



# Gen Dobry!

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Editor: William F. “Fred” Hoffman, e-mail: <[wfh@langline.com](mailto:wfh@langline.com)>

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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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### \*\*\* REMARKS ON POLISH PARISH RECORDS STATUS \*\*\*

by *Debbie Greenlee* <[daveg@airmail.net](mailto:daveg@airmail.net)>

*Editor*—In the last *Gen Dobry!* I printed a “Letter to the Editor” from Debbie Greenlee about the Przemyśl Archdiocesan Archives and parish records. One of our readers, Larry Mandeville, wrote to ask if we could clarify the situation on Poland as far as who is digitizing records, indexing them, and making them available to researchers. I asked Debbie if she’d like to comment on this, as she has far more hands-on experience than I do when it comes to Polish parish records. Here is what she had to say, and I wanted to share it with you. Debbie makes no pretense of infallibility, and anyone is welcome to correct her if she’s wrong on any point. But I always pay attention to what she says, because she’s “been there and done that.”

Records in Poland are everywhere including where they shouldn’t be according to the laws and rules. But, this isn’t always a bad thing.

Parishes were supposed to send copies of their records to their particular **civil** archive on a regular basis. I’ve never seen anything that indicates this was done across the board.

After 100 years or so, the parish is supposed to send their original records to the **diocesan** archive. I have been in several parishes that for some reason have held onto their records long after they should have been sent to the diocesan archive.

Most of the records already filmed by LDS were parish records that had already been sent to the diocesan archives. LDS did not have access to records in the individual parishes.

LDS (on a limited basis now) is the only organization that is digitizing and indexing church records in Poland and making them available to the public. LDS has a much larger volunteer base so it accomplishes so much more in a shorter amount of time.

Szukajwarchiwach, the Polish Civil archives, is digitizing records (mostly civil records) already in their possession and will be placing the images online:

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/>>

Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-Poland) <<http://jri-poland.org/>> and The Pomeranian Genealogical Association/Pomorskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne (PGT), which is located in Poland, are indexing records in Poland and placing those indexes online. The PGT is indexing records that are already in the diocesan and civil archives. These indexes are being put online. The association is **not** indexing records still in the parish.

<<http://www.ptg.gda.pl/>>

Most of the church records from south and southeastern Poland have not been and probably will

not be filmed by LDS, even though they may have been sent to their diocesan archives. Though the Catholic Church gave pastors the right to decide whether LDS is allowed to film church records, many priests see this as an order from the Vatican to cease and desist filming/digitizing.

From an access point of view, it may actually be better if records have not been sent to their respective diocesan archives. Many of the diocesan archives do not do look-ups or research, whereas a priest in a parish may be more likely to do this.

Gaining access and using a diocesan archive is tedious at best. The archives are not set up for genealogical research and that's not why the records have been kept.

Regardless of whether records sit in the parish or in the diocesan archive, they have not been digitally preserved, which is really what needs to happen. I guess the Church in Poland, as a whole, either does not see the merit in this or does not have the money to do this. This is exactly why the Church should have allowed LDS access. The Catholic Church does not believe LDS can baptize the dead so perhaps the Church just doesn't want to give LDS easy access to Catholics for proselytizing.

I mentioned JRI-Poland earlier. Being a Jewish group, they concentrate on Jewish records and have done a wonderful job of indexing records and making them available.

I have been photographing church records since 2006. Talk about a rookie project! I learned a lot about filming records in the last seven years. The point of filming records was to archive them on CDs (giving a set to the priest) and making indexes of these records available to the general public. This takes a really long time. I had anywhere from five to nine volunteers who helped index all of the marriage records, marriage banns, and baptismal records from Bukowsko. We are currently working on our second of four church death books. We have also indexed all of the Nowotaniec marriage banns, and once we finish with Bukowsko, we will move onto the rest of the Nowotaniec records. These indexes can be found on the Bukowsko Triangle website: <<http://semanchuk.com/gen/>>.

In the meantime, I also digitally read Polish cemeteries, monuments, and other lists of names, which I then transcribe and put on line at Poland Gen Web. Occasionally I oversee "out of my area" projects such as the indexing of the headstones in Harnes, France and Wizajny, Poland. It's wonderful when people digitally read a cemetery, but those photos can not be searched online. Someone has to transcribe the headstones and put **that** list online.

<<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~polwgv/polandarchives.html>>

I have come across only two or three other people who have been generous enough to digitally copy church records, index them, and put the indexes online.

What we're doing is not going to get the job done by any means. We are in need of an organization that can approach the church in Poland and come to some sort of an agreement about digitizing records. Some time back, I suggested on Polish Genius and Poland Roots that it

would be nice if a Polish genealogical society could head up something like this, following JRI-Poland's model. So much could be accomplished if given the proper equipment and access.

So, if the records you seek have not been filmed by LDS or the indexes cannot be found online, you either have to hire a reputable Polish researcher or visit Poland yourself, hire a translator, and do the work. This last approach requires planning and time, and one should not expect to be given full access to church records on the first visit.

*Editor*—Folks, feel free to write and tell us if you can add to this information. Polish records have never been a “one size fits all” situation, so your research may have acquainted you with situations that have unique circumstances. I’ll be happy to pass along any info you can share with us.

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**\*\*\* LETTERS TO THE EDITOR \*\*\***

Subject: Tow. Korony Pol. Society

Dear Mr. Hoffman,

We are members of PGSA 6337 and are seeking information about the “Tow. Korony Pol.” Society. We have searched the Internet with no results. Please include our search effort in the next issue of *Rodziny*.

My father was a member of a Polish society “Tow. Korony Pol.” We have two of the lapel ceremonial decoration emblems that my father wore when the society participated in Catholic Church functions. We have searched the Internet, attempting to find more information about the society, with no results.

The wording on the white, red, and blue emblems states: “Tow. Korony Pol.; POD OPIEKA; M.B.N.P. No 1; (Emblem of Crown); Zal. D. 9 Marca 1907 r.; w Chicago Ill.” Also there is a medallion with a framed picture of the Virgin Mary holding the baby, Jesus, attached by chains. The reverse side states the same information in silver, and in the center, there is a silver cross with an inscription “IHS.”

We would appreciate any information about this Society.

Eugene M. Ksepka, e-mail <[geneksepka@aol.com](mailto:geneksepka@aol.com)>

*Editor*—I promised Mr. Ksepka I’d print this request in *Rodziny*. But I pointed out that the Summer edition had already gone to press, so the request could not appear until the Fall issue. I explained that if he was willing to have this appear in *Gen Dobry!*, he might get results quicker—and if not, I can always follow through with the note in *Rodziny*. He accepted, and added a little more information that might help bring better results.

Dear Mr. Hoffman,

My parents were married and members of St. Stanislaus Polish Catholic Church from November 1914 to 1920. Then they were members of St. Jadwiga Polish Catholic Church to 1925, when they moved again, and were members of Holy Innocents Polish Catholic Church till their passing in 1986. We are proud to say that they were married 76 years and 10 days.

Thank you again for your help.

Eugene M. Ksepka, e-mail <[geneksepka@aol.com](mailto:geneksepka@aol.com)>

*Editor*—I searched the Internet for the “Towarzystwo Korony Polskiej,” which is presumably the unabbreviated form of the society’s name. All I found was a mention in Thomas and Znaniecki’s book *Chłop polski w Europie i Ameryce: Organizacja i dezorganizacja w Ameryce* [The Polish Peasant in Europe and America: Organization and Disorganization in America]. There’s a little info on the book available from Google Books, and it quotes a brief passage from the book. It’s apparently within a listing of local chapters of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA, abbreviated ZPRK in Polish). The Towarzystwo Korony Polskiej, “Society of the Polish Crown,” is listed as being “nr 296 ZPRK.” It’s possible the PRCUA could provide more info—though of course, there are no guarantees.

That does make sense, because the quotation from the emblems means “Polish Crown Society, under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, No. 1; founded 9 March 1907 in Chicago, Illinois.” For those who don’t recognize the inscription IHS, it comes from the first three letters of the name of Jesus in Greek, although it has also been interpreted other ways, as you can read here:

<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christogram#Western\\_Christianity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christogram#Western_Christianity)>

I thought I’d include this info in case it might prove useful. If anyone can say more, please contact Mr. Ksepka, or write me at <[wfh@langline.com](mailto:wfh@langline.com)> and I’ll forward the note.

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\*\*\* † **ALBERT MUTH** † \*\*\*

*by Jerry Frank*

*Editor*—Jerry Frank of the Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe <<https://www.sggee.org/>> noted mention of Albert (Al) Muth in the last *Gen Dobry!* Jerry wrote to pass along the sad news that Al died of pulmonary embolism on July 14, 2013. Jerry posted the following words about Al on the SGGEE mailing list, and gave me permission to repeat them here.

I was stunned when I came home from work to hear this news. It is my sad duty to report that Albert (Al) Muth passed away from pulmonary embolism (blood clots) at his home, Sunday July 14. A brief obituary can be found on this site:

<<http://www.mccabefuneralhome.com/Publishsite/>>

Al was only 55 but he crammed a whole lot of genealogical research into those few years. I was first introduced to him in the mid 1990s when he did some genealogical research for *Wandering Volhynians* magazine. It was later in the founding years of SGGEE that he became extremely active through his extraction of literally hundreds of thousands of names from Russian Poland Lutheran records. SGGEE, its members, and those who have passed this way as friends owe him a huge debt for helping us to do our research. He did this through his general extractions, through his historical and language research, and especially through personal messages in direct correspondence with us. He did not keep his research to himself but shared it with us and many others around the world. He seldom did the specific family research for us but allowed us to make our own discoveries by pointing us to people, places, and records.

As several people have already indicated in private messages I received, Al is irreplaceable and will be sorely missed. Please join us in extending our prayers and thoughts of condolences to his surviving family.

*Editor*—I never had the pleasure of meeting Al, but I worked with him on an article he co-wrote and submitted to *Rodziny*, and I saw information he posted on mailing lists. He was very knowledgeable and glad to share his knowledge. *Niech spoczywa w pokoju!*

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### \*\*\* ONLINE JEWISH RECORD SCANS FROM POLISH STATE ARCHIVES \*\*\*

*by Logan Kleinwaks*

*Editor*—Logan Kleinwaks posted a series of notes to the JewishGen newsgroup with details on how to see scans of Polish records online from a number of different Polish archives. The list is rather long, but Logan took the time to post it, and I think there will be readers who will find the info helpful—but please note, **these are for Jewish records**. Let me repeat the places and URLs Logan gave:

#### **AP Przemyśl**

Przemyśl 1790-1909

<<http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/56/1924/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Sieniawa 1869-1887, 1891-1900

<<http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/56/2001/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Stryj 1858-1871, 1877, 1879-1881, 1889, 1894-1917

<<http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/56/2250/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

#### **AP Białystok**

Sokoły

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/4/265/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Tykocin

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/4/266/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

### **AP Kalisz**

Wierusz

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/11/768/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

### **AP Lublin**

Baranów

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1610/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Bełżyce

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1611/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Biała

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1612/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Biskupice

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1614/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Bobrowniki

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1615/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Bychawa

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1616/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Chełm

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1721/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Chodel

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1722/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Czemierniki

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1723/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Dubienka

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1724/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Firlej

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1725/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Głusko

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1727/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Gorzaków

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1728/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Grabów

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1729/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Hrubieszów

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1731/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Irena

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1615/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Izbica

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1732/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Jożefów

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1737/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Kazimierz  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1739/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Kodeń  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1741/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Komarów  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1742/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Konstantynów  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1743/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Krasniczyn  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1747/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Krasnystaw  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1746/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Kryłów  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1749/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Kurów  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1751/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Lubartów  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1752/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Ryki  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/1598/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

#### **AP Piotrków Trybunalski**

Bełchatów  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/48/330/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Kamieńsk  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/48/331/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Opoczno  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/48/332/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Piotrków  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/48/333/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Przedbórz  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/48/334/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Radomsko  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/48/335/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Rozprza  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/48/336/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Sulejów  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/48/337/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Sulmierzyce  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/48/338/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Szczerców  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/48/339/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Tomaszów Mazowiecki  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/48/340/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Ujazd

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/48/342/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

### **AP Piotrków Trybunalski in Tomaszów Mazowiecki**

Będków

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/49/460/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

Brzezinach

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/49/244/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

Inowlodz

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/49/104/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

Jezow

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/49/461/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

### **AP Poznań**

Błaszki (pow. Kaliski)

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/53/3742/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

### **AP Poznań in Konin**

Dąbie (pow. Kolski)

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/54/834/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

Izbica Kujawska (pow. Kolski)

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/54/836/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

Kleczew (pow. Koninski)

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/54/837/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

Kłodawa

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/54/838/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

Kolo

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/54/839/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

Konin

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/54/840/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

Pyzdry (pow. Wrzesiński)

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/54/841/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

Ślesin (pow. Koniński)

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/54/846/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

Słupca

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/54/844/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

Sompolno (pow. Kolski)

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/54/845/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

Zagorow (pow. Słupecki)

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/54/849/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

### **AP Radom**

Ciepielów

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/58/486/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

Ilza

<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/58/443/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

Klwów

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/58/76/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Mogielnica

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/58/472/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Nowe Miasto nad Pilicą

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/58/450/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Przysucha

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/58/471/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Sienno

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/58/477/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Warka

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/58/467/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

### **AP Suwałki**

Mirosław

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/63/417/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

### **AP Zamość**

Biłgoraj

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/767/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Frampol

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/768/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Gorzków

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/769/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Grabów

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/770/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Horodło

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/771/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Hrubieszów

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/772/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Izbica

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/773/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Jarczów

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/774/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Jozefów

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/775/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Komarów

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/776/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Krasnobród

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/777/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Kryłów

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/778/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Łaszczów

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/779/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

Szczebrzeszyn

<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/780/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Tarnogóra  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/781/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Tarnogród  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/782/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Tomaszów Lubelski  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/783/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Turobin  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/784/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Tyszowce  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/785/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Uchanie  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/786/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Wysokie  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/787/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Zamość  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/788/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>  
Żółkiew  
<<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/88/789/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>>

After following a link above, click on the title of the group of records that interests you, then click on “Digital copies,” then click on a thumbnail image to enlarge a little, then click on the rectangle icon in the bottom right of the enlargement to enlarge to full size (there might be a delay until the image is displayed). Click, hold, and move over the image to pan. Click the “Download” link at the bottom to save the image to your computer.

*Editor*—Thanks to Logan for posting this info. For those who want similar lists for non-Jewish records, keep an eye on the lists posted at <<http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/aktualnosci>>. Announcements generally end with a line in blue beginning “Pobierz spis nowych skanów...,” which means “Download the list of new scans.” This lets you download a PDF with archive number, set number, set name, signatures, and number of scans.

Furthermore, Logan’s lists can be useful for non-Jews as well. If the place you want is mentioned above, go ahead and click on the link. It will take you to the summary of Jewish records for that site. But then enter the name of the place in the “Search this collection” box—the diacritical marks are not required—and hit <Enter>. That brings up a list of all records. In most of these cases, only Jewish records are available so far. But not in every case: Tomaszów Lubelski, for instance, has some Orthodox (*prawosławne*) and Catholic (*rzymskokatolickie*) records, as well as general Jewish (*możeszowe*) and Civil Registrar records of the local synagogue district (*Okręgu Bożniczego*). So even if the above URLs don’t give you the exact page you need, they will put you in the right archive, just one step away from the right page.

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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 2 – 4, 2013**

#### **QUO VADIS CONFERENCE IN CONNECTICUT**

The three-day Quo Vadis conference begins at 10 a.m. August 2nd through August 4th. Designed for students and young entrepreneurs ages 21 to 35 who are looking to reconnect with their Polish heritage, the conference aims to inspire participants through motivational speakers, panel discussions with a wide range of professionals, team-building activities, and entertainment. The conference locations will include the Hartford Hilton Hotel, The Society Room of Hartford, Central Connecticut State University, and Polish National Home of Hartford. Registration is required. Visit: <<http://www.quovadis2013.com>>.

Quo Vadis is an annual congregation of college and graduate students as well as young professionals aimed at creating a sustainable world-wide network of young members of the Polish Diaspora.

*[From the Facebook page of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast]*

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**August 4 – 9, 2013**

#### **33RD IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY**

This annual event—which is almost always a magnificent success—will be held in 2013 in Boston on August 4 through 9. Learn more at <<http://www.iajgs2013.org/>>.

Also, the July 28th issue of *Nu? What's New?* mentioned that those who cannot attend the Conference may be able to watch some of the sessions live online, “through the efforts of IAJGS, FamilySearch and the generosity of Harvey Krueger!” The cost is “either a daily fee (\$49 one day or \$96 two days) or \$139 for the entire five days of sessions.” For more information, visit <<http://www.iajgs2013.org/live.cfm>>. This is a wonderful initiative, and I hope it proves successful!

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**August 6 – 10, 2013**

#### **THE FEDERATION OF EAST EUROPEAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES (FEEFHS) 20TH ANNUAL EASTERN EUROPEAN RESEARCH WORKSHOP Salt Lake City, Utah**

Tracks and classes include German, Baltic States, Poland, Russian, Kingdom of Hungary, Germans from Russia, Jewish, research essentials. For more information, visit <<http://feefhs.org/>>.

[From Genealogical Tips, an e-mail sent out by the East European Genealogical Society, <<http://www.eegosciety.org>>]

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**August 9 – 11, 2013**

**SOCIETY FOR GERMAN GENEALOGY IN EASTERN EUROPE (SGGEE) 2013  
CONVENTION  
“TIES THAT BIND”  
Seattle, Washington**

“Ties that Bind” includes information for people of German origin interested in genealogy, culture and history of their ancestors who migrated through Poland, Volhynia and surrounding areas. For more info, visit <[https://www.sggee.org/convention/convention\\_news.html](https://www.sggee.org/convention/convention_news.html)>.

[From Genealogical Tips, an e-mail sent out by the East European Genealogical Society, <<http://www.eegosciety.org>>]

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**August 11, 2013**

**PGSA’S QUARTERLY MEETING  
“SWAB YOUR CHEEK: HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF DNA KINSHIP RESULTS”  
Polish Museum of America Social Hall, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago  
2:00 p.m.**

So much is written these days about DNA testing as another tool in genealogical research. PGSA’s Guest Lecturer, **Marsha Peterson-Maass**, will help us make sense of today’s three commercially available DNA tests (mtDNA, Y-DNA and nucDNA), which ancestral lines of descent each test applies to, and what your current options are for networking to find DNA kinship matches (including the accredited method for preparing your Pedigree Charts to share on those networking databases). Ms. Maass will walk us through some real-life DNA results and the kinship networking opportunities they have revealed.

Marsha Peterson-Maass has been interested in family history since high school when she was required to write a paper on her background for a class. Grandma helped her get started by giving her a box of 19th Century family photo’s plus a handwritten family history dating back to 1770. She not only got an “A” on the paper, but went on, as a senior, to complete a family history project in the annual State of Illinois High School History competition which tied her with one

other person for State Champion. Since then, her American genealogical journey has taken her to direct ancestors who were part of the Mayflower passage in 1620.

Today, Marsha teaches and lectures on a wide range of genealogy topics and has a thriving forensic genealogy practice. She is a member of countless societies such as NGS, ISGS, NEHGS and is very active in programs offered at Chicago's Newberry Library. Her textbook, *Fundamentals of Genealogy: Basics for Everyone*, discounted at the meeting (\$20), will be for sale to those interested.

Guests welcome. Refreshments served. Ample parking.

[From the July issue of PGSA Notebook]

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**September 7, 2013**

**AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FALL SEMINAR**  
**Triumphant Love Lutheran Church, 9508 Great Hills Trail, Austin Texas 78759**

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

If you will be in the Austin, TX area, you may be interested in this seminar, which features Lisa Alzo, M.F.A., a very popular speaker.

For more info and sign-up, go to <<http://austintxgensoc.org/>>. You can also visit the Austin Genealogical Society page on Facebook, <<https://www.facebook.com/AustinGenealogicalSociety>>.

[From a note posted by Chris Cowan to the LithGen mailing list]

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**September 13 – 14, 2013**

**“GROWING YOUR RESEARCH SOURCES”**  
**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA CONFERENCE**  
**Hilton Lisle, Naperville, Illinois**

The 35th Annual PGSA Conference will be held September 13–14 at the Hilton Lisle in Naperville, Illinois. For more info visit the PGSA website: <<http://pgsa.org/>>.

We invite you to join us September 13 and 14 at our anniversary conference held at the Hilton Hotel in Lisle and share in the fruits of the seeds our founders planted 35 years ago. The program is structured to satisfy the skilled researcher as well as the novice and to explain the use of some of the amazing tools that technology now offers. Speakers' topics and schedule are now on our website so you can review them and decide which subjects fulfill your needs: research in Poland—Thomas Nitsch, technological wonders—Thomas MacEntee, the impact of history on

your ancestors' lives—Ola Heska or hands-on guidance in pursuing information on the internet—Ceil Jensen.

But the conference is not just what you can glean from lectures. It offers Ask Us, a question/answer panel, translation help and, possibly just as important, what you learn from the expertise of your fellow researchers. And don't forget the offerings of the Vendor room with material and representatives from: Fun Stuff for Genealogists, Michiana History Publication, The Polish Museum of America, CAGGNI, PhotoGraphics, Stitched For You and, of course PGSA and others. Then there is lunch with a choice of 3 entrées and the opportunity to share ideas and stories with table-mates. Finally, everyone's favorite wrap-up at lunch is the excitement generated by a colorful Polish dance troupe.

Sign up today or at least before August 2nd to take advantage of early bird pricing. Register at Eventbrite. Speakers' information, including biographies as well as specific conference detail and a printable mail-in registration form are on our website.

PGSA has spent 35 years "Growing Your Research Resources"! Take advantage of them at its 35th Anniversary conference.

**Early Bird Registration ends midnight *August 1st*.** Discounted hotel room rate of \$95 per night ends August 31st. Go to <<http://www.pgsa.org>> to download a registration form, or register online at <<http://www.2013pgsaconf-es2.eventbrite.com>>.

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**September 18, 2013**

### **EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING**

7:00 to 9:00 pm

Thomson Funeral Home, 669 Broadway, Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA.

Presenter is **Orysia Tracz**, "Going Home to a Place You've Never Been—Traveling to Ukraine with Orysia Tracz." Orysia has lead a cultural tour to Ukraine 16 times since 1993, with travelers from all over the world. In addition to visiting the usual spots in Ukraine, ancestral villages are part of the tour. For more information, visit <<http://www.eegsociety.org/MonthlyEvents.aspx?NextMeeting=True>>.

[From Genealogical Tips, an e-mail sent out by the East European Genealogical Society, <<http://www.eegsociety.org>>]

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**October 11–12, 2013**

### **POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT AND THE NORTHEAST CONFERENCE**

**Central Connecticut State University - Student Center**

**1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, Connecticut**

The PGSCTNE Conference is coming up, 11-12 October 2013 at CCSU in New Britain, CT. Scheduled speakers and topics are as follows:

**Matthew Bielawa and Jonathan Shea** – Introduction to Polish Research

**Dr. Mieczyslaw B. Biskupski** – Did A Polish Spy Create the European Union?

**Michael Buryk** – Uncover Your Roots in the Lemko Region of Southeast Poland

**Tim Firkowski** – Finding the Family: Problems, Successes and Rewards

**Aleksandra Kacprzak** – Polish Traditions, Customs and Superstitions *and* Additional, Lesser Known Genealogical Resources in Poland: STATE and CHURCH ARCHIVES and Other Sources

**Dr. Shellee Morehead** – Finding and Using Alien Registration Files *and* Sex, DNA and Family History

**Thomas Sadauskas** – U.S. Military Records: What's There and How Do You Get Them? *and* Your Frequent Flyer Ancestors: Re-Emigration To and From Europe

**Dr. Paul S. Valasek** – Postcards and Genealogy: Much More Than Greetings! *and* Tracing the 20th Century Immigrant

The URL for the conference is <<http://pgsctne.org/EventsConferences.aspx>>. Visit that page to make appointments to consult with experts, select lectures, and register, and to get more info.

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**October 19, 2013**

**ANNUAL POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN SEMINAR**

**American Polish Cultural Center**

**2975 E. Maple Rd. and Dequindre Rd**

The 2013 Annual PGSM Seminar will be held 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can get detailed information from this page on the PGSM website: <<http://www.pgsm.org/seminarfeatured.htm>>.

The first Speaker will be **Ceil Wendt Jensen**, Certified Genealogist. She presents practical examples and suggestions on how to use records, databases, and archives to start or advance your genealogy research. She dispels the myth that records were destroyed during the World Wars and that language barriers make European research difficult. A lavishly illustrated workbook, *Sto Lat: A Modern Guide for Polish Genealogy*, offers a plan for researching at least one hundred years of family records, and is a compilation of techniques developed over thirty years of

research and teaching. These are tried and true techniques used for clients and with patrons at the Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI) on the campus of St. Mary's of Orchard Lake. Both traditional and digital research techniques are presented. Common research questions are answered and suggestions are offered to help novice and advanced researchers find ancestors in North America and Poland.

### **LECTURE TITLES**

**Now Boarding: Planning a Research Trip in Poland** - This session is based on over 30 years of travel experience leading overseas groups and 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 to write effective e-mail to ESL speakers and how to hire a photographer, researcher and / or guide.

### **Behind the Scenes at Polish Repositories — U.S. and Poland**

The lecture is based on interviews conducted on site with the directors of repositories in the U.S. and Poland. Learn about the unique materials held throughout Polonia, the regional archives in Poland, and the concentration camp museums of Stutthof and Auschwitz-Birkenau. Lecture outline/summary. Researchers will learn about records, maps, and ephemera held at repositories that go beyond vital records. Learn how to find unique ledgers, documents, and art work to enrich and advance your family history.

### **Archival Techniques for Family Historians**

A survey of current archival standards regarding the care and storage of paper, photographic and digital files which family historians need to know. Learn how to care for the records and ephemera you have collected. This session addresses how to care for the family records, photos and memorabilia you have collected. The use of archival storage materials will be discussed, as well as a workable cataloging system.

The second Speaker will be **Kris Rzepczynski**. Currently a Senior Archivist at the Archives of Michigan, Kris previously worked for 12 years at the Library of Michigan as the Michigan/ Genealogy Coordinator. He holds a Masters in Library and Information Science from Wayne State University, a Master of Arts in History from Western Michigan University, and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Michigan. Kris has presented at national, state, and local conferences. In addition, he is an incoming member of the Board of Directors for the Federation of Genealogical Societies and a Past President of the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society.

### **Topic: Researching Your Family History at the Archives of Michigan**

An introduction to the Archives of Michigan, this program will explore the genealogical collections available there, including both original source records and published resources, and how to best maximize your research time there. One of the larger family history collections in the United States, the Archives' holdings emphasize Michigan, the Great Lakes states, New England, the Mid-Atlantic region, as well as Ontario and Quebec. Notable collections include the J.

William Gorski Collection of Polish genealogy and history and Michigan naturalization records.

***Seminar includes a continental breakfast and a delicious Polish lunch.***

The Seminar is held at the American Polish Cultural Center located at 2975 E. Maple Rd. and Dequindre Rd. Please send reservations and check by October 1, 2013 for \$65 and \$100 for couples (\$35 is tax deductible). This will include the Seminar, continental breakfast and a delicious Polish lunch. If you have questions, please contact Valerie Koselka, <[vkoselka.pgsm@gmail.com](mailto:vkoselka.pgsm@gmail.com)>.

PGSM, Burton Collection  
c/o Detroit Public Library  
5201 Woodward Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48202-4007

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**October 23 – 26, 2013**

**CZECHOSLOVAK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL  
2013 GENEALOGICAL AND CULTURAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) will hold its 14th Genealogical and Cultural Conference at the Westin Lombard Hotel in Lombard, Illinois, October 23–26, 2013. Hotel reservations can now be made for the Conference at the Westin Lombard Hotel in Lombard, Illinois. Click on the Reserve icon when you get to the Hotel page.

The keynote speaker will be our own **Paul S. Valasek!** Other notable speakers are Lisa A. Alzo, Grace DuMelle, Leo Baca, Lou Szucs, and many more.

For more information on the program, see this Web page:

<<http://www.cgsi.org/content/2013-genealogical-and-cultural-conference-program>>

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**\*\*\* MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES \*\*\***

<[https://www.sggee.org/research/parishes/church\\_parishes/LutheransInRusPoland.html](https://www.sggee.org/research/parishes/church_parishes/LutheransInRusPoland.html)>

Jerry Frank mentioned in a note that “with all the new online records coming up from Polish Archives and with Al Muth’s dogged help in tracking them down, we have created a web page which links directly to any Lutheran, Reformed, or Baptist records that come up in Russian Poland.” For Lutherans in Russian Poland, visit the above link. For Baptists, visit <[https://www.sggee.org/research/parishes/church\\_parishes/BaptistInRusPoland.html](https://www.sggee.org/research/parishes/church_parishes/BaptistInRusPoland.html)>. Jerry adds, “We try to regularly update these as the constantly changing info becomes available. A variety of Volhynian Lutheran records are also now available but we are still in process of updating that page.”

<<http://info.euratlas.net/games/poland1700.php>>

On Facebook, Ceil Jensen shared this fascinating puzzle. See how well you can reassemble the Poland of 1700!

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<<http://www.epubbud.com/readers.php>>

Recently, I have sometimes found myself downloading ePub versions of certain rare books in the public domain, and have needed to find ways to read them on my Kindle or other devices. On June 25, *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* [EOGN] published an article I found useful, and I thought I should share some of its points with you. Eastman explained, "On simpler devices, the ePubBud gives a sentence or to describing the process. On other ebook readers, ePubBud simply provides a link to some other web page that has detailed instructions." Eastman gave the above link to ePubBud's article, "How to Read These ePub eBooks." He added, "In addition, you don't even need an ebook reader. You can also read EPUB files online, using only your web browser. You can find four different methods of doing that at <<http://www.maketecheasier.com/4-ways-to-read-epub-books-online/2013/05/27>>." The preceding is from *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <<http://www.eogn.com>>.

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<<http://www.tlc.com/tv-shows/who-do-you-think-you-are>>

In case you missed the news, *Who Do You Think You Are?* is now back on American television with a new season. It's on TLC, and it started Tuesday, July 23rd. You can learn all you want to know about it, and watch clips and the first show, with Kelly Clarkson, at the link above. I'm glad it's available online, because with the exception of *Mythbusters*, I almost never bother to watch series on TV—I just keep forgetting when they're on, and commercials provide strong disincentive to invest any effort in finding out.

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<<http://www.nypl.org/blog/2013/07/02/name-changes-ellis-island>>

The July 14 issue of *Nu? What's New?* shared this link to an article published by the New York Public Library about the myth that immigrants' names were changed at Ellis Island. We've talked about this story before, but it never seems to die. So I like to point out any well-written article that discusses the matter; and the comments posted are worth reading, too.

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<<http://www.genealogyblog.com/?p=27296>>

Leland and Patty Meitzler's "Genealogy Blog" site has a review of a book that sounds quite interesting, *What Did They Mean By That? A Dictionary of Historical and Genealogical Terms Old and New*, by Paul Drake, J.D. If you think the book might be worth checking out, you can read the review at the above link.

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<<http://majdanek.eu/index.php>>

Paul S. Valasek shared a note posted to Yahoo's Zamość group, about a special exhibition being prepared in connection with the October 14th memorial at the Sobibór death camp. Robert Kuwalek, Research Department at Majdanek State Museum, wrote, "We are preparing special exhibition about this camp. We have documentation about Jews deported there from Holland, France or Germany BUT most of the victims of Sobibor were from Poland (Chełm, Hrubieszów, Włodawa, Piaski, Izbica, partially Zamość). If you have the photos of the people who were murdered there and stories about them, we will be very glad if you can share the stories and photos, especially photos, with us. I am writing in the name of Majdanek State Museum where I am working and where we are collecting such material. If you can help it will be something special. In the same time we are preparing also exhibition for new museum in Sobibór. Every one of your materials (photos, stories) will be something special and unique." Robert's e-mail address was not available, but the above link takes you to the Majdanek site. You may be able to contact him through the secretariat, <[sekretariat@majdanek.eu](mailto:sekretariat@majdanek.eu)>.

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<<http://www.ebooksbylanguage.com/ebook/the-history-of-lithuania/>>

On the LithGen list, Richard Gostautas wrote of a free book that has been made available on the history of Lithuania. "The book can be downloaded in .PDF form and is a 9.84MB file and 318 pages." Visit the above site and click on "Download at eubl." I downloaded it and took a quick look; it struck me as a very nice piece of work. Of course, there are probably some things in the book that Poles would take issue with. But when possible, I like to get all points of view—and let's face it, the Lithuanians' take on their history has gotten even less attention than the Poles'.

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<<http://www.afamilytreeguide-chicago.info/Documents/Polish%20books%20of%20residents%20article.pdf>>

Denise Ney posted a note to the Polish Genius list, repeating info posted by Laurence Krupnak on the GaliciaPoland-Ukraine list. This link opens up a PDF file by Fay and Julian Bussgang that talks about Polish Books of Residents and other sources many researchers don't know about. There's a lot more out there than just parish registers, folks, and the sources described by the Bussgangs can be very, very helpful!

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<<http://posenpoznan.com/>>

James Birkholz posted a note on the Posen mailing list about this site, which features a variety of postcard images of the city of Poznań and other towns in the area.

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<[http://www.onyschuk.com/researching\\_your\\_family\\_steps\\_to\\_take.html](http://www.onyschuk.com/researching_your_family_steps_to_take.html)>

For those who are getting started and would like some basic guidance, Jim Onyschuk of the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group <<http://www.torugg.org/>> has a nice page on his website with ideas. The page is aimed mostly at those doing Canadian research, but the basic steps are

worth review for anyone. Check out also the blog <<http://www.onyschuk.com/research-guide/>>.

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<[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2013/02/why-was-the-information-removed-from-online.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2013/02/why-was-the-information-removed-from-online.html)>

Bill Sheleski posted a note to the Poland-Roots list, talking about an exchange of notes he had with Dick Eastman about why access to historical newspapers has been restricted on Ancestry.com. Eastman pointed him to this article, which clarifies why these and other materials may be removed from online sources. It's good reading and worth your attention. I also liked the concluding paragraph of Bill's note: "You might recall Debbie Greenlee alerting us a few months ago that a certain source of information was soon going to be removed from easy Internet access. As she pointed out, if you see something on the Internet that looks to be of use, SAVE IT! You never know if or when it's going to disappear." Words of wisdom, my friends.

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<[http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss/186-6937727-1542510?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=edward%20rowny%20on%20kindle](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss/186-6937727-1542510?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=edward%20rowny%20on%20kindle)>

General Edward Rowny's book *An American Soldier's Saga of the Korean War* is now available on Kindle. I think we may have announced this before, but there may have been a problem with the link. This link should take you to where you can buy the Kindle version of this Polish-American soldier's story.

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