CONTENTS

Buffalo’s Polonia in the U.S. Navy, World War I
Letters to the Editor
Review—Sto Lat: A Modern Guide to Polish Genealogy
Lithuanian History Project
† Sławomir Radoń – Sandra Hargreaves Luebking †
Long-Overdue Honor for Musial!
Upcoming Events
More Useful Web Addresses
You May Reprint Articles...

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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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*** BUFFALO’S POLONIA IN THE U.S. NAVY, WORLD WAR I ***

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

Some excellent sources for names are memorial books created after military involvement in a war. Such is the case with the following book, *History of Buffalo and Erie County in the World War 1914-1919*, compiled by Daniel J. Sweeney and published July 4, 1919. My copy is a second edition, as noted on the title page, followed by “First edition of 10,000 copies, the city’s gift to her returned soldiers, exhausted on the day of delivery.”

It is a large volume of 754 pages and is filled with stories of action and battles of the Great War; but for genealogists, it has a greater wealth. At the back of the book—in reality, more than just the back, the last 260 pages—there are names of servicemen and a smaller number of service women who fought in World War I, originating from homes in and near Buffalo, NY.

Members of those Buffalonians who fought in the Polish Army, aka Haller’s Army are listed, though the total number is incomplete. These names may be found on a number of sites as well as in my records. What caught my eye were the many more pages of service men who fought in the U.S. armed forces, but have Polish names. In other words, these men were most likely U.S. citizens, probably born in the U.S. and eligible for service in the U.S. armed forces.

Unfortunately, there is limited information on these names, usually a surname (with some obvious spelling errors), a first name which is 99% written in the English version, a rank, a station, sometimes a company or battalion, and, for the Navy, some ships are listed. There are many sections with literally thousands and thousands of names, but of all nationalities, not just Polish. German, Irish, Italian, even Chinese names are listed, as they were U.S. citizens, so they were expected to serve.

I have been meaning to start data basing these names as time permits, but I soon found that to type in all the names would take weeks. In favor of this, I selected a section and “picked out” what I felt were Polish or at least eastern European names. Now for the disclaimer. These names were pulled out of the total list of names, strictly on my judgment that the name fit a possible Polish family. Some of the names are quite easily identified as Polish, i.e., Basinski, Biskupski, Bogacki, etc. But some names were questionable and I had to make the call to add them or leave them out. I went to high school with a girl of 100% Polish heritage with the last name of Bender. Indeed, there were some Benders in my list, but should I add them or not? I left those out.

Also, I cannot state I listed every man who had Polish roots. I am 50% Polish-American, but my name as it is spelled correctly, Valasek, reflects my 50% Czech-American heritage. Well, there is a version of my name in Polish, Wałaszek; but everyone may not know if their non-Polish name has a phonetically-spelled Polish version.

Also, if a sailor named say, Michael O’Reilly had a mother whose maiden name was say, Ewa Bagińska, this should make him 50% Polish; but in the case of this book, we would not know that fact. He would be listed with an Irish surname.
The following names are extracted from the section on the Navy, as it was smaller than the Army and a bit more manageable. Again, there are questionable typing of names in the original work, e.g., Zulawskee, and the three listings of Szmania, Szmania, and Sznania. Somehow I feel that Sznania was correctly spelled Szmania, and the -ni was really an -m, somewhere in an original listing. These names were taken from the book as printed.

Then there is always the chance that the name I selected sounded Polish to me, but in reality, could be Ukrainian, German, Czech or Slovak and I’m just biased in my hearing.

Anyway, here are 400 names taken from the approximately 4,000 listed for Navy servicemen from Western New York state. Hopefully this will lead researchers to possible ancestors known and unknown.

If there are any connections, I would like to hear from you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname, First Name</th>
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<td>Glinski, Leo</td>
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Subject: Heinritz Luba of the Polish Marine

I’m seeking my grandfather, who was a dark/mulatto soldier in the Polish Marine. I know he was alive circa 1946. He served on the destroyer *HMS Garland* (London).

His name is Heinritz Luba. I guess that his family took the surname Luba from an African town, the town in the island Bioko not far from Congo. I think that Africans came to Poland in the 1920s (?), but I don’t know the story of this emigration? I would really like to know.

Do you know how I can find out more about my grandfather—maybe get a picture of him from the Polish Navy?

I will be very grateful if you can help me.

Jeanne Kristensen, Denmark

Editor—I must confess, I came up empty on this one. If you have any ideas or suggestions for Jeanne, please write me at <wfh@langline.com> and I will forward your note to her.

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Subject: Links That Don’t Work
Editor—This note refers to my article in the last issue on what to do when the links in *Gen Dobry!* don’t work properly.

When a link doesn’t work with Explorer I try (and usually succeed with) Firefox.

[Name withheld by request.]

Editor—Good point! You can always try a different browser and see if it does a better job. I have Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, and Google Chrome installed on my machines. Actually, I use Chrome almost all the time these days, and it seldom fails me.

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Subject: More on Links That Don’t Work

Your discussion in the latest issue got my attention. Mine opens in Outlook Express, and as you point out, the links don’t work, and there are those big blank lines between paragraphs. So, after reading your description of the problem, I decided to forward it to my Gmail address, and when I opened it the links worked and the blank lines were gone. You were right on. The only drawback I see is that the print is much smaller and a little more difficult to read. Beats shoveling snow, though. Good luck with that.

Bob Solarski, Gulf Breeze, FL

Editor—Glad I could help a little, Bob. By the way, Google Chrome allows you to enlarge pages, including Gmail. Look to the upper right of the browser, just past the address line, where there’s an icon that looks like a wrench. Click on it, and one of the options is “Zoom.” It allows you to change the magnification to make text easier to read. I think that may help you with the small print problem ... As for your good wishes, I appreciate the thought very much, but you didn’t have to remind me that there are places in this country where snow and ice are rare and seldom last long. As a Texan in exile, I’m only too aware of that (regardless of the weird Super Bowl week)!

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Subject: Displaced Persons After World War II

Many of my e-mail recipients understand my passion for history ... particularly history of eastern Europe, immigration, migration, and the particular subject of World War II “Displaced Persons.” Some may recall my recommendation of two particular books, *DPs: Europe’s Displaced Persons, 1945-1951* and *Round-Trip to America*, both by Mark Wyman. Below is an excerpt from a book that looks at the other victims of World War II—the displaced Germans.

Edward F. Rozylowicz

Editor—The excerpt from the book was a bit lengthy, and I wasn’t sure about the
legality of repeating it in *Gen Dobry!* without getting permission from the author and publisher. But it was very interesting, and I’m glad to pass along the name of the book and authors, for those of you who wish to check it out. It’s *The Dominion of War*, by Fred Anderson and Andrew Clayton, published by Penguin. Amazon.com has it, and a Google search for it turns up plenty of links where you can read more.

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Subject: St. Mary of the Angels

I wanted to respond on a comment made by a person in the November issue regarding the name of the church school that had closed with the possibility of getting Polish books. The writer indicated that the name of the church given was St. Mary of the Angels, but the writer thought it probably was Mary Queen of Angels.

When I went to parochial school in the 1950s, I lived on the northwest side of Chicago on North Hoyne Avenue, and at that time there was a church and school named St. Mary of the Angels near to where I lived. Also, St. Hedwig’s church and school were nearby in yet another direction. I attended St. Hedwig School.

I am not so sure St. Mary of the Angels is still open. It may have gone by the wayside of the other large beautiful architectural churches that were built by our hard working dedicated ancestors.

Loretta Poninski Read

*Editor*—Thank you for this information.

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*** REVIEW—STO LAT: A MODERN GUIDE TO POLISH GENEALOGY***

Reviewed by Magdalene and Arthur Wagner

*Editor*—I’m still trying to figure out how it happened that I did not print a review of Ceil Jensen’s book *Sto Lat* months ago, when it first came out. Well, I suppose better late than never. Magdalene and Arthur Wagner wrote this review, at my request, for the Winter 2011 issue of PGSA’s Journal *Rodziny*. I wanted to repeat it here, with their permission, before another unaccountable lapse of memory overcame me!


Cecile Jensen’s *Sto Lat: A Modern Guide to Polish Genealogy* is a powerhouse of information for beginning and seasoned family history researchers. The author’s years of study, working with other scholars, and expertise as a teacher are evidenced in her book.
This manual is concise but comprehensive, readable but authoritative, and detailed but engaging. It offers suggestions for research among Poles, Jews, Ukrainians, Germans, and other Eastern/Central Europe ethnic groups.

Based on a sound teaching approach, the book is organized around a series of questions that a genealogist is likely to have. The questions appear in the table of contents and serve as chapter subheadings. Subject matter includes:

- Polonia
- Beginning Research
- Military Records
- Immigration and Naturalization
- Geography, Gazetteers, and Maps
- Record Keeping and Handwriting
- Case Studies and Historical Documents
- Heirlooms, Documents, and Collections
- Digital and Traditional Research

Under these headings, Jensen dispels myths, gives information on getting started, and helps resolve the dead ends that are a frustrating part of family history research.

In addition to her thorough definitions, maps, and charts, the author provides so many more avenues for the family researcher. There are refreshing “sparklers”: Sanborn fire insurance maps, DNA marker information, landowners records, naturalization issues, interviews about ship records, archives here and abroad, the old men’s draft, regional territorial name changes, and distributing one’s findings. There is plenty of clear advice on reading civil documents in various languages, even how to decipher handwriting.

Narratives and case studies make the history come alive to audiences. Jensen devotes a practical chapter to preservation. For example, she recommends methods for conserving fabrics and papers. Even digital technology can be unreliable; she suggests work-arounds. To safeguard eventual disposition of the documents and artifacts, she gives detailed instructions and a model for preparing a codicil to a will.

Graphic illustrations are abundant and helpful. They include sample documents, archival photos, maps, census forms, church records, and tables of foreign terms used in European civil records. Complete mail and online addresses are given in each case. At the end is a list of cited Internet links.

The cover collage by Peg Pasternak sets the tone in which Jensen presents her work. Fragments of documents and music, intertwined with the Polish clematis, the Polish eagle, and “sto lat,” all come together to represent duch rodziny (the spirit of the Polish family).

After reading Jensen’s remarkable guide, family historians will have learned that their common lament must always end with the adverb yet: “I can’t find ________ yet!”
*** LITHUANIAN HISTORY PROJECT ***

by Aiste Zalepuga

Editor—Aiste sent this to me as an e-mail note, and I felt it was worth passing along to you.

My name is Aiste Zalepuga and I’m a high school student in Bradenton, Florida. Growing up as an American Lithuanian and spending my summers in Lithuania, I was surprised to discover how few Lithuanian teenagers abroad understood, or even knew about, the social and political events that returned freedom to Lithuania.

For someone in their 30s or older, the dramatic events which affected Lithuania can never be forgotten. But, for teenagers or even individuals in their early 20s, those same events may as well be ancient history. We’ve never lived in a Lithuania that wasn’t “free” or felt the tensions of the Cold War.

If individuals with a Lithuanian heritage of my generation, or future generations, are to understand what happened just a few decades ago, then those stories must be captured now. I intend to follow up with the people who were a part of this incredible moment in Lithuanian history and record their stories, while they’re still alive, in their own words, so that their message to future generations will never be lost. As more people get involved, we will be able to preserve Lithuania’s history and culture for coming generations, no matter their location.

If you would like to watch some of the “first person” video interviews which I’ve already conducted, you can view them at <http://www.historyheard.com>. Currently, interviews are available with:


Several more interviews will be posted during the year. If you have a story to share about this era of Lithuania’s history, or if you know someone who does, please take a moment and contact me so the story can be preserved.

If you have thoughts or suggestions about this project, please take a moment to share them with me. I would appreciate your feedback. [You can e-mail Aiste by writing me at wfh@langline.com, and I’ll forward your note to her.]

Gen Dobry!, Vol. XII, No. 2, February 2011 — 10
If you have “hard copy” material which you’d like to share, please make a copy and forward the copy to me. Please don’t send original material unless you would like me to keep it as part of this project.

Su pagarba,

Aiste Zalepuga

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*** † SLAWOMIR RADOŃ – SANDRA HARGREAVES LUEBKING † ***

I am sorry to say I’ve received information on the deaths of two people of great importance to Polish genealogy and genealogy in general.

Iwona Dakiniewicz wrote to tell me that the General Director of the Polish State Archives, Sławomir Radoń, had died in Kraków on February 15th at the age of 53, leaving behind a wife and three children. Iwona had been planning to interview him, to ask him questions Polish-American genealogical researchers wanted answered. Sadly, his illness prevented that. Iwona said a new director will be appointed in a month. You can read more at this page of the State Archives Website:


And on February 17th, one of the best known names in genealogy in this country, Sandra Hargeaves Luebking, died of cancer. She was tireless in the field, having presented over a thousand lectures at various events. You can read more about her on this page of Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter:

<http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2011/02/sandra-hargreaves-luebking-rip.html>

We all owe these people our recognition and thanks. Cześć ich pamięci!

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*** LONG-OVERDUE HONOR FOR MUSIAL! ***

by Raymond Rolak

Editor—While not exactly related to genealogy, this subject should interest any Polish-American who loves to hear of a Polish boy getting the recognition he deserves.

Wash. D.C.— It took the encouragement of some U.S. Senators and the entire “Cardinal Nation,” but Stan Musial was finally awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He was included with a very distinguished group. President Barack Obama presented to the 90-year-old Musial in the East Room of the White House. Musial was one of 15 recipients of the medal and one of two
sports greats. Also honored was Boston Celtics Hall of Famer, Bill Russell.

Musial and Russell were included with former U. S. President George H.W. Bush. Interestingly, the senior President Bush, 86, had played baseball at Yale and participated in the NCAA finals in 1947 and 1948. The former collegiate first baseman talked about the great experiences he had at the first College World Series. The first two CWS were at Hyames Field on the campus of Western Michigan University. Yale had been runners-up to California and USC in 47 and 48, respectively. “We got our picture taken with Babe Ruth and I thought that was heady stuff, but here I am with Stan the Man,” said the former President. “I am so honored to be here today.”

Also receiving the award were German Chancellor Angela Merkel, U.S. Rep. John Lewis, John H. Adams, Maya Angelou, and financier Warren Buffett. Also included were Jasper Johns, Gerda Weismann Klein, Dr. Tom Little, Sylvia Mendez, Jean Kennedy Smith, John J. Sweeney and world renown musician, Yo-Yo Ma.

President Bush, who played baseball at Yale, kept a George McQuinn style first baseman’s glove in the Oval Office desk drawer when he was in the White House. “When I was stressed, I would pull it out and pound on it,” said the former President.

Musial, inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in 1969 and the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame in 1973 was humbled. Seated with Lil, his wife of over 70 years, Musial said, “I am proud to be a Cardinal.”

Russell was the centerpiece of 11 championship seasons for the Celtics. Also, he won two NCAA basketball championships at the University of San Francisco. One of Russell’s high school teammates in Oakland, California was future baseball Hall of Famer, Frank Robinson.

Russell, who also coached for the Seattle Supersonics in the NBA, was also a national basketball broadcaster. He complimented President Obama about reaching the top of his field based on intelligence, ingenuity, and hard work.

Throughout the 2010 baseball season, thousands of Cardinals fans from around the world took part in the team’s social-media based “Stand for Stan” campaign. The players also joined in the campaign. “For us, Stan embodies all that is good about the game of baseball and what it means to be a St. Louis Cardinal,” wrote the 2010 Cardinals players in a letter to President Obama supporting Musial for the Medal of Freedom. “Stan is a role model for players and fans alike, embodying the qualities of good sportsmanship, self-discipline, hard work, consistency, grace, humility, and excellence.”

The grass-roots effort blossomed and helped the decision of the President regarding Musial. Ron Watermon of the St. Louis Cardinals was the point man for the “Stand for Stan” project. Cardinal supporters and Musial admirers were encouraged to take their picture of with the caricature of the “Stand for Stan” and forward the photos on. Folks were lobbying and encouraging others in the effort with their picture of “Stand for Stan.” “The day we started the project, the team (Cardinals) was in San Diego, and there were fans already in the stadium with ‘Stand for Stan’
posters,” said Watermon. “It took a life of its own and just grew.”

The Medal of Freedom is the nation’s highest civilian honor. It is bestowed to individuals who have made especially meritorious contributions to the best interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public endeavors. Though individuals may be honored for singular acts of momentous achievement, it is generally presented for a lifetime of service or at the conclusion of a distinguished career. It was long overdue for Musial.


A Pennsylvania native, Musial enjoyed a 22-year Major League Baseball career as an outfielder and first baseman with the Cardinals. He started out as a promising pitcher. With his unorthodox coiled stance, he batted .300 or better in each of his first 16 seasons and finished with a .331 career batting average. His average ranks 32nd all-time in baseball history and fifth highest in Cardinals history.

Musial won the National League batting title seven times. He was a three-time National League Most Valuable Player (1943, 1946, and 1948), accumulated a career total of 3,630 hits and 475 home runs.

Musial also was on three World Series teams as a player and one as the Cards’ general manager. His great sports appeal was national in scope. Musial became part of the fabric of American culture, when in 1946 the spectators in Brooklyn, New York gave him his now famous nickname, “Stan The Man.”

Musial recalled his induction into the NPASHF in 1973 and the anniversary celebration of the Museum 25 years later. He remembered fondly regaling the audience with his harmonica. “Ray, Polish food is still my favorite,” he added while smiling. “I watched the 2006 series on TV,” referring to the Tigers-Cards match-up.

Off the field, Musial’s accomplishments are still impressive. Other activities and charities dear to Musial are the USO, Senior Olympics, the Boy Scouts, the Crippled Society of St. Louis, and Shelter the Children. He always has stayed connected to baseball, operated a hotel in retirement, and lent his name to a restaurant in suburban St. Louis.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, missing the entire 1945 season. While still playing, he recognized the great importance of off-season training and nutrition. In 1959, Musial hired a personal trainer to get his hitting eye back on stroke. He was awarded Comeback Player of the Year in 1962 when he hit .330 at age 41. After his playing days, he served as chairman of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s President’s Council on Physical Fitness from 1964 to 1967.

Musial wholeheartedly helped the growth of Little League baseball in Poland and has acted as an unofficial emissary to Poland. He was awarded the Cavalier Cross of the Order of Merit, the
Polish Government’s highest civilian honor.

The Medal of Freedom was established in 1945 by President Harry S. Truman to honor service during World War II. The medal was re-established in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy and the scope by which it is awarded was broadened.

“Throughout his life, Stan has never sought recognition for his good works,” said Cardinals Chairman William DeWitt Jr. in a released statement. “Stan has been a true role model exemplifying the humility, grace, and generosity we so desperately need to see in our American sports heroes.”

Musial’s decency as a gentleman was legendary. Musial stood by his beliefs of treating people right. In 1947 when some Cardinals wanted to boycott an upcoming game against the Brooklyn Dodgers because they had African-American Jackie Robinson on their roster, he took action. Unaffected by the pressure, Musial adamantly refused to follow suit. The Cardinals played the game, a testament to the respect he commanded in the clubhouse. He was also highly valued for mentoring rookies with advice and tips. He would include “the rooks” for dinner invites when traveling on the road. Years later, Hank Aaron said that Stan Musial was one of his favorite Major League players because he treated all men equally and with dignity.

Musial was the first player in Cardinals history to have his uniform number retired and in 1969 won first-ballot election into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. On October 2, more than 39,000 fans paid tribute to Musial at “Stand for Stan” Day at Busch Stadium.

MLB Commissioner Bud Selig said, “On behalf of all of Major League Baseball, I am truly thrilled that The White House has honored Stan Musial with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Stan Musial is an extraordinary human being, a great American, and one of the best players in the history of the game. He has long been a treasure of St. Louis, but he represents all the best of our national pastime. Today, our game salutes Stan Musial on this highest honor from our country.”

I joked with Bill Russell that Musial had been offered a basketball scholarship in 1938 to the University of Pittsburgh. Russell smiled, “I would have gotten more boards.” The normally intense Russell was very gracious and we compared some University of San Francisco and University of Detroit sports stories. We shared stories about the Jesuit Basketball Initiative, a new promotion to highlight Jesuit colleges that have varsity men’s and women’s basketball programs. Russell had, as two of his guests, football great Jim Brown and baseball Hall of Famer Joe Morgan.

There is a statue of “Stan the Man” outside of Bush Stadium in St. Louis. It is inscribed with this quote by former baseball executive Ford Frick, “Here stands baseball’s warrior. Here stands baseball’s perfect knight.”

Editor—Raymond Rolak was a past Chairman of the NPASHF.

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*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

March 18, 2011
POLISH JEOPARDY!
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
PARI, Orchard Lake, Michigan

Please join us at PARI (Orchard Lake, MI) for an afternoon game of Polish Jeopardy on Friday, March 18 from 3-5pm. You can join a team or sign up with buddies. It’s a chance to brush up on your Polish history and culture. We’ll end the afternoon with a Polish pot luck dinner. Come join the fun!

For more information, contact Ceil Jensen at: cjensen@orchardlakeschools.com.

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March 19, 2011

PGS-CALIFORNIA MEETING

Los Angeles Family History Library
10741 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, CA

Research Assistance: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- 1 p.m. Class Speaker: Christine Elia
  Lecture: “Utilizing Inherited Family Histories and Databases”

* Determining what you received and its accuracy
* Get others to help you identify people and places in photos asap!
* How to share items/information with others

- 2:30 p.m. General Meeting

Speaker: Christine Elia License: “Leaving Genealogy Data to Your Heirs”
* Ideas for organizing and grouping your records, artifacts, and photos
* Putting them in a form that’s interesting and useful for others
* Letting your wishes be known
* Ways to help others become interested in your “passion”

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April 30 and May 1, 2011
POLISH FESTIVAL, HOUSTON, TEXAS

<http://houstonpolishfestival.org/>
May 7, 2011
2011 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE
Washington DC Family History Center
10000 Stoneybrook Drive
Kensington MD 20895

9:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: James Sweany, Director, Local History & Genealogy Reading Room, Library of Congress. The Library of Congress: “Pursuing Your Family History in the National Library”

This conference is FREE of charge. Detailed descriptions can be found on our Website: <www.wdcfhc.org>

LUNCH: Please bring a bag lunch that does not require refrigeration. We regret that we are not able to offer pre-paid lunches.

REGISTRATION PROCESS:

-- Online registration at our Website <www.wdcfhc.org> is preferred.
-- Phone: Call Family History Center at 301-587-0042.

SYLLABUS: A syllabus will be available on CD. Cost: $5.00. Payment by cash or check at registration desk.

CLASSES – CHOOSE ONE PER HOUR

OPENING SESSION & KEYNOTE SPEAKER: 9:00 – 9:50
“The Library of Congress: Pursuing Your Family History in the National Library”
Presented by: James Sweany, Director, Local History & Genealogy Reading Room

SESSION 1: 10:00-11:00
#1-1: Beginning Census Research – Lorraine Minor
#1-2: Planning a Family Reunion – Nathania Branch-Miles
#1-3: Research at the DAR Library – Julia Coldren-Walker
#1-4: Obituaries, A Treasure Trove – Adrian Gravelle
#1-5: Virtual Genealogy Education: Online Options – Angela McGhie
#1-6: A History of Ellis Island: Separating Myth from Reality – Tom Sadauskas

SESSION 2: 11:15 – 12:15
#2-1: Beginning African-American Research – Bill Shelton and Ed Washington
#2-2: Beyond the Death Certificate – Phyllis Legare
#2-3: A Genealogical Treasure Hunt in Federal Records – Angela McGhie
#2-4: American State Papers – Julia Coldren-Walker
#2-5: Using Court Records in Genealogical Research – Robyn Smith
#2-6: How to Be an Effective Family History Consultant – Mary Jean Sokolowsky

SESSION 3: 1:00 – 2:00
#3-1: How Did Your Family Get There and Why Did They Go? Migration Routes to 1850 – Sharon Hodges
#3-2: The 5 W’s of Genealogy: Preserving Family History – Roberta Benor
#3-3: Double Count: Find Ancestors Listed Twice in Census – Natonne Kemp
#3-4: FamilySearch Indexing – Mary Jean Sokolowsky
#3-5: Producing a Reliable Family History: An Appellate Judge Discusses Genealogical Evidence – Adrian Gravelle
#3-6: Native American Research – Margo Williams

SESSION 4: 2:15 – 3:15
#4-1: Using Federal Land Records – Bernice Bennett
#4-2: Saving Private Memories – Pamela Loos-Noji
#4-3: What Can I Expect to Find at the National Archives – Rebekah Fairbank
#4-4: Overcoming “Brick Walls” – Phyllis Legare
#4-5: Conducting an Effective Search on Ancestry.com – Sabrina Petersen

[Forwarded by Tom Sadauskas, who, you’ll notice, is giving one of the talks.]

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May 10, 2011
SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY
130 S. Roselle Rd., Schaumburg, Illinois

Dr. Paul Valasek will present his talk on “Why My Austro-Hungarian Ancestors Were Neither Austrian nor Hungarian.”

For additional information contact Tony Kierna, Genealogy Coordinator

<http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com/>

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May 28, 2011
PGS-CALIFORNIA MEETING
Los Angeles Family History Library
June 5-10, 2011

GENEALOGY “SUMMER CAMP”

Toronto Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

Genealogy “Summer Camp” is a unique program for adults offered by the Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society that brings out-of-town family historians to Toronto for an intensive week of tutorials and hands-on research at the city’s many archives and reference libraries. Local family historians are also welcome to participate as “day campers”. Some tutorials will emphasize Toronto sources, but most repositories have holdings from a much broader area, so researchers with ancestors anywhere in Ontario will benefit. 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.

The 2011 Genealogy “Summer Camp” – scheduled for the week of June 5 to 10 – will be our 15th! More than 100 participants from England, right across Canada and many U.S. states have attended the 14 previous Summer Camps – some more than once!

The fee for 2011 is $220. This covers approximately 7 hours of lectures and tutorials, 25 hours of hands-on instruction and all worksheets and handouts.

For complete details, including lists of venues, resources and tutorials and accommodation information, and to download an application package, please visit <http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/summercamp.html>, call 416-733-2608 (voice mail) or e-mail info@torontofamilyhistory.org.

Applications should be postmarked by 1 May 2011.

Gwyneth Pearce, Ontario Genealogical Society – Toronto Branch

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Friday, September 30, and Saturday, October 1, 2011

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA CONFERENCE
PGSA Conference chair, Margie LaCerra, is in the process of finalizing plans for the Society’s annual Fall Conference. The dates are set, as are plans to have a tour of Polish Chicago on Friday, September 30. “Our participants will be picked up at the conference hotel and dropped off there. The next day, Saturday, October 1, 2011 will be an all-day lecture series at that same hotel.”

So mark the date on your calendars. Further details will be given as we get them—and of course you can always check PGSA’s Web site, <http://www.pgsa.org>, for more info.

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*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***

<http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2011/02/why-are-we-trying-to-protect-personal-information.html>
This article, in an issue of Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter earlier this month, presents an interesting view on protecting personal privacy. All sorts of laws are being passed to “protect” us, much to the chagrin of family history researchers. But are these laws really a good idea? Eastman points out some things I’d never thought about.

<http://www.zarzyckimanorchapels.com/obituaries.php>
Paul S. Valasek forwarded this link, posted by Ruth Susmarski on the Chicago-Polish mailing list. She described it as “a link from Zarzycki Manor Chapels, Ltd., with locations at 5800 South Archer Avenue in Chicago and 8999 South Archer Avenue in Willow Springs. You can search their obituary records either by surname or by year ... Their postings begin in 1915 through present day. I found obits from 1929, 1933, 1935 and 1974 ... If you had family on the South Side of Chicago, it is definitely worth checking out.”

<http://icon.crl.edu/digitization.htm>
A note from “the Cohens” on the Poland Roots mailing list mentioned this site, of the International Coalition of Newspapers, which has international digitization projects, including some from Poland.

<http://collections.yadvashem.org/photosarchive>
On the Polish Genius list, Onna recommended visiting this page of the Yad Vashem Website, with over 130,000 photos. She said, “Try putting a Polish surname or town name in the Google Search box on the right. Whatever I tried, always got some results. Even if you’re not Jewish, I highly recommend browsing trough this archive to view Poland before the war, everyday pictures, how people dressed, etc.”

A recent edition of the e-zine Nu? What's New? mentioned that the last installment for the second season of Who Do You Think You Are?, airing Friday, March 26, will feature Gwyneth Paltrow. “It appears Paltrow will be the Jewish theme for this season. Paltrow’s paternal great-grandfather, whose surname was Paltrowicz, was a rabbi in Nowogrod, Poland, according to Wikipedia.”

Also in that issue of Nu? was mention of apps from Ancestry.com for the iPad and iPhone that can display and edit family trees, photos, etc. Both apps are apparently available free of charge at the iTunes App Store. The link above is to the news release as quoted in EOGN.

While I’m not sure I want to aid Oprah in her quest for galactic domination, several sources have mentioned lately a program that will appear on OWN, the Oprah Winfrey Network, that will focus not on celebrities but “real people” as they look for their family roots. The February 2011 issue of PGSA Notebook, for instance, said the new series, Searching For..., premiered on February 14th, as Pam Slaton, a professional genealogist, helps clients track down their loved ones. The above site should help you find the local channel number for OWN and look into watching this show—especially if you find NBC’s Who Do You Think You Are? long on glitz and short on substance.

That issue of PGSA Notebook also mentioned publication of the Polish American Encyclopedia, intended to be the definitive reference work on Polish American history and culture. You can get more information, review the table of contents and excerpt, and order it (if you have $145.00 to spare) at the above URL. The price is steep, I admit; but from the description, I suspect you will get something substantial for your money. I have to say, I would love to see this publication do well!

On the Posen-L list, Wolfgang Freier mentioned this page, which is meant to help people decipher printed and handwritten documents in German, Dutch, Italian, French, Spanish, and Portuguese (as well as English). No help with Polish, unfortunately, but I find it’s German handwriting that drives most people crazy. The second URL above gives help specifically with German documents.

On the Polish Genius list, RomanS answered a request for information on the Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego, and explained why it can be such a valuable resource. Sadly,
there is no translation of the whole work, or even large sections, in English. But Roman is doing his part by putting together “a small wikispace for my friends from Lithuanian Genealogy group with some translations from SGKP for their places of interest an additional links to other web places where pieces of SGKP are translated. You are welcome to have a look.”

Also on the Polish Genius list, Debbie Greenlee mentioned that she uses this site to help locate what diocese a parish is in. Often, this is a key practical step one must take in tracing ancestral records in the old country. There is a selection of maps covering different time frames; unfortunately, diocese borders have changed quite often over time. Debbie finds these maps helpful in getting a clear picture what parish is where now, and where it was “back then.”

On the blog “Tracing the Tribe: The Jewish Genealogy Blog,” Schelly Talalay Dardashti posted a note explaining that this site exists to help Jewish researchers focus on resources available for the Przemyśl area. It also has a link to a forum for discussing research issues. For people with Jewish ancestry from the Przemyśl area, this is must reading. Non-Jews may also find it worth visiting—you never know what source of info is going to help you make a connection!

The Genealogy News printed a brief note mentioning this story from the Prague Daily Monitor, dateline Prague, February 22: “The Czech National Library (NK) will have half a million books and periodicals from the 16th to 21st centuries digitised within two large projects that have been launched, NK director Tomas Boehm told journalists yesterday.” If this interests you, take a look!

I’ve used Cyndi’s List in the past, but learned a lot I didn’t know about it from Paula Stuart Warren at this link, mentioned in EOGN.

Finally, this has nothing to do with Poland or genealogy. But I thought this video, which Lindy Kasperski brought to our attention on the Polish Genius list, is hilarious. It helps if, like me, you enjoy Irish step dancing as in Riverdance, but feel that Michael Flatley’s ego is way out of control. Still, even if you never heard of “the Lord of the Dance,” this group of Czech dancers, the Military Art Ensemble Ondráš, manages to transcend language barriers. You may not be quite clear on who they’re making fun of, but you’ll sure know what they want!

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