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*** WELCOME! ***

to the latest issue of Gen Dobry!, the e-zine of PolishRoots(R). If you missed previous issues, you can find them here:

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

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*** HOW ASSIMILATED WAS YOUR U.S. CITIZEN NEW YORK CITY ANCESTOR IN 1880? ***

by Edward David Luft <luft1111@hotmail.com>

A newly-discovered book online in a subscription-only resource enables genealogists to find out if an ancestor in the City of New York in 1880 was registered to vote in that Presidential election year. Since the information is from the same year as the Federal Census, comparisons are possible.

The census was conducted in April 1880, and voter registration for men continued until October so we could thus see how likely the ancestor was to move at that time and see who his neighbors were. The publication is Committee of One Hundred on Democratic Re-Organization, *List of Registered Voters in the City of New York*, New York: Martin B. Brown, 1881, paging is for each enumeration district. It is only for Manhattan and part of the western portion of the Bronx because the City of Greater New York did not come into existence until 1 January 1898.

The information to be gleaned shows whether the New York City ancestor, being a U. S. citizen at that time, was registered to vote in a Presidential Election year, a good indicator of how assimilated the ancestor was in 1880, assuming that he voted. Sometimes men who were not, in fact, citizens voted illegally. As a general proposition, wealthier, more middle-class families moved less frequently than poor renters.

With these two resources available for roughly even dates, comparisons can be made. That information is always valuable in genealogical research, even if only to confirm one another.

You need to access the information about registered voters on “Persi,” which is a subscription index of ProQuest. Ask your local research librarian which library in the area has a subscription. From your home computer, you can check the home page only, at <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/persi>. Unfortunately, the pages are not interactive, so you cannot just search for a name. You need to know the number of the Assembly District and Election District if you do not already know the number of the Enumeration District. The 1880 Federal census shows the enumeration district at the top of the page or, in some cases, only at the top of the first page for that enumeration district.

However, in the unlikely case that the enumeration district is not shown, then check <http://www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com/Ward/Man.1880.ed.html>. Unfortunately, a very few enumeration districts are missing for approximately the 14th street area of Manhattan. This should not be a problem because the enumeration district is shown on the census in almost all cases, at least on page one for that district and often on every page. Depending upon how far north the address is, select the correct one of the seven pages to choose from. It usually helps to have a map upon which to draw the relevant enumeration district lines. Because enumeration districts were usually divided down the middle of streets, it is best to search for the two enumeration districts that included that part of that street for which you are searching. Occasionally, both sides of the street are in only one enumeration district, but more likely odd numbers are in one enumeration district and even numbers in another. Usually, when a street does not face a public park, such as Central Park, or
water at the city’s edge, such as at the East and Hudson Rivers, the north and west sides of the street will have odd numbers, and the south and east sides will have even numbers.

Since enumeration district numbers were added in handwriting near the top of the first page for each election district [on the New York Public Library copy, which is the one used online] in the List of Registered Voters, it is easy to match the enumeration district in the 1880 census to the page shown on this database. It is then a simple matter to check the address in that enumeration district to see if the man of the house was registered to vote. The Amendment to the U. S. Constitution giving women the right to vote was still 40 years in the future!

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*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: Death of Judith A. (Procakiewicz) Dompkowski

Editor—The illustrious Daniel J. Kij of Lackawanna, NY sent me a copy of an obituary in the July 18, 2010 issue of Buffalo News for Judith A. (nee Procakiewicz) PhD, who died July 14th. You can read the original at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/buffalonews/obituary.aspx?n=judith-a-dompkowski-procakiewicz&pid=144123543&fhid=5249>. Since Dan was kind enough to pass this along, and you never know what bit of information may help someone make a connection, I wanted to print this -- and recognize a lady Polonia can be proud of.

DOMPKOWSKI - Judith A. (nee Procakiewicz) PhD July 14, 2010 (Judith died on the eve of her mother’s funeral). A Lackawanna native, she resided in Hamburg, NY; daughter of the late Joseph and late Jean (Panczykowski) Procakiewicz; loving mother of Joseph (Juliana), James Dompkowski, Jean Marcucci (companion of Robert LaCerra) and Mary (Mark) Archer; dearest companion of Edward Zimmermann; sister of Joseph (Delores) Procakiewicz, Justine “Tina” (Kenneth) Kovach and Mary Lou (late Tim) Zeis; also survived by eight grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. A memorial service is being planned for a future date. Flowers gratefully declined. Memorial contributions to the Erie County Botanical Gardens. Judith was former head of the English Department and a Professor at Canisius College, an expert on the Nobel Literature laureate, Czeslaw Milosz. Arrangements by LOOMIS, OFFERS & LOOMIS, INC., Hamburg Chapel.

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Subject: Inductions into National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame

Editor—Earlier this month, I received an e-mail press release with photographs from the Rolco Sports Network, about the induction of Kristy Kowal, Danny Ozark, and Peaches Barkewicz into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame. Of course, this has little to do with Polish genealogy; but I get the impression our readers are interested in all aspects of Polish American life. I can’t include the photograph in the text version sent out by e-mail; but I can include in the PDF version archived on

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The Detroit Sports Broadcasters Association and the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame partnered up to celebrate the induction of University of Georgia swimming sensation and Reading, PA native, Kristy Kowal into the 2010 class of the NPASHF. Pictured (L to R), Tom Paciorek, Kristy Kowal, Jack Bauerle and Raymond Rolak. Kowal donated her U.S. Olympic cap and USA swimsuit from her last World Championship competition to the NPASHF Museum, located in Troy, Michigan. Danny Ozark and Peaches Barkewicz were also inducted this year.

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The first note Debbie wrote while actually in Poland (after several notes about her preparations)
Just follow along -- you’ll feel like you’re there with her. You can also read about some of her past trips (she’s been to Poland nine times!) here:

<http://www.polishfamily.com/p4e/>

Click on “My Trips.” Her Website also has lots of photos of villages and towns she’s visited.

While we’re at it, Roman Wielgut also posted some very interesting notes on the Polish Genius list from his recent trip. You can read the first here:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/polish_genius/message/12748>

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*** PRE-WORLD WAR II PHOTOS FROM EUROPE AND THE FAMILY STORE, ETC. ***

Editor—This is a note Steven Lasky, Webmaster of the Museum of Family History at <www.museumoffamilyhistory.com>, posted to the JewishGen mailing list. While his comments are of most value to Jewish researchers, I think they could benefit readers of Gen Dobry! of whatever faith.

A while back I suggested that an interesting and most often overlooked source of finding information about your families in Europe were old pre-war films and photos. I am referring to the fact that many of us who watch pre-war films of European towns and cities (and are often fascinated by them) don’t necessarily pay attention to the names, etc. that may appear on store fronts, whether they be on the store window itself or on a sign that may appear elsewhere, e.g., on a store sign that extends to the sidewalk from the wall above the front of the store. I further suggested that one or more people might like to take it upon themselves to watch all the films they can and note the names, etc. for all of us, that perhaps some of us might find the store of one of our family members. Of course, I’d be willing to put any such list of such names on my site.

As a matter-of-fact, today I received an e-mail from someone who watched one of Tomek Wiśniewski’s films of Białystok that appeared on my site and noticed that his family and their store (the I. Baran shoe store of Białystok) is featured on this film for a period of time (two photos). The photo showed his family in front of the store and the store itself. As Tomek often does, the two photos of the Baran family are slowly scanned, and along with background music, allow a short film to be made.

So while the odds of you finding a family store on one of these films and photos aren’t very good, you never know. Worse comes to worse, making a list available to all of us might help
someone else find a rare family photo that they were completely unaware of. And that’s a mitzvah, you know <g>.

This is just my two cents. Hope this makes sense to some of you and inspires you to take on the project I’ve suggested above.

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*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

August 13 - 15, 2010

Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (SGGEE) 2010 Conference

“Researching Our German Heritage in Eastern Europe”

Location: Delta Edmonton South Hotel, Edmonton AB, Canada

SGGEE, The Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe, will hold a genealogy conference focusing on “Researching Our German Heritage in Eastern Europe” on Friday, August 13; Saturday, August 14; and Sunday, August 15, 2010.

The Conference will include presentations from leading experts in the fields of Central and Eastern European Genealogy, and cover Germans in Congress Poland, Prussia, Volhynia, and Ukraine. Saturday evening features a German Banquet with keynote speaker.

The on-site Research Room, SGGEE Library and Research Area will be open all day and during the evening, with internet access to our exclusive databases, gazetteers and maps. Feature displays will include Kashubian heritage and model buildings of Germans who settled at Bruderheim. Genealogy consultants will be on site. Bring your research questions and family information. Browse the tables and look at maps and reference materials. Join us!!!


[From a note posted to the PolandBorderSurnames list.]

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August 14 - 15, 2010

96TH ANNUAL LITHUANIAN DAYS’ CELEBRATION
sponsored by the Knights of Lithuania Council #144

Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday Noon - 4 p.m.

Schuylkill Mall, Route 61 and I-81, Frackville, PA

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This will be the 96th Annual Lithuanian Days’ celebration in Schuylkill County, PA, put on by the Vyčiai. There will be food, folk music, artifacts brought from the Frackville Lithuanian Museum, a Lithuanian village band, Kaimo Kapela from Phila., three folk dance groups, the partisan reenactors, a singer from Lithuania, articles for sale, books, amber, crafts, etc.

It is the longest consecutive ethnic festival in the USA. The theme this year is LANGUAGE, MUSIC, AND DANCE. We are looking for people to recite poems, sing songs, or read in Lithuanian. Prizes will be awarded. So start practicing!

Delicious Lithuanian food as well as traditional arts and crafts, dancers, weaving and spinning demonstrations, (by the Spins and Needles Fiber Guild), along with a traditional museum display.

Special guests and appearances will include Brig. General Frank J. Sullivan and Robertas Kupstas, a prominent Lithuanian pop star of traditional and modern music. Hear Robertas Kupstas’ famous song “Čia Mano Rojus,” This is My Paradise, at TLTV, The Lithuanians Voice Radio Broadcast.

[From a note posted to the LithuanianGenealogy mailing list by Millie Markauskaite Helt, and information posted by Raymond Balta on his blog at <http://raymondbalta.blogspot.com/2010/07/lithuanians-frackville-pa-96th-annual.html>.

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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/index.php#conference>

[From the March 2010 issue of PGSNotebook]

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October 2, 2010

EEGS SEMINAR — GALICIA: MULTI-ETHNIC ROOTS IN UKRAINE AND POLAND
Red River College, Princess Street Campus
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Featuring speakers Matthew Bielawa and Brian J. Lenius

Cost: EEGS Member $55.00; Non-Member $65.00 (Early Bird Draws before August 20th )
The lecture theatre seating is limited to 120 people, so please register early.

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. Ukrainian and Polish roots will be covered in depth, and groups with German, Jewish, Mennonite, Armenian, or Czech roots in Galicia will be covered according to attendance.

Matthew Bielawa (Stratford, Connecticut, USA) has specialized in western Ukraine and eastern Galicia, about which he has extensively lectured, written articles for various genealogical journals; he has created a Website, Genealogy of Halychyna / Eastern Galicia, at <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 a 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.

**Do consider attending this exceptional event!**

<http://www.eegsociety.org>

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**October 16, 2010**

The Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan invites you to the **Annual Polish Heritage Seminar**

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

American Polish Cultural Center

2975 East Maple Road • Troy, Michigan 48083 • (248) 689-3636

Registration fee – TBA

Includes a continental breakfast and full course Polish lunch * Bring your laptop—free Wi-Fi

Buy tickets by mail, PGS Michigan, Dept. W c/o Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Ave., Detroit MI 48202-4007, or online at: <www.pgsm.eventbrite.com>

**Join us for the day or for the Polish Heritage Weekend**

Friday, October 15, 10a.m. - 4 p.m., the Polish Genealogical Society of MI and The Polish Mission at St. Mary’s of Orchard Lake are offering research help at the Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI); and **Sunday, October 17**, Mass at St. Mary’s of Orchard Lake, Polish Folklore, and use of the PARI library and premium databases.

3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, Michigan (248) 683-0323

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*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***

<http://www.poloniatoday.com/popieluszko0710.htm>

On the Polish Genius list, Elaine posted an article from *Polonia Today* on the beatification of Father Jerzy Popiełuszko, who was killed in 1984 by the Communist secret police because he
dared to support Solidarność. While the subject is not really relevant to genealogy, it is of great importance to Poland’s recent history. If you’d like to read the article, this link should take you there.


A recent issue of EOGN [Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter] mentioned a note submitted by Peter Hirtle about a new resource prepared by a librarian at the Department of Justice entitled Public Records Resources Online: How to Find Everything There Is to Know About ‘Mr. X’. It cover all kinds of public records, some of which may surprise you. Eastman pointed out that some of the sites are free, some for-pay; but many of the for-pay sites are available through local libraries. You can find the guide at the above URL.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdMLvy1Xv8M>

Another item in EOGN gave this link to a brief comedy sketch with Alexander Armstrong, who will be featured in a future episode of the British version of Who Do You Think You Are? Eastman said, “In this ‘out take,’ he learns some startling ‘truths’ about his family while examining census records.” You can see the video at the link above. I think it’s hilarious—and I suspect more than a few of us can relate to it!

<http://www.genealogyunlimited.com/poland.html>

In a note posted to the Polish Genius list, Karl von Loewe said that during a visit to Poland two years ago, he found a particular series of maps especially helpful for former German areas such as Pomerania. “I heartily recommend the Höfer Verlag maps (1:200,000 scale). They cost less than $20 apiece and can be purchase online at <http://www.genealogyunlimited.com/poland.html>. They are fabulously detailed and have both German and Polish place names -- especially important in Pomerania where we were travelling. Maybe someday they will include Kashubian names as well.”

<http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/pse.htm>

In a note on the JewishGen mailing list, Boris Feldblyum mentioned an article someone had posted recently on an article about studio portraits in Eastern Europe at this page of the Museum of Family History Website. Boris added, “Anybody with a similar challenge of identifying old photos is advised to study it.” Note that this ties in with Steven Lasky’s post cited above under the title “Pre-World War II Photos from Europe and the Family Store, etc.”

<http://www.sggee.org/research/gilly_maps/south_prussia_map>

On the Posen mailing list, James Birkholz posted a note he’d received from Jerry Frank, Webmaster of SGGEE. Jerry had published the Gilly map of South Prussia on the SGGEE Website, and was working on indexing all the places (he estimated there were some 15,000 of them). In a follow-up note, Matt Theiner encouraged Jerry to check the Website <http://www.>
kartenmeister.com>, which already indexes more than 86,000 localities east of the Oder and Neisse rivers. I have used Kartenmeister many times, and find it extremely useful. I believe Jerry’s contribution on the SGGEE Website will also be of great value to researchers with roots in Germany, Poland, and other parts of central and eastern Europe.

<http://www.amazon.com/Keeping-One-Branch-Green-Novella/dp/1449017894/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&amp;s=books&amp;qid=1280597297&amp;sr=8-1>

On the LithuanianGenealogy list, John Peters told of a novella about Czarist Russia in the 1890s. “It concerns a peasant family living in rural ‘Lithuania’ where the father is the chef for the lord of the manor house. The book is entitled Keeping One Branch Green and it depicts the trials and tribulations for those living in the Russian Empire. The author is Paulette Bilyieu Velho. The book is available at Amazon.com and perhaps elsewhere.” If you’re interested, the above URL takes you to Amazon’s page for this book.

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