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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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Genealogy continues to grow in popularity—who knew it would ever become the subject of not one but two successful television shows? We can all rejoice in the greater availability of resources for family history research. I find it incredible how many more resources there are for the Polish genealogist now than when I first became interested in the field, back in the 1980s.

Still, it’s not all sunny skies. One thing that’s concerning me more and more is the whole question of access to records. If you have been reading the last few issues of *Gen Dobry!*, you know there is real concern that access to records we need will be closed by legislation in a misguided attempt to protect security and privacy. That fight continues: access to the Social Security Death Index remains endangered, and see Sandy Miarecki’s note in the Letters to the Editor.

But I’m also worried about records in other countries, primarily, of course, Poland. For one thing, the Catholic Church has made it pretty clear the days of cooperating with LDS efforts to film parish records have ended, perhaps for good. Many of the records we need have already been filmed, but by no means all. Much of southeastern Poland, in particular, is absent from the Family History Library Catalog, and there’s little hope that will change.

Even more troubling is what genealogy has done to the some of the most priceless original sources, the actual parish registers that document our ancestors’ lives. These books are perishable, and all the handling they are getting these days has only sped up their deterioration. The only registers that aren’t the worse for wear are the ones local pastors refuse to let anyone touch. Even they are not immune to fires, floods, insects, and so on.

That’s why I’ve been particularly struck by the way certain individuals have stood up and decided to make a difference. The best example I know is the work of Debbie Greenlee to preserve the parish registers of Bukowsko, in Sanok powiat, Podkarpackie province (far southeastern Poland). She’s not the only one who’s stepped forward to preserve records, but I find her efforts particularly fascinating.

Debbie is quite active in Polish American genealogy, and often speaks up on various mailing lists, especially the Polish Genius list and the Bukowsko Triangle group on Yahoo. She has visited Poland numerous times, and she has seen for herself the state of those parish sacramental registers that hold so much information vital to genealogists.

She’s not the kind of person to sit idly by while a problem gets worse; so she found a solution. She worked out an agreement with the pastor of the parish church in Bukowsko to preserve digital copies of the registers, provide him a copy on CD, and oversee indexing the entries. Then when the priest is asked for info from the registers, he can just refer people to Debbie. That saves the books a great deal of wear and tear; it saves the priest time and aggravation dealing with genealogists’ requests/demands; and it saves the information for the future. Everybody wins!
You can see some of the results for yourself: <http://semanchuk.com/gen/data/debbieg/BukowskoBaptisms1802-1940/>.

Let’s let Debbie tell us how this project developed and how it works.

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It took me about 10 years of letter writing, visiting, and donations to get on the good side of the priest in Bukowsko. Now, we are buds. ;)

Not speaking enough Polish, I always brought a local with me to translate. Over the years I’ve met a lot of relatives and made friends with many locals, so I have a few free translators from which to choose. I have become so well-known in Bukowsko I am referred to as the Bukowsko Ambassador. It has its perks. ;)

My agreement with the Bukowsko priest was that I would give him all the records on CDs. At least they would not succumb to bugs, water, damage, and misuse. I promised that I would transcribe the records and put those transcriptions on the internet. I also agreed to do his look-ups and told him to send everyone my way who wanted records. I promised never to put the actual images of the records online, though I would provide individual images to researchers. Once the records are transcribed, I charge $2.00 per record to send an image to someone. This money goes to the priest. His load was lightened and he gets a little money.

If records have not been transcribed, then I charge $1.00 per year per person to look-up the records. $3.00 goes to me and $2.00 goes to the priest.

Volunteers from Bukowsko Triangle help me transcribe the records. Every volunteer who transcribes more than 30 pages is given as many images as they request for free. To date, we have finished 11 books and are in the middle of the 12th. I am slowly proof-reading (ugh!) a register of banns that was transcribed last year.

At first my husband, Dave, and I photographed the books ourselves, using a digital camera. The priest allowed us to photograph the books in his dining room which, on a sunny day, had pretty good light. More often than not, the lighting was an issue. We also had to figure out a way to photograph pages faster. We started using a towel so we could spin the book and shoot one page upside down and one right-side up. I decided a Lazy Susan was needed, but one big enough to hold a book that measured 16” x 16” when opened. I brought a lightweight one from home. Still things went slowly. At first we were only allowed to film when the priest was home. That changed and he allowed us to film when he was even out of town! I knew where he kept his books so I was able to inventory what he had and make decisions on what to photograph.

I found that even though we took great care when photographing pages, for one reason or another I would have to re-shoot pages when we returned to Bukowsko in two years.
In 2010 I decided we still needed to move faster in copying the books. Through a Jewish member of Bukowsko Triangle, I connected with a professional photographer who lives in Kraków. He photographs records for other organizations. Leszek wasn’t cheap and I had to pay his travel expenses, food, and lodgings, as well as for his work. I decided it had to be done. The parish record books should have been sent to the diocesan archives a long time ago (though if they had been, I would not have had access to them). The books were disintegrating, and I knew some books had been lost to a fire in the late 1940s.

Leszek was so fast, I decided to approach the parish priest in Nowotaniec, as well, with my photography project. I had tried several times during previous trips to meet with this priest but something always prevented this; the bishop was there, the priest’s father died, etc. July 2010 was it.

Rather than write how I got a project going here, I’d like to refer you to my Trip Diary Page 2, towards the end of Thursday, July 8 and the end of Friday July 9; see <http://www.polishfamily.com/p4e/>.

In January 2012, I contacted Leszek and asked for an estimate on what it would cost to photograph 35 more books, including all of the books from Nowotaniec parish. $840.00. Yikes! I’d already paid for him in 2010, so I decided to ask the Bukowsko Triangle members for donations. Interestingly, all of the volunteer transcribers sent money, along with a few other people from the “Triangle.” I ended up receiving enough money to pay Leszek. Work was to have been done in February but the priest in Nowotaniec had sent books out to be rebound. It’s always something. Hopefully, the project will be finished this month. I made the same deal with this priest that I did with the one in Bukowsko. I did tell Leszek to make CDs for the priest and give them to him, telling him I paid for them.

Note: if a photographer is hired, he must be instructed to photograph every single scrap of paper in a book, make sure page numbers are in the image, and make sure the images are readable. He has to mail me either a flash drive or CDs with all the images.

After I get home with the images, I have to separate them into folders, renumber each image as a page number, turn all pages right side up, make up assignment charts, instructions, and tables. I e-mail images to each volunteer, two to six pages at a time. Those are returned and I proofread them. Before a book is uploaded to the “Debbie Greenlee Library” at <http://semanchuk.com/gen/>, I have to write up an introduction, etc.

Once a book is transcribed and uploaded, I copy it onto a disk and give that, along with the money I have received for records, to the priest when I visit next time. The bookkeeping is pretty involved.

Life is good.
Pretty cool set-up, isn’t it?

Of course, not all the projects Debbie has undertaken are quite so intense. She has read all of the names in the Bukowsko cemetery, transcribed them, and placed the list on Poland Gen Web. She’s done the same with several other Polish cemeteries of smaller size. She’s transcribed names from memorials and churches that she’s come across and placed those on Poland Gen Web. You can see examples at [http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~polwgw/polandarchives.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~polwgw/polandarchives.html), under “Tombstone Inscriptions,” sub-category “Poland,” and under “War Memorials” and “Priests in Poland.”

Now I’m not telling you this to praise Debbie—although I don’t mind saying, I admire her determination and ingenuity. My main point is, these are ways an American who doesn’t even speak Polish fluently has figured out how to preserve Polish records. She doesn’t try to save the entire country; she focuses on the area she knows best, the area where she can make a difference. It’s a small but significant achievement.

What’s to stop others from doing likewise? You don’t necessarily have to do the exact same thing, of course. It took Debbie 10 years to show the local priest she could be trusted; few of us can afford to invest that kind of time and effort. But the point is to get involved and figure out how to accomplish the work. You say she’s only saving records for one or two villages; but if 50 people do something along the same lines, that’s 50 or 100 villages that do not lose the history of their people. That amounts to something monumental—especially if it’s one of your ancestral villages that gets its records preserved!

I would think the one thing absolutely necessary is to make local contacts. Visit the area your ancestors came from, and learn about it. Find a few people who can be trusted, and start asking questions. Someone will have to be found who cares about the local history, knows what to do, and can gain the confidence of the parish pastor. Many of these priests are sick to death of being pestered by genealogists, to the point they flatly refuse to cooperate with anyone who wants to look at their books. The Vatican’s ban on assisting the LDS has given them a good excuse to do what they already wanted to do anyway. They will undoubtedly be suspicious of any foreigner’s attempts to “steal their records”; they will only cooperate with someone they can trust.

But if such a person can be found, volunteers can help defray his or her expenses. Many a village has its local historian, someone who’d probably love to do this, but can’t afford the expense. Maybe we can contribute just enough to make the difference.

In a hundred villages, there may be a hundred ways to get this done, each differing from the other. But as we see, a Polish-American woman living in Arlington, Texas who does not speak Polish found a way to save the parish registers of Bukowsko. This can serve as an example for another individual, and maybe another. Really, when you come down to it, that’s the only way anything ever gets done: a motivated individual decides to get up and change the status quo.

Is there any way you could do this?
*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: LDS Posthumous Baptisms

In your recent issue of *Gen Dobry!*, you mentioned the situation regarding the posthumous baptisms conducted by members of the LDS. I am certain that you read *Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter*, so are aware of the entry he had in a recent issue.

<http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2012/03/mormon-leaders-warn-members-to-heed-rules-on-proxy-baptisms.html#more>

It appears to be something of a positive development, but only time will tell.

For my part, I would be unhappy if continued efforts to effect these baptisms resulted in lessened availability of church records. I have found these records to be of unimaginable value in my family history efforts. In fact, it is unlikely I would ever have been able to get past my two immigrant grandfathers in doing research into our Polish family. As it is, I have some lines going back to the 1600s. This is completely a result of access to the microfilmed data, readily available at reasonable cost.

I am now able to fill in entire families and have helped determine connections to “cousins” with whom we would have forever just surmised were our relatives. As a result I have expanded knowledge of our entire family and how it has spread out, and have connected with nice people I would never have known.

For a few overzealous and misguided people to cause a loss of this data is more than unfortunate, and would be a loss for all time.

Keep up your good work with the newsletter. I always look forward to receiving it, and finding useful information.

Tom Pajak

*Editor*—I really appreciate the note, and the kind words. I did read that *EOGN* article, and I’ve begun to be cautiously optimistic because of this and subsequent articles. I also read in the March 18th issue of *Nu? What’s New?* that “every person who has access to the secret database located at New.FamilySearch.org received the directive by e-mail. The message reiterated that ‘without exception, Church members must not submit for proxy temple ordinances any names from unauthorized groups, such as celebrities and Jewish Holocaust victims. If members do so, they may forfeit their new family-search privileges. Other corrective action may also be taken.’” I’m still a little skeptical. I wonder if any of this is window-dressing to lower the public heat on the LDS? I may be wrong, however, and I hope I am!
Subject: Limitations on New York Records

Editor—Sandy Miarecki was kind enough to send me this, and I wanted to pass it along.

I saw this notice in the Indiana blog and thought I should share. It only takes 30 seconds to sign the petition to stop limitations to New York records for genealogy. Here is a copy of the post.

Sandy in CA

Dear All:

Next week I will be attending a meeting at the Mayor’s office with a small committee of archivists, genealogists and local historians at the request of Gale Brewer, Chair of the Committee for Governmental Affairs on the NYC Council. The issue of whether DORIS, the agency that manages the Municipal Archives and the mayoral records, should be merged with DCAS, a mega-sized administrative agency, will be discussed. The mayor and his office are still pushing for the merger. Archival, genealogical and historical groups are still working to stop this merger as we see no benefit and a great deal of potential for endangering record access and preservation of NYC’s records that are important to family, community, city and mayoral history. Gale Brewer and many of her committee members agree that this merger should not take place. But we need your voices and your help too. Please sign the petition by using the link directly below. Also below, you will see the statement you will be supporting by signing.

<http://www.nycarchivists.org/doris_petition>

We, the undersigned, are opposed to this legislation (Int. 486-2011), which would significantly downgrade the authority of the Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) within City government and potentially put at risk its ability to preserve, protect and make accessible the intellectual legacy of one of the world’s greatest cities.

We are also asking that you forward this to researchers and fellow members of historical and genealogical societies and universities all over the US. This merger will impact anyone interested in NYC record access and preservation, no matter where they live.

About 1500 people have already signed from a number of different organizations and universities and as private individuals. We need more signatures and as quickly as possible before this legislation is passed. We need support for the preservation of DORIS as an autonomous records agency with the funding and professional respect it deserves, to allow our own and future generations, to have access to the records that tell all the stories that make up the fabric of this great city.
Editor—And so it continues. Legislators, no doubt with good intentions, keep finding the wrong solution to problems, solutions that don’t hinder the bad guys but jerk the good guys around. Oh, well, folks, we just have to teach them better!

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*** JRI-POLAND SURNAME MAPPER ***

Stanley Diamond <smdiamond@aol.com>

Editor—I received a copy of a press release sent out by Stanley Diamond, Executive Director of Jewish Roots Indexing-Poland. He thought our readers would like to know about a new feature at JRI-Poland, and I agree.

JRI-Poland introduces new tool to graphically follow families in the records of Poland

Jewish Records Indexing–Poland today announced the “Surname Distribution Mapper,” a tool designed to help genealogy researchers graphically understand where their family names first appeared in the 19th century records and visualize how the family spread throughout Poland by decades from the early 1800s into the first part of the 20th century.

Stanley Diamond, JRI-Poland executive director, described the new feature as follows: Using modern mapping technology provided by Google Maps, the Surname Distribution Mapper allows users to graphically display their search results using a tree icon to indicate the number of entries found for a surname in a town’s vital and other records. By running the cursor over each tree icon, a user can view a popup window displaying the number of vital record entries found in various towns in the JRI-Poland database. Clicking on the balloon brings the user to the familiar JRI-Poland search results for detailed viewing of a town’s entries.

Additionally, and especially exciting for researchers, the Surname Distribution Mapper can display results for specific decades or in a “progressive mode,” where tree icons appear successively by decade to give the researcher an idea of the movement of their family around Poland and the Western Ukraine.

“The Surname Distribution Mapper enables a researcher to experience visually much of what we had only been able to do conceptually,” explained Robinn Magid, Lublin Archives Project Coordinator and long-time JRI-Poland board member. “Our goal is to quickly determine where a person should focus their research energy to obtain results beyond what the family’s oral history might recollect.”
“JRI-Poland database manager Michael Tobias has given us the gift of highlighting migration patterns and spotlighting probable ‘home bases’ for families. The Surname mapper takes genealogy search results to a new level,” she said.

“This is yet another example of the high quality applications that are coming to Jewish genealogy Web sites” commented Gary Mokotoff, publisher of Avotaynu, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy. “Through records of your ancestors, it is a magnificent pictorial representation where they lived and the geographic time frame in which their records were created,” he added.

The JRI-Poland Surname Distribution Mapper is now live and can be initiated from the “search database” link on the JRI-Poland Home Page at <www.jri-poland.org>.

Visit <www.jri-poland.org> to read the announcement and begin using this special feature.

About Jewish Records Indexing - Poland

The mission of Jewish Records Indexing - Poland (JRI-Poland) is to create searchable on-line indices of Jewish records from current and former territories of Poland. Where such records are available, they may include towns that are now part of Ukraine, Lithuania and Belarus.

With more than 4.5 million records indexed, JRI-Poland is the largest online database of Jewish vital records.

JRI-Poland is an independent non-profit tax-exempt Organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Under special arrangement, the JRI-Poland web site, mailing list, and database are hosted by JewishGen.

For more information, please contact

Stanley Diamond
5599 Edgemore Ave
Montreal, Quebec H4W 1V4
CANADA
<SMSDiamond@aol.com>

Editor—In a separate note, Stanley added this:

There is another aspect of the Surname Mapper not mentioned in the release.

The close to 5 million records (hundreds of thousands are not online due to lack of funding or because of the Polish 100-year privacy laws) from more than 500 towns provides a critical mass of Jewish records data, not matched by any other Eastern European country.

Thus, it is probably the only country in Europe—where Jewish records were kept separately—
where the Mapper could be currently applied with meaningful results. Of course, our data also includes that area of Galicia now in Ukraine.

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*** EURO CHARTER REITERATES ANTI-DOPING MESSAGE ***

by Raymond Rolak

Editor—While this article has no particular connection with Polish genealogy, I think you can argue it deals with a subject of interest to Poles and Americans alike.

WARSAW—When the EURO team doctors pledged to back UEFA’s mission for a drug-free tournament, it was just the latest example of the European body’s tireless anti-doping campaign.

Footballers, either budding youngsters or seasoned professionals, are being given the constant word that taking drugs and trying to illegally enhance performance will cost them dearly—and perhaps cost them their careers.

The recent signing of a charter by the 16 team doctors of the UEFA EURO 2012 national sides in Warsaw, pledging to back UEFA’s mission for a drug-free tournament in Poland and Ukraine, was the latest event in what has become a tireless campaign by UEFA to emphasize that drugs and doping have no place in the sport.

UEFA and its associations are united in telling footballers young and old: it is their body, their responsibility, their career. “The charter is a symbol of our commitment,” said Alan Byrne, team doctor of the Republic of Ireland, who signed the charter on behalf of his national association. “If you look at doping in general, I suppose you all want to play on a level playing field, that’s the first issue. No one likes cheating, and doping is cheating.”

For UEFA EURO 2012, the team doctors have promised in the charter to support UEFA’s strategy by ensuring that their teams’ players and staff are appropriately educated on anti-doping issues, and that doping in all forms will not be tolerated within the teams. The message is being delivered to players at every level that taking drugs is a stupid way either to harm a promising career or to nip a fully-fledged career in the bud. “We spend a lot of time talking to youth coaches in Ireland about their role in terms of educating their players, young players, about anti-doping issues,” he told the editors.

Byrne says that footballers owe it not only to themselves but also to the fans—particularly young enthusiasts—to promote a serious warning about the dangers of doping. “Footballers are role models for young people,” he reflected, “and I think we owe it to sport and society that we want a drug-free sport and to extrapolate that into society.”

The EURO team doctors are aware of their major responsibility in helping prevent drug-taking in football and other sports, as well as in society at large. “The charter is a declaration by all the
team doctors to uphold the anti-doping ethos of UEFA and football in general,” said Byrne. “We are putting our name, as medical advisers, to that charter to support UEFA’s position.”

In addition to signing the charter, the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) has been diligent in its advice to players who will be contesting EURO glory in Poland and Ukraine this summer. “The FAI spoke to the players two weeks ago at the last international, in a seminar advising them about the whole anti-doping issue,” Byrne explained.

“They’re very familiar with it, but it is still worthwhile emphasizing. I always feel that we need to keep the message out there, particularly for younger players coming into the sport. I think we all know it’s common sense and all we’re doing is formalizing it by signing the charter,” he added.

UEFA’s anti-doping drive has been bearing fruit for a number of years now: the European body conducts drug tests in all its competitions, and any player involved in a UEFA competition may be required not only to undergo a doping control after a match but also to undergo out-of-competition controls.

Young players in particular are vulnerable to the dangers of drug-taking. Consequently, UEFA holds educational sessions for the participating teams at its men’s and women’s youth championships. The players are made aware, for example, that more than 30,000 doping controls take place in football worldwide each year, with 60% of positive tests being for recreational substances such as cannabis and cocaine.

The risks from taking common medicines and food supplements are also underlined, given that either can contain banned substances. During the 2010/11 season, more than 1,800 players were tested in UEFA competitions. These included 742 players tested in the UEFA Champions League (441 of them tested out of competition), 560 players in the UEFA Europa League, and over 500 in other competitions, women and youth tournaments.

The fact that in 2010/11, only two positive cases were registered, shows that such cases might be few and far between—but the fact remains that one positive case is one too many.

*Courtesy of the Rolco Sports Network - Kraków*

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*** FOREFATHERS’ TRACES TOUR ***

*Editor*—Here’s the latest bit of info from Zenon Znamirowski and the folks at PolishOrigins.com.

Winter passes, spring begins—it is the best time to plan your vacation. Maybe this year would you like to try something new? Something you have been thinking about for many years? Something that others have experienced and now return every few years to live it again...?
First bookings for 2012 Forefathers’ Traces Tours to Poland with PolishOrigins’ guides <http://tours.polishorigins.com> have been made many months ago, in 2011, but there are still many dates available in our FTT 2012 Calendar <http://polishorigins.com/document/calendar>.

Below are two quotations from our Forefathers’ Traces Tours guests’ blogs:

Doreen and her blog: Prayer from Poland <http://blog.polishorigins.com/2012/02/29/a-prayer-from-poland/>

That day had turned into one that we would never forget. We had come so far and found both of my great-grandparents’ family homes and that they were still owned by the family was indeed a miracle. As Lucyna told me over e-mail, there was a reason her grandfather had told her the family history, and she knew that even after 100 years the history was important. After the 100 years my great grandparents had left Poland, we indeed, came home again. [Note: This article was originally published in The Downriver Seeker, a newsletter of the Downriver Genealogical Society.]


The trip was worth every penny we spent.

A rich national history could be a country strategic resource—as much as salt and gold mines or gas and oil fields. Its difference from natural resources is in the fact that the whole nation had to work hard for thousands of years to create it.

It is impossible to purchase a national history.

It takes generations and many sacrifices to earn a dignified history like Poland has.

Pan Znamirowski helped us to see the enormous richness of his beautiful country, get in touch with the culture and place the history of our family on a bigger context.

We will be back!

Immerse yourself in the real Poland and meet its people. Who knows, maybe some of them prove to be your relatives?..?

Forefathers Traces Tours to Poland 2012 <http://tours.polishorigins.com>
Forefathers Traces Tours Blog <http://blog.polishorigins.com/>
Testimonials <http://polishorigins.com/document/ftt_testimonials>

Zenon & PolishOrigins Team
*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

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 to 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-MBwNeBq_Nzk4YjY1NTgtZGQ0OC00MjJiLWE5OTItMDcxOWIwZDA2Nzkw>

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

[From an e-mail sent by Ceil Jensen]

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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>]

April 28, 2012

PHILADELPHIA “HOW TO” SEMINAR
Nazareth Academy High School
4001 Grant Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19114
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Speaking will be Prof. Jonathan Shea (Poland, Belarus, Lithuania), Matthew Bielawa (Poland and Ukraine), and Lisa Alzo (Slovakia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire).

The speakers will present practical steps to enable you to successfully trace your family from the U.S. to the location of the family’s origin in Europe, essentially the immigration process in reverse. Session one will cover sources for family history information on this side of the ocean including church and civil records, census returns, records of ethnic organizations, ship passenger lists and anything and everything you can find locally to unearth information on your ancestors and discover places of origin in the Old World.

The second session will address historical geography and explain the oft-changing borders in Eastern Europe as well as present various print and electronic sources to pinpoint the locations of villages, provinces and counties on a map.

Session three will examine the format and location of the wide array of records awaiting researchers in Eastern Europe in the archives of Poland, Belarus, Lithuania, Ukraine and Slovakia and provide instructions as to their translation into English. Online sources for doing family history will also be examined.

There is no admission charge to attend the lectures. However, if you plan on attending, you must pre-register by e-mailing the local seminar coordinator Marie Dallas at <philagen@gmail.com> or telephone her at 215-360-3422. Please do NOT contact the high school.

[Reproduced, with permission, from the Winter 2012 issue of Pathways & Passages, the Journal]
May 9–12, 2012

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2012 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE
Duke Energy Convention Center
Cincinnati, OH

For more info, including info on accommodations, registration, and the conference program, visit the Web site <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info>.

May 20, 2012

MEETING OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
Social Hall of the Polish Museum of America, 984 Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago
2:00 p.m.

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]

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 ***


Phyllis Zych Budka wrote to me about the lack of information on Polish-American history in Schenectady County, New York. The Schenectady County Historical Society (SCHS) folks are encouraging her to contribute information on the subject. You can read her first document at the above URL. If you have roots in that area and would like to contact Phyllis—or better yet, help her!—this is a good place to start.

<http://flps.newberry.org/>

On the LithGen mailing list, “JKuncius” quoted an article from the “Chicagogenealogy.blogspot.com” Web site about the Foreign Language Press Survey project. It features articles translated into English from foreign-language newspapers, mostly from the early 1900s through
about 1920. For background, visit the above site and click on “Read about this historic project.” Or you can just start searching for likely names. I did a quick search for “dziennik,” the Polish word for a daily newspaper, and found lots of matches from the *Dziennik Chicagoski* and *Dziennik Związkowy*. It was especially interesting to read an editorial from the *Chicagoski* on the first anniversary of its publication. I went through 40 years’ of *Chicagoski* issues, back when I was helping compile an index to obituaries and death notices in that newspaper 1890-1929. It was really interesting to read this, especially in English!

<http://www.brill.nl/scots-polish-lithuanian-commonwealth-16th-18th-centuries>

Barbara Proko posted a note to several lists about a new book that may interest quite a few of you: *Scots in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, 16th to 18th Centuries: The Formation and Disappearance of an Ethnic Group (The Northern World)*, by Peter Paul Bajer. Barbara said, “This new book might be an eye-opener for anyone unfamiliar with this aspect of European history, and perhaps especially interesting for those of us doing DNA testing in conjunction with our paper-trail genealogy.” I know over the years, I have heard now and again from people who wanted to know more about Scottish immigrants to Poland. Barbara noted the book is quite expensive—$221.00!—and she added it is “most likely to be found in academic libraries with Brill’s *The Northern World* series in their collections.” You can get publication information at the above URL, and there’s a link to recommend it to your librarian. If you don’t have $221 burning a hole in your pocket, this is the sort of thing libraries are for!


The March 18th issue of *Genealogy News* had a link “Poland - New Documents from the Archives of the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.” I took a look and thought I should bring it to your attention.

<http://genTOD.com/A.mv?Y=2-4420>

The March 25th issue of *Genealogy News* had a link to an article “Why can’t I find my grandmother’s passport?” by Elisabeth Lindsay. It’s short and sweet and may give you some info you’ll find helpful.


This link takes you to a book review by Gena Philibert-Ortega of Megan Smolenyak’s *Hey, America, Your Roots Are Showing*. Megan is one of the true stars of genealogy, and I suspect many of our readers would like to know about her book.

<http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2012/03/fort-worth-museum-exhibit-focuses-on-immigrants-entering-through-galveston.html>
The March 20 issue of Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter [EOGN] had a very interesting article on an exhibit in a Fort Worth museum on immigrants who entered the country through Galveston. Not everyone came through Ellis Island; check this out.

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The March 4 issue of EOGN had an article with the title “Search More Than 40,000 Digitized Genealogy and Family History Books.” You can read the article at the above URL, or simply go to <http://books.familysearch.org> and start exploring.

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This page features a brief review of Finding Your Ukrainian Ancestors by Muryl Andrejcow Geary. There aren’t a lot of books on this subject, so this one deserves attention. Still, I can’t mention this subject without also putting in a word for Ukrainian Genealogy, an excellent book by John Pihach. (I’m not the only one who thinks so; Matthew Bielawa sings its praises at <http://www.halgal.com/pihach_book_review.html>.)

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In a note posted to the JewishGen discussion group, Jan Meisels Allen mentioned that in 2011, Google stopped its newspaper archival project. Fortunately, Google changed its mind and the archives is back up again at the above URL. It contains some 2,000 historic newspapers, mainly from the U.S. and Canada. I took a look just now and had to tear myself away before I lost an entire afternoon browsing...

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On JewishGen, Brooke Schreier Ganz posted a note about recent additions to the All Galicia Database (AGD), including surname phonetic matching with the use of Beider-Morse Phonetic Matching for surnames! This is a system Steve Morse and Alexander Beider developed some years back, and it is designed to match surnames better than any of the older Soundex systems. It adds even more power and flexibility to the AGD search capability. If you have Jewish roots in Galicia, you need to know about this resource.

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John Guzowski posted a note to the Facebook Polish American Writers & Editors Group about a book Aquila Polonica Publishing will release in April, The Auschwitz Volunteer: Beyond Bravery, by Captain Witold Pilecki. For the first time in English, we can read the story of this man, who volunteered to get himself arrested and sent to Auschwitz, to smuggle out intelligence about this camp to the Polish underground! For once, the title of a book undersells its subject—for this man, saying his deeds were “beyond bravery” is an understatement.
On the Posen-L mailing list, Reiner Kerp suggested this is a good site for anyone interested in German genealogy. Gedbas is a project of the Verein für Computergenealogie at <http://www.genealogy.net/>.

Jan Meisels Allen posted a note to the JewishGen newsgroup, saying an updated IAJGS Legislative Alert has been posted to this page on the IAJGS site. I’ve mentioned this site before, but I think it’s one people should get in the habit of visiting every so often.

On the Lithuania list, Ileen Peterson posted a note she had been sent by Ted Shapas about a blog-like online publication called VilNews. Ted’s note said “It’s all in English, has 24 ‘columns’ or Sections, and addresses diverse and many-times controversial issues about Lithuania. One Section is number 6, Finding Your Relatives. It gives tips and lists many Web sites for help.” That page includes encouragement to contact the Associate Editor, Vin Karnila, and urge VilNews to have a “Genealogy Section.”

I recently heard from Ann C. Sherwin, a professional German-English translator who has impressed me with her skill. This is her new Web site, and I suggest you make a note of it. If you need help with German, and especially German handwriting, Ann is a very good person to know about! She also has a link to the American Translators Association site <http://atanet.org/>.

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