

Baltimore County Genealogical Society

Eastern European Interest Group

Volume No. 1 Issue No. 1

June 1997

New Special Interest Group

On 25 May 1997, at 1:00PM, a "brainstorming" session was held regarding the creation of a "Polish" Special Interest Group within the Baltimore County Genealogical Society. This meeting, coordinated by Gene Gallagher, was a great success. The meeting was attended by a group of about a dozen people (both members and non-members of the BCGS). After much discussion and sharing of ideas by everyone, the following was decided:

- There was enough interest to start a special interest group.
- Since interest was not only in Poland, but also in other surrounding countries, it was decided we would go with the Eastern European Interest Group.
- Dottie Aleshire volunteered to chair the group.
- There will be a periodic "bulletin" that will be edited by Anthony Bogdan.
- We will meet on the fourth Sunday of each month at 1:00PM at the BCGS.

The group is forming with the intent of mutually helping each other in an area of research which most people find very difficult. With the sharing of Ideas, knowledge, and experiences, we can help each other discover our Eastern European Roots.

In Appreciation

A special thanks goes out to **Gene Gallagher**. Gene initiated the "brainstorming" session which led to the creation of the "Eastern European Interest Group". His insight to the need for this group has given all who have ancestry in Eastern Europe a forum to share ideas and knowledge. Thanks Gene!

Internet Research



For researchers having access to e-mail or the internet, here are a few websites worth visiting.

An Index of German-Polish and Polish-German names of the localities in Poland & Russia.
<http://web.idirect.com/~pmoney/gerpol.html>

GenPol mailing list. send e-mail to listproc@chem.uw.edu.pl with the following text: subscribe genpol firstname lastname

Ukrainian Relevant Genealogical Site
<http://www.infoukes.com/genealogy/links/index.html>

Russlinks
<http://users.aimnet.com/~ksyrah/ekskurs/russlink.html>

German-Russian Genealogy
<http://pixel.cs.vt.edu/library/odessa.html>

Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) <http://feefhs.org>

Polish Genealogical Society of America <http://www.pgasa.org>

Genealogy and Poland - a guide
<http://members.aol.com/genpoland/genpolen.htm>

The Polish Genealogy Project
<http://www.graphixweb.com>

Consolidated Jewish Surname Index (not limited to Jewish surnames)
<http://www.avotaynu.com/csi/csi-home.html>

Tombstone Inscriptions

Plans are being made to record the tombstone inscriptions in two of Baltimore's predominantly Polish cemeteries. These are the Holy Rosary and Saint Stanislaus Cemeteries, located on the Eastern edge of Baltimore City.

Holy Rosary will be the

first of these efforts. This cemetery, in existence since late 1890s, is in excellent condition (neat rows, readable stones, well maintained). For this reason, transcribing shouldn't be difficult; however, it will take some time because the cemetery is fairly large.

This project will start around the end of July. Anyone interested in volunteering some time to help with this endeavor should contact Anthony Bogdan (Phone 410-796-4927 or e-mail at Borgdan@aol.com) for more information.

Polish Heritage Association of Maryland

The following is taken from the newsletter "Trumpeter" Vol. 23, No. 2, Mar/Apr 1997, published by the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland:

Membership Drive

President Stanley Cieielski has chosen Kenneth Asburn to serve as chair of a membership drive committee, which will seek new members for the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland. Many Marylanders of Polish descent (200,570 from 1990 Census) are not aware of the Association and its work, and some Maryland Poles might be interested in joining this group.

(The EEIG will find out how to contact Mr. Asburn for those who are interested in joining this association)

Library Opened

The Henry Sijnkiewicz Polonia Library had its opening day on Friday 21, 1997. The library is located at the Polish National Alliance building at 1627 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore MD. Regular hours for the library to be open are Fridays 6pm to 8pm, Saturdays 2pm to 6pm. Come in to browse or check out some

books.

(PNA phone number 410-732-1100)

Book Corner



Suggested Reading for Genealogical Research:

"CZECHOSLOVAKIA"

A handbook of Czechoslovak genealogical research by Daniel M. Schlyter. An in-depth book that covers Language, Word Lists, Hungarian Census, letter writing, maps, history, etc.

"FOLLOWING THE PAPER TRAIL"

by Jonathan Shea. Includes alphabet and translating many documents of interest to the genealogist in German, French, Polish, Latin, Russian, Hungarian, Lithuanian and more.

"POLISH PARISH RECORDS OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH"

Their use and understanding in genealogical research by Gerald A. Ortell. A good guide based on author's experience in Galicia.

"DIRECTORY OF MARYLAND CHURCH RECORDS"

Compiled by Edna A. Kanely. A finding aid to most church records in Maryland; covers all denominations.

"POLISH AND PROUD"

Tracing your Polish ancestry, by Jan & Len Gnacinski. A good basic reference for beginners.

"POLAND: A HISTORICAL ATLAS"

by Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski. A pictorial presentation of Polish history with detailed chronology and commentary.

"POLISH ROOTS"

by Rosemary A. Chorzempa. An excellent Polish genealogy research book dealing with records, Polish Genealogical Societies, geographic and ethnic areas of Poland, and the language barrier.

Bulletin Submissions

Do you have any information which you would like to share, that would be of interest to the group. This could be genealogy articles, research tips or discoveries, recommended books, research sites, etc. If so, get them to the EEIG Chairperson or the Editor for inclusion in future bulletins.

Chairperson : Dottie Aleshire
410-465-8725

Editor: Anthony Bogdan
410-796-4927

Baltimore County Genealogical Society

Eastern European Interest Group

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Immigration & Naturalization Service

(By Candace Fuller, Taken from GENPOL mail list)

Naturalization records can be requested from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Washington, DC. The INS has files on all who were Naturalized after 27 September 1906. Before This date the records were housed at the courthouse in the county seat where the naturalization occurred.

This telephone number can be called for the necessary form (1-800-870-FORM). Ask for Form G-639. The G-639 can be photocopied for future request.

- This request is under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
- This request takes 6 months to get a return on.
- Being a FOIA request, you do not have to state relationship. This means you can order for anyone you want.
- You do not have to prove death unless the individual was born after 1897.
- The only necessary information is full name, date and place of birth (exact or approximate). Any other identifying information will help in the search.
- The cost is usually free, unless it is a huge file (over 2 hours research time and/or over 100 pages).

- The file generally tells names, possibly names of spouse and children, birth dates, ship, date of arrival, and other things including possibly a photo of the person naturalized.

After mailing the form, you will receive a letter from the INS acknowledging your request. Check to see if the name on this letter is correct and keep the letter. The letter has a CO# on it that you need if you ever call the INS about the request.

Name & Location Spelling Variations

(By D. Zincavage, taken from GENPOL mail list)

Russia, Prussia, and Austria partitioned Poland-Lithuania IN 1772, 1793, AND 1795. The 3rd partition eliminated the country from the map. When doing genealogy research in this part of the world, it is essential to get used to finding extremely variable spellings of personal and location names.

A variety of languages were in daily use, including Polish, Lithuanian, Russian, Yiddish, and German. Many people were illiterate or semi-literate, since Russia closed schools as a punitive measure following the insurrections.

Spelling conventions were much less fixed generally in this multilingual milieu than they are in America today. And finally, a lot of what we see are names written down phonetically by people quite unfamiliar with the native language(s) of the names.

Basically, one should informally adopt the soundex approach: (1) Ignore vowels - all vowels should be considered possibly equivalent. (2) Lump similar consonants, and consonant clusters together. S=Z=SH=SZ, B=P, and so on.

Take time to learn how Polish is pronounced. If you do not know that "w" in Polish is pronounced like "v" in English, "rz" like "zh", "c" like "ts", you are going to be confused.

Internet Research



For researchers having access to the internet, here are a few websites worth visiting.

Jewishgen's shtetl finder program. For finding European town locations. Also finds town names which are similar phonetically.
<http://www.jewishgen.com>

Mapquest - a finely detailed interactive atlas.

<http://www.mapquest.com>

Genealogy Exchange & Surname Registry. Includes list of volunteer translators. Many languages translated for FREE!!

<http://www.pilot.infi.net/~ajabby/index.html>

Polish first names

<http://www.epibiostat.ucsf.edu/epidem/personnel/polish>

Archives of Maryland Polonia.

<http://ubmail.ubalt.edu/~thollowak/home.html>

Eastern European history, firstnames, surnames, rulers, etc. <http://www.fairacre.demon.co.uk/Eastern-Europe/index.htm>

Holy Rosary Tombstone Inscriptions

The project to record the tombstone inscriptions at the Holy Rosary Cemetery on German Hill Road in eastern Baltimore County is under way. On Saturday, 12 July, six volunteers arrived at the cemetery and began the recording process. Four other volunteers, who could not attend that day, received their own sections of the cemetery to work on as their time permits. Thanks to all who have volunteered so far.

The cemetery is divided into fifteen blocks, which are lettered "A" through "O". There are four blocks left that are in need of recordation. If you would like to volunteer for one of these blocks, please contact the Chairperson of the EEIG or the Editor of this Bulletin.

When this project is complete, it will be one of the first predominantly Polish cemeteries in the Baltimore area to have all its tombstone inscriptions transcribed. This will be a tremendous help to genealogist

with Polish ancestry in Baltimore and to the present management of the cemetery.

September Meeting Guest Speaker

Mr. Thomas Hollowak, author, publisher, and owner of the Historyk Press, has accepted an invitation to be our guest speaker at the September EEIG meeting. Mr. Hollowak is one of the few authorities on the history of Baltimore's Polonia.

If your research involves the local Polish Community, this will be a "must see" meeting. Mr. Hollowak will be discussing the history of Polonia and his publications. If you are interested in purchasing any books offered by Historyk Press, a selection will be available at the meeting.

Welcome New Members

We welcome three new members to the BCGS's Eastern European Interest Group

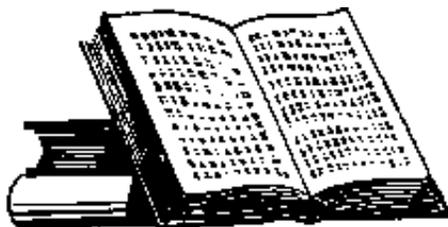
Monica J. Rutledge
Glendale, Arizona

David P. Wilson
Seaford, Delaware

William F. Rutkowski
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

We hope you find your membership with us beneficial and rewarding.

Book Corner



Suggested Reading for

Genealogical Research:

"Index To The Obituaries And Death Notices Appearing in the Dziennik Chicagoski"

by Thomas L. Hollowak & William F. Hoffman.

A four volume set which covers obituary and death notices in the "Chicagoski" from the year 1900 to 1929. (These volumes are in the BCGS library)

"Historyk Press publications"

All books offered by this company are excellent resources for the genealogist researching Polish ancestry in Baltimore. (The BCGS library now has every book listed in the Historyk Press catalog)

"The Czechs in America 1633-1977"
by Vera Laska

Historical background and explanation of various Czech documents.

"Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings"

by William F. Hoffman

General history of Polish surnames and the etymological roots from which they are derived. Includes some 30,000 common Polish surnames.

Polish Language Course

Gene Gallagher is looking into the prospect of starting a introductory Polish Language Class at the BCGS. This will be discussed at the September meeting. The class, which would start in January and end in April, would be held in the evening once a week. The librarian for the Polish National Alliance, Mrs. Bozena Ryka, will teach the course. See Gene if you have any questions or are interested in taking this class.

Query

Submissions

Are you having difficulty with a particular area of your research? Do you have questions and wish someone could help you answer them? Why not draw from the knowledge of the EEIG membership.

Starting next issue we will be posting your queries. E-mail queries to the editor at *Bogdan@aol.com*, mail them to the address below, or bring them to the next meeting.

This Bulletin is published by the

*Baltimore Co. Genealogical
Society's
Eastern European Interest Group
P.O. Box 10085
Towson, Maryland 21285*

EEIG Chairperson: Dottie
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Bulletin Editor: Anthony Bogdan

Submissions of stories, ideas, or suggestions concerning this bulletin can be made to the editor at the above address.

Baltimore County Genealogical Society

Eastern European Interest Group

Volume No. 1 Issue No. 3

NOVEMBER 1997

Need Help With Maps?

The following maps and gazetteers are available on microfilm at the LDS Family History Center in Ellicott City, Md. Call for hours: 410-465-1642.

Film No.: 0068814 - Maps of the German Empire which included Poland, Russia, Denmark, Belgium, France, Czechoslovakia, Lithuania & Netherlands 1845-1916.

Film No.: 1181580 - Maps of Central Europe including part of Germany, Poland, Russia, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Ukraine, Italy, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria & Albania.

Film No.: 0844956 - Gazetteer of Hungary 1851 (Item 1-2)

Film No.: 1181575 - County Maps of the Kingdom of Hungary 1896-1914 (item 2) and County Maps of each of the Polish Provinces (item 3)

Film Nos.: 6000001-6000029 - Meyers Orts-Und Derkehrs-Lexicon Des Deutschen Reichs - 1912: A Gazetteer of Germany

Film No.: 6000787 - Gazetteer of Czechoslovakia. includes Czech, German & Hungarian place names.

Film Nos.: 6000369-6000383 - SPIS - Gazetteer of Poland

Film Nos.: 6000343-6000354 - Mullers Grosses Deutches Ortsbuch-Vollstandiges Gemeinde Lexicon - A Gazetteer of the German Republic with supplemental gazetteer of locations lying beyond Oder-Neisse under Polish & Soviet Admin.

Film No.: 6053521 - Gazetteer of Parish and Civil Jurisdictions in Prussia.

Film No.: 6000840 - Hungary Magyarorszag Helysegneviara, 1877, Vol.1 & 2 - Gazetteer of Hungary 1877.



Getting to Know

This is the first in a new series of articles which will focus on getting to know the membership of the EEIG. This issue we will be "Getting to know".....

RON SACKER

Ron is a native Baltimorean, married to the former Dot Skovira with four grown children; two living in Arizona and two living in Maryland. His first grandchild was born just five weeks ago.

Ron first became interested in his family history after his father died about three years ago. His father's family came here from Russia-Poland before 1900 and his mother's family came shortly after 1900. Most of his research has been through talking to family members and church records. His greatest prize is a picture of his grandparents wedding, sent to him from a relative; unfortunately it was torn in five pieces. Ron put it all together and had it recopied, and although its still damaged, to him, it's a treasure!

Since his recent retirement as an electrical engineer, Ron and his wife joined the Baltimore Bicycle Club and he's been a member of BCGS for two years. He's hoping that now he can identify the European homeplaces of his ancestors: Baginski, Kosiba, Podgorski and Siekierski. If anyone has any information or connection to any of these families, you can contact Ron at 2612 Rader Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21234.

Czech-ing Out Your Roots On The Internet



Slovene Alphabet/Dictionaries. <http://www.ijs.si/slo-chset.html>

Princeton University's Slavic Cataloging Manual.
<http://infoshare1.princeton.edu/katmandu/sgman/smtocs.html>

Czech info Center
<http://www.muselik.com/czech/frame.html>

Czech Republic, Bohemia, and Moravia Genealogical Research.
<http://www.iarelated.com/czech/>

Czech & Slovak American Genealogy Society of Illinois
<http://members.aol.com/chrismik/csagsi/csagsi.htm>

November Meeting Guest Speaker

Mr. Paul Hessman, President of the Fort Meade Family Historians Genealogy Club, is the guest speaker for our 23 November meeting. Mr. Hessman, a genealogist for more than ten years, has a lot of knowledge in the area of researching Czech ancestry. He is also fluent in the Czech language. He will be answering your questions dealing with this area of research, and he will also give guidance to those researching their Czech roots. A few of the Czech surnames on Mr. Hessman's research list are Herman, Sary, Rokusek, and Pekar.

Bohemian Pronunciation

Every letter of the Roman alphabet has its one distinct sound in Bohemian. The accent is always on the first syllable. The consonantal combinations *cs*, *cz*, *sz*, common in Polish, were removed and substituted in the 15th century by John Hus by a perfect system of diacritic marks.

Letters in the Bohemian names have the following values: **a** - as in what; **á** - as in far; **i** - as in virgin; **í** - (ee)

as in eve; **c** - (ts) as in tsar; **č** - (ch) as in check; **r** - (rsh) as in harsh; **s** - (sh) as in shave; **z** - (zh) as in rouge; **j** - (y) as in yes.

Thus: Jonas, pronounced Yonash; Cermak, pron. Chermak; Dvorak, pron. Dvorshak; Simek, pron. Shimek; Zizka, pron. Zhishka.

From "Tracing Your Czech & Slovak Roots" by Maralyn A. Wellauer.

Book Corner



Suggested Reading for Genealogical Research:

"Czechs And Slovaks In North America: A Bibliography"
by Esther Jerabek

"Tracing Your Czech & Slovak Roots"
by Maralyn A. Wellauer

"Czech Immigration Passenger Lists"
Vol. 1-4 and Vol. 5 & 6
by Leo Baca

"To Reap A Beautiful Harvest"
by Stepanka Korytova-Magstadt

Czech - English First Names

The Following, taken from the book "The History of the Czechs in South Dakota", is a list of Czech first names with the English translation, and most common variations used:

Adolf - Adolph
Alois - Louis, Lewis, Lou
Antonin - Anthony, Anton, Tony
Antonie - Antonia
Anastazie - Anastasia, Stella
Bartolomej - Bartholomew, Bart
Bedrich - Frederick, Fred, Fritz
Benjamin - Benjamin, Ben
Eduard - Edward, Ed
Eman - Emanuel, Emil
Ferdinand - Ferda, Ferd, Fred
Frantisek - Frank, Francis
Frantiska - Frances
Herman - Herman
Ignac - Ignatius, Nate
Jakub - Jacob, Jake, James
Jan - John, Jack
Jaroslav - Jerome, Jerry

Jindrich - Henry, Hank
 Jiri - George
 Josef - Joseph, Joe
 Josefka - Josephine, Josie
 Johana - Johanna
 Katerina - Katherine, Katie, Catherine
 Karel - Charles, Carl, Karl
 Karolina - Caroline Carrie
 Kaspar - Casper
 Ladislav - Ladislaus, Lad, Laddie
 Lev - Leo
 Lucie - Lucille, Lucy
 Ludmilla - Lillian
 Ludvik - Ludvig, Louis
 Marek - Mark
 Matej - Mathias, Math, Matt, Mike
 Matous - Matthew, Math, Matt
 Michal - Michael, Mike
 Marie - Mary, Marie
 Metodej - Methodius, Method
 Mikulas - Nicholas, Nick
 Miloslav/Milous - Milo
 Nacek - Nathan, Nate
 Ondrej - Andrew, Andy
 Otilie - Tillie
 Otokar - Otto
 Pavel - Paul
 Pavlina - Pauline
 Petr - Peter, Pete
 Rozalie - Rosalie
 Rudolf - Rudolph, Rudy
 Ruzena - Rose, Rosie
 Stanislav - Stanislaus, Stanley, Stan
 Sebestian - Sebastian
 Stepan - Stephen, Steven, Steve
 Tadeas - Thadeus, Thad, Tad
 Terezie - Teresa, Theresa
 Tomas - Thomas, Tom
 Vavrinc - Lawrence, Lorenc, Lorenz
 Viktor - Victor, Vic
 Vincenc - Vincent, Vince
 Vit - Vit, Vitus
 Vladimir - Val, Laddie
 Vlasta - Lassie, Patricia
 Vojtech - Albert, Al
 Zofie - Sophie

Holy Rosary Tombstone Inscriptions

With the days getting shorter and colder, the recording of the tombstones at Holy Rosary has slowed down a bit. Approximately two thirds of the cemetery has been manually recorded, and a good portion of that has been typed. There is one section left in the cemetery which has yet to be spoken for.....any volunteers? If you would like to volunteer for this last section, please contact Anthony Bogdan 410-796-4927.

Most of the EEIG meeting in October was devoted to discussing this project. An overview was given on what has been accomplished so far. Then the discussion touched on consistency in the recording process, the use of Polish text (fonts), and options for publishing the finished material.

Enough can't be said for the enthusiasm and persistence at which the volunteers are tackling this project. You are to be commended for the effort such a little group has put into such a large undertaking.

Queries

Bogdan, Anthony, 6035 Hanover Road, Hanover, MD. 21076 (Borgdan@aol.com). Looking for organization name to which my grandfather, Anthony Sobol, belonged (see picture). Polish Falcons? Pulaski Brigade? Would also like to know if membership records are still in existence? Picture taken prior to 1933 (year of his death).



Polish Language Course

This course is on Thursdays at 7:00P.M. starting 15 January 1998 and ending 19 March 1998. Each session is one hour (plus) long. The sessions will be held at the BCGS. The fee is \$35.00 for BCGS members and \$40.00 for non-members. \$5.00 is required on the first evening for the purchase of the instruction book "Polish for Americans".

Mrs. Bozena Rylka, a native of Poland, is instructing the course. She weaves fascinating information about historic and contemporary Polish life into her sessions. The course is designed for people with little or no experience in the Polish language. It's goal is to help you acquire basic reading, writing, and conversational skills. Grammar is not emphasized.

For more information call Gene Gallagher at 410-665-9044.

Happy Holidays

Since there will be no BCGS or EEIG meeting in December, let me take this time to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Enjoy this season of getting together with family and loved ones. I can't think of a time more rich with opportunities for the genealogist than the holidays. Make sure to take advantage of the family "get together", not only for asking questions, but also for sharing your knowledge of the family history.

This Bulletin is published by the

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P.O. Box 10085
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EEIG Chairperson: Dottie Aleshire
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