

**Gesher Galicia:
Report on IAJGS/Stern Grant
for Cadastral Map and Landowner Records Project**

Submitted by

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The growth of the free and public online Gesher Galicia Map Room collection from IAJGS 2013 to IAJGS 2014 includes more than 40 new historical maps, a rise of more than 70% overall in the past year:

- 22 new historical cadastral maps
- 7 new historical regional maps
- 7 new historical street maps
- 5 new historical special/thematic maps

We now have almost 100 historical maps online to aid history and genealogy research across the former land of Galicia.

A few of the valuable and unique maps we have acquired and posted in the past year are:

- Lemberg/Lwów/Lviv cadastral map 1853
- Leżajsk cadastral map 1853
- Drohobycz cadastral map 1853
- Tarnopol cadastral maps 1829 & 1862
- Czernowitz street map ca. 1910
- Stanisławów street map 1919
- Dębica cadastral map 1849
- Husiatyn cadastral map 1862
- Jarosław cadastral map ca. 1852
- Tłuste cadastral map 1858

Cadastral maps, still the core focus of our online collection and unique to our site, give researchers the geographic tools to overlay historical communities onto modern towns; to associate friends and neighbors, marriages, and business partners in spatial connections; to tie together the many religious and ethnic communities in towns and villages; and to study economic

developments in the places where our families grew. Although each map is a snapshot in time of a single town, the property numbering systems often persisted long after the town was surveyed, so the maps remain relevant to vital and property records for decades. Our approach of 'stitching' individual maps sheets into a highly-detailed seamless image simplifies viewing and understanding.

Beyond cadastral maps, research by our volunteer staff and by knowledgeable Geshher Galicia members (Logan Kleinwaks, Harrie Teunissen, and others) has allowed us to bring interesting and informative regional and thematic maps to our site; these provide important context to political and social situations affecting families across the land. A few of the new maps in these series include:

- Jewish population density map of Galicia 1910
- Eastern Galicia ethnographic map 1939
- Bukovina religions map 1900

Where a small investment allows, Geshher Galicia also acquires relevant antique paper maps from public auction, then scans and presents digital images of these maps for free on our site; in the past year, three Galician regional maps of this type have been acquired and posted.

Surveys and acquisitions continue to be driven by member interest, but ongoing formal and informal collaboration by Geshher Galicia with descendants' town-focus research groups has concentrated efforts to enable deeper intra- and inter-town study in specific areas (Lemberg/Lwów/Lviv, Drohobych, Kańczuga); the results of these joint projects benefit genealogists well beyond the active participants in the projects.

Behind the Map Room, key infrastructure enhancements in the past year include:

- transfer of the Map Room from a volunteer's personal website to a managed public server on Geshher Galicia's account
- expansion of archival sources beyond the original core in eastern Galicia to include key western Galicia sources via agreements with the Polish state archives in Przemyśl and Rzeszów, plus Polish digital libraries

- expansion of map area coverage to include Bukovina and its key town of Czernowitz, embracing a closely-allied region and sometime duchy of Galicia under Austrian rule
- ongoing professional connections via EU-sponsored programs with state and regional archivists in Europe who are focused on cadastral maps: digitization, access, documentation, and presentation

The 'record acquisition' part of our project, that is continuing to inventory the archives and then acquire digital images of varying types of landowner records has continued this year, involving more than twenty new towns. We are now working in the archives in Przemysl and Rzeszow in Poland, in addition to Ternopil and Lviv in Ukraine. We are also acquiring unusual documents labeled: "People Who Suffered During the War," which minutely details housing damage as a result of World War I. All family member are often listed, along with details and drawing of the houses.

Two indexing teams in Poland are involved with data entry from digital images, and once the Excel files are completed they are uploaded to the All Galicia Database (AGD) so they can be freely searched online. The AGD now has almost 300,000 records.

Key URLs for this project:

<http://www.geshergalicia.org/projects/cadastral-map-and-landowner-records/>

<http://maps.geshergalicia.org>

<http://search.geshergalicia.org>

<http://www.geshergalicia.org/inventory/cadastral-maps-and-records/>

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