



# Gen Dobry!

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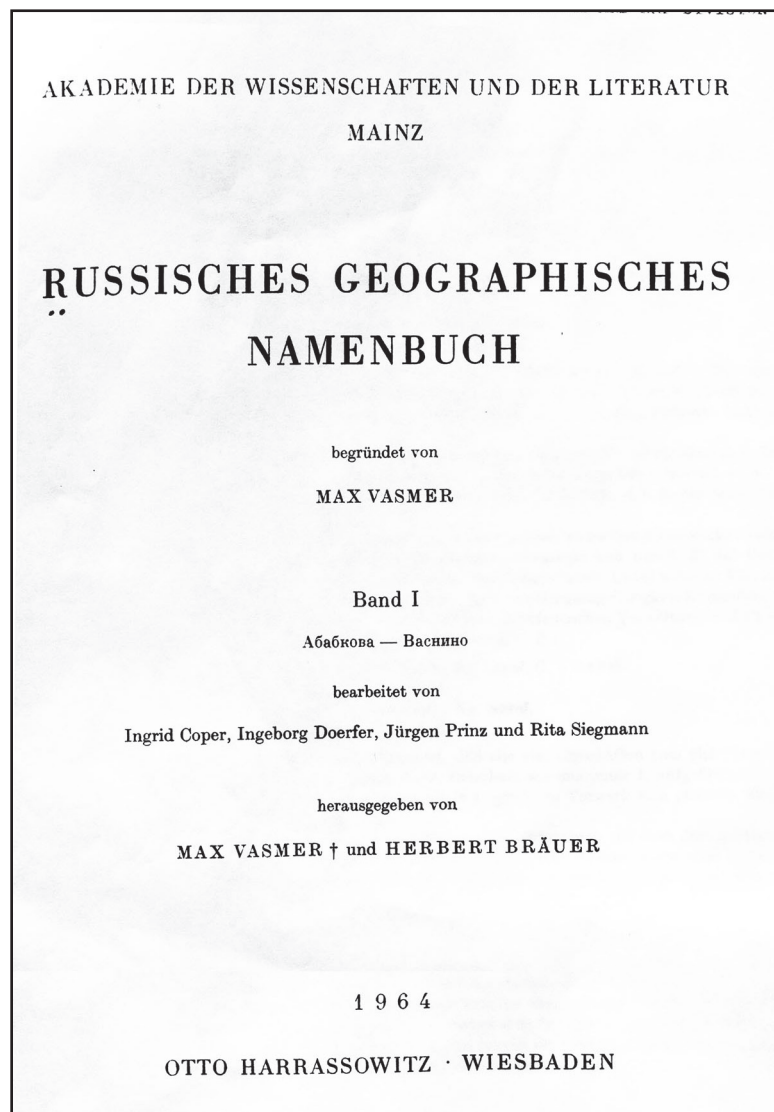
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**\*\*\* USING MAX VASMER'S *RUSSISCHES GEOGRAPHISCHES NAMENBUCH* TO FIND LOCATIONS IN THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE AND THE SOVIET UNION \*\*\***

by Edward David Luft <[luft1111@hotmail.com](mailto:luft1111@hotmail.com)>

According to Harold M. Leich, the Russian Specialist at the Library of Congress European Reading Room, Max Vasmer's *Russisches geographisches Namenbuch* [The Book of Russian Geographic Names], Wiesbaden: O. Harrassowitz, 1964-1989, is the very best resource for locating any place in the Russian Empire or in the former Soviet Union (see title page below). Vasmer's monumental work is in 11 volumes + a map volume. with Vol. 11 in three parts, and listing virtually every location in the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union. Many research libraries use the Library of Congress call number, DK14.R9. The Library of Congress has Vols. 1, 2, 5, and the 1989 map volume. Bibliographical references appear in "Verzeichnis der Quellen und Abkürzungen" [List of Sources and Abbreviations] in Vol. 1, pp. XXXVIII-XLII (see excerpt in Figure 2). While most listings are in Cyrillic letters, those in Russian (or Congress) Poland are listed in Roman letters. Furthermore, the description of the location and the source from which it was taken will be in German, not English. Worldcat <<http://www.worldcat.org>> indicates an English-language version but gives no location. Its existence is not confirmed. The series is still in copyright so finding it online is unlikely.

Potentially Vasmer's work presents two difficulties, both of which can be solved. The search online of the Hathi Trust version of Vasmer's series <<http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000267254>>, but no volumes 1, 2 and 5] will allow location if one inputs the correct Cyrillic. Unfortunately, not all volumes are available online, even for this limited search; so the researcher may have to seek a library that has a hard-copy version. Try Worldcat.org and input the researcher's location to



see the nearest library holding copies. To see the actual entry, that will also be necessary, either by a visit or requesting a copy from that library. If a researcher wishes the Library of Congress to consult one of the Vasmer volumes that it holds to provide basic data, and the request is short, contact the Geography and Map Division with a question at <<http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/ask-geogmap.html>>. The Library of Congress will not do extensive research.

If one only has a Roman version of the town, the researcher may have to convert that Roman alphabet rendition to Cyrillic. For those who do not know Cyrillic, try a listing of the Russian alphabet, such as <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian\\_alphabet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_alphabet)>. Keep in mind that there are Cyrillic letters used in other Slavic languages but not used in the Russian alphabet. Just type the Roman version and see what it renders into Cyrillic. It is a start. It is also possible to use Steve Morse's English-to-Russian tool, <<http://www.stevemorse.org/russian/eng2rus.html>>, and its Russian to English counterpart, <<http://www.stevemorse.org/russian/rus2eng.html>>.

To see more about Max Vasmer and his work, see <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Max\\_Vasmer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Max_Vasmer)>. The *Namenbuch* was only one of his many large projects. To see more about the *Russisches geographisches Namenbuch*, see <<http://catalog.loc.gov/vwebv/holdingsInfo?searchId=6576&recCount=25&recPointer=2&bibId=4565920>>.

Suppose that the researcher finds a geographical name of interest in one of the Vasmer volumes. The name will be given in the Cyrillic alphabet, unless it was in Poland under the Russian Empire. So now it becomes necessary to translate the German to English; Google Translate will work moderately well for that purpose. However, the volumes used abbreviations for the sources, so it will be necessary to consult Volume 1, pp. XXXVIII-XLII, to determine the translation of the abbreviation in order to determine the source of the information in Vasmer. [An excerpt is shown below.] Some of the sources are available online, but they are often in Russian. From

Atlas Mira	Atlas Mira. Ğlavnoje Upravljenje Geodezii i Kartografii MVD SSSR. Moskau 1954.
Beratz	Beratz, Gottlieb: Die deutschen Kolonien an der unteren Wolga in ihrer Entstehung und ersten Entwicklung. Gedenkblätter zur hundertundfünfzigsten Jahreswende der Ankunft der ersten deutschen Ansiedler an der Wolga. 2. Aufl., Berlin 1923.
Bess.	Spiski naseleennyh mest Ross. Imp., Bd. 3: Bessarabskaja oblast. Petersburg 1861.
Bez.	Bezirk (für russ. „stan“, bei den Ortsnamen unter „A“ und „B“ auch für russ. „volost“).
Bobrovskij	Materialy dlja geografii i statistiki Rossii, sobrannyje oficerami generalnogo štaba, Bd. 2: P. Bobrovskij: Grodnenskaja Gubernija. Petersburg 1863.
bulg.	bulgarisch.
Chark.	Spiski naseleennyh mest Ross. Imp., Bd. 46: Charkovskaja Gubernija. Petersburg 1869.
Cher.	Spiski naseleennyh mest Ross. Imp., Bd. 47: Chersonskaja Gubernija. Petersburg 1868.
Chromec	Chromec, Břetislav: Místopisný Slovník Československé Republiky, 2. ergänzte Aufl., Prag 1935.
Cynk.	Cynkalovskýj, Oleksander: Nazvy sil i uročyšć na zachidnij Volyni. In: Naukovyj zbirnyk v 30. ričnyeju naukovoji praci prof. d-ra Ivana Ohijenka, S. 169–171, Warschau 1937.
čech.	tschechisch.
Čern.	Spisok naseleennyh mest Černigovskoj Gubernii, imejuščich ne meneje 10 žitelej, po dannym za 1892 g., Černigov 1892.

Figure 2 – Extract from the abbreviations and sources used in Vasmer's *Namenbuch*.

a practical point of view, one must also exercise a bit of caution downloading from Russian websites; more than a few harbor malware. It might be wise to run your anti-malware soon after accessing those websites.

The need to use the *Namenbuch* began when it was discovered that an ancestor came from a location in the Russian Empire. His location of origin was recorded in Roman letters, and the first part was clearly “Belo,” but the rest of the name was difficult to read. It appeared to be “wodke” or something like that. As a result, it became necessary to look at all of the names in the *Namenbuch* which began with “Belo.” The best fit was clearly Беловодка, “Belovodka.” The problem is that there are six entries in Vasmer’s work with that name. However, it turns out that two were in Vitebsk gubernia, now in Belarus, while the rest were in Chernigov gubernia, now in Ukraine.

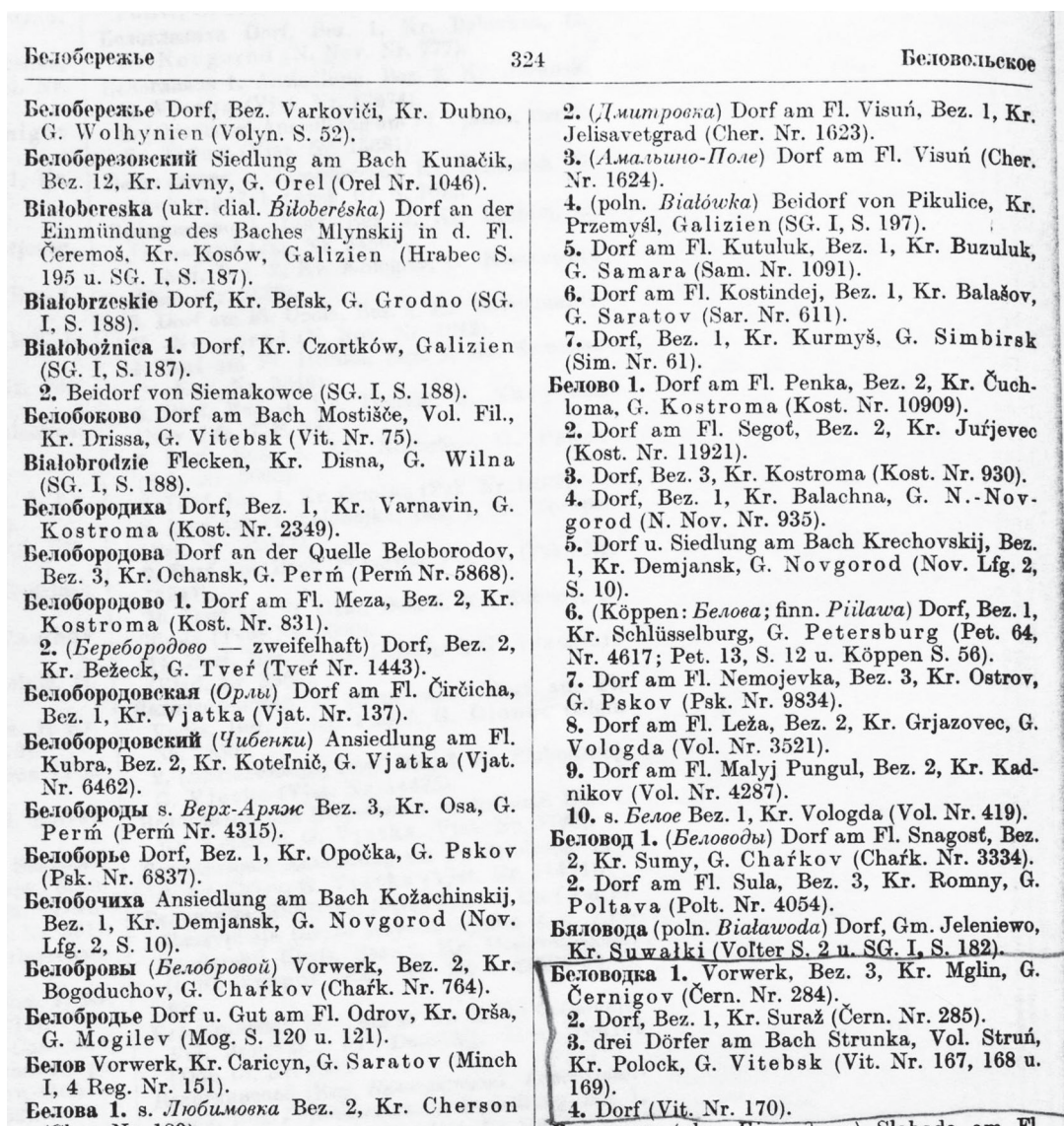


Figure 2 – The page in Vasmer’s *Namenbuch* with the info on Belovodka.

I would like to add that Oleg Popov, First Secretary of the Embassy of Belarus, was helpful in the preparation of this article.

Here are two examples, using Belovodka, in searching for someone who was Jewish and from there. Thus, the location must be in the Pale of Settlement, the area of the Russian Empire to which Jewish settlement was confined.

1. Список населённых мест Черниговской губернии [List of populated places in Chernigov province]. This location is now in Ukraine. Both the 1859 and 1866 editions are online. Type the Cyrillic letters into a search bar and select the edition that you wish. Google offers the opportunity to translate the pages returned in the search. It will then be necessary to search there for the town of interest by first selecting from the alphabetical list of places on the left side of the page. Select the first volume, A-B, on the left and find two entries for Belovodka. Let us pursue the one for “Belovodka, Mglin County 1933.” The file for that page of the book will be found in <<http://king13.ucoz.ru/load/54-1-0-295/>>. Belovodka is listed on page 181 of the book, which is page 125 of the PDF. The item is #3393. Here is what the column headings mean:

Columns: 1 - number; 2 - Name of the populated place; 3 - Location, position; 4 - Distance in versts from county seat | from quarters of the rural police commissary; 5 - Number of “courts;” 6 - Number of inhabitants, male | female; 7. Churches and buildings for devotions; educational and philanthropic institutions; post office; fairs, bazaars, harbors; factories and plants, *etc.*

**XV. СУРАЖСКИЙ УЪЗДЪ.**

№	НАЗВАНИЕ НАСЕЛЕННЫХ МѢСТЪ.	ПОЛОЖЕНІЕ.	РАЗСТОЯНІЕ ВЪ ВЕРСТАХЪ.		ЧИСЛО ДВОРОВЪ.	ЧИСЛО ЖИТЕЛЕЙ.		Церкви и молитвенныя зданія; учебныя и благотворительныя заведенія; почтовыя станицы; ярмарки, базары, пристани; фабрики и заводы и т. п.
			Отъ уѣздн. города.	Отъ станов. кварт.		м. п.	ж. п.	
	<b>1-й СТАНЪ.</b> По почтовой дорогѣ изъ г. Суража въ г. Новозыбковъ.							
3393	Бѣловодка, д. вл.	при оз. Иржавцѣ.	7	28	25	75	63	
3394	Кулаги, с. вл.	при рч. безымянной.	14	21	137	469	486	Церковь православная 1.

Figure 3 – Page from the Chernigov gazetteer. Belovodka is item 3393.

2. Now let us look for Belovodka in Vitebsk Gubernia, now in Belarus, the other location listed in Vasmer’s work. First type in the Cyrillic, Список населённых мест Витебской губернии [List of populated places in Vitebsk province]. That will return the website, <<http://witebsk.ru/lib/spisok-nasel-mest/>>. Use Google Translate to render the website into English. We find that there

is a 1906 edition online at <[https://yadi.sk/d/Kh\\_UqbgsgUG9hW](https://yadi.sk/d/Kh_UqbgsgUG9hW)>. Although the original copy is described as in poor condition, at least the part for Belovodka is fine. Belovodka is on page 323 of the book (page 387 of the PDF), items 167, 168, 169, 170. Here is a translation of the column headings:

Columns: 1 - sequential number; 2 - Name of the populated place (small town, village, settlement, estate, folwark [manorial farmstead], khutor [rural settlement, often a single homestead], croft, *etc.*); 3 - On what body of water is it located (river, stream, *etc.*); 4 - To what land owner does it belong, or to what rural community. Status and religion of the owner; 5 - Amount of land in desyatinas | usable | not usable; 6 - Number of “courts” | 7 - Number of inhabitants | Male | Female; 8 - Of what parish; 9 - How far from (Vitebsk) county seat | District administration; 10 - Nearest post or telegraph office, or distance from this office.

Полоцкій уѣздъ.				Струнская волость.										
№ по порядку.	Названіе населеннаго мѣста (вѣстечко, деревня, село имѣніе, фольварокъ, хуторъ, застѣнокъ и пр.).	При какой находится водъ (рѣкъ, ручѣй, озеро, колодець, болотѣ).	Кому принадлежатъ наземлеадыльцевъ или какому сельскому обществу. Состояніе и вѣрсіонивѣданію владѣльца.	Колѣч. земли въ десятиннахъ.			Число жителей.		Какого прихода.	Въ какомъ разстояніи.			Ближайшая почтово-телеграфная контора или отдѣленіе и разстояніе отъ этого учрежденія.	
				Удобной.	Неудобной.	Подъ лесомъ.	Число дворовъ.	Мужчинъ.		Женщинъ.	Отъ Витебска.	Отъ уѣзднаго города.		Отъ волостнаго центра.
122	Збродовскаго об-ва. Им. Збродовичи . . .	р. Сосницѣ	К. Н. Медунецкому, дв., кат.	199	2	85	1	2	3	Домнинскаго прав.	80	21	5	г. Полоцкъ
123	Фол. Ульяново . . .	тоже	Г. Бобатунову, мѣщ., старооб	82	—	—	1	1	1	Струнскаго старооб	81	22	6	»
124	Дер. Свѣтличисше . . .	руч. Свѣтличанскъ	Збродовскому сельскому	279	—	—	32	131	134	тоже	80	25	8	»
125	„ Гапомщина . . .	руч. Щербань	Збродовскому сельскому	64	—	—	6	22	23	тоже	80	25	8	»

Figure 4 – Top of page 323 from the Vitebsk gazetteer.

154	Фол. Зарѣчье . . .	тоже	двор., кат Г. И. Кузено, двор., катоя.	31	1	—	1	7	2	тоже	90	17	5	»
155	Дер. Колошино . . .	тоже	Михаилонскому сельскому обществу	120	7	—	14	38	42	Юровичскаго прав.	97	20	7	»
156	„ Барсучки . . .	колодець		42	3	—	6	12	13	тоже	98	20	8	»
157	„ Косогорье . . .	тоже		12	2	—	2	11	2	тоже	94	18	8	»
158	„ Рудоконише . . .	тоже		18	1	—	2	6	10	тоже	91	16	8	»
159	„ Горовые . . .	тоже		12	2	—	3	5	6	тоже	95	16	8	»
160	„ Рыбаки . . .	тоже		42	2	—	7	25	19	тоже	111	15	9	»
161	„ Хлѣвище . . .	руч. Стрункѣ		56	2	—	5	21	20	Струнскаго прав.	117	7	9	»
162	„ Колошина . . .	руч. Горбачъ		105	5	—	13	51	41	тоже	117	7	9	»
163	„ Тросница 1-я . . .	руч. Тросницѣ		87	—	—	14	50	46	тоже	118	8	8	»
164	„ Тросница 2-я . . .	тоже		60	—	—	7	34	37	тоже	118	8	8	»
165	„ Тросница 3-я . . .	тоже	45	—	—	14	50	46	тоже	118	8	8	»	
166	„ Тросница 4-я . . .	тоже	15	—	—	1	1	4	тоже	118	8	8	»	
167	„ Бѣловодка 1-я . . .	руч. Стрункѣ	Пржесмунецкому обществу	45	—	—	7	28	31	тоже	120	10	6	»
168	„ Бѣловодка 2-я . . .	тоже		65	—	—	9	29	30	тоже	120	10	6	»
169	„ Бѣловодка 3-я . . .	тоже		50	—	—	8	39	33	тоже	120	10	6	»
170	„ Бѣловодка 4-я . . .	колодець		20	—	—	2	5	7	тоже	120	11	6	»
171	„ Ларьково . . .	тоже		35	1	—	7	23	27	тоже	120	10	6	»
172	„ Эюгино . . .	тоже		70	4	—	7	23	27	тоже	120	10	6	»
173	„ Венгрово . . .	тоже		56	2	—	4	20	21	тоже	121	11	5	»
174	„ Сухоруково . . .	руч. Тросницѣ		49	2	—	6	19	21	тоже	117	7	8	»
175	„ Минтурово 1-е . . .	оз. Минтурово		30	—	—	1	13	8	тоже	116	6	10	»
176	„ Минтурово 2-е . . .	тоже		60	—	—	6	20	25	тоже	117	6	10	»
177	„ Минтурово 3-е . . .	тоже	25	—	—	5	21	23	тоже	117	6	10	»	
178	„ Куксино 1-е . . .	колодець	4	—	—	8	25	34	тоже	117	7	9	»	

Figure 5 – The section on page 323 mentioning Belovodka (item 167-170).

Using Vasmer to obtain the information is not difficult, but using the sources from which he took the information may prove a challenge to all but the most persistent. Fortune favors the persistent.

Editor—Note that a complete list of Edward David Luft’s publications appears at <<https://sites.google.com/site/edwarddavidluftbibliography/>>.

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

Subject: Polish Researchers, and Ways to Send Payment to Polish Archives

*Editor*—We received quite a few valuable comments from readers after the article “Sending Payment to the State Archives” in the last issue. Fortunately, the folks who wrote in gave permission to quote their notes, so I can share them with you.

Just a note to thank you for your recent article in *Gen Dobry!* suggesting ways to handle incremental payments to Polish archives, while avoiding the substantial bank fees required to effect even small wire transfers. Ron Hoffman’s experience is certainly sobering.

Has Ron considered, as an alternative, using a private researcher? I’ve worked for the last several years with one who hails originally from northeastern Poland, though now based in Kraków, who knows the area extremely well and has provided me records from the diocesan archives in Łomża. (Don’t hold me to it, but I believe he’s made extensive copies of some parish records, and has obtained other things either in person or through contacts.) His name is Daniel Bućko, and he can be reached at <[danielbucko@O2.pl](mailto:danielbucko@O2.pl)>. I’ve found Daniel to be very diligent, knowledgeable, and genuinely anxious to help. It’s been a real pleasure working with him. And, more to the point of your recent article, he accepts payment via PayPal, which charges more modest fees for transmissions of money internationally.

Once again, thanks very much for your very helpful article!

Curt Bajak

*Editor*—I, too, have heard very favorable things about Daniel Bućko. I have not had occasion to contact him in the past, but I wouldn’t be surprised if such an occasion arises. The following is another suggestion.

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In reference to the letters from Vivian Guzniczak in the November *Gen Dobry!* (p. 4) and from Ed Mucha in the December *Gen Dobry!* (pp. 5-6), I have been extremely pleased with the professional genealogical services provided by Lucjan Cichocki, who lives in Przemyśl. He can be reached by using Skype or Viber, if one wants to discuss details of their desired genealogical searches. One would have to account for time zone differences, of course! Another benefit, Lucjan accepts PayPal transfers, but I pay the 1% (current) PayPal fee, which is not that much of a problem. His rates are quite reasonable.

In the summer of 2013, Debbie Greenlee of Polish Genius mentioned about him, and I contacted him by e-mail, as I had already had a trip to Europe planned for August of 2013. We had a good exchange of e-mails, and when I was in Rzeszów, I called him to make final arrangements to meet with him.

My wife, son, and I spent a full day with Lucjan, and it was an excellent experience. We discussed our genealogical needs researching my great-grandparents, who emigrated from Budziwój (now within the city limits of Rzeszów), and then we toured the city of Przemyśl.

I continue to use Lucjan's professional services since, with me, he has been prompt, courteous, and has a high degree of integrity. And, since Lucjan retired from teaching English in middle school and has pursued genealogical research as well as leading tours, I have found that we can easily communicate with one another.

While Lucjan can research any region in Poland, obviously a trip to Gdańsk would be more costly than one near Przemyśl. But perhaps Vivian and/or Ed can communicate with him to see if they can work out a mutually beneficial arrangement for their genealogical needs.

Ollie Clemons

*Editor*—Thanks for the information, Ollie. I see Lucjan is listed as owner of Genealogy and Languages in Przemyśl on LinkedIn: <<https://www.linkedin.com/pub/lucjan-cichocki/7b/13/44>>—and I also notice you posted a recommendation of Lucjan on that page. I think maybe you were happy with his work! ... I wanted to add that Ollie sent Lucjan a copy of his note to me, and Lucjan wrote me to suggest that the best contact address for him is <[lucekcichocki@gmail.com](mailto:lucekcichocki@gmail.com)>.

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Andrew Durnam, <[andrew@tour-service.pl](mailto:andrew@tour-service.pl)>, was our guide and interpreter in 2013 when we visited relatives in the Augustów area of Poland. He picked us up in Warsaw, took us to Augustów, and finally to Kraków. He also took us to Suwałki to look through microfilm for my ancestors. Andrew did some research on his own before we traveled, using information we gave him. He lived in the U.S. for a few years and speaks English very well. He was very easy to talk to and very interested in helping us.

He is still listed online. Here is a review from trip advisor: <[http://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowTopic-g274723-i959-k5088375-Best\\_Tour\\_guide\\_Andrew\\_Durman\\_visiting\\_Poland-Poland.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowTopic-g274723-i959-k5088375-Best_Tour_guide_Andrew_Durman_visiting_Poland-Poland.html)>.

Judy Evelyn

*Editor*—Thank you for that information. In case the long URL doesn't work, try <<http://tinyurl.com/p215ty3>>.

I wanted to add that Bob Lukaszewski sent me a note praising Sebastian Błochowiak, a genealogist in the Gniezno area who charges reasonable prices and speaks English. He is 27, graduated with a degree in history from Adam Mickiewicz in Poznań, and has been doing research for five years. His firm's website is at <<http://www.pastandfuture.pl>> and his e-mail address is <[sebblo@wp.pl](mailto:sebblo@wp.pl)>. He is also on PGSA's list of guides and researchers at <<http://www.pgsa.org/Research/polresguides.php>>.



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I have not contacted the archives yet. But I have sent letters to the parishes, where I thought my families may have come from with a cash donation, usually ten dollars, included. I did make sure to mention the donation within the letter, so it was not lost. At times, I was lucky and got information other times, the donation was thankfully accepted with a recommendation to contact another parish. Either way, the time frame was anywhere from four to six months.

Dolores (nee Szalasny) Konopa

*Editor*— Thank you for your comments. Sending a cash donation won't work with the State Archives, of course. But it can often do some good when contacting parishes. Of course, some folks hesitate to send cash through the mail; others are fine with it. I would add that most researchers I know recommend doing whatever possible to conceal that cash is enclosed. Some experienced people strongly advise not sending cash to a parish first, but to ask the priest how best to make a contribution, and then do as he says. Obviously, people have different experiences. I'm glad this has worked well for you, and I hope it continues to do so!

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Subject: Canadian Researcher?

Dear Mr. Hoffman, my name is Dorothy Blyth (nee Dorota Mazurkiewicz). I wanted to tell you how much I enjoy reading your newsletter. Having recently retired from the Chicago Public Schools, when I see your e-mail, I now have the luxury of pouring a cup of coffee and sitting down to a very enjoyable read. I truly enjoyed the information you posted for "newbies," of which I am truly one.

I have had much success in researching my father side of the family from Serokomla near Lublin. My mother's tale is much different. I know that she married my father in NYC in Dec. of 1952 and reentered the country from Canada three weeks later under her newly married name. She was 28 at the time. I was born three years later in 1955 and she died 6 mos. later at age 31 of an inoperable brain tumor. My father remarried a few years later and like some families, her information was lost or simply hidden away.

I have been stymied in my desire to find out why, when etc. she was in Canada. When I have looked online to order the original documents, they can only be sent to a Canadian resident. Hence, my question: Do you or any of your readers recommend a Canadian researcher?

Her province appears to have been Ontario. I have information that her mother, and perhaps a sister were sent to a Polish labour camp and then transferred to Ravensbruck. She was born in 1924 and that would have made her a teen in the years of the invasion. If you or your readers have any information on how to find a Canadian to help I would be most grateful. Sometimes, I feel that I am simply chasing a ghost. Thank you for your time and thank you again for your newsletter. Dorothy Blyth, 2727 N. Kenmore, Chicago IL 60614 <[dorothy@blythhouse.org](mailto:dorothy@blythhouse.org)>

Please feel free to share my info as you see fit.

Dorothy Blyth

*Editor*—I appreciate your kind words, and am glad to print your note, in hopes some of our readers can offer you good recommendations. I could not think of anything terribly helpful, although I suggested it might not be a bad idea to talk to the East European Genealogical Society, headquartered in Winnipeg, <<http://eegsociety.org/>>. Anyone with a better idea is invited to write Dorothy and offer her some help.

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**\*\*\* REVIEW: *POLISH PARISHES OF THE DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE: NINETEENTH & TWENTIETH CENTURIES* \*\*\***

*Reviewed by Nadine Guilbault*

*Editor*—Nadine sent me this review, telling me I was welcome to use it however I wish. I plan to print it in *Rodziny* as well, but I wish to include it here, as well, so as to give the book as much publicity as possible.

***Polish Parishes of the Diocese of La Crosse: Nineteenth & Twentieth Centuries.*** Written by Reverend Janusz Kowalski, Ph.D ; (Stevens Point, WI: Point Publications, 2013). Pp. 276, ISBN 978-0-9837283-5-1. This book was originally reviewed by John M. Grondelski in *Polish American Studies*, Vol. 71, No. 2 (Fall 2014), pp. 91-93.

John M. Grondelski, reviewer, [with written permission granted]: “As these parishes disappear, the imperative to record their history grows ever greater. Fr. Janusz Kowalski, who holds a doctorate in history from the University of Rzeszów, contributes to the cause with this history of Polish churches in the Diocese of La Crosse, which today covers 19 counties in central and southwest Wisconsin, the state currently with the highest percentage of claimants of Polish ancestry in its population.”

After some sleuthing I found the book, and purchased a copy. As a Wisconsin Genealogist and historian of Polish genealogy research, I feel this book is a good buy to add to my reference shelf.

The book is about the Polish immigrants settling in Wisconsin from 1868 to 2000 in the La Crosse Diocese. The boundaries were ever changing, and the Appendix maps included to the changes is included. It covers brief church histories and in many cases pictures of the churches. Of the 37 churches covered, here is a sample list of what is included; St. Florian of Hatley, St. Peters in Stevens Point, Sacred Heart of Jesus of Cassel, St Stanislaus in Superior, St. Mary’s of Hurley, Peplin, Lublin, Wausau and more.

Informative chapters about the schools and the Fraternal organizations, such as the Catholic Order of Foresters, Rosary Society and the history of them.

A brief chapter is about the Roadside shrines and cemeteries, and the Polish traditions linked to them.

Traditions of Polish Catholic Baptism, Funerals, and Wedding customs. I caught myself, a catholic pole, saying to myself, “That’s why they did that” on more than one occasion.

The book is footnoted and Bibliography included with some websites for further information and sources.

Cost: 19.50 + 6.00 shipping

You can order your copy the old fashioned way, by mail:

Reverend Janus Kowalski

St. Therese

Attn; Mary Kluman

112 W Kourt Street

Schofield, WI 54476

Respectfully reviewed and submitted by Nadine Guilbault, Wisconsin Genealogist Classic, member of PGSA, <[ngilbo1505@gmail.com](mailto:ngilbo1505@gmail.com)>.

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### **\*\*\* NEW POLISH LAW AFFECTING RECORDS \*\*\***

The January 18, 2015 issue of *Nu? What's New?* cited a report from Jan Meisels Allen that the Polish Legislature has passed a law embargoing birth records for 100 years and marriage and death records for 80 years. It also allows local civil registrar offices or USCS's (*Urzędy Stanu Cywilnego*) up to 10 years to transfer marriage and death records to the State Archives.

We have printed articles in previous issues about efforts to encourage Polish legislators to shorten those periods, to avoid unnecessary problems for genealogical researchers. *Nu?* mentioned that Geshel Galicia was particularly active in trying to persuade them. Unfortunately, it seems they did not succeed.

Jan Meisels Allen posted a note with more details to the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup. I believe you can access it online here:

<<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!topic/soc.genealogy.jewish/k9HpYOgu65s>>

Scroll down to January 14 and look for the note “(Poland) Civil Registration Bill Now Law.”

We will pass along any further information we receive on this matter.

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**\*\*\* LATEST SCHENECTADY COUNTY ROOTS NEWSLETTER \*\*\***

The sixth issue of *The Project To Discover Schenectady County's Eastern European Roots Newsletter* was published earlier this month. We like to include its contents, for our readers who may have roots in the area and are not yet familiar with the newsletter. The deadline for the next issue is April 1st. If you are interested in reading or contributing, contact Phyllis Zych Budka <[abudka@nycap.rr.com](mailto:abudka@nycap.rr.com)>.

- Our Polish Heritage: A Tree That Blossoms—We're on the Internet, Phyllis Zych Budka
- Seeking Pławenski Family Members, Carole McCarthy
- Early 20th Century Group Photos—The Offspring of John and Stanislaw Urbanski, John Urbanski
- Wanda Korycinska Norris, Marjorie Norris Brophy
- The Szulinskis of Schenectady, Part 2: Discovering the Family's Ancestral Villages, Craig Siulinski
- Great Uncle Joe's 78 rpm Records, Phyllis Zych Budka
- Our TV/Internet Show—Additional Information, Bernice Izzo
- The Polish Genealogy Source—Phyllis Zych Budka

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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.*

**February 11–14, 2015**

**FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES 2015 CONFERENCE  
Salt Lake City, Utah**

Registration is now open for the FGS 2015 national conference scheduled for February 11–14 in Salt Lake City, Utah. This highly anticipated genealogy event puts the FGS and RootsTech conferences under one roof at the Salt Palace Convention Center (SPCC).

Attend only FGS or add-on a full RootsTech pass for an additional \$39. Register now at: <<http://FGSconference.org/2015>>, and visit that site for more information.

[From an e-mail sent out by FGS]

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**Sunday, February 8, 2015, 2 p.m.**

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
THE FOURTH PARTITION – CZWARTA DZIELNICA  
Copernicus Center – King's Room  
5216 W. Lawrence Ave. • Chicago, Illinois**

Chicago! . . . at one time, home to more Poles than Warsaw!

The Polish Genealogical Society of America presents a screening of this documentary film about Polish-American immigrants at the turn of the 20th century, directed by Adrian Prawica, and written by Rafał Muskała and Adrian Prawica.

Over four million Poles immigrated to the U.S., between 1870-1920, in search of a better life. Chicago was the center of Polish culture and political activism in America. Here they built communities, churches, and most of all, aided their beloved Poland in her fight for independence. They worked in some of the most dangerous factories and mills in the United States. Learn more about your immigrant ancestor's daily lives. The film features rarely shown photographs and film of the period.

**Director, editor, and cinematographer, Adrian Prawica, will be in attendance** to answer your questions after the screening. Born in Łódź, Poland, Adrian immigrated to the United States at the age of ten. A graduate of Loyola University, Chicago, he started in event videography and public access television at the age of 25, before moving into advertising and documentary work. Please join us! There is ample parking adjacent to the theater/center as well as across the street. Light refreshments will be served.

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**Sunday, February 22, 2015, 2 p.m.**

**POLISH AMERICAN MUSEUM  
16 BELLEVIEW AVENUE • PORT WASHINGTON, LONG ISLAND, NY**

**Prof. Jonathan D Shea A.G.** of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast will be giving a lecture entitled "Finding the Missing Pieces of Your Polish-American Family History." For further information please contact <[pgsctne@yahoo.com](mailto:pgsctne@yahoo.com)>.

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**Saturday, March 14, 2015, 1 p.m.**

**POLISH AMERICAN FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT  
27 GROVE HILL • NEW BRITAIN, CT**

**Prof. Jonathan Shea A.G.** of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast and **Aleksandra Kacprzak** of <<http://genoroots.com>> will present a lecture on Polish websites and digitized records of genealogical value available on line. The presenters will also provide instruction as to how to translate and understand the records once found in the digital collections. The lecture will take place at the Polish American Foundation of Connecticut, 27 Grove Hill, New Britain, CT. For further information contact <[pgsctne@yahoo.com](mailto:pgsctne@yahoo.com)>.

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**March 19, 2015**

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS EVENT**

**LOCATING VITAL RECORDS IN POLAND USING ONLINE RESOURCES, OR, “I FOUND MY VILLAGE! NOW WHAT?” - BY JULIE ROBERTS SZCZEPANKIEWICZ**

**Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front Street, Chicopee MA 01013, 6:30 p.m.**

Finding vital records for one’s family in Poland is a critical step in exploring our Polish ancestry, but can sometimes be confusing. **Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz** will be our Spring 2015 meeting speaker and she will help both beginners and experienced researchers eliminate that confusion!

After a brief overview of the Polish partitions to introduce beginners to the history and geography of Poland, Julie will illustrate the use of church records, passenger manifests, naturalization records, and other documents to determine one’s ancestral village, and will review the various websites that are instrumental in finding some of these documents online.

Finding the name of the village is only the first step, however. The next step is to determine where the records for that village are kept, which often requires one to know the parish. Experienced researchers, who already know the name of an ancestral village, will benefit from her introduction to some of the gazetteers and indexes that have come online in recent years, including the *Skorowidz Królestwa Polskiego*. Julie will also explore the options for locating Polish vital records online using websites such as Geneteka, Metryki.GenBaza, Metryki. Genealodzy.pl, and BaSIA.

**About the speaker:**

Julie’s family history research began in 1992, with her first recorded interview with an older relative. In 1998, she moved beyond the “shoebox phase” when her husband gave her Family Tree Maker software for Christmas. She has been actively researching her Polish and German roots since then, in addition to raising her four children. Julie’s academic background includes a B.A. in biological sciences and a Master’s degree in endocrinology. This training as a scientist is reflected in Julie’s approach to genealogical research, as she formulates her research questions in terms of hypotheses which can be supported or rejected using documentation.

Julie’s areas of interest include villages in all three partitions (Prussian, Russian and Austrian) and she reads records in Latin, Polish, and Russian. She volunteers as an Administrator and regular contributor to the Facebook group, Polish Genealogy. This Polish Genealogy group includes members from around the world, ranging in experience from beginners to professionals, and provides assistance with all aspects of Polish genealogy research, including analyzing group members’ research puzzles and suggesting new strategies, providing assistance in locating documents, and offering translation assistance. All of this takes place in a friendly forum that has been compared to a genealogical society meeting that is taking place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The group can be found at <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/50089808265>>, and new

members are always welcome.

In addition to her work on Facebook, Julie is a member of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State, the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, and the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts. A native of Buffalo, New York, Julie currently resides in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, with her husband, Bruce, and their children.

Free admission—please bring a friend!

[From a Facebook event page <<https://www.facebook.com/events/763543213728356/>> as of 31 Dec 2014, with additional input from Joe Kielec. See also the website <<http://www.pgsma.org/>>.]

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

<<http://indgensoc.blogspot.com/2015/01/proposed-elimination-of-genealogy-at.html>>

The January 26, 2015 issue of *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* [EOGN] reported that the new Indiana state budget bill calls for a 24% cut in funding to the Indiana State Library, which would eliminate the Genealogy Department, in addition to other cuts. EOGN gave the above link where you can read more.

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

The January 5, 2015 issue of EOGN reported that the Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness [RAOGK] website is back online, at the above URL. RAOGK originally was in operation for more than a decade, but shut down in 2011 due to technical problems and the health problems of the main person behind it, Bridgett Schneider, who, sadly, died a month later. Many were saddened by the loss of this site, which helps volunteers identify and perform researchers' requests for free (except for reimbursing legitimate expenses). Bridgett's husband, Doc, always said the site would return. It is wonderful to hear that now, it has. Take a look, and see if the volunteers can help you with something, or if you can volunteer to help others.

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<<http://goo.gl/9kdACX>>

Another item from that issue of EOGN cites a study of data from the first half of the 20th century that shows immigrants who Americanized their names earned 10% more than those who didn't. EOGN gave the URL above as a site where you can read an article on the subject.

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<<http://podroznicy.com/en/poland-by-drone>>

In the January 25, 2015 issue of *Nu? What's New?*, Gary Mokotoff mentioned a site using a drone to create videos of various places in Poland. Gary specifically mentioned a view of Białystok's Jewish cemetery, but explained that the site allows you to view a number of different places. The URL above lets you choose numerous places in Poland to view by drone.



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<<http://dyguslav.wix.com/polish-ancestors#!polish-surname-analysis-new/cj3h>>

On Facebook, a gentleman named Maciej Kolski has posted several notes recently saying that this is a good site to learn about meanings of Polish surnames. I have not had a chance to look at their work, so I cannot make an informed evaluation of the quality of the analysis; and I don't know how much they charge. I'm merely passing along the info in case you wish to take a look. Or, you can get a pretty well-informed analysis from Rob Strybel for \$19; send a personal bank check or money order to: Robert Strybel / ul. Kaniowska 24 / 01-529 Warsaw / Poland.

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<<http://www.familychartmasters.com/slc/>>

The January 11, 2015 issue of *Nu? What's New?* noted the publication of a new guide to Salt Lake City that focuses on where to stay, where to eat, how to get around, and so forth. Other guides exist to tell you how to do research at the Family History Library. This booklet, *The Chart Chick Insider's Guide to Salt Lake City: Everything a Genealogist Needs to Know Outside the Library*, by Janet Havorka, helps you plan the practical aspects of your trip better. The above URL includes the option to sign up and be sent a link to download it as a free PDF. A printed version is also for sale and can be ordered at the same web page.

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<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrvGZDbGRrQ>>

John Rys, of PGS-Minnesota, sent me this link to a video clip on YouTube, from the Jordanów area in Poland and showing aerial footage of five Polish villages in the Carpathian Mountains, on the southern border. The villages include Toporzysko and Wysoka; John has family ties to several of these villages, and wanted to share this aerial tour. He notes that the houses in the area are new because so much of the area was destroyed when the Nazis invaded in 1939, due to resistance. Fascinating viewing!

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<<http://genealogyindexer.org/>>

Logan Kleinwaks continues to add searchable resources to his Genealogy Indexer site. Among those recently added are Poland Government Yearbooks for 1850, 1854, 1856, 1858, and 1859; Posen Address and Business Directories for 1855, 1882, 1887, 1894, 1895, and 1897; Radom Homeowners Directory for 1902; 1922 Kielce Business Directory; and copies of Galicia Schematisms for 1876, 1883, 1890, and 1909.

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<<http://www.geshergalicia.org/galician-town-locator/>>

I have often mentioned the tremendous resources for Galician research available from Gesher Galicia, but I'm not sure I've ever mentioned the "Galician Town Locator" at this URL. The heading says, "Scroll down to view ALL the towns in Galicia, Austria in the year 1900, including their judicial and administrative districts, and the location of the Jewish, Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic congregations or parishes for that year." If you have roots in Galicia, chances are this info will prove helpful at some point.

<<http://www.geshergalicia.org/inventory/maps-polish-state-archives-przemysl/>>

I think we have mentioned this before, but it's worth saying again. Gesher Galicia also offers digitized cadastral map holdings and of other property records from the Przemysł State Archives, accessible through this page.

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<<http://www.melc.lt/lt.php/naujos-knygos/enciklopedijos/mazosios-lietuvos-enciklopedija/978-5-420-01746-3/>>

Lutz Szemkus posted a note to the Lithuanian Genealogy mailing list about the *Concise Encyclopaedia of Lithuania Minor*, an academic publication dealing with the culture and history of the northeastern part of former East Prussia. While the population of the area was largely Lithuanian, researchers with roots in northeastern Poland could find this valuable. For more information, including a section in English, see the URL above. If it does not work, try <<http://tinyurl.com/k93xgdp>>.

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<<http://brickwallgenealogist.com/?p=3105>>

Valerie Warunek posted a note on Facebook to suggest anyone planning a trip to Salt Lake City should read this item, about changes at the Family History Library. Whether you are a veteran researcher or a first-time visitor, this info could be very helpful.

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<<http://blog.polishorigins.com/category/3-men-and-a-mom-finding-our-polish-family/>>

Zenon Znamirovski of PolishOrigins wrote to mention that readers of *Gen Dobry!* and *Rodziny* might like to read about the adventures of Brian Minnie and his brother in Galicia as they searched for their family roots. The blog is called “3 Men and a Mom. Finding our Polish Family,” and you can access it at the above URL.

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<<http://www.nihilnovijournal.org/post/108088324091/languages-of-interwar-poland>>

If you're interested in the ethnic and linguistic makeup of Poland over time, this item is worth a look. It features maps showing which languages were spoken where in Poland as it existed between World Wars I and II. The languages shown are Belarussian, Lithuanian, German, Ruthenian, Hebrew, Yiddish, and, oh yeah, Polish. The maps for Hebrew and Yiddish, Ruthenian, and Ukrainian are particularly interesting. Their map for Polish also shows the distribution of Polish speakers in 1931 and contrasts it with the post-1945 borders. This illustrates how many people who spoke Polish suddenly found themselves living east of the borders of Poland!

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<<http://www.moremaiorum.pl/mapa-parafii/rzymsko-katolickie/>>

Bob Lukaszewski sent this link to “a really useful interactive map of Roman Catholic parishes in Poland. I especially like the fact that the parishes are differentiated based on the age (red pins for parishes founded before 1750, yellow pins for parishes founded between 1751 and 1945, and blue pins for parishes founded since 1946). One caveat is that the map is only 70% complete. If you notice errors, please e-mail the creators, as this resource will be even better when it's complete.” Thanks, Bob!

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