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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>

Update Email: Click here to update your email address.

To Unsubscribe: You have received this e-mail because you are subscribed to this newsletter from PolishRoots.org. Unsubscribe here.

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*** GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCES: WHAT ARE YOU MISSING? ***

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

I want to start by apologizing for not getting this issue out to you sooner. I knew the July issue might present some problems because, at the end of July, I was scheduled to fly up to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, to speak at the seminar of the East European Genealogical Society <http://www.eegsociety.org>. It was going to be a special event celebrating EEGS’s 25th anniversary. One of the foremost members, Brian J. Lenius, knew I have pretty much quit speaking at events; but he managed to talk me into coming to this one. One difficulty, however, was that I would be out of town and away from my work computer during the days I usually devote to *Gen Dobry!* I had intended to finish this issue before I left; but some problems arose that I had to attend to, and that left me too little time to devote to this.

I particularly wanted to do a respectable job on this issue because so many of you never got the June issue. Updates to the server that hosts PolishRoots and sends out *Gen Dobry!* did not go as smoothly as we’d hoped. I sent out the June issue on June 30, as usual; but almost no one received it. You can always download the current PDF from the PolishRoots site; but I know most of you depend on the convenience of receiving each issue in your e-mail inbox. We believe (we hope!) things are squared away now; and if you’re reading these words, they are. Still, after June’s issue was a no-show, I didn’t want July’s issue to be a rush job, hastily done and poorly assembled.

So I’m sorry this is late; but I’m glad I went to Winnipeg. It was a great break to get away from Houston, with its 100° days and stifling humidity. Winnipeg natives told me it can get pretty warm and humid there, too, in summer; but by Houston standards, it was sure to be more tolerable than I’m used to. In fact, we all got lucky and enjoyed a gorgeous weekend, with sunny days but comfortably warm temperatures and a steady breeze that was delightful. So just on a creature-comfort level, it was great.

Winnipeg itself was also a revelation—a good-size city with the kind of behavior I associate with the best of the Midwest. The people are friendly, courteous, and helpful, more than willing to give a stranger a hand. Our twin 15-year-old girls didn’t know what to expect, and were surprised by just how nice people were; and it was clear this was their habitual behavior, not something put on for out-of-towners. When we got back to Houston and were making our way through the airport, being pushed, shoved, and obstructed by impatient jerks, the girls said, “You can sure tell we’re not in Winnipeg any more!” I think the town gained a couple of serious fans.

But that’s just our personal experience, and probably is of no interest to you. What may be relevant is what the experience reminded me of: you miss out on a lot if you don’t attend genealogical seminars or conferences, at least once in a while. Yes, there’s the discomfort of travel, dealing with crowds, and so forth. The plus side outweighs the negative side, however. It is simply a blast to mix with other people who understand and share your interests, who don’t think you’re insane if you like to visit old archives or cemeteries, who care about the lives of
their great-great-great-grandparents. Doing good genealogical research is somewhat tedious, and requires real work. You may not realize what a boost it gives you to share space, every now and again, who other people who “get it.” Plus, chances are you’ll pick up some new ideas.

It’s especially inspiring to be around the volunteers who invest huge amounts of time and effort to organize and put on these events. They exhaust themselves performing a service for others; but they benefit, too. Nothing accelerates the process of improving at what you do more than helping others with it. The volunteers give up a lot, but they get something out of it, too. Serving, and serving well, generates enormous satisfaction!

I had the privilege of spending hours with people like Marni Domolewski; Brian J. Lenius and his wife, Maralyn A. Wellauer-Lenius (whom I’ve had the pleasure of knowing more than 20 years now); Denise Kolesar; Jane Seniw; John Schwandt; Chris Bukoski; Mavis Menzies; Dave Olinyk; Sadley Marcinyk; John Dobson; Lisa Haji Abbasi; and my fellow-speakers, Matthew Bielawa and John D. Pihach. (I hope anyone whose name I overlooked will forgive me). That’s just a few of the people who helped make this one event special. Think of them, and then think of all the other folks who put on all the other events genealogists can go to. How can you spend time around people like this and not be better for it?

I really want to encourage everyone reading this to consider attending a conference or seminar. You can’t hate travel more than I do; and I highly doubt you’re more anti-social than I am. But the odds are enormous that you will end up feeling the same way I do: this is a great way to spend a weekend.

And if you want to have an even more rewarding experience, try volunteering! The people who put these events together can always use more help; and you don’t need to be some sort of expert. I guarantee you, there is a contribution you can make. And it’s virtually certain you will end up getting back more than you give.

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*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: Those Serving Sobieski at Vienna

Do you know, or do any of your subscribers know, if there is a roster of the gentlemen who served King Jan Sobieski, when he and his hussars came to the rescue of Vienna?

If so, is this list available online, or must one hire a researcher in Poland to search this list?

Robert J. Gruchala-Wesierski

Editor—I’m afraid I do not know. If anyone can provide information that will help Pan Gruchala-Wesierski, please send it to me <wfh@langline.com> and I will forward it to him.
*** NEWEST ADDITIONS TO GENTEAM.EU ***

http://www.GenTeam.eu - approximately 610,000 additional entries online

Vienna, July 5th, 2015

New at GenTeam:

1. **New**: Jewish Registers in the Burgenland, Austria
2. **New**: Index of motor vehicle owners in Austria -- approximately 66,000 entries
3. Diocese Passau (Germany) -- approximately 284,000 new entries
4. Vienna: index of Catholic Baptisms -- approximately 97,000 new entries
5. Vienna: index of Catholic death records in Vienna
6. Register Indices from Lower and Upper Austria, Burgenland, Bohemia and Moravia -- approximately 121,000 new entries.

Dear Researchers:

**On my own account:**

With today’s new online records, the **29,700 registered users** have immediately **12.3 million entries** at their disposal. At this point, I would like to thank all those individuals, who have in the last 5.5 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 [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).

**Now to the new update**

1. **New: Jewish Registers in the Burgenland**

This new database is the total compilation of the still existing Jewish register Duplicates in the Burgenland from 1832-1895. Up to now the following communities were reviewed: Eisenstadt, Frauenkirchen, Gattendorf, Güssing, Kittsee, Kobersdorf and Mattersdorf (now Mattersburg). You will find an exact breakdown of the time frame of the database under the **Help Function.**
2. New: Index of Automobile owners in Austria in 1938 -- approximately 66,000 entries

This new database was furnished by the Vienna Technical Museum and contains approximately 66,000 owners of automobiles registered in Austria in 1938. Included are about 2,800 owners of motor vehicles expropriated by the National Socialists.

3. Diocese Passau, Germany -- approximately 284,000 new entries

Of the approximate 2.72 million register entries of the Passau Diocese about 440,000 marriages and are complete, about 1.3 million are baptisms, and the remainder are deaths. In this database you will find parish, volume, page number, surname, given name, date/year of event, not always profession, and place of residence. You will find the parish registers of the dioceses itself online at <http://www.matricula-online.eu>. A table of the parishes with reviewed time frames and important tips you will find under Help/information).

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

4. Baptismal Index of Vienna between 1585 and 1900 -- approximately 97,000 new records, approximately 925,000 records already online:

Baptismal records from the following parishes were added (number = district):
01 Sankt Stephan, 01 Bürgerspital, 02 Sankt Leopold, 03 Rennweg, 03 Landstraße, 04 Sankt Karl Borromäus, 05 Sankt Josef Margarethen (Margareten), 05 Sankt Florian (Matzleinsdorf), 07 Schottenfeld, 08 Gebäranstalt (birthing institute), 09 Votivkirche and 19 Grinzing.

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

At this point I would like to express my heart-felt gratitude by Helga Hörmann, Eva Korbl, Elisabeth Kultscher, Martha Melchart, Dr. Günter Oppitz, Gerda Smodej, Jesko Stampa, Judith Starke, Walter Thurner, Mireille Trauner 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>.

5. 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.

The following new records were added:
01 Am Hof, 01 Hofburg, 01 St. Peter. You will find an exact listing under help/info at the database.
Further parish records are already in the works.

I would like to express my heart-felt appreciation to Monika Fischer.

6. Church records Indices from Lower and Upper Austria, Burenland, Bohemia and Moravia -- approximately 121,000 new entries from Catholic registers have been added. You will find the parishes with updated time frames under Help/info at the database.

Lower Austria:
Grainbrunn, Kaumberg, Loich, Rabenstein an der Pielach, Sankt Georgen am Steinfeld, Sankt Johann bei Heinrichschlag, Schönbach, Texing, Traunstein, Unserfrau, Waidhofen an der Ybbs

Upper Austria:
Geinberg, Prambachkirchen

Burgenland:
Lockenhaus, Rattersdorf

Bohemia:
Reichenau/Rychnov nad Knezou

Moravia:
Hannsdorf/Hanusovice

At this point I would like to express many thanks to Klaudia Frühwirt, Gottfried Füreder, Franziska Heidrich, Johann Hochstöger, Rudolf Hüthaler, Elisabeth Kultscher, Marta Melchart, Franz Pögl, Johann Reisenhofer, Franz Spevacek, Ursula Stiermayr, Christoph Tietz 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

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http://www.AiOeU.eu

„Connecting genealogists“

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*** PRIVACY AND ONLINE FAMILY TREES ***

The July 19, 2015 issue of Nu? What’s New? included a link to an item available at Avotaynu Online:

<http://www.avotaynuonline.com/2015/07/privacy-issues-with-online-trees/>

The link takes you to a paper based on a lecture by E. Randol (Randy) Schoenberg at the recent 35th Conference of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. It discusses the issue of the right to privacy, with particular focus on how it can affect online family trees.

I keep running into discussions on this subject. At the recent seminar of the East European Genealogical Society, one of the most difficult questions posed to the panel of experts during the Question-and-Answer session at the end dealt with including data on living persons in published family trees. This article gives a long and thoughtful discussion of the matter.

I don’t want to quote extensively from the article—you can read it for yourself at the link above. But I was fascinated by the summary at the end. Let me quote the conclusions:

1. Deceased individuals do not have a right to privacy, so publication of genealogical data about deceased individuals is unrestricted.

2. There is generally no legal limitation on the publication of genealogical data about living individuals, since that data is neither private nor objectionable to a reasonable person.

3. Living individuals may have a right against public disclosure of private facts that would be offensive or objectionable to a reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities.

4. Online genealogy sites may restrict publication of genealogical data about living individuals, but solely as a result of marketing decisions and not because of any legal requirements or risks of liability or litigation.

5. Subject to the rule against public disclosure of objectionable private facts, genealogists are generally free to publish online family trees, and do not need to accede to privacy requests from individuals named on those trees.

Very interesting, and potentially controversial. This all seems reasonable to me, but I know there are people of good will who would disagree strongly, especially as regards info on living persons.

I have a feeling we’re going to be dealing with these questions more and more, and it’s wise to give some thought to where you stand and how you can affect any decisions made.
While I’m at it, let me add that at the bottom of this article, there is a link to subscribe to Avotaynu Online. Or you can subscribe from various other pages on the site, clicking on “Click Here To Subscribe to Our Weekly Digest.” It costs nothing, and it seems to me any serious genealogist can find something of interest on the site, regardless of religion or ethnicity. Why not subscribe?

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*** SCHENECTADY COUNTY EASTERN EUROPEAN ROOTS ***

The July 2015 issue of the newsletter for the Project to Discover Schenectady County’s Eastern European Roots is out. It includes an article by Leonard F. Jakubczak, a researchers who has impressed me over the years with the quality of his contributions. You can find it online at <http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eer/index.html>. Here is the table of contents:

Editor’s Notes, Phyllis Zych Budka
Pani Katarzya Kornacka, Part 2 — Coming Home, Martin Byster
The Gajewski Family from Lutocin, Brianna (Gajewski) Guckemus
Timeline: Schenectady Sojourn (1901–1925) of Julianna nee Polek Jakubczak, Leonard F. Jakubczak, Ph.D.

To submit your family story, pictures, etc, e-mail Phyllis Zych Budka: <abudka@nycap.rr.com>. The deadline for the next issue is October 1, 2015.

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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.

August 6–9, 2015

RESEARCHING OUR GERMAN ROOTS IN POLAND AND THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE

A convention for people of German origin interested in the genealogy, culture and history of their ancestors who migrated through Russian Poland, Volhynia, and surrounding areas.

Date: August 6 to 9, 2015

Place: Gatineau, Quebec Canada – Ramada Plaza / Manoir du Casino (check SGGEE Convention link below for cost)

Cost: Postmarked before 7 July - $90. CA or US (member); $100. CA or US (non-member); Postmarked after 7 July - $100. CA or US (member); $110. CA or US (non-member); one day rates available

Presented by: Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe
Topics:
- “An Anaconda in Volhynia? Germans in South America.” Edie Adam
- “Remembering the Deportation of 1915.” Dick Benert
- “EWZ: What is it, will it help my genealogical research, and how do I access and understand these records?” Karl Krueger
- “FamilySearch.org: A Place to Research, Share, and Preserve Your Family History Legacy.” Shirley-Ann Pyefinch
- “Behind-the-scenes: The Oral History Project.” Dr. Mathias Schulze
- “A Place by any other name won’t Merge.” Gary Warner and Sigrid Pohl Perry
- “SGGEE On-Line Databases – How to Get the Most Out of them.” Gary Warner
- “Genealogy 101 and Library Archives Canada Resources.” Nicole Watier
- “Genetic Genealogy: Using DNA to Identify Distant Cousins.” Willi Weisner

Research area at the convention will include the following:
- Wireless Internet access with your laptop to our various databases.
- Access to hundreds of thousands of names from Poland and Volhynia, many of which were extracted from Polish church books, which are not available in any other database. They contain more detail than available on the SGGEE website.
- Eastern Volhynian records - 1941 to 1944 for marriages, confirmations and birth records with some birth records back to 1920.
- Help will be available to assist in the translation of documents and getting past dead ends, as well as providing general information on further research.

SGGEE Convention details: <https://www.sggee.org/convention/convention_news.html>

[From an e-mail sent out by Mavis Menzies of the East Europe Genealogical Society]

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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 Everton'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.

August 11–15, 2015

2015 FEEFHS EASTERN EUROPEAN FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE
Plaza Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah

The Foundation for East European Family History Studies (FEEFHS) will hold their annual conference August 13–15 in Salt Lake City at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel. Topics of interest to genealogists include:

• Diane Afoumado, Chief, Research and Reference Branch, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, will give the keynote address: “How the Records of the International Tracing Service (ITS) May Surprise You,” along with three case study presentations: Jewish, Polish, and German.

• Ina Navazelskis, Project Coordinator at the Holocaust Memorial Museum, will present a talk about the “Oral History Interview Collection” of the museum as well as “How to Conduct Oral History Interviews.”

• Joanne Sher will lecture on “Basics of Jewish Research,” “Beyond the Basics,” “Hebrew Translating for Headstones,” and “Holocaust Research.”

The conference also offers a full track on German research, from basics to advanced topics; Russian research, Polish, and Germans from Russia. The 3-day conference is preceded by two workshops. One, presented by Joanne Sher, discusses “Finding the Village of Origin” for your ancestor.

The complete program is at <http://feefhsworkshop.org/program/schedule>.

People with roots in central or eastern Europe who are unfamiliar with FEEFHS should visit their site at <http://feefhs.org>. Its prominent features include an extensive collection of maps of Central and Eastern Europe at <http://feefhs.org/maplibrary.html>. Their Genealogical Resource Directory provides links to sites providing information about genealogical research for virtually every country in Europe.

Sunday, September 20, 2015
PLANTING AND GROWING YOUR POLISH FAMILY TREE

Sunday, September 20, 2015
1:00 to 4:00 PM
Dom Polski / Polish National Home
10 Coburn St.
Lowell, MA 01850

Are you interested in learning more about Polish Genealogy and getting started or restarted on a family tree? The Lowell Polish Cultural Committee and the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts are pleased to present an afternoon of Eastern European research assistance and education especially for those in Eastern Massachusetts. Free, bring a friend and perhaps find a relative!

Two Great Speakers and Topics
"Beginning Your Genealogy"
by Alan Doyle Horbal

"Overlooked Municipal Records"
by Sara Campbell

Other Great Offerings
- Free translation of short Polish documents
- PGSMA volunteers able to assist with your basic research questions
- "Finding Your Ancestral Village" map
- A chance to meet and greet others with roots in eastern Massachusetts interested in genealogy

Please register today for this free event so we can plan attendance. You may register online through www.pgsma.org or by contacting Ann Marie Winn at 978-858-0371 or amjwinn@hotmail.com.

www.pgsma.org

Gen Dobry!, Vol. XVI, No. 7, July 2015 — 11
Friday, September 25, and Saturday, September 26, 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

2015 POLISH GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE

sponsored by the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast and
Central Connecticut State University’s Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair
Polish and Polish American Studies

When: October 2 and October 3
Where: Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT

The conference provides an opportunity to learn strategies for tracing your Polish-American and Eastern European roots. The speakers are well known in Polish genealogy circles and their discussions will enable attendees to fill in the missing pieces of their family history. All speakers have extensive experience in their respective fields and have been featured at numerous regional, national and international conferences.

Featured speakers will be Lisa Alzo, Matthew Bielawa, Tomasz Pilat, John Righetti, Kris Rzepczynski and Jonathan Shea.

Tadeusz Pilat, from Tarnobrzeg, Poland will present lectures on “Notary Records with an Emphasis on Records in the 19th Century” and “Galician Maps in Poland.” Both topics are wonderful additions to Polish genealogy research.

Pilat was born in Silesia, Poland and currently resides in eastern Poland and Germany. He pursued Library Studies at the University of Maria Curie-Sklodowska in Lublin, Poland and focused on the history of books and old documents. In 1999, he was granted the degree of Master of Library and Information Science. In 2003, Tadeusz became an Accredited Genealogist specializing in Polish research in all partitions of the former Commonwealth of Poland. He has traveled extensively to many countries and is fluent in Polish, German and English.

A two-part seminar, “Introduction to Polish Research” is designed for both beginners and intermediate Polish genealogy researchers. Some of the other lectures are “Digital News: Utilizing Online Newspapers in Your Genealogy Research, Pennsylvania’s Coal Mines, Pennsylvania Resources for Polish Genealogists and Changed by Thalerhof - An Anniversary Documentary” which explains Europe’s first concentration camp located in the Galician section of Poland from 1914-1917.

More information and registration materials are available on our website at <http://www.pgsctne.org>. You can also contact Diane Szepanski at <Szepanski3@cox.net>.

October 10, 2015

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS
SPEND A DAY OF GENEALOGY WITH STEVE MORSE

8:30 am to 4 pm
Elms College, Mary Dooley Campus Center
291 Springfield St., Chicopee, MA 01013

The Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts, in collaboration with the Polish Center of discovery & learning and the Chicopee Cultural Council is pleased to announce that a renowned genealogist and computer professional is coming to Chicopee to present a full day of
talks.

**STEPHEN MORSE, PHD** is the creator of the One-Step Website, for which he has received both the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Outstanding Contribution Award from the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, Award of Merit from the National Genealogical Society, first-ever Excellence Award from the Association of Professional Genealogists, and two awards that he cannot pronounce from Polish genealogical societies!

In his other life Morse is a computer professional with a doctorate degree in electrical engineering. He has held various research, development, and teaching positions, authored numerous technical papers, written four textbooks, and holds four patents. He is best known as the architect of the Intel 8086 (the granddaddy of today’s Pentium processor), which sparked the PC revolution 30 years ago.

**Scheduled Talks**
- One-Step Webpages: A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools
- One-Step Webpages: A Hodgepodge of Lesser-Known Gems
- From DNA to Genetic Genealogy: Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask
- Genealogy Beyond the Y Chromosome: Autosomes Exposed

Tickets are just $20, but must be purchased in advance. To find out more and register go to:

<http://www.pgsma.org>

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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October 24, 2015

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN ANNUAL SEMINAR**
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
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 three research guides with William F. Hoffman, *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

**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 ***


It’s always a pleasure to see anything about Polish research in publications that reach large numbers of people in the genealogical community. On July 6, 2015, *Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter* [EOGN] featured a review by Bobbi King of the second edition of Rosemary A. Chorzempa’s *Korzenie Polskie / Polish Roots*. It’s a very favorable review, and you may wish to read it if you are considering buying a book to help you get started.
This is a link to another EOGN article on “Global Name Translation™ Technology,” launched by MyHeritage. The claim is that Global Name Translation “…automatically translates names found in historical records and family trees from one language into another, in very high accuracy, generating all the plausible translations, to facilitate matches between names in different languages. In addition, a manual search in one language will also provide results in other languages, translated back to the user’s language for convenience.” Dick Eastman called it “a huge advancement in online searches for genealogy information.” I must admit, I am a little more skeptical, at least for eastern European names. Still, I have not had time to give it a fair try; it is best I withhold judgment till I know whereof I speak. Any of our readers who tries it is welcome to share his or her opinion with me, which I will pass along in future issues. The link to MyHeritage itself is <http://www.myheritage.com/>.

The July 27th issue of Nu? What’s New? mentioned this link to an article on Jewish surname adoption in the Russian Empire. While Jews adopted many of the surnames Christians used, many others are of different origin—even though the names may look identical. But Jewish surnames only date back two centuries at most, so determining their origin can be easier than doing the same for Christians, whose names can date back much farther. This article, by Jeffrey Mark Paull and Jeffrey Briskman, can tell you more.

Jan Meisels Allen posted a note to the Records-Accesss-Alerts group, explaining that the U. S. National Archives (NARA) has set out to digitize all of its holdings, and they are now in the planning stages. One of the first steps is to prioritize their holdings as to which records will be made available online. While NARA staff has been working on this, they are want feedback from the people who use their records daily. This could be a particular series, record group or collection. From now through August 14th they are asking for the public’s input through their online town hall, called “Crowd Hall,” available via the link above. They have divided the subjects into categories: Science/tech/health; Military and veterans, culture and heritage (includes their genealogy, immigration and emigration records), and government and law. Of course there is a place to make suggestions by emailing them at <digitization@nara.gov>. To read more about this go to the NARAtions Blog at: <http://tinyurl.com/nh57lh7>.

People often ask about naming traditions that might apply to their ancestors; I have not come across many reliable guidelines, but I like to pass along info that shed some light on the subject. This link, from the July 12 edition of The Genealogy News, leads to an article by Diane Haddad, “Johanns and Marias Everywhere! Naming Traditions German Genealogists Should Know.” It may be of some value if you have German roots in your family tree.
This link, from the July 19th issue of *The Genealogy News*, leads to an article “Do You Have a Graveyard Kit? Here are the 13 Things I Keep in Mine” by Susan Wallin Mosey. I often hear genealogists who visit cemeteries discussing what thing to take along, and what they should and should not do. This article provides some guidance.

Jan Meisels Allen posted a note to the JewishGen newsgroup discussing the acquisition by the International Tracing Service (ITS) of “newspapers, news services, and periodicals of the survivors’ association and camp committees. The collection was previously stored in the Dortmund City archives. It consists of more than 140 titles from 17 nations and or supranational organizations. The collection can be viewed starting in the Fall 2015 upon completion of archival description work.” The above link connects with an item that provides more info.

In a note posted on July 10, 2015 to the JewishGen newsgroup, Logan Kleinwaks gave links for scanned Jewish vital records from the Łomża branch of the Polish State Archives. He gave URLs to collections for specific towns. I felt for readers of *Gen Dobry!*, it made sense to give the above URL, which takes you to the basic page for the Łomża archives, where you can search for the place that interests you, and pick from among the resources. Note on this home page, on the right side, above the archive address, are options to see info for the previous archive or the next archive. If you’re not too familiar with using this site, you can use this feature to go through the list of archives till you find the one you want; you’re not limited to the Łomża archive only.

I was pleased to see several different sources announce that PBS’s *Finding Your Roots* program will return in January of 2016; one such article is available at the above link. I wrote in the June issue of *Gen Dobry!* about the trouble that arose when producer and star Henry Louis Gates, Jr. chose to leave information out about Ben Affleck’s slaveholder ancestor in an episode featuring that actor. I suspect all involved learned a useful lesson, and I’m glad the show will be allowed to return—I hope, better than ever.

We have discussed previously various ways of transferring money between countries. In a post to the Polish Genius mailing list, Jan Cesarczyk mentioned one I had not heard of, CurrencyFair. Jan said, “It gives a very good exchange rate, but the money has to be transfer from a bank account in one country into an account in the other country.” I know nothing about it, but I have found Jan usually knows what he’s talking about. If you’d like to learn more, the link above takes you to the website.
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