UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 8, 2011 - Outline and discussion of proposed new project to complete the interment records of the St. Stanislaus Cemetery. (See article below)

A NEW YEAR, A NEW CHALLENGE

As you all know, our group has spent much effort and countless hours of research trying to record the many souls interred at Saint Stanislaus Cemetery. We had great success with the tombstone records, and followed that up with the CD of the interment records. It seemed like the task was completed with the release of the CD. However, I discovered that we were missing all records prior to the year 1900. Two years ago, I came across long-lost records covering those early burials and had them published recently by Historyk Press. Among those records was a note stating that “no records exist from Sept. 1901 to Jan. of 1905”. That leaves a sizeable gap in the records that should be filled in. I find it difficult to stop the work with so many Poles not accounted for.

Getting these records is doable, but will take time and patience. I have patience, but time is questionable. If we could get a group of interested genealogists working together, we can complete the St. Stan’s Cemetery records once and for all. There are three ways to gather these names, none of which are easy. I would like to see a nice turnout at the next meeting so we can plan the route to take, and perhaps get started on this noble task. Who knows? You may discover some of your relatives!

Tom Bocek

EDITOR’S NOTE

At our last meeting, Tom Bocek proposed the above project to give our group a focus and to help those searching for St. Stanislaus Cemetery records. Our group’s local members know that St. Stanislaus Church closed over 10 years ago, and the parish no longer exists. However, researchers continue to look for records at the churches their parents and grandparents attended.

The EEIG can perform a useful service to genealogists by researching and compiling these remaining few years of records. Part of this project would involve publishing the records, either in print or on a CD, and making them available to the public. The BCGS would be a logical central site in which to house these records.

Tom estimates that this project could take a group about one year to complete. It would involve some work at the state archives in Annapolis, which could be a future field trip. I encourage everyone interested in helping out to attend our next meeting, on January 8, to get more information about this new project.
IN MEMORY

Recently, the group received information about the passing of member Irene Kuta Krebs, 76. Irene was born in Baltimore and moved to Pasadena, MD shortly after her marriage. She worked as a manager in two law firms for a number of years. She was a member of Our Lady of the Chesapeake, and volunteered in her church, the community and the schools. Irene is survived by her husband of 56 years, three sons, and seven grandchildren.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members who recently joined the EEIG. Mary English of Baldwin, MD is researching Maliszewski, Chmielewski, Jaroncinski, and Nowakowski. Frank Bellestri of Abingdon, MD is researching Bellestri/Bellistri, Lamanna, Heinlein, and Amenta. Erin Hatfield of Mooresville, NC did not indicate names that she is researching. We hope to see you at our meetings and taking part in our group’s activities.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

I am looking for an interested volunteer to take on the responsibility of writing and sending out this newsletter. The job includes attending the EEIG meetings, taking notes, writing articles summarizing the meetings, and writing about any genealogy-related topic. You would send the newsletter via e-mail to most of the members, and mail it to a few others. If two people would like to share the responsibility, an arrangement can be made so that each one takes alternate meeting dates. If interested, please email me at: wieliczav@yahoo.com.

Chairperson, Newsletter Editor: Anne Wieliczko
wieliczav@yahoo.com
UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 12, 2011 - Continue discussion of lost interment records of the St. Stanislaus Cemetery.
- Plan a series of “show & tell” family genealogical stories.

March 12, 2011 – Family genealogical stories.

LOST INTERMENT RECORDS

Reconstituting Saint Stanislaus’ lost interment records is indeed a challenge. Preliminary investigations into the project shows, by sampling, not many Polish deaths were listed in the Sun and News American newspapers at that time period (September, 1901 thru January, 1905). Reasons why may vary i.e. use of other newspapers (ethnic or local community). Also, if there were a death listing, the cemetery may not be shown, which may suggest the wake was at the home address and further details were omitted. So, doing the investigation this way seems to be unproductive. However, a listing of funeral establishments that existed at time in the eastern Baltimore area may be useful; but access to the records may be difficult. Our team will continue the investigation. If anyone has any ideas, please come to the meeting and lend us a hand.

NEWS BREAK

In the east Baltimore local newspaper The Baltimore Guide of January 26, 2011, there is an article about the Saint Stanislaus project entitled “Unearthing buried records”. The article was based on an interview with Tom Bocek by reporter, Mary Helen Sprecher, about the missing records and more. The article (approx. 30 paragraphs) covers Tom’s recent book, The first interment Book: St. Stanislaus Cemetery, 1882 – 1910, published by Historyk Press and the CD-ROM containing over 18,000 records transcribed from original records by our team, the Eastern European Interest Group. Tom explains the importance of preserving these records for future generations and the impetus to search for the missing or lost records.

MEMBERSHIP

“Where have all the members gone, long time passing?” This refrain brings to mind the status of our group membership. All regular and new members out there - please take note of our upcoming meeting on Feb. 12th. We invite you to come and rejuvenate your genealogical appetite. This is a new year and its time to rekindle your interest and research those hard-to-find elements of your records. Let us help.

Newsletter Editor: Ron Sacker
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UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 12, 2011 - Family genealogical stories. See below.
- Continue discussion of lost interment records of the St. Stanislaus Cemetery.
April 9, 2011 –Additional family genealogical stories.

FAMILY STORIES

We need the membership to come forward and share your genealogical stories about your research. Unknowingly, these stories may help others in their investigations. This is not a formal affair; just a round table type discussion. Here are a few points that may trigger your thoughts:

- problems
- successes
- intriguing items
- pictures
- documents
- unusual sources
- celebrities
- unexpected discoveries
- break walls
- unbelievable tales
- favorite websites
- reunions

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who recently joined our interest group: Roberta Browne of Catonsville, MD, who is researching Meek, Logan and Havlic; Fred Stanton of Towson, who is researching Wilde, Hautsock, Euke and Wesy; Diane Gassaway of Baltimore, who is researching Connelly, Stapf, Blanski and Gassaway.

LOST INTERMENT RECORDS

There was a suggestion at the last meeting that would help in securing vital information towards reconstituting Saint Stanislus’ interment records. This may be a tedious operation but may be well worth it.
The suggestion is to research the death certificate records from September 1901 thru January 1905 at the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis. The death certificate usually gives the place of disposition of the body of the deceased. The death records are believed to be digitized and only can be viewed at the archives. So, it may be necessary to send a team there to set up a procedure to view these records and ascertain a method of getting the data for our project.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 9, 2011 – Conducting research overseas. Anthony Monczewski will speak about his experience researching in Poland. See below.

May 7 or 14, 2011 – Tentative field trip to the Maryland state archives in Annapolis.

Our April 9 meeting will feature a presentation by Anthony Monczewski about the ins and outs of conducting genealogical research overseas. Tony will cover topics such as preparing supplies and equipment, hiring a translator, locating the places that might have the records you seek, and dealing with uncooperative staff. He’ll provide tips for turning a difficult situation into a positive outcome. Join us and learn how to make your own overseas genealogy search.

LOST INTERMENT RECORDS

The saga continues! Several members of our group have made efforts at searching old issues of the Baltimore Sun for deaths and burials at St. Stan’s, but with no success yet. One possible source for this information may be funeral home records.

At the March meeting, Pat Czerniewski reported that her contact said that most of the old “Polish” funeral homes are no longer in business. In addition, there is no central repository for funeral home records. Funeral home directors were not licensed during our period of interest (1901-1905) and there were no state regulations regarding the storage or preservation of funeral records.

It appears that research at the state archives may be the only way to access the missing St. Stan’s death records. Anne Wieliczko is trying to make phone contact with someone at the archive to arrange a field trip there.

STATE ARCHIVES UPDATE

Carol Porter, of the BCGS, read to us from an article to be published in the next BCGS newsletter, about recent changes in procedures for obtaining records at the archives. According to the article, it now takes much longer to access and to print records. The result is that it can take multiple trips to Annapolis to obtain records. See the next issue of the BCGS Notebook for further information.

MARCH GENEALOGICAL STORIES

Several members of the group shared stories about their research efforts, and about some of the sources they used to locate information.

Dave Powell recently found the birth record of his wife’s great-grandfather, and is working on tracing that line farther back. He also mentioned a website, Footnote.com, as a possible source of information. It’s similar to Ancestry.com, but has different records.

Diane Gassaway found her grandfather’s Army discharge papers that showed the change from her family’s original name of Blanski. Her research has turned up 13 different spelling variations of this name, which has created some challenges in finding the correct ancestors.

Loretta Rutkowski had success in finding several family items on Ancestry.com. She found a WWI
draft card for a Soboleski relative, who changed his surname to Miller. In addition, she found an application for naturalization for another relative, and a photo of the ship that some of her ancestors came in on. The ship was the *Vaterland*, from Antwerp, Belgium.

Anne Wieliczko checked on Google.com for her mother’s ancestral village, and found that a former resident had written a memoir about growing up there (former NE Poland, now Belarus) before WWII. The author had been a neighbor of Anne’s grandparents, and he provided a descriptive account of everyday life in a small, rural community.

**IN SYMPATHY**

The EEIG extends its sympathy to Dave Powell, whose father passed away a few months ago.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 14, 2011 – Bring your Genealogical Stories to the meeting and share your methods.

Also, we will discuss going to the Archdiocese archives in order to gather information to help reconstruct the Lost Interment records of Saint Stanislaus.

Our April 9 meeting featured a presentation by Anthony Monczewski about the ins and outs of conducting genealogical research overseas, especially Poland. He emphasized literally doing your homework; that is, gathering as much information as possible here in the US before venturing abroad. The key is to discovering the specific town (there may be more than one with the same name) and parish or church of your ancestors.

The LDS did a wonderful job in filming church records of the East European countries but some were not included. An outline of his talk entitled “How to research records in Poland” is appended to this Bulletin at the BCGS library. Stop by and have a look. The outline cites tips and websites to explore, identifies Polish towns by going beyond the LDS website, hiring a family researcher in Poland and much more.

EAST EUROPEAN SURNAMES

When you became a member of the BCGS you listed the surnames that you are researching. That research may be of interest to others within this Group. By comparing notes you might find out you are related. For example, the surname, Baginski, is being researched by Ron Sacker and Joe Simon. Both families lived in the Maryland area. So far, no common ancestor has been found. However, given more research, there maybe one. Please email the editor (rodosack@verizon.net) with all your East European surnames that you are researching. The names will be published in the Bulletin in the future. Who knows, you may have a co-researcher out there!

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Mike and Wanda Connors of Hazelwood area who are researching the surnames Czyryca, Broczkowski, Lozanski and Connors.

Welcome Joseph and Mary Niziolek of Essex, MD who are researching the surnames Niziolek, Luckhart, Szczybora and Pulaski.

Welcome Donna Novak of Lutherville, MD who is researching the surnames May, Streib, Novak and Knight.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sept 10, 2011 – EEIG Meeting. Discussion of this summer’s project which was to reconstitute the St. Stanislaus death records from September 1901 thru January 1905. See below.

Sept 17 or 18, 2011 – Holy Rosary Festival. We may be represented by having a genealogy table there. This will be discussed at the meeting.

Sept 25 – Tom Hollowak will address the BCGS general meeting at the BCGS library. His topic will be “Methods and techniques of Polish genealogical research”. Be sure to attend.

Oct 15, 2011 – 13th Annual Baltimore Family History Workshop at 120 Stemmers Run Road in Essex. (NOTICE: This event will be in lieu of our regular October meeting on Oct. 8th.) See below.

SUMMER PROJECT

After going to the BCGS library regularly throughout the summer, the EEIG group (thanks to Diane Gassaway, Joe Simon and Ron Sacker) managed to copy the death certificates of all the deceased buried at St. Stanislaus cemetery for the period in question from the data source at the library’s hard drive. The major information was extracted and compiled in an Excel file for archiving and/or publishing. This information was from the deaths that occurred in Baltimore city during that time where most of the Polish population resided. A cursory look at the Baltimore County records did not show any burials at St. Stan’s (which does not mean that there are not any). At the next meeting, a decision will be made on the worthiness of continuing the search there or any other county.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Erin Hatfield of Hazelwood area who is researching the surnames Michalak, Urbaniak, and Prus.

Welcome Betty Wieske of San Jose, California who is researching the surnames Kozłowski, Lijewski, Schneider and Fischer.

Welcome Sue Grubowski of Boring, Oregon who is researching the surnames Grubowski, Sobczynski, Rusin and Matuszewski.

BALTIMORE STAKE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER WORKSHOP

The EEIG is urged to go to this workshop and attend the numerous presentations offered free by the LDS. This workshop will be in place of our October 8th meeting. The workshop seminars begin at 10:00 a.m. and continue thru 3:50 p.m. at the Essex site.

Our own Tom Bocek is presenting a two-hour class on Poland & Eastern European Research. For those who have not attended last year, it is a must. For those attending all day, a bag lunch is recommended; bottled water will be provided. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. For latest details, class descriptions and registration go to the website, www.BaltimoreFamilyHistoryWorkshop.org.

Once at the site, select “register” and view the schedule of topics for the morning and afternoon sessions.
Directions: I-695 to route 702, take 702 and exit at Eastern Blvd. towards Chase. Get into left lane and turn left onto Stemmers Run Rd. at the first traffic light. The Church is across from Stemmers Run Middle School on the right.

**BOOK REVIEW**


The book has 406 pages and divided into eight chapters with appendices, bibliography and index. The first chapter has a short description of the Polish language and characterizations with the English soundings which are helpful in pronouncing the words and identifying with first and surnames.

The second chapter walks you through the history of Poland in capsule length with immigration data of the US and the rest of the world. The third and fourth chapters talk about sources to go to at the local, state and US government levels.

The fifth, sixth and seventh chapters cover geographical and European sources to follow your research with emphasis on Polish vital records.

The eighth chapter deals with Polish names and how they changed over the years. One must do some diligent work to discover its origin given the history of the country. Also, this chapter gives an index of native first names prepared by a well-known contributor to Polish genealogy—William F. Hoffman.

The appendices lists Polish parishes in the US, links to get started and Polish state archives contacts. The Bibliography lists a number of entries for each chapter.

This book is available at our BCGS library.

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The

BULLETIN

Baltimore County Genealogical Society
Eastern European Interest Group

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Oct 8, 2011 – NO EEIG Meeting. However, the summer project, which is to reconstitute the St. Stanislaus death records, will continue. Contact Ron Sacker.

Oct 15, 2011 – 13th Annual Baltimore Family History Workshop at 120 Steemers Run Road in Essex. (NOTICE: This event will be in lieu of our regular October meeting on Oct. 8th.) See below.

Nov 12, 2011 – EEIG Meeting. This is the last meeting of the year and the group will discuss plans for the coming year

Baltimore Stake Family History Center Workshop

The EEIG is urged to go to this workshop and attend the numerous presentations offered free by the LDS. This workshop will be in place of our October 8th meeting. The workshop seminars begin at 10:00 a.m. and continue thru 3:50 p.m. at the Essex site.

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SUMMER PROJECT

As reported in the last Bulletin the death certificate information was extracted and compiled in an Excel file for archiving and/or publishing. This information was from the deaths that occurred in Baltimore city during that time where most of the Polish population resided. The group decided to add the “cause of death” to the recorded data. Starting October 8th at the BCGS library, we will be adding the new data and looking at Anne Arundel County death certificates for more Polish deaths. Baltimore County yielded one death during the period in question. Those interested in helping come Saturday.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Geri Misotti of Perry Hall area who is researching the surnames Markiewicz, Larek, Szczerbicki and Kokec.

Welcome Barbara and Ken Jones of Joppa who are researching the surnames of Smetana, Lukasovsky, Homolka and Chlada.

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