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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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I have always had a special place in my heart for music, as does most of my family, both paternal lines and maternal lines. So much so, that for quite a few years, nine of us would get together and play dance music, Polish, Czech, and American, for our own entertainment.

So where does this interest come from? And why so intense?

Well, looking at my family lines, there are professional and semi-professional musicians on both sides. My Czech great-grandfather, František Valasek, had his own orchestra in Moravia, circa 1900, give or take a few decades. I’m not sure because I have yet to locate any written documentation of his orchestra/ band; but I did receive one great photo of him and a number of his band members dating about 1910. Many names are written on the back of the card—more so than the faces on the front—so now it’s a possible hunt to locate these men and their families for collaborative evidence. I was told by the town historian in 1992 (he was approximately 85 years old at the time), that as a child, he remembers my grandfather’s orchestra, as his job was to turn the pages as František conducted his group in concert. The historian also passed on the information that—since there appear to be three Valasek clans in town going back hundreds of years (and of course they claim not to be related)—if you were talking about my great-grandfather, you would simply refer to him as “muzikanti Valasek” or, in English, “Valasek the musician.”

Fine and good, but I would really like to have heard him and his group. Did they ever record anything? It’s possible, but no one seems to know if this ever took place. But this is a worthwhile hunt waiting for the effort and time.

Now on my mother’s side, we have musicians who still take up the hobby today. Stories were told that another of my great-grandfathers, Antoni Kostrubala, played for a well-known orchestra in Poland, somewhere near his home town of Wisłowiec, close to Zamość. My uncle still tells the story of how, as a young man, he would have to go and pick up his grandfather from a “gig” because the Chicago streetcars would not allow a string bass on board because it took up too much space. I remember my mother passing this orchestral information on from an early time; but I never sat down and really concentrated on this topic until Andrea and I made one of our visits to Poland in 1995.

We stopped at the parish church that served the Kostrubala family line, located in Stary Zamość, about 10 miles north of Zamość on the road to Lublin. We went into the church and, of course, had to locate graves of ancestors in the adjoining cemetery. We were fortunate to locate a living cousin who remembered my great-grandfather, who had left home for Chicago in 1912, when he returned for his one and only visit in 1938. Our cousin, Leszek Kostrubała, quickly took us to the graves of his grandfather, Andrew Kostrubala, as well as Andrew’s father, Antoni, the father of my great-grandfather, Antoni. On Andrew’s obelisk was inscribed that he was the Secretary for the Namysłowski Orchestra, the name of the orchestra I had heard about since early childhood.
What I didn’t know was that about 50 yards from where we were standing, there stood a large mounded burial tomb, covered with ground and having an entrance door on one side. When we visited again in 2000, I took the time to see who warranted such a large burial plot. Well, you can guess it: the name in stone was that of Karol Namysłowski, the founder of the orchestra of which my family was a part for many years. After walking through the cemetery for quite some time, Andrea and I decided to stop for supper. As we came to the intersection of the small road which led to the church in Stary Zamość, and the main road between Zamość and Lublin, I spotted a tavern/restaurant/hotel building that looked to be in good shape, possibly even new. I said, let’s stop, and we did. After parking the car in their lot, I looked up at the sign and there was a violin and the name Namysłowski. Well, where better to eat than in the restaurant named for the leader?

We had a very good and ridiculously affordable meal with drinks (I believe for two of us the bill came out to $5.00), and off we went back to our hotel in Zamość. Nearing the end of our trip, we returned to the National Library in Warsaw, as I was becoming acquainted with their holdings and further research on Haller’s Army. While speaking with one of the lead researchers employed by the library, Andrea wandered off to take advantage of the self-help computer terminals listing the catalogued collections of the National Library. On a hunch, she simply typed in “Namysłowski” and up came a book listing his biography. I asked to see the book, which was quickly brought to me, and I discovered it was published in 1992. The book, Karol Namysłowski i jego orkiestra, explained that the true name of the orchestra was Orkiestra Włościańska (Peasants’ Orchestra). With that information, we went to the Internet, typed in the name, and found out that they were still in business. Unfortunately, we were out of time; but we made a promise to visit them on our next trip.

The following year, we had a chance to return to Poland, and I made plans to meet with someone from the orchestra in their office, located in Zamość. They met us at the hotel and even brought another cousin, Kazimierz Kostrubała, who was a cousin to Leszek, whom we met in 1995. Unfortunately, Leszek had passed away since our earlier visit; but Kazimierz knew many of the stories, and off we went to Stary Zamość to re-visit my ancestors. What I did not know was at that intersection where Andrea and I had supper the previous year, about a block north of the restaurant, was the town school, named for Karol Namysłowski. That one I had missed altogether. Upon entering the school, we were escorted into a large room that held a small museum of the orchestra. It has old instruments, plenty of sheet music, even the bandmaster’s personal chair when conducting his orchestra. Most impressive were very large old photos (my guess, 4 x 8 feet) of the orchestra that were taken in the 1880s, 1900s and 1920s. I was quite frustrated because none of the band members were identified (there were at least 30 in each photo) and I knew I had at least three Kostrubała relatives in one or more of these photos. But which ones were they? I have no photo of my great-grandfather Antoni earlier than the photo he brought with him to America in 1912. At that time, it appears he was approximately in his early 30s, at most. So what did he look like as a teenager? As a young boy? Well, he might have been staring at me in the photo, but I need more time to find him out.

Now that I had the name of the orchestra correctly, I was able to start searching for information on the Internet. Sure enough, I soon located two real photo postcards of the orchestra, as well as obtaining my own copy of the biography. Though it is written totally in Polish, I am getting better at
deciphering more and more of the text; and then, there is that great tool, Google Translator, which helps me out tremendously. (The photo above is from the Web page <http://www.namyslowiacy.pl/pl/page/47/fotografie_archiwalne.html>. Sadly, the photo, dating from 1891, is low resolution, too low to read the names of the orchestra members.)

The following names are members of the orchestra circa 1891, along with their instrument and town of residency. Many more clues to pursue as time permits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Town</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brzuchal</td>
<td>Andrzej</td>
<td><em>waltornia</em> (French horn)</td>
<td>Udrycze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dziwigaz</td>
<td>M.</td>
<td><em>altówka</em> (viola)</td>
<td>Wierzba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gil</td>
<td>P.</td>
<td><em>altówka</em></td>
<td>Stary Zamość</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorzkoś</td>
<td>A.</td>
<td><em>altówka</em></td>
<td>Stary Zamość</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kostrubała</td>
<td>A.(nthony)</td>
<td><em>altówka</em></td>
<td>Wisłowiec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kostrubała</td>
<td>Andrzej</td>
<td><em>klarnet</em> (clarinet)</td>
<td>Wisłowiec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kostrubała</td>
<td>M.</td>
<td><em>klarnet</em></td>
<td>Wisłowiec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuszpyt</td>
<td>J.</td>
<td><em>klarnet</em></td>
<td>Wisłowiec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leśniak</td>
<td>J.</td>
<td><em>klarnet</em></td>
<td>Wisłowiec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madyniak</td>
<td>J.</td>
<td><em>klarnet</em></td>
<td>Wisłowiec</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Niedziela M. klarnet Wisłowiec
Nowosad J. klarnet Chomecińska Mała
Pomarański J. kontrabas (double bass) Zamość
Pomarański J. skrzypce (violin) Zamość
Seroka J. skrzypce Chomecińska Mała
Seroka M. skrzypce Chomecińska Mała
Skowron S. puzon (trombone) Udrycze
Słupecki Piotr flét (flute) Zamość
Słupecki Stanisław skrzypce Zamość
Smyk P. skrzypce Krasne
Smył J. perkusja (percussion) Udrycze
Sokół S. skrzypce Udrycze
Sołoducha M. puzon Udrycze
Świst F. puzon Wisłowiec
Świst M. klarnet Wisłowiec
Witkowski W. klarnet Udrycze

These names are from the Aneks 2 in the book, Karol Namysłowski i jego orkiestra, by Aleksander Bryk and Jadwiga Bryk-Kaliszuk 1992. ISBN 83-222-0705-0.

Editor—Paul adds that in addition to the Namysłowiacy site mentioned earlier, there’s more info on Namysłowski and the Orchestra on these Polish Wikipedia pages:

<http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orkiestra_Symfoniczna_im._Karola_Namys%C5%82owskiego_w_Zamo%C5%9Bciu>

<http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karol_Namys%C5%82owski>

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*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: Daniel Kij, and the 1907 Atlas of the Kingdom of Poland

I would like to add to the Daniel Kij tribute in last month’s Gen Dobry! My husband and I first learned about Daniel Kij and his group tours from an edition of Gen Dobry! I remember e-mailing you, asking what you knew about Daniel Kij. You gave me a very glowing reference, so my husband and I signed up for the tour, scheduled for September 2–15, 2001. We were to have four days on our own, either in Rome, Ukraine, or Poland. We decided to do the four days on our own in Poland, hoping to get some genealogy work done in the Warsaw Archives. However, after contacting the Warsaw Archives, I was told the records I wanted were in Mława. A frantic e-mail to you put us in touch with Iwona Dakiniewicz, and I am so very happy you did because the Mława Archives were now at Nidzica. And yes, we were doing research in Nidzica when the tragedy happened in New York. We’ll never forget that day. Thank goodness we were in the capable hands of Iwona and Daniel.

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We had such an enjoyable trip with Daniel in 2001 that we did it again in 2005. He really did take us to some non-touristy locations. One trip we spent an overnight in a Polish farm house, and on another, we visited the school and home of the Mazowsze song and dance group. We were fortunate to have had two memorable trips with Daniel. And I have to add that Iwona had us staying at an old castle while we were in Nidzica, not a Holiday Inn.

Also, in last month’s Gen Dobry! I found the first “Useful Web Addresses” listing to be of great interest. I located my father’s village in the 1907 Atlas of the Kingdom of Poland and was able to print out a colored map of the area. It was meaningful to me because my father was still living in Dłutowo/Nick in 1907. Included in that website was Iwona’s Research database, another great find, for Iwona had Dłutowo listed and gave surnames in the village, among which were my family name of Jabłonowski and Staniszewski, the surname of my grandmother.

Keep up the helpful and informative work.

Armela Hammes

Editor—We’ll sure try! And I have to say, Daniel and Iwona must have been two good people to be with on September 11th. I’m very glad things worked out so well for you.

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*** POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH ***

by Debbie Greenlee

Editor—Debbie Greenlee posted this note on the Poland-Roots and Polish Genius lists, and I felt the reminder would be welcome to our readers.

Hurry, hurry, hurry, get your Polish flags now! October 1 is the start of Polish American Heritage Month in the U.S.

Fly your Polish flag. Do something to inform someone else about Poland/things Polish.

For ideas see these sites:

<http://www.polishamericancenter.org/Press12>

In Chicago:
<http://www.chipublib.org/events/details/id/93422/>

If you own a business you can download the poster even though the page itself is dated 2008. This poster is still used: <http://www.umuc.edu/diversity/polish.cfm>
Editor—Here’s info Ceil Jensen sent about Polish classes that are available online.

Presenters:
Cecile Wendt Jensen, MA and Certified Genealogist, PARI Director
Sylwia Chandzel, MA, language instructor

10:00am-11:00am EST
Polonica Americana Research Institute
at the Polish Mission, Orchard Lake, Michigan
<http://www.polishmission.com>

PARI is pleased to announce that our Director, Certified Genealogist(sm) Ceil Wendt Jensen, is teaming up with Sylwia Chandzel, a Polish native speaker and a graduate of the University of Warsaw. Sylwia is currently a Language Instructor at the University of Detroit-Mercy. Together, they will present a series of four lectures entitled “Polish Language Classes for Genealogists.” Sylwia is an exceptionally knowledgeable, creative, and innovative teacher, with more than eight years of experience teaching Polish as a Second Language. She also provides translation services at PARI. If the series “The Polish Language Classes for Genealogists” is a success, PARI will bring more lectures online. Those attending on campus will have an opportunity, after class, to use the PARI research lab.

Wednesday October 3, 2012
THE POLISH ALPHABET AND BASIC VOCABULARY
Fee: $10.00 Friends of Polish Mission; $20.00 Non-Member; $29.00 Online

Ceil will discuss the rules American researchers need to know regarding the Polish language to successfully research their Polish ancestors. Sylvia’s lesson will model the correct pronunciation of the Polish alphabet, days of the week, months of the year, and counting to ten. Participants receive a handout, a PowerPoint download, and mp3 audio file of the Polish lesson. There will be an opportunity after class to use the PARI research lab.

Wednesday October 10, 2012
INTRODUCTION TO GIVEN NAMES AND SURNAMES
Fee: $10.00 Friends of Polish Mission; $20.00 Non-Member; $29.00 Online

Successful researchers need to know the correct pronunciation and spelling of their ancestors’ given names and surnames. Ceil will discuss anglicized names of Polish immigrants and database errors. Sylvia’s lesson will model the correct pronunciation of Polish given names and surnames as well as the importance of diminutives and imieniny, Polish name days. Participants
receive a handout, a PowerPoint download, and mp3 audio file of the Polish lesson. There will be an opportunity after class to use the PARI research lab.

**Wednesday October 17, 2012**

**MAP WORK: INCLUDING VOIVODESHIPS, POWIATS, GMINAS AND PARISHES**

Fee: $10.00 Friends of Polish Mission; $20.00 Non-Member; $29.00 Online

Changing borders and political systems impact Polish family research. Ceil will cover the techniques to identify your ancestral villages. Sylwia’s lesson will model the correct pronunciation and locations of current Polish voivodeships, powiats, gminas and their former names in German and Russian. Participants receive a handout, a PowerPoint download, and mp3 audio file of the Polish lesson. There will be an opportunity after class to use the PARI research lab.

**Wednesday October 24, 2012**

**POLISH WORDS AND PHRASES USED IN VITAL RECORDS AND CATALOGS**

Recordkeeping in Poland, depending on region and time period, were kept in Latin, Polish, German, or Russian. Ceil will review the typical birth, marriage, and death records available to researchers. Sylwia will read the records in the written language and translate them into English. Ceil and Sylwia will also offer a short primer on how to use the online catalogs of the State Archives of Poland and FamilySearch.com. Participants receive a handout, a PowerPoint download, and mp3 audio file of the Polish lesson. There will be an opportunity after class to use the PARI research lab.

Make checks payable to: POLISH-AMERICAN ART AND CULTURAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
Or use Visa, MasterCard, or American Express.

Order online at: <http://polgen.eventbrite.com/>
Or mail to:
PARI c/o Ceil Jensen
3535 Indian Trail
Orchard Lake, Michigan 48324

Questions?
Call: 248-683-0323
E-mail: <cjensen@orchardlakeschools.com>

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*** THE FOURTH ANNIVERSY OF PARI ***

by Ceil Jensen <cjensen@orchardlakeschools.com>

 Editor—Here’s another item from Ceil you might be interested to read about.
Four years ago this month, we set the foundation for the Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI) at the Polish Mission. We are a unit of the historic Polish complex of Orchard Lake Schools. We are grateful for the support we have received from the campus and from Polonia. Our dedicated volunteers donate time each week to help fellow researchers, index records, help with collection development, and most recently, the renovation of our Polish Panorama.

PARI now offers a range of services including reunion planning, lectures, and family history guidance and research services, if you’d rather hire out the search for your records. As a FamilySearch affiliate we have access to the microfilms in the LDS catalog, and microform readers and scanners to capture your Polish records.

By popular request, we are expanding our lecture series this month to include the ability to virtually attend our genealogy lectures, and retrieve them “on demand.” Interested? Please see the preceding article, or visit our registration Web site: <http://polgen.eventbrite.com/>.

The Polish Mission has undertaken an online fundraiser for the renovation of the Polish Panorama. We want to thank the patrons who have already contributed to help restore the figures. This unique pageant is composed of 106 historical figures representing over a thousand years of Polish history. We have one month left to collect funds to allow us to computerize the theatre and publish the history of the Polish Panorama and the significance of the represented figures including Polish royals, religious leaders, statesmen, poets, writers, composers, and educators. We are still recruiting “Guardian Angels” who donate $500.00 for Tadeusz Kościuszko, Kazimierz Pułaski, or Maksymilian Maria Kolbe. Taking the lead from PBS, we offer “perks” for donations!

$25.00—Listing in the booklet “The History of the Polish Panorama” and a Dziękuję (Thank You) Panorama postcard sent to the U.S. address of your choice.

$50.00—All of the above and an 8x10 photo of Poland by Polish Mission Director Marcin Chumiecki.

$75.00—All of the above and a CD with images of all the Panorama figures and the Polish and English soundtracks.

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*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

Saturday, October 13, 2012
14TH ANNUAL BALTIMORE FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOP
Baltimore Family History Center
120 Stemmers Run Road, Essex, MD 21221

Tom Sadauskas will be giving a presentation on the “The International Tracing Service” with a focus on their holdings of displaced person (DP) records. The workshop is free. For details and registration, visit: <http://www.baltimorefamilyhistoryworkshop.org/>

[From an e-mail sent me by Tom Sadauskas.]

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October 20, 2012
PGS-MICHIGAN ANNUAL SEMINAR
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. • Registration begins at 8:30 a.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. PGSM is now a 501 (c) 3 and this event is partially funded by the Michigan Humanities Council. Details and the registration form are on the Web site:

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

[From a note sent by Valerie Koselka of PGSM]

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October 21, 2012
Polish American Congress of New Hampshire
POLISH HERITAGE MONTH BANQUET
to honor New Hampshire’s Most Renowned Elected Public Servant of Polish Descent, The Honorable Raymond J. Wieczorek

The State’s first Polish American to serve as
* Member of the New Hampshire Governor’s Executive Council for six terms
* Mayor of Manchester for five terms
* Commissioner and Chairman, Manchester Housing & Redevelopment Authority
* Director and President, Manchester Scholarship Foundation

- Sunday, October 21, 2012, starting at 6:00 p.m., Puritan Backroom conference center, suite A, 245 Hooksett Rd, Manchester NJ 03104.

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- Beef, turkey, and vegetarian choice buffet dinner, dessert, refreshments

- $40 per person payable in advance by October 6 to:

  Polish American Congress of New Hampshire
  34 Reflection Drive
  Hudson NH 03051

If you write to reserve seats, please include full name, street address, city/town/zip code, home or cell phone, and e-mail address. For more information, call 603-718-1351.

[From a note submitted by Andrew Zuba]

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November 3–4, 2012
LITHUANIAN MUGE FESTIVAL
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E Allegheny Ave
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Hungry for the world’s best potato pancakes? Yearning to meet the Lithuanian-American community? In the market for amber jewelry? Craving the taste of old world rye bread and kielbasy? Curious about Lithuanian music and dance? Thirsty for Svyturys or Kalnapilis? Then join us in Philadelphia at the Lithuanian Music Hall as we celebrate Lithuanian arts and culture at our annual Mugė festival on Saturday and Sunday, November 3rd and 4th! To learn more: <https://www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=home#!/events/470509416313390/>.

[From a note posted to the LithGen mailing list by “naujalis2003”]

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*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***


On the Polish Genius list, Bronwyn Klimach gave this link to a news story you may have missed, about how the Wisla or Vistula has sunk so low that it’s revealed hidden treasures.

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<http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/>

From time to time, we all need reminders of the basics. A recent thread on the Polish Genius list mentioned the Library of Congress European Reading Room, with a variety of useful publications. It includes address and telephone directories, indexes and digitized versions, for many European countries, including Poland.

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The 10 September issue of *Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter* [EOGN] included an article with the title “Illinois State Archives Unveils New Electronic Database.” It seems Illinois Secretary of State and State Archivist Jesse White (D) has announced a new online database describing the documents and records maintained at the Illinois State Archives. Given how many Polish Americans have Illinois connections, this is surely worth a look!

The 24 September issue of EOGN had an article “Another Instance of Bogus ‘Family Coats of Arms.’” For me, this is verse 87 of a song that never seems to end. Dick Eastman does a good job explaining what a scam these “family coats of arms” pitches really are. Granted, he talks mostly about western European coats of arms, and Polish heraldry was somewhat different. But the basic truths he explains apply to Polish coats of arms, to a large extent. Remember: your family almost certainly did not have a coat of arms unless it was noble!

The 9 September issue of *Nu? What’s New?*, the e-zine of Avotaynu, Inc., ran an article saying ó 40,000 family history-related books have been digitized for this site. Gary Mokotoff did a search for “Rzeszow” and got 11 results, including a hit from the Polish Genealogical Society of Texas’s *Surname Index* and a hit from *The Gwozdz Family Tree* by Peter Gwozdz. Surely it couldn’t hurt for you to visit the site and see what a search turns up.

The story of the massacre at Katyń will not die. The United States recently disclosed documents that show the government of the good ole U.S. of A. knew the truth early on, but didn’t do anything for fear of antagonizing Uncle Joe Stalin. Then, a few years later, everybody in the U.S. was finding Communist plots everywhere, including plenty of places where they didn’t really exist. There are times I feel like screaming “Can our leaders ever get anything right?” Anyway, the above link tells you about this, if you haven’t already heard about it.

Related to the above topic is this link, posted by Maureen Mroczek Morris, to a review of *The Officer’s Wife*, a film that’s getting a lot of favorable press. It’s a documentary about Katyń and the far-reaching effects the massacre, and its cover-up, had on the Uzarowicz family.

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This is a fascinating article about how Poles, recalling their own fight against a repressive government, are doing their bit to help Belarusians resist the tyranny of Aliaksandr Lukashenka, the last Stalinist dictator in Europe.

<http://tinyurl.com/TLCWDYTYA>

The 23 September issue of Nu? What’s New? is one of many sources saying the genealogy TV show Who Do You Think You Are?, which was canceled in the U.S., has been renewed in Canada. There are persistent rumors it may be picked up in the U.S., perhaps on the TLC cable channel. Nu gave this link to more info.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lab33qfDW-g>

William H. Szych posted a note to the Facebook group “The Way Back,” giving the lyrics of the song “Czerwone Maki na Monte Cassino” (Red Poppies on Monte Cassino) and this link to a YouTube video of a choir singing the song. If you can’t find the lyrics elsewhere, the Web page <http://prokonsul.blogspot.com/2012/05/red-poppies-on-monte-cassino.html> provides them in Polish and English.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoQj8GGHNxU>

Also from “The Way Back,” Damian Bak posted this link to a fascinating clip of a Swedish hard rock band singing a tribute to Polish soldiers who fought the Battle of Wizna in September 1939! The song is in English, but someone very kindly gave English captions for those who can’t quite get what’s being said.


The latest PGSA Notebook mentioned that the Society now offers Stephen Szabados’ book Finding Grandma’s European Ancestors for sale in its store. “This book is designed to give the beginning researcher the tools needed to research his European ancestors. The author, Stephen Szabados, uses his own genealogical research and documents to help you identify the resources that are available to you and how you can use them to find your ancestors from Europe.”

<http://content.library.ccsu.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/cpaa>

On the LidaRoots mailing list, Barbara Proko posted this note: “The Polish American Archives at the Central Connecticut State University library has an extensive collection of parish jubilee books (histories done to celebrate 25, 50th, 75, 100th anniversaries) from both Roman Catholic and Polish National Catholic parishes in the northeastern United States, plus booklets on organizations like the Polish Falcons, Polish American military veterans groups, etc. Over the past couple years, the archives have been digitizing these pamiętniki, and a good number are now freely available online. These books are usually difficult to find, as they were typically printed in small numbers, mainly for parishioners and organization members. In many
pamiętniki, the text is in both Polish and English. They include many photos and many, many peoples’ names, as well as the history of a local Polish community, parish, or organization, so they are a wonderful resource for historians and genealogists.” The above link takes you to the collection. Barbara added, “Since its establishment in 1986, the Connecticut Polish American Archives has collected many ephemeral publications that are placed in its vertical file. Materials include anniversary booklets, convention materials, programs of concerts, celebrations, reunions, dedications, dinners, balls, and testimonials. These publications may contain historical essays, photographs, and membership lists. A significant part of many of these pamphlets is devoted to advertisements by local businesses and prominent members of the community along with lists of contributors, donors, committee members, and congratulatory letters. (It seems that material can be downloaded only one page at a time.)”

<http://www.polamjournal.com/News/Matt_Urban_Scholarship/matt_urban_scholarship.html>

Mark Kohan, editor of the Polish American Journal, posted a note to the Polish American Writers & Editors Facebook group, asked everyone to spread word of the Veteran’s Day Scholarship Contest in honor of Lt. Col. Matt Urban. Get more info at the above link.

<http://www.reabit.org.ua>

Marilyn Robinson posted a note to the JewishGen Discussion Group about the “National Bank of the Repressed,” with a list of over 90,000 individuals, Jews and non-Jews, who were victims of repression. The site is in the Ukrainian language, but Google Translate can help you navigate it. The actual list can be accessed by clicking on this link: <http://www.reabit.org.ua/nbr/>.


And while we’re talking about victims of Soviet repression, “Carol” posted this link to the Polish Genius list. It’s a searchable database of Polish victims in the 1940s.

<http://myscenicroute.tumblr.com/>

Also on the Polish Genius list, Debbie Greenlee posted this link to a blog by an American spending eight months in Bydgoszcz. The title is “Living in a City I Can’t Pronounce.” Interesting stuff!

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