CONTENTS

Poles and the *Titanic*, Part 2: *Titanic—Ocean Tragedy*
Letters to the Editor
Project for Polish Genealogical Societies, II
Lingotek: Can it Deliver the Goods?
Raoul Wallenberg, Katyń, and Kindle
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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To continue from last month’s article, what was the role of Polish Americans in the Titanic disaster?

In May 1912, the Worzalla publishing firm of Stevens Point, Wisconsin published a booklet written and published in Polish about the disaster, Zatonięcie Parowca “Titanic” (The Sinking of the Steamship Titanic). It was rather small, 94 pages, and was printed on newspaper stock. Most of the articles and sources appear to be from the news media outlets. This is not surprising, as Worzalla publishers also printed the Pol-Am newspaper, Gwiazda (Northern Star). But surprisingly, for a small publication only weeks after the disaster, it was fairly detailed as to the construction of the ship, what amenities it had (though for most Polish passengers, these luxuries were only to dream about), and also, what the pitfalls and detriments were of traveling on this great ship. As of this date, I have heard of only two copies in existence.

It highlighted the great size of the ship, the luxury of ocean travel, as well as the tremendous amount of food and provisions on board. The cheapest fare appears to have been $25.00 up to a whopping $4,500.00 for the deluxe suite.

Of course, the immigrant would have to get to Southampton, England to board Titanic, and that usually required an additional sea voyage to get from German ports to English ports. Many an immigrant no doubt felt that once aboard a ship for America, they should just keep on going until they landed—much as we do today when choosing between a non-stop flight to our destination or a cheaper, connecting flight, which, of course, takes longer and flies more miles.

In 1992, I met a historian who spent much of his life detailing the chronicle of my Czech ancestral home. He also decided to publish a history; unfortunately, it was never printed in English. As we discussed our common ancestors and origins, he related to me his personal experience with my great-grandfather, who was a musician, had his own orchestra, and was well known in the area. The job of this historian as a young child (in 1992 he was nearing 90 years old) was to turn the pages of the music as my great-grandfather conducted his band. Well, what he told me next was quite interesting. He asked if I knew my great-grandfather tried to go to America, as did many from the town. I had never heard of this and quickly ran doubts through my head. This was all new to me. He was emphatic that my great-grandfather, Frantisek Valasek, indeed had made plans to go to America, and bought his ticket to at least one port. But on arrival at the port, he stared at the vast expanse of the ocean and quickly returned to the safety of a town where a creek was the major water supply. I always had my doubts about this. But while researching ship manifests, sure enough, there was a Frantisek Valasek booked on a ship, at the appropriate time frame, for a voyage to America. His name was also lined out on the manifest, passenger not on board! Well, not everyone was ready for a “cruise.”

It is this sort of detail the Pol-Am authors tried to get across to the future immigrants and their families. It was not an automatic voyage; there were risks involved, and the entire idea of picking up one’s life and moving it 4,000 miles away needed some serious thinking.
The second book which I obtained was a more formal and detailed volume by Stanisław Łempicki, an educated Polish immigrant who started out in Kansas City, worked in Chicago, and then eventually became editor of the Milwaukee Pol-Am newspaper, *Kuryer Polski*. This book was much more substantial as it was hard covered, several hundred pages along with better quality photographs, and even included a novella. For those familiar with *Titanic* lore, the work written by Morgan Robertson 15 years earlier than the disaster eerily foretold of a ship disaster with an iceberg. Łempicki’s book includes a novella written by M. Clew Garnett, the pen name of Thornton Jenkins Hains. Again, this story was published years before the actual *Titanic* disaster, with a depiction of a major steamship going full steam, crashing into an iceberg and sinking, putting survivors off in life boats; all of this included in a book informing Polish Americans about the risks of sea travel.

Copies of Łempicki’s book can be located in a few libraries in the U.S.—but again, the work was published in Polish.

The final work which I obtained was another booklet entitled *Zatonięcie Titanic’a czyli Dramat na Morzu* (The Sinking of *Titanic*, or, A Drama at Sea). This booklet was the most mysterious as no author was credited nor publishing house listed. But as genealogists, we should not stop there. Persistent research in Poland turned this work up in a catalog of available works published by A.A. Paryski publishers in Toledo, the first half of 1919. This firm published unknown quantities of works for the Pol-Am audience; some say in such numbers that speed was of the essence so much so that proper credit was not always stated as to source and authorship. So, not finding a source for this work is not unusual and after reading the full translation of all three works, it was seen that some of the material in the Paryski work was used in Worzalla’s work from 1912. Regardless, it is part of our Polish American publishing history and cannot be overlooked.

Once again I had some great original sources of Polish American works, quite rare and never reprinted to my knowledge. How could they be better appreciated? Well, I needed to read them for myself to understand what their content was, but that meant of course having them translated into English. One very important aspects of genealogical research is to make contact with other researchers, scholars, and people “in the know.” No one can fully understand many of the topics we as researchers need to cover, so a list of reliable sources for further research is always required.

I called on William F. “Fred” Hoffman (if you’re not familiar with Fred Hoffman, you’re reading his e-zine right now), and over a period of a few years, hired him to do a professional job of translating the Worzalla, Łempicki, and Paryski works for a compilation in English for a much broader audience to appreciate. I also took the time to research Stanisław Łempicki and collected a brief outline of his life. This, to my knowledge had never been done; but a good genealogical research topic includes facts and stories to describe one’s achievements, a “skeleton and added soft tissue approach.”

So in tribute to the upcoming 100 year anniversary of the sinking of the *Titanic*, I decided to take the material which Fred Hoffman diligently worked on, and to resurrect the images used in those 1912 works, which my daughter, Lisa Terlecki, meticulously “cleaned up” as best as possible, to produce a work for the 21st audience to read and appreciate. Some of the images at the time of original publication were second generation newspaper photos and after 100 years of aging on newspaper stock, were far from crisp.
For those interested in more information about my book, *Titanic—Ocean Tragedy*, please write to me and I will try to answer your questions as best as possible. For the briefest of descriptions, the book is a perfect-bound paperback, 384 pages, 6” x 9” with 62 black and white images. It is 100% in English and is in itself a decent source of information for the *Titanic* novice as well as the experienced maritime disaster researcher. The cost is $20.00 plus $5.00 P/H media mail in the U.S. Foreign orders would need to contact me for cost of shipping.

To show how good research usually “closes up” the circle of investigation, when I started to research the original publication published by the Worzalla Publishing house in Stevens Point Wisconsin in 1912, I quickly found out that they were still in business. The company is not owned by the family anymore but by the employees. I asked them if they had copies of the original work; they quickly answered that during the course of two changes of ownership and one major move, all older works had been disposed of. They had no knowledge that this work had been printed by their company nearly 100 years ago. How often do we hear this even today! Needless to say, I used them as my current printers, thus closing the circle of what the company had printed in 1912, was now closed with the new reprinting in 2011.

Paul S. Valasek
2643 W. 51st Street
Chicago, IL 60632-1559

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*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: Łukasz Bielecki

Thanks for adding your Editor’s note to my article about the English camps in Poland. One reading the article could get the impression that Łukasz Bielicki is associated with the English camps (I am sure he would be a great addition) but he only helped me with the Ancestor search. He is just GREAT with the Ancestor search. You have to go a long way to beat his knowledge of Poland and searching for ancestors.

Ed Price

*Editor*—Rereading my note, I realized you’re right; it does seem to indicate Łukasz was associated with the English-language camps. Thanks for pointing that out so we can clarify it. The camps were obviously one great experience; the help Łukasz gave you with your family history was another. And you’re not the only person I’ve heard from who praises Łukasz highly. His reputation, as far as I know, is top-notch!

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Subject: The Wieliczka Salt Mines

Some folks sent me this wonderful story about Polish Art. It is too long to publish in *Gen Dobry!* but maybe with appropriate editing (I don’t know how to do this) you could make it available in

*Gen Dobry!*, Vol. XII, No. 9, September 2011 — 4
some archive and let readers know about it. It should definitely be on one’s travel agenda on a trip to Kraków area. It certainly is a Polish treasure.

Ed Price

*Editor*—Well, the great thing about an e-zine is I don’t have to reprint a story. I can just give a link readers can click on to read it, if it’s available on the Web. This one is, at several sites. Here’s the one I liked the best:


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Subject: WTTW Programs Celebrating Polish Heritage Month

*Editor*—This is a letter Paul Valasek’s daughter, Lisa Terlecki, received; and Paul forwarded it to me. It’s from Daniel Soles, Senior Vice President and Chief Television Content Officer. I feel sure Mr. Soles would be pleased if we pass it along. Not all our readers, obviously, can view programs on WTTW in Chicago; but I think those who can will definitely want to see this. And the rest of us—well, we can keep our eyes open. For that matter, this is pledge time here in Houston, and perhaps elsewhere. It’s a good time to tell public TV stations what shows we’d support (hint, hint).

I hope everyone had a good summer. I am posting below the list of programs WTTW will air next month in celebration of Polish Heritage Month. I have met with Christopher and we are working on broadcasting a film on October 29 that will also serve as a promotional vehicle for the upcoming film festival. I appreciate any assistance you can provide in spreading the word about our programming efforts.

Best,
Daniel Soles
Senior Vice President and Chief Television Content Officer
WTTW
5400 N. St. Louis Avenue
Chicago, IL 60625
Phone (773) 509-5523

**WTTW Polish Heritage Month Programming**

**October 2011**

Burt Wolf: Travels & Traditions “The Shrine at Czestochowa, Poland”
Sunday, October 2 at 5:30pm

Burt Wolf: Travels & Traditions “Krakow, Poland”
Sunday, October 9 at 5:30pm
New Poland
Wednesday, October 12 at 10pm

Irena Sendler: In the Name of Their Mothers
Sunday, October 16 at 3pm

Rick Steves’ Europe “Poland Rediscovered”
Sunday, October 16 at 5:30pm

Chicago Stories “Polonia: The Story of Polish Chicago”
Sunday, October 16 at 6pm

Grannies on Safari “Poland: Warsaw & Krakow”
Sunday, October 23 at 5:30pm

Polish Film Festival Special
Saturday, October 29 at 10:30pm

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*** PROJECT FOR POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES, II ***

Editor—In the August issue, we printed a note Debbie Greenlee posted to some Polish genealogy mailing lists, suggesting genealogical societies could try to convince churches in Poland to make digital records of their records. Debbie posted another note this month with an interesting follow-up from the highly regarded researcher Jerry Frank about a project undertaken by the Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe.

Jerry Frank read my suggestion about non-church affiliated people organizing and convincing various churches in Poland to allow “us” to digitally photograph their records not only for preservation but to allow the public easier access to them.

Jerry told me that The Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (SGGEE) has a very similar on-going project:

<http://www.sggee.org/research/parishes/lublin_records/lublinsearchinstruct.html>

Jerry wrote:

Click on the first link under “General Information” to see the story behind it. Not every parish will respond in the same way as each pastor / priest has his own ideas about what is permissible, desirable, etc. In our case the Mormons went in to do their first ever digital imaging of church books. Of course, they take forever to make their data available to the public but they left a copy with the local church. We jumped to assist them and you can read the rest of the story yourself.
All this to say that it does work in some cases. Keep in mind too that this not only requires acceptance of the practice in Poland but also enough people within the Society to focus on the project, give it impetus and keep it going. We have at least 3 more parishes to target and have the resources to do it but we need locals interested enough to spearhead the work.

Jerry

The SGGEE project proves that if a group of people work together, great things can happen. I would like to see several PGS’s join together and start a similar project to SGGEE. Of course, this means egos need to take a back seat and the focus to be on archiving the records and making them accessible to Polish researchers. All members of the PGS’s need to contact their board members and urge them to join with the other societies to preserve the Polish church records.

I started and continue my own digitizing project in the parishes of Bukowsko and Nowotaniec but I have to say, it’s slow going since I’m the only one taking the photographs or paying for a professional to photograph records. You can see the fruits here:

<http://semanchuk.com/gen/>

A bit of history about this project can be found in the introductions to each “book” of translated records. Here’s an example:


Debbie

Editor—I’m not surprised to see SGGEE involved in this project. SGGEE is a quality organization, and Jerry Frank knows his stuff! He tells me the SGGEE member who really got the ball rolling was Karl Krueger. I’m pleased to see Debbie doing her bit to advance the cause, and I wanted to help spread the word of these efforts. Talk is cheap—these folks are actually trying to DO something!

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*** LINGOTEK: CAN IT DELIVER THE GOODS? ***

On August 16, Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter [EOGN] had a very interesting article with the title “Lingotek Enables FamilySearch Members to Translate Historical Family Documents.” I won’t repeat the whole article here, but I think you can read it easily enough if you click on this link:

<http://goo.gl/fYe9T>
Lingotek, a translation network, announced that “users of the world’s largest genealogy organization can now translate records such as birth, death, and marriage certificates into their native languages.” Lingotek entered an exclusive, long-term relationship with FamilySearch. The announcement said “Lingotek’s application, available for free to FamilySearch members, will offer instant access to fast, reliable and cost-effective translation of historical documents.” You are invited to visit Lingotek <http://www.lingotek.com> for more information, or visit them on Twitter and Facebook.

There’s a lot more to it, of course, and I’m sure we’ll be hearing more about this. If it’s true, it’s great news for genealogists!

I hate to be a skeptic, but I have my doubts about this. I hope I’m wrong, because I have some notion just what a huge help it would be for researchers if they use an app to turn historical documents in other languages into comprehensible English. It would be wonderful! And who knows, maybe they’ve found a way to make this work. As a translator, I would find it liberating to be freed from requests to do “grunt work” such as translating birth, marriage, and death certificates, so I could concentrate only on stuff that’s unusual and challenging.

But I don’t know. Reading the handwriting on old records is hard enough if you don’t speak the language. What’s more, even people who speak modern Polish or Russian or German fluently often have trouble figuring out exactly what old records say. The spelling, terminology, and phrasing are archaic, using words and phrases that either no longer exist or mean something different in the modern language. I can’t help having my doubts that Lingotek has appreciated just how much those factors complicate translation efforts.

I’ve been dead wrong before, however, and maybe I’m wrong about this. If so, I’ll be delighted to say so and praise Lingotek to the skies.

In any case, I felt this is a development you should know about. I would love to hear from anyone who tries this service and wishes to comment on it. Let’s hope I’ll soon be printing glowing testimonials from researchers who have found their task simplified enormously!

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*** RAOUl WALLENBERG, KATYŃ, AND KINDLE ***

Recently, on the Polish Genius list, Polish genealogical researcher Andrzej Olejarz posted a fascinating note about a book published in Poland about Raoul Wallenberg. The book is by British journalist Alex Kershaw, and the Polish title is *Misja Wallenberga: Pojedynek z Eichmannem o życie 100000 Żydów* [Wallenberg’s Mission: A Duel with Eichmann for the lives of 100,000 Jews]. Andrzej explained that Kershaw suggests why Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved vast numbers of Hungarian Jews, was imprisoned and probably executed by the Soviets: he may have known the truth about the Katyń Massacre!
I had heard of Wallenberg frequently, but never heard of this possible Polish link. Google soon told me the book is published by Znak Publishing, and I visited its online bookstore and confirmed that this was one of the subjects discussed in the book.

But Kershaw is British, so surely the book was written originally in English, right! Seek and you will find, and I soon discovered Kershaw’s book *The Envoy: The Epic Rescue of the Last Jews of Europe in the Desperate Closing Months of World War II*. I saw that Amazon offers it in Kindle format for $2.56, so I splurged, bought it, and within a couple of minutes was searching through the text. Sure enough, about halfway through the book is a section that begins “According to the Hungarian historian Christian Ungvary, Wallenberg’s imprisonment in Moscow may have had another explanation: He knew the truth behind one of the most closely guarded cover-ups of the twentieth century—the Katyn massacre of April 1940.” This is obviously the same book, even though the titles are different. That means, if you’re interested, you can read the story in English, from Amazon.com or other booksellers.

I want to thank Andrzej for mentioning this very interesting book. I also want to take this opportunity to encourage readers reluctant to embrace e-readers such as Kindle and Nook. This is not the first time I’ve heard of a book, found it available for the Kindle, and was reading it a couple of minutes later. In fact, two of my most interesting Kindle purchases were books I first heard of while preparing *Gen Dobry!* They are *Come with Me and Visit Hell*, by Stanisław Jaskolski, and *The Reconstruction of Nations*, by Timothy Snyder.

I understand very well those who say they prefer the experience of curling up with a real book. No question, there’s something splendid about holding a book in your hand. Yet fairness compels me to admit e-books have their pluses, as well. It is sheer delight for one who loves reading to hear about a book, wonder if it’s any good, and seconds later be reading it—especially since e-books often cost much less than traditional books. So friends, don’t be too quick to reject this technology. You may find you can love it without sacrificing your love for “real books”!

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*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

October 1 – 3, 2011

POLISH MISSION PRESENTS THE FILMMAKERS OF *PATH TO GLORY*

Save the first weekend in October to meet the filmmakers of “Path to Glory.” The Polish Mission is hosting the Midwestern premiere of the documentary that celebrates the unique, and centuries old, tradition of Arabian horse-breeding in Poland. For more details, see <http://www.horseflyfilms.com/preview/pathoglory.html>. (This information was provided by Ceil Jensen.)

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October 11, 2011
PRESENTATION BY JOHN GUZLOWSKI ON HIS PARENTS AND THEIR EXPERIENCES IN WORLD WAR II

St. Francis College, Brooklyn NY
4:35 p.m.

[From a note posted by John Guzlowski to the Facebook group Polish American Writers & Editors]

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October 14 – 15, 2011
POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT AND THE NORTHEAST CONFERENCE
Central Connecticut State University
New Britain, CT
Presentations at this event will be given by an impressive array of speakers, including Stephen S. Barthel, Matthew Bielawa, Daniel Bučko, Romuald K. Byczkiewicz, Donna Pointkouski, Patrick Raycraft, Thomas Sadauskas, Jonathan Shea, and our own Paul S. Valasek!

For details, visit <http://www.pgsctne.org/Conference%202011/Documents%20list.html>.

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October 15, 2011

33RD ANNUAL POLISH RESEARCH SEMINAR
Annual Seminar with Noted Speakers
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
Cost $65 individual or $100 per couple

Location: American Polish Cultural Center -Hall #2
2975 E. Maple Rd. (15 Mile Rd)
Troy, Michigan 48083
(use Dequindre entrance)

Featured Speaker - Baerbel K. Johnson, AG
Speaking on Prussian Poland
Baerbel K. Johnson, AG is a professional genealogist and works as an International Reference Consultant at the Family History Library. She holds degrees in Family and Local History Studies and Sociology from BYU, and has more than twenty years of extensive experience in European family history research with emphasis on Germany. She has published a number of journal articles, contributed material for several books, and lectured at various conferences. Her personal interest is in “putting flesh on the genealogical skeleton” by placing each individual within a proper social and historical context. She was a featured speaker at our 2008 UPGS Seminar.
also

**J. William Gorski, PGSM Vice-President**
Speaking on Researching Polish Settlements in Michigan

An avid genealogist and collector of Polish historical records, Bill donated his own entire collection of Polish genealogical materials to the library of Michigan in 2002. The J. William Gorski Historical & Genealogical Collection is the product of more than 20 years’ extensive research and offers valuable resources to genealogists who visit the library. To this day, Gorski continues to promote the library’s holdings and urges family historians to use the collection. Bill was also Editor of the PGSM journal, *Polish Eaglet*, for many years.

Reservations by mail by October 3, 2011. Make checks payable to P.G.S.M and send to:

PGSM  
c/o Burton Collection  
Detroit Public Library  
5201 Woodward Ave.  
Detroit, MI. 48202-4007

Out-of-town-guests can reserve a room at:

Marriott Courtyard Detroit-Troy  
1525 East Maple Road  
Troy, Michigan 48083

Questions may be sent to Valerie Koselka: <vkoselka.pgsm@gmail.com>

See also this page on the PGSM Web site: <http://www.pgsm.org/index_049.htm>

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**October 26 - 29, 2011**

**CGSI’S 13TH GENEALOGICAL/CULTURAL CONFERENCE - MO**
Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel, St. Louis, MO  
For more info, visit the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International’s Web site:


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*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***
There were a lot of notes on Polish genealogy mailing lists about a collection available now from FamilySearch, “Illinois, Chicago, Catholic Church Records, 1833-1925.” You can see why this could be a great resource for Polish Americans. I should add that some folks had problems accessing the collection. Researcher Jim Tye posted a note to the Poland-Roots list, explaining he had contacted FamilySearch support; they said the problem seemed to be connected with use of Internet Explorer, and suggested using Firefox or Google Chrome instead.

On the Polish Genius list, Debbie Greenlee reminded us that October is Polish Heritage Month in the United States. She added that “the Polish American Center has signs you can print to place in your window, car window or places of business—anyone’s place of business, not just your own.” She also pointed out, “The above site also lists things you can do during this special month.”

Also on that list, John Peters suggested this site, featuring a map showing the boundaries at different times between Russia, Lithuania, Poland and Belarus.” I found it rather difficult to make out, but John said “It is worth studying the boundaries at various times to get a sense of which ‘nation’ controlled which territory.” He added that “probably the most important consideration is that this far eastern part of Lithuania was populated by a mix of ethnic groups, dominated by ethnic Poles.”

On the Polish Genius list, Bronwyn Klimach mentioned this article, documenting the continuing struggle against the description of camps such as Auschwitz and Belżec as “Polish death camps.” More and more editors are understanding why this is objectionable—the camps were German, set up by Nazis on conquered territory in Poland—but there are still those who don’t get it.

I happened to stumble across this site, which provides information on Czech given names and surnames.

On the Polish Genius list, Ray Marshall told of a very interesting article he’d read in Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter (one I overlooked). The article summarized a report by Gary T. Wright called “Preserving Your Family History Records Digitally.” Ray particularly
noticed discussion of a new disk, the M-DISC, that is supposedly far more durable than the DVD, and costs only three dollars apiece. He also was struck by the news that flash drives, despite being cheap and convenient, are unreliable and should not be used for long-term storage. If you wish to read this detailed and thought-provoking report, the above link will take you to it.

<http://www.thekf.org/events/news/kosciuszko_s_ohio_land_to_be_nam/>  
On the Polish Genius list, Debbie Greenlee quoted an article from the Kościuszko Foundation, “Kosciuszko’s Ohio Land to be Named ‘Kosciuszko Park.’” It seems Fred Hahn, Director of Parks & Open Space for Dublin, Ohio, read Alex Storozynski’s book on Tadeusz Kościuszko, The Peasant Prince, and it inspired him to have a new park named in Kościuszko’s honor. The park is on 40 acres of land from among 500 acres awarded Kościuszko for his service in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. It’s a piece of good news amid all the depressing stuff reported to us each day.

<http://catholicgene.wordpress.com/>  
On the Poland-Roots and Polish Genius lists, Ceil Jensen mentioned that she was happy to be part of a new blog, “The Catholic Gene.” She said, “It was founded by a diverse group of friends who share two common things: a love for both genealogical research and the Catholic faith. Most of the authors were ‘born Catholic’ and some came to the faith later in life. We hope that this blog will provide readers with useful information about the Catholic faith and genealogy.” You can take a look at the above address.

<http://www.bitwawarszawska1920film.pl/>  
John Guzlowski posted a note to the Facebook group Polish American Writers & Editors, asking if we had heard about the film Battle of Warsaw:1920? He said we can see a preview here. Also, Paul Valasek found a page with info here: <http://pffamerica.com/1920_bitwa_en.html>.

<http://www.pronunciationguide.info/>  
On the JewishGen list, Odeda Zlotnick answered a question about the possible Hungarian origin of a name by suggesting a visit to this site. It provides information on how to pronounce words in a number of different languages, and includes a sampling of proper names with audio files you can click on and listen to. For a specific language, just add its name and .html to the URL above; so Polish is at <http://www.pronunciationguide.info/Polish.html>. In a follow-up note, David Schreiber mentioned the site <www.forvo.com>, which I believe we’ve talked about before. He explained, “This site allows you to listen to native or at least fluent speakers pronouncing individual words in their languages. It gives a great sense of how they would say it.”

<http://ElitaRP.pl>  
The Polish researcher Marek Jerzy Minakowski sent out a note to various people.
announcing that he’s begun publishing a series of books to present the genealogy of the elite members of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth from the 18th century to today. I can’t fault him for lacking ambition—this is an enormous undertaking. The series is to be called Elita Rzeczypospolitej [The Elite of the Republic], and the first volume deals with the elite of northern Mazowsze (or Masovia, as it is sometimes called in English). You can see some information on it at the above Web site. Dr. Minakowski’s work deserves support, and if you can find the means to subscribe to his series, I think the money would be well spent!

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