Polish Genealogy Tips, Tricks and Hacks

1. Use polish.typeit.org to easily type Polish letters
2. Use DeepL.com to translate to/from Polish and navigate websites
3. Use Mapa.Szukacz.pl to identify the gmina and powiat of an ancestral village in current day Poland
4. Search Google for "Gmina *Gmina Name*" to find the website of the Gmina
   a. Search the gmina website for your surname
   b. Search the gmina website for local history
   c. Search for gmina website for tourist attractions/lodging
   d. Search the gmina website or village for soltysi
5. Search for the Gmina on Facebook
   a. "Like" your Gmina!
6. Search Google for "*Village Name* Parafia"
   a. This should help you find the parish website for your village
   b. Search the parish website for your surname
   c. Search parish website for parish history
   d. Search parish website for historical list of pastors (proboszcz)
7. Search Google for "Your Surname and Parish Name"
8. Search Facebook for your ancestral parish
   a. "Like" your parish and stay up to date with what is going on
9. Use Pl.wikipedia.org for village and parish history
   a. More information provided on Wiki Poland than "our" wiki
   b. Translate entries using deepl.com
10. Use the Slownik Geograficzny: http://dir.icm.edu.pl/pl/Slownik_geograficzny
    a. Quickly locate the parish for your village
    b. Page 5 of every volume is the cover page and will tell you the letter at which the book starts
    c. Tom (Volume) 1 page 13: List of abbreviations used in village descriptions
    d. Tom 1 page 17 Measurement conversions to "modern" standards (see also any edition of PGSA's newsletter)
11. Search FamilySearch.org FIRST for church and civil records
    a. Make sure you create a free account and login before searching for records
12. Multiple FamilySearch Instances
    a. Login to FamilySearch on one tab, open another FamilySearch on another tab, etc.
13. Genealodzy.pl!!!
    a. Geneszukacz.genealodzy.pl: indices of records by wojewodztwo
    b. Geneteka.genealodzy.pl: scans of church records
    c. Skanoteka(?)
14. Use a good data capture form to record your findings.
    a. MUST INCLUDE SOURCES
15. Download whole metrical books from Szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl
    a. Makes searching easier and faster
16. Capture BOTH physical and virtual source information
17. Subscribe to PolGen blogs, websites, Facebook groups and genealogy organization e-newsletters
    a. Tons of good info to learn from
18. Virtual libraries in Poland
    a. https://lustrobiblioteki.pl/biblioteki-cyfrowe-polsce/
19. Use Geneszukacz to decipher illegible surnames
    a. Guess at the surname and search in the wojewodztwo, parish around the same time frame
20. The Cyrillic letter, Г, can represent G or H in Russian and H in Ukrainian

21. Search for your surname/ancestors in https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/
22. Search for your surname/ancestors in the Historical PlainDealer collection at cpl.org
    a. Library card required
23. Surname Endings in Polish and surname distribution (need to use Polish letters)
    a. Endings: http://nlp.actaforte.pl:8080/Nomina/Nazwiska?nazwisko=&typ=f
    b. Distribution: http://nlp.actaforte.pl:8080/Nomina/Ndistr
24. Poczta Polska
    a. https://www.poczta-polska.pl/
    b. Souvenirs!
    c. Lodging!