

# GALICIA BASICS: WHAT EVERY GALITZIANER NEEDS TO KNOW

**Shelley Kellerman Pollero, rkpollero@comcast.net**

Chair of Membership and Past President, Gesher Galicia

**Renée Stern Steinig, genmaven@gmail.com**

Discussion Group Moderator and Family Finder Editor, Gesher Galicia

---

## Presentation Overview

---

### Where and what is Galicia?

- The largest province of the Austrian Empire
- Today, part of southeastern Poland and southwestern Ukraine
- Political divisions and major cities

### Brief history of Galicia

- The Partitions of Poland (1772 - 1795)
- Napoleonic Wars (1800 - 1815)
- World War I (1914 - 1918)
- Interwar Poland (1918 - 1938)
- World War II (1939 - 1945)
- Post-war period (1945 - 1989)
- Modern Poland and Ukraine

### Identifying and locating towns

- Maps and gazetteers
- Past and current place names

### Unique marriage and naming patterns

- Given names
- Surname adoption and usage
- Civil marriages vs. religious marriages
- Legitimacy vs. illegitimacy

### Religion and society

- Hasidim
- Assimilation
- Galitzianers vs. Litvaks
- Education and economy

### Record-keeping practices

- Format of vital records
- Effect of religious marriages and “illegitimacy”
- Relevance of Administrative Districts

### Culinary and language clues

- Foods and food preparation
- Religious and secular languages

### Major resources for Galician Research

- Gesher Galicia Special Interest Group
- JewishGen
- Jewish Records Indexing - Poland
- Routes to Roots Foundation

(Details on sources are on the following pages.)

## Learn More!

For more information about researching Galician families and towns, check the conference program schedule for these and additional Galicia-focused presentations:

### **Gesher Galicia SIG Meeting**

Monday, 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM

### **Andrew Zalewski**

*The Story of Galicia: Vital Records,*

*Maps, Censuses and Much More*

Monday, 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

### **Brooke Schreier Ganz**

*Using the Gesher Galicia Website*

*and All Galicia Database*

*to Research Towns and Families*

Tuesday, 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

### **Mark Halpern**

*Researching Your Galitzianer Family:*

*Working with Vital Records*

Thursday, 9:45 AM - 11:00 AM

---

## Selected Sources for Galician Research

---

### Websites

#### **Ancestry**

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

Including WWII draft registrations and Hamburg emigration records, searchable by town of birth/residence.

#### **Ellis Island Database**

<http://stevemorse.org/ellis2/ellisgold.html>

Also searchable by town – useful for observing patterns of name occurrence.

#### **Family History Library Catalog**

[www.familysearch.org/catalog-search](http://www.familysearch.org/catalog-search)

#### **GenealogyIndexer**

[www.genealogyindexer.org](http://www.genealogyindexer.org)

Links to historical directories and other sources.

#### **Gesher Galicia**

[www.GesherGalicia.org](http://www.GesherGalicia.org)

- About Galicia
- All Galicia Database
- Archival Inventories
- Family Finder\*
- Galician Town Locator
- *Galitzianer* archives\*
- Map Room
- Research Projects

\* available to paid GG members only

#### **Google Maps**

[www.GoogleMaps.com](http://www.GoogleMaps.com)

#### **JewishGen**

[www.JewishGen.org](http://www.JewishGen.org)

Click the Research tab for

- KehilaLinks
- Yizkor Books

Click the Databases tab,

then “Complete List of Databases” for the

- Family Finder
- Communities Database (c. 6,000 communities)
- Gazetteer (c. 1 million localities)
- Burial Registry (JOWBR)
- Holocaust Database
- 1929 Polish Business Directory – Town Index

- Ukraine Database

- Poland Database (includes the 1891 Galicia Business Directory; Krakow and Lvov Ghetto Databases; Oshpitsin Database; 1890-1891 NY Immigrants from Poland, Austria, and Galicia)

#### **Jewish Records Indexing-Poland**

[www.JRI-Poland.org](http://www.JRI-Poland.org)

5 million records from 550+ Polish towns, including many in Galicia, are now indexed or fully extracted – and often linked to original images!

#### **JGSNY Burial Society Database Project**

<https://tinyurl.com/JGSNY-societies>

#### **Microfilmed Jewish Vital Records from the Central State Archives in Lviv**

<http://jri-poland.org/agad/lviv.htm>

#### **NY Public Library’s Yizkor Books Online**

<http://yizkor.nypl.org>

#### **Routes to Roots Foundation**

[www.rtrfoundation.org](http://www.rtrfoundation.org)

#### **SEZAM: Polish State Archives Database**

[www.archiwa.gov.pl](http://www.archiwa.gov.pl)

#### **Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive**

<http://vhaonline.usc.edu/login>

Search nearly 52,000 audiovisual testimonies collected in the 1980s and 1990s by the Spielberg Shoah Project.

#### **Shoreshim**

[www.shoreshim.org/en/default.asp](http://www.shoreshim.org/en/default.asp)

#### **Yad Vashem**

##### **Database of Shoah Victims’ Names**

<http://db.yadvashem.org/names/search.html?language=en>

#### **YIVO’s People of a Thousand Towns**

<http://yivo1000towns.cjh.org>

#### **Third Military Mapping Survey of Austria-Hungary**

<http://lazarus.elte.hu/hun/digkonyv/topo/3felmeres.htm>

Very detailed maps of Galicia.

---

## Selected Sources for Galician Research

---

### Books

Alexander Beider, *A Dictionary of Jewish Names from Galicia*

Andrew A. Bonar and Robert Murray M'Cheyne, *The Jews of Galicia in 1839*  
Available from Gesher Galicia or search Google Books for *Narrative of a Mission of Inquiry to the Jews from the Church of Scotland in 1839*, then search for your town.

Danuta Dabrowska, Abraham Wein, Aharon Weiss, *Pinkas HaKehillot – Polin (Encyclopedia of the Communities – Poland)*  
Hebrew. Vols. II – Eastern Galicia, Volume III – Western Galicia and Silesia. Some articles are translated on JewishGen.

Felix Gundacker, *Historisches Ortsverzeichnis des Königreiches Galizien und des Herzogtums Bukowina*

Brian Lenius, *Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia*

Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Amdur Sack, *Where Once We Walked*

Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman, *In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide... (Volume I: Polish)*

Shmuel Spector, *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Life Before and During the Holocaust*

Miriam Weiner, *Jewish Roots in Poland: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories; Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories*

Geoffrey M. Weisgard, *Krakow: A Guide to Jewish Genealogy and History*. Third Edition.

Suzan Wynne, *The Galitzianers: The Jews of Galicia; Finding Your Jewish Roots in Galicia*

Andrew Zalewski, *Galician Trails: The Forgotten Story of One Family; Galician Portraits: In Search of Jewish Roots*

### Gesher Galicia

Free to all:

- Website (See the previous page for details.)
- E-mail Discussion Group. Sign up at [www.jewishgen.org/ListManager/members\\_add.asp](http://www.jewishgen.org/ListManager/members_add.asp)
- Regional meetings and presentations
- Annual conference events

Membership benefits include:

- Listings in and access to the Gesher Galicia Family Finder
- Electronic and/or paper subscription to *The Galitzianer*, a quarterly journal focused on Galicia, and access to almost two decades of back issues online.

Annual membership is \$36 with electronic delivery of *The Galitzianer* or, with paper delivery, \$42 (U.S. residents) or \$49 (overseas residents). To join, go to [www.geshergalicia.org/membership](http://www.geshergalicia.org/membership)



*Pre-WWI borders of the Austrian Kronland (crown land) of Galicia. Western Galicia (west of the line) is now in southeastern Poland; Eastern Galicia is now in southwestern Ukraine. The entire region that had been Galicia was part of Poland between World Wars I and II.*