

A long time coming

As I have the right to obtain Polish **citizenship** by **descent**, I've been spending a great deal of time **getting to grips with** the Law on Polish citizenship and asking specialists for advice about which documents I need to **submit** for my application.

Obtaining Polish citizenship by descent is relatively **straightforward**. Considering the **uncertainty surrounding** Brexit, and the future **rights** of British citizens who wish to travel, live and work in the EU, holding **dual citizenship** might be very useful **down the line**. My father will apply for a Polish passport as well.

A few weeks ago, I hired a **genealogist** to **carry out research** on my Polish ancestors. I've learned some **revealing** things about my grandfather, such as the fact that the Soviets deported him and his family to Arkhangelsk, Russia, in 1940. My researcher has also discovered the names, birthplaces and **educational backgrounds** of my grandfather's siblings and parents.

Applying for Polish citizenship has made me wonder why so many people don't **take an interest in** their **roots** and **ancestors**. I certainly feel a little **guilty** for not visiting the villages connected with my ancestors when I lived in Poland **on and off** between 2006 and 2013.

So - what do you think? Should families research their family history and start a **family tree** together?

WORDS AND PHRASES

- **a long time coming** - arriving or happening after a lot of time has passed (here I refer to my regrets that it took such a long time to learn about my relatives)
- **citizenship** - the position or status of being a citizen of a particular country
- **(by) descent** - the origin or background of a person in terms of family or nationality
- **get to grips (with something)** - to start to deal with a problem, situation, or job that you have to do
- **submit** - to give or offer something for a decision to be made by others
- **straightforward** - uncomplicated and easy to do or understand
- **uncertainty** - a situation in which something is not known for sure
- **surrounding** - related to; around; involved with
- **rights** - a moral or legal entitlement to have or do something
- **dual citizenship** - the status of a person who is a legal citizen of two or more countries
- **down the line** - in the future
- **genealogist** - a person who traces or studies lines of family descent
- **carry out research (on something)** - a careful study of a subject (e.g. medical/historical/scientific), especially in order to discover new facts or information about it
- **revealing** - showing something that was not previously known or seen
- **educational background** - your educational background refers to all of the education you have received

- **take an interest (in something)** - be concerned or curious
- **roots** - family origins, or the particular place you come from and the experiences you have had living there
- **ancestor** - a person related to you who lived a long time ago (usually before grandparents)
- **(feel) guilty** - to feel intense regret for something
- **on and off** - only for part of a period of time; not in a regular or continuous way
- **family tree** - a diagram showing the relationship between people in several generations of a family