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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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A PARTING SHOT FROM HENRYK GÓRECKI

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

*Gen Dobry!* is, as the name implies, primarily about Polish genealogy, especially in the context of online resources. But we like to embrace all aspects of Polish life, because, honestly, your understanding of any aspect of Polish life is enriched and informed by study of other aspects. You can’t draw a line between genealogy and history, culture, art, music, and so on; they all affect each other. And while you may not need those other fields to fill out a family tree, you will find you understand family history better if you try to learn a little about those other subjects. So forgive me if I digress for a moment.

I’ve written before about the Third Symphony of Henryk Górecki, the Polish composer who confounded everyone in the West by creating a “Symphony of Sorrowful Songs” that became a mainstream hit in the early 1990s. Even if you don’t know it, you’ve probably heard samples of it used in firms such as Peter Weir’s *Fearless* and Terrence Malick’s *The Tree of Life*. *Fearless* was where I first encountered it. The music seemed a perfect fit for what the main character was going through, seeming to give the whole story a depth of feeling that few American movies capture. I was astonished by it, sought it out, and found I loved the whole work.

Well, Górecki died in 2010. But a few weeks ago, I came across an article in the New Yorker, available here:

<http://www.newyorker.com/culture/cultural-comment/cult-fame-discontents?mbid=social_facebook>

It’s a review of Górecki’s Fourth Symphony, which was unfinished at the composer’s death, but his sketches were complete enough to let his son, Mikołaj, finish the work. The London Philharmonic gave it a premiere last year, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic performed it at Disney Hall in January of this year. This article discusses the piece in the context of Górecki’s other work, and his attitude toward the fame his Third Symphony brought him.

He would probably have laughed to know his piece was performed at Disney Hall, and muttered “Typical.” It turns out, according to his friends and acquaintances, that Górecki was not exactly thrilled by the fame and glory his Third Symphony brought him. The author of the article feels that this Fourth Symphony is, in many ways, Górecki’s farewell to life and his comment on the popularity of his “masterpiece.”

Going by what this author says, if I’d ever met Górecki and gushed about how much I loved his work, he’d probably have done his best to get away from me. He was probably too polite to slap me, or any of his other fans; but he might have had the urge. It seems, he was not happy to have found fame; he wanted no part of it, or of modern life. And it shows in his last work. Parts of the Fourth Symphony mount an onslaught of dissonance against the listener’s ears. They are followed by consoling, pretty music—which suddenly turns back into more dissonance. It’s almost as if he’s saying “If you wimps can’t take this, I want no part of you.”
This isn’t the first time a Slav has made me feel like a chump. I remember, I was a big fan of Aleksander Solzhenitsyn’s work back in the 70s, going so far as to struggle through several of his books in Russian (and they are *not* easy reading!). Then he was deported from the Soviet Union, came to America, took a good look around, and promptly started to tell us what a bunch of vapid, hedonistic morons we were. He wanted no part of American life; we might have freedom, but he felt we misused it horribly. Once the Soviet Union fell, he was only too glad to go back to his home, Russia, and spend the rest of his days telling his fellow countrymen what they were doing wrong. (And they, more or less, ignored him.)

The only reason I mention all this is because it may be good for us to realize something: the people we think envy us, and are dying to live like us, may actually think we’re idiots. How do we react to this? We could flagellate ourselves with self-doubt and crawl at their feet, begging them to like us. We could tell them to kiss off, who cares what they think?

But I believe a healthier approach is to pay attention to what they say, take it for what it’s worth, and try to improve. In a sense, though, they don’t really understand us; and we don’t understand them. We should respect their genius and their integrity, and learn from them. But we should also stand up for ourselves, and say, “You know, we get things right once in a while, too.”

I honestly think if the first generation of Polish-American immigrants could see how their descendants live now, they’d complain that we have succumbed to every vice: laziness, hedonism, gluttony, lack of faith and respect, on and on. From their point of view, they’d be right. But it seems every older generation thinks the kids are going to hell in a hand basket; and every younger generation thinks the old folks are a bunch of clueless old farts.

I am going to try to listen to the whole Fourth Symphony of Henryk Górecki, even though I admit, the sample I listened to hurt my ears. But I’m going to give him a chance. I want to see if I can understand how he was looking at things. I won’t forsake all that I believe in, just because I doubt he would approve. But he had something to say, and I want to hear it, even if I may not like it. And maybe that’s how I one-up him: I’ll listen to the music he likes, but he wouldn’t listen to the music I like...

As for those first immigrants to America, they might not think so, but they got their wish. We’re better off than they were, and free to choose what we like, what we believe, what we value. We may not always use our freedom wisely; but we have it, and that is partly thanks to them. So let’s respect them, honor their memory, and go right on living the way that suits us.

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*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: Sending Money to Poland, Follow-Up

A few issues back your lead article was on high fees banks were charging readers trying to pay for genealogy records in Poland. In response, here is information on an Electronic Fund Transfer
(EFT) financial service I used to send Euros to my dentist in Netherlands – at a fraction of the fees mentioned in the article.

Xe trade is an online EFT currency exchange business where fees are based on the daily spread between bid and ask price of currencies. The same way Cantor shops make money. For USD to Zloty, here are the numbers on March 3, 2015 - 10:27 am.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BID</th>
<th>ASK</th>
<th>HIGH</th>
<th>LOW</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USDPLN</td>
<td>3.7224</td>
<td>3.7254</td>
<td>3.7292</td>
<td>3.7071</td>
<td>.018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prices fluctuate with the market, so there is a bit of a gamble doing this. However, Xe’s exchange rate is much better than I can get from any local bank.

The process to participate is a bit of work. Worthwhile, for the right personal situation. It consists of setting up an account: entering name, address, International Banking Numbers (IBNs), e-mail, etc., plus sending a jpg copy of your passport and a utility bill as proof of identification. They will ask for the name, address, IBN, e-mail, etc. for payees also. The funds go directly from your bank account into the payee’s bank account. It takes about ten days for money to transfer and Xe Trade informs both parties via e-mail of where things are in the process.

I wanted to test transferring some funds to Poland before sharing this information, but never had a need; nor do I know anyone well enough in Poland to monitor progress on that side of the pond. So, if some adventurous reader wants to have a financial adventure, here is the link:

Set up an account: <http://www.xe.com/xetrade/suinfo.php>

Also, my favorite link for exchange rates:

<http://www.forexdirectory.net/forexchartsgraph.html?tvwidgetsymboll=FX%3AEURUSD>
<http://www.forexdirectory.net/pln.html>

An appreciative reader of your fine newsletter,

Loni Fortier <ljfortier@gmail.com>

Editor—Thank you for sharing this information with us.

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Subject: “Polish Committee,” December 1941

I am looking for a “Polish committee” that paid in December 1941 for visas (and possibly boat trip tickets) from unoccupied France (Lyon) to Canada out of Lisbon via Baltimore, for a group of maybe 50 to 100 Polish immigrants (all industry workers). I searched in vain for visa records both from US and British consulates, and contacted a couple of Polish Canadian institutions
with limited success. Any idea what this Polish committee would be and where I could find its records?

Philippe Christol <phchristol@yahoo.com>

Editor—I couldn’t find anything to help Philippe, but I’m hoping someone out there will recognize this reference, or dig more intelligently and successfully than I did!

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Subject: Maps of the Partitions

Editor—In the last issue, we included a link with a map that showed the Partitions of Poland as of 1799. I thought it was a useful starting point and wanted to share it. But the partitions changed considerably over the years, and Henry Szot was kind enough to send me a note with links to other maps that help you deal with those changes.

The Belarus map does present the Partitions status as of 1799. However there were a number of modifications subsequently.

1) 1807-1815: part of Prussian and Austrian partitions incorporated into Grand Duchy of Warsaw. See history and maps:


2) 1815 Congress of Vienna: Grand Duchy of Warsaw broken up and partitions redefined, including a Free City of Kraków (later part of Galicia).


<http://lazarus.elte.hu/hun/digkonyv/topo/3felmeres.htm>

3) For the former Eastern Poland:
<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/7f/Gubernie_zachodnie_krolestwo_polskie_1902.jpg>

4) Changes in Russian partition:


<http://www.pgsa.org/images/Atlas/01.PowLoc.jpg>

5) Organization of Pre-partitioned Poland/Lithuania:


Henry Szot
Editor—Anyone with any experience researching Poland knows nothing about it can ever be simple! It was good of Henry to take the time to put this list together for it, and I believe you’ll join me in thanking him.

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*** POLISH-AMERICAN MARRIAGE DATABASE ***

by Diane Szepanski

The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast has posted a Polish-American Marriage Database on their website:


This database contains the names of couples of Polish origin who were married in select locations in the Northeast United States. The information was taken from marriage records, newspaper marriage announcements, town reports, parish histories or information submitted by Society members. The time period generally covered by these lists is 1892-1940. It includes the States of Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Connecticut and Jersey City, NJ will be added at a later date.

Please read the Introduction before using this database for a complete description of its contents.

Editor—Incidentally, this same information appeared in the 9 March 2015 issue of EOGN [Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter]. Good job of spreading the word!

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*** LATEST ADDITIONS TO GENTEAM.EU ***

by Felix Gundacker <kontakt@GenTeam.at>

<http://www.GenTeam.eu> – approximately 230,000 additional records online

Vienna, March 29, 2015

New at GenTeam:
1. New: Vienna: birth index of Civil Registries (Vital Records)
2. Index of the book titled “Der Adel der Habsburgermonarchie” (Nobility of the Habsburg Monarchy) by Dr. Georg Frölichsthal
3. Vienna: Index of Catholic Baptisms in Vienna – approximately 115,000 new entries
4. Vienna: Index of Catholic Deaths in Vienna
5. Indices of church records from Upper and Lower Austria, Burgenland, and Bohemia: approximately 48,000 new entries
Dear Researchers:

**On my own account:**

With today’s new online records, the **28,600 registered users** have immediately **11.6 million entries** at their disposal. At this point, I would like to thank all those individuals, who have in the last 5 years furnished GenTeam 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.** By the way, the use of GenTeam requires no membership fee.

Other developments created parallel to GenTeam are the [http://www.GenList.at](http://www.GenList.at), a bilingual mailing list with more than 1,600 members as well as the genealogical link collection found at [http://www.GenLink.at](http://www.GenLink.at).

**Facebook:**

Mrs. Mireille Trauner maintains our GenTeam-Website found under [http://www.facebook.com/GenTeam.Die.genealogische.Datenbank](http://www.facebook.com/GenTeam.Die.genealogische.Datenbank). There you will find all past updates (in German only). 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](https://www.facebook.com/Ahnenforschung.in.Oesterreich.Ungarn) (in German only). At [http://www.AiOeU.eu](http://www.AiOeU.eu) you will also find many curiosities collected from various research, like Christian names as in the following example: Heinrich Anna Maria Amalia, rare Christian names like Aglaja or Gundobaldine, rare professions like “Remover of Corns” (also known as “Chicken Eyes Remover”), or you might even find an entry like that of Leopold Richter, a 17-year old youngster, who got killed in an automobile accident in 1905.

Now To The New Update:

1. **New: Vienna: Index of birth records of Civil Registries 1867 – 1896**

   Besides the database containing the emergency civil marriages furnished by University Professor Dr. Anna Staudacher and published online by GenTeam a few years ago, you will now find also an index for civil birth records for the time frame of 1867-1896 for people not confessing any faith (i.e., atheists, deists, and individuals who are not affiliated with any religion or are members of unrecognized religions).

2. **New: Index of the Book “Der Adel der Habsburgermonarchie” (The Nobility of the Habsburg Monarchy) by Dr. Georg Frölichsthal**
Despite that the database consists of only a name index (the detailed references must be omitted due to copyright reasons), it still lets you easily identify noble families. You surely will find the book (with citations) published in 2008 by the publishers Bauer & Raspe (ISBN-10: 3879472017) in any well-stocked library (as for example at the Heraldic Genealogical Society Adler), <http://www.adler-wien.eu/index.php/en/>.

3. Baptismal Index of Vienna between 1585 and 1900
Approximately 115,000 new records, approximately 827,000 records already online:

Baptismal records from the following parishes were added: 01 Saint Stephan, 01 Bürgerspital (Citizens Hospital), 02 Saint Josef, 02 Saint Leopold, 03 Rennweg, 04 Saint Elizabeth, 04 Saint Karl Borromäus, 04 Wieden (Paulaner), 05 Saint Florian (Matzleinsdorf), 05 Saint Josef Margareten, 06 Gumpendorf, 07 Schottenfeld, 08 Mariatreu (Piarists), 08 Gebäraanstalt ( Birthing Institute), 09 Votiv Kirche (Votive Church), 09 Lichtental, and 18 Währing (the number at the begin of a parish shows the district).

You will find a table of all parishes with updated time frames under Help/Info at each database.

At this point I would like to express my heart-felt gratitude by Helga Hörmann, Elisabeth Kultscher, Georg Kummerfeldt, Cindy Lindau, Martha Melchart, Suzanne Morris, Dr. Günter Oppitz, Andrea Reiter, Gerda Smodej, Jesko Stampa, Judith Starke, Walter Thurner, Mireille Trauner, Margit Urbanek as well as to all the individuals, who already work on additional indices which will be put online in the near future.

I also want to invite you, to help with this index. Please simply contact me at <kontakt@GenTeam.at>.

4. Index of Catholic Deaths in Vienna

Since the list of the deceased in the Viennese Newspaper Wiener Zeitung contains vast gaps (even with consideration of Viennese historic borders); on average, 40% of the deceased are missing. Therefore, we at GenTeam have begun an index of the Catholic burials.

Besides the total compilations of the hospitals of the 3rd District of Vienna already online, the following new records were added:

the whole 1st District of Vienna for the years 1900 – 1938 (am Hof to 1907, Deutscher Orden, Hofburg to 1919, Maria Rotunda, Saint Augustin, Saint Michael to 1926, Saint Stephan, Schotten, Saint Peter), as well as 01 Saint Peter 1810-1899, and 01 Franziskaner 1783-1792. You will find an exact listing under Hilfe-/Infostufe (Help / Info).

Further parish records are already in the works.

I would like to express my heart-felt appreciation to Georg Baumgartner, Monika Fischer,
and DI Leopold Strenn for their vast contributions.

1. Church records Indices from Lower and Upper Austria, Burgenland, and Bohemia:

   Approximately 50,000 new entries from Catholic Registries have been added. You will find the parishes with updated time frames under Help at GenTeam.

   **Lower Austria:**
   Grafenschlag, Hohenruppersdorf, Kirchschlag, Marbach am Walde, Saint Pölten Military (you find it under Franziskaner Parish), Schönbach, Traunstein, Unserfrau, Unterhauzenthal, Waidhofen an der Ybbs, Zistersdorf

   **Upper Austria:**
   Maria Neustift, Mitterkirchen

   **Burgenland:**
   Rattersdorf

   **Böhmen:**
   Reichenau/Rychnov nad Knezou

   At this point, I would like to express many thanks to Ursula Baldemaier, Wolfgang Berner, Martina Gelbmann, Ingeborg Heider, Franziska Heidrich, Johann Hochstöger, Elisabeth Kultscher, Martha Melchart, Karin Scharrer, Franz Spevacek, Ursula Stiermayr, DI Leopold Strenn, and Theodora Winkler.

   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.

   Sincerely yours,
   Felix Gundacker

   Pantzergasse 30/8
   A-1190 Wien
   Telephone: 0043 676 40 11 059

   E-mail: <kontakt@GenTeam.at>
   Databases: <http://www.GenTeam.eu>
   Link Collections: <http://www.GenLink.at>
   Mailing List: <http://www.GenList.at>
   Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GenTeam.Die.genealogische.Datenbank>

   “Connecting genealogists”

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Gen Dobry!, Vol. XVI, No. 3, March 2015 — 9
Editor—Roger Laske, Editor-in-Chief of the Polish Eaglet, the publication of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, sent me the table of contents for the latest issue, Spring 2015. I wanted to pass this along so that those of you who might be interested can know what appears in this issue. If you’re not a member of PGS-Michigan, you can always join and receive the three issues published yearly!

Editor’s Notes
Overview of Jewish History in Poland, Alexandra Goldberg
Americans from Polish and Eastern European Jewish Families in Hamtramck and Detroit, Judith Cantor
Jewish Merchants Made a Lasting Impact on Hamtramck, Greg Kowalski
Polin: A Brief Sketch of Jewish History in Poland, Kamila Mazurek
Jewish Genealogy: oy vay!, Kamila Mazurek
The James David Grey Family Lineage, James David “Jim” Grey
Detroit’s Early Jewish Synagogues, 1850-1925, Roger S. Laske
Cemeteries in Metro-Detroit Area, Excerpted
Atlantic Crossings-The Genealogical History of the Kuplicki Family: Part 2, Fred Kuplicki
Our Fascinating Trip To Poland, Mark Jarocha
Chance Meeting Unites Cousins, Kenneth Merique
Member Queries, Roger S. Laske
Surname Index, Roger S. Laske (comp.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

April 8, 2015

BEGINNING POLISH RESEARCH
Newtown, CT Public Library
Main Street • Newtown, CT • 7:00 p.m.

Join us at the Newtown, CT Public Library on Main Street at 7:00 p.m. for a lecture on beginning Polish research.

April 11, 2015

CONFERENCE OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA AND
9:00 a.m.

Jonathan Shea, President of PGSCTNE, will deliver two lectures on Polish genealogy and translating records of genealogical value at the conference sponsored by the Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical Society and the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. The lectures will take place at Luzerne County Community College in Nanticoke, PA.

For more information, please e-mail Joyce Homan at <execdir@genpa.org>.

[From <http://pgsctne.org/ConferencesEvents.aspx>].

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April 15–18, 2015

13TH NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE (NERGC)
Navigating the Past: Sailing into the Future
The Rhode Island Convention Center
Providence, Rhode Island

Keynote Speakers are Lisa Louise Cook – Genealogy Gems, and Judy G. Russell – The Legal Genealogist. In addition, Matthew Bielawa, Vice President of PGSCTNE, and Jonathan Shea, President of PGSCTNE, will deliver a presentation on Polish and Ukrainian research on Saturday, April 18 as part of the New England Regional Genealogy Conference.

For more information, visit: <http://www.nergc.org/>

[From <http://pgsctne.org/ConferencesEvents.aspx>].

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Thursday, April 16, 2015

NIAGARA HISTORICAL MUSEUM AT NIAGARA ON THE LAKE, ONTARIO
Paul S. Valasek
“Haller’s Polish Army in France: From the US, through Canada, to France and Poland”

This lecture is scheduled for Thursday, April 16th, at the Niagara Historical Museum at Niagara on the Lake, Ontario. Copies of Paul’s book will be available, as well as limited research into names of recruits.

For more information, contact:

Amy Klassen, Society Administrator
May 12, 2015

GERMAN STUDIES: UNDERSTANDING GERMAN RECORDS AND METHODOLOGY
offered by the St. Louis Genealogical Society

If you’ve got Germanic roots, you’ll want to attend the NGS 2015 pre-conference event titled German Studies: Understanding German Records and Methodology offered by the St. Louis Genealogical Society. This all-day program 12 May 2015, starting at 8:30 a.m., will offer helpful hints and suggestions to enrich your research. All speakers have an extensive German background and their biographies are available in the NGS 2015 conference brochure.

– Finding a Town of Origin, Baerbel Johnson, AG

– German Historical Maps and Territories, Warren Bittner, CG

– Finding the Correct German Archives, Carol Whitton, CG

– Strategies for Solving German Research Problems, Baerbel Johnson, AG

– German History Makes a Difference, Warren Bittner, CG

The registration fee of $110 includes a special German syllabus, all sessions, plus lunch.

NGS 2015 conference registration is not required to participate in this event. Further details are available at <http://stlgs.org/NGS-German-Day>.

[From <http://blog.dearmytle.com/2015/03/german-studies-understanding-german.html>. ]

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May 13–16, 2015

2015 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE
CROSSROADS OF AMERICA
St. Charles, Missouri

[The following article is from Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2014 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://blog.eogn.com/>. ]
Registration is now open for the National Genealogical Society’s thirty-seventh annual family history conference, Crossroads of America, which will be held 13–16 May 2015 at the St. Charles Convention Center in St. Charles, Missouri. Conference highlights include a choice of more than 150 lectures, given by nationally known speakers and subject matter experts on a broad array of topics. The conference will open with The Tales of Pioneer Paths: Rivers, Roads & Rails given by J. Mark Lowe, CG, FUGA, a full-time professional researcher and educator, and former APG president.

Continuing NGS’s goal of providing quality educational opportunities to its participants, the conference will feature a variety of lectures for all skill levels from beginner to advanced. Lecture topics covered at the conference will include: researching in many Midwestern states; national and regional migration paths; land, military, immigration, and naturalization records; ethnic and religious groups including African American, German, Irish, Jewish, Native American, Polish, and Scots-Irish; methodology, analysis, and problem solving; and the use of technology including genetics, mobile devices, and websites useful in genealogical research. The Board for Certification of Genealogists’ Skillbuilding track will again be an integral part of the conference and presented over the four days of the event.

Registration is currently open. To register online, visit the NGS website at <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/event-registration/> and complete the registration form.

The online searchable program is available at <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/agenda/> and the PDF brochure is available at <http://goo.gl/x92kAg>. The brochure includes an overview of the sessions, tours, pre-conference events, registration times, and rates, as well as general conference and hotel details. Attendees are urged to visit the conference blog, which will feature tips on local and regional research facilities as well as things to do in and around St. Charles and updated information on hotel availability and local restaurants.

Founded in 1903, the National Genealogical Society is dedicated to genealogy education, high research standards, and the preservation of genealogical records. The Arlington, Virginia-based nonprofit is the premier national society for everyone, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian seeking excellence in publications, educational offerings, research guidance, and opportunities to interact with other genealogists.

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Sunday, May 17, 2015

POLISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF AMERICA
QUARTERLY MEETING
Fountaindale Public Library • 300 W Briarcliff Rd. • Bolingbrook, IL
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

A Brief History of the Russian Partition – Ola Heska

Gen Dobry!, Vol. XVI, No. 3, March 2015 — 13
In 1795 Poland disappeared from world maps and endured 123 years of foreign domination. The country was divided by and occupied by Germany, Russia, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This presentation is an overview of the causes and results of this occupation focusing on the Russian Partition.

Ola Heska is a native of Poland, fluent in Russian and English (and Polish, of course), with decades of experience in genealogical and archival research and translation. She is a PGSA member and has volunteered as a translator at our annual conferences. She is also a member of the Polish Genealogical Society in Warsaw (PTG) and is involved in their efforts to index church and civil records if the former Russian Partition.

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Thursday, June 18, 2015

POLISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS
Chicopee Public Library
449 Front Street
Chicopee Massachusetts 01023

6:30 p.m.

“Leaving Dobrzechow: Immigration from a Galician Village” — Presented by Patricia Yocum

Mrs. Patricia Yocum will speak on her published work, “Leaving from a Galician Village” and the immigrants that came to work in the mills of Chicopee and Ware including a discussion of her research techniques.

Free admission, please bring a friend.

For more information, please visit our website: <http://www.PGSMA.org>.

[From an e-mail announcement sent out by Joseph Kielec of PGS-MA].

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Saturday, August 1, 2015

2015 INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR OF THE
EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGY SOCIETY
Ancestral Evidence – Names, Places, and Documents

The East European Genealogical Society is holding its 2015 International Seminar, celebrating 25 years, under the title “Ancestral Evidence – Names, Places, and Documents.” The speakers will be Matthew Bielawa, William F. Hoffman, and John Pihach. Bielawa will speak on analyzing vital records of the Austrian, Prussian, and Russian Empires. Hoffman will speak on given names and place names of east Europe; and Pihach will speak on going beyond vital records to discover

Sunday, August 9, 2015

POLISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF AMERICA
QUARTERLY MEETING
Algonquin Area Public Library • 2600 Harnish Dr. • Algonquin, IL
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Drilling Down for DNA – Jeffrey A. Bockman

Mr. Bockman explores a variety of methods to discover the distant cousins whose DNA test results might help to get past a brick wall. He will discuss how DNA tests and DNA projects can help to overcome tough research problems. Based upon his article in Everett’s Genealogical Helper September/October 2007.

Jeffrey A. Bockman is an experienced genealogy lecturer, author, and writer. He has applied his engineering, management, computer, and organizational development skills to help with the analyzing, problem solving, and organization of records necessary for genealogical research. He has been doing genealogical research since 1987 and has been active in societies, society management, classes, and presenting lectures since 1994.

Friday & Saturday, October 2-3, 2015

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
CHICAGO’S SOUTH SIDE POLONIA BUS TOUR & CONFERENCE

“Historic Scenes Through Mobile Means” – Friday, Sept. 25, 2015

The Homan Square Foundation has opened the historic original Sears Water Tower (now called the Nichols Tower) where we will get a bird’s eye view of the City of Chicago from the 14th floor. In addition to Homan Square, bus stops will include:

• inside tours of 3 Roman Catholic Churches established for and by Polish immigrants
• an in-depth look at the grounds of the US Steel South works property
• a drive though of the newly designated Pullman National Monument

Conference: “Research Before and Beyond the Internet” – Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015

Renowned lecturer, professor, and author, Dominic Pacyga will be our Keynote Speaker. In addition:
• **Ola Heska** will demonstrate, with step-by-step instructions, how to obtain vital records from the Polish State Archives and other Internet databases.

• **Ellie Carlson**, costume curator of the Winnetka Historical Society, will help you identify photographs that now occupy boxes in your closet.

Registration will begin in spring for the bus tour itself or combined with the conference. Reserve your $99 room as of March 5, 2015 at the:

Chicago Marriott Midway
6520 S. Cicero Avenue
Chicago, IL 60638
(708)594-5500

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Friday & Saturday, October 2-3, 2015

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT AND THE NORTHEAST CONFERENCE

Central Connecticut State University • 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT

[The schedule given here is taken from info provided for the next issue of Pathways & Passages. Obviously, there may be changes; check the PGSCTNE website page <http://pgsctne.org/ConferencesEvents.aspx> for forthcoming information.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
<th>LECTURE TITLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:30 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5:15 - 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Opening Remarks - Alumni Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:45 - 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Tadeusz Piłat</td>
<td>Galician Maps in Poland: A Great Source for Family Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:45 - 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Matthew Bielawa and Jonathan Shea</td>
<td>Introduction to Polish Research: Part I</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 - 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Refreshments and View Exhibits</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:45 - 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Kris Rzepczynski</td>
<td>Stuck? Research Strategies for Those Brick Wall Ancestors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:45 - 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Matthew Bielawa and Jonathan Shea</td>
<td>Introduction to Polish Research: Part II</td>
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015

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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
<th>LECTURE TITLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 - 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 - 9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Alumni Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 - 10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Kris Rzepczynski</td>
<td>Digital News: Utilizing Online Newspapers in Your Genealogy Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 - 10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>John Righetti</td>
<td>Changed by Thalerhof - An Anniversary Documentary</td>
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<td>11:00 - 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 - 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Lisa Alzo</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Resources For Polish Genealogists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15 - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch and View</td>
<td>Exhibits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45 - 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>John Righetti</td>
<td>A Life in Darkness: Slavs in Pennsylvania’s Coal Mines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45 - 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lisa Alzo</td>
<td>Packrat or Genealogist? Effective Methods for Organizing Your Family History Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Tadeusz Pilat</td>
<td>Notary Records in Poland (With Emphasis on the Notary Records of the 19th Century)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>View Conference</td>
<td>Research Center and Exhibits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:40 - 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Consultations</td>
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October 24, 2015

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN
ANNUAL SEMINAR
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 East Maple Road, Troy, MI 48083

Please note this date is one week later than usual.

PGS-Michigan has announced that Jonathan D. Shea and Steve Szabados will speak at their annual seminar this year. Details will be given as they become available.

Jonathan D. Shea is the author of Going Home: A Guide to Doing Polish American Family Research and President of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and Northeast. He has co-authored with William F. Hoffman on three research guides; In Their Words: A Genealogist’s Translation Guide to Polish German, Latin and Russian Documents, Volumes 1-3.
Stephen Szabados authored several books including *Polish Genealogy: 4 Steps to Success*, is the genealogy columnist for the Pol-Am Journal and blogs. Details of their presentations and registration will follow.

American Polish Center, 248-689-3636
<http://www.americanpolishcenter.com/>

[From the PGSM website, <http://www.pgsm.org>. I haven’t had the pleasure of hearing Steve Szabados speak; but I can tell you from personal experience, Jonathan Shea is a great speaker and teacher. If you get a chance, try to attend!]

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November 15, 2015

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MEMBERSHIP MEETING CROSSROADS OF AMERICA

Location – Arlington Heights Memorial Library, 500 N. Dunton Ave., Arlington Heights., Illinois

Topic – *Poland in WWII*. Poland was the first nation to fight German aggression in World War II. It supplied the fourth largest Allied armed forces behind those of the United States, United Kingdom and the Soviet Union. In addition, it organized the largest resistance movement of the war and made other substantial contributions to the Allied victory. This illustrated PowerPoint presentation will highlight the many contributions Poland and its people made to the ultimate destruction of Nazism.

Bio – James S. Pula is Professor of History at Purdue University. He has authored more than a dozen books and is the editor of *The Polish American Encyclopedia* and the academic journal *Polish American Studies*.

This presentation will be offered as a Webinar. Additional information will be posted on the PGSA Home Page, *PGSA Notebook*, and *Rodziny* prior to the meeting.

For details as they become available, check PGSA’s website, <http://www.pgsa.org>.

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*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***

<http://avotaynuonline.com>

“Avotaynu Online” is the latest venture from the company that produces AVOTAYNU, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy, and numerous books on the same subject. In an announcement in *Nu? What’s New?*, Gary Mokotoff explained, “Avotaynu Online will be
available free of charge from the venture’s website at <http://avotaynuonline.com>, which will be shared simultaneously on Facebook and Twitter. Reports will be delivered in different formats, including text, video, and podcasts. As a bonus to readers, all articles from 2007–2011 published in AVOTAYNU, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy, are available at no charge at the Avotaynu Online website. Articles from all other years will continue to be available on a subscription basis by visiting <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/Anthology.htm>.” Over the years, I have found Avotaynu, Inc. to be a class act, worthy of support and attention even from non-Jewish researchers. I wish them nothing but success with this new venture, and encourage serious researchers to take a look at all they have to offer.

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<http://dp.la>

The 2 March 2015 issue of Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter [EOGN] talked about this, the Digital Public Library of America. It is not limited to genealogy, but has a lot on that subject as well as others. Eastman also gave the URL for a YouTube video that provides an introduction to the DPLA, at <http://youtu.be/m0ngLBa4ewM>, and for a video, How to Search the Digital Library of America, at <https://video.utah.edu/media/t/0_ycqksy9v>.

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<http://matadornetwork.com/notebook/11-phrases-polish-people-understand/>

On Facebook, William H. Szych posted this URL to the group “The Way Back -- Unknown Stories of WWII Poland.” It lists 11 phrases only Polish people understand, and I found them all amusing and interesting. Many say “Poles are the only people smart enough to speak the Polish language.” Well, Poles are also the only people smart enough to say these things in such inventive ways!

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Pathways & Passages, the journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, has published a lot of really fine articles over the years. I was delighted to see there is an index to the article titles now on the PGSCTNE site. I was trying to remember what issue a specific article appeared in, and had no luck at all until I discovered this index.

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<http://genealogyindexer.org/>

Among recent sources added to this site are: 1945 Poznań Government Agencies and Institutions + Medical Directory {d1297}; 1937/1938 Great Poland Association of Farmers’ Cooperatives Report {d1296}; 1897-1930 Index of Obituaries Published in Dziennik Poznański (M. Fik; 2007) {h66}; and Josephine and Franciscan Metrics at Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine in Lviv (1965) {h67}. Serious researchers need to know about this site and invest a little time learning how to use it.

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<http://www.nomer.org/allukraina/>

On the GaliciaPoland-Ukraine mailing list, Laurence Krupnak gave this URL for the “All Ukraine residents Last Name First Name Patronymic Phone us. item st. house square

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The base population of Ukraine. Base (as well as other sections of our portal) can be used to search for long lost friends relatives, classmates in Ukraine.” You need to enter names and so forth in their Cyrillic alphabet spellings. WARNING: I have printed this URL in red because when I tried to visit the site, Malwarebytes blocked it as a source of malware. I’m mentioning it anyway because sometimes these anti-malware products block access needlessly; they are not always right. McAfee SiteAdvisor said it has tested the site and it is OK. Just realize, if you visit this site, there may be a risk. If you visit it and find there are no problems, please let me know so I can say so in the next issue.

Pamela Weisberger posted a note to JewishGen stating that Gesher Galicia has launched a new “Gateway to Galicia.” Gesher Galicia offers a huge amount of info valuable for people with research in that area, of whatever religion. For more info on the benefits of joining, visit this URL.

In another post to JewishGen, Logan Kleinwaks pointed out that scans of Biała Oodlaska 1820 civil birth, marriage, and death records are viewable online at this URL. It includes Jewish and non-Jewish records. He said there are also records 1873–1880 at <http://www.bbc.mbp.org.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=8914>, but he has not examined them. Please note, you do need the DjVu browser plugin. I recommend getting it from <https://www.cuminas.jp/en/downloads/download_en/>.

In a note to the PolandBorderSurnames mailing list, Tina Ellis said “Here’s a good site for searching for records, which have already been transcribed.” I feel sure we’ve mentioned this site before, but sites with records are proliferating at an incredible rate. It’s a good idea to keep posting the URLs of these resources, to help experienced and new researchers keep up.

Debbie Greenlee posted a note to the Polish Genius mailing list, saying she had found this site, which appears to be similar to the U.S. site “Find a Grave.” She said, “On the Home page you can type in the surname of someone whose grave you are trying to locate. Type the name in the white box at the right of the page and click on ‘Wyszukaj.”’ It is in Polish, but the option “Wybierz język,” at upper right, lets you select English as your interface language.

This URL takes you to an article on the PolishOrigins site, written by Bogusz Pawiński, on the reasons that led our ancestors to leave their homeland.

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