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*** WELCOME! ***

to the latest issue of Gen Dobry!, the e-zine of PolishRoots®. If you missed previous issues, or you wish to subscribe, just go here:

<http://polishroots.org/GenDobry/tabid/60/Default.aspx>

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*** BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS ***

by Ed Rozylowicz

Editor—Ed Rozylowicz of Las Cruces, NM was kind enough to send me information on a number of books he found to be splendid reading, and he thought our readers might like to know about them. I think we have mentioned some of these before, but they’re well worth mentioning again. If you’re looking for good summer reading, these books should inform and entertain you. Please note: as best I can tell from Google searches and reference to Amazon.com and other booksellers, the images and text below are those provided by the publishers for use in reviews, or are Mr. Rozylowicz’s comments. To the best of my knowledge, reproducing them here infringes on no one’s copyright. If anyone has reason to believe otherwise, please inform me <wfh@langline.com> so I can consider taking appropriate action.

The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution
by Alex Storozynski
Published 2009
Reviews (for more, visit <http://www.peasantprince.com/Reviews.html>)

**2010 FRAUNCES TAVERN MUSEUM BOOK AWARD WINNER**

“Despite his heroic efforts, Kosciuszko’s fatherland had to wait a century after his death before regaining independence from Russia. The world would have to wait even longer for an accessible, soundly researched, English-language biography. With The Peasant Prince, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Alex Storozynski has filled the void. And what a tale he has to tell. A melodramatic, foiled elopement deprived the young Kosciuszko of the love of his life and led him to cross the Atlantic and sign up with George Washington’s ragtag rebel army. The Polish émigré engineered the network of fortifications around West Point that Benedict Arnold unsuccessfully tried to betray to the British and that helped keep the main British army bottled up in New York City. Kosciuszko also played a key role in the wilderness campaigns that ended in the crucial American victory at Saratoga. And he made a triumphal return to his native Poland in time to lead a doomed but heroic national struggle against Russia and overwhelming odds. All this and a supporting cast that amounts to a Who’s Who of 18th-century American and European history. In America, those who knew Kosciuszko included Benjamin Franklin (who helped recruit him); George Washington (who had trouble getting Kosciuszko’s name right but hailed...
him as a military “engineer of eminence”); Thomas Jefferson (who called him “as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known”); and Thomas Paine (who, like Kosciuszko, was granted honorary French citizenship by the revolutionary regime but spoke out against its brutal excesses). In Europe, Kosciuszko’s acquaintances included Napoleon Bonaparte (who tried—and failed—to use him as a pawn in European power politics) and Catherine the Great (who, after ruthlessly suppressing the Polish insurrection, kept Kosciuszko a political prisoner in Russia until her death in 1796).”—Wall Street Journal

“The Peasant Prince is an objective history that is needed in today’s America and Poland. The hero of Alex’s book is one of the fathers of modern democracy in the same mold as Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Lincoln.”—Adam Michnik, Solidarność activist and editor in chief of Gazeta Wyborcza

Every reviewer gave this work a rating of 5 out of 5 stars. Excellent reading.

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

Images of America – The Anthracite Coal Region’s Slavic Community

by Brian Ardan

Published 2009

Synopsis: Beginning in the latter half of the 19th century, individuals identifying themselves as Poles, Slovaks, Carpatho-Rusyns, Ukrainians, and others began what would eventually become a mass influx of eastern and central Europeans into Pennsylvania’s anthracite coal mining region. These people brought with them languages and customs quite alien to the longer-established groups that had settled the area many years earlier. At times, the Slavs clashed with these groups, as well as among themselves. Eventually, however, they wove their way of life indelibly into the multiethnic fabric of the growing region. The Anthracite Coal Region’s Slavic Community presents a pictorial history of Slavic people in hard coal country, conveying the unique and rich culture brought to the area with the arrival of these diverse communities. Over 200 rare archival photos.

Biography: Brian Ardan is a faculty member in the Stevenson Library at Lock Haven University.
He has a master’s degree in Slavic studies from Indiana University and a master’s degree in library science from Clarion University. He has lived in Slavic language-speaking countries, including Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia and Montenegro. He has carefully selected rarely seen vintage photographs from various private collections, churches, historical societies, and archives for this publication.

Extracted from this book are a few sample images:

[Below left] This young couple hailed from the Carpathian Mountains. At the time of the photograph, regional economic conditions made life difficult for those seeking to start their own families. Many couples, therefore, opted to risk their future in a distant place called the anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania. (Muzeum Etnograficzne im. Seweryna Udzieli w Krakowie.)

[Below right] A typical peasant chata, or cottage, appears in this photograph. The chata often had a center entrance hallway used for various indoor chores and at times a storage area under the roof. Owners frequently kept livestock on one side of the hut. Kitchens contained large stoves with areas upon which residents could sleep and stay warm during winter. (Muzeum Etnograficzne im. Seweryna Udzieli w Krakowie; photograph by Roman Reinfuss.)

[At right] Perhaps the most popular mine-related job among Slavic teens was that of a mule driver. A July 19, 1885, New York Times article states, “In the mines as mule drivers these hardy lads are invaluable. They sing and whistle and laugh and play amid their gloomy surroundings, and they can manage the erratic mule better than most men.” This photograph shows a young mule driver exiting a Scranton mine. (Forest City News.)
The First Polish Americans – Silesian Settlements in Texas

by T. Lindsay Baker

Published 1979

This 1979 work won several regional history awards. As the title indicates, it chronicles the earliest Polish communities in Texas in the mid-1850s.

This superbly researched and documented work presents for the first time a detailed account of the founding and history of the oldest Polish communities in the United States. Established in south-central Texas (southeast of San Antonio) in the 1850s by immigrants from the region of Upper Silesia in Poland, to this day those settlements continue to retain elements of their regional folk culture, much of which has since disappeared in Europe. Forerunners of the larger immigration to the United States later in the century, these early immigrants in Texas experienced, in microcosm, the problems, disappointments, and successes the later immigrants would find in the New World.

The author begins by providing background information on the social and economic conditions in Upper Silesia that led to the departure of the Polish farmers for the New World, emphasizing that the immigrants were not penniless peasants, but men of some standing seeking to increase their wealth in a new homeland. He explores their lives on the Texas frontier during the mid-19th century, through the Civil War and Reconstruction periods, and then on into the 20th century.

Incorporating many unused or rarely used primary sources, both American and Polish, The First Polish Americans shows with clarity and detail why and how immigrants from Europe entered into the melting pot of the growing United States and what their contributions were. An extensive bibliography provides an invaluable research tool.

With settlements named Panna Maria, Czestochowa, Kosciuszko, St. Hedwig, and St. Francisville (among others), the reader will certainly be transported into a culture that they be already familiar with. Excellent reading.

At time of publishing, author T. Lindsay Baker, was associate curator of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, Texas and program manager of the History of Engineering Program at Texas Tech. He was a Fulbright lecturer at the Technical University of Wrocław, Poland, from 1975 to 1977. He authored books on subjects in the history of technology and social and cultural history.
In this gripping account, a boy and his mother are wrenched from their tranquil lives to forge a path through the storm of war and the rubble of its aftermath. In the past, there has been a spectrum of books and films that share other German World War II experiences. However, told from the perspective of a ten-year-old, this book is rare. The boy and his mother must prevail over hunger and despair, or die.

In the Third Reich, young Wolfgang Samuel and his family are content but alone. The father, a Luftwaffe officer, is away fighting the Allies in the West. In 1945 as Berlin and nearby communities crumble, young Wolfgang, his mother Hedy, and little sister Ingrid flee the advancing Russian army. They have no inkling of the chaos ahead. In Strasburg, a small town north of Berlin where they find refuge, Wolfgang begins to comprehend the evils the Nazi regime brought to Germany. As the Reich collapses, mother, son, and daughter flee again just ahead of the Russian charge.

In the chaos of defeat, they struggle to find food and shelter. Death stalks the primitive camps that are their temporary havens, and the child becomes the family provider. Under the crushing responsibility Wolfgang becomes his mother’s and sister’s mainstay. When they return to Strasburg, the Communists in control are as brutal as the Nazis. In the violent atmosphere of arbitrary arrest, rape, hunger, and fear, the boy and his mother persist. Pursued by Communist police through a fierce blizzard, they escape to the West, but even in the English zone, the constant search for food, warmth, and shelter dominates their lives, and the mother’s sacrifices become the boy’s nightmares.

Although this is a time of deepest despair, Wolfgang hangs on to the thinnest thread of hope. In June 1948 with the arrival of the Americans flying the Berlin Airlift, Wolfgang begins a new journey.

Biography: Wolfgang W. E. Samuel was commissioned through the Air Force ROTC at the University of Colorado and is a graduate of the National War College. He served in the U.S. Air Force for thirty years until his retirement in 1985 as a colonel. His writing has been published in several military journals, including Parameters, the U.S. Army War College quarterly.
One survivor tells of the firebombing of Dresden. Another recounts the pervasive fear of marauding Russian and Czech bandits raping and killing. Children recall fathers who were only photographs and mothers who were saviors and heroes.

These are typical in the stories collected in The War of Our Childhood: Memories of World War II. For this book Wolfgang W. E. Samuel, a childhood refugee himself after the fall of Nazi Germany, interviewed twenty-seven men and women who as children—by chance and sheer resilience—survived Allied bombs, invading armies, hunger, and chaos.

“Our eyes carried no hate, only recognition of what was,” Samuel writes of his childhood. “Peace was an abstraction. The world we Kinder knew nearly always had the word war appended to it.”

Samuel’s heartfelt narratives from these innocent survivors are invariably riveting and often terrifying. Each engrossing story has perilous and tragic moments—school children in Leuna who are sent home during an air raid but are strafed as moving targets; fathers who exist only as distant figures, returning to their families long after the war—or not at all; mothers who are raped and tortured; families who are forced into a seemingly endless relocation that replicates the terrors of war itself. In capturing such experiences from nearly every region of Germany and involving people of every socio-economic class, this is a collection of unique memories, but each account contributes to a cumulative understanding of the war that is more personal than strategic surveys and histories.

For Samuel and the survivors he interviewed agony and fright were part of everyday life, just as were play, wondrous experience, and above all perseverance.

“My focus,” Samuel writes, “is on the astounding ability of a generation of German children to emerge from debilitating circumstances as sane and productive human beings.”

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*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: New Sources of Polish Records

Dear Sirs:

I look forward to reading Gen Dobry! every month to discover new research resources. I too have been using the pilot site at <http://familysearch.org>. There, I recently discovered the birth record of my great-grandmother, who was from Luxembourg.
I would like to point out two new sources of Polish records. (I am not sure how I found them.) Maybe you have already heard of them.

The first is “Indexes of The Registry Office Records of The Roman Catholic Parish in Płock from 1826 to 1907 (works in progress)”: 


The second is “Archiwa Państwowe w Zintegrowanym Systemie Informacji Archiwalnej” [National Archives in the Integrated Information System Archival]:

<http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/>


Akta stanu cywilnego warszawskich parafii w Internecie [Civil registry records of Warsaw parishes on the Internet]

<http://warszawa.ap.gov.pl/aktualne.html>

24 March 2010
Thanks to collaboration of the National Archives of the Capital City of Warsaw and the National Digital Archive, 12 thousand electronic copies of selected documents from the civil status of three Roman Catholic parishes in Warsaw have been made available on the portal page “Szukaj w archiwach” [Search in archives]:

♦ St. Barbara (Set # 1214): 
<http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/72/1214/0/-/>

♦ St. Michael’s (Set # 2111): 
<http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/72/2111/0/-/>

♦ Transfiguration (Set # 1216): 
<http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/72/1216/0/-/>

In the coming months plans are to make available another 80 thousand copies of civil registry records from the holdings of the State Archives of the Capital City of Warsaw. The objective of this work is to improve genealogy research.

In doing a search for “parafia” with “Szukaj tylko w zespołach/jednostkach ze skanami” [Search only in sets/units with scans] and Wybór działów [Choice of sections]: Kategoria: urzędy stanu cywilnego i akta metrykalne; akta metrykalne and urzędy stanu cywilnego [Category: civil registrar offices and metrical records] checked, it appears that only these three parishes have scanned records online.
I am sure you can provide more comprehensive instruction for *Gen Dobry!* readers.

Pozdrawiam,
Jim Paprocki

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Subject: Another Website with links to Lithuanian parish records

First let me congratulate you for your newsletter always full of interesting facts and useful Websites.

I am not familiar with Lithuanian genealogy, but as a reaction to the article on Lithuanian archives searchable record database, I wanted to pass on the following link I happen to have bumped on this Website while doing a research on Poland:

<http://www.kf.vu.lt/baris/Faksimiles.html>

The site is in Lithuanian, but this link page lists the parish pages from where you can download complete original records books (*metrikai*).

I don’t read Lithuanian but this is apparently a project from Vilnius University. After doing a couple of cross checks, I believe the records are different from the ones at <http://www.epaveldas.lt>.

To be clear, as I found this by chance and it is not my area of research I have no clue if this might be a useful information or if everybody doing research in Lithuania already knows this Website - so I am sending the info to you just in case.

Philippe
<http://www.geneapologne.com>
(my site - in french - on genealogy in Poland)

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*Editor*—Thank you very much, Philippe. It’s kind of you to take the time to share this info with us. I’m not as fluent in Lithuanian as I’d like, but it seems to me you assessed the material on this site correctly. I downloaded some of the records, and they are indeed metrical registers from various parishes. And the list does not seem to overlap those available at Epaveldas. Since many ethnic Poles lived in what is now Lithuania, this resource may benefit many of our readers. So let me thank you in their name!
*** MORE LINKS TO SPECIFIC POLISH RECORDS ***

by Bogdan Kajkowski

Editor—On the Poland-Roots list, Bogdan Kajkowski posted this note, which gives specifics on finding records of specific places. Chances are this information will benefit some researchers.

Perhaps it would be useful for someone from the list. Here are a few Polish pages with indexes:

<http://sites.google.com/site/wszswawametrykalia/Home/dane-2>

Here is where you can find marriages (małżeństwa):

Zdjęcia papierowych skorowidzów małżeństw [Photos of paper indexes of marriages]

1866-1890 <http://metryki.genealodzy.pl/metryki.php?op=kt&zs=9264d&sy=951&kt=1>

1891-1901 <http://metryki.genealodzy.pl/metryki.php?op=kt&zs=9264d&sy=952&kt=1>

1902-1913 <http://picasaweb.google.pl/indexwawaWW/SkorowidzeMaZenstw19021913?feat=directlink>


That page also gives links to birth/baptism (urodzenia/chrzty) records for Warsaw’s All Saints’ parish, 1866-1882, 1884-1909.

For Płock you can go to:
Indexes of the registry office records of the Roman Catholic parish in Płock from 1826 to 1907 <http://www.archiwum.plock.com/acts_start_en.php> [mentioned also in Philippe’s Letter to the Editor, above]


Both projects are in progress, e.g., for Płock, data are currently available from 1864 ... but will be from 1826.

A similar project is for Pułtusk <http://www.warszawa.ap.gov.pl/indeksy.html> on this page:

<http://www.genealodzy.pl/>
If you have an account there - you look for indeksys also:

<http://www.genealodzy.pl/name-Geneteka.phtml>

Other databases:
<http://www.przodkowie.com/metryki>
<http://www.ptg.gda.pl/>
<http://bindweed.man.poznan.pl/posen/search.php>

Regards, Bogdan

Editor—You may have to do a bit of searching and experimenting to take advantage of these resources. But the first step in using resources is to find out they exist! Bogdan is helping us do that.

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*** CONDE NAST TRAVELER ARTICLE ON POLAND ***

by Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net>

Editor—This is a note Debbie Greenlee posted to the Poland-Roots mailing list. I thought those who didn’t see her note might appreciate knowing about the article she discussed.

The current issue (June, 2010) of Conde Nast Traveler magazine has 14 pages devoted to Poland including large photographs. At the top front of the magazine is the title, “Posh Palaces of Poland Where Old Europe Lives Again” however in the index the article is titled, “Poland Polish Renaissance,” and starts on page 76.

According to the description in the index “Leveled during World War II, Poland has rebuilt its cultural monuments and historic architecture with painstaking precision. Benjamin Moser explores the country’s gloriously restored cities to understand how looking back is the key to moving forward.”

The article is full of little-known facts and details. The author seems to have done quite a bit of background research about the cities and villages he visited from north to south and east to west. Who here would be surprised to find out that the author’s grandfather was, in fact, born in Poland?

Page 114 of the article includes, “The Restoration; After decades of disrepair, Poland’s storied castles are coming back to life, housing chic hotels and gourmet eateries,” which lists places to stay and eat in a few of the major Polish cities. Don’t think you can’t afford Poland when reading this page. There are much cheaper hotels and restaurants all over Poland. Personally, I don’t believe in paying U.S. prices for a hotel in Poland.

Gen Dobry!, Vol. XI, No. 5, May 2010 — 11
*** EOGN PRINTS REVIEW OF CEIL JENSEN’S *STO LAT!* ***

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

I was delighted to see that a recent issue of *Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter* [EOGN] reprinted a review of Ceil Jensen’s book, *Sto Lat: A Modern Guide to Polish Genealogy*. EOGN is a mainstream publication in the world of genealogy, and I often wish we could see more attention paid to Polish research there. So seeing Ceil’s book receive attention struck me as a step forward for the whole field of Polish genealogy.

The review, by Robert (Bobbi) King, was copyrighted, and Eastman specifically said it should not be republished without the author’s permission. But since *Gen Dobry!* is an e-zine, there’s no real need for me to reprint the review. I can just give you a link where you can read it:

<http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2010/05/sto-lat-a-book-review.html>

I should add that Debbie Greenlee posted notes online announcing that the book is available for purchase, and suggesting those interested consider buying it from the Polish Art Center in Hamtramck, Michigan:


I have dealt frequently with the owners of the Polish Art Center, Raymond and Joan Bittner, and have always been satisfied with their service. I probably should mention, however, that they sell a number of books I wrote or co-wrote, so perhaps I’m not the most unbiased person. Still, if you want good books on Poland—or many other items of interest to anyone with a drop of Polish blood—you need to know about the Polish Art Center.

*** PRESENTATION ON LEMKOS OF THE CARPATHIANS ***

by Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net>

*Editor*—As long as I’m reprinting good stuff that was posted on Poland-Roots, let me quote another post from Debbie Greenlee. Most of our readers won’t be able to attend this presentation, but take note! It will be webcasted, and then a taping of the event will be available online a few days later. So if the subject interests you, look into this!


<http://www.usukraine.org/events.htm>
The Lemko presentation is open to the public, but if you wish to attend in person, you must call U.S. Ukraine Foundation to RSVP since seating is limited.

Presentation & Discussion on Thursday, June 3rd, 2010
Pre-Event Reception: 5:30 p.m.– 6:30 p.m.
Program: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
RSVP Required – Limited Seating – E-mail: <oksana@usukraine.org>
Or phone: 202-223-2228

U.S.-Ukraine Foundation
1701 K Street NW – Suite 903
Washington, DC 20006

(Bldg entrance is on 17th Street. Conveniently located near Farragut West and Farragut North Metro Stations)

This event will also be webcasted! Webcasting begins at 6:30 p.m. Webcast continues to 7:30 p.m. To view live online, go to:

<http://www.usukraine.org/events/lemkos-carpathians060310.shtml>

Full event taping will be posted on USUF’s Website several days following the program.

Featured Presenters:

Stephen Rapawy, Ph.D.
Russian Area Studies and History, Georgetown University

Corinna Wengryn Caudill, MPIA
International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh

Background
The unique identity and history of the Lemko people, Ukrainian-speaking Slavs who once inhabited the mountainous borderlands between present day Poland and Ukraine known as “Lemkivshchyna” or “Lemkovyna.” Their distinctive characteristics include their long history of settlement in insular communities along the Carpathian mountains, their Eastern religion, and their unique dialect and linguistic patterns.

History
An overview of Lemko history, from its ethno-genesis as a distinct Carpathian culture to the near complete expulsion of the Lemko people from Southeast Poland during and after World War II.

The Impact of Ethnic Purification Policies in East Central Europe. As post-war Poland and the Soviet Union set about the task of creating ethnically pure nation space, millions of people found themselves on the “wrong” side of national borders without leaving their ancestral homes. How
the deportations of Lemkos from Poland were part of a massive ethnic purification campaign that also included Poles, Germans and other ethnic minorities living in East Central Europe during and after World War II. The presentation will include a display of comparative maps to show how postwar politics and shifting borders ultimately resulted in significant and lasting demographic changes in East Central Europe.

In Their Own Words: Conversations with Lemkos
The Lemko experience during & after World War II. Personal experiences during & after the war.

Q&A plus Post Discussion Networking!

If you can’t attend you can view the conference online on June 3 @ 6:30 p.m. ET:
<http://www.usukraine.org/events/lemkos-carpathians060310.shtml>

Event information will also be posted on the Upcoming Events page:
<http://www.usukraine.org/events.htm>

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*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

1 June 2010

Please note that the next meeting of the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group will be on Tuesday, June 1. Wrap-up session dealing with:
- Suggestions for future meetings
- Show & Tell/ members mini-presentations

From 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
St Vladimir Institute
620 Spadina Avenue, Toronto
Contact: (905)-841-6707

[From a note posted by Jim Onychuk <jodanji@rogers.com> to various recipients]

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June 4 - June 21, 2010

SECOND ANNUAL DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS TOUR TO WESTERN UKRAINE

If you are interested in tracing your roots in Ukraine, now is the time to sign up. This year the group will be limited to 20 persons. For details of the tour, go to:
This tour, sponsored by the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group, offers a unique service that other tours do not, including helping you with:

* Locating the exact village of your ancestors. Often there may be several villages with the same name and there is no point in visiting or researching the wrong village.
* Letters you may wish to write to the village head and parish.
* Planning side trips to ancestral villages.
* Arranging for any drivers, guides and translators you may require.
* Contacting the archives before the trip to let them know which files we wish to examine, so that they can have them on hand when we visit.
* Suggesting and helping you with other side trips; you may wish to go on as tourists.

What You Can Find In the Archives

The State Archives of Ukraine, particularly the Central Historical Archives in Lviv and Kyiv, have many unique genealogical sources including thousands of Metrical Books (vital record registrations) of different religions (Greek Catholic, Roman Catholic, Evangelical, Jewish) from the 18th-20th centuries. Recently, the Historical Archives in Lviv received over 700 parish registers from local registry offices since the last time their files were microfilmed by the LDS, and more are being received each day. In addition to Metrical Books there are:
* Other original parish records
* Census records
* Szematisms, which were staff directories for the military, government administration, school and church administrations
* Lists of house owners
* Property maps, called Cadastral Maps
* Emigration papers your ancestors filled out prior to coming to North America
* School Records
* Registration of property transactions
* Family and estate papers of the nobility
* Military records

This Tour is Tailored to Your Needs

While this is a group trip, every effort is made to tailor it to your personal needs and wishes. The goal is to provide assistance with your family history project special to your needs or, alternatively, help you find those missing pieces. The trip includes visits to various archives, guide/interpreters, time to visit and spend time in your villages of interest and tourism.

Other Things To See In Ukraine

Ukraine is home to 300 museums, seven national historical and cultural preserves as well as many different examples of culture, archaeology, unique cities, palaces, parks and a warm, hospitable people with a rich history.
June 18-20, 2010

Polish Fest
June 18-20, 2010

The annual Polish Fest will be held in the Henry W. Maier Festival Park in Milwaukee, WI. There will be Polish music for those who wish to dance as well as just listen, foods to sample, vodka tasting, performances by well known dance groups and activities for children. The Polish Genealogical Society of America will be represented in the Cultural Village, where Society members will willingly talk about their favorite subject, Polish genealogy. Stop by our booth and learn something about us and the many ways we help Polish Americans discover more about their family history!

For more details go to: <http://www.polishfest.org>

[From an article in the May issue of PGSA Notebook]

July 11-16, 2010

30TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY
JW Marriott Hotel at L.A. in Los Angeles, California

Come be a part of the world’s largest Jewish Genealogy conference! The 30th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held in Los Angeles, California at the brand new L.A. LIVE conference center. Join hundreds of other researchers as we explore our roots and build our family trees. Whether you’re a beginner, just starting to trace your family’s history, or a pro looking for the latest information and tips, the IAJGS conference will have something for everyone! For more details, visit the Web site:

<http://www.jgsla2010.com>
POLAND IN THE ROCKIES
Speakers and Filmmakers from Canada, the United States and Europe

History, Politics, Culture, Media, Identity, Networking, Lectures, Discussions, Films, Hiking, Campfires, Friendships
An intensive transnational Polish experience — in the beautiful Canadian Rockies

See <http://www.polandintherockies.com> for application and scholarship details
PitR video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ph-Sd63Leo>
Alumni e-zine: <http://www.cosmopolitanreview.com>

**NOTE: THIS IS A REMINDER FOR ANYONE PLANNING TO ATTEND—THE APPLICATION DEADLINE WAS MARCH 31, 2010.**

[Thanks to Maureen Mroczek Morris for sending in this info.]

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October 1 – 2, 2010

PGSA’S 32ND ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

The Polish Genealogical Society of America’s next conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 1 & 2, at the Hilton Hotel in Oak Lawn, Illinois. The hotel is located at 9333 S. Cicero Avenue.

The Hilton Hotel and Conference center is a well-known venue for events on the south side of Chicago. It is located three miles south of Midway Airport and is accessible to major highways and expressways, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Orange Line, and the Metro Train station. It provides easy access to much of the city and Chicago’s downtown and the many attractions they provide. A scheduled complimentary shuttle is also available.

The theme is:

**19th Century Research using 21st Century Technology**

Changes and improvements in technology are constantly providing us with new tools to use to re-think and re-evaluate our research. Here are just a few examples of presentations that can reinvigorate yours.

“Discovering the Treasures of 19th Century Polish Language Records” - You may not speak the language, but you can still mine the records for what they can tell you.

“You’re Not in Kansas Anymore: Essential Resources for Urban Area Research” - Have you used the latest tools available for this challenging topic?
“Searching Electronic Databases” - Controlled vocabulary can help you find information on line that you didn’t realize existed.
“A Novice’s Approach to Using the Polish Archives: - Proving that even if you aren’t an expert, the right techniques will allow you to use these records.
“Lost Children: Orphans, Vagrants, Delinquents, Half-Orphans, Dependents, Surrendered, Adopted” - Unusual challenges may not be where you think they are. Get directions from an expert.
Please check our Web site for future up-dates: <http://www.pgsa.org>

[From the March 2010 issue of PGSA Notebook]

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October 2, 2010

ONE-DAY SEMINAR ON GALICIA
HOSTED BY THE EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Place: Red River College - Princess St. Campus (Winnipeg, MB)

Speakers: Matthew Bielawa and Brian J. Lenius, internationally renowned authorities on Galician genealogical research

Matthew Bielawa (Stratford, Connecticut, USA) has specialization in western Ukraine and eastern Galicia, about which he has extensively lectured, written articles for various genealogical journals, and created a Website, Genealogy of Halychyna / Eastern Galicia <http://www.halgal.com>. Matthew has conducted research trips to Ukraine, Poland, and Russia numerous times, including a semester of studies at Leningrad State University. Matthew earned a B.A. degree in Slavic and East European Studies from the University of Connecticut and an M.A. degree in Slavic Languages and Literature from New York University.

Brian J. Lenius (Selkirk, Manitoba) has conducted East European research specializing in the former Austrian province of Galicia for over 25 years. Brian is author and publisher of the Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia: Expanded Data Edition, as well as numerous articles on Galician and Austrian research published in various Polish, eastern European, and other genealogical periodicals. He has presented research-oriented lectures to numerous genealogical societies in Canada, USA, and Germany. Brian has undertaken 15 extended research trips in Poland, Ukraine, Austria, Czech Republic, and Germany, greatly expanding resources available to North American genealogical researchers.

Topics: This full-day seminar will include various topics on Galicia, including a description of Galicia, record keeping, locating records, reading and analyzing records, languages (including Cyrillic), among other topics.
Cost: Members $55.00  
Non-members $60.00  

Further details to follow — see the EEGS Website <http://www.eegsociety.org> & the Society’s journal, East European Genealogist.

[From an e-mail sent out by EEGS President Chris Bukoski]

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*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***


A recent issue of Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter [EOGN] had an article I found very interesting, “Here’s a Mystery: What Does the Historical Research Center have in Common with Ginsu Knives?” It tells of “the Historical Research Center” and gives you a few facts you should know before you send any money to this center....

<http://torun.gazeta.pl/torun/51,35576,7922247.html?i=16>

On the Polish Genius mailing list, Debbie Greenlee posted this link from Jim that shows the Wisła [Vistula] overflowing its banks in and around Toruń. Flooding in Poland is a huge problem this year; anyone who cares about the “old country” needs to know more.

<http://pop-stat.mashke.org/>

Tom Sadauskas wrote to say he’d come this Website entitled “Population Statistics of Eastern Europe.” He explained, “The site has population and census data for 32 countries including Poland with links to official sources. The Lithuanian entry listed more than 22,000 place locations with their populations and even included the names of abandoned villages where there was no population. The site may help people who are searching for that elusive village that doesn’t show up in a Google search.”

<http://91.146.204.131/dlibra/collectiondescription>

On the Polish Genius list, Debbie Greenlee posted this link for those with roots in Sanok powiat of southeastern Poland. It is the site for the Sanok Digital Library’s online digitalization project. She noticed a listing of several roczniki or yearbooks for places in the area. She wrote, “Try typing in your village name and see what comes back. Remember, even if you can’t read Polish, you might find information about your village; information you didn’t have before. Grab it! It’s not that difficult or expensive to get things translated.”

<http://www.amazon.com/Hollywoods-Poland-1939-1945-M-B-B-Biskupski/dp/0813125596>

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Debbie posted another great note on that list. It gives this link, for a book by Mieczysław B. Biskupski, Ph.D., Professor of History and holder of the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT. The book is *Hollywood’s War with Poland, 1939-1945*, published by the University Press of Kentucky. “The book is 362 pages, has notes, a bibliography and an index. Cost is $60.00, but you can find it cheaper at online bookstores.” Debbie heard Dr. Biskupski speak on this subject a couple of years ago, and said “I now know why there are so few, if any, Poles depicted in Hollywood movies that aren’t buffoons ... I know the book is expensive but perhaps you could share the cost with a few people and then donate the book to a library or Polish society.”

If I may say so, I bought Dr. Biskupski’s *The History of Poland* and loved it. It runs 236 pages, and while far less detailed than other histories such as Norman Davies’, it does a really good job of conveying the why of history, not just the what. Dr. Biskupski is a highly regarded historian, partly because he understands how to communicate what he knows. I intend to get *Hollywood’s War on Poland*, because I feel sure it will help me understand a lot of things about this subject that baffle me.

Maureen Mroczek Morris sent along these links with info on books she thought would interest many readers of *Gen Dobry!* The first is for *Irena Sendler, Mother of the Children of the Holocaust*, the second for *Code Name: Zegota: Rescuing Jews in Occupied Poland, 1942-1945: The Most Dangerous Conspiracy in Wartime Europe*. People are always looking for something good to read during the summer—why not take a look at these books? Or if you’d like to read some newspaper articles, try this:

Maureen also sent this link for her slide show on “Poles in California.” She recommended this as a “great documentary movie” on the famous 19th-century Polish actress Helena Modrzejewska:

Another post on the Polish Genius list, from Roman Kałużniacki, recommended this as a “well-done Website featuring the Sanok Ethnographic Park which includes a superb virtual tour capability (scroll to the last item on the right-side menu list). I enjoyed the tour tremendously since on my visit there last year we were not able to take advantage of the facilities ... Some, but not all, of it is provided in English for those who might be a bit Polish-language-handicapped.
On Lith Gen, “jkirkliaukas” contributed this link to an article in *Lituanus* on the history of Polish spoken in Lithuania, “Language and Social Class in Southwestern Lithuania Before 1865.” As you might guess, it’s not exactly light reading; but if you have roots in Lithuania or northeastern Poland, you may find it informative.

Also on the Lith Gen mailing list, Roman S. has been translating excerpts from the *Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego* for places in Lithuania, as requested by members of the list. Roman has not only done these translations but has made them available at this URL for anyone to consult. He also welcomes corrections or help. It’s a great idea to have SGKP info on places in Lithuania available in one place this way, and his efforts deserve support.

I was interested in this article from PCMag.com, “Google Goggles Now Supports Translation.” Google’s translation tools in general seem to be somewhat better than most other online translation aids, so this might be worth a look if you have a cell phone capable of running this app.

Maralyn Wellauer-Lenius forwarded a note on this link, explaining, “New digitized images and new html pages are available on the Canadian Genealogy Centre pages from Library and Archives Canada website. The Form 30A (ocean arrivals, 1919-1924) microfilm reels (310 reels) have been digitized and are now available online through the Microform Digitization online research tool. We also added new pages under our Ethno-cultural and Aboriginal groups section that contain valuable information for those researching Germans, Finnish and Ukrainians.”

A recent issue of EOGN mentioned that The Atlas of Canada is available at this URL. Its maps not only help you find places in Canada, but allow you to study the history of the country. Check it out (even if you can’t pronounce “out” Canadian-style).

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