Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan Webinar

offered in partnership with the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast

Polish Peasants' Lives in the 18th Century - Myths, Stereotypes, and Reality

presented by Piotr Zelny

Saturday, November 21, 2026
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time

This Zoom meeting is free and open to the public.

Pre-registration is required.
Invitations will be emailed to PGSM members.
Registration will be open to everyone at **pgsm.org** starting November 1.

This presentation provides an overview of the daily lives of Polish peasants in the 18th century. A wealth of details, interesting facts, and little-known historical information will be discussed. This includes details about the role and functioning of peasants in the feudal system of that time, including their rights, obligations, economic situations, and education. Unique 18th-century documents that can be used for genealogical research will be presented.

Piotr Zelny is a historian, archivist, mountain guide, genealogy researcher, and guide at the genealogical company PolishOrigins. He is also a staff member at the historical museum in Sanok Royal Castle in southeastern Poland.
Piotr received a master's degree in history, archival science, and historical source editions at the University of Adam Mickiewicz in Poznań, Poland.
He is a historian and a researcher of so-called microhistories, the histories of particular villages, families, people, and the events of their everyday lives. Piotr specializes in researching non-metrical genealogical sources, such as land, tax, school, and judiciary records, as well as other essential genealogical sources.
The aim of his research is not only to provide the names of people's ancestors and the important dates in their lives, but above all to discover their everyday lives, living conditions, financial situations, social status, land possession, localization of family houses, privileges, and obligations.