Eastern Europe and Ireland. He frequently presents workshops nationwide on the topics of document translation, immigration history and European archival resources. He is the President of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast and serves as editor of its journal, Pathways and Passages.

Also, on the same day, following this event:

OPEN HOUSE
Polish Center of Discovery and Learning
33 South Street, Chicopee, MA
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

You are invited to visit the Host Organization of the PGSMA Genealogical Research Library for light fall-themed refreshments and to explore the rich collection of artifacts, photographs and personal items that document the proud heritage of Polish-American life.

Galleries include a reconstruction of a typical 19th Century Polish Peasant Cottage, a stunning display of regional clothing and ceremonial costumes, folk art including hand-crafted szopki krakowskie and carvings as well as our Genealogical Research Library. These are housed in an 18-room, 130 year-old building that was renovated and converted into the Polish American museum and culture center that it is today.

Come enjoy the Polish Center as well as our relaunched Genealogical Library in the company of your fellow members and guests.

Admission to both events is free, but registration is required. Please go to our website, <http://pgsma.org> to sign up and let us know that you will join us.

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November 19, 2017

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA QUARTERLY MEETING
“Rising from the Ashes – Warsaw, Poland”
Margaret Guzek

Copernicus Center (King’s Hall) • 5216 W Lawrence Ave • Chicago IL 60630
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

This presentation will also be offered as a Webinar to members and non-members. Additional Webinar registration information will be posted on the PGSA Home Page <http://www.pgsa.org>, in PGSA Notebook, and in Rodziny in advance of the meeting. Members and non-members are invited to attend.
**Topic Summary** – By the start of World War II, Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party were intent on razing Warsaw as part of the Pabst Plan to create a future “German” town. By the time of Warsaw’s liberation in January of 1945 from German occupation, the Wehrmacht had destroyed 85% of the city.

This presentation discusses the events leading up to the destruction of Warsaw and the Polish community’s meticulous post-war reconstruction, which includes the recognition of Warsaw’s restoration of its historic quarters as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Bio** – Margaret S. Guzek is a writer and preservationist. She has written landmark nominations on architecturally and historically-significant properties for local preservation commissions and the National Register in addition to writing architectural surveys. Ms. Guzek’s paternal grandmother was a member of the Polish resistance and fought in the Warsaw Uprising, and her maternal grandfather was a member of the Second Polish Corps under the leadership of General Władysław Anders and fought in the Battle of Monte Cassino. Ms. Guzek holds a master’s degree in journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. An article written by Ms. Guzek based on this presentation appeared in the Fall 2016 issue of Rodziny.

To register to attend this webinar, click on the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4319868320717127683>

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**May 7 – 20, 2018**

**THE ROAD HOME**

A genealogy oriented trip to Poland and Ukraine.

*With certified American and Polish genealogists Professor Jonathan Shea and Aleksandra Kacprzak.*

The trip includes opportunities to visit your ancestral village.

The Road Home trip will leave from New York on 5/7/18 and return on 5/20/18.

The trip cost is $2,995* per person, double occupancy if you sign up by November 1, 2017.

After November 1, 2017 the trip cost is $3,195* per person, double occupancy. There will be an additional $450 fee for single occupancy. The cost includes airfare between New York JFK and Kraków, hotels, three meals daily, professional tour guide, private tour bus, and admission to scheduled attractions.
You must sign up for the trip by December 20, 2017 and submit a $300 non-refundable deposit and fill out the pre-trip questionnaire.

You must pay for your trip in full (non-refundable) by February 1, 2018. You must have a valid passport for this trip.

If you are traveling alone, would you want a roommate and save the single supplement charge? Please let us know if you would like a roommate and we will try to accommodate you.

*Price Subject to change due to change in exchange rates or airline fees.

DAILY ITINERARY

May 7: Depart from New York
May 8: Kraków
May 9: Auschwitz/ Częstochowa
May 10: Wadowice/Żywiec Brewery
May 11: Zakopane
May 12: Sanok/Solin/Polańczyk
May 13: Bieszczady/Przemyśl
May 14: Przemyśl/Depart for Ukraine
May 15: Lwów in Ukraine
May 16: Various towns in Ukraine
May 17: Zamość/Sandomierz
May 18: Krzyżtopor Palace/Wieliczka Salt Mine
May 19: Kraków/Wawel Castle
May 20: Depart to New York

INDIVIDUAL VILLAGE DAY TRIPS

There are a limited number of day trips available so you can travel to your ancestral village. There will be an additional cost for this service. The village must be within 75 miles of a city we are visiting. Requests must be submitted by January 2, 2018. We will notify you by January 31, 2018 if your trip is possible and the estimated cost for the trip. Payment for the village trip will happen the day of the trip in Poland.

Check us out on Facebook: The Road Home-Polish American Foundation.

To sign up or more questions email: <dorena726@yahoo.com>

POLISH AMERICAN FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT

27 Grove Hill Street New Britain, CT

<http://www.PAF-CT.org>

Bring your family tree to life

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*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***

<https://ricochet.com/453129/pat-sajak-poland/>

Thurman E. Kratz, Jr. very kindly sent me this link, which he found mentioned by the President of Hillsdale College in the college’s newsletter. It takes you to a moving article about how Pat Sajak learned the original spelling of his surname and made a connection with his heritage. I knew Sajak was of Polish descent, but I wasn’t sure of his original surname I thought it might be Sajdak, but couldn’t know for sure. This article clarifies the matter, and is an enjoyable read besides.

<https://www.familysearch.org/ask/faq#overview>

In the September 4, 2017 issue of Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter [EOGN], Dick Eastman included an article with tips on how to find digital images on the FamilySearch site, now that microfilm has been phased out. He cited this link to read an overview that provides answers to many of the questions researchers have. He said you can also read the PDF file <http://broadcast.lds.org/fhd/FH_Finding_Digital_Records_WEB.pdf> or watch the how-to video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2bUqC1g_iA>.

<http://bit.ly/2hl7QDd>

The September 25, 2017 issue of EOGN had an interesting article on a proposal to use Postal Service employees as enumerators for 2020 U.S. Census. There are some pretty good reasons for considering this. The link given above takes you to the proposal published in the Federal Register, and written comments on it can be posted until November 20th.

<http://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/hapax-legomenon-hapaxes>

For those of you who love words and their history, this article is a treat. Janice Sellers forwarded it to me, and I am very grateful. The Atlas Obscura website is clearly one I need to visit often, if for no other reason than to sample the writing.

<https://archive.org/details/georgeblood>

A good friend of my wife posted this link on her Facebook page, and I wanted to make sure people knew about it. The link is to an archive of thousands of old 78 rpm records that have been recorded, digitized, and made available for free download. A lot of them are old big-band records, Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, that sort of thing. But I noticed on the left side of the page there is a language option—and they have over 500 titles in Polish! I mentioned this on Facebook and many folks reacted favorably. I wanted to make sure our readers knew about it, too. These are treasures that could have been forgotten, but now are saved.

<https://goo.gl/GtAjK5>

The new season of Finding Your Roots starts on PBS October 3rd. This link takes you to
a page listing the people whose roots are explored. I didn’t spot any Polish names in the list, but I’ll watch the one on Christopher Walken, at least. Who knew he was from Earth?

<http://tinyurl.com/AncestryContactingPeople>

The September 24, 2017 issue of *Nu? What’s New?* mentioned an essay on “non-responders,” specifically, people who contribute their DNA to a database and then fail to respond to inquiries about a possible familial relationship. The essay is called “Contacting DNA Matches: Get More Responses with These Pro Tips.” It is worth reading, given that these non-responders are becoming a problem—one we never had back in the so-called “good old days.”

<https://lineagearchive.com/>

Logan Kleinwaks, the man behind GenealogyIndexer.org, has launched a new service, Lineage Archive, at the above URL.

<http://wp.me/p7AC8E-47R>

Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz continues to post impressive entries to her blog, “From Shepherds and Shoemakers.” This URL should take you to the latest entry. You don’t need to be related to her, or come from the same area, to benefit from observing how she conducts research.

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