

The  
**BULLETIN**

Baltimore County Genealogical Society  
 Eastern European Interest Group

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Please note that the topics for 1/11/03 & 3/8/03 have been interchanged.

**Jan. 11** – “The Mouse and the Bloodhound” with Anthony Bogdan

**Feb. 8** – Lithuania with Dottie Aleshire

**Mar. 8** – Czech and Slovak Research with Eva Slezak

**Note** – All meetings will begin promptly at 10:30am. Tom Bocek would like to have a head count in advance of each meeting; so, please E-mail him if you are coming

NOTICES

The EEIG would like to convey their deepest condolences to Tony Monczewski and his family for the passing of his father in November of last year.

The “Tombstone Inscriptions of St. Stanislaus Cemetery” book is available for purchase from the BCGS for \$23.00 plus MD state tax and \$3.00 for postage and handling. Inquiries can be made to the BCGS at P.O. Box 10085 Towson, Maryland 21285-0085.

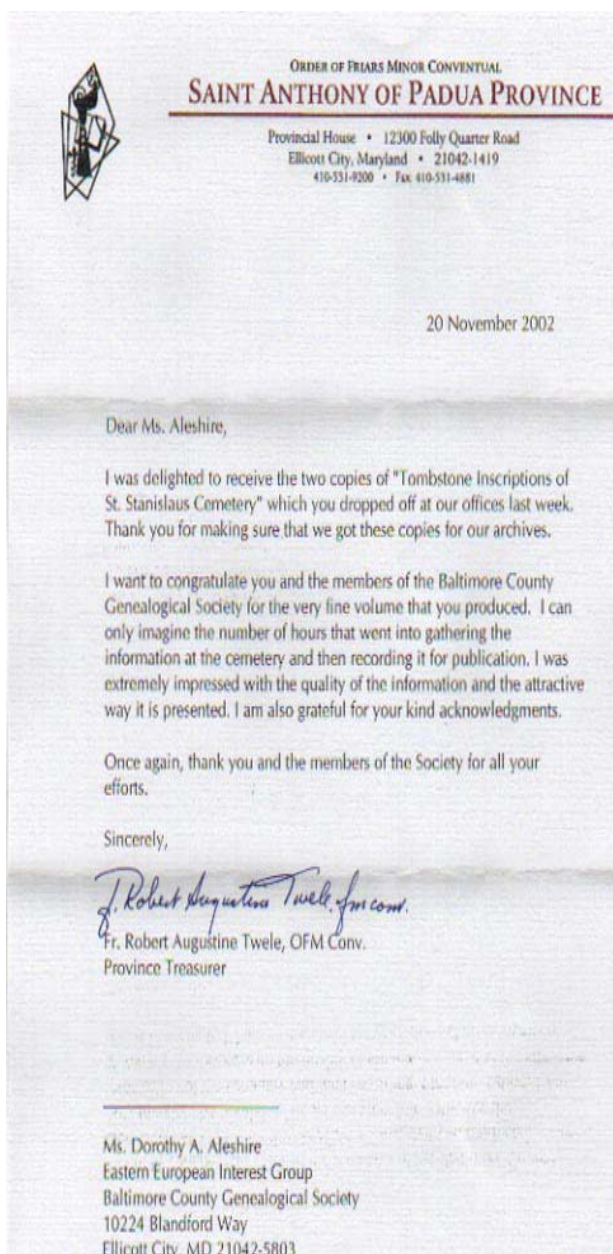
“ELLIS ISLAND” OF BALTIMORE

Baltimore was second only to Ellis Island as a port of immigration. Many of the waterfront neighborhoods have retained their strong ethnic identities. Explore immigration sites and hear identities. Explore immigration sites and hear stories of exodus and assimilation into a new culture and country. Presented jointly by the Baltimore Immigration Museum and the Preservation Society. For information call Fell’s Point Visitor Center at 410-675-6750.

CONTRIBUTORS

Please e-mail, phone or write the editor with useful items of interest to the group for publication.

ST. STAN’S THANK YOU LETTER





**THE  
POLISH  
EAGLE**

The emblem of the Polish eagle has been the coat of arms of Poland for over seven centuries. It is the oldest state coat of arms in the world. The implementation of the white eagle traces back to historic traditions and legends.

The most prominent legend is the story of three brothers named Lech, Czech and Rus where each went their separate way to establish a place for their tribes. Lech was the first to found a Dukedom on the soil of Poland and assumed the leadership of the western slaves. The legend relates that Lech was a falconer and desired to improve hawking capabilities by training young eaglets to hunt on command. On one of his wanderings he came upon a nest of eaglets high in a rocky crag. The young were vigilantly guarded by a white mother eagle. The white eagle repelled Lech's attempts to snare the eaglets. In the battle for the young birds, Lech used his sword to discourage the mother eagle from the nest; but to no avail. The young prince was touched by the persistence and unyielding defense of the nest. The mother bird was bleeding and showed red over its feathers. Lech admired the eagle's actions. He stood back and reasoned that this brave bird would be a symbol of a badge of courage and freedom for his followers.

So to this day, on the shield and banner of Poland is blazoned the white eagle on a crimson field. On the spot of the encounter Lech built his castle and called it "grniazdo" meaning nest. The town of Gniezno was built around it and it was the first capital of Poland. Gniezno is in Poznag Province, 140 miles northwest of Warsaw.

In Poland, the eagle appeared as a coat of arms for the first time on seals of several Dukes of the Piast dynasty (they were portrayed both standing and one horseback) in the years 1222-1236. It was their personal and family coat of arms and at the same time the emblem of their dukedoms. The eagle was selected as their coat of arms for its symbolic values. As the king of all birds it was a primeval symbol of power, victory, force and kingship. For the same reason, many monarchs in other countries used the eagle in their coats of arms. The eagle of the Piast princes had different colors than the others. From the very beginning it was the White Eagle in the red shield (on "gules", according to heraldic terminology).

In the beginning, the eagle of Piasts had no crown. It was as late as when trends to unify Polish lands and to restore the Kingdom of Poland (disrupted as early as in the second half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century) emerged – when the Eagle's head was crowned. It took place in 1290, when the Duke of Great Poland and Krakow, Przemysl II put forward a plan to unite Poland, together with his own claim to the royal crown. When Przemysl II was crowned as the King of Poland in 1295, he introduced the White Eagle in a crown on the backside of his royal seal of majesty, as the Coat of Arms of the whole Kingdom of Poland. All Polish kings that followed accepted it in that character.

(credits to **Diane Lasek's** e-mail and internet sources particularly fortunecity.com)

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**DZIEKUJA**

Thirteen persons were in attendance at our last meeting. Our speaker, Anthony Bogdan, gave us a wonderful talk on “hunting down” your ancestors using the Internet. His handout should be by your computer as you do research. If you missed the meeting, we will try to have a copy for you. Once again, **dziekuja** Anthony.

**LUTY MEETING**

Don't miss out on this month's talk and meeting. Dottie Aleshire will present a discussion on Lithuania for which she has a great deal of expertise. Why not bring a friend to the meeting or call a member who may have missed some recent meetings. Tom Bocek asks that the members give some thought of what discussions you would enjoy for the April, May and June meetings. He says “anything short of a trip to Eastern Europe will be considered”.

**LITHUANIANS IN BALTIMORE**

At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, of the approximately 400,000 residents in Baltimore, over 1,000 of them claimed to be Lithuanian. There were also a considerable number of Lithuanian births who were counted with the Polish, German or Russian residents. The first of these moved here from New York about 1881. Many worked in the iron, brass, sugar and tobacco industries. About 500 crowded into the forty-one Lithuanian tailor shops, which had an excellent reputation and a higher pay scale than those did in New York, Boston, or Philadelphia.

Until 1885, they attended the Polish church, which had a Lithuanian priest, Rev. Petras Koncius. They began to be conscious of their Lithuanian language and customs and formed the St. John the Baptist Society. After Father Koncius died, they actively sought their own church. Even though the Polish priest wanted them to stay within

his parish, by 1887 they converted a Reformed Jewish Synagogue to St. John's Church. Three priests in succession served the parish for brief periods until 1893, when the Rev. Juozas Lietuvikas, a graduate of Baltimore's own seminary, became pastor and remained 50 years in that post now known as the St. Alphonsus Parish.

The Lithuanian community in the US produced some very dedicated men of science and medicine and some fine athletes, among them Dick Butkus and Johnny Unitas. Each year a festival is held to celebrate Lithuanian heritage and culture. Since Lithuania is a country of many lakes and forests, it produces many fine wood carvers. Besides the music and dance, the festival is a showplace for many woodcrafts and fine amber jewelry. It will be held this year on May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at the Catonsville Armory, 130 Mellor Avenue from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hope to see you there.

**Dottie Aleshire**

**A POEM**

Your tombstone stands among the rest;  
 Neglected and alone.  
 The name and date are chiseled out...  
 On old grey granite stone.  
 It reaches out to all who care...  
 It is too late to mourn.  
 You did not know that I exist...  
 You died...and I was born.  
 Yet each of us are cells of you...  
 In flesh, in blood, in bone.  
 Our blood contracts and beats a pulse...  
 Entirely not our own.  
 Dear Ancestor, the place you filled...  
 One hundred years ago  
 Spreads out among the ones you left...  
 Who would have loved you so.  
 I wonder when you lived and loved...  
 I wonder if you knew  
 That someday I would find this spot..  
 And come and visit you.

**Contributed by Tom Bocek**

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Please e-mail, phone or write the editor with useful items of interest to the group for publication.



**THE LITHUANIA EMBLEM**

The state emblem of the Republic of Lithuania is the *Vytis* (the White Knight) on a red field. A blue shield hangs on the left shoulder of the charging knight with a double gold cross on it.

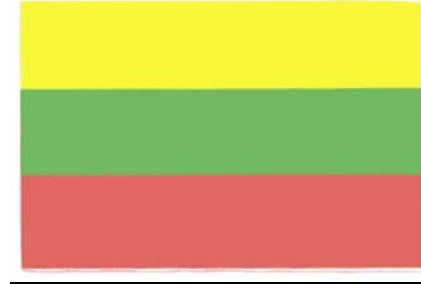
The charging knight is known to have been first used as the state emblem in 1366. It is featured on the seal of the Grand Duke of Lithuania, Algirdas, which marks a document belonging to that year. The symbol of the charging knight on horseback was handed down through the generations: from Algirdas to his son, Grand Duke Jagello who married queen Jadwiga of Poland, then to Grand Duke Vytautas the Great and others and became the coat of arms of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and of its central part – the Duchy of Vilnius. When the Lithuanian – Polish Commonwealth was formed in 1569, the *Vytis* was featured on the state emblem alongside the Polish Eagle.

At first, the charging knight showed the figure of the ruler of the country, but with time it came to be understood and interpreted as that of a riding knight who was chasing an intruder out of his native country.

With minor stylistic changes, the *Vytis* coat of arms remained the state symbol of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. As time went by, the *Vytis* gained popularity and constituted part of the coat of arms of most provinces and towns. It was widely used in public life during festive ceremonies. The *Vytis* sign on the Ausros vartai (Ausros Gate) in the 16<sup>th</sup> century defense wall of Vilnius, surviving to this day, was to signify that Vilnius was the capital of Lithuania. The Byelorussians also consider the *Vytis* to be their national emblem.

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

The EEIG welcomes LTC John R. Wallace from Dumfries, VA to the Group. His surnames of interest are: **Wisniewski, Staniewski, McAbee and Wallace**. The EEIG also welcomes perspective member, Albert Wojchechowski. His surnames are: **Wojchechowski, Pilarski, Drozd and Bogdan**.



**FLAG OF LITHUANIA**

In ancient times, it was customary to have state, not national flags. Lithuania did not have a national flag. The state flag of the Great Duchy of Lithuania was red with a white *Vytis*. This flag was used throughout Lithuanian history.

During the era of national rebirth (19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> centuries) Lithuanians fought for and sought freedom for their country. But many did not believe in a free tomorrow. They would have been satisfied if the Russian czar had agreed to give Lithuania more rights or self-government without breaking all ties with Russia. Such a solution seemed more attainable. After the 1905 revolution, and especially during World War I, Lithuania's hopes of re-establishing an independent state grew. It appeared that the Russian empire was not so invincible nor the czar's government so omnipotent. The hypothesis of independence was not only possible but also completely feasible. It was at this time that the question of a national flag for independent Lithuania arose.

The question was especially widely debated in 1917 at the Conference of Vilnius. In the end, the Council Lithuania was given the task of resolving the matter. It was suggested that one of the old flags of the Duchy of Lithuania with their familiar *Vytis* and Columns of Gediminas symbols be adopted. Several new proposals for flags were also drafted. A flag commission submitted a proposal, which the Council of Lithuania adopted on April 19, 1918. The newly adopted Lithuanian flag was composed of three equal horizontal stripes of yellow, green, and red. According to Dr. Basanavicius, the colors were selected because they recur most often in Lithuanian folk weavings and other folk art. Today, they are explained as follows: yellow – the fertile fields of Lithuania, golden with ripe rye, wheat, flax, and other grains; green - the symbol of the nation's vitality (as represented in nature); red – the blood shed in defending the homeland's freedom.

The adopted Lithuanian flag was also included in the Lithuanian Constitution. The tricolor was publicly raised for the first time on November 11, 1918 in Vilnius, at the Council of State building. It was widely used during Lithuania's independence until the first Bolshevik occupation in June 1940.

After the long 48 years break, from October 7, 1998, the tri-color flag of pre-war, independent Lithuania is raised on Gediminas Castle.

(Paraphrased from “**Ramunas Personal Pages**”)

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**May 10**- Baltimore Streets by **Tom Bocek**

**Jun. 14**- Field Trip to “Ellis Island” of Baltimore

**Note** – All meetings will begin promptly at 10:30am.

Tom Bocek would like to have a head count in advance of each meeting; so, please E-mail him if you are coming.

Field Trips will be organized at the meeting before each trip.

**GETTING TO KNOW.....**

**IRENE KREBES**

Irene Krebs is a loyal attending member of the EEIG for the past few years. She was born in Baltimore in 1934 to John and Vera Kuta. Her father hails from New Port News, Virginia and her mother from Charleston, South Carolina. Irene grew up in the Highlandtown area and attended St. Casimir’s and St. Michael’s schools. She is retired and is enjoying her grandchildren. She is focusing on genealogy and flower arranging. Irene’s surnames of interest are: **Kuta, Krebs, Czerwinski, Lukowiak, Rosinski, Votel, Westowski and Wojchiechowski.**

**NOTICE**

**Joe Simon** would like to have a few volunteers to help him proof read his work on the transcription of the Holy Rosary internment records. Please let him know at his e-mail address, [jlsimon@bcpl.net](mailto:jlsimon@bcpl.net), or see him at the upcoming meeting.

**Membership dues** are due for 2003. There are a few members who have not renewed. Please apply to the BCGS as soon as possible.

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**Bulletin Editor: Ron Sacker** [rodosac@juno.com](mailto:rodosac@juno.com)

**Chairperson: Tom Bocek** [tpbocek@bcpl.net](mailto:tpbocek@bcpl.net)

**CZECH AND SLOVAK RESEARCH**

**Eva Slazak** will present this topic at our March meeting. She will share her personal experiences in researching the Czech and Slovak immigrations to this country giving examples of anecdotal information, actual research situations, resources at the Enoch Pratt library and personal tips. Those interested in another slant to bolster their research methods should attend.



**THE  
CZECH  
REPUBLIC  
FLAG**

The Czech Republic was part of Austria until 1919, when it merged with Slovakia to form Czechoslovakia. The states separated in 1993. Its current population is 10.3 million people, twice that of Slovakia. The first flag of Czechoslovakia was based on the coat of arms (a standing white lion on a red background) of Bohemia, and was a white bar over red. This was identical to the flag of Poland. So, a blue triangle, representing the state of Moravia, was added. The flag was banned by the Nazis in 1938, and a horizontal tricolor of white, red, and blue was enforced. The original flag was restored in 1949. The region of Silesia is represented but more predominately on the Greater Coat of Arms of the Czech Republic.



**THE  
SLOVAK  
REPUBLIC  
FLAG**

Slovakia was under Hungarian rule until 1919. During World War II, Slovakia re-adopted the white, blue, and red Pan-Slavic tricolor, with the coat of arms (coa) in the center. At independence in 1993 Slovakia retained the tricolor but moved the coa slightly to the left of center.

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The coa shows a white patriarchal cross rising from blue mountains (a stylized image of Slovakia's mountains) on a red shield.

### EEIG SURNAME RESEARCH

The following is a list of surnames that the EEIG is researching. The reference number refers to the person doing the researching. If the membership has any corrections, subtractions and/or additions to the list, please provide the information to the Bulletin editor by e-mail. Also, those members who have not listed their surnames, please do.

<u>SURNAME</u>	<u>Ref</u>	<u>SURNAME</u>	<u>Ref</u>
Ahles	19	Hudson	14
Andrezjewski	20	Humphreys	13
Baginski	30	Jagielski	16
Baginski	27	Jankowski	26
Baker	2	Jasek	29
Bernadzikowski	1/30	Jastremski	5
Bielik	4	Juras	14
Blanchowski	2	Kalal	25
Bober	3	Karbowski	17
Bocek	3	Kaszlewicz	3
Bogdan	4/36	Kasnecki	19
Breidenstein	9	Klapka	21
Brock	5	Kosiba	27
Brzskowski	19	Kowalski	18
Collins	7	Krebes	17
Czerwinski	17	Kuta	17
Crooks	5	Kwiatkowski	26
Dabrowski	16	Landa	21
Derus	14	Lasek	18
Dix	7	Lenny	16
Drozd	36	Lewandowski	1/7
Dunay	19	Lewandowski	30/20
Dyba	4	Lukowiak	17
Einwachter	32	Majka	3
Gill	31	Marczak	3
Giza	4	Matuszak	29
Glowacki	21	Maurer	16
Golaszewski	30	McAbee	35
Goralski	21	Mieso / Measo	19
Gore	35	Miros	18
Gryglik	2	Mikalewicz	14
Grynkiewicz	1	Miskiel	26
Hanavan	9	Monczewski	31
High	13	Morawski	25
Hoffman	13	Nelka	25
Hogan	32	Ochab	19

<u>SURNAME</u>	<u>Ref</u>	<u>SURNAME</u>	<u>Ref</u>
Oram	13	Staniewski	35
Phipps	5	Szydlowski	7
Piechocki	29	Szymanski	1
Pilarski	36	Teal	35
Plucinski	19	Tohaszkiewicz	30
Podgorski	27	Tomaszkiewicz	30
Rachubinski	2	Votel	17
Reese	9	Wallace	35
Rosinski	17	Wasik	19
Rutkowski	25	Wawrzyniak	21
Schauble	19	Wegrzyn	3
Schmuckler	18	Welzel	26
Schwarzkopf	30	Wesolowski	17
Siekierski	27	Wisniewski	35
Simon	30	Wojchiechowski	17
Smith	9	Wojciechowski	36
Sobul	4	Zaczek	30
Soukup	32	Zillig	19

Ref	MEMBER		Ref	MEMBER	
1	ALESHIRE	Dottie	19	LONG	Jim
2	BAKER	Gerry	20	MONCZEWSKI	Tony
3	BOCEK	Tom	21	NEWTON	Bonnie
4	BOGDAN	Anthony	22	OHLER	Lois
5	BROCK	Don & Lyn	23	RINNGER	Alice
6	CICERO	Len	24	RUTKOWSKI	Loretta
7	COLLINS	Maryanne	25	RUTKOWSKI	Bill
8	FOREMAN	Ed	26	RUTLEDGE	Monica
9	HANAVAN	Larry	27	SACKER	Ron
10	HARMON	Kelly	28	SAVARESE	Phyllis
11	HARTKA	Bill & Regina	29	SCHAUBLE	Chris
12	HETMANSKI	Donna	30	SIMON	Joe
13	HOFFMAN	Joyce	31	SMITH	Carol
14	HUDSON	Ed & Doree	32	WINTZ	Lorraine
15	ICHNIOWSKI	Donna	33	WILLIAMS	Beverly
16	JAGIELSKI	Melvin	34	WIELICZKO	Anne
17	KREBS	Irene	35	WALLACE	John
18	LASEK	Diane	36	WOJCIECHOWSKI	Albert

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**LANDSDALE LIBRARY**

Our April meeting will be a **field trip** to the Langsdale Library at the University of Baltimore located at 1420 Maryland Ave starting at 11:30am. The Library closes at 4:pm. The Polonia web site at the Library is the following: <http://archives.ubalt.edu/amp/intro.htm>.

At the web site there is an index series of 36 titles ranging from Accidents to Youth where "boxes" of information can be found under each title. One can go to the site and identify the "box" for your research before the Library is visited. Refer to the January 2001 Bulletin for the series titles or go to the website.

Those interested in carpooling contact **Tom Bocek** for arrangements. Carpooling will leave Parkville Senior Center at 10:45 am. Those needing a parking pass send a SASE to Tom Hollowak, Langsdale Library Special Collections, U of Baltimore, 1420 Maryland Ave., Baltimore MD 21201 – 5779. The parking lot is at Mt. Royal and Olive Sts. Your host will be **Tom Hollowak**. If you have any items that that may be suited for the Polonia collection bring them along. If you are interested in purchasing a book or CD on his list, contact him ahead of time. Also there is no Library cafeteria, so it is advisable to bring a bag lunch and drinks are available in the basement of the library.

**New CD's Review**

**Marylanders of Polish Heritage in World War I  
Compiled with Photographs by Thomas L. Hollowak-  
20002**

In 1933, the Maryland War Records Commission published in two volumes Marylanders in the World War of 1917-1919 Military and Naval Service Records. The Commission from 1919 to 1921 compiled this information, taken from service records of the American Legion, Maryland National Guard, local draft boards for the Army, Navy and Marine Corps and various other

sources. Nearly 30,000 records were compiled, though some of the records were in error or incomplete. The Commission finished its work in 1932 and published the two volumes titled "Maryland in the World War 1917-1919 Military and Naval Service Records". Tom Hollowak has abstracted from these two volumes the records, in alphabetical order, of the Marylanders of Polish heritage who served during this war and produced four CD's in a "Microsoft Word" format, Vol. I. A-G, Vol.II. H-L, Vol. III. M-R and Vol. IV. S-Z. A preface is included at the beginning of each volume with more complete details on this work by the Commission.

He's also included photographs of existing tombstones for many of these veterans taken at Holy Rosary, St. Stanislaus and Holy Cross Polish National cemeteries. The photographs are an excellent addition to this work. Two of our EEIG members, Chris Schauble and Dottie Aleshire also contributed a picture of one of their relatives in military uniform. This work would be even more impressive had he included more photos of the individual veterans.

A service record usually provides the name, address, place of birth and service. Since these records were abbreviated, a key to the abbreviations is included at the end of each volume. Polish names are often misspelled and/or Americanized. One of the highlights of this work is that, where known, a Polish surname spelling and an Americanized version is included. Although there's no index on the CD, there is an index to these CD's on Tom Hollowak's Historyk Press website at [www.historykpress.com/wwi.htm](http://www.historykpress.com/wwi.htm).

This is certainly a worthwhile addition to anyone's computer library if you have Polish heritage, since the original books can only be found at a few local libraries. These CD's can be read with MS Word 97 or higher. They are available through the Historyk Press website as a set of 4 CD's at \$34.99 or individually at \$9.99 each, plus postage or through HistorykPress, 7 Dendron Ct., Baltimore, MD., 21234. When ordering, specify your operating system and which version of MS Word you are using.

Reviewed by Dottie Aleshire  
E-Mail: [daleshire@bcpl.net](mailto:daleshire@bcpl.net)  
27 February 2003

## Volume 6, Issue 4 – APRIL 2003

### Portraits On Stone, St. Stanislaus Cemetery Photographed by Thomas L. Hollowak

#### A Review

While working in St. Stanislaus Cemetery copying the tombstone inscriptions, I noticed that many tombstones had photographs embedded in the tombstone, either on a porcelain plaque or etched into the tombstone. Most of these photographs are very old and some have been damaged by wind and rain or vandalism. I suggested to Tom Hollowak that someone should copy those photographs and publish them while they're still worth saving. In some cases, the descendants of the deceased are no longer in the area or are unable to properly care for the condition of the photographs.

Using a digital camera, Tom has copied about 122 of these photographs of people of Polish descent. He's produced a "flip album" on a single CD ROM that is unique in its presentation of the photographs. The album is tastefully done in subdued colors of gray background pages and scroll-like flipping pages and a maroon cover. Each photograph is of excellent quality and is labeled in easy to read print. Some of the photographs are also in

color. Another option of this album is to view it as a slide show. Very impressive!!

There is no index of the photographs, but Tom has put a surname index on his Historyk Press website at [www.historykpress.com](http://www.historykpress.com) (see below). The website also has a printable order form. The CD is priced at \$10.95 plus tax and shipping. This would be a valuable addition to your computer library and would also make a wonderful gift to a friend or relative who might have one of their relatives represented in the photographs in this album. You can also order it from Historyk Press, c/o Thomas L. Hollowak, 7 Dendron Ct., Baltimore, Md., 21234.

**Dorothy A. Aleshire**  
14 March 2003

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**Bulletin Editor: Ron Sacker** [rodosac@juno.com](mailto:rodosac@juno.com)  
**Chairperson: Tom Bocek** [tpbocek@bcpl.net](mailto:tpbocek@bcpl.net)

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Makowski, Catherine  
Mik, John T..  
Mikulski, Jozef F.  
Mikulski, Marcyanna  
Milancz, Sophie E.  
Miller, Joseph L.  
Mitchell, Carl S., Sr.  
Mitchell, Lillian E.  
O'Connor, Lillian L.  
Zuchowski  
Onheiser, Joseph  
Onheiser, Mary  
Panek, Edward J.  
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Pasko, Walenty  
Pasternak, Frank J.  
Pawlak, Mikolaj  
Phebus, Joseph C.  
Placek, Anna S.  
Placek, Joseph A.  
Rachuba, Wladyslaw  
Radziejewski, Michal

Sadowska, Antonina  
Sadowski, Victor  
Sasadeusz, Bronislaw  
Sasadeusz, Maria  
Scheff, Jon Preston, Jr.  
Schroeder, Rita M.  
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Seajack, John A.  
Sherrick, Peter  
Siemek, Henry A.  
Siemek, Julia  
Sieracki, Wladyslaw P.  
Siminski, Gertrude  
Sliwinski, Agnes  
Sliwinski, Michael  
Snyder, Donald J.  
Snyder, Elaine V.  
Sobczak, Gilbert H.  
Sobczak, Lillian M.  
Stachura, Jozefa  
Stasuk, Rose Ida Grubowski  
Swierczewski, Wladyslaw  
Szczepaniak, Ignacy  
Szczepaniak, Tomasz  
Tellis-Phillips, Mary R.  
Tolbert, James L.  
Tomczewski, Rosilla  
Urbanowski, Franciszek  
Viana, Helen M.  
Walters, Anna  
Walters, John  
Warchal, Frances  
Warchal, Walenty  
White, Josephine  
Wolski, Frances  
Wolski, Frank  
York, Savannah Victoria  
Zamencki, John T.  
Zubrowski, Michal

The  
**BULLETIN**

**Baltimore County Genealogical Society  
Eastern European Interest Group**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**May 10-** Baltimore Streets by **Tom Bocek**

**Jun. 14-** Field Trip to "Ellis Island" of Baltimore (Attend May's meeting to receive trip information). Baltimore was second only to Ellis Island as a port of entry for immigrants. Many settled in the waterfront area and Fell's Point still retains a strong ethnic flavor and identity. We will explore sites and hear stories about their settlement here. The walking tour starts at 12:30 PM on Saturday at 808 South Ann Street in Fell's Point. There will be a charge or donation to the Museum and the Preservation Society.

**BALTIMORE STREETS**

The May meeting will be an in-depth discussion about how the streets of the city began, the naming process, and why so many street names were changed. We will see pictures of some early streets with long gone buildings as well as some that have survived to the present. We will also have a complete 1914 map of Baltimore City consisting of over 40 large pages. You will be able to check out old building locations as well as rail and streetcar routes. If anyone wants copies of a neighborhood, we can have them made. I can promise you that you will have a greater appreciation of the history of our city by attending this meeting.

**Tom Bocek**

**STREET GENEALOGY**

Here are some of the streets that had their names changed over the years for various reasons. Which change is familiar to you? Do you know of others? (This is not to suggest anything about your age!)

**Present Name**

**Past Name**

29 <sup>TH</sup> DIVISION St.	HOFFMAN St.
The ALAMEDA	BEAUREGARD Ave.
ARLINTON Ave	WANDSBECK St.
ASHLAND Ave.	CHEW St.
ANNAPOLIS Rd.	MARYLAND Ave.
BLOOMINGDALE Rd.	LIBERTY Rd.
BLYTHEWOOD Rd.	ALDEBER Ave.

BOXHILL Rd.	EMBLA Ave.
BROENING Hwy.	CORNWALL St.
S. CAREY St.	WOOSTER St.
CENTRAL Ave.	CANAL St.
CHESWOLDE Rd.	KEY Ave.
DRUID HILL Ave.	ROSS St.
EDISON Hwy.	LONEY'S La.
M. L. KING JR. Blvd.	COVE St.
GUILFORD Ave.	NORTH St.
S. HANOVER St.	FIRST St.
HAVEN St.	8 <sup>TH</sup> St.
N. HOWARD St.	OAK St.
KRESSON St.	ELEVENTH St.
NORTH Ave	BOUNDARY Ave.
OAK Pl.	PARADISE La.
OLDHAM St.	15 <sup>TH</sup> St.
PARK Ave.	BANK St.
POTEE St.	RACE St.
PRESTON St.	JOHN St.
W. READ St.	RICHMOND St.
REDWOOD St.	GERMAN St.
UNIVERSITY Pkwy.	MARYLAND Ave.
WASHINGTON Blvd	COLUMBIA Ave.
WATERVIEW Ave.	FIRE HOUSE Rd.
WOODBROOK La.	HURSTLEIGH Rd.
WOODLAWN Dr.	CLARK Ave.
WYMAN PARK Dr.	CEDAR Ave.

(From [www.btco.net](http://www.btco.net) web site)

**INTERNSHIPS AND BOY SCOUTS**

Hats off to **Joe Simon** for his continuing tireless work on the Holy Rosary Internment Records. For those who are assisting Joe, make sure you get the proof read copies of his folders back to him. He intends to be at the May meeting.

Also, Joe has been on the executive board of the Archdiocesan Boy Scouts for many years and wanted to retire from his duties. It seems they could not do without him and elected Joe for a five-year term on the Advisory Board.

**BULLETIN BANTER**

You know you are a gene-aholic when you have more photographs of dead people than living ones.

**ALBUM SUGGESTIONS -PRESERVING YOUR  
FAMILY HISTORY**

Preserving your family history takes time and energy, but the gift to your children and grandchildren is priceless.

Acids within photographs, documents and mounting paraphernalia can cause each to yellow and become brittle.

Use paper adhesives tapes, glues and other products that are marked "buffered" or "acid-free."

Documents and newspaper clippings that contain acid can be preserved with deacidification spray. Don't use the spray on photos. Acid-free supplies are widely available.

Mount photocopies of old photographs, not the fragile originals. Copies of black-and-white and sepia-toned pictures look almost as good as the originals when they are made on a color copier. It is easy to resize them for different album layouts, and they are inexpensive, should you want to make duplicate albums for children and other family members. Make sure to use acid-free paper in the copier.

Color photos are best copied with commercial systems. These machines allow you to duplicate photos in different sizes without negatives. You also can enhance colors, crop out backgrounds, eliminate red eyes and add borders. These systems are available in many chain department or discount stores.

Store original old photos in sleeves and protectors and put them in a cool, dry place out of direct light. Avoid basements and attics. Such places can cause mold, mildew and heat stress.

Tell a story with pictures and documents. Give readers the visual information they need to enjoy the story.

Descendant charts are a simple, popular way to organize family information so that identities and relationships are easily understood.

Military service and favorite family recipes also are fun themes to employ to avoid simply telling a story chronologically.

A business/occupation theme is effective if your family has owned a business for several generations.

Then-and-now themes capture the passage of time and tradition together.

Mount a variety of items to delight the viewer including...

\**Unexpected documents*, like your grandfather's naturalization papers or the scorecard your father filled out while he watched a baseball game as a boy.

\**Mementos*, like military dog tags, hospital birth bracelets or tickets to a Broadway show your family loved.

\**Reminiscences* from relatives recalling historical, social and political events that affected your family.

Each album page should have a focus. Decide what should stand out, and then arrange other items around it. Strive for simple elegance. Place a photo or document on a slight angle, and it automatically becomes the focus of

attention. Don't clutter the page with too much visual information- this overwhelms the reader. Add written captions, information and stories to your album to enhance the story. Photographs of babies, for example, often need explanations to give them context. Even if you don't know the story behind the picture, at least identify who is in it and the time period.

(Paraphrased from a *Bottom Line* interview of **Bev Kirschner** of *Legacy* publications)

**FUTURE MEETINGS & BULLETIN  
SUBMISSIONS**

If any of the members has any ideas and/or suggestions about topics for future meetings please notify the chairperson or the editor. Also, if anyone has information that you would like to share with the group, please contact the editor for publication in future Bulletins. We would especially like to hear from those who have not attended the meetings for some time. We miss you! Your opinions and contributions are important to us.

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**Bulletin Editor: Ron Sacker** [rodosac@juno.com](mailto:rodosac@juno.com)

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The  
**BULLETIN**

**Baltimore County Genealogical Society  
Eastern European Interest Group**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**Jun. 14-** Field Trip to “Ellis Island” of Baltimore.

The tour will go on, rain or shine (as long as it isn't a torrential downpour).

**July, August** - There will be no other meetings until September. Have a happy summer.

Our last meetings before the summer break promises to be most informative and enjoyable. It will be a walking tour of Fells Point, describing the exodus and assimilation into a new culture and country as experienced by our immigrant ancestors. Many of the sights that they first saw are still there, and we will learn of others that are long forgotten. The presentation will be by a guide from the Baltimore Immigration Museum and should last for an hour or more. It begins at 12:30 in the afternoon on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 808 South Ann St. Cost is only \$12.00. Please e-mail me as soon as possible to make your reservation. If you need transportation, let me know and I will try to arrange a ride for you.

**Tom Bocek**

**FELLS POINT “GENEALOGY”**

- 1670** Area first called Long Island Point (Corpus Point).
- 1730** A Quaker William Fell, an immigrant from Lancashire England, bought a tract of land along a marshy projection into the Patapsco River. He called it Fell's Prospect.
- 1746** William Fell died.
- 1763** Edward Fell, son of William, made the location of Corpus Point into a town and called it Fells Point (named after a number of family members; thus Fells Point not Fell's Point).
- 1765** Robert Long House is Baltimore's oldest surviving residence. Now, this house is headquarters of the Society for the Preservation of Federal Hill and Fells Point.
- 1772** The London Coffee House, Bond & Thames Sts., believed to be the only existing pre-revolutionary War coffee house in the US.
- 1773** Fells Point incorporated into Baltimore Town.

- 1775** The George Wells shipyard produced the first frigate of the Continental Navy, the *Virginia*.
- 1784** Broadway Market established.
- 1787** The George Wells House is built on Bond & Thames Sts. Wells was a shipwright.
- 1797** Fells Point Ship Yard produces the *Constellation*.
- 1805** Thomas Kemp shipyard built the original “Pride of Baltimore”, the *Chasseur*.
- 1784-1821** More than 600 ships were built at Fells Point shipyards including the speedy Baltimore clippers Frederick Douglass, the famous slave, came to Fells Point, where he stayed until he escaped to the North and Freedom in 1838.
- 1829** First public schools in the neighborhood open.
- 1859** Baltimore's first horse-drawn streetcar line was used on Thames St.
- 1869** Isaac Myers began the nation's first African American-owned maritime railway in Fells Point.
- 1881** St. Stanislaus Kostka Roman Catholic Church was dedicated on South Ann St.
- 1700-1800's** Many of the residences, commercial and light industrial buildings in the Fells Point Historic District were built during this period.
- 1914** City Recreation Pier opens.
- 1960** Baltimore announced plans to build its East-West Expressway along the Fells Point waterfront.
- 1969** Fells Point was designated Maryland's first National Historic District, approximately 75 acres. (Bounded by the Harbor, Wolfe St, Aliceanna St. and Dalles St.)
- 1978** Baltimore abandoned plans to build the East-West Expressway through Fells Point.
- 1987** “Tin Men,” a movie based on true stories and experiences of the form stone salesmen in Baltimore, was shot in Fells Point.
- 1992-2001** The NBC television series, “Homicide—Life on the Street” set in Fells Point in the City Per and The Waterfront Hotel Restaurant.

**Sources:**

[www.fellspoint.us/history.html](http://www.fellspoint.us/history.html),  
[www.baltimoremd.com/fellstour](http://www.baltimoremd.com/fellstour)

### THE PRIVATEER

During the War of 1812, America's Second War of Independence, President James Madison attempted to overcome the small size of the US Navy by issuing Letters of Marque and Reprisal to private ship owners. This document allowed its holder to arm his vessel and act as a privateer, or, in essence, a legal pirate, representing the United States. Privateers were permitted to prey upon the merchant fleet of the belligerent nation, Great Britain, and take captured cargo and vessels as prizes. American privateers, many of them sailing out of Chesapeake Bay in Baltimore Clippers built in Fells Point, captured or sank some 1,700 British merchant vessels during the two and a half year war. Other Baltimore Clippers served as cargo vessels to bring needed munitions and other armaments through the naval blockade that the British imposed on the US coastline, including Chesapeake Bay.

### THE ORIGINAL PRIDE OF BALTIMORE

One of the most famous of the American privateers was Captain Thomas Boyle, who sailed his Baltimore Clipper, *Chasseur*, out of Fells Point, where she had been launched from Thomas Kemp's shipyard in 1812. On his first voyage as master of the *Chasseur* in 1814, Boyle unexpectedly sailed east, directly to the British Isles, where he unmercifully harassed the British merchant fleet. In a characteristically audacious act, he sent a notice to the King by way of a captured merchant vessel that he had released for the purpose. The notice, he commanded, was to be posted on the door of Lloyd's of London, the famous shipping underwriters. In it he declared that the entire British Isles were under naval blockade by *Chasseur* alone! This affront sent the shipping community into panic and caused the Admiralty to call vessels home from the American war to guard merchant ships, which had to sail in convoys. In all, *Chasseur* captured or sank 17 vessels before returning home. On *Chasseur's* triumphant return to Baltimore on March 25, 1815, the *Niles Weekly Register* dubbed the ship, her captain, and crew the "pride of Baltimore" for their daring exploits.

Source: [www.seakayak.ws](http://www.seakayak.ws)

### U.S. FRIGATE CONSTELLATION

The first U.S. Navy ship to bear the name *Constellation*, for the "new constellation of stars" on the American flag, was built at Samuel and Joseph Sterrett's private shipyard on Harris Creek near Fells Point and launched on September 7, 1797; Joshua Humphreys and Josiah Fox were the designers and David Stodder was the constructor master.

Rating 38 guns, displacing 1,278 tons, with 164-ft. length and 40 ft., 6 in. beam, *Constellation* combined the firepower of a standard frigate with speed of a Baltimore

Clipper. Capable of cruising at 14 knots, she earned the nickname, "Yankee Racehorse."

In the first test against a foreign foe in the undeclared war with France, *Constellation*, with Captain Thomas Truxtun commanding, won the first ship vs. ship victory of the U.S. Navy.

On February 5, 1799, *Constellation* captured the French 36-gun frigate *Insurgente* off the Island of Nevis in the West Indies. After failing to damage *Constellation's* rigging, *Insurgente* closed to grapple. Using superior speed to advantage, Truxtun maneuvered ahead and crossed the Frenchman's bow, raking her deck with a murderous broadside. After a half-hour *Insurgente* struck her colors in surrender, American casualties: two dead, and two wounded. French casualties: 29 dead, 71 wounded.

The frigate *Constellation* then participated in the campaigns against the Barbary states and Caribbean pirates. During the War of 1812, while blockaded in the Elizabeth River, she participated in the battle of Craney Island, helping to defend Norfolk, Virginia from capture by the British in 1813.

After several overhauls and repairs, time took its toll. In 1853 it was deemed that further renovation was not economically effective, and the frigate *Constellation* was decommissioned and broken up at the Gosport Navy Yard in Portsmouth, Virginia.

At about the same time a second *Constellation* was being built 600 feet away and was commissioned in 1855 using the same name. The second *Constellation* saw long service but the Navy had confused the 1855 ship with the 1797 vessel. In 1946 the Navy decided to scrap the ship but citizens, especially from Baltimore, pressed to save her. After many years of controversy the Navy began an investigation and produced a report in 1991 covering the matter. The *Constellation* in Baltimore Harbor is the second *Constellation* and its classification is a frigate/sloop.

**Reference: The David Taylor Research Center Report  
"Fouled Anchors: The *Constellation*; Questions  
Answered", 1991**

### CONTRIBUTORS

Please e-mail, phone or write the editor with useful items of interest to the group for publication.

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The  
**BULLETIN**

**Baltimore County Genealogical Society  
 Eastern European Interest Group**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**Sept. 20** – Seminar/Workshop at the LDS Family History Center at 120 Stemmers Run Road in Essex. **Notice:** This meeting is in lieu of the Sept. 13 meeting. See below.

**Oct. 11** – “Polonia in Baltimore” presented by **Anthony Monczewski**.

**Nov. 8** – “The Ukraine”

**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 September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.** The workshop seminars begin at 9:00 am and continue thru 3:50 pm on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month at the Essex site. The complete schedule is listed on page 2.

Our own Tom Bocek and Anthony Bogdan are presenting a two-hour talk on **Poland & Eastern European Genealogy**. For those who have not attended last year, it is a must! Also, new topics were added including **DNA Molecular Genealogy** presented by the Sorenson Group.

For those attending all day, a bag lunch is recommended; refreshments are free. Registration begins at 8:00 am. For latest details and registration go to the website <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~cpafug/essex/> See you there!

**New CD Review**

**Portraits on Stone – Holy Rosary Cemetery  
 Photographs by Thomas L. Hollowak  
 Historyk Press – 2003**



This is the second in a series of Portraits on Stone by Tom Hollowak, a follow-up to the Portraits on Stone of St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland that he released in 2002. Both of these CD's are a welcome compliment to the two books of tombstone inscriptions

produced by the Eastern European Interest Group of the Baltimore County Genealogical Society.

The introduction to this CD gives a good background on the practice of adding portraits to cemetery tombstones. He states that this practice dates back to antiquity and has taken many forms including statues, bas-reliefs, mosaics, paintings, photographs and laser etchings.

The use of photographs to memorialize an individual began in Europe about 1855 and spread to America in the 1870's. There are many statues and some laser etchings on tombstones in Holy Rosary Cemetery, but there are also many photographs placed on porcelain disks that are affixed to the tombstones. Tom has digitally recorded about 172 of these and produced them on the CD as a flip-type album, both in color and black and white photographs that can also be viewed as a slide show. He also has an index of all of their names on his website at [www.historykpress.com/photoindex.htm](http://www.historykpress.com/photoindex.htm)

Many of these photographs are very old and some are beginning to deteriorate through damage by wind, rain, snow and apparent vandalism, however, they almost tell a story of the individual's life by their pose, facial expression and clothing. On some you can see the weariness in their faces that tells of a life of faith and struggle so common to the life of those in this early Polish community. Others show the happiness and gaiety of individuals in wedding dresses, tuxedos, flapper attire and military uniforms.

This is certainly a worthwhile addition to anyone's computer library, especially if you have Polish heritage and are looking for pictures of your immediate and extended families. This CD can be read with MS Word and can be ordered through the HistorykPress website for \$11.99 plus postage or through HistorykPress, 7 Dendron Ct., Baltimore, Maryland 21234. When ordering please specify your operating system and which version of MS Word you're using.

Reviewed by **Dottie Aleshire** 17 August 2003

**DUES**

There are some of our members who have not paid their 2003 dues. Please check your records. The Society will drop those delinquent members and will not forward the **Notebook and Newsletter** to them.

**Bulletin Editor: Ron Sacker [rodosac@juno.com](mailto:rodosac@juno.com)  
 Chairperson: Tom Bocek [tpbocek@bcpl.net](mailto:tpbocek@bcpl.net)**

**Volume 6, Issue 7 –SEPTEMBER 2003**

<b>Rooms &amp; Times</b>	<b>Family History Center</b>	<b>Chapel</b>	<b>Relief Society</b>	<b>High Council</b>	<b>Primary 1</b>	<b>Primary 2 Room 110</b>	<b>Room 109</b>	<b>Room 114-115</b>	<b>Room 116</b>	<b>Room 124</b>	<b>Room 119</b>	<b>Room 108</b>
<b>8:00 to 8:50</b>	<b>Pick Up Syllabus, Welcome, Final Registration Announcements in Cultural Hall (The Syllabus gives a summary and outline of the workshop content - a worthwhile investment.)</b>											
<b>9:00 to 9:50</b>	<i>Beginning Family History Center</i>	DNA Molecular Genealogy Sorenson Group		<b>Using Search Engines</b>	<i>Beginning Genealogy on Internet</i> Coldren-Walker	<i>Beginning PAF 5.2</i> (genealogy software) Perry		<b>Southern Research Pt. 1</b> M. Williams		<b>Beginning MD Research</b>	<b>Intermediate US Research</b>	
<b>10:00 to 10:50</b>	<i>Beginning Family History Center</i>	<b>Making A Website Using PAF</b> Perry	<b>Marriages: Where Are They Recorded?</b> Barnes	<b>Using Hand Held Computers</b> Goodman	<b>Maryland Land Records</b> Skinner	<b>Organizing Records</b> Powell	<b>Poland &amp; Eastern Europe Pt. 1</b> Bocek & Bogdan	<b>Southern Research Pt. 2</b> M. Williams	<b>Overview D.C. Libraries</b> Singhal	<i>Beginning Where Do I Start?</i> Bramwell	<b>Balto.Co. Public Library Genealogy Resources</b>	<b>U. S. Census 1790-1930</b>
<b>11:00 to 11:50 or Lunch</b>	<b>Hidden Treasures in Family History Center</b> Slokan	<i>Beginning</i> www.familysearch.org Wallace	<b>Maryland &amp; U.S. Hidden Resources</b> Barnes	<b>Using Hand Held Computers</b> Goodman	<i>Intermediate Genealogy on Internet</i> Coldren-Walker	<b>Computers, Scanners &amp; Family History</b> Washburn	<b>Poland &amp; Eastern European Pt. 2</b> Bocek & Bogdan	<b>Search Engines</b> Chiarico	<i>Beginning Virginia esp. Northern Neck Research</i> Headley	<b>Irish Immigrant Bank Records</b> Carl	<b>Clearing Names for Temple Graves</b>	<b>U. S. Census 1790-1930</b>
<b>12:00 to 12:50 or Lunch</b>	<i>Beginning Family History Center</i>	<b>New England Research Pt. 1</b> Novak	<b>Using Newspapers in Research</b> Strauss	<b>1920-1930 U.S. Census Tips</b>	<i>Beginning German Research</i> Skinner	<b>Organizing Records</b> Powell	<b>English Research</b> Schmidt	<b>African American Research Emphasis: Maryland</b> Hynson	<b>Problem Solving</b> Singhal	<i>Beginning Where Do I Start?</i> Bramwell	<i>Intermediate U.S. Research</i>	<b>Scrap-booking</b> Brower & Eads
<b>1:00 to 1:50</b>	<i>Beginning Family History Center</i>	<b>New England Research Pt. 2</b> Novak	<b>How Will You Be Remembered ?</b> Smith	<b>Maryland Archives</b> Haley	<i>Beginning Genealogy on Internet</i> Coldren-Walker	<i>Beginning PAF 5.2</i> (genealogy software) Perry	<b>Balto Co Register of Wills, Orphan Ct., Indentures</b> Sybert	<b>National Archives Research</b> Wallace	<b>Deed Mapping-Land Tracts</b> Lyon	<i>Beginning Irish Research</i> Kraus	<b>Clearing Names for Temple Graves</b>	
<b>2:00 to 2:50</b>	<b>Hidden Treasures in Family History Center</b> Slokan		<b>Maryland Historical Society</b> Hardy	<b>1920-1930 U.S. Census Tips</b>	<i>Advanced German Research</i> Skinner	<b>Computers, Scanners &amp; Family History</b> Washburn	<b>Italian Research</b> Muratore	<b>Library of Congress</b> Strauss	<b>Immigration &amp; Naturalization Records</b> Singhal	<i>Advanced Irish Research</i> Kraus	<b>Timelines Track Your Ancestors</b>	<b>Scrap-booking</b> Brower & Eads
<b>3:00 to 3:50</b>	<i>Beginning Family History Center</i>	<i>Intermediate</i> www.familysearch.org Wallace	<b>Involving Whole Family in Genealogy</b> Smith	<b>1880 U.S. Census</b> Hynson	<b>D. A. R. Research</b> Coldren-Walker	<i>Advanced PAF 5.2 Seminar</i> Perry	<b>U.S. Military Research</b> Christou	<b>Pennsylvania Research</b> Strauss	<b>Enoch Pratt Free Library</b> Korman	<b>Using Maps in Family History</b> Pearson		

The  
**BULLETIN**

**Baltimore County Genealogical Society  
Eastern European Interest Group**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Oct. 11** – “Polonia in Baltimore” - presented by **Anthony Monczewski**.

**Nov. 8** – “The Ukraine” - presenter to be named.

**Dec.** – No meeting. Have a wonderful Christmas season

This month's meeting will be a very interesting and informative presentation about Polonia's affect on Baltimore and our country. October is Polish Heritage month and it is fitting that Anthony Monczewski's presentation coincides with this month's celebration.

The chairperson requests that members, who have mementos from the “old” country, please bring them to the meeting to be shared by the group.

WORKSHOP

The workshop at the LDS center of last month was well attended by the general genealogy researchers. There were about, I believe, seven of our members in attendance. A few (not many) of the presenters could not make the workshop to handle their personal affairs due to the hurricane aftermath.

OCTOBER-POLISH HERITAGE MONTH

Sponsored by the Polish American Congress, groups across America's Polonia celebrate Polonia's rich background in the United States. The October Almanac:

**Oct. 1, 1608.** First Poles arrive in America aboard the Mary & Margaret to work as skilled craftsmen at the settlement in Jamestown.

**Oct. 3, 1923.** Birth of symphonic orchestra leader Stanislaw Skrowaczewski.

**Oct. 4, 1911.** Birth of bandleader Frank Wojnarowski, composer of “Matka” and other treasured Polish American songs.

**Oct. 6, 1873.** Death of Sir Pawel Strzelecki (b. 1797), explorer of Australian continent who named its largest mountain after Tadeusz Kosciuszko. **1882.** Birth of Karol Szymanowski, Polish composer, in Timoshovka, Ukraine.

**Oct. 7, 1944.** Founding of the Marie Curie-Sklodowski Institute in Lublin.

**Oct. 10, 1945.** The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo is founded.

**Oct. 11, 1779.** Date traditionally observed in American Polonia as Pulaski Day in honor of the death of Casimer Pulaski, 34, Polish-born American patriot, who died from battle wounds suffered at Savannah, Georgia

**Oct. 12, 1840.** Birth of Helen Modrzejewska, Polish American stage actress, in Krakow, Poland.

**Oct. 15, 1817.** Death of Tadeusz Kosciuszko, 71, (b. 1746) Polish and American patriot, in Solothurn, Switzerland. **1945.** Poland, not present at United Nations organizing conference earlier in the year, signs UN Charter, and is considered one of the five founding member states.

**Oct. 16, 1978.** Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, 58, named Pope John Paul II, the 264th pope and the first non-Italian pope since Adrian VI in 1522. He is the first-ever Polish pontiff. **1886.** Birth of David Ben-Gurion, first prime minister of the state of Israel, in Plonsk, Poland. **1849.** Death of Polish composer and pianist Fryderyk Chopin, 39, in Paris.

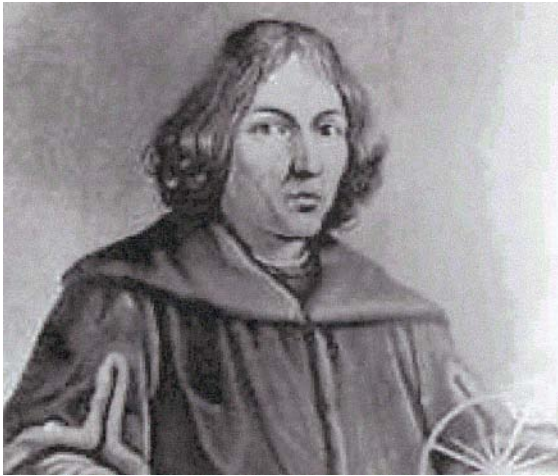
**Oct. 18, 1776.** Tadeusz Kosciuszko, 30, Polish and American patriot, is given a commission in the American Revolutionary Army.

**Oct. 21, 1890.** Death of John Strentzel, medical doctor and horticulturist who came to California as a '49er. He was the father-in-law of John Muir.

**Oct. 22, 1940.** Stan “Stas” Jasinski, age 25, broadcasts his first Polish radio program in Buffalo. He later established a radio station, television station and is inducted in the International Polka Association Hall of Fame. He also is the recipient of numerous civic awards. He retired from broadcasting June 4, 2000 after a remarkable 60 years on the radio. **1978.** Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Krakow, Poland is installed as Pope John Paul II.

**Oct. 26, 1939.** The arrest of Polish President Stefan Starzynski by the Gestapo in Warsaw.

**Oct. 29, 1944.** Polish 1<sup>st</sup> Corps takes Breda, Holland as part of the Allied invasion of Western Europe.



**MIKOLAJ KOPERNIK**

Most notably known by his Latin name Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543), he was an astronomer of Polish descent. He founded present day astronomy with his theory that the earth and other planets revolve around a stationary sun. In Copernicus' time, astronomers accepted the theory Ptolemy had formulated 1400 years earlier. Ptolemy had said the earth was the center of the universe, and had no motion. He also thought that the observed motion of the heavenly bodies was real motion.

But Copernicus doubted Ptolemy's theory. He believed that the earth hurtles rapidly through space, and that man does not see this motion because he travels with the earth. Copernicus said the motions described by Ptolemy did not occur. What man sees in the heaven is affected by the earth's motion. Real motions in the heavens must be separated from apparent motions.

Copernicus skillfully applied this new idea in his masterpiece, *Concerning the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres*. He had virtually completed his major work, by 1520 or 1530. But it was not published, perhaps because no printer was available. Or perhaps the growing attempt to erase heresy stifled any impulse to publish controversial views. Later, a young professor from Wittenberg, Germany, source of the Lutheran Reformation, persuaded Copernicus to put the finishing touches on it and it was published in 1543. Reportedly, the first copy reached him on May 24, the day he died. In this book, Copernicus demonstrated how the earth's motions could be used to

explain the motions of other heavenly bodies. His theory laid the foundations for the telescopic discoveries of Galileo, the planetary laws of Johannes Kepler, and the gravitation principle of Sir Isaac Newton.

Copernicus was born in Thorn (now Torun, Poland). He attended Jagiellonian University of Krakow. Through the influence of his uncle, a bishop, Copernicus was appointed a canon of the cathedral of Frauenburg (now Frombork, Poland). The income from this position supported him for the rest of his life. The position gave him permission to continue his education in Italy. Copernicus received a master's degree from the University of Bologna and a doctor's degree from the University of Ferrara. He also studied medicine.

When he returned to Poland, he acted as medical adviser to his uncle and served as canon of the cathedral.

**Source – The World Book Encyclopedia**

### **THE NOTEBOOK AND NEWSLETTER**

The BCGS is offering their Notebook and Newsletter online to registered members. Please take the time to read the latest newsletter in order to learn how to access them. This is a cost savings endeavor that will benefit other Society services.

### **BULLETIN BANTER**

Genealogists never die, they just lose their census.

### **DUES**

There are some of our members who have not paid their 2003 dues. Please check your records. The Society will drop those delinquent members and will not forward the **Notebook and Newsletter** to them. Those members who are in arrears can settle their account at the October meeting.

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The  
**BULLETIN**

**Baltimore County Genealogical Society  
Eastern European Interest Group**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**Nov. 8** – “The Ukraine” - presenter is Paul Fenchak, president of the Ukrainian National Alliance, Branch 320. He is a co-author of the book entitled “The Ukrainians of Maryland”. Paul is also a life member of the Association of Professional Baseball Players of America and was a Minor League pitcher.

**Dec.** – No meeting. Have a wonderful Christmas season

**Jan. 10, 2004** – TBD.

**Feb. 14** – “Estonia”

**Mar. 13** – TBD.

**POLONIA MEETING**

Last month's presenter, Anthony Monczewski, gave the group an indebt review of the early Polonia Church settlements in the United States. From Texas to Maryland and many other places in between, Polonia and their churches spread where work could be obtained. Early parish pastors were instrumental in having many beautiful and some magnificent churches built. Anthony discovered the earliest to be in Panna Maria, Texas established in 1854. Other Polish parishes sprung up in Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Minnesota, Indiana, and Nebraska prior to Maryland. Saint Stanislaus Kostka chapel in Baltimore was established in 1879 and the church was dedicated in 1881.

**UKRAINE FLAG**



The colors symbolize the sky, mountains, streams and golden fields of the Ukrainian landscape, which was used in Kyivan Rus long before the introduction of Christianity. The Ukrainian Supreme Rada formalized the flag in 1992.

**WELCOME NEW EEIG MEMBERS**

**Rich Fuller**, a regular BCGS member, is researching his family surnames: Janacki, Lesniewski and Milanicz. You can reach him at his home 4325 Blakely Ave. Baltimore, 21236-4109.

**Al Kamosa** is researching family members: Frank Kamasinski and Frank's three sisters: Katarzyna Strzelecki, Agnes Rynarzewski and Maryanna Pieczynski. Al's e-mail is cyberassoc@erols.com.

**QUERY**

Looking for information about family surnames: Jastremski, Bawroski, Bidowaniec, Ziembra, Phipps, Thomas, Eades, Weston, Howard and Bollman. Please contact Don and Lynlee Brock at [dhbrock@msn.com](mailto:dhbrock@msn.com).

**TRANSLATIONS**

Oleh Voloshyn will translate Ukrainian, Russian, Old Russian and/or Belo Russian into English. Contact Oleh at 1219 White Mills Rd. Catonsville, MD. 410-747-7279 or [ovoloshyn@hotmail.com](mailto:ovoloshyn@hotmail.com).

**EARLY UKRAINE HISTORY**

In the early centuries of the Christian era, Germanic Goths displaced the Asian peoples of Scythia and established an Ostrogothic (eastern Goth) kingdom on the Black Sea. In the 4th century nomadic Huns invaded from Asia and conquered the Ostrogoths. The Huns held the territory constituting present-day Ukraine and most of present-day Moldova until their defeat in Western Europe in the mid-5th century. Later came the Mongolian Avars, followed by the nomadic Asian Magyars, and then the Turkic Khazars, who remained influential until about the mid-10th century.

Meanwhile, during this long period of successive invasions, the Slavic tribes in the area northeast of the Carpathian Mountains had begun a series of migratory movements. As these migrations took place, the western tribes in the region eventually evolved as the Moravians, Poles, Czechs, and Slovaks; the southern tribes as the Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, and Slavic-speaking Bulgars; and the eastern tribes as the modern Russians, Ukrainians, and

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Belarusians. The Eastern Slavs became renowned traders. The systems of rivers and waterways extending through the territory from the Valday Hills facilitated the establishment of Slav trading posts, notably the cities of Kyiv (Kiev), which is the present-day capital of Ukraine, and Novgorod, directly north of Kyiv. Along these waterways the Slavs transported goods between the Baltic and Black seas.

In the 9th century Scandinavian Vikings invaded and settled a number of regions in northern Europe. From these eastward-moving Scandinavians, called Varangians or Rus, came the name Rossiya, or Russia, meaning "land of the Rus." The origin of the word *Rus* may have been derived from *ruotsi*, the Finnish name for the Swedes, or from *Rukhs-As*, the name of an Alanic tribe in southern Russia.

Scandinavian princes from the house of Rurik organized the Eastern Slavs into a single state. According to tradition recorded in the *Primary Chronicle*, the chief East Slavic source of much of early regional history, internal dissension and feuds among the Eastern Slavs around Novgorod became so violent that the people voluntarily chose a Scandinavian chief, Rurik, to rule over them in AD 862.

In 882 Kyiv and Novgorod were united as the state of Kievan Rus under a single ruler from the house of Rurik. The Eastern Slavs were pagans who worshipped the earth's natural forces. By the early 10th century, however, Kievan Rus had established close commercial and cultural ties with the Byzantine Empire, an Orthodox Christian state. In 980 Vladimir I (also known as Volodymyr) became ruler; eight years later he converted to Orthodox Christianity and made Orthodoxy the official religion of Kievan Rus. The Slavic church had considerable autonomy and services were held in liturgical Slavonic, rather than the Greek language of the Byzantine Empire. In matters of doctrine, however, the church obeyed the rulings of the patriarch of Constantinople in the Byzantine capital. Monasteries and churches were built in Byzantine style and Byzantine culture became the predominant influence in fields such as art, architecture, and music. Vladimir's choice of Orthodox Christianity, rather than the Latin church (Roman Catholicism) or Islam, had an important influence on the future of Kievan Rus. Orthodoxy played a crucial role in shaping the values and

the separate identity of the region's Eastern Slavs. As Christians, they belonged unequivocally to Europe rather than to one of the other great regional civilizations of the world. As Orthodox, particularly after the fall of the Byzantine Empire in 1453, they were powerful but peripheral members of the European Christian community. Kievan Rus achieved its greatest power and splendor under Yaroslav the Wise in the 11th century. Yaroslav made Kyiv a great city and built magnificent buildings, including the notable Cathedral of Saint Sophia (also known as the Hagia Sophia of Kyiv).

**Paraphrased from Microsoft's Encarta**

### UKRAINIAN AMERICANS

According to the 1990 census, the United States is home to 750,000 Americans of Ukrainian descent. Most reside in the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and California.

The United States received three waves of emigrants from Ukraine. The first wave began in the 1870s and ended in 1914. Ukrainian immigrants, primarily from western Ukraine, arrived in America during this period. Most found work in the coalmines of eastern Pennsylvania and on farms in North Dakota.

The second wave of Ukrainian immigrants arrived in the United States between 1920 and 1939. During this period, Ukraine was divided among the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Romania. Due to the enactment of U.S. laws establishing strict immigration quotas, no more than 40,000 Ukrainians immigrated to the United States.

The third wave of emigration from Ukraine began after the Congress of the United States passed the Displaced Persons Act in 1948. This legislation permitted hundreds of thousands of refugees from Eastern Europe to immigrate to the United States. From 1948 through the late 1950s, about 85,000 Ukrainians fleeing religious and political persecution in the USSR arrived in the United States. About 5000 immigrants from the Ukraine have settled in America since the Ukraine declared independence in 1991.

**Paraphrased from Microsoft's Encarta**

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