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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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*** ST. JOSEPH’S, CHICAGO: 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ***

by Paul S. Valasek <hallersarmy@aol.com>

Editor—Paul S. Valasek sent me this item to pass along about the upcoming 125th anniversary celebration at St. Joseph’s Parish, 4821 S. Hermitage Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

St. Joseph’s Parish, founded in 1887, is the oldest Polish parish in Chicago’s Back-of-the-Yards neighborhood. This anniversary celebration will take place on Saturday, September 1, 2012, beginning with a special Mass at the church at 4 p.m. Francis Cardinal George will be officiating. An anniversary banquet will follow at the Mayfield Banquet Hall at 6072 S. Archer, from 6:30 p.m. to midnight. WTTW’s Chicago Tonight host, Phil Ponce, will be Master of Ceremonies at this event. Reservations are available at $60 for adults (age 13 and older) and $25 for children, which will include dinner, open bar, cultural entertainment, dancing and music. Tables for larger groups are also available. There will also be a silent auction and cash raffle. All proceeds from this event are earmarked for St. Joseph’s Now and Forever campaign, which focuses, in part, on the extensive work that needs to be done on the Church Towers.

Former parishioners of two other Polish parishes in the “Yards” area will very likely be interested in this anniversary event, since their roots probably are in St. Joe’s. Family-history researchers from the parishes of Sacred Heart (founded 1910, closed 1990) and St. John of God (founded 1907, closed 1992), have found ancestors who were married or baptized at St. Joseph’s. The explanation for this is simple: when St. John’s and Sacred Heart were founded, a migration to these new parishes from St. Joseph’s occurred. Genealogy enthusiasts who have discovered their uncles, grandfathers, etc. were in Haller’s Polish Army in France, will be surprised to know that St. Joseph’s Parish played a role in the October, 1917 stockyards-area ceremony, which launched the recruitment campaign for volunteer soldiers in that Army. Similar stories will no doubt be shared at the 125th anniversary gathering. Several closed parishes in the Back-of-the-Yards area, while not Polish-founded, included Polish members, and will also be honored at the Sept. 1st banquet.

The present St. Joseph’s church was erected in 1913; the earlier structure, built in 1895, which still stands, functioned as the parish grammar school and auditorium after the permanent church opened. In 1912, long-time pastor Rev. Stanislaus Cholewinski founded, along with pastors of nearby Sacred Heart and St. John of God, the Guardian Angel Day Care Nursery, a social-service agency for Polish immigrants, located at 46th & McDowell. Once Sacred Heart and St. John of God closed, statuary from those two parishes was moved to St. Joseph’s. Mementos from St. John of God, located at 1234 W. 52nd St., include the outdoor statue of the Sacred Heart (recently painted), which now stands on the grounds just outside St. Joe’s; also St. John’s replica of The Pieta, and the image of St. John of God that originally rested on its main altar, are now at St. Joseph’s Church. The statuary ensemble of Our Lady of Fatima, at the rear of St. Joseph’s Church, comes from Sacred Heart Parish, which was located at 46th & Wolcott. The statue of St. Clare likely originated from St. Rose of Lima, at 1546 W. 48th St.
The closed-church remembrance will occur at the 125th anniversary banquet. On the reservation form, people will have the opportunity for table-section preference. Attendees sitting in the 7:30 Section will be honoring the memory of St. Augustine Parish; similarly the 9:00 Section honors St. Cyril & Methodius Parish; the 10:30 Section, St. John of God; the 12:30 Section, St. Rosa of Lima, and the 5:30 Section, Sacred Heart (the times refer to the Masses that will be held in honor of these parishes on Sunday, September 2nd, at St. Joseph’s). A few words honoring these former parishes will be said at the Saturday banquet. Pictures of these churches will be placed at their respective tables. Reservations for the Sept. 1st celebration must be made by August 20th. Please contact Mark Wojciechowski, chair of the 125th Anniversary Committee, via e-mail at: <wojo72@aol.com>, or phone him at 1-773-218-3809.

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*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: Polish-American Friendship

Editor—In the last issue, I mentioned the President Obama was the latest to blunder by referring to “Polish concentration camps.” I said I figured it was an honest mistake, not an intentional slight; but I was disappointed that our leaders keep making mistakes of this sort, and I wish the U.S. government would treat Poland with a bit more respect. Here’s what one reader had to say.

I’m not even sure that Poland has any reason to be America-friendly. Keep in mind that after World War II, the Allied countries left the Poles to fend for themselves under the murderous Stalin communist regime. And look how many years it took for the Iron Curtain to disappear, allowing them to be a thriving democracy. I realize President Reagan was a very positive force in bringing down the communist bloc; but you still have to consider how many years, on and off, Poland was subjected to the dictates of governments other than their own. Just my view.

Walter Ference

Editor—I know what you’re saying, and I’m a little surprised Poland hasn’t told the U.S. to go to hell. Poland keeps proving itself a true ally, and one American administration after another treats them like crap. It’s not a Republican or Democratic thing—both parties seem to ignore Poland. Out of self-interest, if not human decency, we ought to do whatever we can to show the Poles their friendship is appreciated.

I do give Reagan credit for all he did to support Solidarity; but let’s face it, he did it to advance America’s goals, not Poles’. I’m not criticizing him—he was president of the United States, after all, not of Poland. And he certainly did help the Poles. I just wish more presidents would realize the same thing he did: helping Poland helps us.

Incidentally, President Obama did apologize for his error. You can read more here: <http://www.thenews.pl/1/10/Artykul/101343,Obama-apologises-to-President-Komorowski-over-Polish-death-camp-gaffe>.

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Subject: Lublin Genealogy Web site

I want to thank you so much! I love your newsletter. I went to the Lublin Genealogy Web site you listed in your latest edition of *Gen Dobry!* and I found my great-grandfather, Stanislaus Skrzyński’s baptism record and his parents’ marriage certificate from Annopol, Poland. I was also able to locate two additional siblings I didn’t know about and go back another generation.

Thanks once again!!

Nicole Lodyga Pohancsek <nicoledp@yahoo.com>

Editor—You’re very welcome, and I want to thank you for taking the time to write. We don’t get as much feedback from readers as you might think, so every note is really appreciated. For those who didn’t see the note in the last issue, William J. Krul, President of PGS-Michigan, wrote to tell us about <http://regestry.lubgens.eu/news.php>.

By the way, Nicole added in a follow-up that you have to spell names “the Polish way.” The name Skrzyński must have that accent or kreska over it. She originally searched for plain “skrzynski” and found only one record. But when she searched her g-g-grandmother’s maiden name (Zamorski), that’s when she was able to see all the Skrzyński records. So do pay attention to the details!

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Subject: Unsubscribing from *Gen Dobry!*

Editor—PolishRoots Webmaster Don Szumowski sent this note along, and I wanted to be sure to repeat it for all our readers.

I have been meaning to discuss adding a footer to the e-mail version of *Gen Dobry!* so folks can unsubscribe. Most folks who no longer wish to receive our monthly e-mail send a polite note asking to be removed. I usually do this a day or so after this issue goes out to allow time for bad e-mail addresses to bounce, etc.

Don Szumowski <dszumowski@aol.com>

Editor—I’ll have to experiment to see if the bulk mail format we use will allow footers. In the meantime, I can certainly print this note and hope people read it. Of course, we don’t ever want to lose any readers. But sometimes there are perfectly valid reasons people want or need to unsubscribe. We’ll be glad to oblige—but let me emphasize that a polite note is the way to go. We don’t exist to harass or aggravate anyone; so there’s never a need to snarl!

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*** USING THE POLISH (PROGRAMMERS) KEYBOARD ***
Editor—Folks often ask about how to key in Polish characters, whether you’re writing a letter in Polish or trying to search for Polish terms online. Steve Danko posted an interesting note on the subject to the LithuanianGenealogy Yahoo group, and I thought it was worth repeating. Note, he is talking about how to input Polish characters on a PC. There are two main choices, and he explains which one he prefers and why.

I actually prefer the Polish (Programmers) keyboard on a PC to the Polish (214) keyboard. With the Polish (214) keyboard, lots of the keys are scrambled around. With the Polish (Programmers) keyboard, every key is exactly the same place as on the normal keyboard unless you use the right-hand ALT key.

In Polish, there are only 9 special characters (18 if you consider both upper case and lower case). The special Polish characters are:

- a ogonek (the a with a tail on it)
- c kreska (the c with an accent mark over it)
- e ogonek (the e with a tail on it)
- l stroke (the l with a line through it)
- n kreska (the n with an accent mark over it)
- o kreska (the o with an accent mark over it)
- s keska (the s with an accent mark over it)
- z kropka (the z with a dot over it)
- z kreska (the z with an accent mark over it)

In the Polish (Programmers) keyboard, all you have to do to get the special Polish characters is to hold down the right-hand ALT key at the same time as the same letter without the diacritical marks. The only exception is the “z kreska” which requires right ALT + x (since right ALT + z gets you the “z kropka”).

List of Special Characters on the Polish (Programmers) Keyboard

All letters are the same as the normal keyboard except:

- ą – (a ogonek) = right ALT + a
- ć – (c kreska) = right ALT + c
- ę – (e ogonek) = right ALT + e
- ł – (l stroke) = right ALT + l
- ń – (n kreska) = right ALT + n
- ó – (o kreska) = right ALT + o
- ś – (s kreska) = right ALT + s
- ż – (z kropka) = right ALT + z
- ź – (z kreska) = right ALT + x

For capital letters, press the SHIFT key and the right ALT key at the same time as the letter key.
I hope the Polish characters I’ve typed above using the language bar keystrokes don’t get all jumbled up like they usually do on messages posted on Yahoo! Groups.

If all of this is too much, go to <http://polish.typeit.org/> where you can type whatever you want into a text box and add special Polish characters by clicking on buttons. When done, you can just copy what you’ve typed and paste it wherever you need to.

Best regards,
Steve Danko
<http://www.stephendanko.com>

Editor—If you need to know how to install support for different language keyboards in Windows, I recommend clicking the “Start” button, selecting “Help and Support,” and keying in “input language.” The first result that comes up should be instructions on how to add or change an input language. The third one that came up on my system was “What can I do with regional formats and languages?” Between these two, you should have enough info to get started.

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As I was working on this issue, I was watching a semifinal match in the UEFA Euro 12 soccer semifinal, with Germany playing Italy. At one point, I looked up to see a player for the German team whom I’ve noticed before: Lukas Podolski. Every time I see him, I think “What’s a Pole doing playing on the German team?” Then I think, “Well, actually, the surname Podolski means ‘one from Podolia,’ which is a region in Ukraine.” Which is he, a German, a Pole, or a Ukrainian?

As you might guess, the answer is not so simple. His name refers to a region in Ukraine, one where many Poles settled over the centuries. Lukas himself is of Polish heritage, born Łukasz Podolski in the Silesian town of Gliwice. His family emigrated to West Germany in 1987, and settled there. His nationality is dual, Polish and German, but it seems he does not hold a Polish passport. He plays for the German team because the Poles were never interested in him until he made a name for himself with the Germans. He has stated that he has always wanted to play for Poland because he is a Pole. He married a girl named Monika Puchalski in Cologne, Germany, and then had a church wedding in Kamionna, Węgrów county, Poland. (I am basing this largely on the Wikipedia article at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lukas_Podolski>, which gives the sources to back up all this.

So is he a Pole, a German, or a Ukrainian? I give up! I guess he’s not a Ukrainian, because he’s never lived there, and his ancestors may have left Podolia before it became part of Ukraine. Maybe the best answer is, he’s a Pole who makes a living in Germany. But this is a good example of just how complicated these questions can be.
While I’m on the subject of the recent soccer tournament UEFA Euro 12, Ray Marshall posted a note to the Polish Genius mailing list that dealt with something I had not heard about. Apparently the BBC aired a program on May 28th, “Euro 2012: Stadiums of Hate.” Ray gave a link to an article “Euro 2012: Where Are These Stadiums of Hate?” The article said, “Against an omnipresent background of pounding, pre-millennial angst music, the presenter proceeded to take us into the ‘dark heart’ of Poland and Ukraine, the Euro 2012 host countries. This, we were told, was a region where ‘fans give fascist salutes’ from the terraces, where ‘supporters are beaten for the colour of their skin’, and where racism and anti-Semitism lurk very near to the social surface. Incriminating anecdote and damning allusion were paraded throughout.” The article points out how one-sided this program was, and how badly it misrepresents the reality of modern Poland and Ukraine. If you’re interested, you can read it here:

<http://www.spiked-online.com/site/earticle/12552/>

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*** GOOGLE TRANSLATE, WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE! ***

Editor—Chris Bukoski, President of the East European Genealogical Society, sent me a note after receiving a request from Agnieszka Pucula, with ArchiwaOnline. Agnieszka hoped EEGS could mention on their Web site that the Archives of the Diocese of Radom is digitizing their records. Chris visited the site, <http://archiwaonline.pl/pl/>, but is not fluent in Polish, so she asked Google Translate to give her an English version. The info is worth passing on, but I thought you’d also enjoy the Google translation, repeated below.

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Search the names of acts of civil records indexed online archive of the Diocese of Radom. Simply enter the names of ancestors in the search box to see it all the acts in which these names were recorded.

In May 2012 we started the process of indexing acts of civil records online. The project is a search engine, which will include descriptions of all acts of parish registers from the seventeenth to the twentieth century. They will be viewed and downloaded free online scan for a small fee. In the years 1810-1825 parishes act as offices of civil status, because our resources are acts of civil law for all citizens then living in what is now the Diocese of Radom, regardless of ethnic origin or religion.

After logging in to a panel of volunteers, we’ll randomly select the image registry books. Once indexed, stored in a memory acts, their description will be added to the search engine acts of civil records. Search allows you to search the database of legislation by name, date, parish. There you can view images online acts. Allows you to download online, assigned to a given description, photos, register books page.

Genealogy sucks, I hope that thanks to us that you begin your exciting adventure. Advanced
genealogists, we wish to have their family tree expanded thanks to the information gathered from our resources.

ArchiwaOnline.pl also find resources Archives of the Archdiocese of Częstochowa, the Archdiocesan Archives in Gliwice, Archives of the Diocese of Płock, Archdiocesan Archive in Wrocław, the Archive of the Metropolitan Curia in Kraków, the Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine in Lviv, the Lithuanian State Historical Archives in Vilnius.

Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine in Lviv kept registry books of the Latin rite of the Archdiocesan Archives in Lviv, the village registry books of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Przemyśl, and the book of the Greek Catholic parish Hubicze.

BMD registry records of Roman Catholic parishes archdeaconry of Białystok in the years 1808-1864 are held at the Lithuanian State Historical Archives in Vilnius. Several years ago, have been microfilmed and the microfilms are available in the State Archive in Białystok. Inventory of microfilms was attached to the search ArchiwaOnline.pl

Most of it is typical computer translation: somewhat garbled, but you can get the gist of what’s being said. But what caught Chris’s eye is that statement that begins paragraph four: “Genealogy sucks...” She asked me to look at the original and tell her if that translation could possibly be correct.

The original reads, “Genealogia wciąga,” and when I saw that, I had to laugh out loud. The verb wciągać means “to draw in, absorb, engross.” So you could translate this “Genealogy draws you in” or “Genealogy is absorbing,” even “Genealogy sucks you in,” though that’s not quite accurate. But “Genealogy sucks”—sorry, as my granddaughters say, that’s a total fail! You would think any decent translation program would red-flag any use of the verb “to suck”!

So this item gives us two points for consideration. One, more and more documents valuable to genealogists are becoming available online, to where it’s a challenge just to keep up with them all. Two, NEVER assume a computer translation is accurate! If Google Translate—which I’ve actually found to be one of the better translation programs—can bungle a simple Polish to English phrase like this, just think what it might be doing to the letter you want to translate and send your relative in Poland! Polish to English, yeah, not too bad as long as you understand what you’re dealing with. English to Polish ... that’s what you call living dangerously.

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*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

July 3, 2012

POLISH HERITAGE NIGHT - U.S. CELLULAR FIELD - CHICAGO
Texas Rangers vs. Chicago
7:10 p.m.

Come out to a White Sox game and celebrate your Polish Heritage. This half-price ticket offer is extended to all friends and families of the Polish Community! Purchase your half-price tickets today and cheer on the White Sox as they battle the Texas Rangers!

National Anthem: Laureen Wysocki
Gate 4: Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of PRCUA

Examples of pricing are as follows:

Lower Box @ $20 (regularly $40)
Lower Reserved @ $18 (regularly $36)

You can order several ways:

Web: <http://www.whitesox.com/phn>
Phone: Ticketmaster (866) 769-4263

[From the May 2012 issue of PGSA Notebook]

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July 6 – 8, 2012

2012 AMERICAN POLISH FESTIVAL & CRAFT SHOW
Sterling Heights, Michigan

The American-Polish Century Club is pleased to announce the American Polish Festival & Craft Show, July 6-8, 2012, on the grounds of The American Polish Century Club, 33204 Maple Lane, Sterling Heights, Michigan 48312.

The festival is located in Sterling Heights, Michigan. This is just a few miles from Hamtramck. Poles are the second largest ethnic group in Michigan and are a significant part of the history of Detroit. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Michigan is home to the third largest Polish population after New York and Illinois. The current population of Michigan’s Polish Americans is concentrated in Macomb County. Sterling Heights has become one of the centers of Polonia in Michigan, since their migration from Hamtramck.

Our Festival draws thousands of friends and families from all around Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois. Our spirited festival features live music and dancing. Highlighting our Festival are the biggest names in Polka Music, along with finest Polish Dance Ensembles in Michigan. This is our second year for the Srodek’s Pierogi Eating Challenge. This competition is consuming the most Srodek’s Potato & Cheese Pierogi you can eat in ten minutes. Last year’s 49 pierogi in ten minutes came close to setting the record. Try our delicious Polish Kitchen, the Polish Pub-n-
Grub, and Beer Tent or visit anyone of the many vendors that take part in this event. There will be a Traditional Polish Mass on Sunday at 12:00 Noon. Stroll our Outdoor Craft Show featuring over 50 different crafters displaying their fine works. Admission to the festival is free to the public, although a $5.00 daily parking fee is required.

[From a note posted by “Helene” to the Polish Genius mailing list.]

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July 12-14, 2012

FEEFHS 2012 CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP
(The Federation of East European Family History Societies)
Salt Lake City, Utah

Do your ancestors come from Eastern Europe? Do you have records that you cannot read? Are you aware of the vast collection of genealogical records from Eastern Europe on microfilm in the Family History Library, located in Salt Lake City, Utah? Do you know about the images of original church, census, and tax records found on the Internet for countries like the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia, and Latvia?

Our 2012 conference/workshop will be designed to help you do research on your lines. Participants will have a chance to learn from a variety of experts with years of experience in dealing with the records and the institutions that preserve them.

The presentations address the major countries, record types, and languages. During personal consultations each afternoon, speakers will deal with individual questions concerning ancestry in any of the countries between the Alps and the Urals, between the Baltic and the Black seas (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia).

Our workshop is held in the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel at Temple Square, right beside the Family History Library. It will be possible to spend several hours a day in the library. That makes it possible to attend sessions each morning, and do research in the afternoon and evening.

The Salt Lake Plaza Hotel is offering a rock bottom price of $82 per night during the conference. It is next door to the world-famous Family History Library. This is the best place in the world to do this type of research and the best opportunity you will have to do so with the experts. We have reserved a block of rooms—call the hotel directly if the website shows there is no space available.

See you in Salt Lake City!

For more information: <http://feefhs.org/conferences/2012program.html>
[From the FEEFHS Web site, <http://feefhs.org/>]

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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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August 2 – 5, 2012

38TH ANNUAL BOYNE FALLS POLISH FESTIVAL
Boyne Falls, Michigan

<http://www.boynefallspolishfestival.com/>

[From a note posted by “Helene” to the Polish Genius mailing list.]

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Saturday and Sunday, August 11 – 12, 2012

98TH ANNUAL LITHUANIAN FESTIVAL
“Lithuanian Customs & Traditions”
Schuylkill Mall, Route 61 and I-81
Frackville, Pennsylvania

This event, billed as the “longest running consecutive ethnic festival in the USA,” will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The main guest speaker will be John R. Makus, but Tom Sadauskas will be giving short talks on Lithuanian genealogy. He will also be available at his genealogy table to answer questions. As he says, “I must be a glutton for punishment since I will be there both days providing free advice.”

If you can make it, it should be fun—and be sure to stop and say hi to Tom.

[From an e-mail from Tom Sadauskas]

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August 12 – 17, 2012

GENEALOGY “SUMMER CAMP”
Toronto, Canada
Toronto Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

Genealogy “Summer Camp” is a unique program (for adults) that brings out-of-town family historians to Toronto for an intensive week of tutorials and hands-on research at the many archives and reference libraries in the city. If you have ancestors from Toronto or other parts of Ontario, there are many resources here for you. Local family historians are also welcome to participate as “day campers.” We take full advantage of Toronto’s great public transit system, and we keep the group small to allow lots of help from our local experts.

We’ll help you spend more time finding information about your ancestors—and less time finding the archives.

This will be our 16th Summer Camp. More than 125 participants from England, right across Canada and many US states have attended the 15 previous Summer Camps—some more than once!

Genealogy “Summer Camp” 2012 will take place from August 12-17. The Summer Camp fee for 2012 is $230 (Cdn), which covers approximately 7 hours of lectures and tutorials, 25 hours of hands-on instruction and all worksheets and handouts.

For details as to venues, resources, tutorials and accommodation, and to download an application package, visit <http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/summercamp.html>, or contact Jane MacNamara at <info@torontofamilyhistory.org>.

Applications should be received by 11 June 2012. [Obviously, this deadline has passed; but we’re reprinting this as a reminder for anyone who registered.]

[From a note sent out by Gwyneth Pearce, <publicity@torontofamilyhistory.org>]

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August 31 – September 3, 2012

TASTE OF POLONIA
Copernicus Center
5216 W. Lawrence Ave. Chicago, IL 60630

<http://tasteofpolonia.copernicuscenter.org/>

[Brought to my attention by a note posted by “Raven Fan” to the Polish Genius mailing list.]
Saturday, September 8, 2012
WASHINGTON DC FAMILY HISTORY CENTER
10000 Stoneybrook Dr., Kensington, MD
9:30 am to 10:30 am

Tom Sadauskas will be giving a presentation at the Washington DC Family History Center in Kensington MD. His topic will be “The International Tracing Service” with a focus on their holdings of displaced person (DP) records.

For more information, see <http://www.wdcfhc.org/test/index.php>

September 29 – 30, 2012
POLISH FESTIVAL LOS ANGELES
3424 W. Adams Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90018

Live Entertainment, Food, Dancing, Games & More! $5 Admission for adults. $3 for students and seniors. Kids under 16 free!

<http://www.polishfestla.com/>

[From a note posted by Lynda Snider to the Polish Genius Mailing List]

October 20, 2012
PGSM ANNUAL SEMINAR
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
American Polish Cultural Center, Troy, Michigan

The Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan will hold its annual seminar on Saturday, October 20, 2012 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan. Featured speakers are Matthew Bielawa and Mark Bowden. Matthew will speak about researching in Galicia and Ukraine, while Mark will speak about using the resources at the Burton Collection at the Detroit Public Library.

The cost for the day-long seminar is $65 per individual and $100 per couple. This includes a continental breakfast and Polish lunch. Details and the registration form are on the Web site:

<http://pgsm.org/seminarfeatured.htm>

[From a note sent by Valerie Koselka of PGSM]
The June 4, 2012 issue of Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter [EOGN] had some information that excited me, under the headline “New Genealogy Comedy Television Program: Family Tree.” Eastman explained, “British Director Christopher Guest and Jim Piddock (who co-stars in both Best in Show and A Mighty Wind) are hard at work on a new television effort. It reportedly is an improvised genealogy comedy called Family Tree, and it follows the efforts of one man—in this case, Bridesmaids star Chris O’Dowd—as he attempts to track down his real family.” The producers are shopping the project to pay services, but no deals have been announced yet, as far as I can tell. Eastman cites an article with a bit more info at <http://goo.gl/FpM73>. I have loved all of Christopher Guest’s films, and the thought of seeing his take on genealogy makes this one television series I might actually watch!

The June 11, 2012 issue of EOGN had an item on “The Wrecking of Canada’s Library and Archives.” Dick Eastman explained that ongoing cuts to services at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) are causing serious distress to Canada’s historians and researchers. See the above link, which includes a link to an article by Myron Groover on the subject at <http://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2012/06/07/LibraryCuts/>.

The June 17, 2012 issue of Nu? What’s New? had an item on the Web site of the (Russian) Genealogical Research Center at the above URL. It lists more than 3.3 million persons from the pre-1918 Russian Empire era with biographical information. Note that the site is in Russian, but Nu? included a Google Translate version of a sample entry, and it wasn’t bad. In my experience, this is the sort of thing Google Translate can often do decently. The home page says the information covers persons born up to 1917/1918 in the European territory of the Russian empire, which included the Russian partition of Poland. I searched a few common Polish names such as Nowakowski and Gajda and found many hits; of course, the tough part is entering the Cyrillic versions of Polish names. But then if you’ve been doing research, you may well have documents that show you those versions. Then you can use Steve Morse’s utility at <http://stevemorse.org/russian/eng2rus.html> to create text of the Cyrillic forms, which you can then cut and paste into the search form on the Rosgenea site. Where there’s a will, there’s a way!

I’ve long been interested in the history of Scots in Poland, and I happened to come across this interesting site with some good info on the subject.
The June 3, 2012 issue of Genealogy News has a review of the book Nicknames: Past and Present, 5th Edition Expanded, by Christine Rose. In my experience, this is not just a fascinating subject; it can shed light on some of the puzzles that crop up in genealogical research.

From June 10, 2012 issue of Genealogy News has a book review of The Researcher’s Digital Toolbox, by Denise Barrett Olson. The headline reads, “Whether you are well-versed in using technology and Web 2.0 features or you are new to it, the Researcher’s Digital Toolbox is a must read.” It sounds like something many of our readers might want to take a look at.

There was an interesting discussion of “Polish Language Family Tree Software” on the Polish Genius list this month. You can read the notes at this URL.

On the LidaRoots list, RomanS posted this URL, saying it was “A great place to check it out ... This place is an equivalent of Google Maps for the pre-WWII borderlands regions, including Lida.” It can be very hard to come by information in English on the so-called Kresy Wschodnie or Eastern Borderlands, territory that was in Poland between the World Wars but has since been incorporated into Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine. I like to pass along any resource that may help people with roots in those areas.

In a note posted to the Polish Genius list, RomanS mentioned several active Polish and indexing projects that are underway. He said the largest repository is at the above site, which also has an active and helpful discussion forum. He added, “The imaging projects are run by volunteers but they need support for the equipment—a chance for all of us to help, they do take PayPal donations.” Bravo, Roman! I suggest visiting this page and clicking near the bottom where it says “Przekaż darowiznę.” This takes you to a Paypal page that’s in Polish but is easy to use for anyone familiar with Paypal.

Also on that list, Debbie Greenlee wrote a note about lists Polish researcher Aleksandra Kacprzak has compiled on her Web site, including a list of cavalrymen and armored soldiers killed by Soviets, a list of losses of mounted artillerymen, recipients of the Virtuti Militari, and the Prussian Army project, with over 100,000 names of those who died while serving in the Prussian Army during World War I. You can access them from the above link. “Alex” is a fine
researcher and deserves to be better known in the U.S.

Bronwyn Klimach posted a note to the Polish Genius list with this link to an article on the first court case over the use of the misleading term “Polish concentration camp” is set to go ahead in Warsaw this October. The German newspaper *Die Welt* is the defendant.

The most recent *PGSA Notebook* included information on a book available from PGSA’s Bookstore, *A Guide to Chicago and Midwestern Polish-American Genealogy*, by Jason Kruski. Its 15 chapters give a great deal of information to help you research your Polish-American ancestors in Chicago and the Midwest. It sounds like a splendid addition to any serious researcher’s library.

The *PGSA Notebook* also mentioned a project I had not heard of. It is being supervised by Marek Jerzy Minakowski, Ph.D., a Polish researcher who’s made some major contributions to genealogy and heraldry. The above URL takes you to his “Index of Polish marriages until 1899.” It’s like the Poznań Project in some ways, except it deals with the Kingdom of Poland (the Russian partition) and the Free City of Kraków. I’m not sure we’ve ever mentioned this before, and it definitely is something to look at—and maybe get involved in!

On the Poland mailing list, Debbie Greenlee thanked a lady named Cathy who sent her information on the book *Poles in Wisconsin* (Paperback: $9.95, ISBN: 978-0-87020-422-7, 136 pages, 35 b/w photos, 6 x 9), by Susan Gibson Mikoś. It traces the history of Polish settlers in America’s northern heartland. It includes a first-person memoir from Polish immigrant Maciej Wojda, translated for the first time into English, and historical photographs of Polish settlements in Michigan. You can order toll-free by calling 888-999-1669, or shop online at the above URL. Note that it’s available as an e-book there; Amazon also offers it for Kindle for $7.99 (http://www.amazon.com/Poles-Wisconsin-People-Susan-Gibson/dp/087020422X).

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