Gen Dobry!

Volume IX, No. 6

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Editor: William F. “Fred” Hoffman, E-mail: <wfh@langline.com>

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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://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/gendobry_index.htm

If you’d like Gen Dobry! in PDF form, this issue is available for downloading here:


Gen Dobry!, Vol. IX, No. 6, June 2008— 1
Editor—I was deeply saddened to hear, earlier this month, of the death of an old friend, Leonard J. Suligowski. This is an edited version of the obituary posted by his son, Rick (Sulima-Suligowski) Fox, on the Rappersville Web site. If you wish, you can read the full obit here:

http://www.rapperswil-castle.com/nekrolog.php

Obituary of Chevalier Leonard J. Sulima-Suligowski

On Thursday, June 19, 2008, at 6:25 p.m. at New York City’s Bellevue Hospital, Leonard J. Suligowski passed away, from complications of a stroke-induced coma, which took place on the evening of Monday June 16th, somewhere between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5 a.m., when he was found near his home computer by neighbors and tenant of his home.

His only surviving son, Rik (Suligowski) Fox, immediately flew in from Los Angeles overnight to attend him. A neurosurgeon team advised Rik that there was too much irreversible damage to the brain, and that there was no hope of a favorable outcome. It was Leonard’s adamant wish not to live on any form of life support, should anything ever happen to him.

At 12 noon, a decision was made to administer a sedative and allow him to pass naturally, without discomfort or pain, which took place at 6:25 p.m. with Rik at his side.

Chevalier Leonard J. Suligowski was one of the very few Polish Heraldic Artists in America. His dozens of years of research on the subject became widely known and respected the world over.

He was a resident of Greenpoint, Brooklyn all his life. For many years, he had been the Director of Heraldry and the College of Heraldry for The Polish Nobility Association Foundation, headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, having been affiliated with them since 1975. During his tenure with the P.N.A.F., he was the recipient of the following Chivalric awards: Knight’s Grand Cross in both the Royal Order of Piast and the Royal Order of Jagiello, both with the title of Chevalier. In addition, he was awarded the Polish Restituta, Officer First Class, from the past President-in-exile, for his contributions to promoting the arts and culture associated with Polish Heraldry. He also held the title of Knight of Grace with the Sovereign Hospitaler Order of St. John, Knights of Malta.

The walls of his Brooklyn home are literally lined with framed awards, accolades, diplomas, and certificates of various organizations, as well as his Navy memories. Chevalier Suligowski was a U.S. Navy Korean Veteran who served aboard four aircraft carriers, including the famous Bon Homme Richard, built at the Brooklyn Navy yard. His Glen Miller collection is famous, as is his jazz collection from his days as a radio announcer for WGBB, Freeport, N.Y., after his Navy tenure.
He was honorably discharged with five years of service as an Aviation Machinist Mate-Second Class Petty Officer, and received the following awards: Navy Combat Action Ribbon; Presidential Unit Citation; Navy Unit Citation; Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Medal; Korean Service Medal (with Star); Korean Presidential Unit citation; Korean War Service Medal; United Nations Service Medal; and American Legion and VFW Service Medals.

Leonard was a published author of several short stories and newspaper articles, in addition to his work as editor of The White Eagle Journal for the P.N.A.F. He was a Life Member of The American Legion and a member of The Veterans of Foreign Wars. Additionally, he was a member of and consultant to the Polish Genealogical Society of America.

Leonard was 79 years old, passing just before his 80th birthday. He is survived by his son, Rik (Suligowski) Fox, a musician, current Vice-President of the Polish American Congress of Southern California, and founder of the “living history” re-enactment group originally named after him, “Suligowski’s Regiment,” which brings to life the Polish Winged Hussar cavalry. Rik formed it due directly to Leonard’s influence, and Rik’s dozens of awards and accolades for contributions to Polish historical awareness and culture made his father very proud.

Leonard J. Suligowski is now among the other great members of the Sulima clan. Many of them have given their lives for Poland. We hope that he will be counted among them, and his unceasing contributions to and efforts on behalf of Polish history and heraldry will never be forgotten.

Bless you all, who have taken the time for a moment of silence and recognition with bowed heads, to remember the passing of a great and noble knight, Historian, Father, and best friend, Chevalier Leonard J. Suligowski.

His son asks that, in lieu of flowers, Mass Cards be offered or donations to either Navy Relief, http://www.nmcrs.org/ or the Salvation Army. Leonard was also a member of the Organ Donations Organization and has now helped the lives of others through his wishes. As a former Navy man, it was his wish to be cremated and have his ashes scattered over both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, returning him to the sea, which he loved.

Requiescat in pace.

Rik may be contacted through: <icykittenweb_designs@yahoo.com>, <wngdhussr@yahoo.com>, or http://www.husaria.us

Editor—For those unfamiliar with Len’s work, I felt it was appropriate to tell you a little about him.

I had the good fortune of knowing and working with him, long-distance, for more than a decade. He would call or fax or e-mail me to ask about a difficult Polish or Latin translation; I would contact him for information on heraldry or specific Polish families or coats of arms. For
years he contributed a column on Polish Heraldry to Rodziny, the Journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, which I edit; and for several years I typeset the White Eagle, the Journal of the Polish Nobility Association Foundation, which he edited at the time. It was always a pleasure to deal with him. He had great expertise and he knew it, but he was generous and cooperative whenever I asked for his help.

I finally had the chance to meet him in person when we both spoke at PGSA’s 1998 Conference. I was curious to see if he’d be as likeable in person as he was in letters and over the phone; I found him even more likeable, a delight to be around. He clearly enjoyed sharing his expertise with an appreciative audience, and as conference attendees showered him with questions and listened closely to his answers, it was a pleasure to see him get some of the recognition he deserved.

We stayed in touch over the years, and while I knew his health was failing, I hoped he would be with us as long as he could still enjoy life. He often spoke with pride of his son Rik’s work in bringing the Winged Hussars to life in an age when we could all benefit from sharing the values they stood for.

I could go on and on praising Len, but perhaps the truest thing I can say about him is this. In his case, “noble” was not merely an adjective describing his ancestors’ social status; it was also an accurate description of the man’s character. My life is richer for having known him. Cześć jego pamięci! —Fred Hoffman

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*** LETTER FROM THE EDITOR ***

Hi, all,

I thought I should mention that this issue of Gen Dobry! is a little skimpy in terms of content, and there’s a reason for that. I didn’t know it, but apparently for more than a week, my primary e-mail address, <wfh@langline.com>, was blocked by my Internet Service Provider (ISP). I’m not sure how much interesting material I failed to see, as notes sent to me personally or posted on the various mailing lists I monitor.

Perhaps I should explain. I co-own and manage the Langline.com domain, and it includes e-mail accounts, which can be set up to forward notes to other accounts. I thought it made sense to give that Langline address as my primary contact, because I could always insure that notes sent to that address would be forwarded to whatever account I had with an ISP at the time—my “official” account, so to speak, which I usually check many times every day. In other words, right now my ISP is SBC/Yahoo/AT&T (or whatever the hell their name is this week). If and when I move and set up an account with another ISP, there’ll be no need to annoy people with notes saying my address has changed; I can just log onto the Langline account and tell it to forward all notes to the new account, whatever it is. I thought I was making things simpler for people who wanted to contact me. Which address is easier to type and remember, wfh@langline.com or my “official” account, wmfhoffman@sbcglobal.net? — especially since that account will probably change the next time I move?
What I overlooked is that the whole plan depends on my ISP’s willingness to accept those forwarded notes. For some reason, SBC has been getting recalcitrant lately, blocking notes from all kinds of domains. It makes you jump through all kinds of hoops to verify the domain account. I’m sure this is connected with anti-spam efforts — just one more misery those *!@|^ spammers have inflicted on us! But the Langline account hasn’t been spamming anybody; and I know of other accounts that have been blocked the same way, having done nothing to deserve it.

As of right now, I have a workaround in place, forwarding Langline notes to my G-mail account, and thus bypassing SBC. I have also requested SBC to unblock my Langline account. We’ll see how that works; and whatever I do, there’ll probably no need to bother you with it.

I wanted to mention all this for two reasons. First, the selfish reason: I want you to know how to contact me, so that if you have material for Gen Dobry!, it’s easy to send it to me. But second, there might be quite a few of you in much same situation I was in; maybe you’ve also set up your own domain and forward e-mail from it. I think it’s wise to alert you that your addresses might be blocked too! If so, you’ll probably find out, sooner or later — but you could lose a lot of important notes before you do find out. So keep this possibility of being blocked in mind, and take any steps you can to protect yourself. Forewarned is forearmed....

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*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: DjVu Plugin

Editor—As is often the case, in the last issue of Gen Dobry! I mentioned sources available online from digital libraries. I got a note from a gentleman named Tom who had trouble accessing these sources. Tom figured out what the problem was:

OK, I figured it out. You might want to suggest that your users go to

http://www.lizardtech.com/

to download and install the DjVu plugin that allows one to view these images.

Thanks for the great site!

Tom <genealogy@fastwebnet.it>

Editor—I’m sorry I forgot to explain that! I used to make a habit of mentioning that the DjVu plug-in was required for viewing the works available from many digital libraries, especially those based in Europe. But after a while I just started taking for granted that people knew that. Obviously I should not have made that assumption. I recently noticed an exchange of notes on a mailing list where someone else was having a problem with the same site, until someone else pointed out that the plug-in is necessary.
I will try to remember to get back in the habit of mentioning that. DjVu is wonderful, and once you have it installed, an enormous (and constantly growing) number of works become accessible. But yes, you do have to know about the plug-in, and it's one of those things we shouldn't take for granted.

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*** GENEALOGICAL TEAMWORK — WORKING TOGETHER ***

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

In the last issue of Gen Dobry!, Tony Paddock submitted information on small towns and settlements near his home base of Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, Pennsylvania. I'm following up his article with some material which may be derived from the information which Tony graciously shared with our readers.

I first met Tony at the PGSA Annual Conference in Chicago in September 2007. He introduced himself and presented me with a photocopy of a large photo taken when General Haller visited the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area. Of course I was quite interested, and Tony agreed to have a higher-quality photo imaged from the original. At that time, I had my database of Haller troops with me and soon went through a number of the towns which Tony knew firsthand and I didn't. I only recognized them from extracting the data and matching men with additional information. It was quite rewarding to add info to these towns as I started to get a better picture of the area.

Speed up to November 2007 and my trip to Philadelphia to make a presentation at their branch of the National Archives. Andrea and I stopped in Wilkes-Barre for the night and Tony met us at our hotel. We sat and discussed more of the photo of General Haller as well as other points to his visit which I didn’t know about. Tony also started working on information about Regina Kasaczn who wrote a biography of Haller which was presented in English at the banquet for the General’s honor at the Hotel Sterling in Wilkes-Barre in January of 1934. Tony also gave us a quick tour of the area on a detailed map and told us where the Hotel Sterling was and other points relevant to Polish-American research in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area. He also told us about the Polish Room at the Wilkes University library and said to make sure and visit it if possible.

The next day, we were able to easily find all of the locations which Tony had pointed out. Most I would not have known about especially the Polish Room at Wilkes University, without his guidance. He, in turn, is learning more about General Haller and the Blue Army through my research, and thus the following data is generated.

In his article, Tony gave us the origins of a number of towns and settlements near him. I in turn went into my database and selected those applicant recruits from each town where applicable.

What can be gained from this data other than Polish men recruited from small towns in Pennsylvania? As you can see, some towns had more recruits than others, some had none at all. Without knowledge of the demographics of the area, I would surmise those with a greater number of recruits most likely had a larger Polish population, than say those with no recruits. Though this
data is not 100% reflective of the community, it does give one a working concept of understanding our Polish-American heritage. It also taught me to correctly spell the town names when, after reading over 100,000 pages of Polish and English script (many written in pencil), my eyes are now much better at recognizing town names.

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### Exeter Township

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Gen Dobry!, Vol. IX, No. 6, June 2008—7
We have been using PolgenResearch.com over the last several years for on-site hunting of genealogical records in Poland (they are based in Warsaw). They have proven to be excellent. In a couple of weeks, Michał will be heading back to the Łomża/Grajewo area to chase some more family records for us. If you have ancestors in that area that need searching, let me or Michał <office@polgenresearch.com> know. We can reduce the individual travel costs if more people participate in the next trip... As I say, they have done a professional job for us. Regardless, I’ll still send them into the wilds of Grajewo :-) 

I’d also be delighted to hear from anyone with ancestors from Cyprki or Kurejwa (served by church at Grajewo), or Netta or Guty (served by church at Wąsosz). Also any Gryczan or
Grondzki (Grądzki) or Krucki people out there (I have currently surrendered on ‘Pawloska’ and ‘Kolowicz’ from exact areas unknown)?

Dziękuję bardzo!

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*** EVEN MORE FEATURES ON THE STEVE MORSE SITE! ***

by Dick Plotz, Manager of Mailing Lists, JewishGen Inc.

Editor—Dick Plotz of JewishGen posted this note to the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup.
It’s hard to keep up with all the wonderful features available on Steve Morse’s Web site, and I thought this overview would be useful to many of our readers, Jew and Christian alike.

Steve Morse has announced several new features of interest to Jewish genealogists on his One-Step Web site:

http://stevemorse.org

1. The Vital Records section now includes a One-Step search form for naturalization records for several U.S. states available on

http://footnote.com

Basic information from these records is available free; access to the full record requires a subscription.

2. The Holocaust and Eastern Europe section now includes a One-Step form for Jewish surnames found in several reference books by Alexander Beider and Lars Menk. The form tells which books contain the name entered, but not the full entries.

3. The Other Ports section has added New Orleans to the ports available in the One-Step form for Ancestry.com passenger lists.

4. The Calendar section now includes, in addition to the Jewish calendar converter, converters for the French Revolutionary and Muslim calendars, useful for those with an interest in records from the Napoleonic period or Sephardic records.

5. An Arabic transliterator has been added to the Foreign Language section, joining transliterators for Hebrew, Cyrillic, and Greek alphabets.

6. Finally, and most intriguing, Steve and Alexander Beider have joined forces to introduce a "phonetic name matching" utility as an alternative to the existing Soundex methods of finding variant spellings of names. This utility determines the likely language of the name, finds the pronunciation in that language, and displays results for names with similar pronunciations. The number of false hits is thereby greatly reduced. The utility has been incorporated into the two
new One-Step forms described above, as well as the Dachau records One-Step form. A full description can be found on the site.

Editor—The value of these features to Jewish genealogists is obvious. But most of them, and especially the last one mentioned, can be very helpful, regardless of religion. The forms of our ancestors’ surnames that we have are often misspelled, and it is crucial to know what other spellings to look for. Phonetic matching of this sort takes into account linguistic phenomena that can apply to names of all kinds. The same factors that affected Jewish surname forms can affect Christian surnames as well. It’s never a bad idea to take a look, at least, at this sort of feature, as it may help you recognize a variant spelling or misspelling that will knock down your brick wall!

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*** POLISH WEBINAR WRAP-UP ***

by Ceil Jensen <cjensen@mipolonia.net>

Editor—Ceil conducted an online “Webinar” on Polish research recently. A lot of people logged on, and more who missed it would like to know how to access it. Ceil recently posted a wrap-up on the Polish Genius list, and I think our readers should know what she said about the Webinar and other subjects.

Thank you for logging into the Polish Webinar! I was honored to host the Webinar and nudge our Polish genealogy “mainstream.” I used one of my standard Powerpoint presentations Tuesday night. Some of you may have seen an earlier version of it at UPGS, FEEFHS, NGS, PGSM, or PGSA.

I have a copy of all the questions that were asked and will post the Q&A on my Web site, Michigan Polonia:

http://mipolonia.net

As a member of the e-mail list, I am happy to field any questions you might have. I created a TinyUrl for the Webinar Archive:

http://tinyurl.com/49wxuh

I’ll let you know when it’s online. We have almost 300 people listening.

[Editor—It should now be online. If the TinyURL doesn’t work for you, try the link below. I’m not sure, but I think you have to register to watch the archived video. If you have trouble, I suspect Ceil will be glad to do her best to help you!]

http://w.on24.com/r.htm?e=110044&s=1&k=E918BFB4B1BFE1DF63FC96DC0E3023C2

I have a lecture “Behind the Scenes” at the Polish Archives lecture which includes interviews...
with the archivists in Gdańsk, Białystok and Poznań. I cover the archival materials of interest to Pol-Am researchers that are not held here in the U.S. Maps, manor records, List of Souls, and a visit to Stutthof for a case study, are covered in that presentation. I will be presenting it at the FEEFHS conference in Pennsylvania this August.

http://feefhs.org/

I also have a presentation on using Polish manor records which I gave a few weeks ago at Michigan Tech University.

It was hard to gauge the level of material to present since I didn’t know the experience level of attendees prior to the event. It was obvious from the polls that attendees had done their U.S. homework.

I don’t know if they are planning more advanced Webinars, but there is no reason we can’t set one up ourselves. It was nice to have ancestry underwrite the cost of the online technology. If you are interested, let me know. We might be able to do it with a fee of 10.00 each. Kasia Grycza is willing to participate again. With Tomasz Nitsch’s help, we did a rudimentary Skype conference in Salt Lake with Polish researchers, and Fred Hoffman. The free Skype software allows for one-to-one video conferencing and the purchased software allows for more audio/video conference features. Please see our UPGS wrap up blog at

http://upgs.blogspot.com

There is a screen shot of Kasia and Łukasz via Skype on the blog.

If there is interest in more online sessions I’ll look into setting something up this fall or winter—something to keep busy during the cold weather. I used these techniques with my high school students to do international projects, seems genealogists like it, too <G>.

Tomek shared several sites with us, including Gadu Gadu:

http://www.gadu-gadu.pl/

and PTG, Pomeranian Genealogical Association:

www.ptg.gda.pl

With Grzegorz’s assistance (via PayPal), I sent in my membership to join PTG.

[Editor—Here’s another note Ceil sent me, which I think is worth sharing.]

PGS-Michigan had a 30th anniversary party last week and we established a new award—the Reymont Award—and it was given to J. William “Bill” Gorski. We also presented the PGS founders with the Dziękuję Award. This is a new award for PGSM, and the first recipients were
Paul and Janice Lipinski and Steve Morse (April, UPGS). Four PGSM founders were in attendance on Saturday. Betty Guziak and I did a little overview of PGSM history via Powerpoint and highlighted the founders and the membership.

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*** A LIST OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES IN POLAND ***

by Gerd Müllenheim <muellenh@pt.lu>

Editor—Gerd posted a note on the Schlesien-Liste and the Posen-Liste, with information on numerous Polish regional and genealogical organizations. It appears the main source for this list was this Web page:

  http://worsten.org/rge/rs/regionaj_societoj_pl.htm

I’ve translated it and tried to verify and update the info as best I could from the Web sites mentioned. Please let me know of any inaccuracies or errors you spot.

Poland As a Whole
Polskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne z siedzibą w Warszawie
[Polish Genealogical Society, headquarters in Warsaw]
Founded: 10 June 2006
Administration: Jacek Młochowski (President), Ewa Kamińska (Secretary, Treasurer), Andrzej Kuziński and Wiktor Tyburski (Board members)
http://www.genealodzy.pl

REGIONAL SOCIETIES

Częstochowa
Towarzystwo Genealogiczne Ziemi Częstochowskiej
[Genealogical Society of Częstochowa District]
http://www.genealodzy.czestochowa.pl/

Dolnośląskie [Lower Silesia]
Śląskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne z siedzibą we Wrocławiu
[Silesian Genealogical Society, headquarters in Wrocław]
Founded 8 April 19992.
Administration : Grzegorz Mendyka (President), Wiesław Nawrocki (Vice President), Andrzej Kraszewski (Secretary), Ryszard Pawlikowski (Treasurer)
http://gento.wroclaw.pl/

Kujawsko-Pomorskie [Kujavia-Pomerania]
Bydgoskie Towarzystwo Heraldyczno-Genealogiczne
[Bydgoszcz Heraldic-Genealogical Society]
Founded in 1993
Administration: Paweł Bogdan Gąsiorowski (President), Andrzej Bogucki (Vice President), Janusz Wiśniewski (Secretary), Hanna Rogowska (Treasurer)

Lódzkie [Łódź]
Towarzystwo Genealogiczne Centralnej Polski z siedzibą w Łodzi
[Genealogical Society of Central Poland, headquarters in Łódź]
Founded: 28 March 2006
http://yakipl.republika.pl/tgcp.html

Lubelskie [Lublin]
Lubelskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne
[Lublin Genealogical Society]
Founded: 24 September 2006
Address: Piotr Glądała. ul. Niecała 11 m. 12, 20-080 Lublin
Administration: Piotr Glądała (President)
http://www.ltg.pl (under construction)

Lubuskie [Lubusz]
Lubuskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne
[Lubusz Genealogical Society]
Founded in 2005
Administration: Teresa Sekuła (President), Anna Sołtyszewska (Secretary), Ewa Dobrołowicz (Treasurer)
http://www.ltg.zg.pl

Małopolskie [Little Poland]
Małopolskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne z siedzibą w Krakowie
[Little Poland Genealogical Society, headquarters in Kraków]
Founded: 30 November 2005
Administration: Zbigniew Szybka, Mirosław Boruta, Marek Jerzy Minakowski, Tomasz Roman, Leszek Uroda, Paweł Bochenek, and Andrzej Chaupczak
http://www.mtg-malopolska.org.pl/

Mazowieckie [Mazovia]
Warszawskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne
[Warsaw Genealogical Society]
Founded: 1993
Address: PL 00-866 Warszawa, ul. Żelazna 58/62 lok. 610
Administration : Jan Pągowski (President), Jan Mioduszewski (Vice President), Krzysztof Kudera (Secretary), Paweł Korczewski (Treasurer)
http://www.wtg.org.pl/

Opolskie [Opole]
Opolskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne z siedzibą w Nysie
[Opole Genealogical Society, headquarters in Nysa]
Founded: 2006
http://www.otg.mojeforum.net/index.php

Ostrów Wielkopolski
Ostrowskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne
[Ostrów Wielkopolski Genealogical Society]
Founded: 27 August 2005
Address: PL 63-400 Ostrów Wielkopolski
Administration: Maciej Kowalczyk (President), Jacek Malkowski (Vice-President), Marian Franciszek Nowak (Secretary), Irena Maria Lis (Treasurer)
http://www.otg.net.pl/

Podkarpackie
Galicyjskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne z siedzibą w Przemyślu
[Galician Genealogical Society, with headquarters in Przemyśl]
Founded: 1998
Address: PL 37-700 Przemyśl, ul. Witoszyńska 5
Administrator: Janusz Motyka (President)

Podlaskie
Suwalskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne
[Suwałki Genealogical Society]
Founded: 2005
Administrator: Grzegorz Krupiński (President)
http://www.mem.net.pl/stg/

Pomorskie
Pomorskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne
[Pomeranian Genealogical Association]
Founded: 15 June 2005
Administration: Adam Kamiński (President), Krzysztof Borowski (Vice President), Stanisław Pieniążek (Vice President), Krzysztof Dławichowski (Treasurer)
http://www.ptg.gda.pl/

Śląskie
Towarzystwo Genealogiczne Górnego Śląska i Zagłębia
[Genealogical Society of Upper Silesia and Zagłębie]
Information: Andrzej Lazar
http://retejoj.eurogento.org/lazar

Świętokrzyskie
Świętokrzyskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne
*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

July 6, 2008

XIII Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival
at the Galen Center
The University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.

First time in Los Angeles with 1,000+ dancers from North America and Lithuania. Tickets are $39.00 at the door, or $25.00 for UTLA members.

Visit [http://www.lithuaniandance.com](http://www.lithuaniandance.com) or call 323-662-5058 for more information.

[Posted by Bernice Dumbauskas Granato in a note to the Lithuanian Genealogy mailing list.]

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July 17 – 28, 2008

POLAND IN THE ROCKIES

*Poland in the Rockies (PitR)*, the biennial international student conference launched in Canada in 2004, is now accepting applications for 2008.
Speakers confirmed to date include major figures from politics, television, film, the press and academe. Among them will be former Polish Minister of Defense, Senator Radek Sikorski; Washington Post columnist Anne Applebaum; BBC documentary maker Wanda Koscia; former advisor to Leszek Balcerowicz, Professor Jacek Rostowski of the Central European University in Budapest; the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation’s “most influential” producer, Mark Starowicz; and Director of the Polish Studies Center at Indiana University in Bloomington, Bill Johnston. History, an important element of PitR, is presented in many voices. Timothy Snyder’s (Yale) incisive view of Poland’s past within Poland’s present; Piotr Wrobel’s (University of Toronto) analysis of a century of challenges including a culture under siege; Lynn Lubameisky (Boise State University) on social and family history; and John Bukowczyk (Wayne State University), a foremost authority on the history of Polonia.

“Poland in the Rockies is not ‘a course’ in Polish history,” says director Tony Muszynski. “There is no long lecture in one voice. On the contrary. It is a fast-paced, intensive, wide-ranging discussion of ‘things Polish,’ and ultimately an exploration of the many facets of the Polish identity.”

Launched by the Polish Canadian Association of Calgary and the Canadian Foundation for Polish Studies in Montreal, PitR’s aim is to stimulate an interest among English-speaking Americans and Canadians in Polish history and culture; to create a network of well-informed and dynamic friends of Poland; and to encourage Polish Americans and Canadians to integrate their identity into the mainstream of North American life—but not to lose it.

Funded entirely by Polish organizations and individuals in the United States and Canada, PitR is not designed for specialists in Polish studies but is intended for students from a wide variety of disciplines. Full scholarships are granted on the basis of a student’s curriculum vitae, letters of reference, and an essay explaining their motivation for attending. Geographical diversity is also taken into consideration.

For complete information, prospective sponsors and candidates should refer to the Web site:

http://www.polandintherockies.com

Media relations contact: Marek Domaradzki, tel. 403-262-7141

[From a press release sent by Maureen Mroczek Morris <maureenm@sbcglobal.net>]

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August 1-3, 2008

THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE FEDERATION OF EAST EUROPEAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

“Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: The East European Magnet”

Pittsburgh Airport Marriott Hotel, 777 Aten Road, Coroapolis, Pennsylvania
The speakers will include: Lisa A. Alzo, Matthew Bielawa, Karen Hobbs, Brian J. Lenius, Kahlile B. Mehr, and Maralyn Wellauer-Lenius.

Contact: Lisa Alzo, 2008 FEEFHS Conference, P. O. Box 3943, Ithaca NY 14852-3942.

Details available at:


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August 12 - 24, 2008

HUSARIA TOUR OF POLAND

I’d like to let you all know about our plans for a special and unique tour. In August 2008 will be the first annual “Husaria Tour of Poland.”

One of the features of this tour will be a weekend at Vivat Vasa—the largest 17th-century reenactment in Poland. The event is held at historic Gniew castle with over 300 re-enactors reliving the battle that took place there in 1627 between the Polish winged hussars and the Swedes under Gustav Adolphus. Those of us with 17th-century kits have been invited to participate in the event but it is not mandatory for those on the tour to do so.

We’ll also be visiting the major collections of husaria arms, armor and related 17th-century items across the country. We’ll be seeing many of the major sites, castles, battlefields across the country. This should be a once in a lifetime trip and PAT Tours of Springfield MA will be arranging the hotels, transportation and all the details. PAT Tours has over 30 years of experience in developing custom tours of Poland.

Here’s the best part, our friend and noted Polish historian and author Radek Sikora will be our historical guide through out the trip. Radek will be a great resource, guiding us through all those wonderful museum collections and answering many of our questions. So if you are serious about considering being a part of the tour please contact me and I’ll get you all the details and answer your questions.

http://www.polishhussarsupply.com/contact_us.html

Pozdrawiam
Eryk Jadaszewski <jrjada@juno.com>
Rotmistrz husarski
The Czarniecki Division
17th century Polish re-enactors

[Forwarded by Paul S. Valasek from the PolishAmerican Forum.]
August 15 – 17, 2008

SOCIETY FOR GERMAN GENEALOGY IN EASTERN EUROPE 2008 CONVENTION

“Discovering our Roots in Eastern Europe”

Kelowna, British Columbia

Registration form and agenda can be found at:

http://www.sggee.org/conventions/ConventionNews

Register soon so we know how large a 10th Anniversary cake needs to be ordered.

[From a note posted on numerous mailing lists.]

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August 16 – 17, 2008

Annual Lithuanian Days

Frackville Mall - Frackville, Pennsylvania

Don’t forget that Lithuanian Days this year will be August 16 and 17, at the Frackville Mall. The times are usually 12 to 4 or 5 p.m. Food, a museum in one of the stores, Lithuanian vendors, Lithuanian folk dancing, authentic Lithuanian music. This is, I think, a good time to go to Schuylkill County and do your research at the same time. The courthouse is only 9 miles away. And you could take your kids down into the Ashland Pioneer Tunnel, a coal mine, to show tourists how their grandfathers worked. Did your grandparents come from Shenandoah, Girardville, Minersville, Coaldale, Mahanoy City, Gilberton, Maizeville, Frackville, Mahanoy Plane, Saint Clair, and others?? How about visiting before some of the churches close?

[From a note posted by Millie <Milliemarks@AOL.com> to the Lithuanian Genealogy mailing list. More info is available here:]

http://www.geocities.com/knights144/index.html

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August 17 – 22, 2008

28TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY
Honolulu, HI - December 12, 2007. The International Association of Jewish Genealogy (IAJGS)
announces the 28th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy to be held in Chicago, August 17 - 22, 2008 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile. The IAJGS is proud to co-host this conference with the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois and the Illiana Jewish Genealogical Society.

This annual conference is the premier event for Jewish Genealogists. Attendees from around the world gather to learn, share expertise, find others researching the same locales, and maybe even meet a relative they didn’t know about before. From beginners to experienced genealogists – all are welcome and will have an unforgettable experience.

Sixteen Special Interest Groups (SIG’s) will host sessions concerning their research focus such as German-Jewish Genealogy, Ukraine, Poland, and Litvak Jewish Genealogy research. A number of specialists or archivists from Europe or Eastern Europe will be in attendance to make presentations and advise attendees about resources available in their country. Some of the SIG’s will hold luncheons with a featured speaker.

At least sixteen smaller groups, Birds of a Feather (BOF), will hold meetings such as the BOFs for Yiddish Theater, Suwałki-Lomża, Posen Prussia, and Lublin & Zamość Area.

There will be sessions on aspects of researching Sephardic ancestry, the Midwestern Jewish experience, using computers, immigration records, and much, much more. A Resource Room with a wide variety of genealogically relevant materials will be open to attendees. There will be an Exhibitor Room with vendors selling books, maps, and other items of interest to genealogists.

A special mini-symposium will be held on Genetics, Jewish Diseases, and the Role of Genealogists, underwritten by an educational grant from Genzyme Corporation. Speakers will include Dr. Lee Shulman, MD, Anna Ross Lapham Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Chief, Division of Reproductive Genetics, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University; Gary Frohlich, Certified Genetic Counselor with Genzyme Therapeutics; and a representative of the Chicago Center for Jewish Genetic Disorders.

A film festival will feature a wide range of films of relevance to Jewish genealogy.

Chicago offers many research opportunities for genealogists such as the Spertus Institute of Jewish Study (with its Asher Library and the Chicago Jewish Archives); The Newberry Library; and public institutions (e.g. Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, the Office of the Circuit Court Clerk of Cook County, the Cook county Assessor’s office (for property records), the Cook County Vital Records office) and the Great Lakes Regional branch of NARA (the National Archives).

The hotel has wonderful facilities. All registered conference attendees will get free internet access from their hotel guest rooms and complementary access to the hotel’s health facilities.

To register or find additional information, see the conference Web site at www.Chicago2008.org.

The conference Web site has a conference flyer that can be printed for publicity purposes.
The IAJGS is an organization of organizations, founded in the late 1980s, to provide a common voice for issues of significance to its members, to advance our genealogical avocation, and to ensure there is an annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Go to www.iajgs.org for more information.

Contact:
Anne Feder Lee, IAJGS President and Chicago 2008 co-chair
Telephone: 808-395-0115 (Honolulu, HI)
E-mail: <FederLee@msn.com>

[Our own Paul S. Valasek will be giving two presentations at this Conference, speaking on Haller’s Army and on “Why Jewish Researchers Should Take a Look at PolishRoots.”]

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October 2008
4th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
PLANO, TEXAS

Uwaga! Attention!

Those who live in Texas need to mark their 2008 calendars for the 4th annual International Festival to be held October 2008 in Plano, Texas.

There is a Parade of Nations, in which Poland is represented, as well as a Polish Cultural Booth, a food booth, dance ensemble, two concerts (Polish musicians).

The group responsible for the above is the Polish-American Foundation of Texas:

http://www.polamfound.com

The organization is planning several more events for the near future.

Hope to see you there!

[From a posting by Debbie Greenlee on the Polish Genius mailing list.]

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Friday and Saturday, October 3 – 4, 2008

PGSCTNE 2008 POLISH GENEALOGY CONFERENCE
Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, Connecticut

Sponsored by the Polish and Polish American Studies Program, Central Connecticut State University. We will be featuring Dr. Stephen Morse, who will be lecturing on “Searching the Ellis Island Database on the One-Step Web site.”
There will also be a Polish history lecture by Dr. Mieczysław Biskupski and Prof. Romuald Byczkiewicz, as well as a Beginner’s Workshop.

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October 17 – October 19, 2008

Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan
Celebrating 30 Years 1978-2008

POLISH RESEARCH SEMINAR

featuring Łukasz Bielecki in his only U.S. appearance.


For more information, please see:

http://pgsm.org/index_040.htm

[From a note posted by Ceil Jensen on the Poland mailing list.]

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*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***


Paul S. Valasek asked if I had seen this site, for the State Archives of Belarus. I had visited it frequently, but not for a while. I was impressed by how much more user-friendly it has become. Research in Belarus used to be a formidable undertaking, but I’m hearing from more and more people who are finding it to be a good experience. If you have roots in that area — and many Poles do — that is great news!

http://www.donnhoward.blogspot.com

Actually, this is Exhibit 1 in the case for Belarusian research. Our own Don Szumowski recently visited Ukraine and Belarus, and this blog tells you about the experience. It’s very interesting reading.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7459578.stm

On the newsgroup soc.genealogy.jewish, Tom Venetianer mentioned this site, “an interesting article on BBC’s site about genetics and its correlation with surnames. It claims that ‘Male adoptees are using consumer DNA tests to predict the surnames carried by their biological fathers.’”

On the Lithuanian Genealogy mailing list, Cecelia Yeruski praised the work of Lithuanian researcher Sigita Gasparavičienė. She is listed on this, the Web site of the Lithuanian Society of Genealogists. Cecelia said, “If you join this Web site (it’s free), you can view a list of Members and Promoters of the Society of Genealogists Board. Sigita’s picture is at the site as well as her phone number. I do not know about any of the others listed or if they can write to you in English. The site also has some helpful tools if you are doing any of the work yourself. Some of the site is in the Lithuanian language and some has been translated. It is enough for me and I use the English language version you see above. (lang=en). One warning, it takes quite a long time to upload the site at certain times of the day. I think one time it took 5 minutes with my high-speed cable connection. The next time it was only 30 seconds or so. It seems to be a new site last updated in March of this year.”


On the Polish Genius mailing list, Kim Stankiewicz posted this link, saying “I got this online article from another list and found it very interesting. I just wish my family would find stuff like this!” The article is entitled “Md. Plantation Attic Holds 400 Years of Documents,” and subtitled “Slave sales and Valentines: 400 years of family’s documents found in Md. plantation’s attic.” I had to laugh at the reaction Debbie Greenlee posted: “Don’t you think we’d go into cardiac arrest if we found something like this?”

http://www.clevelandmemory.org/ebooks/polish/part02.html

On the Poland-Roots list, Roots Henry Cranford mentioned this site as “an excellent summary of the Polish immigration to the U.S. and to the conditions of the immigrants. It includes some Polish names.”


On the Posen mailing list, Allen James Krueger encouraged people to volunteer their services. He said 30 minutes of work can help people find their ancestors. If you can spare a little time and effort, take a look.

http://rumsey.geogarage.com/gmaps.html

Ceil Jensen posted a note to various lists to tell people “I’ve been dreaming of this ... and here it is: Google maps tools for vintage maps.” She mentioned, for instance, a vintage map of Posen corca 1844 at this URL:

http://rumsey.geogarage.com/maps/g4807061.html

If you visit the site, be sure to read the information on the main page about this collection of historical maps. It will help you make better use of them.
On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list, “Galizia Forever” mentioned pre-World War II directories with Galician coverage available at this site. He said, “Some have been previously discussed here, while I believe others are not well known, and would benefit from analysis by those with relevant geographic and linguistic expertise.” These are the specific directories he cited:

1904 Poland Manufacturers’ Directory
1938 Economic Directory of Kielce, Kraków, Silesia Provinces
1914/1915 Kraków War Refugees Address Directory
1914/1915 Lwów War Refugees Address Directory
1913 Lwów Address Directory
1910 Lwów Address Directory
1902 Lwów Address and Business Directory

For a lot more detail on resources available at Logan Kleinwaks’ Kalter.org Web site, see the article on this subject in the 29 June 2008 issue of Nu? What’s New at this URL:

http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/v09N16.htm

Note that, as mentioned in the last issue of Gen Dobry!, you can also reach this site at the following address:

http://www.dbhd.org/search.php

On the Lithuanian Genealogy mailing list, Roy said this was “a good place to find answers to any questions regarding noble status within the Russian Empire ... This is the Russian Nobility Association in America, located in New York City. I have found that Dr. Geacintov, its President, is a very helpful and friendly person. Please tell him that I sent you! Among the RNA’s membership are descendants of the great Lithuanian leader Gediminas - for example, Princess Elizabeth Galitzine.”

The 29 June 2008 issue of Nu? What’s New, the free e-zine of Avotaynu, Inc., has a fascinating lead article entitled “Do Not Buy Avotaynu Books from Amazon.com.” Much as I love buying from Amazon, I’ve had real issues with the way they sell the books I’ve written and co-written. Now I see Avotaynu, which publishes excellent books on Jewish genealogy, is fed up with some of Amazon’s practices. If you’re at all interested in publishing or buying books on genealogy (or any subject, really), this is worth reading!

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list, Lavrentiy Krupnak expressed hope that “maybe
someday maps like the following for Czechia, Moravia and Silesia will be available for Galician territory.” Note that there is an option on the left side of the page for clicking on the Union Jack to get the page in English. The site includes information on the maps’ origin, and terms for their use. If you have roots in Bohemia, Moravia, or Silesia, you might want to investigate this.

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