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*** WELCOME! ***

to the latest issue of Gen Dobry!, the e-zine of PolishRoots®. If you missed previous issues, you can find them here:

<http://polishroots.org/GenDobry/tabid/60/Default.aspx>

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Recently, I had the fantastic experience of walking through the Stockyards Bank, originally known as the Livestock National Bank in Chicago, at Exchange and Halsted Streets. This extraordinary bank structure is just about all that remains of that massive Chicago industry known as the Stockyards. From 1865 through 1971, Chicago was the meat capital of the U.S. and approximations lead us to believe that at one time, Chicago produced 82% of all meat consumed in this country. Those days are gone, and what remains is just a hint of what was.

The Stockyards Bank is a City of Chicago Landmark being maintained in an “existence nature” by the city waiting for someone to come along and develop it. This building was finished in 1926 and bears a distinct resemblance to Independence Hall in Philadelphia (see photo below). This was deliberate as 1926 was the 150th Anniversary of the United States of America. It has the bell tower, cupola, and east and west wings that emulated those of the founding fathers’ building in Pennsylvania. It has fallen on hard times recently as its last tenant was a flooring company that used it as a warehouse/sales center. But what history it has seen!

As any Polish researcher knows, laborers from Eastern Europe took any and all jobs that kept their families alive. As mining coal was not an option in Chicago, butchering and steel mills
provided jobs for those with strong backs. Many Poles, along with Czechs, Slovaks, Germans, Irish, Italians, Ukrainians, and Lithuanians, came to work at the stockyards and to raise their families in nearby neighborhoods. Thus was born that area of the city still known as Back of the Yards. Many Polish families settled here and recruits were quite evident for Haller’s Army in 1917-1919.

One of the largest recruitment rallies was held at Dexter Pavilion in 1917, with nearly 20,000 in attendance. This same Dexter Pavilion, less than a mile from the Stockyards Bank, burned down with most of the buildings in the Great Stockyards Fire of 1934. In its footprint rose the International Amphitheater, home to the infamous 1968 Democratic Convention, as well as entertainers Elvis Presley and the Beatles. Trade fairs, cars shows, and even rodeos and the circus played in this arena, and most of the attendance came from areas that housed those great ethnic conclaves, all related to the slaughterhouse industry.

Now, a supply company sits in the location where history was created and witnessed. Just down the street is the historical Stockyards gate, preserved in the early 70s by many groups in the area, especially the Stock Yards Area Kiwanis Club, which I served as President in the 1990s. That club was made up of many businessmen, a large percentage having Polish ethnicity, who started the club founded as the Town of Lake Kiwanis Club on December 8, 1936 and formally chartered on February 24, 1937. They met at the Stock Yards Inn, just across the street from the bank, which unfortunately burned in that fire of 1934 and was rebuilt, only to succumb to progress and the wrecking ball. The area now is destined for a parking lot for whoever develops the bank building.

If you ever had a relative living on the South-Southwest side of Chicago, chances are they had some connection to the Stockyards. Workers, butchers, bankers, drivers, truckers, waste disposal, shipping, railroad, canals, department of streets and sanitation for Chicago, just to name a few, worked to keep the Stockyards going 24/7.

If you ever get a chance, drive by this area to see where many Poles worked alongside all other groups of immigrants. It’s hard to fathom what was there, but anyone (my wife especially, who grew up six miles away from the yards) can tell that if the wind was blowing from the northeast, it passed over the yards and a company known as Darling, a tannery and processor of hides. Let us say, six miles away, you knew which way the wind was blowing. Another crazy part of the Stockyards’ history is that small inlet off the South Branch of the Chicago River that passes nearby. This inlet was commonly known as “Bubbly Creek,” but the bubbles were far from those we may envision in champagne. As animal waste was processed and disposed of down the sewers (some of which have been known to descend 90+ feet under the streets), leakage of waste would leach its way into the river and continue to decompose, thus the production of gas and the rising of bubbles in the water. Not only was it a horrible smell, but stories from the 19th and early 20th centuries tell of kids swimming in the creek, as the bubbles only added to the “fun.” I don’t think that would be happening anymore.

When I spoke with the City Director about the integrity of the bank before visiting it, (I was concerned as to the safety of the structure to walk through), I was told, “It’s built like a brick s**t
house.” People, who have met me, know that I am not a small individual. Walking all the way up to the clock tower, I never heard one creak or moan from a structure built to last. It’s a shame other buildings from this great historic area have not withstood man as well.

Past Presidents of the Stock Yards Area Kiwanis Club
(As taken from the last professionally printed Membership Directory - 1994)

1937 Steven Witmanski
1938 Frank Covert
1939 William Fuka
1940 Art Butler
1941 Dr. Matthew Deplewski
1942 Charles Detrick
1943 Anthony Vosyka
1944 Dr. Edwin Lukszewski
1945 P.J. Stransky
1946 Eugene Herder
1947 Steward W. Knarr
1948 Alfred Vlcek
1949 Dr. Frank Wojniak
1950 Dr. Walter V. Raczynski (Fellow dentist - Recruited me for membership)
1951 John Vlazny
1952 Eugene Hughes
1953 Dr. Marion Kostrubala (my great-uncle)
1954 Frank McDonough
1955 Dr. Otto Wagner
1956 Edward Zamon
1957 Roy Buell
1958 John Chudzik (possible relative)
1959 Joseph Vlack
1960 Al Schuh
1961 Stanley R. Broda (Funeral Director who buried a number of my family)
1962 Carl Klein
1963 Rowe Van Houten
1964 Carl L. Rosenbaum
1965 Thaddeus Chud
1966 Ervin Jezek
1967 Bruno Movrich
1968 Louis Ogonek
1969 Robert L. Northway
1970 Henri Grier
1971 Bill Becvar (another family member)
1972 Bob Fuka
1973 Rev. Eugene Vadoske
1974 David Moore
1975 Dr. John Poronsky (Fellow dentist)
1976 Rev. Frederick E. Ball
1977 Michael R. Fortino
1978 Rev. Robert Tremaine
1979 Edmund F. Babel
1980 Edmund F. Babel
1981 Dennis Neumann
1982 Dennis Neumann
1983 Dr. Alex Maniatis
1984 Richard T. Manak
1985 Richard T. Manak
1986 Richard T. Manak
1987 Timothy P. Grant
1988 Timothy P. Grant
1989 Helen D. Raczynski (Substantial activist in Chicago’s Polonia)
1990 Helen D. Raczynski
1991 Leonard Brettman (Resigned March 1992)
1992 Dr. Paul S. Valasek
1993 Dr. Paul S. Valasek
1994 Dr. Paul S. Valasek

<http://www.chicagohs.org/history/stock.html>

<http://www.historytools.org/sources/lithuanian.html>

<http://www.umich.edu/~eng217/student_projects/worstside/stockyards.html>
*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: The SSDI Bill

Editor—It’s good to see Sandy Miarecki paid attention to various warnings about possible closing public access to the Social Security Death Index (SSDI). She has been posting notes with valuable information to various mailing lists. This is a note she sent me to pass along to all interested parties—which should include most of you.

More info on the SSDI bill. Now there is a petition on the White House Web site that people can sign. I’m forwarding it to many different people and blogs. It might be worth a special notice e-mail to the Polish e-mail groups.

<http://wh.gov/khE>

The U.S. House of Representatives has been holding hearings recently about closing public access to the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) because of concerns that the Social Security numbers of deceased individuals could be used to commit fraud. Closing access to the SSDI will not address the growing problem of identity theft. What is needed is for all government agencies and businesses to use the Social Security Death Index for what it was actually created for—to combat fraud—by checking the Social Security numbers listed in it against the documents they’re receiving (such as tax returns).

The Records and Preservation Committee (RPAC), an international coalition of genealogy societies, has launched a campaign, Stop ID Theft NOW!, to keep the SSDI open to all who use it—not just genealogists, but forensic specialists, law offices, banks, and insurance companies. The White House petition needs 25,000 signatures before March 8th. Please share this information with anyone else who may be affected by this records closure.

Sandy

Editor—I know some of you have already signed this petition. But if you have not, please take a moment to do so. March 8th is approaching quickly, and I think genealogists will regret it if they don’t sign up—especially since when I just signed, I was signature # 4,671, with 20,329 more needed! You have to create a whitehouse.gov account to sign, and apparently some have had trouble doing so; but I had no trouble at all, and I have heard from quite a few people who succeeding in signing. I think they have the kinks worked out. You can speak up, too. Don’t wait; do it NOW!

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Subject: A Clickable Map of Poland’s Dioceses

I wanted to inform Gen Dobry! readers about this page:
This is a clickable map of Poland with links to the dioceses’ archives page, or in some cases to a JPEG map of the diocese. This is part of my Web site on Polish genealogy for French people of Polish origin, <http://www.geneapologne.com>. (The site is in French, but a clickable map is understandable for English speakers...)

The page is based on a map taken from the Częstochowa Metropolitan Web site—still a couple of dioceses missing, to be added soon.

There is an equivalent map for the Web site of the Head Office of the State Archives:


Philippe Christol

Editor—I believe we’ve mentioned Philippe’s site before, but it’s well worth mentioning again, and especially with the focus on his clickable map. I agree that you don’t have to speak French to understand intuitively how to use the map. My French is, unfortunately, rather primitive; but I had no trouble at all. And the map of the jurisdiction of the various offices of the State Archives is very useful.

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Subject: Polish Kitsch

Regarding the note in Gen Dobry! about Polish Kitsch and slipessy for slipper: the real Polish word she mentioned, pantofle, is not really Polish. It comes from the German word Pantoffel meaning, you guessed it, “slipper.” The same for my grandmother’s word for “potato,” kartofle, that is from the German Kartoffel; the true Polish word is ziemniak. I love the history of words!

RMPine

Editor—Aren’t words fascinating? I know not everyone shares in this interest, but I can get lost all day doing nothing but trying to trace the origins of words. My understanding is that ziemniak, for instance, is the proper Polish word for “potato,” and kartofle is dialect. But I’m also told pretty much anyone anywhere in Poland will know what you mean if you refer to kartofle. Of course, given the many centuries Germans and Poles have lived next to each other, and mixed and mingled, it’s not too surprising many German words have come to be used in Poland. I would have thought kartofle was used mostly in western Poland, in areas with large German populations and long ruled by Germany. But my wife’s ancestors came from the Warsaw area and what is now Lithuania, and kartofle is the word she always heard!

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Subject: Associated Press Bans Phrase “Polish Death Camps”

Editor—Paul S. Valasek forwarded this note, which he received from the Kosciuszko Foundation. He thought you’d like to know about it.

Dear Friends of The Kosciuszko Foundation,

The Associated Press has joined The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The San Francisco Chronicle, and Yahoo! Inc., in changing their Stylebook regarding concentration camps. According to David Minthorn, Deputy Standards Editor and AP Stylebook co-editor, the new entry in The AP Stylebook reads as follows:

concentration camps—For World War II camps in countries occupied by Nazi Germany, do not use phrases like Polish death camps that confuse the location and the perpetrators. Use instead, for example, death camps in Nazi-occupied Poland.

This is a major development because more than 1,700 newspapers and more than 5,000 television and radio broadcasters subscribe to the Associated Press. The AP Stylebook is the most widely-used journalistic style guide in the United States.

These changes can be attributed to you, the more than 300,000 people that have signed the Kosciuszko Foundation Petition on German Concentration Camps. <http://www.thekf.org/events/news/petition/>.

Thanks to all that have signed this petition. Your vigilance will ensure that the media is accurate in writing about German concentration camps in Nazi-occupied Poland.

The Kosciuszko Foundation will continue to collect signatures on this petition until all news outlets stop using the erroneous phrase. When you see that a news outlet makes this mistake, please direct them to the petition and show them that respectful news organizations no longer use this phrase.

All the best,

Alex Storozynski
President & Executive Director
The Kosciuszko Foundation
15 East 65th Street
New York, NY 10065
212-734-2130

Editor—About damned time!

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*** MORMONS AND BAPTIZING JEWS ***

Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

Recent issues of Nu? What’s New?, the e-zine of Jewish genealogical publishers Avotaynu, Inc., have documented still more instances of Mormons’ baptizing deceased Jews. Again and again, living Jews have complained about this; again and again, the LDS promises to stop it; and again and again, we hear it keeps happening. Among the latest cases were the parents of Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal, and Anne Frank! You would think anyone with more than two functioning brain cells would know these folks were Jews and would deeply resent being baptized posthumously.

But it’s not just Jews getting this treatment. The February 26 issue of Nu? mentioned that the great Polish resistance fighter and scholar, Jan Karski, has been baptized posthumously. (If his name is not familiar to you, Google it and learn more!). Nu? gave this link to a story about Karski: <http://tinyurl.com/86s8x64>.

I believe this problem has not been solved because it cannot be solved, unless the LDS revises its doctrines. If Donald Harman Akenson is correct in his assertions in the book Some Family: The Mormons and How Humanity Keeps Track of Itself, the LDS takes very seriously its task of documenting all mankind so that all men can be baptized after death and allowed their chance at redemption. If this is so, the LDS may say this and say that, whatever is expedient—but baptism of the dead will continue. From the Mormon point of view, how can you justly deny anyone’s ancestors the chance to accept this baptism? The LDS insists the person baptized by proxy is only given the opportunity to choose whether to accept it; no one is required to do so. My point is simply that if you look at the matter from the Mormons’ point of view, you can understand why they feel their actions are justified.

And yet ... well, once I’m dead, I’d just as soon people leave me alone. I’ve spent a lot of my life avoiding zealots who wanted to convert me to their faith; it just seems wrong somehow for them to have their way with me when I can no longer defend myself. And I would extend the same courtesy to others. To understand all is not to forgive all...

In any case, Nu mentioned that the comedian Stephen Colbert spent much of a recent show on this. Nu gave a link, but I guess it’s been overused and no longer works. But I Googled “Colbert Mormons Baptisms,” and one of the first matches was a Mediaite.com article that included a functioning link to that segment of the February 23, 2012 Colbert Report. It was tasteless and very funny (but don’t watch it if you’re easily offended).

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*** POLISHORIGINS DATABASES: NEW RESOURCES AND SEARCH TIPS ***

Editor—This is the latest report sent out by Zenon Znamirowski and the team at PolishOrigins.com.

Gen Dobry!, Vol. XIII, No. 2, February 2012 — 8
In this day and age, the Internet is often the starting point of the quest to discover your family roots. Indeed, a growing number of historical resources become available online. However, a Google search may return thousands and even millions of Web sites, and it may be difficult to find the information you need, particularly when it is in a language that you do not understand.

How can the PolishOrigins Databases tool help you in your genealogical research? The PolishOrigins Databases (POD) tool offers a range of carefully selected Polish and English websites and databases related to Polish genealogy. Recently we added five new valuable sources, click here to see all the pages and databases indexed in POD:

<http://polishorigins.com/document/pgd_indexed_sites>

You simply enter a surname, place name or date in the POD search box, and you get a list of Web sites containing the word or phrase you are interested in. When you click a link, the Web site’s content is instantly translated into understandable English by means of the Google Translate technology. Click here to read more about the PolishOrigins Databases tool:

<http://polishorigins.com/document/pgd_info>

To help you to make the most of the tool and to make your research easier we prepared research tips for you (full version of the article you can find here, POD - Practical Tips):

<http://polishorigins.com/document/pgd_practical_hints>

1. Simple search

You may enter words without the typically Polish letters with diacritical marks (the tails and dots, often mistakenly called “accents”). But to get more search results, you can click the on-screen keyboard next to the search box to enter the “Polish letters”. In our example, the second letter in Józef is an o with an “accent”.

(See print screen #1 here: <http://polishorigins.com/public/pictures/POD_1a_simplesearch.png>)

2. More specific search

You can put the whole phrase in inverted commas to refine your search. If you type “Józef Markiewicz”, you will see pages containing this specific combination of first name and surname. Instances with Polish case or gender endings (for example Józefa Markiewicza) will be omitted in the results.

(See print screen #2 here: <http://polishorigins.com/public/pictures/POD_2_quotationmarks.png>)

You can also add the name of a city, village or region connected with your ancestors, e.g. Wilno (Vilnius).
Let’s type: *Markiewicz Wilno*. This search will return pages containing the surname Markiewicz and Wilno. You do not need to type the AND operator.

Of course, you can also add a year or a few different years, for example

Markiewicz Wilno 1940 1945

to get search results including these years.

If you are looking for a place name that consists of two or more words, put it in inverted commas for better results, for example: “Kazimierz Dolny” or “Kazimierz nad Wisłą”.

(See print screen #3 here: <http://polishorigins.com/public/pictures/POD_3_name_and_date.png>)

3. The OR operator
Suppose you are not sure about the spelling of a surname. Is it Kruszewski or Kraszewski? If you want to find pages containing either of these names, please type *Kruszewski OR Kraszewski*. Both letters in OR have to be in uppercase. Instead of OR, you can use the | symbol (the key is located above the Enter key on most keyboards).

(See print screen #4 here: <http://polishorigins.com/public/pictures/POD_4_operatorOR.png>)

4. Excluding words or phrases from your search
Suppose you are looking for the Markiewicz family, but you are not interested in people connected with Wilno (Vilnius). In this case, you should type *Markiewicz -Wilno*.

You simply type a “minus” sign before the word to be excluded (no space between).

(See print screen #5 here: <http://polishorigins.com/public/pictures/POD_5_exclusion.png>)

5. Wild card *
The asterisk * can be used as a wild card representing a word you are not sure about.

For example, you are looking for the Markiewicz family connected with a town whose name contains the word *Nowy* (meaning “new”).

Please type *Markiewicz Nowy * or, better still, *Markiewicz “Nowy *”* (with quotation marks) and you will get pages with towns such as Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki, Nowy Targ, or Nowy Sącz.

(See print screen #6 here: <http://polishorigins.com/public/pictures/POD_6_wildcard.png>)

6. Searching for a name and a range of numbers
Last, but not least, a trick worthy of a true Internet wizard! Let’s assume that you are interested in Web pages mentioning the surname *Markiewicz* but you want to focus on the time after the Second World War instead.
You can get more relevant results by typing *Markiewicz 1945..1989*.

Using the X..Y operator (with two dots or periods in the middle) will return any number in the range between X and Y.

(See print screen #7 here: <http://polishorigins.com/public/pictures/POD_7_numericrange.png>)


Or go directly to the PolishOrigins Databases <http://polishorigins.com/databases/> and start your search equipped with the new tips.

Sławomir, Zenon & Team

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*** + WISŁAWA SZYMBORSKA + ***

While our primary focus is on Polish genealogy, I think anyone with experience in tracing family history will understand why we also include information on many different aspects of Polish culture and history. That includes mention of some of Poland’s leading cultural figures. One of the best ways to fight the stereotype of the dumb you-know-who is to know and appreciate some of the magnificent people who have lived and still live in Poland.

One such person was Wisława Szymborska, a poet, essayist, and translator who, oh yeah, happened to win the 1996 Nobel Prize in Literature. She died February 1, 2012 at the age of 88.

Perhaps it’s best if I simply mention the fact of her death, and leave it to a Polish American poet, John Guzlowski, to speak of the significance of her life more eloquently than I can:

<http://writingpolishdiaspora.blogspot.com/2012/02/wisawa-szymborska-died-today.html>

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*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

**Sunday, March 4, 2012**

**DU BOIS, ILLINOIS CASIMIR PULASKI POLISH FESTIVAL**

*Time: 10:00am – 5:00pm*

10:00 a.m. - *The Polka Mass starts at 10 a.m. at The St. Charles Catholic Church…”Polka” Mass is completely spoken in Polish.*

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1:00 p.m. - *Parade starts at 1:00pm.

Location: Mule Barn, 22 North Railroad Street, Du Bois IL 62831, (618) 787-2751

St. Charles Catholic Church, 223 South 3rd Street, Du Bois, IL 62831

CONTACT: Mrs. Irene Demazyn 618-878-2099

The parade starts at 1 o’clock. The Polka Mass starts at 10 a.m. at The St Charles Catholic Church…”Polka” mass is completely spoken in Polish.

HISTORY OF POLISH FEST:

Du Bois, Illinois, has a population of about 250 people, many of them of Polish decent. Seventeen years ago a few people decided to celebrate the town’s Polish heritage and honor the soldier Casimir Pulaski (Kazimierz Pułaski).

A town parade was held on the Sunday before Casimir Pulaski Day, the first Monday in March. A local tavern, The Mule Barn, served Polish food to about 100 people that first year.

The parade has grown to more than 100 entries, with 2,000 to 3,000 people in attendance. Polish food is now made and served at the parish center, along with polka dancing after the parade. There are two parade marshals: the oldest person in the parish and the youngest baptized child.

The Friday before the big celebration, the Polish ladies are busy making homemade noodles and Polish duck soup (called czarnina), pierogi, goląbki, and of course Polish sausage, plus other traditional Polish food.

People come from all over to celebrate Polishfest, including Missouri, Indiana, Kentucky, and northern Illinois.

One of the highlights of the event is cow patty bingo. People buy a number, then place them in a field. The person who bought the number the cow drops a cow patty on is the winner.

[From an e-mail set by Deborah Hutson]

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March 21, 2012
MARCH MEETING OF THE EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
University of Winnipeg Library, 5th floor Collections room, 515 Portage Ave.

Presenters Linwood Delong and Brad Russell will speak on “Introduction to University of Winnipeg Family History Resources & Map Library Tour.”
From an e-mail sent by Bill Kuz

Friday, April 20 to Monday, April 23, 2012

UNITED POLISH GENEALOGY SOCIETIES 2012
Salt Lake Plaza Hotel
122 W South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

The Polish Mission at St. Mary’s of Orchard Lake is happy to chair this biennial event. The Polish Mission and its genealogy center, the Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI), have arranged for Barbara Berska PhD, Deputy Director of the State Archives of Poland, to be our keynote speaker. PARI is organizing the conference with the support of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, the Polish Genealogical Society of California, and the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan.

Two popular speakers are returning this year. Noted Warsaw genealogist, Tomasz Nitsch, and Steve Morse, who will introduce his One-Step Webpage for the 1940 U.S. Census. We will meet in Salt Lake City, Utah at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, which is next door to the Family History Library (FHL). This world-renowned genealogy library holds international books, maps, microfilm, and digital databases. Researchers can access a wealth of Polish records on over 28,000 rolls of microfilm. Believe me, few of these records are on the Internet!

We balance the event to allow research in the library as well as time to attend classes with noted Polish genealogists and leaders in the field. The conference includes the lecture series, conference syllabus, hospitality, and an evening banquet. Individual consultations will be available with fellow genealogists. The conference is designed help researchers start or advance their Polish family research.

Interested folks can download the program and registration form at:

<https://docs.google.com/open?id=0B6t-MBwNeBqNzk4Yj1NTgtZGQ0OC00MjJiLWE5OTItMDcxOWIwZDA2Nzkw>

We also have online registration at: <http://www.upgs.eventbrite.com>

[From an e-mail sent by Ceil Jensen]

April 21 – 22, 2012
9th ARIZONA POLISH FESTIVAL
Phoenix, Arizona
9th Arizona Polish Festival April 21 & 22 2012 – Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish (2828 W Country Gables Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85053), Visitors can enjoy a variety of activities while indulging in delicious Polish cuisine and sipping on refreshing imported Polish beer. Learn about Poland’s past and present by visiting interesting exhibits and check out the souvenir boutique where you’ll find a wide variety of traditional Polish jewelry, crafts, national ornaments, T-shirts, hats and more. Guests will also enjoy dynamic performances by traditional folk dancers, live music, and raffle and fun activities for the whole family. Free, Saturday 10 a.m. – 9 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. <www.polishfestivalaz.org>, 480-44-AZPOL (29765).

[From a note sent to PolishRoots by Sylvia Gladkowska-Fedzin, <sylvia@polishfestivalaz.org>]

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May 20, 2012

MEETING OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Cynthia Piech, who has, until recently, been a PGSA board member for a number of years, will speak about the 1940 census at the May 20 meeting. The presentation will include what is on the census, how to search the census using Steve Morse’s one-step search tool, and how to volunteer to index the 1940 census.

Cynthia Piech has been researching her Polish family genealogy for 14 years, both in the U.S. and in Poland. She has written articles about, and has been a speaker on, Polish genealogy. She is a long time member and volunteer for the PGSA, and is also a member of the National Genealogical Society, the Genealogical Speakers Guild, and the Association of Professional Genealogists.

[From a note sent out by Harry Kurek of PGSA]

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June 25 – August 17, 2012

INTENSIVE ELEMENTARY POLISH FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES
Loyola University, Chicago

The Polish Studies Program at Loyola University Chicago, through generous support by American Council of Learned Societies, is pleased to announce that it will be offering Intensive Elementary Polish for Research Purposes in Summer 2012. The course is designed for students (graduate and undergraduate) specializing in a host of disciplines in which Poland and/or Polish plays a part. Intensive Elementary Polish is designed to enable students to acquire a functional reading and speaking knowledge of the language while introducing them to Polish Culture. The course will utilize a host of media catered to the academic interests of the students. Loyola University Chicago is ideally located on the north shore of Lake Michigan and is a very strong presence in Chicago’s large Polish Community.
Tuition for the course is waived for graduate students specializing in Central/Eastern European Studies. There are no prerequisites for this course. It assumes no prior knowledge of the Polish language. Class size is limited and admission is competitive. Class meets 5 hours per day, Monday through Friday, for total of 90 contact hours. Students will receive 6 credits upon successful completion of the course.

Course dates: June 25th – August 17th

For more information contact Bożena Nowicka McLees at (773) 508-2850 or <bmclees@luc.edu>

[From a posting to the SEELANGS mail list.]

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July 15-18, 2012

THE 32ND IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY PARIS, FRANCE 
A full Bilingual French & English Conference

The conference will be held at the Marriott Rive Gauche Hotel in Paris. Rather than repeat all the information available on this amazing event, let us direct you to the Conference Web site, <http://www.paris2012.eu>, where you can get the whole story.

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*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***

<http://poznan-project.psn.pl>

James Birkholz posted a note to the Posen mailing list from Łukasz Bielecki saying the Poznań Project has moved to a faster server with an individual DNS entry. He gave this URL. Those of you who use the Project would be well advised to make a note of it.

<https://www.xoom.com/money-transfer-fees>

People often ask how best to send money to Poland. Joe Armata—who makes a habit of posting solid, reliable info—answered a question about this on the Poland-Roots list. He wrote, “If you want to send money to a bank account in Poland (bank transfers are how Poles typically pay for things, like we use checks), I’ve used Xoom (<http://www.xoom.com>). You have to sign up with them (free), then if you link your own U.S. bank account, the transfer costs only $4.99; or if you use a credit card, it costs $9.99 for up to $100 transfer, and more for higher sums.” He gave this URL for more information on their fees.
Magda Romanska posted a note to the Facebook group “Polish American Writers & Editors” about this quarterly journal, *New Eastern Europe*, on the affairs of central and eastern Europe. You can learn more on its Web site at the above URL. On the page “About NEE,” the magazine is described as “co-financed by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the grant programme Promocja wiedzy o Polsce (“Promotion of Knowledge about Poland”). Additional funding is provided by our partner – the European Solidarity Centre. *New Eastern Europe* is written in English as the sister edition of the Polish version, *Nowa Europa Wschodnia*, which is published by the College of Eastern Europe.” This might be worth keeping an eye on.

On February 10, Thomas Weiss posted a very good note on “Galician Military Records photographed by the LDS” to the JewishGen newsgroup and, if I’m not mistaken, others. It’s a rather long note, and it seems silly to repeat it all here when I can give you a link where you can read the whole thing! Let’s just say, if you have roots in Galicia, you may find this worth reading.

I had never noticed before this list of terms and abbreviations often encountered in the names of various Polish societies. I often see people online asking about this or that Polish society; the names and terms can be quite confusing if you’re not familiar with them. I’d suggest bookmarking this URL, or downloading the PDF and saving it for future reference.

The February 4 issue of *Nu? What’s New?* mentions this site, which is apparently an effort to promote better standards among sites offering data. This is definitely an idea worth encouraging. You can learn more by visiting and reading about the code.

Maralyn Wellauer-Lenius was one of many people who shared the information that FamilySearch will be raising the price of microfilm rentals by 50%. You can read the announcement at the above site.

Andrew Zuba posted a note to the Poland-R mailing list about the progress in establishing a New Hampshire Division of the Polish American Congress. He wrote, “We have enough paid members to move forward ... Tony Bajdek called me last week with the GREAT news. We cover political, cultural, religious and educational initiatives of interest to Polonia in America and Poland herself. If you have any interest in supporting out the New Hampshire Division please contact me off list.” If anyone wishes to contact Drew, write to me and I’ll forward your note to him; or you can learn more on the Web page listed above.
Chris Bukoski sent out a note about this site, which she discovered while Googling the Cyrillic spelling of one of her ancestral surnames. It allows you to access telephone directories of cities in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova. She added, “By digging around, I found they have directories for other eastern European cities and countries. Check it out!” This goes to show, spending time Googling anything and everything that might be relevant to your research is not a waste of time! It can lead to discoveries you never would have found any other way.

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