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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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*** THE FAMILY TREE MAKER SAGA CONTINUES! ***

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

Many of you know that Ancestry.com caused a bit of an uproar last December when they announced they were abandoning the Family Tree Maker (FTM) software that many researchers count on to record and organize their data. You can read the announcement here:


In last month’s Gen Dobry!, Paul S. Valasek had a few choice words to say about the whole thing, and I get the strong impression many people agreed with him wholeheartedly.

Well, it looks like there may be a happy ending to the story—or at least as happy as we get in the real world. Ancestry announced this month that a company called Software MacKiev will take over and support FTM on both Windows and Macs. The name of the company may have you saying “Who the hell is that?” But Software MacKiev, <https://www.mackiev.com/>, developed the Mac version of FTM and has years of experience with the software. So this company may actually be in a position to do the job right.

Ancestry also agreed with another publisher of genealogy software, RootsMagic <https://www.rootsmagic.com/>, to connect Ancestry with the RootsMagic software before the end of 2016. Gary Mokotoff described it thus in a recent issue of Nu? What’s New?: “Users will have continued access to Ancestry Hints, Ancestry searches and be able to save their trees on Ancestry with Family Tree Maker moving forward.”

The Ancestry blog entry I mentioned above has an update on these agreements. You can read the blog entry announcing the agreement formally here:


If you read the comments people posted at the end of this blog entry, you’ll find they are a good deal more cheerful than the ones posted at the end of the 9 December 2015 entry! But not everyone is singing “Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah” the memorable way Clark Griswold described it in National Lampoon’s Vacation. We’ll have to see if we all live happily ever after. Even if MacKiev and RootsMagic come through, I still find myself thinking over the comments Paul Valasek made in our last issue.

But at least, for once, the people who use a product have made a difference, and our corporate masters have paid some attention to their wishes. For now....
*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: One dead link, and one broken

Editor—Edward David Luft contacted me to point out a couple of invalid links in past issues of Gen Dobry!. Apparently it is not considered ethical to go back and modify text in issues once they have been published online. It seems the best we can do is to bring these corrections to your attention.

In the April 2011 issue of Gen Dobry!, on page 2, Kendler’s Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon at <http://members.aon.at/lesebuch/Inhalt_en.html> is a dead link. It has been replaced by <http://vsff.rivido.de/lb/Inhalt_en.html>, as discussed in “Updates on sources by Kendler and Vasmer,” in Gen Dobry!, Volume XVI, No. 4, 30 April 2015, pp. 3-4. This gazetteer is very useful for locations in the Austro-Hungarian Empire at its greatest extent (in 1905). There are only two copies in public hands in the United States, one at the Library of Congress Geography and Map Reading Room and the other in the Austrian Embassy in Washington, DC. The latter is in particularly poor physical condition, so only Embassy personnel are allowed to use it. Thus, the online version is particularly useful. The book is available in hard copy in several libraries in Europe, including in Budapest, Hungary, but it is not widely available. Eventually, the Library of Congress will be posting its version online, but that will take some time, certainly several months, perhaps longer. The Library of Congress version is of higher resolution than the one currently available, but the latter is perfectly useful now.


Thank you.

Edward David Luft

Editor—you will have noticed, Edward is a very meticulous man. That’s why he’s such a good researcher! We thank him for bringing these links to our attention.

*** POLISH MISSION GENEALOGY TEAM INTRODUCES WEBINAR SERIES ***

by Allison Follbaum, Social Media Coordinator, Galeria and Collections Assistant, The Polish Mission
Editor—Ceil Jensen sent me this info so I could pass it along to you.

In an effort to allow the extensive knowledge of our genealogy team, Ceil Wendt Jensen and Dr. Hal Learman, to reach further across the world, we are venturing into the world of webinars! The Internet opened up so many opportunities to share information with other genealogists and historians around the world, and we are happy to be utilizing this opportunity to our advantage. The Polonica-Americana Research Institute, genealogy department under The Polish Mission, is spearheading the effort to launch this Polish Genealogy Webinar Series. Ceil Wendt Jensen, PARI co-director, will be presenting the lectures, and on occasion, will be joined by special guests from Poland!

The lectures will be recorded live on the campus of the Orchard Lake Schools, Orchard Lake, Mich.

The archived webinars will be available on the Michigan Polish Heritage website:

<http://www.miplheritage.org>

The first four webinars will take place from March 2nd to March 23rd, 2016. The webinar home page can be found here.

<http://miplheritage.org/home/webinars/>

We would love to have you join us for “Webinar Wednesdays” and will be able to seat 23 participants for each class! The sign-up fee for each webinar will be $15.00.

A few of the lectures will be free, and registered on a first-come, first-served basis. All proceeds from these webinars will support the genealogy work of The Polish Mission (a 501c3 non-profit).

Read on for descriptions of the first four webinars:

1. Intro to Polish Genealogy – March 2, 2016 – 1-2 p.m.
This session will dispel the myths that records were destroyed during the World Wars and that language barriers make research difficult. Learn about the foundation documents held in the U.S. that will lead you to your ancestral village in Poland. Practical examples and suggestions on how to use records, databases and archives to start or advance your Polish genealogical research will be shown.

2. Advanced Polish Research – March 9, 2016 – 1-2 p.m.
This lecture will advance your research. Prerequisites for this course include identifying census records, ship manifests, and WWI Draft Registrations. We’ll cover finding your ancestors’ parish and civil registration records in Poland. Genealogist Ceil Wendt Jensen gives examples and suggestions on how to use advanced records, databases, and archives.

Gen Dobry!, Vol. XVII, No. 2, February 2016 — 4
3. *A Guide to Genealogical Websites Based in Poland* – March 16, 2016 – 1-2 p.m.
Is English your only language? Learn the tips and tricks perfected to extract useful data, maps, and genealogical matter from Polish archives, digital libraries, and regional websites. Case studies span Russian, Prussian, and German Partitions. During this session, you will learn how to find archives, libraries, museums and regional websites that contain materials relevant to your history.

4. *Now Boarding: Planning a Research Trip in Poland* – March 23, 2016 – 1-2 p.m.
This session is based on over 30 years of travel experience leading overseas groups and undertaking research in Poland archives. Learn how to plan ahead, get the most for your dollar, travel light, and bring home the research you went for! This session includes examples and suggestions on how to prepare for a trip to Polish archives, parishes, and record repositories. This lecture covers techniques for finding Catholic, Lutheran, and Jewish records. Learn how to write effective e-mail to English as Second Language (ESL) speakers and how to hire a photographer, researcher, and/or guide.

If you have any questions about our new webinar series, please call (248) 683-0323 or e-mail <cjensen@orchardlakeschools.com>. Hope to see you online soon!

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*** YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE YOUR RESEARCH WILL LEAD YOU! ***

by Debbie Greenlee

*Editor*—Debbie Greenlee posted this note to the Polish Genius mailing list, and I thought you might enjoy reading about how a popular Polish researcher is connected with a PBS TV show.

Next Tuesday, March 1, on your local PBS (U.S.) station will be episode nine of the third season of *Finding Your Roots*, titled “The Long Way Home.”

The guests will be Julianna Margulies, Azar Nafisi, and Lidia Bastianich. The one of interest to some of us is Julianna Margulies.

In October 2014, I was contacted by Natalia Warchol, an associate producer of Ark Media who was trying to locate ancestral information for someone whose family lived in Bukowsko, Poland, and was of Jewish descent.

Being so involved in my ancestral village of Bukowsko, I knew exactly what was available and what wasn’t available in regards to Jewish records for Bukowsko. I gave Natalia Warchol information, a copy of a record, and photos pertaining to the Jewish community of Bukowsko.
Warchol couldn’t promise me that this segment would even air, as only the interesting ones would be shown, and she wouldn’t tell me who the celebrity was.

I just received an e-mail today from Warchol, “Thank you for participating in the third season of Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. We couldn’t have done it without you!” Although Warchol mentioned the three guests on next week’s show, she still did not tell me which celebrity was “mine.” It didn’t take much digging to find that Julianna Margolies was the only person of Jewish descent among the three. So, I am fully expecting to find out next Tuesday that Julianna’s family was from Bukowsko or at least spent some time there.

If you can’t watch it Tuesday night, the show can be viewed online after it airs on Tuesday:

<http://www.pbs.org/show/finding-your-roots/>

Moral of the story: You never know where your own research will lead you or others.

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*** BOOK REVIEW: Stop Thief! The True Story of Abraham Greenthal, King of the Pickpockets in 19th Century New York City, as Revealed from Contemporary Sources, © 2015 by Edward David Luft ***

Reviewed by Martin Edwin Andersen

Known as “The General” despite his rejection of violence, a young Abraham Greenthal left Pszczew, Poland (then called Betsche, Prussia) to America in 1851 to become a pioneer in a particular immigrant dream—that of bettering oneself and one’s family as a leader in organized crime. Years before Al Capone, Lucky Luciano, and Meyer Lansky burst with guns a-blazing onto the scene, as the head of a syndicate of Jewish pickpockets, Greenthal directed his nationwide criminal operation out of New York City’s tenement 10th Ward. Like those later poster boys of organized crime figures, Abraham, too, put a premium on what later became known as a Sicilian cultural icon—respect.

Stop Thief! shows how Greenthal proved to be a criminal ge-
nius on two continents, inheriting an illicit profession from his father and predating the Mafia’s distorted, if popular, rendition in the United States of the phrase, “The Family.” A thief and a fence for four decades, the General incorporated several of his own relatives as his closest criminal associates, the men as pickpockets, his daughters as shoplifters.

As ably told by respected historical researcher Edward David Luft, the shadowy story of the Jewish criminal mastermind comes to life from behind a vast array of sometimes differing public records from that time, creating—as much as is possible more than a century later—a factually accurate but also enlightening and entertaining read. For Luft, contemporaneous documentation proved key to winnowing myths from the nonetheless incredible facts of Greenthal’s criminal career—a task made difficult now as then by this professional criminal’s own sense of aplomb.

Greenthal’s story begins on an ever-changing European landscape. Prussian records show that he did not in fact speak Polish, as did other arrestees. Indeed, as an expert in picking a “mark” to pickpocket, the General (who did not see himself as Polish nor living in Poland) would likely have seen Poles as second-class citizens generally, too poor to be the worthy focus of his criminal gaze.

His early success as a criminal put a remarkable scar on the European map (to paraphrase André Malraux’s words a century later), as it was Greenthal who successfully inaugurated pickpocketing on trains, that new means of transport that befuddled competitors, until Abraham found the way to successfully work the narrow aisles. Such ingenuity had other rewards as well, as the rising underworld star was able to marry a woman from one of the most prestigious lawless families in Breslau (now Wrocław, Poland).

As he made his way to America, Greenthal pickpocketed along the way from Rawicz via Berlin to Liverpool, leaving Prussia with virtually nothing and arriving at the British seaport with $350 in his pocket—the amount an unskilled worker toiling in the shadows of Lady Liberty might have made in a whole year. Greenthal later bragged that he was never apprehended by Britain’s world-renowned police, and in fact was able to send his new wife the money needed for her to meet with him in Liverpool and to sail together to New York.

The New York Herald described The General as “well-dressed, of unmistakable gentlemanly appearance, and polite, with an astonished and innocent air.” However, it was the rival New York Times that perhaps best captured Greenthal’s proto-Mafia magic by noting that the one-time Old World practitioner, who was arrested many times but managed to “beat the rap” one way or another, may have benefited from the “lavish use of money and the particular influences he could make use of.” (Don Corleone, move over, please.)

A retired Treasury Department lawyer and a chronicler of Jewish life in Central and Eastern Europe, Luft is especially adept at both description of Greenthal’s ambience in Prussia, and the colorful, if at times, life-threatening ethnic and cultural flora and fauna of the booming lower Manhattan. In doing so, he weaves an intriguing tale that includes cameo appearances by some of New York’s most fabled citizens, including then-Governor and President-Elect Grover Cleveland and the father of a highly-respected U.S. Supreme Court justice.
In convincing contrast to the various mafiosi who emerged in the 20th century, Luft portrays The General as a peacemaker who avoids violence, even using his prestige in prison—where he was given a plum job as a cook—to keep a lid on his otherwise often vicious cell mates. His influence in the pen was undeniable, as even the warden portrayed by Luft appears wary of offending the head of what was called the Sheeny Mob, “sheeny” being a derogatory word used then to describe Jews said to be untrustworthy.

The pre-20th century story of anti-Semitism in the United States, how it was both similar to and different from other ethnic stereotyping of the time, and the question of whether it resulted in discrimination or was part of a general tendency to folkloric generalities made about ethnic/religious views based on ignorance, remains lightly referenced in Stop Thief!

The book is a serious contribution to American history, immigration studies, questions of public ethics and criminology. In this momentous election year, its value as a reference in studies of contemporary issues should also be considered.

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Martin Edwin Andersen, a former senior advisor for policy planning at the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, has served as an assistant professor at the National Defense University and as an adjunct professor at the U.S. Naval Academy.

*Editor*—If you’re looking for a genealogical connection, Chapter Ten of this book gives extensive data on Greenthal’s family tree.

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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.


- Notary Records in Poland, Tadeusz H. Pilat, MLS, AG®
- Ask Aleksandra – The German National List – *Deutsche Volksliste* – A Source of Genealogical Information, Aleksandra Kacprzak and Mariusz Żebrowski
- Coal Mines and Concentration Camps: Poles and Poland at the Turn of the Century, John Righetti
- Vanished Without a Trace (no author named)

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*** LEGAL NOTICE ***

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>, with advice from Edward David Luft
In light of the *Rolling Stone* false rape report scandal and other experiences that have impacted directly on *Gen Dobry!*, *Gen Dobry!* generally will not publish any anonymous article unless written by the editor himself. In the event that *Gen Dobry!* believes that an anonymous article is important enough to publish without attribution or with a *nom de plume*, the editor will require a high level of verification, including but not limited to, proof of identity by the author or his lawful heirs in the form of an entirely holograph statement that the submitter is the author and a copy of a government-issued picture identification, submitted under oath and attested to by a notary whose commission is then currently valid in the jurisdiction in which the author or his heir(s) resides, as well as strong evidence of the truth of all material facts alleged in the article, which the editor will investigate to his satisfaction. Unless the editor can verify the facts to a reasonable degree of certainty, the article will not be published. The author of the article must bear any costs that the editor incurs and must submit a deposit in advance if requested by the editor. The editor may require any other matter to be supported by evidence in his absolute discretion. The burden of proof of the facts alleged will always be on the proponent of the article. The decision of the editor is final, and the editor need not justify or otherwise explain his decision under any circumstances. Articles not submitted by the author or by the author’s lawful heirs or legatees (proof required, such as proof of probate or a copy of the relevant trust document, submitted under valid notarized oath) will not be published. If the article states or infers illegal activity by the author, in the discretion of the editor, he may turn over the manuscript to police or other law enforcement authorities for further investigation. All manuscripts submitted must be the original work of the author and comply with the Copyright Act. Sources must be credited in the article or in endnotes, as appropriate.

*Editor*—Yes, we’ve been talking to lawyers. But I hope any reasonable person will see that the intent of all this is to make sure we never inadvertently infringe upon the rights of an author or creator of intellectual property.

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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.*

March 19, 2016

**UKRAINIAN HISTORICAL AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER OF NEW JERSEY SPRING WORKSHOP — NASHI PREDKY/OUR ANCESTORS” SERIES**

*Location: Ukrainian Cultural Center, 135 Davidson Road, Somerset, NJ*

*Time: 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. • Registration fee: $40.00*

The “Nashi Predky - Our Ancestors” family history conference series at the Ukrainian Historical and Educational Center of New Jersey in Somerset, NJ, will continue its programming with a very special event on Saturday, March 19, 2016.
This full-day event will feature staff members of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, who will give presentations on documenting the experiences of Ukrainians and other ethnic groups during and after World War II, and how to make use of the research resources at the USHMM and the International Tracing Service.

Date: Saturday, March 19th  
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Place: Ukrainian Cultural Center  
135 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, NJ  
Phone: 732-356-0132

Topics will include:
* USHMM’s Oral History Collection  
* Research materials and services available at the USHMM  
* International Tracing Service records  
* Beginning Ukrainian genealogy  
* History of Ukraine and Poland during the two World Wars

Note: The USHMM staff members will have remote access to the digitized ITS collections, and they will devote the entire afternoon to one-on-one research sessions with conference attendees! Research slots are strictly limited, and will be assigned “first come-first served” in the order of registration.

Registration fee includes lunch! Don’t delay, register and reserve your research time slot today!!

Register Online:  
<https://www.ukrhec.org/civicrm/event/info?id=23&reset=1>

Questions? E-mail: <genealogy@ukrhec.org>

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Michelle Chubenko  
“Our Ancestors – Наші предки / Ukrainian Genealogy”  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NashiPredky/>  
<https://plus.google.com/u/0/communities/107238252771720982783>

Co-Coordinator, Family History Group  
Ukrainian Historical & Educational Center of NJ  
<http://www.ukrhec.org/family-history-group>

[From a note sent by Michelle Chubenko]
March 24, 2016

Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts (PGSMA)
SPRING 2016 MEETING
Chicopee Library, 449 Front St, Chicopee MA.
6:30 p.m.
<http://www.pgsma.org>

Polish Genealogical Society of MA. Spring meeting at Chicopee Library, 449 Front Street, Chicopee, MA. *The Mills of Greater Chicopee and the Polish Immigrant experience.* Stephen Jendrysik, retired History teacher and lifelong local historian of Chicopee, will share his knowledge of the mills and manufacturing plants of Chicopee including the Polish immigrants who worked there during the first half of the 20th century.

Some of the mills that will be noted are: Lyman Company (rags), Dwight Mills (sheeting), Chicopee Mfg. (gauze & bandages), Fisk (tires), Moore Drop Forge (wrenches) and others. Question and answer period to follow. The public is welcome to attend at no charge. Bring a friend too!

We will also be presenting our large maps of Poland and Galicia which denote the Ancestral Villages of our members and guests and invite meeting participants to join us and add their ancestors to our project.

You can add your ancestors to our project by doing a little research to locate and document their relevant information and bringing this to our meetings, entering this on our log sheets and placing their pins onto the maps.

The information needed about your immigrant ancestors is:

- Surname (family name)
- Given Name
- Village
- County (or region, if known)
- Partition (Austrian, Prussian or Russian)
- Year of Immigration
- Your Family Name
- Your Given Name
- Your current residence city and state

Please confirm as best that you can the spelling of village names, write this all down, bring it to the meeting, join the project and see how your family fits into the big picture of Polish emigration.

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March 26, 2016

“SCHOOLING THE CHILDREN OF SCHENECTADY’S ITALIAN AND POLISH IMMIGRANTS, 1900–1930,” ROBERT R. PASCUCCI, PH.D.
Schenectady County Historical Society • 32 Washington Ave • Schenectady NY 12305
2:00 p.m.
$5.00 Admission – Free for SCHS Members

Dr. Pascucci will discuss the impact that the large influx of Italian and Polish immigrant families had on the Schenectady schools. He will also examine the extent to which the schools helped assimilate the children and analyze both the achievement and failures of the educational system during these years.

Dr. Pascucci is a retired educator who received his Ph.D. in history at the University at Albany. His doctoral dissertation is entitled: Electric City Immigrants: Italians and Poles of Schenectady, N.Y., 1880-1930.

For more information, please call 518-374-0263 or e-mail <librarian@schenectadyhistorical.org>. The Schenectady Historical Society is wheelchair accessible, with off-street parking behind the building and overflow parking next door at the YWCA.

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May 10–23, 2016

THE ROAD HOME: TRIP TO POLAND

A special tour of Poland to reconnect with your roots

with Jonathan Shea and Aleksandra Kacprzak

sponsored by the Polish American Foundation of CT

See <http://www.paf-ct.org/www/a-special-tour-of-poland/> for more details. To sign up or more questions e-mail: <dorena726@yahoo.com>.

Check us out on Facebook:

The Road Home-Polish American Foundation.
POLISH AMERICAN FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT
P.O. BOX 1525
New Britain, CT 06050-1525
May 15, 2016

PGSA QUARTERLY MEETING
“FINDING YOUR IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS’ ARRIVAL RECORDS ONLINE” — MIKE KARSEN
Schaumburg Township District Library (NW), 130 S. Roselle Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60193
2:00 to 4 p.m.

A professional speaker, Mike Karsen is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), the Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG), and is Past President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois.

This event will be held as a Webinar. For more information as it becomes available, visit the PGSA Website <http://pgsa.org/calendar/>.

August 7 – 12, 2016

36TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

Seattle Sheraton in Seattle, Washington

The 36th annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held in Seattle, Washington, August 7–12, 2016. The focus for the 2016 conference is The Wandering Jew. Registration will being January 3, 2016, with early-bird discounts applying through April 30, 2016.

For more information visit the website:

<http://www.iajgs2016.org/>

August 14, 2016

PGSA QUARTERLY MEETING
“POLISH IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA: WHEN, WHERE, WHY AND HOW” — STEVE SZABADOS
Arlington Heights (NW) Memorial Library, 500 N. Dunton Ave., Arlington Hts., IL 60004
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Steve Szabados is a genealogy lecturer and author. He has traced his ancestors back to 1600s New England and 1730s in Poland, Germany, Bohemia and Slovenia. His goal is to share his
passion for Family History and he has given numerous presentations to genealogical groups and libraries.

This event will be held as a Webinar. For more information as it becomes available, visit the PGSA Website <http://pgsa.org/calendar/>.

August 31 – September 3, 2016

THE FGS 2016 CONFERENCE
TIME TRAVEL: CENTURIES OF MEMORIES
A Conference for the Nation’s Genealogists
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

FGS and local host the Illinois State Genealogical Society invite you to join genealogists and family historians from throughout the world for some innovative time traveling experiences in Springfield, IL! Learn from exceptional speakers, network with other researchers, stroll through a large exhibit hall filled to the brim with vendors, and take in the amazing sights and sounds of Illinois’ capital city.

(The November 23, 2015 issue of EOGN included the announcement that hotel reservations are open for this event. For more information visit the FGS Website.)

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

November 20, 2016

PGSA QUARTERLY MEETING
“HOLY COW! WHERE ARE MY POLISH CHICAGO CATHOLICS NOW?” — TERESA STEINKAMP MCMILLIN, CG
Algonquin Public Library (NW), 2600 Harnish Dr., Algonquin, IL 60102
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Teresa Steinkamp McMillin is a Certified Genealogist who specializes in German-American and Midwest research, as well as reading German script. She has been interested in genealogy since she was a child and currently has many pleased clients. She presents quality genealogical lectures for local societies and national conferences.

This event will be held as a Webinar. For more information as it becomes available, visit the PGSA Website <http://pgsa.org/calendar/>.

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Agnieszka Matysiuk mentioned this site to the Facebook Genealogy Translations group. It’s a nice online guide to parish records in Russian by Zofia Federowicz-Bolczak. I especially like how she developed a Cyrillic script font to help with the handwriting, which is one of the main stumbling blocks for researchers.

Edward David Luft’s magnum opus, *The Jews of Posen Province in the Nineteenth Century*, now has an activated link on the Kehilalinks site, at the above URL. We mentioned this in last month’s issue, but we failed to give credit to the man responsible for the Kehilalinks site, Eli Rabinowitz. We regret the omission; we always want to give credit where it’s due, and Mr. Rabinowitz deserves it!

Valerie Warunek posted a note to the Facebook group Polish Culture, Food and Traditions, saying Maria Dembińska’s book “*Food and Drink in Medieval Poland* is online if you are interested in reading it.” This is the link to the PDF.

Bobbi King posted a review of Elizabeth Shown Mills’ *Citing Genetic Sources for History Research, Evidence Style* to Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter [EOGN] on 3 February 2016, and you can read it at the above link. This is one of the QuickSheet guides from Genealogical Publishing, a four-page laminated reference sheet to answer basic questions on the topic at hand. With the growing role that genetic research plays in genealogy, I imagine there is need for this information; and Elizabeth Shown Mills is pretty much the go-to lady for guidance in citing sources properly.

This item from EOGN summarizes Dick Eastman’s talk with two representatives of Software MacKiev, the new owners of the Family Tree Maker software.

This item from EOGN discusses the pros and cons of desktop office suite programs other than Microsoft Office, especially the free LibreOffice. I have often considered saving money...
by dumping Office and going with LibreOffice, and it’s nice to have an overview of the options available.

<https://www.facebook.com/ProjektPodlasiePl/videos/897202560395106/>

Ola Heska posted this video to Facebook’s Polish Genealogy group. It shows how carefully volunteers from the Podlasie area handle old registers as they digitize them. Good to see!

<http://tinyurl.com/hwhma3g>

Debbie Greenlee shared this link with several mailing lists. It’s an article by Jesse Dukes, “Poland elsewhere: Why so many Poles came to Chicago.”


The 28 February 2016 issue of Nu? What’s New? mentioned that the Family History Library schedule of webinars for March can be seen at this link. My guess is, the one that would help our readers most is “Learning to Read German Handwriting,” on 9 March at 1 p.m.

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

I can’t recall if we’ve mentioned this website before, but it is worth looking at if you had noble ancestry. It’s all in Polish, I’m afraid. But it takes very little knowledge of Polish to look on the left side, at the list “Metryki szlacheckie,” parish registers for nobles, and see which churches and parishes are included. The list of people mentioned in the parish registers gives basic info that you can make out with minimal knowledge of Polish—or even, God help you, with Google Translate....

<https://www.rootstech.org/video2/4739804696001>

You can pick and choose sessions to watch of the recent RootsTech conference at this site.

<http://tracingthepast.org/minority-census/census-database>

In a post to the JewishGen newsgroup, Phyllis Kramer explained that most of the 1939 German “minority census” has been indexed and you can search by surname or town. This particular enumeration dealt with households that had one or more residents with a Jewish grandparent. You can search the database at the above link, or get more info on the census itself at <https://www.tracingthepast.org/minority-census>.
Jan Meisels Allen posted a note to the JewishGen newsgroup about the Russian State Library’s online database, and also gave the above link for a blog with the title “A Russian Genealogy Goldmine Awaiting to be Cleared of its Treasures.” This article explains how a researcher can search the massive resources of the Russian State Library without actually being fluent in Russian! It’s not for the faint-hearted; but for a researcher with Russian roots who’s determined and enjoys a challenge, it could pay off nicely.

I’m sure we’ve mentioned this site before, but perhaps not the page of registered surnames. This website has lots of info on names of people and places in what is now Belarus—which was once home to a lot of Poles, especially nobles. The URL above will take you to the list of registered surnames beginning with A; and there are links near the top that take you through the rest of the alphabet. There’s also a list of place names at <http://radzima.net/eng/places/>.

Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz posted a notice to the Facebook Polish genealogy group, explaining that the Polish State Archives has published the list of records to be scanned and added to Szukajwarchiwach in 2016. You can get it here.

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