

6th Central European Genealogy Meeting / 2024

Chrześcijańska Akademia Teologiczna w Warszawie, 48 Broniewskiego str. _____

Schedule

Day 1. / May 25 / 10:00 a.m.–4:45 p.m.

from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM simultaneous interpretation of lectures (Polish, English, German)

9:30 a.m. / Registration

10.00 a.m.–10.10 a.m. / Welcome

10:10 a.m.–11:00 a.m. / Migrations by Polish-speaking Protestants in the 19th and 20th centuries – Professor Jarosław Kłaczko, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (Poland)

Professor Kłaczko is a historian who earned his doctoral degree in 2002, habilitation in 2011, and in 2014 was awarded the title of professor of humanities. Currently, he is a full professor and head of the Department of 19/20th Century and Contemporary History at the Institute of History and Archival Studies of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. His research concerns the history of Polish Protestantism in the 19th & 20th centuries and the history of Pomeranian cities in the 20th century.

Migrations of Polish-speaking Protestants were a product of the history of Central Europe. With the beginning of modernization processes, a great migration movement began. Developing countries, regions and cities attracted millions of poor rural inhabitants hungry for a decent life. This process was particularly intensive in the central part of Europe. In the first half of the 19th century, there was still an influx of migrants from German countries to the territory of the Kingdom of Poland, but in the second half this trend changed and Protestants from Polish lands emigrated similarly to Catholics. In the 20th century, emigration dictated by political factors appeared. However, the greatest political migration took place during World War II and during communism. Economic phenomena began to play a role only after 1989. History has thus come full circle and today emigration is again determined by the desire to improve one's material status.

11:00 a.m.–11:50 a.m. / Digitization of the collections of the Ukrainian state archives by FamilySearch – Gilles François, FamilySearch International (Germany)

Mr. François was born in France and grew up in France, French Guiana, Djibouti and the French Antilles. He served in the French army during the Bosnian War as a soldier in the UN peacekeeping force. Since 2000, he has been associated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where his tasks included supervising teams of translators and overseeing humanitarian aid for the Church in Europe. He has been associated with FamilySearch since April 2023 and is currently responsible for user experience in several countries in Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia. He holds a bachelor's degree in international development from Brigham Young University, a master's degree in political science from the Sorbonne University in Paris, and an MBA from Frankfurt/Duke Universities. He and his wife Larissa have four children.

FamilySearch operated in Ukraine from 1995 until the government there ceased cooperation in 2011. After the Revolution of Dignity in 2014, the situation began to change positively, and in 2020, FamilySearch signed a general memorandum with the State Archival Service of Ukraine. Following this step, 22 individual agreements were signed with central and regional archives throughout Ukraine. Six additional projects are in the pipeline. The presentation will discuss the crucial role of FamilySearch after the start of the war with the Russian Federation in February 2022, after many local archives were destroyed.

11:50 a.m.–12:20 p.m. / Coffee break

12:20 p.m.–1:10 p.m. / The Stranded: a tough journey to the Promised Land. The returns of refugees to Reborn Poland – Piotr Zawilski, Director of the National Digital Archives (Poland)

Mr. Zawilski is a graduate of the Polish archaeology program at the University of Łódź and postgraduate studies in archival science at Nicolaus Copernicus University. He has been associated with the State Archival Service since 1989. In 1998, he became director of the State Archive in Piotrków Trybunalski, and in 2006 of the State Archive in Łódź. He is currently the director of the National Digital Archives. His interests include the history of World War I and Holocaust research.

War is a curse for every corner of the earth affected by it and its every inhabitant. This sad truth was revealed particularly cruelly during the First World War, first also in terms of its scale and impact on the civilian population. The lecture will discuss the difficult fate of various groups affected by the war, and also indicate archival sources created by Austria, Prussia, and Russia, social organizations and later in independent Poland concerning war refugees, displaced persons and prisoners of war.

1:10 p.m.–2:00 p.m. / The Bad Arolsen Archives and their digital collections – Giora Zwilling, Arolsen Archives – International Tracing Service (Germany)

Mr. Zwilling studied history at the Open University and Tel Aviv University. From 2007 to 2014, he held various positions at the Yad Vashem archives in Israel. He is currently head of the Digital Transformation and Archives department at the Arolsen Archives (International Tracing Service), where he has been working since 2017.

The lecture will provide an overview of the history of the Arolsen Archives, their importance to researchers and genealogists, as well as current projects and initiatives. The lecture will focus on the use of online resources available to the general public.

2:00 p.m.–2:15 p.m. / Group photo

2:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. / Lunch break

3:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m. / The State Repatriation Office Łódź Headquarters collection in the Archive of Modern Records as a source for genealogical research – Jakub Szuliński, Archive of Modern Records (Poland).

Mr. Szuliński is a historian and archivist. He graduated from Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. He is employed at the Archive of Modern Records in the Department of Access to Archival Resources.

The State Repatriation Office (PUR) was established by decree of the Polish Committee of National Liberation of 7 October 1944. The main tasks of the PUR were to organize the repatriation and settlement of people from other countries to Poland, and the resettlement of populations within the country. The Archive of Modern Records holds materials produced by PUR headquarters in 1944–1951. The aim of the presentation will be to present the content of the collection in terms of its usefulness for genealogical research.

5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m. / „The Charm of the People’s Republic of Poland” – a walk around Powązki Military Cemetery – Igor Strojecki
Starting at the funeral home, 43/45 Powązkowska Street

Mr. Strojecki is a genealogy enthusiast, author of numerous publications, and the initiator of various exhibitions and events dedicated to his ancestors. These include the actress Elżbieta Barszczewska, the traveler and photographer Leon Barszczewski, and the psychologist and inventor Julian Ochorowicz, showcased in museums and cultural institutions throughout Poland. He is a member of the Polish Journalists Association and has received awards such as the Ludomir Benedyktowicz Prize, the Golden Jacek Award, and the Golden Leaf of Retro. In 2021, he was awarded the Medal of the 30th Anniversary of Uzbekistan’s Independence.

8:00 p.m.–12:00 p.m. / Reception and networking – „Pracownia na Kole”, 61 Ożarowska Street, Warsaw

Day 2. / May 26 / 10:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

9:30 a.m. / Registration

10:00 a.m.–10:50 a.m. / Evacuation and deportation from the Kingdom of Poland 1914–1915 – Prof. Krzysztof Marian Latawiec, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (Poland)

Dr. Latawiec is a professor at the Department of Archival Studies and Auxiliary Sciences of History at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland. He is the editor-in-chief of the journal “Res Historica” and associate editor of the journal “Wschodni Rocznik Humanistyczny.” His research interests include the presence of Russians and Germans in the Kingdom of Poland, the presence of Poles and Germans in the Russian Empire, the functioning of education, judiciary, administration, uniformed services, churches and religious associations in the Russian Empire and the Kingdom of Poland in the 19th and early 20th centuries, genealogy, and source studies. He is the author and co-author of over 150 scientific papers.

The outbreak of World War I and the military operations that affected the Kingdom of Poland brought difficult times for the civilian population living on its territory including population displacement. The inhabitants of the Kingdom of Poland, fearing the consequences of the war, decided to flee from the threat, often forced by the Russian military and civilian authorities to leave their homes. In most cases, these people ended up in the central provinces of the Romanov Empire.

10.50 a.m.–11:40 a.m. / Roma. Culture and genealogy – Adam Bartosz, District Museum in Tarnów (Poland)

Mr. Bartosz is an ethnographer and gypsyologist. For many years he was the director of the District Museum in Tarnów. The initiator of the world’s first permanent exhibition on the history and culture of the Roma entitled “Roma, Gypsies: History and culture.” Members of committee to codify the Romani language. Author of many publications about Jews and Roma.

“Attempts to compile genealogies of Gypsy families on the basis of older parish books seem to make no sense at all.” The lecture is a development of this observation based on traditional Roma customs, the attitude of the Roma to writing, bureaucracy, and non-Roma surroundings.

11:40 a.m.–12:20 p.m. / History of Protestant cemeteries and their documentation – Piotr Kędziora-Babiński, Kamienie Niepamięci Foundation (Poland)

Mr. Kędziora-Babiński is an archaeologist employed by the Piaseczno Museum, which is under preparation for opening. In the past, he has worked for organizations such as the National Bureau of Information and Tracing of the Polish Red Cross and the Office for the Commemoration of Struggle and Martyrdom of the Institute of National Remembrance. Member of the board of the Kamienie Niepamięci Foundation and deputy member of the parish council of the Lutheran parish of the Holy Trinity in Warsaw. He has been professionally involved in burials and exhumations, including of those killed in the Battle of Iłża in 1939 and of victims of German crimes in Fort III Pomiechówek. Author of scientific and popular publications including “The mystery of the cross in Małtwica, Nowogród commune, Łomża district, Podlaskie province”, “The Red Army Cemetery in Kędzierzyn-Koźle in the documents of the Polish Red Cross”, “Exhumations of soldiers and policemen killed in 1939, Fort III in Pomiechówek”, “Exhumations of soldiers of the Volunteer Army and commemoration of its heroes.”

After World War II, the Protestant community in Polish was significantly reduced. Many churches and cemeteries lost their custodians. As a result of this process, many cemeteries were destroyed, sometimes completely. In his lecture, the speaker will talk about the complex history of Protestant cemeteries and about using their documentation in genealogical research. Particular emphasis will be placed on cemeteries operating in Mazovia.

12:20 p.m.–12:50 p.m. / Coffee break

12:50 p.m.–13:40 p.m. / Sources for research on the genealogy of Polish-Lithuanian Karaites – Anna Sulimowicz-Keruth, Ph.D., University of Warsaw (Poland)

Dr. Sulimowicz-Keruth is a Turkic and Karaite scholar, assistant professor at the Turkic and Central Asian Department at the Faculty of Oriental Studies at the University of Warsaw, vice-president of the Association of Polish Karaites in Poland, and co-editor of the Karaite Almanac.

The subject of the presentation will be the genealogy of the Karaites, the smallest ethnic minority in Poland and Lithuania, and at the same time a religious group. The memory of past generations is part of their culture – during summer ceremonies in cemeteries, prayers for ancestors are read and mentioned by name. Therefore, valuable sources for Karaite genealogy are not only record books and old documents, but also manuscript prayer books. During the lecture, basic information about the history, settlements, religion, rituals, language of the Karaites and how and where to look for information about Karaite families will be presented.

1:40 p.m.–2:20 p.m. / Warsaw traces in the history of Protestant Kraków families – Agnieszka Godfrejów-Tarnogórska, Warsaw Genealogical Society (Poland)

Ms. Godfrejów-Tarnogórska is originally from Kraków, has a degree in Protestant theology from the Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw and also has completed postgraduate studies in genealogy at the Institute of History of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. She worked in the Office of the Polish Deaconry in Warsaw and in the Lutheran Parish in Kraków, dealing with, pastoral, catechetical and diaconal issues. Since 2015, she has been the Spokesman for the Evangelical-Augsburg Church in Poland. On behalf of the Church, she is active in the group coordinating the (Un)forgotten Cemeteries Initiative, and also is involved in genealogical research and the Central Archives of the Church.

The Protestant parish in Kraków has existed since the Reformation. It numbers both Lutherans and, to a smaller extent, Presbyterians in its congregation. The turn of the 19th and 20th centuries saw the influx of many architects, craftsmen, merchants and industrialists from Germany, Switzerland and other countries to Kraków, as well as to Warsaw. Among them were Protestant families who became active members of the Kraków community and the Protestant parish there. The lecture will cover several families whose fates have been intertwined with both Kraków and Warsaw.

2:20 p.m.–2:30 p.m. / End of the conference

• Workshops / May 25 / room 206

3:15 p.m.–4:45 p.m. / Translation workshop: Russian – Russian abbreviations useful for genealogists: from 19th century sources to modern genealogical slang – Dr. Tatiana Wojtas (Poland)

Dr. Wojtas is a translator, psychotherapist and lecturer, as well as a passionate genealogist. Since 2020, she has been conducting Russian language translation at the postgraduate genealogy program at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University.

What to do when we encounter an unknown abbreviation in a Russian-language document, and the Internet or dictionaries don't help? During the workshop we will try different ways to decipher abbreviations. We will practice deduction and develop an algorithm that will be helpful in working with documents.

• Workshops / May 26 / room 206

10:50 a.m.–12:20 p.m. / Translation workshops: Hebrew – Basics of Hebrew tombstone epigraphy – Krzysztof Bielawski, University of Warsaw (Poland)

Dr. Bielawski is a researcher of Jewish cemeteries and a Ph.D. student at the Faculty of History of the University of Warsaw. A graduate of the University of Tourism and Hotel Management in Warsaw and the Institute of History of the University of Warsaw (major: History and Culture of Jews). The founder of the website www.cmentarze-zydowskie.pl. Author of the book *The Holocaust of Jewish Cemeteries* and articles published in *m.in* „Kwartalnik Historii Żydów”, „Miasteczko Poznań”, „Spotkania z zabytkami”.

During the workshops, participants will learn the Hebrew alphabet, the basic vocabulary found in the inscriptions on Jewish tombstones and the Jewish calendar. The most important indexes of burials in Jewish cemeteries in Poland will be presented.

12:50 p.m.–2:20 p.m. / Computer workshops (own laptop or tablet recommended) – Using the databases of the Polish Genealogical Society in practice – Michał Zieliński, Polish Genealogical Society (Poland)

Mr. Zieliński is a lawyer and chief administrator of Geneteka, since 2022 President of the Management Board of the Polish Genealogical Society. Passionate about genealogy from an early age (a Varsovian on his father's side, a native of the Eastern borderlands on his mother's side).

The aim of the workshop will be to show how to effectively use the databases of the Polish Genealogical Society in practice (Geneteka, Skanoteka, briefly other databases). The lecturer will show how to quickly and effectively navigate Geneteka and Skanoteka, what to pay attention to when typing in search terms, etc.

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